

Wheatland County  
**AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT POLICIES**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>SECTION 3.1 - ASB BOARD</b>	<b>Page</b>
3.1.1 Vision, Mission & Goals _____	2
 <b>SECTION 3.2 - ASB PROGRAMS</b>	
3.2.1 Vegetation Management _____	3
3.2.2 Forage Seeding _____	4
3.2.3 Weed Inspection _____	5
3.2.4 Pest and Nuisance Control _____	6
3.2.5 Clubroot _____	7
3.2.6 Soil Conservation _____	9
3.2.7 Animal Health _____	10
3.2.8 Producer Extension and Education _____	11
3.2.9 Bursary Policy _____	12
 <b>SECTION 3.3 - ASB EQUIPMENT &amp; SERVICES</b>	
3.3.1 Equipment Rental _____	14
3.3.2 Agricultural Plastic Recycling _____	16
3.3.3 Livestock Drive _____	17
3.3.4 Haying of Municipal Right of Ways _____	20
 <b>SECTION 3.4 - ENVIRONMENT</b>	
3.4.1 Environmental Policy _____	21

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

## **PURPOSE**

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

## **POLICY**

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

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

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

### **Goals**

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

## **DOCUMENT OWNER**

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

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

## **PURPOSE**

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

## **POLICY**

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

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

## **DOCUMENT OWNER**

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

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

## **PURPOSE**

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

## **POLICY**

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

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

## **DOCUMENT OWNER**

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

<b>AGRICULTURE &amp; ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS</b>	<b>3.2.3 WEED INSPECTION</b> <span style="float: right;">Page 1/1</span>
Effective Date: March 14, 2017 Res. 17-03-37	Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

## PURPOSE

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

## POLICY

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

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

## REFERENCES

### External

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

## DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

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

## PURPOSE

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

## POLICY

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

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

## REFERENCES

### External

- Agricultural Pests Act RSA 2000, c A-8

## DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

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

## PURPOSE

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

## POLICY

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

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

Agriculture & Forestry.

## **REFERENCES**

### **External**

- Agricultural Pests Act RSA 2000, c A-8

## **DOCUMENT OWNER**

Manager of Agriculture and Environment



<b>AGRICULTURE &amp; ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS</b>	<b>3.2.6 SOIL CONSERVATION</b> <span style="float: right;">Page 1/1</span>
Effective Date: New Policy Oct. 5/17 - Res. 17-10-07	Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

## **PURPOSE**

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

## **POLICY**

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

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

## **REFERENCES**

### **External**

- Soil Conservation Act RSA 2000, c S-15

## **DOCUMENT OWNER**

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

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

## PURPOSE

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

## POLICY

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

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

## REFERENCES

### External

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

## DOCUMENT OWNER

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

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

## **PURPOSE**

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

## **POLICY**

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

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

## **REFERENCES**

### **External**

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

## **DOCUMENT OWNER**

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

<b>AGRICULTURE &amp; ENVIRONMENT POLICY SECTION 3.2 – ASB PROGRAMS</b>	<b>3.2.9 BURSARY POLICY</b> <span style="float: right;">Page 1/2</span>
Effective Date: February 5, 2019 Res. 19-02-47 - Feb. 5/19 CM	Revised: May 5/20 CM – Res. CM-2020-05-27 (Policy Restructure)

## **PURPOSE**

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

## **POLICY**

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

## **PROCEDURE**

### **Eligibility**

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

### **Applications**

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

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

**Criteria**

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

**Funds**

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

**DOCUMENT OWNER**

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

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

## **PURPOSE**

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

## **POLICY**

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

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

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

## **DOCUMENT OWNER**

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

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

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

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

## **PURPOSE**

To facilitate the recycling of agricultural plastics in Wheatland County.

## **POLICY**

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

### **Plastic Grain Bag Rolling Service**

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

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

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

## **DOCUMENT OWNER**

Manager of Agriculture and Environment



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

## **PURPOSE**

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

## **POLICY**

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

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

## **DOCUMENT OWNER**

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

**ADDENDUM TO 3.3.3 LIVESTOCK DRIVE**  
**SCHEDULE A - LIVESTOCK DRIVE AGREEMENT**

**Contact**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Preamble**

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

**Guidelines**

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

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

### **Signage**

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

### **Notification and Application Guidelines**

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

### **Hold Harmless**

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

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

**Acknowledged:\_\_\_\_\_**  
**Signature of User**

**Rental Date:\_\_\_\_\_**

**Return Due Date:\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date Returned:\_\_\_\_\_**

**Received by:\_\_\_\_\_**

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

## **PURPOSE**

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

## **POLICY**

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

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

## **DOCUMENT OWNER**

Manager of Agriculture and Environment

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

## **PURPOSE**

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

## **POLICY**

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

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

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

## **DEFINITIONS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## REFERENCES

### External

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

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

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

**DOCUMENT OWNER**

Chief Administrative Officer