



AGENDA

Agricultural Service Board Meeting

9:00 AM - Monday, April 22, 2024
Council Chambers

Page

-
- A. CALL TO ORDER**
- B. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**
- C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**
- 3 - 6 1. **Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes**
[Agricultural Service Board - 26 Oct 2023 - Minutes](#)
- D. DELEGATIONS**
1. **10:00 a.m. - Karen Schmid - Alberta Beef Producers - Foot and Mouth Disease Presentation**
2. **10:40 a.m. - Lethbridge County Livestock Emergency Plan - Heath Wright, Regional Manager of Emergency Services**
- E. NEW BUSINESS**
- 7 - 31 1. **Agricultural Service Board Level of Service**
[Agricultural Service Board Level of Service](#)
- F. CORRESPONDENCE**
- 32 - 51 1. **Alberta Livestock Assistance Program**
[Alberta Livestock Assistance Program](#)
- 52 2. **County of Warner - 2024 Provincial ASB Conference STARS Charity Live & Silent Auction**
[County of Warner - 2024 Provincial ASB Conference STARS Charity Live & Silent Auction](#)
- 53 - 54 3. **Northern Sunrise County - Pest Management Regulatory Agency**
[Northern Sunrise County - Pest Management Regulatory Agency](#)
- 55 - 57 4. **Northern Sunrise County - Proposed Changes to Weed Control Regulation**

[Northern Sunrise County - Proposed Changes to Weed Control Regulation](#)

- 58 - 59 5. **Saddle Hill County - Proposed Changes to the Weed Control Regulation**
[Saddle Hill County - Proposed Changes to the Weed Control Regulation](#)
- 60 - 62 6. **Insect Survey Results**
[Insect Survey Results](#)
- 63 - 81 7. **Farm Safety Centre Update & Donation Request**
[Farm Safety Centre Update & Donation Request](#)
- 82 8. **Mackenzie County - Provincial ASB Conference**
[Mackenzie County - Provincial ASB Conference](#)
- 83 9. **Brazeau County - Provincial ASB Conference**
[Brazeau County - Provincial ASB Conference](#)
- 84 10. **Mountain View County - Provincial ASB Conference**
[Mountain View County - Provincial ASB Conference](#)

G. OTHER BUSINESS

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

H. CLOSED SESSION

1. **Blood Tribe Kainaiwa Weed Issue**
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)**
3. **Research Partnerships (FOIP Section 21 - Disclosure harmful to intergovernmental relations)**

I. ADJOURN



MINUTES

Agricultural Service Board Meeting

9:00 AM - Thursday, October 26, 2023
Council Chambers

The Agricultural Service Board of Lethbridge County was called to order on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 9:00 AM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Chair Klaas VanderVeen
Vice Chair John Kuerbis
Councillor Eric Van Essen
Councillor Lorne Hickey
ASB Member at Large Ken Coles
ASB Member at Large Dan Chapman
ASB Member at Large Logan Miller
Director, Operations Jeremy Wickson
Supervisor, Agricultural Services Gary Secrist
Executive Assistant Candice Robison

A. CALL TO ORDER

Director of Public Operations Jeremy Wickson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

B. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

9-2023 Deputy Reeve Kuerbis MOVED that the October 26, 2023 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda be approved, as presented. CARRIED

C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

C.1. Agricultural Service Board Minutes

10-2023 Deputy Reeve Kuerbis MOVED that the March 28, 2023 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes be approved, as presented. CARRIED

D. NEW BUSINESS

D.1. Chair and Vice Chair Discussion

Director of Public Operations Jeremy Wickson explained the next item on the agenda would be the nomination of the Chair for the ensuing year and called for nominations for Chair.

11-2023 Deputy Reeve Kuerbis MOVED to recommend to Council that Klaas VanderVeen be nominated as Chair of the Agricultural Service Board for the 2023/2024 year. CARRIED

Seconded by Ken Coles

Director of Public Operations Jeremy Wickson explained the next item on the agenda would be the nomination and election of the Vice Chair for the ensuing year and called for nominations for Vice Chair.

Ken Coles nominated John Kuerbis. John Kuerbis accepted the nomination.

G.3. Northern Sunrise County - Appreciation of the Increase of Funding for Agricultural Service Boards

The ASB reviewed correspondence from Northern Sunrise County regarding appreciation of the increase of funding for Agricultural Service Boards.

G.4. Agricultural Service Board Position Statement on Agriculture Extension

The ASB reviewed the Agricultural Service Board Position Statement on Agricultural Extension.

G.5. ASB Report Card on Resolutions

The ASB reviewed the ASB Report Card on Resolutions.

G.6. County of Warner No. 5 - Increase of Funding for Agricultural Service Boards

The ASB reviewed correspondence from the County of Warner No. 5 regarding increased funding for Agricultural Service Boards.

G.7. Big Lakes County - Maintaining the Integrity of our Pesticide Regulatory System

The ASB reviewed correspondence from Big Lakes County regarding maintaining the integrity of the Pesticide Regulatory System.

G.8. Big Lakes County - Support for University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Programs

The ASB reviewed correspondence from Big Lake County regarding support for the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Programs.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

H.1. Liquid Manure Dragline Update - Bill MacMillan

The Director of Public Operations provided an update on the Liquid Manure Dragline.

H.2. Research Possibilities with the University of Lethbridge - Bill MacMillan

The Director of Public Operations provided an update on research possibilities with the University of Lethbridge.

H.3. ASB Strategic Planning Possibility

The Supervisor of Agriculture Services provided an update on the ASB strategic planning possibility.

H.4. Shaughnessy Playground Video

The ASB reviewed a video of the new Shaughnessy playground.

I. CLOSED SESSION

I.1. - 2024 Bank of Montreal/Calgary Stampede Farm Family Awards Program (FOIP Section 19 - Confidential Evaluations)

14-2023 ASB Member at Large Miller MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board Meeting move into Closed Session, pursuant to Section 197 of the Municipal Government Act, the time being 11:34 a.m. for the discussion on the following:

I.1. - 2024 Bank of Montreal/Calgary Stampede Farm Family Awards Program (FOIP Section 19 - Confidential Evaluations)

Present during the Closed Session:
Agricultural Service Board Members
Chief Administrative Officer
Director of Public Operations
Administrative Staff
CARRIED

15-2023 ASB Member at Large Coles MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board Meeting move out of the closed session at 11:54 a.m. CARRIED

I.1. 2024 Bank of Montreal/Calgary Stampede Farm Family Awards Program

16-2023 ASB Member at Large Coles MOVED that the Agriculture Service Board nominates three families, in order of preference, to be contacted by the Supervisor of Agriculture Services for acceptance of the 2024 Bank of Montreal Farm Family Award. CARRIED

J. ADJOURN

17-2023 ASB Member at Large Miller MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board Meeting adjourn at 12:02 p.m. CARRIED

ASB Chairman

CAO

AGENDA ITEM REPORT



Title: Agricultural Service Board Level of Service
Meeting: Agricultural Service Board - 22 Apr 2024
Department: Agriculture Service Board
Report Author: Gary Secrist

APPROVAL(S):

Cole Beck, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 15 Mar 2024

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 2024. Each year as the budget is set the Level of Service document will be brought forward with any revisions for the ASB to review.

RECOMMENDATION:

Moved that the Agricultural Service Board 2024 Level of Service be recommended 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 is up for renewal in 2025. The document will be available to the public who will gain a better understanding of service levels provided and approved.

ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

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 2024 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 out ASB services with the set budget as a template.

LEVEL OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Inform Consult Involve Collaborate Empower

ATTACHMENTS:

[2024 LOS](#)

Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board

Business Plan



Vision

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

Mission

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

Values

Service- Agriculture is the foundation of 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.

Agricultural Service Board Level of Service



Created July 2022

Revised January 2024



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1. 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 and
- 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 20 traps for Magpie and Skunk Control.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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).

12. 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

1. Weed Control and Vegetation Management

- A. Integrated Weed Management
- B. Weed Extension and Inspections
- C. Weed Notices
- D. Leafy Spurge and Knapweed Vegetation Management
- E. Prohibited Noxious Weed Control

2. Agricultural Pest Act Polices

- A. Surveys
- B. Live Traps
- C. Norway Rat
- D. Coyotes
- E. Skunks
- F. Grasshopper Control

3. Soil Conservation Act

- A. Soil Conservation Management

4. Roadside Mowing

- A. Roadside Mowing

5. Rental Equipment and ASB Schedule of Fees

- A. ASB Rental Equipment
- B. Schedule of Fees/ASB Related Portion of Bylaw #20-022

6. Parks Polices

- A. Parks Vegetation Management
- B. Playground and Trail Inspection

7. Maps

- A. Roadside Mowing
- B. Roadside Spray Program

Appendix A – Weed Control and Vegetation Management

Guidelines and Procedures

A. Integrated Weed Management

- i. To control weeds in Lethbridge County on a timely basis; to ensure compliance with the Weed Control Act.
- ii. Paved and oiled roads receive priority.
- iii. 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.
- iv. 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.
- v. Only chemicals registered for right-of-way use are employed.
- vi. 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.
- vii. Landowners that do not want their road allowances sprayed must visibly post DO NOT SPRAY signage so that operators have sufficient time to react.
- viii. “Do Not Spray” signs are available at the ASB Office in Picture Butte.
 - a. Landholders posting “Do Not Spray” must sign a “No Spray Zone” Agreement with Lethbridge County.
- ix. The County’s rights-of-way are not considered as a “buffer zone” for organic farming purposes.
- x. 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.
- xi. 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.
- xii. The roadside spraying program is advertised prior to commencement of spray activities.
- xiii. Roadside spraying is coordinated with roadside mowing to avoid duplication.

B. Weed Inspections

- i. The Weed Inspector will enforce the Provincial Weed Control Act during the growing season from May to September.
- ii. The Inspector conducts their duties under the supervision of the Supervisor of Agriculture Services or their designate.

- iii. The Inspector will contact landholders to provide weed control extension materials, where necessary.
- iv. County employees will always exercise suitable public relation skills when engaging landholders by applying a firm but fair approach.

C. Weed Notices

- i. Notices to remedy a weed problem are issued at the discretion of the Supervisor of Agriculture Services or their designate.
- ii. Notices are issued under the provisions outlined in the current Alberta Weed Control Act.
- iii. 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.
- iv. 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.
- v. 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.

D. Leafy Spurge and Knapweed

- i. 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.
 - a. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. If the landowner does not respond to treatment requests for these species, a weed notice will be issued.

E. Prohibited Noxious Weeds

- i. 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.
- ii. Where necessary, the affected landholder is issued a Weed Notice, as outlined under the Weed Control Act.
- iii. Where the landholder is provided the option to treat infestations occurring in row cropped fields.
 - a. 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.
 - b. Spot spraying must be with a non-selective herbicide registered for control of the prohibited noxious weed.
 - c. All impacted plant material must be disposed of as directed by the Weed Inspector.

- iv. Where the weed inspector determines that:
 - a. rogueing or spot spraying a prohibited noxious weed occurring in a row crop is not feasible, or
 - b. The noxious weed infestation eradication was not conducted effectively.
- i. The affected area will, at the discretion of the Supervisor of Agriculture, be the eradicated of all vegetation within the infested area though:
 - a. The application of a non-selective herbicide to the entire infested area or,
 - b. By plowing under the entire infested area.
- v. Harvest of a previously affected row crop field must be supervised by the Weed Inspector to reduce potential cross-contamination risks.
- vi. Eradication methods for prohibited noxious weed infestations identified in non-row cropped areas are determined by the Weed Inspector.
- vii. Persons failing to comply with a noxious weed notification are subject to the provisions set out under the Weed Control Act.

F. Clubroot Inspection and Control

- i. Field Surveys
 - a) Yearly inspections for Clubroot in Canola are completed by Agricultural Services Staff.
 - b) Clubroot survey method, sampling technique, reporting and calculation of disease incidence must follow standard protocols provided by the Alberta Clubroot Management Committee.
 - c) Positive identification of Clubroot in canola shall be confirmed by certified laboratory testing. Submit samples to two independent accredited laboratories. Samples declared positive by both laboratories confirm the presence of Club Root.
- ii. Disease Spread Reduction
 - a) 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.
 - b) The "Notice to Control Pests" may include any or all the following conditions:
 - iii. A four-year prohibition from growing canola, mustard, and brassica crops.
- iv. 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.
- v. An owner or occupant must follow a Clubroot Management Plan, intended to reduce the spread of the disease through movement of soil or equipment¹.
- vi. All other users of the said field(s) must adhere to the same best management practices for Clubroot sanitation.
- vii. Prohibited crops grown within the four-year prohibition period will be destroyed, at the expense of the grower, using any appropriate means.
- viii. All neighboring landowners and all industries having a genuine commercial interest will be notified of the confirmed positive Clubroot incidence and its location.
- ix. 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.

¹ Alberta Agriculture, 2014. Clubroot Management Plan. <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/7089438>.

- x. Lethbridge County will review these guidelines and procedures within one year of a positive Clubroot result with the County.

G. Seed Cleaning Plants

- i. 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.
- ii. Seed plants are inspected once a year by the Supervisor of Agriculture Services, or their designate.
- iii. A minimum of 20 samples per plant will be collected randomly throughout the year.
- iv. 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

- A. Surveys
 - i. 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.
 - ii. The Supervisor of Agriculture Services will negotiate survey methodology and cost share agreements prior to any survey being undertaken.
 - iii. Surveys are completed with consideration to optimum survey timing, accounting for competing county programs and staffing needs.

- B. Live Traps
 - i. Live traps are available to County landowners or lessees to enable control of Magpies, Raccoons, or Skunks.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. The landholder is charged for Live Traps in accordance with the Schedule of Fees Bylaw.

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

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

- E. Skunks
 - i. 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.

- ii. Where the resident is unable, for any reason, to eliminate the animal, the investigating Officer will trap or eliminate any skunk(s) behaving abnormally acting abnormally on behalf of the complainant.
- iii. 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.
- iv. 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.
- v. 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.

F. Grasshopper Control

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

Appendix C - Soil Conservation Management

Guidelines and Procedures

- A. Soil Conservation
- i. Lethbridge County's ASB recognizes the protection of soil quality and integrity is vital to agricultural, environmental, and human sustainability.
 - a. Alberta's Soil Conservation Act, its associated regulations, as periodically amended, provide the legislated mandate to prevent loss or deterioration of the soil resource.
 - b. The County is authorized by the province to enforce the Soil Conservation Act
 - ii. Soil Conservation notices are issued at the discretion of the Supervisor of Agriculture Services or their designate.
 - iii. When a notice is issued, non-compliance may result in remedial work, either by the County or a Contractor designated by the County.
 - iv. Remedial work may include mitigation work in the affected field(s) or removal of resulting soil deposits in County owned roadways or drainage ditches.
 - v. 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.
 - vi. 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.
 - vii. Upon completion, costs for the remedial complete by the County or its contractor, the legally titled landholder is issued an invoice.
 - viii. Where the invoice is not paid on or before the due date, the amount will be subject to penalties and interest charges.
 - ix. 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.
 - x. 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

A. Roadside Mowing

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

A. Rental Equipment

- i. ASB rents equipment for use exclusively on land located within Lethbridge County boundaries.
- ii. A current ASB rental equipment list and fees is advertised annually.
- iii. A chronological applicants list is maintained, and equipment distribution is provided on a first come, first-serve basis, as near as practical.
- iv. County personnel are responsible for moving rental equipment to and between farms.
- v. 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.
- vi. The applicant will provide suitable equipment and competent personnel to operate County equipment.
- vii. 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.
- viii. The program is evaluated annually to implement necessary LOS or guideline changes.

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

Guidelines and Procedures

A. Parks

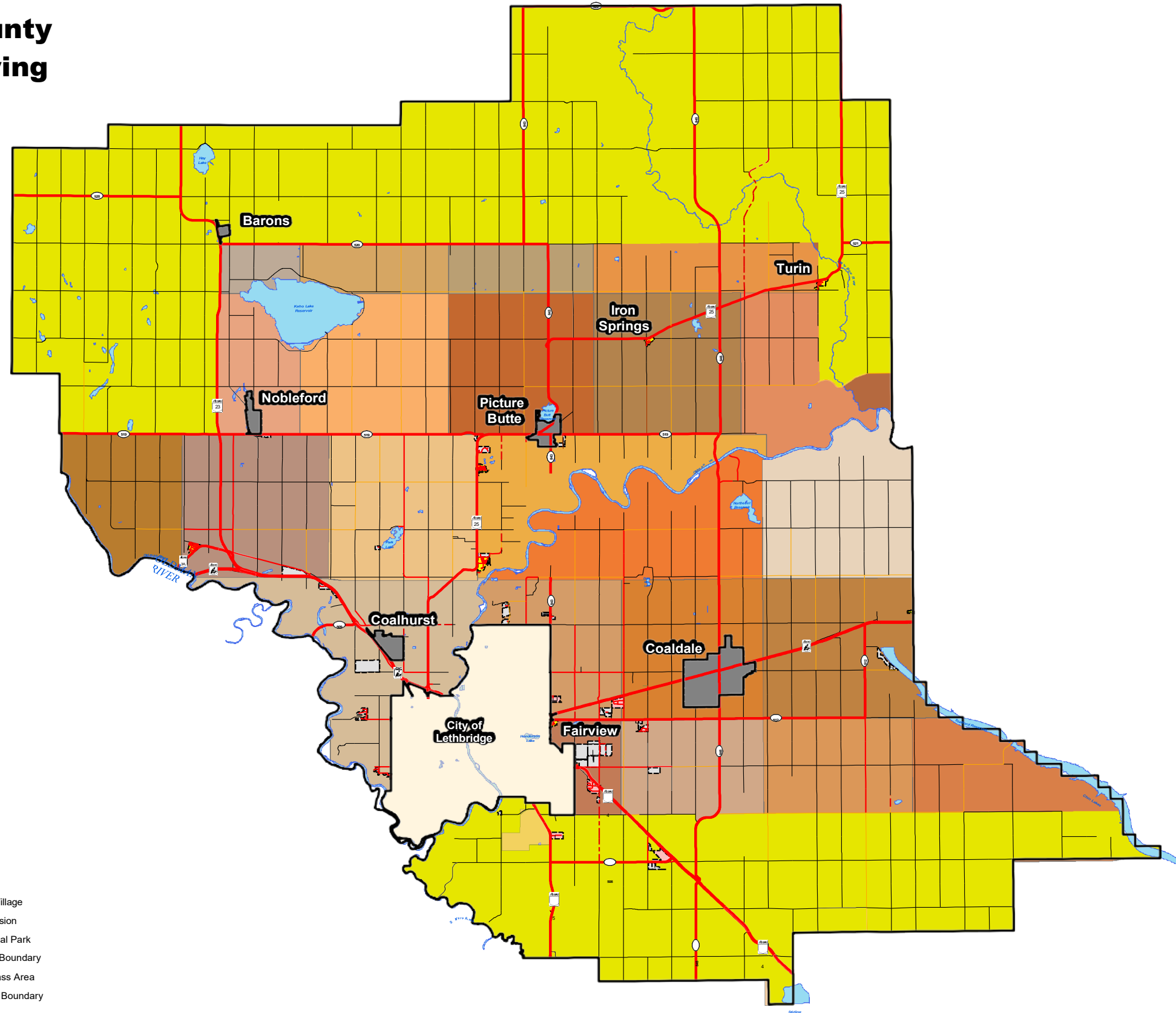
- i. County Parks maintenance is the responsibility of the Agricultural Department.
- ii. The Parks department consists of the following:
 - a. All municipal designated hamlet playgrounds and equipment.
 - b. Municipal designated green space and walking paths.
 - c. Inactive municipal school yards.
 - d. Cemetery maintenance at Elinor, Albion Ridge, White Lake, and Barons cemeteries.

Guidelines and Procedures

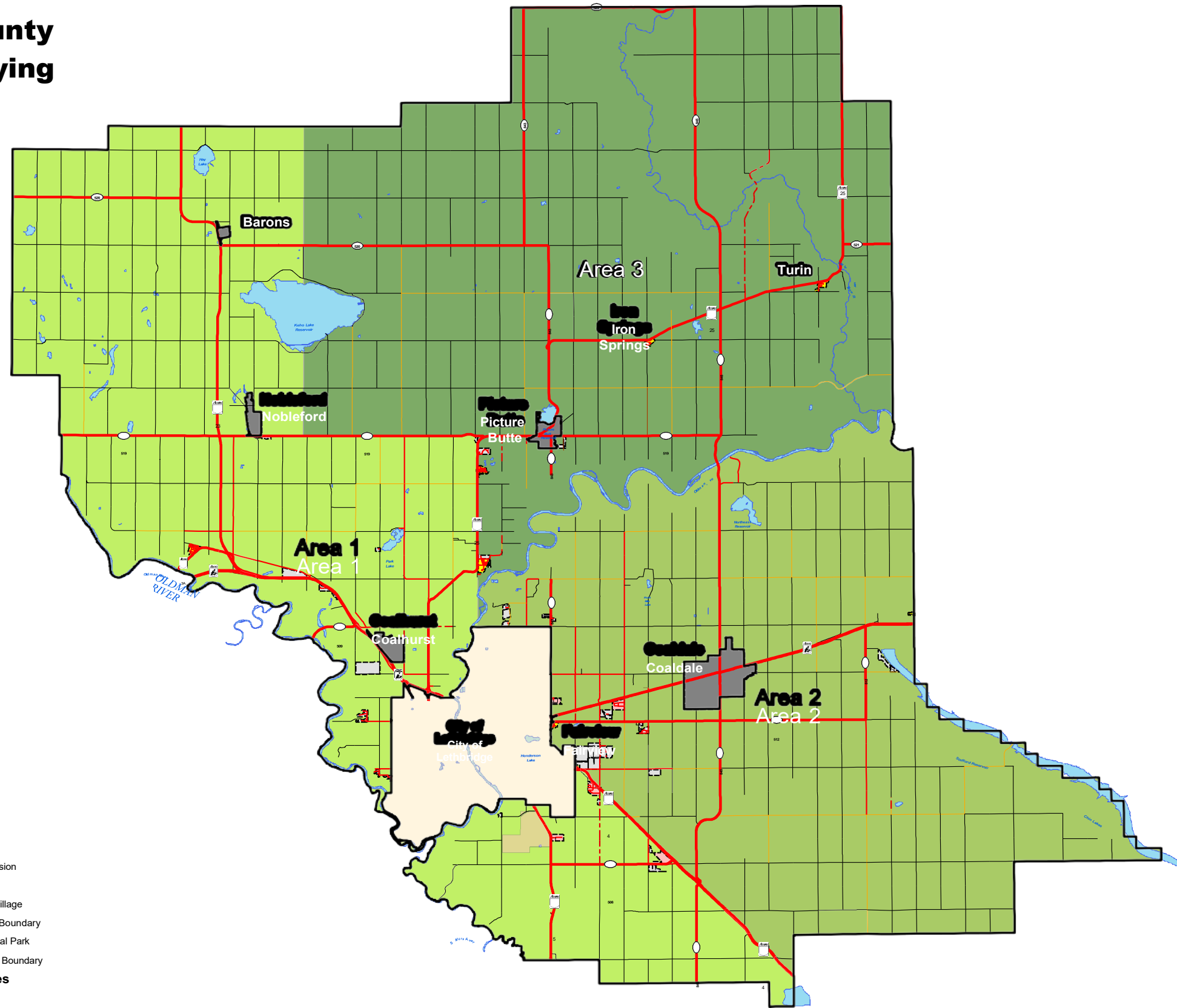
B. Playground & Trail Inspection

- i. **Playgrounds are inspected by staff certified in playground inspection every two months, at a minimum.**
- ii. Lethbridge County trail systems are inspected by a department staff member on a semi-annual basis.
- iii. Inspections are recorded on the appropriate forms, including:
 - a. Hazardous or potentially hazardous conditions.
 - b. Corrective action required or taken to address identified hazards.
 - c. Inspection date and inspector's signature.
 - d. Inspection forms are submitted to the Supervisor of Agriculture Services for review and coordination of necessary actions.
- iv. Supplemental
 - a. Playground equipment and Trails are also inspected by County crews during maintenance activities.
 - b. All equipment, facility and trail deficiencies identified by County maintenance crews are recorded and, wherever possible, corrected immediately.
 - c. Any debris, broken glass, foreign objects, etc. are removed from the site during inspection or maintenance activities.
 - d. Where identified deficiencies cannot be corrected immediately:
 - i. The inspector or maintenance crew will erect caution tape to isolate the affected area.
 - ii. In such cases, qualified staff will be notified immediately to schedule the necessary corrective action as soon as feasibly possible.

Lethbridge County Roadside Mowing



Lethbridge County Roadside Spraying



Legend

County Roads

- Gravel
- - - Gravel (Base Stabilized)
- Paved (HMA)
- Paved (CMA)
- Concrete
- Cement Stabilized
- Provincial Highways

- Subdivision
- Hamlet
- Town/Village
- Airport Boundary
- Industrial Park
- County Boundary
- Spray Zones**
- Area 1
- Area 2



101-1101 5 St., Nisku, AB T9E 2X3
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Agricultural Services

Dec. 01, 2023

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Legislature Building 10800 97 Ave.
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Attention: the Honourable Minister Sigurdson

Re: 2023 AgriRecovery Program for livestock producers and Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance (CADLA) Program

The Leduc County Agricultural Service Board is writing to express its concern regarding the exemption of Leduc County from the 2023 AgriRecovery Program for livestock producers and the 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance (CADLA) Program.

Like many municipalities in Alberta, Leduc County entered the 2023 growing season in a severe moisture deficit. The County did not receive significant precipitation until mid-June, which was well after early pasture production was set. While June did bring much-needed moisture, it arrived too late to provide sufficient grass and forage for livestock. This resulted in many producers having to supplement their feed with annual crop and make difficult decisions about herd size.

While the Agricultural Service Board appreciates that there should be a standardized method to determine eligibility for programs such as the CADLA, it questions whether these methods were measured against the reality on the ground.

The eligibility for the CADLA program was based on the Canadian Drought Monitor map, which is a federal data set that is supplemented by weather station information across the province. On this map, Leduc County and most of the area in central Alberta is labelled as "drought not analyzed."

This designation does not provide confidence that the eligibility for the provincial assistance program accurately



reflects the conditions in those areas where producers were severely impacted.

It's important to note that the severity of Leduc County's 2023 growing season was recognized by the federal government through the Federal Livestock Tax Deferral Program, which is triggered when forage yields are less than 50 per cent of the long-term average for the area because of drought or flooding in a given year. This is worth mentioning because if it is federally recognized that the forage and feed situation for Alberta producers is dire, it should be provincially recognized as well.

The Leduc County Agricultural Service Board would like the province to reconsider assisting producers because of this the significant lack of analysis and oversight. We trust that the province will be open to re-examining the data and stakeholder input to get a true and accurate understanding of the situation. We believe that this re-examination will provide the necessary data to make a fully informed decision. We ask the province to provide the same level of support to all Alberta livestock producers as they have all been equally affected by the 2023 drought.

Yours truly,



Glenn Belozar, Agricultural Service Board Chair
Leduc County

cc: Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta
Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta
Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)



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Agricultural Services

Dec. 01, 2023

Kelly Smith-Fraser
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
5718 – 56 Ave.
Lacombe, AB
T4L 1B1

Attention: Kelly Smith-Fraser

Re: 2023 AgriRecovery Program for livestock producers and Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance (CADLA) Program

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Like many municipalities in Alberta, Leduc County entered the 2023 growing season in a severe moisture deficit. The County did not receive significant precipitation until mid-June, which was well after early pasture production was set. While June did bring much-needed moisture, it arrived too late to provide sufficient grass and forage for livestock. This resulted in many producers having to supplement their feed with annual crop and make difficult decisions about herd size.

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The eligibility for the CADLA program was based on the Canadian Drought Monitor map, which is a federal data set that is supplemented by weather station information across the province. On this map, Leduc County and most of the area in central Alberta is labelled as “drought not analyzed.”



This designation does not provide confidence that the eligibility for the provincial assistance program accurately reflects the conditions in those areas where producers were severely impacted.

Drought conditions and other weather-related occurrences do not follow municipal boundaries. In a situation where severe feed shortages are present throughout the province, it is very difficult to understand program requirements when they are not outlined in detail.

Within Leduc County, weather data collected from Aug. 1, 2022 until May 31, 2023 indicated that the area was experiencing one in 50-year drought conditions relative to the long-term normal conditions.

This time frame of low precipitation created the most significant loss of pasture and forage growth in the 2023 growing season. Although moisture did arrive in mid-June, it was too late for early season recovery.

The precipitation Leduc County received from June through September was enough to reach near normal precipitation for the 2023; however, it was not timely and was too heavy to be properly absorbed by the soil, which resulted in significant runoff and was of no use for the pasture or forage.

It's important to note that the severity of Leduc County's 2023 growing season was recognized by the federal government through the Federal Livestock Tax Deferral Program, which is triggered when forage yields are less than 50 per cent of the long-term average for the area because of drought or flooding in a given year. This is worth mentioning because if it is federally recognized that the forage and feed situation for Alberta producers is dire, it should be provincially recognized as well.

The Leduc County Agricultural Service Board would like the AFSC, as the administrators of the CADLA program, to outline the decision-making process for the determination of the geographical requirements for this initiative, detail the data gathered and utilized to create the geographical boundaries, and provide the reasoning for those decisions. We hope that the province will be open to re-examining the data and information from input from its stakeholders and other data sources to get a true and accurate understanding of the local situation on the ground.

Yours truly,



Glenn Belzer, Agricultural Service Board Chair
Leduc County

cc: Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta
Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta
Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)



Municipal District of Bighorn No. 8

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Fax: (403) 673-3895 • Email: bighorn@mdbighorn.ca

Website: www.mdbighorn.ca

December 4, 2023

Honorable Lawrence MacAulay
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Honorable Minister MacAulay:

Re: 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance program

It has come to our attention that the recently announced AgriRecovery program regarding drought assistance for livestock producers in Alberta excludes the Municipal District of Bighorn. We note that municipal jurisdictions on our south, east and northeast are included. It is our understanding that the Canada Drought Monitor as well as rainfall records from some weather stations impacted the decision.

Please provide for us the specific information that the Canada Drought Monitor used in concluding that our municipality, the Municipal District of Bighorn, did not experience a severe drought. Of interest would also be a list of weather stations and their rainfall amounts.

Kind regards,

Jackie Phillips

Chair of the Agricultural Services and Environmental Advisory Board
for the Municipal District of Bighorn

CC: Honorable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Jason Hale, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Blake Richards, MP Banff – Airdrie
Sarah Elmeligi, MLA Banff – Kananaskis
Paul McLauchlin, RMA President
Brenda Knight, ASB Provincial Committee Chair
Aaron Van Beers, Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen President
Agriculture Financial Service Corporation (AFSC)



January 31st, 2024

Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Lawrence MacAulay
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Subject: 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Initiative, 2023 Livestock Tax Deferral

On Thursday, January 25th, 2024, the Alberta Government announced 23 municipalities were added to the Canada- Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program (CADLA). The MD of Lesser Slave River, the MD of Greenview, and Brazeau County were again left off the eligible areas for the Initiative and remain off the listing for the 2023 Livestock Tax Deferral. A review of the federal drought monitoring data and an understanding of our municipalities leaves us with some questions, as to the eligibility criteria for including municipalities, that we would like to raise.

As municipalities straddling the transition from agricultural white zone into forested Crown green zone, we usually get abundant moisture to allow taking high yields of forage. Farming in the transition zone means we also face harsher temperature regimes, often limiting our producers to one safe cut of forages. This cut is taken mid-July to early August with the yield being reflective of growing conditions experienced in late May into early July. The CDM shows our municipalities experienced D1 and higher drought conditions in the agricultural white zones during that time, as seen in the following video: <https://youtu.be/4-9ZPhEAIQM>

This leads to a second concern we have with understanding eligibility for CADLA. Precipitation patterns within our municipalities are highly variable between white and green zones. If the entire areas of our municipalities are being aggregated in the CDM assessments, it is not a fair reflection of what is being experienced by our producers in our white zones. At best, some producers may manage crown grazing leases into the edge of the green zone. Aggregate weather data loses the nuance of seasonal variation and other contributing factors. These factors may be accommodated for in the assessment model used by the CDM, but it is not apparent to us.

We do not debate that matters are more severe in other parts of Alberta, but the plight of our livestock producers is painfully clear to us as the combined Agricultural Service Board membership of the above-mentioned municipalities. We ask that you consider the attached video of GIS mapping that shows the areas in question were undoubtedly impacted by the drought conditions in 2023, some severely. We ask that you consider June and July carefully, as you review the data. This data is available from the Government of Canada and is freely accessible.

Some producers are calling it a day, selling off their herds, or trying to squeak by with the stock they judge most important to their operation's future. Feed prices affecting municipalities included in the CADLA initiative are no different in our municipalities—accessing feed is provincially competitive now—and there is less feed to go around. While the 5-year provincial average for dryland hay was used as criteria for the tax deferral, the above

municipalities would put forth that the five-year average for their municipalities is 2.2 tonne per ac as opposed to the provincial average of 1.4 tonne per ac. This would meet the 50% reduction to the 5-year average of a geographic area if the area selected were municipal in nature.

We understand there are competing priorities for funding across the country. We are also aware that Alberta lobbied for the entire Province to be covered under these two programs in response to the drought conditions we are still experiencing. We hope you will reconsider this decision in light of this information, should it not currently be included in decision making criteria.

Respectfully,

Agricultural Service Board Chairs

Damond Stadnyk, MD Lesser Slave River

Warren Wohlgemuth, Municipal District of Greenview

Anthony Heinrich, Brazeau County

cc: Chris Warkentin, MP for Grande Prairie-Mackenzie, Arnold Viersen, MP for Peace River-Westlock, Gerald Soroka, MP for Yellowhead, The Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, R.J. Singurdson, The Honourable Minister of Forestry, Parks and Tourism, Todd Loewen, Scott Sinclair, MLA for Lesser Slave Lake, Ron Wiebe, MLA for Grande Prairie- Wapiti, Martin Long, MLA for West Yellowhead, Andrew Boitchenko, MLA for Drayton Valley-Devon, Shane Geston, MLA for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland, Brenda Knight, Chair, Provincial ASB Committee, Tyler Olsen, Reeve of Greenview, Stacey Wabick, CAO of Greenview, Murray Kerik, Reeve of MD of Lesser Slave River, Barry Kolenosky, CAO of MD of Lesser Slave River, Wade Williams, Mayor of Yellowhead County, Luc Mercier, CAO of Yellowhead County, Jen Benson, Manager of Agricultural Services, Yellowhead County, Bart Guyon, Reeve of Brazeau County, Kent Edney, CAO of Brazeau County, Dave Reynolds, CAO of Big Lakes County, Tyler Airth, Reeve of Big Lakes County, Dylan Fath, Manager of Agricultural Services for Big Lakes County, Aaron Van Beers, President, Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman



COUNTY OF MINBURN NO. 27

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www.MinburnCounty.ab.ca
E-Mail: info@minburncounty.ab.ca

November 27, 2023

Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Lawrence MacAulay
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Honourable Minister MacAulay:

Re: 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program

On behalf of the County of Minburn No. 27 Council I am writing to express our deep concern regarding our municipality's exclusion from the 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program. The 2023 season has proven exceptionally challenging for livestock producers in our area, with low winter precipitation and minimal moisture throughout May and June resulting in severe drought conditions for forage crops and pasture.

While late-season rain in July and August did provide some relief for annual crops, it unfortunately came too late to salvage forage crops and pasture. This has left our producers struggling to secure sufficient pasture for the remainder of the season and facing a shortage of forage for the approaching winter. The adverse impact on our agricultural community is significant, with far-reaching consequences for both our livelihoods and the broader regional economy.

Our frustration stems from the observation that neighboring municipalities to the east and north of us have been included in the assistance program. Upon reviewing weather station data from the Alberta Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC), it is evident that many stations in these municipalities received nearly double the rainfall in May and June compared to our region. Despite these discrepancies, they were deemed eligible for assistance, while our municipality was excluded.

We acknowledge that the entire province is grappling with tight feed supplies for the upcoming winter season. However, the selective inclusion of certain municipalities in the assistance program, while excluding others facing similar or worse conditions, raises concerns about the fairness and equity of the decision-making process.

Honourable Minister Lawrence MacAulay
November 27, 2023
Page 2

Considering these circumstances, we kindly request that you consult with your provincial counterparts and reconsider the eligibility criteria for the program. Specifically, we urge you to consider including all municipalities within the Moderate Drought (D1) and Abnormally Dry (D2) areas, ensuring a more equitable distribution of support to those in need.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and your dedication to the well-being of Alberta's agricultural community. Your prompt consideration of our request is crucial in providing timely relief to our struggling producers.

Thank you for your understanding and commitment to addressing the challenges faced by our agricultural sector.

Sincerely,

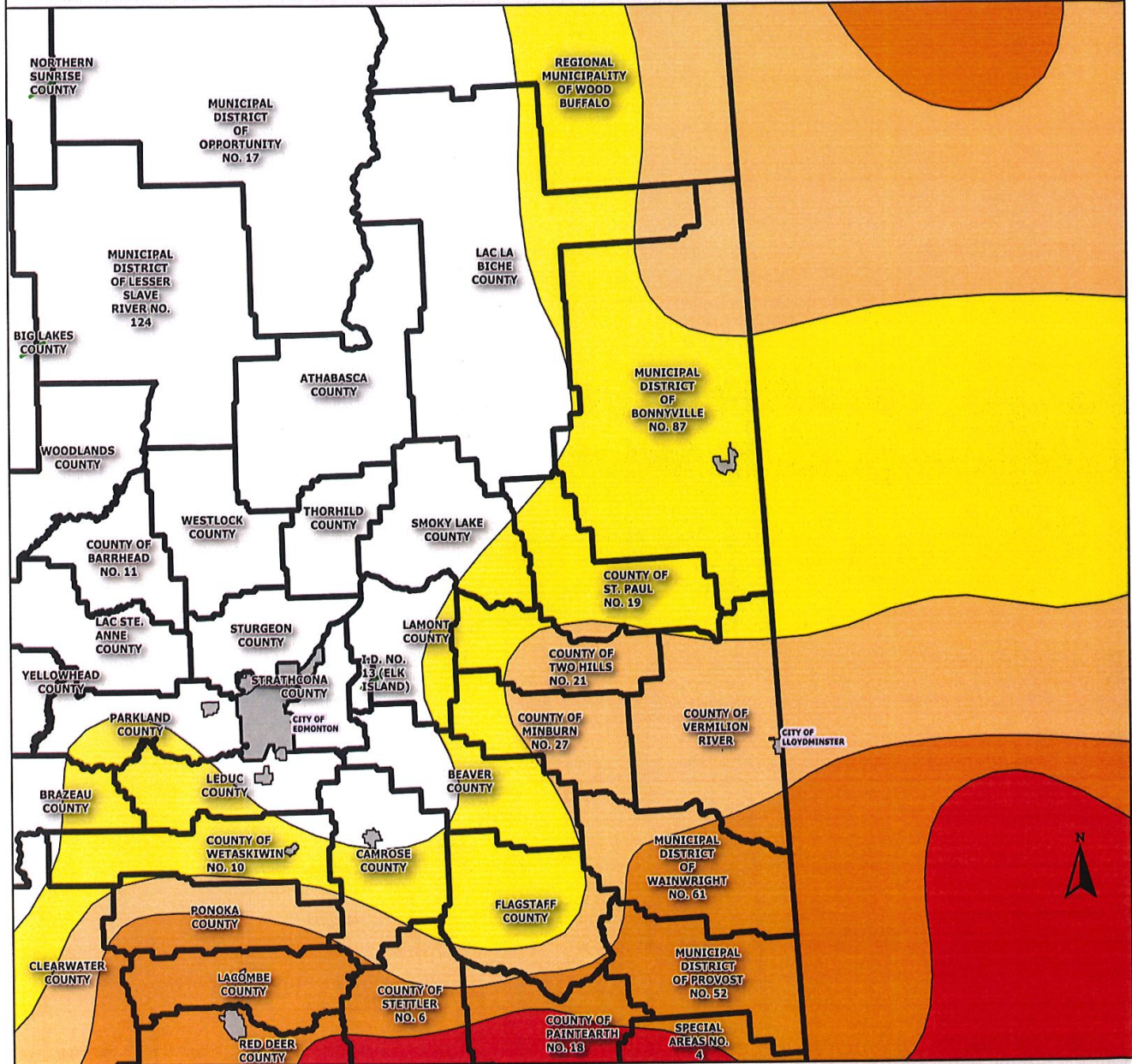


Reeve Roger Konieczny

CC: Shannon Stubbs, MP for Lakeland
Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville
Sebastian Durtisac, Chair, Chair ASB Provincial Committee
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)
Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)

Attachment: County of Minburn and Provincial Drought Map

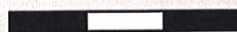
Alberta - County of Minburn Drought October 2023



Legend

- D1 Moderate drought
- D2 Severe drought
- D0 Abnormally dry
- D3 Extreme drought

0 30 60 90 km



1:2,500,000

Projection: NAD 83 UTM Zone 12
 Date: November 20, 2023
 Cartographer: Frank Wu
 Software: QGIS version 3.20

County of Minburn makes no representations or warranties regarding the information contained in this document, including, without limitation, and County of Minburn shall have no liability to such persons for any loss or damage whatsoever. This document shall not be copied or distributed to any person without the express written consent of County of Minburn. Municipal boundaries extracted from: Altalis. (2021). Municipal Boundaries. Altalis. Available at: <https://www.altalis.com/map?id=113>. Retrieved 2023 November 20th. Drought data extracted from: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). (2023). Canadian Drought Monitor. Available at: <https://open.canada.ca/data/en/dataset/292646cd-619f-4200-afb1-8b2c52f984a2>. Retrieved 2023 November 10th.



COUNTY OF MINBURN NO. 27

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November 27, 2023

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

Dear Honourable Minister Sigurdson:

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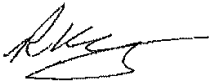
Honourable Minister RJ Sigurdson
November 27, 2023
Page 2

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Sincerely,

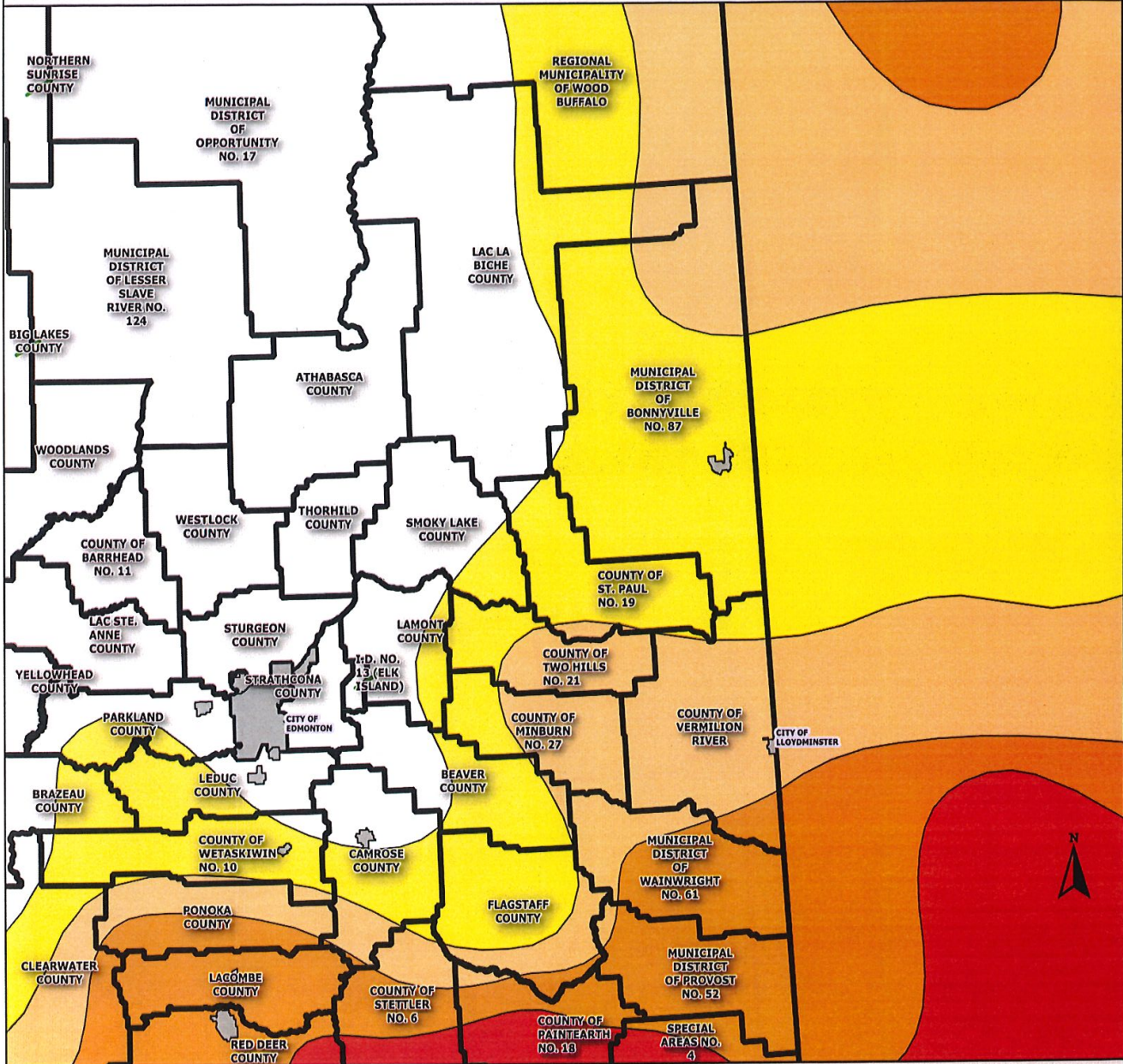


Reeve Roger Konieczny

CC: Shannon Stubbs, MP for Lakeland
Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville
Sebastian Durtisac, Chair, Chair ASB Provincial Committee
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)
Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)

Attachment: County of Minburn and Provincial Drought Map

Alberta - County of Minburn Drought October 2023



Legend

- D1 Moderate drought
- D2 Severe drought
- D0 Abnormally dry
- D3 Extreme drought

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 Cartographer: Frank Wu
 Software: QGIS version 3.20

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ALBERTA
AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Highwood*

December 19, 2023

Robert Konieczny
Reeve
County of Minburn
P.O. Box 550
4909 - 50th Street
Vegreville, AB T9C 1R6

Dear Reeve Konieczny:

Thank you for your November 27, 2023 letter inquiring about the AgriRecovery Program for the 2023 growing season. I know this has been a difficult year and Alberta's producers have had to deal with many challenges including dry conditions, pests and wildfires.

The federal government partnered with the Government of Alberta on the delivery of the [2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program](#) through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership AgriRecovery Framework. The funding for this joint AgriRecovery initiative is cost-shared, with the federal government providing \$99 million and Alberta providing \$66 million.

As of October 30, 2023, eligible livestock producers with grazing animals can apply for financial support of up to \$150 per head to cover losses incurred to manage and maintain their breeding herds. Application information is available on the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) website: <https://afsc.ca/income-stabilization/agrirecovery>.

AgriRecovery is intended to respond in situations where producers do not have the capacity to cover the extraordinary costs related to a disaster event (e.g., severe drought), even with the assistance available from other Business Risk Management programs such as AgriInsurance, AgriStability and AgriInvest.

Alberta's government advocated for a province-wide program without geographic eligibility, on the basis that applicants must demonstrate feed need and drought impact to be eligible for funding. However, area-specific eligibility was a requirement set by the federal government as a condition of the program. My ministry and I have been fierce in negotiations, advocating to the federal government for our producers to receive timely drought relief. Simply put, the federal government would not have provided its portion of this program's funding without area-specific eligibility requirements. The urgency for the program was clear. While Alberta fought against these conditions during months of negotiations, we also could not risk our producers being shorted on critical funding as they entered the winter months.

.../2

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Classification: Protected A

Robert Konieczny
Page Two

The 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program can address only the extraordinary costs related to the impact of extreme dry conditions that resulted in lost grazing days. By identifying municipalities with a severe drought (one in 10-year event) based on the Canadian Drought Monitor map, the program targets financial resources to those producers who need it the most.

In addition to the 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has supported the industry during this challenging growing season by making several adjustments to the provincial programs and services available to producers, such as doubling the [Low Yield Allowance](#) threshold. A number of additional programs are also available through AFSC to help producers proactively protect their businesses.

AFSC offers a production-based Hay Insurance product, a [Moisture Deficiency Endorsement](#) and Moisture Deficiency Insurance for pasture that can be selected if specific coverage for lack of rainfall is desired. I would encourage producers in your county to discuss insurance options with their [local AFSC branch](#) to determine what would work best for their operations, as these insurance products are the first line of defense in any disaster situation. To keep products affordable, premiums are cost-shared by federal and provincial governments.

The [AgriStability](#) program exists to protect producers against large declines in farming income for reasons such as production loss, increased costs and market conditions. This program responds to increased expenses and reduced income or reduced inventory values as compared to the producer's historical data.

For the 2023 program year, the AgriStability compensation rate was increased from 70 per cent to 80 per cent, making AgriStability even more responsive to farms experiencing a disaster. Additionally, the Government of Alberta opened AgriStability for late participation until September 29, 2023, in recognition of the impacts of wildfires and extremely dry conditions on Alberta's producers during this growing season.

Other programs were also available, such as the Water Pumping Program, which enables producers to rent pipe and pumping equipment to fill dugouts from nearby water sources, and the Temporary Livestock Water Assistance program, which enables livestock and poultry producers affected by water shortage and drought conditions to receive streamlined support.

The Alberta government recognizes farming is not just a business – it's a way of life. We understand producers are concerned about protecting their farming operations and livelihoods, and we are working hard to support Alberta's agriculture industry through these challenging times.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation

cc: Honourable Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville



Quote: 282536

Jackie Phillips
Chair of the Agricultural Services
and Environmental Advisory Board
Municipal District of Bighorn No. 8
No. 2 Heart Mountain Drive
PO Box 310
Exshaw AB T0L 2C0

Dear Jackie Phillips:

I am writing in response to your letter to the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay regarding the 2023 Canada–Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance. I understand this has been a difficult year, and Alberta’s producers have had to endure many challenges, including dry conditions and wildfires.

Federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) governments offer a suite of core business risk management (BRM) programs, including AgriInsurance, AgriStability and AgriInvest, designed to help producers manage severe risks to their farm income and deal with the production losses they experience when disasters occur. Governments agree that producers should proactively manage their risks by taking full advantage of the program support available, and I encourage producers in Alberta and across Canada to participate.

The AgriRecovery Framework complements the suite of BRM tools under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership. It is an FPT disaster relief framework intended to work together with the core BRM programs to help agricultural producers recover from natural disasters. AgriRecovery cannot duplicate or replace the assistance provided by the BRM programs; rather, it is focused on extraordinary costs producers face to recover from disasters in excess of the BRM supports available.

.../2

Canada 

The 2023 Canada–Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance program was developed in collaboration with the Province of Alberta. Program support is targeted to provide assistance to producers in the most drought-impacted areas who incurred extraordinary costs to feed and maintain their breeding herd over the grazing period. The monthly Canadian Drought Monitor was the primary tool for the assessment of the most impacted drought regions. This scientific methodology is also used in the U.S. and Mexico, and it is a consolidation of indices and indicators into one comprehensive national drought map using a convergence of evidence approach, including precipitation and temperature indicators, streamflow values and satellite imagery. To supplement this data, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada officials worked with provincial counterparts and regional drought experts.

The Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) is responsible for the delivery and management of the program. For further details regarding eligibility criteria or other program requirements, please visit the AFSC's [2023 Canada–Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program](#) webpage, or contact the AFSC at 1-877-899-2372 or by email at agrirecovery@afsc.ca.

I trust that this information will be of assistance to you. Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Liz Foster
Assistant Deputy Minister
Programs Branch



December 19, 2023

Wade Williams
 Mayor
 Yellowhead County
 2716 1st Avenue
 Edson, AB T7E 1N9

Dear Mayor Williams:

Thank you for your November 14, 2023 letter inquiring about the AgriRecovery Program for the 2023 growing season. I know this has been a difficult year and Alberta's producers have had to deal with many challenges including dry conditions, pests and wildfires.

The federal government partnered with the Government of Alberta on the delivery of the [2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program](#) through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership AgriRecovery Framework. The funding for this joint AgriRecovery initiative is cost-shared, with the federal government providing \$99 million and Alberta providing \$66 million.

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Wade Williams

Page Two

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The Alberta government recognizes farming is not just a business – it's a way of life. We understand producers are concerned about protecting their farming operations and livelihoods, and we are working hard to support Alberta's agriculture industry through these challenging times.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation



Brazeau County

7401 – Twp Rd 494, P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A 1R1
PHONE: (780) 542-7777 - FAX: (780) 542-7770
www.brazeau.ab.ca

March 5, 2024

Honorable Lawrence MacAulay
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister MacAulay:

Re: 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Initiative, 2023 Livestock Tax Deferral

On Thursday, January 25th, 2024, it was announced that 23 Alberta municipalities were added to the Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program (CADLA). We were disappointed to see that Brazeau County was not included. A review of the federal drought monitoring data and provincial weather station data, as well as a local understanding of our municipalities leaves us with a number of concerns on how eligibility was determined for the program.

Brazeau County's geography plays a significant role in weather patterns. Approximately 1/3 of the landbase is green zone. This western portion of the county is forested and receives significantly more rainfall than our white zone, where our agriculture production is located. Looking at precipitation averages for the entire municipality misrepresents actual precipitation received in our agricultural areas.

Evaluating seasonal averages also is deceiving as singular, large rainfall events in the 2023 growing season drove averages upwards, with no benefit to actual soil moisture. Overall, forage production was a fraction of normal, due to extremely dry spring conditions, followed by too little and untimely moisture.

We feel the current CADLA map demonstrates our concerns as Parkland County, Leduc County, and Wetaskiwin County are all included in the program. These municipalities all border our white zone, which experienced the same moisture conditions as our neighbors.

We appreciate that assistance programs need to be appropriately allocated but feel that the parameters for eligibility need to be reconsidered moving forward.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Heinrich
Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board Chairperson
Councillor Division 5

cc: R.J. Sigurdson, Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Gerald Soroka, MP Yellowhead
Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta
Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee



COUNTY OF WARNER NO. 5
AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD
P.O. Box 90/Rural Address 172008 Twp Rd 4-2
WARNER, AB T0K 2L0

Phone: 403-642-2255
Toll Free: 1-866-642-2221
Fax: 403-642-2256
Email: jmeeks@warnercounty.ca
Website: www.warnercounty.ca

January 30, 2024

ASB2024-001

Attention: ASB Chairman and Ag Fieldman

Re: 2024 Provincial ASB Conference STARS Charity Live & Silent Auction

On behalf of the South Region AAAF, we want to extend our appreciation for your generous support with the Live & Silent Auction held on the evening of the Banquet.

The Live Auction raised \$12,100 and the Silent Auction raised \$7,100. Totaling the amount of \$19,200.

Proceeds from the Auction Fund raising event will be donated to STARS Air Ambulance.

Please see attached auction item results from this memorable event.

Thank you again for your generous support.

Yours truly,

Jamie Meeks, Ag Fieldman
AAAF South Region Promotions

Enclosure



February 12, 2024

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

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

To the Honourable Ministers Lawrence MacAulay and Mark Holland:

RE: Maintaining the Integrity of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has been long known as a robust and scientifically backed regulatory system that promotes sustainable pest management, which is critical for the agricultural industry.

However, there remains misinformation and misunderstanding surrounding the safety of some products. It's crucial that decisions or actions related to product regulation are well-informed, ethical, and in the industry's best interest. This should be based on relevant scientific research rather than influenced by peer pressure, public opinion, or political interference.

Upon the release of the Private Member's Bill C-287 amending the *Pest Control Act* to prohibit glyphosate, the Northern Sunrise County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) would like to echo the concerns raised by Big Lakes County ASB, in their letter dated October 6th, 2023, that the integrity of the PMRA can be threatened, when mis-aligned amendments are proposed by individuals with authority. These decisions could have extensive damaging impacts on the industry in terms of production. Any suggested amendments must remain scientifically based to ensure the integrity of the PMRA that plays such a large role in the success of our Canadian agricultural industry. We ask that this mandate be affirmed by both the Ministry of Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada and Health Canada.

Sincerely,

Corinna Williams, Chairperson
Agricultural Service Board
Northern Sunrise County





**NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD**

Bag 1300, 135 Sunrise Road
Peace River, AB
T8S 1Y9

northernsunrise.net

CC:

RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation
Dan Williams MLA Peace River
Paul McLauchlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)
Northern Sunrise County Council
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen



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



February 7, 2024

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

To the Honourable Minister RJ Sigurdson:

RE: 2024 Proposed Changes to Weed Control Regulation

Thank you for your time with us at the Alberta Agriculture Service Board Conference in Lethbridge. It was a pleasure to meet you and Amber Edgerton to discuss important topics about the future of agriculture in our province. Your leadership instills hope in our industry, and we envision significant progress under your guidance. Thank you for your dedication to advancing the prospects of agriculture.

The Northern Sunrise County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) would like to express our concern regarding a lack of consultation and transparency throughout the process of the pre-engagement review of the Weed Control Regulation (WCR) and voice our opposition to some of the proposed changes to this regulation.

We appreciate that steps were made to involve municipalities in the pre-engagement review process; however, this has been a frustrating experience from our perspective. To our knowledge, northern Alberta was only engaged through a digital survey sent to the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) on September 14, 2022. We understand that there were meetings to consult with Agricultural Fieldmen from across the province to systematically evaluate the weeds under review, however, our conversations with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) and other Fieldmen revealed that only representatives from the County of Newell (South) and Red Deer County (Central) were in attendance, resulting in poor representation for the North (the North East, North West, and Peace regions). Alberta Environment and Protected Areas, Alberta Transportation, and First Nations Groups were among other stakeholders involved in these meetings.

On November 23, 2023, the proposed changes to the WCR were discussed at the AAAF & AGI Policy Meeting, which raised several concerns. AGI further elaborated on the process and presented the Risk Assessment Tool (RAT) developed by Alberta Environment and Parks over a decade ago, which was used to conduct the review. However, it was noted that the tool is outdated and unevenly rated for environmental concerns, leading to inconsistent usage throughout the review process. In some cases, the evaluation was done through group discussion and subjective judgements.





We feel our voice was underrepresented in this pre-engagement review and in recognition of this, we would like to outline our concerns with the proposed changes:

1. Red Tape Creation

With the rollout of the proposed changes to the WCR, AGI highlights that “Municipalities can still elevate a weed’s status. You can build a case for weeds of concern to stay on the noxious weed list so please review with your ASB.” However, our concern here is the addition of red tape by requiring that municipalities create bylaws to prohibit select weeds that threaten their municipality. Not only does this add to the legislative obligations for municipal government, but it also creates a confusing and difficult climate for producers to navigate if they farm in multiple municipalities.

2. Regional Concerns being reflected Provincially

To ensure that the *Weed Control Act* (WCA) and Regulation is effective in protecting agriculture, the environment, and the economy, it is important to prioritize the needs and concerns of the province as a whole. While regional concerns are important, they should not outweigh the larger goals of the legislation. We appreciate that some regulated weeds have become difficult to control in some regions across the province, however in other regions these same weeds are not common, so the populations are eradicable. It's critical to consider both perspectives, highlighting the importance of representation from all regions in the consultation process for proposed changes to the legislation.

3. Cost Savings

We recognize that financial restraints within municipalities and departments can make weed control efforts difficult. However, having legislation that aims to protect agriculture and the environment and prevent barriers to trade, being influenced by cost saving motivations, would be a major detriment to the progress made with this regulation.

4. Aquatic Weeds and the Fisheries Act

The removal of aquatic plant species from the WCA and regulation is very likely to disrupt successful coordinated efforts. The Fisheries (Alberta) Act (FAA) currently covers some of the species posed for removal (Eurasian Water Milfoil, Flowering Rush, Himalayan Balsam, Pale Yellow Iris, and Purple Loosestrife), but operational differences between the FAA and the WCA could affect enforcement and response. The WCA offers streamlined response actions, whereas FAA response actions must go through the minister under a Ministerial Order, delaying response and leaving expenses unrecouped. The WCA is also more familiar to the public and has stronger prohibitions and inspection powers. Without backing by the WCA, these aquatic invasive species will end up spreading into some of the most ecologically sensitive ecosystems as they are stifled by bureaucracy and limited resources with the FAA.





NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

Bag 1300, 135 Sunrise Road
Peace River, AB
T8S 1Y9

northernsunrise.net

We appreciate the efforts that have been made to keep the legislation current. We hope to enhance communication channels and work together more seamlessly to produce an enabling, efficient, and effective tool for the agricultural industry of Alberta. Thank you for your time on this subject and devotion to the Agriculture Service Boards of Alberta.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Corinna Williams".

Corinna Williams, Chairperson
Agricultural Service Board
Northern Sunrise County

CC:

Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen
Dan Williams MLA Peace River
Gayah Sieusahai, Pest Regulatory Officer, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
Kerriane Koehler-Munro, ASB Manager, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
Northern Sunrise County Council
Paul McLauchlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)



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



April 8, 2024

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

To the Honourable Minister RJ Sigurdson,

RE: 2024 Proposed Changes to the Weed Control Regulation

The Saddle Hills County Agricultural Service Board would like to express concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Weed Control Regulations (WCR). Due to the concerns outlined below, the Saddle Hills County Agricultural Service Board believes the review process should be reconducted, using appropriate, up-to-date scientific risk assessment tools and population datasets to inform decisions.

When the process used to determine the proposed changes was presented at the meeting on November 23, 2023, between the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) and Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI), it brought forth several concerns. It was presented that the Risk Assessment Tool was utilized when conducting the WCR review, a tool universally considered to be outdated within the Agriculture Industry and one which appears to have been used inconsistently throughout the review process.

It was also brought to our attention that Provincial Weed Distribution Maps, which are created using input from Agricultural Fieldmen across the province, were not used to inform the review process. This is a concern as in many cases, when looking at the species proposed for removal on a provincial scale, the species selected are not common in all regions and are potentially still eradicable in many areas.

Throughout the review, decisions made on which weed species to propose for reclassification or removal from the WCR appear to have been made through non-scientifically informed methods, such as discussion, anecdotal evidence, or subjective judgement. As we are sure you are aware, the burden on municipal agriculture staff in Alberta is already incredibly high, especially in larger municipalities such as ours. The bylaw process to elevate species of concern that has been proposed is time consuming and would see this workload increase, putting additional, unnecessary burdens on staff time, which could arguably be better used conducting public education or weed removal.

The Saddle Hills County Agricultural Service Board appreciates the efforts being made to update the legislation and understands that this is a difficult and multi-faceted task. We hope that going forward the changes presented will utilize relevant scientific data to create a useful and effective tool for our municipal agriculture staff to utilize.



Sincerely,

Dan Bourassa, Saddle Hills County Agricultural Service Board Chair

cc:

Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen
Todd Loewen MLA Central Peace Notley
Gayah Sieusahai, Pest Regulatory Officer, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
Kerrienne Koehler-Munroe, ASB Manager, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
Saddle Hills County Council

INSECT SURVEY RESULTS – 2023 – LETHBRIDGE

2023 Summary

Thank you Gary and Derek for all the work you do for the insect monitoring program, especially the grasshopper survey. I realize the time commitment on your part and it is appreciated.

In 2023, because of the very dry conditions, we only surveyed irrigated fields for wheat midge. Midge needs rains in May and June to complete its lifecycle. Even in irrigated fields though, we didn't find any midge in the 3 fields we visited. I don't think you will see wheat midge posing a significant risk in 2024.

Of the four bertha armyworm sites in Lethbridge none were above the first warning level of 300. Monitoring will continue to be important to give us early warning of possible problems with bertha for our producers.

I did find some fields with high cutting levels of wheat stem sawfly. It will continue to be an issue in 2024. Producers will be adapting their production to deal with this pest, like using solid stem varieties, delaying seeding and planting crops immune to sawfly like oats, or broad-leaved crops. Dry Augusts, with early harvests, negatively affect the parasitoid *Bracon cephi* by hindering the second generation (overwintering generation) which is key to breaking the wheat stem sawfly lifecycle.

Pea leaf weevil damage was fairly low in the survey we conducted in late May. This is consistent with the situation across southern Alberta. They will, however, continue to be a perennial problem.

Cabbage seedpod weevil were generally lower compared to most years but we did manage to find a couple of fields that were near or above economic threshold. Cabbage seedpod weevil will continue to be a potential problem every year, but the drought conditions are having a positive impact on their population.

No diamondback moths were caught in the traps in Lethbridge County.

In 2023, cutworms were an issue in much of the province. We really need to remind our producers of cutworms. They need to be prepared to scout in the spring so they don't get caught out.

BERTHA ARMYWORM (BAW)

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

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

LLD	TRAP AVERAGE
-9-19-W4	170
-11-19-W4	33.5

Shaded cells are managed by the County.
Sampling period June 5 – July 17, 2023

LLD	TRAP AVERAGE
-7-19-W4	102
-11-23-W4	143

CABBAGE SEEDPOD WEEVIL (CSPW)

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

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



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

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION					CSPW IN 25 SWEEPS	LYGUS ADULT	LYGUS NYMPH	LEAFHOPPER	FLEA BEETLE	RED TURNIP BEETLE	DBM ADULT	DBM LARVA	WASP <5 MM	WASP >5MM	HONEY BEE	BEE BUT NOT HONEY	CATERPILLAR
		8	19	4	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		8	19	4	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		7	18	4	28	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		11	24	4	6	12	0	0	9	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1
		12	21	4	0	17	1	0	0	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0
		12	24	4	1	2	0	0	14	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
		13	19	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sampling done by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Plant and Bee Health Surveillance Section staff
 Samples done with standard sweep net. (15" diameter & 3 foot handle). 25-180 degree sweeps.
 Shaded cells are from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Online Reporting Tool 10-180 degree sweeps

DIAMONDBACK MOTH (DBM)

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

LLD	TRAP AVERAGE
-6-26-W4	0

Sampling period May 8 – June 18, 2023

PEA LEAF WEEVIL (PLW)

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

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION	TOTAL NODES	TOTAL NOTCHES	AVERAGE NODE STAGE	AVERAGE NOTCHES/PLANT
-7-19-w4	210	52	4.2	1.04
-13-19-w4	259	320	5.18	6.4
-12-21-w4	241	2	4.82	0.04
-10-21-w4	200	135	4	2.7
-11-13-w4	285	7	5.7	0.14

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



WHEAT MIDGE (WM)

In 2023, we only sampled irrigated fields in the drought-stricken areas of Southern Alberta.

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

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

- 0 midge will be displayed as light grey (No infestation)
- 2 or less midge will be shown as dark grey (<600/m²)
- 3 to 5 will be shown as yellow (600 to 1200/ m²)
- 6 to 8 will be shown as orange (1200 to 1800/ m²)
- 9 or more will be shown as red. (>1800/ m²)

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION					TOTAL MIDGE	VIABLE	PARASITOID
		12	21	4	0	0	0
		11	21	4	0	0	0
		10	22	4	0	0	0

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

WHEAT STEM SAWFLY (WSS)

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

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION	PERCENTAGE CUT
-11-24-W4	25.4
-12-22-W4	0.0
-12-21-W4	19.2
-2-12-21-W4	0.4
-32-10-22-W4	0.0

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

WHEN DOING FIELD VISITS WE:

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





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2024-01-23

Gary Secrist- Supervisor of Agriculture Services

County of Lethbridge

#100, 905-4th Avenue South Lethbridge, AB T1J 4E4

Dear Gary ,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. As we navigate through challenging times, I am writing to you on behalf of the Farm Safety Centre, with some important updates and a heartfelt request.

Firstly, I wish to express our profound gratitude for your past support, which has been instrumental in driving our mission forward. However, it is with a heavy heart that I must inform you of the recent suspension of our Safety Smarts and Sustainable Farm Families programs. In June 2023, due to a significant reduction in government funding directed towards farm safety and a decrease in donations, we were compelled to pause these vital initiatives. We had remained hopeful for additional funding during the summer months to resume our usual operations in September, but unfortunately, this did not materialize. Consequently, these programs are currently on hold until we secure further funding.

In light of these challenges and the evolving needs of our community, our board of directors has made a strategic decision to rebrand our organization to Heartland Training & Support Hub in the spring of 2024. This change reflects our commitment to not only continue our work in farm safety but to expand our services to encompass a broader mission. Our new direction includes addressing rural health, well-being, and support for newcomers, responding to the changing landscape of rural communities' needs.

The transition to Heartland Training & Support Hub is more than a name change; it symbolizes our dedication to building on our legacy while adapting to new challenges and opportunities. We aim to guide the organization through this transition, aligning our efforts towards a vision of a thriving, inclusive rural Canada.

As we embark on this new chapter, the need for support is more pressing than ever. We humbly request a donation of \$5,814.00 for the 2024 calendar year. This amount, calculated at a rate of \$4.50 per student, will help cover a portion of the delivery costs for the 1292 children we reached in your county in 2023. This contribution will directly support our efforts to revive and sustain our programs. If this does not work within your budget, then a donation of any amount will be greatly appreciated. For those who have the capacity to contribute more, we warmly welcome any additional support. Every dollar helps us qualify for matching funds from the government and other grants, amplifying the impact of your generosity.

We understand the financial challenges that everyone faces, especially in these uncertain times. However, we believe in the power of collective effort and the impact it can have. Any support you can provide will be a significant step towards resuming our vital programs and launching new initiatives under our rebranded mission.

As a registered charity, all donations to Farm Safety Centre (*Prior to April 1, 2024*) or Heartland Training & Support Hub (*After April 1, 2024*) are eligible for a tax receipt. We will proudly acknowledge your support on our website and in our communications, highlighting the crucial role you play in our mission.

Additionally, we offer multiple channels for donations. If you choose to donate online via our **Alberta Crowdfunding Campaign, your donation will be matched by 30%**, amplifying its impact if made before March 20, 2024. At the bottom of this letter, you'll find a QR Code. By scanning this with your phone's camera you'll be directed to our online donation portal. Likewise, you could click on the link in the email to be directed to our crowdfunding page.

Alberta Crowdfunding Portal: https://fnd.us/c2LE7d?ref=sh_6ChjUa

Please accept our deepest appreciation for your past contributions and for considering our current request. Your partnership is invaluable to us, and we hope to continue this journey together, adapting and growing to meet the needs of our rural communities.

Thank you once again for your valued support and commitment to our cause.

Warm regards,

Jordan Jensen | Executive Director
Farm Safety Centre / Heartland Training & Support Hub
Office: 403.752.4585
Cell: 403.593.8960
Email: j.jensen@abfarmsafety.com

Safety Smarts Totals For The 2023 Calendar Year

List of Countys and MD's

County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
Athabasca County	17	2	1	Rochester School	2023-02-24
	36	2	1	Boyle School	2023-02-02
	261	8	1	Whispering Hills Primary School	2023-04-19
Subtotal	Sum	314	12	3	
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
Beaver County	87	5	1	Ryley School	2023-01-12
	23	1	1	Starland Colony School	2023-04-25
	207	7	1	C.W. Sears Elementary School	2023-02-23
	100	7	1	Viking School	2023-03-21
	21	1	1	Viking Colony School	2023-01-13
	120	3	1	Tofield School	2023-03-06
	8	1	1	Iron Creek Colony School	2023-06-13
	11	1	1	Holden Colony School	2023-06-13
Subtotal	Sum	577	26	8	
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
Big Lakes County	10	1	1	Joussard School	2023-03-22
Subtotal	Sum	10	1	1	
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
Brazeau County	282	8	1	St. Anthony School	2023-03-01
	327	5	1	Aurora Elementary School	2023-03-03
Subtotal	Sum	609	13	2	

County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
Camrose County	22	1	1	Rosalind Colony School	2023-04-14
	91	6	1	New Norway School	2023-06-07
	50	3	1	Cornerstone Christian Academy	2023-02-09
	144	8	1	Bawlf School	2023-01-31
	113	7	1	Bashaw School & ECS	2023-03-09
	122	7	1	Hay Lakes School	2023-05-17
Subtotal Sum	542	32	6		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
Cardston County	17	1	1	Riverside Colony School	2023-02-03
	23	1	1	Mountain View School	2023-05-26
	64	3	1	Cardston Elementary School	2023-01-27
	158	6	1	Cardston Elementary School	2023-01-25
	160	7	1	Cardston Elementary School	2023-01-24
	132	7	1	Cardston Elementary School	2023-01-23
	17	1	1	Blue Ridge Colony School	2023-05-12
	19	1	1	Big Bend Colony School	2023-01-23
	9	1	1	West Raley Colony School	2023-01-23
Subtotal Sum	599	28	6		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
Clear Hills County	27	2	1	Menno-Simmons Community School	2023-02-15
	12	1	1	Bear Canyon Colony School	2023-03-01
Subtotal Sum	39	3	2		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
Clearwater County	155	7	1	Caroline School	2023-06-08
	278	8	1	Lochearn School	2023-06-05
	207	7	1	Ecole Rocky Elementary School	2023-05-01
Subtotal Sum	640	22	3		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date

County of Barrhead		192	7	1	Neerlandia Public Christian School	2023-05-08
Subtotal	Sum	192	7	1		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
County of Forty Mile	16	1	1	Baker Colony School	2023-01-20	
	26	1	1	Starbrite Colony School	2023-01-20	
	10	1	1	Burdett School	2023-05-15	
	19	1	1	Burdett School	2023-05-11	
	65	4	1	Bow Island Elementary School	2023-03-24	
Subtotal	Sum	136	8	4		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
County of Grande Prairie	13	1	1	Robert W. Zahara	2023-05-17	
	74	4	1	Wembley Elementary School	2023-03-16	
	75	4	1	Wembley Elementary School	2023-03-13	
	119	4	1	Hythe Elementary School	2023-06-06	
	98	5	1	Hythe Elementary School	2023-06-05	
	15	1	1	Grandview Colony School	2023-04-20	
	52	4	1	Elmworth School	2023-03-30	
Subtotal	Sum	446	23	5		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
County of Lethbridge	113	5	1	St. Joseph's School	2023-01-17	
	83	4	1	St. Joseph's School	2023-01-18	
	37	2	1	St. Joseph's School	2023-01-16	
	25	1	1	Shadow Ranch Colony School	2023-02-27	
	10	1	1	Rock Lake Colony School	2023-02-13	
	125	7	1	Noble Central School	2023-03-02	
	147	7	1	Dorothy Dalgliesh School	2023-02-16	
	12	1	1	Chin Lakes Colony School	2023-05-23	
	64	3	1	Calvin Christian School	2023-03-23	
	145	6	1	Calvin Christian School	2023-03-22	
141	6	1	Calvin Christian School	2023-03-21		

		172	9	1	Calvin Christian School	2023-03-20
		47	2	1	Barons School	2023-02-17
		28	1	1	Albion Ridge Colony School	2023-03-13
		12	1	1	White Lake Colony School	2023-03-13
		109	6	1	Sunnyside School	2023-04-25
		22	1	1	Gold Ridge Colony School	2023-03-03
Subtotal	Sum	1292	63	12		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
County of Minburn	82	5	1	St. Mary's Catholic School (Sexsmith)	2023-05-16	
	30	2	1	St. Mary's Catholic School (Sexsmith)	2023-05-15	
	196	8	1	St. Martin's Catholic School	2023-03-22	
	20	1	1	Creighton Colony School	2023-06-13	
Subtotal	Sum	328	16	3		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
County of Newell	31	1	1	Spring View Colony School	2023-02-03	
	11	1	1	Spring Side Colony School	2023-05-12	
	15	1	1	Rosemary School	2023-03-23	
	125	7	1	Bassano School	2023-03-15	
	69	3	1	Tilley School	2023-04-27	
	216	8	1	Holy Family Academy	2023-01-12	
	166	7	1	Holy Family Academy	2023-01-09	
	115	5	1	Holy Family Academy	2023-01-10	
	20	1	1	Gem School	2023-05-17	
Subtotal	Sum	768	34	7		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
County of Northern Lights	43	3	1	Dixonville School	2023-03-03	
	142	7	1	Manning Elementary School	2023-04-24	
Subtotal	Sum	185	10	2		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	

County of Paintearth		116	6	1	Gus Wetter School	2023-02-14
Subtotal	Sum	116	6	1		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
County of St. Paul	110	8	1	St. Paul Elementary School	2023-04-19	
	113	6	1	St. Paul Elementary School	2023-04-18	
	129	8	1	St. Paul Elementary School	2023-04-17	
	243	8	1	Ashmont Elementary School	2023-03-21	
	67	3	1	Glen Avon School	2023-03-09	
	101	5	1	Glen Avon School	2023-03-08	
	155	7	1	Glen Avon School	2023-03-07	
	74	5	1	Elk Point Elementary School	2023-04-13	
	82	5	1	Elk Point Elementary School	2023-04-14	
	22	1	1	Ecole Mallaig Community School	2023-03-22	
Subtotal	Sum	1096	56	5		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
County of Stettler	25	1	1	Star Ridge Colony School	2023-06-02	
	10	1	1	Donalda Colony School	2023-06-02	
	75	4	1	Botha School	2023-05-29	
	6	1	1	Whitesand Colony School	2023-06-08	
	22	1	1	Lone Pine Colony School	2023-06-08	
	17	1	1	Erskine Colony School	2023-04-26	
Subtotal	Sum	155	9	6		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
County of Thorhild	153	7	1	Thorhild Central School	2023-01-18	
Subtotal	Sum	153	7	1		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
County of Two Hills	50	3	1	New Myrnam School	2023-01-19	
Subtotal	Sum	50	3	1		

County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
County of Vermilion River	41	5	1	St. Jerome's School	2023-02-09
	66	5	1	St. Jerome's School	2023-02-08
	12	1	1	Autumn Leaf Colony School	2023-06-13
	115	5	1	Vermilion Elementary School	2023-03-28
	92	6	1	Vermilion Elementary School	2023-03-27
	116	4	1	Kitscoty Elementary School	2023-04-18
Subtotal	Sum	442	26	4	
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
County of Warner	23	1	1	Prairie Home Colony School	2023-03-28
	17	1	1	Miltow Colony School	2023-03-27
	32	1	1	Delco Colony School	2023-03-15
	7	1	1	Bluegrass Colony School	2023-03-15
	32	1	1	Sunny Site Colony School	2023-03-21
	153	7	1	Stirling School	2023-01-26
	21	1	1	Hofmann Colony School	2023-02-13
	17	1	1	Fairlane Colony School	2023-03-27
	20	1	1	Evergreen Colony School	2023-03-20
	27	1	1	Elm Spring Colony School	2023-03-27
Subtotal	Sum	349	16	10	
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
County of Wetaskiwin	91	4	1	Sacred Heart Catholic School	2023-05-10
	99	5	1	Alder Flats Elementary School	2023-03-13
	60	3	1	Winfield School	2023-02-13
	60	3	1	Lakedell School	2023-05-02
Subtotal	Sum	310	15	4	
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
Cypress County	24	1	1	Seven Persons School	2023-05-12
	11	1	1	Berry Creek Colony School/Stahl Colony	2023-03-16
	13	1	1	Acadia Valley Colony School	2023-06-16

Subtotal	Sum	48	3	3		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Flagstaff County	154	7	1	Central High Sedgewick Public School	2023-05-15	
	7	1	1	Wavy Lake Colony School	2023-04-14	
	95	6	1	Forestburg School	2023-02-09	
Subtotal	Sum	256	14	3		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Foothills County	23	1	1	Dr. Morris Gibson School	2023-03-01	
	102	5	1	Cayley School	2023-01-11	
	94	4	1	Holy Spirit Academy	2023-02-03	
	205	9	1	Holy Spirit Academy	2023-02-01	
	202	9	1	Holy Spirit Academy	2023-01-31	
Subtotal	Sum	626	28	3		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Kneehill County	139	6	1	Prairie Christian Academy Elementary School	2023-05-01	
	65	1	1	Dr. Elliott Community School	2023-05-18	
	21	1	1	Carbon School	2023-04-06	
	18	2	1	Carbon School	2023-05-29	
	31	2	1	Acme School	2023-01-30	
	10	1	1	Huxley Colony School	2023-04-06	
Subtotal	Sum	284	13	5		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Lac La Biche County	13	1	1	Vera M. Welsh Elementary School	2023-01-25	
	15	1	1	Vera M. Welsh Elementary School	2023-01-23	
	112	6	1	Ecole Plamondon School	2023-02-27	
Subtotal	Sum	140	8	2		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Lacombe County	29	1	1	Pleasant Valley Colony School	2023-06-01	

		11	1	1	Bentley Colony School	2023-06-01
		102	6	1	Alix MAC School	2023-01-30
		13	1	1	Alix Colony School	2023-04-26
		140	7	1	Ecole Lacombe Upper Elementary School	2023-04-21
		141	6	1	Ecole Lacombe Upper Elementary School	2023-04-20
Subtotal	Sum	436	22	5		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Lac Ste. Anne County	82	7	1	Sangudo Community School	2023-02-17	
	132	7	1	Rich Valley School	2023-04-12	
	367	8	1	Onoway Elementary School	2023-04-28	
	127	7	1	Darwell School	2023-04-25	
Subtotal	Sum	708	29	4		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Lakeland County	108	6	1	North Star Elementary School	2023-05-26	
	115	6	1	North Star Elementary School	2023-05-25	
	127	8	1	North Star Elementary School	2023-05-24	
Subtotal	Sum	350	20	1		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Lamont County	88	4	1	Mundare School	2023-01-23	
	115	6	1	Bruderheim Community School	2023-02-22	
Subtotal	Sum	203	10	2		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Leduc County	286	7	1	Saint-Andre Academy	2023-03-15	
	248	8	1	New Sarepta Elementary School	2023-01-20	
	201	7	1	Calmar Elementary School	2023-04-17	
	138	7	1	Warburg School	2023-05-23	
	241	8	1	Thorsby Elementary School	2023-03-24	
Subtotal	Sum	1114	37	5		

County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
M.D. of Acadia	13	1	1	Meridian Colony School	2023-06-16
Subtotal Sum	13	1	1		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
M.D. of Bonnyville	67	3	1	Ecole Dr. Bernard Brosseau Catholic School	2023-01-27
	73	4	1	Ecole Dr. Bernard Brosseau Catholic School	2023-01-26
	6	4	1	Bonnyville Home School Group	2023-03-10
	30	2	1	Ardmore School	2023-05-15
	57	4	1	Iron River School	2023-04-14
	58	3	1	H.E. Bourgoin Middle School	2023-05-18
	32	1	1	Ecole Notre Dame Elementary School	2023-03-23
	21	1	1	Ecole Notre Dame Elementary School	2023-02-22
Subtotal Sum	344	22	6		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
M.D. of Fairview	76	5	1	St. Thomas More Catholic School	2023-01-19
Subtotal Sum	76	5	1		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
M.D. of Greenview	165	8	1	St. Stephen's Catholic School	2023-04-05
	32	2	1	Ridgevalley School	2023-05-18
	56	3	1	Fox Creek School	2023-02-23
Subtotal Sum	253	13	3		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
M.D. of Lesser Slave River	36	4	1	Smith School	2023-05-05
	143	7	1	E.G. Wahlstrom School	2023-01-20
Subtotal Sum	179	11	2		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
M.D. of Peace	25	4	1	Holy Family School	2023-06-12
	141	5	1	Grimshaw Public School	2023-04-19

Subtotal	Sum	166	9	2		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
M.D. of Pincher Creek	50	3	1	St. Michael's School	2023-05-11	
	47	3	1	St. Michael's School	2023-05-10	
	52	3	1	St. Michael's School	2023-05-09	
	150	6	1	Canyon Elementary School	2023-06-07	
	143	7	1	Lundbreck/Livingstone School	2023-04-03	
Subtotal	Sum	442	22	3		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
M.D. of Provost	11	1	1	Rosewood Colony School	2023-06-14	
	125	7	1	Provost Public School	2023-04-28	
	13	1	1	Amisk School	2023-05-11	
	15	1	1	Highland View Colony School	2023-06-14	
Subtotal	Sum	164	10	4		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
M.D. of Spirit River	56	3	1	Savanna School	2023-03-14	
	53	3	1	Ste. Marie Catholic School	2023-03-23	
Subtotal	Sum	109	6	2		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
M.D. of Taber	12	1	1	Midland Colony School	2023-03-20	
	53	3	1	Dr. Hamman School	2023-05-25	
	95	5	1	Dr. Hamman School	2023-05-24	
	37	1	1	Copperfield Colony School	2023-04-04	
	91	4	1	Central Elementary School	2023-02-14	
	90	4	1	Central Elementary School	2023-02-13	
	25	1	1	Cameron Farms Colony School	2023-04-04	
	56	3	1	Vauxhall Elementary School	2023-02-28	
	81	4	1	Vauxhall Elementary School	2023-02-27	
55	4	1	L.T. Westlake Fine Arts Elementary School	2023-04-21		

		26	2	1	Hays School	2023-03-29
		27	1	1	Enchant Colony School	2023-02-27
Subtotal	Sum	648	33	9		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
M.D. Of Wainwright	22	1	1	Ribstone Colony School	2023-06-15	
	121	6	1	Blessed Sacrament School	2023-06-02	
	130	6	1	Blessed Sacrament School	2023-05-30	
	126	6	1	Blessed Sacrament School	2023-05-31	
	8	1	1	Holt Colony School	2023-01-13	
	81	5	1	Edgerton Public School	2023-05-09	
Subtotal	Sum	488	25	4		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
M.D. Of Willow Creek	46	2	1	West Meadow Elementary School	2023-04-06	
	131	7	1	West Meadow Elementary School	2023-04-05	
	146	7	1	West Meadow Elementary School	2023-04-04	
	58	3	1	W.A. Day School	2023-05-18	
	25	2	1	Granum School	2023-02-07	
Subtotal	Sum	406	21	3		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Mackenzie County	81	4	1	Sandhills Elementary School	2023-01-10	
	25	2	1	Rocky Lane School	2023-03-17	
	22	1	1	La Glace School	2023-03-23	
	99	2	1	La Glace School	2023-04-21	
	120	5	1	La Glace School	2023-04-20	
Subtotal	Sum	347	14	3		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Mountain View County	143	6	1	Olds Koinonia Christian School	2023-05-02	
	244	10	1	Cremona School	2023-03-28	
	21	1	1	Carstairs Elementary School	2023-01-11	

Subtotal	Sum	408	17	3		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Northern Sunrise County	58	3	1	Nampa Public School	2023-03-29	
	21	1	1	Ecole Springfield Elementary School	2023-02-16	
Subtotal	Sum	79	4	2		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Parkland County	51	2	1	Parkland Village School	2023-04-13	
	47	2	1	Parkland Village School	2023-04-11	
	34	1	1	Muir Lake Community School	2023-01-20	
	10	1	1	Wabamun School	2023-01-16	
	66	4	1	Tomahawk School	2023-01-31	
	39	1	1	Stony Plain Central School	2023-03-10	
	50	2	1	High Park School	2023-01-16	
	50	1	1	Graminia School	2023-04-26	
	54	3	1	Forest Green School	2023-02-28	
128	6	1	Entwistle School	2023-05-23		
Subtotal	Sum	529	23	9		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Ponoka County	69	2	1	Rimbey Elementary School	2023-02-16	
	290	8	1	Rimbey Elementary School	2023-02-15	
	185	7	1	Ponoka Elementary School	2023-02-07	
	280	8	1	Ponoka Elementary School	2023-02-06	
	18	1	1	Leedale Colony School	2023-06-15	
	14	1	1	Ferrybank Colony School	2023-06-15	
Subtotal	Sum	856	27	4		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
R.M. of Excelsior	43	2	1	Waldeck School	2023-03-31	
Subtotal	Sum	43	2	1		

County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
R.M. of Eye Hill	16	1	1	Macklin School	2023-04-04
Subtotal Sum	16	1	1		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
R.M. of Frenchman Butte	68	4	1	Paradise Hill School	2023-03-30
Subtotal Sum	68	4	1		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
R.M. of Manitou Lake	10	2	1	Marsden Jubilee School	2023-03-15
Subtotal Sum	10	2	1		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
R.M. of Round Valley	100	5	1	Unity Public School	2023-02-07
	119	6	1	Unity Public School	2023-02-01
Subtotal Sum	219	11	1		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
R.M. of Turtle River	19	1	1	H. Hardcastle	2023-04-04
Subtotal Sum	19	1	1		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
R.M. of Wilton	17	1	1	J.H. Moore Elementary School	2023-01-25
	80	5	1	J.H. Moore Elementary School	2023-01-24
	66	4	1	J.H. Moore Elementary School	2023-01-23
Subtotal Sum	163	10	1		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
Red Deer County	21	1	1	Spruce View School	2023-02-09
	127	5	1	Spruce View School	2023-03-17
	148	7	1	Poplar Ridge School	2023-03-14
	288	7	1	C.P. Blakely Elementary School	2023-06-12
	115	6	1	Bowden Grandview School	2023-06-13

		17	1	1	Sylvan Meadow Adventist School	2023-05-02
		65	2	1	Ecole John Wilson Elementary School	2023-06-02
		90	4	1	Ecole John Wilson Elementary School	2023-05-31
		152	7	1	Ecole John Wilson Elementary School	2023-05-30
		128	6	1	Ecole John Wilson Elementary School	2023-06-01
		147	7	1	Ecole Innisfail Middle School	2023-05-23
		8	1	1	Elnora School	2023-02-09
		34	2	1	Elnora School	2023-02-08
		21	1	1	Ecole St. Marguerite Bourgeoys School	2023-01-10
		25	1	1	Ecole St. Marguerite Bourgeoys School	2023-03-01
Subtotal	Sum	1386	58	9		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Rocky View County	21	1	1	Red Deer Lake School	2023-04-03	
	26	1	1	East Lake School	2023-04-26	
	111	6	1	Beiseker Community School	2023-03-09	
	84	4	1	Indus School	2023-02-02	
	16	1	1	Fairview Colony School	2023-04-06	
Subtotal	Sum	258	13	5		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Saddle Hills County	62	5	1	Bonanza School	2023-03-27	
Subtotal	Sum	62	5	1		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Smoky Lake County	66	4	1	Holy Family Catholic School	2023-03-20	
	111	6	1	H.A. Kostash School	2023-05-18	
Subtotal	Sum	177	10	2		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Special Area 2	23	1	1	Jenner Colony School	2023-05-12	
	25	1	1	Hand Hills Colony School	2023-03-16	
Subtotal	Sum	48	2	2		

County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
Special Area 3	25	1	1	New Brigden School	2023-06-01
Subtotal Sum	25	1	1		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
Special Area 4	20	1	1	Harts Colony School	2023-06-15
Subtotal Sum	20	1	1		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
Starland County	8	1	1	Neu Muehl Colony School	2023-04-24
	17	1	1	Blue Sky Colony School	2023-05-12
	15	1	1	Blue Sky Colony School	2023-04-25
	15	1	1	Verdant Valley Colony School	2023-04-24
Subtotal Sum	55	4	3		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
Strathcona County	288	8	1	Ecole Elementaire Ardrossan Elementary	2023-01-10
	314	8	1	Ecole Elementaire Ardrossan Elementary	2023-01-09
	26	1	1	Uncas Elementary School	2023-05-31
	191	7	1	Uncas Elementary School	2023-04-21
	62	2	1	Fultonvale Elementary School	2023-05-10
	215	7	1	Fultonvale Elementary School	2023-05-11
Subtotal Sum	1096	33	3		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
Sturgeon County	156	8	1	Ochre Park School	2023-04-13
	241	6	1	Namao School	2023-01-27
	134	6	1	Landing Trail School	2023-05-05
	121	7	1	Landing Trail School	2023-05-04
	85	5	1	Landing Trail School	2023-05-03
	28	2	1	Guthrie School	2023-04-04
	17	1	1	Gibbons School	2023-02-17

Subtotal	Sum	782	35	5		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Vulcan County	20	1	1	Sky Light Colony School	2023-04-06	
	17	1	1	Newdale Colony School	2023-04-03	
	15	1	1	Milo School	2023-04-26	
	23	1	1	Mialta Colony School	2023-04-03	
	129	5	1	Brant Christian School	2023-03-08	
	18	1	1	Armada Colony School	2023-04-06	
	39	3	1	Lomond Community School	2023-02-06	
	12	1	1	Lomond Colony School	2023-05-19	
Subtotal	Sum	273	14	8		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Westlock County	119	6	1	Pembina North School	2023-01-18	
	116	7	1	Busby School	2023-04-11	
	382	8	1	Westlock Elementary School	2023-01-25	
Subtotal	Sum	617	21	3		
County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date	
Wheatland County	263	6	1	St. Anthony's School	2023-06-08	
	60	8	1	Sacred Heart Academy	2023-03-31	
	355	3	1	Sacred Heart Academy	2023-03-29	
	274	8	1	Sacred Heart Academy	2023-05-08	
	23	1	1	Rising Sun Colony School	2023-04-27	
	14	1	1	Poplar Row Colony School	2023-03-13	
	14	1	1	Midwest Colony School	2023-03-13	
	13	1	1	Crawling Valley Colony School	2023-04-27	
	89	5	1	Carseland School	2023-05-10	
	25	1	1	Ecole Brentwood Elementary School	2023-02-10	
	28	1	1	Wintering Hills Colony School	2023-02-03	
	195	9	1	Westmount School	2023-03-06	
189	9	1	Westmount School	2023-03-07		

		28	1	1	Twin Creek Colony School	2023-05-08
		28	1	1	Glenrose Colony School	2023-05-08
Subtotal	Sum	1598	56	12		

County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
Woodlands County	90	4	1	Pat Hardy Elementary School	2023-02-03
	47	3	1	Fort Assiniboine School	2023-03-08
Subtotal	Sum	137	7	2	

County	# Students	# Presentations	Schools	School Name	Date
Yellowhead County	213	9	1	Vanier Community Catholic School	2023-05-29
	34	2	1	Jasper Elementary School	2023-03-22
	106	5	1	Evansview School	2023-03-08
Subtotal	Sum	353	16	3	

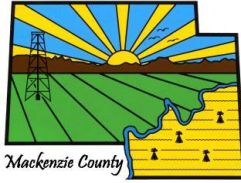
For questions, concerns or more information about this report, please contact:

Jordan Jensen | Executive Director

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Cell: 403.593.8960

Email: j.jensen@abfarmsafety.com



Mackenzie County

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www.mackenziecounty.com
office@mackenziecounty.com

February 27, 2024

via email: ag@ranchland66.com

AAAF South Region
Rick Niwa, Director of South Region AAAF
Box 1060
Nanton, AB T0L 1R0

Dear Mr. Rick Niwa:

RE: 2024 PROVINCIAL ASB CONFERENCE

Members of Mackenzie County's Council and Agricultural Service Board attended the 2024 Provincial ASB Conference with high hopes of engaging with speakers who shared their values and commitment to protecting the farming way of life. However we were disheartened to find that some of the speakers were advocating for a lifestyle that seemed to contradict this.

Albertans are proud of our natural resources and farming industry. The speakers cast a negative light on these, and we feel that the conference served an injustice to Albertans with the focus leaning towards climate change and not encouraging local producers to make improvements to the current standards that they use.

We invested significant time and money in attending this event, yet we feel the value gained does not align with the incurred costs. We trust that our feedback will assist in planning future ASB conferences.

If you would like to discuss this further please feel free to contact myself at (780) 926-7504 or Darrell Derksen, Chief Administrative Officer at 780-927-3718.

Sincerely,

Joshua Knelsen,
Reeve

c. Mackenzie County Council



Brazeau County

7401 – Twp Rd 494, P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A 1R1
PHONE: (780) 542-7777 - FAX: (780) 542-7770
www.brazeau.ab.ca

March 5, 2024

AAAF South Region Fieldmen
c/o Todd Green

Dear South AAAF Fieldmen:

Re: 2024 Provincial ASB Conference

On behalf of the Brazeau County ASB, we wish to express our gratitude to the South Region for hosting the 2024 Provincial ASB Conference.

We appreciate the effort it takes for a region to host an event of this magnitude and your efforts did not go unnoticed. Our attendees particularly enjoyed the trade show tailored to the conference audience, as well as the speakers on the history of the Acts, followed by relevant instances of applying the Acts.

The hospitality at the hotels, as well as the venue at Lethbridge Agri-Food and Trade Hub was top notch and very suitable for the event. Having the bus available for transportation to and from the event was also appreciated.

Thanks again for hosting and we look forward to continuing our work together on topics of mutual concern.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Heinrich
Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board Chairperson
Councillor Division 5

cc: Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta



April 9, 2024

AAAF South Region Fieldmen
c/o Todd Green

via e-mail: Todd Green greent@newellmail.ca

Dear South AAAF Fieldmen:

Re: 2024 Provincial ASB Conference

On behalf of the Mountain View County Agricultural Service Board (ASB), I extend our sincere gratitude for hosting the 2024 Provincial ASB Conference. The venue, topics, and tradeshow were all exemplary.

We commend you and your team for the planning and dedication evident in every aspect of the conference. The selection of venue was ideal, providing a great environment conducive to learning, and networking.

The topics covered during the conference were both relevant and insightful, offering valuable perspectives on the challenges and opportunities facing our industry. Each session provided practical knowledge and innovative ideas that will undoubtedly benefit the agricultural industry. The tradeshow was a highlight of the conference, showcasing a diverse range of products, services, and advancements in agriculture. It provided an opportunity for networking and exploring potential partnerships, further enhancing the overall experience for attendees.

Thank you once again for your hospitality, and commitment to advancing our industry. We are honored to have been a part of this conference.

Sincerely,

Brian Rodger
Chairman, Agricultural Service Board
Mountain View County

cv/

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