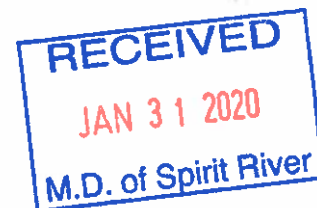




ALBERTA
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Office of the Minister
MLA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake

JAN 28 2020



Mr. Nick VanRootselaar
Chair, Agricultural Services Board
Box 389
Spirit River, AB T0H 3G0

Dear Mr. VanRootselaar:

Thank you for your November 27, 2019, letter supporting the continued regulation of *Fusarium graminearum* (*F. graminearum*) on the *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation* (PNCR) of the *Agricultural Pests Act* (APA). Agriculture and Forestry (AF) is committed to ensuring Albertans have safe food through a robust food safety system. This system provides the assurance that Alberta is a supplier of quality and safe food products. The APA and PNCR are in place to manage, control, and eradicate various pests in the province, to mitigate market access risks, and to improve competitiveness for Alberta producers.

F. graminearum became a declared pest under the APA in 1999 to help prevent the introduction and spread of this crop disease. As a declared pest, no person is able to acquire, sell, distribute or use any seed or crop material containing *F. graminearum*. AF has supported management of this disease through the creation of the *Fusarium Action Committee*, which, in turn, developed the *Alberta Fusarium graminearum Management Plan*. In addition, AF conducts regular surveillance and extension activities to inform crop producers on the distribution, severity, and management of this disease.

Over the past several years, *F. graminearum* has become endemic in several areas of the province, which makes regulation ineffective. Discussion has taken place to determine whether *F. graminearum* should remain a regulated pest. In this regard, AF has hosted several stakeholder engagement sessions. At the Ministry's third roundtable on *Fusarium*, stakeholders in attendance reached a consensus to support the removal of *F. graminearum* from the PNCR. The Ministry has also engaged stakeholders on this complex issue for options beyond regulation, including tolerance levels, exemptions, and regional flexibility. As the Ministry continues its examination of this issue, stakeholders will be kept informed of any decision.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I value your interest in keeping the Peace Region free from *F. graminearum* and other pests.

Sincerely,

Honourable Devin Dreesen
Minister, Agriculture and Forestry