

Wheatland County

Department Report

Agricultural Service Board

July 8, 2020

Report prepared by: Russel Muenchrath



Manager of Agriculture and Environment Report

Recommendation from Administration

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

Report

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

Report Approval Details

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

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

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

Michael Ziehr