



WHEATLAND COUNTY

Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda

July 8, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

Note: Agricultural Service Board (ASB) will be conducting this meeting in person and via conference call in accordance with the Municipal Government Act, Section 199. At this time, Public attendance at ASB meetings will be facilitated through virtual means (conference call).

	Pages
1. CALL TO ORDER AND RELATED BUSINESS	
1.1 Call To Order	
Note: meetings are recorded and may be posted on the official Wheatland County website and/or via social media.	
1.2 Adoption of Agenda	
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3.3 Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact Report	
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5. CLOSED SESSION (IN CAMERA)	
6. ADJOURNMENT	



WHEATLAND COUNTY

Agricultural Service Board Minutes

April 29, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Chair J. Wilson
Vice Chair G. Koester
A. Link
B. Armstrong
D. Biggar
T. Ikert
B. Walker
B. Van Laar
R. Harwood
S. Klassen (alternate)

Administration: M. Ziehr, GM of Transportation and Agriculture
R. Muenchrath, Manager of Agriculture and Environment
M. Soltys, Communications Specialist
G. Mowat, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER AND RELATED BUSINESS

1.1 Call To Order

Note: meetings are recorded and may be posted on the official Wheatland County website and/or via social media.

Chair WILSON called the meeting to order - time **9:00 A.M.**

Chair Wilson informed that the April 29, 2020 Agricultural Service Board (ASB) meeting will be conducted via conference call in accordance with the Municipal Government Act, Section 199. Chair Wilson reviewed the process for the meeting. [Note: a 'notice of meeting change' was posted on the County website.]

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

RESOLUTION ASB-2020-04-01

Moved by LINK

APPROVAL of the agenda, as presented, with the following addition(s):

Addition(s)

Under Agenda Item 2.1 - Unfinished Business or Business Arising
2.1.1 - Dropping Commodity Prices - Round Table Discussion

• Carried

1.3 Adoption of Minutes

1.3.1 ASB Organizational Meeting Minutes - January 15, 2020

RESOLUTION ASB-2020-04-02

Moved by IKERT

That the January 15, 2020 Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Organizational meeting minutes are approved, as presented.

• Carried

1.3.2 ASB Meeting Minutes - January 15, 2020

RESOLUTION ASB-2020-04-03

Moved by KOESTER

THAT the January 15, 2020 Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) meeting minutes are approved, as presented.

• Carried

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND RELATED BUSINESS

2.1 Unfinished Business or Business Arising

2.1.1 Dropping Commodity Prices

Chair Wilson deferred agenda item 2.1.1 to a time later in the meeting.

Note: agenda item 2.1.1 was addressed following the Manager of Agriculture and Environment Report (agenda item 3.2).

Round table discussion on the effects of the dropping commodity prices to producers. Highlights of the discussion: Is there assistance and support we can provide to producers such as lobbying the Provincial and Federal government; the whole agriculture sector is effected but still able to access product like seed & fertilizer; we need to be ready for investment and poise ourselves to attract investments especially in terms of processing and value added agriculture; problems in agriculture are often government generated because of things like trade wars with other countries.

The round table discussion is included in the recording of the meeting and is posted on the County Website.

2.2 New Business

2.2.1 ASB Grant Program Application 2020-2024

Manager R. Muenchrath presented the Request for Decision (RFD) and Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board Grant Program 2020-2024 application, submitted to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry on April 24, 2020 (note: a copy of the RFD and application were included in the agenda package).

RESOLUTION ASB-2020-04-04

Moved by HARWOOD

APPROVAL to ratify the Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board Grant Program Application 2020-2024 as presented.

• Carried

2.2.2 2% Liquid Strychnine Pricing

Manager R. Muenchrath presented the Request for Decision (RFD) regarding 2% Liquid Strychnine Pricing (note: a copy of the RFD included in the agenda package). Manager R. Muenchrath informed that due to the shortage of supply of strychnine, producer orders will be limited.

RESOLUTION ASB-2020-04-05

Moved by HARWOOD

APPROVAL to maintain the current price of strychnine at \$284.90/case for the remainder of 2020.

• Carried

2.2.3 Brandings and Social Distancing Requirements

Manager R. Muenchrath provided information on a document sourced by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, dated March 26, 2020 in regards to 'Branding/Processing Time, COVID-19 Information and Tips for Canadian Beef Operations'.

3. REPORTS AND RELATED BUSINESS

3.1 Chair's Report

Chair Wilson presented the Chair's Report. The verbal report informed under the current circumstances, COVID-19, minimal activity. There are rising concerns of commodity prices for agricultural producers. The verbal report is included in the recording of the meeting and is posted on the County Website.

3.2 Manager of Agriculture and Environment Report

R. Muenchrath, presented the Manager of Agriculture & Environment Report (report included in the agenda package). In addition, R. Muenchrath provided the following as information: seasonal staff cutbacks; cancellation of events; Alberta Agriculture and Forestry layoffs.

RESOLUTION ASB-2020-04-06

Moved by VAN LAAR

ACCEPTANCE of the Manager of Agriculture and Environment Report, as presented/provided.

• Carried

4. CORRESPONDENCE / INFORMATION

4.1 Correspondence and Information Items

RESOLUTION ASB-2020-04-07

Moved by ARMSTRONG

TO ACCEPT the following items as information, as provided in the request for decision:

- M.D. of Spirit River Correspondence, dated January 28, 2020 – RE: Regulation of Fusarium graminearum
- Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC) Correspondence, dated March 5, 2020
- Strychnine and Its Associated End-use Products (Richardson's Ground Squirrels) Final Decision, dated March 4, 2020
- Biocontrol Release Program Report – Annual Report 2019
- 2020 Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame Nomination Form
- 2016 Census of Agriculture for Alberta.

• Carried

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

RESOLUTION ASB-2020-04-08

Moved by BIGGAR

 THAT the meeting adjourn - time 9:50 A.M.

• Carried

Chair

General Manager of Transportation
and Agriculture

Recording Secretary

UNAPPROVED COPY

Wheatland County

Request for Decision

Agricultural Service Board

July 8, 2020

Report prepared by: Alyssa Robb



Soil Movement Educational Campaign

Recommendation from Administration

That the Board accept the Soil Movement Educational Communication Strategy and “Accepting Soil onto Agricultural Land” fact sheet documents as information.

Chief Administrative Officer’s Comments

N/A

Report

At the October 2, 2019 ASB Meeting, the Board was presented with information about soil movement occurring in Wheatland County and the risks associated with accepting soil from outside the municipality. In addition to handling multiple inquiries about bulk soil transfer into Wheatland County, the Agriculture and Environment department had been in discussion with neighboring rural municipalities who warned of major land management issues that had arisen from instances of bulk soil acceptance onto private agricultural land. Through ASB and Council, the matter was passed to Community & Development Services to draft Land Use Bylaw amendments. Soil Import Bylaw Updates were then discussed with Council at a Planning & Priorities meeting held on March 23, 2020. Following that meeting, Agriculture and Environment was directed to develop a public education campaign on soil transfer risks and recommendations. The intent of this RFD is to inform ASB of the outcome of the soil movement initiative and to share the attached fact sheet and educational communication strategy documents.

Relevant Policies, Practices, and Legislation

Agricultural Pests Act RSA 2000, c A-8 Weed Control Act SA 2008, c W-5.1 Soil Conservation Act RSA 2000, c S-15

Alignment with the Strategic Plan

This targeted educational campaign aligns with agricultural education already offered by our department. It supports our responsibility to uphold the *Agricultural Pests Act*, *Weed Control Act*, and *Soil Conservation Act*, and our intent to support the agricultural community in sustainable management of agricultural lands in Wheatland County.

Response Options

Option 1: THAT the proposed recommendation is accepted/approved.

Option 2: THAT the proposed recommendation is not accepted/approved.

Option 3: THAT an alternate recommendation is accepted/approved.

Implications of Recommendation

General

N/A

Organizational

N/A

Financial

N/A

Environmental, Staff, and Public Safety

N/A

Follow-up Action / Communications

Agriculture and Environment will implement the educational communication strategy as described in the attached documents.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Soil Movement Educational Campaign.docx
Attachments:	- Soil Movement Fact Sheet FINAL.pdf - Soil Movement Educational Communication Strategy.docx
Final Approval Date:	Jun 25, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russel Muenchrath', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Russel Muenchrath

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Ziehr', with a long, horizontal, wavy flourish extending to the right.

Michael Ziehr

ACCEPTING SOIL ONTO AGRICULTURAL LAND



FACT SHEET

As high rates of development occur west of our County, excess soil is being offered to landowners. This fact sheet outlines risks associated with accepting such soil onto agricultural lands and methods of mitigating them, and is intended to help support Wheatland County's agricultural producers in protecting themselves and their neighbors from any unforeseen consequences that may occur.

Risk Areas

CLUBROOT

Regulated under the Agricultural Pests Act for its ability to have devastating effects on cruciferous crops like canola, clubroot has been discovered in three neighboring municipalities.

Wheatland County does not yet have a confirmed case of this soil-borne disease, but increased movement of soil into our municipality greatly increases the risk of it being introduced.



The quality of soil

offered by companies looking to haul to agricultural lands will not always meet a standard expected by the farmer. Soil quality issues associated with this type of soil transfer include low organic matter content, high clay content, salinity, rocks, and garbage.

SOIL QUALITY

The potential movement of weed infestations into or throughout the County through bulk soil transfer is a cause for concern. Weeds cause economic and biodiversity losses, affecting our agricultural



community. Depending on the type of weed and severity of an infestation when found, weeds can be very difficult to eradicate. Early detection and response is critical.

WEEDS

Where the objective of placing bulk soil is to improve drainage or reduce standing water, landowners must be aware of potential impacts to neighbours and rules that apply to this activity. Displaced water can flood or damage other properties, and landowners may be reported by public passersby for potentially unauthorized activities leading to regulatory problems for the landowner.

DRAINAGE

Producers must be vigilant when accepting any bulk soil onto agricultural lands to ensure that productivity is not impacted and weeds and pests are not introduced. We must work together to ensure that the high quality agricultural land base in Wheatland County is maintained.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PROTECTING AGRICULTURAL LAND AND LANDOWNERS FROM RISKY BULK SOIL DECISIONS

1. SCRUTINIZE THE SOURCE

Find out where soil will be coming from. Are there causes for concern based on the previous use of the land? Has the soil been brought to a site from another? Knowing exactly where soil is coming from is the first step in understanding whether it is right for your land. The Alberta Soil Information Viewer can offer information about soil characteristics from that location. It is recommended that you visit the source site to see what you're being offered before agreeing to accept the material.

2. CONFIRM QUALITY

After gaining an understanding of the source of the material you're being offered, request soil testing proportionate to soil transfer volume. What are the organic matter, sand, silt, and clay contents of the soil? When soil was stripped, were topsoil and subsoil kept separate or have they been mixed? Is there salinity or sodicity present that will make crop growth difficult? Do not assume you will be given clean topsoil; it is better to understand the quality problems present before soil is left for you to manage.

3. GUARANTEE PEST-FREE

Ensure soil is free of clubroot and other agricultural pests by requiring testing for soil-borne disease. Not only will your canola crops thank you, but diligence in preventing the spread of clubroot is required under the *Agricultural Pests Act*. You can also ask to have soil tested for presence of regulated weeds.

4. INSIST ON AN AGREEMENT

Get your expectations assured in writing through use of a contract or other agreement. How much soil are you acquiring? What is its quality, clubroot, and weed status? Whose responsibility is it to remove rocks and garbage that are left on your property? If quality, productivity, disease, or weed issues arise after soil has been placed, who is responsible for correcting them? Who is responsible for dust and other impacts during soil hauling? Who is responsible for obtaining any necessary authorizations for the work?

5. READ THE REGULATIONS

The placement of soil in areas where water flows or is present is regulated under Alberta's *Water Act*. A landowner will be personally liable for any changes to drainage that result in damage to infrastructure or other properties, or for any reported activities that become a compliance matter for Alberta Environment and Parks. Protect yourself by knowing and understanding the rules before deciding where to put soil. Be sure to check with the County regarding road use and development permit requirements.

6. WATCH FOR WEEDS

After soil has been placed, keep an eye on growth of any weed species. Weeds are much easier to manage when infestations are caught early. Enlist the assistance of your County Agriculture and Environment team to identify weeds and control measures if needed.



*Photos are local examples of agricultural problems caused by soil accepted from developers

For more information, please
contact Wheatland County's
Agriculture and Environment
Department at 403-934-3321
or email us at
admin@wheatlandcounty.ca



Soil Movement Educational Communication Strategy

The Agriculture and Environment department has developed the following educational communication strategy to support and educate ratepayers who consider bulk soil transfer onto agricultural lands in Wheatland County. It is critical that landowners understand the risks of allowing large amounts of unknown soil to be applied to quality agricultural lands in Wheatland County, prior to accepting offers from developers. This strategy represents our effort to inform landowners of risks and options prior to their decision-making, so that they are empowered to seek additional information and support as required.

1. Fact Sheet Publication

A fact sheet titled “Accepting Soil onto Agricultural Land” has been developed identifying risk areas associated with bulk soil transfer and offering a series of recommendations for landowners considering accepting soil. It features photos of local soil issues caused by acceptance of soil on agricultural lands. This fact sheet is currently the primary educational tool for the campaign.

2. Wheatland County Website Promotion

In July 2020, the fact sheet will be made accessible on the County website and featured at site locations where members of the public may seek information about soil movement projects (i.e. development permits, road use agreements, agricultural services).

3. Wheatland County Social Media Promotion

A series of social media posts will be developed featuring key pieces of information from the fact sheet and imagery that explain risks and support suggestions, with linkage to the full fact sheet document. Social media posts will be released between July and September of 2020, and again between March and May of 2021 when soil movement is expected to increase.

4. County Connector Advertisement

The fact sheet will be featured in the August 2020, and February and/or April 2021 editions of the County Connector.

5. Landowner and Soil Haul Inquiry Response

When landowners or soil haul companies inquire about soil movement activities at the County, employees will supply the landowner with the fact sheet. These types of inquiries may be made to front line administrative, transportation and infrastructure, planning & development, or agriculture and environment employees. All employees will be made aware of the fact sheet and educated as to appropriate opportunities to share it with members of the public.

6. Fact sheet Accessibility

The fact sheet will be printed and displayed in the administration office alongside other agricultural materials. It will be taken to agricultural events as appropriate and its display at other County-hosted events will be promoted by agriculture and environment employees.

Wheatland County

Request for Decision

Agricultural Service Board

July 8, 2020

Report prepared by: Alyssa Robb



Support for Alberta Farmland Trust Resolution

Recommendation from Administration

That the Board approve the submission of the Support for Alberta Farmland Trust Resolution to the South Region Agricultural Service Board conference for endorsement consideration;

And further that the Board forward the Support for Alberta Farmland Trust Resolution to the August 18, 2020 Council Meeting for Council review and submission to the Central Rural Municipalities of Alberta – District 2 Fall General Meeting for endorsement consideration.

Chief Administrative Officer's Comments

N/A

Report

At the January 15, 2020 ASB Meeting Stan Carscallen; lawyer, rancher, and co-founder of Alberta Farmland Trust, delivered a presentation to the Agricultural Service Board describing challenges in the use of agricultural conservation easements. The Board was inspired to undertake advocacy efforts in support of the protection, conservation, and enhancement of agricultural lands in Alberta. At the February 4, 2020 Council meeting a resolution was passed for administration to draft a resolution on the topic for Council review prior to submitting to the South Region Agricultural Service Board conference and Central Rural Municipalities of Alberta – District 2 Fall General Meeting for endorsement consideration.

Relevant Policies, Practices, and Legislation

Alberta Land Stewardship Act SA 2009, c A-26.8; South Saskatchewan Regional Plan 2014 – 2024: Amended 2018

Alignment with the Strategic Plan

Protection and conservation of agricultural land is a priority under regional planning initiatives and is referenced within Wheatland County's Regional Growth Management Strategy and Municipal Development Plan.

Response Options

Option 1: THAT the proposed recommendation is accepted/approved.

Option 2: THAT the proposed recommendation is not accepted/approved.

Option 3: THAT an alternate recommendation is accepted/approved.

Implications of Recommendation

General

N/A

Organizational

N/A

Financial

N/A

Environmental, Staff, and Public Safety

N/A

Follow-up Action / Communications

If approved by both the Board today and by Council at the August 18, 2020 Council Meeting, the attached resolution will be submitted to both the South Region Agricultural Service Board Conference and Central Rural Municipalities of Alberta – District 2 Fall General meeting by the appropriate deadlines. Terminology and formatting used in the document is currently aligned with RMA but will be modified to suit the ASB for that submission.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Support for Alberta Farmland Trust Resolution.docx
Attachments:	- Support for Alberta Farmland Trust Resolution FINAL.docx - Farmland Trust Carscallen Paper.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jun 25, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

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Russel Muenchrath

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Ziehr', with a long, horizontal, wavy flourish extending to the right.

Michael Ziehr

Support for Alberta Farmland Trust
Wheatland County

WHEREAS the Alberta Farmland Trust is a new land trust organization pursuing charitable status and advocating for the advancement of mechanisms to support the protection, conservation and enhancement of agricultural lands in Alberta; and

WHEREAS the Alberta Land Stewardship Act, SA 2009, c A-26.8 (ALSA) establishes “the protection, conservation and enhancement of the environment,” “the protection, conservation and enhancement of natural scenic or esthetic values, and “the protection, conservation and enhancement of agricultural land or land for agricultural purposes” as valid purposes for conservation easements; and

WHEREAS Canada’s Ecological Gifts (EcoGift) Program offers “significant tax benefits to landowners who donate land or partial interests in land to a qualified recipient” by way of a conservation easement with the purpose of protecting and preserving ecologically sensitive lands, but no similar program exists in support of the protection, conservation and enhancement of agricultural lands (Government of Canada, 2019); and

WHEREAS cultivated lands do not qualify under the EcoGift program, but many of Alberta’s high quality, productive soils are found in areas with high development pressure and therefore are at risk of loss without an effective mechanism for legal protection (Carscallen, 2018); and

WHEREAS Multi-generational farm families have farmed high quality land for many years and have expressed a desire to be able to conserve those agricultural lands, but are unable to do so because of risks and costs that would be alleviated by supports offered only for ecologically sensitive lands (Carscallen, 2018); and

WHEREAS rural municipalities, as managers of land use in agricultural regions, are bound by terms of regional plans that have a focus on maintaining an agricultural land base such as the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, and, as a voice for rural landowners, have an interest in the availability of effective tools for the preservation of agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS financial barriers to placing conservation easements on agricultural land render them economically unavailable for legal protection at this time; meanwhile funding, tax benefits, and support offered to ecological conservation easements have proven to be an effective tool for the conservation of ecologically sensitive lands; and

WHEREAS according to sections 25-26 of ALSA the Lieutenant Governor in Council is responsible for establishing, supporting or facilitating funding and cost-sharing initiatives, mechanisms and instruments to support or enhance conservation easements and instruments designed or intended to support, encourage or enhance the protection,

conservation and enhancement of agricultural land or land for agricultural purposes, and this function may be delegated to the Stewardship Minister;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request that Alberta's Environment & Parks and Agriculture & Forestry departments implement policies and programs that support the creation of agricultural conservation easements on lands within Alberta's highly productive, food-producing areas. These should include: first, the establishment of agricultural conservation as a priority under the Alberta Land Trust Grant Program so that agricultural land trusts can access funding, and benefit from policy support; second, the initiation of work towards an "AgriGift" program parallel to the EcoGift program in cooperation with the federal government; and third, any other policies and programs that the Lieutenant Governor and/or Stewardship Minister see fit in order to create functional mechanisms for the protection and conservation of farmland in Alberta; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request that the Federal Government work with Alberta and other provinces to establish an "AgriGift" program similar to the existing Ecological Gifts Program but in support of the protection, conservation and enhancement of Canada's most valuable food producing agricultural lands.

Member Background

In January of 2020 Wheatland County's Agricultural Service Board received a presentation from Stan Carscallen, a lawyer, rancher, and co-founder of Alberta Farmland Trust. Carscallen described challenges faced by landowners and land trusts seeking to protect, conserve and enhance Alberta's agricultural lands, and efforts made by Alberta Farmland Trust to improve supports available to them. Wheatland County's Agricultural Service Board and Council were inspired to join advocacy efforts for the development and implementation of programs and policies that support agricultural conservation easements in Alberta, with recognition of the importance of preserving and protecting our most valuable agricultural lands. We hope that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta are also inspired to stand with us and act, using our collective voice, to advance initiatives in this area. We hope that agricultural conservation easements will soon become a feasible option for the landowners in our municipality, and others, through this advocacy work.

Please see Carscallen's attached paper titled "The Urgent Need for the Formation and Support of an Alberta Farmland Trust," as background support for our resolution.

Bibliography

Alberta Farmer Express: Alexis Kienlen. (2019, Nov. 20). New farmland trust aims to preserve good soil. Accessed on April 28, 2020 at <https://www.albertafarmexpress.ca/news/new-farmland-trust-aims-to-preserve-good-soil-2/>.

Alberta Land Stewardship Act, SA 2009, c A-26.8, <<http://canlii.ca/t/5259q>> retrieved on 2020-05-01

Carscallen, Stan. (2018, Aug. 2). The urgent need for the formation and support of an Alberta farmland trust. Work provided by Stan Carscallen, Q.C., on January 29, 2020.

Government of Alberta. (2020). Alberta land trust grant program. Accessed on April 30, 2020 at <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-land-trust-grant-program.aspx>.

Government of Alberta. (2018, May 1). South Saskatchewan regional plan 2014 – 2024: amended 2018. Retrieved on May 1, 2020 from <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/13ccde6d-34c9-45e4-8c67-6a251225ad33/resource/e643d015-3e53-4950-99e6-beb49c71b368/download/south-saskatchewan-regional-plan-2014-2024-may-2018.pdf>.

Government of Canada. (2019, May 8). Ecological gifts program: overview. Accessed on April 30, 2020 at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/ecological-gifts-program/overview.html>.

The Western Producer: Barb Glen. (2018, Nov. 1) Proposed program aims to conserve farmland. Accessed on April 29, 2020 at <https://www.producer.com/2018/11/proposed-program-aims-to-conserve-farmland/>.

The Urgent Need for the Formation and Support of an Alberta Farmland Trust

Introduction

With the Alberta economy moving in 2018 toward some degree of recovery, most thinking Albertans recognize that there is now an urgent need for an initiative, supported by government policy, designed to protect and preserve Alberta's highest quality and most productive food producing lands. Such a policy would be warmly welcomed not only by the agriculture community but also by those living in the urban centers to whom the implications of urban sprawl, industrialization and country residential development on productive farmland is fully apparent.

Background of Conservation Easements in Alberta

Conservation easements were first introduced in Alberta through the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Amendment Act*, 1996, SA 1996, c.17. That legislation, however, provided only for ecological conservation easements for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the environment and of natural scenic or aesthetic values.

In 2008 the Canadian federal Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada published a paper by Good and Michalsky entitled "*Summary of Canadian Experience with Conservation Easements and their Potential Application to Agri-Environmental Policy*" which includes strong support for the creation of tax and other incentives to give life to the use of conservation easements for the preservation of well managed agricultural landscapes.

In 2009, the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act*, SA 2009, c A-26.8 ("**ALSA**"), created the first legislative foothold in Alberta for the use of conservation easements for the "protection, conservation and enhancement of agricultural land or land for agricultural purposes". Since 2009, however, nothing substantive appears to have been done by government to implement the policy in ALSA that was so warmly received at the time. Consequently, some nine years later, there is no noticeable movement in the Province toward the use in a meaningful way of conservation easements over farmland.

To be clear, many of the ecological conservation easements put in place to date in the Province encompass lands that have an agricultural purpose, namely livestock grazing, and indeed some even include some hayland as well. So as to avoid any misunderstanding arising from that fact, it is emphasized at the outset that the thrust of this paper in support of the use of agricultural conservation easements, is to advocate for farmland conservation easements as distinct from ecological conservation easements that have a secondary function of preserving land that also has an agricultural function from grazing.

In March 2012, the Miistakis Institute and the Environmental Law Centre published a report entitled "*Conservation Easements for Agriculture in Alberta, A Report on a Proposed Policy Direction*" ("**Miistakis**") which is a helpful and comprehensive analysis of the concept of agricultural conservation easements for Alberta. However, there has been governmental policy inertia since that report was issued in 2012.

In the meantime, ecological conservation easements under ALSA as implemented under the Federal/Provincial EcoGift Program, have proven to be a popular and very helpful tool in the protection and preservation of ecologically sensitive lands in Alberta, particularly in the Eastern Slopes region. To date, approximately 165,000 acres have been conserved under the Eco-Gifts Program.

Conservation Easement

A conservation easement as used in Alberta today is an amphibious legal creation. In one respect it is an easement to the extent that the qualified organization (i.e., a charity such as, for example, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Southern Alberta Land Trust or Western Sky Land Trust) has the right to enter the lands from time to time for the purpose of monitoring the landowner's compliance with the provisions of the conservation easement. At the same time, the instrument is a restrictive covenant which imposes certain restrictions and prohibitions applicable to the land in perpetuity.

It is the restrictive covenant aspect of a conservation easement that gives rise to the greatest challenge to its enforceability. In the first place, the restrictions must not be dated and must be practical with a view to being in place and enforceable in perpetuity. But even more important, is the fact that the common law prescribes that a restrictive covenant is to be strictly construed. By that is meant that anything that is not precisely and unambiguously prohibited by the terms of the conservation easement, will not be disallowed.

The Essence of an Agricultural Conservation Easement

Miistakis addresses what it calls the "purpose conundrum". The report advises Government that it needs to articulate a purpose for agricultural conservation easements before full implementation of that tool can be put in place. To that end, Miistakis analyzes whether the purpose should be economic, for food production, to support culture and rural communities, to preserve open spaces, to protect the environment or to implement sustainable production. It is respectfully submitted, however, that any such focus on requiring a new and specific purpose for agricultural conservation easements maybe founded upon misunderstandings that are important to recognize.

The first, is alluded to in the Miistakis Report where reference is made to the experience in the United States over its 100 years of usage of conservation easements. In the US, the perspective is that legal challenges are a question of "when" and not "if". It is submitted that there is no reason why the Alberta perspective with regard to the use of this tool should be any different over the perpetual life of a conservation easement. It would be a mistake to think otherwise.

It is easy to imagine how future owners of conserved land will in many cases resent the restrictions imposed on their property by an unknown predecessor in title. The resentment will stem from the substantially lower value for the property and the inability to utilize the generally applicable laws allowing for changes of use, subdivision, etc. The end result is that future owners of property can reasonably be expected to scrutinize every word of the conservation easement encumbering their land and, together with their solicitors, analyze how strictly each provision of the conservation easement can be construed.

As a matter of good management, qualified organizations holding conservation easements retain an endowment fund or a reserve fund for ongoing stewardship of conserved land. But the budgets for those reserved funds do not allow daily, weekly, monthly or anything much more than an annual monitoring visit. So what is a qualified organization to do if a future landowner starts cutting timber on the land when it was prohibited, selling topsoil when it was prohibited or any one of myriads of other things that angry or destructive landowners might resort to. Of course, if any such destructive steps were to be taken without prior notice to the qualified organization, then the damage would have been done even before the qualified organization has any idea of the threat.

Of equal significance is the fact that qualified organizations are not likely to be able to fund any frequency of hard-fought litigation with disgruntled future owners over the precise meaning of the restrictions contained in individual conservation easements. The danger of that, is that landowners of the future may run roughshod over the conservation easement tool unless it is carefully and thoughtfully established at the outset, without attempts to overreach by including restrictions and purposes that are unrealistic or simply unenforceable. There is a common unrealistic expectation on the part of many commentators about conservation easements with respect to the extent and precision by which legally enforceable restrictions can be imposed in order to achieve overly ambitious and unrealistic purposes.

What is the Purpose of an Agricultural Conservation Easement in Alberta?

It is submitted that enforceability of a conservation easement can best be attained by recognizing that the relatively simple and direct task of protecting, conserving and enhancing of land for agricultural purposes can be achieved:

- (a) by prohibiting any subdivision (ie., reducing the area of a parcel below a quarter section of 160 acres);
- (b) by prohibiting any change in use of the land; and
- (c) possibly also by prescribing what, if any, and what extent of agricultural building will be allowed on the land.

The latter item would be negotiated between the donating landowner and the qualified organization with the expectation that if a clear limitation on agricultural building is breached, the court will have little difficulty with enforcement.

It is the combination of items (a) and (b) above, however, that is the essence of an agricultural conservation easement. Specifically, if a future landowner wants to subdivide he/she will have to go to the subdivision approving authority which will have been fully informed in advance of the existence of the conservation easement. Similarly, if he/she wants to change the use of the land under any future land use planning legislation, he/she would also need to get approval from the appropriate regulatory authority which will also be aware in advance of the conservation easement.

If one recognizes that those two (and perhaps three) essential provisions of an appropriate agricultural conservation easement in Alberta (the “**Essence of an ACE**”) are put in place, then

the protection, conservation and enhancement of agricultural land or land for agricultural purposes can be achieved in a readily enforceable manner regardless of the opposition of any future owners. That is because any future disgruntled landowner could not achieve subdivision or change of use without the authorization of a third party governmental agency such that unilateral breach of the conservation easement would not at all be likely to occur.

Some have argued that the provision of Section 29 of ALSA providing for the use of a conservation easement for the protection, conservation and enhancement of agricultural land or land for agricultural purposes is a land use rather than a purpose. However, that is a distinction without a meaningful difference in this context. It is submitted that all concern about there being an absence of a purpose for agricultural conservation easements in Alberta can be dispensed with if one recognizes that ALSA already expresses the purpose in Section 29 of the Act - “the protection, conservation and enhancement of agricultural land or land for agricultural purposes”.

What Lands Should be Agriculturally Conserved in Alberta Today?

It is recommended that the Alberta Government implement a policy to support the creation of agricultural conservation easements on lands within Alberta’s most highly productive food producing areas. To that end, we attach as Appendix A to this Memorandum a map entitled “*Organic Matter Content of Cultivated Soils of the Agricultural Area of Alberta*” as produced by Alberta Agricultural, Food and Rural Development in conjunction with Norwest Labs. On that map the soils containing a percent of organic matter of 6 and greater (ie., the very dark brown and the dark redish brown areas) be used to delineate Alberta’s most highly productive food producing lands.

Some of those best soils in the Province extend all the way down the Eastern Slopes to the US border. Many parts of those particular lands are already being conserved under the EcoGift Program so that the agricultural conservation easement could be used to slip into place for cultivated lands in that particular area that do not qualify under the EcoGift Program. It is submitted that government policy ought to make clear that agricultural conservation easements apply to parcels which are all or substantially all cultivated land, including forages and tame pasture.

Importance of Implementing an Agricultural Conservation Easement Program in Alberta at this Time

There are a number of farm families in the Province who themselves and their ancestors have farmed high quality Alberta farmland for many years and in some cases, for several generations. A number of them have expressed to both the national and the regional land trusts, a desire to be able to conserve those agricultural lands. However, they are unable to do so because of the risks and costs described herein and because the established land trusts are fully focussed and occupied with gifts under the EcoGift Program.

Not only are there no tax advantages available today, nor any public funding for support of agricultural conservation easements, but also there are substantial legal, accounting, appraisal and land registration costs and challenges to be incurred. All of those costs and challenges need to be incurred and met by the landowner so that he/she can devalue his/her property. The fatal

issue in all of this is the fact that granting an agricultural conservation easement is a disposition of an interest in the land for capital gains tax purposes.

As can be seen from the map which is Appendix A, much of the highest quality and most productive soils in the Province run along the Edmonton / Calgary corridor. Industrialization up and down that corridor is happening at a rapid rate. It is submitted that the people of Alberta, both rural and urban would welcome the implementation of policies to allow at least some of those invaluable food producing lands to be conserved.

The essential question therefore is, what policy initiatives need to be taken to implement a workable agricultural conservation easement program in Alberta?

What are the Financial Implications of Granting a Conservation Easement in Alberta Today?

In face of ongoing habitat loss and degradation, the Government of Canada, with the objective of maintaining biodiversity, has established the EcoGift Program. It provides incentives to landowners to protect their ecologically sensitive lands. Before one addresses what might be done to stimulate the granting of agricultural conservation easements in Alberta, it is useful to understand the financial implications of an ecological conservation easement from the point of view of a donating landowner.

Ownership of fee simple land in Alberta today can be described as comprising many bundles of rights: rights such as the right to cut trees, the right to farm, the right to graze, the right to build structures, the right to apply for subdivision, the right to apply for a change in use, the right to grow any and every crop imaginable that might survive in this climate, etc., etc. When a conservation easement is granted, some of those “bundles of rights” are removed and from a legal standpoint, that is seen as a sale of part of the fee simple interest.

For that reason, the donor and the qualified organization as the donee of a conservation easement must obtain an appraisal of the value of the lands without a conservation easement, and an appraisal of them after the conservation easement is put in place.

As mentioned above, when a conservation easement is granted there is a deemed disposition of a real property interest, equal to the value of the gift (ie., the value attributed by the appraiser to those bundles of rights removed by means of the conservation easement).

Under the EcoGift Program, the capital gains tax on the value of that donation is waived. No such advantage, however, accrues to a donor of an agricultural conservation easement and it is that fact which currently creates the single greatest impediment to the use of conservation easements to protect agricultural land.

The donor of an ecological conservation easement, together with the qualified organization receiving it, enjoy two significant advantages under the EcoGift Program. One is the fact that the Federal Department of Environment certifies that the lands in question are ecologically sensitive. The other is that the value attributed by the appraiser to be the market value of the ecological gift is certified by the Federal Department of Environment as having been reviewed by qualified professionals and approved. The advantage, therefore, is that a donor of an

ecological conservation easement can go forward with the donation with certainty that the value attributed to the gift will not be questioned by the Canada Revenue Agency (“CRA”). Similarly, the qualified organization will be in a position to issue a tax receipt for the value of the gift which the CRA will not question.

Of course, since there is no “AgriGift Program” in place in Canada today, the donor of an agricultural conservation easement cannot have such certainty. In theory, at least, the donor can place faith in the appraiser, and hope that the qualified organization will as well. However, both of them must know that the CRA may at any time over a 4 year period after the year in which the gift is made, challenge the appraiser’s valuation of the land, the assessment of the value of the gift or whether the lands in question meet the objective of the protection, conservation and enhancement of agricultural lands or land for agricultural purposes. In short, the granting of an agricultural conservation easement today is awash with uncertainty including the potential for disputes and the threat of possible litigation with the CRA.

There is yet another significant advantage that accrues under the EcoGift Program where the donor is an individual as opposed to a corporation. An individual receives a tax receipt which can be utilized for the year of the gift plus ten more taxation years against tax actually payable by the individual, as opposed to taxable income which would be the case for a corporate donor. No such advantage accrues to an individual upon the granting of an agricultural conservation easement.

Finally, a major incentive within the EcoGift Program is that the donating landowner can receive part of the value of his gift, not merely as a tax receipt for the donated portion, but also in cash for the portion of the value of the conservation easement that is purchased by the qualified organization. Some of that funding for the qualified organizations comes from the Federal Government and some from the Provincial.

Not many farm owners in Alberta today need a tax receipt. An ideal solution would be for tax receipts that are issued for donations of agricultural conservation easements, to be made transferable so that farm owners might be able to obtain cash for the receipt. Also, receipt of cash, perhaps to the same degree made available under the EcoGift Program, would be highly attractive and a great incentive to cause landowners to move forward to protect Alberta’s most valuable food producing lands.

What Should be Done?

The best solution would involve the creation of an “AgriGift Program” parallel to the EcoGift Program. Such a policy, however, would require cooperation between the federal and provincial governments. It is recommended that efforts in that regard be initiated by the Province of Alberta with the aim of creating a program similar to the EcoGift Program.

The federal government has, of course, heard of this issue before. Attached as Appendix B is a letter dated December 6, 2006, from the Ontario Farmland Trust to the Honourable James Flaherty, who was then the Minister of Finance for Canada. That letter clearly articulates many of the strong arguments in favour of the two levels of government working together to create functional mechanisms for the preservation of farmland in Canada before it is too late.

Back in 2012, Miistakis commented that (under the previous federal Government) there seemed to be a significant appetite for the creation of such a program nationwide. One would hope that the present federal Government, recognizing the constant and rapid decline in the most highly productive food producing lands in the country, may also be supportive of such an initiative.

A number of potential mechanisms for creating and enhancing the tax incentives for the granting of a conservation easement in Canada are discussed in a useful paper by Zweibel and Cooper entitled “*Charitable Gifts of Conservation Easements: Lessons From the U.S. Experience in Enhancing the Tax Incentive*” published in the Canadian Tax Journal (2010) Vol. 58, No. 1, 25-61.

Governments today are concerned about costs. It is submitted, however, that any perceived loss of tax revenue on capital gains from an agricultural donation is theoretical at best and would be overcome by the perpetual future food productivity of the lands. The loss of tax revenue through the issuance of tax receipts, and the availability of cash for at least partial purchase of agricultural conservation easements, could at the outset be capped when a new program is initiated and the very best lands in each Province or region are identified and qualified, so that there would be no unbudgeted expenditures of public funds.

Finally, it is time for the establishment of an Alberta Farmland Trust to be the qualified organization to receive agricultural conservation easements, to press governments for support of the concept and to raise funds for administration and stewardship purposes. Such an organization would be complementary of the land trusts engaged in the EcoGift Program but not competitive with them.

Dated this 2nd day of August, 2018.

Stanley Carscallen, Q.C.¹

¹ Mr. Carscallen is a practising lawyer with Carscallen LLP in Calgary and the owner of White Moose Ranch at Millarville, Alberta.

Wheatland County

Request for Decision

Agricultural Service Board

July 8, 2020

Report prepared by: Alyssa Robb



Agricultural and Environmental Policy Section Revisions

Recommendation from Administration

That the Board recommend to Council the amendments to Agriculture and Environment Policy Section 3 as presented.

Chief Administrative Officer's Comments

N/A

Report

Division: N/A

Wheatland County Administration is undertaking a series of updates to policies in order to align formatting across policy sections. As part of this work, the former General Policy Section 3 was dissolved via Council resolution CM-2020-05-27. This resolution caused the former Policy Section 2, *ASB Policies*, to be reordered and renamed to Section 3, *Agriculture and Environment Policies*, and Policy 3.4.1 Environmental Policy to be added. The Agriculture and Environment department has taken this opportunity to update Section 3 to the new policy format and make a series of suggested minor textual amendments to ensure that our policies are up to date, serving their purpose, and reflect the current structure and operation of the department.

Relevant Policies, Practices, and Legislation

Wheatland County Policy Section 3, Agriculture and Environment Policies

Alignment with the Strategic Plan

This work is occurring due to Administration's Policy Reformat and Update Project. Our department's policies also benefit from the timely update.

Response Options

Option 1: THAT the proposed recommendation is accepted/approved.

Option 2: THAT the proposed recommendation is not accepted/approved.

Option 3: THAT an alternate recommendation is accepted/approved.

Implications of Recommendation

General

N/A

Organizational

No policy amendments presented result in alterations to any department programming or staff workload requirements.

Financial

No policy amendments presented result in impact to current or future budgets.

Environmental, Staff, and Public Safety

No policy amendments presented impact the environment or staff and public safety.

Follow-up Action / Communications

Agriculture and Environment will present the suggested amendments to Council. If approved, policies will be updated internally and on the County website.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Agriculture and Environment Policy Section Revisions.docx
Attachments:	- Section 3 - Agriculture and Environment Policies - Final Clean Draft.docx - Section 3 - Agriculture and Environment Policies - Redline version FINAL.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jun 26, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russel Muenchrath', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Russel Muenchrath

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Ziehr', with a long, horizontal, wavy flourish extending to the right.

Michael Ziehr

Wheatland County
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT POLICIES

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Effective Date:	Revised: April/09 Revised: Dec. 1/09 CM – Res. 09-742 Revised: Oct. 18/11 CM – Res. 11-797 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To establish strategic direction for the Agricultural Service Board (ASB).

POLICY

Wheatland County ASB business planning is guided by the following vision, mission, and goals:

Vision: The Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board is committed to strengthening; promoting and supporting agriculture and the environment within our municipality with a view to continually improve how we operate in future years.

Mission: The ASB develops and implements programs and policies that focus on the areas of weeds, pests, soil and water conservation and environmental issues for the benefit of all residents, in partnership with other government agencies, the agriculture industry and residents on agricultural programs and issues.

Goals

1. To operate as an effective, viable, pro-active Agricultural Service Board that fosters the growth and development of partnerships.
2. To promote agriculture and the rural way of life.
3. To be responsive to current issues and trends in agriculture and incorporate them into ongoing programs.
4. To help prevent the spread and establishment of invasive weed species through an integrated vegetation management program.
5. To help prevent the establishment and spread of declared pests and assist with the control of nuisance pests as described in the Agricultural Pests Act.
6. To maintain the integrity of agricultural soils through the delivery and support of the Soil Conservation Act.
7. To assist in the control of animal diseases under the Animal Health Act.
8. Increase awareness, understanding and implementation of environmental agricultural practices and programs, with an emphasis on supporting the agricultural industry.

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.1 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT Page 1/1
Effective Date: Jan. 1, 2005	Revised: April/09 Revised: Dec. 1/09 CM – Res. 09-742 Revised: Oct. 18/11 CM – Res. 11-797 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To describe the components of municipal vegetation management for which the Agriculture and Environment department is responsible with the intent of controlling weeds, assisting with public safety, reducing snow drift, and improving County aesthetics.

POLICY

The Agriculture and Environment department is responsible for vegetation control on road rights-of-way and weed control on County-owned lands. These activities include:

- Mowing and spot spraying of shoulders and/or slopes of all municipal roads starting in mid-June based on a rotation of grader divisions.
- A second cut of municipal roads will be completed if required and if conditions allow at the discretion of the Manager of Agriculture and Environment. Not all roads will receive a second cut.
- Private construction borrows seeded to forage and the entire right of way of newly constructed roads will be mowed if necessary.
- Municipally owned or leased lands under the direct care of Wheatland County will be sprayed for weed control if necessary.
- Chemical brush control on cut stumps and re-growth in road ditches on locations supplied by Public Works.

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.2 FORAGE SEEDING Page 1/1
Effective Date: Jan. 1, 2005	Revised: Dec. 1/09 CM – Res. 09-742 Revised: Oct. 18/11 CM – Res. 11-797 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To describe forage seeding activities carried out by the Agriculture and Environment department with the intent of revegetation of disturbed sites and erosion control.

POLICY

The Agriculture and Environment department is responsible for forage seeding of County-disturbed sites. This program will abide by the following guidelines:

- New roads and disturbances on road allowances are intended to be seeded in spring following the construction year.
- Public works staff shall notify the Agricultural Foreman when disturbed areas are ready to be seeded and ensure that these areas are leveled and free of excessive rocks and debris.
- Contractor seeded disturbance must supply a certificate of seed analysis to the Manager of Agriculture and Environment for approval prior to purchasing their seed.
- The roadside forage mix will be approved by the Manager of Agriculture and Environment. Wheatland County will only purchase seed with a certificate of seed analysis.
- The Agriculture and Environment department seeds all borrow pits that were previously in forage with the forage species requested by the landowner. The County Land Agent is consulted prior to seeding all borrows on private land to determine any special conditions for seeding.
- If a landowner requests unique conditions for seeding that cannot be met by the Agriculture and Environment department, seed will be supplied to the landowner for seeding. The location of the borrow area and the quantity and type of seed will be recorded and the landowner must sign a waiver releasing Wheatland County from any further responsibility or liability.

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.3 WEED INSPECTION Page 1/1
Effective Date: March 14, 2017 Res. 17-03-37	Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To offer guidelines for the fulfillment of legislated duties under the *Weed Control Act*.

POLICY

The Agriculture and Environment department is responsible for all duties legislated under the *Weed Control Act* and will carry out weed inspection activities in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Weed inspection will be completed according to the *Weed Control Act* and Regulations.
- Wheatland County shall ensure that a sufficient number of weed inspectors are appointed to carry out the provisions of the *Weed Control Act*.
- The weed inspection program shall include inspection, inventory and monitoring of both public and private lands.
- When a weed problem is found every effort shall be taken to work with the landowner to resolve the problem in an amicable manner.
- Weed notices may be issued by an appointed weed inspector for species regulated under the *Weed Control Act*, at the discretion of the Manager of Agriculture and Environment or designate.

REFERENCES

External

- Weed Control Act, SA 2008, c W-5.1

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.4 PEST AND NUISANCE CONTROL Page 1/1
Effective Date: Jan. 1, 2005	Revised: Dec. 1/09 CM – Res. 09-742 Revised: Oct. 18/11 CM – Res. 11-797 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To offer guidelines for the control of specific agricultural pests and nuisances in Wheatland County in accordance with the *Agricultural Pests Act*.

POLICY

Pest and nuisance control for the specific agricultural pests and nuisances listed will be administered according to the *Agricultural Pests Act* and Regulations and the following guidelines:

- **Coyote:** Livestock producers may, if qualified for a Form 8 Permit to Use Control Material, be given a maximum of six (6) 1080 tablets per predation occurrence. Any unused 1080 tablets are to be returned at the end of the predation occurrence or within 30 days from issuance.
- **Norway Rat:** All suspected Norway Rat infestations should be treated as a priority and must be investigated within two (2) days.
- **Richardson's Ground Squirrel:** The Agriculture and Environment Department may be involved in the retail sale and distribution of 2% Strychnine for the control of Richardson's Ground Squirrel, as long as it is allowed by legislation and is not available through existing retail outlets.
- **Other Nuisances:** Traps for skunks and magpies shall be made available to ratepayers as per the equipment rental policy.

REFERENCES

External

- Agricultural Pests Act RSA 2000, c A-8

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.5 CLUBROOT <div style="text-align: right;">Page 1/2</div>
Effective Date: New Policy Dec. 1/09 CM – 09-742	Revised: Oct. 18/11 CM – Res. 11-797 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To offer guidelines for the fulfillment of legislated duties under the *Agricultural Pests Act* for monitoring and control of clubroot.

POLICY

As Clubroot is a declared pest under the *Agricultural Pests Act*, Wheatland County will undertake the following measures to help prevent the spread of this disease within the municipality:

- Random field inspections will be conducted by pest inspectors appointed by the Municipality.
- Inspectors will follow procedures set out by Wheatland County Agriculture and Environment on proper sampling techniques and protocol for entering upon land.
- Positive identification of Clubroot shall include visible root gall symptoms, visible adverse effects on top growth as well as a positive PCR test on root material.
- A positive PCR test on soil alone will be considered a risk indicator and that the field should be monitored for Clubroot symptoms in susceptible plants in the future.
- When land is verified positive for Clubroot, the landowner may be issued a Legal notice in accordance with the Province of Alberta's *Agricultural Pest Act*. The notice may include any or all of the following conditions:
 - The growing of canola, mustard or other susceptible crop shall be limited to once (1) in four (4) years.
 - Within the 1 in 4-year rotation only a registered clubroot resistant variety may be grown.
 - Adjacent landowners to the affected property shall be notified in writing that clubroot is present.
 - If a host crop is sown on land that has been verified positive for Clubroot and a notice has been issued on this property restricting the growth of host crops, the host crop shall be destroyed.
 - The owner, occupants and all other users of the land will have the responsibility to follow best management practices as outlined by Alberta

Agriculture & Forestry.

REFERENCES

External

- Agricultural Pests Act RSA 2000, c A-8

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.6 SOIL CONSERVATION Page 1/1
Effective Date: New Policy Oct. 5/17 - Res. 17-10-07	Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To offer guidelines for the fulfillment of legislated duties under the *Soil Conservation Act*.

POLICY

The Agriculture and Environment department is responsible for all duties legislated under the *Soil Conservation Act* and will carry out inspection activities in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Wheatland County shall ensure that a sufficient number of Soil Conservation Officers are appointed to carry out the provisions of the *Soil Conservation Act*.
- The soil conservation program shall include inspection and monitoring of cultivated land within Wheatland County.
- When a soil erosion problem is found every effort shall be taken to work with the landowner to resolve the problem in an amicable manner.
- Notices may be issued by an appointed Soil Conservation Officer at the discretion of the Manager of Agriculture and Environment or designate.

REFERENCES

External

- Soil Conservation Act RSA 2000, c S-15

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.7 ANIMAL HEALTH <div>Page 1/1</div>
Effective Date: New Policy Oct. 5/17 CM - Res. 17-10-07	Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To offer guidelines for Wheatland County's assistance with animal disease inspection and outbreaks in accordance with the *Animal Health Act*.

POLICY

Pursuant to Section 2(c) of the *Agricultural Service Board Act* Wheatland County shall assist in the control of animal diseases under the *Animal Health Act* in accordance with the following guidelines:

- The Manager of Agriculture and Environment or designate will serve as an inspector under the *Animal Health Act* if appointed by the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian.
- In the event of a disease outbreak, and in consultation with Provincial and Federal authorities, the County will assist in the dissemination of information to producers, residents, and members of the public regarding appropriate disease prevention and control practices.

REFERENCES

External

- Agricultural Service Board Act, RSA 2000, c A-10
- Animal Health Act, SA 2007, c A-40.2

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.8 PRODUCER EXTENSION AND EDUCATION Page 1/1
Effective Date: Jan. 1, 2005	Revised: April/09 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the development and delivery of producer extension and education activities.

POLICY

The Agriculture and Environment department will develop and deliver producer extension and education opportunities with a goal to “promote, enhance, and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer,” as described in Section 2(d) of the *Agricultural Service Board Act*. Education and extension methods may include, but are not limited to:

- Producer workshops, tours, meetings, and conferences
- Coordination of producer grants
- Development and delivery of newsletters, publications, and other communication materials
- Use of social media, newspapers, website, and other media methods for information extension
- Working in partnership with stakeholders to provide producer support
- Provision of technical support to the agricultural community

REFERENCES

External

- Agricultural Service Board Act, RSA 2000, c A-10

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.9 BURSARY POLICY Page 1/2
Effective Date: February 5, 2019 Res. 19-02-47 - Feb. 5/19 CM	Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a bursary to Wheatland County students furthering their education at a post-secondary institution in an agriculture or environmental science related field.

POLICY

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) recognizes the importance of youth to the agricultural industry and rural communities in Wheatland County. To assist students wishing to pursue a career in an Agriculture or Environmental Science-related field the ASB will provide up to six thousand dollars (\$6000) in bursaries annually with a minimum award of five hundred dollars (\$500) and a maximum award of one-thousand and five-hundred dollars (\$1500) depending upon the number of applicants that meet the criteria.

PROCEDURE

Eligibility

- a. Available to students continuing their education in the field of Agriculture or Environmental Science.
- b. Funding is not available to persons qualifying for or participating in job training assistance grants or previous bursary recipients.
- c. High School graduate (within 3 years) residing within the boundaries of Wheatland County.
- d. Enrolled at a recognized post-secondary institution. Applicants pursuing their post-secondary studies outside of Alberta are eligible.

Applications

- a. Applications are accepted by e-mail, mail, or delivery in person on or before August 31st.
- b. Submit an essay introducing yourself and outlining your career goals. Include any contributions made to your local community or school through volunteering or extracurricular activities.
- c. Supply a copy of your high school academic report and preceding post-secondary semester grades if applicable.
- d. Submit a copy of your letter of acceptance stating the course of studies from the post-secondary institute you are attending.

- e. Submit a head and shoulder photograph of yourself. The photograph may be published and will not be returned if mailed.
- f. Complete and submit the Agriculture & Food Production examination.

Criteria

Applications and the required documentation will be reviewed by the Manager of Agriculture and Environment or Agriculture Service Board Bursary Committee who will make a recommendation to the Agricultural Service Board regarding selections.

Funds

Funds awarded will be made payable to the student's post-secondary institution with the conditions that funds be used for tuition, learning resources or room and board. Should the student leave the institution prior to the funds being expended, the balance will be returned to Wheatland County.

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.3 – EQUIPMENT & SERVICES	3.3.1 EQUIPMENT RENTAL Page 1/2
Effective Date: New Policy Dec. 1/09 CM – Res. 09-742	Revised: July 7/10 CM – Res. 10-424 Revised: Oct. 18/11 CM – Res. 11-797 Revised: Mar. 6/12 CM – Res. 12-239 (See ASB Res. 12-09 – Feb. 22/12) Revised: June 19/12 CM – Res. 12-550 (See ASB Res. 12-20 – April 4/12) Revised: April 16/13 CM – Res. 13-04-62 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To provide rental equipment to Wheatland County ratepayers that is not readily available from private sources.

POLICY

Wheatland County will make equipment available to rent in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Advance bookings are given priority with consideration given to “local vicinity” requests.
- The equipment rental agreement must be completed and signed by the renter prior to use.
- Delivery and pickup of rental equipment may be made by Agriculture and Environment employees if time permits or it will be the responsibility of the renter. It is understood that the insurance of the vehicle transporting the equipment will apply.
- The renter is responsible for all cost of repairs incurred due to damage outside of normal wear while the rental equipment is in their possession.
- Wheatland County will invoice renters for rental charges as well as any repairs that are needed.
- All spray tanks must be cleaned. Sterilization of the tank may be required depending upon chemical used.
- The tree spraying unit is to be only used with registered insecticides.
- Cleaning charges may be applied to any un-cleaned equipment.
- Skunk and Magpie traps are not to be used for the purpose of catching domestic animals. Disposal of trapped animals is the responsibility of the user.
- Refundable deposits must go through the administration office.

- Rental equipment shall not be rented outside of the municipality unless the renter is a ratepayer of Wheatland County.
- Wheatland County reserves the right to refuse equipment rental at the discretion of the Manager of Agriculture and Environment.
- The Agriculture and Environment department will maintain and provide rental equipment listed on Schedule A, Rental Equipment List.

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

ADDENDUM TO 3.3.1 EQUIPMENT RENTAL SCHEDULE A – RENTAL EQUIPMENT LIST

Equipment	Rental Rate
Pasture Sprayer	\$100 per day
Weed Wiper	\$100 per day
Tree Sprayer	\$100 per day
Tree Planter	\$50 per day
Grain Bag Roller	Free Service (Policy 3.3.2)
Cattle Moving and Crossing Signs	Free
Skunk Traps	Free
Magpie Traps	Free
Forage Sampler	Free

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.3 – EQUIPMENT & SERVICES	3.3.2 AGRICULTURAL PLASTIC RECYCLING Page 1/1
Effective Date: New Policy Oct. 5/17 CM - Res. 17-10-07	Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To facilitate the recycling of agricultural plastics in Wheatland County.

POLICY

The Agriculture and Environment Department will provide agricultural plastic recycling opportunities to Wheatland County ratepayers according to the following guidelines:

Plastic Grain Bag Rolling Service

- Advance bookings by producers are given priority with consideration given to “local vicinity” requests.
- Services may not be immediate due to weather conditions or other programming priorities.
- Bag rolling services outside of Wheatland County will only be provided if the producer is a ratepayer of Wheatland County.
- Producers must sign a Municipal Access Agreement prior to having the bags rolled stating they will assist the County employee in rolling the bags and will release ownership of the grain bags to the Municipality.
- The County reserves the right at the discretion of the County employee to refuse providing the service of rolling grain bags or the acceptance of the grain bags if they are not deemed to be reasonably clean.
- Previously rolled bags upon inspection may be accepted as is or re-rolled if cleanliness is in question.
- Only plastic bags used for grain storage are eligible for this program.

Pesticide Container Collection: The Agriculture and Environment department will assist Waste Transfer Site employees with management of pesticide container collection if necessary.

Other Recycling: The Agriculture and Environment department will facilitate other agricultural plastic recycling when possible (i.e. twine recycling).

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.3 – EQUIPMENT & SERVICES	3.3.3 LIVESTOCK DRIVE Page 1/3
Effective Date: New Policy April 15/14 CM – Res. 14-04-61	Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To facilitate livestock movement within Wheatland County in a safe and effective manner.

POLICY

Wheatland County strives to ensure safe road use throughout our jurisdiction but also understands that the movement of livestock across or along our roadways is a necessary part of agriculture within the municipality. Livestock movement will be facilitated in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Livestock Drive signage will be available for ratepayer & resident use on County and Provincial roads within Wheatland County.
- Approval of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation is required for all single, double, and triple digit highways.
- Requests for signs should be made in advance to the Manager of Agriculture and Environment or designate.
- Users must come to the Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board shop to complete a Livestock Drive Agreement (Schedule A) before receiving the signage.
- Signs will be provided at no charge with pick-up and return of the signs being the responsibility of the user. Signs must be returned within 1 week of the pickup date.
- Traffic control assistance by Peace Officers may be requested during regular business hours but is discretionary and will depend upon their availability.

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

ADDENDUM TO 3.3.3 LIVESTOCK DRIVE
SCHEDULE A - LIVESTOCK DRIVE AGREEMENT

Contact

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Preamble

- As Wheatland County continues to maintain and strive to ensure safe road use throughout the jurisdiction, preservation of our Agricultural Community remains to be paramount. Standard operating procedures must be followed to ensure a safe work and road use environment.
- Section 37(2) of the Stray Animals Act states that no person shall permit or allow any livestock owned by him or in his possession to be on a highway unless it is in his/her or another persons' direct and continuous charge and he/she is competent to control the livestock.
- Livestock Drives on, along and/or across any highway is a concern due to the cattle's unpredictable nature. The organizers of Livestock Drives must ensure that the safety of motorists is not jeopardized during the move. In the interest of safety for those involved and other roadway users, all persons wanting to move livestock within the highway right-of-way, specifically on or along County owned/maintained roads, may contact Wheatland County for advisement and signage availability.

Guidelines

- ALL Livestock / Trail & Cattle Drives occurring on or along Provincial Highways (single, double, and triple digit highways), must refer to the Special Events Guide established through Alberta Infrastructure & Transportation. Direct contact can be made to the Calgary Office at: 1 (403) 297-6311. Information requests would be regarding "Permits for Livestock Drives".
- Livestock Drives on any road surface is discouraged unless absolutely necessary. These situations will typically involve crossing a highway from one side of the road to another, crossing over a bridge, etc. When such crossings are anticipated, organizers should have an adequate number of herders in place to control the cattle during the maneuver.
- Pilot vehicles and Flag Persons may be necessary to safely guide motorists through the area where:
 - Livestock is traveling adjacent to the highway for a significant distance
 - Roadway has any sightline concerns

- The herd size/volume would create a motorist delay in excess of 30 minutes.
- In case of inclement weather or poor visibility conditions, Livestock Drives should be suspended until conditions have improved. Livestock Drives are subject to suspension by the R.C.M.P., Peace Officers, or Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation if, in their opinion, the Livestock Drive presents a hazard to participants and/or the public.

Signage

If an organizer has or his/her owns signage, messages such as "TRAIL DRIVE", "CATTLE DRIVE", "HORSES AHEAD" or similar wording are satisfactory. These signs should be highly visible to any/all road-users and motorists alike.

Notification and Application Guidelines

- REASONABLE NOTIFICATION must be provided to Wheatland County, during regular business hours, upon request for signage.
- The operator acknowledges that contact with Alberta Transportation is required pertaining to ALL Provincial Highways. Single, double, and triple digit highways are classified as "Provincial Highways".
- Please note that traffic control assistance by the R.C.M.P. or Peace Officers is discretionary and will depend on their availability.

Hold Harmless

Wheatland County assumes no responsibility for whatever may occur during, or as a result of, a Livestock Drive. Wheatland County shall not be deemed to represent, warrant or guarantee that the equipment will be effective or safe for the purpose for which it is to be used, and the recipient assumes the entire responsibility for the selection and use of this equipment.

By signing below, I have read and agree to the guidelines and conditions.

Acknowledged:_____
Signature of User

Rental Date:_____

Return Due Date:_____

Date Returned:_____

Received by:_____

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.3 – EQUIPMENT & SERVICES	3.3.4 HAYING OF MUNICIPAL RIGHT OF WAYS Page 1/1
Effective Date: Jan. 1, 2005	Revised: Oct. 18/11 CM – Res. 11-797 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To facilitate the haying of municipal right of ways by ratepayers in Wheatland County.

POLICY

Ratepayers must fill out an Access and Work Agreement and submit it to the Agriculture and Environment department as an application for haying in municipal right of ways. The Agriculture and Environment department receives and reviews all applications. Approval is at the discretion of the Manager of Agriculture and Environment or designate. If approved, a letter of confirmation will be sent to the applicant. Haying requirements shall be included as a Schedule A1 attachment to the Wheatland County Access and Work Agreement, as follows:

- Application for haying of municipal right of ways will be accepted up to May 31 with priority given to adjacent landowners.
- All areas listed for haying on the access and work agreement must be cut by the applicant. Failure to do so may result in denial of future haying requests.
- Haying operations will be conducted in a safe and workman like manner that creates no hazard to traffic.
- Due to safety concerns bales must be left three (3) or more meters from the edge of the road.
- Bales must be removed within ten (10) days of baling.
- Bales must not be left in an area that will block drainage.
- It is understood and agreed that there may be herbicides present from Wheatland County's weed control program.
- Any cost incurred by Wheatland County to enforce these conditions may be charged back to the applicant.

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.4 – ENVIRONMENT	3.4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY Page 1/3
Effective Date: October 4, 2016 Res. 16-10-11	Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To guide Wheatland County towards leadership in environmental accountability for the benefit of its residents, industry, and visitors, and to establish guidelines for the provision of environmentally responsible services in Wheatland County.

POLICY

Wheatland County is committed to being a leader in environmental accountability through balancing the environment with the social and economic needs of the community; leading by example; understanding and responding to the specific environmental needs of our residents and natural environment; and engaging and enabling stakeholders to protect the value that our natural environment provides. To achieve this, the County will operate in accordance with the following guidelines:

- a. The County will strive to comply with, and exceed where possible, all environmental requirements applicable to County operations and responsibilities.
- b. In all County decision making, we shall integrate environmental considerations with a goal to balance environmental value with social and economic benefits.
- c. The County will utilize stakeholder consultation and the best available scientific information to determine the environmental needs and well-being of the community.
- d. The County will strive to address the environmental needs of the community through targeted programming, with a goal to continually improve the environmentally responsible services we provide through our operations.
- e. The County will encourage contributions to environmental sustainability by seeking opportunities to enable and support community members, and to create meaningful partnerships with stakeholders to achieve mutual environmental goals.
- f. The County will ensure transparency and engagement of the community in the decision-making process where decisions impact the environment and will strive to increase public awareness of environmental issues through effective communications.

This policy commitment will be considered in all plans, strategies, and services, and will be incorporated into new and existing municipal directives where appropriate.

DEFINITIONS

“Environment” refers to Wheatland County’s landscape and its natural components including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and all their ecological interactions. The environment, in this context, includes all natural components within the boundary of Wheatland County, and extends to those that can be impacted whether

adjacent, down-wind, down-stream, or globally by activities that occur within Wheatland County.

“Environmental Accountability” refers to recognition of the need to protect the environment from impacts caused by human activities, and the acceptance of responsibility for reducing such impacts with a goal to protect the natural environment wherever possible.

“Environmental Needs” are matters of the environment considered to be of significant interest to stakeholders or identified by science or environmental requirements to be priority issues in Wheatland County.

“Environmental Requirements” refers to Acts, Regulations, Guidelines, Standards, permits to operate, and Bylaws, as enacted by any federal, provincial, municipal, territorial or Aboriginal governments; industry codes of practice, agreements with public authorities, internal Council or Administrative policies or requirements or any other regulatory or non-regulatory guidelines pertaining to the environment that are applicable to Wheatland County’s operation.

“Stakeholders,” in this policy, refers to any individual, organization, industry, agency, governing body, or otherwise, with a direct interest in the environment in Wheatland County. Examples include, but are not limited to: ratepayers and community members, Wheatland County’s agricultural industry, Wheatland County industry and business, federal, provincial, and municipal governments, Wheatland County staff and Council, environmental non-government organizations, and Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils.

REFERENCES

External

This policy commitment will support compliance with regulatory and non-regulatory environmental requirements that are applicable to Wheatland County’s operation. These requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Agricultural Operation Practices Act, RSA 2000, c A-7
- Alberta Land Stewardship Act, SA 2009, c A-26.8
- Alberta Wetland Policy, 2013
- Canadian Navigable Waters Act, RSC 1985, c N-22
- Environmental Protection Act, RSO 1990, c E.19
- Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, RSA 2000, c E-12
- Fisheries Act, RSC 1985, c F-14
- Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994, SC 1994, c 22
- Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c M-26
- Public Lands Act, RSA 2000, c P-40
- Soil Conservation Act, RSA 2000, c S-15
- South Saskatchewan Regional Plan 2014 – 2024, amended May 2018

- Species at Risk Act, SC 2002, c 29
- Water Act, RSA 2000, c W-3
- Water for Life Strategy 2003, 2008 renewal
- Weed Control Act, SA 2008, c W-5.1
- Wildlife Act, RSA 2000, c W-10

DOCUMENT OWNER

Chief Administrative Officer

Wheatland County
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AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT POLICIES

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AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.1– ASB BOARD	3.1.1 VISION, MISSION & GOALS Page 1/1
Effective Date:	Revised: April/09 Revised: Dec. 1/09 CM – Res. 09-742 Revised: Oct. 18/11 CM – Res. 11-797 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To establish strategic direction for the Agricultural Service Board (ASB).

POLICY

~~The Agricultural Service Board Act provides for the establishment of an Agricultural Service Board (ASB) by County Council.~~

~~To assist Boards in future planning, Council has adopted the Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board (ASB business planning is guided by) business plan the following vision, mission, and goals:~~

Vision: The Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board is committed to strengthening; promoting and supporting agriculture and the environment within our municipality with a view to continually improve how we operate in future years.

Mission: The ASB develops and implements programs and policies that focus on the areas of weeds, pests, soil and water conservation and environmental issues for the benefit of all residents. ~~We work in partnership through good communication~~ with other government agencies, the agriculture industry and residents on agricultural programs and issues.

Goals

1. To operate as an effective, viable, pro-active Agricultural Service Board that fosters the growth and development of partnerships.
2. To promote agriculture and the rural way of life.
3. To be responsive to current issues and trends in agriculture and incorporate them into ongoing programs.
4. To help prevent the spread and establishment of invasive weed species through an integrated vegetation management program.
5. To help prevent the establishment and spread of declared pests and assist with the control of nuisance pests as described in the Agricultural Pests Act.
6. To maintain the integrity of agricultural soils through the delivery and support of the Soil Conservation Act.
7. To assist in the control of animal diseases under the Animal Health Act.

~~8. Goal 8—To promote watershed health with a view to protect agriculture and the environment. Increase awareness, understanding and implementation of~~

environmental agricultural practices and programs, with an emphasis on supporting the agricultural industry.

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.1 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT Page 1/1
Effective Date: Jan. 1, 2005	Revised: April/09 Revised: Dec. 1/09 CM – Res. 09-742 Revised: Oct. 18/11 CM – Res. 11-797 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To describe the components of municipal vegetation management for which the Agriculture and Environment department is responsible with the intent of controlling weeds, assisting with public safety, reducing snow drift, and improving County aesthetics.

POLICY

The Agriculture and Environment departmentASB is responsible for municipal vegetation managementvegetation control on road rights of way and weed control on County-owned lands.

The Vegetation Management Program has the following componentsThese activities include:

- Mowing and spot spraying of shoulders and/or slopes ~~and spot spraying~~ of all municipal roads ~~with grader mowers~~ starting in mid-June based on a rotation of grader divisions.
- A second cut of ~~local municipal~~ roads ~~is started~~ will be completed if required and if conditions allow at the discretion of the Manager of Agriculture and Environment ~~in mid-Sept following the same rotation of grader divisions as the first cut.~~ Not all roads will receive a second cut.
 - 3. ~~Municipal hard surfaced roads or heavily traveled newly constructed roads may be cut twice and spot sprayed.~~
- Private construction borrow~~borrow~~ ~~areas~~ seeded to forage and the entire right of way of newly constructed roads will be mowed if necessary.

- Municipally owned or leased lands under the direct care of Wheatland County will be sprayed for weed control if necessary.
- Chemical brush control on cut stumps and re-growth in road ditches on locations supplied by Public Works.

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.2 FORAGE SEEDING Page 1/1
Effective Date: Jan. 1, 2005	Revised: Dec. 1/09 CM – Res. 09-742 Revised: Oct. 18/11 CM – Res. 11-797 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To describe forage seeding activities carried out by the Agriculture and Environment department with the intent of revegetation of disturbed sites and erosion control.

POLICY

The Agriculture and Environment department is responsible for forage seeding of County-disturbed sites. This program will abide by the following guidelines:

- New roads and disturbances on road allowances are generally intended to be seeded in spring following the construction year.
- Public works staff shall notify the Agricultural Foreman when disturbed areas are ready to be seeded and ensure that these areas are leveled and free of excessive rocks and debris.
- Contractor seeded disturbance must supply a certificate of seed analysis to the Manager of Agriculture al-Services and Environment for approval prior to purchasing their seed.
- The roadside forage mix will be approved by the Manager of Agriculture al-Services and Environment. Wheatland County will only purchase seed with a certificate of seed analysis.
- The ASB Agriculture and Environment department seeds all borrow pits that were previously in forage with the forage species requested by the landowner. The County Land Agent is consulted prior to seeding all borrows on private land to

determine any special conditions for seeding ~~or reclamation work.~~

- ~~If the ASB cannot satisfactorily seed the borrow pit to the requirements of the landowner, seed will be supplied by the ASB to the landowner who will be required to seed it. If a landowner requests unique conditions for seeding that cannot be met by the Agriculture and Environment department, seed will be supplied to the landowner for seeding.~~ The location of the borrow area and the quantity and type of seed will be recorded and the landowner must sign a waiver releasing Wheatland County from any further responsibility or liability.

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.3 WEED INSPECTION Page 1/1
Effective Date: March 14, 2017 Res. 17-03-37	Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To offer guidelines for the fulfillment of legislated duties under the *Weed Control Act*.

POLICY

The Agriculture and Environment department is responsible for all duties legislated under the *Weed Control Act* and will carry out weed inspection activities in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Weed inspection will be completed according to the *Weed Control Act* and Regulations.
- ~~Wheatland County shall ensure that~~ a sufficient number of weed inspectors are appointed to carry out the provisions of the *Weed Control Act*.
- ~~The weed inspection program shall include inspection, inventory and monitoring of both public and private lands.~~
- When a weed problem is found every effort shall be taken to work with the landowner to resolve the problem in an amicable manner.

- Weed notices may be issued by an appointed weed inspector for species regulated under the *Weed Control Act*, at the discretion of the Manager of Agriculture and Environment or designate.

~~Weed notices may be issued by an appointed weed inspector at the discretion of the Manager of Agricultural Services or designate.~~

REFERENCES

External

- Weed Control Act, SA 2008, c W-5.1

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.4 PEST AND NUISANCE CONTROL Page 1/1
Effective Date: Jan. 1, 2005	Revised: Dec. 1/09 CM – Res. 09-742 Revised: Oct. 18/11 CM – Res. 11-797 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To offer guidelines for the control of specific agricultural pests and nuisances in Wheatland County in accordance with the *Agricultural Pests Act*.

POLICY

Pest and nuisance control for the specific agricultural pests and nuisances listed will be administered according to the *Agricultural Pests Act* and Regulations and the following guidelines:

- **Coyote:** Livestock producers may, if qualified for a Form 8 Permit to Use Control Material, be given a maximum of six (6) 1080 tablets per predation occurrence. ~~three (3) M44 devices, and up to six (6) cyanide cartridges.~~ M44 Devices and a Any unused ~~toxicant~~ 1080 tablets are to be returned at the end of the predation occurrence or within 30 days from issuance.
- **Norway Rat:** All suspected Norway Rat infestations should be ~~dealt with immediately~~ treated as a priority and must be investigated within ~~three~~ two (2) days.
- **Richardson's Ground Squirrel:** The ~~Agriculture~~ real Service Board and Environment Department may be involved in the retail sale and distribution of ~~rodenticides:~~ 2% Strychnine for the control of Richardson's Ground Squirrel, as long as it is allowed by legislation and is not available through existing retail outlets.
- ~~Other Nuisances: Other nuisance animal complaints are forwarded to the local Fish & Wildlife Office.~~ Traps for skunks and magpies shall be made available to ratepayers as per the equipment rental policy.

REFERENCES

External

- Agricultural Pests Act RSA 2000, c A-8

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.5 CLUBROOT Page 1/ 24
Effective Date: New Policy Dec. 1/09 CM – 09-742	Revised: Oct. 18/11 CM – Res. 11-797 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To offer guidelines for the fulfillment of legislated duties under the *Agricultural Pests Act* for monitoring and control of clubroot.

POLICY

As Clubroot is a declared pest under the *Agricultural Pests Act*, Wheatland County will undertake the following measures to help prevent the spread of this disease within the municipality:

- Random field inspections will be conducted by pest inspectors appointed by the Municipality.
- Inspectors will follow procedures set out by Wheatland County Agriculture and Environmental Services on proper sampling techniques and protocol for entering upon land.
- Positive identification of Clubroot shall include visible root gall symptoms, visible adverse effects on top growth as well as a positive PCR test on root material.
- A positive PCR test on soil alone will be considered a risk indicator and that the field should be monitored for Clubroot symptoms in susceptible plants in the future.
- When land is verified positive for Clubroot, the landowner may be issued a Legal notice in accordance with the Province of Alberta's *Agricultural Pest Act*. The notice may include any or all of the following conditions:
 - The growing of canola, mustard or other susceptible crop shall be limited to once (1) in four (4) years.
 - Within the 1 in 4-year rotation only a registered clubroot resistant variety may be grown.
 - Adjacent landowners to the affected property shall be notified in writing that clubroot is present.
 - If a host crop is sown on land that has been verified positive for Clubroot and a notice has been issued on this property restricting the growth of host crops,

the host crop shall be destroyed.

- The owner, occupants and all other users of the land will have the responsibility to follow best management practices as outlined by Alberta Agriculture & Forestry.

REFERENCES

External

- Agricultural Pests Act RSA 2000, c A-8

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.6 SOIL CONSERVATION Page 1/1
Effective Date: New Policy Oct. 5/17 - Res. 17-10-07	Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To offer guidelines for the fulfillment of legislated duties under the *Soil Conservation Act*.

POLICY

The Agriculture and Environment department is responsible for all duties legislated under the *Soil Conservation Act* and will carry out inspection activities in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Wheatland County shall ensure ~~that~~ a sufficient number of Soil Conservation Officers are appointed to carry out the provisions of the *Soil Conservation Act*.
- The soil conservation program shall include inspection and monitoring of cultivated land within Wheatland County.
- When a soil erosion problem is found every effort shall be taken to work with the landowner to resolve the problem in an amicable manner.
- Notices may be issued by an appointed Soil Conservation Officer at the discretion of the Manager of Agriculture ~~and Environment~~ and Environment or designate.

REFERENCES

External

- Soil Conservation Act RSA 2000, c S-15

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.7 ANIMAL HEALTH	Page 1/1
Effective Date: New Policy Oct. 5/17 CM - Res. 17-10-07	Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)	

PURPOSE

To offer guidelines for Wheatland County's assistance with animal disease inspection and outbreaks in accordance with the *Animal Health Act*.

POLICY

Pursuant to Section 2(c) of the *Agricultural Service Board Act* Wheatland County shall assist in the control of animal diseases under the *Animal Health Act* in accordance with the following guidelines:-

~~The County will cooperate with provincial and federal authorities in the event of a disease outbreak.~~

- The Manager of Agriculture and Environmental Services or designate will serve as an inspector under the *Animal Health Act* if appointed by the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian.
- In the event of a disease outbreak, and in consultation with Provincial and Federal authorities, the County will assist in the dissemination of information to producers, residents and members of the public ~~in regards to~~ in regard to appropriate disease prevention and control practices.

REFERENCES

External

- Agricultural Service Board Act, RSA 2000, c A-10
- Animal Health Act, SA 2007, c A-40.2

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.8 PRODUCER EXTENSION AND EDUCATION Page 1/1
Effective Date: Jan. 1, 2005	Revised: April/09 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the development and delivery of producer extension and education activities.

POLICY

The Agriculture and Environment department will develop and deliver producer extension and education opportunities with a goal to “promote, enhance, and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer,” as described in Section 2(d) of the *Agricultural Service Board Act*. Education and extension methods may include, but are not limited to:

- Producer workshops, tours, meetings, and conferences
- Coordination of producer grants
- Development and delivery of newsletters, publications, and other communication materials
- Use of social media, newspapers, website, and other media methods for information extension
- Working in partnership with stakeholders to provide producer support
- Provision of technical support to the agricultural community

The Agricultural Service Board works with interested partners in providing producers support with developments in the Agriculture Industry.

REFERENCES

External

- Agricultural Service Board Act, RSA 2000, c A-10

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.9 PARKS Page 1/1
PURPOSE	
Effective Date: Jan. 1, 2005	Revised: April/09 Revised: Dec. 1/09 CM – Res. 09-742 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

The Agricultural Services Department will work in conjunction with public works on the maintenance of public parks.

SEVERN DAM:

– Services are provided as budget permits.

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.10 PESTICIDE CONTAINER SITES Page 1/1
PURPOSE	
Effective Date: Jan. 1, 2005	Revised: April/09 Revised: Dec. 1/09 CM — Res. 09-742 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM — Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM — Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

The Agricultural Service Board in conjunction with public works is responsible for the maintenance of pesticide container sites located within the waste transfer sites at Strathmore, Standard, and Hussar.

Sites should be inspected monthly through the growing season to ensure pesticide containers are placed within the site and cardboard boxes are removed.

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.11 BRUSH CONTROL Page 1/1
PURPOSE	
Effective Date: Jan. 1, 2005	Revised: April/09 Revised: Dec. 1/09 CM – Res. 09-742 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

~~Chemical brush control will be carried out on cut stumps and re-growth in road ditches on locations of cut brush supplied by Public Works.~~

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS	3.2.912 BURSARY POLICY Page 1/2
PURPOSE	The purpose of this policy is to provide a bursary to Wheatland County students furthering their education at a post-secondary institution in an agriculture or environmental science related field.
Effective Date: February 5, 2019 Res. 19-02-47 - Feb. 5/19 CM	Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a bursary to Wheatland County students furthering their education at a post-secondary institution in an agriculture or environmental science related field.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) recognizes the importance of youth to the agricultural industry and rural communities in Wheatland County. To assist students wishing to pursue a career in an Agriculture or Environmental Science-related field the ASB will provide up to six thousand dollars (\$6000) in bursaries annually with a minimum award of five hundred dollars (\$500) and a maximum award of one-thousand and five-hundred dollars (\$1500) depending upon the number of applicants that meet the criteria.

PROCEDURE POLICY GUIDELINES

1. Eligibility

- a. Available to students continuing their education in the field of Agriculture or Environmental Science.
- b. Funding is not available to persons qualifying for or participating in job training assistance grants or previous bursary recipients.
- c. High School graduate (within 3 years) residing within the boundaries of Wheatland County.
- d. Enrolled at a recognized post-secondary institution.- Applicants pursuing their post-secondary studies outside of Alberta are eligible.

2. Applications

- a. Applications are accepted by e-mail, mail, or delivery in-person on or before August 31st.
- b. Submit an essay introducing yourself and outlining your career goals.- Include any contributions made to your local community or school through volunteering or

extracurricular activities.

- c. Supply a copy of your high school academic report and preceding post-secondary semester grades if applicable.
- d. Submit a copy of your letter of acceptance stating the course of studies from the post-secondary institute you are attending.
- e. Submit a head and shoulder photograph of yourself. – The photograph may be published and will not be returned if mailed.
- f. Complete and submit the Agriculture & Food Production examination.

3. Criteria

Applications and the required documentation will be reviewed by the Manager of Agriculture ~~al Service~~ and Environment or Agriculture Service Board Bursary Committee who will make a recommendation to the Agricultural Service Board regarding selections.

Funds

Funds awarded will be made payable to the ~~students~~ student's post-secondary institution with the conditions that funds be used for tuition, learning resources or room and board. Should the student leave the institution prior to the funds being expended, the balance will be returned to Wheatland County.

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.3 – EQUIPMENT & SERVICES	3.3.1 EQUIPMENT RENTAL Page 1/<u>24</u>
Effective Date: New Policy Dec. 1/09 CM – Res. 09-742	Revised: July 7/10 CM – Res. 10-424 Revised: Oct. 18/11 CM – Res. 11-797 Revised: Mar. 6/12 CM – Res. 12-239 (See ASB Res. 12-09 – Feb. 22/12) Revised: June 19/12 CM – Res. 12-550 (See ASB Res. 12-20 – April 4/12) Revised: April 16/13 CM – Res. 13-04-62 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To provide rental equipment to Wheatland County ratepayers that is not readily available from private sources.

POLICY

Wheatland County will make equipment available to rent ~~that is not readily available from private sources~~ in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Advance bookings are given priority with consideration given to “local vicinity” requests.
- The equipment rental agreement must be completed and signed by the renter prior to use.
- Delivery and pickup of rental equipment may be made by Agriculture and Environment ~~SB personnel employees~~ if time permits or it will be the responsibility of the renter. It is understood that the insurance of the vehicle transporting the equipment will apply.
- The renter is responsible for all cost of repairs incurred due to damage outside of normal wear while the rental equipment is in their possession.
- Wheatland County will invoice renters for rental charges as well as any repairs that are needed.
- All spray tanks must be cleaned. Sterilization of the tank may be required depending upon chemical used.
- The tree spraying unit is to be only used with registered insecticides.
- Cleaning charges may be applied to any un-cleaned equipment.
- Skunk and Magpie traps are not to be used for the purpose of catching domestic animals. Disposal of trapped animals is the responsibility of the user.
- Refundable deposits must go through the administration office.

- Rental equipment shall not be rented outside of the municipality unless the renter is a ratepayer of Wheatland County.
- Wheatland County reserves the right to refuse equipment rental [at the discretion of the Manager of Agriculture and Environment.](#)
- The Agriculture and Environment department will maintain and provide rental equipment listed on Schedule A, Rental Equipment List.

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

ADDENDUM TO 3.3.1 EQUIPMENT RENTAL **SCHEDULE A – RENTAL EQUIPMENT LIST**

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Rental Rate</u>
<u>Pasture Sprayer</u>	<u>\$100 per day</u>
<u>Weed Wiper</u>	<u>\$100 per day</u>
<u>Tree Sprayer</u>	<u>\$100 per day</u>
<u>Tree Planter</u>	<u>\$50 per day</u>
<u>Grain Bag Roller</u>	<u>Free Service (Policy 3.3.2)</u>
<u>Cattle Moving and Crossing Signs</u>	<u>Free</u>
<u>Skunk Traps</u>	<u>Free</u>
<u>Magpie Traps</u>	<u>Free</u>
<u>Forage Sampler</u>	<u>Free</u>

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.3 – EQUIPMENT & SERVICES	3.3.2- <u>AGRICULTURAL</u> PLASTIC-GRAIN BAG RECYCLING <div>Page 1/1</div>
Effective Date: New Policy Oct. 5/17 CM - Res. 17-10-07	Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To facilitate the recycling of agricultural plastics in Wheatland County.

POLICY

The Agriculture and Environment Department will provide agricultural plastic recycling opportunities to Wheatland County ratepayers according to the following guidelines:

~~The Agricultural Services Department will provide a plastic grain bag rolling service for producers according to the following criteria:~~

Plastic Grain Bag Rolling Service

- Advance bookings by producers are given priority with consideration given to “local vicinity” requests.
- Services may not be immediate due to weather conditions or other programming priorities.
- Bag rolling services outside of Wheatland County will only be provided if the producer is a ratepayer of Wheatland County.
- Producers must sign a Municipal Access Agreement prior to having the bags rolled stating they will assist the County employee in rolling the bags and will release ownership of the grain bags to the Municipality.
- The County reserves the right at the discretion of the County employee to refuse providing the service of rolling grain bags or the acceptance of the grain bags if they are not deemed to be reasonably clean.
- Previously rolled bags upon inspection may be accepted as is or re-rolled if cleanliness is in question.
- Only plastic bags used for grain storage are eligible for this program.

Pesticide Container Collection: The Agriculture and Environment department will assist Waste Transfer Site employees with management of pesticide container collection if necessary.

Other Recycling: The Agriculture and Environment department will facilitate other agricultural plastic recycling when possible (i.e. twine recycling).

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.3 – EQUIPMENT & SERVICES	3.3.3 LIVESTOCK DRIVE <div>Page 1/3</div>
Effective Date: New Policy April 15/14 CM – Res. 14-04-61	Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To facilitate livestock movement within Wheatland County in a safe and effective manner.

Policy Statement: POLICY

-Wheatland County strives to ensure safe road use throughout our jurisdiction but also understands that the movement of livestock across or along our ~~road ways~~roadways is a necessary part of aAgriculture within the municipality. Livestock movement will be facilitated in accordance with the following guidelines: ~~Our primary focus is to facilitate the continued movement of livestock in our municipality in a safe and effective manner:~~

- Livestock Drive signage will be available for ratepayer & resident use on County and Provincial roads within Wheatland County.
- Approval of Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation is required for all single, double, and triple digit highways.
Requests for signs should be made in advance to the Manager of Agriculture ~~and~~ and Environment Services or designate.
- Users must come to the Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board shop to complete a Livestock Drive Agreement (Appendix Schedule A) before receiving the signage.
- ~~➔ The Livestock Drive Agreement may be amended from time to time by resolution of council.~~
- ~~➔~~ Signs will be provided at no charge with pick-up and return of the signs being the responsibility of the user. Signs must be returned within 1 week of the pickup date.
- Traffic control assistance by Ppeace Officers may be requested during regular business hours but is discretionary and will depend upon their availability.

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

ADDENDUM TO 3.3.3 LIVESTOCK DRIVE
SCHEDULE A - LIVESTOCK DRIVE AGREEMENT

APPENDIX "A"

Contact

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Preamble

- As Wheatland County continues to maintain and strive to ensure safe road use throughout the jurisdiction, preservation of our Agricultural Community remains to be paramount. Standard operating procedures must be followed to ensure a safe work and road use environment.
- Section 37(2) of the Stray Animals Act states that no person shall permit or allow any livestock owned by him or in his possession to be on a highway unless it is in his/her or another persons' direct and continuous charge and he/she is competent to control the livestock.
- Livestock Drives on, along and/or across any highway is a concern due to the cattle's unpredictable nature. The organizers of Livestock Drives must ensure that the safety of motorists is not jeopardized during the move. In the interest of safety for those involved and other roadway users, all persons wanting to move livestock within the highway right-of-way, specifically on or along County owned/maintained roads, may contact Wheatland County for advisement and signage availability.

Guidelines

- ALL Livestock / Trail & Cattle Drives occurring on or along Provincial Highways (single, double, and triple digit highways), must refer to the Special Events Guide established through Alberta Infrastructure & Transportation. Direct contact can be made to the Calgary Office at: 1 (403) 297-6311.
Information requests would be regarding "Permits for Livestock Drives".
- Livestock Drives on any road surface, is discouraged unless absolutely necessary.
- These situations will typically involve crossing a highway from one side of the road to another, crossing over a bridge, etc. When such crossings are anticipated, organizers should have an adequate number of herders in place to control the cattle during the maneuver.
- Pilot vehicles and Flag Persons may be necessary to safely guide motorists through the area where:

- Livestock is traveling adjacent to the highway for a significant ~~distance;~~distance
- Roadway has any sightline concerns;

- The herd size/volume would create a motorist delay in excess of 30 minutes.
- In case of inclement weather or poor visibility conditions, Livestock Drives should be suspended until conditions have improved. Livestock Drives are subject to suspension by the R.C.M.P., Peace Officers, or Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation if, in their opinion, the Livestock Drive presents a hazard to participants and/or the ~~general public~~public.

Signage

If an organizer has or his/her owns signage, messages such as "TRAIL DRIVE", "CATTLE DRIVE", "HORSES AHEAD" or similar wording are satisfactory. These signs should ~~be~~be highly visible to any/all road-users and motorists alike.

Notification and Application Guidelines

- REASONABLE NOTIFICATION must be provided to Wheatland County, during regular business hours, upon request for signage.
- The operator acknowledges that contact with Alberta Transportation is required pertaining to ALL Provincial Highways. Single, double, and triple digit highways are classified as "Provincial Highways".
- Please note that traffic control assistance by the R.C.M.P. or Peace Officers is discretionary and will depend on their availability.

Hold Harmless

Wheatland County assumes no responsibility for whatever may occur during, or as a result of, a Livestock Drive.

Wheatland County shall not be deemed to represent, warrant or guarantee that the equipment will be effective or safe for the purpose for which it is to be used, and the recipient assumes the entire responsibility for the selection and use of this equipment.

By signing below, I have read and agree to the ~~aforementioned guidelines/conditions~~guidelines and conditions.

Acknowledged: _____
Signature of User

Rental Date: _____

Return Due Date: _____

Date Returned: _____

Received by: _____

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.3 – EQUIPMENT & SERVICES	3.3.4 HAYING OF MUNICIPAL RIGHT OF WAYS Page 1/1
Effective Date: Jan. 1, 2005	Revised: Oct. 18/11 CM – Res. 11-797 Revised: Mar. 14/17 CM – Res. 17-03-37 Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

To facilitate the haying of municipal right of ways by ratepayers in Wheatland County.

POLICY

Ratepayers must fill out an Access and Work Agreement and submit it to the Agriculture and Environment department as an application for haying in municipal right of ways. The Agriculture and Environment department receives and reviews all applications. Approval is at the discretion of the Manager of Agriculture and Environment or designate. If approved, a letter of confirmation will be sent to the applicant. Haying requirements shall be included as a Schedule A1 attachment to the Wheatland County Access and Work Agreement, as follows:-

- Application for haying of municipal right of ways will be accepted up to May 31 with priority given to adjacent landowners.
- All areas listed for haying on the access and work agreement must be cut by the applicant. Failure to do so may result in denial of future haying requests.
- Haying operations will be conducted in a safe and workman like manner that creates no hazard to traffic.
- Due to safety concerns bales must be left three (3) or more meters from the edge of the road.
- Bales must be removed within ten (10) days of baling.
- Bales must not be left in an area that will block drainage.
- It is understood and agreed that there may be herbicides present from Wheatland County's weed control program.
- ~~8. The Contractor shall, without limiting his obligations herein, and at his own expense, provide and maintain Farm, Comprehensive or Commercial General Liability Insurance in an amount not less than Two Million (\$2,000,000.00) Dollars per occurrence against bodily injury, personal injury and property damage, and completed operations liability. The Municipality is to be added as an additional insured under this policy for any and all claims arising out of the Contractor's operations. The policy shall be endorsed to state it is primary and will not require~~

~~pro rata sharing of any loss by any insurer of the Municipality. Evidence of such insurance, in a form acceptable to the municipality, shall be provided to the municipality prior to the commencement of any work.~~

- ~~• 9. Any cost incurred by Wheatland County to enforce these conditions may be charged back to the applicant.~~

~~10. The Contractor hereby releases, indemnifies and hold harmless the Municipality, and its employees, agents, representatives, and related entities from any and all liability which may arise from or be related to the Contractor's acts or omissions, or anything arising from or associated with the Agreement or the matters set out herein, including, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, any and all third party claims, demands, actions or proceedings that may arise, directly or indirectly, out of any act, failure to act or omission of the Contractor, or the Contractor's employees, agents or subcontractors.~~

DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

- ~~11. Paragraph 10 of this Schedule will survive the expiry or termination of this agreement.~~

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.4 – ENVIRONMENT Services	3.4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY <div>Page 1/3</div>
Effective Date: October 4, 2016 Res. 16-10-11	Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

PURPOSE

~~The purpose of this policy is to~~ guide Wheatland County towards leadership in environmental accountability for the benefit of its residents, industry, and visitors, ~~and to~~. ~~This policy will~~ establish guidelines for the provision of environmentally responsible services in Wheatland County.

POLICY STATEMENT

Wheatland County is committed to being a leader in environmental accountability through balancing the environment with the social and economic needs of the community; leading by example; understanding and responding to the specific environmental needs of our residents and natural environment; and engaging and enabling stakeholders to protect the value that our natural environment provides. To achieve this, the County will operate in accordance with the following guidelines:

POLICY GUIDELINES

- a. The County will strive to comply with, and exceed where possible, all environmental requirements applicable to County operations and responsibilities.
- b. In all County decision making, we shall integrate environmental considerations with a goal to balance environmental value with social and economic benefits.
- c. The County will utilize stakeholder consultation and the best available scientific information to determine the environmental needs and well-being of the community.
- d. The County will strive to address the environmental needs of the community through targeted programming, with a goal to continually improve the environmentally responsible services we provide through our operations.
- e. The County will encourage contributions to environmental sustainability by seeking opportunities to enable and support community members, and to create meaningful partnerships with stakeholders to achieve mutual environmental goals.
- ~~f.~~ The County will ensure transparency ~~of environmental decision making~~ and engagement of the community in the ~~decision making~~ decision-making process where decisions impact the environment, and will. ~~The County will~~ strive to increase public awareness of environmental issues through effective communications. ~~as per General Policy 3.20, Public Participation & Engagement Policy.~~

~~g.~~

ALIGNMENT WITH POLICY

This policy commitment will be considered in all plans, strategies, and services, and will be incorporated into new and existing municipal directives where appropriate.

DEFINITIONS

“Environment” refers to Wheatland County’s landscape and its natural components including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and all their ecological interactions. The environment, in this context, includes all natural components within the boundary of Wheatland County, and extends to those that can be impacted whether adjacent, down-wind, down-stream, or globally by activities that occur within Wheatland County.

“Environmental Accountability” refers to recognition of the need to protect the environment from impacts caused by human activities, and the acceptance of responsibility for reducing such impacts with a goal to protect the natural environment wherever possible.

“Environmental Needs” are matters of the environment considered to be of significant interest to stakeholders or identified by science or environmental requirements to be priority issues in Wheatland County.

“Environmental Requirements” refers to Acts, Regulations, Guidelines, Standards, permits to operate, and Bylaws, as enacted by any federal, provincial, municipal, territorial or Aboriginal governments; industry codes of practice, agreements with public authorities, internal Council or Administrative policies or requirements or any other regulatory or non-regulatory guidelines pertaining to the environment that are applicable to Wheatland County’s operation.

~~**“Environmentally Responsible Services”** refers to all services offered by Wheatland County and the intention to align such services with environmental requirements wherever possible. The goal is to promote a healthy environment and reduce environmental impacts.~~

“Stakeholders,” in this policy, refers to any individual, organization, industry, agency, governing body, or otherwise, with a direct interest in the environment in Wheatland County. Examples include, but are not limited to: ratepayers and community members, Wheatland County’s agricultural industry, Wheatland County industry and business, federal, provincial, and municipal governments, Wheatland County staff and Council, environmental non-government organizations, and Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils.

REFERENCES

External

This policy commitment will support compliance with regulatory and non-regulatory environmental requirements that are applicable to Wheatland County’s operation. These requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Agricultural Operation Practices Act, RSA 2000, c A-7
- Alberta Land Stewardship Act, SA 2009, c A-26.8
- Alberta Wetland Policy, 2013
- Canadian Navigable Waters Act, RSC 1985, c N-22
- Environmental Protection Act, RSO 1990, c E.19
- ~~• Alberta~~ Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, RSA 2000, c E-12
- Fisheries Act, RSC 1985, c F-14
- Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994, SC 1994, c 22
- ~~• Alberta~~ Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c M-26
- ~~• Alberta~~ Public Lands Act, RSA 2000, c P-40
- ~~• Alberta~~ Soil Conservation Act, RSA 2000, c S-15
- South Saskatchewan Regional Plan 2014 – 2024, amended May 2018
- Species at Risk Act, SC 2002, c 29
- ~~• Alberta~~ Water Act, RSA 2000, c W-3
- ~~• Alberta~~ Water for Life Strategy 2003, 2008 renewal
- ~~• Alberta~~ Weed Control Act, SA 2008, c W-5.1
- ~~• Alberta~~ Wetlands Policy
- ~~• Alberta~~ Wildlife Act, RSA 2000, c W-10
- ~~• Calgary Region Airshed Zone Particulate Matter and Ozone Management Plan~~

DOCUMENT OWNER

Chief Administrative Officer

Wheatland County

Request for Decision

Agricultural Service Board

July 8, 2020

Report prepared by: Russel Muenchrath



Ratification of ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee Meeting

Recommendation from Administration

THAT the board ratify attendance of appointed members to the Partnership Advisory Committee meeting held June 9, 2020 via conference call and

Further THAT the board accepts the June 9, 2020 Partnership Advisory Committee meeting minutes as information.

Chief Administrative Officer's Comments

N/A

Report

Division: County-wide

ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee meetings are scheduled to take place following regularly scheduled Agricultural Service Board Meetings starting at 1:00pm. When enough information became available to host a meeting it was between the scheduled April and July ASB meetings so a special meeting was called to discuss project applications.

Relevant Policies, Practices, and Legislation

ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Alignment with the Strategic Plan

N/A

Response Options

Option 1: THAT the proposed recommendation is accepted/approved.

Option 2: THAT the proposed recommendation is not accepted/approved.

Option 3: THAT an alternate recommendation is accepted/approved.

Implications of Recommendation

General

N/A

Organizational

N/A

Financial

N/A

Environmental, Staff, and Public Safety

N/A

Follow-up Action / Communications

N/A

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee meeting .docx
Attachments:	- 2020-06-09 ALUS PAC Meeting Minutes FINAL.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jun 26, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke that curves slightly upwards at the end.

Michael Ziehr

**WHEATLAND COUNTY
ALTERNATIVE LAND USE SERVICES
PARTNERSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2020**

Minutes of the Wheatland County Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting conducted via conference call on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 commencing at 1:00 P.M. with the following present:

Members: J. Wilson
B. Van Laar
R. Harwood
D. Hallgrimson

ALUS Coordinator: S. Schumacher

ALUS Coordinator
Alternate: A. Robb

Advisory: R. Muenchrath

Recording Secretary: G. Mowat

Absent/Regrets: Member – B. Armstrong (alternate)

**Call to
Order**

Program Coordinator S. Schumacher, called the meeting to order—time 1:07 P.M.

Note: The following were present when the meeting was called to order

- B. Archibald, Extension Specialist South – Environmental Programming Unit, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, was present when the meeting was called to order
- C. Campbell, ALUS Canada, Hub Manager (West)

**ALUS
Coordinator
Update**

ALUS Coordinator S. Schumacher presented power point presentation titled “Wheatland ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee Meeting – June 2020”. The presentation provided the following highlights: WRRP Rosebud Grant; new ALUS Canada database; EFP’s process during COVID-19; ALUS Wheatland project approved January 15, 2020; articles submitted to County Connector; ALUS Wheatland – 2020 Goals; Project Funding Options – 2020.

Note: A. Robb left the meeting time – 1:30 P.M.

**Project Approval
Process**

Discussion: prioritizing projects, converting annual cropland to perennial grassland – payment reduction; fund added value projects.

Note: ALUS program can’t subsidize agriculture under international trade agreements.

**Approved 2020
Project
to Date**

Project 1: (Approved January 15, 2020) – pollinator habitat, reseeding saline seep, ecobuffer

Note: J. Wilson joined the meeting time – 1:50 P.M.

**2020 Project
Review**

The committee reviewed the seven (7) projects for consideration of approval following the set guidelines. Discussion followed highlighting individual projects.

**WHEATLAND COUNTY
ALTERNATIVE LAND USE SERVICES
PARTNERSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2020**

- **Project 2: 2o2o:2** – Cropland to perennial vegetation. **APPROVED with Amendments (funding for riparian buffer only)**

Project Propoposal - BUDGET ESTIMATE

Project #	Description	Acres	Project Cost	Project Cost ALUS	Project Cost Partner	Project Cost Participant	Annual Payment Rate	ALUS Annual Payment	Contract Length (yrs)	Total Contract Costs
2o2o: 2	Conversion from annual cropland to perennial grassland	165	\$ 12,375.00	\$ -	\$ 6,187.50	\$ 6,187.50	\$ 32.50	\$ 5,362.50	5	\$ 26,812.50
Total		165	\$ 12,375.00	\$ -	\$ 6,187.50	\$ 6,187.50	\$ 32.50	\$ 5,362.50	5.00	\$ 26,812.50

- **Project 3: 2o2o:3** – Saline area seeding to salt tolerant perennial. **NOT APPROVED**

Project Propoposal - BUDGET ESTIMATE

Project #	Description	Acres	Project Cost	Project Cost ALUS	Project Cost Partner	Project Cost Participant	Annual Payment Rate	ALUS Annual Payment	Contract Length (yrs)	Total Contract Costs
2o2o: 3	Conversion from annual cropland to perennial grassland	72	\$5,400.00	\$0.00	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00	\$32.50	\$2,340.00	5	\$11,700.00
Total		72	\$5,400.00	\$0.00	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00	\$32.50	\$2,340.00	5	\$11,700.00

- **Project 4: 2o2o:4** – Riparian area fencing and offsite water, managed grazing in riparian. **APPROVED**

Project Propoposal - BUDGET ESTIMATE

Project #	Description	Acres	Project Cost	Project Cost ALUS	Project Cost Partner	Project Cost Participant	Annual Payment Rate	ALUS Annual Payment	Contract Length (yrs)	Total Contract Costs
2o2o: 4	Streambank protection fencing project and off-site watering system	32	\$17,642.00	\$0.00	\$13,995.00	\$3,647.00	\$20.00	\$640.00	5	\$3,200.00
Total		32	\$17,642.00	\$0.00	\$13,995.00	\$3,647.00	\$20.00	\$640.00	5	\$3,200.00

- **Project 5: 2o2o:5** – Riparian area fencing and offsite water, exclusion from riparian. **APPROVED**

Project Propoposal - BUDGET ESTIMATE

Project #	Description	Acres	Project Cost	Project Cost ALUS	Project Cost Partner	Project Cost Participant	Annual Payment Rate	ALUS Annual Payment	Contract Length (yrs)	Total Contract Costs
2o2o: 5	Streambank protection fencing project and off-site watering system	5	\$6,760.00	\$0.00	\$6,760.00	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$200.00	5	\$1,000.00
Total		5	\$6,760.00	\$0.00	\$6,760.00	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$200.00	5	\$1,000.00

- **Project 6: 2o2o:6** – Portable off-site watering system. **APPROVED**

Project Propoposal - BUDGET ESTIMATE

Project #	Description	Acres	Project Cost	Project Cost ALUS	Project Cost Partner	Project Cost Participant	Annual Payment Rate	ALUS Annual Payment	Contract Length (yrs)	Total Contract Costs
2o2o: 6	Streambank protection off-site watering system	40	\$6,760.00	\$0.00	\$6,627.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$800.00	5	\$4,000.00
Total		40	\$6,760.00	\$0.00	\$6,627.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$800.00	5	\$4,000.00

Project 7: 2o2o:7 – Ecobuffer planting with SAR. **APPROVED**

Project Propoposal - BUDGET ESTIMATE

Project #	Description	Acres	Project Cost	Project Cost ALUS	Project Cost Partner	Project Cost Participant	Annual Payment Rate	ALUS Annual Payment	Contract Length (yrs)	Total Contract Costs
2o2o: 7	Ecobuffer- Species at Risk	3	\$2,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$300.00	\$900.00	5	\$4,500.00
Total		3	\$2,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$300.00	\$900.00	5	\$4,500.00

**WHEATLAND COUNTY
ALTERNATIVE LAND USE SERVICES
PARTNERSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2020**

- **Project 8: 2o2o:8** – Cropland to perennial vegetation. **NOT APPROVED**

Project Proposal - BUDGET ESTIMATE

Project #	Description	Acres	Project Cost	Project Cost ALUS	Project Cost Partner	Project Cost Participant	Annual Payment Rate	ALUS Annual Payment	Contract Length (yrs)	Total Contract Costs
2o2o: 8	Conversion from annual crop to perennial grassland	85	\$5,460.00	\$0.00	\$2,730.00	\$2,730.00	\$40.00	\$3,400.00	5	\$17,000.00
Total		85	\$5,460.00	\$0.00	\$2,730.00	\$2,730.00	\$40.00	\$3,400.00	5	\$17,000.00

Note: A. Robb rejoined the meeting time – 2:30 P.M.

The following 2020 Projects were deferred to the next ALUS PAC meeting: Project 2020:2 – Cropland to perennial vegetation; Project 2020:3 – Saline area seeding to salt tolerant perennial; and Project 2020:8 – Cropland to perennial vegetation.

RESOLUTION ALUS-2020-06-01

2020

Projects MOVED by VAN LAAR APPROVAL of 2020 Projects as follows: Project 2020:2 riparian buffer, Project 2020:4 – Riparian area fencing and offsite water, managed grazing in riparian; Project 2020:5 – Riparian area fencing and offsite water, exclusion from riparian, Project 2020:6 – Portable off-site watering system and Project 2020:7 – Ecobuffer planting with SAR, as presented.

Next Steps ALUS Coordinator S. Schumacher reviewed the following:

- Conservation prioritization map layer incorporated into decision making process for funding
- Attracting new projects
- Program promotion

Next

Meeting ALUS Coordinator S. Schumacher informed that the next ALUS PAC meeting will be at the call of the ALUS Coordinator.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned – time 2:55 P.M.

Chair

ALUS Coordinator

Recording Secretary

Wheatland County

Request for Decision

Agricultural Service Board

July 8, 2020

Report prepared by: Russel Muenchrath



Fusarium Graminearum Press Release

Recommendation from Administration

THAT the Board accept the “Helping Alberta’s farmers stay competitive” press release as information.

Chief Administrative Officer’s Comments

N/A

Report

Division: County-wide

Fusarium head blight (FHB), is a serious fungal disease of wheat (including durum), barley, oats and other small cereal grains and corn. It can also affect wild and tame grass species. However, the crops most affected are wheat, barley and corn. FHB affects kernel development, reducing yield and grade. It can also contaminate grain with a fungal toxin (mycotoxin) produced in infected seeds. Infection of the harvested grain and/or mycotoxin production negatively affects livestock feed, baking and milling quality of wheat, ethanol production and malting and brewing qualities of barley.

It was added as a pest to Alberta’s Agricultural Pest Act in 1999 to limit the introduction and spread of the disease and was removed recently as per the attached Alberta Agriculture press release.

Relevant Policies, Practices, and Legislation

Agricultural Pests Act RSA 2000

Alignment with the Strategic Plan

N/A

Response Options

Option 1: THAT the proposed recommendation is accepted/approved.

Option 2: THAT the proposed recommendation is not accepted/approved.

Option 3: THAT an alternate recommendation is accepted/approved.

Implications of Recommendation

General

N/A

Organizational

N/A

Financial

N/A

Environmental, Staff, and Public Safety

N/A

Follow-up Action / Communications

Post the press release on the Wheatland County website.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Fusarium Graminearum Press Release.docx
Attachments:	- Fusarium Press Release.docx
Final Approval Date:	Jun 25, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke that curves slightly upwards at the end.

Michael Ziehr

Helping Alberta's farmers stay competitive

Seed growers in Alberta will soon have access to more seed varieties and cereal research. Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Devin Dreeshen has signed a ministerial order removing *Fusarium graminearum* (fusarium) from the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, bringing Alberta in line with best practices from other provinces.

Fusarium is a fungal disease of cereal crops that affects grain development and quality. Removing it from the regulation will allow Alberta to modernize to managing the disease, rather than having zero tolerance for it.

Regulating fusarium has failed to stop its spread, which has increased across the province over the past 20 years. The Alberta *Fusarium graminearum* Management Plan, published in 2002, does not account for recent advances in seed treatment options that can lower detections, bringing them close to zero.

“Alberta’s farmers continue to grow high-quality food that people around the world can count on every day. This long-overdue change creates new opportunities for our farmers by levelling the playing field. Modernizing these rules means that Alberta farmers will benefit from current research advances.”

Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

“This news has been a long time coming. Fusarium is well-established in Alberta and since it spreads through air-borne spores, we know that zero tolerance policies are not effective. We welcome this regulatory shift that better reflects the reality facing farmers and appreciate Minister Dreeshen’s dedication to breaking down this regulatory barrier so we can move ahead with improved competitiveness.”

Tood Hames, chair, Alberta Wheat Commission

“Alberta crops are known around the world, so we commend the Government of Alberta for ensuring that growers in the province and those who count on them can benefit from the latest scientific advances. We work every day towards greater food security in an environmentally sustainable way, and today’s decision is a key step in this shared goal.”

Paul Hoekstra, government and industry relations, Syngenta

“The Canadian Seed Trade Association has long advocated for a removal of fusarium as a pest as it will be the most effective way for industry to promote management systems; encourage research, investment and innovation; and allow Alberta farmers to stay competitive with their counterparts in other jurisdictions. We would like to thank the Government of Alberta for its leadership.”

Georges Chausse, president, Canadian Seed Trade Association

The Alberta Fusarium graminearum Management Plan will be updated and continue to be available for farmers and industry looking for information and best management practices. The Government of Alberta will continue education and awareness efforts.

This is another positive step forward in government’s commitment to reduce red tape and make life easier for all Albertans. To track red tape reduction progress and submit suggestions about where government can cut even more red tape, please visit

CutRedTape.Alberta.ca.

Quick facts

- *Fusarium graminearum* causes fusarium head blight, a serious fungal disease that affects wheat, barley, oats and corn.
 - It has been present in Alberta at very low levels since 1989.
 - In late 2002, Alberta released the first comprehensive Alberta Fusarium graminearum Management Plan.

Wheatland County

Department Report

Agricultural Service Board

July 8, 2020

Report prepared by: Russel Muenchrath



Manager of Agriculture and Environment Report

Recommendation from Administration

THAT the Board accepts the Manager of Agriculture and Environment Report as information.

Report

- Roadside mowing program started on June 9th.
- 15ft mower will do only one cut this year in the fall due to staff reduction. Grader mowers will cut all roads on their first cut.
- Seeding completed on 245 until construction crew finishes up. Seeding also completed on Rockyford access road and Wintering Hills and Cluny gravel pits.
- 230 plastic grain bags rolled to date.
- Sprayed County sites: Fire halls in Strathmore and Gleichen, Transfer sites: Cluny, Carseland, Gleichen, etc.
- Responded to 7 weed complaints & requests for weed identification
- Bertha Armyworm traps put out the week of June 8th with counts every week to the end of July.
- Dealing with some severe Black Henbane infestations in the Redland/Rosebud area.
- Working with IT to develop an online strychnine application form and payment method.
- Received an extension to April 27, 2021 for the Livestock Emergency Response Grant.
- ALUS Wheatland Partnership Advisory Committee meeting held June 9th via teams. 8 projects considered, 6 approved for a total of 115 acres.
- Continuing to support producers completing EFP (10 completed, 11 in progress) and CAP applications (14)
- Working with the Alberta Invasive Species Council to update the Identification Guide of Alberta Invasive Plants
- 1 Rosebud WRRP project approved in Rocky View County (fencing and off-site watering)
- The Wheatland Agricultural Stewardship Program (4 projects approved) and the Safe Water Wells Action Program (6 projects approved, 1 on the wait list) are now fully allocated.
- Agricultural Land Trust Resolution for Fall RMA Conference and 2021 ASB Conference completed with assistance and information from Stan Carscallen of Alberta Farmland Trust.
- Shelterbelt and Ecobuffer Seedling Funding Program was closed to applications as of April 9, 2020. 13 applications were received under the program requesting a total budget allocation of approximately \$12,000. Budget reduced due to 2020 budget cutbacks. Four planting projects have been completed to date for a total fund distribution of \$2,230.
- Completed soil movement educational campaign and fact sheet publication.
- Exploring opportunity presented by the Alberta Environment and Parks Wetland Replacement Program that has a current intent to partner with municipalities for the pursuit of wetland restoration and construction opportunities.
- Applied for and received two seasonal Temporary Water Diversion Licenses for dust control to support the gravel crew; one for Severn Reservoir and one for Duck Lake.
- Discussions with P&D employees about ER/ERE policy being written. Task created to develop draft ER/ERE Management Policy to describe Transportation and Agriculture department responsibilities in managing ER and ERE lands; draft to be completed by end of August.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Manager of Agriculture and Environment Report July 8,2020.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jun 25, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that curves slightly upwards at the end.

Michael Ziehr