



WHEATLAND COUNTY

Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda

January 15, 2020, 9:15 a.m.

Appointments

10:00 A.M. - Stan Carscallen, Ralph Nelson - Alberta Farmland Trust (see agenda item 2.1.1)

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

1.3 Adoption of Minutes

1. ASB Meeting Minutes - October 2, 2019

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2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND RELATED BUSINESS

2.1 Presentations / Delegations

1. 10:00 A.M. Presentation - Alberta Farmland Trust

2.2 Unfinished Business or Business Arising

2.3 New Business

1. ASB Equipment Disposals

8

2. ASB Business Plan & Policy Review

11

3. Children's Book - "Dirt to Dinner"

26

4. 2020 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Resolutions

31

3. REPORTS AND RELATED BUSINESS

3.1 Chair's Report

3.2 Manager of Agriculture and Environment Report

69

3.3 Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact Report

4. CORRESPONDENCE / INFORMATION

4.1 Correspondence & Information Items

76

5. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

April 1, 2020

6. ADJOURNMENT

**WHEATLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2nd, 2019**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) held at the County Administration Office, on Wednesday, October 2ND, 2019 commencing at 9:00 A.M. with the following present:

Chair: J. Wilson

Vice Chair: T. Ikert

Members: A. Link
B. Armstrong
G. Koester
R. Harwood
B. Van Laar
B. Walker

General Manager of Transportation and Agriculture: M. Ziehr

Manager of Agriculture & Environment: R. Muenchrath

Communications Specialist: M. Soltys

Recording Secretary: G. Mowat

Absent/Regrets Members – C. Klemmensen

Call to Order Chair, Wilson, called the meeting to order – time 9:00 A.M. Note: the meeting may be recorded and posted on County website or via social media. The following were present when the meeting was called to order:

- B. Archibald – Key Contact, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
- Wheatland County Staff Member(s)
 - A. Robb – Environmental Coordinator
 - S. Schumacher – Agricultural Conservation Coordinator

RESOLUTION 19-10-01
Approval of Agenda

HARWOOD MOVED approval of the agenda, as presented, with the following addition(s):

Under Agenda Item 5.0 – Correspondence / Information
5.2 – ASB Grant Program Review Summary Report
5.3 – Foothills Forage and Grazing Association (FFGA) Funding Request
Under Agenda Item 3.0 – New Business
3.j – Ag for Life Funding

- Carried.

Note: a hard copy of agenda items 5.2, 5.3, and 3.j were provided to ASB Members.

RESOLUTION 19-10-02
Approval of Minutes

ARMSTRONG MOVED approval of the July 3rd, 2019 Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) meeting minutes, as presented.

- Carried.

**WHEATLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2nd, 2019**

Unfinished Business/
Business Arising

- 2.1 – Soil Movement Recommendation
ASB Resolution 19-07-04 (July 3rd, 2019 ASB Minutes)
- Update – A. Robb, Environmental Coordinator reviewed a request for decision regarding Soil Movement Recommendation. The request for decision provided information regarding the following: research process; soil movement recommendation report; Appendix: Related Content of Current Land Use Bylaw; 7.21 Stripping and Grading. Discussion followed.

RESOLUTION 19-10-03
Soil Movement
Recommendation

- HARWOOD MOVED** approval to recommend to Council to direct administration to draft amendments to the Land Use Bylaw that fulfill the intent provided in the Soil Movement Recommendation Report.
- Carried.

Note: ASB Members entered the meeting during agenda item 2.1a,

- B. Walker – time 9:07 A.M.
- A. Link – time 9:13 A.M.

RESOLUTION 19-10-04
Amendment of
Bylaw 2018-28
ASB Bylaw

- LINK MOVED** to recommend to Council that Bylaw 2018-28 Agricultural Service Board Bylaw be amended to include the following under Section 5: Membership, Term and Remuneration, “The Board may appoint one or more advisory committees with respect to any matter related to the Board’s function. An advisory committee appointed by the Board shall act in an advisory capacity to the Board and Council. The Board will be responsible for appointing members to its committees”.
- Carried.

Pecuniary
Interest

Prior to presentation of agenda item 3.b, Chair Wilson declared a pecuniary interest regarding 2019 ASB Bursary Selections and left the meeting – time 9:33 A.M.
Vice Chair Ikert assumed the position of Chair during the absence of Chair Wilson.

2019 ASB Bursary

The Manager of Agriculture and Environment reviewed a request for decision regarding the 2019 ASB Bursary informing six (6) applications were received. The applications were reviewed by the ASB Bursary and Environmental Stewardship Awards Committee. (A hard copy of photograph and essay of applicants provided to ASB Members).

RESOLUTION 19-10-05
2019 ASB Bursary

- ARMSTRONG MOVED** approval to accept the recommendation of the Agricultural Service Board Bursary and Environmental Stewardship Awards Committee to award the 2019 Agricultural Service Board Bursaries to Jayden Nail, Spencer Nielsen, Owen Ravesloot, Koal Sammons and Layne Wilson.
- Carried.

Note: Chair Wilson re-entered the meeting and resumed the position of Chair – time 9:36 A.M.

**WHEATLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2nd, 2019**

BMO Farm Family
Award 2020

The Manager of Agriculture and Environment reviewed a request for decision regarding the BMO Bank of Montreal Farm Family Award nomination for 2020. A copy of Calgary Stampede correspondence dated November 6, 2018, information and a copy of the Stampede Farm Family Awards list outlining Wheatland County's farm families that have been nominated between 1996 – 2019 was included in the request for decision as information. One submission received (a hard copy of the bio for Art & Diane Taubert – Side Hill Farms was provided to ASB Members). Discussion followed.

RESOLUTION 19-10-06
BMO Bank of Montreal
Farm Family Award
Nomination - 2020

HARWOOD MOVED approval to nominate Gord and Darlene Koester of Rockyford and Family as Wheatland County's representative for the 2020 BMO Bank of Montreal Farm Family Award; further in the event Gord and Darlene Koester decline, a nomination be submitted for Art and Diane Taubert – Side Hill Farms.

- Carried.

Note: Biography of Gord and Darlene Koester to be forwarded to the Manager of Agriculture and Environment, further that ASB Member Harwood contact Gord and Darlene Koester to confirm acceptance of nomination.

Note: R. Smith, Executive Director, Alberta Beef Producers entered the meeting during agenda item 3.c – time 9:42 A.M.

RESOLUTION 19-10-07
Shelterbelt and
Ecobuffer Seedling
Program

LINK MOVED the Board recommend the addition of \$20,000 to the annual ASB environmental funding program budget to offer funding for Wheatland County ratepayers to plant tree and shrub seedlings.

- Carried.

Recess

The meeting recessed for a short break – time 9:49 A.M. to 9:54 A.M.

Alberta Beef
Producers

Mr. R. Smith, Executive Director, Alberta Beef Producers provided a brief biography and presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled 'Alberta Beef Producers – Wheatland Agricultural Service Board'. The presentation provided highlights of the following: Cattle Production in Alberta; Beef Cows by Province – January 1, 2019; Canada produced 3.1 billion lbs of beef in 2018; Canada consumes 60% of our beef production with 40% exported (29% to US); Canada consumes 941,285 tonne (cwe); Cattle Prices Stabilized; Beef Retail Prices Down; Demand Remains Strong; Global Meat Supplies Increasing; Long Term Outlook Still Positive; Alberta Beef Cows down 1.4%; Alberta Beef Producers Vision/Mission; Industry Priorities; Alberta Beef Producers Priorities for 2019; Government Advocacy Priorities for 2019; Discussions with Rural Municipalities. Discussion followed.

Note: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Staff Member(s) entered the meeting during agenda item 2.2a – time 10:42 A.M.

- D. Spiess – Geographical Information Systems Lead
- Javen Iqbal – Geomatics Specialist
- Symon Mezbahuddin – AFFIRM Research Extension Agrologist

Initials

Chair: _____ GM of Transportation & Agriculture: _____

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**WHEATLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2nd, 2019**

RESOLUTION 19-10-08

Alberta Beef
Producers

LINK MOVED approval to direct administration to work with Alberta Beef Producers regarding current issues in the agriculture industry; further that administration provide a request for decision to Council for the submission of resolutions to the spring Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Convention in support of topics of concern to both Wheatland County and the Alberta Beef Producers, including anti-trespass regulations and tax assessment for confined feeding operations.

- Carried.

RESOLUTION 19-10-09

Alberta Beef
Producers
Presentation

ARMSTRONG MOVED to accept as information, the Alberta Beef Producers presentation entitled 'Alberta Beef Producers – Wheatland Agricultural Service Board', as presented.

- Carried.

On behalf of the Agricultural Service Board, Chair Wilson thanked R. Smith for attending today's meeting.

Recess

The meeting recessed for a short break – time 10:55 A.M. to 11:01 A.M.
Note: R. Smith, Executive Director, Alberta Beef Producers left the meeting at this time.

Alberta Agriculture
And Forestry

Mr. D. Spiess, Geographical Information Systems Lead, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Javed Iqbal, Geomatics Specialist, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled 'Wheatland County – Final Presentation, October 2, 2019'. The presentation provided highlights of the following: Today – Review, Presentation of Factors and Final Prioritization Map; Workshop 1 – February 26, 2019; Prioritization Ideas that Influence the Outcome; Wheatland County ALUS factor definition and Delphi questions; Workshop 2 – July 31, 2019; Average Relative Weighting Based on Analytical Hierarchy Process; Thoughts on the Final Outcome. Discussion followed.

On behalf of the Agricultural Service Board, S. Schumacher thanked D. Spiess, J. Iqbal and S. Mezbahuddin for attending today's meeting.

Note: B. Archibald, Key Contact, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry left the meeting during agenda item 2.2b – time 11:31 A.M.

RESOLUTION 19-10-10

Alberta Agriculture
and Forestry
Presentation

HARWOOD MOVED the Board accept the presentation by David Spiess (Geographic Information Systems Engineer, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry) on the Wheatland County Conservation Priority Map, as information.

- Carried.

Note: the following left the meeting – time 11:51 A.M.

- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Staff Member(s)
 - D. Spiess – Geographical Information Systems Lead
 - Javen Iqbal – Geomatics Specialist
 - Symon Mezbahuddin – AFFIRM Research Extension Agrologist

Initials

Chair: _____ GM of Transportation & Agriculture: _____

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**WHEATLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
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- Wheatland County Staff Member(s)
 - S. Schumacher, Agricultural Conservation Coordinator.

RESOLUTION 19-10-11

Cleanfarms Agricultural
Grain Bag and Twine
Recycling Pilot
Project Agreement

IKERT MOVED approval to recommend to Council that Wheatland County enter into the Alberta Ag-Plastic Pilot Program Services Agreement with Cleanfarms Inc. for the purposes of becoming a site operator for the collection of rolled grain bag and plastic twine.

- Carried.

Note: S. Schumacher, Agricultural Conservation Coordinator Wheatland County entered the meeting during agenda item 3.f – time 11:55 A.M.

RESOLUTION 19-10-12

2020 ASB Meeting
Dates

VAN LAAR MOVED approval to recommend to Council that the 2020 Agricultural Service Board meeting dates be set as follows: January 15th, April 8th, July 8th and October 7th.

- Carried.

RESOLUTION 19-10-13

2019 Western Canada
Conference on
Soil Health &
Grazing

HARWOOD MOVED approval for the attendance of Agricultural Service Board members and administration to the 2019 Western Canada Conference on Soil Health and Grazing being held December 10th – 12th, 2019 at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel West in Edmonton with approval to include three (3) overnight accommodations if required.

- Carried.

RESOLUTION 19-10-14

South Region ASB
Conference

LINK MOVED approval for the attendance of Agricultural Service Board members to the 2019 South Region Agricultural Service Board Conference hosted by the Special Areas Board at Handhills Lake Club on October 22nd, 2019.

- Carried.

RESOLUTION 19-10-15

2019 Provincial ASB
Conference Resolution
Report Card

IKERT MOVED approval to accept the 2019 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee Resolution Report Card, as information.

- Carried.

RESOLUTION 19-10-16

Ag for Life
Funding

HARWOOD MOVED approval that funding in the amount of \$1,500 be allocated to Ag for Life in the 2020 Agricultural Service Board budget; further that the funding be reviewed prior to inclusion in the 2021 budget.

- Carried.

Chair's Report

No Report

Initials

Chair: _____ GM of Transportation & Agriculture: _____

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**WHEATLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2nd, 2019**

Agriculture &
Environment
Report

R. Muenchrath, presented the Manager of Agriculture & Environment Report (report included in ASB agenda information package). The report provided highlights of the following: Operations of Agriculture Services; Environmental Program; Agriculture Conservation Program; Upcoming Meetings and Events. The report highlighted the following events/meetings attended: Ag Smart Conference; Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI) Meeting.

RESOLUTION 19-10-17

Agriculture &
Environment Report

WALKER MOVED acceptance of the Manager of Agriculture & Environment Report, as presented/provided.

- Carried.

RESOLUTION 19-10-18

Alberta Agriculture &
Forestry Key Contact
Report

IKERT MOVED acceptance of the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact Report provided, as information.

- Carried.

RESOLUTION 19-10-19

Correspondence/
Information Items

HARWOOD MOVED approval to accept as information the following correspondence, as provided in the request for decision:

- The Pest Insider – July 2019
- Foothills Forage and Grazing Association Workshop – Get the Dirt on Soil Health
- September 13th, 2019 correspondence from the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen regarding 2022 Provincial ASB Summer Tour.

- Carried.

RESOLUTION 19-10-20

ASB Grant
Program Review
Summary Report

KOESTER MOVED to accept, as information, the Agricultural Service Board Grant Program Review Summary Report, as provided.

- Carried.

RESOLUTION 19-10-21

Foothills Forage and
Grazing Association (FFGA)
Funding Request

VAN LAAR MOVED to accept, as information, the Foothills Forage and Grazing Association (FFGA) funding request, as provided.

- Carried.

RESOLUTION 19-10-22

Adjournment

IKERT MOVED that the meeting adjourn – time 12:15 P.M.

- Carried.

Chair

General Manager of Transportation and
Agriculture

Recording Secretary

Initials

Chair: _____ GM of Transportation & Agriculture: _____



WHEATLAND COUNTY

Where There's Room to Grow



Request for Decision

January 15th, 2020

Resolution No. _____

Date Prepared December 12th, 2019

Subject

Decision-making topic title

ASB Equipment disposal

Recommendation

Clear resolution answering – what/who/how/when

That the Board recommend the disposal of Unit #300 - Portable Livestock Scale, Rubber Mats and Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) tag reader to the Rockyford, Cheadle and Hussar 4-H Beef Clubs for the sum of one dollar.

CAO Comments

Any additional comments regarding the reason for the recommendation

RECOMMENDATION

Report/Document:

Attached

☒

Available

☐

None

☐

Key Issue(s) / Concepts Defined

Define the topic, reference background material and state question to be answered

As local 4-H Beef clubs are currently the only users of the Portable Livestock Scale, Rubber mats and RFID tag reader it would make sense to transfer the assets to these clubs

Relevant Policy / Practices / Legislation

Cite existing policies, practices and/or legislation

Policy 3.3.1 Disposal of Fixed Assets

Strategic Relevance

Reference to goals or priorities of current work program

N/A

Response Options and Desired Outcome(s)

Main result, along with highlighted requisites and benefits

1. Approve the recommendation of administration
2. Do not approve the recommendation of administration
3. Approve an alternate recommendation of the Board's choosing.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

General

Consequences to community, overall organization and/or other agencies

4-H Beef Clubs will have ownership of essential equipment at no cost

Organizational

Policy change or staff workload requirements

Will free up staff time

Financial

Current and/or future budget impact

Maintenance and repair expenses will be saved as well as time spent delivering and picking up the equipment from 4-H events.

Environmental, Staff and Public Safety

Consequences for the environment, consideration of effects on the safety of staff and the public

N/A

Follow-up Action / Communications

Timelines, decision-making milestones and key products

Enter into a sale agreement with clubs to transfer the assets.

Submitted by: Russel Muenchrath
Manager of Agriculture and Environment



Reviewed by: Mike Ziehr
General Manager of Transportation and Agriculture



WHEATLAND COUNTY

GENERAL POLICY SECTION 3.3.1	DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS Page 1/1
PURPOSE	To insure proper disposition of all fixed assets and recording of transactions in the fixed asset register.
Effective Date:	Revised:

Disposals

Property shall be determined to be surplus when it becomes obsolete or the continued use of which is uneconomical or inefficient, or which serves no useful function.

Disposition of surplus property shall be approved by Council before the property is disposed of, in one of the following six ways:

- 1) Trade In/Execution of Guaranteed Buy Back Option on replacement item
- 2) Sell the item via competitive bid
- 3) Sell the item via public auction
- 4) Donation to other non-profit/government agency
- 5) On Consignment with Dealer
- 6) Discard

The CAO/designate will be responsible for determining the proper method of disposal that will assure the maximum possible recovery from such disposal, at the least possible cost.

Transfers

Transfers are defined as any movement of an asset by virtue of change in location or department.

Disposals and internal transfers of County Assets shall be reported to finance in a timely manner



WHEATLAND COUNTY

Where There's Room to Grow

Request for Decision

January 15th, 2020

Resolution No. _____

Date Prepared December 16th, 2019

Subject

Decision-making topic title
ASB Business Plan

Recommendation

Clear resolution answering – what/who/how/when

Move approval to accept the updated 2020-2022 Agricultural Services Department Business Plan as presented

CAO Comments

Any additional comments regarding the reason for the recommendation

RECOMMENDATION

Report/Document:

Attached



Available



None



Key Issue(s) / Concepts Defined

Define the topic, reference background material and state question to be answered

The Agriculture Services Business Plan provides a vision and mission for the department with 9 established goals and strategies and actions to meet those goals.

Relevant Policy / Practices / Legislation

Cite existing policies, practices and/or legislation

Agricultural Service Board Policies 2.2.1 Vision, Mission & Goals

Strategic Relevance

Reference to goals or priorities of current work program

ASB Goals 1-9

Response Options and Desired Outcome(s)

Main result, along with highlighted requisites and benefits

1. Approve the recommendation of administration
2. Do not approve the recommendation of administration
3. Approve an alternate recommendation of the Board's choosing.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

General

Consequences to community, overall organization and/or other agencies

Suggested change will have minimal effect

Organizational

Policy change or staff workload requirements

N/A

Financial

Current and/or future budget impact

Budget reflects business plan

Environmental, Staff and Public Safety

Consequences for the environment, consideration of effects on the safety of staff and the public

N/A

Follow-up Action / Communications

Timelines, decision-making milestones and key products

Update plan

Submitted by: Russel Muenchrath
Manager of Agriculture and Environment



Reviewed by: Mike Ziehr
General Manager of Transportation and Agriculture



Wheatland County Agricultural Services Department

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

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.

Department Goals: Projects/Plans/Services: 2020 - 2022**2020/2021/2022**

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 agriculture industry.
9. To implement Wheatland County's environmental Program.

2020 - STRATEGY/ACTIONS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE GOALS	
GOAL 1 <div style="text-align: center;">Strategy</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Secure funding from other sources. b. Participate in Red Bow Agriculture Partnership. c. Fund organizations with common goals. d. Partner with local 4-H clubs 	<div style="text-align: center;">Action</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Grant Coordinator to explore opportunities. Partner with Rocky View County, Mountain View County, Kneehill County, Red Deer County and the MD of Bighorn. Financial support of Alberta Farm Safety Council, Alberta Invasive species council. Supply livestock scale and mats for local achievement days.
GOAL 2 <div style="text-align: center;">Strategy</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Newsletter b. Webpage/social media c. BMO Farm Family Award d. Provide ASB Bursaries 	<div style="text-align: center;">Action</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of articles and advertisements Keep up to date to timely information Yearly nomination of Wheatland County Farm Family Select Bursary recipients for students continuing their education in Agriculture or Environmental related studies
GOAL 3 <div style="text-align: center;">Strategy</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Attendance at Conferences & Meetings b. Staff Training c. Maintain memberships in appropriate organizations. d. Capital Purchases e. Rental Equipment 	<div style="text-align: center;">Action</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance at South Region Provincial Conference, Provincial ASB Conference, ASB Summer Tour, AAAF In-Service training and other related conferences. Encourage and facilitate training opportunities for staff to stay current. Memberships in AAAF, NAWMA, AISC, RCA, AFAC Investigate purchases to stay on the leading edge of technology Provide equipment that is not readily available to ratepayers

<p>GOAL 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Execute weed control program duties. b. Municipal vegetation Management c. Rental Equipment d. Bow River Purple Loosestrife 	<p style="text-align: center;">Action</p> <p>Appoint Inspectors for private and public land & seed plant inspections</p> <p>Integrated vegetation management by simultaneously mowing and spraying at the same time. Spot spraying with trucks as required. Mowing of newly constructed roads.</p> <p>Spraying and or mowing of Municipal hamlets, gravel stockpiles, Waste transfer sites and County yards</p> <p>Rental of pasture sprayer and weed wiper.</p> <p>Participate in Purple Loosestrife inspection and control program.</p>
<p>GOAL 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Execute pest inspection control program duties b. Participate in Alberta Agriculture Surveys. c. Rental Equipment d. Richardson's ground squirrel control e. Livestock Predation 	<p style="text-align: center;">Action</p> <p>Appoint inspectors to conduct surveys of regulated pest species</p> <p>Grasshopper & Bertha Armyworm - others as time permits</p> <p>Provide tree sprayer and live animal traps for skunk and magpie control</p> <p>Sale of 2% liquid strychnine to producers. Use of bait stations. Rocon on municipal lands.</p> <p>Respond to livestock predation calls and issue predicides if warranted for confirmed kills</p>
<p>GOAL 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Execute soil conservation program duties b. Road Construction 	<p style="text-align: center;">Action</p> <p>Appoint inspectors.</p> <p>Forage seeding of road right of ways and private land borrow areas. Assist Public Works with soil erosion control measures.</p>

<p>GOAL 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Report notifiable or reportable disease to the Chief Provincial Vet. b. Provide assistance to the Chief Provincial Vet if requested. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Action</p>
<p>GOAL 8:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop extension activities b. Provide technical support to landowners c. Support Alberta Agriculture initiatives d. Develop and maintain partnerships 	<p style="text-align: center;">Action</p> <p>Support and promotion of provincial funding programs for producers</p> <p>Implementation of an Alternative Land Use Services program</p> <p>Distribution of the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration program grant to landowners within the Crowfoot Creek. Explore grant funding for the Rosebud River.</p> <p>Management of the Riparian Grazing Demonstration site</p> <p>Distribution of funds from the Wheatland Water Protection Initiative grant for the management of surface and groundwater resources</p> <p>Technical assistance provided to producers completing an Environmental Farm Plan</p> <p>Technical assistance for producers completing provincial grant applications</p> <p>Support for and promotion of the Environmental Farm Plan program</p> <p>Continued involvement in the Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership and associated extension activities</p> <p>Develop and implement extension activities which increase awareness, understanding and implementation of environmental agricultural practices (a,b,c,d) Plastic Grain Bag Recycling Program.</p>

GOAL 9 Strategy	Action
<p>a. Assist with operational environmental compliance</p> <p>b. Raise awareness and promote successes through environmental communications</p> <p>c. Coordinate environmental education for staff, council, and the public</p> <p>d. Provide technical support on environmental matters to staff, council, and the public</p> <p>e. Advance environmental sustainability through programs, activities, and partnerships</p>	<p>Ongoing attention to aspects of County operation that require some form of compliance with legislation with a goal to proactively identify risks and manage activities</p> <p>Incorporate environmental communications into general Wheatland County communications to raise awareness about environmental initiatives and current issues, topics and events</p> <p>Coordinate extension opportunities and develop materials to increase community knowledge of relevant environmental topics and issues</p> <p>Provide a source of local or internal information and support for staff, council, and the public by responding to inquiries and requests for support</p> <p>Support, maintain, improve and coordinate programs, activities and partnerships that act to advance environmental sustainability locally or regionally and benefit Wheatland County and its residents</p>

2021 - STRATEGY/ACTIONS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE GOALS	
GOAL 1 <div> <div>Strategy</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Secure funding from other sources. b. Participate in Red Bow Agriculture Partnership. c. Fund organizations with common goals. d. Partner with local 4-H clubs </div>	<div> <div>Action</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Grant Coordinator to explore opportunities. Partner with Rocky View County, Mountain View County, Kneehill County, Red Deer County and the MD of Bighorn. Financial support of Alberta Farm Safety Council, Alberta Invasive species council. Supply livestock scale and mats for local achievement days. </div>
GOAL 2 <div> <div>Strategy</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Newsletter b. Webpage/social media c. BMO Farm Family Award d. Provide ASB Bursaries </div>	<div> <div>Action</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of articles and advertisements Keep up to date to timely information Yearly nomination of Wheatland County Farm Family Select Bursary recipients for students continuing their education in Agriculture or Environmental related studies </div>
GOAL 3 <div> <div>Strategy</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Attendance at Conferences & Meetings b. Staff Training c. Maintain memberships in appropriate organizations. d. Capital Purchases e. Rental Equipment </div>	<div> <div>Action</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance at South Region Provincial Conference, Provincial ASB Conference, ASB Summer Tour, AAAF In-Service training and other related conferences. Encourage and facilitate training opportunities for staff to stay current. Memberships in AAAF, NAWMA, AISC, RCA, AFAC Investigate purchases to stay on the leading edge of technology Provide equipment that is not readily available to ratepayers </div>

<p>GOAL 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Execute weed control program duties. b. Municipal vegetation Management c. Rental Equipment d. Bow River Purple Loosestrife 	<p style="text-align: center;">Action</p> <p>Appoint Inspectors for private and public land & seed plant inspections</p> <p>Integrated vegetation management by simultaneously mowing and spraying at the same time. Spot spraying with trucks as required. Mowing of newly constructed roads.</p> <p>Spraying and or mowing of Municipal hamlets, gravel stockpiles, Waste transfer sites and County yards</p> <p>Rental of pasture sprayer and weed wiper.</p> <p>Participate in Purple Loosestrife inspection and control program.</p>
<p>GOAL 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Execute pest inspection control program duties b. Participate in Alberta Agriculture Surveys. c. Rental Equipment d. Richardson's ground squirrel control e. Livestock Predation 	<p style="text-align: center;">Action</p> <p>Appoint inspectors to conduct surveys of regulated pest species</p> <p>Grasshopper & Bertha Armyworm - others as time permits</p> <p>Provide tree sprayer and live animal traps for skunk and magpie control</p> <p>Sale of 2% liquid strychnine to producers. Use of bait stations. Rocon on municipal lands.</p> <p>Respond to livestock predation calls and issue predacides if warranted for confirmed kills</p>
<p>GOAL 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Execute soil conservation program duties b. Road Construction 	<p style="text-align: center;">Action</p> <p>Appoint inspectors.</p> <p>Forage seeding of road right of ways and private land borrow areas. Assist Public Works with soil erosion control measures.</p>

<p>GOAL 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Report notifiable or reportable disease to the Chief Provincial Vet. b. Provide assistance to the Chief Provincial Vet if requested. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Action</p>
<p>GOAL 8:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop extension activities b. Provide technical support to landowners c. Support Alberta Agriculture initiatives d. Develop and maintain partnerships 	<p style="text-align: center;">Action</p> <p>Support and promotion of provincial funding programs for producers</p> <p>Alternative Land Use Services program</p> <p>Management of the Riparian Grazing Demonstration site</p> <p>Distribution of funds from the Wheatland Water Protection Initiative grant for the management of surface and groundwater resources</p> <p>Technical assistance provided to producers completing an Environmental Farm Plan</p> <p>Technical assistance for producers completing provincial grant applications</p> <p>Support for and promotion of the Environmental Farm Plan program</p> <p>Continued involvement in the Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership and associated extension activities</p> <p>Develop and implement extension activities which increase awareness, understanding and implementation of environmental agricultural practices (a,b,c,d) Plastic Grain Bag Recycling Program.</p>

GOAL 9	
Strategy	Action
a. Assist with operational environmental compliance	Ongoing attention to aspects of County operation that require some form of compliance with legislation with a goal to proactively identify risks and manage activities
b. Raise awareness and promote successes through environmental communications	Incorporate environmental communications into general Wheatland County communications to raise awareness about environmental initiatives and current issues, topics and events
c. Coordinate environmental education for staff, council, and the public	Coordinate extension opportunities and develop materials to increase community knowledge of relevant environmental topics and issues
d. Provide technical support on environmental matters to staff, council, and the public	Provide a source of local or internal information and support for staff, council, and the public by responding to inquiries and requests for support
e. Advance environmental sustainability through programs, activities, and partnerships	Support, maintain, improve and coordinate programs, activities and partnerships that act to advance environmental sustainability locally or regionally and benefit Wheatland County and its residents

2022 - STRATEGY/ACTIONS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE GOALS	
GOAL 1 <div> <div>Strategy</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Secure funding from other sources. b. Participate in Red Bow Agriculture Partnership. c. Fund organizations with common goals. d. Partner with local 4-H clubs </div>	<div> <div>Action</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Grant Coordinator to explore opportunities. Partner with Rocky View County, Mountain View County, Kneehill County, Red Deer County and the MD of Bighorn. Financial support of Alberta Farm Safety Council, Alberta Invasive species council. Supply livestock scale and mats for local achievement days. </div>
GOAL 2 <div> <div>Strategy</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Newsletter b. Webpage/social media c. BMO Farm Family Award d. Provide ASB Bursaries e. Provincial ASB Tour </div>	<div> <div>Action</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of articles and advertisements Keep up to date to timely information Yearly nomination of Wheatland County Farm Family Select Bursary recipients for students continuing their education in Agriculture or Environmental related studies Hosting of the Provincial ASB Tour </div>
GOAL 3 <div> <div>Strategy</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Attendance at Conferences & Meetings b. Staff Training c. Maintain memberships in appropriate organizations. d. Capital Purchases e. Rental Equipment </div>	<div> <div>Action</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance at South Region Provincial Conference, Provincial ASB Conference, ASB Summer Tour, AAAF In-Service training and other related conferences. Encourage and facilitate training opportunities for staff to stay current. Memberships in AAAF, NAWMA, AISC, RCA, AFAC Investigate purchases to stay on the leading edge of technology – Replacement of Graders for mowing and spraying Provide equipment that is not readily available to ratepayers </div>

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e. Advance environmental sustainability through programs, activities, and partnerships	Support, maintain, improve and coordinate programs, activities and partnerships that act to advance environmental sustainability locally or regionally and benefit Wheatland County and its residents

Budget Requirements
<p>2021</p> <p>Goal 3. (d) Capital Equipment purchases – explore moving transitioning out of using graders for mowing and spraying</p>



WHEATLAND COUNTY

Where There's Room to Grow



Request for Decision

January 15th, 2020

Resolution No. _____

Date Prepared December 16, 2019

Subject

Decision-making topic title

"Dirt to Dinner" Children's Book

Recommendation

Clear resolution answering – what/who/how/when

Move approval to accept the correspondence received regarding the Children's Book "Dirt to Dinner" as information

CAO Comments

Any additional comments regarding the reason for the recommendation

RECOMMENDATION

Report/Document:

Attached

☒

Available

☐

None

☐

Key Issue(s) / Concepts Defined

Define the topic, reference background material and state question to be answered

An Agricultural Service Board member from Cypress County has co-written a children's book about farming and is requesting that Agricultural Service Boards purchase the book for distribution to schools in their areas.

Relevant Policy / Practices / Legislation

Cite existing policies, practices and/or legislation

N/A

Strategic Relevance

Reference to goals or priorities of current work program

ASB Goal #2 – To promote agriculture and the rural way of life

Response Options and Desired Outcome(s)

Main result, along with highlighted requisites and benefits

Option 1 – Approve recommendation

Option 2 – Not approve recommendation

Option 3 – Approve an alternate recommendation of Board's choosing

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION**General**

Consequences to community, overall organization and/or other agencies

N/A

Organizational

Policy change or staff workload requirements

N/A

Financial

Current and/or future budget impact

\$18/book

Environmental, Staff and Public Safety

Consequences for the environment, consideration of effects on the safety of staff and the public

N/A

Follow-up Action / Communications

Timelines, decision-making milestones and key products

Obtain a copy of the book for review at next ASB meeting

Submitted by: Russel Muenchrath
Manager of Agriculture and Environment



Reviewed by: Mike Ziehr
General Manager of Transportation and Agriculture



December 2, 2019

Alberta Agricultural Service Boards and
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman

Dear Agricultural Service Board Members and Agricultural Fieldman:

Over the past several months, my partner Ralaina Virostek and I have written and produced a children's book entitled "DIRT TO DINNER". We are both from an agricultural background and strongly believe we need more agriculture in schools and homes. As books are always great teaching aids, we have self-published a non-fiction children's book about agriculture. Our book will be printed by a Canadian company, making this a truly Canadian product.

As mentioned, both Ralaina and I have agricultural roots. We both grew up on farms in southern Alberta. I have a B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Alberta. My career over the past 25 years has involved different jobs in the agricultural field, including agricultural fieldman with Brazeau County. I am currently a market gardener, selling fresh fruit and vegetables at local farmers' markets and through on-farm sales. I volunteer with the Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP) and have done presentations in Alberta schools for over 20 years. Ralaina had a passion for the arts and schooled for two years in a Visual Communications program. She has on a Fine Arts degree from the University of Calgary and launched Ray Photography and Design officially in 2017.

Our book has several messages about agriculture and all that it takes to bring our food from seed to harvest. The main text has a flow to it with repetition to help kids increase their reading capabilities with words relating to agriculture. The sidebars or "DID YOU KNOW" sections are written at a more science level for kids who are fact seekers. We are targeting grades 2-6 and have incorporated two levels of reading. The book is soft cover with 40 pages. We are expecting to have the book printed before the 2020 ASB provincial conference.

We know counties and municipalities also have an interest in getting more agriculture in schools. A few years ago, Cypress County, submitted a resolution on getting more agriculture education into classrooms, which was passed by the delegation with an overwhelming majority. This year another resolution was brought forth at the AAMDC conference asking there be mandatory agriculture education implemented in the school curriculum in Alberta.

Our plan to get province wide distribution of our non-fiction children's book is to get involvement from our counties and municipalities.

What if every county and municipality purchased 10 books about agriculture written by a farmer and donated them to 10 schools?

If 63 counties bought 10 books to give to 10 schools in their county or municipality, or even better their neighbouring city schools, we would cover 630 schools. 630 schools would have a book about agriculture written by a farmer, donated by an agricultural service board.

What if 10 kids in each school signed out a book about agriculture written by a farmer, donated by an agricultural service board and took it home to read with their parents?

10 kids in 630 schools read the book at home with the parents. Now 6300 homes read a non-fiction book about agriculture written by a farmer, donated by an agricultural service board.

What if some of those kids are future leaders, politicians, or even future protestors? Would they know what it takes to grow food and its importance, if they had read a non-fiction book about agriculture written by a farmer? Not many kids grow up on farms and some may not have the opportunity to visit a farm.

Is a book what we need to bring some agriculture in the class and urban homes? It's not all that we need, but it's a start and we can start now.

I have attached a pre-order form for our book "Dirt to Dinner – It starts with a seed, but is that all that we need?" The book is soft cover with 40 pages. We hope that counties and municipalities are interested in purchasing numerous copies to donate to their local schools to further agricultural education. Books that have been pre-ordered will be available for pickup at the 2020 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference in Banff.

A sneak peek of our book will be posted to our Facebook page ilovedirt@ilovedirt2002. We are also working on our website page www.ilovedirt.ca, which we hope to launch early 2020. In addition to our book, we hope to create an agricultural online learning site for children, teachers and parents.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Conny Kappler P.Ag.
Author "Dirt to Dinner"



Ralaina Virostek
Photographer/Layout Design

"DIRT TO DINNER"

CHILDREN'S BOOK
PRE-ORDER FORM

County/Municipality:	
Contact Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email address:	
Number of books: \$18.00 each	

To avoid shipping costs, we can provide pickup at the 2020 Provincial ASB Conference in Banff, Alberta in January.
Payment by cheque or etransfer

Mail cheques to:
Conny Kappler
Box 601
Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 7G5
Payable to Conny Kappler

Etransfer: connykappler.62@gmail.com





WHEATLAND COUNTY

Where There's Room to Grow

Request for Decision

January 15th, 2020

Resolution No. _____

Date Prepared December 12, 2019

Subject

Decision-making topic title

2020 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference Resolutions

Recommendation

Clear resolution answering – what/who/how/when

That the Agricultural Service Board approves to accept as information the 2020 Provincial Agricultural Service Board resolutions as presented.

CAO Comments

Any additional comments regarding the reason for the recommendation

RECOMMENDATION

Report/Document:

Attached

☒

Available

☐

None

☐

Key Issue(s) / Concepts Defined

Define the topic, reference background material and state question to be answered

Resolutions presented at the Provincial conference are a means to achieving a collective voice for all Agricultural Service Boards across the province. Resolutions of a provincial scope that have been passed by a majority at a Regional Conference are submitted by December 1st to the Secretary of the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee.

Follow-up Action / Communications

Timelines, decision-making milestones and key products

No action required.

Submitted by: Russel Muenchrath
Manager of Agriculture and Environment

Reviewed by: Mike Ziehr
General Manager of Transportation and Agriculture

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE WEBSITE

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

the Government of Alberta review its Agriculture section of the website ensuring that extension material, online courses and other useful items are easy to find and access for farmers and those in the agriculture industry and reintroduce the general store.

SPONSORED BY: Cypress County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: _____

BACKGROUND

The former Alberta Agriculture website “Ropin’ the Web” is no longer available. The new Alberta Agriculture website is no longer user friendly, has many broken links, and useful materials are no longer available.

Examples of resources no longer available:

- General Stores – within a few clicks you could access a list of books available;
- Tools and calculators;
- The food safety course for farmers market vendors;
- The list of available Agdex
- The Hort Snacks newsletter
- Links for Associations involved in agriculture (i.e., Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association and the Alberta Farmers Market Association)

ROPIN' THE WEB

- WHEREAS:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is responsible for the policies, legislation, regulations, programs, and services that enable Alberta's agriculture, food, and forest sectors to grow, prosper, and diversify;
- WHEREAS:** The Ministry of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's Ropin' the Web provided relevant and reliable information from knowledgeable specialists and experts and a general store for agricultural and forestry related supplies and services;
- WHEREAS:** Rural businesses and organizations were provided opportunities to facilitate business networks with assistance from the Ministry through the Ministry website Ropin' the Web;
- WHEREAS:** As part of a larger Government of Alberta web consolidation project, Agriculture and Forestry's web presence, including Ropin' the Web, moved to Alberta.ca and by March 31, 2019, online government directories and some relevant agricultural information was no longer available;
- WHEREAS:** The intent of the consolidation of the various Alberta Government websites on Alberta.ca to provide a one-stop shop for government information and services that is useable and accessible to all Albertans, is no longer providing a valuable services and information for Alberta's farmers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry ensure all information and services previously provided through Ropin' The Web be reinstated with easy accessibility on the Alberta.ca website.

SPONSORED BY: Mountain View County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: _____

BACKGROUND

In 1999 there were 1.32 million user sessions on the Ropin' the Web Department website. User feedback was very positive and constructive for the information and service channel.¹

The Ministry Internet website, Ropin' the Web was independently classed as pre-eminent among provincial government web sites and was recognized as one of the best educational sources on the web. The average usage of the site has increased from 1.3 to 1.7 million sessions per month. Over 100 marketing websites, gathered from the North American Farmers Direct Marketing Conference, were tested for website address accuracy, book marked and added to the Direct Market Web Page on Ropin' the Web. ²

The 2001 – 2002 annual report identified that Ropin' the Web was rated the best Alberta Government web site for the third consecutive year by an independent survey, and usage increased by 47 per cent to 2.5 million visitors a year.³

In 2003 when the Province confirmed that a single cow had tested positive for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) the public was directed to the Ministry's Ropin' the Web site for information on the status of this situation.⁴

Ropin' the Web became the trusted website for data and information to support producers, agricultural and agri-food related businesses and their networks. The site contained risk management decision making tools, opportunities, services and programs in the primary and value-added agricultural sectors.

The Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development Annual Reports in 2008-2009⁵ and 2009-2010⁶ identified that rural businesses and organizations are provided opportunities to facilitate business networks with assistance from the Ministry. The General Store provided a platform for allowed rural businesses, custom operators, farmers, rural residents and the general public to easily access agricultural related projects and services. This provided opportunities to assist producers in growing their businesses by increasing marketing opportunities. The General Store offered buy and sell listings for Alberta Hay and Pasture, Wood Biomass, Custom Services Listings, Livestock, Manure and Compost Directory and Food Processing Equipment.

In 2011 Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development information management division created a designated posting and search function for Certified Weed Free Hay on the Alberta Hay and Pasture Directory on the Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development Ropin' The Web. This is the promoted method to purchase Certified Weed Free Hay as per the Alberta Weed Free Hay Program.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is responsible for:

- policies, legislation, regulations and services necessary for Alberta's agriculture, food and forest sectors to grow, prosper and diversify

- inspiring public confidence in wildfire and forest management and the quality and safety of food
- supporting environmentally sustainable resource management practices
- leading collaboration that enables safe and resilient rural communities

“We also have a clear mandate to help job-creators create jobs and increase investment and economic activity for the province.”⁶

Municipalities continue to hear from producers that the loss of the Ropin’ the Web site is a major challenge for their continued operations. As eluded above, the site provided a variety of valuable services to producers that cannot be replicated by the new direction to use Kijiji or Facebook Marketplace.

Resources

1. Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. (2000, September 7). *1999-2000 Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development* (pp. 26). Retrieved from <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/61751a19-69d1-4ce1-b430-80bc435950a9/resource/fbe68d78-7589-470c-93dd-3b10224b6ab6/download/21952171999-2000.pdf>
2. Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. (2001, September 12). *2000-2001 Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development* (pp. 22-27). Retrieved from <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/61751a19-69d1-4ce1-b430-80bc435950a9/resource/51f07f03-02d9-4ac1-bf80-cdf29d67bfa1/download/21952172000-2001.pdf>
3. Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. (2002, August 29). *2001-2002 Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development* (pp. 41). Retrieved from <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/61751a19-69d1-4ce1-b430-80bc435950a9/resource/3f30233c-e43d-4f6e-a7ad-a2b49241bf75/download/21952172001-2002.pdf>
4. Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. (2003, September 2). *2002-2003 Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development* (pp. 23). Retrieved from <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/61751a19-69d1-4ce1-b430-80bc435950a9/resource/eb952b8b-94c5-49c0-85dc-23a5a08e08a3/download/21952172002-2003.pdf>
5. Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. (2009, September 8). *Agriculture and Rural Development Annual Report 2008-2009* (pp. 60). Retrieved from <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/b36f8f34-1ca0-448b-8777-fe7d3ffebd4e/resource/a2f19ef9-49bc-43ef-aa29-d95fcd2f5fd0/download/6849045-2008-2009-ARD-Annual-Report.pdf>

6. Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. (2010, September 8). *Agriculture and Rural Development Annual Report 2009-2010* (pp. 31). Retrieved from <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/b36f8f34-1ca0-448b-8777-fe7d3ffebd4e/resource/308d6606-ae95-42e4-adc9-d9dbb97f90b9/download/6849045-2009-2010-ARD-Annual-Report.pdf>

7. Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. (2019, June 28). *Agriculture and Forestry Annual Report 2018-2019* (pp. 4). Retrieved from <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/3bd2d2b9-6ccd-4d8d-a8a2-a5c15da00c2a/resource/bda692e4-785d-4864-9acc-c0263ffd2813/download/agriculture-and-forestry-annual-report-2018-2019-web.pdf>

WEED AND PEST SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING TECHNOLOGY GRANT

- WHEREAS:** Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs) advise on and help organize direct weed and pest control;
- WHEREAS:** ASBs promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer;
- WHEREAS:** ASBs promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality;
- WHEREAS:** All ASBs must report weed and pest monitoring and surveillance as part of their grant requirement;
- WHEREAS:** The compilation of data collected from the 69 different Agricultural Service Boards requires extensive labour and time on the part of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and municipalities;
- WHEREAS:** The information received may be for up to 2 growing seasons and has become dated for municipal and provincial use;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

SPONSORED BY: Woodlands County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: _____

BACKGROUND

A Provincial/Municipal Pest and Weed Software initiative would reduce administration cost and also give the Province an “up to date” view of what is going on in the province. Considering the current process for 2019, the files will be gathered and sent to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF) in spring of 2020 then compiled and released by mid to late summer. This becomes difficult for the municipalities, producers, and industry partners to make informed decisions and secure market access when pest and weed data is dated and up to two growing seasons old.

Many counties and municipalities are using various software or methods to track weeds and pests for their ASB operations. The software provides data information including maps, data sets, and other attributes that can greatly help for surveillance and monitoring activities and help make decisions based on actual field data. Currently, many counties and municipalities do not possess GIS software to track weeds and pests as it is cost prohibitive. The use of hard copy county maps and excel tables to track activities is common in these municipalities. Tracking software can range from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for initial setup fees and additionally involve an annual subscription fee of \$10,000. If each municipality were able to obtain a uniform and compatible software system, the entire province would be able to collect cumulative data that can be used for various surveillance and monitoring purposes (e.g. rate of spreading of weeds or disease, pinpoint specific area in case of outbreak, etc.). This uniform software would provide full assurance for the industry for market access and strengthen surveillance and monitoring activities while at the same time assisting decision makers regarding policies and management activities to reduce the cost of their operation of controlling weeds and pests.

Sharing this data would also reduce municipal and provincial administrative duties as the access to limited information could be regularly and perhaps automatically shared. ASB's in turn, could monitor situations locally, regionally and provincially with more ease.

This would allow for identification of trends and concerns so the local ASBs could more effectively as per the ***Agricultural Service Board Act Section (2) a,b,d,e***

- *act as an advisory body and to assist the council and the Minister, in matters of mutual concern, (with both parties having the same information)*
- *advise on and to help organize and direct weed and pest control,*
- *promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer, and*
- *promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality*

Concerning privacy protection, access to information would be limited to broader, less focused details. This information could be uploaded or accessed remotely by AAF quite easily and still provide privacy protection. The sharing of information would have no bearing on how a municipality would address any infestation for Pest or Noxious Weeds. One municipality could

still issue notices while the neighboring municipality could have a different communication strategy, program and policy.

Providing grant support for the purchase and maintenance of a uniform and Provincially compatible monitoring software system would increase bargaining power for municipalities in accessing the system. Such a system would be mutually beneficial for both municipalities and the Government of Alberta with increased accuracy, timely data delivery, decreased workload and reliable data for secure market access.

CLUBROOT PATHOTYPE TESTING

- WHEREAS:** Canola production generates over \$7 billion in revenues in the Province of Alberta annually, is adversely impacted by clubroot;
- WHEREAS:** Clubroot surveillance and pathotype testing completed by the University of Alberta Clubroot Research Team led by Dr. Strelkov is the only testing of its kind being done in Western Canada, and is used to inform the Industry, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and producers;
- WHEREAS:** The unbiased, world recognized testing conducted by the University of Alberta has been vital to the agricultural industry in breeding canola cultivars resistant to the ever-evolving number of pathotypes being found in Alberta agricultural fields;
- WHEREAS:** Alberta Agriculture and Forestry recently denied a Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Project funding application which would allow this extremely important research to continue;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUES

the Province of Alberta commit to consistent and sustainable funding for the Clubroot Surveillance and Pathotype Monitoring conducted by the University of Alberta.

SPONSORED BY: Big Lakes County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: _____

BACKGROUND

Clubroot was first found infecting a canola crop in 2003 in Sturgeon County. Since that time, much has been learned about clubroot with a great deal of this knowledge coming from the efforts of the research team at the University of Alberta, led by Dr. Strelkov.

In 2009, the first clubroot resistant cultivar was released and by 2013, the resistance had been overcome by a new pathotype. “Pathotypic Shift”, selected for by the very resistance used to safeguard canola crops had been positively identified. The number of known pathotypes within Alberta fields ballooned from 8 to our present-day total of 22 separate pathotypes. A new Canadian Clubroot Differential set was developed, primarily by Dr. Strelkov and his team to allow for the differentiation of the new pathotypes.

In 2017, clubroot was positively identified in the Peace Region of Alberta for the first time. Big Lakes County was fortunate to be offered pathotype testing by the University of Alberta research team and sent 20 samples to their lab. Of those samples, 3 novel resistance breaking pathotypes were discovered.

Due to the “clubroot free” status enjoyed by Big Lakes County producers until 2017, clubroot resistant cultivars were not being deployed in the field in any great numbers. In 2018, that changed with over 95% of producers utilizing the technology. Big Lakes County was again invited to submit samples for pathotype testing to the University of Alberta. 2 novel resistance breaking pathotypes were discovered on the 5 submitted samples.

Clubroot is a quickly evolving pathogen that requires an integrated management approach to deal with. If no pathotype testing is available for these samples, Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Producers will only have part of the picture. To protect our canola industry and agriculture, pests must be taken seriously.

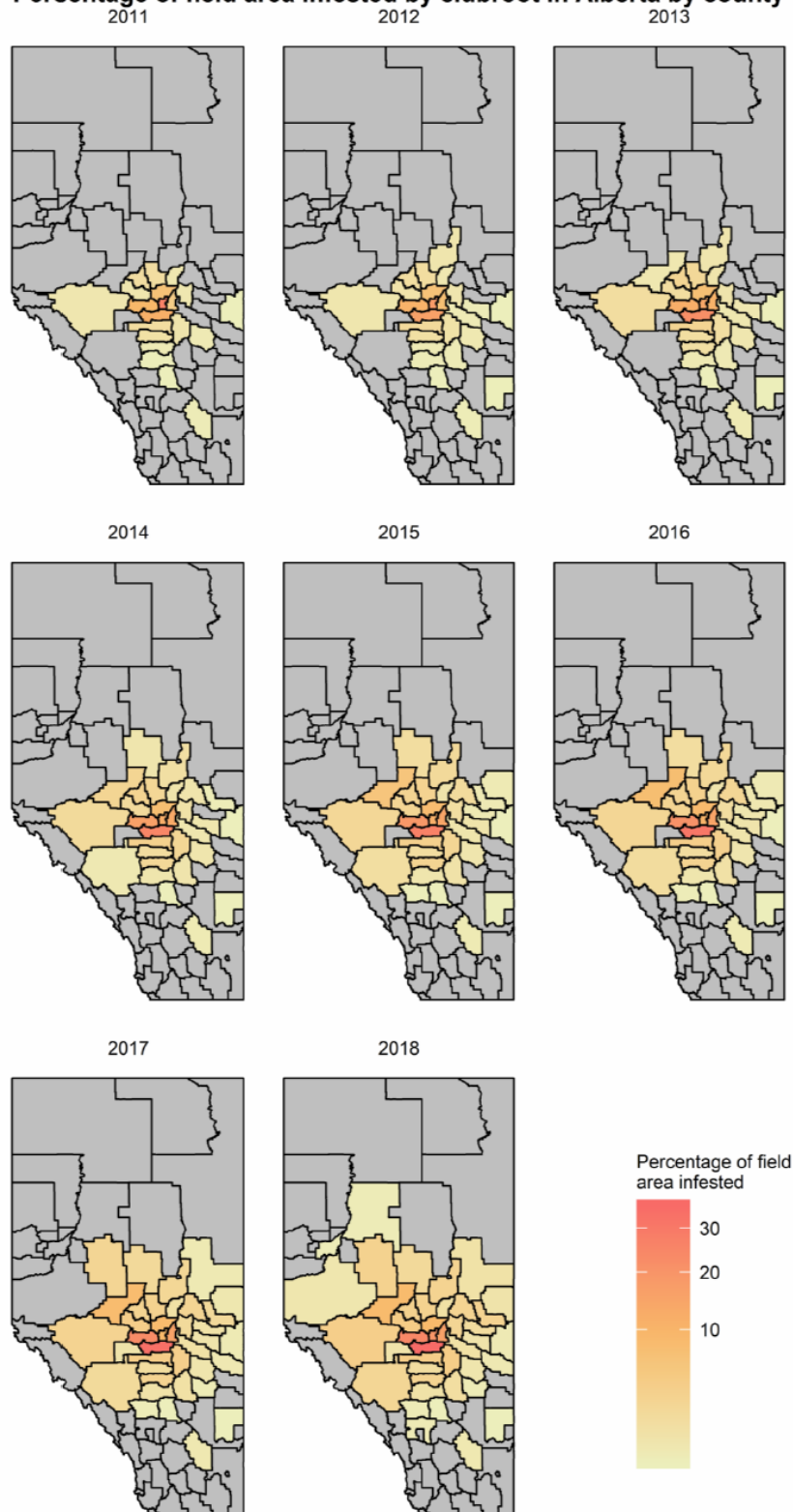
On October 18, 2019, Dr. Strelkov informed Big Lakes County that the University of Alberta Clubroot team would have to pause on pathotype testing as the Canadian Agricultural Partnership grant application they submitted jointly with Alberta Canola had been turned down. The reasoning given in the denial was that comprehensive networks already exist on the topic of clubroot. Currently, the University of Alberta Clubroot team is the only team conducting in depth, specific to Alberta research on this pathogens pathotypes. The research has informed agronomists, commissions, Alberta Agriculture and the World. The work being done at the University of Alberta is of vital importance to the future of the canola industry in Alberta and needs to continue, unimpeded.

		Pathotype Classification CCD																							
		3A	2B	8P	5X	5C	3D	8E	2F	5G	3H	5I	8J	5K	5L	6M	8N	3O	6S	8W	8Y	8Z	8AF		
Differential Host	ECD 02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	ECD 05	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-		
	ECD 06	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+		
	ECD 08	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
	ECD 09	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-		
	ECD 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-		
	ECD 11	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-		
	ECD 13	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+		
	Brutor	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	
	Laurentian	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
Resistance Breaking	Mendel	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Westar	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
	45H29	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+		
			New Pathotypes (BLC)																						

ECD 2	Turnip (<i>B.rapa</i>)
ECD 5	Chinese cabbage (<i>B. rapa</i> var. <i>pekinensis</i>) 'Granaat'.
ECD 6	The fodder rapes (<i>B.napus</i>) 'Nevin'
ECD 8	'Giant Rape' selection
ECD 9	New Zealand resistant rape
ECD 10	The rutabaga (<i>B. napus</i> var. <i>napobrassica</i>) 'Wilheimsburger'
ECD 11	Cabbage (<i>B. oleracea</i> var. <i>capitata</i>) 'Badger Shipper'
ECD 13	Cabbage 'Jersey Queen'
Brutor	Spring Oilseed rape
Laurentian	rutabaga
Mendel	Winter oilseed rape, CR cultivar (<i>B. napus</i>)
Westar	open pollinated spring canola (<i>B. napus</i>)
45H29	CR Hybrid Canola (<i>B. Napus</i>)

Testing completed and results compiled by Dr. Stephen Strelkov,
Victor Manolli, Sheau-Fang Hwang and Keisha Hollman- 2019

Percentage of field area infested by clubroot in Alberta by county



EDUCATION CAMPAIGN FOR CLEANLINESS OF EQUIPMENT FOR INDUSTRY SECTORS

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry create an education campaign directed specifically at equipment dealerships that outlines their role and promotes the importance of moving clean, uncontaminated equipment.

SPONSORED BY: Cypress County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: _____

BACKGROUND

Through the Canadian Council of Invasive Species there is a current program called “PlayCleanGo” which is an initiative created to stop or slow down the spread of invasive species directed at the recreation industry.

This initiative is widely recognized and would be beneficial if there was education campaign created to target equipment dealerships specifically.

From the Canadian Council of Invasive Species website:
(<https://canadainvasives.ca/programs/playcleango/>)

“What is PlayCleanGo?”

PlayCleanGo started as a Minnesota State, education initiative to stop the spread of invasive species in parks and natural areas.

The goal is to encourage outdoor recreation while protecting valuable natural resources. The objective is to slow or stop the spread of terrestrial invasive species (those that occur on land) through changes in public behaviour.

The Canadian Council on Invasive Species entered into an agreement with Minnesota in late 2016 that enabled Canadian Council on Invasive Species to adapt and implement PlayCleanGo: Stop Invasive Species in Your Tracks, as a national branded program across Canada.

Degradation of Our Natural Environment

Natural areas such as forests, prairies, wetlands and lakes provide many ecosystem services and benefits. Natural areas provide shelter and food for wildlife, remove pollutants from air and water, produce oxygen and provide valuable recreational and educational opportunities.

Invasive species threaten and can alter our natural environment and habitats and disrupt essential ecosystem functions. Invasive plants specifically displace native vegetation through competition for water, nutrients, and space. Once established, Invasive species can:

- *Reduce soil productivity*
- *Impact water quality and quantity*
- *Degrade range resources and wildlife habitat*
- *Threaten biodiversity*
- *Alter natural fire regimes*
- *Introduce diseases*

Invasive species threaten many rare and endangered species and now those species are at risk of extinction. Once established, invasive species become costly and difficult to eradicate. Often, the impacts are irreversible to the local ecosystem.

Impacts on Agriculture

Invasive plants can have a wide range of impacts on the agricultural industry. Invasive plants can act as new or additional hosts for new or existing crop diseases and crop pests, they can cause reductions in crop yields and may require increased use of pesticides to control them. This increases costs for farmers and reduces crop values. Estimated crop losses in BC agriculture industry of over \$50 million annually. Species such as knapweed infest rangelands and reduce forage quality. Many other species out-compete desired species in cultivated fields (Source: BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. 1998. Integrated weed management—an introductory manual). The estimated annual economic impact of invasive plants on Canadian agriculture is \$2.2 billion (Environment Canada, 2010).

Interference with Forest Productivity

Invasive species, specifically invasive plants, can interfere with forest regeneration and productivity through direct competition with tree seedlings, resulting in reduced density and slowed growth rate of tree saplings. Reduction in forest regeneration and productivity results in the loss of wildlife habitat, and decreases the diversity of a stand, making it more vulnerable to insects and disease.

Economic Impacts

*Invasive plants can have a large economic impact on individual landowners and municipalities. A recent study shows that property values for shoreline residences in Vermont affected with Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) were down as much as 16.4 % (OMNRF, 2012). Due to the explosion of leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), Manitoba has experienced a \$30 million reduction in land values (CFIA, 2008). Leafy spurge infests 340,000 acres of land in Manitoba, costing taxpayers an estimated \$19 million per year to protect grazing land, public land, and rights-of-way (CFIA, 2008). In Ontario, the MNRF has been involved with invasive *Phragmites* control pilot projects since 2007 and to date control costs range between \$865 and \$1,112 per hectare (OMNRF, 2012). Invasive species have an impact on approximately 20% of Species at Risk in Ontario (OMNRF, 2012).*

Invasive plants directly affect municipalities with reforestation projects and recreational trails. They increase management costs (e.g. project planning and monitoring) and they increase operational costs (e.g. mowing, pruning and hand pulling). They also complicate reforestation projects as they need to first be removed, and then the gaps created through removal must be addressed by using large, potted plant stock, or additional site maintenance to prevent the risk of re-invasion.

The economic impact of invasive species in Canada is significant. According to Environment Canada and Climate Change:

- *The estimated annual cumulative lost revenue caused by just 16 invasive species is between \$13 to \$35 billion.*

- *Invasive species that damage the agricultural and forestry industries results in an estimated \$7.5 billion of lost revenue annually.”*

The PlayCleanGo is a widely recognized and highly successful initiative. The PlayCleanGo website contains resources and relevant information targeted for the recreation industry but could also be applied for other industries as well. With a successful campaign like PlayCleanGo, there should be another campaign to target other industry sectors to remind them the role they play in the prevention or spreading invasive species and diseases.

AFSC ASSIST IN PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF REGULATED CROP PESTS

- WHEREAS:** Crop diseases are becoming more prevalent and wide spread in Alberta due to shortened crop rotations;
- WHEREAS:** Disease resistance is breaking down more quickly due to shortened crop rotations;
- WHEREAS:** Longer crop rotations can significantly decrease pest and disease infestations;
- WHEREAS:** Most crop producers carry crop insurance through the provincial crown corporation Agricultural Financial Services Corporation (AFSC);
- WHEREAS:** AFSC has the ability to promote better and longer crop rotations by declining or pricing insurance in a manner that discourages short crop rotations;
- WHEREAS:** Other jurisdictions such as Saskatchewan use their provincial Crown corporations for crop insurance to promote recommended crop rotations;
- WHEREAS:** The Minister has the ability under the Agricultural Pests Act Section 3(d) to enter into an agreement with AFSC to prevent establishment of or control or destroy pests;
- WHEREAS:** During the 2015 ASB Provincial Conference Resolution #1 ADAPT CROP INSURANCE TO PROTECT CLUBROOT TOLERANT VARIETIES was passed. The resolution requested similar actions to be taken, the response report card deemed actions taken to be unsatisfactory;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

SPONSORED BY:	Kneehill County
MOVED BY:	_____
SECONDED BY:	_____
CARRIED:	_____
DEFEATED:	_____
STATUS:	Provincial
DEPARTMENT:	_____

BACKGROUND

Kneehill County has recently confirmed clubroot in its borders, and in addition nearly all surrounding municipalities have also confirmed clubroot. As an Agricultural Service Board we constantly promote and emphasize the importance of good crop rotations to prevent yield loss due to disease, pests and other invasive species that are detrimental to crop production. Despite these efforts many producers have actually tightened rotations so much so that some are growing canola and other crops back to back. The introduction of resistant varieties has provided a false sense of security for many producers reducing their fear of contracting clubroot or other diseases.

In 2003, the first report of clubroot in a commercial canola field in Canada was identified near Edmonton. In April 2007 clubroot was declared a pest under the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act and the province developed a Clubroot Management Plan to assist municipalities in dealing with this pest. In 2011 the first clubroot resistant varieties of canola were introduced in Alberta. However, due to continued poor rotational cropping practices, breakdown in resistance of these varieties occurred, which has led to the establishment of new pathotypes. In 2013 the first pathotypes were identified in two fields- this has since multiplied substantially to over 192 fields and 17 different pathotypes, 11 of which can break resistance as of December 2018.

Since 2003, clubroot has spread and is now found in over 3000 fields in this province affecting 40 counties plus the cities of Edmonton, Medicine Hat, and the Town of Stettler, and continues to spread at a rate of 20km/year. The map below shows where clubroot has been found and the color code indicates the number of fields that have been found in the affected municipalities.

AGRICULTURAL PESTS ACT - Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter A-8

Current as of November 1, 2014

Section 3

Powers of Minister

3(1) The Minister may

- (a) investigate any matter,
- (b) conduct surveys,
- (c) establish programs, or
- (d) enter into agreements with any person, local authority, agency or government,

for the purpose of preventing the establishment of, controlling or destroying a pest or nuisance and preventing or reducing damage caused by a pest or nuisance.

(2) The Minister may exempt any land from the operation of all or part of this Act.

1984cA-8.1 s3



Figure 1. Alberta Clubroot Map: Cumulative clubroot infestations as of December 2018. Map courtesy of S.E. Strelkov, University of Alberta and M. Hartman, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.

BEEHIVE DEPREDAATION

- WHEREAS:** Alberta agriculture has a spectrum of different farming and ranching operation;
- WHEREAS:** The Ungulate Damage Prevention Program, offers producers advice and assistance to prevent ungulates from spoiling stored feed and unharvested crops;
- WHEREAS:** All commercially grown cereal, oilseed, special and other crops that can be insured under the Production and Straight Hail Insurance programs are eligible for compensation;
- WHEREAS:** The Wildlife Predator Compensation Program provides compensation to ranchers whose livestock are killed or injured by wildlife predators;
- WHEREAS:** Alberta Beekeepers, as an Alberta Agricultural Producers, also experiences wildlife damages such as hive destruction every year by bear depredation but is not covered by a program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks work with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation to amend the Wildlife Compensation Program to include coverage for hive destruction by bear activity.

SPONSORED BY: Northern Sunrise County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: _____

BACKGROUND

Source: <https://afsc.ca/news/wildlife-damage-compensation-program-what-you-need-to-know/>

With the onset of harvest season, an intense effort by producers around the province is underway to ensure the crops are being taken off the field in a timely manner.

Circumstances surrounding harvest may not always be suitable for a swift completion of the effort. There might be some damage to crops stemming from the presence of wildlife in the area.

Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (WDCP), administered by AFSC in Alberta and funded completely by the federal and provincial governments, provides coverage for producers who suffer crop loss or degradation due to wildlife.

To benefit from this program, a producer does not have to have an insurance policy with AFSC, but it is important to know that not all crops are eligible under WDCP.

Here are some basic guidelines of how WDCP works:

- WDCP compensates agricultural producers for wildlife damage to eligible unharvested crops, wildlife excreta contaminated crops, silage or haylage in pits and tubes; and stacked hay.
- While producers pay no premium to be eligible for indemnity, a non-refundable \$25 appraisal fee per inspection is required for each section of land (or portion thereof) on which the damage has occurred with at least 10 per cent wildlife damage and a minimum of \$100 loss per crop must be assessed for payment eligibility.
- All commercially grown cereal, oilseed, special and other crops that can be insured under the Production and Straight Hail Insurance programs are eligible for compensation. Swath grazing, bale grazing and corn grazing are eligible for compensation only up to October 31.
- To initiate a wildlife claim on Stacked Hay and Silage or Haylage in pits and tubes, a producer must first contact a provincial Fish and Wildlife (FW) Officer who will provide the producer with appropriate recommendations to prevent further damage prior to a claim being paid.
- Crops under the following circumstances are not eligible: Crops in granaries, bins, stacks or bales left in the field (exception: silage in pits and tubes are eligible); crops seeded on land considered unsuitable for production; crops seeded too late in the season to produce a normal yield; volunteer crops; crops left exposed to wildlife damage due to management practices.

Source: <https://afsc.ca/crop-insurance/perennial-crop-insurance/wildlife-damage-compensation-program/>

The Wildlife Damage Compensation program compensates agricultural producers for damage to eligible unharvested hay crops that is caused by ungulates, upland game birds and waterfowl.

Producers wishing to participate in the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program are not required to have insurance to qualify for a claim. All costs for this program are paid by the federal and provincial governments; producers pay no premium or administration cost except for the appraisal fee. A non-refundable appraisal fee of \$25 per inspection type is required for each section of land or portion thereof on which the damage has occurred.

In order for a producer to be compensated under the program, there must be at least 10 per cent wildlife damage and a minimum of \$100 calculated loss per crop. Damaged hay crops must not be harvested until an AFSC inspector inspects them.

The following crops are not eligible: grazing land or native pasture; crops seeded on land considered unsuitable for production; crops left exposed to wildlife damage due to management practices.

For stacked and haylage in pits and tube, producers are responsible to notify Fish and Wildlife and AFSC as soon as possible after first noticing damage to request an inspection. A provincial Fish and Wildlife (FW) Officer will provide the producer with appropriate recommendations to prevent further damage prior to a claim being paid.

Source: <https://www.alberta.ca/wildlife-predator-compensation-program.aspx>

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

Funding for the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program comes from dedicated revenue from the sale of recreational hunting and fishing licences in Alberta and from the federal government.

Compensation is paid only for	Compensation is not paid for
Cattle, bison, sheep, swine and goats.	Any other animal, including horses, donkeys or exotic animals, such as llamas, alpacas or wild boar.
Attacks by wolves, grizzly bears, black bears, cougars and eagles.	Attacks by other types of predators, such as coyotes.
The costs of veterinary care and medication associated with the incident or the loss of an animal, up to the value of the animal based on the average for the type and class of livestock.	Incidents of feeding on livestock that had already died of disease or other causes not related to wildlife predation.

AGRICULTURAL RELATED LEASE DISPOSITIONS

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

a transfer of the management of Public Lands- Agricultural Related Lease Dispositions to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to streamline and/or provide increased resources to expedite the disposition of Agricultural Leases within the Province of Alberta.

SPONSORED BY: Big Lakes County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: _____

BACKGROUND

Grazing leases have existed in Alberta since 1881 and were created to encourage economic activity utilizing forage on Crown Lands, allowing producers to grow their herds by utilizing large swaths of Provincial grass resources. This system has been an integral component of the Alberta Livestock Industry's success.

Grazing Leases are managed by Alberta Environment and Parks and can be issued for terms not exceeding 20 years, though 10 years is the typical allotment. Once assigned, lease holders have exclusive rights to the use of the specified land(s) for grazing purposes. In Alberta, there are approximately 5,700 grazing leases utilizing approximately 8 million acres of range for livestock through various dispositions.

Once a grazing lease has been issued, the lease becomes an asset to the lease holder. The lease holder is responsible for fencing, necessary outbuildings and other capital expenditures. If a lease holder wishes to transfer a grazing lease to an arm's length entity through the sale of the lease rights, an "Application for General Assignment of Disposition" must be completed, all fees must be paid, and the completed package submitted to Alberta Environment and Parks, Operations Division. Fees for this process are dependent for the Zone the Grazing Lease is located in. Zone C in the Northern portion of the Province of Alberta fees are \$5 per animal unit month (AUM). An AUM is defined within the Public Lands Act, RSA 2000 cP-40 s104;2009 cA-26.8 s91(49) as the forage required to sustain a cow of average weight with a calf at foot for the period of one month.

Approvals of a grazing lease had a wait time of 12-16 months for transfer to the arm's length entity in 2015. Livestock producers within Alberta have reported that final approval of grazing lease disposition transfers is taking more than 3 years to complete. This presents a challenge to producers as the sale of grazing lease rights represents a transfer of asset from one producer to another. While the final approval remains incomplete, the current lease holder cannot collect on the funds from the sale of the grazing lease disposition rights. These funds are held in trust until the disposition application is approved.

With the current demographics of Alberta Livestock Producers, this protracted process represents undue hardship for both the lease holder and the arm's length entity purchasing the rights to the grazing lease disposition. Succession of livestock operations is an ongoing process throughout the Province. Consolidation of these operations is also a very active concern. By protracting the period of completion of these transfers, the purchaser has no responsibility to improve or maintain the grazing lease and the lease holder is still responsible for payment of rent.

With an anticipated increase in pressure of multiple succession of operations over a short period of time and continued consolidation, coupled with almost 5,700 active leases that may require

transfer throughout the Province of Alberta, the current FTE for transfers of Grazing Lease Dispositions of 2.0 is inadequate.

Within the Public Lands Administration Regulations, 30 days are given for the Director to provide notice to the applicant that an application for formal disposition has been accepted or rejected and 1 year after this notice the Director is to issue a notice of the issuance of the disposition or refusal to issue. Currently the Crown is not complying with the Public Lands Administration Regulation.

EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK REMOVAL

- WHEREAS:** Maintaining livestock health, viability and profitability during emergency situations such as, but not limited to, disease, fire and flooding is a major priority to livestock producers;
- WHEREAS:** Livestock removal during emergency situations pose major challenges to producers' safety, livelihoods and animal welfare;
- WHEREAS:** Major challenges arise from transportation, acquiring pasture and red tape from various departments to access grazing reserves;
- WHEREAS:** These major challenges restrict the ability of these producers to evacuate rapidly and pose serious risk to life and property;
- WHEREAS:** Removal of red tape and rapid access to grazing reserves and/or created areas allotted for the use during emergency situations would improve the evacuation process, protect life and property;
- WHEREAS:** Currently Municipal Affairs and Agriculture and Forestry do not coordinate an effort to make livestock removal a priority under the Emergency Management Act in rural areas;
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of an Agricultural Service Board is to improve the economic welfare and safety of producers and by not having a provincial streamlined system to safely and effectively remove and rehome livestock; emergency situations will continue to plague the life and property of producers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD REQUEST

that Municipal Affairs, Agriculture and Forestry and Environment and Parks—Public Lands work together to improve access and provide all necessary resources to create separate allotments at grazing reserves and/or other created sites designated for livestock during emergency management situations and recognize livestock removal as an important part in the Emergency Management Act.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD REQUEST

that Municipal Affairs and Agriculture and Forestry work together to research and develop best practice procedures in the event livestock are to be left behind due to an Evacuation Order issued under the Emergency Management Act.

Sponsored by: County of Northern Lights

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: _____

BACKGROUND

In May of 2019 we saw widespread fires and emergency situations erupt throughout Northern Alberta. One of many fires was the Battle Complex Fire (PWF 052), which led to an evacuation of the Northern half of the County of Northern Lights. It became apparent that the removal of livestock and willingness of livestock producers to leave would become a major challenge to emergency management staff at the County of Northern Lights as the County is not equipped to provide assistance in removal of livestock to increase the likelihood of producers evacuating.

Two reoccurring themes emerged from producers.

1. "Where could I even move my livestock if I wanted too?"
2. "I can't remove my livestock, what is the best practices if I have to leave them and get out?"

It would remove a major hurdle to livestock producers if it was public knowledge that they had a place to rehome livestock during emergencies, if they chose. The initiation of sound research and development of standard operating procedures regarding what to do if you cannot remove the livestock would reduce the stress for producers and first responders in the event of an evacuation.

Dealing with the immediate threat of the fire, the staff realized there was little they could do to help and few resources to offer in this situation other than reaching out to intermunicipal contacts and Alberta Environment and Parks to find pasture or reserves with space to rehome livestock. If areas were designated for emergency use provincially and producers were aware of these sites, they would act before immediate threat to life and property was posed. This would not only be beneficial to producers but also the brave emergency responders that work tirelessly to keep our community safe. Livestock producers who are under immediate threat of evacuation must be given viable options for their animals if we expect them to evacuate, by addressing this threat to life and property it allows emergency responders to perform their jobs more effectively and does not create another hazard of livestock running loose.

The County of Northern Lights would like to thank all the emergency responders that risked their lives to save our community. We would also like to thank all the volunteers for their time, resources and trucks to rehome livestock of affected producers. It's families like these that help to build strong, robust and vibrant communities but provincially we shouldn't have to rely solely on great volunteers. A structured and targeted Inter-Ministerial Provincial Plan on how to respond during an Agricultural Emergency needs to be created. That is why we need to make Emergency Livestock Removal a priority and provide the necessary funding and areas required to protect life and property.

MANDATORY AGRICULTURE EDUCATION IN THE CLASSROOM

- WHEREAS:** Agricultural production in Alberta has historically been and continues to be a major economic force and employer of workers;
- WHEREAS:** Generations ago, most Albertans grew up on the family farm and had an intimate knowledge about how livestock, crops, and other agricultural commodities were raised;
- WHEREAS:** Most Albertans now live in urban non -farm environments and do not have the same level of knowledge about how livestock, crops, and other agricultural commodities are being raised;
- WHEREAS:** The general public has historically had a high regard for agriculture and farmers as they put food on their table in Alberta, Canada, and the rest of the world;
- WHEREAS:** Modern agriculture in Alberta is being severely tested by concerns about how livestock, crops, and agricultural produce is being raised, especially regarding environmental impacts, animal cruelty, and farm safety;
- WHEREAS:** Many of these concerns stem from a lack of knowledge about agriculture in the general community;
- WHEREAS:** Alberta Education is currently reviewing the teaching curriculum making it very timely to consider this resolution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta and Alberta Agriculture & Forestry work with other rural stakeholders, Alberta Education, and the Alberta Teachers' Association to request that mandatory agriculture education be implemented in the school curriculum in Alberta.

SPONSORED BY: Lac La Biche County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: _____

DEPARTMENT: _____

BACKGROUND

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

Grade 4 students in schools in Lac La Biche County, (public, Catholic, or Francophone) may be taught agriculture in the classroom so long as the school approves. The Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP) is a well-known and highly respected education program currently reaching over 20,000 Grade 4 Alberta students annually. Since its beginning, CAP has reached more than 570,000 Alberta youth.

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

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

The Provincial ASB Committee is currently working on Resolution 3-17: Incorporating Agriculture and Agri-Food Education in the Classroom. This shows that Classroom agricultural education is very important to the entire province and to the Provincial Agricultural Service Board. This resolution seeks to emphasise the urgent need to actively implement agriculture education throughout classrooms in the province. Further, Alberta Education is currently reviewing all grade school and high school curriculum so it's a perfect opportunity to have agriculture education incorporated as part of the overall curriculum.

REINSTATE A SHELTERBELT PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry implement a shelterbelt program

SPONSORED BY: Brazeau County _____

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial _____

DEPARTMENT: _____

BACKGROUND

Previously, the Government of Alberta provided trees and shrubs to Alberta farmers for shelterbelts. Various government departments managed the program over the years, but starting in 1951, the Department of Agriculture took over. In 1997 the nursery was privatised. It is estimated that over 60 million trees and shrubs were planted through the lifetime of the Alberta Shelterbelt Program.

The federal government also provided free tree seedlings to farmers from 1901-2013. The year the program was disbanded, it still distributed more than three million trees per year to 7000 clients. From 2000-2013 the federal program distributed 14.5 million trees and shrubs to Alberta's farmers. It is estimated that over the lifetime of the program they distributed over 600 million trees to prairie farmers.

While farming practises have improved and decreased soil erosion across the prairies, shelterbelts are not just for preventing the loss of soil. While traditionally thought of as rows of trees adjacent to a yard site or field, shelterbelts can be planted in many areas to attain different goals. Shelterbelts can be planted adjacent to riparian areas, livestock facilities, and dugouts.

Benefits of shelterbelts

- Carbon sequestration
- Reduction of soils erosion by wind
- Protects adjacent buildings, assisting in the reduction of energy consumption
- Increased soil moisture adjacent to the shelterbelt
- Wildlife habitat and shelter
- Pollinator habitat and shelter
- Snow trapping
- Improved soil moisture
- Improved winter safety and reduced cost of snow removal on adjacent roadways
- Rural landscape beautification
- Screens for odours and dust from farm operations
- Screens dust from road traffic into rural residences
- Increase bank stability in riparian areas
- Water filtration in run off areas

Many shelterbelts are reaching the end of their lifespan or are over mature. The former program provided incentive to plant new shelterbelts or replace dying ones. With government concerns over the climate and carbon capture, the prairie shelterbelt program would assist in those goals. While farmer's received direct benefits from the program, Canadians as a whole receive many indirect benefits from shelterbelts.

COMPENSATION TO PRODUCERS ON DENIED LAND ACCESS TO HUNTERS

- WHEREAS:** Damage to livestock fencing, stacked feed, green feed or silage pits has increased due to the growing deer and elk population;
- WHEREAS:** Damage caused by deer and elk may be reduced through best management practices including issuance of additional hunting tags;
- WHEREAS:** Controlled reduction of the ungulate population cannot be undertaken on lands where hunting is not permitted;
- WHEREAS:** No compensation should be paid to landowners for damage to fences, stacked feed, green feed losses or silage pits and tubes if land access to hunters is denied;
- WHEREAS:** Landowners can develop their own system to allow land access to hunters;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Environment and Parks withhold compensation for damage caused to fences, stacked feed or green feed to landowners that do not permit access to land for hunting of wildlife.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: _____

BACKGROUND

Over population of wildlife (deer and elk) causing destruction of crops and feed.

PREAMBLE

Producers incur additional expenses for damage to crops, silage and feed that is destroyed by deer and elk as well as fence repairs and replacement. In areas where the population of deer and elk has increased dramatically, Alberta Fish and Game has proposed to increase the number of cow elk tags issued to each hunter to control the population. Hunters that are drawn for cow elk will receive two tags instead of one. This will not increase the number of hunters, only the allotment of tags issued to them.

The intent is not to allow trespassing by anyone, permission will need to be granted by the landowner. The landowner is in control of when, who and how many hunters are allowed on their property at all times. Landowners must work with hunters to decrease the deer and elk population which in turn will provide relief from the damages done and the hazards of overpopulation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Landowners that deny access to any hunting on their lands also not qualify to receive compensation from any sources for damages or preventative measures due to the overpopulation of deer and elk in their area.



WHEATLAND COUNTY

Where There's Room to Grow

Request for Decision

January 15th, 2020

Resolution No. _____

Date Prepared December 13th, 2019

Subject

Decision-making topic title

Manager of Agriculture and Environment Report

Recommendation

Clear resolution answering – what/who/how/when

Move acceptance of the Manager of Agriculture and Environment Report.

CAO Comments

Any additional comments regarding the reason for the recommendation

RECOMMENDATION

Report/Document:

Attached

☒

Available

☐

None

☐

Key Issue(s) / Concepts Defined

Define the topic, reference background material and state question to be answered

Operations

- 3782 km of roadside mowing completed.
- Approximately 50 km of new road construction and 3 gravel pits mowed.
- 480 acres of spraying for weed control on 824 km of right of way.
- 7 waste transfer sites sprayed
- 193 weed inspections including 4 times each in the Villages of Standard, Rockyford and Hussar.
- 5470 km of roadside inspected
- 26 weed complaints and/or inquires responded too.
- 22.5 km of roadside seeding
- 50 acres of borrow areas seeded
- 60 bales of eco-tack and 61 bales of straw applied for erosion control
- 103 Clubroot surveys
- 14 Canola stem samples sent to Alberta Agriculture for Blackleg and Sclerotinia testing
- 45 Grasshopper surveys completed for AB Agriculture.
- 2 Bertha Armyworm surveys completed for AB Agriculture.
- 4 cattle scale rentals – 4-H
- 12 Magpie, 6 skunk trap, 2 Pasture sprayer, 4 tree sprayer rental,
- 224 plastic grain bags recycled for a total of 51.7 tonne.
- Seed cleaning plant inspections complete with all 3 plants receiving scores of 99%.

Environmental Program

Operational Environmental Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Final Environmental Audit Report provided to Council on January 14, 2020. Achieved 90% success in correcting audit findings with remaining 10% committed to ongoing attention as part of regular programming ○ Applied for and received four Temporary Diversion Licenses for road dust control activities ○ Applied for water license for Dalum Fire Hall water well – expected in early 2020 ○ Response to inquiries from field staff and assistance with legislative requirements
Environmental Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2018 Environmental Update Publication was published in early 2019. Hardcopies were sent to stakeholders and provided to Council, and a digital version was added to our website ○ Environmental Program was modified in early 2019 for clarity and to reflect changing internal process. Program document was published on County website and provided to Council as information, and promoted in County Connector
Environmental Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinated the attendance of 8 staff members to erosion and sediment control training in April ○ Created a booth for Canada Water Week to share information with residents about water in Wheatland County ○ Shared information about water stewardship with staff at the annual Safety Day ○ Environmental topics shared in County media include: species at risk information, runoff management and water legislation, and dugout regulations
Technical Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assisted with RMA resolution submissions on the topics of compost regulation, waste transfer bin funding, and extended producer responsibility ○ Development of project management tool pilot to incorporate environmental considerations into road projects while avoiding strained timelines – increased support for environmental requirements of road projects ○ Support for erosion control activities at sites damaged by heavy flooding ○ Support for shallow well-digging at Thurn Pit – obtained Class B Well License from Alberta Environment and submitted well report ○ Assistance with the ALUS program and other Agricultural Services projects ○ Ongoing technical support for infrastructure projects as requested (hydrogeological studies, water licensing and approvals, water and soil quality) ○ Ongoing review of planning & development files for comments regarding agricultural and environmental impact, and response to questions from planning & development staff ○ Response to ratepayer inquiries on wide range of topics including but not limited to shelterbelt development, wetland management, dugout development, contamination and pollution, and support/internal advocacy for areas of concern brought forward

Advancing Environmental Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two Environmental Stewardship Awards were handed out at the 2019 Annual General Meeting and Carseland School Park Partnership Announcement. The process was altered for 2019 for timing to align with the ASB Bursary program, and unfortunately no interest was received for the program this year. Advertisement will begin again early in 2020 Development of a shelterbelt and ecobuffer funding program, set to kick off with a workshop that is planned for February of 2020. Policy research and internal advocacy towards development of policy solution for soil being brought in from outside the municipality. After obtaining ASB and Council support, work is now underway in the Planning & Development department towards Land Use Bylaw amendments. Attendance at external environmental-themed events hosted by stakeholders and collaboration with external agencies on environmental topics, including: Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Wetland Education Network, ALUS Canada, Bow River Basin Council, Alberta Woodlot Extension Society, Miistakis Institute, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment & Parks
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Agriculture Conservation Program

Event	Date/ Location	Partners	Number of Attendees/ Comments
Landowner consultation (for all programs combined)	Ongoing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 80 landowners More than 160 interactions (phone, email, in-person)
Crowfoot Creek Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program landowner grant	Ongoing Programs ends March 2020	Western Irrigation District Alberta Environment and Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total grant funding received from AEP \$198,500.00 15 applications received 9 Projects completed 9 Offsite watering systems installed 1,895 m of riparian fence installed Protection of 21,266m riparian lands 2018 the WID fenced 7000m of canals 2019 the WID fenced over 1,250m of canals 8 riparian health assessments -2018 3 riparian health assessments -2019
Rosebud Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program landowner grant	Ongoing	Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) Rocky View County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant approved by Environment Contract waiting on AEP Signature
Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)	Ongoing	Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 Plans Approved 6 workbooks in progress
Canada Agriculture Partnership	Ongoing	Alberta Agriculture and Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted 29 landowners with CAP programs
Safe Water Well Action Program (SWWAP)	Ongoing	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 applications received 2 well pits removed 7 wells abandoned \$8863.22 expended

Wheatland Agricultural Stewardship Program	Ongoing	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 2 applications received · 1 project completed · \$5000 expended
Wheatland ALUS	Ongoing	ALUS Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 2 Partnership Advisory Committee Meetings · 4 approved projects, 107.81 acres · \$16,626.25 · Wheatland County project prioritization map (AB AG) · 2 landowner workshops · ALUS banner purchased · Attended national conference
County Connector Newsletter	Ongoing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 24 submissions
Alberta Invasive Species Guide	Ongoing	Association of Agricultural Fieldman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Re-Print: 10,000 copies
Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership	Ongoing	Clearwater, Mountain View, Red Deer, Kneehill, Rocky View & MD Bighorn Alberta Agriculture Cows and Fish Grey Wooded Forage Association Foothills Forage and Grazing Association Olds College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Chair of RAP Committee · 2 events hosted · 4 meetings ·
Ladies Livestock Lessons	January 28th Airdrie	Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 76 attended
Ranching Opportunities Conference	February 9th Olds College	Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 160 attended
Wheatland Water Day	March 22-Admin Office	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 33 attended
Solar and Agriculture Workshop	Acme Community Hall May 15th	Mountain View County Kneehill County Rocky View County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 18 attended
Fencing and Grazing 101	June 26 th Wheatland County	Foothills Forage and Grazing Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Cancelled due to low registration
Get the Dirt on Soil Health Workshop	October 16th Irricana	Foothills Forage and Grazing Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 20 attended
Winter Feed and Water Workshop	November 13th Carseland Community Hall	Foothills Forage and Grazing Association, Vulcan County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 26 attended



Wheatland Water Day



Ranching Opportunities Conference



Winter Feed and Water workshop

Year End Weed Report for 2019

Activities

- Received 26 complaints/inquiries from Ratepayers
- Completed 25 AIMS weed cases/updates
- Surveyed all Provincial/County roads at least 2 times
- Followed up with 2018 weed cases
- Controlled weeds at Wheatland County infrastructure sites such as: County transfer sites, cemeteries, satellite shops, fire halls, borrows, Thurn, sewage lagoons, etc.
- Set up and administer bait station program. 12 new bait stations purchased and utilized for a grand total of 37 in use until mid-July
- Surveyed the Bow River for Purple loosestrife, 6 locations identified and controlled
- Participated in AB Parks weed control event at Johnsons Island Provincial Park
- Purple loosestrife control in collaboration with WID and DU
- Continue to work with the CAGWC as Chair
- Surveyed Villages of Rockyford, Hussar, and Standard 4 times each, Wheatland County villages -such as Rosebud, Lyalta, Speargrass and Carseland
- Controlled Hoary cress on Hwy 1 for Ab transportation
- Continue seed sample checks and inspections at seed plants
- Continue dealing with rail lines, spray checks/inspections
- Followed up on old Flowering Rush sites, 9 locations

Inspections

- 18 ratepayer inquiries/complaints about weeds= 18 inspections
- 193 Inspections

*Wheatland County roads inspected =2735
kms (2 times) =5470km

Alberta Transportation Agreement

As part of Wheatland County's commitment to control weeds, an agreement has been made with Alberta Transportation and their contractors for Wheatland County staff to control small patches of regulated weed infestations located on Provincial Highway right of ways. Large scale weed infestation locations will continue to be forwarded to Alberta Transportation to take care of on their own. This programming follows the principals of Early Detection and Rapid Response to protect Wheatland County Ratepayers from new infestations establishing on their lands or adjacent to. . Primary species of concern include Hoary cress and Leafy spurge as their populations remain scattered but low along the transportation corridors.

Prohibited Noxious Weeds and Locations

Spotted Knapweed - Johnsons Island Provincial Park – Past weir along dirt trail (50.827874° -113.444936°). Hand-picked in 2019, 3 times.

Flowering rush - 9 locations in WID canal system,



Plumeless thistle

Locations along the Bow River's shores From Mckinnon Flats downstream to Hwy 24 Bridge and is prolific. Johnsons Island and Legacy Island have been controlled in the 2019 season.

Orange hawkweed

Site identified in Carseland (410 McKinnon Dr.) was checked multiple times throughout the year and no re-growth was detected.

Purple loosestrife

Various locations along Bow River shores up and

downstream of Legacy Island as well as a Ducks Unlimited pond located at: NE-15-24-26-4.

Village Inspections

As all local authorities in Alberta are delegated responsibility for controlling weeds within their boundaries by the Province of Alberta through the Weed Control Act. Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board has reached agreement with urban partners within the jurisdiction of Wheatland County to provide Weed Inspection Services. The basic approach is public awareness, education, and participation in conjunction with integrated pest management. For the 2019 year the Villages of Rockyford, Standard and Hussar continue partnering in to the Inter-Local Municipal Agreement for weed inspection services. Since most Villages are relatively small in size surveying one does not take a lot of time. A total of 4 tours each were billed between these villages. There were generally no outstanding issues but below are some examples of the little infestations that were identified and controlled:

- Ox-eye daisies in Hussar on undeveloped lot- hand pulled, Black henbane in an alley – cut and bagged
- Creeping Bellflower in Standard- hand pulled
- Policeman's helmet in an alley- spoke with resident and was controlled, Downy brome in Race track in Rockyford and under bleachers which the Rockyford municipal staff sprayed

Multiple inspections are carried out throughout the growing season in each Village. The reason for more than one inspection is that the plants listed on the Weed Control Act and Regulations are better identified when they are mature and flowering. All residences, roads/alleys, and commercial/public properties were checked. The limiting factor for conducting reconnaissance is usually high fences, buildings and trees blocking a complete view of the properties in question. While this makes it more difficult to see, efforts were taken to make sure all properties were inspected.

Submitted by: Russel Muenchrath
Manager of Agriculture and Environment

Reviewed by: Mike Ziehr
General Manager of Transportation and Agriculture

Agucation

2020 Learning Opportunities *for Wheatland Landowners*

Ladies Livestock Lessons

January 18th

8:30 - 4:30, The Heritage Centre, Cremona
\$50 registration fee (includes lunch, coffee, & snacks)
Register at www.redbowag.com

Ranching Opportunities Conference

February 13th

8:30 to 4:30, Olds College, Alumni Centre
\$50 registration fee (includes lunch, coffee & tradeshow)
Register at www.redbowag.com

Jim Gerrish Grazing Workshop

February 14th, 2020

9:00-3:30, Wheatland County Administration Building
Spend a full day learning from world renowned grazer Jim Gerrish.
<https://jimgerrishwheatland2020.eventbrite.ca>

Shelterbelt & Ecobuffer Workshop

February 22nd

1:00pm - 4:30pm Wheatland County Administration Building
Learn more about planting, care and design
For more information contact Gay Mowat at Ph: 403-934-3321 or
Gay.Mowat@wheatlandcounty.ca

Farmer Pesticide Certificate

February 27th

8:30am - 5:00pm Wheatland County Administration Building
For more information contact Gay Mowat or Russel Muenchrath at
Ph: 403-934-3321 or Russel.Muenchrath@wheatlandcounty.ca

Working Well Workshop

March 17th

6:30pm - 9:00pm Wheatland County Administration Building
For more information contact Sarah Schumacher at
Ph: 403-361-2027 or Sarah.Schumacher@wheatlandcounty.ca

If You Cant Beat it, Eat It

January 9th, 2020

Fort MacLeod Community Hall

Pesky weeds? Let nature work for you by using livestock grazing to control invasive weed species & guardian dogs to protect your livestock.

Cost:

\$30.00 + GST for FFGA Members

\$40.00 + GST for Non-Members

Register at:

grazingweeds.eventbrite.ca

Agronomy Update 2020

Jan 7th - 8th, 2020

Red Deer, AB

Place: Cambridge Hotel
(Formerly Sheraton)

\$170.00

Registration includes lunches
and coffee breaks

Register on the Alberta Agriculture website or call :
1-800-387-6030

Agronomy Update features the latest information for grain producers, crop advisors and industry partners. Topics range from disease, insect, weed and soil management to smart farms, biosecurity, crop rotations and crop agronomy.



WHEATLAND COUNTY

Where There's Room to Grow



Request for Decision

January 15th, 2020

Resolution No. _____

Date Prepared December 12, 2019

Subject

Decision-making topic title

Correspondence/Information

Recommendation

Clear resolution answering – what/who/how/when

Move approval to accept as information the following correspondence: Yellowhead County letter from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry; Yellowhead County letter received from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency; The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen; Foothills Forage and Grazing Association Newsletter; Pest Insider Newsletter and Safe Food for Canadians Regulations

CAO Comments

Any additional comments regarding the reason for the recommendation

RECOMMENDATION

Report/Document:

Attached

☒

Available

☐

None

☐

Follow-up Action / Communications

Timelines, decision-making milestones and key products

No action required.

Submitted by: Russel Muenchrath
Manager of Agriculture and Environment

Reviewed by: Mike Ziehr
General Manager of Transportation and Agriculture



ALBERTA
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake*

Copy Received
ASD
AR-69020



OCT 16 2019

Her Worship Sandra Cherniawsky, Mayor
Mr. Bob S. Mitchell, Chair
Yellowhead County
2716 1st Avenue
Edson, AB T7E 1N9

Dear Mayor Cherniawsky and Mr. Mitchell:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding Ropin' the Web and Agriculture and Forestry's hay and livestock listings. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Alberta Agriculture's former website was migrated to Alberta.ca to ensure a consistent approach across Government of Alberta ministries. As part of this work, the decision was made to exclude directories and the General Store. However, during the *Farm Freedom and Safety Act* engagement sessions I attended this summer, Alberta farmers were clear about how vital these resources are to their day-to-day business. As such, I am committed to making the hay and livestock listings available again. I have directed the department to explore options for how to improve the accessibility of the information and expect this service to resume in the coming months.

Thank you again for taking time to send me your comments on this issue.

Sincerely,

Honourable Devin Dreeshen
Minister, Agriculture and Forestry



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Copy
Canned
ASS



CVO 022860

OCT 25 2019

Her Worship Sandra Cherniawsky
Mayor
Yellowhead County
2716 1st Avenue
Edson AB T7E 1N9

Mr. Bob Mitchell
Chair, Agricultural Services Board
Yellowhead County
2716 1st Avenue
Edson AB T7E 1N9

Dear Madam Mayor:
Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Thank you for your letter of September 19, 2019, regarding proposed changes to the livestock identification and traceability requirements in Canada under Part XV of the *Health of Animals Regulations*.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is considering seeking approval to consult on draft regulations to strengthen the traceability system in order to enable effective and timely disease control investigations, better manage animal health, and help improve Canada's capacity to maintain market access as well as consumer confidence.

The CFIA appreciates the beef cattle sector's collaboration with government to develop a full livestock traceability system in Canada. While developing the livestock traceability regulatory proposal, the CFIA consulted with the livestock industry as a whole in 2013 and 2015, and specifically with the beef cattle industry a number of times. After listening to their concerns, the CFIA revised certain elements of the draft regulatory proposal. The proposed regulatory requirements align with the Cattle Implementation Plan (CIP) that is supported by the beef cattle sector. For example, operators of auction marts and community pastures would not be required to report the identification number of approved tags applied to animals they receive.

The current and proposed livestock traceability regulations have no prescribed method by which regulated data is provided to the Responsible Administrator - the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) - and no prescribed method by which the identification number of tags must be read and reported. It is the understanding of the CFIA that the CCIA and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association are currently exploring the use of ultra-high frequency (UHF) tag technology and the associated implementation challenges.

.../2

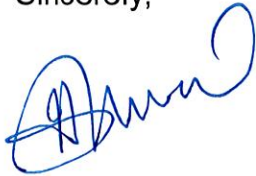
Canada

The CFIA has also established a regulatory implementation committee, consisting of representatives from industry and the provinces. The committee's goal is to share information with all beef cattle stakeholders, and set the stage for compliance with the newly proposed regulatory requirements.

If approved for consultation the proposed amendments to the *Health of Animals Regulations* are anticipated to be published in Part I of the *Canada Gazette* (CGI) in winter or spring 2020 at the earliest. All stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed requirements during a formal 75-day consultation period upon publication in CGI. This 75-day comment period following CGI is the most effective way to raise issues with the proposed regulations and potential solutions.

I trust that this information is of assistance. Thank you for writing to share your concerns.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jaspinder Komal
Vice-President, Science Branch
Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada
OIE Delegate for Canada

c.c.: The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, PC, MP, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
The Honourable Devin Dreeshen, MLA, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta



THE ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN

December 16, 2019

Jason Wilson
Wheatland County ASB Chairman
242006 Rg. Rd. 243
Highway 1 RR 1
Strathmore, Alberta T1P 1J6

Dear Mr. Wilson:

RE: Hosting of the 2022 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Tour

This letter is to inform Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board that we have received your expression of interest in hosting the 2022 ASB Provincial Summer Tour and that we anticipate attending it.

We look forward to Wheatland County's event and we are confident that we will find the experience to be a valuable opportunity to learn about agriculture and many other attributes uniquely found in your county. We look forward to celebrating our provincial agricultural industry successes with you.

In service,

Sebastien G. Dutrisac
AAAF President

cc: Provincial ASB Committee
Russel Muenchrath, Manager of Agriculture & Environment



DIRECTOR'S NOTE— ROD VERGOUWEN

Howdy folks;

Changes and challenges have always been a part of agriculture. It is great to see that the Western Canada Conference on Soil Health & Grazing sold out early. This shows the need and desire for producers, consumers and government to educate themselves about soil, plant, animal health and the regenerative impact agriculture can have on the environment.

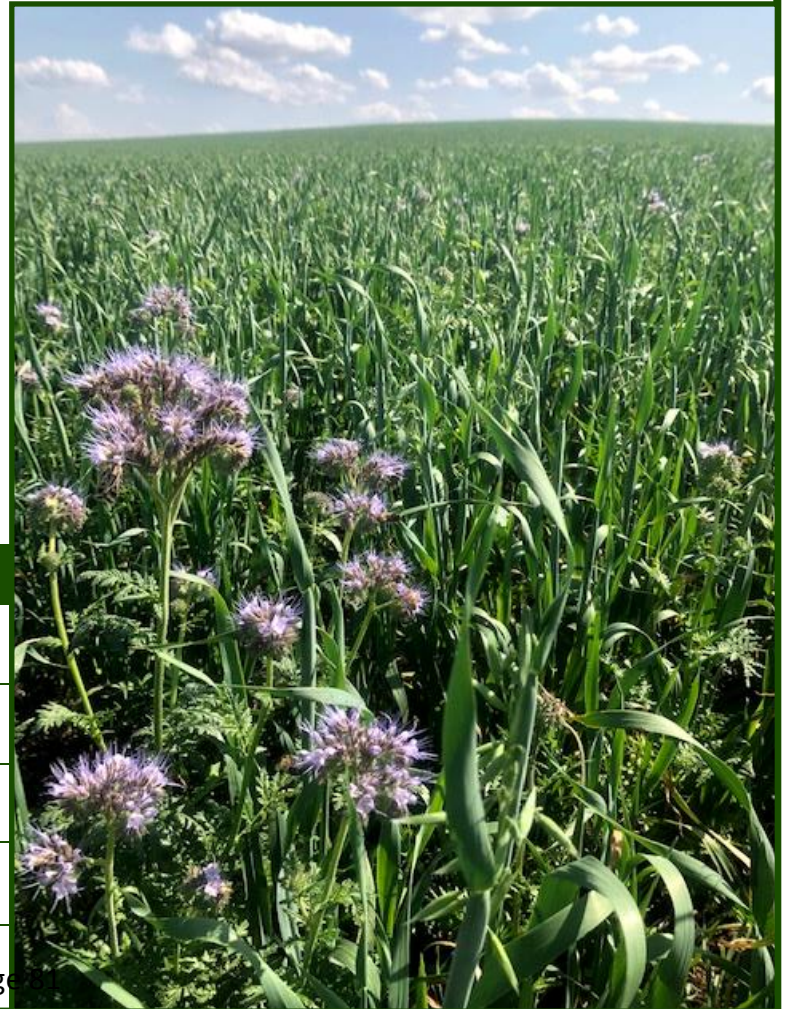
Some challenges we face are out of our control (such as weather and markets), but we can make changes to our operation that affect the impact. Calving dates, grazing plans, crop rotations, and feeding strategies can be changed to address issues we can't control.

At home are working on changing crop rotations and have incorporated cover crops to address soil and plant health concerns including; moisture (too much or too little), disease, and the efficient use of our growing days. This year we used a cocktail mix seeded with oats to improve feed quality and saw very good results. The September and October snowfall made baling green feed interesting but had little effect on swath grazing quality.

Beth found an unexpected market for the flowers in the cocktail mix to a wholesaler supplying fresh flowers for weddings, grad, etc. The economic margins for fresh flowers is way better so it will interesting to see what color of flower will be found in the oats next year.

Rod Vergouwen

Cover crop found at Vergouwen Farm with Oats and Phacelia



IN THIS ISSUE

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Itching and rubbing in your herd? Lice treatment may be necessary	4
Researchers make case for grassland benefits	7 & 8
Turning common heifer development logic on its head	10 & 11
There are extra challenges in wintering cows this year	12 <small>Page</small>

Feedlots to be put to the test—and that's what they want



Thwarting resistance and reassuring consumers behind antimicrobial monitoring.

A new pilot project will give Canada's cattle industry some long-overdue and much-needed data about antimicrobial use and resistance on Canadian beef farms.

"Antibiotic resistance is a really, really big deal, both for human and animal health," said Reynold Bergen, science director for the Beef Cattle Research Council.

"If bugs get resistant to antibiotics, the antibiotics won't work anymore, and then we've got big problems.

"Ultimately, for producers, we need these tools to continue to be effective so that we can maintain animal health and welfare."

But it's not just farmers who are worried about antibiotic resistance in their animals, said Bergen. Increasingly, retailers are setting targets for antibiotic use in the meat they sell or shifting to antibiotic-free meat altogether.

This trend, driven largely by consumer demand, has already influenced government policies around antibiotic use in livestock. Last December, the

federal government increased veterinary oversight on on-farm antibiotic use, requiring a prescription for around 340 antimicrobials that had been previously available over the counter.

The problem with these types of regulatory changes, said Bergen, is that there isn't much science around the actual rates of on-farm antibiotic use and resistance in beef cattle.

That data exists in other livestock sectors, though.

Since the early 2000s, the Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CIPARS) has been monitoring antibiotic use and resistance in all livestock. But its on-farm component has largely been limited to pigs and broiler chickens, as those were the animals considered at highest risk for antibiotic resistance.

In the last year, its on-farm services have expanded to dairy cattle and turkeys, but because of budget constraints, beef cattle had been put on the back burner, said Bergen.

"But what that means is that, as an industry, we've got no data to back up that we're using antibiotics responsibly on farm," said Bergen.

"So we need facts — partly to defend our production practices and to reassure consumers we're doing things right, but also to identify where we can do better."

On-farm surveillance

And those facts are coming, thanks to additional government, beef industry, and pharmaceutical sector funding.

Over the next three years, CIPARS will be partnering with feedlots and feedlot-focused veterinary practices in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario on a three-year pilot project looking at antibiotic use and resistance in these three major cattle-feeding provinces.

"This is not the first project of this type, but it's one of the most comprehensive because it ties use in with resistance," said Dr. Craig Dorin of Veterinary Agri-Health Services in Air-drie, one of the practices involved in the project.

The first piece of the project will focus on determining which pathogens exist in the feedlot, said Dorin.

"I think we already have a good handle on that, but part of surveillance is looking at the same thing over and over again to see if there have been changes over time."

That ongoing surveillance will also compare resistance in geographic areas relative to how antimicrobials are used in those areas, he added. This will allow the beef industry to monitor trends around antimicrobial use and resistance — particularly for antibiotics that might also have an impact on human health.

"What this will help us do is identify trends over time — are we seeing an increase in use or an increase in resistance?" said Bergen.

"Either way, knowing helps us see whether we're on the right track or if we need to make some adjustments."

For Dorin, that's the most important piece of this study.

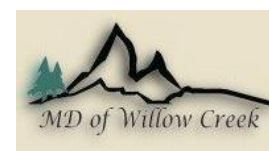
(Continued on page 5)

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GRAZING WORKSHOP

featuring *Jim Gerrish*

Wheatland County & Foothills Forage and Grazing Association present renowned grazier Jim Gerrish for a full day Grazing workshop!

Details

February 14th, 2020

Wheatland County Office

9:00am to 3:30pm

FFGA Member - \$75.00+ GST

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Register at <https://jimgerrishwheatland2020.eventbrite.ca> before February 7, 2020



WHEATLAND COUNTY

Where There's Room to Grow

Itching and rubbing in your herd? Lice treatment may be necessary



The coming of winter means the coming of lice. Now is the time to treat.

Lice infections in cattle are not anything any rancher wants to see; the pests hurt profits. The sad fact is that every herd has some level of infestation. Lice affects cows, stockers and feedlot cattle, hurting their performance from December through March.

Ranch losses because of lice

The USDA has estimated that livestock producers lose up to \$125 million per year due to effects of lice infestations. Not only can they be the cause of direct animal performance losses, but also increases wear and tear on facilities and fences. The direct losses to cattle come in forms of decreased average daily gains (documented 0.25 pounds per day reduction in growing calves), skin infections, and potentially blood loss and anemia.

Two types of cattle lice

There are two different types of lice that infect cattle. Biting lice feed on the skin and secretions on the outside of the animal. The other type is known as sucking lice. These species are blood feeders and pierce the skin.

Both types of lice spend their entire lifecycles on the cattle hosts. Off of cattle they survive very poorly and generally only last a few days. However, they can live up to 10 days off host in the right environment, leading

to reinfection in groups of animals.

It is important to note that lice are host species specific. This means that cattle lice cannot affect people, horses, or any other species.

In general, every herd has some level of lice infestation. Lice are carried from season to season by a small percentage of the

herd that act as reservoir hosts.

Adults lay eggs on the hair of infected animals. Overall lifecycle for an egg to mature into an adult, and lay eggs is roughly 28 days. Most females lay one egg per day.

Lice symptoms

Clinical signs of lice infected cattle generally begin with constant rubbing and scratching within the herd. Fences, posts, water troughs, trees and any other stationary object could be subject to damage from this rubbing. As the infection and irritation continues, large hairless patches will become evident on animals.

Further diagnosing the issue beyond the clinical signs requires seeing the adult lice on the skin. Parting the hair will reveal the lice. They are very small but can still be seen. They are roughly the size of a grain of sand. The economic threshold for treatment is roughly 10 lice per square inch.

Lice treatment

There are several options when it comes to treatment of lice in cow herds. One option is the macrocyclic lactone class of endectocides. Examples of products in this class include ivermectin, doramectin, eprinomectin, and moxidectin.

These products come in pour-on and injectable formulations. Macrocyclic lactones treat internal intestinal nematodes, but also work on external parasites such as lice. It is important to note that the injectable formulations do not work on biting lice since

they do not blood feed.

These products are most often used on a herd basis at the end of summer grazing going into winter. Even with herd treatment in the fall, later season lice infections can still occur. This can be due to fence line contact with other animals, or introduction of new animals.

The other option is topical treatments that are non-systemic. These products are typically pyrethroid products similar to what is commonly used to control horn flies during the summer months.

These products are very effective against the adult lice, but to not affect the larvae or eggs. Retreatment is often indicated 14 days after initial treatment.

There is a product available that is a pyrethroid in combination with an IGR (insect growth regulator) that not only works very well against the adults, but also works against the eggs and larvae. Use of this particular product eliminates the need to retreat in 14 days.

Since these topical formulations kill lice by contact, it is extremely important to apply them appropriately to cattle. Most formulations call for the pour-on to be applied with full coverage on the topline of animals, from poll to the trailhead.

When treating cattle, it is also important to treat the entire group. Missing one animal could serve as the reservoir for reinvesting the entire herd.

The same thought should be given to new additions to the herd from an outside source. Basic biosecurity such as treating and segregating new additions for 30 days is not only good to reduce risk of lice, it is also a great tool in decreasing introduction of other diseases.

Author: A.J Tarpoff; Extension veterinarian with Kansas State University. Article can be found at <https://www.beefmagazine.com/animal-health/itching-and-rubbing-your-herd-lice-treatment-may-be-necessary>

(Continued from page 2)

“We are producing food, and the people who consume the beef that we produce need to have a high level of confidence that the products we use on these animals are used prudently and appropriately,” he said.

“Part of prudent use is selecting the right antimicrobial for the right situation — using not only an antimicrobial that will be effective against the disease you’re trying to prevent, but one that will also have minimal impact on the potential resistance that might be transferred into the human population.”

But this study will also give retailers a baseline to create science-based targets for antibiotic use in the meat they sell.

“Some retailers are going antibiotic free and others are wanting to set targets to reduce antibiotic use,” said Bergen. “And with data like this, they’ll have a sense of where they can make a meaningful difference.”

Rapid diagnostics

That will be particularly important for respiratory pathogens such as bovine respiratory disease, Bergen added.

“That’s why a lot of these antibiotics are being used — to manage respiratory disease,” he said. “So if you can get a sense of why they’re being used for respiratory disease and what degree of resistance is there, you’re tying it much more closely to management decisions than you would with any other retail meat.”

But it will be tricky for a study like this to actually drive on-farm management decisions in the short term, Dorin cautioned.

“That’s going to be a part of it — to make sure that the antibiotics that we’re using are still the correct choices — but it’s not going to drive day-to-day decisions,” he said.

“Day-to-day decisions happen very quickly, and this is a study where we’ll be looking at annual results. We’ll be able to look at year-to-year changes, but we won’t be able to get down to the level of week-to-week change at a particular farm.”

But that technology is coming.

Another study, set to start in the next year, will explore rapid genetic testing for respiratory pathogens.

Right now, the turnaround time for samples sent to the lab can be anywhere from a few days to up to a week — and a lot can change in a week, said Bergen.

“Those results tell you what you should have done a week ago if you had known at the time,” he said. “But between a week ago and today, that animal could have got way sicker, and it could be way different bugs that are causing the problem now, and they could have a different antibiotic-resistance profile.”

But as genetic testing technologies improve, rapid diagnostics could change that, Dorin said.

“This new genetic testing would allow results to be back within hours instead of days,” he said.

“Our hope is, over time, those hours will turn into minutes, and then when a sick animal comes in, we can test it and know exactly what antibiotics should be used on that animal on that day.”

That will go a long way toward maintaining the antibiotics available to cattle producers.

“We have a limited number of products available for use in the beef industry,” said Dorin.

“It’s expensive to bring these products to market, and it gets more expensive as time goes on. We’re worried that resistance may be developing faster than our ability to produce new products, so reducing our antimicrobial use in favour of other management practices — like low-stress weaning — is important.”

Bergen agrees.

“Antibiotics have been so effective for so long that they’ve become a valuable tool, but because they’ve been so effective, there’s been a little less need to find alternatives,” he said.

“There’s a chance — and not a remote chance — that 50 years from now, the antibiotics we’ll have available to treat animal diseases might be the same ones we have now.

“So we’d better use the ones we have now responsibly so that they

keep working down the line.”

Author: Jennifer Blair, report with Alberta Farmer Express. Original article found at <https://www.albertafarmexpress.ca/2019/11/06/feedlots-to-be-put-to-the-test-and-thats-what-they-want-2/?module=under-carousel&pgtype=section&i=>

Canadian Agricultural Partnership

**Environmental
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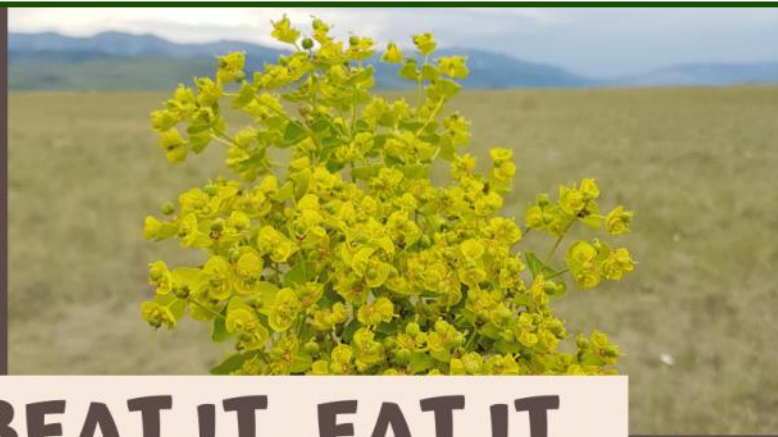
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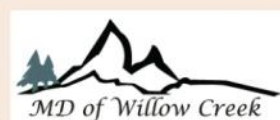
- Grazing Sheep & Goats and Use of Guardian Dogs on Public & Private Land
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Lunch is included in registration

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Researchers make case for grassland benefits



Carbon sequestration, soil health, water quality and pollinator habitat could be used to justify paying producers.

A stronger case for maintaining Canada's shrinking grasslands is being made by researchers.

"Our long-term goal is to recognize and quantify the magnitude the ecosystem goods and services these grasslands supply," said Ed Bork of the University of Alberta and Mattheis Chair in Rangeland.

An army of scientists is working on the benefits beef production lends to carbon sequestration, soil health, water quality and pollinator habitat on Canada's grasslands.

"We are trying to make the argument that grassland managers and cattle producers should be paid for some of the lesser known environmental goods and services other than forage production or beef production," he said.

Researcher Denis Angers of **Agri-culture Canada** in Quebec focuses on Eastern Canada, where carbon stores

are being rapidly depleted. Before European settlement and land cultivation in North America, soil carbon content was in balance in the forests of the East and prairies in the West, he said at the recent Canadian Forage and Grassland Association conference held in Moncton. Cultivation caused a loss of 20 to 30 percent of the soil car-

bon.

"In the East, our carbon content is going down in general and that is basically because of cultivation of pasture and hay land," he said.

More corn and soybeans are planted and 2.5 to five million acres of pasture and hay land have been lost in Eastern Canada in the last 50 years.

When perennial forages go back into the mix the carbon starts to rebuild.

"If you rotate perennials with annuals, you see an increase in carbon with long-term perennial crops, but it depends what you have in your rotation," he said.

In Prince Edward Island, researchers established tall fescue stands and seven years later saw an improvement of about two tonnes of extra carbon per hectare (0.81 tonnes per acre) per year. Carbon was accumulated at fairly deep levels at about 50 to 60 centimetres.

Perennial forages aggregate the soil with dense root systems and microbial activity increases.

"It only takes two to three years to see a fairly dramatic effect," he said.

Yields also improve, especially when mixtures are used because a diversity of roots develop at various depths.

"There is limited information on the effect of different species on soil organic carbon. We know putting in perennial systems will improve soil carbon but in terms of telling apart different species, we don't know," he said.

Perennials are well-suited to transfer carbon to the soil. They capture more solar energy annually because they start growing early in the spring and grow longer in the fall. They fix more carbon and release more into the soil.

Applying cattle manure on grasslands has a positive effect for soil carbon but grazing benefits are up for debate.

"Grazing is a tough one on the effect on soil carbon. We don't have much data on the effect in a temperate climate," he said.

International literature says decreasing grazing intensity can increase soil organic carbon but most data comes from tropical climates.

Bork's results from research in Canadian plots have been different. He has 100 research plots in Alberta on public land and has also conducted research on former PFRA pastures in Saskatchewan, although most of the work is based in Alberta. He is investigating the effects of grazing and plant species.

In grasslands, the vast majority of the biomass is below ground. The root

(Continued on page 8)

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(Continued from page 7)

systems tend to be much larger than the shoot system above ground. It is the turnover of those roots over time that builds up large amounts of organic matter and carbon.

The vegetation removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere via photosynthesis. The more plant biomass grown, the more carbon is removed from the atmosphere and oxygen is released.

Photosynthesis occurs for about three months on the Prairies and six months in wetter areas.

“We are really removing CO₂ from the atmosphere three to six months of the year. The rest of the time, the ecosystem is sleeping,” Bork said.

Grasslands cover about a quarter of the land base and store up to 30 percent of the world’s soil carbon.

About 300 gigatonnes of carbon are stored in the temperate grasslands of Western Canada, South America and central and northern China.

His research team worked on 100 sites across Alberta and Saskatchewan to see how much carbon they store based on tonnes per hectare.

“Even our most arid environment of dry mixed grass of southeastern Alberta around Medicine Hat store roughly seven tonnes per hectare of carbon. That is not a full accounting because we are not looking even deeper below 30 cm,” he said.

The wettest grasslands of southwestern Alberta store as much as 180 tonnes of carbon per hectare (72.9 tonnes per acre).

“Our wet grasslands are comparable to the boreal forest, which is shocking when I tell people that. Most people think forests hold more carbon — not true,” he said.

When a prairie soil is cultivated, a third to half of the carbon is lost to erosion or the furnace effect.

When a soil with lots of humus is cultivated, the insulation is lost. The surface is exposed to more sun and oxygen. Oxygenated soil allows the microbes to break down the carbon and release it.

Land-use conversion worldwide is contributing to rising CO₂ levels in the atmosphere.

Long-term plots at Stavely, Alta., south of Calgary showed 30 percent of the carbon disappeared from the soil after three years of cultivation.

Perennial forages are preferred over other crops to restore carbon. Tame forages are also bred to produce more above ground to feed cattle but they do not put enough carbon back into the soil.

Annual crops are bred to produce everything on the surface and put very little below ground and do not have vast root systems. They are not adding carbon back into the deep soil profile.

Some of Bork’s work focuses on refining grazing to enhance soil carbon and provide an incentive to producers to increase soil carbon.

There is no clear consensus on the value of managed grazing but his analysis showed benefits where the presence of grazing animals tended to boost and maintain soil carbon.

“With this overall grazing effect, we were very pleased to find with long-term exposure to grazing we found an increase of soil carbon of 12 percent,” he said.

Most was concentrated in the top 15 cm of soil.

These soil carbon increases were not uniform everywhere. The dry, mixed grasslands did not show much change but the other regions did.

Further research is asking why these changes are happening. It is not known for sure if cattle change soil microbes or enzyme activity in the soil. Other studies are looking at litter turnover and rates of decay. Grazed areas have more rapid litter decay and cattle may help incorporate it back into the soil with trampling.

Other work is examining plant species.

They found introduced plant species like timothy, brome, bluegrass and dandelion actually increased soil carbon. This causes a conflict among the grazing purists.

“I am going to argue they are good. Many of them are very high in forage quality,” he said.

Another data set from nine former Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration pastures in Saskatchewan

showed stocking rates have an effect on carbon sequestration.

“As you increase stocking rate, carbon increases,” he said.

Another unexpected result was the introduction of new plants.

Kentucky bluegrass litter decomposes rapidly and may contribute to carbon storage.

“Kentucky bluegrass appears to be adding something to these plant communities and it is introduced primarily through the presence of ongoing grazing,” he said.

A \$2 million project is looking at the effect of adaptive multi-paddock grazing. This is intensive grazing in a large area, divided into small paddocks with quick rotations. There is a long recovery period to restore the leaves and rebuild roots.

Sites in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are being studied for plant communities, carbon sequestration and biodiversity.

Bork argues carbon losses and gains have a measurable value.

Carbon in Alberta is priced at \$30 per tonne based on the tax imposed on industrial emitters when they are above a certain threshold of CO₂ equivalents.

He estimates carbon retained in the existing grasslands is worth about \$9 billion based on the \$30 tonne equivalent.

“When you look at the carbon already lost because of what we have done to our landscapes, these numbers are staggering. The area of land in the Parkland that has been converted, and attach that \$30 per tonne CO₂ equivalent, the amount is almost \$23 billion. That is the value of the carbon that has been lost in the soils in the parkland region by converting them in the past,” he said.

Author: Barbara Duckworth—The Western Producer. Original article can be found at <https://www.producer.com/2019/11/researchers-make-case-for-grassland-benefits/>

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Turning common heifer development logic on its head

From my earliest memories of reading farm magazines and attending cattle management conferences or seminars until now, there have been many ideas and opinions about how to develop and select replacement heifers. I am about to offer a perspective that will differ from most of what you have heard or read during these many years. I have interspersed much of it in these articles during my time as a writer. Now I will try to put it in this one piece.

Heifer development not only can be, but *should* be much simpler than we typically make it. Selection and development go hand in hand. They facilitate each other.

Most of you, because of “expert” advice you have received, have been over-developing your heifers. You have selected the biggest and prettiest heifers based on biased and subjective

criteria. I want to suggest that you change that approach.

You will need to start where you are with the cattle that you have; so most of you will want to take a few years to get to the point I suggest. Each step will tell you how big the next step may be.

I think nearly every herd has some good cows. My definition of good—those that get pregnant, deliver and raise a good, not necessarily excellent, calf every year without you ever touching them except for routine immunizations. The rest are inferior. In the long run, you want those cows to be the mothers of your replacement heifers; so raise more of them.

How do you do it? You keep nearly all of your heifer calves. You only remove the few that are obviously challenged or inferior.

This will usually be less than 5%

(maybe not at first, but keep most of them). You then shorten the heifer breeding season as fast as you dare until your bull and/or AI exposure is not more than 30 days, ideally 24.

If you have calving dates from previous years, you can see what percentage bred in 24, 45 or 65 days and can get an idea of how many days to expose this larger group of heifers. Because you will be keeping some later-born heifers and not developing them to gain as rapidly in addition to shortening the breeding season, you will need to expect a lower conception rate.

Now, instead of trying to get the heifers to 65% of expected mature cow weight, 55% will be enough. You may want to take a couple of years to get to that point. However, many have done it quickly.

(Continued on page 11)



Wishing you and
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and filled with family and friends.

REGARDS,
THE BOARD AND STAFF OF FOOTHILLS FORAGE &
GRAZING ASSOCIATION



(Continued from page 10)

I hope you see how this more moderate or “minimal” development plays into heifer selection. With less input and size, the ones that conceive in a short season are truly the good heifers. They are more closely adapted to your environment.

Now the arguments start to come:

I won't be breeding the best heifers. You don't know which ones are the best. Let the bulls and the environment tell you which ones are best. They are the ones that get pregnant. There are very few, if any, people that can look and tell which ones will breed.

I don't want to keep that many heifers. Why not? Yearling operations are usually more profitable than cow-calf operations; and you should winter these calves like stockers going to grass. The only added expense is use of the bulls or AI.

Open heifers should be nicely profitable. Many people are hesitant to keep more heifers because of the cost of development. If the cost of development is high, that is a problem; and unless you can change that, you shouldn't be raising your own replacements.

Don't tell me that you need to develop your own heifers because they are better. If they were better, you could get a good breeding rate with less development cost. The added value of yearling heifers should be significantly more than the added cost.

I would like to use the genomic tools to evaluate the heifers before breeding them. Why? Those tools might give you some genetic tenden-

cy information, but it won't tell you which ones will get pregnant in the first 24 days. The bulls will.

The average heifer calving in the second cycle cannot live long enough for her lifetime production to catch up with the heifers that calve in the first cycle regardless of other genetic differences.

That heifer's mother isn't good enough to keep the daughter as a replacement. You are selling the wrong one. Sell the mother. If you are using good maternal bulls, the heifer calf should have a good chance of being better than her mother. If you are not using good maternal bulls, you need to find them or raise them or become a terminal breeder.

I might soon have more pregnant heifers than I need. Good. Now you have a marketing opportunity. You may sell the excess bred heifers. Or my recommendation is to keep the bred heifers and sell enough late bred cows to make room for the heifers that are going to calve early.

Many areas have buyers for cows bred to calve later than your calving season. Also, as you remove late-bred cows, your calving season will get shorter and the latest born heifer calves will be older and more likely to breed. You can see how the positive effects begin to multiply.

I don't think those “underdeveloped” heifers will make good cows. Research done by Rick Funston at the University of Nebraska and Andy Roberts at the Land and Range Research Station in Miles City, Mont., plus a bunch of personal practical experience says that they will make better cows than the ones I am calling “over-developed.”

If you want to help them along a little, do it from the time

they are diagnosed pregnant as a yearling until they are checked pregnant as a 2-year old. That is the most difficult 12-month period of her life. You would much rather sell an open yearling than an open 2-year-old.

Now let's ring up the pluses:

When you start putting many heifers into your herd that will all calve early in the calving season, you will soon be able to shorten the cow calving season by removing late bred (less efficient and less adapted) cows. As your calving season gets shorter, the latest born heifer calves will be older and more likely to breed. Weaning weights will also increase.

In future years, more and more heifers should be eligible breeders.

As more of these heifers come into your herd, you will be able to remove the less desirable cows. Soon you will get by with less supplemental feed and have an increased level of herd health.

New marketing opportunities will show up. Remember the ranchers who are terminal crossing or should be. They need your excess cows. Even though the late calving cows are a little inferior for you, they could work very well for the terminal breeders, especially after a few years into your program.

Two more points: I am convinced that the heritability of fertility, under minimal heifer development and reduced cow herd inputs, is significantly higher than the estimates of low heritability that we usually hear. You need to buy or raise bulls that will not undo what you are trying to accomplish with your heifer development and cow culling.

Author: Bruce Teichert, a consultant on strategic planning for ranches, retired in 2010 as vice president and general manager of AgReserves, Inc. Original Article can be found at <https://www.beefmagazine.com/cow-calf/turning-common-heifer-development-logic-its-head>

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There are extra challenges in wintering cows this year



Early weaning, supplement feed, and feeding vitamins earlier should be considered

With feed quality and quantity “all over the map this year,” producers face challenges weaning calves and maintaining cows, says a provincial beef and forage specialist.

“If calves were not provided with creep feed over the summer, weaning weights will be lower than in most years — as much as 150 pounds per animal,” said Barry Yarem-cio.

He suggests weaning calves 30 to 60 days early if cows have lost condition and are thin.

“The calves can then be put on a good ration to maintain good rates of gain,” he said. “Nutrient requirements for a dry cow

weight prior to the cold setting in. It is much easier for a cow to gain weight in the fall than in the cold winter months.”

Thin cows are another concern.

“If a cow is 200 pounds lighter than normal, a majority of the weight loss will be fat,” said Yarem-cio. “The loss of fat reduces the amount of insulation the cow has to shield itself against the cold. Heat loss increases energy requirements, which in turn requires the animal to eat more feed.”

A thin cow will need an extra 1,400 pounds of hay just to stay warm over the winter.

“For every 10 C drop below -20 C at noon, an additional two pounds of grain above the regular ration should be fed,” he said. “Over a three-week

are 25 per cent lower than for a lactating cow. Having lower requirements may result in the cows gaining back the

cold spell, it is possible for cow weight to drop 100 pounds or more if additional grain is not fed.”

Poor conditions this year may have lowered vitamin levels in hay.

“Instead of waiting until the cows are in the last trimester, feeding of vitamins should start now to prevent deficiencies and nutrition-related problems.”

Another issue is that most forages are very low in protein and energy this year. In addition to supplemental feed, consider “feeding of an ionophore such as Rumensin or Bovatec (that) will improve digestive efficiency and allow the animals to get more out of the feeds they are eating.”

Author: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. Original article can be found at <https://www.albertafarmexpress.ca/2019/11/21/there-are-extra-challenges-in-wintering-cows-this-year-2/>

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FFGA MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

Mission: Assisting producers in profitably improving their forages and regenerating their soils through innovation and education.

Vision: We envision a global community that respects and values profitable forage production and healthy soils as our legacy for future generations.

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THE PEST INSIDER

October 2019

Alberta's Pest Control Officers

As a pest control officer in Alberta, there are a few things we suggest you have and know. For most of you, this is merely a reminder and refresher of our training courses offered periodically.

1. You should have a knowledge of how and why Alberta has been able to maintain a rat-free status for over 68 years.

A. We started our rat program in 1950 before rats had a chance to get established in the province. Without a population of rats in the [province](#) we only have to eradicate rats as they migrate or hitch a ride into Alberta from other jurisdictions.

B. Overland migration (rats traveling from one building, farm or feed stack several miles to another) is possible only from the east. Remember, rats cannot live in Alberta's environment without human food or garbage and human shelter.

- I. Our north is too cold for rats to live and prosper.
- II. West is too mountainous for rats; they perish without human food and shelter.
- III. The south is too sparsely populated with people; terrain is either mountains open prairie with not enough continuous human food and shelter.
- IV. Our Eastern border has the famous **Rat Control Zone** where professional pest control specialists check every building, farm, feed stack, bin, and residence that has any possible rat habitant in the first 29 km's west from the Saskatchewan border. When rat activity is found, rat control is implemented.

C. Inside the Province of Alberta [The Agricultural Pest Act](#) requires every county, city, town, or municipality to name a pest control officer (PCO), who must respond to any rat reports or sighting. These PCOs take action to eradicate a confirmed rat sighting. A PCO can ask for assistance with the rat control when needed. Most often these confirmed rat reports are single rats that are displaced, lost, hungry and succumb to control measures quite easily or are killed by a dog, cat or bus. It is the PCO's responsibility to inspect the site for rat activity to ensure there is not more than one rat and the reported rat is eradicated.

2. Alberta has a 24 -hour hotline to report a rat sighting, **310-RATS**. Reported rat sightings are followed up with a PCO inspection when warranted. About two rat sightings a month are confirmed Norway or Roof rats. We get about three to four rat infestations a year, mostly in the Rat Control Zone.

3. "Rat-free" means we have no permanent breeding population of rats in Alberta. At any point in time, Alberta may not be rat-free until we eradicate the reported rats. Then we are rat-free until the next confirmed rat sighting.

4. County, municipal, city, or town PCO'S should have or be ready to purchase necessary Rat Control Equipment as listed below.

1. Rat snap trap	\$5	Suggest a trapper T-Rex
2. Rat bait station	\$20	A Tier 1 bait box (locked, pet proof, outdoor rated)
3. Rat bait anticoagulant	\$5	Single feeding bait suggested

"Today coming to work, I saw one of those, only in New York scenes, it was a rat who, had passed out, after choking on a pretzel" – D. Letterman

In This Issue

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Some PCO's who live close to a hardware store that handles rat control supplies may prefer not to have the material in their offices or warehouses and purchase supplies when needed, especially if you average one complaint every five years or so. It should be noted that it is the **property owners' responsibility to control rats on their own property**. However, many may not know where to get the proper rat control supplies or how to properly use them. Often the rat is not on their property but in the city or alleyway. For Alberta to most efficiently remain rat-free, assisting property owners with rat control is a good idea.



We are extremely grateful for the many dedicated and excellent PCO's. Alberta couldn't remain rat free without you!! **Thanks!**

Northern Pocket Gopher

Large mounds of fresh earth in forage, pastures, crops, lawns and gardens are an annoyance to landowners but become a real pest problem for hay producers. Many Albertans have never seen one of these small gophers responsible for the mounds of dirt as these rodents seldom come above ground. These dirt pile culprits are usually misidentified as moles. We don't have any species of moles in Alberta, so tunneling, dirt piles, and mounds in fields and yards are a result of a Northern Pocket gopher invasion.

The Northern pocket gopher should not be confused with our better known "gopher," the Richardson's Ground Squirrel (RGS). The pocket gopher gets its name from cheek pouches or pockets that are used for carrying food and nesting materials. They rarely come above ground in the day

light but will occasionally venture out at night to forage close to their hole, and some will fall prey to predators. House cats and owls often prey on the pocket gopher as well as coyotes, foxes and weasels. House cats are notorious for bringing home a pocket gopher, which is then identified by a landowner as a rat. Since both pocket gophers and rats are seldom seen by residents of Alberta they often are misidentified.

The main features that distinguish the pocket gopher from a rat are its shorter tail and large clawed front feet. Pocket gophers are approximately 15 cm in length with a short, lightly furred tail. They are usually brownish-grey in color and have soft fine fur. The front paws have large claws that are used for excavating dirt. They have large incisor teeth and lips that can close behind the teeth to keep dirt out of its mouth while digging.

Often when a pocket gopher carcass shows up at a residence, it is mistaken for a Norway rat and reported to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's (AF) 310-RATS line. AF staff respond to many such calls in the spring, summer and fall when pocket gophers venture above ground. Unlike the RGS, pocket gophers don't hibernate and stay active all winter. Dirt casing under snow banks are a result of pocket gopher winter activity.



Short tail in relation to 15 cm body length



Check pouches: Sharp claws

Trapping

Trapping is a safe, effective method to control pocket gophers in your yard or in small fields. Large areas of infestation are too time-consuming to control pocket gophers with traps. Several types and brands of pocket gopher traps are available.

To set traps:

Locate the main tunnel with a probe. The dimple in a mound is the entrance to the tunnel. Use a shovel or garden trowel to open the tunnel wide enough to set a trap; set trap as per the directions given.

Prevent light from entering the burrow by covering the opening around the trap with soil, sod or cardboard. Fine soil can be sifted around the edges to ensure a light-tight seal. If too much light enters, the pocket gopher may plug the burrow with soil, filling the traps and making them ineffective. Leave the air hole open at the back of the trap.

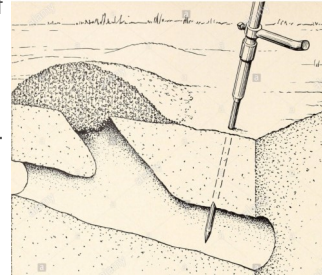
Check traps often and reset them when necessary. If a pocket gopher is not caught within three days, reset the traps in a different location.



Dimple in mound

Probing for Burrows

Successful trapping depends on accurately locating the pocket gopher's main burrow. To locate the burrow, you need to use a probe. Probes are commercially available or can be constructed from a pipe and metal rod. An enlarged tip that is wider than the shaft of the probe is an important design feature that increases the ease of locating burrows. Locate areas of recent activity where fresh mounds with dark, moist soil exists. Fresh mounds that are visible above ground are the plugged openings of lateral tunnels. The main burrow can be found by probing about 25 cm's (10 inches) from the plugged side of the mound (i.e., dimple side of mound). It is usually located 15 to 30 cm's (6 to 12 inches) deep. When the probe penetrates the burrow, there will be a sudden, noticeable drop of about five cm's (2 inches). You may have to probe repeatedly to locate the main burrow.



Poisoning

There are several poisons registered for controlling the Northern Pocket Gopher. Rozol and Ground Force are anticoagulants, Rodent Pellets are a Zinc Phosphide product, and SARM has a RTU strychnine registered for pocket gopher control. Limited success has been found with these poisons mostly due to palatability. Pocket gophers eat roots and limited amounts of forage around their hole and don't eat cereal grains or extruded pellets very readily. Consequently finding a supplier handling pocket gopher poisons for sale in Alberta is difficult. Poisons are administered by a hand probe or through a burrow builder machine pulled by a tractor. Since control has been so poor in the past; these devices are not readily available here in Alberta.

The trapping and probing section was courtesy of Strathcona County

Alberta Rat and Pest Update

This past summer was relatively slow with confirmed rat reports. We had one live roof rat picked up at a residence in Calgary in July and two roof rats confirmed in Medicine Hat in September. All reports turned out to be single rat imports and were disposed of quickly. This quarter we had our first rat infestation within the province since the Bon Accord infestation in 2015. A Paper recycling plant in Calgary had a small infestation this summer that was quite elusive to eradicate. Paper recycling plants are difficult to determine and find rat activity in the mounds of loose paper and baled paper in a large warehouse. Since truck loads of paper brought in from everywhere including other provinces has some pizza, hamburger, and fast food leftovers scattered throughout it is hard to identify the food source and place suitable baits for rats. Once the nest site was located the roof rats readily took our soft pac baits, especially with a smear of peanut butter on the pac. We also resorted to water baits to ensure the eradication. We are not positive on the number of rats destroyed but at least 6 rat carcasses were eliminated. We suspect there were more rats destroyed, but not discovered in the maze of paper. Rat activity at the site has now ceased. Baits will be maintained indefinitely as paper recycling plants that accept paper from out of province are a risk for reintroduction of a dispersing rat.



Agriculture and Forestry is having two urban **rat control seminars** this fall to help PCO's identify and handle rat complaints in their jurisdictions. Recently we had a situation where the City and the County PCO's were not equipped to handle a rat report. We want to train up all our staff to be ready when the call comes. It is understandable that PCO's who don't get a call one year to the next can be caught off guard in rat control. On **Oct. 24** at 10:00 AM in the Provincial building in Airdrie (97 East Lake Ramp NE) and on **Nov. 13** at 10:00 AM at the Vegreville Ag. Society (4753 45 Ave) we will have a 2 hour training in rat control with updates on our **Page 95** program. There is no cost and all PCO's are invited, we just ask you to send us an email to phil.merrill@gov.ab.ca if you plan on attending.

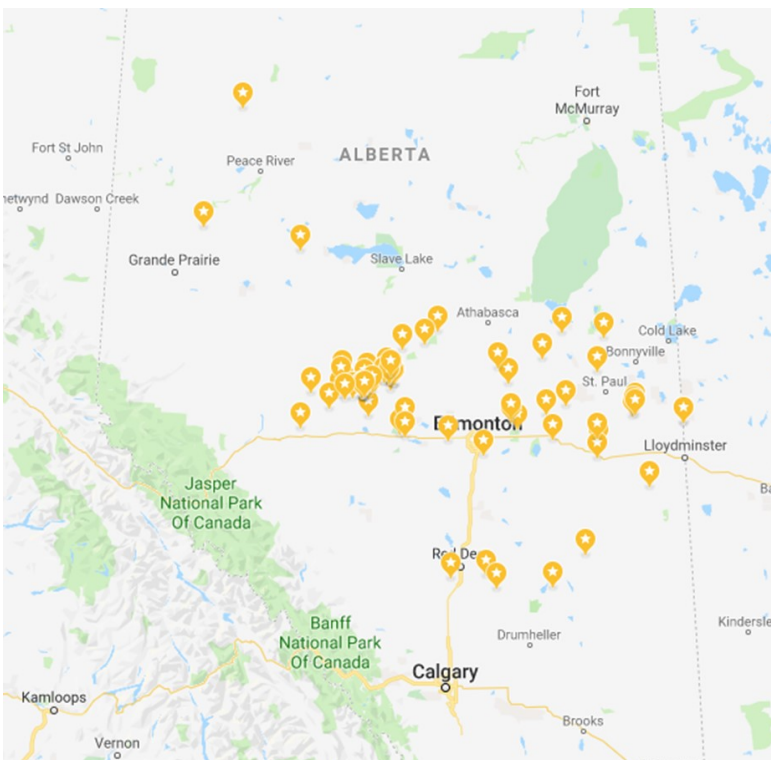
Wild Boar Update

Agriculture and Forestry's Wild Boar Eradication project has teamed up with the Environment and Parks Conservation K9 Unit. Three detection dogs have been trained to locate wild boar scat. Recent field trials have shown that this is a very effective means to survey an area for the presence of wild boar. The dogs will be particularly valuable when doing post-eradication monitoring to help maintain an area to be free of wild boar.

Environment and Parks biologists are also evaluating the use of eDNA as another tool to detect wild boar presence. Water samples are taken in areas suspected of wild boar infestation. The water samples can then be analyzed to detect different species that came in contact with that particular water body. In this case the analysis targets wild boar DNA. This technique has proven valuable in other jurisdictions and will further complement our ability to monitor areas for wild boar infestation.

We are mapping each wild boar occurrence to get a better idea of the extent and scope of wild boar infestations in the province. Please advise your producers that they can call 310-FARM to make a wild boar report or get more information concerning wild boar in Alberta.

Please continue to send reports of wild boar at-large conflicts or sightings to the Wild Boar At-Large Eradication Project lead, Perry Abramenko at 403-627-1177 or email at perry.abramenko@gov.ab.ca.



Map of Reported Wild Boar Sightings in Alberta

New York City's new Ekomille rat trap: A humane and safe rat control solution

New York City is employing the new rat control trap "Ekomille" to try to reduce rat populations in their city. The trap uses no poisons or harmful substances. Rats are attracted to the smell of natural food, then a sensitive mechanism drops the rat into a reservoir of vinegar or alcohol. The trap can be set to allow the rats to feed and get used to eating in the trap before the trip mechanism is activated. Up to 80 rats can be captured before the trap has to be reset. Rats die humanely in a pickle solution.

Ecologically friendly and safe, Ekomille was developed as an organic pest control device from South Africa. Rat Trap Incorporated sell these traps for about \$400 each.

NYC seems to be the never ending jurisdiction that continually fights the rat with limited success. They have been famous for their rat population and even though it was reported there were more rats in NYC than people, the population of rats being estimated at no more than three million would mean rats are outnumbered three to one. The city famous for the pizza thief rat has decided to try a pilot project with the Ekomille rat trap in the Bronx. If it works out they intend to expand the use throughout the city.

NYC has tried many different attacks on the rat. Last year, the Pest Insider reported NYC's pilot project of Dry Ice being placed down rat burrows as a rat control measure to eradicate rat populations. This has been met with limited success. NYC was considering turning loose hundreds of feral cats to reduce rat numbers. With the help of video trail cameras in the City of Chicago, very few encounters were seen between rats and cats. And after reams of video footage only one cat was ever seen killing a rat. Most cats avoided encounters with the rat, as a viscous rat appears to not be easy prey for a house cat. The only reduction in populations when feral cats are released were found in song birds.

Several years back SenesTech sold NYC an expensive trial of a city-wide scale of rodent contraception. Our October 2016 Pest Insider has information on ContraPest, the pink liquid for sterilizing rats sold by the Arizona company SenesTech. Again success has been limited in reducing NYC's rat populations with contraceptives.

NYC has also tried to get rid of rats by using Mint-X rodent-repelling trash bags. This multi-million dollar venture would have been better spent in improving the handling of domestic garbage quicker and more efficiently rather than trying to protect garbage with plastic.

Each year the number of rat reports in NYC seem to soar with a 38 per cent [increase in sightings since 2014](#) . New York's attempts to curb the complaints seems to do nothing more than spur a healthy industry of rat [entrepreneurs](#) . Let's hope this Ekomille trap is a rat-control success.



ECOMILLE the Eco friendly humane and safe rat trap

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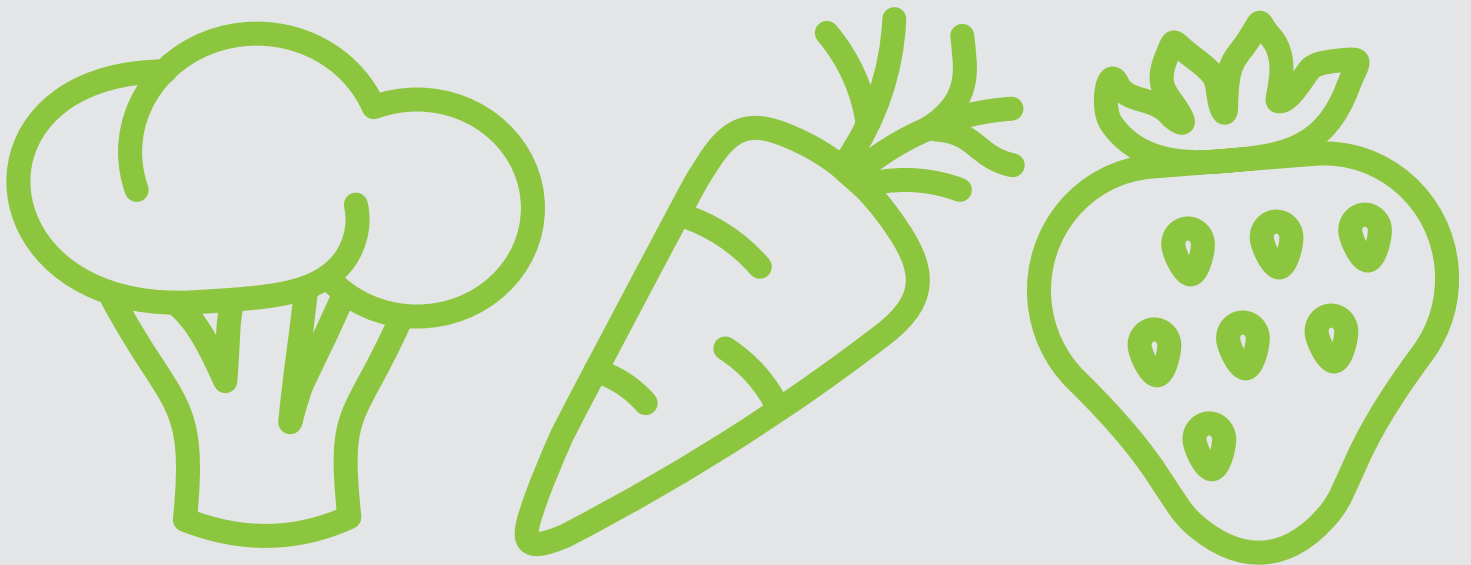
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Safe Food for Canadians Regulations



How does it affect you?

What does *Safe Food for Canadians* mean for fresh produce farmers?

The *Safe Food for Canadians Act* and Regulations (SFCR) came into effect on Jan. 15, 2019. This legislation introduced modern food safety requirements for food businesses.

New regulatory requirements:

- **Licenses:** food businesses that import food, including fruits and vegetables, or grow/prepare food for export or to send across provincial or territorial borders (interprovincial sales) must be licensed.
 - Licenses cost [\\$250](#) and are valid for two years.
 - Fresh fruit and vegetable operations are exempt from Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) license requirements only if their activities and produce sales are within Alberta.
- **Preventive control plans (PCP):** outline potential risks to food safety and the steps to control them must be in place.
 - Businesses that have one of the accepted food safety programs in place such as CanadaGAP are already meeting the PCP requirements.
- **Traceability:** businesses must trace their food back to their supplier and forward to whom they sold their products. Retailers are the exception to the full traceability requirement, as they will only have to trace the food back to their suppliers, not forward to the consumers purchasing it.



By developing and implementing the preventive controls required under the consolidated regulation, food business will be positioned to produce or import safe products that their customers can trust. Their improved traceability records will also mean more efficient and effective recalls and will minimize economic losses in the event of a recall.

Some of the new requirements are effective immediately, while others will be phased-in. Refer to the [SFCR timelines](#) to find out when you will need to comply.

Small businesses that make \$100K or less in gross annual food sales are required to have preventive controls, such as sanitation and pest control in place, but will not be required to have written preventive control plans. This exemption does not apply to a number of product categories including businesses involved in processed fruit or vegetables.

To determine when your business will need to meet the new requirements under the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* check out [Getting started: Toolkit for food businesses](#) on the CFIA website.

The toolkit will help you quickly determine the following:

1. Find out when you need a licence by using the [Licensing interactive tool](#)
2. Find out if and when you need a PCP by using the [Preventive Control Plan interactive tool](#)
3. Find out what traceability requirements apply to you by using the [Traceability interactive tool](#)
4. Review [Understanding the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations: A handbook for food businesses](#)

Examples of produce covered by the SFCR commonly grown in Alberta

Apples • Apricots • Artichokes-globe-type • Broad beans • Broccoli • Brussels sprouts • Cabbages • Chinese cabbage • Cantaloupes • Carrots • Cauliflower • Celery • Cucumbers • Currants • Dandelion leaves • Fennel-florence • Garlic • Gooseberries • Grapes • Green beans • Herbs • Jerusalem artichokes • Kale • Kohlrabi • Leek • Lettuce • Other melons • Microgreens • Mushrooms • Mustard greens • Onions • Parsnips • Pears • Peas • Peppers • Plums • Plumcots • Radishes • Raspberries • Rhubarb • Rutabagas • Scallions • Shallots • Snow peas • Spinach • Sprouts • Strawberries • Summer squash • Swiss chard • Tomatoes • Turnips • Watermelons

7 Key Food Safety Requirements



Water: Water that is intended or will come in contact with produce or food-contact surfaces must be identified and potential hazards assessed. Assess the water quality with inspection and periodic testing requirements.



Biological Soil Amendments of Animal Origin: Consider the types of treatment, methods of application, and time intervals between applications of soil amendments – including manure, compost/compost tea and other by-products – and crop harvest. Knowledge of origin and handling of these amendments is a requirement.



Prevention of Contamination by Animals: Deterrents are used to keep animals away from crop fields and sources of water used for irrigation. Monitor for wildlife intrusion and produce visibly contaminated with animal feces is not harvested.



Training: Training is provided and documented for all employees handling product/packaging materials/food contact surfaces and biosecurity.



Health and Hygiene Practices: All employees follow individual health and hygiene practices, including hand washing, not working when sick and maintaining personal cleanliness. Businesses require written health and hygiene practice SOPs.



Equipment, Tools, and Buildings: Follow all the requirements for equipment and tools that come into contact with produce, as well as those for building and other facilities involved with produce, including sanitation SOPs.



Sprouts: Separate standards for sprout production, including treatment of seed before sprouting and testing of spent irrigation water for pathogens.

Summary of Timeline

SFCR Requirement	Title: Dairy products; eggs; fish; honey; meat products; processed egg products and processed fruit or vegetable products	Fresh Fruits or vegetables	All Other Foods		
			More than \$100K in annual sales and more than 4 employees	More than \$100K in annual sales and 4 employees or less	\$100 K or less in annual food sales and 4 or fewer employees
License	Jan. 15, 2019	Jan. 15, 2019 (N/A for growing and harvesting)	July 15, 2020	July 15, 2020	July 15, 2020
Traceability	Jan. 15, 2019	Jan. 15, 2019 (except growing and harvesting)	July 15, 2020	July 15, 2020	July 15, 2020
		Jan. 15, 2020 (growing and harvesting)			
Preventive Controls	Jan. 15, 2019	Jan. 15, 2020	July 15, 2020	July 15, 2021	July 16, 2021
Written PCP	Jan. 15, 2019 (not required for maple products and honey if annual food sales are \$100K or less)	Jan. 15, 2020 (not required if annual food sales are \$100K or less)	July 15, 2020	July 15, 2021	Not required if \$100K or less (regardless of number of employees)

For Additional Resources, Tools and Information

- [SFCR Requirements for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables](#)
- [Commodity Specific Requirements](#)
- Factsheet: [Growers and harvestors of fresh fruit and vegetables](#)
- [Food Business Activities that require a licence under the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations: 5.8 Fresh Fruits or vegetables](#)
- [My CFIA](#)
- [Canada GAP](#)
- [Canada Horticultural Council](#)
- [Canadian Produce Marketing Association](#)
- [Preventive controls for food – fresh fruits or vegetables](#)
- Links to Question and Answers: [Safe Food for Canadians regulations](#)
- [Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada](#)
- [Alberta Agriculture and Forestry](#)

For more information call the Alberta Ag-Info Centre toll-free at 310-FARM (3276).