



# AGENDA

## Agricultural Service Board Meeting

9:00 AM - Tuesday, October 22, 2024  
Council Chambers

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### A. CALL TO ORDER

### B. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

### C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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1. **Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes**  
[Agricultural Service Board - 22 Apr 2024 - Minutes](#)

### D. DELEGATIONS

1. **10:00 a.m. - Michele Konschuh - University of Lethbridge Research Associate - Research Collaboration: Soil Health and Irrigation Expansion**

### E. REPORTS

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1. **Manager, Agriculture Services Report**  
[Manager, Agricultural Services Report](#)

### F. NEW BUSINESS

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1. **South Region Conference Agenda and Resolutions**  
[South Region Conference Agenda](#)
2. **Chair and Vice Chair**

### G. CORRESPONDENCE

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1. **ASB Report Card Final**  
[ASB Report Card Final](#)

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2. **2024 Lethbridge County DED Survey Report**  
[2024 Lethbridge County DED Survey Report](#)

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3. **Ag for Life Letters**  
[Ag for Life - Investing in Tomorrow](#)

- [Ag for Life - MD of Greenview](#)
- 76 - 81      4.    **Ag Know Letters**  
[Ag Know - MD of Fairview](#)  
[Ag Know - County of Stettler](#)  
[Ag Know - MD of Smoky River](#)
- 82 - 83      5.    **ASB Conference Letters**  
[ASB Conference - MD of Fairview](#)  
[ASB Conference - County of Grande Prairie](#)
- 84 - 86      6.    **PMRA Letters**  
[PMRA - Wheatland County](#)  
[PMRA - Health Canada](#)
- 87 - 94      7.    **Weed Control Regulation Letters**  
[Weed Control Regulation - Vulcan County](#)  
[Weed Control Regulation - Yellowhead County](#)  
[Weed Control Regulation - MD of Ranchland](#)  
[Weed Control Regulation - MD of Willow Creek](#)
- 95 - 98      8.    **Wild Boar Farming**  
[Wild Boar Farming - County of Stettler](#)
- 99            9.    **Kneehill County ASB Letter to Minister**  
[Kneehill County ASB Letter to the Minister](#)

#### **H.    OTHER BUSINESS**

1.    **Soil Erosion Video**

#### **I.    CLOSED SESSION**

1.    **2025 Bank of Montreal/Calgary Stampede Farm Family Awards Program (FOIP Section 19 - Confidential Evaluations)**

#### **J.    ADJOURN**



**MINUTES**  
**Agricultural Service**  
**Board Meeting**  
9:00 AM - Monday, April 22, 2024  
Council Chambers

The Agricultural Service Board of Lethbridge County was called to order on Monday, April 22, 2024, at 9:00 AM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

**PRESENT:** Councillor Klaas VanderVeen  
Deputy Reeve John Kuerbis  
Councillor Eric Van Essen  
ASB Member at Large Ken Coles  
ASB Member at Large Dan Chapman  
ASB Member at Large Logan Miller  
Chief Administrative Officer Cole Beck  
Manager, Agricultural Services Gary Secrist  
Executive Assistant Candice Robison  
Regional Manager of Emergency Services Heath Wright  
Manager, Environmental Services Bill MacMillan  
Extension Specialist Matthew Wells

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Klaas VanderVeen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**B. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

1-2024 Councillor Van Essen MOVED that the April 22, 2024 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda be approved, as presented. CARRIED

**C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**C.1. Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes**

2-2024 Deputy Reeve Kuerbis MOVED that the October 26, 2023 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes be approved, as amended. CARRIED

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

**E.1. Agricultural Service Board Level of Service**

3-2024 ASB Member at Large Coles Moved that the Agricultural Service Board 2024 Level of Service be recommended to County Council for approval. CARRIED

Chairman VanderVeen recessed the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Chairman VanderVeen reconvened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

**D. DELEGATIONS**

**D.1. 10:00 a.m. - Karen Schmid - Alberta Beef Producers - Foot and Mouth Disease Presentation**

Karen Schmid, Extension Lead for Alberta Beef Producers was present to provide a presentation on Foot and Mouth Disease.

4-2024 Councillor Van Essen MOVED to accept the Alberta Beef Producers Foot and Mouth Disease presentation for information.

CARRIED

**D.2. 10:40 a.m. - Lethbridge County Livestock Emergency Plan - Heath Wright, Regional Manager of Emergency Services**

Health Wright, Regional Manager of Emergency Services was present to provide information regarding the Lethbridge County Livestock Emergency Plan.

**F. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Agricultural Service Board reviewed the the following correspondence items:

- F.1. Alberta Livestock Assistance Program
- F.2. County of Warner - 2024 Provincial ASB Conference STARS Charity Live & Silent Auction
- F.3. Northern Sunrise County - Pest Management Regulatory Agency
- F.4. Northern Sunrise County - Proposed Changes to Weed Control Regulation
- F.5. Saddle Hill County - Proposed Changes to the Weed Control Regulation
- F.6. Insect Survey Results
- F.7. Farm Safety Centre Update & Donation Request
- F.8. Mackenzie County - Provincial ASB Conference
- F.9. Brazeau County - Provincial ASB Conference
- F.10. Mountain View County - Provincial ASB Conference

**G. OTHER BUSINESS**

The following other business items were discussed by the Manager, Agricultural Services:

- G.1. Liquid Manure Dragline Update - Bill MacMillan
- G.2. Lagoon Maintenance/Spreading of Biosolids on Agricultural Land - Bill MacMillan
- G.3. ASB Strategic Planning Possibility
- G.4. ASB Activity Field Day (Summer 2024)
- G.5. ASB Conference Review/Discussion
- G.6. Members at Large Term

**H. CLOSED SESSION**

**H.1. - Blood Tribe Kainaiwa Weed Issue (FOIP Section 25 - Disclosure harmful to economic and other interests of a public body)**

**H.2. - Canadian Pacific Kansas City Rail - Weed Control on Rail Lines (FOIP Section 25 - Disclosure harmful to economic and other interests of a public body)**

**H.3. - Research Partnerships (FOIP Section 21 - Disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations)**

5-2024	Deputy Reeve Kuerbis	MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board Meeting move into Closed Session, pursuant to Section 197 of the Municipal Government Act, the time being 11:40 a.m. for the discussion on the following:  H.1. - Blood Tribe Kainaiwa Weed Issue (FOIP Section 25 - Disclosure harmful to economic and other interests of a public body).  H.2. - Canadian Pacific Kansas City Rail - Weed Control on Rail Lines (FOIP Section 25 - Disclosure harmful to economic and other interests of a public body)  H.3. - Research Partnerships (FOIP Section 21 - Disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations)
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Present during the Closed Session:  
Agricultural Service Board  
Chief Administrative Officer  
ASB Staff  
Administrative Staff  
CARRIED

6-2024	Deputy Reeve Kuerbis	MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board Meeting move out of the closed session at 11:58 a.m.	CARRIED
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H.2. Canadian Pacific Kansas City Rail - Weed Control on Rail Lines (FOIP Section 25 - Disclosure harmful to economic and other interests of a public body)

7-2024	Deputy Reeve Kuerbis	MOVED that a letter be sent to the CPKCR signed by the chair in regards to their weed control situation.	CARRIED
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I. ADJOURN

8-2024	Deputy Reeve Kuerbis	MOVED that the Lethbridge County Council Meeting adjourn at 12:02 p.m.	CARRIED
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ASB Chairman

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CAO

# AGENDA ITEM REPORT



**Title:** Manager, Agriculture Services Report  
**Meeting:** Agricultural Service Board - 22 Oct 2024  
**Department:** Agriculture Service Board  
**Report Author:** Gary Secrist

## APPROVAL(S):

Ryan Thomson, Director, Operations  
Cole Beck, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 09 Oct 2024  
Approved - 09 Oct 2024

## STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:



**Governance**



**Relationships**



**Region**



**Prosperity**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This is the Manger, Agriculture Services Report for the October 22nd, 2024 Agricultural Service Board meeting.

## RECOMMENDATION:

That the Agricultural Service Board receives the report from Manager, Agriculture Services for information.

## REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

To update the Agricultural Service Board and citizens on work done by the ASB department.

## PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

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

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

### Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report

#### ASB Grant

The ASB Provincial Grant is in its final year of a 5-year cycle that ran from 2020-2024 and a new grant application will be available soon. Lethbridge County receives annual funding of \$166,000 for Legislative and \$91,000 for Resource Management programming, respectively.

#### Mowing

- ASB staff are on the second round of mowing all gravel roads. The second cut will focus on weed control and alleviating snow trap areas.
- Hamlets, subdivisions, cemeteries, and paved roads were mowed twice with some paved roads seeing a third cut as the gravel road mowers passed by.
- Mowing was also done for weed control in areas where spraying was not possible. This mostly occurred on roads where specialty crops were grown and where grass has been seeded and is unable to accept a chemical application.

**Level of Service Measures: Staff anticipates we will meet all Level of Service goals for 2024 and come close to budget amounts. Some dryland areas may not need a second cut and most paved roads have needed numerous cuts as early passes of been quick to grow back.**

#### Weed Control

- Most of the roadside spraying took place in Divisions 4 and 5 this year with spot spraying being performed throughout the County. Increased spot treatment occurred where mowers were last to arrive.
- Custom Spray work for Volker Stevin saw revenues increase from \$28,000 to around \$57,000.
- Road top vegetation control work was busy in early spring applying pre-emergent herbicides assisting grader operators to deal with excess vegetation growth on road shoulders.
- Weed inspection activities helped resolve numerous issues with weed notices being issued where warranted.
- Bio-Control agents for Leafy Spurge were released on 8 spots in the County. Results from past drops appear to be taking a foothold although early spring moisture saw an increase in weed density. We are given a \$9,500 Grant from Alberta Environment to control Leafy Spurge and other noxious weeds along the Oldman River bed and shore.

**Level of Service Measures: All targets have been met and Roadside Spraying has exceeded the 33% target of roads to be blanket sprayed. More economical chemicals have been used on gravel roads which will lead to a surplus on budget amounts.**

#### Pest Control

- A private contractor was hired to do a survey for Dutch Elm near the Lethbridge landfill with no suspect trees found and that survey report is attached.
- The annual grasshopper survey showed numbers increasing for 2024 and projections for 2025 will be available this winter once data is collected from around the province.
- The 2024 Bacterial Ring Rot Survey included 13 fields with no sign of the disease present.
- The Bertha Army worm survey was carried out by ASB staff with most spots seeing a reduction from year over year results. There was one field that had higher numbers, but it did not meet the economic threshold for control.
- Trap loan outs for magpies and skunks were lower than previous years with only 10 traps being utilized.

#### Soil Conservation

- The fall of 2023 and early spring of 2024 saw conditions develop that were favorable for soil erosion. In total 4 producers were required to clean County owned right of way for soil deposit that had accumulated.
- A soil erosion video was developed by our Rural Extension Specialist that details pro-active control measures for soil erosion.

**Level of Service Measures:** Soil erosion targets depend on many factors that are out of our control. All known instances are inspected and there was an above average increase for staff time spent on this activity.

#### ASB Resolutions

- Delegates addressed nine Resolutions at the ASB Conference in Lethbridge in January of this year with all nine Resolutions being passed. The report card on the 2024 Resolutions is attached. Of particular interest to Lethbridge County is Resolution:
  - 7-24: Re-Registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine for Certified Applicators.  
The response to that Resolution was accepted and producers will need to continue to find alternatives to strychnine. Research has shown that one of the best alternatives is zinc phosphide products which are sold locally as Burrow Oat Bait.

#### Roadside Seeding

- ASB crews undertook the seeding of drains and road construction.
- In 2024 the ASB crew also seeded a gravel pit reclamation project at the Hoffarth Pit.

Level of Service Measures: [This service is provided to the Public Works Department by the ASB Department. Seeding activities are coordinated between spring and fall, depending on the individual project completion timing.](#)

#### Equipment Rental

- 16 Brillion Drill rentals thus far in 2024 with a total revenue of \$3,520. In 2023 there were 24 rentals with revenue totals of \$6,020.

#### Brushing

- Wet weather in spring slowed efforts for brushing and we are hoping to increase activity this fall. Numerous trees that were blown over in the Summer were removed immediately.

#### Parks

- Parks, playground, and shop yard maintenance were quite busy in May and June with an abundance of grass due to above average moisture conditions.
- Several operation project upgrades for equipment renewal took place in Monarch, Diamond City and Mountain Meadows. This was swings and park amenities. Some trail work also took place in the Broxburn Business Park.
- Playground upgrades are currently being planned for Turin in 2025.

#### Farm Family

- The 2024 Calgary Stampede BMO Farm Family is the Buckman Family who farm North-West of Picture Butte.

#### Other Activities

- \$5,000 donated to the Farm Safety Centre to provide in-classroom farm safety training.
- Participated in Ag-Expo as an Exhibitor
- Participated in Open Farm Days at the Farming Smarter venue.

#### Rural Extension Activities



- Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)
- Sustainable-Canadian Agriculture Partnership Program (SCAP) funding for producers
- On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)
- Rural Living and Ag Extension Newsletter & Videos
  - Produced in 2024: 3 tree videos, 1 soil erosion video
- Booth Exhibits
- Foothills Forage & Grazing Association 2-day summer bus tour
- Bee sampling
- Presentations:
  - College presentation
  - R.I. Baker School presentation
- Oldman River Mainstem Watershed Group
- Alberta Agroforestry Crop Reporting
- Agroclimate Impact Report
- Liquid Manure Dragline Program
- Upcoming Activities
  - Extension Videos
    - Clubroot Scouting Video
      - Partnered with Mike Harding (Alberta Government) and Marissa Robitaille Balog (Canola Council)
    - Raptor Pole Video
      - Partnered with Bobie Runzer (Fortis Alberta) and Brad Downey (Alberta Conservation Association)
    - 5 Tree Watering Videos
    - 1 White Pine Weevil Video
  - Nutrient Management Webinar Series
    - Finalizing presentations, January 27th, February 3rd, and February 10th
  - Potential Workshop during end of February/beginning of March
  - Shelterbelt Workshop in April

**Level of Service Measures:** We are meeting the goals outlined in our grant by delivering a wide range of extension activities. We continue to expand our communication methods, engaging with producers, rural communities, and students effectively.

#### ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

That the report is not received as information.

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT:

All activities being reported were included in the 2024 ASB budget and the updated Level of Service document.

#### LEVEL OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:



Inform



Consult



Involve



Collaborate



Empower

#### ATTACHMENTS:

[Level of Service 2024 New Format](#)

# Agricultural Service Board

Level of Service

Created July 2022, Revised January 2024





## **Agricultural Service Board Business Plan**

### **Vision**

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

### **Mission**

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

### **Values**

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

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

**Staff:** 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 and training institutions and educational institutions.



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## Purpose, Considerations, and Level of Service

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## **Scope of Responsibility**

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

## **Level of Service (LOS)**

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

## **Delivery/Support of the Weed Control Act**

### **Strategy**

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

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

### **Level of Service Measures**

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





## **Delivery/Support of the Agricultural Pests Act**

### **Strategy**

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

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

### **Level of Service Measures**

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

### **Annual Inspections or Trapping Requirements:**

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

## **Delivery/Support of the Soil Conservation Act**

### **Strategy**

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

### **Level of Service Measures**

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

## **Support of the Animal Health Act**

### **Strategy**

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

### **Level of Service Measures**

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

## **Resource Management/Rural Extension Program**

### **Strategy**

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

### **Level of Service Measures**

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



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

## **Roadside Mowing**

### **Strategy**

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

### **Level of Service Measures**

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

## **Rental Equipment**

2023 Budget Amount: Schedule of Fees Bylaw for Rental Rates

### **Strategy**

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

### **Level of Service Measures**

- The following pieces of equipment will be available: Brillion Drills, Plastic Mulcher, Tree Planter, and Chisel Plow with Lister shovels, Plastic Roller, Bale shredder and Straw crimper.
- Yearly rental rates will be set on an annual basis through the Lethbridge County Schedule of Fees Bylaw #24-006.



## **Parks, Cemetery, Hamlet, and Subdivision Maintenance**

### **Strategy**

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

- Parks Vegetation Management
- Playgrounds and Trail Inspection

### **Level of Service Measures**

#### **Parks**

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

#### **Cemetery**

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

#### **Hamlets/Subdivisions**

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

## **Brushing/Tree Removal/Pruning Program**

### **Strategy**

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

### **Level of Service Measures**

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



## **Delay of Maintenance Operations**

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

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

## **Conclusion**

Lethbridge County ASB activities are a balance between legislated responsibility and levels of service defined by Council as representatives of the public. The ASB Grant, which provides supplemental funding, was renewed for a five-year term in 2020 (i.e., 2020 – 2024), all legislated activity is also set out in this document. The province requires annual reporting on ASB activities to demonstrate that the County's commitments are met for both the Legislative and Resource Management Grant funding streams.

# Appendices

## Guidelines and Procedures

### Appendix A: Weed Control and Vegetation Management

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

### Appendix B: Agricultural Pest Act Policies

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

### Appendix C: Soil Conservation Act

1. Soil Conservation Management

### Appendix D: Roadside Mowing

1. Roadside Mowing

### Appendix E: Rental Equipment and ASB Schedule of Fees

1. ASB Rental Equipment
2. Schedule of Fees/ASB Related Portion of Bylaw #20-022

### Appendix F: Parks Policies

1. Parks Vegetation Management
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### Appendix G: Maps

1. Roadside Mowing
2. Roadside Spray Program



## Appendix A: Weed Control and Vegetation Management

### Guidelines and Procedures

#### 1. Integrated Weed Management

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

#### 2. Weed Inspections

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

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

### **3. Weed Notices**

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

### **4. Leafy Spurge and Knapweed**

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

### **5. Prohibited Noxious Weeds**

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





- 5.8. The affected area will, at the discretion of the Supervisor of Agriculture, be the eradicated of all vegetation within the infested area though:
- 5.8.1. The application of a non-selective herbicide to the entire infested area or,
- 5.8.2. By plowing under the entire infested area.
- 5.9. Harvest of a previously affected row crop field must be supervised by the Weed Inspector to reduce potential cross-contamination risks.
- 5.10. Eradication methods for prohibited noxious weed infestations identified in non- row cropped areas are determined by the Weed Inspector.
- 5.11. Persons failing to comply with a noxious weed notification are subject to the provisions set out under the Weed Control Act.

## 6. Clubroot Inspection and Control

- 6.1. Field Surveys
- 6.1.1. Yearly inspections for Clubroot in Canola are completed by Agricultural Services Staff.
- 6.1.2. Clubroot survey method, sampling technique, reporting and calculation of disease incidence must follow standard protocols provided by the Alberta Clubroot Management Committee.
- 6.1.3. Positive identification of Clubroot in canola shall be confirmed by certified laboratory testing. Submit samples to two independent accredited laboratories.
- 6.2. Disease Spread Reduction
- 6.2.1. A "Notice to Control Pests" shall be issued to any landowner found to own the land infested with clubroot, pursuant to the Agricultural Pests Act.
- 6.2.2. The "Notice to Control Pests" may include any or all the following conditions:
- A four-year prohibition from growing canola, mustard, and brassica crops.
  - Following the four (4) year prohibition period, the landholder must notify the Supervisor of Agricultural Services, in writing, of their intent to grow canola variety. Whereby, the canola must be a registered clubroot resistant variety.
  - An owner or occupant must follow a Clubroot Management Plan, intended to reduce the spread of the disease through movement of soil or equipment<sup>1</sup>.
  - All other users of the said field(s) must adhere to the same best management practices for Clubroot sanitation.
  - Prohibited crops grown within the four-year prohibition period will be destroyed, at the expense of the grower, using any appropriate means.
  - All neighboring landowners and all industries having a genuine commercial interest will be notified of the confirmed positive Clubroot incidence and its location.
  - Canola growers in high-risk situations/locations should follow traditional Canola rotation recommendations (1 in 4 years) to reduce the risk of Clubroot introduction to clean fields.
  - Lethbridge County will review these guidelines and procedures within one year of a positive Clubroot result with the County.



## 7. Seed Cleaning Plants

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

## Appendix B: Pest Control and Management

### Guidelines and Procedures

#### 1. Surveys

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

#### 2. Live Traps

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

#### 3. Norway Rat

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

#### **4. Coyotes**

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

#### **5. Skunks**

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

#### **6. Grasshopper Control**

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

## **Appendix C: Soil Conservation Management**

### **Guidelines and Procedures**

#### **1. Soil Conservation**

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



## **Appendix D: Roadside Mowing**

### **Guidelines and Procedures**

#### **1. Roadside Mowing**

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

## **Appendix E: ASB Rental Equipment**

### **Guidelines and Procedures**

#### **1. Rental Equipment**

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

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

### **Guidelines and Procedures**

#### **1. Parks**

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

#### **2. Playground & Trail Inspection**

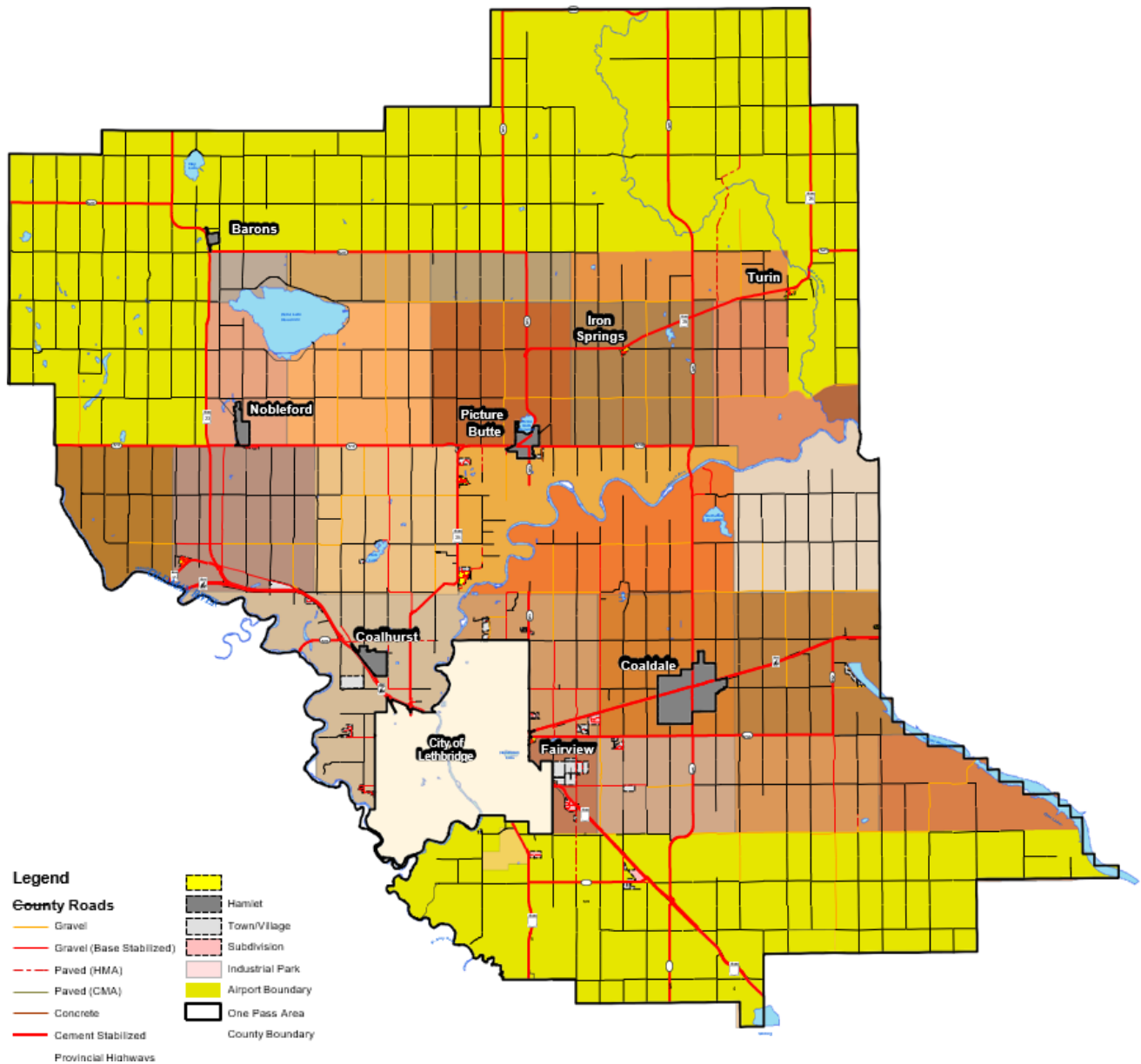
- 2.1. Playgrounds are inspected by staff certified in playground inspection every two months, at a minimum.
- 2.2. Lethbridge County trail systems are inspected by a department staff member on a semi-annual basis.
- 2.3. Inspections are recorded on the appropriate forms, including:
  - 2.3.1. Hazardous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

#### **3. Supplemental**

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

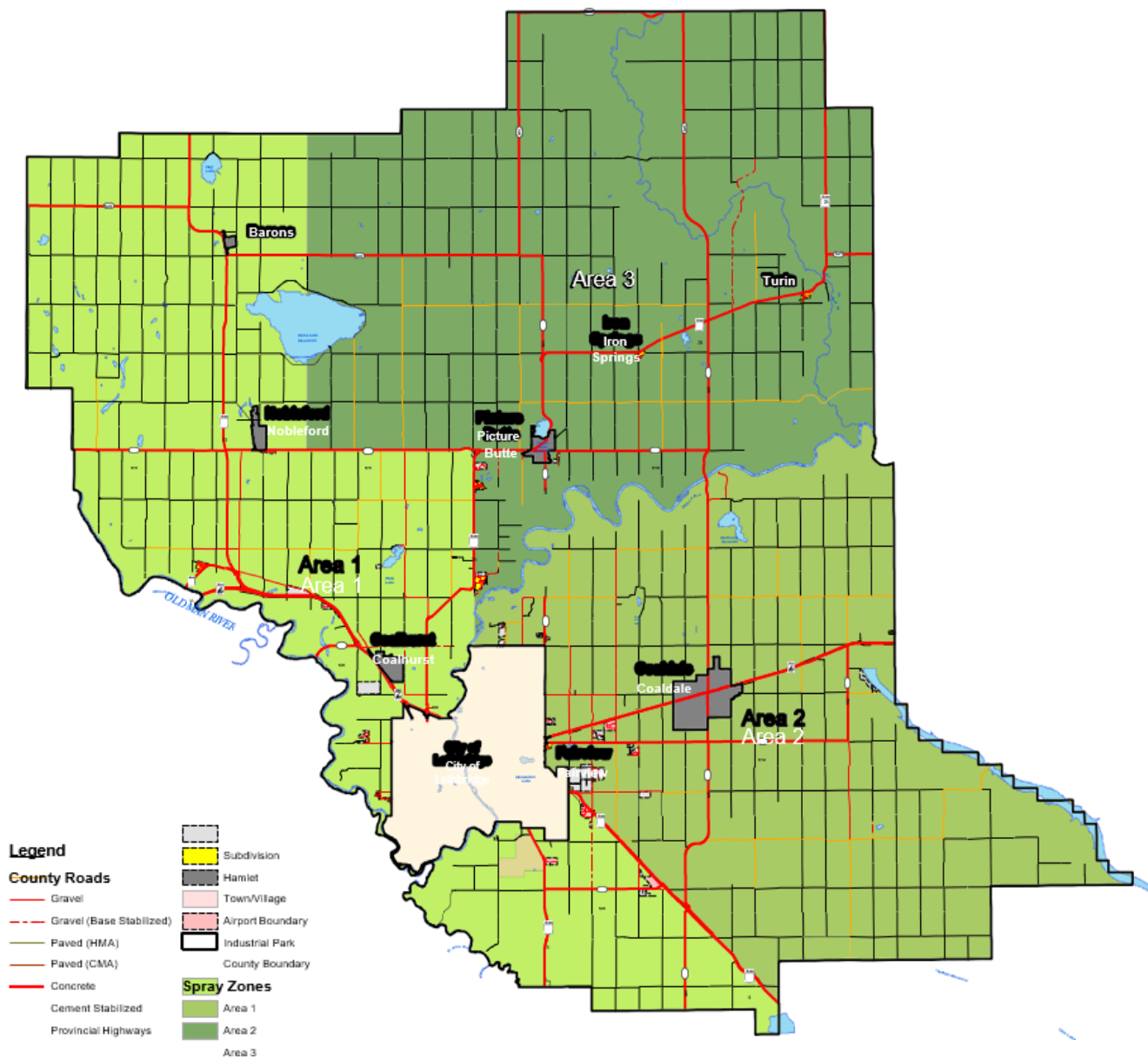


## Lethbridge County Roadside Mowing – Map





## Lethbridge County Roadside Spraying – Map







**COUNTY OF  
NEWELL**

## 2024 South Region Agricultural Services Board Conference

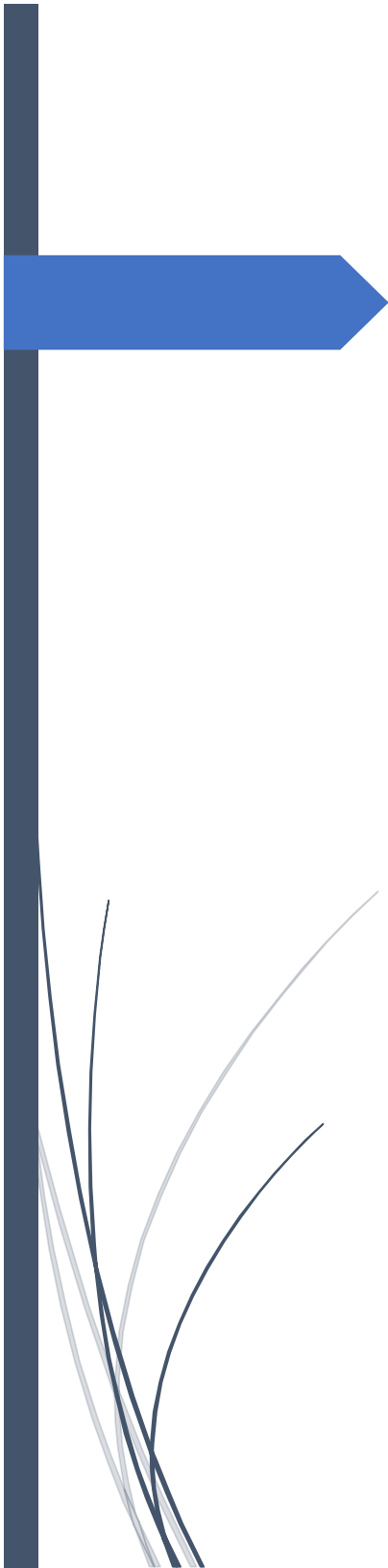
### Humble Beginnings.....**BIG DREAMS**

#### Monday, October 28, 2024

Optional Activities	3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	145048 Twp Rd 192 N County of Newell	Plant Tour at JBS Foods Canada
	3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	503 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street West Brooks, AB	Bowling at Ben's Bowling & Billiards
	3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	TBA	Skeet Shooting Competition
Heritage Inn Hotel & Convention Centre 1217 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street West Brooks, AB	6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Room A	ASB Chairmans' Meeting
	6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Room C & D	Welcome Reception (includes Supper, Drinks & Entertainment)

#### Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Tilley Community Centre – 148 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave East, Tilley, Alberta	8:30 a.m.	Registration	
	9:00 a.m.	Welcome to the County	Arno Doerksen Reeve, County of Newell ASB Chairman
		<b>Historical Newell</b>	
	9:05 a.m.	The Beginnings	Joe Chomistek
	9:40 a.m.	Beef Industry and Processing	Garnett Altwasser
	10:10 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK	
	10:25 a.m.	Honey Production	Alan Philpott Philpott Honey
		<b>New to Newell</b>	
	11:15 a.m.		Jeff Lindemulder BMP Supplies
	11:40 a.m.		Josh Iwan Independent Crop Inputs
	12:00 p.m.	LUNCH	
	12:45 p.m.	New Programming	Lindsey Zayak, AFSC
	1:15 p.m.	ASB Update	Kerianne Kohler-Munro Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
	1:45 p.m.	ASB Resolution Session	



# Report Card on the Resolutions

2024

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

### 2024 ASB Provincial Committee Members

Position	Members	Alternates	Representation
Chair, Region Rep.	Brenda Knight	Tietsia Huyzer	Central
Vice, Region Rep.	Dustin Vossler	John Van Driesten	South
Region Rep	Walter Preugschas	Ross Bohnet	Northwest
Region Rep	Sebastien Dutrisac	Gene Hrabec	Northeast
Region Rep	Bob Chrenek	Corinna Williams	Peace
Secretary	Stephen Bevans		AAAF
Executive Assistant	Linda Hunt		ASBPC
RMA Rep.	Jason Schneider		RMA
AAAF President	Aaron VanBeers		AAAF
ASB Program Manager	Kerrianne Koehler-Munro		AGI
Recording Secretary	Anita Ash		AGI

2024 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS		
COMMITTEE	APPOINTMENT	ALTERNATE
Agriculture Plastics Recycling Group	Walter Preugschas	Dustin Vossler
Alberta Game Policy Advisory Committee	Gene Hrabec	Ross Bohnet
Alberta Endangered Species Conservation Committee (ESCC)	John Van Driesten	Brenda Knight
Clubroot Action Committee	Brenda Knight	Sebastien Durtisac
Fusarium Action Committee	Sebastien Dutrisac	Dustin Vossler
Wildlife Predator Compensation Committee	Corinna Williams	Tietsia Huyzer
Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (Alternate for RMA appointment)	Sebastien Dutrisac	Corinna Williams
Weed Issues on Oil and Gas Sites in Rural Alberta working group	Dustin Vossler	Brenda Knight
ASBPC Extension Committee	Walter Preugschas	Sebastian Durtisac

## Executive Summary

The ASB Provincial Committee has assigned the following grades to responses by government and non-government organizations for resolutions passed at the 2024 Provincial ASB Conference.

### Resolution Table

RESOLUTION NUMBER	RESOLUTION	GRADE
1-24	AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT HIGHWAY SIGNS	Incomplete
2-24	COMPENSATING PRODUCERS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES	Accept in Principle
3-24	CREATION OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION INSURANCE	Accept in Principle
4-24	SUPPORTING A COMPENSATION MULTIPLIER	Accept in Principle
5-24	WILD BOAR AND THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT	Accept the Response
6-24a	IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH BEE PACKAGE IMPORTS	Accept the Response Incomplete (CFIA)
6-24b	IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH THE CONTROL OF VARROA MITES	Accept the Response Incomplete (CFIA)
7-24	RE-REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR CERTIFIED APPLICATORS	Accept the Response
E2-24	SUPPORT FOR THE EXPORT OF LIVE HORSES FOR SLAUGHTER	Accept in Principle
PC1-24	FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (FCDC)	Accept the Response

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

## Response Summary

### Number of ASBs that Responded

Region	#ASBs Responding	% of Region 2024	% of Region 2023	% of Region 2022	% of Region 2021
South	7	39	22	33	33
Central	13	93	100	93	43
Northeast	3	27	82	82	15
Northwest	7	54	15	38	31
Peace	5	38	38	38	23
Overall	35	51%	49%	55%	32%

### Summary of Grading Responses Submitted

Resolution No.	Accept the Response	Accept in Principle	Incomplete	Unsatisfactory
1-24	0	1	30	2
2-24	2	31	1	1
3-24	2	31	3	0
4-24	3	30	2	0
5-24	18	13	1	2
6-24a	26	3	4	1
6-24b	20	1	13	0
7-24	34	0	0	0
E2-24	1	32	1	0
PC1-24	31	3	0	0

## 2024 Activities of the ASBPC

### ASBPC Regular Meetings

Date	Delegations or Activities
2023 09 15	Alberta Beekeepers Commission
2023 11 06	Organizational Meeting
2023 11 06	Alberta Transportation, Cooperative Extension
2023 11 17	
2024 01 12	
2024 01 22	Provincial ASB Conference
2024 04 03	Wetland policy discussion
2024 04 17	Resolution response review
2024 05 24	Resolution response review
2024 08 16	Chief Provincial Vet

### Engagements:

Date	Event
November 6, 2023	Minister meeting at the Legislature
November 23, 2023	ADM Townhall
January 8, 2024	Co-op Ag Extension Model
Feb 8, 2024 - May 1, 2024	Seed Regulatory Modernization Information Task Team
February 29, 2024	Co-op Ag Extension
March 4, 2024	Co-op Ag Extension
June 20, 2024	ADM Townhall

### Activities on Appointed Committees:

Date	Committee	Member Attending
January, 2024	Ag Plastics Recycle Group	Walter Preugschas
Feb 8, 2024 - May 1, 2024	Seed Regulatory Modernization Information Task Team	Sebastien Dutrisac
March 8, 2024	Weeds/Well Sites Working Group	Brenda Knight, Jason Schnider, Walter Preugschas, Dustin Vossler, Sebastien Dutrisac
May 28, 2024	Weeds/Well Sites Working Group	Dustin Vossler, Brenda Knight
August 20, 2024	Extension Committee - Strychnine	Walter Preugschas

## Definition of Terms

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

### *Accept the Response*

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

### *Accept in Principle*

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

### *Incomplete*

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

### *Unsatisfactory*

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



## 2024 RESOLUTIONS

## RESOLUTION 1-24: AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT HIGHWAY SIGNS

- WHEREAS** 13% of farm related fatalities in Canada are traffic related; and
- WHEREAS** farmers often travel long distances on public roads between fields; and
- WHEREAS** agricultural equipment is generally large and slow moving; and
- WHEREAS** the general public tends not to slow down around agricultural equipment on public roadways; and
- WHEREAS** Alberta's highways do not currently give any warning in areas that are often traveled by agricultural equipment;

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

Alberta Transportation provides each Agricultural Service Board with six signs that state "Slow Down Around Agricultural Equipment" to be installed on highways, at locations determined by the individual municipality.

**SPONSORED BY:** Brazeau County  
**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**STATUS:** Provincial  
**DEPARTMENT:** Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development

RESPONSE: NONE

GRADE: INCOMPLETE

#### GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE	%	COMMENTS
Accept the Response	0	
Accept in Principle	3	
Incomplete	86	More information needed in regard to AT requirements. Liability & effectiveness; Keep pressuring for a response from AT
Unsatisfactory	6	

#### COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASBPC received communication from Jobs, Economy and Northern Development that the resolution should be answered by Transportation and Economic Corridors. The ASBPC recommended a grade of Incomplete as they did not receive a response from the Ministry of Transportation by either of the

deadlines. Further advocacy over the summer has resulted in a commitment by the Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors to respond to the resolution in writing by September 2024. The response will be posted once received and communicated through the website and email to ASBs.

## RESOLUTION 2-24: COMPENSATING PRODUCERS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

- WHEREAS** society is now placing more emphasis on the role of producers as stewards of the environment for their benefit; and
- WHEREAS** the Federal Government has established a price metric for carbon and is considering reductions in nitrogen use that will impact producers without developing the appropriate offset or compensation system to producers performing these services; and
- WHEREAS** Governments and the Public are demanding or restricting more ecological activities such as wetland use, species preservation, wildlife management, predator control, reduced impact/emissions, carbon sequestration, changes in management practices and others; and
- WHEREAS** it is becoming increasingly costly for producers to shoulder the burden of every public interest at their expense without being compensated or offset fairly for the beneficial ecosystem services performed;

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

That the Federal and Provincial governments develop and implement immediately a "good actor" compensation mechanism for producers performing ecosystem services beneficial for society.

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

That the Federal and Provincial governments investigate creating an exchange to trade Carbon and other ecological services for compensation at the minimum rate already determined by the Federal Government.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of Northern Lights

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial/Federal

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation,  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

### RESPONSE:

1. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (July 4, 2024)
2. Agriculture and Irrigation (May 2024)

GRADE: ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE	%	COMMENTS
Accept the Response	6	
Accept in Principle	89	Tools already in place (RALP and ALUS) on going opportunities - biodiversity offsetting. Other incentive programs; Accept in principle - programs already in progress like ALUS, AB wetland replacement program and many more.
Incomplete	3	Should look at a more provincial based issues & not so expanded, more focuses on less issues.
Unsatisfactory	3	<p>The provided response fails to address the main issue and instead discusses programs that aim to achieve the desired outcome on a small, specialized scale. For instance, one mentioned program allocated \$5.6 million for 208 hectares, an initiative that appears to have occurred only once in 2020-21. This program seems inadequate for supporting producers but beneficial for reclamation companies and governments seeking praise for their efforts.</p> <p>This approach does not fully encompass the broader landscape and the individuals providing essential ecosystem services, such as water and carbon cycling, wetland utilization, species conservation, wildlife management, predator control, recreation, and more. A more effective strategy would involve compensating farmers annually for implementing practices that promote ecological services across all their land, rather than focusing solely on sporadic niche projects.</p> <p>Farmers and producers would seek compensation or a stipend for the ecological services they provide to the broader public. Funding would be allocated based on arbitrary metrics, similar to the development of the current federal carbon pricing system. The second part of the proposed strategy addresses the fact that the Federal government currently levies an arbitrary carbon tax per tonne of emissions. Farmers should receive payment for sequestering and storing carbon through various Best Management Practices (BMPs). This approach is crucial for preserving more grassland and native habitat. Currently, in 2024, the Federal government is collecting \$80 per tonne of emissions. Research into the carbon-sequestering abilities of different BMPs can be used to calculate a payment per acre. By utilizing the federal pricing system, farmers can determine the payment they are entitled to. The Federal Government needs to establish these arbitrary averages, similar to how they determined carbon</p>

		emissions pricing. For instance, if a farmer sequesters an average of 2 tonnes of carbon per acre, priced at \$80 per tonne, they should be eligible for a payment of \$160 per acre. The process should be as straightforward as the federal pricing system; the price has already been determined, and now it's a matter of agreeing on the land's capacity to sequester and store carbon and equally compensating for sequestration as for emissions.
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COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept in Principle because the responses indicate that the Canadian and Alberta governments are continuing to work on carbon trade options. The responses indicate that carbon trade funds are currently being distributed through programs available to Alberta producers. The recommendation is to continue to monitor and communicate as information becomes available.

#### RESOLUTION 3-24: CREATION OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION INSURANCE

- WHEREAS** livestock operations, especially cow calf operations, fall through the cracks on certain business risk management programs like AgriStability and Wildlife Predator Compensation Program; and
- WHEREAS** the current business risk management programs do not address in year losses and do not protect from extraordinary losses that occur from extenuating circumstances or abnormal cost of doing business losses; and
- WHEREAS** AFSC offers Crop Production Insurance which caps production losses, but does not provide a similar option for Livestock.

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

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation work with AFSC and consult stakeholder groups in the livestock sector to develop a new Livestock Production Insurance Program or other suitable program.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of Northern Lights

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

#### RESPONSE:

1. Agriculture and Irrigation (May 2024)

#### GRADE: ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE

#### GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE	%	COMMENTS
Accept the Response	6	
Accept in Principle	89	Accept in principle - consultations are in progress.
Incomplete	9	Looking forward to seeing AFSC's results; However, the uptake of the existing programs is terrible, if they adequately addressed concerns why is uptake of LPI and AgriStability so terrible? We need a simple program that addresses revenue and price all in one and guarantees revenue like crop production. Cost of production is a key factor but when considering most producers grow a large percentage of feed on farm the major rises in cost of production are attributed to the inflationary pressures caused by government spending leading to a devalued currency and the

		subsequent rise is all operating costs. And is just one half of the equation, the other major half is production/revenue, which is poorly accounted for by AgriStability and LPI—resulting payments come too late. They also do not touch on the Livestock Indemnity Program the USDA has that covers a lot more production risk losses.
<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	<b>0</b>	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept in Principle because the responses indicate that engagement and consultations are taking place. The recommendation is to continue to monitor and communicate results.



#### RESOLUTION 4-24: SUPPORTING A COMPENSATION MULTIPLIER

- WHEREAS** predator attacks can cause significant economic losses, but not limited to, death, decreased weight gain, treatment, rehabilitation, and lower conception rates; and
- WHEREAS** predation is highly variable from producer to producer and year to year; and
- WHEREAS** the current iteration of the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program (WPCP) poorly addresses concerns and losses outside confirmed kills and producers affected with large losses; and
- WHEREAS** the use of a multiplier to increase compensation would go some way to compensate for unfound kills, kills without enough evidence, time and resources spent by producers locating, treating and deterring predators, injured and or dead livestock;

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

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and Environment and Protected Areas work with the Alberta Beef Producers to adopt their proposed compensation multiplier to address direct and indirect losses from predation.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of Northern Lights

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Environment and Protected Areas

#### RESPONSE:

1. Agriculture and Irrigation (May 2024)
2. Forestry and Parks

#### GRADE: ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE

#### GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	9	
Accept in Principle	86	Went to Fish & Wildlife. Need more information; Accept in principle - sent to the Ministry of Forestry and Parks as is their responsibility.
Incomplete	6	Information supplied on what is currently in place but does not address the Resolution; They introduced a compensation multiplier for only two categories of livestock, namely bred cows

		<p>and bulls. Extending this multiplier to encompass all livestock categories, including calves and yearlings, aims to address both direct and indirect losses. Direct losses refer to animals that are not recovered in areas known to have predation. Indirect losses, on the other hand, stem from stress-related factors such as decreased conception rates and growth, leading to reduced profitability.</p> <p>Research conducted in Montana and Wyoming supports this notion, indicating that even with the addition of a multiplier, only a fraction of the losses are covered. According to Wyoming's findings, to adequately compensate for all direct and indirect losses, the multiplier would need to be between 18 to 24 times higher for every discovered deceased animal. Even implementing a 2x multiplier for animals like calves and yearlings would leave the farmer bearing the brunt of the financial burden. As the predators are owned by the government, they should be responsible for covering these losses.</p>
<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	<b>0</b>	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept in Principle since the response indicates that there is a multiplier in effect for some classes of beef animals. However the resolution talks about livestock in general and not specifically only breeding classes of beef animals. Discussion on the floor during the conference was that a multiplier would be available for all livestock using the model recommended by the Alberta Beef Producers. More engagement with the program is necessary to increase their understanding of the intention of the resolution.

**RESOLUTION 5-24: WILD BOAR AND THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT**

- WHEREAS** Alberta has designated Wild Boar at Large a pest since 2008; and
- WHEREAS** the Alberta Government established a minimum containment standard in 2013 to assist livestock owners with minimum guidelines to contain Wild Boar as livestock; and
- WHEREAS** Alberta pork producers raising Wild Boar as livestock are not mandated to follow the Minimum Containment Standards set out by the Alberta Government, they are only used as guidelines; and
- WHEREAS** Alberta Government Inspectors cannot uphold current Minimum Containment Standards for Wild Boar Farms or enforce penalties using the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST** that the Government of Alberta amend the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act to require Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms, with penalties to enforce noncompliance.

**FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST:** that Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation invoke a moratorium on expansions of Wild Boar Farming in Alberta, until the province makes a decision on the future of Wild Boar Farming in Alberta.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of Stettler No. 6

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

**RESPONSE:**

1. Agriculture and Irrigation (May 2024)

**GRADE: ACCEPT THE RESPONSE**

**GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:**

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	51	
Accept in Principle	37	Accept the response - Alberta pest act requirements, AGI mini containment standards in place for AB, NSC has bylaw with penalties; Flagstaff and Stettler Counties voted incomplete

<b>Incomplete</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Does not address the Resolution fully. Answer on moratorium</b>
<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Removal of grand-father clause &amp; to ban wild boar farms; Did not answer what was asked. Contradictory.</b>

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept the Response since municipalities have the responsibility and legislative tools to enforce compliance with the minimum containment standards. Each municipality can issue notices to a pest that may not be present provided that the municipality has a policy to provide this direction.

Section 12c of the APA – “12(1) When an inspector is of the opinion that land, property or livestock contains or is likely to contain a pest or should be protected against a pest, the inspector may issue a notice in writing directed to the owner or occupant of the land or property or to the owner or person in control of the livestock... (c) specifying the measures to be taken and the material, if any, to be used to prevent the establishment of or to control or destroy the pest, and...”

This portion of the legislation allows a municipality to ensure that measures are in place to prevent livestock from becoming a pest so in this case ensure that the minimum containment standards are followed.

Municipalities have the ability to create bylaws to restrict the development and implement standards to meet their concern.

**RESOLUTION 6-24a: IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH BEE PACKAGE IMPORTS**

- WHEREAS** in 2022, honey producers across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba experienced one of the worst winters kill events in years, with some producers losing up to 90% of their hives;
- WHEREAS** the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) currently prohibits the importation of bee packages from the United States, yet allows bee package imports from intercontinental apiaries, including those in South America and New Zealand;
- WHEREAS** Varroa Mites are already present and established across Canada;
- WHEREAS** bee package imports from South America and New Zealand cost up to three times as much as bee packages sourced from the United States; and
- WHEREAS** since the 1980s, the CFIA has only approved two miticides for the control of Varroa Mites, a situation that has led to the development of miticide-resistant mites;

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

That the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) permit Honeybee shipments from the United States for the purpose of hive repopulation, to combat the depopulation of Canada’s Honey Bee hives;

**SPONSORED BY:** Beaver County

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Federal

**DEPARTMENT:** Canadian Food Inspection Agency,  
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

**RESPONSE:**

1. CFIA (June 5)
2. PMRA (May 14)
3. Agriculture and Irrigation

**GRADE: ACCEPT THE RESPONSE**

**GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:**

GRADE	%	COMMENTS
Accept the Response	74	AGI Response Grade, AIP Provincial Committee should follow up at end of June for results of risk assessment; Keep pressuring for a response from CFIA; Incomplete (CFIA)

Accept in Principle	9	With CFIA's response, the Leduc County ASB felt that there was more information to come, and therefore the Accept in Principle grade was appropriate; AGI was not asked to respond (Their response was informational); Accept in principle - still waiting on the follow up from CFIA . not a completed response. Still want pressure maintained
Incomplete	11	
Unsatisfactory	3	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept the Response to PMRAs response as they are not responsible for boarder restrictions.

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept the Principle to the CFIA response as they indicate that they are in process of assessing the risk for imports from the US. The recommendation is to follow up with the CFIA for further progress or conclusion.

The response from the CFIA was not received until after the grading packages were sent to ASBs, and so was posted on the website and distributed through email mid June. Not all ASBs had opportunity to comment and review their response.

**RESOLUTION 6-24b: IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH THE CONTROL OF VARROA MITES**

- WHEREAS** in 2022, honey producers across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba experienced one of the worst winters kill events in years, with some producers losing up to 90% of their hives;
- WHEREAS** the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) currently prohibits the importation of bee packages from the United States, yet allows bee package imports from intercontinental apiaries, including those in South America and New Zealand;
- WHEREAS** Varroa Mites are already present and established across Canada;
- WHEREAS** bee package imports from South America and New Zealand cost up to three times as much as bee packages sourced from the United States; and
- WHEREAS** since the 1980s, the CFIA has only approved two miticides for the control of Varroa Mites, a situation that has led to the development of miticide-resistant mites;

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

that the CFIA and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) conduct further research on Varroa Miticide controls, and approve a new Varroa Mite miticide to address the lack of control options available to honey producers.

**SPONSORED BY:** Beaver County

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Federal

**DEPARTMENT:** Canadian Food Inspection Agency,  
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

**RESPONSE:**

1. CFIA (June 5) (see response above)
2. PMRA (May 14) (see response above)
3. Agriculture and Irrigation

**GRADE: ACCEPT THE RESPONSE**

**GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:**

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	57	CFIA's response did not alter the grade in Leduc County ASB's opinion; Accept the response - no solution for varroa mites - trying to find solution /actively researching; AGI Response Grade,

		<b>AIP PMRA is the appropriate authority for this portion of the resolution; Keep pressuring for a response from CFIA.</b>
<b>Accept in Principle</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>Incomplete</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>Research is underway, Canola Council of Canada; No response from CFIA</b>
<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	<b>0</b>	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept the Response from the CFIA because they have no responsibility for the approval of miticides. This response was received after the grading packages were sent out so was communicated through the website and email to ASBs. Not every ASB had access to the response when the reviewed and graded this resolution.

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept the Response because it is accurate to the responsibility of the PMRA. PMRA can only review and approve products that have been researched and developed by companies and submitted for approval. Advocacy for research to be done needs to happen with research institutions or product developers. Advocacy asking for proven miticides used in other jurisdictions should happen by the industry with the companies doing the development.

Path forward would be advocacy by the beekeepers with the suppliers to bring products to registration.



**RESOLUTION 7-24 : RE-REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR CERTIFIED APPLICATORS**

**WHEREAS** Health Canada has completed the re-evaluation of 2% Liquid Strychnine. Under the authority of the Pest Control Products Act, Health Canada has canceled the registration of Strychnine, and all associated end-use products, used to control Richardson's ground squirrels for sale and use in Canada; and

**WHEREAS** Alberta producers have used alternative baiting, suffocates, and fumigant rodenticides to control Richardson ground squirrels but have not had the successes of Strychnine; and

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

**WHEREAS** the federal government has banned the use of Strychnine without providing producers any comparative alternative or financial support to deal with the Richardson's ground squirrel pest; and

**WHEREAS** training in the safe use of pesticides can be provided to agricultural producers in Alberta by participating in the Farmer Pesticide Certificate program.

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

that Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation propose to Health Canada and Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to allow Strychnine to be used exclusively by certified applicators.

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

that the existing strychnine label be subject to meticulous review and amendment, with a specific focus on reducing the potential for off-target exposure and implementing enhanced control measures to mitigate any adverse environmental impact.

**SPONSORED BY:** Flagstaff County

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Federal and Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency

**RESPONSES:**

1. PMRA
2. Agriculture and Irrigation

**GRADE:** ACCEPT THE RESPONSE

**GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:**

GRADE	COMMENTS
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Accept the Response	97	Response is clear; Accept the response - GOA and Sask objected, Health Canada and PMRA says objections are unfounded and removal will go on as planned; Cardston does not agree with the response, but it does answer the resolution; Strychnine De-regulation and producers needing to move on from Strychnine and use the products that are available
Accept in Principle		
Incomplete		
Unsatisfactory		

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept the Response because PMRA is unable to make recommendations for products that are not currently registered. So long as Strychnine is not registered for use on Richardson Ground Squirrels there is no product for PMRA to adjust labelling or use restrictions. The response is accurate and appropriate to the resolution.

**ASBPC is working with the extension committee to put fact sheets together for future reference, standardize the background for future Strychnine resolutions and clarify the process and conditions that would have to be met to reinstate the emergency use registration.**

**Current research shows that products that are available work so there is no basis for an emergency use registration at this time.**

**RESOLUTION E2-24: SUPPORT FOR THE EXPORT OF LIVE HORSES FOR SLAUGHTER**

- WHEREAS** Bill S-270 is introducing the Prohibition of exporting live horses for slaughter and Bill C-355 is introducing the Prohibition of export of horses by air for slaughter Act; and
- WHEREAS** Federal Government is proposing new legislation and changes to three Acts that will dramatically impact the industry of raising draft horses by imposing fines of \$50,000 and up to six months imprisonment for a summary conviction or \$250,000 and up to two years imprisonment for an indictment for transporting horses by air for slaughter; and
- WHEREAS** the Federal Government is always looking to open new doors for trade markets and partnering with other nations yet are willing to shut down an existing market with products already leaving Canada; and
- WHEREAS** the Federal Government has not conducted or completed a scientific study as to the impact of transporting horses for slaughter overseas by air; and
- WHEREAS** there are 12,000 to 13,000 mares, studs and foals in Canada that are currently being raised for this market; and
- WHEREAS** the Western Canadian Slaughter Facility for Horses has ceased operations and is not purchasing animals to be processed at their facility; and
- WHEREAS** producers do not have a local market to distribute their product but have an already established market globally;

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

that the Government of Alberta jointly lobby the Government of Canada alongside Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) to prevent these Bills from receiving royal assent.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of Wetaskiwin No. 10

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Federal

**DEPARTMENT:** Agriculture and Agri Food Canada

RESPONSE:

1. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
2. Agriculture and Irrigation

GRADE: ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE

**GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:**

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	3	
Accept in Principle	91	Accept in principle - AGI actively monitoring bills progress, still work to be completed on the bill, hence accept in principle to they can continue to monitor
Incomplete	3	
Unsatisfactory	0	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept in Principle as at the time of the grading the bill was still going through the senate.

Letters asking the Senators to vote the bill down to provide options for end of life and meat horse producers in Alberta were sent from the Committee to senators from the west, from rural ridings or who were engaged with agriculture committee work. A blog post was posted on the ASB website with a summary of the situation, and a copy of the letter so ASB members could also send in letters and increase the advocacy.

A request for an emergent resolution was taken to FCM by an ASB member. They also brought this concern to the attention of RMA president Paul McLauchlin and past president of FCM Taneen Rudyk.

A similar resolution (8-245) was passed by RMA and graded "Intent Not Met".

**Recommendation is for ASBs to continue to advocate with their Senators.**

**RESOLUTION PC1-24: FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (FCDC)**

**WHEREAS** funding for FCDC was transferred in January 2021 to Olds College from being a Government of Alberta plant breeding and agronomy research facility.

**WHEREAS** this funding transfer enabled the continuation and revitalization of research and regional trials of cereal crops under Alberta conditions to demonstrate proven traits for the benefit of seed, crop, and livestock producers.

**WHEREAS** the loss of funding for FCDC research capacity and infrastructure in December 2023 will have long term, negative implications on the viability and sustainability of Alberta and Canada's seed, crop and livestock sectors.

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

That Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation (AGI) facilitates the establishment of a stable funding framework for FCDC that includes the retention of existing infrastructure, sites, and human capital for the continued enhancement of programs for seed breeding and agronomic research.

**SPONSORED BY:** ASB Provincial Committee

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** AGI

**RESPONSE:**

1. Agriculture and Irrigation

**GRADE: ACCEPT THE RESPONSE**

**GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:**

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	89	Accept the response - WCI will carry on FCDC, current programming will go under review and make amendments as needed
Accept in Principle	9	
Incomplete	0	
Unsatisfactory	0	

**COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:**

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept the Response as AGI and other partners are supporting the former Field Crop Development Center under the new branding Western Crop Innovation.

Interim leadership of the new WCI recognized that the ASB resolution played a roll in program continuation.

## Update on Previous Years' Resolutions

### 2023 Resolutions

Resolution Number	Resolution	Grade	Updated
1-23	CREATION OF A MID-LEVEL ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (ABVMA) PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION	Accept in Principle	
2-23	<p>RURAL VETERINARY STUDENTS</p> <p>It was discussed at length that the need for students with lived experience and coming from rural areas should be considered along with the academic standards when the Committee met with the ABVMA delegation in 2023. The veterinarian community continues to invest in expanding the criteria that qualifies students for vet school, and look for ways to encourage rural livestock vets.</p> <p>In August of 2024, the Chief Provincial Vet met with the ASBPC to propose a program that would provide support for rural vet practices to hire intern vets to increase the opportunities for students to experience rural livestock vet practices. They offered some suggestions including engagement with the Vet Services Cooperation, RhPAP and the SCAP secretariat. Looking forward to updates over the next while.</p>	Incomplete	
3-23	<p>APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS FUNDING</p> <p>The ARAs and Forage associations continue to engage with RDAR and expand engagement in key projects that include post secondary institutions and ag tech and regenerative ag projects. They continue to receive base funding from RDAR</p>	Accept in Principle	
4-23	<p>GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION</p> <p>The ASBPC has not received a response to this resolution and will continue to follow up.</p>	Incomplete	

	<p>In August the Province provided a media release entitled "Protection of Life and Property from Problem Wildlife".</p> <p>""Alberta's government is announcing a multi-pronged approach to solving the issue of problem and dangerous wildlife by offering a range of management tools to address challenges and keep Albertans safe.</p> <p>Alberta's government is creating a new network of wildlife management responders to help stop dangerous and deadly grizzly bear attacks on people and livestock. When a problem animal like a grizzly or elk is identified, members of the approved network will help provide rapid conflict response times across all regions of Alberta. This response could include tracking and euthanizing a problem animal, while still following all rules and regulations already in place. This is not a bear hunt; this is a measure to ensure the safety of humans and livestock."</p> <p>These measures do not respond to any of the ASB resolutions. There has been no engagement from the province on issues around elk or grizzlies. No mention of regional or provincial planning or more frequent counts. Aren't "fish and wildlife officers" already "wildlife management responders"?</p>		
5-23	<p>LANDOWNER SPECIAL LICENSE</p> <p>No update</p>	Accept in Principle	
6-23	<p>ENFORCEMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT ALBERTA WATER ACT</p> <p>Delegation from Environment and Protected Areas addressed the ASBPC in April 2024 to explain the enforcement of the Water Act and answer questions about the level of enforcement and engagement. They were assured that while some areas have had open positions there are still a mandate to investigate and follow up with every complaint.</p> <p>-</p>	Incomplete	



7-23	CAMPAIGN TO RAISE AWARENESS ON THE DISPARITY BETWEEN CONSUMER PRICING AND PRODUCER REVENUE	DEFEATED	
8-23	<p>CONSIDERATION OF MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES FOR LARGE SCALE SOLAR AND RELATED ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RMA taking the lead, continues to advocate for rural municipalities</li> <li>- Gaps in regulations and oversight as well as ability to keep developers accountable to environmental laws and consider the loss of ag lands continues.</li> </ul> <p>Landowners are cautioned to review any contracts submitted to them with a lawyer as they are not regulated and many of them have significant holes and restrictions on the use of the land during and after the development.</p>	Incomplete	
9-23	SYNTHETIC FERTILIZER EMISSIONS	Incomplete	
10-23	ORGANIC PRODUCTION CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PROVINCIALLY REGULATED WEEDS	Incomplete	
11-23	LOSS OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE	Accept the Response	
12-23	REVIEW OF THE LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS TRIBUNAL (LPRT)	Incomplete	
E1-23	<p>STABLE REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION FUNDING</p> <p>The province engaged with numerous industry partners to work out what a cooperative extension system might look like, and went so far as to encourage the development of a pilot project. However the funding proposal was declined and the committee was disbanded in August of 2024.</p>	Incomplete	
E2-23	<p>STABLE FUNDING FOR FARM MENTAL HEALTH</p> <p>This resolution asked for 5 year funding for the AgKnow initiative to support operational costs to continue the supports and services offered. While there has been as positive and encouraging</p>	Incomplete	

	engagement at the ministry level for this project and the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions continues to be engaged, the funding commitment has shifted to project and operational costs are not covered. RDAR has extended some grant funds to help fill gaps however a stable funding model is still not yet established for 2024. In June of 2024 the AgKnow initiative reached out to its closest stakeholders for bridge funding support between grants. ASBs, ag business, commodity boards and individual farmers have responded and the initiative managed to make payroll one month at a time. The need for a stable funding model remains as the initiative has uncovered significant gaps and has made excellent progress to connect and be useful to the agriculture industry.		
E3-23	<p>SUPPORTING A VIBRANT CERVID INDUSTRY IN ALBERTA</p> <p>While there has been few changes to the CWD program and approach by CFIA, advocacy by the Alberta government, industry and ASBs continues to push back and ask questions about the approach being taken and its impact on the industry and the health and welfare of the farmers involved.</p>	Incomplete	

## Expiring Resolutions

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

The following resolutions are set to expire December 31, 2024

### 2022 Resolutions

Resolution Number	Resolution	Grade	Updated
1-22	VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON ALBERTA PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS - Nothing new to report	Accept in Principle	
2-22	RESTORATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL NETWORK OF EXPERTS	Accept in Principle	

	<p>In 2023 work began to take the recommendations to create a cooperative extension model, and action it.</p> <p>An industry committee was formed, key topics were identified, a structure for delivery was created, industry groups and research were engaged to collaborate, and a pilot project was designed and funding proposal submitted.</p> <p>August 2024 the committee was disbanded as the funding proposal was denied.</p> <p>“We recently received difficult news that funding is currently not available to continue our efforts to pilot an Alberta cooperative extension model. Although senior government officials complimented the Working Group for responding to the request for designing a compelling, world-class cooperative extension model with broad industry stakeholder support, financial support cannot be put in place.”</p> <p>The full message is available on the ASBPC blog post for August 30, 2024</p>		
3-22	<p>CELEBRATE CANADA AGRICULTURE DAY IN ALBERTA SCHOOLS (FEB 22, 2022)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- response received by sponsoring municipalities and they are encouraged to engage directly with schools and districts</li> </ul>	Accept the Response	
4-22	<p>PROPERLY MANAGING UNGULATE POPULATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- still no movement or engagement on this resolution</li> <li>- Ministries are reorganized and contacts are lost.</li> </ul>	Incomplete	
5-22	<p>EXEMPTION OF NATURAL GAS AND PROPANE FOR AGRICULTURE UNDER THE GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION PRICING ACT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Senate had two readings for bill S-234, and on June 8, 2023 the bill went to committee for consideration. After a report from the committee is received it will go for the third reading</li> <li>- Alberta Pork posted information on how ASB members and farmers could support this bill by writing to the</li> </ul>	Incomplete	

	Senators involved. Information posted in the ASB Blog - ASBPC writes to all the Senators listed in support of Bill S-234		
6-22	<b>AMENDMENTS TO THE ASB CONFERENCE RESOLUTION RULES OF PROCEDURE</b> - All amendments were presented at the 2023 conference and adopted by the assembly. - Changes come into place for the 2024 and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ability for the ASBPC to bring emergent resolutions to the assembly for vote if not addressed by Regions</li> <li>- align the years of advocacy for resolutions with the RMA process so move from 5 years to 3 years of active resolutions</li> <li>- Adjustments made to the Regional ROP to align with the Provincial ROP</li> </ul>	Accept the Response	

### Current Advocacy

- Weeds on Wellsites engagement has started again.
- Seed royalty regulatory modernization, and Farm saved seed engagement
- Coop extension
- Ag Plastic
- Vet work

Mental Health and farmer wellbeing:

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

Managing wildlife:

- 4-22: PROPERLY MANAGING UNGULATE POPULATIONS and
- E3-23: SUPPORTING A VIBRANT CERVID INDUSTRY IN ALBERTA
- 4-23: GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION
- 5-23: LANDOWNER SPECIAL LICENSE



## **2024 DED Survey Summary for Lethbridge County, Alberta**

This project was funded by Lethbridge County. Currently, DED is found throughout Southern Saskatchewan, and it only takes one DED infected piece of elm wood to potentially infect elms in your municipality. Having high counts of elm bark beetles increases this risk.

Under the *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation (PNCR) of the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act (APA)* both Dutch elm disease (DED) pathogens, and the elm bark beetle are named declared pests. All municipalities, counties and MDs in the province of Alberta have the responsibility and authority to prevent and control DED under the APA. The appointed municipal APA inspector has the authority to enforce the Provincial DED Prevention and Control Measures under this act.

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/dutch-elm-disease-prevention-control-measures-responsibilities-authority-apa>

On August 23, 2024, Living Tree Environmental Limited (Living Tree) completed a comprehensive DED survey in the Lethbridge County. This survey included a full visual canopy scan of all elm trees, located within the municipal boundaries located West of Range Road 21-4 to the Oldman River Valley, to identify and mark for removal all high-risk elm trees and to identify all elm wood/pruning violations in contravention of the *APA Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation*. The survey was completed by vehicle and on foot using a 2-person survey crew. All data was logged using a Garmin 66i GPS unit and navigated using Avenza Maps Pro applications on a handheld tablet. All Living Tree DED survey crews are led by personnel that have at least 2 years of DED/forest health survey experience along with either undergraduate diplomas or degrees in forestry or natural resource management.

### **Elm Wood Storage Violations**

During the survey, zero elm wood storage violations were identified. If elm firewood had been found an appointed pest inspector should talk to the homeowners to remove and properly dispose of the wood. If the homeowner is unwilling, then the inspector can enforce the removal.

### **Under the Provincial DED Prevention and Control Measures**

#### **5a Elm Wood Disposal**

Elm wood cannot be stored (5b. - Elm Wood Storage) or transported unless en route to the closest elm wood disposal site. All elm wood must be properly disposed of immediately by either burning or burying to a minimum depth of 25 cm. If elm wood is uninfected with DED, another option is chipping (6 - Elm Chipping). Immediate disposal of the elm wood ensures the destruction of overwintering beetle larval broods and adults and eliminates EEB breeding material.



### **5b Elm Wood Storage**

Storage of elm wood is prohibited at any time of year unless the wood has been treated as described below:

1. all bark has been removed from the wood<sup>1</sup>
2. the wood has been treated by kiln drying it to a moisture content of 18% or less, or heating it to 56°C for at least 30 minutes<sup>1</sup>

### **High Risk Elm Trees**

During the survey in Lethbridge County, the survey crew identified and marked for removal, no high-risk elm trees/DED symptomatic American elms.

### **Under the Provincial DED Prevention and Control Measures**

#### **8. High Risk Tree**

A high-risk tree is defined as a stressed tree that has deteriorated to the point of making it capable of supporting elm bark beetle habitation and breeding. There are many reasons why a tree may become a high risk such as environmental causes or improper pruning such as topping. If an inspector has declared an elm tree to be a high risk, the tree must be removed and properly disposed of (4 - Elm Tree Removal; 5a - Elm Wood Disposal).

Although the DED survey has been completed, we must stay vigilant against the threat of DED, because if left unmanaged, this disease could severely impact the remaining healthy American elm trees in the urban forest. This survey by Living Tree, offers a snapshot of your urban forest for that day.

To continue to reduce the risk of DED infection in your municipality, Living Tree recommends the following steps be incorporated into the urban forest management plan:

- A. Continue to complete at least 1 uninterrupted, comprehensive DED survey each summer (Between July 1 and August 25). This survey must be completed by an experienced and well-trained survey crew.
- B. Conduct rapid enforcement/removal/disposal of all high-risk elms/DED infected elms and elm wood violations.
- C. Maintain a DED public awareness/education campaign focused on DED wilt symptoms.
- D. Consider completing a tree inventory of your public trees. This will provide your local government with valuable information about the species composition within your urban forest, will include an overall health assessment of your trees and can even estimate the approximate dollar value of the publicly owned urban forest
- E. Incorporate a pruning schedule for your urban forest between October 1 and March 31<sup>st</sup>. This may be 3-to-5 or 5-to-7-year pruning cycles. Remove dead and dying elm branches. STOPPED recommends hiring an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist to remove the dead and dying branches as they can be beetle habitat. It will improve the overall health and vigour and make the trees less susceptible to insect and disease infestation and infection.
- F. Be aware of the Provincial elm pruning ban between April 1 and September 30. The beetles are most active at this time and can be attracted to the scent of fresh tree cuts, possibly infecting a healthy elm.



G. Report all suspect trees to the DED Hotline at 1-877-837-ELMS.

Although the DED survey has been completed, we must stay vigilant against the threat of DED, because if left unmanaged, this disease could severely impact the remaining healthy American elm trees in the urban forest. This survey by Living Tree, offers a snapshot of your urban forest for that day.



Figure 1. Healthy American elm tree identified in Lethbridge County, Alberta.

To continue to reduce the risk of DED infection in your municipality, Living Tree recommends the following steps be incorporated into the urban forest management plan:

- A. Continue to complete at least 1 uninterrupted, comprehensive DED survey each summer (Between July 1 and August 25). This survey must be completed by an experienced and well-trained survey crew.



- B. Conduct rapid enforcement/removal/disposal of all high-risk elms/DED infected elms and elm wood violations.
- C. Maintain a DED public awareness/education campaign focused on DED wilt symptoms.
- D. Consider completing a tree inventory of your public trees. This will provide your local government with valuable information about the species composition within your urban forest, will include an overall health assessment of your trees and can even estimate the approximate dollar value of the publicly owned urban forest
- E. Incorporate a pruning schedule for your urban forest between October 1 and March 31<sup>st</sup>. This may be 3-to-5 or 5-to-7-year pruning cycles. Remove dead and dying elm branches. STOPPED recommends hiring an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist to remove the dead and dying branches as they can be beetle habitat. It will improve the overall health and vigour and make the trees less susceptible to insect and disease infestation and infection.
- F. Be aware of the Provincial elm pruning ban between April 1 and September 30. The beetles are most active at this time and can be attracted to the scent of fresh tree cuts, possibly infecting a healthy elm.

Once again, Living Tree is very grateful for the opportunity to complete this valuable urban forest health survey in Lethbridge County this season and we look forward to assisting your municipality with any future urban forest health projects that may be required.

**Sincerely,**

**The Living Tree Environmental Team**

Jeffery Gooliaff  
President/Consultant  
Living Tree Environmental Limited  
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May 21, 2024

Gary Secrist  
Supervisor, Agriculture Services  
Lethbridge County  
#100, 905 4 Ave S  
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4E4

**Re: INVESTING IN TOMORROW**

Food connects us all to agriculture, yet our youth are becoming increasingly disconnected from the story of their food and Alberta's rural heritage. At Agriculture for Life, Inc. (Ag for Life), we envision a province where all Albertans understand and appreciate the agriculture industry and the impact it has on their lives. Education is the key to achieving this vision.

As members of Alberta's agriculture community, we need:

- Tomorrow's consumers to understand the care, excellence, and pride Alberta's agriculture industry dedicates to producing safe, healthy foods for our communities, our province, and our world. This understanding is essential for Alberta producers and agriculture communities to continue to grow and prosper.
- Tomorrow's decision-makers to appreciate the challenges our producers face and the importance of our industry to the economy – and our lives.
- Tomorrow's workforce to be excited and inspired to consider a career in the agriculture and agri-food sector.

Misconceptions about agriculture are widespread, parents don't always have the answers, and teachers often lack the resources. This is where Ag for Life steps in, providing essential support to bridge these gaps. As the voice of Agriculture in the Classroom Alberta, Ag for Life provides factual, balanced, curriculum-linked agriculture literacy programs and resources to Alberta's educators and students.

Like us, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta recognize the importance of education in sustaining the agriculture industry and vibrancy of rural communities. Their Position Statement emphasizes that **"Teaching children in schools about farming and ranching is vital for building understanding between agricultural producers and non-farming Albertans."**

Sharing this aligned vision, Ag for Life offers invaluable support in advancing this by:

- Developing and delivering new educational programs, resources, and activities tailored to Alberta's unique agricultural landscape.
- Reaching more classrooms across the province, ensuring widespread agricultural literacy.
- Empowering teachers with the knowledge and tools they need to educate the next generation about agriculture.

32 Priddis Creek Drive, Foothills, AB T0L 1W2  
Cell 403 862 5049 Email [bhalford@agricultureforlife.ca](mailto:bhalford@agricultureforlife.ca)



- Connecting students directly with the food they eat and the people who produce it, fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding.
- Inspiring students to consider careers in agriculture, ensuring a robust and skilled future workforce.

Ag for Life is your bridge to future innovators, educators, consumers, and decision-makers. By partnering with Ag for Life, you can directly contribute to the education and empowerment of our youth, securing a strong future for Alberta's agriculture industry and its rural communities.

We invite you to make a difference, showing your support of this mission. An annual membership of \$2,500 will significantly enhance our ability to provide these essential educational resources and programs. Your support will directly impact the future of agriculture in Alberta, fostering a generation that is informed, engaged, and connected to their food and its sources.

Join us today in making a difference. Together, we can build a more informed and connected community, ensuring the sustainability and success of Alberta agriculture and rural communities for years to come.

I'd be delighted to arrange a call to provide more details about the membership or to explore further collaboration opportunities.

Sincerely,  
  
Beth Halford  
Manager, Strategic Partnerships

CC: Reeve Tory Campbell



July 23, 2024

Peace Region UFA, RME, and Nutrien Branches

**Attention: Managers of Peace Region Branches Representing the Founding Members of AgforLife**

**Subject: AgforLife Sponsorship Request**

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Greenview Agricultural Service Board discussed a request for sponsorship received from the AgforLife organization. While supportive of the mission of the organization, it was also presented to us that multiple Peace Region municipal representatives have attempted to book the Ag for Life agricultural safety trailer for local agricultural events, with little to no success. In addition, while the organization administers the Classroom Agriculture Program, this is delivered by volunteers and does not represent a presence of the organization in this region of Alberta.

Greenview is known for the sponsorships, donations, and funding it provides to many non-profit and charitable organizations that have an impact on local, regional and even provincial endeavours. However, it is difficult to support an organization that's focus is very strongly prioritized in southern Alberta.

During our discussions, we thought it may be a good idea to let the Peace Region branches of the founding organizations of AgforLife know of this apparent southern prioritization in an attempt to remedy the situation.

Our Board had passed a motion indicating that should the organization commit to attending two of our three large Agriculture-based events in 2025, we will recommend Council grant them funding. Until such time as there is a physical presence of AgforLife in the Peace Region, we cannot support the request. Should the Peace Region branches be interested in working with Peace Region Agricultural Service Boards to build a northern based agricultural safety trailer, those are discussions we would be eager to participate in.

Respectfully,

Warren Wohlgemuth, Chair  
Greenview Agricultural Service Board

cc: Provincial ASB Committee, Peace Region Agricultural Service Boards, Greenview CAO Stacey Wabick, Greenview Reeve Tyler Olsen, Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman



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

August 20, 2024

Honourable Dan Williams  
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions  
9820-107 Street 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Edmonton, AB T5K 1E7

Dear Honourable Minister Williams,

**RE: Letter of Support for AgKnow – The Alberta Farm Mental Health Network**

The Municipal District of Fairview No. 136 Agricultural Service Board would like to express our strong support for AgKnow, the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network, and advocate for the urgent need for stable, consistent, and long-term provincial support and funding. The services provided by the AgKnow program are a much-needed support to the wellbeing and resiliency of agricultural producers throughout Alberta.

Farming and ranching are more than just professions; it is a way of life that demands dedication, resilience, and a deep connection to the land. However, the pressures faced by farmers—including unpredictable weather, economic instability, isolation, high workload, family pressures, and the physical demands of the job—can take a significant toll on mental health. These factors not only contribute to heightened levels of stress, but also tragically, lead to a higher incidence of mental health issues and suicide rates.

According to a national study of 1,132 farmers in 2015-16, Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton and colleagues at the University of Guelph found that 57.7% of Canadian farmers experienced depression, and 49.3% experienced anxiety. All these values were higher than those reported by the general population. Preliminary results from the 2023 study of Alberta farmers by Dr. Rebecca Purc-Stephenson of the University of Alberta show that 66.7% reported suffering from depression, and 78.5% reported anxiety. In a 2009 study published in the *Australian Journal of Rural Health*, it was found that farmers are less likely to seek help for their mental health compared to the general population. This is due to many factors, but overwhelmingly there is a feeling among the farming community that health care providers don't understand the culture of farming and the stressors that go along with the way of life.

AgKnow's initiatives provide accessible, specialized mental health resources, support networks, and educational programs that are essential in addressing these challenges. They engage with mental health professionals from farming backgrounds who are knowledgeable and understand the challenges, concerns, and social aspects of Alberta's agricultural landscape. With the numerous stressors that Alberta's farmers face, AgKnow offers free, farm-informed counseling services 24-7. They have

demonstrated success, even in the infancy of the program, and promise to continue to provide essential healthcare services to our rural communities.

Supporting AgKnow is not only an investment in mental healthcare, but in the resilience and sustainability of our rural communities. Stable funding is essential to ensuring these services are available, accessible, and affordable – especially in rural and remote areas.

Sincerely,



Nolan Robertson

Municipal District of Fairview No. 136 Agricultural Service Board Chair

cc: Honourable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation  
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards



## County of Stettler No. 6

Box 1270  
6602 – 44 Avenue  
Stettler, Alberta T0C 2L0  
T:403.742.4441 F: 403.742.1277  
[www.stettlercounty.ca](http://www.stettlercounty.ca)

August 22, 2024

Honourable RJ Sigurdson  
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation  
131 Alberta Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Honourable Nate Horner, MLA for Drumheller-Stettler  
Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board  
208 Alberta Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Sigurdson and Minister Horner,

### **RE: County of Stettler Letter of Support for AgKnow**

The County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board is writing to express our full support for the AgKnow program, echoing the sentiments shared by Wheatland County, Saddle Hills County, and the County of Vermillion River from earlier this year. This initiative was highlighted at the 2019 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference through Resolution E1-19: Access to Agriculture Specific Mental Health Resources, and a similar resolution E2-23 on Stable Funding for Farm Mental Health was passed in 2023. However, securing consistent funding for this program remains an ongoing challenge.

In our County, and across the province, agriculture is not just a profession but a way of life. Currently the perception of agricultural producers as resilient, often exacerbates the mental health stigma within our community. The demand for mental health support in agriculture is a growing concern.

The AgKnow program by the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network is committed to addressing the mental health needs of our agricultural producers. It provides vital resources and access to professional mental health support tailored to the industry's unique challenges. Providing participants with the opportunity to consult with professionals connected to agriculture is crucial for fostering engagement and positive results. Sustaining stable funding is essential to preserve these vital services, particularly in rural regions.

We cannot emphasize enough how important it is the Provincial government maintain its support for the AgKnow program and secure consistent funding to support the mental health and well-being of our agricultural producers.


Sincerely,

COUNTY OF STETTLE AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD

  
Les Stulberg, CHAIR

  
Larry Clarke, Board Member

  
Ernie Gendre, Board Member

  
Dave Grover, Board Member

  
Paul McKay, Board Member

  
James Nibourg, Board Member

  
Justin Stevens, Board Member

cc:

Dan Williams, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction

Linda Hunt, AgKnow Program Director

The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC)



## Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130

P.O. Box 210 FALHER, ALBERTA T0H 1M0

Phone: (780) 837-2221

Fax: (780) 837-2453

Honourable Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

Dan Williams

9820-107 Street 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1E7

Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

RJ Sigurdson

131 Legislature Building

10800-97 avenue NW

Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Honorable Ministers:

**RE: Letter of Support for AgKnow – The Alberta Farm Mental Health Network**

---

I am writing to express strong support for the AgKnow Program and to advocate for its continued funding by the Province of Alberta.

AgKnow is an invaluable resource for agricultural communities across our province. It plays a vital role in the Farm Mental Health Network, offering essential support to farmers and ranchers who face significant mental health challenges. The program provides free, farm-informed counseling services delivered by professionals with backgrounds in farming or ranching. This ensures that they deeply understand and can effectively address the unique pressures and stresses inherent in agricultural life.

The need for mental health support in our agricultural sector cannot be overstated. Farmers and ranchers often grapple with isolation, financial uncertainty, and the unpredictable nature of their livelihoods. These factors contribute to heightened stress levels and, tragically, a higher incidence of mental health issues and suicide rates. AgKnow not only provides crucial counseling services but also helps to reduce the stigma associated with mental health in rural communities.

To ensure the sustained effectiveness of AgKnow, I urge the Province to consider the following measures:

- Allowing the carryover of unused funding from previous years into the next fiscal cycle.
- Implementing a stable 4-year funding program to provide certainty and continuity for AgKnow's operations.
- Providing stable funding with a reduced matching requirement, recognizing the program's unique role and the challenges it addresses.



Supporting AgKnow is not just an investment in mental health but also in the resilience and well-being of our agricultural communities. By ensuring adequate and stable funding, the Province can help AgKnow continue its crucial work of supporting our farmers and ranchers.

Thank you for considering this request. I am confident that with continued support, AgKnow will be able to expand its impact and continue providing essential services to those who need it most.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Brochu', is positioned above the printed name.

Robert Brochu, Reeve

c.c.  
AgKnow  
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee  
Municipal Agricultural Service Boards



Municipal District of Fairview No. 136  
Box 189  
Fairview, Alberta  
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Fax: 780-835-3131  
Email: [mdinfo@mdfairview.ab.ca](mailto:mdinfo@mdfairview.ab.ca)

August 20, 2024

Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta

Dear Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta,

**RE: Centralization of the Provincial ASB Conference**

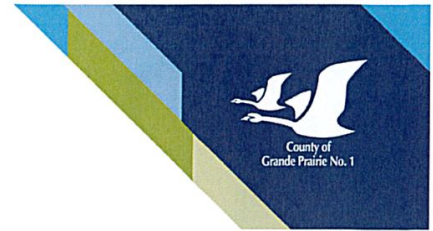
The Municipal District of Fairview No. 136 Agricultural Service Board wish to echo the concerns presented by the County of Grande Prairie in their letter dated April 24<sup>th</sup> regarding the centralization of the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference over the next three years.

Our ASB understands the rationale behind the signing of a three-year agreement with the Delta Edmonton South Conference Center in the lens of cost effectiveness and convenience of hosting in a centralized hotel for the Central, Northwest, and Northeast regions. This would lead to decreased conference costs, and therefore lower registration costs, which we appreciate.

Our concern is that if future conferences continue to be centralized like this rather than being moved across the province, there will be a significant opportunity cost to each region in lost economic development and tourism opportunities. We feel that it is important to host this conference in more rural locations whenever possible, bringing the economic opportunities a conference of this size can bring to a region.

Sincerely,

Nolan Robertson  
Municipal District of Fairview No. 136 Agricultural Service Board Chair



April 24, 2024

Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta  
Distributed via Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)

Dear Alberta Regional Agricultural Service Boards,

The County of Grande Prairie Agricultural Service Board (ASB) would like to express concerns regarding the centralization of the Provincial Agricultural Service Board conference for the next three years (2025-2027).

At the conclusion of the 2024 Provincial ASB Conference it was announced that for the next three years the Provincial ASB Conference will be held in Edmonton at the Delta Hotels Edmonton South Conference Center. The reason given for that decision was the ease of hosting in an area more central to the hosting regions of Central, Northwest and Northeast.

Our ASB understands that the AAAF executive also wished to take advantage of the opportunity to negotiate savings by having a three-year contract with a centralized hotel and event center to keep conference costs and registration costs lower, which in turn benefits all members.

Our concern is that if future conferences continue to be centralized, our region will not get a chance to host in one of our local venues, leading to yearly increased travel costs for our members. As well, our region would lose out on tourism opportunities and the economic benefits associated with hosting a large-scale conference. We also feel it is equally important to host these events in rural locations where possible, to showcase to our members the venues that our rural agricultural communities work so hard to maintain.

Sincerely,

Bob Chrenek  
Chair, County of Grande Prairie Agricultural Service Board

cc: Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)



**Office of the Chair, Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board**

July 15, 2024

The Honourable Mark Holland  
Minister of Health Canada  
Address Locator 1801B  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay  
Minister of Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada  
1341 Baseline Rd  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5

Via email: [hcminister.ministresc@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:hcminister.ministresc@hc-sc.gc.ca) and [aafr.minister-ministre.aac@agr.gc.ca](mailto:aafr.minister-ministre.aac@agr.gc.ca)

To The Honourable Minister Mark Holland and The Honourable Minister Lawrence MacAulay,

The Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) wishes to express our support for the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), renowned for its stringent, science-driven regulatory system that encourages sustainable pest management, an essential component of the agricultural sector. However, we acknowledge that there are ongoing misunderstandings and misinformation about the safety of certain products.

We firmly believe that decisions and actions regarding product regulation should be based on accurate information, uphold ethical principles, and prioritize the best interests of the agricultural sector. These decisions should be founded on relevant scientific research and not be influenced by societal pressures, public opinion, or political interference.

In the Health Canada Re-evaluation of Glyphosate Decision Document from 2017, it states: "An evaluation of available scientific information found that products containing glyphosate do not present risks of concern to human health or the environment when used according to the revised label directions."

Furthermore, the document states: "The overall finding from the re-examination of glyphosate is highlighted as follows:

- Glyphosate is not genotoxic and is unlikely to pose a human cancer risk.
- Occupational and residential risks associated with the use of glyphosate are not of concern, provided that updated label instructions are followed.
- When used according to revised label directions, glyphosate products are not expected to pose risks of concern to the environment.
- All registered glyphosate uses have value for weed control in agriculture and non-agricultural land management."

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Considering the recent tabling of Private Member's Bill C-287, which aims to amend the Pest Control Act to prohibit the use of glyphosate, the Wheatland County ASB wishes to reiterate the apprehensions previously expressed in correspondences from the Northern Sunrise County and Big Lakes County ASBs. These letters cautioned that the proposed amendment could potentially compromise the agency's credibility. Such a decision to ban glyphosate would also have extensive detrimental impacts on the agricultural sector.

We emphasize that any proposed amendments must be grounded in scientific evidence to uphold the integrity of the PMRA, given its crucial role in the success of Canada's agricultural industry. We call on the Ministries of Health Canada and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada to reaffirm this mandate.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,



Shannon Laprise

Wheatland County, Agricultural Service Board Chair

cc. Martin Shields, MP, Bow River ([Martin.Shields@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Martin.Shields@parl.gc.ca))  
RJ Sigurdson, Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation ([AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca))  
Chantelle de Jonge, MLA, Chestermere-Strathmore ([Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca))  
Angela Pitt, MLA, Airdrie-East ([Airdrie.East@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Airdrie.East@assembly.ab.ca))  
Joseph Schow, MLA, Cardston-Siksika ([Cardston.Siksika@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Cardston.Siksika@assembly.ab.ca))  
Nathan Cooper – MLA, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills ([OldsDidsbury.ThreeHills@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:OldsDidsbury.ThreeHills@assembly.ab.ca))  
Wheatland County Council and the Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board

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Health  
Canada

Pest  
Management  
Regulatory  
Agency

Santé  
Canada

Agence de  
réglementation  
de la lutte  
antiparasitaire

Council Agenda	✓
File Copy	
CAO	
Agricultural Services	✓
Community Services	
Engineering	
Finance	
Legislative Services	
Planning & Dvprmt	
Protective Services	
Public Works	
Other:	

April 15, 2024

Corinna Williams, Chair  
Agricultural Service Board  
Northern Sunrise County  
135 Sunrise Road  
Bag 1300  
Peace River AB T8S 1Y9



Dear Corinna Williams:

On behalf of the Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health, I am responding to your letter dated February 12, 2024, on maintaining the integrity of Canada's pesticide regulatory system. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us on private Members' bill C-287 which proposes amendments to the Pest Control Products Act to prohibit glyphosate.

In Canada, there are different ways in which bills can be introduced to Parliament, one of which is private Members' bill. Private members' bills are sponsored by private members' and like any bill must undergo legislative process and be passed in both the House of Commons and Senate in order to become law. More information about this process can be found on the Parliament of Canada's Legislative Process website. [https://www.ourcommons.ca/procedure/our-procedure/LegislativeProcess/c\\_g\\_legislativeprocess-e.html](https://www.ourcommons.ca/procedure/our-procedure/LegislativeProcess/c_g_legislativeprocess-e.html).

Please rest assured that Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) regulatory process remains science based. We are aware of Bill C-287 proposed by Ms. Jenica Atwin, Member of Parliament for Fredericton, and are currently monitoring its progress through the House of Commons.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by Bissonnette,  
Frederic  
DN: C=CA, O=GC, OU=HC-SC, CN  
="Bissonnette, Frederic"  
Date: 2024.04.15 09:42:39-04'00'

Frédéric Bissonnette  
Senior Director General  
Pest Management Regulatory Agency  
Health Canada



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June 19, 2024

Honorable RJ Sigurdson  
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

[AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca)

**Subject: Weed Control Regulation (WCR) Review**

Vulcan County Agricultural Service Board has several concerns that have arisen regarding the proposed changes to the Alberta Weed Control Regulation. In reiteration of the concerns raised by the Municipal District of Willow Creek, Vulcan County ASB is concerned that the proposed changes to the Regulation will negatively impact our municipality, agricultural producers, and the land on which we reside and operate.

In review of the proposed changes Vulcan County Agricultural Service Board found there to be multiple inconsistencies in reasoning for removal of some weeds from the Regulation, and addition of others. While some species such as Yellow Nutsedge are being proposed for removal due in part to limited establishment within the province, others such as African Rue are being proposed for addition for similar reasons. Many comparable inconsistencies are found in the rationale provided by the Weed Regulatory Advisory Committee for the proposed changes.

Removing invasive plants from the Weed Control Act, with few exceptions, seems to be a step in the wrong direction for control of these weeds. In many cases, it can be argued that the reason some species have not become abundant in the province is due in part to the current legislation. Given this success, in combination with the threats these plants pose to agricultural production and ecosystems within Alberta, the removal of weeds from the Regulation may come at a steep price.

Another stand-out issue identified is the proposed removal of all aquatic invasive species, to be regulated instead under Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA). The removal of Eurasian Water Milfoil, Flowering Rush, Pale Yellow Iris, and Purple Loosestrife from the Weed Control Regulation has the potential to result in massively decreased levels of monitoring and coordinated control efforts currently in place throughout the province. Staffing in the EPA is very limited in comparison with the large number of municipal weed inspectors that have been appointed through the Weed Control Act. Changes to this legislation has a high likelihood of delaying the identification and control of invasive plants that interfere with irrigation infrastructure and threaten sensitive aquatic and riparian ecosystems.



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We appreciate the efforts made to receive feedback from Agricultural Service Boards and other participants, and ask that additional time is dedicated to obtaining further feedback from these groups as the review of the WCR progresses.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Logan".

Doug Logan

Chair

Vulcan County Agricultural Service Board

cc: Alberta Environment and Protected Areas  
Provincial Agricultural Service Boards





May 23, 2024

The Honorable RJ Sigurdson  
Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation  
Executive Branch 131 Legislature Building  
10800- 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 2B6

To the Honorable RJ Sigurdson:

RE: Review of the Weed Control Act of Alberta

Yellowhead County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) wish to raise concerns over the 2024 Review of the Weed Control Regulations (WCR). While Yellowhead County fully supports the concerns raised by Saddle Hills County and the Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26, it also emphasizes its own reservations about the Weed Control Act (WCA). The WCA is overdue for review, and without addressing current concerns within the Act, any regulation changes would be ineffective.

The last assessment of the Weed Control Act of Alberta took place in 2008. Within this Act, terms like “willfully obstructing access” lack defined procedures for field personnel to address actions taken by landowners. While certain sections of the Act outline explicit procedures, such as giving notice before entering a building, still others lack clarity. Another issue with the current Act pertains to its handling of offences and penalties. As a result, municipalities must create bylaws specifying offences and penalties. Although fines are permissible for offences, the Act fails to provide guidance for their administration. As a result, municipalities must create bylaws specifying offences and penalties, complicating enforcement by bylaw officers. This convoluted system hampers agriculture field personnel from fulfilling their legislated duties as described by Agricultural Service Board Act.

These are two instances where the current Act falls short, preventing a Fieldman from fulfilling their legislated responsibilities. Without clearer clauses and comprehensive procedures, the Act’s effectiveness is compromised, leading to increased inspection and enforcement costs for municipalities. This in turn, leads to less-than-ideal compliance, this issue exists regardless of the species or designations listed in the regulations

Yellowhead County extends its gratitude to the ministry for its ongoing efforts to update this legislation and ensure its utmost effectiveness in safeguarding agricultural lands in the province from invasive species.

Regards,



---

Robert Mitchell  
Agricultural Service Board Chair

Cc:  
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen  
Agricultural Services Boards



**M.D. OF RANCHLAND No. 66**

PO BOX 1060 ♦ NANTON, AB · T0L 1R0 ♦ 403-646-3131 ♦ MDRANCHLAND.CA

June 4, 2024

The Honourable RJ Sigurdson  
Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation  
Executive Branch 131 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Ave, Edmonton AB T5K 2B6

**Re: 2024 Proposed Changes to the Weed Control Regulations**

To the Honorable Minister RJ Sigurdson:

The Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 is writing to share our concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Alberta Weed Control Regulations. While we have concerns about how the proposed addition or deletion of individual species may affect our municipality, we understand that these would vary for each jurisdiction throughout the province.

In consideration of this, we feel that proposed amendments to the regulations should be paused until a formal, well defined, invasive species management strategy is in place. While the Weed Control Regulations would form part of that strategy, before invasive plant species can be placed into management groups, a management plan is required.

The first step of a formal strategy should be to clearly identify goals. These goals should be based on leading research in the field of invasive species management, including the invasion curve and established principles such as EDRR (Early Detection and Rapid Response) strategies.

Clearly identifying goals is fundamental in building a purpose orientated process for the management of invasive species and would serve as the foundation on which everything else, including the Weed Control Act and Regulations, are based on.

A formal management strategy would help answer critical questions such as:

- What is the function and mandate of the Weed Control Act and Regulations?  
Is it to protect the agricultural productivity of land or are other factors such as protecting our native vegetation & biodiversity also part of the mandate?
- How do we address concerns regarding the level of enforcement of the act and regulations in urban areas or in adjacent rural municipalities. Should the province actively enforce minimum standards related to the act & regulations?

- How is a plant's status as Prohibited Noxious or Noxious determined, is there a clear definition of each? Are two categories enough to meet management goals?
- How do we account for the diverse variation of species establishment across a province as vast as Alberta? Does a one size fits all approach align with management goals or would an area-based approach that considers natural regions and subregions, municipal, provincial and international borders as well as distribution pathways (railroads, rivers, highways etc.) be better for species already established in some but not all areas of the province?
- At what frequency should the regulations be reviewed or should adding and/or delisting species be an ongoing process in consideration of the increasing rate on new species introduction?

Further, we feel members of the AAFF are significantly underrepresented on the review committee. Agricultural Fieldman and the Agricultural Service Boards they represent, are responsible for enforcing the Weed Control Act & Regulations within their jurisdiction and have in-depth knowledge of the current distribution of invasive species and the potential threat of new species introduction.

Another area of concern is the training and networking limitations placed on provincial staff working on, and advising provincially elected officials, regarding the Weed Control Regulations. It is essential that provincial staff working in this capacity can attend professional development opportunities such as the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) conference, regardless of the location. This would provide them with access to the latest information on invasive species management strategies, potential new threats, and networking opportunities with leading experts in this regard.

**We request that the province form a task force for the purpose of developing a well-defined, formal invasive species management strategy with clearly identified goals.** Additionally, this strategy should be based on leading research in the field of invasive species management, including the invasion curve and established principles such as EDRR (Early Detection and Rapid Response) strategies.

In closing, we value the efforts of committee members, provincial staff and elected officials working to update the Weed Regulations. We believe pausing the current process, addressing the concerns raised in this letter, and working together, will ensure that the list of regulated species is part of an effective strategy to address invasive plant species.

Regards,



Jody Wilson  
Chairperson, Agricultural Service Board  
Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66

Cc: Chelsae Petrovic, MLA Livingstone-Macleod  
Provincial Agricultural Service Board's  
Weed Control Regulation Review Committee





## Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26

Office of the Administrator

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Fax: (403) 625-3886  
Shop: (403) 625-3030  
Toll Free: 888-337-3351

April 11, 2024

The Honourable RJ Sigurdson  
Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation  
Executive Branch 131 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Ave, Edmonton AB T5K 2B6

### Re: 2024 Proposed Changes to Weed Control Regulation

To the Honourable Minister RJ Sigurdson:

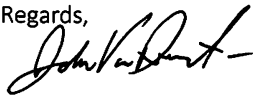
The Municipal District of Willow Creek Agricultural Service Board is writing to bring attention to several key concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Alberta Weed Control Regulations (WCR). These concerns touch upon important aspects of the proposed amendments and their potential implications for agricultural producers, environmental protection, and regulatory efficiency.

1. **'Proposed' Removal of Eurasian Water Milfoil, Flowering Rush, Himalayan Balsam, Pale Yellow Iris, and Purple Loosestrife** to remove aquatic invasive species from the Alberta Weed Control Regulations without a clear plan for monitoring and control feels like a significant step backward in our efforts to protect our aquatic ecosystems and could have far-reaching consequences for our environment and communities. At this time there are 1 possibly 2 Aquatic Invasive Species Specialists, employed by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas that would be monitoring for these plants as opposed to the 500+ Weed Inspectors that are appointed under the *Weed Control Act*, by municipal government each year. Any changes to weed control regulations must consider the broader implications for agriculture and prioritize measures to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in aquatic environments.
2. **Aquatic Weeds and the Fisheries Act:** The removal of aquatic plant species from the WCR could disrupt coordinated efforts and enforcement mechanisms currently in place. Operational differences between the Weed Control Act (WCA) and the Fisheries (Alberta) Act (FAA) may lead to delays in response actions and increased spread of invasive species. Maintaining the WCA's streamlined response actions and inspection powers is essential for effective aquatic weed management and protecting ecologically sensitive ecosystems.
3. **Cross-border threats:** By acknowledging cross-border threats such as *Ventenata* we can better protect Alberta's agriculture, environment, and economy from the impacts of invasive species. This invasive grass species has been spreading rapidly across North America, including Montana, due to its aggressive growth habits and ability to outcompete native vegetation. *Ventenata* (*Ventenata dubia*) can form dense monocultures, displace native grasses and reduce forage quality for livestock. Additionally, it can alter ecosystem dynamics, increase wildfire risk, and threaten biodiversity.

4. **Timing:** We urge you to reconsider the timeline for the review process and prioritize extensive consultation and dialogue at both the regional and provincial levels. This will ensure that the updated Weed Regulations reflect the needs and concerns of all stakeholders and contribute to effective weed designations in Alberta.
5. **De-Listing Invasive Plants:** de-listing invasive plants from regulatory oversight feels like a step back in weed control efforts. Invasive plants pose significant threats to ecosystems, agricultural productivity, and biodiversity. By removing them from regulatory scrutiny, we risk losing vital tools for managing and mitigating their impacts.

We acknowledge and appreciate ongoing efforts to keep legislation current and effective, we ask that Agricultural Service Boards and other stakeholder's have a chance to review the proposed changes after the survey's have been completed and prior to you and your staff finalizing the amendments to the Weed Control Regulations.

Regards,



John Van Driesten  
Chairman, Agricultural Service Board  
Municipal District of Willow Creek

Cc Provincial Agricultural Service Board's



## County of Stettler No. 6

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September 11, 2024

Honourable RJ Sigurdson  
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation  
131 Alberta Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Honourable Nate Horner, MLA for Drumheller-Stettler  
Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board  
208 Alberta Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Sigurdson and Minister Horner,

### **RE: Strengthening Regulation to Address Wild Boar Farming**

The County of Stettler No. 6 would like to commend Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation for their unified approach to agriculture through Agricultural Service Boards and for leading effective campaigns including "Squeal on Pigs" and "Clean, Drain, Dry." We take pride in Alberta's reputation as an innovator in agriculture, and appreciate the strong support the provincial government provides to our industry.

However, we believe the Province of Alberta has fallen short in its implementation of the Agricultural Pest Act (APA) and its related legislation concerning wild boar.

The County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Service Board acknowledges your response to Resolution 5-24 from the 2024 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference, specifically regarding the enforcement capabilities under the current APA and the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, with particular focus on the Minimum Containment Standards for Wild Boar Farms (2015). While we recognize the enforcement mechanisms outlined, we remain deeply concerned about significant gaps and limitations within the current legislation.

The current APA does not provide inspectors with proactive tools for enforcing wild boar farming operations, relying instead on reactive measures only after wild boars have escaped. This approach fails to adequately address the severe risks that improper containment poses to agriculture, the environment, and the economy. To illustrate the magnitude of these risks, consider that in the United States in 2007, there were an estimated 5 million feral pigs, with crop damages and control costs

amounting to approximately \$300 per pig annually. This resulted in at least \$1.5 billion in damages and control costs nationwide (Pimentel, 2007). While similar estimates are not available for Canada, the potential impact on Alberta's agriculture could be equally devastating. Additionally, the biosecurity risk is immense—an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease could lead to an immediate shutdown of all Alberta pork and beef exports, with a nationwide cost of \$65 billion (Gillies, 2018).

The ability to effectively enforce the Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms (2015) under Section 5(2) of the APA—requiring landowners to take active measures to prevent the establishment of pests—is essential for the proactive management of wild boar farming operations. However, since compliance with these standards is currently voluntary and Alberta pork producers raising wild boar as livestock are not mandated to adhere to them, enforcement remains inconsistent and insufficient. The lack of authority to impose penalties for non-compliance with these Minimum Containment Standards weakens efforts to ensure that these farms operate safely and securely.

Furthermore, our legislation lags behind other provinces in addressing this pest. On July 1, 2024, the Government of Saskatchewan enacted the Animal Production Act, which regulates wild boar farming. Under this act, wild boar farms in Saskatchewan are required to meet regulatory requirements, including annual inspections, fencing standards, escape reporting, and record-keeping. Acknowledging the significant risks associated with wild boar farming, Saskatchewan has also implemented a moratorium on new wild boar farms, effective January 1, 2025. This legislation underscores Saskatchewan's commitment to mitigating the environmental and agricultural risks posed by wild boar, setting a standard that Alberta should consider following.

In Alberta, wild boar farming is regulated under the Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA), which is delivered by the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB). This legislation focuses on the manure management and expansion of confined feeding operations, and for wild boar no explicit containment measures are listed. Wild boar farming operations are only subject to AOPA conditions if they are larger than 100 feeders or 50 sows (farrowing) (AOPA – Schedule 2 Agricultural Operations, Part 2 Matters Regulation), leaving smaller wild boar farms effectively unregulated by legislation. The annual inspections of wild boar farms and adherence to Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation's Compliance Principles are positive practices, yet they fall short without concrete legislative support. A fully-backed framework, similar to Saskatchewan's Animal Production Act, is crucial to ensure wild boar farming in Alberta is conducted in an environmentally sustainable and economically viable manner.

We also recognize wild boar present unique challenges as they are considered livestock when contained within a fence but become a pest once they escape. This dual status has led to a reliance on local regulations, with 22 of 69 municipalities enacting bylaws to prohibit wild boar farming within their jurisdictions. Despite this, the volume of local legislation has not prompted adequate concern or revisions to wild boar farming practices as part of the December 7, 2023 review of the APA.

Given these concerns, we urge the Provincial government to take the following actions:

**Strengthen the Agricultural Pests Act:** Explicitly include the Minimum Containment Standards for Wild Boar Farms within the Agricultural Pests Act or the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, ensuring non-compliance is considered an offence subject to penalties under Section 23.

**Introduce Licensing and Regulation:** Establish a licensing and regulatory framework for wild boar farms, regardless of size, to ensure consistent and enforceable standards across Alberta.



Thank you for your consideration and continued work towards ensuring Alberta Agriculture is innovative, effective and sustainable for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Les Stulberg', written in a cursive style.

Les Stulberg  
CHAIR, COUNTY OF STETTLE AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD

CC

Dale Nally, Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction

Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs

Heather Sweet, Opposition Critic for Agriculture, Forestry & Rural Economic Development

Laura Friend, Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Board

Brenda Knight, Chair, Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC)

Aaron Van Beers, President, The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)

Laura Poile, Secretary, The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)

References:

Pimentel, David. "Environmental and economic costs of vertebrate species invasions into the United States." *Managing Vertebrate Invasive Species*, vol. 38, 2007.

Gillies, M. "Modernizing Canada's foot and mouth disease response plan." *Canadian Veterinary Journal*, vol. 59, no. 8, 2018, pp. 899-902.



September 4, 2024

Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation  
131 Legislature Building  
108000 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

**RE: Funding for Agriculture and Agricultural Service Boards**

Dear Honorable Minister RJ Sigurdson:

The Kneehill County Agricultural Service Board Members would like to draw your attention to a matter of concern for our municipality and all Agricultural Service Boards across the province.

Agriculture remains a consistently vital part of Alberta's economy, and as global pressures to improve efficiencies increase, so will the need for widely available, unbiased resources and expert consultations. While provincial agricultural departments and resources have been reduced in past years, municipalities have often had to step in and continue to provide resources and assistance for provincial services. Municipal Agricultural Service Boards across the province, including in Kneehill County, work tirelessly to uphold and administer provincial agricultural legislation while contributing to the sustainability and growth of the agriculture sector through extension programming and resources.

Provincial funding under the ASB Legislative and Resource Management Grants is critical for delivering Kneehill County ASB services and programming, and we greatly appreciated the increase in funding provided for 2023 and 2024. As the costs of delivering these services continue to rise, adequate provincial funding support is crucial to municipalities.

Looking forward to a new grant cycle in 2025, we are earnestly awaiting news of what changes will come with the new agreement. As municipalities operate on a calendar-year financial cycle, it is imperative that we have access to information on funding sources as early as September in order to finalize our budgets and make determinations on services, programming, and projects prior to the end of the year and the start of a new budget cycle in January.

As of today, we have received no official information from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation on the new ASB grant agreements, the amended grant requirements, or the funding amounts that will be available. We, therefore, request that your government provide municipalities with a detailed update on the 2025 grant agreements, including service and program requirements and funding amounts, so that we may budget accordingly and continue our vital agricultural services uninterrupted.

Sincerely,

*Councillor Wade Christie, ASB Chair, Kneehill County*

CC: Assistant Deputy Minister John Conrad  
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Manager of Agriculture Service Boards Kerriane Koehler-Munro  
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen  
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee



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