



# AGENDA

## Agricultural Service Board Meeting

9:00 AM - Tuesday, May 5, 2026  
Council Chambers

Page

- 
- A. CALL TO ORDER**
  - B. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**
  - C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**
    - 3 - 5 1. **Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes**  
[Agricultural Service Board - 25 Nov 2025 - Minutes](#)
  - D. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES**
    - 1. **Strategic Planning**
    - 2. **Rural Dust**
  - E. DELEGATIONS**
    - 1. **10:00 a.m. -Ashley Wagenaar/Potato Growers of Alberta/Update on the Industry**
    - 2. **10:30 a.m. - Dirk Muilwijk/Sunshine Custom Farming/Dragline Manure Application Presentation**
  - F. NEW BUSINESS**
    - 6 - 30 1. **Agricultural Service Board Level of Service**  
[Agricultural Service Board Level of Service](#)
    - 2. **Matthew Wells, Rural Extension Specialist Update**
    - 3. **Soil Erosion Discussion**
    - 31 - 40 4. **Strychnine Discussion**  
[Strychnine Discussion](#)
  - G. CORRESPONDENCE**

41 - 48

1. **Summer Tour Link**

[AAAF ASB Tour Invite](#)

[ASB Summer Tour Information](#)

49 - 56

2. **Letters from past month**

[Bill 22 APA Amendment Act Fact Sheet](#)

[Council Concerns Regarding Federal Traceability](#)

[Federal Funding Cuts](#)

[Lacombe Research and Development Closure Letter - Northern Sunrise County](#)

[Letter of Appreciation - Agriculture Service Boards of Alberta and Saskatchewan](#)

3. **Recurring Letter Topics of Concern**

**H. OTHER BUSINESS**

1. **ASB Conference 2029**

**I. CLOSED SESSION**

1. **Weed Control (ATIA 26 - Disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations)**

**J. ADJOURN**



# MINUTES

## Agricultural Service Board Meeting

9:00 AM - Tuesday, November 25, 2025  
Council Chambers

The Agricultural Service Board of Lethbridge County was called to order on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at 9:00 AM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

**PRESENT:** Councillor Eric Van Essen  
Councillor Kevin Slomp  
Councillor Tony Ankermann  
Councillor Mark Sayers  
ASB Member at Large Ken Coles  
ASB Member at Large Dan Chapman  
ASB Member at Large Logan Miller  
Chief Administrative Officer Cole Beck  
Supervisor, Agricultural Services Gary Secrist  
Legislative Coordinator & Executive Assistant Candice Robison  
Rural Extension Specialist Matthew Wells  
Assistant Agriculture Fieldman Derek Vance

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

CAO Cole Beck called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and read the following land acknowledgement:

*In the true spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge all those who call this land home now and for thousands of years in the past. May we respect each other and find understanding together and recognize the benefits that this land provides to all of us.*

**B. SELECTION OF CHAIR/VICE CHAIR**

**B.A. Nomination for ASB Chair and Vice-chair**

6-2025 Councillor Slomp MOVED to appoint Director of Operations, Ryan Thomson as scrutineer. CARRIED

CAO Cole Beck called for nominations for Chair.  
Eric Van Essen nominated himself. Mark Sayers nominated himself.  
Ballots were passed out.  
Scrutineer Ryan Thomson counted the ballots.  
Eric Van Essen was selected as the Chair to recommend to Council for approval.

7-2025 Councillor Sayers MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board recommend Eric Van Essen to County Council as chair for the 2025-2026 term.

CARRIED

CAO Cole Beck called for nominations for Vice Chair.  
Kevin Slomp nominated Mark Sayers. No other nominations were received.  
Mark Sayers was declared as Vice Chair for 2025-2026 term.  
Mark Sayers was attending virtually. Eric took the chair upon approval of the committee.

**C. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

8-2025 ASB Member at MOVED that the November 25, 2025 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda be approved, as presented.

Large Dan  
Chapman

CARRIED

**D. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**D.A. Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes**

9-2025 Councillor Slomp MOVED that the March 27, 2025 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes be approved, as presented

CARRIED

**F. REPORTS**

**F.1. Manager of Agricultural Services, Report on Activities**

10-2025 ASB Member at Large Ken Coles MOVED that the Agriculture Service Board receives this report from the Manager of Agricultural Services for information.

CARRIED

**E. DELEGATIONS**

**E.1. 10:00 a.m. - Alan Efetha, ASB Provincial Specialist, Alberta Agriculture & Forestry**

11-2025 Councillor Slomp MOVED that the 2025 Lethbridge County Final Field Visit report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

**G. NEW BUSINESS**

**G.1. South Region Resolutions & Conference Summary**

The South Region Resolutions & Conference summary were reviewed and discussed.

**G.2. ASB Conference Attendance/South Delta Hotel Edmonton - January 20-22, 2026**

Attendance for the ASB Conference in Edmonton was discussed.

**G.3. ASB Summer Tour 2026 - Wheatland County**

The 2026 ASB Summer Tour in Wheatland County was discussed.

**G.4. Reviewing and Improving the Impact & Purpose of the ASB - Ken Coles**

12-2025 ASB Member at Large Ken Coles MOVED that the ASB work with Council and staff to engage in a creative strategic planning session.

CARRIED

**G.5. Rural Dust Concerns - Ken Coles**

13-2025 ASB Member at Large Ken Coles MOVED that the ASB recommend to Council that due to the significant issues related to excessive air pollution throughout the county that a comprehensive effort be undertaken to study, monitor and implement new effective strategies to improve air quality.

CARRIED

**H. CORRESPONDENCE**

**H.1. ASB Correspondence**

ASB correspondence from the past few months were reviewed and discussed.

**H.2. Bio Control Consortium**

14-2025 Councillor Slomp MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board submit the paperwork to support the Alberta Biocontrol Consortium (ABC).

CARRIED



# AGENDA ITEM REPORT



**Title:** Agricultural Service Board Level of Service  
**Meeting:** Agricultural Service Board - 05 May 2026  
**Department:** Agriculture Service Board  
**Report Author:** Gary Secrist

## APPROVAL(S):

Candice Robison, Legislative Coordinator & Executive Assistant      Approved - 28 Apr 2026

## STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:



**Governance**



**Relationships**



**Region**



**Prosperity**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Agricultural Service Board has updated the Level of Service(LOS) document to formalize the activities that will be performed by the department in 2026. Each year as the budget is set the Level of Service document will be brought forward to Council for approval.

## RECOMMENDATION:

Moved that the Agricultural Service Board forwards the 2026 ASB Level of Service to County Council for approval.

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

To provide an accurate and measurable Level of Service that is formed on an approved budget. Department staff will work within the budget to deliver the services based on Council priorities and field-level observation of maintenance needs. The goals set forward in this document will require flexibility as weather conditions can be a major factor in delivering Agricultural Services programs.

## PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

Council has previously approved the Agriculture Department Level of Service on a yearly basis.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Agricultural Service Board Level of Service Document will provide clear and measurable target for ASB activities that will be set annually by Council. Modifications to the document must take into consideration our baseline obligations under the ASB Grant which was renewed for a five year term from 2025-2029. The document will be available to the public who will gain a better understanding of service levels provided and approved.

## ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

That the Agricultural Service Board can suggest changes to the LOS to administration to be brought forward for council resolution at a future meeting. This could include increases or decreases which would be estimated by administration for proposed budget amendments.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The budget for 2026 is the main consideration of the Level of Service that can be provided. As the budget amounts have been considered and passed the Level of Service provides a business plan to carry our ASB services with the set budget amount as a template.

**LEVEL OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Inform       Consult       Involve       Collaborate       Empower

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[ASB Level of Service 2026](#)

# Agricultural Service Board

Level of Service

Created July 2022, Revised January 2026





## **Agricultural Service Board Business Plan**

### **Vision**

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

### **Mission**

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

### **Values**

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Table of Contents

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



Cemetery .....	10
Hamlets/Subdivisions .....	11
Brushing/Tree Removal/Pruning Program .....	11
Strategy .....	11
Level of Service Measures .....	11
Delay of Maintenance Operations .....	12
Conclusion .....	12
Guidelines, Procedures, Policy .....	13
Appendix A: Weed Control and Vegetation Management .....	13
Appendix B: Agricultural Pest Act Policies .....	13
Appendix C: Soil Conservation Act .....	13
Appendix D: Roadside Mowing .....	13
Appendix E: Rental Equipment and ASB Schedule of Fees .....	13
Appendix F: Parks Policies .....	13
Appendix G: Maps .....	13
Appendix A: Weed Control and Vegetation Management .....	14
Guidelines, Procedures, Policy .....	14
1. Integrated Weed Management .....	14
2. Weed Inspections .....	14
3. Weed Notices .....	15
4. Leafy Spurge and Knapweed .....	15
5. Prohibited Noxious Weeds .....	15
6. Seed Cleaning Plants .....	16
Appendix B: Pest Control Management .....	16
Guidelines, Procedures, Policy .....	16
1. Surveys .....	16
2. Live Traps .....	16
3. Norway Rat .....	16
4. Coyotes .....	16
5. Skunks .....	17
6. Grasshopper Control .....	17
7. Clubroot Inspection and Control .....	17
Appendix C: Soil Conservation Management .....	19
Guidelines, Procedures, Policy .....	19
1. Soil Conservation .....	19



Appendix D: Roadside Mowing .....	20
Guidelines, Procedures, <b>Policy</b> .....	20
1. Roadside Mowing .....	20
Appendix E: ASB Rental Equipment .....	20
Guidelines, Procedures, <b>Policy</b> .....	20
1. Rental Equipment .....	20
Appendix F: Parks, Cemetery, Hamlet, and Subdivision Maintenance .....	21
Guidelines, Procedures, <b>Policy</b> .....	21
1. Parks .....	21
2. Playground & Trail Inspection .....	21
3. Supplemental .....	21
Lethbridge County Roadside Mowing – Map .....	22
Lethbridge County Roadside Spraying – Map .....	23



## Purpose, Considerations, and Level of Service

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



### Scope of Responsibility

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

### Level of Service (LOS)

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

## Delivery/Support of the Weed Control Act

### Strategy

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

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

### Level of Service Measures

- Two weed inspectors will be continuously appointed.
- An appeal committee for weed notices will be appointed at the annual organizational meeting, and the term will be for the upcoming calendar year.
- 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.
- An appeal committee for pest notices will be appointed at the annual organizational meeting, and the term will be for the upcoming calendar year.
- 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.
- The members of the Agricultural Service Board are the appeal committee for Soil Conservation Act and this will be confirmed at the annual organizational meeting.
- 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 an up-to-date emergency management plan that addresses disease in livestock.
- 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 and other funding programs available.
- Collaborate with various stakeholders and support applied research projects that support sustainable agriculture.
- Work with drag line manure applicators to identify and install culvert road crossings that are mutually beneficial to producers and the County.
- Work with commercial manure applicators to extend Agricultural Operations Practices Act regulations and guidelines regarding appropriate manure management and application.
- Publish two magazines 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.
- Host an annual Nutrient Management Webinar Series for producers and provide recordings for later viewing.
- Deliver workshops that address producer challenges with practical, up-to-date information

## Roadside Mowing

### Strategy

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

### Level of Service Measures

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

## Rental Equipment

### Strategy

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

### Level of Service Measures

- The following pieces of equipment will be available: Brillion Drills, Plastic Mulcher, Tree Planter, and Chisel Plow with Lister shovels, Plastic Roller, and Straw crimper.
- Yearly rental rates will be set on an annual basis through the Lethbridge County Schedule of Fees Bylaw #26-001.

## Parks, Cemetery, Hamlet, and Subdivision Maintenance

### Strategy

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

- Parks Vegetation Management
- Playgrounds and Trail Inspection

### Level of Service Measures

#### Parks

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

#### Cemetery

- Cemeteries are mowed twice per year, subject to prevailing drought or excess moisture conditions.



- Mowing events are scheduled by the Supervisor of Agriculture on an “as needed” basis.

#### Hamlets/Subdivisions

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

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

### Strategy

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

### Level of Service Measures

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

## **Delay of Maintenance Operations**

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

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

## **Conclusion**

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

# Appendices

## Guidelines, Procedures, Policy

### Appendix A: Weed Control and Vegetation Management

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

### Appendix B: Agricultural Pest Act Policies

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

### Appendix C: Soil Conservation Act

1. Soil Conservation Management

### Appendix D: Roadside Mowing

1. Roadside Mowing

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

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

### Appendix F: Parks Policies

1. Parks Vegetation Management
2. Playground and Trail Inspection

### Appendix G: Maps

1. Roadside Mowing
2. Roadside Spray Program



## Appendix A: Weed Control and Vegetation Management

### Guidelines, Procedures, Policy

#### 1. Integrated Weed Management

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

#### 2. Weed Inspections

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

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

### 3. Weed Notices

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

### 4. Leafy Spurge and Knapweed

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

### 5. Prohibited Noxious Weeds

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



- 5.8. The affected area will, at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman, be eradicated of all vegetation within the infested area through:
    - 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. Seed Cleaning Plants
- 6.1. 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.
  - 6.2. Seed plants are inspected once a year by the Agricultural Fieldman, or their designate.
  - 6.3. A minimum of 20 samples per plant will be collected randomly throughout the year.
  - 6.4. 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 Management

### Guidelines, Procedures, Policy

#### 1. Surveys

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

#### 2. Live Traps

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

#### 3. Norway Rat

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

#### 4. Coyotes

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

## 5. Skunks

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

## 6. Grasshopper Control

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


## 7. Clubroot Inspection and Control

### 7.1. Field Surveys

- 7.1.1. Yearly inspections for Clubroot in Canola are completed by Agricultural Services Staff.
- 7.1.2. Clubroot survey method, sampling technique, reporting and calculation of disease incidence must follow standard protocols provided by the Alberta Clubroot Management Committee.
- 7.1.3. Positive identification of Clubroot in canola shall be confirmed by certified laboratory testing. Submit samples to two independent accredited laboratories.

### 7.2. Disease Spread Reduction

- 7.2.1. 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.
- 7.2.2. The "Notice to Control Pests" may include any or all the following conditions:
  - A four-year prohibition from growing canola, mustard, and brassica crops.
  - Following the four (4) year prohibition period, the landholder must notify the Agricultural Fieldman, in writing, of their intent to grow canola variety. Whereby, the canola must be a registered clubroot resistant variety.

- 
- An owner or occupant must follow a Clubroot Management Plan, intended to reduce the spread of the disease through movement of soil or 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 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.

## Appendix C: Soil Conservation Management

### Guidelines, Procedures, Policy

#### 1. Soil Conservation

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



## Appendix D: Roadside Mowing

Guidelines, Procedures, **Policy**

### 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, Procedures, **Policy**

### 1. Rental Equipment

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



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

### Guidelines, Procedures, Policy

#### 1. Parks

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

#### 2. Playground & Trail Inspection

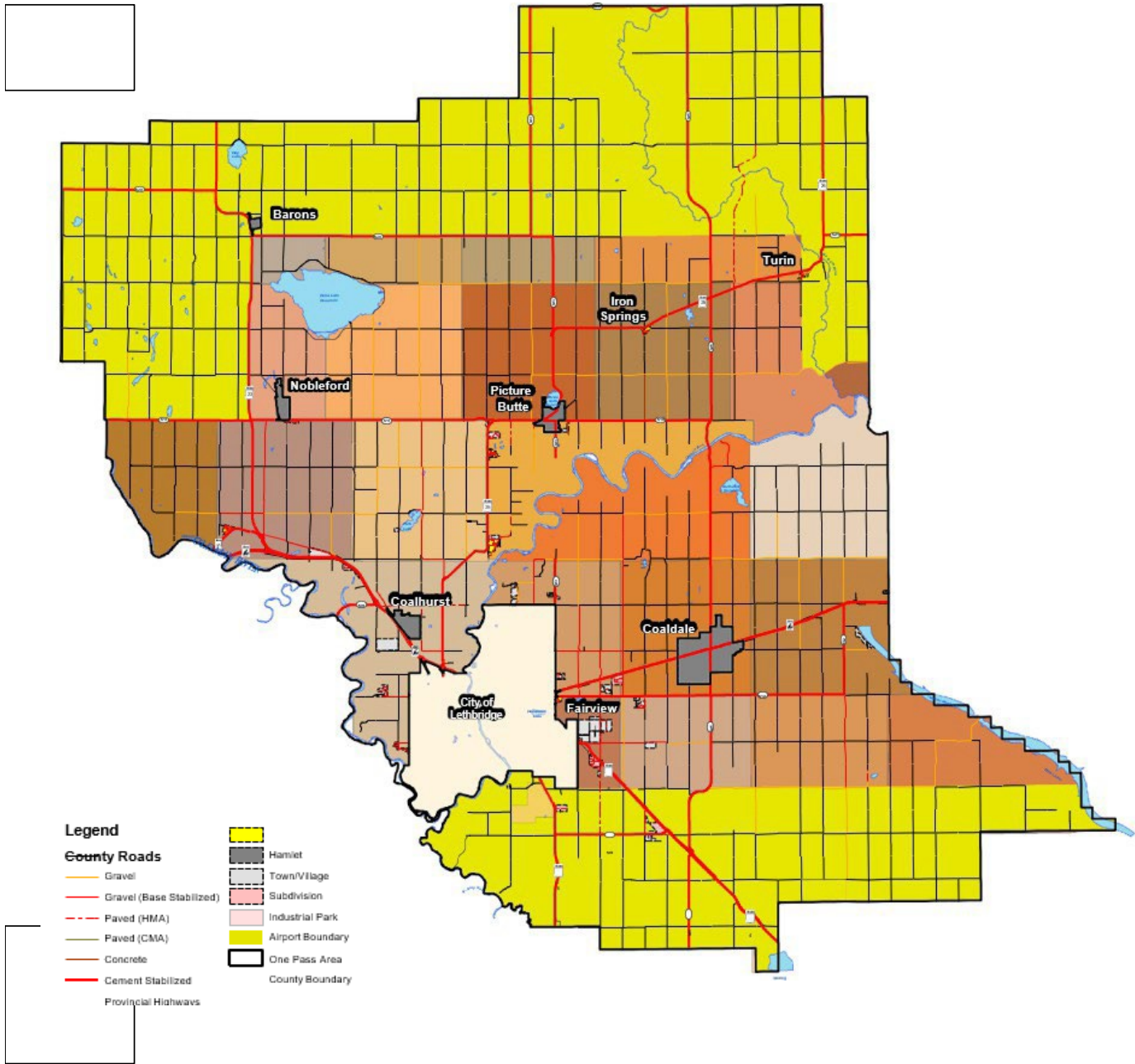
- 2.1. Playgrounds are inspected by staff certified in playground inspection every two months, at a minimum.
- 2.2. Lethbridge County trail systems are inspected by a department staff member on a semi-annual basis.
- 2.3. Inspections are recorded on the appropriate forms, including:
  - 2.3.1. Hazardous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

#### 3. Supplemental

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

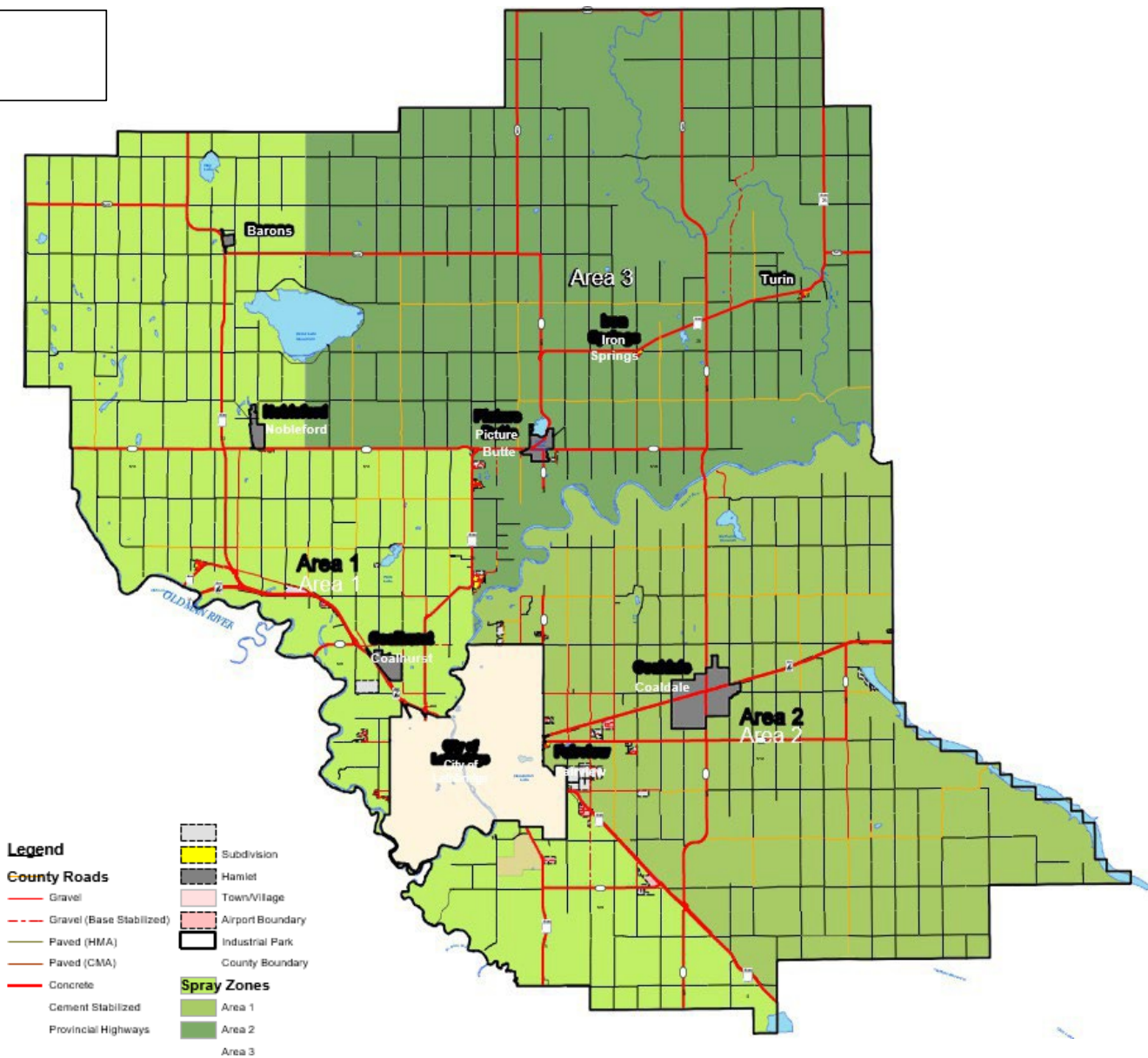


### Lethbridge County Roadside Mowing – Map





## Lethbridge County Roadside Spraying – Map





# Question & Answers for Agricultural Fieldmen on 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate

Follow up from April 14, 2026 Meeting

## Table of Contents

Product Availability and Supply .....	2
Vendor Requirements and Responsibilities .....	3
Producer Purchase Requirements .....	5
Producer Application Requirements .....	6
Monitoring, Audits, and Compliance .....	7
Disposal and Environmental Safety.....	8
Species at Risk .....	9

Current as of April 24, 2026

The information as depicted is subject to change, therefore the Government of Alberta assumes no responsibility for discrepancies at time of use.

## Product Availability and Supply

**Q: When will product be available?**

A: An initial shipment of product is expected to arrive late May to early June 2026. Two more shipments are expected over the summer. Approximately 800 cases are expected in the first shipment for Alberta with similar amounts in the following shipments.

**Q: Will supply be limited?**

A: Yes. Initial shipments are limited. We advise judicious allocation due to initial scarcity.

**Q: How much is in a case or pallet?**

A: Each case contains 24 bottles. A pallet contains 108 cases.

**Q: How much does one bottle treat?**

A: One kg of grain treated with a 250 mL bottle treats approximately one acre.

**Q: Where has strychnine been approved for use?**

A: Use is limited to approved municipalities and zones under the EUR. These areas are outlined on the following approved [map](#).

**Q: Will additional areas be considered in the future?**

A: Yes. Municipalities are encouraged to document Richardson Ground Squirrel infestations, as this data is critical for future EUR applications.

**Q: What happens if a jurisdiction is approved to use two per cent liquid strychnine but does not have trained staff/ an Agricultural Fieldmen for distribution?**

A: 2% liquid strychnine is only available to a municipality if it meets the requirements of the program for distribution and application such as Pesticide Vendor Registration and required training. It is mandatory that municipalities have a trained and certified individual on staff that meets the requirements of the program.

**Q: How long will farmers be able to use this substance?**

A: The Emergency Use Registration is effective until November 1, 2027. After this date all unused product must be destroyed.

**Q: Where can I find more information on this announcement by Health Canada?**

A: The announcement by Health Canada can be found [here](#). Specific label information can be found [here](#). Click on Registration Number 28751 to obtain the approved bottle label.

## Vendor Requirements and Responsibilities

### **Q: Who is an approved vendor for strychnine?**

**A:** Distribution of this product is restricted to Municipalities that hold a Pesticide Vendor Registration issued by Alberta Environment and Protect Areas.

### **Q: What should my Pesticide Vender Registration include for it to be valid for 2% liquid strychnine sales?**

**A:** A valid vendor registration must specify retail or include strychnine, vertebrate toxicants, or compound 1080. If you are uncertain about your status, please contact Tanya Rushcall by e-mail at [tanya.rushcall@gov.ab.ca](mailto:tanya.rushcall@gov.ab.ca) .

### **Q: Should the use of 2% liquid strychnine be an Agricultural Service Board/Council decision to distribute in the municipality?**

**A:** We recommend that the decision to become a vendor for the distribution of strychnine should be a Council decision that is supported by the Agricultural Service Board because they are taking on the responsibility for sale and distribution of the product which may be audited.

### **Q: Who am I allowed to sell 2% liquid strychnine to?**

**A:** The label statement used for 2% liquid strychnine states: *“Only to be used by certified pest control operators, farmers and persons authorized in government approved pest control programs.”*

- Someone who qualifies as a “farmer” (commercial agriculturalist) to purchase pesticides/toxicants must provide two of the following:
  - Purchaser’s confirmed legal land description
  - Alberta Farm Fuel Benefit number
  - Other information that would verify the purchaser is a commercial agriculturalist.
- 2% liquid strychnine can only be dispensed to someone who meets the above criteria. Acreage owners do not fall under the category of farmers and cannot be dispensed 2% liquid strychnine.

### **Q: How do I access the mandatory 2% liquid strychnine training for Vendors?**

**A:** ASB staff involved in distribution of 2% liquid strychnine must complete mandatory training. This will be delivered live on April 23, 2026 and recorded for future viewing available upon request. If you would like access to the recorded training video, please contact the Agricultural Service Board Program.

There is a short knowledge test to confirm completion of the training per individual. A link will be provided along with the training video. The Agricultural Service Board Program can be notified through e-mail at [ASBProgram@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ASBProgram@gov.ab.ca).

**Q: Where will Strychnine information be stored?**

A: Emergency Use Registration requirements and forms will be available and stored on a SharePoint site. AGI will be reaching out to municipalities to determine individuals that require access to the Strychnine Stewardship Program Sharepoint site.

**Q: Where can I find information on the 2% liquid strychnine label and brochure?**

A: The product label and brochure can be found on Health Canada's website [here](#). Click on Registration Number 28751 to obtain the approved bottle label.

**Q: What is the vendor responsible for?**

A: Municipalities as vendors are ultimately responsible for:

- Purchase of product from the manufacturer (AgroMax Distributors Inc)
- Proper storage of 2% liquid strychnine
- Ensuring completion, maintenance and uploading of producer forms / reports including:
  - Purchase Information and Treatment Plan
  - Strychnine Use Declaration Form
  - Monitoring Form
  - Evaluation Form
- Distribution of 2% liquid strychnine to their municipal agricultural producers which includes sales as well as ensuring producer forms are completed, verification of producer information and training including:
  - The producer has obtained a training certificate
  - The producer is an eligible agricultural producer
- Distribution of signs
- Gathering and documenting all returned strychnine

**Q: Is there a restriction on the amount of strychnine someone can buy?**

A: Applicants are limited to a maximum purchase of two cases at a time. Each consisting of 24 bottles of 250 ml 2% liquid strychnine.

**Q: Are we able to open boxes to sell individual bottles?**

A: Yes, individual bottles are able to be sold.

**Q: Can I sell smaller amounts or pre-mix product for eligible applicators?**

A: Product cannot be sold in smaller amounts than what is in a bottle or premixed as this is considered decanting. Decanting of rodenticides is a contravention of the federal Pest Control Products Act. Newly packaged rodenticide bait is no longer in approved packaging and may be considered an unregistered pest control product.

Whether you are a retailer, distributor or user of pesticides, decanting applies to everyone. If you have questions, contact the Pesticide Compliance Program: [info.pesticides.prairies@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:info.pesticides.prairies@hc-sc.gc.ca) or visit their website: [canada.ca/pesticide-compliance](http://canada.ca/pesticide-compliance)

4

Current as of April 24, 2026

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## Producer Purchase Requirements

### **Q: Who is allowed to purchase 2% liquid strychnine?**

A: Only a landowner (commercial agriculturalist) or legally recognized operator (e.g., leaseholder or renter with written agreement) who has completed the required training and is a rate payer of the associated municipality. Proxys are not permitted. The release of 2% liquid strychnine to persons that claim to represent trained applicators is prohibited.

### **Q: How can a farmer access the Farmer Training Program?**

A: The farmer training will be online through a Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) [website](#) starting May 4, 2026. The training will feature chapter-based modules and knowledge checks, with certificates issued upon completion. A pre-recorded presentation will be delivered by James Tansey, Pest Management Specialist, with the Government of Saskatchewan.

### **Q. How can an Agricultural Fieldmen confirm that a farmer has completed their training?**

A. A producer will receive a certificate once they have completed the training. They can provide a copy of their certificate to the municipality at time of purchase or a municipality can confirm their certificate on a SharePoint site that the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) will be managing. Note: There may be a short reporting delay while the certificates are uploaded to this site.

### **Q: Where does a producer purchase 2% liquid strychnine if they farm in multiple municipalities?**

A: Producers must identify **one municipality** (typically their home quarter) from which they will purchase. They may apply product on eligible land in other approved areas.

### **Q. What does a farmer need to access 2% liquid strychnine?**

A. Producers must provide proof of training completion, legal land location, signed declaration form that confirms label compliance and Integrated Pest Management and Monitoring Plans.

### **Q: Is there a limit to how much a producer can purchase?**

A: Yes, Applicants are limited to a maximum purchase of two cases, each consisting of 24 bottles of 250 ml strychnine, at one time.

### **Q. Does a municipality need to define and confirm a severe infestation?**

A. Severe infestations are defined by the 2% Liquid Strychnine Emergency Use Registration map.

### **Q: Will distribution be first come, first served?**

A: No. The intent is to prioritize need, not first-come access, due to limited supply.

5

Current as of April 24, 2026

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## Producer Application Requirements

**Q: Who is allowed to apply strychnine?**

A: Use is restricted to eligible farmers, ranchers or commercial agriculturalist who own land and have completed the mandatory training.

**Q: Can hired hands or farm employees apply strychnine?**

A: Hired hands or farm employees that are certified pesticide applicators under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act are permitted to apply strychnine, if they complete the training.

**Q: Can family members apply strychnine?**

A: The family member must be listed on the land title, lease, or rental agreement. Being a family member alone does not qualify them. To be eligible to use this product, a family member not on title must be a certified pesticide applicator under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.

**Q: How does this apply to rented or leased land?**

A: Renters or leaseholders may apply strychnine if they have a valid written agreement and have completed the required training.

**Q: How does this apply to corporations or Hutterite colonies?**

A: For Hutterite colonies members are permitted to apply due to how land title is structured. For other corporations/co-ops individuals must be certified pesticide applicators, as there is no single titled landowner.

**Q: When is the application window:**

A: Use is only permitted during early spring (March 1 – June 15) before national vegetation has emerged and in late summer (July 15 - September 1) after vegetation has died down. Spring is the best time to apply strychnine.

**Q: Can product be applied on First Nations' lands?**

A: First Nations' lands are outside of the Government of Alberta's jurisdiction. Renters of these lands are encouraged to consult landowners and their rental agreements.

**Q: Do farmers need to post signage when treating a RGS colony?**

A: Yes, signage must be posted at all treatment sites. Signs can be obtained from the municipality where they purchased 2% liquid strychnine.

Current as of April 24, 2026

The information as depicted is subject to change, therefore the Government of Alberta assumes no responsibility for discrepancies at time of use.

## Monitoring, Audits, and Compliance

### **Q: What monitoring is required by the applicator after application?**

A: It is recommended that two search areas must be established and monitored twice a day in daylight each day for 7 days following application of strychnine:

1. Targeted search area
2. Broader monitoring area

For all monitoring activities:

- Record date, time, weather conditions, and observations
- Document number and species (if identifiable) of any carcasses found
- Record disposal method

Twice a day monitoring is required when there are economically significant infestations in areas with increased SAR likelihood or near critical habitat.

### **Q: Who conducts audits or inspections?**

A: Random or targeted audits may be conducted by Government of Alberta officials or directed representatives. Officials may conduct audits on a portion of fields treated with strychnine to ensure that the stewardship program eligibility requirements are maintained and label use restrictions have been followed.

The Pesticides Regulatory Directorate (formerly PMRA) may also conduct audits. Vendors are encouraged to follow all product label requirements, verify that applicants meet eligibility requirements, and ensure their processes are well documented to support any audit or inspection activities.

### **Q: What happens if rules or label directions are not followed?**

A: Misusing 2% liquid strychnine – such as applying incorrectly, leaving bait where non-target animals can access it, or using it without proper authorization – can lead to serious consequences under the [Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act](#) and [Canada Pest Control Products Act](#). Penalties for misuse may include:

- Loss of access to the product and a requirement of the completion of additional training on the Stewardship Program to access strychnine in the future.
- Reporting under pesticide legislation with:
  - Potential provincial penalties of up to \$100,000 for individuals or \$500,000 for corporations.
  - Potential federal penalties of up to \$250,000 for individuals or \$1,000,000 for corporations.

7

Current as of April 24, 2026

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## Disposal and Environmental Safety

### **Q: How must unused product be disposed of?**

A: Unused 2% strychnine, unused (mixed) bait, and empty containers (NOT triple rinsed) are considered hazardous waste and must be disposed of through a facility that accepts hazardous waste, through a hazardous waste disposal company, or returned to the manufacturer (please confirm directly with the manufacturer).

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas has a disposal factsheet available here;

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/pesticide-waste-and-treated-seed-disposal>

### **Q: How is unused bait disposed of?**

A: As per the draft label; spilled, spoiled, uneaten or unused bait can be disposed of by incineration or burial in a pit no less than 46 cm (approximately 18 inches) deep and then covered to prevent access by non-target organisms.

### **Q: How is rinsate disposed of?**

A: Rinsate should be treated similar to unused bait with disposal by burial in a pit no less than 46 cm (approximately 18 inches) deep and then covered.

### **Q: How are empty containers disposed of?**

A: Containers must be triple-rinsed. Once rinsed, they are no longer hazardous and may be disposed of in a Class I or II landfill. It is recommended you confirm with your local landfill that these containers will be accepted at their site.

### **Q. How long will farmers be able to use this substance?**

A: The emergency use registration is valid until Nov. 1, 2027.

Current as of April 24, 2026

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## Species at Risk

### **Q: What species at risk are found in my municipality?**

A: Species at risk vary by location and may change over time. The most reliable way to determine which species at risk may be present in your municipality is to consult official species-at-risk mapping and information tools, rather than relying on static lists.

### **Q. How do I find out more information on species at risk?**

A: Alberta Species at Risk website – provides information on provincially listed species, recovery plans, and fact sheets.

Alberta Conservation Information Management System (ACIMS) – used by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas for tracking wildlife occurrences.

Species at Risk Public Registry (Government of Canada) – provides federal listings, maps, and species profiles under the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

### **Q: What do I do if a dead species at risk is brought to the municipal (vendor's) office?**

A: If a dead animal that may be a species at risk is brought to your office:

- Do not handle or transport the animal further
- Document the location and circumstances, if known
- Immediately contact Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (Fish and Wildlife) for direction

Dead species at risk must be reported so that appropriate investigation and reporting can occur.

### **Q: Who do I contact if I suspect an applicator is applying product in an RGS colony frequented by species at risk?**

A: If you suspect product is being applied in an area where species at risk may be present:

- Contact Alberta Environment and Protected Areas – Fish and Wildlife
- If there is an immediate concern, contact the Report A Poacher (RAP) line: 1-800-642-3800

These reports allow enforcement and wildlife specialists to assess and respond appropriately.

### **Q: Is there information on species at risk I can share with landowners?**

A: Yes. Vendors are encouraged to share official, plain-language resources, including:

- Alberta species-at-risk fact sheets
- Maps and guidance from Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
- Federal species profiles from the Species at Risk Public Registry

9

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Sharing these materials helps landowners understand their role in protecting wildlife while remaining compliant with pesticide use requirements.

**Q. What happens if a non-target animal, including species at risk, are poisoned?**

A. As indicated on signed declaration form, all non-target poisoning must be reported to Fish and Wildlife. Municipalities can find their Fish and Wildlife contact [here](#). In the webpage on the Layer List, click on Wildlife Contact District layer and then click on the area that represents your municipality.

This would likely lead to an investigation to ensure that product is being used correctly followed by some coaching and advice from an expert on how to avoid any further non-target poisoning.

Species at risk are managed primarily under the [Alberta Wildlife Act](#) (Part 8: Offenses and Penalties) and accompanying regulations.

- For individuals: fines of up to \$100,000 per offence, with possible imprisonment of up to 1 year.
- For corporations: Fines may exceed \$500,000 for a serious offence.

Penalties may apply when a species at risk is unlawfully harmed under the Canada – [Species at Risk Act](#) (Section 97).

- Individuals may be fined up to \$50,000 and/or imprisoned for up to 1 year; corporations may be fined up to \$300,000
- If the harm caused is serious or deliberate individuals may be fined up to \$250,000 and/or imprisoned for up to 5 years; corporations up to \$1,000,000.

Current as of April 24, 2026

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## **Invitation to the ASB Summer Tour**

Dear Agricultural Service Board Members and Ag Fieldmen,

On behalf of the Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board, we are pleased to extend an invitation to all Agricultural Service Boards and Ag Fieldmen across Alberta to join us in Wheatland County from July 14–16 for the revival of the ASB Summer Tour.

Wheatland County is excited to host this event and showcase the diversity, innovation, and stewardship that define agriculture in our region. The tour will feature two full days of guided site visits, highlighting exceptional agricultural producers, agri-businesses, and environmental initiatives from across the county.

Participants will have the opportunity to visit eight unique sites, including:

- Strathmore Seed Plant
- New on-farm water storage project by the Western Irrigation District
- The Archibald Biodiversity Centre
- Target Airspray
- Origin Malting and Brewing
- Solar Sheep Grazing operation
- The new Rural Routes Agriculture Academy
- A heritage pork “farm-to-fork” operation

To kick off the event, attendees are invited to participate in one of two optional pre-tour experiences:

- A golf tournament at Speargrass Golf Course, or
- A guided tour of Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park at Siksika Nation

The Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board is proud of our local farmers, ranchers, and agri-businesses, and we look forward to sharing their stories, operations, and innovations with colleagues from across the province.

Tour details and registration information are available at:

[www.wheatlandcounty.ca/asbtour](http://www.wheatlandcounty.ca/asbtour)

*Please note that space and local accommodations are limited, and early registration is encouraged.*

**The registration deadline is May 15.**

We sincerely hope you can join us this July and look forward to welcoming you to Wheatland County.



# ASB Summer Tour Schedule

## July 14, 2026 – Registration & Welcome Events

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
12:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Tour Registration	Strathmore
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Golf Tournament	TBA
12:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park	Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, Siksika Nation
5:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Wine and Cheese Welcome Reception	Strathmore

## July 15, 2026 – Day 1 Tour

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
7:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Registration	Strathmore
6:30 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast	Strathmore
8:30 AM	Bus Departs	Strathmore
—	Tour Stop 1	TBA
—	Tour Stop 2	TBA
12:00 PM	Lunch	TBA
1:00 PM	Bus Departs	TBA
—	Tour Stop 3	TBA
—	Tour Stop 4	TBA
—	Tour Stop 5	TBA
4:00 PM	Bus Returns	Strathmore
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Supper	Strathmore
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Entertainment	Strathmore

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## July 16, 2026 – Day 2 Tour

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
6:30 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast	Strathmore
8:30 AM	Bus Departs	Strathmore
—	Tour Stop 6	TBA
—	Tour Stop 7	TBA



4/10/26, 5:58 PM

ASB Summer Tour Schedule - Wheatland County

12:00 PM	Lunch	TBA
1:00 PM	Bus Departs	TBA
—	Tour Stop 8	TBA
—	Tour Stop 9	TBA
—	Tour Stop 10	TBA
4:00 PM	Bus Returns	Strathmore
5:30 PM – 10:00 PM	Banquet and Entertainment	Strathmore





# Tour Summary

## **EH Farms**

EH Farms is a family-owned farm that specializes in raising Red Mangalitsa pigs, which are known for their curly, sheep-like wool coats and high-fat content (often referred to as the “Kobe beef” of pork). On this farm the focus is on sustainable, holistic production with “nose-to-tail” consumption. The family also shares their story, educating consumers about life on the farm and the vital role agriculture plays in their lives.

## **Solar Sheep**

Solar Sheep Inc. is an Alberta-based agrivoltaics company that integrates managed sheep grazing with solar energy sites, offering “Sheep as a Service” along with consulting, vegetation management, and land-stewardship solutions designed to improve soil health, biodiversity, and long-term sustainability.

## **Origin Malting**

Origin Malting & Brewing Co.’s brewing operation is built on a true “field-to-pint” model, where the Hilton family grows their own premium barley, malts it in-house for complete quality control, and crafts beer using ingredients sourced directly from their farm. This vertically integrated process allows them to maintain exceptional consistency, traceability, and flavour while showcasing the agricultural heritage behind every pint they produce.

## **Archibald Biodiversity Centre**

The Archibald Biodiversity Centre, a one-of-a-kind facility operated by the Wilder Institute (Calgary Zoo), is a conservation and research facility dedicated to protecting threatened wildlife through science-based breeding programs, habitat restoration, and species recovery initiatives. The centre houses and breeds at-risk species, preparing them for release back into the wild to support long-term population recovery.

## **Rural Routes Agricultural Academy**

Rural Route Agriculture Academy is a K–12 charter school in Wheatland County that delivers hands-on, agriculture-focused education through project-based, nature-based learning, helping students build real-world skills, environmental stewardship, and strong community values.

## **Strathmore Seed Cleaning Plant**

The Strathmore Seed Cleaning Plant is a modern facility and unique in that the operation provides professional seed cleaning, commercial grain separation, C-can loading, bagging, and pedigreed seed to local producers and grain exporters.



### **Target Airspray**

Target Airspray is a family-run aerial application company that operates with a focus on efficient coverage, strong customer relationships, and the same commitment to quality crop protection that has sustained it for more than five decades. Target Air uses three turbine powered Thrush 510 aircraft each equipped with the most modern GPS guidance systems to provide the highest quality of pest control applications in the most efficient and timely manner possible.

### **Western Irrigation District**

The Western Irrigation District (WID) is a long-standing Alberta water-management organization that has, for more than 75 years, delivered raw water to irrigators and communities east of Calgary. Learn more about the future of on-farm water storage, irrigation technology, and water conservation.

[Return Home](#)

## About Wheatland County

Wheatland County is a municipal district in south-central Alberta, Canada, east of Calgary with a population of 8,738 in 2021. Located in Census Division No. 5, its municipal office is located east of Strathmore on Highway 1.

## Wheatland County Office

242006 Range Road 243  
Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4

403-934-3321

### **Hours of Operation**

Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

## Helpful Links



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## Bill 22 Fact Sheet

### Animal Protection Amendment Act

#### What is the Animal Protection Act?

Alberta's *Animal Protection Act* (APA) prohibits causing or allowing an animal to remain in distress and establishes the basic minimum duties of care for which all animal owners and caregivers are responsible. The APA provides tools for peace officers to act when animals are in distress, lacking adequate care or are abandoned.

#### Why is it changing?

The *Animal Protection Act* was last updated two decades ago. If passed, Bill 22 will modernize the act and make Alberta a leader at addressing repeat offences.

#### What is being amended?

The *Animal Protection Amendment Act* will see dozens of changes, including:

- Improving outcomes for animals in distress or at risk of distress
  - The act will be updated to reflect current definitions related to distress, animal care duties and abandonment
  - Address gaps for responding to animals in distress, including authority to issue and follow up on corrective action orders
  - Align the *Animal Protection Act* with other Canadian jurisdictions
- Improving court orders to protect animals from repeat offences
  - Expand availability of prohibition orders and provide guidance to the court to ensure orders are effective
  - Create statutory powers to inspect for compliance and address violations
  - Make Alberta a leader by allowing enforcement of prohibition orders issued in other provinces and territories
- Modernization of inspection authorities
  - Enable inspection of additional activities, including boarding and grooming facilities
- Increasing maximum fines from \$20,000 to \$250,000 and enabling jail time

#### Who will be affected?

While any Albertan who owns or interacts with animals could be affected by the changes, most will not be impacted by the updated act.

#### When will the Animal Protection Amendment Act come into effect?

These amendments will come into force on proclamation. The changes are intended to align with amendments to the Animal Protection Regulation, which is expected to be completed later in 2026.

#### Where can I get more information?

Connect with the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian via [AGI.OCPVpolicy@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AGI.OCPVpolicy@gov.ab.ca).



## Municipal District of **GREENVIEW**

March 24, 2026

Honourable Marjorie Michel  
Minister of Health  
Health Canada  
Address Locator 0900C2  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Attention: Minister of Health

Re: Council Concerns with Proposed Amendments to the Traceability Regulation

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Council of the Municipal District of Greenview, we are writing to formally express concern regarding the proposed amendments to the federal Traceability Regulation, particularly as they relate to mandatory reporting timelines, reliance on digital reporting systems, and the resulting impacts on livestock producers operating in northern and rural regions.

The Municipal District of Greenview is a large, predominantly rural municipality in northwestern Alberta with a strong livestock production base. Council is concerned that the proposed amendments do not adequately account for the realities faced by producers in regions where reliable internet and cellular connectivity remain limited or unavailable. Many livestock operations within Greenview are located in remote areas where consistent access to broadband services does not exist, and producers may only have periodic connectivity.

The proposed seven day reporting deadline presents a serious compliance challenge under these conditions. Council is concerned that producers may face enforcement risks or administrative penalties despite making reasonable efforts to comply, simply because of infrastructure limitations beyond their control. Regulatory requirements that rely heavily on timely electronic reporting must reflect current rural connectivity and availability to be both fair and workable.

Council is also concerned about the cumulative impact the proposed amendments will have on the cost of production for livestock producers. Additional administrative requirements, increased record-keeping, investments in technology, potential reliance on third-party service providers, and added labour demands will all contribute to higher operating costs. These added pressures come at a time when producers are already managing rising input costs,

market uncertainty, and narrow margins. For many family-run operations, the financial and administrative burden associated with the proposed changes is significant.

Greenview Council supports the underlying objectives of traceability, including food safety, animal health, and system integrity. However, Council believes these objectives can only be achieved through regulations that are practical, regionally appropriate, and sensitive to the operational realities of northern and rural producers.

Accordingly, Council respectfully urges the federal government to reconsider aspects of the proposed amendments and to incorporate greater flexibility for regions with limited connectivity. This may include extended reporting timelines, alternative or offline reporting mechanisms, or regional accommodations where digital infrastructure does not support the proposed requirements.

Thank you for considering the concerns of Greenview Council and the livestock producers we represent. We would welcome the opportunity to provide further input or participate in continued discussions as these regulatory amendments are considered.

Respectfully,



Ryan Ratzlaff  
Reeve  
Municipal District of Greenview

cc: Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee  
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen  
Alberta Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation  
Local Members of Parliament  
RMA



The Honourable Heath MacDonald  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
1341 Baseline Road, Tower 7  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0C5

**Re: Federal Funding Cuts to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada**

On behalf of Clearwater County Council and the Clearwater County Agricultural Service Board, we are writing to express our serious concern regarding the recent federal funding cuts to agricultural research facilities, and in particular the closure of the Lacombe Research Centre.

Canada's agriculture sector is currently operating in an increasingly uncertain global environment, challenged by strained relationships with key trading partners, volatile commodity prices, climate variability, and rising international competition. In this context, the potential loss of the Lacombe Research Centre risks weakening the sector's ability to remain competitive, innovative, and resilient at a time when these attributes are more critical than ever.

Farmers must continually adapt to changing market conditions, evolving customer expectations, and emerging production and environmental risks. Scientific research is paramount to enabling producers not only to survive, but to thrive, and to reduce vulnerability and instability across the agricultural industry. Publicly funded research plays a vital role in providing practical, regionally relevant solutions that individual producers and the private sector cannot generate alone.

Canada's reputation as a reliable, high-quality agricultural exporter has been built over decades through sustained investment in publicly funded scientific research. This research has driven productivity and profitability while maintaining a strong focus on sustainability. At Lacombe, this includes critical work in crop and livestock genetics, soil health, disease and pest resistance, and environmental stewardship. Competing agricultural nations continue to invest heavily in research and innovation to secure productivity gains and export markets. It is essential that Canada does not fall behind and shift from a position of leadership to one of catch-up.

Maintaining agricultural research capacity at Lacombe is a strategic investment in regional economic stability, rural communities, and Canada's long-term food security and export success. The Lacombe Research Centre has been in operation for over a century, and the benefits of its research are cumulative, often taking decades to fully realize. The work conducted at this site cannot be easily replicated elsewhere, and the loss of long-term trials currently underway would be devastating. Once research capacity, expertise, and long-term data sets are lost, the impacts extend far beyond short-term budget considerations and are felt across generations of producers.

As an Agricultural Service Board, we see firsthand how federal research supports on-farm decision-making, extension services, and innovation at the local level. We respectfully urge the Government of Canada to reconsider the proposed funding cuts and potential closure of the Lacombe Research Centre, and to engage meaningfully with municipalities, Agricultural Service Boards, producers, and research partners when assessing regional impacts.


We believe strongly that continued investment in agricultural research is essential to ensuring a resilient, competitive, and sustainable agricultural sector for Canada.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would welcome the opportunity to participate in further discussion on how federal, provincial, and municipal partners can work together to protect this critical research capacity.

Sincerely,

X 

Aaron Terpsma  
Chairperson, Clearwater County ASB

X 

Jordan Northcott  
Reeve, Clearwater County

C.C.

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, P.C., M.P.  
The Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta, E.C.A., M.L.A.  
The Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, E.C.A., M.L.A.  
The Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of Assisted Living and Social Services, E.C.A., M.L.A.  
Tanya Day, Ministerial Liason for Health Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Paul Mackinnon, CFIA President  
Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee  
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman



March 12, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Right Honourable Heath MacDonald  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
1341 Baseline Road Tower 7, Floor 8  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5

**RE: Request to Reverse Closure of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre**

The Northern Sunrise County Agricultural Service Board echoes the concerns expressed in the letter dated February 25, 2026, from the Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC) urging reconsideration of the decision to close the Lacombe Research and Development Centre.

We have profound concerns regarding the closure of a federal research institute with 119 years of agriculture innovation and scientific advancement. Closing this facility risks the loss of decades of institutional knowledge, established research programs, and the collaborative networks built with universities, producers, and industry partners. Agriculture research is critical to advancing innovation, promoting environmental stewardship, and driving economic development to ensure the long-term sustainability and competitiveness of the Canadian agriculture industry. The closure of such a facility represents a significant loss to national research capacity in areas vital to food security and climate resilience. Once dismantled, these capabilities are extremely difficult and costly to rebuild. Maintaining a strong Canadian research infrastructure is an investment in the future of Canada's agriculture sector and its global competitiveness. The innovations and knowledge generated in an evolving world will shape the productivity, sustainability, and resilience of our industry for decades to come.

We strongly encourage the Government of Canada to consider alternative options to safeguard the research partnership in Lacombe and other federal research institutes, which are essential to the long-term stability and success of Canada's agriculture sector.

We respectfully urge the Government of Canada to:

1. Pause and reconsider the closure of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre.
2. Preserve critical capacity in forage breeding, feed efficiency selection, carcass grading, and food safety research.
3. Protect long-term data sets and ensure completion of producer-funded projects.
4. Engage directly with provincial, municipal, and industry partners to explore collaborative solutions that maintain national research capacity.





Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Lavoie'.

Simon Lavoie, Chairperson  
Agricultural Service Board  
Northern Sunrise County

CC: Claude Rodrigue, Reeve  
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards  
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen  
Honourable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation



Northern Sunrise County is a supportive  
community where people can grow,  
prosper, and belong.  
We've got it all!



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

*John Barlow*  
Member of Parliament  
Foothills

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

Dear Members of the Agriculture Service Boards,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your commitment and tireless advocacy in support of Western Canadian farmers and ranchers. Your dedicated efforts were instrumental in securing the Liberal government's approval for the emergency use of strychnine as an essential tool for prairie agricultural operations.

The Agriculture Service Boards across Alberta and Saskatchewan demonstrated exceptional leadership by providing important evidence and comprehensive data that clearly established strychnine as an essential tool for our farming communities.

Your advocacy provided the evidence needed to support Western Canadian agriculture.

I look forward to continuing our collaboration as we work together to support the vital interests of our farming and ranching communities.

Sincerely,

MP John Barlow  
Shadow Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

<i>Ottawa</i>	<i>Constituency Office</i>
Room 310, Justice Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6 Tel.: 613-995-8471 Fax.: 613-996-9770	109 - 4th Avenue South West High River, Alberta T1V 1M5 John.Barlow@parl.gc.ca <a href="http://johnbarlowmp.ca/">http://johnbarlowmp.ca/</a>