



AGENDA

Agricultural Service Board Meeting

9:00 AM - Tuesday, March 28, 2023
Council Chambers

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	A. CALL TO ORDER
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	C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
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	F. NEW BUSINESS
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H. CLOSED SESSION

I. ADJOURN



MINUTES

Agricultural Service Board Meeting

9:30 AM - Thursday, September 8, 2022
Council Chambers

The Agricultural Service Board of Lethbridge County was called to order on Thursday, September 8, 2022, at 9:30 AM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Chairman Klaas VanderVeen
Reeve Tory Campbell
Councillor Lorne Hickey
Councillor Mark Sayers
Councillor John Kuerbis
Councillor Eric Van Essen
Councillor Morris Zeinstra
Chief Administrative Officer, Ann Mitchell
Director of Public Operations, Jeremy Wickson
Agricultural Services Supervisor, Gary Secrist
Executive Assistant, Candice Robison

A. CALL TO ORDER - OPENING REMARKS

Chairman VanderVeen called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

B. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

7-2022 Councillor Kuerbis MOVED that the September 8, 2022 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda be approved, as presented. CARRIED

C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

C.1. Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes

8-2022 Reeve Campbell MOVED that the April 14, 2022 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes be approved, as presented. CARRIED

D. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

E. REPORTS

E.1. Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report

8-2022 Councillor Van Essen MOVED that the Agriculture Service Board receives the report from the Supervisor of Agriculture Services for information. CARRIED

Chairman VanderVeen recessed the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Chairman VanderVeen reconvened the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

G. APPOINTMENTS - 11:00 a.m.

G.1. Alberta Invasive Species Council Presentation/Megan Evans Executive Director

Megan Evans, Executive Director from the Alberta Invasive Species Council was present to provide Council an update on AISC and their initiatives.

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.1. Agricultural Service Board Bylaw and Terms of Reference

9-2022 Reeve MOVED to Council for approval of the ASB Bylaw and Terms of
Campbell Reference.
CARRIED

F.2. South Region Agricultural Service Board Conference/Crowsnest Pass

10-2022 Councillor MOVED that the Agriculture Service Board recommend to County
Van Essen Council that any member of the Agriculture Service Board wishing to
attend the South Region conference in the MD of the Crowsnest Pass
on October 25, 2022 be permitted to do so.
CARRIED

H. INVITATIONS

I. CLOSED SESSION

J. ADJOURN

11-2022 Councillor MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board Meeting adjourn at 12:02
Zeinstra p.m.
CARRIED

ASB Chairman

CAO

AGENDA ITEM REPORT



Title: Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report
Meeting: Agricultural Service Board - 28 Mar 2023
Department: Agriculture Service Board
Report Author: Gary Secrist

APPROVAL(S):

Jeremy Wickson, Director of Public Operations,
Larry Randle, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 08 Mar 2023
Approved - 08 Mar 2023

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:



Governance



Relationships



Region



Prosperity

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This is the Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report for March 28th, 2023 Agriculture Service Board meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

Moved that the Agricultural Service Board receives the report from the Supervisor of Agriculture Services for information.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

To update the Agricultural Service Board and citizens on work done by the ASB department.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

The Agricultural Service Board is given the report verbally by the Supervisor of Agriculture Services for information.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report

ASB Grant

The ASB Provincial Grant is in its the current 5-year cycle, which runs from 2020 to 2024, Lethbridge County receives annual funding of \$123,000 for Legislative and \$91,000 for Resource Management programming, respectively.

Mowing

- ASB Staff mowed Approximately 5050 miles of gravel and hardtop road slopes in 2022. The mowing crew performed two cuts on all paved roads and most gravel roads using a combination of triple gang and disc mowers.
- Hamlets and subdivisions were mowed and weed whipped twice; they were also touched up in late fall when gravel roadside mowers were nearby.
- Mowing was also completed for weed control in hard to spray areas and shoulder pulls where grass was yet to be planted or re-established.

Level of Service (LOS) Measures: All mowing targets were met for 2022. Mowing was over budget by approximately \$30,000, as equipment costs were adjusted.

Weed Control

- The majority of 2022 roadside spraying took place in Divisions 5, 6 and 7, augmented with spot spraying throughout the County.
 - Roads seeded in 2021 were also sprayed when the grass was mature enough to handle chemical application.
 - Over 1280 miles of right-of-way were sprayed, which represents 49% of all County roads, including road shoulder vegetation control.
- Inspection of Oldman River “bed and shore sites” resulted in release of Bio-control agents at six Leafy Spurge sites in the County.
- All reported/identified weed sightings in rights-of-way were sprayed, mowed, or pulled.
 - Target weeds are Leafy Spurge, Knapweed, Toadflax and Scentless Chamomile.
- In 2022 there were over forty weed inspector consultations with landowners resulting in satisfactory compliance. Two weed notices were issued.
- Extension staff produced a Leafy Spurge management Video.
 - The video was produced in cooperation with several South Region municipalities, the Blood Tribe and the Alberta Invasive Species council.
 - The video was featured at the March 2022/23 Alberta Invasive Species Council Conference.
- Supervisor of Agriculture Services presented on the Weed Control Act at Lethbridge College in December.

Level of Service Measures: All targets were met, and Roadside Spraying exceeded the 33% road spraying coverage target. More economical chemicals were applied on gravel roads, which led to an approximately \$15,000 budget surplus.

Pest Control

- The annual grasshopper survey showed grasshopper numbers close to 2021. The following link is a great resource for Grasshopper management: <https://www.alberta.ca/grasshopper-management.aspx>
- The Bertha Army Worm survey was carried out by ASB staff led, once again, to low number results in 2022. County Insect Survey results for 2022 are attached to this report.
- The 2022 Bacterial Ring Rot Survey identified no suspect fields.
- Lethbridge County Clubroot and Blackleg inspections identified no suspect fields for the ten fields reviewed in 2022.
- Staff responded to numerous calls from producers regarding alternatives to Strychnine for gopher control.
- A rabies detection survey conducted by a contracted private trapper identified no suspect animals over the two-week investigation.

- This work is conducted in conjunction with the Rabies Surveillance Partnership Program, which is a group of five counties and municipal districts in the south region.
- The Province pulled its support for the program in Late February. Consequently, the partnership and the survey are discontinued, pending further funding.
- A Dutch Elm Disease survey conducted in the Monarch area identified no suspect trees. Surveys in the Iron Springs and Turin areas are planned for 2023.

Level of Service Measures: All 2022 LOS targets were met within the budgeted allotment.

Soil Conservation

- The winter and spring of 2022 saw drought conditions combined with wind events that created instances of Soil Erosion.
 - Information regarding producer obligations under the Soil Conservation Act were provided through social media and public service announcements.
 - Staff worked with two producers to remove erosion deposited soil from adjacent ditches.
- The Supervisor of Agriculture Services, in cooperation with counterparts from the MDs of Taber and Newell, presented soil erosion information to Ag-Fieldmen at a provincial wide training event.
- Extension staff are working on an educational video to promote good erosion control practices.

Level of Service Measures: Soil erosion events depend on factors that are beyond the control of ASB staff. All known instances were investigated, resulting in and affected producers cooperatively undertaking the necessary control or clean up measures, as directed by County staff.

ASB Resolutions

Delegates addressed Fourteen Resolutions at the ASB Conference in Grande Prairie (Jan 2023). Of the fourteen, including two emergent resolutions, only one failed to be carried forward. The draft minutes from the Resolution session are attached, including two resolutions of particular interest to Lethbridge County. These resolutions include:

- **8-23 - Consideration of Municipal Environmental & Agricultural Policies for Large Scale Solar & Related Energy Developments on Agricultural Lands.**
- **9-23 - Synthetic Fertilizer Emissions**

Roadside Seeding

- ASB crews undertook the seeding of drains and shoulder pulls
 - Seeding operations include rock removal, disking, seeding, and mowing.
- In 2022 ASB crews also seeded a gravel pit reclamation project at the Rakus Pit.

Level of Service Measures: This service is provided to the Public Works Department by the ASB Department. Seeding requirements depend on the number of projects completed by Public Works. Seeding activities are coordinated between spring and fall, depending on project completion timing.

Equipment Rental

- Brillion seed drill rental continues to be steady, with most residents using the equipment for small areas.
 - Annual seed drill rental revenues average approximately \$2,000.
 - Last season's rentals included twenty users, with revenues of \$3,000.

- Rental rates will increase in 2023 to \$7 an acre, with a minimum charge of \$210.
- Farm plastics baler use peaks in early spring but continues to be steady throughout the year.
 - Pilot projects run by Clean Farms and DBS Environmental have increased farm plastics recycling volumes in our municipality.
- Skunk, raccoon, and magpie trap usage was very busy throughout the year.
 - The program was suspended during Avian Flu outbreaks in the County.

Level of Service Measures: A larger use of the Brillion Drills was anticipated for 2022, but drought conditions led to producers holding off on spring grass seeding.

Parks

- Parks, playground and shop yard maintenance started slowly, due to prevailing early spring drought conditions.
 - Increased efforts were required as precipitation increased in June.
 - Monthly playground equipment inspections are completed regularly throughout the year.
- Crews mowed County Cemeteries twice in 2022.
- Monarch received a major playground upgrade in May/June 2022.
 - Upgrades were very well received by the community.
- Playground upgrades are currently being planned for Shaughnessy in the spring of 2023.

Level of Service Measures: All playground service level measures were met in 2022, with all activities coming in slightly under budget. The Monarch Playground Capital project was within \$1,000 of the budget allotment.

Farm Family

The 2023 Calgary Stampede BMO Farm Family is the Nicol Family who have a dairy farm in the Kipp/Coalhurst area.

Farm Safety

A \$5,000 donation to the Farm Safety Centre was created through the ASB budget.

- The Centre used the funds to deliver their safety program to 1649 students in fifteen County schools.
- The 2022 Farm Safety Report is attached to this report.

Other Activities

Lethbridge County took part in the following events:

- Participated in Ag-Expo as an exhibitor (February 2023).
- Participated in Farming Smarter as an exhibitor.
- Hosted an Agricultural Pesticide Course in partnership with Hamman Research (February 2023).
- Participated in the South Region Conference was held in the Crowsnest Pass (October 2022).
- Attended the Agriculture Service Board Conference in Grande Prairie (January 2023).

Resource Management Program

- **EFP Program**
 - Reviewed 20 Dairy and Sugar Beet Producers EFP's since August.
- **CAP Funding**
 - CAP program ends March 31, 2022, which will be replaced with the new SCAP program in 2023.

- Continue to promote through social media/newsletter.
- **OFCAF Program**
 - Continue to promote through social media/newsletter.
- **County Newsletter**
 - Published three issues per year of the Rural Living and Ag Extension newsletters.
- **Rural Extension Videos**
 - Produced Hemp and shelterbelt videos.
- **Leafy Spurge Video**
 - Produced an informational video about Leafy Spurge and Biocontrol in partnership with AISC, County of Newell, City of Lethbridge, Ag Canada Research Station, and the Kainaiwa Blood Tribe.
 - The video is available on the AISC and County website.
- **Fall Ag Tour – College/University**
 - Organized and delivered a well-received tour of the McCain facility, for both College and University students, on October 28 and 31.
- **Floating Islands (Broxburn Business Park)**
 - Continue to promote and use as a showcase piece for farmers.
- **Presentations**
 - Facilitated four (4) presentations to Huntsville School, including:
 - Birds of Prey, Clean Farms, Ag for Life, and Farm Safety Centre
- **Clean Farms - Plastic Recycling Pilot Project**
 - Coordinate monthly collection of silage and bale wrap plastic.
- **Informing the Public**
 - Continue monthly 'what's that weed' and 'what's that bug' extension program.
 - Social media - starting in June till August.
- **Oldman River Mainstem Watershed Group**
 - Presentation scheduled for September/October
- **Alberta Agroforestry Crop Reporting**
 - Deliver monthly.
- **Agroclimatic Impact Report**
 - Deliver monthly.
- **Off Stream Cattle Watering System Sites**
 - Set up off stream watering sites for Spring/Summer.
 - The sites are located on County owned land within the Riparian Area on the south side of the Little Bow River, west of Highway 845

Upcoming

- **Soil Erosion Video**
 - Collaborative project to deliver a Soil Erosion video.
 - Lethbridge County, County of Newell, M.D. of Taber, NRCB, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, and various Producers
 - Delivery – scheduled for Fall 2023
- **Shelterbelt Workshop**
 - Hosting shelterbelt workshop first week of April
- **Lethbridge Ag Tour**
 - TBD
- **Presentations**
 - Presentations for R.I. Baker May 26
 - Scheduled Presenters currently include:
 - Grant Collings, Nathan Mistaken Chief and Jaret Panther Bone, and Alberta Bats.

- Addition speakers TBD

Level of Service Measures: Most Grant targets for this funding stream are being met by Resource Management staff. Covid 19 negatively impacted extension activity delivery, including the ASB annual tour. Resource management activities were slightly under budget for 2022 due to limited in-person activities.

Respectfully Submitted by Gary Secrist
Supervisor of Agriculture Services

ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

That the report is not received for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

All activities being reported were included in the 2022 ASB budget and Level of Service.

LEVEL OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Inform Consult Involve Collaborate Empower

AGENDA ITEM REPORT



Title: Alan Efetha/Agricultural Service Board Member Training
Meeting: Agricultural Service Board - 28 Mar 2023
Department: Agriculture Service Board
Report Author: Gary Secrist

APPROVAL(S):

Jeremy Wickson, Director of Public Operations,
Larry Randle, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 08 Mar 2023
Approved - 08 Mar 2023

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:



Governance



Relationships



Region



Prosperity

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

To receive the annual Agricultural Service Board Grant it is a requirement that members of the Board are trained in their role and responsibility. Alan Efetha from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation is here today to provide the required training.

RECOMMENDATION:

Moved that the Agricultural Service Board approves the ASB member training from Alan Efetha as information.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

To allow the Agricultural Services Department to remain in compliance with the terms of the ASB Grant Agreement.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

Previous ASB members received training at last April's ASB meeting and were provided with the ASB Orientation Manual.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

To participate in the Agricultural Service Board Grant Program ASB members must have adequate training in the Boards function and their role.

ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

If training is not provided ASB members will not be able to serve their role on the Board.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

LEVEL OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Inform** **Consult** **Involve** **Collaborate** **Empower**

ATTACHMENTS:

[Orientation manual for Agricultural Service Board \(ASB\) Members](#)

Orientation Manual for Agricultural Service Board Members



Alberta 

Classification: Public

Special thanks to:

Debbie Oyarzun (former Supervisor of the Agricultural Service Board Program) for providing the content of this manual.

Orientation Manual for Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Members

Published by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

May 2021

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Introduction

Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs) are unique to North America. They are special committees appointed by the local municipal council to address agricultural concerns in their communities. They can be comprised of any combination of public or private individuals who develop policies for the local agricultural sector. The provincial government, through Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF), partners with these boards in many ways to ensure we collectively maintain and improve agricultural production.

The following information will provide a description of how these boards are formed, governed, and funded. Details about legislation, guidelines, and programs are listed in the Appendices.

History of Agricultural Service Boards

ASBs are unique to North America. In 2020, ASBs celebrated 75 years of continuous service to producers in Alberta. During the 1920s and 1930s, agriculture was developing rapidly and new issues were being dealt with. Provincial specialists began to feel overwhelmed, but by the 1940s, they realized that the municipalities were closest to the problem and could deal with requests or issues more quickly than provincial inspectors. In 1943, the M.D. of Conrich, currently called Rocky View County, and the County of Red Deer joined forces and initiated a trial project where special agricultural committees were set up. Each committee consisted of two councilors, two farmers, and the District Agriculturist. These committees operated with partial funding from Alberta Agriculture. As a result of the success of these agricultural committees, a resolution was passed at the municipal districts convention in Calgary, in November 1944. The resolution read:

“Be it resolved that this conference endorse and recommend the establishment of ASBs in all municipal districts, such boards to be similar to personnel and objectives as the one established in the M.D. of Conrich, No. 220 and now in operation and that legislation as may be considered necessary be enacted by the Legislature to authorize the formation of such boards and to designate their powers.”

In response to the 1944 resolution, the ASB Act was drafted and passed into Alberta Legislation in the spring of 1945. The Act assigned specific duties and powers to both municipal and provincial partners, while encouraging a cooperative and coordinated effort in the development of agricultural policies and programs that were of mutual benefit. Rural municipalities responded to the new legislation in accordance with agricultural needs and available budget. From 1945-1947, activities under the



ASB Act focused on weed and brush control, and soil conservation. As years passed, the role of the ASB expanded to include a variety of programs to service the agriculture industry. Programs today continue to focus on weed and pest control, but have expanded to include environmental and sustainable agriculture programs. More information about the history of ASBs can be found in Appendix 1.

Roles and Responsibilities of the ASBs

ASBs play a critical role in assessing the needs and direction of the agriculture industry in their area as well as identifying obstacles and working to resolve any problems that may arise.

The general role of ASBs can be broken down into four main categories:

1. Policy and Administration

Once formed, ASBs become advisory to the council in the development and promotion of agricultural policies that meet the needs of the municipality. Through the ASBs, council has an advocate of agriculture that also has the capacity to advise the Ministers of AF, Environment and Parks, etc. on the development and review of external policy. ASBs also have the responsibility to administer and enforce provincial agricultural related Acts, such as the *Weed Control Act*, *Agricultural Pests Act*, and the *Soil Conservation Act*.

2. Program Development and Review

As the major function of an ASB is to identify local requirements for agricultural programs, council may decide to form or justify an ASB in response to local demands for improved or increased support on agricultural issues. The ASB can set program objectives, introduce new programs, and through program planning and execution, encourage participation of those who benefit from the program. The role of an ASB is also to review and evaluate established programs on an annual basis.

3. Program Promotion and Advertising

ASBs are responsible for promoting agricultural programs through the use of a newsletter, participation at trade shows and other public forums where agricultural producers are in attendance.

4. General

ASBs are also responsible for a variety of other aspects associated with improving the economic welfare of the farmer. The preservation and improvement of agricultural production requires coordinated efforts and frequent communication between the ASB, local institutions, and organizations. The role of the ASB is also to encourage good farming practices and farm

safety. While performing all of the duties and responsibilities of an ASB, the ASB shall remain accountable to the ratepayers.

Over the years, most ASBs have obtained their own shop, equipment, and storage facilities in order to be more self-sufficient. This allows them to be equipped with the tools needed for dealing with the agricultural issues of their local ratepayers.



Roles of the ASB Members

- To consider the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole and to bring to the Boards' attention anything that would promote the welfare or interests of the municipality;
- To participate generally in developing and evaluating agricultural policies and programs to meet the needs of the municipality;
- To participate in ASB meetings and meetings of other bodies to which they are appointed;
- To obtain information about the operation or administration of the municipality from the Chief Administrative Officer or a person designated by the Chief Administrative Officer;
- To keep in confidence matters discussed in private at an ASB meeting;
- To communicate effectively with the Agricultural Fieldman, other members of the ASB, and council;
- To review and recommend budget and programs to council for approval;
- To administer approved budget and establish program policy; and
- To evaluate programs.

ASB Structure

Prior to 1997, the *ASB Act* specified the make-up of a board based on whether the board supported a county, municipality, or improvement district/special area. The Act became more enabling after a review in 1997 and now allows council to determine the structure of the board

and its membership. The council is to determine the chair, the number of members, the voting status, and the term of office of the members of the board.

Board structure varies greatly across the province. The criteria to be appointed as a member of the ASB can be met by both councilors and members-at-large. Boards may be made up entirely of councilors, which are merely an extension of Municipal Council or they may be a blended board consisting of a number of councilors and a number of members-at-large. In 2020, there are 24 boards consisting of all council members and 45 boards consisting of councilors plus members-at-large.

There are advantages and disadvantages of each type of board structure. A comparison of the pros and cons of each board structure can be seen in Appendix 2.

ASB Membership

The legislation requires that the membership of a board must include persons who are familiar with agricultural concerns and issues, and who are qualified to develop policies consistent with the *ASB Act*. Board members must also be capable of acting on behalf of the council as legislation also indicates that a board has and must, exercise on behalf of a council, all the duties and powers that are conferred on it by the council, under this or any other enactment, with respect to agricultural matters.

Attending ASB Meetings

ASB members are required to attend meetings. The legislation states:

“A person who is a member of a board ceases to be a member of the board, if, without being authorized by a resolution of the board, the member is absent from three consecutive regular meetings of the board.”

A vacancy on the board does not impair the right of the remaining members to act as long as a majority (quorum) of the members remain.

Code of Conduct

A Code of Conduct is a set of rules that outlines the responsibilities of or proper practices for an individual or organization (Wikipedia).

Each municipality should have a Code of Conduct that all ASB members follow and are held accountable to.

Voting

You are on the ASB to make decisions and that means voting on all resolutions and bylaws unless you are required or permitted to abstain from voting. The board must ensure that each abstention and the reason for it are recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If there is a public hearing on a proposed bylaw or resolution, you must abstain from voting on the bylaw or resolution if you were absent from all of a public hearing, and you may abstain if you were absent for a part of a public hearing. You must also abstain from voting on matters in which you have a pecuniary interest (see “Conflict of Interest” section).

Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest occurs when an individual or organization is involved in multiple interests, one of which could possibly corrupt the motivation for an act in another. It is typically defined as “a set of circumstances that creates a risk that professional judgment or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest.” (Wikipedia)

Alberta’s municipal ASB members have a strong record of public service to their communities. First and foremost, you are responsible for upholding the public interest above any private interests you may have. Membership of the ASB is a position of public trust. The *Municipal Government Act* describes pecuniary interest and sets out the procedure you must follow if such a matter comes up at a meeting in which you are participating as an ASB member. Failure to follow these procedures can lead to your disqualification.

Municipal Advisory Committees

Each municipal council works with several boards and committees that contribute to the provision of services to the community. The membership of these boards and committees generally consists of volunteers that rely on the good will of each other and a common sense of direction to assist in community development. Most boards and committees in the community are beyond the responsibility of the council, yet often have an impact on the decision making of council. The *ASB Act* provides for council to appoint one or more advisory committees with respect to any matter related to agriculture. Any advisory committee appointed shall act in an advisory capacity to the board and council. The purpose of an advisory committee is to utilize the thoughts, ideas, and suggestions of the public in the development and delivery of policies, programs, and services to the public. In general, advisory committees assist the ASB in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities in the following ways:

- establishing priorities
- program planning
- policy development
- program promotion
- public relations

- program evaluation

It is important to keep in mind that an advisory committee is just that, it advises the board and council. Often, advisory committee members expect their advice to become policy; however, advice is taken under consideration, but not necessarily implemented or acted upon.

In order for advisory committees to be effective, council must provide them with a mandate or terms of reference. If no direction or focus is provided, expectations are unlikely to be met and the value of the advisory committee diminishes. Establishment of an advisory committee can also become repetitive in that the members on the advisory committee are often members of the ASB or council. Generally, council meetings are held to adopt resolutions of the advisory committee in addition to meetings to adopt resolutions of the ASB. This duplication of time and effort translates into an additional drain on the budget. To alleviate this problem, the advisory committee may report to the ASB. However, regardless of reporting requirements, the governance structure for the advisory committee must be identified in the terms of reference.

The credibility of an advisory committee is enhanced if the membership represents a cross-section of the agricultural community. An assumption is generally made that the advisory committee represents the majority and therefore, it should be able to provide a broader perspective. In doing so, advisory committees often function as the informal liaison between the ASB and the community.

Role of the Agricultural Fieldman

An Agricultural Fieldman is a qualified person hired by the council and employed on a full-time basis. The *ASB Act* requires that once a council has established a board, that the council, in consultation with the board, must appoint a qualified person as Agricultural Fieldman to implement agricultural policies and programs and to manage the agricultural resources of the municipality. The Agricultural Fieldman is a designated officer of the municipality and is automatically appointed as an inspector under the *Weed Control Act*, the *Agricultural Pests Act*, and the *Soil Conservation Act* by virtue of his position.

The typical duties of an Agricultural Fieldman can be broken down into five main categories:

1. Administration

- Act in an advisory capacity to the ASB council.
- Coordinate ASB meetings and agenda with the chairman of the board.
- Prepare and present annual ASB budgets, financial statements, and related progress reports in accordance with the ASB business plan.

- Apply for grants on behalf of the ASB.
- Supervise full-time and temporary staff employed by the ASB.
- Prepare and release timely and related news articles using available media resources.
- Keep up with the latest technology in weed control, pest control, soil conservation, etc.
- Organize field trips, courses, public meetings, and demonstrations.
- Compile and maintain complete office records of related activities.



2. Policies and Programs

- Recommend programs and policies targeted to maintain and improve agricultural production.
- Implement policies and programs approved by the board and maintain a record of budget expenditures for these programs.
- Prepare annual reports on current programs.
- Develop and evaluate program plans, budget, and policy. During the evaluation process, explore alternatives that would contribute to developing long-range plans.
- Be involved with educational programs.

3. Regulatory

- Enforce the *Weed Control Act* through promoting, inspecting, and enforcing the control of noxious weeds on all lands within the boundaries of their jurisdiction.
- Enforce the *Agricultural Pests Act* through promoting, inspecting, and enforcing the control of declared agricultural pests.
- Enforce the *Soil Conservation Act* through promoting, inspecting, and enforcing regulations and issuing permits regarding soil conservation.
- Inspect and issue permits for seed cleaning plants.
- Supervise the operation of lands under supervision and reclamation.
- Ensure that pesticides are used in accordance with environmental regulations.



4. Communication/Liaison

- Act as a liaison with the public, manager, board, and government representatives.

- Keep the board informed of the work being done as well as provide updates on new information.
- Communicate programs to producers.
- Maintain good public relations while promoting ASB programs and enforcing ASB policies through personal producer contacts, newsletters, meetings, etc..

5. General

- Take an applied common sense approach.
- Be responsible directly to the board for ASB programs and operation.
- Maintain rental equipment.
- Be familiar with all aspects of agricultural pursuits and associate this with community needs and the role of the Agricultural Fieldman.
- Identify concerns and problems of the community and relate them to the ASB.
- Demonstrate leadership and organizational skills.
- Attend upgrading courses as the board feels appropriate.

The list above includes typical duties of an Agricultural Fieldman; however, each ASB will have different issues to deal with and a different business plan to work with. Therefore, this list will vary for each ASB. For example, an ASB with extensive water courses may require their Agricultural Fieldman to play a larger role in dealing with beavers as pests and the removal of dams than an ASB in the drier, southern regions of Alberta.

It is apparent that the role of an Agricultural Fieldman is diverse and therefore, council is to ensure that there is a job description for the Agricultural Fieldman with clearly defined expectations. Based on the job description, the Agricultural Fieldman shall have an annual performance appraisal and in support of the Agricultural Fieldman, time shall be allotted for professional development.

Role of the Minister's Representative

In order to assist a board, the Minister may designate an employee as a Minister's Representative with the following roles:

- To advise the board on government programs, agricultural problems, and needs of industry.
- To assist the board, on the request of the board, in the discharge of its duties.

With the loss of the District Agriculturalist and the District Home Economist, the Minister's Representative is any employee of Alberta AF. At the request of the municipality, a Minister's Representative is available to attend ASB meetings to address specific issues. The ASB Program Manager is also a representative of the Minister as identified in the ASB Program Funding Agreement and shall act as a liaison between the ASB and the Minister of AF. In addition, needs and concerns of the ASB and its municipality that are related to responsibilities under the legislation of the *ASB Act* and related *Acts* and regulations can also be addressed by the ASB Program Manager.



At an ASB meeting, the Minister's Representative is not in attendance to lead, but to guide by providing advice on agricultural issues, as a technical resource, and to clarify the position of government. The Minister's Representative when attending a meeting, becomes a non-voting member of the ASB for that meeting.

In addition to the Minister designating a representative to assist ASBs, the Minister may enter into an agreement with council to address the following issues and make payments provided for in the agreement:

- To provide assistance in soil and water conservation;
- For control of weeds and pests;
- For control of any livestock disease; and
- To implement any other agricultural policies considered necessary.

The agreement between the Minister and the council may provide for:

- Assistance towards the administration and provision of services, material, equipment, and labour in conducting approved programs and policies;
- Assistance towards conducting educational programs; and
- Payment of expenses necessary in the control of livestock disease under the *Animal Health Act*.

Role of the AF Key Contact

The Key Contact Program was introduced on March 01, 2009, in an effort to reconnect with rural Albertans. One objective of this program was to strengthen the relationship between ASBs and AF. Each ASB has an AF staff member who serves as their Key Contact person.

A Key Contact is an AF staff member who spends up to 10% of their time engaging with each ASB they are assigned to.

The role of a Key Contact is to:

- Establish and build strong relationships between the ASB and AF;
- Act as a liaison between the ASB and AF;
 - Deliver key messages from AF;
 - Provide feedback back to AF;
- Work with the ASB to provide extension programming;
- Understand local issues and needs; and
- Engage ASB in applicable AF events.

Key Contacts may accomplish this role by:

- Attending ASB meetings;
- Support ASB extension events;
- Other responsibilities as assigned by the ASB.

ASBs are responsible for defining the role of the Key Contact within their organization. Some ASBs have their Key Contact attend every meeting and provide a report, while others have their Key Contact assist them solely with extension events.

Legislated Duties of Agricultural Service Boards

The *ASB Act* describes the legislated authority and roles of ASBs in Alberta. The following duties and responsibilities of the *ASB Act* will apply:

- To act as an advisory body and to assist the council and the Minister of AF in matters of mutual concern;
- To advise on and to help organize and direct weed and pest control and soil and water conservation programs under provincial legislation;
- To assist in the control of livestock disease under the *Animal Health Act*;
- To promote, enhance, and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer; and
- To promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality.

The *ASB Act* was not intended to be mandatory legislation, but rather enabling legislation. However, a bylaw can be passed by the municipal council to have the Act become binding for their district. Although it was not mandatory for local government to establish ASBs, more than 50% of the total 69 boards in place today were established by 1952.

While the *ASB Act* states the specific duties and responsibilities of the local ASB, the overall purpose is to improve and maintain agricultural production, improve the economic welfare of the farmer, and act as an advisory body to municipal and provincial government. Improving agricultural production requires the application of research findings such as new crop varieties and tillage techniques at the producer level. Similarly, maintaining agricultural production requires the application of proven preventative measures that will reduce or eliminate soil erosion and the spread of new weeds, insects, and diseases. With each ASB carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the *ASB Act*, came the decentralization of AF, particularly in the areas of weed control and soil conservation.



Legislation Overview

1. *Agricultural Service Board Act*

The Act is legislation that provides for:

- Establishment of ASBs;
- Establishment of advisory committees on agricultural matters;
- Transfers authority to enforce provincial legislation to ASBs; and
- Allows ASBs to enter into an agreement with the Minister, making some of their ASBs activities cost-shared.

ASBs are responsible for enforcing the:

- *Weed Control Act*;
- *Agricultural Pests Act*; and
- *Soil Conservation Act*.

And to assist with the:

- *Animal Health Act*.

The *ASB Act* outlines the duties of an ASB, how boards are to be established, membership of the board, and attendance. Members of the board must be familiar with agricultural concerns and must be qualified to develop policies. Board members must also be able to act on behalf of council with respect to agricultural matters.

The *ASB Act* also requires that the ASB must present a summary of its activities annually to council that contains the information council requires in the prescribed format.

All ASBs are required to hire a qualified Agricultural Fieldman who is appointed as a municipal inspector under each of the Acts. The Agricultural Fieldman is responsible for carrying out programs related to the Act.

The *ASB Act* also gives ASBs authority to take land under the control of the municipality in situations where severe erosion or weed/pest infestation occurs and enforcement under the other Acts has not been successful. Please contact the ASBs Program Office for guidance if you are considering putting land under supervision or under an Order of Reclamation.

Link to *ASB Act*: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/a10>**Link to Associated Regulations for the *ASB Act*:** <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/a10>

Agricultural Pests Act

The *Agricultural Pests Act* is enabling legislation that provides legal authority to manage native and introduced pests that affect agricultural production.

The *Agricultural Pests Act* consists of two parts:

- *Agricultural Pests Act*; and
- Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation.

The *Agricultural Pests Act*:

- Defines a pest and nuisance;
 - Actual species listed in Regulation
- Minister's powers and delegation of Minister's powers;
- Duties of individual and local authorities;
- Requires municipal inspectors to be appointed;
- Powers of an inspector;
 - On private land
 - Warrant to enter a private entrance
- Failure to enforce the Act;
- Defines how notices are to be written and delivered;
- Appeals process for a notice;
- Ability of municipalities to recover expenses for enforcement work; and
- Offences for contravening the Act.



The Regulation lists species that can be controlled or eradicated, transportation restrictions, control options for certain pests and nuisances, permitting requirements, issuance of notices, and quarantine declaration.

ASBs Roles and Responsibilities Under This Act

- Provide recommendations to council regarding policies and programs to assist with compliance under the Act (e.g., implementation of a bounty program for Richardson Ground Squirrel tails);
- Ensure adequate pest inspectors are appointed for the municipality; and
- Ensure that an independent appeal committee has been appointed.

Link to *Agricultural Pests Act*: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/a08>

Link to Associated Regulations for the *Agricultural Pests Act*:
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/a08#related>

Soil Conservation Act

The *Soil Conservation Act* provides a framework to encourage sound soil conservation practices, to preserve the agricultural land base, and to ensure the long-term productivity of the farming sector.

The *Soil Conservation Act* consists of two parts:

- *Soil Conservation Act*; and
- Soil Conservation Notice Regulation.

The Soil Conservation Notice Regulation defines the content of notices and provides a notice form.

The *Soil Conservation Act*:

- Outlines responsibility of landholders;
- Requirements for issuing notices;
- How notices are to be delivered;
- Appeals procedures and committees;
- Requires a municipal inspector to be appointed;
- Defines right of entry to inspect;
- Ability to enforce Remediation Orders;
- Ability of municipality to recover expenses for enforcement;
- Offences for contravening the Act; and
- Authority of municipality to make bylaws and issue permits.



The *Soil Conservation Act* remains in force; the Regulations expire November 30, 2025.

ASBs Roles and Responsibilities Under This Act

- Provide recommendations to council regarding policies and programs to assist with compliance under the Act;
- Ensure adequate Soil Conservation Officers are appointed for the municipality; and
- Act as the appeal committee for *Soil Conservation Act* Notice Appeals.

Link to *Soil Conservation Act*: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/s15>

Link to Associated Regulations for the *Soil Conservation Act*:
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/s15#related>

Weed Control Act

The new Alberta *Weed Control Act* received proclamation and came into force on June 16, 2010. The new Act is a comprehensive re-write of the old Act for the purposes of re-organizing, updating, and providing greater clarity to the existing provisions of the Act.

The *Weed Control Act* is enabling legislation that provides the legal authority to manage plant species that affect agricultural production.

The *Weed Control Act* consists of four parts:

- *Weed Control Act*;
- Weed Control Regulation;
- Alberta Invasive Plant Identification Guide; and
- Alberta Weed Regulatory Advisory Committee (AWRAC).



The *Weed Control Act*:

- Defines categories of weed species and requirements for control;
- Defines landowners responsibilities;
- Requires licensing of seed cleaning plants;
- Regulation of weed seeds and spread of weeds;
- Requires municipalities to appoint inspectors;
- Outlines inspector's powers for right of entry, inspection, and enforcement;
- Requirements for issuing notices;
 - Notice content; and
 - Delivery of notices.
- Establishment of appeal committees and right to appeal;
- Right of municipality to recover inspector's expenses;
- Offences for contravening the Act; and
- Minister's responsibilities and rights.

The Weed Control Regulation outlines the requirements for Seed Cleaning Plant licensing, the list of regulated species, bylaws that the municipality can create, and the process to appeal a notice.

ASBs Roles and Responsibilities Under This Act

- Provide recommendations to council regarding policies and programs to assist with compliance under the Act (e.g., reverse fence line spraying programs);
- Ensure adequate Pest Inspectors are appointed for the municipality; and
- Ensure that an independent appeal committee has been appointed.

Link to Weed Control Act: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/w05p1>

Link to Associated Regulations for the Weed Control Act:
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/w05p1#related>

2. Animal Health Act

The *Animal Health Act* provides the legal authority and framework to mitigate disease risk and respond rapidly to an animal disease outbreak through livestock traceability systems and the establishment of quarantines and control measures. The Chief Provincial Veterinarian is the designated authority under the *Animal Health Act*.

The *Animal Health Act* consists of the Act and eight Regulations.

- Animal Health (General) Regulation;
- Authorized Medicine Sales Regulation;
- Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation;
- Livestock Market Regulation;
- Premises Identification Regulation;
- Reportable and Notifiable Diseases Regulation;
- Traceability Cattle Identification Regulation; and
- Swine Traceability Regulation.



The *Animal Health Act*:

- Defines reportable and notifiable diseases;
 - Specific diseases listed in the Regulation
- Identifies the duty of an individual to report diseases;
- Provides for examination of animals by inspector;
- Issuance of a Quarantine Order;
- Declaration of a quarantine;
- Restrict animal movement within a quarantine zone.
- Order the destruction of animals and provide compensation;

- Issue licenses and conduct inspections;
- Keeping of records in accordance with the Regulations;
- Establish control zones for disease surveillance;
- Appeals procedure for quarantine costs, licensing, and compensation; and
- Offences for contravening the Act.

The Regulations detail livestock identification and traceability systems, proper disposal of dead animals, name specific notifiable and reportable diseases, and the licensing requirements of a Production Animal Medicine outlet and Livestock Marketing and Assembly Stations.

ASBs Roles and Responsibilities Under This Act

- ASBs are considered an “authorized person” and must report reportable or notifiable diseases under the *Animal Health Act* to the Office of the Chief Provincial Vet within 24 hours.

Link to the *Animal Health Act*: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/a40p2>

Links to Associated Regulations for the *Animal Health Act*:

Animal Health (General) Regulation:

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/a40p2#related>

Authorized Medicine Sales Regulation:

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2014_131

Biosecurity Regulation:

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2019_185

Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation:

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2014_132

Livestock Market Regulation: https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2014_133

Premises Identification Regulation: https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2008_200

Reportable and Notifiable Diseases Regulation:

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2014_129

Swine Traceability Regulation: https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2014_134

Traceability Cattle Identification Regulation:

https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2009_333

Policy Development

The ASB and council are responsible for providing the services that their ratepayers want and need. This responsibility involves providing input regarding the municipality's programs and services and making sure that the administration provides the programs and services in the best possible manner.

A policy provides a way of ensuring that consistent decisions are made on similar matters. Policies should establish general guidelines that the council sets for the administration to follow. The administration then provides the programs and services to the ratepayers according to the policies.

Policies are essential to good government and to an understanding of the continuity of council decision-making. Policy development contributes to the overall separation of council as policy makers from the staff, who are charged with carrying out council decisions. Written policy statements are useful to current and successive councils as guidelines on key municipal issues. They represent the philosophy of the current council and convey a sense of the direction of decision-making of that council to the public and affected parties.

Program monitoring means staying up to date on the programs and services that are offered and assessing the results against what the council plans to achieve or specific objectives.

Bylaws

Municipal bylaws are public regulatory laws that apply to a certain area. Bylaws may be passed or rescinded by municipalities at any time. Municipal bylaws are applicable only to the particular municipality where declared and do not supersede provincial or federal legislation.

The *Agricultural Pests Act*, *Soil Conservation Act*, and *Weed Control Act* grant authority to municipalities to create specific types of bylaws to assist municipalities with protecting their agricultural resources.

Examples of bylaws that may be passed, under legislation applicable to ASBs, are:

Agricultural Service Board Act:

- Putting land under an Order of Reclamation

Agricultural Pests Act:

- Designate responsibility for pest control from the edge of owned land to the center of the road

Soil Conservation Act:

- Permits for topsoil removal and stubble burning
- Terms and conditions for permits
- Prohibition of topsoil removal and stubble burning

Weed Control Act:

- Designate authority for weed control from the edge of owned land to the center of the road
- Upgrade the status of a plant or weed species

All bylaws passed under the authority of these Acts require Ministerial approval. Proposed bylaws must go through two separate readings at the municipal council level to allow for discussion and public consultation. Once the bylaw has passed through the second reading, it must be forwarded onto the Minister of AF for review and approval. After Ministerial approval, a third and final reading at the municipal level is required before the bylaw would come into force.

Municipalities may pass other bylaws to protect their agricultural resources and meet the needs of their ratepayers.

ASB Grant Program

The ASB Grant Program is available to municipalities that have formed an ASB under the ASB Act. Municipalities must have an appointed Agricultural Fieldman to carry out Legislative, Resource Management Activities as outlined in the grant agreement.

The 2020-24 ASB Grant Program runs on a five-year grant cycle and allocates a total of \$10.4 million annually. It consists of three funding streams: Legislative, Resource Management and the Rat and Rabies streams. There is \$8.3 million dollars available for the Legislative Funding Stream, \$1.78 million available under the Resource Management Stream and \$215,000 for the Rat and Rabies Control Funding Stream. The Legislative Funding Stream is distributed to 69 applicants and the Resource Management Stream is distributed using a merit-based process. As for the Rat and Rabies Control Funding Stream¹, this funding is only available to applicants located within Alberta's Rat Control Zone, see .Appendix 2 of the Terms and Conditions for more details on this program.

The purpose of the grant is to support ASBs with the administration of legislative requirements under the ASB Act and in the development and delivery of Resource Management extension programming.

The expected program outcomes include:

- Targeted prevention and control of agricultural diseases, pests, weeds, and delivery of soil conservation programs;
- Development of effective agricultural policies and plans that are implemented and address the needs and issues of the municipality related to agricultural practices;
- Increased awareness, understanding, and implementation of resource management agricultural practices, and programs with an emphasis on mitigating agriculture's impact on watershed health; and
- Development of strong collaborations with AF, other municipalities, governments, agencies, etc. to achieve outcomes listed in above bullets.
- The funding under the 2020-2024 ASB Grant Program used the following schedule. This agreement expires March 31, 2024.

¹ This funding stream was added to the program in 2021.

ITEM	DATE DUE
Program Application Form <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASB Grant Application Form • Schedule A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Part A: Legislative Funding Stream (mandatory) - Part B: Resource Management Funding Stream (optional) 	April 24, 2020
Grant Agreement signed	Spring/Summer 2020
2017-2019 Statement of Income and Expenditures	May 31, 2020
2019 ASB Activity Report	May 31, 2020
2019 Expenditure Report	May 31, 2020
Confirmation of filing of 2019 Audited Financials with Municipal Affairs	Spring/Summer 2020
2020 Statement of Income and Expenditures	May 31, 2021
2020 ASB Report on Strategic Plan	May 31, 2021
Confirmation of filing of 2020 Audited Financials with Municipal Affairs	May 31, 2021
2021 Statement of Income and Expenditures	May 31, 2022
2021 ASB Report on Strategic Plan	May 31, 2022
Confirmation of filing of 2021 Audited Financials with Municipal Affairs	May 31, 2022
2022 Statement of Income and Expenditures	May 31, 2023
2022 ASB Report on Strategic Plan	May 31, 2023
Confirmation of filing of 2022 Audited Financials with Municipal Affairs	May 31, 2023
2023 Statement of Income and Expenditures	May 31, 2024
2023 ASB Report on Strategic Plan	May 31, 2024
Confirmation of filing of 2023 Audited Financials with Municipal Affairs	May 31, 2024
2024 Statement of Income and Expenditures	May 31, 2025
2024 ASB Activity Report	May 31, 2025
2024 Expenditure Report	May 31, 2025
Confirmation of filing of 2024 Audited Financials with Municipal Affairs	Spring/Summer 2025

Field Visits

The ASB Grant Program office conducts a minimum of 15 field visits every year. The purpose of these visits is to meet with the Agricultural Service Board and review their programs with them to ensure the ASB is meeting their responsibilities under the Acts designated to them.

The field visit typically consists of two parts: a meeting with the ASB members and a tour of the municipality. The meeting with the ASB members allows ASB program staff to gain a better understanding of the concerns and needs of the ASB. The tour allows the ASB program staff to review projects and programs that the ASB is conducting to meet their responsibilities under the *ASB Act* and the effectiveness of those programs. The projects and programs reviewed are based on the outcomes of the ASB Strategic Plan.

Business Planning

Strategic planning is creating a vision of the future and managing towards that future. Strategic planning is a process of determining what an organization intends to be in the future. An organization searches for the best possible future and then determines how to reach it. The purpose of the strategic plan is to provide a road map to guide the organization and the decisions it makes (Murphy 2004). The roadmap tells you, your staff, and the world how you expect your organization to achieve its stated objectives.



A strategic or business plan has often been defined as a comprehensive document that clearly describes how the organization tends to operate its business. It is the blueprint that sets you going towards your goals. It is an important communication tool that also details the financial strategy associated with achieving the goals of the organization. In contrast, operational planning is more detailed than a strategic or business plan as it focuses in on just the operations. An operational plan identifies how an organization will implement the business plan in a given year. An operational plan contains a breakdown of activities that supports business plan strategies and ongoing programs. Operational plans are also referred to as work plans where employees should see how their work connect to the organization's business plan.

Strategic business planning is creating a vision of the future and managing towards that future. It will focus the effort of your ASB and provide an effective process to align short-term decisions with long-term goals. It will also aid your ASB in responding to changing environments.

Strategic planning is a process all ASBs should go through every three years, coordinating with local government elections to:

- Set realistic goals of the board;
- Provide a road map to show where the ASBs is going and how to get there;
- Develop better coordination of activities with stakeholders;
- Develop a frame of reference for budgets and short-range operating plans;
- Build commitment among key stakeholders;
- Identify and analyze issues affecting clients, stakeholders, and the industry;
- Recognize the impact current issues are having on the ASBs and how they affect the needed changes in direction to address them;
- Identify and analyze available opportunities and potential risks; and
- Develop better communications with thos both inside and outside the ASBs.

It is important that the ASB members be completely involved in planning as this is the way in which, they as ASB members, give their input and as a result, take ownership of the plan that they create. Planning must be done on an ongoing basis and reviewed at least once per year by the ASB.

Providing Input to Provincial Agriculture Policy

One of the primary responsibilities of an ASB is to offer constructive input to the process of developing provincial agricultural policy. There are several ways to provide input to the Minister of AF.

- Individual ASB members can contact the Minister via telephone, letter or fax;
- The ASB can request a meeting with the Minister or draft a letter to provide advice or discuss concerns; or
- ASB can also initiate resolutions for the Minister's consideration.

The Resolution Process

Regional ASB meetings are held in each of the five agricultural areas in October or November. Resolutions that are presented and supported by the majority proceed in the following manner:

- Resolutions that are regional in scope are directed by the hosting ASB to the appropriate regional authority for response.
- Resolutions that are provincial in scope are forwarded to the Provincial ASB Committee for presentation at the Provincial ASB Conference.

The Provincial ASB Committee, which is comprised of elected ASB members from each of the five agricultural regions, meet in November to discuss, amend, and group similar resolutions in an appropriate sequence for presentation to the Provincial Conference.

The Provincial ASB Conference will debate resolutions that were carried and sent forward from



the five regional meetings. The Provincial ASB Conference is usually held in late January or early February of the following year. The resolutions that are carried at this conference will then

be forwarded by the Provincial ASB Committee to the appropriate agency or department for a response.

These agencies and departments will provide a response to the Provincial ASBs Committee by June.

Provincial ASB Committee

The Provincial ASB Committee was formed based on a recommendation from the review of the ASB Program in 2005.

The committee consists of:

- Five ASB voting representatives, generally one from each region;
- Director or executive member of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA);
- ASB Program Manager representing AF;
- 1ST Vice-President, AAAF as Secretary; and
- Recording Secretary appointed by AF at the request of the committee.

The purpose of the Provincial ASB Committee is to achieve a collective voice for ASBs across Alberta that would facilitate and represent both the diversity and the commonalities of ASBs.

Through this collective voice, several additional objectives can be achieved, such as:

- Improved communication between ASB Manager (AF) and ASBs;
- Opportunity to represent ASBs at yearly ministerial meetings;
- Increase policy development capacity of provincial ASBs;
- Elevate significance of ASBs; and
- Work cooperatively with AAAF and RMA on agricultural issues.

The committee currently meets with the Minister twice per year to discuss the responses to the resolutions passed at the Provincial ASB Conference

Appendix 1 - History of ASB Programming

1945-1950

- Focus on the control of new weeds such as wild mustard and Canada thistle to prevent spread. Efforts included plowing down infested fields and hand pulling.
- Increase awareness of soil conservation by dealing with erosion problems, which occurred as a result of the dry conditions in southern Alberta and the use of the plow.



1950-1960

- Roadside seeding and weed control to prevent weed spread onto adjacent farmland and to reduce roadside hazards.
- Tree planting and the establishment of shelterbelts to further increase soil conservation efforts.
- Forage seed distribution to encourage farmers to seed grass on lands susceptible to erosion.
- During this time, the County of Camrose became the first county to use a municipal seed cleaning plant to reduce weed seed content in seed grain. Following its success, AF agreed to cost share the construction of seed cleaning plants in other municipalities.
- Initiation of the rat program within identified risk areas along the Alberta-Saskatchewan and Alberta-United States border.
- Development and implementation of livestock improvement programs for control of livestock diseases such as tuberculosis, bangs (*Brucellosis*), and warbles.
- Working with livestock owners on the control of predators such as coyotes.
- Implementation of a rabies control program.
- Agricultural equipment was made available to farmers on a rental basis.
- Development and implementation of drainage projects.

1960-1975

- Use of hydro seeding for seeding and reclamation of roadsides.
- Increased role in plant disease control projects in 1966 with the Bacterial Ring Rot Program.
- Continued involvement with the control of insect pest outbreaks, such as the implementation of a special spray program for the Bertha Armyworm outbreak in canola crops.
- Demonstration projects for control of dryland salinity and improvement of solonchic soils.

1975-1990

- Pesticide container collection sites became common.
- Blackfly Program implemented in 1981 when blackflies were identified as a serious threat to cattle.

1990-2009

- Variety of special projects such as fumigation of straw bales, clubroot awareness, etc.
- Environmental projects.
- Sustainable agriculture initiatives including support for Environmental Farm Plans and the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Program.
- Monitoring for various pests such as Fusarium, clubroot, and grasshoppers.
- Begin transition from awareness of weeds to invasive species.
- Global Positioning System (GPS) mapping of spraying.
- Implementation of a Wild Boar Program.
- Awareness of the *Freedom of Information and Protection Privacy Act* (FOIP). Municipalities reviewed the Acts they enforce in relation to this Act.
- Age verification and premise identification.
- Cooperatively work with AF to develop key contacts for all ASBs.

2010

- Agricultural Service Board Grant and the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture (AESA) Grant merged.
- Crowsnest Pass becomes the 70th ASB to join the program.

2013

- ASB Program received an additional \$1.0 million in funding.

2019

- ASB Program review completed.

2020

- ASB Program legislative funding reduced by \$3.0 million.
- ASBs Celebrate 75 years of service to Albertans.
- Resource Management Stream Funding replaces Environmental Stream.

2021

- Rat and Rabies Program merged with ASB Grant Program as a 3rd Stream.

Funding History

In 2003, ASBs and the RMA (formerly known as the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC)) submitted resolutions requesting “an increase in the amount of the ASB grant funding”. To address the resolutions submitted by ASBs and RMA and to meet the request by the Standing Policy Committee on Agriculture and Municipal Affairs, a review of the level of funding and the ASB Program was undertaken by the Department of Agriculture. As a result of the review, a 110% increase to the program budget was committed in 2005, bringing the total ASB Program budget to \$10.5 million. In 2013, the ASB program received an additional \$1.0 million in funding. In 2020, funding was reduced by \$3 million to \$8.5 million. The following table compares the support offered through the ASB grant at its inception in 1945, 1999, 2005, and in 2020.

1945 Funding	1999 Funding	2005 Funding	2016 Funding	2020 Funding
\$14,000 budget	\$5,000,000 budget	\$10,400,000 budget	\$11,400,000 budget	\$8,400,000 budget
60% provincial	21% provincial (average)	20% provincial	18% provincial	13% provincial
40% municipal	79% municipal (average)	80% municipal	82% municipal	87% municipal
Maximum of \$1,000 to each board for basic operating grant	Minimum of \$44,000 to each ASB for basic operating grant	Minimum of \$60,000 to each ASB for basic operating (requires justification)	No minimum set	Minimum of \$100,000 to each ASB to support FTE for Ag Fieldmen.

Appendix 2 - Pros and Cons of Councilor vs Members-at-Large

There are advantages and disadvantages in operating an ASB with eligible members from each group. The following points offer the pros and cons of councilor vs member-at-large appointments to the board.

Members-at-Large Appointments

Pros

- Appointment of members-at-large to the ASB has the potential to diminish the possibility of council members dominating any proceedings and outcomes.
- With the addition of members-at-large on the board, it may open doors for more and better communication and input from the local ratepayers.
- Members-at-large are selected by council from the community to hold a voting position on the ASB. Council is able to select progressive, proactive people that can provide a strong agricultural presence and understanding.
- It is also beneficial if the members-at-large selected by council consist of a cross-section of the agricultural community with respect to age, gender, areas of production, etc.. This diversity provides different perspectives on the state of agriculture in the community and the issues to be addressed by the ASB.
- Generally, members-at-large tend to be less political in their involvement on the ASB.

Cons

- Members-at-large may not see the “bigger picture” and may have the tendency to think in terms of the individual rather than the community.
- It is often perceived that the appointed member may not have public accountability, as they are not elected representatives.



Councilors Appointments

Pros

- Council members on the ASB are generally familiar with process and policy of local government, which should improve the function and efficiency of the ASB.
- Council members on the ASB also reside on the municipal board, which has the potential to improve the expediency to pass resolutions, approve budgets and programs, and deal with issues.
- It is often perceived that the councilor will be more accountable to the public as they were elected and; therefore, have a responsibility to the ratepayers.
- Generally, councilors are able to see the “bigger picture” and address issues from a community perspective

Cons

- Councilors may not be as effective in identifying implications at the individual producer level.
- Unfortunately, as members of the municipal board, councilors may bring external politics into ASB meetings.
- Councilors as members of the local government may also have their own political agendas.



Appendix 3 - Regional ASB Conference Resolutions Rules of Procedure

Link to Online Document:

<https://provincialagriculturalserviceboardcommittee.files.wordpress.com/2021/01/2021-jan-21-regional-rules-of-procedure-final.pdf>

Amended: January 21, 2021

Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference Resolutions Rules of Procedure

Purpose: The purpose of this procedure is to formalize the parameters involved for the resolution process used by the Regional Resolution Committee (RRC). It includes aspects of the resolution process including oversight, guidelines, resolution types, writing and submission guidelines, the resolution session and the handling of endorsed resolutions.

Scope: As a method of deriving member direction, the resolution process is fundamental to informing the Agricultural Service Board's advocacy priorities. As such, this policy formalizes all aspects of the resolution process to provide clarity and consistency.

1. Regional Resolution Committee

- a. Shall consist of:
 - i. A representative or alternate elected at the Regional Conference to sit on the Provincial ASB Committee and to act as the Chairman of the Regional Resolutions Committee.
 - ii. The Agricultural Fieldman or their designate who must be an Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) member from the hosting Agricultural Service Board as Secretary.
 - iii. The Regional Director of AAAF.
 - iv. An Agricultural Service Board member from the hosting Board selected by that Board.
 - v. The ASB Grant Program Manager representing Agriculture and Forestry (AF) or their designate.
- b. The representative and alternate elected at the Regional Conference to sit on the Provincial ASB Committee shall be an elected or appointed member of an ASB in that region.
- c. Election of the representative and alternate shall take place at the beginning of the Resolution session in odd numbered years at each ASB Regional Conference, term of office to be two years. The representative (or alternate) shall assume the chair immediately following the conclusion of the resolutions session.

2. Responsibilities of Regional Resolution Committee Members

- a. The Chairman shall:
 - i. Chair Regional Resolutions Committee meetings
 - ii. Chair the presentation of Resolutions at the Regional Conference
 - iii. Attend all Provincial ASB Committee meetings
 - iv. Assist in presenting Resolutions at the Provincial Conference
- b. The Secretary shall:
 - i. Advise Agricultural Service Boards that Resolutions must be forwarded four weeks prior to the Regional Conference
 - ii. In conjunction with the Regional Resolutions Committee, review, seek clarification if necessary, compile, and distribute resolutions to Agricultural

Service Boards in the Region, at least one week prior to the Regional Conference

- iii. Record proceedings of Regional Resolutions Committee meetings, and the presentation and voting on resolutions at the Regional Conference
 - iv. Forward all approved resolutions to the Provincial ASB Committee Secretary.
- c. All other members shall:
- i. Assist with presentation of resolutions at the Regional Conference
- d. All costs incurred by the members of the committee for attending meetings will be reimbursed by each individual member's employer.

3. Resolutions

- a. Resolutions shall be submitted in an approved format and shall follow the procedures for selecting, preparing and drafting resolutions as set out in Appendix "A" attached to this document.
- b. Resolutions, regional or provincial in scope, and having been passed by a majority at a local Agricultural Service Board meeting shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Regional Resolutions Committee four weeks prior to the Regional Conference.
- c. Late resolutions must be either:
 - i. Submitted to the Regional Conference with sufficient copies for all voting delegates and attendants (approximately 125); or
 - ii. Be displayed in a manner that all persons are able to review the resolutions, for example, projected on a screen for all to read.
- d. Late resolutions must be accepted by a simple majority of the assembly.

4. Procedures

- a. Resolutions submitted to the Regional Conference shall be handled in the numerical order assigned by the Chairman unless 3/5 of the voting delegates on the floor agree to accept a resolution out of numerical order.
- b. Each resolution must have a Mover and a Seconder.
- c. Only the "Therefore Be It Resolved" section will be read.
- d. The Chairman shall call on the Mover and Seconder to speak to the resolution and then immediately call for anyone wishing to speak in opposition.
 - i. If there is no one to speak in opposition, the question shall be called
 - ii. If there are speakers in opposition, the Chairman shall at his discretion call for anyone other than the Mover or Seconder to speak to the resolution before the debate is closed
- e. Anyone wishing to amend a resolution must then speak to the resolutions as written, or anyone wishing clarification must speak up. All amendments must have a Mover and Seconder.
- f. The Committee requests the submission of proposed amendments prior to the resolution session for administrative ease
- g. Only one amendment will be accepted at a time and only one amendment to the amendment is permitted at a time.
- h. The Chairman has the discretion to request a written amendment.

- i. The Mover and Seconder are allowed five minutes in total to speak to the resolution or amendment. The Seconder may waive his right to speak and the Mover would be allowed the full five minutes.
- j. The Mover and Seconder have the right to close the debate and a maximum of two minutes each will be allowed for this.
- k. All other speakers, for or against the resolution, are allowed a maximum of two minutes.

5. Voting and Speaking

- a. Voting members of Agricultural Service Boards/Agricultural Committees shall be recognized voters on any resolution.
 - i. In the South Region, each ASB shall select two voting delegates to the Regional Conference who shall display the voting credentials and be recognized voters on any resolution (October 1997).
 - ii. In the Peace Region, each ASB shall select two voting delegates to the Regional Conference who shall display voting credentials and be recognized voters on any resolution (ratified by ASB Provincial Committee November 2016).
- b. An Agricultural Service Board member may have any person speak to a resolution by their request.
- c. All resolutions are passed or defeated by simple majority.

6. Procedures for Approved Resolutions

- a. Secretaries of the Regional Resolutions Committee shall:
 - i. Submit Regional Resolutions to the appropriate agencies as soon as possible following the Regional Conference.
 - ii. Regional Resolutions shall also be submitted to the Provincial ASB Committee for information.
- b. Submit Provincial Resolutions to the Provincial ASB Committee Secretary within five working days of the Regional Conference.

7. Amendments to the Regional Rules of Procedure

- a. An amendment to Regional Rules of Procedure may be initiated by simple motion from:
 - i. The Provincial ASB Committee
 - ii. Any Voting Delegate at the Provincial ASB Conference
 - iii. The Regional Resolutions Committee if the proposed amendment were to affect only that Region, subject to ratification by the Provincial ASB Committee
 - iv. Any Voting Delegate at a Regional Conference if the proposed amendment were to affect only that region, subject to ratification by the Provincial ASB Committee.
- b. Amendments must be accepted by a simple majority of all voting delegates at the Provincial ASB Conference.
- c. Amendments that are carried will take effect at the next Regional Conference.

REGIONAL PROCEDURES FOR SELECTING, PREPARING AND WRITING RESOLUTIONS

1. Well in advance of the regional conference, discuss as a board the concerns of your farmers. Determine the factors affecting their economic well-being as well as those limiting their capability to maintain or improve agricultural production.
2. Make a list of concerns and rate each as to its level of importance.
3. Divide your concerns into the following categories:
 - a. Local Concerns
 - i. Concerns that are local in nature.
 - ii. Your board has the authority and capability to deal with these concerns. If local or provincial finances are available you may wish to initiate programs or projects or policy to satisfy these concerns.
 - b. Regional Concerns
 - i. Concerns that are regional in nature.
 - ii. You have the authority and capability to deal with these concerns but wish to request the support (cooperative action) of bordering Agricultural Service Boards, government departments or other agencies. Note: These concerns may be taken to the regional conference with a request for action at the regional level. e.g. You may be concerned about scentless chamomile, its movement and spread in hay, crop seed in the region, etc. You would like the support of all boards in the region as well as government agencies in slowing down spread and in working towards common objectives. If such a resolution was passed at the regional conference, your regional resolutions would forward the request for support to all boards in the region plus the appropriate government agency.
 - c. Provincial Concerns
 - i. Concerns that are provincial in nature.
 - ii. In order to deal with these concerns at the local level, you require a change in provincial policy. Note: When writing your resolutions make certain you do not ask the province to do something that you already have authority at the local level to do. Because most concerns will ultimately need to be dealt with locally, ask for a change in provincial policy that would enable you as a board to take the necessary action. Resolutions that are provincial in scope, if passed by the regional conference, could be forwarded to the provincial conference for action.
4. Conduct some research on your regional and provincial concerns to:
 - a. Ensure that these concerns were not submitted as resolutions previously and that action has already been taken regionally or provincially.
 - b. Check with those agencies that you expect to respond to your concern (resolution). Determine if they are aware of the need and whether any action is being considered.
 - c. Obtain sufficient background information to be able to write and defend your resolution.
5. Write your resolutions with sufficient "whereas" statements to ensure that those reading the resolution will be able to understand your request.
 - a. All "whereas" statements should relate specifically to your request.

APPENDIX "A" – AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS

- b. Resolutions need to be presented with only one "Therefore Be It Resolved" statement.
 - i. If other closely related requests are required in the resolution, it may be appropriate to add no more than two 'Further Therefore Be It Resolved' statements.
 - ii. If you wish to make additional requests for action, it is appropriate to write another resolution.
6. Each resolution submitted for consideration must be accompanied by background information consisting of the history of the issue and potential impacts for the sponsoring municipality and the province-wide impacts for municipalities.
7. The resolution shall be presented in the approved format as indicated on the following page.

Regional Resolutions Format

TITLE

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

SPONSORED BY:

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

CARRIED

DEFEATED

STATUS

DEPARTMENT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Background information should include the history of the issue, potential impacts for the sponsoring municipality and the province-wide impacts for municipalities.

Appendix 4 – Provincial ASB Committee Rules of Procedure

Link to Online Document:

<https://provinciagriculturalserviceboardcommittee.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/2021-jan-21-provincial-rules-and-procedure-final.pdf>

Approved: January 21, 2021

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference Resolutions Rules of Procedure

Purpose: The purpose of this procedure is to formalize the parameters involved for the resolution process used by the Provincial Resolution Committee (PRC). It includes aspects of the resolution process including oversight, guidelines, resolution types, writing and submission guidelines, the resolution session and the handling of endorsed resolutions.

Scope: As a method of deriving member direction, the resolution process is fundamental to informing the Agricultural Service Board's advocacy priorities. As such, this policy formalizes all aspects of the resolution process to provide clarity and consistency.

1) Provincial Resolution Committee (PRC)

- a) Shall consist of members of the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC) Specifically:
 - i) Five Regional Committee
 - ii) Director or executive member of Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)
 - iii) First Vice President of the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) as Secretary
 - iv) Manager of the ASB Grant Program representing Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF)
 - v) ASBPC Executive Assistant

2) Responsibilities of Provincial Resolution Committee Members

- a) Chairman
 - i) Chairman of the ASBPC shall chair the presentation of Resolutions at the Provincial Conference
 - ii) Present a report card on previous years' resolutions
- b) Secretary
 - i) Receive resolutions from Regional Conferences within five working days of each conference
 - ii) Provide copies of draft Provincial resolutions to ASBPC
 - iii) Provide copies of approved Provincial resolutions to each ASB by December 1 of each year
 - iv) Record proceedings of Provincial ASB Conference Resolution Session(s)
 - v) Maintain minutes from Provincial ASB Conference
- c) Manager ASB Grant Program

- i) Time speakers to ensure each ASB member has adequate time to speak to the resolution
- ii) Provide support to the Chair, Secretary and Executive Assistant
- d) Executive Assistant
 - i) Provide support to the Chair and Secretary
 - ii) Ensure resolutions are in appropriate format
- e) All other members shall:
 - i) Assist with presentation of resolutions at the Provincial Conference
- f) All costs incurred by the members of the committee for attending meetings will be reimbursed by each individual member's employer

3) Authority

- a) The PRC, in its' entirety, has authority to review Provincial resolutions
- b) Responsibilities include:
 - i) Request clarification for a resolution from the sponsoring ASB in terms of wording, intent, etc. to:
 - (1) Amend the grammar, wording or format of the resolution provided it does not change the intent,
 - (2) Provide comments on each resolution with regards to its background,
 - (3) Inform the sponsoring municipality(ies) where the resolution will materially change or contradict a current ASB position,
 - (4) Notify the sponsoring municipality(ies) of any deficiencies in meeting the guidelines of resolutions as outlined in this policy, and
 - ii) Amalgamation of two or more resolutions between jurisdictions if several resolutions are of similar topic and content after consultation and approval of the sponsoring municipalities
 - iii) Request withdrawal of a resolution if the resolution:
 - (1) Has no bearing whatsoever with the agricultural industry
 - (2) Has been resolved prior to the resolution screening meeting, or
 - (3) Has been covered by another resolution
- c) Determine order that resolutions will be presented in
 - i) In the event of receipt by the Committee of two or more contradictory resolutions, the Committee will order the resolutions in such fashion that the contradictory resolutions are presented consecutively
 - ii) If the first of the resolutions is passed, the contradicting resolution(s) will be deemed defeated, and will not subsequently be brought to the floor
 - iii) If the first resolution is defeated, the contradictory resolution(s) will be brought to the floor of the conference for consideration

- d) Resolutions passed at an ASB Provincial Conference will be advocated on for a period of five years from the date of approval. A list of expiring resolutions will be placed in the report card annually.
 - i) If an ASB wishes the resolution to remain active, the resolution must be brought forward for approval again at the next ASB Provincial Conference
 - ii) Only resolutions from the previous two years will be reported on in the annual Report Card on the Resolutions
- e) The ASBPC may provide annual training on the resolutions policy for all committee members.
- f) A parliamentarian may be engaged to support the chair during the Resolutions Session. The parliamentarian shall be appointed by the ASBPC.
- g) The ASBPC shall have power to rank the resolutions per their relative importance thus determining the order paper.

4) Resolutions

- a) Provincial Resolutions
 - i) Resolutions Provincial in scope and having been passed by simple majority at a Regional Conference shall be submitted to the Secretary of the ASBPC within five working days of the Regional Conference. Each resolution submitted for consideration must be accompanied by background information consisting of the history of the issue and potential impacts for the sponsoring municipality and province-wide impacts for municipalities.
 - ii) After resolutions Provincial in scope are received by the ASBPC Secretary, the PRC will meet to review them.
 - iii) The PRC shall forward resolutions to each ASB by December 1 each year. Each ASB shall provide sufficient copies for their delegates and staff. Hard copies and/or digital copies of Provincial resolutions will be included in the Provincial Conference package available at registration.
- b) Regional Resolutions
 - i) Resolutions that are Regional in nature and that have been passed by a Regional Conference shall be sent by the Secretary of the Regional Resolutions Committee to whomever they are directed to for reply and a copy of the resolution and resolution response sent to the ASBPC for information only.
- c) Emergent Resolutions
 - i) A resolution received by the ASBPC that was not presented and voted on at a Regional ASB Conference may be considered by the Committee as a potential Emergent Resolution. It may be recommended for acceptance by the PRC if the resolution is deemed an emergency issue of provincial significance regarding Agricultural Legislation or Agriculture Policy that has arisen since the Regional ASB Conferences, or if the sponsoring ASB can justify to the Committee why the resolution did not come to the floor of a Regional Conference.

- ii) If a resolution is denied Emergent status by the PRC, the sponsoring ASB may appeal this ruling through the Chair to the floor of the Provincial ASB Conference Resolution Session, where it may be reconsidered as Emergent at the pleasure of the Voting ASB Conference Delegates. The vote for acceptance of an appealed Emergent Resolution must be carried by a 3/5 majority of voting Provincial ASB Conference delegates.
- iii) Sufficient copies of resolutions accepted as Emergent must be made available by the sponsoring ASB to all conference delegates.
- iv) Emergent Resolutions must be submitted to the Secretary of the ASBPC 24 hours prior to the start of the Provincial Conference.

5) Procedures

- a) Approved Provincial Resolutions
 - i) Resolutions approved for debate at the Provincial Conference by the PRC shall be handled in numerical order as recommended by the committee unless 3/5 of the voting delegates on the convention floor agree to accept a resolution out of that numerical order.
 - ii) Each resolution must have a Mover and a Secunder
 - iii) Only the "Therefore Be It Resolved" section will be read
 - iv) The Chairman shall call on the Mover and Secunder to speak to the resolution and then immediately call for anyone wishing to speak in opposition.
 - (1) If there is no one to speak in opposition, the question shall be called
 - (2) If there are speakers in opposition, the Chairman shall at his discretion call for anyone other than the Mover or Secunder to speak to the resolution before the debate is closed
 - v) Anyone wishing to amend a resolution must then speak to the resolution as written, or anyone wishing clarification must speak up. All amendments must have a Mover and a Secunder. The Committee requests the submission of proposed amendments prior to the resolution session for administrative ease
 - vi) Only one amendment will be accepted at a time, and only one amendment to the amendment is permitted at a time.
 - vii) The Chairman has the discretion to request a written amendment.
 - viii) The Mover and Secunder are allowed five minutes in total to speak to the resolution or amendment. The Secunder may waive his right to speak and the Mover would be allowed the full five minutes.
 - ix) The Mover and Secunder have the right to close the debate and a maximum of two minutes each will be allowed for this.
 - x) All other speakers, for or against the resolution, are allowed a maximum of two minutes.
- b) Emergent Resolutions
 - i) Resolutions approved as Emergent according to Section 4 shall be dealt with last.
 - ii) Chair will advise delegates of the ASB Committee comments with respect to recommending the resolution as emergent.

- iii) Chair will ask delegates if they wish to accept the resolution for debate.
 - (1) A mover and seconder are required to put a motion on the floor to accept the resolution for debate as emergent.
 - (2) Delegates have the right to speak to the motion regarding whether to accept the emergent resolution for debate.
- iv) A mover has the right to close debate.
- v) Chair will call the question.
- vi) 3/5 majority required for acceptance of the resolution as emergent
- vii) If accepted as an emergent resolution, follow procedure for Provincial Resolutions (Section 5a)

6) Voting and Speaking

- a) Two delegates from each municipality's ASB at the conference shall be recognized voters on any resolution.
- b) An Agricultural Service Board member may have any person speak to a resolution by their request.
- c) All Resolutions are passed or defeated by simple majority except where a change to legislation is asked for or acceptance of an emergent resolution for debate, when a 3/5 majority is required.

7) Procedures for Approved Resolutions

- a) Secretary of the ASBPC shall submit approved resolutions to the PRC members.
- b) Executive Assistant and Secretary of the ASBPC will submit resolutions to appropriate agencies and organizations for response.
 - i) Responses will be compiled, returned to the Secretary for distribution to the ASBPC and individual ASBs, and posted electronically.
- c) Chairman of the ASBPC shall:
 - i) Hold a committee meeting to review and discuss responses to resolutions.
 - ii) Request a committee meeting with RMA Executive.
 - iii) Request a committee meeting with the Resource Stewardship Committee to discuss or clarify resolution responses if deemed necessary.
 - iv) Request a committee meeting with the Ministers of appropriate ministries to discuss resolution responses if deemed necessary.
 - v) Direct the ASBPC to prepare and circulate a Resolutions Report Card itemizing actions that have been undertaken by the Committee in response to resolutions passed at previous conference.

8) Roberts Rules of Order

- a) The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the procedure of the Resolutions Committee in all cases for which they are applicable, except if the rules are not consistent with the Provincial ASB Conference Rules

of Procedure. The Provincial ASB Conference Rules of Procedure will take precedence. Attached are example excerpts from Robert's Rules of Order that apply directly to the Resolution Process.

9) Amendments to Provincial Rules of Procedure

- a) An amendment to these Rules of Procedure may be made by a simple motion from:
 - i) The ASBPC, or,
 - ii) Any voting delegate at the conference
- b) Amendments must be accepted by a simple majority of all voting delegates at the Provincial ASB Conference
- c) Amendments that are "Carried" will take effect at the next Provincial ASB Conference

10) ASB Provincial Committee Fees

- a) The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen will collect approved fees on behalf of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee to support the costs of the Committee.
- b) The recommended fee will be based on financial need and will be approved at the Provincial ASB Conference. Billing to all municipalities with Agricultural Service Boards the following year.
- c) Voting on the value of the fee will take place at the Provincial ASB Conference. The two municipal delegates at the conference from each municipality will vote on the value of the fees and must be accepted by a simple majority.

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER – EXCERPTS & CLARIFICATION OF PROCESSES

The ASBPC offers the following excerpts from Robert's Rules of Order as well as a few other suggestions for clarification of the resolution process. The intent is for the entire assembly to have a clearer understanding of the rules of procedure for each member to participate to the fullest extent.

MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS

- A motion is a proposal that the assembly take certain action, or that it expresses itself as holding certain views.
- It is made by a member obtaining the floor and saying, "I move that," and then stating the action he proposes to have taken.
- Thus, a member "moves" that a resolution be adopted, or amended, or referred to a committee, or that a vote of thanks be extended, etc.

HANDLING OF A MOTION

What precedes a debate?

- Before any subject is open to debate it is necessary for the following 3 actions to occur.
 1. A motion is made by a member who has obtained the floor.

2. The motion is seconded (with certain exceptions).
 3. The question is stated by the chair.
- The chair must either rule the motion out of order or state the question on it so that the assembly may know what is before them for consideration and action, that is, what is the *immediately pending question*.

Stating of the question by the chair:

- When the motion that is in order has been made and seconded, it is the duty of the chair to formally place it before the assembly by "**stating the question**"; that is, he states the exact question that is before the assembly for its consideration and action.
 - For example, in the case of a resolution, the chair may state the question by saying, "It is moved and seconded to adopt the following resolution".
- Until the chair states the question,
 - the mover has the right to modify his motion/resolution as he pleases, or to withdraw it entirely.
 - when the mover modifies his motion, the seconder has a right to withdraw his second.
- After the question has been stated by the chair, the motion becomes the property of the assembly,
 - the maker can not modify or withdraw his motion/resolution without the assembly's consent.
- While the motion is pending or being debated,
 - the assembly can change the wording of the motion by the process of amendment.

Debate

- After the chair states a question, it is before the assembly for consideration, debate, and action.
- No member should speak twice to the same issue until everyone else wishing to speak has spoken to it once.
- Any member who wished to force an end to debate (prior to the chair) must first obtain the floor by being recognized to speak by the chair. Once the member has obtained the floor he must then move to "*Call or put the Question (before the assembly)*". This motion must be seconded and adopted by unanimous consent.
- All resolutions, reports of committees, communications to the assembly, and all amendments proposed to them, and all other before final action is taken on them (unless by a two-thirds vote the assembly decides to dispose of them without debate). debatable motions may be debated

Modifying a Motion

- A motion can be modified or amended after the chair states the question.
- **Friendly amendments** will only be considered for punctuation or spelling corrections.
 - As the chair would already have stated the motion, it is now the property of the assembly and therefore the chair will ask the assembly if there are any objections.
 - If no objection is made, the chair will declare the amendment adopted.
 - If even one member objects (which includes the mover and seconder), the amendment is subject to debate and votes like any other amendment.
- The chair will determine if **an amendment is germane**.
 - An amendment must be germane to be in order.
 - To be germane, an amendment must in some way involve the same question raised by the motion to which it is applied.
 - An amendment cannot introduce an independent question.
 - An amendment can be hostile to, or even defeat the spirit of the original motion and still be germane.

Putting the Question and Announcing the Vote:

- When the debate appears to have closed, the chair asks,
 - "Are you ready for the question?" If no one rises he proceeds to **put the question** – or to take the vote on the question.
- In putting the question, the chair should make perfectly clear what the question is that the assembly is to decide.
 - For example, "The question is on amending the resolution by [insert amendment]. Those in favor of the amendment, etc. The question is now on the resolution as amended, which is as follows [read resolution as amended]. Are you ready for the question?"
- The vote should always be announced, as it is a necessary part of putting the question. The vote does not go into effect until announced.
- If a vote is too close to call, a standing vote will be required. Voting delegates are to remain standing while the count is taken. The Chair will indicate when to sit once the vote is counted.

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO WITHDRAW OR MODIFY A MOTION

- Conditions for withdrawing or modifying a motion depend upon how soon the mover states his wish to withdraw or modify it.
 - Before a motion has been stated by the chair, it is the property of its mover, who can withdraw it or modify it without asking the consent of anyone. Thus, in the brief interval between the making of a motion and the time when the chair places it before the assembly by stating it, the maker can withdraw it.
 - After a motion has been stated by the chair, the mover requires permission from the assembly to withdraw or modify a motion.

SECONDING A MOTION

- A motion is seconded by a member saying, "I second the motion," or "I second it."
 - Members seconding a motion are also required to stand and identify themselves. This is especially important in large assemblies where non-members are scattered throughout the assembly.

"The assembly rules – they have the final say on everything!" (Robert's Rules of Order)

"Silence means consent!" (Robert's Rules of Order)

Note: Content is taken from Robert's Rules of Order as well as clarification of processes suggested by the ASBPC.

Appendix A

Resolution Writing Guidelines

1. Resolutions must include a title, preamble (whereas), operative clause (therefore be it resolved) and member background and shall be in the form:

TITLE

WHEREAS ...;

WHEREAS ...;

WHEREAS ...

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT THE ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST...

SPONSORED BY:

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

CARRIED DEFEATED

Background

1. Resolutions must address a topic of concern that is relevant to municipalities on a provincial or federal basis.
2. The title must provide a clear indication of the resolution's intent.
3. The preamble must provide clear, brief, factual context for the operative clause.
4. The operative clause must clearly set out what the resolution is meant to achieve and indicate a proposal for action. The wording should be straightforward and brief so that the intent of the resolution is clear. Resolutions requesting legislative changes must clearly identify the legislation that the resolution is directing changes to.
5. Resolutions must be accompanied by background information outlining the following where appropriate:
 - a. The history of the issue,
 - b. Issue impacts, noting the provincial and/or federal impacts of the issue, where applicable,
 - c. Past or current advocacy efforts by the ASB or other organizations,
 - d. Recent incidents or developments,
 - e. Specific legislation linkages, and
 - f. Other stakeholders with a vested interest.

AGENDA ITEM REPORT



Title: Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) - On-Farm Climate Action Fund
Meeting: Agricultural Service Board - 28 Mar 2023
Department: Agriculture Service Board
Report Author: Gary Secrist

APPROVAL(S):

Jeremy Wickson, Director of Public Operations,
Larry Randle, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 13 Mar 2023
Approved - 13 Mar 2023

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:



Governance



Relationships



Region



Prosperity

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) enables Alberta producers to determine priorities and lead agriculture research. Rob Dunn from FarmWise consulting will speak for RDAR and the On-Farm Climate Action Fund opportunities that are available to producers specifically related to nitrogen management.

RECOMMENDATION:

Moved that the Agricultural Service Board approves the RDAR presentation from Rob Dunn and FarmWise as information.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

To promote and extend RDAR initiatives that benefit the local agriculture community.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

At the Council meeting on March 2, 2023 Fertilizer Application Reductions in the Agriculture Sector was on the agenda. At that time administration suggested to Council that additional information would be brought forward regarding this topic at the next ASB meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

RDAR was created as an arms-length initiative by the Alberta government for agriculture research that enables producers to set priorities and lead agriculture research. RDAR is a delivery partner for the On-Farm Climate Action Fund, a federal initiative intended to help farmers tackle climate change by reducing agricultural Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. Funding for this program has been provided by Agriculture Canada and Agri-Food Canada. The three activity categories that are available in this program include:

- 1.) Improving Nitrogen Management

- 2.) Increasing Adoption of Cover Cropping
- 3.) Expanding the Adoption of Rotational Grazing

ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

Pros: Promoting sustainable agricultural practices is a function of our Agricultural Service Board.

Cons: Producers may not be aware of initiatives that can make them more sustainable.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

LEVEL OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Inform **Consult** **Involve** **Collaborate** **Empower**

AGENDA ITEM REPORT



Title: Terms of Reference - 2023 Update
Meeting: Agricultural Service Board - 28 Mar 2023
Department: Agriculture Service Board
Report Author: Gary Secrist

APPROVAL(S):

Jeremy Wickson, Director of Public Operations,
Larry Randle, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 13 Mar 2023
Approved - 13 Mar 2023

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:



Governance



Relationships



Region



Prosperity

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In 2021 the Agricultural Service Board created a Terms of Reference for how the ASB Committee will be structured and function. Since that time the structure of the Board has changed to include members at large. The Terms of Reference has been adapted to include the current configuration.

RECOMMENDATION:

Moved that the Agricultural Service Board Terms of Reference be recommended to County Council for approval.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

To provide Council with a template that clearly defines the structure and roles of the Agricultural Service Board.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

The Agriculture Service Board adopted a Terms of Reference in 2021.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Agriculture Service Board developed an initial Terms of Reference for the ASB Committee in 2021. Prior to that the Board's function and evaluation were encompassed in several policies. The updated version describes the committee's current roles, responsibilities and how it will be formed.

ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

Creating an updated Terms of Reference document for the Agriculture Service Board Committee will provide a clear understanding of the committee's role and how it will function.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial implication.

LEVEL OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Inform Consult Involve Collaborate Empower

ATTACHMENTS:

[Agricultural Service Board Terms of Reference](#)



Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the Agricultural Service Board (hereinafter referred to as the ASB) Committee is to advise and assist County Council on matters that relate to agriculture related activities and regulatory service issues. The ASB was formed as a working group to facilitate decisions and policy making with respect to the administrative and governance opportunities and challenges of the Agriculture Services Department.

The Committee will have the responsibility to provide direction on development of administrative directives, policies and bylaws.

Programs and policies considered by the ASB are designed to support appropriate farming practices and improve the economic welfare and prosperity of the local and regional agriculture industry. The ASB will develop agricultural policies to meet the needs and level of service requirements of Lethbridge County. Administrative staff reviews and provides recommendations to the Agricultural Service Board with respect to agricultural programs and policies. The ASB will, at their discretion, submit program and policy recommendations to County Council for final approval.

Scope

The Agricultural Service Board Act Section 2 provides the legislated authority and roles of ASB's in Alberta, as follows:

- Act as an advisory body, and to assist the council and the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry in matters of mutual concern.
- Advise, direct, and assist with the organization of weed and pest control, and soil and water conservation programs as authorized under Provincial legislation.
- Assist in the control of livestock disease under the Animal Health Act.
- Promote, enhance, and protect practical and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of agricultural producers.
- Develop and promote agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality.



The following legislation enables ASB's to carry out the duties described in the ASB Act:

1. Alberta Weed Control Act.
2. Alberta Soil Conservations Act.
3. Alberta Agriculture Pest Act; and
4. Animal Health Act.



Official Formation & Participants

The Committee will be established as per the ASB Act Section 3 in conjunction with the Municipal Government Act stipulation in Section 146. Whereby, the composition of council committees may consist of the entirety of councilors or as determined by Council.

The Committee is comprised of at least four Council members with one alternate and up to three public members. Members of Council will be appointed at the Annual Organizational Meeting. Public members will be appointed by council for a two-year term with the following criteria considered:

- A.) Public members must be residents of Lethbridge County.
- B.) Council shall advertise for Public Members to apply for appointment on an as-needed basis and appoint to the Board whomever they deem most appropriate.
- C.) Public member applicants must not have been employed by Lethbridge County for a minimum of 12 months prior to applying for a Public Member position.

A Committee Chair will be appointed by County Council at the annual organizational meeting. The Vice-Chair is appointed annually by the ASB Committee. All members of the ASB committee are voting members. The County Reeve is an Ex-officio non-voting member. Voting members for Regional and Provincial Resolution balloting purposes will be appointed, along with a designated alternate, at the annual organizational meeting.

The Committee will also include County administrative staff members, as follows:

- The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
- The Director of Public Operations
- The Environmental Services Manager, and
- The Supervisor of Agricultural Services (appointed as per Section 8 of the ASB Act)

Administrative staff are non-voting committee members. They are responsible to provide the ASB administrative and technical support, as necessary to meet the Committee's needs.



The Supervisor of Agricultural Services in conjunction with the Executive Assistant to the CAO or delegate are responsible to schedule meetings, prepare agendas and maintain meeting notes or minutes.

Goals and Objectives

The ASB will evaluate current levels of service and recommend applicable service changes for presentation to County council. The objective is to address local and regional challenges, research new opportunities and make recommendations that support the County's Strategic Plan.

The Agriculture Service Departments Mission Statement and Department Core Activities will effectively and efficiently support ASB goals and objectives to meet the needs of its residents and local stakeholders. The ASB will encourage sustainable farming practices while performing mandated duties and responsibilities of an accountable ASB, as authorized by its assigned legislated authority.

Governance

Decisions will be reached by majority vote of ASB Committee members. Voting will be recorded as "Moved" and "Carried" or "Defeated".

Meetings

The Committee is responsible to Council and will report its deliberations to Council through meeting minutes and, verbally by the Committee Chair, as needed.

Meetings are held regularly, with a minimum of twice per year. Additional meetings will be identified, as required, by the Chair.

Agendas for the meetings will be distributed by email to committee and administrative staff members at least 3 days prior to the meeting date. On the day of the meeting a hard copy will be provided, by request of Committee members, at least 1 day in advance of meeting.

Authority and Responsibilities

The ASB is accountable to Council and is not entitled to sub-delegate all or any of its delegated powers and authorities. The Committee may not implement or authorize any action that is the responsibility of Council.

Quorum



A quorum requires a minimum attendance of four voting Committee members.

Review

The ASB Terms of Reference will be reviewed every five (5) years, from the date of approval.

AGENDA ITEM REPORT



Title: Agricultural Service Board Level of Service
Meeting: Agricultural Service Board - 28 Mar 2023
Department: Agriculture Service Board
Report Author: Gary Secrist

APPROVAL(S):

Jeremy Wickson, Director of Public Operations,
Larry Randle, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 13 Mar 2023
Approved - 15 Mar 2023

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:



Governance



Relationships



Region



Prosperity

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Agricultural Service Board has updated the Level of Service (LOS) document to formalize the activities performed by the department. The document mirrors our Agricultural Service Board Grant Agreement and sets a baseline for the Level of Service provided. Each year as the budget is set the Level of Service document will be brought forward to council with revisions which will adjust the service levels to increase or decrease activities.

RECOMMENDATION:

Moved that the Agricultural Service Board 2023 Level of Service be recommended to County Council for approval.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

To provide an accurate and measurable LOS that is formed on an approved budget. Administration will work within the budget to deliver the services based on Council priorities and field-level observation of maintenance needs. LOS documents will require flexibility as weather and conditions can be a factor in delivering Agriculture Services programs.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

Council has previously approved the Agriculture Department Level of Service on a yearly basis.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

An Agricultural Service Board Level of Service Document will provide a clear and measurable target for ASB activities that will be set annually by Council. Modifications to the document must take into consideration our baseline obligations under the ASB Grant. This document will be available to the public who will gain a better understanding of the service levels provided and through public engagement, will be able to offer input on these levels.

ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

Council can direct change to the LOS to administration to be brought forward for council resolution at a future meeting. This could include increases or decreases which would be estimated by administration for proposed budget changes.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The budget for 2023 is the main consideration of the Level of Service that can be provided. As the budget amounts have been considered and passed the Level of Service provides a business plan to carry out ASB services with the set budget as a template.

LEVEL OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Inform Consult Involve Collaborate Empower

ATTACHMENTS:

[Agricultural Service Board Level of Service](#)

Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board

Business Plan



Vision

Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board effectively supports one of the strongest agricultural economies in the Country.

Mission

Lethbridge County council and staff will support Agriculture Sustainability in all sectors through strong leadership and empowered employees. Our parks environment will inspire residents to be active and involved in their rural community.

Values

Service- Agriculture is the foundation of Lethbridge County. We are committed to achieving the highest level of customer service through evolving programs that support Agriculture.

Financial Accountability- Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board will make wise use of financial resources in providing efficient and effective services.

Staff- Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board intends to recruit and retain committed staff by providing a positive work environment that encourages teamwork, initiative, respect, innovation, learning and hard work.

Strong Relationships- Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board is committed to maintaining strong working relationships with provincial and federal governments, provincial and regional associations, agricultural commodity groups, neighboring municipalities, research and training institutions and educational institutions.

Agricultural Service Board Level of Service



Created July 2022

Revised January 2023



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1. Purpose, Considerations, and Level of Service

Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board (hereinafter referred to as ASB) was officially formed in 1958. Operating under the Agricultural Service Board Act, Lethbridge County has always been a strong proponent in administering Provincial Legislation including:

- Alberta Weed Control Act,
- Alberta Soil Conservation Act,
- Alberta Agricultural Pest Act and
- Animal Health Act.

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) is committed to the promotion of the quality of life in a rural environment. The ASB does this by providing services, information, and new technology in cooperation with other governments, jurisdictions, and agencies. This is achieved by establishing “levels of service” that ensure statutory requirements are met with consideration for the collective interests of residents and clients.

The ASB receives a portion of its funding from the provincial government for implementing the delegated legislation at the ground level. The ASB carries out mowing, spraying, and seeding programs for industry, landholders (i.e., owners and lessees) other County departments and several parks and cemeteries in the County. The County also rents specific equipment to county landholders to help them maintain their obligations under the County’s various legislative responsibilities. The ASB partners with the province and other partners to provides Rural Extension programming aimed at delivering Alberta’s agriculture environmental sustainability initiatives. Vegetation management constitutes a large portion of the ASB duties, including both mowing and spraying activities on all County owned right of way. Other ASB Vegetation Management areas include Cemeteries, Hamlets, Sub-Divisions, and County owned Yards, Grader Camps and Water and Wastewater sites. The Parks department is also an additional service of the ASB.

Lethbridge County actively delivers weed and pest control programs that support agriculture production. Programs are designed to assist producers in both identification and control measures for designated weeds and pests. Weed control efforts give special attention to areas of concern that focusses on:

- lands adjacent to the bed and shores of water resource features,
- haul routes to intensive livestock operations and other agricultural/rural businesses,
- Canadian Pacific Railway right of ways and,
- Recent road construction projects.

Roadside mowing efforts also contribute to the integrated program as ASB staff operate a fleet of mowers and are given the flexibility to control weed infestations occurring outside the first pass.

Scope of Responsibility

Lethbridge County ASB is responsible for Vegetation Management on all County owned right of way and public areas. Herbicide applications are also performed for Alberta Transportation on all Provincial Highways that are within County Municipal Boundaries.



Level of Service (LOS)

It is the expectation of County landholders, citizens, and the agriculture community that the ASB programs maintain a Level of Service that supports agriculture production and rural living. The Level of Service is achieved through funding for a balance between legislated commitments and the needs of our rural population.

2. Delivery/Support of the Weed Control Act

2023 Budget Amount: \$292,525

Strategy

To control the spread and establishment of noxious and prohibited weeds in Lethbridge County on both private and public land with guidelines provided under the following guidelines and procedures included in Appendix A; Weed Control and Vegetation Management:

- Weed Notices.
- Weed Extension and Inspections
- Leafy Spurge and Knapweed Vegetation Management
- Prohibited Noxious Weed Control
- Seed Cleaning Plants
- Integrated Weed Management

Level of Service Measures

- Two weed inspectors will be continuously appointed.
- 33% of municipal right of way will be sprayed to control regulated weeds. The 33% rotation is illustrated in the Spraying LOS map.
- All newly seeded roads will be mowed on an as needed basis to control weeds until the grass can withstand a chemical application.
- Revisit the GPS (200+) marked weed sites and hand pull or apply herbicide where necessary.
- Enter into a yearly service agreement with Volker Stevin to provide weed control on Alberta Transportation highways in the County. The contract will provide chemical weed control with allocations used on previously identified weed infestation or hot spots. Funding amounts for this service will depend on the Provincial budget.
- Work with the Planning and Development Department to develop a permitting program/system for Solar and other large industrial developments to include submission of vegetation and pest control plans to ensure compliance with the Weed Control and Pest Control Acts.

3. Delivery/Support of the Agricultural Pests Act

2023 Budget Amount: \$76,305

Strategy

To control the spread and establishment of declared pests and nuisances as outlined in the Pest and Nuisance Regulation with guidelines provided under the following guidelines and procedures included in Appendix B Pest Control and Management:

- Surveys
- Norway Rat
- Coyotes
- Skunks
- Live Traps
- Grasshopper Control

Level of Service Measures

- Two (2) pest inspectors are continuously appointed.
- Up to date pest information is available on the County website and in County Newsletters, which are published at least once a year.

Annual Inspections or Trapping Requirements:

- In cooperation with Alberta Agriculture, a total of ten (10) fields are inspected for Clubroot and Virulent Blackleg.
- Two (2) fields will be monitored for Bertha Army Worm.
- Bacterial Ring Rot inspections will take place on potato fields with locations supplied by the Alberta Potato Growers Association.
- Each township in the County will be surveyed for grasshoppers annually.
- A private trapper is hired for 10 days for rabies detection.
- Lethbridge County will have a supply of 20 traps for Magpie and Skunk Control.

4. Delivery/Support of the Soil Conservation Act

2023 Budget Amount: \$4,900

Strategy

To prevent or stop soil erosion from occurring as outlined in the Soil Conservation Act with guidelines provided under guidelines and procedures in Appendix C Soil Conservation Management.



Level of Service Measures

- Two (2) soil conservation officers will be appointed.
- All known instances of soil erosion will be inspected.
- Current information on how to control soil erosion will be posted on the County website and will be promoted through the County newsletter and social media.
- Lethbridge County will have available tractors, straw crimper, cultivator with lister shovels and heavy equipment to carry out control measures when necessary.
- Work with the Planning and Development Department to develop a permitting program/system for Solar and other large industrial developments to include submission of soil conservation and plans to ensure compliance with the Soil Conservation Act.

5. Support of the Animal Health Act

2023 Budget Amount: As required.

Strategy

To support the Chief Provincial Veterinarian should a disease outbreak occur in Lethbridge County.

Level of Service Measures

Have staff trained on relevant diseases and how to support an animal disease outbreak situation should one occur. Training is provided during mandatory In-Service Training for Members of the Association of Agricultural Fieldmen or other seminars that may occur.

6. Resource Management/Rural Extension Program

2023 Budget Amount: \$163,375

Strategy

To provide rural extension programming that supports rural living and sustainable agricultural practices.

Level of Service Measures

- Collaboration of internal staff to provide Resource Management services and activities.
 - External expertise is leveraged to further support the program, as appropriate.
- Deliver Environmental Farm Plans to County producers.
- Assist producers with Canadian Agricultural Partnership Programs.
- Work with commercial manure haulers to extend Agricultural Operations Practices Act regulations and guidelines regarding appropriate manure management and application.



- Publish three newsletters to support Rural Living and Agricultural Services programs.
- Provide and promote programs to improve Riparian Health in the County
 - Work cooperatively with the four watershed groups.
 - Maintaining open communication with the Oldman Watershed Council, Cows and Fish and other groups and agencies focused on environmental sustainability.

7. Roadside Mowing

2023 Budget Amount: \$267,270

Strategy

To maintain a mowing program that is aesthetically pleasing while also providing: weed control, elimination of sightline issues and snow drift prevention with guidelines provided in Appendix D Roadside Mowing.

Level of Service Measures

- Paved roads will be mowed starting in the beginning of June. Mowing will then be treated on an as-needed basis during the growing season.
- All gravel roads will be mowed twice throughout the growing season commencing in mid-June. If re-growth is minimal a second cut may not be required. Mowing LOS map indicates the dryland areas of the County where a second cut is typically not required in dry years.
- A deeper cut into the ditch is made where heavy weed infestations or excess vegetation that may cause snow drift issues are identified.

8. Rental Equipment

2023 Budget Amount: Schedule of Fees Bylaw for Rental Rates

Strategy

To provide a variety of agriculture related equipment to loan or rent to producers with guidelines provide in Appendix E ASB Rental Equipment.

Level of Service Measures

- The following pieces of equipment will be available: Brillion Drills, Plastic Mulcher, Tree Planter, and Chisel Plow with Lister shovels, Plastic Roller, Bale shredder and Straw crimper.
- Yearly rental rates will be set on an annual basis through the Lethbridge County Schedule of Fees Bylaw #20-022.

9. Parks, Cemetery, Hamlet and Subdivision Maintenance

2023 Budget Amount: \$153,260

Strategy

To maintain all public areas to a consistent and set standard that Lethbridge County stakeholders can rely on as described in the following Appendix F Parks, Cemetery, Hamlet and Subdivision Maintenance.

- Parks Vegetation Management
- Playgrounds and Trail Inspection

Level of Service Measures

Parks

- Parks are maintained on an as needed basis from May until October. Cycle times for mowing will vary on moisture conditions, cycling from 10-14 days between maintenance.
- Playgrounds are inspected by staff certified in playground inspection every two months, at a minimum.
- Trail Systems are inspected for safety related issues in the Spring and Fall.
- Enhance and renew playground equipment in cooperation with community groups.

Cemetery

- Cemeteries are mowed twice per year, subject to prevailing drought or excess moisture conditions.
- Mowing events are scheduled by the Supervisor of Agriculture on an “as needed” basis.

Hamlets/Subdivisions

- Hamlets are mowed twice a year, or more, depending on moisture conditions.
- Back-alley gravel levelling is completed, as needed, in the Spring and Fall.

10. Brushing/Tree Removal/Pruning Program

2023 Budget Amount: \$60,000

Strategy

To maintain all Lethbridge County Roadways, Parks and Environmental Reserve land to address overgrowth and hazards created by trees, brush, and general vegetation.

Level of Service Measures

- Three (3) staff members are available for brushing work during the months of November to March when weather conditions allow.
- Priority brushing is completed where intersection obstruction is noted.
- Brushing will only take place from June to October for downed trees or brush caused by adverse weather conditions.
- Tree maintenance will be performed in Parks and Environmental Reserves on an as needed basis.

11. Delay of Maintenance Operations

Vegetation Management on public spaces are impacted by multiple factors that can disrupt services and/or affect maintenance operations timelines, such as:

- Unsuitable or inclement weather.
- Equipment breakdowns.
- Intense farm activity causing safety considerations.
- Manpower shortage due to illness or absenteeism.
- Municipal emergencies.
- Public health emergencies (e.g., pandemic).

12. Conclusion

Lethbridge County ASB activities are a balance between legislated responsibility and levels of service defined by Council as representatives of the public. The ASB Grant, which provides supplemental funding, was renewed for a five-year term in 2020 (i.e., 2020 – 2024), all legislated activity is also set out in this document. The province requires annual reporting on ASB activities to demonstrate that the County's commitments are met for both the Legislative and Resource Management Grant funding streams.

Appendices

Guidelines and Procedures

- 1. Weed Control and Vegetation Management**
 - A. Integrated Weed Management
 - B. Weed Extension and Inspections
 - C. Weed Notices
 - D. Leafy Spurge and Knapweed Vegetation Management
 - E. Prohibited Noxious Weed Control

- 2. Agricultural Pest Act Polices**
 - A. Surveys
 - B. Live Traps
 - C. Norway Rat
 - D. Coyotes
 - E. Skunks
 - F. Grasshopper Control

- 3. Soil Conservation Act**
 - A. Soil Conservation Management

- 4. Roadside Mowing**
 - A. Roadside Mowing

- 5. Rental Equipment and ASB Schedule of Fees**
 - A. ASB Rental Equipment
 - B. Schedule of Fees/ASB Related Portion of Bylaw #20-022

- 6. Parks Polices**
 - A. Parks Vegetation Management
 - B. Playground and Trail Inspection

- 7. Maps**
 - A. Roadside Mowing
 - B. Roadside Spray Program

Appendix A – Weed Control and Vegetation Management

Guidelines and Procedures

A. Integrated Weed Management

- i. To control weeds in Lethbridge County on a timely basis; to ensure compliance with the Weed Control Act.
- ii. Paved and oiled roads receive priority.
- iii. Spraying is carried out on a three-year rotation within the County, as follows:
 - Area 1 – All right-of-way west of RR-23-0 north of 519, west of 22-0 south of 519 and west of Highway 4 south of Lethbridge.
 - Area 2 – All right-of-way south and east of the Oldman River and east of Highway 4.
 - Area 3 – All right-of-way east of RR 23-0 north of 519 and south of 519 east of RR 22-0. The areas not scheduled for spraying will receive spot treatment.
- iv. Weeds that are too mature to be effectively controlled with chemicals or that are located too close to sensitive crops are mowed to control the spread of seeds. It is recognized that inclement weather could impede implementation of portions of the LOS.
- v. Only chemicals registered for right-of-way use are employed.
- vi. Spray truck operators will exclude areas such as farmstead frontages and where canals, drainage channels, sloughs, and ponds encroach on the road allowance. Spray booms are also turned off 100 meters on either side of visible beehives.
- vii. Landowners that do not want their road allowances sprayed must visibly post DO NOT SPRAY signage so that operators have sufficient time to react.
- viii. “Do Not Spray” signs are available at the ASB Office in Picture Butte.
 - a. Landholders posting “Do Not Spray” must sign a “No Spray Zone” Agreement with Lethbridge County.
- ix. The County’s rights-of-way are not considered as a “buffer zone” for organic farming purposes.
- x. Operators will only spray when weather and wind conditions warrant and will keep a daily log of roads sprayed, weather conditions, wind direction and speed and the PCP number of the chemical being applied.
- xi. Difficult to control noxious or prohibited noxious weeds located in rights-of-way in small, contained infestations are mowed, pulled or hand-sprayed with a selective herbicide registered for control of the specific species involved.
- xii. The roadside spraying program is advertised prior to commencement of spray activities.
- xiii. Roadside spraying is coordinated with roadside mowing to avoid duplication.

B. Weed Inspections

- i. The Weed Inspector will enforce the Provincial Weed Control Act during the growing season from May to September.
- ii. The Inspector conducts their duties under the supervision of the Supervisor of Agriculture Services or their designate.

- iii. The Inspector will contact landholders to provide weed control extension materials, where necessary.
- iv. County employees will always exercise suitable public relation skills when engaging landholders by applying a firm but fair approach.

C. Weed Notices

- i. Notices to remedy a weed problem are issued at the discretion of the Supervisor of Agriculture Services or their designate.
- ii. Notices are issued under the provisions outlined in the current Alberta Weed Control Act.
- iii. When a landholder demonstrates non-compliance with a weed notice, remedial work will be implemented by the County, or its agents, and all related costs are applied against the landowner.
- iv. Where payment is not received for remedial work, the amount owing is placed on the tax roll as an additional levy against the affected lands.
- v. In cases of continued non-compliance, the Supervisor of Agriculture Services, or their designate, may determine that prosecution is the only remaining compliance instrument. In such cases, the ASB Committee will review the case and approve or reject initiation of legal action in a Court of Law.

D. Leafy Spurge and Knapweed

- i. During the growing season, the ASB will send operators to systemically survey, map and treat Knapweed and Leafy Spurge within the bed and shore and vacant public lands adjacent to water resource features.
 - a. The County is compensated for costs associated with the water resource protection program through the ASB grant and a grant from Alberta Environment and Protected Areas.
- ii. Landowners adjacent to the bed and shore are encouraged to treat infestations of these weeds on their land. Where necessary, information is provided by the County's Weed Inspector to help landholders achieve effective results.
- iii. If the landowner does not respond to treatment requests for these species, a weed notice will be issued.

E. Prohibited Noxious Weeds

- i. When a prohibited noxious weed infestation is discovered or reported, the County will conduct a thorough inspection to determine the area affected and the number of plants present.
- ii. Where necessary, the affected landholder is issued a Weed Notice, as outlined under the Weed Control Act.
- iii. Where the landholder is provided the option to treat infestations occurring in row cropped fields.
 - a. The landholder is obliged to hand rogue or spot spray, as many times as the Weed Inspector deems necessary, to destroy all prohibited noxious plant material.
 - b. Spot spraying must be with a non-selective herbicide registered for control of the prohibited noxious weed.
 - c. All impacted plant material must be disposed of as directed by the Weed Inspector.

- iv. Where the weed inspector determines that:
 - a. roguing or spot spraying a prohibited noxious weed occurring in a row crop is not feasible, or
 - b. the noxious weed infestation eradication was not carried out effectively.
- i. The affected area will, at the discretion of the Supervisor of Agriculture, be the eradicated of all vegetation within the infested area though:
 - a. The application of a non-selective herbicide to the entire infested area or,
 - b. By plowing under the entire infested area.
- v. Harvest of a previously affected row crop field must be supervised by the Weed Inspector to reduce potential cross-contamination risks.
- vi. Eradication methods for prohibited noxious weed infestations identified in non-row cropped areas are determined by the Weed Inspector.
- vii. Persons failing to comply with a noxious weed notification are subject to the provisions set out under the Weed Control Act.

F. Clubroot Inspection and Control

- i. Field Surveys
 - a) Yearly inspections for Clubroot in Canola are completed by Agricultural Services Staff.
 - b) Clubroot survey method, sampling technique, reporting and calculation of disease incidence must follow standard protocols provided by the Alberta Clubroot Management Committee.
 - c) Positive identification of Clubroot in canola shall be confirmed by certified laboratory testing. Submit samples to two independent accredited laboratories. Samples declared positive by both laboratories confirms the presence of Club Root.
- ii. Disease Spread Reduction
 - a) A “Notice to Control Pests” shall be issued to any landowner found to own the land infested with clubroot, pursuant to the Agricultural Pests Act.
 - b) The “Notice to Control Pests” may include any or all the following conditions:
 - iii. A four-year prohibition from growing canola, mustard, and brassica crops.
- iv. Following the four (4) year prohibition period, the landholder must notify the Supervisor of Agricultural Services, in writing, of their intent to grow canola variety. Whereby, the canola must be a registered clubroot resistant variety.
- v. An owner or occupant must follow a Clubroot Management Plan, intended to reduce the spread of the disease through movement of soil or equipment¹.
- vi. All other users of the said field(s) must adhere to the same best management practices for Clubroot sanitation.
- vii. Prohibited crops grown within the four-year prohibition period will be destroyed, at the expense of the grower, using any appropriate means.
- viii. All neighboring landowners and all industries having a genuine commercial interest will be notified of the confirmed positive Clubroot incidence and its location.
- ix. Canola growers in high-risk situations/locations should follow traditional Canola rotation recommendations (1 in 4 years) to reduce the risk of Clubroot introduction to clean fields.

¹ Alberta Agriculture, 2014. Clubroot Management Plan. <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/7089438>.

- x. Lethbridge County will review these guidelines and procedures within one year of a positive Clubroot result with the County.

G. Seed Cleaning Plants

- i. Seed cleaning plants in the County and City of Lethbridge, or Village or Town whose borders are surrounded by the County will be inspected, as outlined in the Weed Control Act, Seed Cleaning Plant Regulations.
- ii. Seed plants are inspected once a year by the Supervisor of Agriculture Services, or their designate.
- iii. A minimum of 20 samples per plant will be collected randomly throughout the year.
- iv. License issuance is based on test results, in conjunction with the licensing form provided under the Seed Cleaning Regulations of the Weed Control Act.

Appendix B – Pest Control and Management

Guidelines and Procedures

A. Surveys

- i. At the request of senior government, agricultural pest surveys are undertaken by ASB staff for diseases such as the Blackleg and Clubroot in Canola, Ring rot in Potatoes, Fusarium in cereals and the Grasshopper Forecast survey.
- ii. The Supervisor of Agriculture Services will negotiate survey methodology and cost share agreements prior to any survey being undertaken.
- iii. Surveys are completed with consideration to optimum survey timing, accounting for competing county programs and staffing needs.

B. Live Traps

- i. Live traps are available to County landowners or lessees to enable control of Magpies, Raccoons, or Skunks.
- ii. A “Use Agreement”, valid for 30 days, is required to obtain a live trap. The agreement includes the name, address, legal land description, telephone number and signature of the responsible landowner or lessee.
- iii. The landholder is charged for Live Traps in accordance with the Schedule of Fees Bylaw.

C. Norway Rat

- i. All valid, reported sightings of a Norway Rat are investigated immediately.
 - a. The validity of Norway rat sightings is determined by the Supervisor of Agriculture Services or their designate.
- ii. Where the investigation identifies a positive sighting, where the animal(s) cannot be readily eradicated, the Provincial Rat Specialist will be contacted for assistance.
- iii. Lethbridge County will contact the individual(s) who originally submitted the sighting to disclose the outcome of the investigation.

D. Coyotes

- i. All complaints involving Coyote predation on domestic livestock will be investigated as soon as feasibly possible.
- ii. The investigating officer, as outlined under the Agricultural Pests Act, will determine the best method for eliminating the predator responsible.
- iii. The appropriate forms must be completed prior to issuance of pest control devices, such as poison or snares.
- iv. In particularly difficult cases the Provincial Predator Control Specialist will be contacted to assist the producer.

E. Skunks

- i. All complaints involving skunks behaving abnormally are dealt with immediately. Residents in rural areas are encouraged to eliminate the skunk immediately, preferably without destroying the head or brain.

- ii. Where the resident is unable, for any reason, to eliminate the animal, the investigating Officer will trap or eliminate any skunk(s) behaving abnormally acting abnormally on behalf of the complainant.
- iii. The Provincial Wildlife Disease Specialist will be contacted to assist with having the animal tested. Results obtained from the Animal Disease Research Institute (ADRI) will be shared with the complainant.
- iv. Where positive results are established, the Provincial Wildlife Disease Specialist will cooperate with Canadian Food Inspection Agency (lead agency), the Supervisor of Agriculture Services and ADRI to organize the necessary control measures.
- v. Live traps are available to residents wishing to remove nuisance skunks from their property. Live traps issuance is provided in accordance with the Schedule of Fees Bylaw.

F. Grasshopper Control

- i. Lethbridge County will cooperate with landholders wishing to control the severity of grasshopper infestations on adjacent County owned rights-of-way.
- ii. Landholders planning to perform grasshopper control on County owned right-of-way must have approval from the Supervisor of Agriculture Services or their designate.
- iii. Grasshopper control methodologies must use procedures that minimize risks to road users/traffic.
- iv. Applicants for grasshopper control on County lands must include a signed waiver agreement prior to execution of county implemented control measures.
- v. Grasshopper control approvals are issued where pest numbers are above the economic threshold, as per provincial guidelines.
- vi. Control methodologies must follow label directions provided for an approved pesticide bran formulation registered for use on grasshoppers.

Appendix C - Soil Conservation Management

Guidelines and Procedures

- A. Soil Conservation
- i. Lethbridge County's ASB recognizes the protection of soil quality and integrity is vital to agricultural, environmental, and human sustainability.
 - a. Alberta's Soil Conservation Act, its associated regulations, as periodically amended, provide the legislated mandate to prevent loss or deterioration of the soil resource.
 - b. The County is authorized by the province to enforce the Soil Conservation Act
 - ii. Soil Conservation notices are issued at the discretion of the Supervisor of Agriculture Services or their designate.
 - iii. When a notice is issued, non-compliance may result in remedial work, either by the County or a Contractor designated by the County.
 - iv. Remedial work may include mitigation work in the affected field(s) or removal of resulting soil deposits in County owned roadways or drainage ditches.
 - v. When remediation of County owned/controlled ditches is deemed necessary, the landholder will be notified prior to commencement of the work, including an estimate of cost.
 - vi. Costs for the work are calculated using current Alberta Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association rates as authorized by the County's Schedule of Fees bylaw.
 - vii. Upon completion, costs for the remedial complete by the County or its contractor, the legally titled landholder is issued an invoice.
 - viii. Where the invoice is not paid on or before the due date, the amount will be subject to penalties and interest charges.
 - ix. All outstanding invoices 120 days or more overdue will be placed on the County tax roll and collected based on County Tax bylaws and policy.
 - x. In cases of continued non-compliance, the Supervisor of Agriculture Services. or their designate. may determine that prosecution is the only remaining compliance instrument. In such cases, the ASB Committee will review the case and approve or reject initiation of legal action in a Court of Law.

Appendix D – Roadside Mowing

Guidelines and Procedures

A. Roadside Mowing

- i. This program is developed, planned, and implemented by the Agricultural Department, in conjunction with Public Works operations.
- ii. Paved or oiled roads are mowed beginning in June, on an as-needed basis, during the growing season.
- iii. If necessary, all gravel roads will be mowed twice throughout the growing season, commencing in mid-June.
 - a. Where re-growth is minimal, a second cut may not be required.
 - b. Inclement weather, such as heavy rain events or early winter, could prevent the completion of the program.
- iv. Grader operations are coordinated and implemented in a manner that minimizes interference with and efficiency of mowing operations.
- v. Roadside spraying operations are coordinated and implemented in a manner that minimizes interference with and efficiency of mowing operations.

Appendix E – ASB Rental Equipment

Guidelines and Procedures

A. Rental Equipment

- i. ASB rents equipment for use exclusively on land located within Lethbridge County boundaries.
- ii. A current ASB rental equipment list and fees is advertised annually.
- iii. A chronological applicants list is maintained, and equipment distribution is provided on a first come, first-serve basis, as near as practical.
- iv. County personnel are responsible for moving rental equipment to and between farms.
- v. The applicant is responsible to service, clean and maintain rental equipment, as necessary, before it's returned to the County and/or passed onto the next applicant.
- vi. The applicant will provide suitable equipment and competent personnel to operate County equipment.
- vii. Customers are assessed fees on a per acre or maximum daily charge, as specified by the Schedule of Fees Bylaw, at the discretion of the County.
- viii. The program is evaluated annually to implement necessary LOS or guideline changes.

Appendix F – Parks, Cemetery, Hamlet and Subdivision Maintenance

Guidelines and Procedures

A. Parks

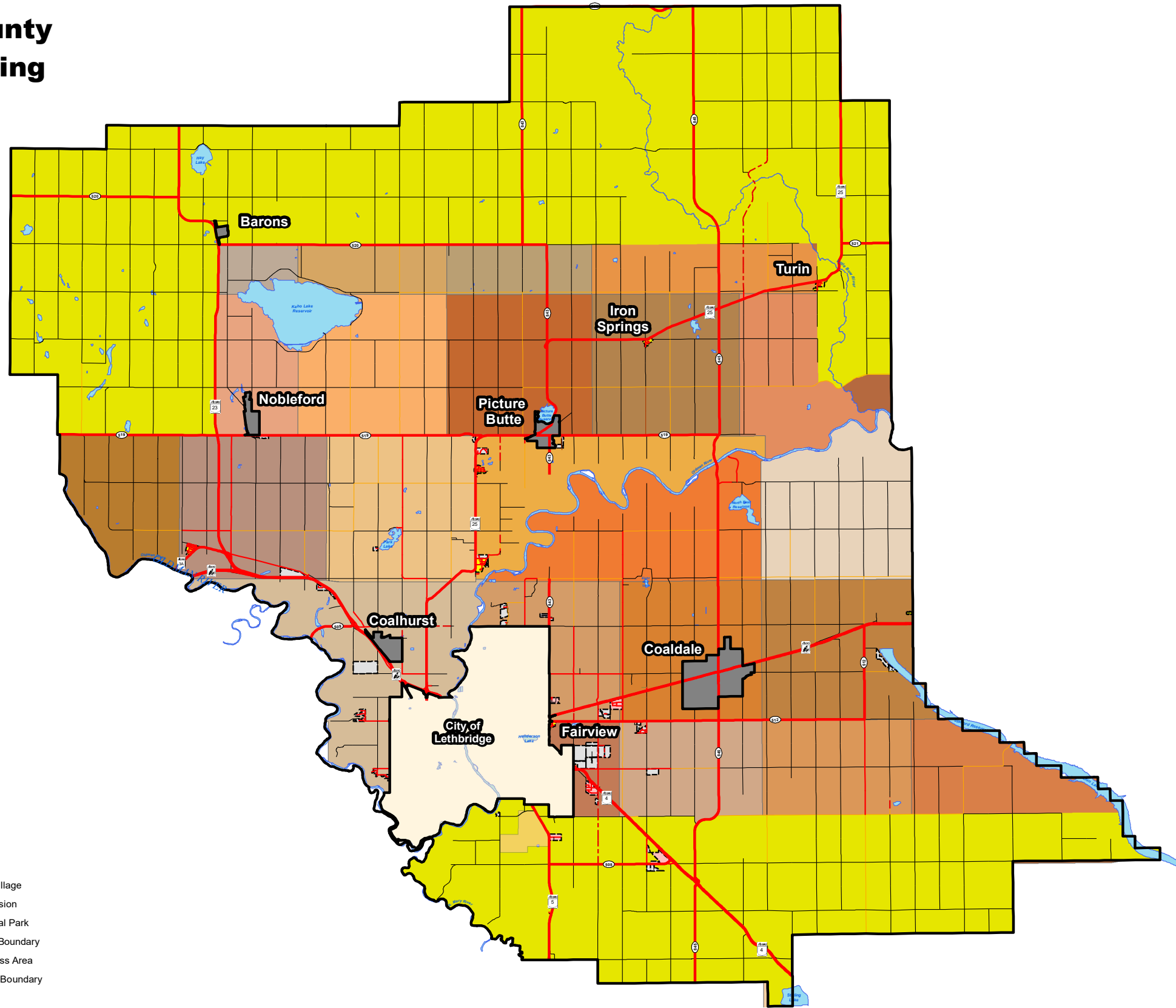
- i. County Parks maintenance is the responsibility of the Agricultural Department.
- ii. The Parks department consists of the following:
 - a. All municipal designated hamlet playgrounds and equipment.
 - b. Municipal designated green space and walking paths.
 - c. Inactive municipal school yards.
 - d. Cemetery maintenance at Elinor, Albion Ridge, White Lake and Barons cemeteries.

Guidelines and Procedures

B. Playground & Trail Inspection

- i. Lethbridge County trail systems are inspected by a qualified designated staff member on a semi-annual basis.
- ii. Inspections are recorded on the appropriate forms, including:
 - a. Hazardous or potentially hazardous conditions.
 - b. Corrective action required or taken to address identified hazards.
 - c. Inspection date and inspector's signature.
 - d. Inspection forms are submitted to the Supervisor of Agriculture Services for review and coordination of necessary actions.
- iii. Supplemental
 - a. Playground equipment and Trails are also inspected by County crews during maintenance activities.
 - b. All equipment, facility and trail deficiencies identified by County maintenance crews are recorded and, wherever possible, corrected immediately.
 - c. Any debris, broken glass, foreign objects, etc. are removed from the site during inspection or maintenance activities.
 - d. Where identified deficiencies cannot be corrected immediately:
 - i. The inspector or maintenance crew will erect caution tape to isolate the affected area.
 - ii. In such cases, qualified staff will be notified immediately to schedule the necessary corrective action as soon as feasibly possible.

Lethbridge County Roadside Mowing



Legend

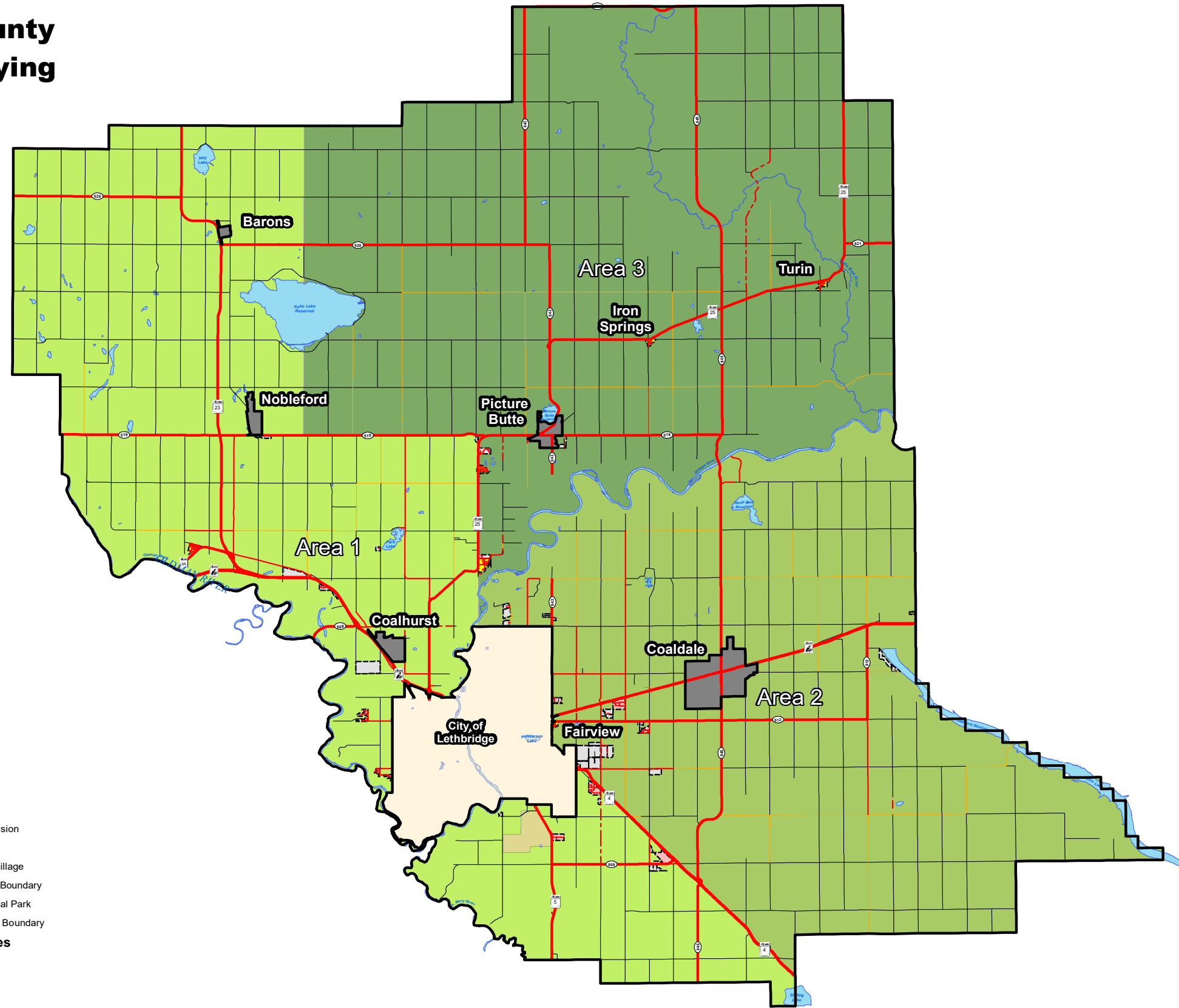
County Roads

- Gravel
- Gravel (Base Stabilized)
- Paved (HMA)
- Paved (CMA)
- Concrete
- Cement Stabilized
- Provincial Highways

- ▭ Hamlet
- ▭ Town/Village
- ▭ Subdivision
- ▭ Industrial Park
- ▭ Airport Boundary
- ▭ One Pass Area
- ▭ County Boundary



Lethbridge County Roadside Spraying



Legend

County Roads

- Gravel
- Gravel (Base Stabilized)
- Paved (HMA)
- Paved (CMA)
- Concrete
- Cement Stabilized
- Provincial Highways

- - - Subdivision
- Hamlet
- Town/Village
- Airport Boundary
- Industrial Park
- County Boundary

Spray Zones

- Area 1
- Area 2
- Area 3



INSECT SURVEY RESULTS – 2022 – LETHBRIDGE

2022 Summary

Thank you Gary and Derek, for your continued support for the grasshopper survey and the bertha monitoring. I could not be as successful without the support of the AAAF.

Of the five fields sampled by Farming Smarter for wheat midge, there was one irrigated field with midge cocoons in the sample. This is by no means alarming numbers, but it is something that irrigate wheat growers (dryland too, if it rains) will want to be aware of if seeding is delayed and the midge emergence aligns with wheat flowering.

Of the six bertha armyworm sites in Lethbridge none of the sites were above the first warning level of 300 moths. Trapping will continue to be important in 2023.

Three out of the five locations surveyed for wheat stem sawfly in Lethbridge had cutting, one 17%. Farming Smarter is asked visit 5 fields in the entire county, so there could be pockets of higher sawfly damage that was not found. You will have a better idea if your producers of dryland wheat are struggling with this insect.

Pea leaf weevil is slow to recover from the years of drought we have endured. Producers in your County are very aware of the insect and their management options.

Cabbage seedpod weevil was generally lower when compared to most years but there were still some samples that were near or above economic threshold. Cabbage seedpod weevil will continue to be a potential problem every year, especially in those first to flower fields. Here too, you will have a better idea of farmers dealing with cabbage seedpod weevil than me.

BERTHA ARMYWORM (BAW)

Firstly, thank you for all your help with this survey.

Bertha armyworm is very cyclical. In order to catch outbreaks and help producers minimize losses it is necessary to maintain a good monitoring system using pheromone traps. The number of moths caught in the traps informs us of the risk of damaging populations with a 3 to 5 week lead time. These numbers are generated from paired pheromone traps in individual fields.

Bertha armyworm populations are normally kept in check by such factors as weather and natural enemies. Potential damage may be more or less severe than suggested by the moth count data depending on weather and crop conditions and localized population dynamics. Research has clearly shown that very few fields are ever affected in an area with moth catches less than 300. Even at higher moth counts field scouting is critical for pest management decisions because experience has shown that field to field and even within field variations can be very large.

LLD	TRAP AVERAGE
-9-21	3
-8-19	52
-9-19	136

Shaded cells are managed by the County.

LLD	TRAP AVERAGE
4-20	1
12-20	78
8-22	38

CABBAGE SEEDPOD WEEVIL (CSPW)

In southern Alberta, including all counties south of and touching Highway 1, the earliest flowering canola crops will be at the highest risk from cabbage seedpod weevil and should be monitored very closely.

Cabbage seedpod weevil overwinters as an adult so the risk of infestation is further indicated by the adult population of the preceding fall. Winter condition also appear to have an impact on populations with mild winter favoring build-up of populations and expansion of their range.

We track the population of other insects in these sweeps as well. These go into long term data sets that will help us research their population trends over time from individual fields.



LLD	CSPW in 25 sweeps	Lygus Adult	Lygus Nymph	Leafhopper	Striped Flea beetle	crucifer	Other Flea Beetle	Turnip beetle	DBM Adult	DBM larva	Wasp <5 mm	Wasp >5mm	honey bee	bee but not honey	caterpillar
12-21-W4	6	11	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8-21-W4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-23-W4	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-19-W4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-22-W4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-23-W4	52														
10-20-W4	29														
10-20-W4	48														
10-20-W4	33														

Sampling done by Farming Smarter staff

Samples done with standard sweep net. (15" diameter & 3 foot handle). 25-180 degree sweeps.

DIAMONDBACK MOTH (DBM)

It is generally accepted that diamondback moth adults don't overwinter in the prairies and that most infestations occur when adult moths arrive on wind currents in the spring from the southern or western United States or northern Mexico. In mild winters there is suspicion that diamondback moth do overwinter in Alberta. To assess the population, a network of 43 monitoring sites has been established across the province. This network is meant to act as part of an early warning system for diamondback moth and should be used in conjunction with crop scouting.

LLD	TRAP AVERAGE
9-21-w4	4

Trapping period May 8 – June 18

PEA LEAF WEEVIL (PLW)

Experience has shown us that high numbers of pea leaf weevil adults in fall will likely mean significant infestation levels in the following spring. The timing and intensity of spring damage is strongly related to the onset of warm conditions (>20oC) for more than a few days in April or May. The earlier the weevils arrive in fields the higher yield loss potential. Extended cool weather delays weevil movement into the field. Yield impact is lower if the crop advances past the 6 node stage before the weevils arrive. The numbers represented here are generated from assessing feeding damage on 10 plants in 5 locations in a field.

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION					AVERAGE NODE STAGE	TOTAL NOTCHES	AVERAGE NOTCHES/PLANT
		8	21	4	unknown	46.00	.92
		9	21	4	unknown	453.00	9.06
		7	19	4	unknown	0.00	0
		8	19	4	unknown	0.00	0

Sampling done by Farming Smarter.

WHEAT MIDGE (WM)

Wheat midge is an insect that increases in numbers in wet years. Numbers can vary drastically from field to field and we try to sample wheat adjacent to the previous years' wheat in order to pick up populations if they are present. There is no definitive way to know exactly the risk in any given field so field scouting when the wheat comes into head is critical. The numbers shown here give a general trend of midge populations. Individual fields will have a different risk.

These numbers are generated by taking soil samples from wheat fields after harvest using a standardized soil probe.



The risk level as shown on our maps is as follows:

- 0 midge will be displayed as light grey (No infestation)
- 2 or less midge will be shown as dark grey (<600/m²)
- 3 to 5 will be shown as yellow (600 to 1200/ m²)
- 6 to 8 will be shown as orange (1200 to 1800/ m²)
- 9 or more will be shown as red. (>1800/ m²)

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION				TOTAL MIDGE	VIABLE	PARASITOID
	9	21	4	2	2	0
	12	20	4	0	0	0
	12	22	4	0	0	0
	10	24	4	0	0	0
	8	22	4	0	0	0

Sampling done by Farming Smarter staff

WHEAT STEM SAWFLY (WSS)

The percent of stems cut by sawfly gives an indication of the number of reproductive adult sawflies that will emerge in late June through early July. Winter conditions have very little impact on sawfly populations and a high proportion of wheat stems cut in the fall will produce adults. It is possible that population hot spots still exist in areas of lower risk, individual producers need to be aware of the potential risks in their own fields.

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION	PERCENTAGE CUT
12-22-4	23.6
8-22-4	11.3
12-20-4	10.7
9-21-4	7.4
-24-4	2.8

Sampling done by Farming Smarter staff

WHEN DOING FIELD VISITS WE:

- never drive into the field
- sanitize our equipment between fields with bleach solution
- sanitize our footwear between fields with bleach solution or wear boot covers

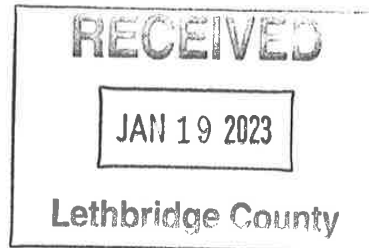




265 East 400 South | Box 291 | Raymond | Alberta | T0K 2S0 | 403 752-4585 | www.abfarmsafety.com

January 9, 2023

County of Lethbridge
905 - 4th Avenue South
Lethbridge Alberta T1J 4E4



Dear Gary Secrist,

We here at the Farm Safety Centre, first and foremost want to express our sincere gratitude for your generous support of the Safety Smarts program and the Farm Safety Centre. Your donations have made it possible for us to deliver vital farm safety education to children in rural and remote schools throughout Alberta for the past 25 years. In the 2022 calendar year, our team delivered 1,676 Safety Smarts presentations to 36,413 elementary students in 399 rural elementary schools across the province.

We are proud to report that since the program's inception in 1998, a total of 833,877 rural children have benefited from Safety Smarts learning and engagement. This year, we have adapted the program to allow for both virtual delivery via Zoom and safe face-to-face delivery in schools, ensuring that we can continue to reach children despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition to Safety Smarts, we have also continued to grow our Sustainable Farm Families program, also known as the Rural Health Initiative. This program promotes health, well-being, and safety among rural adults and has been adapted to allow for one-on-one in-depth health assessments and personal education. If your organization is interested in hosting a Rural Health Initiative workshop for families in your area, please let us know.

As you may be aware, the Farm Safety Centre faced a significant funding challenge in 2020 when the Government of Alberta ended all involvement in and support of farm safety learning and extension. This decision resulted in the loss of about 35% of our annual funding in the form of government grants designated for program delivery. We are grateful for the continued commitment of Counties and MDs across Alberta, which has allowed us to keep the Safety Smarts program running this past year.

We are requesting a donation of **\$5,771.50** for the delivery during the 2022 school year. Our request is based on delivery to **1649** children at a rate of \$3.50 per student. We hope to continually increase delivery and exceed past numbers with your generous support. If your budget allows, we would be deeply grateful for any support you can provide for the Safety Smarts program and the Farm Safety Centre as a whole.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your kindness and generosity. Your contributions have made a significant impact on our ability to fulfill our mission and make a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.

Each contribution, of any amount, is greatly appreciated and we acknowledge the generous contributions received from your M.D./County in previous years. The continued commitment of Counties and MD's across Alberta have kept the Safety Smarts program viable year after year. Please pass on our sincere thanks to your ASB's.

With this in mind, the Farm Safety Centre is hopeful that in 2023 your organization will consider supporting our extension efforts, as we continue the search for additional funding partners. If this does not work within your budget then a donation of any amount will be greatly appreciated. All contributions are recognized under "Supporters" on our website.

As a charity registered with CRA, any donation to the Farm Safety Center is eligible for a charitable tax receipt. Checks can be made payable to the Farm Safety Centre.

Thank-you for your continued support,



Jordan Jensen | Executive Director
Farm Safety Centre
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403-593-8960
403-752-4585



Keylan Kado / Program Manager
Farm Safety Centre
programs@abfarmsafety.com
403-330-3967

Safety Smarts Totals For County of Lethbridge

January to December 2022

School: County	Total # Students	Total # Pres	School: #	School: Account Name	Date
County of Lethbridge	31	1	1	Gold Ridge Colony School	2022-05-19
	31	2	1	Keho Lake Colony School	2022-01-12
	31	1	1	Keho Lake Colony School	2022-03-03
	29	1	1	Albion Ridge Colony School	2022-05-19
	30	1	1	Allenby Colony School	2022-04-01
	34	0	1	Allenby Colony School	2022-09-12
	45	2	1	Barons School	2022-03-07
	112	7	1	Calvin Christian School	2022-03-21
	165	7	1	Calvin Christian School	2022-03-23
	207	8	1	Calvin Christian School	2022-03-24
	11	1	1	Chin Lakes Colony School	2022-05-03
	20	1	1	Coaldale Christian School	2022-01-27
	21	1	1	Coaldale Christian School	2022-11-01
	202	8	1	Coalhurst Elementary School	2022-05-02
	81	4	1	Dorothy Dalgleish School	2022-05-12
	60	3	1	Dorothy Dalgleish School	2022-05-13
	119	7	1	Noble Central School	2022-03-01
	11	1	1	Rock Lake Colony School	2022-05-05
	24	0	1	Shadow Ranch Colony School	2022-03-03
	21	1	1	St. Catherine School	2022-10-17
	73	3	1	St. Catherine School	2022-10-18
	80	3	1	St. Catherine School	2022-10-19
	113	5	1	St. Joseph's School	2022-05-18
	98	5	1	St. Joseph's School	2022-05-19
Subtotal	Sum 1649	73	15		
Total	Sum 1649	73	15		
	Count 24				

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Rural Health Initiative



Research into the state of rural health has identified several health and well-being disadvantages faced by rural people which negatively impact their quality of life. The Sustainable Farm Families Rural Health Initiative aims to remedy many of these disadvantages by providing rural Albertans who participate in this program with 3 annual, in-depth physical & mental health assessments. In addition to these health assessments, participants are educated about each aspect of the assessment to ensure they fully understand each of their measurements and know how to better manage their health and well-being. Those who participate in this program are only asked to commit 1 hour of their time each year over the course of the 3-year program.

The preventative approach used by the Sustainable Farm Families Rural Health Initiative takes seemingly healthy people living in rural communities and seeks to either uncover undiagnosed conditions or confirm their healthy status. Since 2014, the Farm Safety Centre has delivered over 135 SFF workshops to more than 1,300 participants across the province. Participant feedback from our external evaluations have identified that 97% of SFF participants felt the workshops were a good investment of their time and that 92% recommended the program to others.

What you can expect in your one-on-one personal health assessment with our Registered Nurses:

- Blood Pressure
- Cholesterol
- Metabolic Age
- Visceral Fat
- Body Mass Index
- Muscle Mass
- Basal Metabolism
- Body Water Percentage
- Bone Density
- Mental Health Assessment
- Blood Sugar
- Diabetic Risk
- Triglyceride Levels
- Oxygen Saturation
- Eyesight

SFF workshops are currently being delivered in rural communities throughout Alberta. For more information about this program or to schedule a workshop for your community or organization please contact Keylan Kado. If you would like to register for an existing workshop in your community, please visit www.abfarmsafety.com.

Keylan Kado | Program Manager

Sustainable Farm Families™ Alberta

programs@abfarmsafety.com

Office: (403) 752-4585 | Cell: (403) 330-3967

Minutes for the 2023 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Resolution Session

The Tara Center, Grande Prairie, AB
January 18 & 19, 2023

Sebastien Dutrisac introduced the members of the ASB Provincial Resolutions Committee:

Sebastien Dutrisac, Chair, Northeast Region Representative
Brenda Knight, Vice Chair, Central Region Representative
John Van Driesten, South Region Representative alternate
Walter Preugschas, Northwest Region Representative
Christi Friesen, Peace Region Representative
Jason Schneider, Rural Municipalities of Alberta Representative
Doug Macaulay, Agriculture and Forestry Representative
Linda Hunt, Executive Assistant, ASB Provincial Committee

1. Call to Order

Chairman Dutrisac called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

Chairman Dutrisac informed the assembly that there was a lack of voting clickers due to technical difficulties. Because of this, the resolution session would require several municipalities to vote either by the raising of hands or by ballot.

MOVED: Randy Taylor, County of Warner moved to have one clicker per municipality for the voting process.

SECONDED: Tyler Airth, Big Lakes County

Motion Carried (one vote opposed)

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Dutrisac presented the agenda for the resolution session.

MOVED: Don Gulayec, County of Two Hills Moved to adopt the agenda as amended.

By unanimous consent, the Agenda was adopted as amended.

3. Adoption of Minutes

MOVED: Darrell Younghans, County of St Paul moved to adopt the Minutes for the 2022 Resolution Session as presented.

SECONDED: Dana Kreil, Lacombe County seconded

By unanimous consent, the Minutes for the 2022 Resolution Session were adopted as presented.

4. Review of the 2022 Report Card on the Resolutions

Chairman Dutrisac presented the highlights from the 2022 Report Card on the Resolutions.

MOVED: Corinna Williams, Northern Sunrise County moved to accept the 2022 Report Card on the Resolutions as information.

SECONDED: Murray Phillips, County of Two Hills

By unanimous consent, the 2022 Report Card on the Resolutions was received as information.

5. Call for Amendments to the Provincial Rules of Procedure

a. Call for Amendments to the Provincial Rules of Procedure

Chairman Dutrisac outlined the proposed amendments to the Provincial Rules of Procedure submitted by the ASB Provincial Committee. Chairman Dutrisac then made a call for any additional amendments to the Provincial Rules of Procedure.

MOVED: Terry Ungarian Name, County of Northern Lights, moved that Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards approve the amendments to the Provincial Rules of Procedure

SECONDED: Brian Rodgers, Mountain View County.

MOVED: Corey Rasmussen, Wetaskiwn moved to amend point 4b) from "These resolutions may" to "These resolutions will"

SECONDED: Tyler Airth, County of Big Lakes

Corinna Williams, Northern Sunrise County, expressed concern of switching to will

MOTION CARRIED: 56-3 (95%)

MOVED: Josh Crick, MD of Bonnyville moved to remove 4b entirely from the Provincial Rules of Procedure.

SECONDED: Robert Brochu, MD of Smoky River

MOTION DEFEATED: 15-46 (25%)

MOVED: Robert Parks, Strathcona County moved that Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards approve the Provincial Rules of Procedure as amended.

SECONDED: Jim Duncan, Clearwater County

MOTION CARRIED: 51-8 (85%)

b. Call for Amendments to the Regional Rules of Procedure

Chairman Dutrisac outlined the proposed amendments to the Regional Rules of Procedure submitted by the ASB Provincial Committee. Chairman Dutrisac then made a call for any amendments to the Regional Rules of Procedure. No further amendments were received.

MOVED: John DeGroot, MD of Taber, moved that Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards approve the amendments to the Regional Rules of Procedure.

SECONDED: Shannon Laprise, Wheatland County, seconded the motion.

Motion Carried: 54-2, (92%)

6. Review of Provincial Rules of Procedure

Chairman Dutrisac reviewed the Provincial Rules of Procedure for the Resolution Session.

7. Adoption of Emergent Resolutions

Chairman Dutrisac presented three emergent resolutions that have come forward to the ASB Provincial Committee. By unanimous consent

MOVED: Randy Taylor, County of Warner moved that Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards accept E1-23 Stable Regional Agricultural Extension Funding, E2-23 Stable Funding for Farm Mental Health, and E3-23 Supporting a Vibrant Cervid Industry as emergent resolutions.

SECONDED: Kelly Chamzuk, Athabasca County

MOTION CARRIED 57-4 (93%)

8. Proposed Order of Resolutions

By unanimous consent, the proposed order of resolutions with the emergent resolutions added to the end of the order is accepted.

9. 2023 Resolution Debate

1-23 Creation of a Mid-Level Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (AbVMA)

Professional Designation

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST The Alberta Minister of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development work with the ABVMA to create a Mid- Level Veterinary Professional designation within the Veterinary Profession Act to address the rural veterinary shortage and provide mid-level supportive care to Alberta livestock producers, including but not limited to:

1. Pregnancy Checking
2. Vaccination
3. Semen Testing
4. Blood draws
5. Injections
6. Catheterization
7. Wellness checks
8. Renewing prescriptions
9. Establishing required relationship for producers to purchase prescribed medicines.

MOVED: Warren Wohlgenuth, Municipal District of Greenview #16

SECONDED: Tyler Airth, Big Lakes County

MOVED: Jim Duncan, Clearwater County moved to amend the resolution to add "with veterinary oversight" after "Alberta livestock producers"

SECONDED: Brian Roger, Mountain View County

MOTION FOR AMENDMENT CARRIED: 45-13 (76%)

The resolution was voted on as amended.

MOTION CARRIED: 50-1 (98%)

2-23 Rural Veterinary Students

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST That the Government of Alberta aid the crisis of rural veterinary shortage by directing the University of Calgary to adjust admissions to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine for students from rural areas applying by providing credit for rural acuity and prioritize accepting students who intend to specialize in large animal practice and return to work in rural areas following completion of their program.

MOVED: Brian Rogers, Mountain View

SECONDED: Adam Fitzpatrick, Saddle Hills County

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution. There was no opposition to the resolution, so Chairman Dutrisac called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

The resolution was voted on as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 57-3 (95%)

3-23 Applied Research Associations Funding

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That the Ministry of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation provide sustainable operational funding to Applied Research Associations to maintain local, unbiased research and extension services that keep Alberta agriculture innovative and competitive.

MOVED: Simon Lavoie, Northern Sunrise County
SECONDED: Alain Blanchette, MD of Smoky River

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution. There was no opposition to the resolution, so Chairman Dutrisac called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

The resolution was voted on as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 54-5 (92%)

RECESS AND RECONVENE:

RECESSED AT 12:07PM ON JANUARY 18, 2023

REDCONVENED AT 10:47 AM ON JANUARY 19, 2023

4-23 Grizzly Bear Population Impact on Agricultural Production

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST The Minister of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas to have BMA 2 population and density of Grizzly Bears assessed and develop a suite of programs for Agricultural Producers, like those available to agricultural producers in BMA 5, including a Provincial Grizzly Impact Mitigation Plan.

MOVED: Bill Smith, MD of Greenview
SECONDED: Tyler Airth, Big Lakes County

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution. There was no opposition to the resolution, so Chairman Dutrisac called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

The resolution was voted on as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 58-3 (95%)

5-23 Landowner Special License

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that the Government of Canada Minister of Finance, with support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act to include natural gas and propane as exempted fuels for agriculture production.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That Alberta Environment and Protected Areas allow Landowner Special Licenses to be valid for the entirety of the season in all Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) in which the applicant has deeded land.

MOVED: Adam Fitzpatrick, Saddle Hills County

SECONDED: Warren Wohlgemuth, MD of Greenview

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution.

LeGrande Bevans, Cardston County asked if the resolution would include deer or just for elk.

MOVED: LeGrande Bevans, moved to add “for ungulates” after “to receive tags”

SECONDED: Lorrie Jespersen, County of Barrhead

Terry Ungarian, County of Northern Lights expressed concern that the addition of ungulates is too broad and would include moose.

Dan Short, County of Newell, also opposed to this.

Tyler Airth, Big Lakes County, mentioned that Landowner special license already includes

The amendment was voted on.

MOTION DEFEATED: 17-44 (28%)

The resolution was voted on as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 50-5 (91%)

6-23 Enforcement of Water Management

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That Alberta Environment and Protected Areas provide adequate resources to support the Alberta Water Act, to ensure these contraventions are being dealt with.

MOVED: Murray Phillips, County of Two Hills

SECONDED: Gene Hrabec, Beaver County

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution.

The resolution was voted on as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 37-20 (65%)

7-23 Campaign to Raise Awareness on the Disparity Between Consumer Pricing & Producer Revenue

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation develop a communication plan to promote awareness for Albertans regarding the disparity between the prices that agricultural producers receive for their products and the prices consumers pay.

MOVED: Glenn Belozar, Leduc County

SECONDED: Kathy Rooyakers, County of Wetaskiwin

The Mover asked the assembly to ask if the Leduc County fieldman could speak to the resolution. By unanimous consent, the fieldman was permitted to speak to the resolution.

MOTION DEFEATED: 23-38 (62%)

8-23 Consideration of Municipal Environmental & Agricultural Policies for Large Scale Solar & Related Energy Developments on Agricultural Lands

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That when Federal and Provincial governments approve large scale energy developments that they consider local environmental conditions and the policies that the local municipality has in place on the development through their permitting process.

MOVED: Shawn Rodgers, County of Warner

SECONDED: Brian Hildebrand, MD of Taber

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution.

MOVED: Tyler Airth, Big Lakes County, moved to remove "Solar & Related" from the title of the Resolution.

SECONDED: Murray Phillips, County of Two Hills

The amendment was voted on.

MOTION CARRIED: 34-16 (68%)

MOVED: Glen Alm, MD of Willow Creek moved to add ", through quasi-judicial boards," after "large scale energy developments."

SECONDED: Harry Streeter, MD of Ranchland

The amendment was voted on

MOTION CARRIED 41-17 (71%)

MOVED: John DeGroot, MD of Taber moved to add “Renewable” after large scale in both the title and the resolution.

SECONDED: Corinna Williams, Northern Sunrise County

The amendment was voted on.

MOTION CARRIED: 56-6 (90%)

The amended resolution was voted on.

MOTION CARRIED: 56-4 (93%)

9-23 Synthetic Fertilizer Emissions

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That the Federal Government of Canada adopt the 4R Climate-Smart Protocol approach developed by The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) of Fertilizer Canada and provide sustainable funding into research and development regarding fertilizer use efficiency.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That the federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change suspend the 30% synthetic fertilizer emission reduction targets until the proper tools to measure emissions for producers are available.

MOVED: Clynton Butz, Northern Sunrise County

SECONDED: Robert Brochu, MD of Smoky River

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution. There was no opposition to the resolution, so Chairman Dutrisac called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 59-2 (97%)

10-23 Organic Production Certification Standards and Provincially Regulated Weeds

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That Canada Food Inspection Agency add a requirement to the Canadian Organic Standards that requires the organic grower be compliant with any provincial legislation invasive species in order to achieve and maintain organic certification.

MOVED: Karen Rosvold, County of Grande Prairie

SECONDED: Dan Boisvert, Northern Sunrise County

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution. There was no opposition to the resolution, so Chairman Dutrisac called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 54-2 (95%)

11-23 Loss of 2% Liquid Strychnine

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency make 2% Liquid Strychnine available to agricultural producers to utilize on their farms for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels through an emergency registration for the 2023 season.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation petition and study avenues to convince Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency to leave 2% Liquid Strychnine on the market on a permanent basis to agricultural producers to utilize on their farms for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels.

MOVED: Darrell Younghans, County of St Paul

SECONDED: Murray Phillips, County of Two Hills

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution.

MOVED: Dustin Vossler, Cypress County amendment by substitution

SECONDED: Craig Widmer, County of 40 Mile

Dustin Vossler, Cypress County felt a replacement of a single-feed alternate is needed to replace 2% LSC as 2% LSC has been beat to death.

The amendment was voted on.

MOTION CARRIED 45-10 (80%)

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the amended resolution.

MOTION: Glen Ockerman, County of St. Paul to add "and until an alternative single feed product is available." To the first Therefore.

SECONDED: Dustin Vossler, Cypress County

The amendment was voted on.

MOTION CARRIED: 57-1 (97%)

The amended resolution was voted on.

MOTION CARRIED: 55-4 (93%)

RECESS AND RECONVENE:

RECESSED AT 12:11 PM ON JANUARY 19, 2023

REDCONVENED AT 3:12 PM ON JANUARY 19, 2023

12-23 Review of the Land & Property Rights Tribunal

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That Municipal Affairs establish a task force comprised of Agricultural Service Board Members, agricultural producers, experts in agricultural science, agronomy and business, as well as representatives from the oil and gas industry associations, to conduct a full review into the function and mandate of the Surface Rights components of the LPRT as directed by related legislation, with a focus on matters of, related to:

- Contractual negotiations being fully paid by energy operators,
- Implementation of mandatory mediation prior to LPRT application
- Improved timeliness of applications, and
- Clarity of terms used in the Surface Rights Act.

MOVED: Shannon Laprise, Wheatland County

SECONDED: Holly Johnson, County of Newell

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution. There was no opposition to the resolution, so Chairman Dutrisac called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 59-2 (97 %)

E1-23 Stable Regional Agricultural Extension Funding

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation make available five year stable regional funding for ASBs and their agriculture not for profit partners to hire and maintain the staff and operational costs associated with maintaining regional agricultural extension networks.

MOVED: Sandra Eastman, MD of Peace

SECONDED: Phil Kolodychuk , MD of Fairview

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution. There was no opposition to the resolution, so Chairman Dutrisac called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 58-2 (95%)

E2-23 Stable Funding for Farm Mental Health

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation provides stable 5 year funding support to the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network to hire and maintain staff and cover operational costs to continue the support and services offered through AgKnow.ca.

MOVED: Sandra Eastman, MD of Peace

SECONDED: Terry Ungarian, County of Northern Lights

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution. There was no opposition to the resolution, so Chairman Dutrisac called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 57-3 (93%)

E3-23 Supporting a Vibrant Cervid Industry in Alberta

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation support the requests of the Alberta Elk Commission to reduce regulatory processes inline with other livestock.

MOVED: Terry Ungarian, County of Northern Lights

SECONDED: Sandra Eastman, MD of Peace

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution. There was no opposition to the resolution, so Chairman Dutrisac called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 45-11 (80%)

10. Motion to Adjourn

Chairman Dutrisac adjourned the 2023 resolution session at 3:29 p.m.

**RESOLUTION 8-23
CONSIDERATION OF MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL
POLICIES FOR LARGE SCALE SOLAR AND RELATED ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS
ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

WHEREAS the *Municipal Government Act* requires that Municipal Development Plans include policies for the protection of agricultural operations and that a land use bylaw may regulate and control the use and development of land and buildings to protect agricultural land; and

WHEREAS the *Weed Control Act* requires municipalities to inspect compliance under this Act; and

WHEREAS the *Soil Conservation Act* requires landowners to prevent soil loss or deterioration from taking place; and

WHEREAS the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan 2014-2024 aims to promote and remove barrier to new investments in renewable energy; and

WHEREAS Federal and Provincial policies are impeding collaboration, innovation, and diversification by adding regulations to large scale energy developments without consideration of the local environmental conditions and of local municipal policies and bylaws to uphold existing Acts, Regulations, and regional plans.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That when Federal and Provincial governments approve large scale energy developments that they consider local environmental conditions and the policies that the local municipality has in place on the development through their permitting process.

SPONSORED BY: County of Warner No. 5

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Federal and Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Canada Energy Regulator

**Alberta Energy
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
Alberta Environment & Protected Areas
Alberta Energy Regulator
Alberta Utilities Commission**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Recently in the County of Warner, these issues of stripping topsoil, wind erosion, soil degradation, lack of cover and invasive weeds were highlighted when a large-scale solar development was approved by our local planning committee with conditions regarding soil and weed control in place. These conditions included a specific grass seed mix, and a combination of chemical treatment and mowing schedule to control the known weeds in the area. When the approvals came back from the Federal government, they said that the developer was not allowed to spray chemicals and altered the grass seed mixture. With the Federal government approvals for stripping topsoil, we have experienced wind erosion, soil degradation and invasive weed issues, due to the lack of ground cover. If the conditions of our approval were upheld these issues would have been minimized.

We are asking the Federal and Provincial governments to consult with municipalities on how to minimize impacts on the environment and that they work with the municipal policies and follow their permitting process.

Relevant legislation

Several acts inform the purpose of municipalities, first and foremost the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA). It states the purpose of municipalities as including “to foster the well-being of the environment,” and “to provide services, facilities or other situations that, in the opinion of council, are necessary or desirable for all or a part of the municipality.” In addition, the role of an Agricultural Service Board (ASB) according to the *Agricultural Service Board Act* (ASB Act) is “to advise on and to help organize and direct weed and pest control and soil and water conservation programs” and “to promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality.” Specifically, under the *Weed Control Act* (WCA) “a local authority shall appoint inspectors to enforce and monitor compliance with this Act within the municipality” and under the *Soil Conservation Act* (SCA) “every landholder shall ... take appropriate measures ... to prevent soil loss or deterioration from taking place.” As in many rural municipalities around the province, the County of Warner has a policy appointing the Agricultural Fieldman to act as a municipal inspector under the WCA, SCA, and *Agricultural Pests Act* to fulfill the purpose and duties as assigned to us through the Acts.

To uphold the WCA the Ag Fieldmen work closely with landowners to develop a customized weed control program. The exact program design depends on the ecological factors in the area, which the Ag Fieldman is familiar with, such as the variety of weeds (including noxious and prohibited noxious weeds), weather patterns, and geology. This is particularly significant for prohibited noxious weeds as limited control options may be available, and further spread has the potential to cause significant crop yield losses and

become an established invasive species in natural and riparian areas. Understanding the local ecological factors also weighs heavily in upholding the SCA, which has a long history in Alberta with the aim to provide a framework for encouraging sound soil conservation practices, to preserve Alberta's agricultural land base, and to ensure the long-term productivity of the farming sector. The ASBs and their Ag Fieldmen of rural Alberta have over the years worked hard to gain knowledge, improve practices, and uphold the regulations to provide this protection. This protection and compliance with legislation should be the goal of all levels of government, which should be attained with more awareness and cooperation rather than disregarding work already done.

One of the objectives of renewable energy according to the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan 2014-2024 (SSRP) is that "value-added opportunities that enhance the sustainability of Alberta's industries and communities are created". The SSRP strategies include to "ensure policies are in place to promote and remove barrier to new investments in renewable energy." In addition, the Canada Energy Regulator regulates pipelines, energy development and trade, while ensuring the confidence of Canadians, safety, and environmental sustainability. This often makes it more difficult for local jurisdictions to work with companies by interfering with local policies and strategies despite holding the same aims of supporting the sustainability of upcoming energy industries. Through the roles taken by municipalities and ASBs, the municipalities have been close stewards of the local land and understand how to ensure environmental sustainability in the area. However, the lines of power and responsibility between the three levels of government often blur and appear to overlap, and one level of government ends up re-doing work already done by other levels. Relevant to the WCA and SCA is how regulation of the environment has been found to come under the federal government's jurisdiction pursuant to peace, order, and good government (POGG).

Environmental regulation of higher levels of government is triggered by large scale developments through the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) at both the provincial and federal level. EIA is a process to predict the impact of projects on the environment before they are carried out. In Alberta, projects may trigger a provincial or federal EIA depending on what matters the project will touch on. The current EIA process in Alberta is based on the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, with processes set out in the Environmental Assessment Regulation and activities that trigger an EIA set out in the Mandatory and Exempted Activities Regulation. In addition to the provincial EIA, the current federal EIA process is based on the 2012 *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). Pursuant to this Act, the federal government developed a regulation to designate physical activities that automatically trigger a federal EIA. These clauses are highly important to municipalities, as numerous municipal projects may contain one or more of these impacts. For example, projects such as dams have the potential to trigger both a provincial and federal EIA, leading to a long and resource intensive process before the project can be completed, which is detrimental to investment. This causes the revisitation, and sometimes disregard of conditions municipalities have previously placed during the permitting processes of large-scale developments, and so dismisses the local knowledge of necessary weed and soil control programs.

RMA Background:

Resolution 5-18S

Provincial Government Consultation and Communication Protocol with Municipalities

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) appeal to the Government of Alberta to establish and maintain a uniform consultation and communication protocol with municipal elected officials which is applicable to all provincial bodies;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that through this consultation and communication protocol, the Government of Alberta recognizes and acknowledges the legislated significance of municipal elected officials, and that the Government of Alberta engage municipalities openly and transparently to provide input and feedback on the consultation and communication protocol from inception through to implementation.

link <https://rmaalberta.com/resolutions/5-18s-provincial-government-consultation-and-communication-protocol-with-municipalities/>

Resolution 6-22S

Responsiveness of Service Delivery by Quasi-independent Agencies in Alberta

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request that the Government of Alberta review the continued use of unelected, quasi-independent agencies for the administration and delivery of essential public services, with the results of the review published for public examination.

Resolution 7-20F

Amendments to Municipal Government Act of Service Delivery by Quasi-independent Agencies in Alberta

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta urge the Government of Alberta to amend Section 619 of the *Municipal Government Act* to clearly state that the Natural Resources Conservation Board, the Energy Resources

Conservation Board, the Alberta Energy Regulator, the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board or the Alberta Utilities Commission must consider municipal statutory land use planning related to the protection of productive agricultural lands when making decisions on licenses, permits, approvals and other authorizations under their jurisdiction. link <https://rmaalberta.com/resolutions/7-20f-amendments-to-municipal-government-act-section-619/>



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

President

Président

160 Elgin St., 22nd floor
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

160, rue Elgin, 22^e étage
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

February 23, 2023

Sebastien Dutrisac
Chair, Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee
Box 580
Cardston AB T0K 0K0
asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Sebastien Dutrisac:

Thank you for your letter of February 13, 2023, concerning the 2023 Alberta Agricultural Service Board Resolution 8-23, regarding the consideration of municipal environmental and agricultural policies for large-scale renewable energy developments on agricultural lands. I appreciate you sharing these concerns, though I note that no large-scale solar development projects proposed in the County of Warner, Alberta, were subject to federal assessment processes administered by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency), formerly known as the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

The *Impact Assessment Act* (the IAA) sets out the federal process for assessing the impacts of certain major projects. The *Physical Activities Regulations* (the Regulations) under the IAA describe those types of projects that would be subject to the requirements of the IAA. Proponents of projects described in the Regulations are required to submit an Initial Project Description to the Agency in order to determine whether an impact assessment is required. Further information on the IAA and associated regulations can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency.html>.

The IAA recognizes the importance of meaningful public participation and requires that opportunities for public participation be provided during the assessment process. For projects that are subject to the IAA, public participation opportunities occur during the Planning, Impact Statement, and Impact Assessment Phases of the impact assessment process.

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- 2 -

External stakeholders interested in projects subject to the IAA, including local municipalities, can engage as part of the public participation process and are extended opportunities to provide knowledge and expertise to inform the impact assessment process. Public and stakeholder input on key issues and concerns are taken into account before decisions are made, as appropriate.

Should large-scale renewable energy developments in the County of Warner or elsewhere in Canada be subject to the IAA in the future, please be assured that the Agency would carefully consider municipal environmental and agricultural policies in any assessment.

I appreciate you bringing this matter to my attention and trust that you will find this information useful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terence Hubbard', written in a cursive style.

Terence Hubbard (he/him, il)

RESOLUTION 9-23
SYNTHETIC FERTILIZER EMISSIONS

WHEREAS the federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change is seeking to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with synthetic fertilizer by 30% below 2020 levels by 2030; and

WHEREAS the federal government has set a goal for 2025 to achieve \$75 billion in agricultural exports; and

WHEREAS instituting a reduction of synthetic fertilizer emissions will inevitably place a cap on synthetic fertilizer use and limit crop production for Canadian farmers; and

WHEREAS limiting crop yield by limiting fertilizer usage will inevitably reduce production and food security; and

WHEREAS regional research and development is necessary to eliminate the uncertainty resulting from incomplete data for measuring fertilizer emission levels in different crop types, geographical regions, and growing conditions; and

WHEREAS the 4R Climate-Smart Protocol is designed to promote sustainable use of fertilizer in crop production and can reduce GHG emissions by focusing on the “4 Rs” of fertilizer application: Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time, and Right Place; and

WHEREAS the 4R Climate-Smart Protocol optimizes plant nutrient uptake, increases yield, maximizes profitability, and minimizes nitrous oxide emissions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Federal Government of Canada adopt the 4R Climate- Smart Protocol approach developed by The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) of Fertilizer Canada and provide sustainable funding into research and development regarding fertilizer use efficiency.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change suspend the 30% synthetic fertilizer emission reduction targets until the proper tools to measure emissions for producers are available.

SPONSORED BY: Northern Sunrise County
MOVED BY: _____
SECONDED BY: _____
CARRIED: _____
DEFEATED: _____
STATUS: Federal
DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Preface:

Sustainable high-yielding agricultural production is essential for Canada to remain economically competitive in the world market, especially with increasing demands for food, feed, and biofuel products, both domestic and abroad. To achieve production demands, the use of fertilizer is essential to produce increasingly high crop yields.

The Federal Government has set a goal to grow agricultural exports to \$75 billion by 2025, yet they are inevitably stifling this target by indirectly capping synthetic fertilizer use with their emission target to reduce GHG emissions associated with fertilizer by 30% below 2020 levels by 2030. Canadian agricultural producers currently utilize fertilizer efficiently and even marginal reductions in fertilizer use will hinder crop production, threatening the well-being of Canadians, as well as the global food supply. This restriction on fertilizer may result in soil nutrients being underapplied, which would threaten agricultural sustainability by reducing soil fertility and soil nutrient reserves.

Greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide are generated from fertilizer use. A reported 60% increase in direct emissions associated with synthetic nitrogen fertilizer since 2005 highlights the need for more research on fertilizer use, the development of higher efficiency products, and a stewardship program that focuses on targeted application. These environmental concerns will not be effectively stifled by restricting fertilizer use to meet the goals proposed in the Government of Canada's 2020 Strengthened Climate Plan. Instead, as a more agronomically viable approach to meet the fertilizer emission target, we propose an increase in funding for regional research and development for innovative technologies that can improve both the monitoring and use of synthetic crop fertilizer products. In addition, stewardship of fertilizer use needs to be improved by implementing Fertilizer Canada's 4R Nutrient Stewardship approach. This approach is science-based and involves applying the Right Source of fertilizer at the Right Rate, Right Time, and in the Right Place. The use of the 4R Nutrient Stewardship optimizes plant nutrient uptake, increases yield, and maximizes profitability, while also minimizing nitrous oxide emissions.

The development of more efficient fertilizer products or application methods, paired with more accurate monitoring techniques and environmentally conscious targeted fertilizer application programs, will allow Canada to meet the fertilizer emission target without hindering crop production, sustainability, and the economy.

4R Nutrient Stewardship

The 4R Nutrient Stewardship approach is a concept developed through a long history of cooperation between the fertilizer industry and the scientific community. Since at least 1988, application of the right nutrient source or product at the right rate, right time and in the right place has been closely associated with agricultural sustainability. It has been developed, modified, and built upon since then, and likely has roots from the 1988 Thorup and Stewart research paper. At this point the 4Rs include:

- **Right source** matches the fertilizer type to crop needs. This encompasses the use of synthetic versus organic fertilizers, as well as fertilizers with different nutrient compositions and different formats (liquid, granular, seed-banded, slow release, manure, etc.) and products that include additives such as nitrification and urease inhibitors;
- **Right rate** matches the amount of fertilizer to crop needs. This entails only applying what can be taken up by the crop over the course of the growing season. This recommendation can include precision application technologies (including those that address in-field variability), and the use of soil tests to make nutrient management decisions accounting for existing soil nutrient levels;
- **Right time** means nutrients are available when crops need them. This could include practices such as split application (applying at seeding as well as later at critical crop growth stages) or avoiding applying fertilizer in the fall when there is a higher risk of loss through spring runoff and volatilization;
- **Right place** means nutrients are placed where crops can use them. This recommendation includes practices such as banding, whereby the fertilizer is applied in concentrated strips; side dressing, whereby fertilizers are placed in a row adjacent to the crop, or seed-placed, where fertilizers are placed in the same furrow as the seed. This includes practices such as broadcasting where possible, whereby nutrients are spread on the surface of the soil (or growing crop) and which can lead to inefficiencies and losses to the broader environment.

Importance of Implementing These Strategies:

4R Nutrient Stewardship:

While adoption of at least some 4R practices exists in most regions across the country, to maximize emissions reductions, more widespread adoption at higher performance levels is necessary. Despite high levels of awareness, surveys indicate that only around 25% of farmers have worked with a 4R designated or certified Agronomist, and that less than 10% of farmers indicated that they have a formal 4R plan of any kind in place

(Fertilizer Canada Fertilizer Use Survey, 2019). Existing data from Fertilizer Canada and the 4R Research Network indicate that the implementation of a 4R program can reduce fertilizer related emissions while maintaining and/or improving crop yields. They further suggest that the widespread adoption of 4R in Western Canada could reduce emissions by 2 to 3 megatonnes – or 50 to 75% of the Government’s emission reduction target. The 4R Nutrient Stewardship procedure reduces GHG emissions more than the practice of replacing synthetic fertilizer with manures, compost, or digestate, which has only seen to reduce emissions by 10-20%.

There is widespread recognition that the principles underlying the 4R practices can reduce emissions from N fertilizer. However, more training and resources, for both producers and production advisors are needed to improve the adoption of this strategy to ensure that it is properly implemented.

Research and Development:

It is important to note that fertilizer uptake and efficiency varies across the country as the emissions reduction potential is impacted by agronomic and biophysical factors (soil type, soil humidity, climate). There is no single universally applicable path for reducing emissions from fertilizer. The 4R Nutrient Stewardship strategy allows for an environmentally conscious tailored approach. However, there remains a high degree of uncertainty and complexity resulting from incomplete scientific data on how exactly different environments, crops, and conditions affect fertilizer activity. This information is vital for the efficacy of the 4R approach. Data will need to be more comprehensively developed as part of ongoing and future research and development efforts to meet the emissions reduction target. To achieve this, more funding is needed to power this research in many regions across the nation. It is crucial that many different climactic conditions, regions, and crop types are evaluated through this research to better inform fertilizer application decision making in all areas of Canada. To improve uptake of this information, this research should be published in a publicly accessible format.

Additionally, the development of more precise and higher functioning fertilizer products is necessary to reduce the emissions from synthetic fertilizer. For instance, the precision of fertilizer rates could be improved by manufacturers introducing a maximum guarantee for nitrogen content in synthetic fertilizer, in conjunction with the current minimum guarantee, to produce a range of nitrogen. This introduction of the maximum guarantee would prevent the over-application of nitrogen fertilizer since the highest guaranteed nitrogen content is listed. The introduction of this labelling would better inform the Right Rate component of 4R Nutrient Stewardship. Innovation around fertilizer production including the use of green ammonia to reduce life-cycle emissions would help with creating cleaner fertilizer sources which would reinforce the Right Source component of the 4R strategy. Research into more precise equipment and machinery to apply fertilizer would help the 4R strategy by improving the Right Place aspect of the technique. Research into more rapid fertilizer application technology would help with the Right Time aspect of the 4Rs and avoid the need for fall fertilizer applications which are primarily done to save time during the spring but have more environmental risks such as runoff and denitrification.

The implementation of these strategies will ensure the maintenance of the agricultural sector's competitiveness in the country, as well as Canada's reputation as a top producer and exporter of quality crops.

Supporting Information:

Modifying Monitoring Techniques:

Stakeholders from Fertilizer Canada's 2019 Survey were concerned that the current National Inventory Report (NIR) methodology may not fully account for emission reductions achieved as part of the target. This is due in part to the current methodology's approach to measurement of emissions, and challenges with obtaining and measuring data at the individual farm level. While improvements in NIR reporting on nitrous oxide (N₂O) are underway and expected to be implemented in time for publication in 2022, these improvements do not yet capture on-farm activity related to fertilizer application practices due to a lack of data at this scale. Additional Federal funding into ongoing research to address will help to ease the concerns of these stakeholders.

Sulvaris Agricultural Technology

Innovative technologies will be key to improving fertilizer usage. Investments into this type of research are imperative for creating more environmentally friendly fertilizers. In July of 2022, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, showed a quintessential example of this type of investment when she announced an investment of up to \$1,685,858 for Sulvaris, a crop input research company in Calgary, Alberta. This funding will aid to further develop new technology to produce high-efficiency fertilizers made with organic carbon. Their carbon control technology converts various forms of organic waste into high-efficiency fertilizers that are rich in nutrients and soil-building carbon. These products are economical to use in large-scale agriculture, as well as for lawn and plants in commercial and home use. These fertilizers improve on conventional chemical fertilizers by releasing nutrients more slowly. This gives plants the ability to absorb the nutrients as they need them to develop and grow. The more efficient uptake means less unabsorbed nutrients are left in the soil, reducing the risk of them releasing harmful GHG or contaminating waterways.

Food Shortage Concerns

Imposing an indirect cap upon the amount of fertilizer applied to Canadian fields will stifle the ability of our nation to continue to produce and export high quality crops that are crucial for feeding the world. The conflict in Ukraine, a major agricultural producer, has created even more demand for Canadian agricultural products, both as exports and contributions to the World Food Bank. Even before the war in February 2022, many countries around the world were struggling to get access to adequate food supplies

following the economic downturn triggered by Covid-19. Between 720 and 811 million people went hungry in 2020, and this number is expected to go up in 2022 spiking around the world. While post-pandemic global demand, extreme weather, tightening food stocks, high energy prices, supply chain bottlenecks, and export restrictions and taxes have been straining the food market for two years, the recent convergence of all these factors following Russia's invasion is unprecedented and has sent food prices into an undetermined inflation rate. This situation, where many hands are pursuing very scarce and expensive food resources, could incite civil conflict – as witnessed during the Arab spring, an event partly a reaction to high cereal prices. The president of the World Bank, David Malpass, stated that “countries should make concerted efforts to increase the supply of energy and fertilizer, help farmers increase plantings and crop yields, and remove policies that block exports and imports, divert food to biofuel, or encourage unnecessary storage.” The fertilizer section of the Federal Government's Strengthened Climate Plan will directly interfere with the ability of Canada to follow this directive and hinder the ability of the world to recover from these recent global catastrophes.

Fertilizer is needed to feed the growing global population, which is predicted to grow to 10 billion by 2025, according to the United Nations. Up until this threat to production, synthetic nitrogen fertilizer has played a key role in enhancing global food production and keeping half of the world's population adequately fed. Fertilizer Canada estimates that without fertilizer, food production would be cut in half. This further demonstrates how the limit on fertilizer use will be detrimental for the well-being of many people.

Current Government Fertilizer Stewardship Resources:

Federal and provincial governments already have several programs available to support producers in adopting more efficient nutrient management practices. For example:

- Under the Agriculture Climate Solutions On-Farm Climate Action Fund, the federal government has made \$200 million available to support adoption of beneficial management practices on-farm, including a focus on nutrient management;
- Under the Agriculture Climate Solutions Living Labs Program, a national network of living laboratories is being established to support demonstration and knowledge transfer regarding beneficial practices that are tailored to regional realities; and
- Under the Canadian Agriculture Partnership, federal and provincial governments invest in key priorities, including supporting provincial programs to offer access to Environmental Farm Plans and financial support to adopt new beneficial management practices

Additional Resources:

Further background for this resolution can be referenced in the following discussion paper and news release, posted on the Government of Canada website, under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, on May 10, 2022, and July 4, 2022, respectively.

May 10, 2022 Discussion Document: <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/about-our-department/transparency-and-corporate-reporting/public-opinion-research-and-consultations/share-ideas-fertilizer-emissions-reduction-target/discussion-document-reducing-emissions-arising-application-fertilizer-canadas-agriculture-sector>

July 4, 2022 News Release: <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/07/government-of-canada-invests-over-16-million-in-new-technology-for-high-efficiency-fertilizers.html>