AGENDA
Agricultural Service Board Meeting
9:30 AM - Thursday, April 8, 2021
Council Chambers

Page

A. CALL TO ORDER - OPENING REMARKS

B. AMENDMENTS/DELETIONS - CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

2 - 3 1. **September 10, 2020 - Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes**
Agricultural Service Board - 10 Sep 2020 - Minutes

D. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

E. REPORTS

4 - 129 1. **Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report**
Supervisor of Agricultural Services Report

F. APPOINTMENTS

130 - 145 1. **10:30 AM - 2020 ASB Program Visit Report/Alan Efetha - Alberta Agriculture & Forestry**
2020 ASB Program Visit Report/Alan Efetha

G. NEW BUSINESS

146 - 149 1. **Agricultural Service Board Policy #614 Soil Erosion Amendment**
Agricultural Service Board Policy #614 Soil Erosion Amendment

H. INVITATIONS

I. CLOSED SESSION

J. ADJOURN

MINUTES
Agricultural Service Board Meeting

10:00 AM - Thursday, September 10, 2020
Council Chambers

The Agricultural Service Board of Lethbridge County was called to order on Thursday, September 10, 2020, at 10:00 AM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Chairman Steve Campbell
Reeve Lorne Hickey
Deputy Reeve Morris Zeinstra
Councillor Tory Campbell
Councillor Robert Horvath
Councillor Ken Benson
Councillor Klaas VanderVeen
Chief Administrative Officer Ann Mitchell
Director of Public Operations Jeremy Wickson
Agricultural Services Supervisor Gary Secrist
Executive Administrative Assistant Donna Irwin

A. CALL TO ORDER - OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Steve Campbell called the meeting to order, the time being 9:54 a.m.

B. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

1-2020 Councillor Horvath MOVED that the Agriculture Service Board approve the September 10, 2020 Agriculture Service Board Meeting Agenda, as presented. CARRIED

Councillor Klaas VanderVeen present at 9:59 a.m.

C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. *September 12, 2019 - Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes (Rescheduled from April 9, 2020*

2-2020 Councillor T.Campbell MOVED that the Agriculture Service Board approve the September 12, 2019 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes, as presented. CARRIED

D. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

E. REPORTS

1. *Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report*

3-2020 Deputy Reeve Zeinstra MOVED that the Agriculture Service Board receive the report from the Supervisor of Agriculture Services for information. CARRIED

Councillor Zeinstra departed the meeting at 11:19 a.m.

2. *Rural Extension Specialist Report - Fall 2020*

4-2020 Reeve Hickey MOVED that the Agriculture Service Board receive the Rural Extension Specialists report for information. CARRIED

Councillor Zeinstra present at 11:22 a.m.

F. APPOINTMENTS

1. *10:00 AM - Melody Garner-Skiba, Executive Director, Alberta Sugar Beet Growers Presentation (Rescheduled from April 9, 2020)*

ASB Chairman Steve Campbell welcomed Ms. Melody Garner-Skiba to the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Council introduced themselves to Ms. Garner-Skiba. Ms. Garner-Skiba reviewed with the Agriculture Service Board the vision of the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers which is, to ensure a progressive, united, and sustainable sugar beet industry exists for future generations. She also reviewed the 2019 harvest, and the upcoming 2020 harvest and the impacts of CUSMA (formerly NAFTA).

5-2020 Deputy Reeve Zeinstra — MOVED that the presentation from Ms. Melody Garner-Skiba, Alberta Sugar Beet Growers, be received for information. CARRIED

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. *Farming the Right of Way*

6-2020 Councillor Horvath — MOVED that the Agriculture Service Board recommends that Lethbridge County develop promotional material to help producers understand the adverse effects of farming inside the right of way. The information can be made available to producers through newsletters and social medial outlets.

CARRIED

2. *Policy 623 - Chemical Spills (Rescheduled from April 9, 2020)*

7-2020 Councillor Benson — MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board approves Policy 623 - Chemical Spills as amended. CARRIED

3. *Policy 627 - Grasshopper Spraying Program (Rescheduled from April 9,2020)*

8-2020 Reeve Hickey — MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board approves the amendments and renames Policy #627 Grasshopper Control Program. CARRIED

H. INVITATIONS

I. CLOSED SESSION

J. ADJOURN

9-2020 Councillor VanderVeen — MOVED that the Agriculture Service Board Meeting for September 10, 2020 adjourn, the time being 11:45 a.m.

CARRIED

ASB Chairman

CAO

AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Title:	Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report
Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board - 08 Apr 2021
Department:	Agriculture Service Board
Report Author:	Gary Secrist

APPROVAL(S):

Jeremy Wickson, Director of Public Operations,	Approved - 19 Mar 2021
Ann Mitchell, Chief Administrative Officer,	Approved - 22 Mar 2021

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

Outstanding Quality of Life	Effective Governance and Service Delivery	Prosperous Agricultural Community	Vibrant and Growing Economy	Strong Working Relationships
☐	☒	☒	☐	☐

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This is the Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report for the April 8, 2021 Agriculture Service Board Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

MOVED that the Agriculture Service Board receives the report from the Supervisor of Agriculture Services for information.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

The Agriculture Service Board is given the report verbally by the Supervisor of Agriculture Services and given the opportunity to receive clarification if required. The report is then accepted for information.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Agriculture Service Board Report

Supervisor of Agriculture Services

April 8, 2021

ASB Grant

The ASB Provincial Grant was renewed in 2020. The Legislative portion of this Grant was renewed for 5 years and reduced in total from $11,678,000 to $8,485,000. This led to a reduction of approximately $46,000 to each municipality. The Environmental Stream portion was renamed

Resource Management and it was just announced in Mid-March that the funding level will remain the same. For Lethbridge County that amount is $91,000 per year.

Mowing

- Approximately 5,000 miles of gravel and hardtop road slopes were mowed in 2020. Mowers were slowed by early snow in October. All gravel and hard top roads were mowed at least twice with a combination of triple gangs and disc mower. We were able to cut deeper into the ditch on most paved roads.
- Hamlets and Subdivisions were mowed and weed whipped twice. They were also touched up in late fall when the gravel roadside mowers were close by.
- Mowing was also done for weed control in hard to spray areas and shoulder pulls where grass was yet to be planted or re-established.

Weed Control

- Most of the roadside spraying in 2020 took place in Divisions 1 and 2 this year with spot spraying throughout the County. The County shoulder pulls from 2019 were also sprayed when the grass was mature enough to handle a chemical application. In total over 944 miles of right of way was sprayed.
- Bed and Shore sites along the Oldman River were inspected and treated for Knapweed and Blueweed. Bio-control agents were released on 4 Leafy Spurge sites and 2 Knapweed sites in the County. Any Leafy Spurge, Knapweed, Toadflax and Scentless Chamomile sightings in right of ways were sprayed, mowed or pulled.
- The road top vegetation control truck was busy assisting the divisional grader operators' deal with excess vegetation on the shoulders. In 2020, just over 178 miles was treated.
- In 2020 there were 33 weed inspector consultations with landowners.

Pest Control

- The annual grasshopper survey showed numbers rising in 2020. The following link is a great resource for Grasshopper management: https://www.alberta.ca/grasshopper-management.aspx
- The Bertha Army Worm survey was carried out by ASB staff once again in 2020 numbers varied depending on individual fields. Attached is the Insect Survey results for our County in 2020.
- Bacterial Ring Rot Survey was completed with no suspect fields found.
- Lethbridge County also inspected 10 fields for Clubroot and Blackleg this year with no suspect fields.
- A Fusarium survey was completed in 2020 with numbers not in yet.
- A total of 2,081 bottles of strychnine was purchased by producers for gopher control. Gopher populations have been on a lower cycle and less Strychnine has been sold the last couple years. The registration for strychnine use on Richardson Ground Squirrels has been cancelled as of March 4, 2020. Municipalities were able to purchase the product at the end of 2020 and will be able to sell it through the 2021 season. Producers will have through the 2022 season to use it up.
- A private trapper was hired for 2 weeks to trap skunks for rabies detection. There were 7 skunks caught with no sign of rabies. We do this work in conjunction with the Rabies Surveillance Partnership Program, which is a group of 5 Counties and Municipal districts in the South region.

Soil Erosion

- In 2020 and early 2021 there have been a few large scale wind events that created severe instances of soil erosion. Producers were reminded of the value of top soil and emergency

measures that can be taken to mitigate the problem. Numerous one on one consultations took place.

Roadside Seeding

- ASB Crews undertook the seeding of drains and shoulder pulls. This includes rock removal, disking, mowing and seeding.

Tree Removal/Brushing

- ASB staff remove unwanted brush and trees from municipal right of way. This work is primarily performed when trees are dormant.

Equipment Rental

- We had over 30 users of the Brillion drills in 2020 with revenue of near $5000.
- Skunk and magpie trap usage was very steady throughout the year.
- Plastic baler use jumped significantly with 11 users in 2020. The pilot program was successful and Clean Farms and DBS Environmental have plans to enhance Ag-plastic recycling with additional pilot programs in the County.

Parks

- Parks and shop maintenance was steady throughout the 2020 season
- Cemeteries were mowed twice in 2020.
- In 2020 upgrades were completed at the Sunset Acres playground. Work included significant equipment upgrades, paving the pathway and Basketball Court.
- In 2021 budget was allocated to do improvements at the Monarch Playground. In working with the Community and School it was decided to push this work to 2022. This will allow the community to form a non-profit organization and be eligible for Provincial grant money.

Farm Family

The Farm Family Award was not presented due to cancellation of the Calgary Stampede. The Slomp Family holds our nomination until next time the award is presented,

Farm Safety

A $5,000 donation was made to the Farm Safety Centre through the ASB budget. In return the Centre delivered their safety program to 5 Schools and 43 classes within our boundaries with a total of 822 students taking part. Attached is a letter from the Farm Safety Centre describing changes to the program and the announcement of a new executive director.

Other Activities

Lethbridge County took part in hosting the following event

- A Farmer Pesticide Certificate Course was held in February of 2020. We continue to offer this course in cooperation with Hamman Ag-Research. A second course was planned, but was cancelled due to Covid 19.
- A Nutrient Management Seminar Series was held virtually for 8 weeks in early 2021. The County of Warner took the lead on the program with Lethbridge County providing financial support.
- We have also attended Ag-Expo as a vendor for the last 7 years.

Respectfully submitted by Gary Secrist, Supervisor of Agriculture Services

ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

That the report not be received for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

No financial implications.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

To update the Agriculture Service Board on activities.

ATTACHMENTS:

ASB Report Information
2020 Report Card on the Resolutions FINAL
Weed Control Act presentation 2021

Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board

Business Plan

Vision

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

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 the 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.

Employees- Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board intends to recruit and retain committed staff by providing a positive work environment that encourages teamwork, initiative, respect, innovation, learning and hard work.

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 ant training institutions and educational institutions.

Agricultural Services
2021 – 2023 Business Plan

Supervisor: Gary Secrist

Employees:
Permanent: 2
Seasonal: 9

Mission Statement

We will foster innovation to assist in strengthening our Agricultural Foundation. We will strive to enhance the quality of life in Lethbridge County by providing clean, safe and attractive parks.

Core Activities

- ✓ **Weed Control Act** (Vegetation Control) –Roadside spraying, weed inspections, various types of mowing for weed control, custom chemical applications.
- ✓ **Pest Control Act** Assist County landowners with removal of problem species, rabies control, rat sighting inspections, conducting surveys for Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture.
- ✓ **Soil Conservation Act** - prevent soil loss or deterioration from continuing or taking place, assist farmers in soil conservation by providing information and equipment if necessary.
- ✓ **Resource Management Stream** – nutrient management and water quality are priorities, demonstrate best management practices along drainages and waterways. In cooperation with producers be in touch with new and emerging agriculture trends and how it will relate to sustainable agriculture.
- ✓ **Agriculture Extension-** Provide educational initiatives related to local agricultural needs.
- ✓ **Roadside Mowing** – mowing for safety, snow control and aesthetics on all gravel roads, highways, hamlets and subdivisions.
- ✓ **Parks** – Mowing, repairs and insurance costs of parks, playgrounds, cemeteries.

Link to the Lethbridge County Strategic Plan

- ✓ **Outstanding Quality of Life**- Lethbridge County residents experience a high quality of life by living in a vibrant & safe rural community that provides them with access to programs & services that meet their needs.
- ✓ **Effective Governance & Service Delivery**- Lethbridge County recognized by citizens for having effective Council that makes decisions in the best interests of citizens & delivers services effectively through strong empowered Administration.
- ✓ **Prosperous Agricultural Community**- Lethbridge County is recognized for having a strong agricultural economy including primary & value-added agricultural businesses.
- ✓ **Vibrant & growing Economy**- Lethbridge County has a diverse economy that leverages its strengths in the agriculture, renewable energy, & transportation sectors.
- ✓ **Strong Working Relationships**- Lethbridge County is recognized as a trusted & effective partner across the region in the delivery of effective programs & services. The county has strong working relationships with the provincial & federal governments, neighboring municipalities, first Nations, the irrigation districts, the water co-ops, regional service providers, & research and training institutions.

Significant Accomplishments in the Last Budget Cycle

- ✓ Assistant Agricultural Fieldman was appointed an officer under the Soil Conservation Act and an inspector under the Agriculture Pest and Weed Control Acts.
- ✓ Bio-control agents were placed on 4 Leafy Spurge sites and 2 Knapweed sites.
- ✓ Continue to address herbicide resistance with the use of alternate chemicals.
- ✓ Rabies surveillance is being carried out for 2 weeks per year.
- ✓ Strychnine sales for Richardson Ground Squirrel control remain steady.
- ✓ We continue to promote our ASB through Ag-Expo and our newsletters.
- ✓ Miles sprayed both roadside and road top remain consistent.
- ✓ The use of triple gang mowers is helping with weed control in areas that are difficult to spray.
- ✓ Continue to offer Plastic Baler for recycling grain bags.
- ✓ Host a yearly Farmer Pesticide Certificate Course.
- ✓ Brillion Drill rentals remain strong with over 30 users in 2020.
- ✓ Continue to review and update ASB Policies.

Significant Opportunities and Challenges

- ✓ Operate a responsive Agricultural Service Department that is based on the direction and guidance of the Agricultural Service Board, meets legal obligations, and strives to respond to the changing faces of Agriculture.
- ✓ Continuing a level of service on weed and pest programs while facing continued provincial funding cuts.
- ✓ Provide $5000 in funding to the Farm Safety Centre to provide "Safety Smarts" program delivery to students within Lethbridge County boundaries.
- ✓ Promote Richardson Ground Squirrel control alternatives due to Strychnine losing its registration.
- ✓ Keeping step with the ever-changing face of local and provincial agriculture issues through regional and provincial gatherings.
- ✓ Continued leadership in Environmental programs while ensuring Lethbridge County agriculture producers are in the forefront when applying for Provincial and Federal funded agriculture grants.
- ✓ Provide local agriculture producers with the necessary resources and/or information to be aware of new pests or diseases that may be a threat to their livelihood.
- ✓ Provide producers with equipment and information to lessen their environmental footprint in their day-to-day activities.
- ✓ Enforcing Agriculture related Acts in a firm but fair manner.
- ✓ Performing roadside spray applications in a diverse and intense agriculture setting with many specialty crops and urban sprawl.
- ✓ Ensure a safe playground and park environment through regular inspections and maintenance.
- ✓ Adapt Roadside Seeding and Spraying projects that compliment road building, drainage and shoulder pull work.
- ✓ Continuing to find good employees for our seasonal based work.

Performance Measurements

- ✓ Goal is to mow 3950 miles of gravel and hardtop road slopes each year for visibility and snow control. In 2020 we mowed just over 5000 miles. In 2020 we have also mowed deeper into the ditch on some market access and most paved roads.
- ✓ Goal is to Spray 700 miles of gravel and hardtop roadsides a year to control noxious and prohibited noxious weeds. In 2020 just over 944 miles was sprayed.
- ✓ Goal is to inspect and spot spray all previously surveyed weed infestations from the previous year. In 2020 all sites were revisited, and additional spray applications were made if necessary. This included a total of 146 spots.
- ✓ Carryout 30 weed inspector/ratepayer consultations to create awareness of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds. In 2020 there were 33 consultations.
- ✓ Collect 100 seed samples and inspect and issue 5 seed cleaning plant licenses to four permanent and 1 mobile seed plant.
- ✓ Inspected bed and shore on Public Lands for invasive plants on 19 sites.
- ✓ Providing a clear financial picture to producers when considering environmentally sustainable agriculture practices.
- ✓ Inform 1100 producers on ASB topics through newsletters and social media.
- ✓ To keep producers in touch with Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) grant opportunities.
- ✓ To assist community groups in the upgrade of parks equipment when necessary.
- ✓ To continue to make efficiencies in the tree removal and brushing program within County right of ways. In 2020 a GPS app was added to monitor how many spots were maintained, location and which ones received a chemical application.

FARM SAFETY CENTRE

265 East 400 South – Box 291 – Raymond – Alberta – T0K 2S0
Tel: 403 752-4585 – Fax: 403 752-3643 – Website: www.abfarmsafety.com

February 8, 2021

Gary Secrist - Agricultural Fieldman
County of Lethbridge
905 - 4th Avenue South
Lethbridge, Alberta
T1J 4E4

Gary:

Thanks for reaching out by phone earlier this week. I apologize in advance for the length of this correspondence, but the challenges and changes caused by COVID and other circumstances are many. Out of respect for the long-term relationship between our organizations, a certain amount of detail and explanation are needed at this time.

From the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year in September 2019 until school classes in Alberta were suspended in mid-March 2020 - 40,662 rural children in 339 schools had already received our in-class farm safety presentations. Students in an additional 152 schools were booked for program delivery during the remaining months of the school year.

In April 2020 we began working to add content to our website which would allow students to access interactive farm safety learning tools during the COVID disruption in school attendance. By the first week of May two of the game-based teaching activities typically used in-class had been adapted and made available on our website: abfarmsafety.com
Parent feedback has been very positive.

With the return of in-person program delivery uncertain, the following activities were completed between Apr - Oct 2020

- Hundreds of farm safety related still images gathered over time have been tagged, for improved access/use
- Video resources developed previously by the Centre have been reformatted to allow on-line, web-based access
- Re-formatted video resources have all been tagged, for improved access/use in adapted program delivery
- Safety Smarts materials, models, tools etc. have been gathered from regional instructors across the province
- Sorting and cleaning of models, displays and other in-class teaching materials gathered from regional instructors
- Adaptation of some existing personal experience safety videos to make them more virtual delivery friendly
- Gathering of an additional 18 personal experience safety videos – for use virtually and face to face
- Remake of the Welcome to the Farm video with both female and male youth narrators
- Completion of new K/Gr 1 book – for virtual use. Available in hardcopy when in-person delivery resumes
- Development of 65+ new age and topic specific activity sheets – for virtual and in-person use
- Adaptation of Safety Smarts presentations to make them accessible/usable virtually
- Launch of updated website to better support schools, families and organizations looking for farm safety materials
- Procurement of PPE in anticipation of new disease prevention protocols when in-person delivery resumes

We did not begin reaching out to schools in September 2020, as it seemed apparent that COVID had greatly complicated their day-to-day responsibilities in the new 2020-2021 school year. School contacts begin in October as we inquired about their interest in continued farm safety learning. Without exception schools suggested we wait until 2021 to attempt any sort of outreach again.

Research into virtual delivery possibilities began in October 2020, with the purchasing of video conferencing equipment for November trials. Extensive training of delivery contractors for the anticipated launch of video conferenced (zoom) Safety Smarts delivery began in December 2020 and continued into January 2021.

In late January rural schools were made aware of our intention to attempt virtual delivery of adapted Safety Smarts presentations. Actual Zoom delivery began on February 1, 2021 and by then 30+ school had already set up delivery schedules. Over the coming weeks we will get a better idea how virtual engagement is working and what improvements are needed to make the most of precious classroom time schools invest. We anxiously await the opportunity to again meet with students in-person, but until that is possible, we will continue with the steep learning curve of the virtual COVID world.

A few other items of note:

In October of 2020, the Farm Safety Centre was informed by GOA representatives that ALL their involvement in and support of farm safety learning and extension would end in December 2020. Their departmental staff were laid off and online resources were withdrawn at the end of the year. Source files for GOA developed materials were recently provided to the FSC and we hope to make them available in the coming weeks and months. GOA requested/required reformatting of files.

In December of 2020, an updated website was launched by the Farm Safety Centre. It is extremely straightforward to navigate and has many new resources available for schools, families, and organizations. Portions are still under constructions, but I would encourage you to spend a few minutes reviewing what is available. We would be happy to promote any of your upcoming happenings in our News & Events section, or on our social media platforms.

In January of 2021, the organization began a strategic assessment of our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and risks/threats. We anticipate some findings by mid-April. Results will be available on our website in "About Us" section. Since inception in the early 1990's the FSC has had eye-to-eye learning moments with more than 780,000 rural individuals. What will and should the next 20+ years include, to continue serving rural Albertans in a meaningful way? This is THE question....

In March of 2021, I will be retiring as Executive Director after 20 wonderful years. I very much appreciate the enriching interactions I have had with exceptional individuals across the province. Jordan Jensen will be stepping in as the new Executive Director. **He can be reached at j.jensen@abfarmsafety.com or 403 593-8960 (cell) or 403 752-4585 (office).**

And lastly, the Farm Safety Centre is very grateful your ASB has voted to continue its support of our extension efforts. In the past our annual ask has been based on program delivery during the previous year. COVID changed 2020 possibilities. Schools booked for program delivery Mar-June 2020 are detailed on an enclosed document. Annual program delivery totals from 2011-2020 are also enclosed and provide some context for our limited 2020 delivery. A hardcopy of the Safety Smarts 2019-2020 year-end report was mailed out to all municipalities in July 2020. Here is the drop box link to it, if needed: https://www.dropbox.com/s/mruhd074mveilk0/SS%20Annual%20Report%20Final.pdf?dl=0

At the discretion of your ASB, and within the financial realities of an economically challenged province, any level of support supplied in 2021 would be greatly appreciated. It was extremely heartwarming, that in 2020, knowing that COVID had impacted in-person program delivery, 48 rural municipalities still supported the Farm Safety Centre. Thank you!

Exactly how farm safety learning will evolve moving forward, is uncertain at this time but our organization is doing all it can to prepare itself to continue helping things go right for farmers and their families across our amazing province.

Sincerely,

Laura Nelson
Executive Director
Farm Safety Centre

FARM SAFETY CENTRE

265 East 400 South - Box 291 - Raymond - Alberta - T0K 2S0 - Tel: 403-752-4585 - Fax: 403-752-3643

Email: safetyctr@abfarmsafety.com Website: abfarmsafety.com

County of Lethbridge

2020 "Safety Smarts" Delivery

MD/County Name	School	Date	Classes	Students	Amt. Child	2021 Request
County of Lethbridge	Coalhurst Elementary School	20-Jan-20	14	269		
County of Lethbridge	Huntsville School	05-Feb-20	7	135		
County of Lethbridge	St. Catherine School	09-Jan-20	7	156		
County of Lethbridge	St. Joseph's School (51)	29-Jan-20	8	177		
County of Lethbridge	Sunnyside School	04-Feb-20	7	85		
Totals		**5**	**43**	**822**		

Red Deer County

Agricultural Services
38106 Rge Rd. 275
Red Deer County, AB
T4S 2L9
Phone: 403.342.8654
Email: agriculture@rdcounty.ca

March 11, 2021

RE: PROVINCIAL ASB CONFERENCE

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee,

Red Deer County Agricultural Service Board would like to express its concern with the Provincial Conference that was held virtually January 21, 2021. Our members have had numerous discussions in the weeks since the provincial conference and we feel that the afternoon resolution session was disorderly and ineffective. Agricultural Service Boards may be losing their voice at a provincial level and we need to ensure that we put forward relevant agricultural concerns that are well researched and well written to regain our seat at the table in discussing provincial matters. We were also concerned with some of the language and attempts at humor from the meeting itself. As a group that reports to the provincial agriculture minister we should hold ourselves to higher standard of professionalism. In addition, there were representatives from other organizations in attendance including speakers, government officials and our Agriculture Minister, and these comments did not improve our standing.

We understand that holding a session of this nature in a virtual setting poses many challenges. However, it is our opinion that excessive time was spent discussing items that were ready for a vote and there were also a number of administrative processes that were either not followed or should have been eliminated to make a more effective use of the attending delegates' time. The Review Committee did call for amendments in advance of the Resolutions Session and yet there were multiple "friendly amendments" from the floor for minor grammar and punctuation that should have been resolved in the review process, or during the call for amendments in advance of the Conference. Also, the seconder of the motion should be determined in advance and included in the resolutions package; too much time was spent on the formality of calling a seconder to the microphone which doesn't impact the discussion or outcome of a resolution.

There were two resolutions regarding the continued registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine, and while the first resolution was carried with little discussion, the second resolution resulted in extended discussion with the mover even attempting to amend it from the floor. Discussion wandered from amending the "Therefore be it resolved" statement to withdrawing the resolution all together. Ultimately the resolution was carried, but much time was exhausted in the process. These resolutions were very similar in nature and the Provincial ASB Resolutions Review Committee should have requested (or insisted that) the sponsors combine them before presenting them both at the Conference.

Red Deer County's ASB believes that resolutions are to raise awareness to agricultural issues and advise the appropriate ministry or agency of our concerns. Far too many resolutions are defeated for minor grammatical or technical concerns yet the original intent is generally supported by ASBs throughout the province. We would like to see the resolutions presented by their sponsoring municipality, hold discussion for and against, then a vote called. This would

Red Deer County

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eliminate any opportunity for "friendly" amendments and general discussion, and the vote can then be called on the original resolution.

Red Deer County's ASB values our collective voice to communicate matters of concern to the federal and provincial government, but we have been losing confidence in the resolution process in recent years.

Our Ag Service Board has chosen to write letters directly to the Minister to bring awareness to issues; such as,

- Loss of access to "Ropin' the Web"
- Agricultural Impacts of Mandatory Entry Level Training for Class 1 Drivers Licenses
- The federal cancellation of 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate

Not only were we able to communicate our concerns in a timely manner but we also received written responses from each ministry contacted within weeks of our letter being mailed. These responses addressed our concerns, and we believe ultimately effected positive change and/or extensions to the benefit agricultural producers.

We feel strongly that the resolution process should be refined to make the most effective use of the regional and provincial sessions and the time each delegate commits to its concern. Is it time that we restructure the resolution process to deliver our concerns to the correct department in a more timely and effective manner?

We eagerly await your response and would like to encourage the ASB PC to investigate more effective options to compile agricultural concerns from the community and advocate them at a provincial and federal level.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Regards,

Red Deer County Agricultural Services Board

Connie Huelsman, Chair

cc: Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman

March 30, 2021

RE: Provincial ASB Conference

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee,

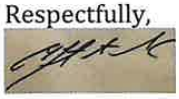
Saddle Hills County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) would like to express its dissatisfaction with the January 21st, 2021 Provincial Conference. ASB's play an extremely important role in the sustainability of agriculture within the province, and without valid concerns that we can unite over, we may not be taken seriously. During the conference, there were comments made that were intended in a joking manner but came off very crude and inappropriate. When Provincial Officials and Ministers are in attendance, we should be holding ourselves to a high level of professionalism if we want our voices to be heard and taken seriously.

We understand that organizing large events via online platforms can be challenging, but what unfolded that day was unacceptable. We believe unnecessary amounts of time were spent on items that only required a few minutes. The resolutions session should have lasted an hour or so, not almost three. Having two separate resolutions regarding the continued registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine exhausted copious amounts of time. Calling for unnecessary "Friendly Amendments" on manners of mutual concern simply take away time that could be used for more effective matters.

Saddle Hills County ASB has been effective in sending letters to the Minister and getting timely responses. Therefore, we often don't participate in sending resolutions forward. For matters of mutual concern, we believe it is important for Provincial ASB's to come together through the resolution process.

We would like to encourage the ASB Provincial Committee to investigate more efficient and effective options to compile mutual concerns from the agricultural community, so we can continue to play an effective role in the sustainability of agriculture within the province, and have our voice heard.

Respectfully,



Adam Fitzpatrick
Saddle Hills County, Agricultural Service Board Chair

cc: Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen

Junction of Highway 49 and Highway 725, RR 1, Spirit River, Alberta, Canada, T0H 3G0
Phone: 780-864-3760 | Fax: 780-864-3904 | Toll Free: 1-888-864-3760

INSECT SURVEY RESULTS – 2020 – LETHBRIDGE

2020 Summary

We found no wheat midge larvae in any of the fields we surveyed in 2020. Wheat midge does not pose a significant risk in Lethbridge for 2021.

Of the 6 bertha armyworm sites in Lethbridge one was above the first warning level of 300 moths and one over the second warning level. I am not aware of spraying for bertha in Lethbridge County. Trapping will continue to be very important to determine if this small outbreak may be bigger in 2020.

Wheat stem sawfly numbers in your county are zero, but that doesn't mean that some producers were not affected by the insect. We only visit 5 fields in the entire county, so there could be pockets of sawfly we didn't find. Sawfly numbers will increase if the dry summers continue.

Pea leaf weevil damage was fairly low in your area in the survey we conducted in late May – early June with the exception of one field. This is consistent with the situation across southern Alberta. They will, however, continue to be a perennial problem.

Cabbage seedpod weevil were generally lower compared to most years but there were still some samples that were near or above economic threshold. Cabbage seedpod weevil will continue to be a potential problem every year.

Diamondback moth traps had very low levels of moths caught as well.

BERTHA ARMYWORM (BAW)

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

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

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

LLD	TRAP AVERAGE
	652
	2

LLD	TRAP AVERAGE
	192.5
	314

Shaded cells are managed by the County.

CABBAGE SEEDPOD WEEVIL (CSPW)

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

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

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

Legal Land Description					CSPW in 25 sweeps	Lygus nymph	Lygus adult	Leafhopper	Flea Beetle	Red turnip beetle	DBM larva	DBM adult	Wasp <5 mm	Wasp >5mm	Honey bee	Bee but not honey	Caterpillar
c					3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
c					0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
c					18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ne					6	0	2	0	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
c					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
c					0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

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

Diamondback Moth (DBM)

It is generally accepted that diamondback moth adults don't overwinter in the prairies and that most infestations occur when adult moths arrive on wind currents in the spring from the southern or western United States or northern Mexico. In mild winters there is suspicion that diamondback moth do overwinter in Alberta. To assess the population, a network of 43 monitoring sites has been established across the province. This network is meant to act as part of an early warning system for diamondback moth and should be used in conjunction with crop scouting.

LLD	Trap Average
	52.5
	1

Pea Leaf Weevil (PLW)

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

Legal Land Description					Average Node Stage	Total Notches	Average Notches/Plant
					3.38	37	0.74
					4.62	150	3
					4.72	286	5.72
					5	21	0.42
					4.98	911	18.22

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

WHEAT MIDGE (WM)

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

These numbers are generated by taking soil samples from wheat fields after harvest using a standardized soil probe.

The risk level as shown on our maps is as follows:

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

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION					TOTAL MIDGE	VIABLE	NOT VIABLE	PARASITOID
					0	0	0	0
					0	0	0	0
					0	0	0	0
					0	0	0	0
					0	0	0	0

Sampling done by Farming Smarter staff

WHEAT STEM SAWFLY (WSS)

The percent of stems cut by sawfly gives an indication of the number of reproductive adult sawflies that will emerge in late June through early July. Winter conditions have very little impact on sawfly populations and a high proportion of wheat stems cut in the fall will produce adults. It is possible that population hot spots still exist in areas of lower risk, individual producers need to be aware of the potential risks in their own fields.

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION					PERCENTAGE CUT
					0.0
					0.0
					0.0

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION					PERCENTAGE CUT
					0.0
					0.0

Sampling done by Farming Smarter staff

WHEN DOING FIELD VISITS WE:

- never drive into the field
- sanitize our equipment between fields with bleach solution
- sanitize our footwear between fields with bleach solution or wear boot covers

Report Card on the Resolutions

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee

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Introduction

The Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee is pleased to provide Agricultural Service Board (ASB) members and staff with the 2020 Report Card on the Resolutions. This report contains the government and non-government responses to resolutions passed at the 2020 Provincial ASB Conference. The Report Card on the Resolutions includes the *Whereas* and *Therefore Be It Resolved* sections from the resolutions, response, response grade and comments from the Committee and ASBs for each resolution. The resolutions and responses are also posted on the Agricultural Service Board website at agriculturalserviceboards.com. Actions taken by the Committee on current and prior resolutions are also included in this report.

2020 ASB Provincial Committee Members

Members	Alternates	Representation
Corey Beck, Chair	Dale Smith	Peace
Marc Jubinville, Vice Chair	Kevin Smook	Northeast
Morgan Rockenbach	Shawn Rodgers	South
Wayne Nixon	Brenda Knight	Central
Dale Kluin	Vacant	Northwest
Brian Brewin		Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Sebastien Dutrisac		Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen
Doug Macaulay		Agriculture and Forestry
Jane Fulton, Secretary		Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen
Pam Retzloff, Recording Secretary		Agriculture and Forestry

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

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

Executive Summary

The Provincial ASB Committee has assigned the following grades to the 2020 resolution responses received from government and non-government organizations based on the grading received from the participating ASBs.

Resolution Number	Resolution Grade	Grade	Updated
1-20	Ropin' the Web	Accept the Response	
2-20	Weed and Pest Surveillance and Monitoring Technology Grant	Incomplete	
3-20	Clubroot Pathotype Testing	Unsatisfactory	*Accept in Principal*
4-20	Education Campaign for Cleanliness of Equipment for Industry Sectors	Unsatisfactory	
5-20	AFSC Assist in Preventing the Spread of Regulated Crop Pests	Unsatisfactory	
6-20	Beehive Depredation	Accept in Principle	
7-20	Agricultural Related Lease Dispositions	Accept in Principle	
8-20	Emergency Livestock Removal	Accept in Principle	
9-20	Mandatory Agriculture Education in the Classroom	Unsatisfactory	
10-20	Reinstate a Shelterbelt Program	Accept in Principle	
11-20	Compensation to Producers on Denied Land Access to Hunters	Defeated	
12-20	Proposed Amendments to Part XV of the Federal *Health of Animals Regulations*	Accept in Principle	
13-20	Canadian Product and Canadian Made	Incomplete	
E1-20	Review of Business Risk Management Programs	Unsatisfactory	
E2-20	Initiate Agri-Recovery Framework	Unsatisfactory	
E3-20	Agri-Invest and Agri-Stability Changes	Unsatisfactory	

Response Summary

Number of ASBs that Responded

Region	No. of ASBs Responding	% of Region Responding
South	6	33%
Central	6	43%
Northeast	3	15%
Northwest	4	31%
Peace	3	23%
Overall	**22**	**32%**

2020 Summary of Grading Responses Submitted

Resolution No.	Accept the Response	Accept in Principle	Incomplete	Unsatisfactory
1-20	18	2	1	1
2-20	1	1	20	0
3-20	6	3	0	12
4-20	0	2	2	17
5-20	2	1	1	18
6-20	0	22	0	0
7-20	0	19	1	2
8-20	1	21	0	0
9-20	1	3	1	17
10-20	2	19	1	0
11-20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
12-20	0	22	0	0
13-20	0	3	16	2
E1-20	0	2	1	19
E2-20	0	0	2	20
E3-20	0	0	2	20

2020 Activities

This February the Committee said good bye to their Executive Assistant Maureen Vadnais-Sloan who has faithfully served the ASBs in one capacity or another for just over 4 years. In June, Linda Hunt was hired as the new Executive Assistant to the Committee. Maureen's background and experience is irreplaceable and the Committee wishes her all the best in her new role with AFSC.

The change in staff provided a good opportunity for the Committee to reflect on the Strategic Plan, the ministry recommendations from the 2019 ASB Grant Program review, and the role of the Committee in providing advice to the minister and advocacy for the ASBs. Improving engagement and communication with ASBs, Ministry and industry partners is a top priority and to do that the development of key messages, position statements and process for regular communication are being discussed. The Executive Assistant role is key to any increased engagement and communication by the Committee and so a stable sustainable funding model is desired. In the meantime the Executive Assistant has been working on the format and organization of the website and is beginning to use the blog page as a means to communicate with the ASBs. Please take the time to visit the website and subscribe to receive email updates when new blogs are posted.

Ministry engagement has also been a challenge this year with the COVID response disrupting priorities. ADM John Conrad was seconded to a position with the COVID response, and returned to his ADM position in September. He will be joining the Committee's regular meeting on Oct 9th to talk about ASB grants, updates to resolutions and the timelines for receiving resolution responses. The Committee did manage to reschedule the March meeting with the Ministry of Transportation DM Lajeunesse and ADM Tom Loo for this September, results of which are posted on our website. We are still waiting to be scheduled for a meeting with Minister Dreeshen. Despite the disruptions to communications and responses, 32% of the ASBs contributed to the resolution grading process.

Meetings:

January 21, 2020
- Regular ASB Provincial Committee Meeting
- AAAF Meeting
- Rural Municipalities of Alberta Meeting

March 16, 2020
- Regular Meeting
- Delegation: John Conrad, Assistant Deputy Minister, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

April 30, 2020
- Regular Meeting

May 22, 2020
- Regular Meeting

June 23, 2020
- Regular Meeting
- Delegation: Jamie Whyte, Acting Deputy Minister, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

September 1, 2020

- Meeting with Deputy Minister Lajeunesse and Assistant Deputy Minister Loo
- Meeting with Jake Kotowich, Executive Director for Plant and

October 9, 2020

- Regular Meeting

Other Activities:

Hiring of new Executive Assistant

South Caucus Invitation - TBD

Events:

January 21 – 24, 2020: 75th Anniversary of ASBs, Provincial Conference

Definition of Terms

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

Accept the Response

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

Accept in Principle

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

Incomplete

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

Unsatisfactory

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

2020 Resolutions

RESOLUTION 1-20: ROPIN' THE WEB

WHEREAS: The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is responsible for the policies, legislation, regulations, programs, and services that enable Alberta's agriculture, food, and forest sectors to grow, prosper, and diversify;

WHEREAS: The Ministry of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's Ropin' the Web provided relevant and reliable information from knowledgeable specialists and experts and a general store for agricultural and forestry related supplies and services;

WHEREAS: Rural businesses and organizations were provided opportunities to facilitate business networks with assistance from the Ministry through the Ministry website Ropin' the Web;

WHEREAS: As part of a larger Government of Alberta web consolidation project, Agriculture and Forestry's web presence, including Ropin' the Web, moved to Alberta.ca and by March 31, 2019, online government directories and some relevant agricultural information was no longer available;

WHEREAS: The intent of the consolidation of the various Alberta Government websites on Alberta.ca to provide a one-stop shop for government information and services that is useable and accessible to all Albertans, is no longer providing a valuable services and information for Alberta's farmers;

WHEREAS: The former Alberta Agriculture Website "Ropin the Web" was easy to use and navigate for farmers and those involved in agriculture;

WHEREAS: Many farmers and people working in the agriculture sector appreciate web-based learning, information sources, and web-based tools;

WHEREAS: The current revised Alberta Agriculture Website is difficult to navigate and with some of the useful extension material no longer available;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
that the Government of Alberta review its Agriculture section of the website ensuring that extension material, online courses and other useful items are easy to find and access for farmers and those in the agriculture industry and reintroduce the general store.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Agriculture and Forestry's web presence is an important source of information for Alberta farmers. In early 2019, Ropin' the Web content was moved over to the main government website, Alberta.ca. More than 700 pages of content were transferred. Many of the reports and

publications that were found on Ropin' the Web can now be found on the Alberta government's Open Data site, open.Alberta.ca

Our former website also offered a listings service for producers seeking to purchase and sell hay, straw, pasture and various species of livestock. While these directories have been discontinued, the demand for these services have remained strong. Alberta farmers have been clear that the hay and livestock listings are a well-used tool for producers in their day-to-day business.

With the operation of buy-and-sell product and services websites falling outside the role of government, Agriculture and Forestry has provided the Alberta Forage Industry Network with a one-time grant through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership to host the hay, straw, pasture and livestock marketplace listings. Progress on this project was shared at the Alberta Forage Industry Network's March 10, 2020, Annual General Meeting with a final product projected for late spring.

SERVICE ALBERTA
No response received; Alberta Agriculture & Forestry submitted response on their behalf.

GRADE: Accept the Response

80% of the participating ASBs Graded this resolution as Accept the Response, 10% as Accept in Principle, 5% Incomplete, and 5% as Unsatisfactory

COMMENTS from ASBs:

Accept in Principle: “Is a one time grant enough to carry on?”

Incomplete: “The response did not address the whole issue”

COMMENTS from Committee: *The Committee graded the resolution as Accept the Response as the government is continuing to provide access to extension materials and other documents through the open.alberta.ca data site, and has granted funding to an industry organization to develop a market place replacement website.*

The Farming the Web website was launched this summer. The Alberta Forage Industry Network was the association that received the government grant to develop and launch the website that replaces the Ropin’ the Web Marketplace. https://farmingtheweb.ca/

Many of the publications that have been published by the Alberta government are available on the Open Alberta web portal. https://www.alberta.ca/open-government-program.aspx

The ForageBeef.ca website, previously maintained by the Government of Alberta, was granted to the Beef Cattle Research Council and is being updated to a new online format and made available through their website. http://www.beefresearch.ca/research/foragebeef-website.cfm?utm_campaign=foragebeef.ca&utm_medium=Redirect&utm_source=/

The Alberta government invested in the Farm Management Canada initiative, and got it started, but seems to have pulled back. Their website and resources are available https://www.fmc-gac.com/

Many of the Commodity Commissions have increased their extension capacity and are investing in the development of production manuals, decision tools, pod casts, newsletters and workshops.

RESOLUTION 2-20: WEED AND PEST SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING TECHNOLOGY GRANT

WHEREAS: Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs) advise on and help organize direct weed and pest control;

WHEREAS: ASBs promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer;

WHEREAS: ASBs promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality;

WHEREAS: All ASBs must report weed and pest monitoring and surveillance as part of their grant requirement;

WHEREAS: The compilation of data collected from the 69 different Agricultural Service Boards requires extensive labour and time on the part of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and municipalities;

WHEREAS: The information received may be for up to 2 growing seasons and has become dated for municipal and provincial use;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry provide a technology grant and personnel resources to assist municipalities in establishing a provincial pest and weed surveillance and monitoring system to improve timely access to data for all the Agricultural stakeholders.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Agriculture and Forestry administers the Weed Control Act and Agricultural Pests Act, and their associated Regulations, and it is our mandate to monitor regulated pests and survey for new and evolving pests that pose a risk to Alberta crop production.

We recognize the limitations in the current pest tracking and reporting system, and the challenges in accessing data in a timely manner. In this regard, Agriculture and Forestry had begun development of a data management system in the early 2010s, but rapidly changing technology advancements made the computer-based system redundant.

We are currently exploring the development of a new database that effectively Interacts (communicates) with mobile devices and allows for timely dissemination of data. At this time, no timeline is available for initiation/completion of this initiative.

GRADE: Incomplete

90% of the participating ASBs rated this resolution Incomplete, 5% Accept in Principle, and 5% Accept the response.

COMMENTS from ASBs:

Accept in Principle: “Tough to accomplish with diminishing funds”

Incomplete: “Need information of who is paying for cost.”

COMMENTS from Committee: *The committee graded this resolution as Incomplete as the response did not include important details about the new database that is being explored. A letter has been drafted to send to the Minister requesting further information and the Committee plans to bring up the issue with the Minister when they are able to meet.*

On Aug 18, 2020 the Committee wrote to Minster Dreeshen informing him of the proposed grade of incomplete, and that the Committee thought the response to resolution 2-20 “Weed and Pest Surveillance and Monitoring Technology Grant” was missing information. We took this opportunity to clarify the issue in hopes of receiving a better response. The Committee stated that the intended result of the resolution was for “the province to work with municipalities to design and maintain one software program that allows municipalities to keep their weed inspection, treatment and response records and automatically exports the data at the township level to a map that is made available in real time.”. We received the following response on September 11:

“Regarding “Resolution 2-20: Weed and Pest Surveillance and Monitoring Technology Grant,” Alberta Agriculture and Forestry does not currently have a grant program in place to create/manage the database, as requested in the resolution. Opportunities may exist for the Agricultural Service Boards to access funding to develop a database through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Risk Mitigation and Surveillance program. I encourage you to contact Tanya Warren (Tanya.warren@gov.ab.ca), CAP Coordinator, for more information.”

This issue was also submitted through the Red Tape Reduction website and the committee has not received a response.

RESOLUTION 3-20: CLUBROOT PATHOTYPE TESTING

WHEREAS: Canola production generates over $7 billion in revenues in the Province of Alberta annually, is adversely impacted by clubroot;

WHEREAS: Clubroot surveillance and pathotype testing completed by the University of Alberta Clubroot Research Team led by Dr. Strelkov is the only testing of its kind being done in Western Canada, and is used to inform the Industry, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and producers;

WHEREAS: The unbiased, world recognized testing conducted by the University of Alberta has been vital to the agricultural industry in breeding canola cultivars resistant to the ever-evolving number of pathotypes being found in Alberta agricultural fields;

WHEREAS: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry recently denied a Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Project funding application which would allow this extremely important research to continue;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUES
the Province of Alberta commit to consistent and sustainable funding for the Clubroot Surveillance and Pathotype Monitoring conducted by the University of Alberta.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Agriculture and Forestry has a mandate to monitor regulated pests like Plasmodiophora brassicae, the causal agent of clubroot. The department conducts clubroot surveillance activities in collaboration with stakeholders such as rural municipalities, Applied Research Associations, the canola industry, and the University of Alberta.

- The recent profiling of virulent pathotypes of clubroot, for which current sources of resistance are not effective, and the development of the Canadian Clubroot Differential Set are both positive examples of results delivered through effective collaboration.
- A significant portion of this work took place in Agriculture and Forestry facilities located at the Crop Diversification Centre North in Edmonton.

In 2019, we provided $1.1 million for two three-year projects at the University of Alberta via the Strategic Research and Development Grant Program to support further research on management options (such as resistance testing, rotations, liming, weed implications, impact of inoculum pressure) and pathotyping through the development of a polymerase chain reaction based assay. In addition, through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Plant Health Surveillance Program, Agriculture and Forestry approved a project supporting clubroot surveillance activities in six

county and municipal districts in the North East Region, and a second project supporting clubroot surveillance activities by 13 county and municipal districts in the Peace Region.

The department also provides support to the crop community in the area of crop assurance through grants, a dedicated Agriculture and Forestry monitoring/surveillance program, and a Level Two Diagnostics Lab.

GRADE: Unsatisfactory

60% of the participating ASBs graded this resolution Unsatisfactory, 30% as Accept the Response, and 10% as Accept in Principle.

COMMENTS from ASBs:

Accept the Response: "UofA has funding now", "$$ until 2024", "due to the correspondence email, this grade should be changed to Accept the Response",

Accept in Principle: "based on the reply from Dr. Strelkov", "Based on comments/info received after grading, there was funding put forwards. Suggests resolution be graded to Accept in Principle based on the new info provided"

Unsatisfactory: "Some discussion occurred regarding supporting testing through use of checkoff funds",

COMMENTS from Committee: *The Committee graded this resolution as Unsatisfactory as the response does not acknowledge the importance of committing to consistent sustainable funding for Clubroot Surveillance and Pathotype Monitoring. The response does not respond to the current situation being experienced by the municipalities and the issues that the U of A researchers have put forward.*

Going forward the Committee will write a letter to the minister reiterating the need for ongoing monitoring and surveillance support at the U of A and clarifying the value of this work to the industry. The committee will also continue to discuss this issue with the minister when they meet.

UPDATE

Aug 10 update: An email was received from Dr. Strelkov regarding the outcome of this resolution. His email is copied below and will be used to inform the final grading of this resolution:

"I appreciate the strong support from the ASB for the important clubroot pathotyping and monitoring work. I would like to update you on the status of the situation.

We had submitted two proposals for pathotyping research to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF), for support under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Program. The first was rejected in a letter dated Oct. 16, 2019, and the second (revised based on the comments on the first proposal) was rejected in a letter dated Jan. 6, 2020.

However, I would like to share some good news: in an email dated Jan. 21, 2020 from Brian Karisa, Science Lead, Innovation Agriculture Grants (AAF), we were invited to resubmit our pathotyping proposal for consideration through the Strategic Research and Development Program (SRDP).

We submitted the revised proposal as requested, and I'm happy to inform you that this proposal was SUCCESSFUL, with funding to be provided for continued clubroot surveillance and pathotyping for the period March 2020 - March 2024. Hence, there is now support for this research for the next few years under the SRDP program.

I am happy to chat further in person if you have any questions: I am available anytime this afternoon from 1:00 - 4:30 pm or other times this week. However, given that we did receive support in the end, albeit via the SRDP rather than CAP program, I think the matter has been resolved in an acceptable manner.

Thank you once again for your support. I believe that the resolution and support from the Ag Service Boards helped to secure this continued funding.

Sincerely,
Steve"
Aug 10, 2020

RESOLUTION 4-20: EDUCATION CAMPAIGN FOR CLEANLINESS OF EQUIPMENT FOR INDUSTRY SECTORS

WHEREAS: Farm and construction equipment can be purchased from any dealership and moved to any area;

WHEREAS: Equipment dealerships could play a better role in ensuring weeds and pests from one area stays out of another area;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry create an education campaign directed specifically at equipment dealerships or equipment auction services that outlines their role and promotes the importance of moving clean, uncontaminated equipment.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Equipment in multiple sectors—including farming, construction, and oil and gas—can inadvertently transport soil-borne diseases as well as plant material and weed seeds. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's pest management programs focus on integrating monitoring and policy to protect Alberta's agricultural crops from the invasion and spread of plant pests. The Agricultural Pests Act is the provincial legislation to help prevent the introduction and spread of pests in Alberta. Certain parts of the Act prohibit the propagation, sale and distribution of anything containing a pest, which would include soil movement.

As part of AFs mandate to monitor soil-borne regulated pests, such as clubroot {Plasmodiophora brassicae), we have evaluated methods of reducing the inadvertent movement of this and other soil borne pests, including methods of transmission and control options.

The department has published sanitation options for managing the inadvertent movement of soil borne pests. For example, the 'Clubroot Management Plan', describes best management practices for producers and industry for cleaning equipment that may spread soil borne disease. The Clubroot Management Plan was revised in 2019 and can be found on Alberta.ca at the following link: https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-clubroot-management-plan.aspx. Many of the strategies for sanitation can be extrapolated to weeds and weed seeds in soil as well. For example, Aphanomyces root rot of peas is also soil borne, and AF's sanitation measures can be applied to help control this disease in Alberta.

AF also supports industry/government activities such as the Clubroot Management Committee, a multi-stakeholder group with interest in canola and clubroot. The Clubroot Management Committee provides a forum to represent the interests and views of the agriculture and oil and

gas industries in Alberta and Western Canada regarding the management of clubroot. The Committee:

- Recommends management strategies, and
- Assists in educating the agriculture, oil and gas industries in Western Canada about clubroot and the threat it represents to canola and cole crop production.

Extension activities by AF include presentations to industry as well as field demonstrations on sanitation and mitigating the risk of pest spread through equipment cleaning measures. Lectures at colleges and universities reach both agriculture students as well as those in natural resource management, land reclamation, and energy programs.

Additionally, AF co-leads the Biosecurity Working Group under the umbrella of the Canadian Plant Health Council. The working group is invested in assessing gaps in on-farm biosecurity, which includes equipment sanitation and mitigating the threats to crop health.

While we promote equipment sanitation in our presentations and field demonstrations, we do not currently have additional educational activities planned.

GRADE: Unsatisfactory

80% of the participating ASBs graded this resolution response as Unsatisfactory

COMMENTS from ASBs:

Accept in Principle: “The program already exists for the public. Dealerships and auction services should not be singled out”

Incomplete: “discussed clubroot but not other pests”, “The comment section states it has been added to the advocacy topics of Canola Producers commission. Change grading to ‘incomplete’. If this is brought to the Commission and accepted, intent of the resolution will be met”

Unsatisfactory: “They have all the material, now they just have to put it in a package for Industry”, “Caution that there not be a shift of responsibility to industry sectors only. This should be considered an effort to encourage industry to assist”

COMMENTS from Committee: *The Committee graded this resolution as Unsatisfactory as it did not address the intent of the resolution or meet the expectations of the Committee. The intent of the resolution was to encourage the government of Alberta to commit to a campaign similar to the one they have for zebra mussels. A letter from the Committee to the ministry explaining the unsatisfactory rating and clarifying the type of response being requested will be sent. This topic will be brought up with the minister when the Committee meets with him later this year.*

This topic has been added to the list of advocacy topics to be brought to the attention of the Alberta Canola Producers Commission to see if there is a fit with their organization or partners.

On August 18, the Committee wrote to Minister Dreeshen informing him that we felt that the response received for 4-20 “Education Campaign for Cleanliness of Equipment for Industry Sector” was Unsatisfactory as the intention of the resolution was to “encourage the Government of Alberta to

commit to a campaign (for clubroot) similar to the one they have for zebra mussels.”. We received the following response on September 11:

“With respect to “Resolution 4-20: Education Program for Cleanliness of Equipment for Industry Sector”, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry does not have the capacity to expand educational programs over what is currently in place. CAP may be a source of support for such a program if you wish to pursue that avenue. If you have any further questions on the Ministry’s response, please contact Dr. David Feindel (david.feindel@gov.ab.ca), Director, Plant and Bee Health Surveillance.”

RESOLUTION 5-20: AFSC ASSIST IN PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF REGULATED CROP PESTS

WHEREAS: Crop diseases are becoming more prevalent and wide spread in Alberta due to shortened crop rotations;

WHEREAS: Disease resistance is breaking down more quickly due to shortened crop rotations;

WHEREAS: Longer crop rotations can significantly decrease pest and disease infestations;

WHEREAS: Most crop producers carry crop insurance through the provincial crown corporation Agricultural Financial Services Corporation (AFSC);

WHEREAS: AFSC has the ability to promote better and longer crop rotations by declining or pricing insurance in a manner that discourages short crop rotations;

WHEREAS: Other jurisdictions such as Saskatchewan use their provincial Crown corporations for crop insurance to promote recommended crop rotations;

WHEREAS: The Minister has the ability under the Agricultural Pests Act Section 3(d) to enter into an agreement with AFSC to prevent establishment of or control or destroy pests;

WHEREAS: During the 2015 ASB Provincial Conference Resolution #1 ADAPT CROP INSURANCE TO PROTECT CLUBROOT TOLERANT VARIETIES was passed. The resolution requested similar actions to be taken, the response report card deemed actions taken to be unsatisfactory;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Forestry per section 3(d) of the Agricultural Pests Act enter into an agreement with AFSC to decline insurance on canola acres under their program if canola has been planted back to back in rotation.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Forestry per section 3(d) of the Agricultural Pests Act enter into an agreement with AFSC to impose an insurance premium on land which has been planted to canola in contradiction to the Province's Clubroot Management Plan.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Clubroot and blackleg of canola are some of the declared pests under Agriculture and Forestry's Agricultural Pest Act (APA). This act sets out the duties of individuals and local authorities (municipalities) related to the prevention and destruction of pests, and allows the local authority to deal with pests that affect agricultural production. In addition, it also outlines the appointment and powers of inspectors to enforce the APA.

With support from the province, enforcement of the APA and the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation is done through Agriculture Service Boards and the Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen. Alberta also has a Clubroot Management Plan that outlines best management practices for clubroot, which include various practices such as the use of resistant varieties, equipment sanitization, and a one-in-four year crop rotation for crucifer crops.

In 2015 and 2016, Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) included the topic of clubroot management as a topic in the client consultation meetings held in several locations throughout the province. Feedback indicated clients did not feel AFSC should enforce crop rotations or advise on management practices. The current crop insurance mechanisms were seen as reasonably able to cover most cases. For instance, while AFSC does not expressly prohibit growing practices that may contribute to clubroot, the organization does encourage producers to use best management practices through:

- The option to deny or reduce an indemnity on a claim when best practices are not followed;
- The ability to provide coverage based on individual yield history. As a disease such as clubroot adversely impacts crop yield, the subsequent coverage for that crop will be adversely affected;
- Applying a surcharge on subsequent coverage for producers with high loss experience; and
- Denying, limiting or restricting crop insurance coverage when any practice or action taken by the insured would prove detrimental or would limit the production of a producer's crop.

The removal of Fusarium head blight as a declared pest under the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation is a Red Tape Reduction initiative by Agriculture and Forestry. Alberta was the only jurisdiction to regulate Fusarium, limiting growers and producers access to seed varieties. Fusarium is established in significant portions of the province making absolute control of the pest untenable. Moving to a best management practice approach to mitigate spread recognizes the significance of the pest while allowing for more flexibility for producers to manage their operations. Agriculture and Forestry has worked closely with our industry partners on this change to ensure it is supported and the benefits recognized.

AGRICULTURE FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION ALBERTA

Clubroot, a serious soil-borne disease, is a declared pest under the Alberta Agricultural Pest Act (APA). This act, which is administered by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF), is the legislative authority for the enforcement of control measures for declared pests.

This act sets out the duties of individuals and local authorities (municipalities) related to the prevention and destruction of pests, and allows the local authority to deal with pests which affect agricultural production. In addition, it also outlines the appointment and powers of inspectors to enforce the APA.

Under the act, Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs) have the responsibility to administer and enforce the APA. With support from the province, enforcement of the APA and the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation is done through Agriculture Service Boards, the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, and the Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen. Under the APA, all agricultural fieldmen are inspectors. As such, the County is responsible for limiting the spread of clubroot and providing adequate enforcement.

Alberta has a Clubroot Management Plan (CMP) that outlines best management practices for clubroot. These best management practices include various practices such as the use of resistant varieties, equipment sanitization and a one-in-four year crop rotation for crucifer crops.

In 2015 and 2016, AFSC included clubroot management as a topic in the client consultation meetings held in several locations throughout the province. Feedback indicated clients did not feel AFSC should enforce crop rotations or advise on management practices. The current crop insurance mechanisms were seen as reasonable to cover most cases.

AFSC does not provide compensate producers for clubroot-related losses, even though clubroot is a declared pest under the APA.

While AFSC does not expressly prohibit growing practices which may contribute to clubroot, it encourages the use of best management practices through the following:

- The ability to deny or reduce an indemnity on a claim when:
  - improper crop rotation practices are used;
  - seed not recommended for the area is used;
  - unapproved, untimely or improperly applied methods for the control of plant diseases are used; and
  - failure to follow acceptable practices as recommended by the Alberta government responsible for Agriculture (Alberta Agriculture and Forestry).
- The ability to provide coverage based on individual yield history. As a disease (e.g., clubroot) adversely impacts crop yield, the subsequent coverage for that crop will be adversely affected.
- The ability to apply a surcharge on subsequent coverage for producers with high loss experience.
- The ability to deny, limit or restrict crop insurance coverage when any practice or action taken by the insured would prove detrimental or limits the production of a producer's crop.

GRADE: Unsatisfactory

80% of the responding ASBs graded this resolution response as Unsatisfactory. 10% Accept the Response, 5% Accept in Principle, and 5% Incomplete.

COMMENTS from ASBs:

Accept in Principle: “AFSC is not about rewarding the low risk, but penalizing the high risk. The Clubroot management plan is in place for producers to follow, and the municipalities to help guide.”

Incomplete: “options are available to AFSC but unclear if they’re utilized or effective”

Unsatisfactory: “Did not address the issue in the resolution of AFSC entering into an agreement with producers”

COMMENTS from Committee: *The Committee graded this resolution as Unsatisfactory since the responses did not meet the expectation of the ASB. The intent of the resolution was to reward producers who followed best management practices outlined in the Clubroot Management Plan. We believe that offering lower premiums to farmers that have a lower risk of clubroot, encourages producers to look at the Clubroot Management Plan and consider adopting the recommended practices. Rewarding lower risk clients with lower premiums is a common practice in the insurance industry, and fits with the mission of AFSC to “…grow agriculture in Alberta.”. Following the recommendations of the Clubroot Management Plan lowers the risk of clubroot increasing to levels that affect crop yields, and the profitability of the farms that support rural economies. The intent is not to impose further regulations, red tape or burden on producers, or restrict in anyway the rights of producers to make decisions on their crop rotations.*

RESOLUTION 6-20: **BEEHIVE DEPREDATION**

WHEREAS: Alberta agriculture has a spectrum of different farming and ranching operation;

WHEREAS: The Ungulate Damage Prevention Program, offers producers advice and assistance to prevent ungulates from spoiling stored feed and unharvested crops;

WHEREAS: All commercially grown cereal, oilseed, special and other crops that can be insured under the Production and Straight Hail Insurance programs are eligible for compensation;

WHEREAS: The Wildlife Predator Compensation Program provides compensation to ranchers whose livestock are killed or injured by wildlife predators;

WHEREAS: Alberta Beekeepers, as an Alberta Agricultural Producers, also experiences wildlife damages such as hive destruction every year by bear depredation but is not covered by a program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks work with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation to amend the Wildlife Compensation Program to include coverage for hive destruction by bear activity.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

From February 6 to 13, 2020, AFSC conducted five Input Advisory Groups meetings throughout the province with Alberta beekeepers. These meetings—held in Falher, Lacombe, Lethbridge, Vermillion, and Westlock—focused on the suite of Business Risk Management (BRM) and Wildlife programs currently administered by AFSC and how those programs work for beekeepers.

AFSC is reviewing the feedback collected at these meetings and formulating potential program improvements that will be vetted through additional industry consultation. Program improvements are expected to be implemented by 2021.

AGRICULTURE FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION ALBERTA

From February 6 to 13, 2020, AFSC conducted five Input Advisory Groups (IAG) meetings throughout the province with Alberta beekeepers. These meetings, held in Falher, Lacombe, Lethbridge, Vermillion and Westlock, focused on the suite of Business Risk Management and Wildlife programs currently administered by AFSC and how those programs work for beekeepers.

AFSC is reviewing the feedback collected at these meetings and formulating potential program improvements that will be vetted through additional industry consultation. Program improvements are expected to be implemented by 2021.

ALBERTA ENVRONMENT AND PARKS

GRADE: Accept in Principle

100% of the responding ASBs graded this resolution response as Accept in Principle.

COMMENTS from ASBs: none.

COMMENTS from Committee: *The Committee graded this resolution as Accept in Principle as the responses to the resolution were that there were consultations ongoing and changes to the program to be implemented by 2021. The Committee has added this resolution to the list of resolutions to monitor and request information as it becomes available.*

RESOLUTION 7-20: AGRICULTURAL RELATED LEASE DISPOSITIONS

WHEREAS: Agricultural Lease Dispositions on Public Lands are an integral component of many livestock operations throughout the Province of Alberta;

WHEREAS: The demographics of the Province of Alberta's Agricultural Producers indicate that the sector is experiencing and will continue to experience the rapid succession of livestock operations for the foreseeable future;

WHEREAS: The sale and/or purchase of Agricultural Lease Dispositions represent the transfer of an asset and the capital used to develop that asset;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
the Government of Alberta streamline and/or provide increased resources to expedite the disposition of Agricultural Leases within the Province of Alberta.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Environment and Parks is modernizing and bringing into compliance all agricultural dispositions under the Public Lands Administration Regulation. As part of this process, Environment and Parks is overhauling its approach to agricultural dispositions to improve the assignment process, and their goal is to ensure that department's approach is as streamlined as possible. So far, they have updated the grazing rental rates and assignment fees. For more information, please visit www.alberta.ca and search for "public lands fee updates".

Additionally, Environment and Parks has embarked on a grazing lease renewal backlog project, as many of our agricultural dispositions have expired. They are excited about this project and have already seen a significant positive impact on both their department and those that hold grazing leases.

Environment and Parks is confident the work being done to streamline agricultural disposition processing will better serve Albertans by shortening processing times.

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

Response as above

GRADE: Accept in Principle

86% of the responding ASBs graded this response as Accept in Principle. 5% of the responding ASBs graded the response Incomplete. 10% of the responding ASBs rated the response Unsatisfactory.

COMMENTS from ASBs:

Incomplete: “no details about this process of timelines were provided”

Unsatisfactory: “Process is not going as stated in response”, “Refer to the MD of Greenview Response?”

COMMENTS from Committee: *The Committee graded this resolution as Accept in Principle as the responses indicated that the government was aware of the issues and working to address them. It is noted that there was no commitment to increased resources to address the problems, however streamlining the process was their intention. The Committee will monitor this process and revisit when new information becomes available.*

RESOLUTION 8-20: **EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK REMOVAL**

WHEREAS: Maintaining livestock health, viability and profitability during emergency situations such as, but not limited to, disease, fire and flooding is a major priority to livestock producers;

WHEREAS: Livestock removal during emergency situations pose major challenges to producers' safety, livelihoods and animal welfare;

WHEREAS: Major challenges arise from transportation, acquiring pasture and red tape from various departments to access grazing reserves;

WHEREAS: These major challenges restrict the ability of these producers to evacuate rapidly and pose serious risk to life and property;

WHEREAS: Removal of red tape and rapid access to grazing reserves and/or created areas allotted for the use during emergency situations would improve the evacuation process, protect life and property;

WHEREAS: Currently Municipal Affairs and Agriculture and Forestry do not coordinate an effort to make livestock removal a priority under the Emergency Management Act in rural areas;

WHEREAS: The purpose of an Agricultural Service Board is to improve the economic welfare and safety of producers and by not having a provincial streamlined system to safely and effectively remove and rehome livestock; emergency situations will continue to plague the life and property of producers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD REQUEST
that Municipal Affairs and Agriculture and Forestry work together to research and develop best practice procedures in the event livestock are to be left behind due to an Evacuation Order issued under the *Emergency Management Act*.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Agriculture and Forestry and Municipal Affairs, through the Alberta Emergency Management Agency, acknowledge that livestock removal during emergency situations poses major challenges to producer safety, livelihoods and animal welfare. We have been working together to improve the emergency management systems' ability to address livestock concerns during emergencies, including evacuations. The emergency management system is intricate and has a number of different levels that need to be considered when addressing livestock in emergencies.

The initial responsibility for being prepared for emergencies rests with individuals (including farmers and other small businesses). Each farm should have its own plan for when, how and to where the farmer would evacuate their livestock should it be necessary. When the emergency event is more than an individual or business can manage on their own, they should reach out to

their municipality for assistance, who can provides support through the traditional emergency services. The municipality is also responsible for developing response plans and strategies. When the emergency event is greater than a community can manage on their own, they can reach out to the provincial government for assistance. Requests for provincial assistance are coordinated through the Alberta Emergency Management Agency's Provincial Emergency Operations Centre, at which all provincial departments work collaboratively to provide support and assistance to communities in need.

Following discussions with communities after the 2019 Wildfire season, Agriculture and Forestry is looking at a multipronged approach to improving the emergency management system's ability to address livestock issues, while enhancing farmers' awareness of the emergency management system and their own emergency preparedness. In this regard, we will provide support to the extension efforts of Agriculture Service Boards to enhance emergency planning at the community level. Agriculture and Forestry will also continue to work with agriculture industry associations to support on-farm emergency preparedness and the development of response and recovery strategies for large emergencies, disease outbreaks or other disasters.

Further efforts in this area include finalizing the development of a temporary re-entry process that communities could build upon and implement after they have ordered an evacuation; working with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency to complete a "Livestock Emergency Planning Guide" for communities; and working with Environment and Parks to develop a rapid access protocol for the provincial grazing reserves, so that communities or the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre will have a quick option to consider when there is a need to evacuate large numbers of animals.

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

Answer was coordinated with AF. See above response.

ALBERTA MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Alberta's emergency management system operates on a decentralized model with local authorities, such as municipalities, Metis Settlements, and First Nations having the primary responsibility for managing emergency or disaster events within their boundaries. In January 2020, the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation came into effect, and is intended to strengthen local authority emergency management systems.

Decisions on evacuation are generally made by the local authority under a state of local emergency, and would include considerations such as evacuation of livestock. I encourage local authorities having a significant livestock presence in their communities to ensure they have considered livestock evacuation within their municipal emergency management plans.

Thank you again for writing and for your efforts on behalf of Alberta's economic growth and development.

GRADE: Accept in Principle

95% of the responding ASBs graded this resolution response as Accept in Principle, 5% as Accept the Response.

COMMENTS from ASBs: none

COMMENTS from Committee: *The Committee graded this resolution as Accept in Principle as the ministries are aware of the need for Emergency Livestock Removal to be addressed in emergency response planning and have been working with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency to address the concerns that have come out of the 2019 wildfire responses. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is working on a "multipronged" approach to improve the emergency response system and increase awareness of the need for emergency response planning to be done by producers who own livestock, and states that they will "support" efforts of municipalities to increase awareness with livestock owners. There were no firm commitments to resources or activities in the resolution response, the Committee will monitor the progress and follow up if needed.*

RESOLUTION 9-20: MANDATORY AGRICULTURE EDUCATION IN THE CLASSROOM

WHEREAS: Agricultural production in Alberta has historically been and continues to be a major economic force and employer of workers;

WHEREAS: Generations ago, most Albertans grew up on the family farm and had an intimate knowledge about how livestock, crops, and other agricultural commodities were raised;

WHEREAS: Most Albertans now live in urban non -farm environments and do not have the same level of knowledge about how livestock, crops, and other agricultural commodities are being raised;

WHEREAS: The general public has historically had a high regard for agriculture and farmers as they put food on their table in Alberta, Canada, and the rest of the world;

WHEREAS: Modern agriculture in Alberta is being severely tested by concerns about how livestock, crops, and agricultural produce is being raised, especially regarding environmental impacts, animal cruelty, and farm safety;

WHEREAS: Many of these concerns stem from a lack of knowledge about agriculture in the general community;

WHEREAS: Alberta Education is currently reviewing the teaching curriculum making it very timely to consider this resolution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
that the Agricultural Service Boards, Rural Municipalities of Alberta and Alberta Agriculture & Forestry work with other rural stakeholders, Alberta Education, and the Alberta Teachers' Association to request that mandatory agriculture education be implemented in the school curriculum in Alberta.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
that Alberta Education be approached to add Canada Agriculture Day as an event to their school activities.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to connect consumers with where their food comes from. To facilitate public understanding of the industry, government has taken concrete steps to support agriculture education in our province.

In partnership with Alberta Education, Agriculture and Forestry has developed the Green Certificate Program, a dual-credit program where students can earn both high school credits and an industry certification in a variety of agriculture career paths. Students select a specialization,

and under the guidance of a trainer, work towards mastering all of the skills within their training program. Upon completion, the trainee receives 16 grade-12 credits.

We are also committed to working with Alberta Education as it reviews the curriculum to find ways to integrate agriculture into Alberta's K-12 core courses like science and social studies. Currently, agriculture is represented in subjects like Social Studies, Science, Foods and Health, but many teachers may not have the knowledge or the resources to be able to integrate agriculture themes into the curriculum.

To help facilitate getting agriculture into classrooms, Agriculture and Forestry developed a Canadian Agricultural Partnership Public Trust Youth Agriculture Education Grant for industry organizations and education organizations to develop curriculum-linked programs that build public trust in agriculture. The grant has $2 million dollars allocated over the five-year agreement.

RURAL MUNICIPALITIES OF ALBERTA

Thank you for your letter dated February 7, 2020 regarding ASB resolution 9-20: Mandatory Agriculture Education in the Classroom. I wanted to share with you a similar resolution endorsed at our fall 2019 RMA convention, 23-19F: Mandatory Agriculture Education in the Classroom.

https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/23-19f-mandatory-agriculture-education-in-the-classroom/

We received a response from the Government of Alberta (GOA) outlining the current agricultural education opportunities offered in Alberta schools. However, the GOA response does not indicate action to have mandatory education in agricultural topics for all Alberta students. As a result, RMA has assigned this resolution a status of intent not met.

I look forward to working together as we continue to advocate on this issue.

ALBERTA EDUCATION

I believe all Albertans share the same values in wanting a strong, vibrant education system that meets the learning needs of all students and gives them the skills and knowledge they will need to be successful in school, work and life.

As a farmer myself, I am very aware that agriculture is an important part of Alberta's economy, and I appreciate the value of providing students with an understanding of this industry and of its role in food production. Both the current Science and Social Studies Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum provide students opportunities to learn about a wide range of topics, including concepts related to agriculture in Alberta. I have asked my department to explore the possibilities of further enhancement to the curriculum.

Alberta's provincial Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum outlines what students are expected to know, understand and be able to do in each subject and grade. While Alberta Education determines curriculum content, teachers use their professional judgement to determine how students achieve the learning outcomes in the provincial curriculum. School authorities have the

autonomy, flexibility and responsibility to determine which supports, resources or programs are most appropriate for their students and school community. This provides Alberta's school jurisdictions with the opportunity to best address the needs of the students and the communities they serve, using the resources available to them.

In order to ensure students in Alberta receive the best education possible, our government established an independent curriculum advisory panel to provide a new vision for student learning, as well as recommendations on the direction for future Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum. The panel's report is available at open.alberta.ca/publications/curricuJum-advisory-panel-recommendations-oi1-direction-for-curriculum, and a link to the draft vision for student learning is available at www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/educ-draft-rninisterial-order.pdf .

The draft vision for student learning emphasizes the knowledge, skills and competencies that students should have when they finish high school. Establishing a new vision for student learning is an important first step in ensuring we take the right approach in updating the provincial curriculum.

Government has engaged with Albertans through an online survey to gather feedback on the panel's draft vision. This feedback, along with the recommendations from the curriculum advisory panel, will help guide our work as we move forward with updating the curriculum.

I hope this information is helpful, and I appreciate you taking the time to write.

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/curriculum-advisory-panel-recommendations-on-direction-for-curriculum

ALBERTA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Thank you for providing the Alberta Teachers' Association with a copy of Resolution 9-20, Mandatory Agriculture Education in the Classroom.

The Association is pleased to receive the resolution as information. However, Alberta Education, not the Association, establishes the curriculum and the resolution is best directed to the ministry for action. As the resolution notes, your advocacy is especially timely given that the ministry is currently updating the curriculum.

Once again, thank you for sharing the resolution.

GRADE: Unsatisfactory

76% of the responding ASBs graded this resolution response as Unsatisfactory, 14% rated it Accept in Principle, 5% as Incomplete, and 5% as Accept the Response.

COMMENTS from ASBs:

Accept the Response: “There are programs already available to teach agriculture to youth (i.e. Green Certificate, Open Farm Days, CAP). Who will be the person teaching the full course. An experienced farmer? An anti-GMP activist? A Vegan?”

Accept in Principle: “Inconsistency of delivery throughout the province”

Incomplete: “discussed the resolution but sounds like more information is coming and other curriculum enhancement possibilities are being considered”

Unsatisfactory: “Mandatory agriculture in the classroom is simply not done”, “Comments made that perhaps this resolution should be directed to Trustees rather than the ATA”, “Based on review of the AB Agriculture and Forestry’s role, they are an advocated to having more ag in schools, but not their mandate to provide that. Can this be brought forward as an advocacy standpoint to keep focus on it? Bring forward to MLA, draft letter from Board to Mayor Hnatiw to bring forward?”

COMMENTS for Committee: *The Committee graded this resolution response as Unsatisfactory as the response from the ministry did acknowledge the need for increased awareness of food and where it comes from, but did not commit to making Agriculture Education mandatory. There was no response to the request to add Canada Agriculture Day as an event in the school calendars. This response from the Ministry, the Alberta Teachers Association and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is consistent with past responses. The Committee will reach out to other organizations that are working to address this issue and see if there are other opportunities to have influence on this topic, and looks forward to hearing about activities funded through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Public Trust Youth Agriculture Education Grant.*

RESOLUTION 10-20: REINSTATE A SHELTERBELT PROGRAM

WHEREAS: The Government of Canada cancelled the Prairie Shelterbelt Program in 2013, a program which ran successfully from 1901-2013;

WHEREAS: Shelterbelts provide many direct benefits to landowners, including snow trapping, reducing soil erosion from wind, and acting as visual screens;

WHEREAS: Shelterbelts provide indirect benefits to all Canadians by providing ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, and pollinator habitat;

WHEREAS: Weather conditions and high levels of pest pressure has taken its toll on existing shelterbelts;

WHEREAS: Municipalities bear the extra cost of road maintenance (snow clearing, dust control) when shelterbelts start to die;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry implement a shelterbelt program

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

The Government of Alberta shelterbelt program closed in 1997, and the Government of Canada's Prairie Shelterbelt Program closed in 2013. The programs provided technical services and tree and shrub seedlings at no cost to eligible landowners. Municipalities also assisted with distribution of seedlings as well as access to planting and maintenance equipment.

We recognize that shelterbelts provide a variety of positive benefits, including decreased soil erosion, improved soil fertility and soil moisture retention, wildlife habitat, and carbon storage. While there is no government shelterbelt program currently being considered, a number of commercial nurseries have taken over the large-scale production of shelterbelt stock, and they make them available at low cost to bulk orders. Agriculture and Forestry believes the private sector can efficiently supply the need for shelterbelt stock in Alberta, while some Alberta counties still make planting and maintenance equipment available through their Agriculture Service Boards.

Shelterbelts and eco-buffers are eligible projects under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change - Producer program. The minimum shelterbelt length is 100 meters, and there is a maximum price per tree of $5.00. Only native species of tree will be approved. Program details and applications can be accessed at:

https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/program/STEW_PROD

AGRICUTLURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA – Minister

The Government of Canada has a long history of working with provincial and territorial partners and industry stakeholders to help support and enhance the sustainability of Canada's agriculture sector. This has included researching the benefits of on-farm woodlots and shelterbelts, and encouraging their establishment on working lands. The Canadian Agricultural Partnership is continuing to help producers to address soil and water conservation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and adapt to climate change.

Under the Partnership, approximately $430 million is available for FPT cost-shared programs that are designed to raise producer's awareness of environmental risks and accelerate the adoption of on-farm technologies and practices to reduce these risks, including the on-farm shelterbelts. These cost-shared programs are delivered by provinces and territories, enabling them to reflect the environmental priorities of the sector in each region, including identifying the practices and technologies eligible for incentives to producers.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) remains committed to collaborating with provinces, territories, and the sector to explore alternate approaches that support and encourage the adoption of innovation and nature-based climate solutions, such as establishing shelterbelts, as a way to address climate change and contribute toward Canada's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

GRADE: Accept in Principle

86% of the responding ASBs graded this response as Accept in Principle, 10% Accept the Response, and 4% Unsatisfactory.

COMMENTS from ASBs: none

COMMENTS from Committee: *The committee graded this as Accept in Principle as it addresses the resolution in part, but does not meet the expectations of the resolution. It is clear from the response that the ministry feels that the funding provided to producers for native shelterbelt species under CAP and the programs offered by commercial nurseries are sufficient.*

RESOLUTION 11-20: COMPENSATION TO PRODUCERS ON DENIED LAND ACCESS TO HUNTERS

DEFEATED AT THE 2020 PROVINCIAL ASB CONFERENCE

WHEREAS: Damage to livestock fencing, stacked feed, green feed or silage pits has increased due to the growing deer and elk population;

WHEREAS: Damage caused by deer and elk may be reduced through best management practices including issuance of additional hunting tags;

WHEREAS: Controlled reduction of the ungulate population cannot be undertaken on lands where hunting is not permitted;

WHEREAS: No compensation should be paid to landowners for damage to fences, stacked feed, green feed losses or silage pits and tubes if land access to hunters is denied;

WHEREAS: Landowners can develop their own system to allow land access to hunters;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
that Alberta Environment and Parks withhold compensation for damage caused to fences, stacked feed or green feed to landowners that do not permit access to land for hunting of wildlife.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE: N/A

RESOLUTION 12-20: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PART XV OF THE FEDERAL *HEALTH OF ANIMALS REGULATIONS*

WHEREAS: Under the authority of the Federal *Health of Animals Regulations,* the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is proposing significant amendments to the reporting requirements regarding the movement of livestock in Canada;

WHEREAS: The "data requirements" as identified by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency are exhaustive, unreasonable and seriously taxing to many livestock producers and farm operators;

WHEREAS: Dependable, long range, high frequency identification tags and consequent readers are not currently readily available;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
The Canadian Food Inspection Agency postpone their proposed amendments to the federal *Health of Animals Regulations* until such a time that the identified "data requirements" can be accurately collected by livestock producers and farm operators.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is proposing amendments to the Federal traceability regulations (Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations, within the Health of Animals Act) that will expand the scope of requirements for identifying and reporting the movement of beef, bison, sheep and pigs, while introducing traceability requirements for goats and cervids.

The goal of the proposed amendments is to address gaps in Canada's traceability system, identified during consultations in 2013 and 2015, to ensure a robust system and ability to trace livestock in the event of a disease outbreak or natural disaster event.

As a result of the consultations, the CFIA revised several elements of the regulatory proposal and ensured alignment with the Cattle Implementation Plan supported by the beef cattle sector.

Alberta supports and will continue to work with industry and our federal and provincial partners on an integrated national traceability program. Alberta also remains committed to maintaining its Premises Identification (PID) system and increasing PID registrations (with over 50,000 active accounts in its PID system, Alberta has the highest level of PID registrations in the country).

In addition, Alberta is looking at ways to use current livestock movement reporting tools/systems (e.g. livestock movement manifests) to report traceability information both provincially and federally. The use of existing provincial movement reporting processes will simplify the process for Alberta users and reduce duplication.

Alberta has also developed a "Locate Premises" application (accessible online or through a mobile device), which will allow producers and other livestock industry stakeholders to easily look up PID Numbers for entry on livestock manifests. The URL address for the Locate Premises application is https://lp.aqric.qov.ab.ca.

Finally, we encourage producers and other livestock industry stakeholders to express their concerns to CFIA during the Canada Gazette 1 comment period. The proposed amendments were expected to be published in spring 2020 at the earliest; however, due to COVID-19, only urgent items are being published in the Canada Gazette at this time. Following the publication, stakeholders will have 75 days to review and provide comment.

CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY – PRESIDENT Siddika Mithani, PhD

As detailed in Dr. Jaspinder Komal's response to Mr. Lawson's letter of July 22, 2019, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is considering advancing proposed regulations to strengthen the traceability system in order to enable effective and timely disease control investigations, better manage animal health, and help improve Canada's capacity to maintain market access as well as consumer confidence.

With respect to resolution 12-20 of the Alberta Agricultural Service Board, I wanted to take this opportunity to note that the current and proposed livestock traceability regulations are outcome-based; in that there is no prescribed method or technology by which regulated data is provided to the administrators of the program or by which the identification numbers of tags must be read and reported. CFIA encourages industry to innovate and explore effective technology that allows for the introduction of effective identification tags and readers.

CFIA is having ongoing dialogue with industry sectors on the proposed requirements and open to feedback. All stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide comments during the formal consultation period upon publication in Canada Gazette, Part I.

I appreciate you forwarding the resolution, which will be taken into consideration as CFIA further develops the regulatory proposal.

Thank you for writing about this important matter

CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCEY – Chief Veterinary Officer

AGIRCULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA - Minister

GRADE: Accept in Principle

100% of responding ASBs graded this response as Accept in Principle

COMMENTS from ASBs: none

COMMENTS from Committee: *The committee graded this resolution as Accept in Principle as there is still an opportunity to participate in CFIA consultations through the federal government Gazette, and the resolution is being taken under advisement by the CFIA. The referred to regulations were not published in this springs Part 1 of the Gazette so the Committee will watch for consultation opportunities in future*

Gazettes. It is clear that the issue of long-range tag reading technology was not addressed or a concern to the CFIA or AF, however the changes are being made in consultation with industry.

RESOLUTION 13-20: **CANADIAN PRODUCT AND CANADIAN MADE**

WHEREAS: The guidelines for "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" claims promote compliance with subsection 5(1) of the Food and Drugs Act and subsection 6(1) of the Safe Food for Canadians Act, which prohibit false and misleading claims;

WHEREAS: A food product may use the claim "Product of Canada" when all or virtually all major ingredients, processing, and labour used to make the food product are Canadian;

WHEREAS: A "Made in Canada" claim with a qualifying statement can be used on a food product when the last substantial transformation of the product occurred in Canada, even if some ingredients are from other countries;

WHEREAS: Products will qualify for a “Made in Canada” when at least 51% of the total direct cost of producing or manufacturing the good must have occurred in Canada;

WHEREAS: Some of our “Made in Canada” raw products such as honey could be mixed with up 30% of imported honey which is misleading to the Canadians consumers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
That Canadian Food Inspection Agency amend the Guidelines for "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" claims to not include pure products such as honey.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Agriculture and Forestry supports and advocates for food labelling requirements that are modern, consistent, and relevant to meet the needs of industry and consumers.

Agriculture and Forestry does not have jurisdiction on product claims or labelling guidelines for food products. All food labelling requirements, including "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada", are enforced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency as per their Guidelines for “Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" Claims. As per the guidelines, the "Product of Canada" label can be used when 98 per cent or more of the major ingredients, processing, and labour used to make the food product are Canadian in origin. The "Made in Canada" label can be used when the last substantial transformation of the product occurred in Canada, with a qualifying statement to indicate that the food product is made from imported ingredients or a combination of imported and domestic ingredients.

The federal government conducted industry and public consultation on potential changes to these guidelines in 2019. Some of the feedback they received to increase the number of products eligible to use the claims, to promote Canadian products, recognizes investment, economic growth in Canada (labour and manufacturing), to respond to consumer interest in knowing where their food is coming from, and to help consumers make informed purchasing decisions.

CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY- President

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA- Minister

I recognize that industry has raised concerns that the current “Product of Canada” and “Made in Canada” guidelines are overly restrictive and inconsistent with some provincial requirements. Recommendations to revise these guidelines were included in the Agri-Food Economic Strategy Table Report. In response to these recommendations, CFIA and AAFC committed to review the guidelines as part of the Agri-Food and Aquaculture Regulatory Roadmap.

The review sought to encourage increased use of the claims on food labels. AAFC consulted with industry in March 2019 on a proposal to lower the 98 percent percent threshold for “Product of Canada” claims to 85 percent, and to allow more flexibility for “Made in Canada” claims. CFIA’s survey of Canadians in June 2019 sought to verify that any proposed changes continue to provide valuable information for making purchasing decisions. These consultations generated a number of comments from consumers and industry, including some similar to those outlined in your resolution 13-20. These comments are being taken into consideration as the Government considers next steps. The Government of Canada will communicate any changes that are made to the guidelines to industry stakeholders and Canadians.

The 51 percent Canadian content requirement quoted in your resolution comes from a previous policy. Currently, the use of the “Made in Canada” claim applies to food products whose substantial transformation has occurred in Canada. You can find more details on CFIA’s current guidelines for these claims at www.inspection.gc.ca/food-label-requirements/labelling/industry/origin-claims-on-food-labels/eng/1393622222140/1393622515592?chap=5#s1c5.

You may also be interested to know that, regarding honey, the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations require any blended varieties to state the country or countries of origin on the label. Any changes to “Product of Canada” and “Made in Canada” guidelines would not alter this requirement. You can view the guidance on labelling blended honey at www.inspection.gc.ca/food-labelrequirements/labelling/industry/honey/eng/1392907854578/1392907941975?chap=6.

GRADE: Incomplete

71% of the responding ASBs graded this response as Incomplete, 14% as Accept in Principle, and 10% as Unsatisfactory.

COMMENTS from ASBs:

Incomplete: “Board member comment that this resolution misses the mark, that this is a food labelling issue”

COMMENTS from Committee: *A response from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency was not received. The Agriculture and Agrifood Canada response was received after the initial grading but will be reviewed in the final report card.*

RESOLUTION E1-20: REVIEW OF BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

WHEREAS: Current Business Risk Management Programs do not currently reflect the rising cost of agriculture;

WHEREAS: Western Canadian agricultural producers are in dire straits following this past year's cropping issues and marketing issues, both of which are from forces beyond their control;

WHEREAS: The current suite of programs available to farmers are insufficient to address the crisis facing many agricultural producers; either new programs need to be developed or increased competition in existing programs needs to occur;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada immediately begin a review of all Business Risk Management Programs involving all stakeholders, including producers, to explore potential new programs or amendments to current programs.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada look to increase competition by allowing private industry access to cost shared subsidies through programs like AgriInsurance to prevent certain companies from having a monopoly on government subsidies.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

In 2018, the Canadian and provincial governments committed to a review of BRM programs. An external panel, drawn from producers from across the country, was created to review the existing programs and make recommendations to the ministers. At the ministers' meeting in July 2019, the external panel made several recommendations to improve the BRM suite. Recommendations included reviewing the AgriStability program, examining its complexity, timeliness and predictability. Since the external panel's recommendations, federal and provincial officials have been working on possible options to improve the program.

In December 2019, the ministers made an announcement that AgriStability would exclude private-sector, producer-paid insurance payments as eligible AgriStability eligible income. This change will allow AgriStability to provide more coverage in times of severe losses with private insurance options (such as hail insurance, Global Ag Risk Solutions) complementing AgriStability, bringing the producer back to a higher support level.

At the same December meeting, ministers extended their commitment to the BRM review by challenging federal and provincial officials to evaluate the BRM programs against specific objectives and start to explore possible alternative approaches to BRM programming in Canada. Ministers are aware of industry's ask to remove the Reference Margin Limit and return the AgriStability trigger to 85 per cent of a producer's historical support level.

Federal and provincial ministers also acknowledged there are changing risks in the agriculture sector, with climate and international trade highlighted as specific risks. Similarly, following the last federal election, the federal mandate letter specifies that the BRM review should seek to "draw on lessons from trade disputes" and emphasize "faster and better adapted support". Federal and provincial officials are considering various options as potential replacements for AgriStability as part of a longer-term approach to refreshing the BRM suite. On a parallel track, work on short-term changes to AgriStability will continue.

For the past two years, AFSC has been meeting with producers at Input Advisory Group meetings to seek input on how to improve AgriStability's simplicity, timeliness and predictability. AFSC is currently engaged in province-wide Input Advisory Group meetings to facilitate producer discussions on the way forward for our BRM programs. A summary of their findings will be made available as soon as possible.

AGRICULTURE FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION ALBERTA

(Same as above)

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA - Minister

Federal, provincial, and territorial (FPT) officials are continuing to examine ways to improve business risk management (BRM) programs. In December 2019, FPT ministers agreed to conduct an assessment of the BRM programs to help guide the ongoing work to develop approaches to better meet the needs of producers and make programs more effective, agile, timely, and equitable for producers. We continue to work with our provincial and territorial partners to ensure that the suite of programs is meeting new and evolving risks in the sector.

Under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, FPT governments continue to provide support to producers through BRM programs, as well as strategic initiative programs. This includes $2 billion in FPT cost-shared strategic initiatives and $1 billion in federal activities and programs aimed at growing trade and expanding markets, fostering innovative and sustainable growth in the sector, and supporting diversity in a dynamic, evolving sector. Over the Growing Forward 2 period (2012 2017), FPT governments provided producers across Canada with over $8 billion in support.

GRADE: Unsatisfactory

86% of the responding ASBs graded this response as Unsatisfactory, 10% graded it as Accept in Principle, and 5% as Incomplete.

COMMENTS from ASBs:

Accept in Principle: “the ask in the resolution was addressed however updates are expected”,

Unsatisfactory: “Municipality-specific impacts on local producers vastly different from one part of the province to another”, “Additional info provided afterwards may change grading”

COMMENTS from Committee: *The Committee graded this resolution as Unsatisfactory as the response from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry did not address trade relations and they have not committed to doing anything to address the resolution. The Agriculture and Agrifood Canada response was received after the initial grading but will be reviewed in the final report card. The Committee will draft letters to the respective ministries relaying the grade and the reasons.*

RESOLUTION E2-20: INITIATE AGRIRECOVERY FRAMEWORK

WHEREAS: AgriRecovery is a federal-provincial-territorial disaster relief framework intended to work together with the core Business Risk Management Programs to help agricultural producers recover from natural disasters and the extraordinary costs producers must take on to recover from disasters;

WHEREAS: Numerous municipalities have declared an agricultural disaster due to drought, fire, flood, early frost, disease and excessive moisture;

WHEREAS: These producers accrued exorbitant costs to even attempt harvest or put up feed, manage tough grain, feed shortages and the rehabilitation of land in the coming years;

WHEREAS: The current agriculture and economic climates is plagued by lower commodity prices from trade restrictions and poor relations leading to lower profits and decreased cash flow;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry work together to initiate the AgriRecovery disaster framework and begin an immediate analysis of impact for additional financial support to assist field rehabilitation, costs accrued to attempt harvest and manage tough grain, feed shortages, losses incurred from lower commodity prices due to trade wars and any other out of the ordinary accrued expenses upon assessment.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada immediately work to resolve trade restrictions and improve relations with countries like China and India to improve movement and commodity prices.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

The Government of Alberta appreciates that harsh weather conditions experienced by Alberta producers in 2019 have created challenges, and have resulted in the declaration of a State of Agricultural Disaster by several municipalities. Many of the expenses identified as part of these weather events are covered within the full suite of BRM programs, which include AgriStability, AgriInsurance, and AgriInvest. These programs are designed to cover severe margin declines and production declines in perennial and annual crops, and they also provide self-directed saving accounts for investments.

Part of this suite is the AgriRecovery framework. AgriRecovery works in conjunction with the existing programs to help producers recover from natural disasters. The focus of AgriRecovery is the extraordinary costs producers face to recover from natural disasters like disease, pests, or weather-related events, such a large-scale flooding or tornadoes. The AgriRecovery framework

provides a method for officials to determine if an AgriRecovery initiative should be pursued. This is a two-stage process that includes a preliminary assessment and a secondary, or full, AgriRecovery assessment.

The preliminary assessment evaluates each disaster event individually. This is done to determine the size and scope of a situation by looking at specific criteria that answer the following questions: Is it a recurring event (has it happened before)? Is it an abnormal event (how often has it happened)? And are there significant, extraordinary costs that threaten the viability of an operation?

While the situation farmers currently face is difficult, it is unlikely this year's situation would pass the preliminary AgriRecovery assessment. There have been challenging harvests in the past, including snowed under acres, and an AgriRecovery program has not been declared.

The secondary, or full assessment, would evaluate each of the extraordinary costs identified and whether those costs would be covered by existing programs, insurance or other initiatives-such as the Livestock Tax Deferral Program. There are some items that would not be eligible for compensation under the AgriRecovery framework. These include costs such as taxes, machinery costs, repairs or alterations, or the sale of agricultural commodities. The secondary assessment also looks at what programs were/are available to producers and determines how well the existing programs respond to the identified extraordinary expenses.

The majority of costs accrued to harvest and manage tough grain or to purchase feed are eligible expenses under the AgriStability program. This program is designed to respond when there is a fluctuation in prices, be it from normal market fluctuations or trade restrictions put in place by other countries. In order to pass the secondary assessment, these costs would have to equate to a 30 per cent decline in a producer's program year margin compared to historical or the program reference margin. These estimates are done regardless of whether a producer in enrolled in the program, as it is support already available to producers.

AFSC is also monitoring the spring harvest conditions, as many of the producers in the province will try to harvest their crops this spring. Producers who are not able to harvest their crops and who have crop insurance coverage may be eligible for benefits under AgriInsurance.

At this time, there is a sense that the existing suite of programs should be able to address many of the challenges faced by producers, as the programs are designed based on an individual producer's situation. This individual design ensures producers that are impacted have access to support even if other producers or areas are impacted less by the specific events.

Under AgriStability, producers are eligible for compensation when their current year margin falls below 70 per cent of their historical level of support or reference margin. The program is designed to focus on helping producers experiencing severe margin declines, beyond normal risks or fluctuations. Producers participating in AgriStability may be able to receive an interim AgriStability advance, depending on their current situation, which may help with cash flow.

Also to assist with cash flow, impacted producers may want to consider applying for a cash advance through the Feeders Association of Alberta, Canadian Canola Growers Association, or the

Alberta Wheat Commission. Eligible producers are able to access up to $1 million, with the initial $100,000 being interest free for eligible commodities.

AGRICULTURE FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION ALBERTA

ndividual producers have access to a suite of Business Risk Management (BRM) programs – AgriStability, AgriInsurance, and AgriInvest. These programs are designed to cover severe margin declines and production declines in perennial and annual crops and also provide self-directed saving accounts for investments.

Part of this suite is the AgriRecovery framework. AgriRecovery works in conjunction with the existing programs to help producers recover from natural disasters. The focus of AgriRecovery is the extraordinary costs producers face to recover from natural disasters like disease, pest or weather-related events, such a large-scale flooding or tornadoes.

The AgriRecovery framework provides a method for officials to determine if an AgriRecovery initiative should be pursued. This is a two-stage process that includes a preliminary assessment and a secondary, or full, AgriRecovery assessment.

The preliminary assessment evaluates each disaster event individually. This is done to determine the size and scope of a situation by looking specific criteria that answer the following questions:

- Is it a recurring event (has it happened before)?
- Is it an abnormal event (how often has it happened)? and
- Are there significant, extraordinary costs that threaten the viability of an operation?

The secondary, or full assessment, would evaluate each of the extraordinary costs identified and whether those costs would be covered by existing programs, insurance or other initiatives— such as the Livestock Tax Deferral Program. There are some items that would not be eligible for compensation under the AgriRecovery framework. These include costs such as taxes, machinery costs, repairs or alterations or the sale of agricultural commodities. The secondary assessment also looks at what programs were/are available to producers and determines how well the existing programs respond to the identified extraordinary expenses.

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Additionally, to help assist with cash flow, impacted producers may want to consider applying for a cash advance through the Feeders Association of Alberta, Canadian Canola Growers Association or the Alberta Wheat Commission. Eligible producers are able to access up to $1 million, with the initial $100,000 being interest free for eligible commodities.

Although the harsh weather conditions experienced by Alberta producers in 2019 have resulted in the declaration of a State of Agricultural Disaster by several municipalities, many of the expenses identified are covered within the full suite of BRM programs.

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA – Minister

In addition, the recently announced national AgriRecovery initiative, of up to $125 million in funding, will help producers faced with costs incurred by COVID-19. This includes a $50-million set-aside program for cattle producers dealing with the consequences of market disruptions. I encourage your organization and industry groups across Canada to continue to work with provincial and territorial governments to initiate AgriRecovery assessments to provide support to producers facing extraordinary costs associated with recovering from a disaster.

GRADE: Unsatisfactory

90% of responding ASBs graded this resolution response as Unsatisfactory, 10% graded it Incomplete

COMMENTS from ASBs:

Incomplete: “didn’t fully address the resolution specifically the further therefore be it resolved”,

Unsatisfactory: “Trade partner reference to specific countries is sensitive to changing politics and should have been avoided”, “Additional info provided afterwards may change grading”

COMMENTS from Committee: *The Committee graded this response as Unsatisfactory as it does not address the resolution but rather lists in detail the programs currently available. The Agriculture and Agrifood Canada response was received after the initial grading but will be reviewed in the final report card. The Committee will draft letters to the respective ministries relaying the grade and the reasons.*

RESOLUTION E3-20: AGRIINVEST AND AGRISTABILITY CHANGES

WHEREAS: Business Risk Management Programs such as AgriInvest are administered federally by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada;

WHEREAS: AgriInvest lowered the percentage of allowable net sales and does not keep up with the rising cost of farms production;

WHEREAS: Business Risk Management Programs such as AgriStability are administered through Agriculture Financial Services Corporation in Alberta;

WHEREAS: AgriStability recently lowered the reference margin and added reference margin limits;

WHEREAS: The purpose of AgriStability is to provide support for a large margin decline and the purpose of AgriInvest is to help manage small income declines;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) work collaboratively to adjust AgriStability to increase covered losses starting at 85 per cent of reference margins and for the removal of Reference Margin Limits.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Canada Revenue Agency adjust AgriInvest to move the Allowable Net Sales under AgriInvest to 3 percent with maximum Allowable Net Sales of $500,000.00.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the federal and provincial governments committed to a review of BRM programming to ensure that producers were covered for severe losses. An external panel completed the review and provided recommendations to the federal and provincial governments on how to improve the current suite of BRM programs, while remaining cost neutral.

The review panel indicated they did not want to see AgriInvest maintained. At this time, there has been no commitment or desire to increase the maximum deposit to AgriInvest accounts from $10,000 to $15,000. There are currently over 23,600 producers in Alberta that have AgriInvest balances that average over $27,500. Producers could use these account balances to help offset the costs associated with the difficult harvest conditions of 2019.

In response to the recommendations, AFSC conducted Input Advisory Group meetings at seven locations across Alberta, from north to south Alberta, to get producer input on possible programming changes. To date, the BRM review has been focused on improving the timeliness, predictability and simplicity of the AgriStability program. AFSC found most Alberta producers would like to see the program simplified, which, in tum, could make it more predictable. To simplify and improve the program responsiveness, all private-sector insurance payments have been removed as income for the program year margin for the 2020 AgriStability program year. This will allow producers to benefit from participating in private insurance programs without having their AgriStability payment reduced when receiving a payment from a private-sector insurance program, such as hail insurance or the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program.

Additionally, in response to the numerous requests received by industry, we have prioritized our efforts to explore the feasibility of removing the Reference Margin Limit. Removing the limit would increase the total liabilities covered by governments, which would translate into increased costs to the program. At this time, the costs to remove the limit is unknown, and as such, governments are not able to commit to seeking additional funding to pay for these costs.

Under the Growing Forward 2 and Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreements, governments developed a policy position stating that BRM programming should not cover normal losses, and should focus on severe or disaster situations. This is one of the reasons the AgriStability trigger was changed from 85 to 70 per cent of a producer's reference margin. This move was a shift away from the previous Agriculture Policy Framework and Growing Forward agreements that were more focused on providing income assurance. Returning to the 85 per cent trigger will require a review of how it conforms with our international trade obligations, as well as determining the costs to governments.

The federal and provincial governments have committed to continuing the BRM review. Some of the focus will continue to be on program design, although the review will also include program objectives. This includes a review of the fairness and accessibility of producers to BRM programming. For example, the AgriStability program is a whole-farm program, intended to provide coverage for all producers, in all sectors, regardless of their farm structure. As such, AgriStability provides coverage to areas within the agriculture sector that do not have access to, or have limited access to, crop insurance products.

With an understanding of the current trade, market, and production challenges faced by many producers, it is important that government and industry at the national, provincial, and regional levels work together to improve our suite of BRM programming.

AGRICULTURE FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION ALBERTA

Under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), the federal and provincial governments committed to a review of BRM programming to ensure that producers were covered for more severe losses and not for what is considered normal risk. An external panel completed thereview and provided recommendations to the federal and provincial governments on how to improve the current suite of BRM programs, while remaining cost neutral (no new funding).

In response to the recommendations, AFSC conducted Input Advisory Group meetings at seven locations across Alberta, from north to the south, to get Alberta producers' input on possible programming changes. To date, the BRM review has been focused on improving the timeliness, predictability and simplicity of the AgriStability program. AFSC found most Alberta producers would like to see the program simplified, which, in turn, could make it more predictable. To simplify and improve the program responsiveness, all private-sector insurance payments have been removed as income for the program year margin for the 2020 AgriStability program year. This will allow producers to benefit from participating in private insurance programs without having their AgriStability payment reduced when receiving a payment from a private-sector insurance program, such as hail insurance or the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program.

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AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA – Minister

To enable AgriStability to help more producers manage the challenges of COVID-19, the enrollment deadline for the 2020 program year has been extended without penalty, from April 30 to July 3, 2020. Furthermore, interim payments have been increased from 50 to 75 percent in most jurisdictions, facilitating greater access to cash flow.

CANADA REVINUE AGENCY – Minister

PROPOSED GRADE: Unsatisfactory

90% of responding ASBs graded this response as Unsatisfactory, 10% as Incomplete.

COMMENTS from ASBs:

Incomplete: “didn’t fully address the resolution”

COMMENTS from Committee: The Committee graded this resolution as Unsatisfactory as it did not address moving the Allowable Net Sales under AgriInvest to 3 percent with maximum Allowable Net Sales of $500,000. *The Agriculture and Agrifood Canada response was received after the initial grading but will be reviewed in the final report card.* The Committee will draft letters to the respective ministries relaying the grade and the reasons.

Update on Previous Years' Resolutions

2019 Resolutions

Resolution Number	Resolution Name	Grade
1-19	Loss of 2% Liquid Strychnine ● *Resolution Ask* ○ Health Canada/PMRA leave 2% LS permanently available to farmers for control of RGS ● *Follow Up* ○ discussed with Agriculture Minister who expressed support to maintain registration ○ Agriculture Minister requested that letter be sent to PMRA with concerns for alternate products – letter dated Dec 19, 2019 cc Minister Dreeshen ● *Update* ○ March 4, 2020, Re-Evaluation Decision by PMRA is published https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/decisions-updates/reevaluation-decision/2020/strychnine.html ○ The Committee's letter was included in PMRA's Re-evaluation Decision, however as stated in the final decision our letter had no effect on the decision. ○ A reversal of the decision requires significant scientific evidence to show that there is little risk to non-target species, particularly species at risk. ● *Recommendations* ○ Advocate for research into adapting or improving alternative RGS control methods, or further scientific evaluation of methods to use 2% liquid strychnine in a way that is safe for non-target species. ○ Tracer products be included with Strychnine ○ Producers using Strychnine be trained	Accept in Principle
2-19	Wildlife Predator Compensation Program Enhancement ● *Resolution Ask* ○ Implement using smartphone technology to provide photographic/video evidence for confirmation of livestock injury and death in a timely and prompt manner ● *Follow Up 2020* ○ Committee is connecting with the Predator	~~Incomplete~~ Changed to Accept in Principle

	Compensation Program working group	
3-19	Deadstock Removal ● *Resolution Ask* ○ Province compensate producers 50% of deadstock pick up fees ● *Follow Up 2020* ○ Continuing to monitor what other provinces are doing to find a recommendation for the minister	Unsatisfactory
4-19	Carbon Credits for Permanent Pasture and Forested Lands ● *Resolution Ask* ○ Development of process to allow farmers to access carbon credits under permanent cover (pasture, perennial forage crops, forested) ● *Follow Up 2020* ○ Waiting to see how to engage with the Ministry of Environment consultations on carbon credits ● *Recommendation* ○ Keep tabs on the Carbon offset market and continue to advocate for perennial cover carbon off sets. The Canadian Forage and Grassland Association (CFIA) partnered with a carbon offset company called Climate Action Reserve out of California to develop a Canadian Grassland Protocol. The Protocol Version 1 was announced in October 2019, and is available through their website http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/protocols/canada-grassland/ This is a "conversion avoidance" protocol that pays to producers who can convert grassland into cropland but choose not to. Eligibility and process are available through the Climate Action Reserve website. CFGA media release can be viewed here: https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Media-Release--CFGA-leads-First-Ever-Canadian-Grassland-Offset-Protocol-for-Producers.html?soid=1104692932142&aid=BUbfaGjEokk	Accept in Principle
5-19	Multi-Stakeholder Committee to Work at Reducing the Use of Fresh Water by the Oil and Gas Industry in Alberta ● *Resolution Ask* ○ Govt of Alberta sets up a multi-stakeholder committee to work at reducing the use of fresh water by the oil and gas industry in Alberta	Incomplete

	• *Follow Up 2020* ○ referred the committee to 'Directive for Water Licensing of Hydraulic Fracturing Projects – Area of Use Approach' found at the following link : https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/ef2df211-1091-4470-9b42-defe6529a862/resource/abce01b3-2011-494c-bc50-a42774d49995/download/directivehydraulicfracturing-feb16-2018.pdf	
6-19	STEP Program Agricultural Eligibility	Accept the Response
E1-19	Access to Agriculture Specific Mental Health Resources https://www.farms.com/mental-health-and-suicide-prevention-resources/ https://www.farms.com/mental-health-and-suicide-prevention-resources/alberta.aspx	Unsatisfactory

E2-19	No Royalties on Farm Saved Seed
	• *Resolution Ask*
	  ○ AAFC/CFIA abandon the proposal to implement royalties on farm saved seed
	• *Resolution Response*
	  ○ CFIA is still doing consultation
	• *Follow Up 2020*
	  ○ Winter of 2020 is when the federal government decision on which royalty option will be pursued is expected.
	  ○ Engaging commodity groups to gather further information
		Accept in Principle

2018 Resolutions

Resolution Number	Resolution Name	Grade
1-18	Environmental Stream Funding of the Agriculture Service Board Grant	Accept in Principle
2-18	Appeals to the Minister Under the Weed Control Act and Agricultural Pests Act	Unsatisfactory
3-18	Requirement to Report Certain Pests to the Local Authority	DEFEATED
4-18	Weed Control on Alberta Vacant Public Lands Within Green Areas	Incomplete
5-18	Wildlife Predator Compensation Program Enhancement	Accept in Principle
6-18	Review of Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) Crop Insurance Program	Unsatisfactory

7-18	Crop Insurance for Alberta Fruit Producers	Accept the Response
8-18	Increasing limits for Farm Direct Marketing of Chickens for All Farm Direct Producers	DEFEATED
9-18	Farm Direct Marketing of Eggs and Products using Eggs	Accept in Principle
10-18	Proposed Federal Tax Changes	Accept the Response
11-18	Organic Food Testing and Labeling	Accept in Principle
12-18	Chemical Control of Wireworms	DEFEATED

2017 Resolutions

Resolution Number	Resolution Name	Grade
1-17	Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways ● *Resolution Ask:* ○ Deliver a more effective weed control and mowing program along primary and secondary highways ○ Control regulated weed species and unsafe vegetation on full right of way using appropriately timed herbicide applications and mowing ○ Allow municipalities to enter in service agreements in all districts ● 2020 resolution response ○ Committee met with the Ministry of Transportation in September 1, 2020, to discuss a continuation of the 2017-19 Integrated Vegetation Management Plan. ○ Alberta Transportation is working on a process to improve communication between municipalities and the Regional Managers who oversee the Hwy maintenance contracts. ○ Regional Managers have been invited to attend and speak at 2020 Regional ASB Conferences ● *Recommendation* ○ ASB Committee to continue to check in with the ministry of Transportation key contact and monitor progress on the development of the 2021-2023 Integrated Vegetation Management Plan.	Accept in Principle
2-17	Ensuring Competition for Seed and Crop Protection Products	Incomplete
3-17	Incorporating Agriculture and Agri-Food Education in the Classroom	Incomplete
E1-17	Carbon Levy Exemption on Natural Gas and Propane for All Recognized Agriculture Production	Accept the Response
E2-17	Agricultural Disaster Policy	DEFEATED

E3-17	Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Prevalent in Bison Within and Surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park	Unsatisfactory

Expiring Resolutions

The Provincial Rules of Procedure state in section 3(10) that the Provincial ASB Committee will actively advocate for resolutions for a period of five years. Any expiring resolutions that an ASB wishes to remain actively advocated for must be brought forward for approval at the next Provincial ASB Conference.

The following resolutions are set to expire December 31, 2020.

Resolution Number	Resolution Name	Grade
1-16	Proactive Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways	Unsatisfactory
2-16	Reinstate Provincial Funding for the Canada and Alberta Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Surveillance Program	Unsatisfactory
3-16	Agricultural Plastics Recycling	Accept in Principle
4-16	Agricultural Opportunity Fund for Agricultural Research and Forage Associations	Accept the Response
5-16	Climate Stations	Accept in Principle
6-16	Compensation for Coyote Depredation	Accept in Principle
7-16	Hay Insurance Program	DEFEATED
8-16	Species at Risk Act (SARA)	Accept in Principle
E1-16	Bill 6: Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers	Accept in Principle
E2-16	Genetically Modified Alfalfa	DEFEATED

Current Advocacy

1. Integrated Vegetation Management Plan see resolution 1-17
2. Research and Innovation projects around alternative Richardson Ground Squirrel control
3. Timely and appropriate ASB grant payments
4. No Royalties on Farm Saved Seed see resolution E2-19
5. Government Support for Surveillance and Monitoring for agriculture pests
6. Weed Control Act appeal

Appendix

Resolution 4-20: Education Campaign for Cleanliness of Equipment for Industry Sectors

Clubroot Disease Overview

What is it?

Clubroot is a serious soil-borne disease of canola, mustard and other crops in the cabbage family. Cole crop vegetables, for example, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, kale, kohlrabi, radish, rutabaga and turnip, are susceptible to clubroot, as are many cruciferous weeds, for example, wild mustard, stinkweed and shepherd's purse.

What does it look like?

As the name of this disease suggests, roots of infected plants may exhibit a club-like appearance; however, overall symptoms will vary depending on the growth stage of the crop when it becomes infected. Infection at the seedling stage can result in wilting, stunting and yellowing symptoms by the late rosette to early podding stage, while premature ripening or death can be observed in canola or mustard plants nearing maturity. Plants infected at later growth stages may not show wilting, stunting or yellowing, but may still ripen prematurely, and seeds may shrivel, thus reducing yield and quality (oil content).

Can any other diseases or disorders be confused with clubroot?

Above ground symptoms of clubroot may be confused with drought, nutrient deficiencies or other diseases, so suspect plants should be carefully dug from the soil to check for typical clubroot galls on the roots. Swellings of unknown origin called hybridization nodules are occasionally seen on canola roots and can be confused with young clubroot galls. These nodules are more spherical and firmer than clubroot galls and do not decay when mature as clubroot galls do. Exposure to phenoxy herbicides can also result in swellings on lower stems and roots of canola, mustard and cole crop vegetable plants, but these malformations usually lack the large size and lobed appearance of typical clubroot galls.

What causes it?

Clubroot is caused by a microscopic, soil-borne plant pathogen called *Plasmodiophora brassicae*. The clubroot pathogen is classified as a Protist, a group of organisms with characteristics of plants, fungi and protozoans. The life cycle of the clubroot pathogen is illustrated in the Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development factsheet *Clubroot Disease of Canola and Mustard*, Agdex 140/638-1, available online.

Where was clubroot first found in Alberta?

Clubroot was first reported on broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower in a few home gardens in the Edmonton area in the mid 1970s. The first economically important infestation in Alberta was observed on Chinese cabbage in a market garden near Edmonton in 2001. Clubroot was first detected in canola in Alberta in Sturgeon County northwest of Edmonton in 2003.

Where did it come from?

The original source of the clubroot infestation in Alberta is unknown, but it may have been accidentally introduced by early settlers who may have brought infected vegetables with them from other areas of Canada or the United States where clubroot was already established.

Why is it of concern?

Most varieties of canola, mustard and cole crop vegetables currently being grown in Alberta are highly susceptible to clubroot. This disease is capable of significantly reducing yield and quality, and may destroy a crop if infestation levels are high. Swedish researchers found that infestations in canola fields nearing 100 per cent affected plants caused about 50 to 80 per cent yield loss, while infestations of 10 to 20 per cent led to 5 to 10 per cent yield loss. These results are similar to sclerotinia stem rot infection in canola, where a general rule of thumb is that estimated yield loss is half of the percentage of infected stems. A few cases of total crop loss, that is, not worth combining, have been reported in central Alberta.

How long can it persist in the soil?

The resting spores of *P. brassicae* are extremely long lived and may survive in soil for up to 20 years according to Swedish research. Similar persistance is being reported in Alberta. Resting spore longevity is a key factor contributing to the seriousness of the clubroot disease, especially under short crop rotations. Clubroot is not a phytosanitary issue affecting international trade of canola or mustard.

How can it be spread?

In Alberta, clubroot is being spread mainly through soil infested with resting spores. Infested soil can be carried from field to field by farm machinery, especially tillage equipment, and can also be moved by wind and water erosion. Seed of various crops, as well as hay and straw, can also become contaminated with resting spores via dust or earth tag when they are grown in clubroot-infested fields.

What is being done about it?

In spring 2007, clubroot was added as a declared pest to Alberta's *Agricultural Pest Act*. This Act is the legislative authority for the enforcement of control measures for declared pests in Alberta. Annual surveys of canola, mustard and/or cole crop vegetables have been carried out to determine the location of infested fields in the main production areas for these crops. An annual incidence map is published on Alberta Agriculture's website (www.agriculture.alberta.ca). Researchers from many agencies, including the University of Alberta, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, have many active research projects on clubroot. Private breeding programs have released clubroot-resistant canola varieties for western Canada.

What is the current state of clubroot in Alberta?

By the end of 2014, clubroot was present in 30 municipalities in Alberta, mainly in central Alberta as shown in the 2003 - 2014 map showing infested municipalities: go online to http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/prm14661. Clubroot has the potential to spread to and become established in many of the traditional canola-growing areas of western Canada.

In 2014, the first Alberta case of a pathogen shift to overcome current variety resistance was confirmed from diseased areas of a field planted to a resistant variety (observed in 2013).

Clubroot Management Plan Objective

The objective of the Clubroot Management Plan is to minimize yield losses due to clubroot and reduce the further spread and buildup of clubroot in canola, mustard and market garden vegetable fields in Alberta.

Regulatory Status

Alberta's *Agricultural Pests Act* (APA) is the legislative authority for the enforcement of control measures for declared pests in Alberta.

The Minister of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible for this Act; however, enforcement is the responsibility of provincial municipalities. Agricultural Fieldmen are responsible for enforcing pest control measures in their respective municipalities.

Clubroot was added as a declared pest to the APA in April 2007.

Pest inspectors may be appointed by the local municipality or by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. For a contact list of Agricultural Fieldmen and assistants in Alberta, check online at: http://www.aaaf.ab.ca/aaaf-directory.html. Agricultural Fieldmen are pest inspectors under the *Agricultural Pests Act*. Inspectors have the power to enter land at a reasonable hour, without permission, to inspect for pests and collect samples.

The owner or occupant of land has the responsibility of taking measures to prevent the establishment of any pest on land, property and livestock and to control or destroy all pests in the land or property.

Control measures for clubroot are specified in this management plan. It is important to understand that these control measures represent an acceptable standard that is to be applied in all municipalities across the province. Municipalities can enhance the standard within their own jurisdictions.

Factors Favouring the Spread of Clubroot in Alberta

Resting spores can be spread from field to field via contaminated soil on agricultural, petroleum industry and construction equipment and machinery. Soil tillage equipment represents the greatest risk of spreading the disease as soil is frequently carried on shovels, discs, openers, frames and tires. Clubroot surveys in Alberta have found that most new infestations begin at or near the field access, which indicates that contaminated equipment is the predominant spread mechanism.

Other secondary methods of spread could include movement of soil with water or wind and as soil attached to seed (earth tag), hay, straw or greenfeed.

Resting spores are extremely long lived, with a half-life of about 4 years, but may survive in soil for up to 20 years. The longevity of the resting spores is a key factor contributing to the seriousness of the disease, especially under tight canola rotations.

All land users, including growers, custom agricultural services, oil and gas industry operators, construction and transportation companies, recreational vehicle users, etc., need to continue their diligence in removing potentially contaminated soil from vehicles, machines and equipment prior to leaving fields. The removal is crucial to prevent the movement and introduction of clubroot to clean fields and to reduce the widespread distribution of spores within infested fields. Widespread resting spores and frequent exposure to resistant varieties will accelerate changes in the pathogen populations to strains that are not controlled by resistance in current clubroot-resistant canola varieties.

Management Plan Rationale

Clubroot in Alberta is managed through a proactive program that utilizes and prolongs the durability of clubroot-resistant canola varieties in combination with continuing efforts to prevent the further spread of this pathogen in the province. The program includes both an industry/public awareness program and a disease management plan.

The long-term goal of this management plan is to minimize canola yields losses through the judicious use of resistant varieties and to reduce the further spread of clubroot in Alberta.

Best Management Practices

1. Use clubroot-resistant varieties when growing canola in areas where the disease is established. Alternate growing clubroot-resistant varieties with different sources of resistance when they become available.
2. Although crop rotation will not prevent introduction of clubroot to clean fields, the practice will lower subsequent disease buildup and severity and reduce other diseases, such as blackleg. Crop rotation will not eradicate the clubroot pathogen from the soil. Canola growers in high-risk situations (confirmed clubroot in the field or area) should follow traditional canola rotation recommendations (one canola crop every four years) using clubroot resistant varieties. The 1 in 4 year rotation recommendation using resistant varieties is designed to slow down pathogen population shifts to strains not controlled by current resistant varieties and allow time for new resistance sources to be bred into canola. A pathogen population shift to a strain not controlled by clubroot-resistant canola has now been documented in Alberta and has occurred many times in other parts of the world in canola and cole crops.

3. Growing a clubroot-resistant variety in fields without known clubroot but in areas where the disease is prevalent can help slow the establishment of the disease. Since there would be low spore numbers when clubroot does get introduced to the field, this approach should not significantly induce changes in the strains to those that are not controlled by the variety resistance. The greatest pressure to alter the pathogen strains is frequent exposure (rotation length) of the same resistance to high soil spore populations (distinct clubroot patches have occurred in the field).
4. Volunteer canola and cruciferous weeds must be controlled in infested fields to prevent more than three weeks of growth, to avoid the production of new resting spores on these host plants.
5. Practice good sanitation (cleaning and disinfection) of machinery and equipment to restrict the movement of potentially contaminated soil. This approach will also help reduce the spread of other diseases, insects and weed seeds. Resting spores can be spread via contaminated soil. Moderate to high infestations will leave high spore concentrations in soil on field machinery, thus sanitation is very important in these situations. All producers should follow the practice of cleaning soil and crop debris from field equipment before transport from all fields. The most critical step in cleaning equipment is physical dirt removal – knocking or scraping off soil lumps and sweeping off loose soil.
    - For risk averse producers or with heavy infestations, additional cleaning steps will slightly decrease the risk of spread, but will involve considerably more work and expense:
        - After removal of soil lumps, wash equipment with a power washer.
        - Finish by misting equipment with disinfectant. Recommended products include 1 to 2 per cent active ingredient bleach solution (UFA carries 12 per cent sodium hypochlorite in 5-gallon pails or 45-gallon drums), or HyperOx or EcoClear. The use of a disinfectant without first removing soil is not recommended because soil inactivates most disinfectants. A twenty to thirty minute wet period is necessary for good efficacy.
        - Disinfectant footbaths can be an effective first line of defense in a biosecurity program. However, footbaths are not able to completely eliminate biosecurity risks in all situations. Disposable foot coverings should be utilized where possible and in combination with a foot bath to more fully minimize biosecurity risks associated with soil-borne diseases like clubroot.
6. Seed and establish an area with grass near the field exit. A well-sodded grass will retain soil removed during equipment cleaning without creating a mudhole after washing and thus will reduce the re-introduction of infested mud to wheels when moving from this area to the exit. The grass area will not be susceptible to clubroot if volunteer canola and mustard weed species are controlled.
7. Use direct seeding and other soil conservation practices to reduce erosion. Resting spores can also readily move in soil transported by wind or water erosion. Reducing the amount of tillage on any given field will reduce the spread of the organism within the field and to other fields.
8. Minimize vehicle and equipment traffic to and from fields.
9. In situations where fields are lightly infested only near the current access, create a new exit at another distant edge of the field if possible.
10. Scout canola fields regularly and carefully. Identify causes of wilting, stunting, yellowing and premature ripening – do not assume anything!
11. Avoid the use of straw, hay or greenfeed, silage and manure from infested or suspicious areas. Clubroot spores may survive through the digestive tracts of livestock.

12. Avoid common untreated seed (including canola, cereals and pulses). Earth tag on seed from infested fields could introduce resting spores to clean fields. The effect of current seed treatment fungicides on resting spore viability on seed is currently being studied.

Responsibilities

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD)

- Pest Surveillance Branch of ARD will coordinate the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan and do the following:
  - provide regulatory consultation and training
  - prepare and provide technical information on clubroot control recommendations and variety resistance stewardship to inspectors and others in the field
  - assist in educating the agriculture industry, oil industry and general public about clubroot and the threat it represents to Alberta
  - inform other industry sectors, such as the agricultural retail industry, environmental companies, custom applicators, petroleum, construction and transportation industries, and landscaping companies, about equipment sanitation requirements to reduce clubroot spread within and between municipalities

Agricultural Service Boards (ASB)

- ASBs will provide support and resources to the Agricultural Fieldmen in carrying out their duties. The Agricultural Fieldmen will do the following:
  - actively survey for clubroot if canola or mustard is being grown in their municipality – follow-up surveys on infested land should be conducted to monitor for resistance breakdown in newly introduced resistant canola varieties
  - provide recommendations and information to farmers on clubroot prevention and management, especially the stewardship of variety resistance
  - enforce control measures as necessary to meet the objectives of the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan
  - maintain records of infestations and provide information on infested land locations to potential land renters, landowners, oil and gas companies and other parties with a financial interest, under provisions of the *Agricultural Pest Act* and the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation (Section 10)
  - assist in educating the Alberta agriculture industry about clubroot and the threat it represents to Alberta

Landowners/Occupants

- take measures such as vehicle and equipment sanitation as well as proper crop rotation to prevent the establishment of clubroot on their land and to minimize the spread of clubroot to other land or property
- grow resistant varieties when clubroot is present or is known to be present in the area and follow a four-year rotation to deter resistance breakdown
- observe and follow all management practices to meet the objectives of the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan

Agricultural Retail and Service Industry (pesticide/fertilizer retailers, custom equipment leasing, consulting agronomists, Canola Council of Canada, etc.)

- take measures such as equipment cleaning and disinfection to prevent the establishment of clubroot and to minimize the spread of clubroot to other land and property
- assist in educating the agriculture industry about clubroot, the threat it represents to Alberta, and the value of extended rotations for minimizing variety resistance breakdown

Custom Equipment Operators

- take measures such as equipment sanitation to prevent disease establishment and to minimize the spread of clubroot to other land and property
- assist in educating producers and others in the agriculture industry about clubroot and the threat it represents to Alberta's canola industry

Energy (Oil, Gas, Pipeline, Seismic), Construction (Earthmoving, Landscaping) and Transportation (Trucking) Companies Operating on Agricultural Land

- take measures to prevent disease establishment and to minimize the further spread of clubroot to other land and property – examples of such measures include the following:
  - clean equipment when leaving infested sites or areas
  - remove/stockpile topsoil on leases with clubroot before moving other equipment on-site
  - avoid equipment traffic during wet conditions in infested areas
- prepare and follow clubroot protocols for staff and contractors – for example, in 2008, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers published best management practices for clubroot disease (http://www.capp.ca/getdoc.aspx?DocId=139848&DT=PDF)
- assist in educating the petroleum, construction and transportation industries about clubroot and the threat it represents to agriculture in Alberta

Researchers

- conduct research to increase understanding of clubroot biology and management
- communicate research findings to extension personnel and other stakeholders
- serve as scientific advisors to the Clubroot Management Committee
- make recommendations to producers and the agricultural service industry, as needed, based on scientific knowledge and experimental evidence

Clubroot Management Committee

- provide a forum to represent the interests and views of the agriculture and oil and gas industries in Alberta and western Canada regarding the management of clubroot
- recommend management strategies for clubroot for inclusion in the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan
- assist in educating the agriculture, oil and gas industries in western Canada about clubroot and the threat it represents to canola and cole crop production
- evaluate and revise the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan as required

Additional Resources

Clubroot Disease of Canola and Mustard, Agdex 140/638-1, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Clubroot of Crucifers Control Strategies, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Horticulture

Clubroot Management Committee Contact List – attached

Clubroot Management Committee Contact List

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continued on next page

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Alberta Clubroot Management Plan

Developed by:
Alberta Clubroot Management Committee
Revised August 2014
AGDEX 140/638-2

RV08/14/200

Resolution 23-19F

Mandatory Agriculture Education in the Classroom

Date: November 1, 2019
Expiry Date: December 1, 2022
Active Status: Active
Sponsors: Lac La Biche County
District: 5 - Edmonton East
Year: 2019
Convention: Fall
Category: Education
Status: Intent Not Met
Vote Results: Carried as Amended

Preamble: WHEREAS agricultural production in Alberta has historically been and continues to be a major economic force and employer of workers; and

WHEREAS generations ago, most Albertans grew up on the family farm and had an intimate knowledge about how livestock, crops, and other agricultural commodities were raised; and

WHEREAS most Albertans now live in urban non-farm environments and do not have the same level of knowledge about how livestock, crops, and other agricultural commodities are being raised; and

WHEREAS the general public has historically had a high regard for agriculture and farmers as they put food on their table in Alberta, Canada, and the rest of the world; and

WHEREAS modern agriculture in Alberta is being severely tested by concerns about how livestock, crops, and agricultural produce are being raised, especially regarding environmental impacts, animal cruelty, and farm safety; and

WHEREAS many of these concerns stem from a lack of knowledge about agriculture in the general community;

Operative Clause:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta work with fellow rural stakeholders, Alberta Education, the Alberta Teachers' Association, and all elected school boards to request that mandatory agriculture education be implemented in the school curriculum in Alberta.

Member Background:

Lac La Biche County, like most Alberta rural municipalities, has a significant world-class agricultural sector that is a Canadian success story sometimes unknown to the community at large.

Grade four students in schools in Lac La Biche County (public, Catholic, or Francophone) may be taught agriculture in the classroom so long as the school approves. The Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP) is a well-known and highly respected education program currently reaching over 20,000 grade four Alberta students annually. Since its beginning, CAP has reached more than 570,000 Alberta youth.

CAP is about creating a broader understanding of the food we eat and where it comes from. Students start to understand the value and importance of agriculture in Alberta, the vast opportunities, and the people and producers that drive this industry. Volunteers deliver the program through storytelling, engaging props and fun activities. With the support of agriculture for life, the program's goal is to expand and reach 30,000 Alberta students annually over the next two years.

This initiative is endorsed by Alberta Education and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. "Agriculture is vital. We are getting further and further from the farm. It is imperative that people understand that their food comes from farms – not just the grocery store. That message can begin at school," states CAP General Manager Don George. Lac La Biche County Council believes this message needs to be delivered to all schools in Alberta.

RMA Background:

RMA has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

Government Response:

Alberta Education

Science and Social Studies

The Science and Social Studies curriculums both provide students with opportunities to learn about a wide range of topics, including concepts related to agriculture in Alberta. Additional information is available at www.alberta.ca/programs-of-studv.aspx.

Selecting Agriculture-related Classroom Resources that Support Curriculum

- Alberta's provincial Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum outlines what students are expected to know, understand and be able to do in each subject and grade. While Alberta Education determines curriculum content, teachers use their professional judgment to determine how students achieve the learning outcomes in the provincial curriculum.
- School authorities have the autonomy, flexibility and responsibility to determine which supports, resources or programs are most appropriate for their students and school community. This provides Alberta's school jurisdictions with the opportunity to best address the needs of the students and the communities they serve, using the resources available to them.

Future Curriculum

- Our government is committed to providing students in Alberta with the skills and knowledge they will need to succeed in their chosen careers.
- Government established an independent curriculum advisory panel to provide a new vision for student learning, as well as recommendations on the direction for future Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum.
- A new online survey is available until February 24, 2020 for Albertans to provide input on the draft vision for student learning. This feedback, along with the recommendations from the curriculum advisory panel, will help guide our work as we move forward with updating the curriculum.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

The Government of Alberta is committed to the continued growth of Alberta's agriculture and agri-food industries. With the increasing disconnect between Alberta's growing urban population and their rural neighbours, government recognizes the need to connect consumers with where their food comes from. To facilitate public understanding of industry, government has taken concrete steps to supporting agriculture education in our province.

Alberta Education and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has developed the Green Certificate Program, a dual-credit program where students can earn both high school credits and an industry certification in a variety of agriculture career paths. Students select a specialization and, under the guidance of a trainer, work towards mastering all of the skills within their training program. Upon completion, the trainee receives 16, grade-12 credits.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry is committed to working with Alberta Education as it reviews curriculum to find ways to integrate agriculture into Alberta's K-12 core courses like science and social studies. Currently, agriculture is represented in subjects like Social Studies, Science, Foods, and Health, but many teachers do not have the knowledge or the resources to be able to integrate agriculture themes into the curriculum. To facilitate getting agriculture into classrooms, Agriculture and Forestry developed a Canadian Agricultural Partnership Public Trust Youth Agriculture Education Grant for industry organizations and education organizations to develop curriculum-linked programs that build public trust in agriculture. The grant has $2 million dollars allocated over the five-year agreement. The Classroom Agriculture Program organization, which you specifically mention in the Member Background of your resolution, is eligible to apply for funding for any new initiatives they may have, or to expand their current program.

Development:

While the Government of Alberta response does outline how agricultural topics may be included in classroom education, it does not indicate action to have mandatory education in agricultural topics for all Alberta students. As a result, this resolution is assigned the status of Intent Not Met.

Provincial Ministries: Agriculture and Forestry, Education

Provincial Boards and Organizations: Other

Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

Canada.ca > Canadian Food Inspection Agency > Food label requirements > Labelling > Industry > Origin claims on food labels

Origin claims on food labels

Guidelines for "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" claims

The guidelines for "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" claims promote compliance with subsection 5(1) of the *Food and Drugs Act* and subsection 6(1) of the *Safe Food for Canadians Act*, which prohibit false and misleading claims.

The use of "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" claims is voluntary. However, once a company chooses to make one of these claims, the product to which it is applied should meet these guidelines.

The guidelines for "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" claims apply to foods sold at all levels of trade, including bulk sale or wholesale foods for further processing. They also apply to claims made in advertising and by restaurants.

These guidelines do not apply to:

- products destined for export markets
    - these products must continue to meet the requirements of the importing country. This could result in different labels for domestic and exported products
- other consumer goods such as animal feed, agricultural seed or plants that are not food products
    - these products may be assessed under the Competition Bureau's Guide to "Made in Canada" claims
- content claims regarding regional or provincial content, such as provinces, cities, towns, etc. (et cetera)
- terms or references that have regulated requirements and are not subject to the guidelines (e.g. (for example) grade names, references to Canada Organic or mandatory country of origin labelling)

All ingredients and their components that contribute to the food, regardless of their generation when they were added, must be considered when assessing "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" claims.

"Product of Canada" claims

A food product may use the claim "Product of Canada" when all or virtually all major ingredients, processing, and labour used to make the food product are Canadian. This means that all the significant ingredients in a food product are Canadian in origin and that non-Canadian material is negligible.

The following circumstances would not disqualify a food from making a "Product of Canada" claim:

1. Very low levels of ingredients that are not generally produced in Canada, including spices, food additives, vitamins, minerals, flavouring

preparations, or grown in Canada such as oranges, cane sugar and coffee. Generally, the percentage referred to as very little or minor is considered to be less than a total of 2% of the product.
2. Packaging materials that are sourced from outside Canada, as these guidelines apply to the Canadian content and production or manufacturing of the food product and not the packaging itself.
3. The use of imported agricultural inputs such as seed, fertilizers, animal feed, and medications.

For example, a cookie that is manufactured in Canada from oatmeal, enriched flour, butter, honey and milk from Canada, and imported vanilla, may use the claim "Product of Canada" even if the vitamins in the flour and the vanilla are not from Canada.

The claim "Canadian" is considered to be the same as a "Product of Canada" claim and any product carrying this claim must meet the criteria for a "Product of Canada" claim described above.

Generally, products that are exported and re-imported into Canada would not be able to make a "Product of Canada" claim.

The only exception would be if the product:

- meets the "Product of Canada" criteria, and
- is ready for sale when it leaves Canada (fully packaged and labelled) and is subsequently returned to Canada without undergoing any processing, repackaging or re-labelling (e.g. (for example) perhaps because of an ordering error)

This is because all content, processing and labour still occurred in Canada.

"Made in Canada" claims with a qualifying statement

A "Made in Canada" claim with a qualifying statement can be used on a food product when the last substantial transformation of the product occurred in Canada, even if some ingredients are from other countries.

Substantial transformation

A substantial transformation occurs when a food product undergoes processing which changes its nature and becomes a new product bearing a new name commonly understood by the consumer.

For example, the processing of cheese, dough, sauce and other ingredients to create a pizza would be considered a substantial transformation.

Qualifying statement

If the "Made in Canada" claim is used, it must also include a qualifying statement to indicate that the food product is made in Canada from imported ingredients or a combination of imported and domestic ingredients. The qualifying statements that can be used include "Made in Canada from domestic and imported ingredients" or "Made in Canada from imported ingredients".

All variations of "Made in Canada" claims must include a qualifying statement.

For example, a claim such as "Proudly Made in Canada" would need a qualifying statement if the product contains imported ingredients as this claim includes the phrase "Made in Canada".

Made in Canada from imported ingredients

When a food is made with ingredients that are all sourced from outside of Canada, the label would state "Made in Canada from imported ingredients".

For example, a cookie manufactured in Canada from imported flour, oatmeal, shortening and sugar may be labelled or advertised with the claim "Made in Canada from imported ingredients".

Made in Canada from domestic and imported ingredients

When a food contains both domestic and imported ingredients, the label would state "Made in Canada from domestic and imported ingredients". This claim may be used on a product that contains a mixture of imported and domestic ingredients, regardless of the level of Canadian content in the product.

For example, a cookie manufactured in Canada using Canadian flour, oatmeal and shortening and imported sugar may be labelled or advertised with the claim "Made in Canada from domestic and imported ingredients".

To provide clarity and consistency for consumers, when a company chooses to use the "Made in Canada" claim, the qualifying statement should be presented in a standard format: "from domestic and imported ingredients". However, it would be considered acceptable if the order were reversed, if there were a higher proportion of imported ingredients than domestic ingredients.

The claim "Made in Canada from domestic and/or imported ingredients" is not permitted as it does not provide meaningful information to the consumer about the Canadian content.

Other domestic content claims

The use of "Product of Canada" and the qualified "Made in Canada" claims are encouraged to ensure clarity for the consumer and to enhance their ability to identify Canadian made foods. However, other more specific

statements or claims that describe the Canadian value added may be used without further qualification, provided they are truthful and not misleading for consumers.

Examples of these types of domestic claims include:

- "Roasted and blended in Canada" to describe coffee since the coffee beans are always imported
- "Distilled in Canada" to describe bottled water that was distilled in Canada
- "Canned in Canada" to describe green beans that were canned in Canada
- "Refined in Canada" to describe imported cane sugar which has been refined in Canada
- "Processed in Canada" to describe a food which has been entirely processed in Canada
- "Prepared in Canada" to describe a food which has been entirely prepared in Canada
- "Packaged in Canada" to describe a food which is imported in bulk and packaged in Canada

Guidance on other types of commonly used domestic content claims can be found below:

Claims identifying a Canadian food or Canadian ingredients

The claim "Canadian" is considered to be the same as a "Product of Canada" claim. As such, all or virtually all major ingredients, processing, and labour used to make the food product must be Canadian. For example, the claim "Canadian" on a container of frozen lasagna would mean that the food meets the "Product of Canada" criteria.

This also applies when the claim is used to describe an ingredient within the food. For example, if the claim "Canadian cheddar cheese" is used on a package of cheddar cheese sauce, all or virtually all major ingredients, processing, and labour used to make the cheddar cheese in the sauce must be Canadian.

When this type of claim is used to describe a single component ingredient within the food, all of the ingredient(s) and, if any, derivatives of that ingredient in the food must be Canadian. For example, if the claim "Contains Canadian blueberries" is used on a prepackaged blueberry pie, all of the blueberries, as well as any blueberry juice concentrate or derivative, must be Canadian.

"100% Canadian" claims on foods or ingredients

When the claim "100% Canadian" is used on a label, the food or ingredient to which the claim applies must be entirely Canadian rather than "all or virtually all" Canadian.

For example, if the claim "100% Canadian" was used on a pot pie, all of the ingredients, processing, and labour used to make that product must be Canadian.

This would be the same case for a food with a claim which refers to the origin of a particular ingredient, whether single or multi-component, as being "100% Canadian".

For example, if the claim "Made with 100% Canadian wheat" is used on a bag of dry pasta, all of the wheat, and its derivatives, used in that product must be Canadian.

Additional guidance on the use of the claim "100% Canadian milk" can be found in the Guidelines for the acceptable use of "100% Canadian milk" claims on dairy products.

Multiple country of origin claims that reference Canada

The use of a voluntary multiple country of origin statement that references Canada (e.g. (for example) "Product of Canada and United States") would not be acceptable. Products that contain foreign ingredients, regardless of their source, are not eligible to bear a "Product of Canada" claim.

Declaring multiple countries of origin on the label could result in false information and, as such, could be considered false and misleading.

Although products that contain foreign ingredients are not eligible to bear a "Product of Canada" claim, they may be eligible to make a qualified "Made in Canada" claim, provided that the last substantial transformation of the product occurred in Canada.

A blended claim, such as "A blend of Canadian (naming the product) and [Naming the country] (naming the product)", may be considered acceptable (e.g. (for example) "A blend of Canadian and American soybean oil").

Separate requirements may exist for commodities that require a country of origin statement. These are summarized in the Food-specific labelling requirements of the Industry Labelling Tool.

Commodity specific information

Meat and poultry

"Product of Canada" claims can be applied to meat from Canadian animals that are slaughtered in Canada. Animals are considered Canadian if they are born or hatched, raised and slaughtered in Canada or, in the case of feeder cattle, if they have spent a period of at least 60 days in Canada prior to slaughter in Canada. The 60-day residency period is based on international animal health standards. Such animals are fed, raised and slaughtered in Canada according to Canadian requirements.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is currently reviewing how these guidelines can be best applied to meat products from live animals imported into Canada. This review will determine how to apply the "Product of Canada" claim to meat products while respecting the principles of the "Product of Canada" guidelines and not disrupting international commerce or be contrary to trade rules.

Meat from imported hatching eggs, including those hatched in transit, would meet the "Product of Canada" guidelines provided that the chick was raised, slaughtered and processed in Canada.

Fish and seafood

Wild fish and seafood products can be labelled "Product of Canada" when caught by vessels in Canadian waters (or adjacent waters as per Canadian regulatory fishing quotas) and the products from the fish and seafood are processed in a Canadian establishment using Canadian ingredients.

In the case of farmed fish and seafood, the farm must be located in Canada, and the processing must occur in a Canadian establishment with the use of Canadian ingredients.

Dairy and eggs

Eggs from imported hens and milk from imported cows would qualify for the "Product of Canada" claim provided that the hen laid its eggs in Canada, and the cow is milked in Canada.

National symbols

The use of the Canadian coat of arms and the Canadian flag are both protected under the *Trade-marks Act*, subsection 9(1). See Government of Canada trade-marks for more information.

Coat of arms

The Canadian coat of arms cannot be used, unless permission is granted by the Department of Canadian Heritage. Requests for permission may be made to:

Federal Identity Program
Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R5
Tel (telephone): 613-957-2533
Fax: 613-946-5187
information@fip-pcim.gc.ca

National flag

The national flag with the 11-point maple leaf and one or two bars cannot be used unless permission for its use is granted by the Department of Canadian Heritage. There is however, no objection to the use of an 11-point maple leaf without bars. The maple leaf should not be used on an imported food product since it may give the consumer the false impression that the product is of domestic origin. Requests for permission may be made to:

State Ceremonial and Canadian Symbols
Department of Canadian Heritage
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0M5
Tel (telephone): 819-934-9048
Fax: 819-997-8550
CeremonialetSymboles_CeremonialandSymbols@pch.gc.ca

Maple leaf

The use of the maple leaf or other similar symbol may be used on food products without further permission. The use of these vignettes on their own does not always imply that the product is wholly or partially Canadian (e.g. (for example) maple leaves as part of a fall scene on a product's label).

However, depending on how the maple leaf is used, it could imply a "Product of Canada" claim and in such situations, the product must follow the criteria for a "Product of Canada" claim. In order to ensure that the use of the maple leaf or other similar symbol will not mislead the consumer, it is recommended that an accompanying domestic content statement be placed in close proximity to the vignette.

Terms not subject to the guidelines

The following terms or references have regulated requirements and, as such, are not subject to the guidelines for "Product of Canada" claims:

- grade names incorporating the term Canada (e.g. Canada Fancy)
    - the guidelines will not affect the regulated Canada grade name requirements or the inspection legend for edible meat products, processed egg products and prepackaged fish
- the "Canada Organic" logo or references to Canada organic

- the Canada organic logo is an indication of organic certification to the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations*. On imported products that are qualified to use the Canada organic logo, a country of origin statement or the statement "Imported" is required to be in close proximity to the logo, to avoid misleading consumers

- mandatory country of origin labelling statements
  - the guidelines do not apply to mandatory country of origin statements. In addition, the use of a qualified "Made in Canada" claim or any alternate claim, such as "Packaged in Canada" does not trigger the need for the country of origin declaration unless otherwise specified in regulations. For more information, refer to Country of origin labelling

← Previous | Table of Contents | Next →

Date modified:
2019-05-28

Resolution E1-19: Access to Agriculture Specific Mental Health Resources

Alberta Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Resources

Farmer Specific Resources

Farm Debt Mediation Service Regional Office
1-866-452-5556 (toll Free)
306-780-5544
613-773-2600 (TDD/TTY)
306-780-7353

Canadian Agricultural Partnership- Alberta
https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/

Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies
http://albertaagsocieties.ca/grants-funding/

Support Groups

Coping with Anxiety and Depression
Address: Centre 104 Building Suite 706, 5241 Calgary Trail NW
Day and Time: Wednesdays from 5-7pm
Contact: Kimberly Masliuk-Giddings, MSW RSW (780) 757-0900

Suffering from Anxiety, Depression or Negative Thoughts? We Can Help.
Address: Mira Health Centre, 130, 11910 111 Ave, Edmonton
Contact: 780-453-3757 at Ext. 116, 132 or 113
Additional Information: Free, 6 Week Course, pre-registration required

A Gift of Hope - Community Mental Health
Address: Provincial Building 346 - 3rd St SE, Medicine Hat, AB
Day and Time: Mondays and Wednesdays from 11am-12pm
Contact: 403-529-3500
Additional Information: http://palliserpcn.ca/Resources/Pages/Anxiety,-Stress-and-Trauma-Support.aspx

Catholic Family Services – Men's Support Group
Address: 9902-101 Street (lower level), Grande Prairie, AB
Contact: Erna (780) 532-9381 moone@gpcsd28.ab.ca

Sharing Our Loss – Lethbridge Family Services
Address: 1107 – 2nd Avenue North, Lethbridge, AB
Contact: Mary Shillington (403) 327-5724 mshillington@lethbridge-family-severices.com

Hope & Healing Through Grief Suicide Survivors Bereavement Support Group
Address: 10015 – 98 Street, Peace River, AB
Contact: (780) 624-6151 careen.griffin@pchr.ca
Additional Information: www.pchr.ca

CMHA Bereavement Support Program
Address: 5017 50th Avenue, Red Deer, AB
Contact: (403) 342-2266 office@reddeer.cmha.ab.ca

Living with Loss to Suicide

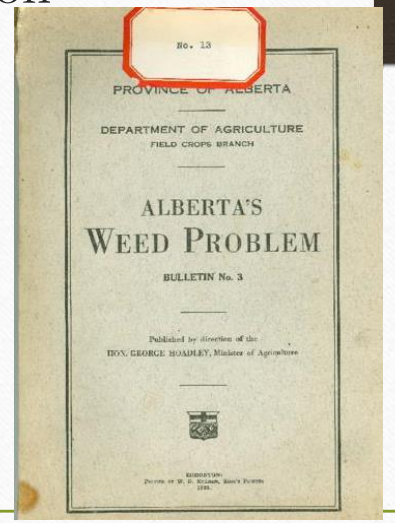
Address: Queen Street Medical Centre, 105 – 505 Queen Street, Spruce Grove, AB
Day and Time: last Monday of the month from 7-9pm
Contact: Meryl Murray R.S.W. (780) 342-1340

Weed Control Act

LETHBRIDGE COUNTY

History of the Weed Control Act

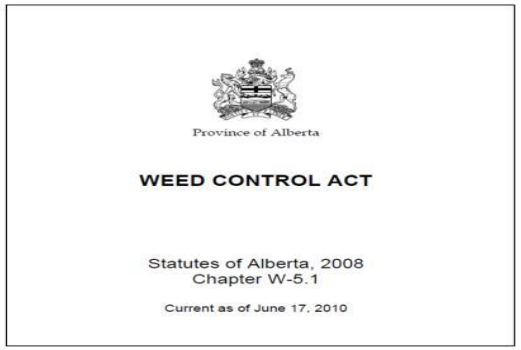
- Weed control legislation is some of the oldest in the province at 114 years.
- It was established very early that weeds had a detrimental impact on Agriculture production.



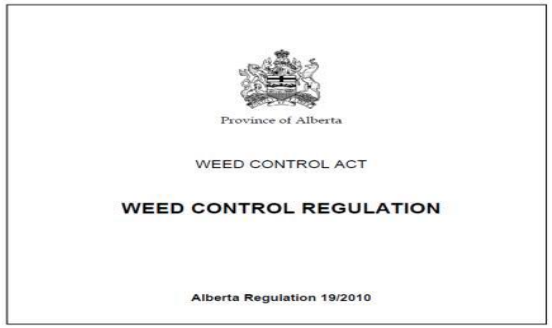
Current Act and Regulation

What is the Weed Control Act?

Act
Definitions, Responsibilities, Rights



Regulation
"Operational Guidelines"



Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Purpose of the Weed Control Act

Protect production & quality of land from the invasion & establishment of weeds

Prevent the spread of weeds

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Weed Control Act protects…

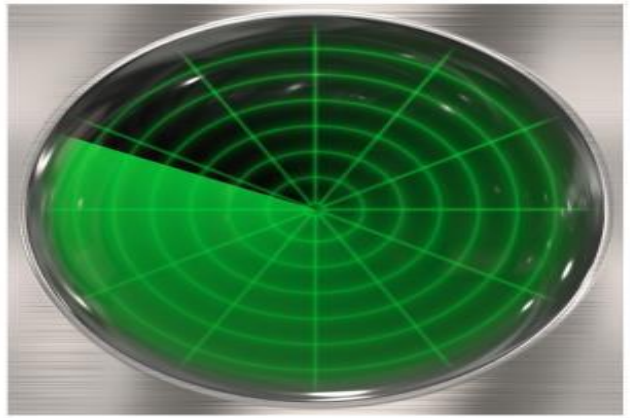
Agriculture Production

Riparian Areas

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Other objectives of the WCA…

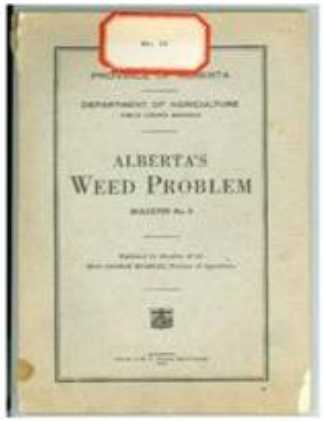
Education



Early Detection

Rapid Response

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development



(C) Municipal Weed Inspectors

Municipal Weed Inspectors should have neither friends nor enemies. They should be men of sound judgment and good practical knowledge. Their objective should be the building up of a strong community spirit, aiming to keep the land clean and at the same time make farming profitable. Every inspector should make a weed survey of his district, and at all times be prepared to give practical advice to those needing it.

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Things You Might be Doing…

Identify Weeds Present

Build Weed Database

Develop Control Programs

Evaluate Control Programs

Enforcement

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Inspector Responsibilities

- Inspections
- Enforce Act
- Weed notices
- Involve action when required
- Ensure actions are consistent with Act

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Entry and inspection power

12(1) An inspector may enter land or inspect land or personal property at a reasonable time

(a) to monitor compliance with this Act, including making inquiries, taking samples or performing tests, or

(b) to enforce an inspector's notice, local authority's notice or Minister's notice in accordance with section 18.

Local Weed Bylaws

COUNTY OF LETHBRIDGE NO. 26
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

BY-LAW NO. 980

BY-LAW NO. 980 of the County of Lethbridge No. 26 for the purpose of amending "By-Law No. 670" being a By- Law to regulate and designate certain plants as "restricted", "noxious" and "nuisance".

UNDER the Authority of the Weed Control Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 1980, amended November 9th, 1990, Section (7), the Council of the County of Lethbridge No. 26 hereby amends By-Law No. 670 as follows:

1. THAT in addition to Alberta Regulation 138/80, the County of Lethbridge No. 26 hereby designates "SCENTLESS CHAMOMILE" as a restricted weed, instead of a noxious weed.

2. THAT in addition to existing regulations, the County of Lethbridge No. 26 hereby designates the following weeds as noxious weeds:

(a) Cow Cockle - Saponia Baccaria

(b) Baby's Breath - Gypsophila Paniculata

(c) Kochia - Kochia Scoparia

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

How Do I Know Which Weeds I Need to Worry About Under the Act?

Weed Control Act Regulation Schedule

Schedule WEED CONTROL REGULATION AR 19/2010

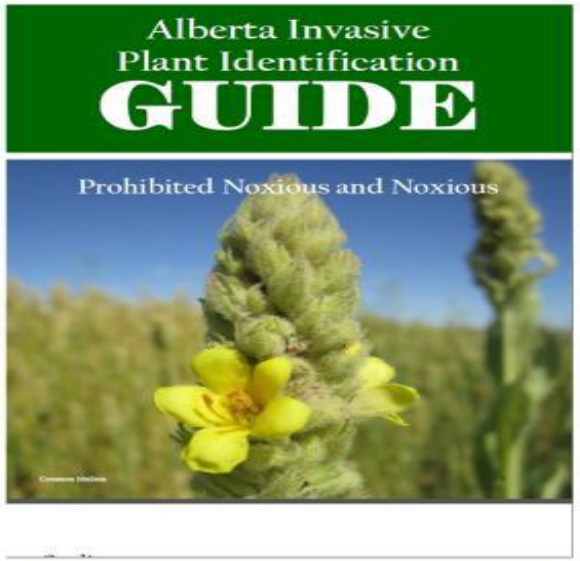
Schedule

1 The following plants are designated as prohibited noxious weeds in Alberta:

russian olive — *Elaeagnus umbellata* Thunb.
hollies, Himalayan — *Ilex*×*meserveae* group
barberry, common — *Berberis vulgaris* L.
tamisk, red — *Tamarix ramosissima* Ledeb.
buckthorn, common — *Rhamnus cathartica* L.
cinquefoil, sulphur — *Potentilla recta* L.
oregano, common — *Origanum vulgare* Pers. ex Ces.
dyer's woad — *Isatis tinctoria* L.
Eurasian water milfoil — *Myriophyllum spicatum* L.
flowering rush — *Butomus umbellatus* L.
garlic mustard — *Alliaria petiolata* (M. Bieb.) Cavara & Grande
goatgrass, jointed — *Aegilops cylindrica* Host
knotweed, meadow — *Muricaria coniphyton* Dumort.
knotweed, mouse-ear — *Muricaria prostrata* L.
knotweed, orange — *Hieracium aurantiacum* L.
loosestrife, purple — *Lythrum salicaria* L.
meadowhead — *Tanacetum cinerariifolium* (L.) Sch.Bip.
nutsedge, yellow — *Cyperus esculentus* L.
puncturevine — *Tribulus terrestris* L.
ragwort, tansy — *Jacobaea vulgaris* Gaertn.
rush skeletonweed — *Chondrilla juncea* L.
saltcedar — *Tamarix ramosissima* Ledeb.
saltlover — *Halogeton glomeratus* (M. Bieb.) C.A. Mey.
St John's-wort, common — *Hypericum perforatum* L.
starthistle, yellow — *Centaurea solstitialis* L.
tansy, Common — *Tanacetum vulgare* L.

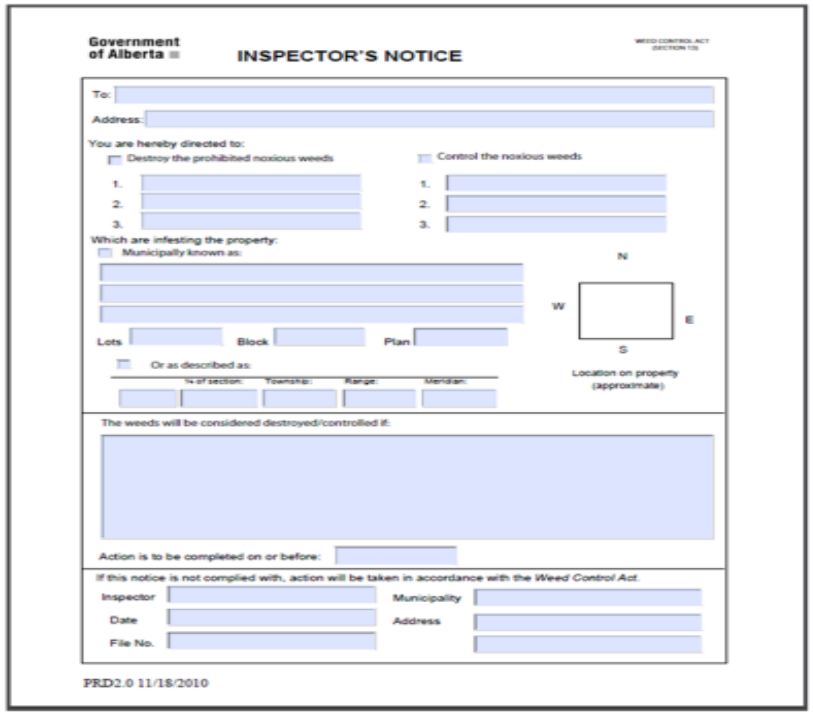
7

Alberta Invasive Plant Identification Guide



Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Inspector's Notice Section 13



Government of Alberta

INSPECTOR'S NOTICE

WEED CONTROL ACT SECTION 13

To:

Address:

You are hereby directed to:

Destroy the prohibited noxious weeds

1.
2.
3.

Control the noxious weeds

1.
2.
3.

Which are infesting the property:

Municipally known as:

Lots Block Plan

N W E S

Location on property (approximate)

Or as described as:

¼ of section: Township: Range: Meridian:

The weeds will be considered destroyed/controlled if:

Action is to be completed on or before:

If this notice is not complied with, action will be taken in accordance with the *Weed Control Act*.

Inspector Municipality

Date Address

File No.

PRD2.0 11/18/2010

- Prohibited Noxious
  - **SHALL** give an Inspector's Notice
- Noxious
  - **MAY** give an Inspector's Notice

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

What is the Difference Between Control and Destroy?

Control

- To inhibit the growth or spread, or
- To destroy

Destroy

- To kill all growing parts, or
- To render reproductive mechanisms non-viable

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Contents of Inspector's Notice Section 14

Government of Alberta

WEED CONTROL ACT
(SECTION 13)

INSPECTOR'S NOTICE

To: Farmer Brown

Address: Box 000, Cardston, AB T0K 0K0

You are hereby directed to:

☒ Destroy the prohibited noxious weeds

1. Scentless Chamomile (Matricaria per
2.
3.

☐ Control the noxious weeds

1.
2.
3.

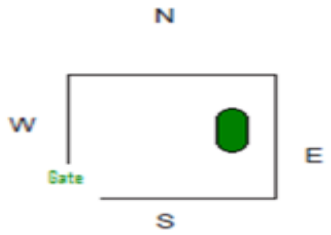
Which are infesting the property:

☐ Municipally known as:

Lots Block Plan

☒ Or as described as:

¼ of section:	Township:	Range:	Meridian:
NW	30	3	15	W4



Location on property
(approximate)

Agriculture and Rural Development

The weeds will be considered destroyed/controlled if:

Plants are hand picked, put into garbage bags and disposed of by burning or appropriate burial.
Spraying with a registered herbicide for scentless chamomile control prior to flowering.

Action is to be completed on or before: May 20, 2013

If this notice is not complied with, action will be taken in accordance with the *Weed Control Act*.

Inspector	Maureen Vadnais	Municipality	Cardston County
Date	May 14, 2013	Address	Box 111
File No.	000-2013		Cardston, AB T0K 0K0

An inspector's notice may limit the use of land for the year of the notice AND the following year

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Weed Notice Delivery Methods

Notice is considered served when…

7 Days After Mailing

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Weed Notice Appeals

- There is a right to appeal. Steps to be taken are on the back side of the Weed Notice.
- $500 Appeal Fee returned if appeal is successful.
- Appeals first go to our local appeal board. Second appeal can go to Minister whose decision is final.
- Debt recovery notice can also be appealed

LETHBRIDGE COUNTY

Enforcement

- Enforcement is only carried out when the landowner does not comply.
- Appeal period has lapsed.
- Must follow a method specified on the notice. Ex. If it says spot spray you cannot Blanket apply.
- A notice can list the destruction of Crop. If more than 20 acres is going to be destroyed the approval of the local authority is needed.
- A weed notice can be issued for mor than 1 year.

Our Policies

Lethbridge County Policy Handbook

EFFECTIVE:	**December 3, 1993**	**SECTION:**	**600 NO. 602**
APPROVED BY:	**A.S.B.**	**SUBJECT:**	**Weed Extension & Inspection – Vegetation Management Weed Inspections**
REVISED DATE:	**September 8, 2016**		

The purpose of this policy is to define the role of the County Weed Inspector.

1. The Weed Inspector will enforce the Provincial Weed Control Act during the growing season from May to September.
2. The Inspector shall make personal contact with landowners or landholders to provide extension material on weed control where necessary.
3. The Inspector shall carry out his functions under the supervision of the Supervisor of Agriculture Services or his designate.
4. Good public relation skills will be exercised at all times with a firm but fair attitude.

Lethbridge County Policy Handbook

EFFECTIVE:	**December 3, 1993**	**SECTION: 600 NO. 601 Pge 1 of 1**	
APPROVED BY:	**A.S.B.**	**SUBJECT:**	**Weed Notices**
REVISED DATE:	**September 14, 2017**		

The purpose of this policy is to define how weed notices will be issued.

1. Notices to remedy a weed problem will be issued at the discretion of the Supervisor of Agriculture Services or his designate.
2. Notices will be issued under the provisions outlined under the current Provincial Weed Control Act.
3. When a notice is issued and compliance is lacking, remedial work will be carried out either by county crews or by contractor and the charges will be applied against the landowner.
4. Where payment is not received for remedial work, the amount owing shall be placed on the taxroll as an additional tax against the land concerned.
5. Where a notice is issued and in the judgement of the Supervisor of Agriculture Services or his designate prosecution in a Court of Law appears to be the only alternative, the matter shall first be reviewed by the Agricultural Service Committee before legal action is initiated.

Weed Control Act/Lethbridge County

- Lethbridge County uses consistent enforcement with a Firm but Fair attitude.
- We educate and work with producers on weed issues before going the Weed Notice route.
- Solid Weed Control programs on Public Land sets a good example when encouraging producers to do the same.
- Weed Notices are a last resort.

AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Title: 2020 ASB Program Visit Report/Alan Efetha
Meeting: Agricultural Service Board - 08 Apr 2021
Department: Agriculture Service Board
Report Author: Gary Secrist

APPROVAL(S):

Jeremy Wickson, Director of Public Operations, Approved - 19 Mar 2021
Ann Mitchell, Chief Administrative Officer, Approved - 22 Mar 2021

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

Outstanding Quality of Life	Effective Governance and Service Delivery	Prosperous Agricultural Community	Vibrant and Growing Economy	Strong Working Relationships
☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Provincial Agricultural Service Board staff conduct field visits annually to ensure that ASB grant funding is being utilized appropriately. Alan Efetha with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry conducted a field visit to Lethbridge County in July of 2020 . Alan is here today to review with Council his report findings from that field visit.

RECOMMENDATION:

Moved that the Agricultural Service Board approves the ASB Field visit report from Alan Efetha as information.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

Lethbridge County last received a Field Visit report from Alberta Agriculture in 2015.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

It is the responsibility of Provincial Agricultural Service Board staff to visit each Municipality with a Service Board every 5 years to ensure ASB Grant funds are being used in accordance with the Grants guidelines. A report is then provided that details what is going well and what could be improved upon.

ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

By accepting this report as information, it allows County Staff the opportunity to make the necessary changes to improve our ASB Program and remain in compliance with ASB Grant funding criteria.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no impact on the existing budget as grant requirements have been met. Grant amounts for Legislative funding for the 2020-2024 period will be set at $123,907 per year. Resource Management funds will bring in $91,000 per year for the same time period.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

REASONS(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

To allow the Agricultural Services Department to remain in compliance with the terms of the ASB Grant Agreement.

ATTACHMENTS:

Lethbridge County Field Visit Report - July 12, 2020

Lethbridge County
Field Visit
July 12, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Program conducts field visits annually to ensure that ASB Grant dollars are being used appropriately to support the objectives of the ASB Grant Program. Information gathered from field visits is used to assist other ASBs in the development and delivery of programs related to the ASB Grant and to provide evidence to the Office of the Auditor General that ASB Grant dollars are being used effectively and efficiently to support programs related to the ASB Act and environmental extension and awareness.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) visited 15 municipalities in 2020 for the field visit program. Five municipalities from the South, three from Central, three from Northwest, one from Northeast, and three from the Peace region were chosen to receive a field visit in 2020.

South	Central	Northwest	Northeast	Peace
Warner	Lacombe	Strathcona	Bonnyville	Fairview
Lethbridge	Red Deer	Leduc		Northern Sunrise
Taber	Rocky View	Yellowhead		Mackenzie
Vulcan				
Special Area 4				

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Alan Efetha, Agricultural Service Board Specialist, met with Gary Secrist, Agricultural Fieldman for Lethbridge County on July 12, 2020 to review programs and projects implemented under the various Acts the ASB is delegated to enforce.

Lethbridge County received funding under the Legislative Funding Stream and Environmental Funding Stream of the ASB Grant. The County has demonstrated they applied resources and implemented programs for the funding streams that indicated effective use of ASB Grant dollars to support activities related to the administration of legislative requirements under the *Agricultural Service Board Act* and environmental awareness.

OBSERVATIONS

- The partnership between Gary and the ASB is strong and his team have very proactive and effective pest surveillance and weed control programs.
- The council supports the ASB and the Fieldman and his staff to fulfill their legislative and environmental awareness mandates.
- Overall after the visit I found that the scope of the work the ASB delivers meets the requirements of the ASB Grant Program.

SECTION 1: LEGISLATED DUTIES & REQUIREMENTS

Section 1: Legislated Duties & Requirements

Requirement 1: Legislated activities are reported to council as per section 4 of *ASB Act* (Summary of activities - Minimum annually)					
Fully Meeting X		Partially Meeting		Not Meeting	
Criteria	Notes	Status		Recommendations	
		Yes	No	Critical	Significant
ASB is appointed by council	- Minutes of ASB members being appointed and approved by council exist were not provided. - ASB members are not listed on the County website - Council appointed and approve ASB chair during the organizational meeting in October 2020 - No evidence for the other ASB members being appointed and approved. - MOVED that all of Council are members of the Agricultural Service Board Committee and Steve Campbell is declared as Chairman for the 2020/2021 year.	X			
Ag. Fieldman is appointed by Council	- Documents for the Ag Fieldman being appointed were not obtained. - Fieldman was appointed on September 19, 2013: (418/13 Agriculture Fieldman Appointment – Moved that County Council appoints Gary Secrist, Supervisor of Agricultural Services as the Agricultural Fieldman for the County of Lethbridge).	X			

	- Ag Fieldman has valid ID.				
ASB members meet section 3 (3) of *ASB* act (knowledgeable on ag and qualified to develop ag related policies)	- I did not see evidence showing ASB members received Orientation training or ASB orientation manual. - I did not meet with the ASB during the visit - I did not see policies and bylaws that guide the ASB activities.		X		Recommend having ASB members' orientation training records available. Orientation training ensures that ASB members are familiar with agricultural concerns and issues, know their duties under the ASB Act, and are qualified to develop policies consistent with the ASB Act (RSA 2000 s3(3).
ASB active	- ASB meets twice per year, April and September	X			
Summary of activities provided to council	- ASB report(s) is given to Council 1 times per year on September 10, 2020. - Council reviewed and ratified ASB and Ag.	X			
Minimum one report(s) provided to council per year	- ASB report is given to Council 1 times per year. - In 2020, report was given on September 10 (03/20 Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report – Moved that the Agriculture Service Board receive the Rural Extension Specialists report for information).	X			
Council accepts the annual report	- ASB report(s) are accepted in Council meetings (County website).	X			

Requirement 2: ASB acts as an advisory body to council to support section 2 (a) through (e) of ASB Act.

Fully Meeting	Partially Meeting	Not Meeting
X		

Criteria	Notes	Status		Recommendations	
		Yes	No	Significant	Enhancement
ASB provides input into municipal plans on areas of agricultural interest	- ASB business/strategic plan exists and feeds into the County's business plan (a copy of the strategic plan was obtained. - ASB business plan is reviewed annually - Last review was on September 10, 2020.	X			

Requirement 3: Promote and develop agricultural policies as per *ASB Act* Section 2e
(Minimum annually; Current within year; policies and bylaws for the following:
- ***Weed Act***
- ***Agricultural Pests Act***
- ***Soil Conservation Act***
- ***Animal Health Act***
- ***ASB Act***

Fully Meeting	Partially Meeting	Not Meeting
X		

Criteria	Notes	Status		Recommendations		
		Yes	No	Critical	Significant	Enhancement
ASB has and applies policies and/or bylaws for *WCA*	- Policy #601: Weed notices - Policy #602: Role of weed inspector - Policy #603: Leafy Spurge and Knapweed vegetation management - Policy #606: Prohibited noxious weed control - Policy #607: Seed cleaning plants - Policy #629: weed management	X				

ASB has and applies policies and/or bylaws for *APA*	- Policy #628: Control of Clubroot. - Policy #618: Coyotes - Policy # 638: Grasshopper spraying program	X				
ASB has and applies policies and/or bylaws for *SCA*	- Policy #614: Soil conservation - Policy #611: Backloping - Policy #610-18: Seeding county rights of way and borrow areas	X				
ASB has and applies policies and/or bylaws for *AHA*	- No policy on AHA was obtained		X			Recommend maintaining a level of familiarity with the *Animal Health Act* and exploring the development of programming for emergency carcass disposal.
ASB has and applies policies and/or bylaws for *ASB* act	- It was not confirmed		X			Recommend developing an *ASB Act* policy which may provide guidelines for taking land under supervision and/or reclamation when managing extreme or reoccurring problems.

Requirement 4: Appeal committees meet requirements of Acts.						
Fully Meeting	Partially Meeting X			Not Meeting		
Criteria	Notes	Status		Appeal Committee Names	Recommendations	
		Yes	No		Critical	Significant

Classification: Protected A

ASB has appeal committee that meets the *WCA*	Confirmed the appointment of "independent appeal committee" in the council meeting minutes https://lethcounty.ca/Home/DownloadMinutes/67e531b4-19d0-4002-be44-12284591cea6?isEnglish=True	X		Members-at-Large: Jack Braat, Wilf Scholten, Bryan Harbere & Rob van Diemen		
ASB has appeal committee that meets the *APA*	- Appeal committee is in place and confirmed appointed and approved in the organizational council minutes in October 15, 2020 meeting* (Section 14(5) of the APA (288/20 Acts Appeal Committee (Soil Conservation, Weed & Pest Control Appeal Committee) (4 Members at Large) - Moved that County Council appoint the following Members-at-Large to the Acts Appeal Committee (Soil Conservation, Weed & Pest Control Appeal Committee): Jack Braat, Wilf Scholten, Bryan Harbers and Rob Van Diemen for the 2020/2021 year). - It was not indicated if the Appeal committee is for the Calendar year. Note: APA requires local authority to appoint appeal committee at the beginning of each calendar year or for the calendar year.		X	Members-at-Large: Jack Braat, Wilf Scholten, Bryan Harbers & Rob van Diemen		Recommend documenting the appointment and approval of the APA appeal committee members in the council minutes for the calendar year (i.e. for the period starting on January 1st and ending on December 31st).
ASB has an appeal committee that meets the *SCA*	- Council and ASB exist	X		The County council appointed Jack Braat, Wilf Scholten, Bryan Harbers & Rob van Diemen (members at large) to be members of the ASA appeal committee.		

Requirement 5: Inspector Appointments and Inspections			
Fully Meeting X	Partially Meeting	Not Meeting	
Criteria	Notes	Status	Recommendations

Classification: Protected A

		Yes	No	Critical	Significant	Enhancement
Local authority appoints inspectors under the *WCA* 7(1)	- 11 inspectors appointed per year	X				
Local authority provides inspectors with identification *WCA* 10 (1)	- 4 inspectors are provided with valid identification card. - Completed 112 noxious weed Inspections (sites) and 34 prohibited noxious weed inspections (sites). - 35 weed inspector consultations with landowners with 100% complying. - Roadside sprayed and mowed 1087 km of municipal roadway annually	X				
Local authority appoints sufficient # inspectors under the *APA* 9 (1) (2) 10 (1) (2)	- 4 inspectors are provided with valid identification card.	X				
Local authority provides inspectors with identification *APA* 17 (3)	- 4 inspectors are provided with valid identification card per year.	X				
Inspector(s) with Form 7 certification *APA* Regulation 14 (2)	- 2 inspectors have valid Form 7 (i.e. permit for Coyote and Skunk control). - Participated in various agricultural pest control program - Completed 15 Clubroot surveys and 15 Blackleg surveys in 2019. Also 2 Bertha Army worms, 8 Bacterial Ring Rot and 40 Grasshopper surveys were completed in 2019.	X				

Local authority appoints at least one inspector under the *SCA* 15 (1) (2)	- 2 inspectors appointed - 7 soil conservation consultations in 2019	X				
Municipality meets requirements listed in section 2c of *ASB* Act for *AHA*	- ASB staff is ready to reports diseases and assist in case of emergency related to the AHA.	X				

Weed control policy is used to achieve compliance.

Example of enforcement process (explain process for enforcement under WCA / APA, etc.):

The process starts with awareness of local weed and pest issues and of the municipal surveillance program. When pest issue is found, the landowner is notified (usually the rate payer is given 3 notifications prior to a weed notice being issued). If control is not undertaken, a weed notice is issued. If notice is not followed, enforcement occurs and action is taken to control pest. Detailed records on communications and inspections are kept.

Requirement 6: Act Compliance & Enforcement						
Fully Meeting X		Partially Meeting		Not Meeting		
Criteria	Notes	Status		Recommendations		
		Yes	No	Critical	Significant	Enhancement
Local authority has procedures in place for issuing notices and tracking enforcement under the *WCA* Part 3	- Inspection programs are proactive driven - Follow the procedure listed in the *WCA*. - Weed control policy is used to achieve compliance: - Enforcement process: the process starts identifying the weed issue, contact landowner with a report of the issue, re-inspect the site for compliance and if no compliance, a weed notice is	X				

	issued following procedure outlined in the *WCA*.					
Seed cleaning plants licensed *WCA* Regulation Part 1 (2) – (7)	- 5 valid Seed Cleaning Inspection licenses were confirmed and a copy obtained.	X				
Local authority has procedures in place for issuing notices and tracking enforcement under the *APA* 12 (1) – (4) 13 (1) and APA Pest & Nuisance Control Regulation 14 (2) (3) (6) (7) (8) (9) (13)	- Inspection programs are complain and proactive driven - Follow the procedure listed in the *APA*. - Pest control policy is used to achieve compliance: - Enforcement process: inspect high risk areas, identify concerns (confirm with lab analysis), contact landowner, and issue a pest notice using procedure outlined in the *APA*. - Participate in pest management: surveillance of Insects (bertha Army Worms and Grasshoppers) and Crop disease (Fusarium, Blackleg, Bacterial Ring Rot, and Clubroot) and the Control of vertebrates (Gophers, Rats, Skunks, and Coyotes).	X				
Local authority has procedures in place under the *SCA* 4 (1) (2), 5 6 (1) – (3) * procedure to monitor soil condition is mandatory; actions taken are based upon local circumstances	- Inspection programs are both complaint and proactive. - 7 soil conservation consultations in 2019.	X				

Requirement 7: Program & Policy Awareness **(Section 2 of ASB Act)**					
Fully Meeting X		**Partially Meeting**		**Not Meeting**	
Criteria	Notes	Status		Recommendations	
		Yes	No	Significant	Enhancement
ASB has E&A programs in place for all legislated responsibilities under *ASB Act* 2 (b) – (c)	- Strong education and awareness (E&A) programs exist for producers and rural residents for *WCA* and *APA* (e.g. awareness programming informs on responsibilities, processes, enforcement and policies, etc.). - The ASB uses a variety of extension tools to build awareness on weed and pest issues as well as other ASB Programming. This includes news releases; media releases; newspaper articles, Ag. tours, county website, and workshops - Lethbridge county ASB took part in hosting regional authorized pesticide courses and Farmer pesticide certificate course. - Hosted the Manure/Nutrient Management Conference.	X			
ASB has programs in place for all legislated responsibilities under ASB Act 2 (d) (e)	- ASB is ready to assist with control of animal disease and to report a notifiable diseases - The County has a Livestock Emergency Response plan associated with *AHA*.	X			

Section 2: Resource Management Requirements

Requirement 8: Resource Management Programming (as per grant agreement) - describe activities and programming supported under this funding stream. Does it align with programming outlines in application?					
Received Resource Management Funding: No Partnership (list)					
Fully Meeting X		Partially Meeting		Not Meeting	
Criteria	Notes	Status		Recommendations	
		Yes	No	Significant	Enhancement
ASB – CAP programming					
ASB – EFP programming	- Farmers and Ranchers can complete or update their Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) online with the Lethbridge County's EFP Technicians' help - Newsletter mailed to farmers within the county.	X			
ASB – Environmental/Resource management programming	- The have strong environmental/ sustainable programs with excellent extension activities. - Other sustainable projects include: Solar wind workshops, - Worked with local farmers to add value on fruit farm by using the Growing Forward Grant funding to build a Haskan processing plant. - Other projects include: Battersy drain extension training, riparian training with the Cows and Fish, offstream watering, riparian fencing (AESA project), and feedlot runoff control projects. - Partners with AF, NRCB, Oldman Watershed Council, Lethbridge College, and Farming Smarter to organize the Alberta Nutrient Management Conference.	X			

Recommendations Categories

Critical: directly impacts legislated requirements with implications for grant fund disbursements

Significant: directly impacts legislated requirements without implications for grant fund disbursements

Enhancement: indirectly impacts legislated requirements and provided for continuous improvement

Recommendations Process

- √ Recommendations for the ASB are categorized based upon the criteria's impact on the requirement.
- √ Due dates reflect the timeframe permitted for the identified issue to be resolved by the ASB.
- √ Signatures accepting the recommendations reflect the ASB's commitment to resolve the issue by the due date.
- √ Materials substantiating the resolution of the issue are provided by the ASB to the Minister's representative by the due date.
- √ The Minister's representative in conjunction with the ASB unit reviews all submitted materials to assess whether the actions taken are sufficient to resolve the issue and meet the requirements' criteria.

If the issue is assessed as resolved, the Minister's representative will sign off on the recommendation. If further actions are required, the ASB Unit Manager and Minister's representative will work with the ASB until the issue is closed and requirements are met

Field Visit Recommendations Plan Summary (for all critical and significant recommendations)				Recommendation Tracking	
Requirement	Recommendation	Critical / Significant / Enhancement	Due Date	Assessment Decision	Approved by/Date
	Recommend having ASB members' orientation training records available. Orientation training ensures that ASB members are familiar with agricultural concerns and issues, know their duties under the ASB Act, and are qualified to develop policies consistent with the ASB Act (RSA 2000 s3(3).	Significant	October 31, 2021		
	Recommend maintaining a level of familiarity with the *Animal Health Act* and exploring the development of programming for emergency carcass disposal.	Enhancement	December 31, 2021		
	Recommend developing an *ASB Act* policy which may provide guidelines for taking land under supervision and/or reclamation when managing extreme or reoccurring problems.	Enhancement	December 31, 2021		
	Recommend documenting the appointment and approval of the APA appeal committee members in the council minutes for the calendar year (i.e. for the period starting on January 1st and ending on December 31st).	Significant	December 31, 2021		

ASB Chair: Steve Campbell

Signature of ASB Chair: _____ **Date:** Mar 17/2021

Agricultural Fieldmen: Gary Secrist

Signature of Ag Fieldmen _____ **Date:** Mar 16/2021

Recommendations assessment:

Reviewed by: _____ **Date:** _____

Assessment decision: _____ **Date:** _____

Classification: Protected A

AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Title: Agricultural Service Board Policy #614 Soil Erosion Amendment
Meeting: Agricultural Service Board - 08 Apr 2021
Department: Agriculture Service Board
Report Author: Gary Secrist

APPROVAL(S):

Jeremy Wickson, Director of Public Operations, Approved - 22 Mar 2021
Ann Mitchell, Chief Administrative Officer, Approved - 25 Mar 2021

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

Outstanding Quality of Life	Effective Governance and Service Delivery	Prosperous Agricultural Community	Vibrant and Growing Economy	Strong Working Relationships
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Agricultural Service Board Policy #614 Soil Erosion and Policy #615 Charge Back for Blow Dirt Clean-up have similar related content and although the content is still valid it would create clarity if both these Policies were combined.

RECOMMENDATION:

MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board approves Policy #614 - Soil Erosion as amended and that the policy revisions be forwarded to the May 6, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council.

MOVED that Agricultural Service Board rescinds Policy #340 and #615 - Charge Back for Blow Dirt Cleanup, to be forwarded to the May 6, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

ASB Policy #614 Soil Erosion was last revised in 2015 and ASB Policy #615 Charge Back for Blow Dirt Clean-up was last revised in 2006.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

It is the responsibility of the Agricultural Service Board to administer the Provincial Soil Conservation Act. In order to properly do so, it is beneficial to have up-to-date. Policies in place to aid staff when soil erosion becomes an issue. This newly combined policy encourages landholders to address soil erosion before it has an adverse effect on farmland and county roadways and drainage ditches.

ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

The alternative is to not combine the two policies.

By allowing the Agricultural Service Board to make these changes it will add clarity to our duties regarding Soil Erosion.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There will be no financial implications to the ASB budget.

If a remediation under the Soil Conversation Act was required, the County would pay for the initial and then charge the landowner accordingly for cost recovery, with the intention this was cost neutral for the County.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

To allow the Agriculture Services department to keep policies up to date and in conjunction with the provincial Soil Conservation Act.

ATTACHMENTS:

Policy 614 Soil Conservation DRAFT

Lethbridge County Policy Handbook

EFFECTIVE: February 10, 1994 SECTION: 600 NO. 614
APPROVED BY: A.S.B. SUBJECT: Soil Conservation
REVISED DATE: April 8, 2021

PURPOSE AND INTENT

Lethbridge County's Agricultural Service Board recognizes that the protection of soil quality and integrity is vital to agricultural and environmental sustainability. The Agriculture Service Board is mandated by the Soil Conservation Act to prevent the loss or deterioration of soil from taking place. The purpose of this policy is to encourage landowners to address and prevent the effects of soil erosion and ensure compliance with the Soil Conservation Act and Regulations.

POLICY

The policy defines how Lethbridge County Agriculture Services addresses Soil Conservation Notices within the enforcement of the Soil Conservation Act. Soil Conservation Notices are issued for contravention of the Act and the guidelines will define the process of how landowners who have been issued a notice will be responsible for costs incurred for any remedial work that may be necessary.

GUIDELINES

Lethbridge County shall adhere to the following guidelines when combatting soil erosion that is not in compliance.

1. Soil Conservation notices will be issued at the discretion of the Supervisor of Agriculture Services or his designate under the provisions as outlined under the current provincial Soil Conservation Act and any amendments to the Act.
2. When a notice is issued and compliance is lacking, remedial work will be carried out either by Lethbridge County or a Contractor designated by the County. Remedial work may include work done in the field to mitigate the erosion or the cleaning of County owned roadways or drainage ditches where soil deposits have accumulated.
3. When cleaning of County owned roadways and drainage ditches are involved landowner will be forwarded notification of the impending work to be undertaken along with an estimate of the cost of the project. Costs for the work will be calculated at Alberta Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association current rates as passed annually in the Lethbridge County Schedule of fees.
4. When remedial work is complete the legally titled landowner responsible will be issued an invoice. If the

invoice is left unpaid after the due date the amount will be subject to all penalties and interest charges. All outstanding invoices exceeding 120 days will be placed on the tax roll and collected as though it was taxed.

5. Where a notice is issued and in the judgement of the Supervisor of Agriculture Services prosecution in a Court of Law appears to be the only alternative, the matter shall first be reviewed by the Agricultural Service Board Committee before legal action is initiated.