



AGENDA

Agricultural Service Board Meeting

9:00 AM - Tuesday, November 25, 2025
Council Chambers

Page

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. SELECTION OF CHAIR/VICE CHAIR

- 3 - 4
1. Nomination for ASB Chair and Vice-chair
[Nomination for ASB Chair and Vice-chair](#)

C. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

D. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 5 - 7
1. Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes
[Agricultural Service Board - 27 Mar 2025 - Minutes](#)

E. DELEGATIONS

- 8 - 24
1. 10:00 a.m. - Alan Efetha, ASB Provincial Specialist, Alberta Agriculture & Forestry
[2025 Lethbridge County Final Field Visit Report Recommendation](#)

F. REPORTS

- 25 - 31
1. Manager of Agricultural Services, Report on Activities
[Manager of Agricultural Services, Report on Activities](#)

G. NEW BUSINESS

- 32 - 51
1. South Region Resolutions & Conference Summary
[RESOLUTION 1-26 Emergency Registration of 2 Liquid Strychnine](#)
[Reference to Resolution 1-26 Emergency Registration of Strychnine](#)
[RESOLUTION 2-26 ECCC and DEF 1](#)
- 52
2. ASB Conference Attendance/South Delta Hotel Edmonton - January 20-22, 2026
[2026 Provincial ASB Conference](#)

3. **ASB Tour Summer 2026 - Wheatland County**
4. **Reviewing and Improving the Impact & Purpose of the ASB - Ken Coles**
5. **Rural Dust Concerns - Ken Coles**

H. CORRESPONDENCE

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 53 - 109 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>ASB Correspondence</u>
 <u>Wellsite Reclamation Concern Letter</u>
 <u>State of Agricultural Disaster and Proposed Assistance</u>
 <u>Agricultural Disaster Map</u>
 <u>CFIA - Universal Ostrich Farm - Letter of Concern</u>
 <u>AB Transportation Concern Letter</u>
 <u>2025 ASB Report Card FINAL</u> |
| 110 - 114 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <u>Bio Control Consortium</u>
 <u>TOR Alberta Biocontrol Consortium FINAL Approved</u> 3. <u>ASB Provincial Committee/Terms of Reference</u> |
| 115 - 128 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. <u>Proposed Provincial Resolution Process</u>
 <u>2025 Proposed PRP Package</u> |

I. CLOSED SESSION

1. **2026 Bank of Montreal/Calgary Stampede Farm Family Awards Program (ATIA Section 22 - Confidential evaluations)**

J. ADJOURN

AGENDA ITEM REPORT



Title: Nomination for ASB Chair and Vice-chair
Meeting: Agricultural Service Board - 25 Nov 2025
Department: Agriculture Service Board
Report Author: Gary Secrist

APPROVAL(S):

Ryan Thomson, Director, Operations
Cole Beck, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 19 Nov 2025
Approved - 19 Nov 2025

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:



Governance



Relationships



Region



Prosperity

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Each year County Council is to appoint a chair of the Agricultural Service Board which is brought to Council as a recommendation from the ASB Board. The ASB Board is able to appoint a vice-chair and no further resolution needed.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Agricultural Service Board recommend to County Council their choice of chair for the year.
2. That the ASB appoint a member to take on the role of the vice-chair for the year.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

To follow the rules as set out in the ASB Act:

ASB Act Section 3(2) 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.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

Last year the chair was appointed through a recommendation coming from the Agricultural Service Board. The vice chair was appointed at the fall ASB meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2022 the composition of the Agricultural Service Board committee transformed from a group made up entirely of council members to a board that now includes 3 members at large. The chair is appointed by Council and can be any member of this group and the vice-chair is appointed by the ASB. ASB delegates with voting privileges are appointed by Council and are typically the chair and vice chair of the agriculture service board, but do not have to be.

ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

It is important that County Council and the ASB Board follow the rules set out in the ASB Act and the corresponding Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board Bylaw No. 22-017 which defines the appointment of the ASB Chair.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact.

LEVEL OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

☐ Inform ☐ Consult ☒ Involve ☐ Collaborate ☐ Empower



MINUTES

Agricultural Service Board Meeting

9:00 AM - Thursday, March 27, 2025
Council Chambers

The Agricultural Service Board of Lethbridge County was called to order on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 9:00 AM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Deputy Reeve John Kuerbis
Councillor Klaas VanderVeen
Councillor Kevin Slomp
Councillor Lorne Hickey
ASB Member at Large Ken Coles
ASB Member at Large Dan Chapman
ASB Member at Large Logan Miller
Chief Administrative Officer Cole Beck
Supervisor, Agricultural Services Gary Secrist
Director, Operations Ryan Thomson
Executive Assistant Candice Robison

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman John Kuerbis read the following land acknowledgement:

In the true spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge all those who call this land home now and for thousands of years in the past. May we respect each other and find understanding together and recognize the benefits that this land provides to all of us.

B. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The following item was added to the agenda:
G.4 - Remuneration for Members at Large

1-2025 Councillor MOVED that the March 27, 2025 Agricultural Service Board Meeting
VanderVeen Agenda be approved, as amended.
CARRIED

C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

D.1. Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes

2-2025 Councillor MOVED that the October 22, 2024 Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Hickey Minutes be approved, as presented.
CARRIED

D. NEW BUSINESS

D.1. Agricultural Service Board 2025 Level of Service

3-2025 Councillor MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board 2025 Level of Service be
Slomp recommended to Council for approval.
CARRIED

E. DELEGATIONS

E.1. 9:30 a.m. - Alan Efetha - ASB Provincial Specialist, Alberta Agriculture & Forestry
Alan Efetha, ASB Provincial Specialist with Alberta Agriculture & Forestry was present to provide information on the Lethbridge County 2025 field visit.

Chairman John Kuerbis recessed the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

Chairman John Kuerbis reconvened the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

- E.2. **10:00 a.m. - Neha Vaid Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sustainable Agriculture, Department of Biological Sciences, U of L**
Neha Vaid, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sustainable Agriculture, Department of Biological Sciences, U of L provided a presentation on the introduction of millets as sustainable crops for marginal lands, carbon sequestration and prevention of soil erosion in Southern Alberta.

F. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Agricultural Service Board reviewed the following correspondence items:

- F.2. **Summer Tour**
F.3. **Declared Disasters**
F.4. **ASB Provincial Conference Decorum/Code of Conduct**
F.5. **Tariffs on Canadian Agriculture Products**
F.6. **Farmer Pesticide Certification Program**
F.1. **Bill C-293**

4-2025	Councillor Slomp	MOVED that the Agriculture Service Board write a letter in opposition to Bill C-293.	CARRIED
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G. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- G.1. **Extension Update - Matthew Wells**
Matthew Wells, Rural Extension Specialist provided an update on the following:

- Rural Extension Program
October – March
- Environment Farm Plans Program
 - Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership funding
 - On-Farm Climate Action Fund Program
 - Alberta Agroforestry Crop & Agroclimate Impact Reporting
- Workshops and Webinars
- Nutrient Management Webinar Series (Jan. 27, Feb. 3, and Feb.10)
 - Growing Opportunities Workshop (Co-Hosted with Warner County)
 - Shelterbelts and Resilient Landscapes Workshop (April 16)
 - Oldman Watershed Group Meeting (October – Date TBD)
 - EFP Workshop (November – Date TBD)
- Attendance
- Innovations in Ag (November 27)
 - RINSA Update (January 23)
 - Ag Expo (January 26-28)
 - Coaldale Ag Society Meeting (February 11)
 - Farming Smarter Trade Show and Conference (February 12-13)
 - Aggie Day at Lethbridge College (April 3)
 - R.I. Baker Presentations (May 30)
 - Farming Smarter 2-day Field School (June 25-26)
 - Open Farm Days (August 16)
- Projects
- Liquid Manure Dragline Program
 - Prescribed Fire
 - Rural Living & Ag Extension Newsletter
 - Rural Extension Videos
 - Promoting Legislation

G.2. ASB Resolution Summary - Chairman John Kuerbis
Chairman John Kuerbis provided a summary on the ASB resolutions.

G.3. ASB Position Statements
Chairman John Kuerbis reviewed the ASB position statements.

G.4. Remuneration - Members at Large
Dan Chapman, Member at Large spoke about remuneration for members at large.

H. ADJOURN

5-2025	Councillor Hickey	MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board Meeting adjourn at 11:32 a.m.	CARRIED
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ASB Chairman

CAO

Lethbridge County Field Visit

April 23 & July 23, 2025



Introduction

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Program conducts field visits annually to ensure ASB Grant funding appropriately supports ASB Grant Program objectives. Information gathered from field visits also benefits other ASBs in the development and delivery of programs related to the ASB Grant and provides evidence to the Office of the Auditor General on the effective and efficient use of ASB Grant dollars to support programs related to the *ASB Act*, environmental extension and awareness, and rat control.

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) visited 14 municipalities in 2025 under the field visit program. Five municipalities from the South, three from Central, three from Northwest, one from Northeast, and two from the Peace region received a field visit in 2025.

South	Central	Northwest	Northeast	Peace
Warner	Lacombe	Leduc	Bonnyville	Fairview
Lethbridge	Red Deer	Strathcona		Northern Sunrise
Taber	Rocky View	Yellowhead		
Vulcan				
Special Area 4				

Executive Summary

Alan Efetha, Agricultural Service Board Specialist and Rezvan Karimi-Dehkordi, Senior Policy Analyst, met with Gary Secrist, Agricultural Fieldman for Lethbridge County on Thursday July 23, 2025 to review programs and projects implemented under the various Acts the ASB is delegated to enforce.

Lethbridge County received funding under the Legislative Funding and Resource Management Streams of the ASB Grant.

Based upon our field visit findings and observations, Lethbridge County was able to demonstrate that they had programs related to each of these funding streams, indicating appropriate use of ASB Grant dollars to support activities related to the administration of legislative requirements under the *Agricultural Service Board Act* and enhance environmental awareness.

FIELD VISIT AGENDA - FIELD OFFICE & TOUR SITES:

- The Lethbridge County Field visit took place on two separate dates, ASB meeting on April 23, 2025 and the actual field visit with ASB staff on July 23, 2025.
- During the actual field visit, Alan Efetha and Rezvan Karimi-Dehkordi, from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI), met with Gary Secrist (Agricultural Fieldman), Derek Vance (Assistant Agricultural Fieldman), and Matthew Wells (Rural Extension Specialist) to review ASB legislative responsibilities, policies, and programs for weed and pest control, soil conservation and sustainable agriculture.

Observations

- The partnership between Gary and the ASB is strong and his team have very proactive and effective pest surveillance, weed control, soil conservation, and agricultural sustainable programs.
- The council supports the ASB and the Agricultural Fieldman and his staff to fulfill their legislative and agricultural extension and sustainable mandates.
- Overall, the scope of the work the ASB delivers meets the requirements of the ASB Grant Program.
- The Lethbridge County ASB consists of four councillors and three members at large who are familiar with agricultural concerns and issues and are qualified to develop policies consistent with the ASB Act.
- ASB members are highly engaged and committed to providing essential input into the agricultural policies and programs for the municipality. The ASB Chair demonstrates strong leadership in conjunction with skilled and knowledgeable board members who are supportive of the role of the Agricultural Fieldman and work in a collaborative manner with council and administration to fulfil the mandate of the ASB program and grant.
- The municipality has a well-developed identification and tracking system for weeds that can be adapted for pest tracking applications.
- Lethbridge County ASB staff have strong awareness and education communications with residents that is being leveraged into targeted programming for priority issues.
- Gary in conjunction with ASB members are developing collaborative networks and partnerships to enhance and support program delivery outcomes.

SECTION 1: LEGISLATED DUTIES & REQUIREMENTS

Section 1: Legislated Duties & Requirements

Requirement 1: Legislated activities are reported to council as per section 4 of ASB Act (Summary of activities - Minimum annually)					
Fully Meeting X		Partially Meeting		Not Meeting	
Criteria	Notes	Status		Recommendations	
		Yes	No	Critical	Significant
ASB is appointed by council	- Council appointed and approved ASB on October 22, 2024 during organizational meeting. - Council meeting minutes, showing the appointment obtained. - ASB consists of 4 councillors: John Kuerbis, Klaas Vanderveen, Kevin Slomp, Lorne Hickey and 3 members at large: Ken Coles, Dan Chapman and Logan Miller.	X			
Ag. Fieldman is appointed by Council	- Fieldman, Gary Secrist, was appointed by Council at the start of his employment in 2013. - The appointment was recorded in council minutes dated September 19, 2013	X			-
ASB members meet section 3 (3) of ASB act (knowledgeable on ag and qualified to develop ag related policies)	- ASB members received orientation training from Alan Efetha (AGI's Provincial ASB Specialist) on April 14, 2025.	X			
ASB active	- ASB meets twice per year and members also attend regional and provincial ASB conferences - Fieldman sends out a monthly update to all ASB members and closely works with the ASB Chair on	X			

Classification: Protected A

	anything he needs to be communicated with the members on.				
Summary of activities provided to council	- ASB activity reports are given to Council for review and approval twice per year. - Council reviews and ratifies ASB business plan yearly and level of service plan (ASB activities).	X			
Minimum one report(s) provided to council per year	- ASB semi annual reports are given and presented to Council during regular meeting and at organizational (budget) meeting.	X			

Requirement 2: ASB acts as an advisory body to council to support section 2 (a) through (e) of ASB Act.					
Fully Meeting X		Partially Meeting		Not Meeting	
Criteria	Notes	Status		Recommendations	
		Yes	No	Significant	Enhancement
ASB provides input into municipal plans on areas of agricultural interest	- ASB strategic plan exists and feeds into the County's strategic plan (a copy of the strategic plan was obtained. - ASB strategic plan is reviewed annually. - ASB has a guiding document known as "Agricultural Service Board Level of Service" that guide the Fieldman and his staff to implement the ASB strategic plan's activities.	X			

**Requirement 3: Promote and develop agricultural policies as per *ASB Act* Section 2e
(Minimum annually; Current within year; policies and bylaws for the following:**

- *Weed Act*
- *Agricultural Pests Act*
- *Soil Conservation Act*
- *Animal Health Act*
- *ASB Act*

Fully Meeting X		Partially Meeting		Not Meeting		
Criteria	Notes	Status		Recommendations		
		Yes	No	Critical	Significant	Enhancement
ASB has and applies policies and/or bylaws for <i>WCA</i>	- The county has weed control and vegetation management guidelines and procedures for Integrated Weed Management, Weed Inspections, Roadside mowing, Issuing of the Weed Notices, Managing Leafy Spurge and Knapweed and Prohibited Noxious Weeds, and Inspecting Seed Cleaning Plants.	X				
ASB has and applies policies and/or bylaws for <i>APA</i>	- The county has Pes Control and Management Guidelines and Procedures for Pest Surveys, Live Traps, Investigating Norway Rats, Coyotes, and Skunks, and Grasshoppers and Clubroot Disease Controls.	X				
ASB has and applies policies and/or bylaws for <i>SCA</i>	- The county has Pes Control and Management Guidelines and Procedures for Soil Conservation – prevention and inspection of soil erosion.	X				
ASB has and applies policies and/or bylaws for <i>AHA</i>	- ASB staff is ready to reports diseases and assist in case of emergency related to the <i>AHA</i> .	X				

Classification: Protected A

	- County has a Livestock Emergency Management Plan that outlines livestock types, animal movement biosecurity, incident response, reference list and animal health risk assessments.					
ASB has and applies policies and/or bylaws for ASB act	- County has a document refers to as "Agricultural Service Board Level of Service" that outlines the ASB strategy and guidelines for governing and administering the ASB Act.	X				

Requirement 4: Appeal committees meet requirements of Acts.					
Fully Meeting		Partially Meeting X		Not Meeting	
Criteria	Notes	Status		Appeal Committee Names	Recommendations
		Yes	No		Significant
ASB has appeal committee that meets the WCA	- Confirmed the appointment of an independent appeal committee, the ASB.	X		Brian Harbers, Steve Campbell, and Rob Van Diemen	
ASB has appeal committee that meets the APA	- Appeal committee is appointed and approved by council yearly.	X		Brian Harbers, Steve Campbell, and Rob Van Diemen	
ASB has an appeal committee that meets the SCA	- ASB is the appeal committee for the SCA but the requirement was not spelled out in the County's ASB Terms and		X	John Kuerbis, Klaas Vanderveen, Kevin Slomp, Lorne Hickey, Ken Coles, Dan Chapman and Logan Miller	Recommend amending the Lethbridge County Level of Service to include the SCA requirement that ASB is the Appeal Committee for the <i>Soil Conservation Act</i> (Section 14 (a)) and Council should annually inform the newly appointed ASB.

	Reference nor in any of the Council meetings minutes.				
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Requirement 5: Inspector Appointments and Inspections						
Fully Meeting X		Partially Meeting		Not Meeting		
Criteria	Notes	Status		Recommendations		
		Yes	No	Critical	Significant	Enhancement
Local authority appoints inspectors under the WCA 7(1)	- 2 weed inspectors, Aaron Bradley and Derek Vance (in addition to the Ag Fieldman) were appointed by council and had valid Inspector's ID card in 2025 season. - Council meeting minutes for the appointments were obtained.	X				
Local authority provides inspectors with identification WCA 10 (1)	- 3 inspectors were provided with valid identification cards.	X				
Local authority appoints sufficient # inspectors under the APA 9 (1) (2) 10 (1) (2)	- 2 pest inspectors, Aaron Bradley and Derek Vance (in addition to the Ag Fieldman) were appointed by council and had valid Inspector's ID card in 2025 season.	X				
Local authority provides inspectors with identification APA 17 (3)	- 3 inspectors were provided with valid identification cards.	X				
Inspector(s) with Form 7 certification APA Regulation 14 (2)	- 3 inspectors have valid Form 7 (i.e. permit for Coyote and Skunk control).	X				

Classification: Protected A

Local authority appoints at least one inspector under the SCA 15 (1) (2)	- The County has appointed 2 Soil Conservation Officers.	X				
Municipality meets requirements listed in section 2c of ASB Act for AHA	- ASB staff is ready to report diseases and assist in case of emergency related to the AHA. - County has a documented procedures for responding to livestock emergencies.	X				

Requirement 6: Act Compliance & Enforcement						
Fully Meeting X		Partially Meeting		Not Meeting		
Criteria	Notes	Status		Recommendations		
		Yes	No	Critical	Significant	Enhancement
Local authority has procedures in place for issuing notices and tracking enforcement under the WCA Part 3	- Inspection programs are complaint and mainly proactive driven. - A step by step weed control plan has been developed for inspectors to follow in reaching compliance (Agricultural Service Board Level of Service guidelines and procedures for weed control). - The process include educating landowners about the weeds, methods of weed control, and what happens when compliance is not reached. Issuing and	X				

	enforcing the weed notices are done when the landowner is unable to implement suggested weed control methods. - Detailed records of the weed control and communication processes are kept and tracked. - 4 Weed Control Act Notices were issued in 2024 - GPS-based record system is used for tracking weed inspection and re-inspection records and other documents associated with weed control enforcement. - Inspection report that is included in the letter sent to occupant and landowner. - The procedure listed in the WCA is followed when issuing notices.					
Seed cleaning plants licensed WCA Regulation Part 1 (2) – (7)	- 3 valid Seed Cleaning Inspection licenses were confirmed and a copy obtained.	X				
Local authority has procedures in place for issuing notices and tracking enforcement under the APA 12 (1) – (4) 13 (1) and APA Pest & Nuisance Control Regulation 14 (2) (3) (6) (7) (8) (9) (13)	- Inspection programs are complaint and proactive driven. - Follow the procedure listed in the APA. - Pest control policies ((Agricultural Service Board Level of Service guidelines and procedures for pest	X				

Classification: Protected A

	control) are used to achieve compliance: - Participate in pest management: surveillance of Insects (bertha Army Worms and Grasshoppers) and Crop disease (Fusarium, Blackleg, Bacterial Ring Rot, and Clubroot) and the Control of vertebrates (Gophers, Rats, Skunks, and Coyotes).					
Local authority has procedures in place under the SCA 4 (1) (2), 5 6 (1) – (3) * procedure to monitor soil condition is mandatory; actions taken are based upon local circumstances	- Inspection programs are both complaint and proactive. - 6 soil conservation issues were solved in 2024. - The county has procedure place for monitoring soil erosion risk conditions.	X				

Requirement 7: Program & Policy Awareness (Section 2 of ASB Act)						
Fully Meeting X		Partially Meeting		Not Meeting		
Criteria	Notes	Status		Recommendations		
		Yes	No	Significant	Enhancement	
ASB has E&A programs in place for all legislated responsibilities under ASB Act 2 (b) – (c)	- Strong education and awareness (E&A) programs exist for producers and rural residents for WCA and APA (e.g. awareness programming informs on responsibilities, processes, enforcement and policies, etc.).	X				

	- The ASB uses a variety of extension tools to build awareness on weed and pest issues as well as other ASB Programming. These includes news releases; media releases; newspaper articles, factsheets/guides (digital and print), bi-weekly newsletters, extension events (in-person and on-line), Ag. tours, county website, social media, municipal programs, one-on-one consultation, and workshops - Lethbridge County's ASB supports farmers and producers by encouraging production, profitability, and sustainability. They offer programs and provide information on crop protection, including vegetation management, insect and pest control, and soil erosion control.				
ASB has programs in place for all legislated responsibilities under ASB Act 2 (d) (e)	- ASB is ready to promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with an aim of improving local economy. - ASB has promoted and developed policies to meet the needs of the municipality.	X			

Section 2: Resource Management Requirements

Classification: Protected A

Requirement 8: Resource Management Programming (as per grant agreement) - describe activities and programming supported under this funding stream. Does it align with programming outlines in application?					
Received Resource Management Funding: No Partnership (list)					
Fully Meeting X		Partially Meeting		Not Meeting	
Criteria	Notes	Status		Recommendations	
		Yes	No	Significant	Enhancement
ASB – CAP programming	- Informed clients about CAP transitioning to S-CAP - Staff addressed water quality concerns. - Educated producers about S-CAP through organizing workshops, newsletters, social media, and the County website.	X			
ASB – EFP programming	- ASB staff promoted A-CAP to 48 clients and EFP to 30 clients - Educated producers about EFP through organizing workshops, newsletters, social media, and the County website.	X			
ASB – Environmental/Resource management programming	- Council supports and approves the ASB's Environmental Stewardship program that promotes awareness and extension by delivering 9,600 hard copies of Newletters per year to rate payers, focusing on improving water and soil quality and biodiversity. These newsletter copies were also posted on the County website and promoted via social media. - Partnered with 14 partners to extend agricultural sustainable events to reach 3379 clients	X			

Recommendations Categories

Critical: directly impacts legislated requirements with implications for grant fund disbursements

Significant: directly impacts legislated requirements without implications for grant fund disbursements

Enhancement: indirectly impacts legislated requirements and provided for continuous improvement

Recommendations Process

- √ Recommendations for the ASB are categorized based upon the criteria's impact on the requirement.
- √ Due dates reflect the timeframe permitted for the identified issue to be resolved by the ASB.
- √ Signatures accepting the recommendations reflect the ASB's commitment to resolve the issue by the due date.
- √ Materials substantiating the resolution of the issue are provided by the ASB to the Minister's representative by the due date.
- √ The Minister's representative in conjunction with the ASB unit reviews all submitted materials to assess whether the actions taken are sufficient to resolve the issue and meet the requirements' criteria.
- √ If the issue is assessed as resolved, the Minister's representative will sign off on the recommendation. If further actions are required, the ASB Unit Manager and Minister's representative will work with the ASB until the issue is closed and requirements are met.

Field Visit Recommendations Plan Summary (for all critical and significant recommendations)				Recommendation Tracking	
Requirement	Recommendation	Critical / Significant / Enhancement	Due Date	Assessment Decision	Approved by/Date
4	- Recommend amending the Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Level of Service to include the <i>SCA</i> requirement that ASB is the Appeal Committee for the <i>Soil Conservation Act</i> (Section 14 (a)) and Council should annually inform the newly appointed ASB.	Significant	May 31 st , 2026		

Recommendations accepted:

ASB Chair: John Kuerbis

Signature of ASB Chair: _____

Date: Oct 27, 2025

Agricultural Fieldmen: Gary Secrist

Signature of Ag. Fieldmen _____

Date: _____

Recommendations assessment:

Reviewed by: _____

Date: _____

Assessment decision: _____

Date: _____

Classification: Protected A

Classification: Protected A

Field Visit Recommendations Plan Summary (for all critical and significant recommendations)				Recommendation Tracking	
Requirement	Recommendation	Critical / Significant / Enhancement	Due Date	Assessment Decision	Approved by/Date
4	- Recommend amending the Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Level of Service to include the SCA requirement that ASB is the Appeal Committee for the <i>Soil Conservation Act</i> (Section 14 (a)) and Council should annually inform the newly appointed ASB.	Significant	May 31 st , 2026		

Recommendations accepted:

ASB Chair: John Kuerbis

Signature of ASB Chair: _____

Date: Oct 27, 2025

Agricultural Fieldmen: Gary Secrist

Signature of Ag. Fieldmen: _____

Date: Oct 27/25

Recommendations assessment:

Reviewed by: _____

Date: _____

Assessment decision: _____

Date: _____

Classification: Protected A

AGENDA ITEM REPORT



Title: Agricultural Fieldman, Report on Activities
Meeting: Agricultural Service Board - 25 Nov 2025
Department: Agriculture Service Board
Report Author: Gary Secrist

APPROVAL(S):

Ryan Thomson, Director, Operations
Cole Beck, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 19 Nov 2025
Approved - 19 Nov 2025

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:



Governance



Relationships



Region



Prosperity

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This is the Agricultural Fieldman report for the November 25th, 2025 Agricultural Service Board Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Agriculture Service Board receives this report from the Agricultural Fieldman for information.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

The Agriculture Service Board is given the report verbally by the Agricultural Fieldman and ASB members are given the opportunity to receive clarification if needed.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Agricultural Fieldman report is attached.

ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

That we do not accept the Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

All activities performed by the ASB department were included in the 2025 budget that was approved by County Council.

LEVEL OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:



Inform



Consult



Involve



Collaborate



Empower

ATTACHMENTS:

[Supervisors Report](#)



Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report

ASB Grant

The ASB Provincial Grant has been renewed for a 5-year cycle running from 2025-2029. Lethbridge County receives annual funding of \$166,247 for Legislative and \$77,350 for Resource Management programming, respectively.

Mowing

- ASB staff completed two cuts on most gravel roads and 3 cuts on paved roads for a total of 6,200 miles of roadside mowed.
- Hamlets, subdivisions, cemeteries, and were cut twice with some areas receiving a third cut late in the season as the gravel road mowers passed by.
- Mowing was also done for weed control in areas where spraying was not possible. This mostly occurred on roads where specialty crops were grown and where grass has been seeded and is unable to accept a chemical application.

Level of Service Measures: Staff anticipate we will meet all Level of Service goals for 2025 and come close to budget amounts. Some dryland areas did not need a second cut and most paved roads needed numerous cuts as early passes were quick to grow back.

Weed Control

- Most of the roadside spraying took place in Divisions 6 and 7 this year with spot spraying being performed throughout the County. Increased spot treatment occurred where mowers were last to arrive. In total 436 miles of road were sprayed.
- A total of 36 Prohibited Noxious and 356 Noxious weed sites were found with most being sprayed and 47 sites being hand-picked. All these sites are GPS mapped for future reference.
- Custom Spray work for Volker Stevin had a budget set at \$30,000 at the beginning of the year and crews ended up doing \$45,000 of work.
- Road top vegetation control work was busy in early spring applying pre-emergent herbicides assisting grader operators to deal with excess vegetation growth on 172 miles of road.
- Weed inspection activities helped resolve numerous issues with weed notices being issued where warranted. In total 25 issues were resolved without notice, and 4 notices were issued



- Bio-Control agents for Leafy Spurge were released on 8 spots in the County. Results from past drops appear to be taking a foothold although early spring moisture saw an increase in weed density. We are given a

\$8,000 Grant from Alberta Environment to control Leafy Spurge and other noxious weeds along the Oldman River bed and shore.

Level of Service Measures: All targets have been met, and Roadside Spraying has achieved the 33% target of roads to be blanket sprayed. When road top applications are taken into consideration approximately 47% of roads seen a chemical application.

Pest Control

- A private contractor was hired to do a survey for Dutch Elm disease between Coaldale and Lethbridge North of highway #3 for 4 miles, with no suspect trees found.
- The annual grasshopper survey showed numbers decreased for 2025 and projections for 2026 will be available this winter once data is collected from around the province.
- The 2025 Bacterial Ring Rot Survey included 10 fields with no sign of the disease present.
- The Bertha Army worm survey was carried out by ASB staff with most spots seeing a reduction from year over year results. There was one field in the Barons area that had a medium risk threshold, but it did not meet the economic threshold for control.
- Staff completed 14 wheat head and 2 barley surveys for disease including Fusarium.
- A total of 10 fields were surveyed for Canola diseases including Clubroot and Blackleg.
- Trap loan outs saw 9 magpie traps going out and 13 for skunks.

Soil Conservation

- The fall of 2024 and early spring of 2025 saw conditions develop that were favorable for soil erosion. In total 5 producers were required to take action.
- The soil erosion video that was developed a few years ago by our Rural Extension Specialist that details pro-active control measures for soil erosion continues to receive hits online.
- Many producers have changed practices to include winter and cover crops which has reduced incidences of wind erosion. Manure applications on sandy land have also helped.

Level of Service Measures: Soil erosion targets depend on many factors that are out of our control. All known instances have been inspected and there has been an increase in staff time spent on this activity over the past 4 years.



ASB Resolutions

• Delegates addressed two Resolutions at the ASB South Region Conference held in Cypress County in September. Both Resolutions sponsored by Foothills County passed and will flow through to the Provincial Conference in January. The following resolutions are attached:

- 1-26 Emergency Registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine
- 2-26 Exemption of Agriculture Equipment from Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 Limits

Roadside Seeding

- ASB crews undertook the seeding of drains and road construction. Staff use a combination of hydro-seeder and harrow and spread.

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

Rental equipment

- 15 Brillion Drill rentals were delivered in 2025 with a total revenue of \$3,150. In 2024 similar revenue was achieved with 2023 being a busy year with 24 rentals and a total of \$6,020 in revenue.
- The plastic roller for silage and grain bag plastic saw heavy use with it going out 40 times. Most of the use was for 5 large producers

Brushing

- Dry weather in late winter and early spring was ideal for this activity. All trees and brush spots that are controlled are GPS marked for future reference. Herbicide is used where applicable.

Parks

- Parks, playground, and shop yard maintenance were quite busy all summer as moisture conditions kept crews hopping.
- Safety inspections for playground equipment and pathways are performed on a regular basis by trained staff.
- Playground upgrades in Turin, which included a new play structure and court area, have been well received by the community.
- In 2026 we plan to resurface approximately 2 miles of pathway in Mountain Meadows with limestone.



Level of Service Measures: We are meeting our maintenance goals in parks with turnaround times of 10-14 days during peak season. An additional staff member was added in 2025 to accommodate expanding activity in industrial subdivisions and the addition of the Link Pathway. As construction on the Link pathway continues additional resources will need to be added.

Farm Family

- The 2025 Calgary Stampede BMO Farm Family was the Konynenbelt Family who farm close to Nobleford.

Other Activities

- \$5,000 was donated to the Farm Safety Centre to provide in-classroom farm safety training.
- Participated in Ag-Expo as an Exhibitor

Rural Extension Activities

- **Environmental Farm Plan (EFP):** One of the top municipalities in terms of number of producers that complete their EFP each year. 36 producers have completed their EFP as of November 6th. Hosted an EFP workshop November 5th for 14 producers.
- **Sustainable-Canadian Agriculture Partnership Program (SCAP):** Funding is currently closed for all programs except the Water Program. Will reopen in the New Year. Due to demand, have been warning producers that are looking for funding to have all information on hand when applications are open.
- **On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF):** Continue to promote program but have few questions regarding this program from producers.
- **Rural Living Magazine:** Changed from 3 Newsletter releases per year to 2 magazine issues per year. Idea is to provide higher quality and have more control over product and distribution.
- **Booth/Exhibits:**
 - Aggie Day at Lethbridge Polytechnic (April 4th)
 - Farming Smarter Field School (June 25th-26th)
 - Open Farm Days (August 16th)
 - Lethbridge Polytechnic Field Day (August 21st)
- **Workshops:**
 - Shelterbelts and Resilient Landscapes Workshop (April 16th)



- Oldman Watershed Annual Group Meeting (September 25th)
- Environmental Farm Plan Workshop (November 5th)

- **Presentations:**

- R. I. Baker School Presentation (May 30th)

- **Reporting:** Alberta Agroforestry Crop & Agroclimate Impact Report completed once a month

- **Rural Living Video's:**

- White Pine Weevil: Long Video
 - Benefits of Shelterbelts: Short Video
 - Importance of Mowing: Short Video
 - Fire Prevention: Short Video

- **Legislation (Awareness & Education):** Promote legislation and bring awareness of Acts to County citizens

- Soil Conservation Act
 - Weed Conservation Act
 - Agriculture Pest Act
 - Animal Health Act

Level of Service Measures: We are meeting the goals outlined in our grant by delivering a wide range of extension activities. We continue to expand our communication methods, engaging with producers, rural communities, and students effectively.

**RESOLUTION 1-26: EMERGENCY REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR
RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL (RGS) CONTROL**

WHEREAS 2% liquid strychnine has proven the most effective tool in managing
Richardson's ground squirrels in the prairie provinces since about 1928.

WHEREAS to help maintain a level of Richardson's ground squirrel infestation below
economic threshold as part of an integrated pest management plan;

WHEREAS there is still no other product available that is as effective as 2% liquid
strychnine; and

WHEREAS when handled and used according to label, the off-target impacts have been
minimal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Health
Canada, work with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) and make 2% liquid
strychnine available to bona fide farmers/ranchers for the 2026 season and beyond.

SPONSORED BY: Foothills County

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Health Canada, Alberta Agriculture and
Irrigation, PMRA

Background Information

The Agricultural Services Boards of Alberta adopted a position statement for the
reinstatement of 2% liquid strychnine in January of 2025.

Position 1: Advocacy for the Reinstatement of 2% Liquid Strychnine

'ASB's strongly advocate for the reinstatement of 2% liquid strychnine under strict regulatory oversight to ensure its safe use. Strychnine has been a historically effective single-feed bait, enabling producers to manage infestations cost-effectively and efficiently. While there is evidence of non-target species being impacted, this needs to be considered. Strychnine has been used since 1928 without significant detrimental impacts. Given the lack of equally effective alternatives, its availability would significantly benefit agricultural producers while mitigating severe infestations. Enhanced safety protocols and certified applicator requirements could accompany this reinstatement to minimize environmental risks and non-target impacts.'

<https://agriculturalserviceboards.com/asb-position-strychnine-and-richardsons-ground-squirrel-control/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/ground-squirrels-alberta-1.7575688>

An open letter was sent by the Government of Alberta to the Federal Government to appeal for the reregistration of 2% Liquid Strychnine on June 27, 2025 which included the following monetary risk. "In Alberta alone, the annual risk to hay and native pasture exceeds \$800 million." This number can be found through an open letter sent out on X through RJ Sigurdson.

<https://x.com/RjSigurdson/status/1938713068990799887>

In Foothills County the estimated annual cost to producers as a result of RGS due to the loss of strychnine is \$3,000,000 in crop losses. This estimate does not include losses and injuries to livestock, equipment damages, or damages to other infrastructure. This information was taken from 13 producers representing about 27,000 acres in Foothills County. Producers are turning to other means of control like firearms and other explosive solutions in an attempt to deal with RGS in the absence of strychnine. These control methods are inherently more dangerous underlining the need for strychnine.

September 12, 2025 letter to John Barlow MP Foothills from Foothills County ASB.

John Barlow, Shadow Minister of Agriculture and Agr-Food collected information from 23 jurisdictions from 3 provinces on the damages of RGS due to the absence of Strychnine. The briefing document concludes, 'The growing impact of Richardson's ground ssquirrels on Prairie agriculture appears to have been exacerbated by the removal of effective control tools. As such, rural municipalities have claimed an increasing threat to farm viability, rural economies, and livestock health. Various rural municipalities across the prairies are sounding the alarm. In addition to that, agriculture groups like Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) and Agriculture Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) have asked to reinstate the use of Strychnine along with the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Conservatives have called on the government to approve the emergency use of strychnine.'

Briefing Note for the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food on Strychnine

Over the years, numerous resolutions have been presented at ASB Conferences advocating against the deregulation of strychnine. It is considered by every jurisdiction in Alberta to be a very important tool to control RGS. Strict regulatory oversight in conjunction with educational components facilitated by Alberta's ASBs would ensure continued safe application of 2% liquid strychnine by producers as has been accomplished in the past.

Some responses by the Federal departments have included:

In 2008 Health Canada responded to a Strychnine resolution as follows:

"Health Canada considers the emergency registration of two percent liquid strychnine and its associated conditions of registration to be the best interim approach for addressing the localized high populations of Richardson's ground squirrels while further research is being conducted to find a more long-term sustainable solution."

In 2010 the PMRA responded to a Strychnine resolution as follows:

"In addition the Pest Management Regulatory Agency will continue to consider emergency registration applications for the use of 2% liquid strychnine in areas for which a critical need is identified is such applications are received by the Agency."

In 2011 the PMRA responded to a Strychnine resolution as follows:

"Recognizing there are limited option in the short term, the emergency registration for 2% LSC was granted on 23 February 2011 under strict conditions. The 2% LSC can only be used in highly infested areas of Alberta until the end of June 2011."

In 2012 The PMRA responded to a Strychnine resolution as follows:

"The PMRA granted full registration of 2% LSC on 23 February 2012."

<https://agriculturalserviceboards.com/resolution-archives/>

Health Canada and the PMRA have found Strychnine to be the right solution to the RGS infestation in the past and we are asking them to consider it as a solution to the present RGS infestation.

References

Letter to John Barlow from Foothills County ASB concerning RGS:

September 12, 2025

109 – 4th Avenue SW
High River, Alberta
T1V 1M5

Dear John Barlow MP Foothills

Thank you for your concern on a significant threat to Alberta producers and residents. Richardson Ground Squirrels (RGS) are a significant threat to Agriculture in Foothills County. The damage done by RGS has increased significantly since 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate was deregistered by Health Canada on December 10, 2019. They are commonly found in all parts of the County. They have infested acreages, hay land, pasture land, crop land, and towns. They not only damage plants but valuable infrastructure and buildings.

Over the course of the summer of 2025 we have had in depth conversations with 13 producers representing over 27,000 acres of land who have to deal with RGS issues on their farm. Some common points have been:

- Nothing has controlled RGS like Strychnine.
- RGS issues on their farms and with neighbours have gotten worse since Strychnine was deregistered.
- Damage from RGS ranges from negligible (1-3%) to significant (10%) of crops lost.
- Farmers have moved to using shooting as their main control.
- They are also using various other baits like Zinc Phosphide and Rozol.
- Some farmers are using explosives.
- Producers feel unheard in regards to Strychnine.

The County of Foothills is planning to continue to interview farmers to come up with more details on RGS damage in the County.

Currently it is estimated from our surveys that of the approximately 830,000 acres of farmland in the County about 15,000 acres are lost to RGS damage. This represents a loss of about \$3,000,000 annually from County producers. This number is sure to grow without Strychnine as a tool for our producers. These numbers do not include isolated losses like horse injuries or damage and fouling to infrastructure and buildings. This is no longer just a producer issue. It affects everyone in our County.

We look forward to working with you on making Strychnine safe and effective for our County residents.

Thank you

Rob Siewert
Agriculture Service Board Chair
Foothills County

**Briefing Notes for the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food prepared by
MP John Barlow (added as a separate attachment).**



Briefing Note for the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

From: MP John Barlow, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food

Subject: Summary of Municipal Reports on Richardson's Ground Squirrel Infestations and Agricultural Impacts in Prairies

Date: September 5th, 2025

PURPOSE

To provide a summary of municipal-level data and observations regarding Richardson's ground squirrel (RGS) infestations and the resulting agricultural impacts across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, and to request that the federal government authorize the emergency use of strychnine for provinces that formally request it. This briefing highlights the growing economic, environmental, and animal welfare consequences of ineffective gopher control methods following the ban on strychnine.

KEY FACTS

- A data request was sent to municipalities across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba in June 2025 to document the scale and impact of gopher infestations post-strychnine ban.
- A multitude of rural municipal responses reveal widespread and escalating infestations, with many municipalities reporting moderate to severe damage to cropland, hayland, and pasture.
- According to Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC), 123,000 acres were affected by gopher-related damage in 2024 alone, resulting in \$10.6 million in payouts under federal-provincial insurance programs.
- In the absence of strychnine, producers rely on alternatives such as Rozol, Ramik Green, , trapping, and shooting—all of which are less effective and far more labour-intensive.
- There is broad municipal consensus that gopher damage will continue to escalate if no effective solution is restored or introduced.
- It must be noted that there is inconsistent municipal data collection.

SUMMARY OF MUNICIPAL FINDINGS

1. Widespread and Increasing Infestations

- Multiple municipalities across Alberta and Saskatchewan report rising RGS populations, with infestations now affecting both cropland and pastureland.



- **Beaver County** reports the largest infestation in the last 10 years. Reports found that there was nearly an entire half section (~300 acres) of impacted cropland. The other reports were of 50 acres of impacted cropland, and 40 acres of pasture.
- Reports from **Lacombe County** indicate between 25% to 50% of pasturelands is experiencing moderate to significant damage.
- **Parkland County, RM of Old Post No. 43 (SK)**, and others report a visible increase in public complaints and calls for support from local producers.

2. Loss of Strychnine Has Significantly Weakened Control Measures

- Various municipalities expressed concern over the loss of 2% liquid strychnine, citing reduced effectiveness of current baits like Rozol and Ramik Green.
- **Lamont County** and **Thornhill County** note that current control measures are labour-intensive, often requiring 3–4 weeks of consistent application, which is unsustainable for producers.
- **Municipality of Crowsnest Pass** and **Strathcona County** have resorted to non-agricultural methods like fumigation and trapping on municipal lands, with limited success.

3. Livestock and Public Safety Risks

- **RM of Lipton (SK)** and others raised serious safety concerns for livestock (tripping hazards, leg injuries).

4. Economic and Agricultural Losses

- **Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC)** paid **\$10.6 million** in gopher-related claims in 2024 alone, covering **123,000 acres**, with average losses of **\$86 per acre**.
- Historical SCIC data from 2020–2024 shows a sustained and significant cost trend due to gopher damage, with indemnities totaling over **\$45 million** over five years. See Appendix to refer to table.
- **Parkland County** and **RM of Fertile Valley No. 285 (SK)** report instances of full crop losses in areas of infestation.

Conclusion

The growing impact of Richardson's ground squirrels on Prairie agriculture appears to have been exacerbated by the removal of effective control tools. As such, rural municipalities have claimed an increasing threat to farm viability, rural economies, and livestock health. Various rural municipalities across the prairies are sounding the alarm. In addition to that, agriculture groups like SARM and APAS have asked to reinstate the use of Strychnine along with the provinces of SK and AB. [Conservatives have called](#) on the government to approve the emergency use of strychnine.

Appendix - Collected Responses from Rural Municipalities – 2025

Alberta

County of Northern Lights

- **Comments:** No gopher or Richardson's ground squirrel presence in the County or Peace Region. Concern over implications of strychnine loss on predator management.
- **Received:** June 20, 2025
- **Contact:** Blake Gaugler (gauglerb@countyofnorthernlights.com)

Lamont County

- **Comments:**
 - Loss of 2% strychnine has greatly reduced control effectiveness.
 - Alternative baits require acclimatization; uptake drops once vegetation is lush.
 - Increase in infestations; many producers now rely on shooting.
- **Received:** June 23, 2025
- **Contact:** Terry Eleniak (terry.e@lamontcounty.ca)

M.D. of Pincher Creek

- **Declaration:** Agricultural Disaster declared June 10, 2025, due to drought.
- **Comments:**
 - Severe livestock impacts; poor soil moisture and feed availability.
 - Crops underperforming; hay and pasture quality declining rapidly.
 - Water shortages critical; many turning to hauled water.
- **Submitted in:** Letter to federal and provincial Agriculture Ministers
- **Date:** June 23, 2025

Lacombe County



- **Extent of Damage:**
 - ~25% of cultivated acres and 50% of pastureland affected by RGSQ.
 - Most damage occurs in overgrazed pastures.
 - **Mitigation:**
 - Rozol and Oat Bait effective if used early (March–April).
 - Later baiting or shooting less / in-effective.
 - **Outlook:**
 - Without early baiting and improved pasture management, damage will grow.
 - **Received:** July 3, 2025
 - **Contact:** Mike Bates (mbates@lacombecounty.com)
-

Municipality of Crowsnest Pass

- **Comments:**
 - Ground squirrels increasingly affect municipal areas (e.g., parks, dog fields).
 - 5 complaints in 2024; estimated 12–20% rise in burrow activity.
 - High public pressure due to safety risks.
 - **Mitigation:**
 - Fumigation with Cheetah Rodent Machine – moderate effectiveness.
 - **Received:** July 7, 2025
 - **Contact:** Patrick Thomas (Patrick.Thomas@crowsnestpass.com)
-

Parkland County

- **Comments:**
 - Increasing RGS concerns; observed in Alberta Crop Report.
 - Damage observed on 1–3 acre areas of cropland.
- **Mitigation:**



- Limited due to strychnine ban. Promoting trapping, poison, raptor posts.
 - **Outlook:**
 - Without improved control options, situation will worsen.
 - **Received:** July 8, 2025
 - **Contact:** Chad Ritter (chad.ritter@parklandcounty.com)
-

Beaver County

- **Comments:**
 - Post-strychnine ban, gradual increase in gopher activity.
 - Largest infestation in 10 years (approx. 300 acres impacted).
 - **Reports in 2025:** 4 (3 agricultural, 1 residential)
 - **Received:** July 9, 2025
 - **Contact:** Jonathan Culbert (jculbert@beaver.ab.ca)
-

Saddle Hills County

- **Comments:** No gophers currently present in the municipality.
 - **Received:** July 14, 2025
 - **Contact:** Kathrin Langlois (klanglois@saddlehills.ab.ca)
-

Thorhild County

- **Extent of Damage:**
 - 5 confirmed infestations; up to 20% crop/hay loss reported.
- **Mitigation:**
 - Ramik-Green, Rozol used but require extended effort.
- **Outlook:**
 - Populations increasing rapidly; Phostoxin not favoured due to safety concerns.



- **Received:** July 15, 2025
 - **Contact:** Clarence Dowhan (Clarence.Dowhan@thorhildcounty.com)
-

Strathcona County

- **Comments:**
 - Minimal crop damage; most complaints relate to pasture and municipal lands.
 - Control through integrated pest management on County land.
 - **Received:** July 17, 2025
 - **Contact:** Lana Fleming (Lana.Fleming@strathcona.ca)
-

Brazeau County

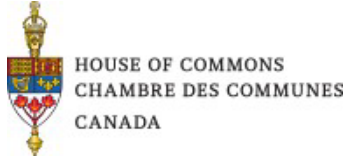
- **Comments:**
 - No significant damage locally.
 - Strongly supports research into viable alternatives to strychnine.
 - **Received:** July 22, 2025
 - **Contact:** Liz Seutter-Rosell (LSeutter-Rosell@brazeau.ab.ca)
-

Wheatland County

- **Comments:**
 - No data currently available; lacks a formal data-gathering process.
 - Contacted AFSC to explore data collection solutions.
 - **Received:** August 5, 2025
 - **Contact:** George Bloom (george.bloom@wheatlandcounty.ca)
-

Saskatchewan

RM of Old Post No. 43



- **Comments:**
 - Significant difficulty managing gopher populations post-strychnine ban.
 - Mixed feedback on Rozol RTU effectiveness.
 - **Received:** July 23, 2025
 - **Contact:** Taryn Ogle (rm43@sasktel.net)
-

RM of Pense No. 160

- **Comments:**
 - No formal records, but anecdotal reports of 5,000+ gophers shot on one farm.
 - Ongoing community concern about control efficacy and strychnine ban.
 - **Received:** July 17, 2025
 - **Contact:** Cathy Ripplinger (rm160@sasktel.net)
-

Rm of Blaine Lake No. 434

- **Comments:**
 - Provides rozol to resident farmers as a replacement option for strychnine.
 - Rozol doe does not provide an effective means of treatment for eliminating an over population of gophers like strychnine.
 - Residents are struggling on how to deal with over population and crops are suffering damage.
 - Ask to reintroduce strychnine as a treatment option as razol is an ineffective treatment option
 - Received August 12th
 - Contact: Linda Klimm
-



RM of Indian Head No. 156

- **Comments:**
 - Significant gopher increase this year, evident in Rozol sales.
 - Recommend contacting Saskatchewan Crop Insurance for detailed data.
 - **Received:** July 11, 2025
 - **Contact:** Tracy Luscombe (rm156@sasktel.net)
-

RM of Fertile Valley No. 285

- **Comments:**
 - Some canola damage and increased burrow activity in 2024.
 - Fewer sightings in 2025—possibly due to increased badger activity.
 - **Received:** July 9, 2025
 - **Contact:** L. Jean Jones (rmfv285@sasktel.net)
-

RM of Walpole No. G2

- **Comments:**
 - High infestation levels affecting hay and crop land.
 - No specific data; recommends contacting Sask Crop Insurance.
 - **Received:** July 10, 2025
 - **Contact:** Cheryl De Roo (rm92@sasktel.net)
-

RM of Hudson Bay No. 3G4

- **Comments:** No significant gopher problem in the municipality.
 - **Received:** June 23, 2025
 - **Contact:** Crystal Smith (rm394@sasktel.net)
-



RM of Norton No. 6G

- **Comments:** No data available; no submissions from producers.
 - **Received:** June 23, 2025
 - **Contact:** Patti Gurskey (rm.69@sasktel.net)
-

RM of Martin No. 122

- **Comments:** No municipal data; claims go through Crop Insurance.
 - **Received:** June 23, 2025
 - **Contact:** Cheryl Barrett (admin@rmofmartin.com)
-

RM of Lipton No. 217

- **Comments:**
 - Significant damage to ag lands and ecosystems.
 - Control measures deemed ineffective or unsupported.
 - Calls for coordinated provincial and federal response.
 - **Received:** August 6, 2025
 - **Contact:** Ronda Heisler (rm.217@sasktel.net)
-

Government of Saskatchewan – Office of the Minister of Agriculture

SCIC Data (2020–2024): KEY FACTS:

- Gopher damage is compensated through the Wildlife Damage Compensation and Prevention program and Crop Insurance programs when establishment and yield losses occur.
- Losses occurring up to June 20 are considered establishment losses and valued based on the Establishment Benefit Rates. Losses are determined based on yield loss impact after this date.
- In 2024, claims totaling \$10.6 M were paid on approximately 123,000 acres for an average of \$86 per acre.



- Table 1 provides claim information from 2020 to 2024.

BACKGROUND:

- Table 1 Wildlife and Crop Insurance Gopher Claims

Crop Year	Sum of Acres	Sum of Indemnity	\$ Indemnity/Acre Avg
2020	33,911	\$ 2,261,417.45	\$ 66.69
2021	99,464	\$ 14,152,078.45	\$ 142.28
2022	118,631	\$ 11,833,475.09	\$ 99.75
2023	61,529	\$ 6,901,725.12	\$ 112.17
2024	122,871	\$ 10,596,598.60	\$ 86.24

*Claims that list gophers as primary and secondary cause of loss for wildlife, gopher damage feature and crop insurance claims

-
- **Program:** Wildlife Damage Compensation C Crop Insurance
- **Received:** July 8, 2025
- **Contact:** Jacob Sawatzky (jacob.sawatzky2@gov.sk.ca)

Manitoba

Municipality of Rhineland

- **Comments:**
 - Long-standing gopher bounty program.
 - 2025: 108 gophers, 101 moles
 - Historical claims:
 - 2024: 204 gophers



- 2023: 46 gophers
 - 2022: 106 gophers
 - 2021: 124 gophers
- **Received:** June 23, 2025
 - **Contact:** Michael Rempel (michael.rempel@rhinelandmb.ca)

RESOLUTION 2-26: EXEMPTION OF AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT FROM CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1999 EMISSION LIMITS

- WHEREAS** Concerns have been raised about the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of current Government of Canada emissions control on diesel vehicles and machinery (Diesel Exhaust Fluid - DEF);
- WHEREAS** Producers in Alberta face expensive repairs and more costly down time dealing with Diesel Exhaust Fluid and cold temperatures;
- WHEREAS** Producers in Alberta need to stay competitive in the international markets; and
- WHEREAS** The net environmental benefit of DEF is negligible when considering the environmental impact of break downs, down time, and reduced longevity of equipment.

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

That Agriculture and Agri Food Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, and Alberta Environment work with the Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada to exempt agricultural equipment and vehicles from emission limits for nitrogen oxides (NOx) so that the waste of maintaining diesel exhaust fluid and selective catalytic reduction systems can be eliminated.

SPONSORED BY: Foothills County

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri Food Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Alberta Environment

Background

The Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA) is an act of the 36th Parliament of Canada which outlines how to reduce nitrous oxides in diesel fuel exhaust. Currently nitrogen oxides are transformed into water nitrogen by using diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) in a catalytic converter. This meets the requirements set out in CEPA and thus means every diesel-powered vehicle or piece of equipment must have a DEF system or some other means of reducing nitrous oxides in their exhaust.

Some frequent DEF issues include crystallization and freezing, contamination and quality degradation, sensor and component failures, and storage and handling challenges. These issues ultimately involve a service call and parts where minimum costs run in the thousands of dollars but can easily escalate into tens of thousands of dollars. Speaking with local dealers they cite the cost of DEF, costly repairs, and customers claiming fuel mileage to be better without DEF as major issues with the systems.

Foothills County ASB alone has spent \$70,636 on DEF repairs on 4 tractors from 2021-25. This is about \$3,500 per tractor per year over the past 5 years. The tractors are from 2015, 2017, 2017, and 2018. On each tractor we spent about \$500/ year considering its age. So given that there are about 25,000 (About 16% of the total in the 2021 census) tractors in Alberta with DEF that would mean every year Albertans are spending about \$12,500,000 on DEF repairs on just tractors. This expense is not even considering the cost of DEF, decreased fuel mileage, down time, and other equipment using DEF. DEF would also increase the repair time for other issues given that DEF parts are sometimes in the way for more common repairs. This would be a very conservative yearly cost for producers in Alberta.

Agriculture is a vital component of a maintaining a stable Canada. It is the Government of Canada's mission to keep Canadian agriculture competitive, innovative and sustainable. Providing an exemption for agricultural equipment and vehicles from emission limits will aid in keeping our agriculture in Canada competitive, innovative and sustainable.

References

Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA)-

<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-15.31/>

Fuel Logic – March 2024

<https://www.fuellogic.net/diesel-exhaust-fluid-problems/>

DLS Fleet Services (Heavy Duty Truck Focus)

<https://www.dlsfleetservices.com/company/articles>

Fluid Life – DEF Issues

<https://www.fluidlife.com/blog-common-def-problems-testing/?srsltid=AfmBOoraiadMRPhK8a3J4JeZ7H6e7f1d-wZAZmc0UmJ-g4X9lyTzi6dC>

Rislone - Corrosion from DEF

<https://rislone.com/blog/diesel/diesel-exhaust-fluid-contamination-forms-causes-and-consequences/>

Foothills County expenses involving DEF – 2021-2025 (Information included in the resolution)

Agriculture Canada Mission and Vision – 2025

<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/departement/what-we-do>

2021 Census info on Tractor

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3210022901&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.10&cubeTimeFrame.startYear=2001&cubeTimeFrame.endYear=2021&referencePeriods=20010101%2C20210101>

Farmers Forum Article March 2, 2023

<https://farmersforum.com/farmers-illegally-dismantle-emissions-system-on-every-single-tractor-insiders-say/>

2026 PROVINCIAL ASB CONFERENCE

TUESDAY JANUARY 20, 2026

2:00pm-3:30pm

ASB Chairman's Meeting

Main Ballroom

ASB Chairmen and Fieldmen are invited to join the ASBPC for a presentation, facilitated discussion and networking meeting.

2:00pm-3:30pm

ASB Orientation

2nd Floor - Fort McMurray Room

ASB members who have not received an Orientation are encouraged to attend this session. Space is limited to 40 attendees.

4:00pm-5:00pm

Townhall with Assistant Deputy Minister John Conrad

All delegates are invited to attend this update from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

5:00pm-5:30pm

Break

5:30pm-6:00pm

2026 ASB Conference Welcoming Remarks

6:00pm

Supper Served

6:00pm-9:00pm

Reception and Networking



Brazeau County

7401 – Twp Rd 494, P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A 1R1

PHONE: (780) 542-7777 - FAX: (780) 542-7770

www.brazeau.ab.ca

October 8, 2025

Honorable Brian Jean
Minister of Energy and Minerals
324 Legislature Building, 10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Brian Jean,

Re: Wellsite Reclamation

On behalf of the Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board, I am writing to express concern over recent comments by your Chief of Staff, Vitor Marciano, at the Warburg Pembina Surface Rights Group meeting on September 9, 2025. The comments were regarding the potential practice of leaving oil and gas well sites only partially remediated on the basis that surface vegetation appears to be re-established. While this approach may give the impression of recovery, it overlooks the long-term environmental, agricultural, and community impacts that can result from incomplete clean-up and subsurface contamination.

Surface regrowth alone does not guarantee that the underlying soil has been adequately restored to its pre-disturbance condition. Subsurface contamination, soil compaction, and residual waste materials can remain hidden beneath seemingly healthy vegetation. These unresolved issues risk future land productivity, compromise water quality, and may create costly liabilities for landowners. For example, when seeking financing for land sales, some banks with increasing requirements may request an environmental audit prior to approving financing. If contaminants are found on the "reclaimed" site, financing may be denied and the land value is lost.

Allowing incomplete reclamation sets a troubling precedent. It transfers the burden of future remediation onto farmers, ranchers, municipalities, and ultimately taxpayers. True reclamation must mean a return of the land to a safe, productive state—not simply one that appears green on the surface.

I urge your ministry to strengthen reclamation standards and oversight to ensure that wellsite clean-up is complete, verifiable, and sustainable. Landowners and communities deserve assurance that their land will be properly restored for future generations. A policy that permits "green cover" to substitute for genuine remediation is neither fair nor responsible stewardship of our province's resources.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Heinrich
Chair, Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board, Councillor Division 5

cc: Minister RJ Sigurdson, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
Minister Andrew Boitchenko, MLA, Drayton Valley – Devon
Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta
Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)
Alberta Energy Regulator (AER)



Box 10, Thorhild, AB T0A 3J0

Ph: 780-398-3741

Toll Free: 1-877-398-3777

www.thorhildcounty.com

September 11, 2025

**Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
307 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6**

Subject: State of Agricultural Disaster and Proposed Assistance

Dear Honorable RJ Sigurdson,

Thorhild County Council declared a **State of Agricultural Disaster** within Thorhild County, at the August 12th Council meeting due to drought conditions during the growing season of 2025.

Field inspections revealed that Cereal and Canola crop yields will be significantly reduced at harvest. Cereal crops in the Northeast portion of the County show seed production below harvestable yields and are being silage for livestock feed.

Hay yields across the County are averaging one-third (1/3) of normal production. Lack of precipitation during spring pasture growing season has producers pulling livestock off pastures and doing alternative feeding.

Thorhild Grazing Reserve Association has announced the pasture will be closed September 5, 2025, six (6) weeks earlier than normal because of diminished and or lack of growth.

Livestock producers are purchasing feed to try to maintain herd levels at twenty five percent (25%) higher cost thus far. Availability of bedding straw is in demand with crops being shorter than normal and increasing baling cost that in turn reflect on cost to livestock producers.



Box 10, Thorhild, AB T0A 3J0

Ph: 780-398-3741

Toll Free: 1-877-398-3777

www.thorhildcounty.com

Thorhild County Council would like to bring this dire situation to the attention of the Provincial Government. To help ease the negative economic impacts that this disaster is inflicting on the agricultural producers of Thorhild County, Thorhild County Council is urging the Minister to implement a disaster recovery program for 2025. Thank you in advance for your diligent consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janine Paly".

Janine Paly
Reeve, Thorhild County

cc: Hon. Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta.

Hon. Todd Loewen, Minister of Forestry and Parks.

Hon. Rebecca Schulz, Minister Environment and Protected Areas.

Hon. Rick Wilson, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

Hon. Glen van Dijken, MLA Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock.

Hon. Shannon Stubbs, MP Lakeland.

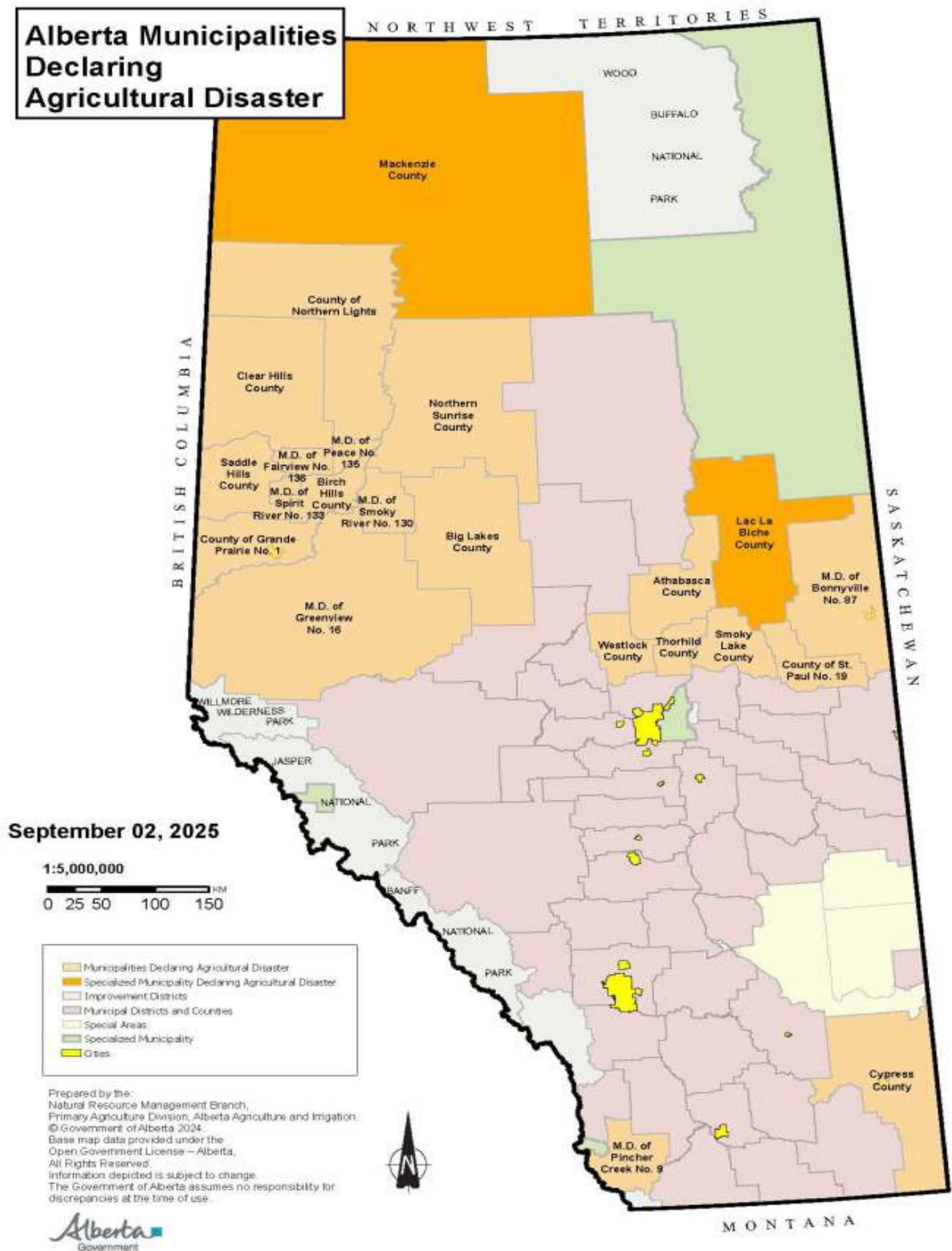
Kara Westerland, President Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA).

Agricultural Financial Services Corporation.

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee.

Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen.

Alberta Municipalities Declaring Agricultural Disaster





Brazeau County

7401 – Twp Rd 494, P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A 1R1
PHONE: (780) 542-7777 - FAX: (780) 542-7770
www.brazeau.ab.ca

October 14, 2025

Mr. Paul MacKinnon
President
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Paul.MacKinnon@inspection.gc.ca

Dear Mr. MacKinnon,

Re: Reconsideration of the cull order at Universal Ostrich Farms in Edgewood B.C.

On behalf of the Brazeau County Agricultural Services Board (ASB), I am writing to request that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) reconsider the cull order for the ostriches at the Universal Ostrich Farm in Edgewood, British Columbia, and that ostriches be re-tested for avian flu (H5N1) by a third party before any irreversible action is taken.

We recognize and support the CFIA's mandate to protect animal health and safeguard Canada's international trade partnerships. However, given the exceptional nature of this case, we believe there are scientific distinctions that merit further review. Ostriches are ratites, not true poultry, and as such, they differ significantly from conventional avian species in anatomy, physiology, and disease susceptibility. Given these differences, it would be both scientifically sound and procedurally fair to conduct confirmatory retesting using methodologies appropriate to ratite species. Re-testing may also provide insight into why/how the remaining ostriches survived the initial infection and if there is any benefit to be gained from that information.

Retesting by a third party, under CFIA supervision and using appropriate biosecurity measures, could also provide scientific validation and confidence in the necessity of depopulation. Such a step would also maintain public trust in the CFIA's science-based decision-making process while demonstrating the Agency's commitment to case specific judgements that hold both economic and ethical significance.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Heinrich
Chair, Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board
Councillor Division 5

cc: Prime Minister Mark Carney
Minister Heath MacDonald
Premier Danielle Smith
Minister RJ Sigurdson
Minister Andrew Boitchenko
MP Dane Lloyd
Alberta Agricultural Services Boards



Brazeau County

7401 – Twp Rd 494, P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A 1R1
PHONE: (780) 542-7777 - FAX: (780) 542-7770
www.brazeau.ab.ca

October 8, 2025

Honorable Devin Dreeshen
Minister of Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors
204 Legislature Building, 10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Devin Dreeshen,

Re: Highway Right of Way (ROW) Maintenance in Brazeau County

On behalf of the Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board, I am writing to express our concern about the poor, and in some cases, absent roadside maintenance on Alberta highway right of ways within Brazeau County. The condition of area highways—marked by overgrown vegetation, obstructed sightlines, as well as, prohibited noxious and noxious weeds—are not only unsightly but pose direct and significant risk to public safety. The presence of prohibited noxious and noxious weeds, with no control actions taken, is also in direct contravention of Provincial legislation.

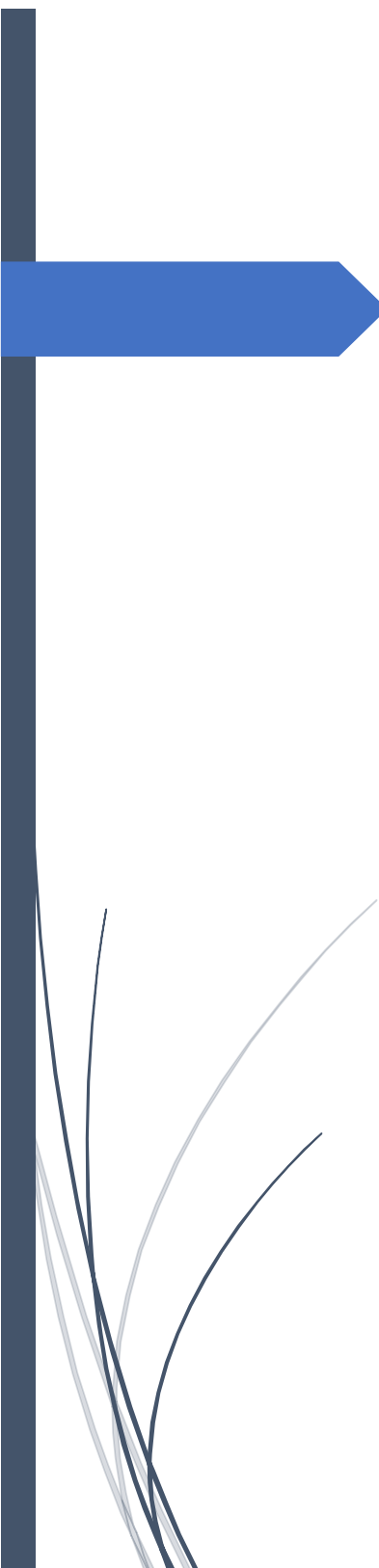
The Brazeau County Agricultural Service department has received numerous and ongoing complaints regarding the unacceptable state of area highways. Communication with the area maintenance inspector early in the season seemed promising, but as the season progressed many area highways remained unmaintained. Highway 22, highway 20 and secondary highway 616 had no vegetation management take place until September 3rd, 2025, which is unacceptable. Furthermore, adjacent landowners are understandably frustrated that the municipality requires weed control on their private property but there is a complete disregard by the province for their weed control responsibilities.

It is imperative that the Ministry take immediate steps to address this matter. A review of existing maintenance schedules, coupled with adequate resource allocation, is urgently required to maintain area highways to an acceptable standard. Failure to do so will only exacerbate safety risks and erode public confidence in the Ministry's stewardship of our transportation network.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Heinrich
Chair, Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board
Councillor Division 5

cc: Minister Andrew Boitchenko, MLA, Drayton Valley – Devon
Jennifer Mazurek, Maintenance Contract Inspector, AB Transportation and Economic Corridors
Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta
Agricultural Service Boards Provincial Committee
Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)



Report Card on the Resolutions

2025

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee



Fellow Agricultural Service Board Members and Partners,

It is my privilege to present the 2025 *Report on the Resolutions* on behalf of the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC). This report is more than a record of government responses—it is a testament to the enduring grassroots collaboration that defines our collective voice as 68 rural municipalities working together across Alberta.

Agriculture Services Boards (ASB) are uniquely positioned to understand the challenges and opportunities facing Alberta's agriculture sector. Whether the issue is drought recovery, rural veterinary shortages, weed management, wildlife conflict, farm mental health services farm families, or the preservation of our agricultural lands—this year's resolutions clearly demonstrate the leadership and foresight of ASBs. Each resolution passed reflects the boots-on-the-ground knowledge of our members valuable insight in shaping provincial and federal policy.

In 2025, the Committee reviewed and graded 13 new resolutions and continued to advocate on unresolved matters from previous years. Our regular meetings and engagements with Ministers, Deputy Ministers, policy advisors and subject matter experts have been productive and increasingly collaborative.

The creation of the cross-ministry triage document for invasive species, ongoing vetting of rural mental health funding models, the Province addressing the wild boar concern, the efforts to re-register strychnine, and formal conversations around agriculture education and charitable gaming reform demonstrate that our voices are being heard—although there is still much work ahead.

Importantly, the Committee is evolving. While we remain a volunteer-led body, the complexity of our work has grown, and so too has our responsibility.

Over the past year, we have reviewed our Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure, strengthened internal processes, and supported new governance structures that will help the Committee better serve our members into the future. These changes are not just bureaucratic—they reflect our commitment to transparency, continuity, and sustainability of rural advocacy.

To our ASB members: thank you for your thoughtful submissions, your commentary during the grading process, and your ongoing support. This year's record level of feedback assists in our ongoing advocacy and strengthens our credibility in meetings with government officials. We encourage all municipalities to engage directly with your regional representatives and continue providing input on current advocacy priorities.

In closing, I wish to thank my fellow Committee members and our Executive Assistant for their dedication, diplomacy, and diligence. Together, we reaffirm the role of ASBs as foundational partners in protecting Alberta's agricultural future.

With appreciation and commitment,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Knight". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Brenda Knight

Chair, Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Councillor, Lacombe County

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INTRODUCTION

The Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee is pleased to provide Agricultural Service Board (ASB) members and staff with the 2025 Report Card on the Resolutions. This report contains the government and non-government responses to resolutions passed at the 2025 Provincial ASB Conference. The Report Card on the Resolutions includes the *Whereas* and *Therefore Be It Resolved* sections from the resolutions, response, response grade and comments from the Committee and ASBs for each resolution. The resolutions and responses are also posted on the Agricultural Service Board website at agriculturalserviceboards.com. Actions taken by the Committee on current and prior resolutions are also included in this report.

2025 COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
Position	Member	Alternates	Representation
Chair, Region Rep.	Brenda Knight	Tietsia Huyzer	Central
Vice, Region Rep.	Rob Siewert	John Van Driesten	South
Region Rep	Walter Preugschas	Ross Bohnet	Northwest
Region Rep	Sebastien Dutrisac	Gene Hrabec	Northeast
Region Rep	Bob Chrenek	Corinna Williams	Peace
Secretary	Dawn Fortin		AAAF
Executive Assistant	Linda Hunt		ASBPC
RMA Rep.	Kevin Wrista	Jason Schneider	RMA
AAAF President	Stephen Bevans		AAAF
ASB Program Manager	Kerrienne Koehler-Munro		AGI
Recording Secretary	Stephanie Cerny		AGI

2025 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS		
COMMITTEE	APPOINTMENT	ALTERNATE
Agriculture Plastics Recycling Group	Walter Preugschas	Brenda Knight
Alberta Game Policy Advisory Committee	Gene Hrabec	Rob Siewert
Alberta Endangered Species Conservation Committee (ESCC)	Rob Siewert	Brenda Knight
Clubroot Action Committee	Brenda Knight	Sebastien Durtisac
Fusarium Action Committee	Sebastien Durtisac	Walter Preugschas
Wildlife Predator Compensation Committee	Corinna Williams	Tietsia Huyzer
Alberta Environmental Farm Plan Stakeholder Advisory	Corinna Williams	Sebastien Durtisac
Weed Issues on Oil and Gas Sites in Rural Alberta working group	Rob Siewert	Brenda Knight
ASB Extension Committee	Walter Preugschas	Brenda Knight
AgKnow Industry Advisory Committee	Bob Chrenek	Gene Hrabec

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ASB Provincial Committee has assigned the following grades to responses by government and non-government organizations for resolutions passed at the 2025 Provincial ASB Conference.

Resolution Table

RESOLUTION NUMBER	RESOLUTION	GRADE
1-25	DROUGHT AND LIVESTOCK AGRISTABILITY	RESPONDED IN PART
2-25	LANDOWNERS' RIGHTS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS	DEFEATED
3-25	PROTECTION OF CLASS 3 SOILS IN ALBERTA FROM RENEWABLE DEVELOPMENT	WITHDRAWN
4-25	WEED CONTROL IN DRAINAGE CANALS (REGISTERED DRAINAGE DITCHES)	RESPONDED
5-25	CENTRAL CONTACT FOR THE WEED CONTROL AND AGRICULTURAL PEST ACTS	RESPONDED
6-25	RURAL VETERINARY STUDENT SUPPORT	RESPONDED IN PART
7-25	ROADKILL CARCASS DISPOSAL	RESPONDED IN PART
8-25	COYOTES ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION	DEFEATED
9-25	NON-MATCHING FUNDING FOR AGKNOW	RESPONDED
10-25	FARM FAMILY AWARDS	DEFEATED
11-25	AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FUNDING	RESPONDED
12-25	CHARITABLE GAMING POLICIES HANDBOOK	NO RESPONSE
13-25	RESOLUTION LOBBYING INCLUSION	DEFEATED
PC1-25	INFLATIONARY INCREASE FOR ASB GRANTS	RESPONDED

The Committee reviewed the responses and assigned one of four grades: *Accept the Response*, *Accept in Principle*, *Incomplete* and *Unsatisfactory*. The Committee considers the quality of each response and the grading and comments submitted by ASBs when determining the final grades for the report card.

RESPONSE SUMMARY

Number of ASBs that Responded

Region	#ASBs Responding	% of Region 2025	% of Region 2024	% of Region 2023	% of Region 2022
South	5	28	39	22	33
Central	14	100	93	100	93
Northeast	4	36	27	82	82
Northwest	6	46	54	15	38
Peace	7	52	38	38	38
Overall	36	53%	51%	49%	55%

Summary of Grading Responses Submitted

Resolution No.	Responded	Responded in Part	Does Not Address the Resolution	No Response
1-25	3	32	1	0
4-25	35	0	1	0
5-25	33	2	0	1
6-25	4	31	1	0
7-25	5	30	1	0
9-25	32	3	1	0
11-25	34	2	0	0
12-25	7	0	0	29
PC1-25	34	1	0	1

2025 ACTIVITIES OF THE ASBPC

ASBPC Regular Meetings

Date	Delegations or Activates
2024 09 13	Regular Meeting – Regional Conference Prep
2023 11 04	Organizational Meeting
2023 11 04	Resolution Review and recommendations,
2023 11 19	Conference package and resolution review
2025 01, 06	Conference planning
2025 01, 20	Preconference meetings
2025 01 21-23	Provincial ASB Conference
2025 03, 17	In person, with delegations ADM/DM and RDAR
2025 04, 17	Resolution response review
2025 05, 23	Resolution Grading
2025 08, 07	TOR and PRP committee report
2025 08, 14	Report card review

Engagements:

Date	Event
September 13, 2024	Dutch Elm disease
October 17, 2024	Water Act Engagement
November 4, 2024	Minister meeting at the Legislature
November 13, 2024	ADM Townhall
January 20, 2025	ADM Townhall
April 15, 2025	ADM update Wild Boar
April 22, 2025	SARM – Strychnine discussion
July 6, 2025	Minister Dreeschen Reception – Stampede
July ?, 2025	Team Alberta Crops
July ?, 2025	Livestock Conference at Stampede (name?)

Activities on Appointed Committees:

Date	Committee	Member Attending
Oct 31, 2024	Weeds on Wellsites	Sebastien D/Brenda K
Nov 19, 2024	EFP	Sebastien Dutrisac
March 26, 2025	Weeds on Wellsites	Rob S, Sebastien D, Brenda K,
April 7-8	CWD in person	Gene H
April 24	CWD online	Gene H
May 20, 2025	EFP meeting	Sebastien and Kevin
May 26, 2025	AG Plastics	Kevin Wrista
June 11-12	CWD in Person	Gene H/Linda Hunt
June 26	CWD online	Gene H
August 27-28	CWD in Person	Gene H

DEFINITION OF TERMS

The Provincial ASB Committee has chosen four indicators to grade resolution responses from government and non-government organizations.

Responded

The response addresses the request in the resolution. ASBs are encouraged to comment with their opinion about the response in the "comments" section of the grading sheet.

Responded in Part

The response addresses some of the resolution, but does not address the full request. ASBs are encouraged to comment about their opinion on the response in the "comments" section of the grading sheet.

Did Not Address the Resolution

The response does not address the request, and requires further engagement to clarify the request. Follow up is required to solicit information for the Provincial ASB Committee to make an informed decision on how to proceed.

No Response

The resolution did not receive a response.

2025 RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 1-25 : DROUGHT AND LIVESTOCK AGRISTABILITY

WHEREAS in the last decade, Alberta has seen four of Canada's top ten extreme and costly weather-related disasters, and federal modeling for Western Canada predicts more extreme weather;

WHEREAS the current federal drought monitoring system aggregates weather data, including precipitation on forested crown land. This data is not available to privately held agricultural lands in its assessment, and it was the deciding criteria for the Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance program and the 2023 Livestock Tax Deferral;

WHEREAS the Canadian government has forecast continued extreme weather impacts on the agricultural industry. Programs like AgriStability are in place to safeguard producers' financial resilience; and

WHEREAS the Office of Audit and Evaluation of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) evaluated AgriStability and found that while it helps protect Canada's agriculture sector from income losses due to various risks, it is not fully effective.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

AAFC re-evaluate the current weather mapping program and the Drought Monitoring System to include and more heavily weigh data from weather stations and available soil moisture mapping within agricultural lands, better acknowledging municipalities straddling the transition from agricultural white zone into forested Crown green zone, coupled with making efforts to capture in these maps the extreme weather events that are now a reality.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

AAFC report back to the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee that the recommended improvements to AgriStability as identified and released October 22, 2022, by the Office of Audit and Evaluation of AAFC were put in place, by April of 2024:

1. Identify ways to simplify AgriStability to reduce producer administrative burden;
2. Find ways to make interim and final payments more predictable and to improve the timeliness of final payments; and
3. Develop and implement a means to increase access to AgriStability by underrepresented populations.

SPONSORED BY: Yellowhead County & MD of Greenview No. 16

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)

RESPONSE:

1. Response AAFC – March 11, 2025
2. Further Response AAFC – June 10, 2025

The responses outline the Canadian government's efforts to strengthen agricultural support programs, primarily focusing on improvements to drought monitoring and the AgriStability program. A key concern is that the current Canadian Drought Monitor (CDM) can inaccurately assess drought conditions on agricultural lands due to the aggregation of data from surrounding forested areas, leading to the under-designation of areas for crucial support. To address this, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is enhancing the CDM by incorporating more detailed data and increasing input from farmers, as well as improving the Livestock Tax Deferral (LTD) program by implementing buffer zones and an earlier identification process.

Additionally, the responses highlight an audit of the AgriStability program, which found it to be complex and less effective for smaller operations and underrepresented populations, prompting recommendations and an action plan to simplify the program, improve payment predictability, and increase accessibility for all farmers.

GRADE: Responded in Part**GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:**

ASB	GRADE	ACTION	COMMENTS
Newell	Did Not Address		
Minburn	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	
Wheatland	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Yellowhead County	Responded		ASB would like more information on what changes will be made in regards to data collection.
Barrhead	Responded in Part		
Thorhild	Responded in Part	No opinion	
Smoky River	Responded in Part	No opinion	
Smoky Lake	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	
Grande Prairie	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	Agree with ASBPC comments
Cypress	Responded in Part		

Bonnyville	Responded in Part		
Saddle Hills	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	Increase weather stations in the Peace country
Northern Sunrise	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	Advocate for the installation of more weather stations in the North. Compared to the South, we have significantly fewer stations, making it difficult to accurately monitor drought conditions. Even within Northern Sunrise, the large geographic area leads to substantial variation in weather patterns—further highlighting the need for more localized data through additional weather stations.
Region - Central	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	
Lamont	Responded in Part		wait for additional information
Flagstaff	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	Need more clarification from AAFC.
Big Lakes	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	We would like more information and further comment as to if they will be increasing the amount of weather stations, particularly on agricultural lands for better representation of the conditions
Warner	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	
Brazeau	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	
Birch Hills	Responded in Part		
Woodlands	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	
Willow Creek	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	Are there deficiencies on the number of Weather Reporting stations?
Greenview	Responded in Part		
Leduc	Responded in Part		

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

Responses from AAFC were prompt and complete and did address the concerns in the resolution and explained in the letters sent to them. The 2025 Agriculture Disaster response has shown that buffer zones are being used so time will tell if they are effective. The responses make it clear that they are interested and motivated to respond to the concerns and needs, and there is ongoing engagement to

increase the use of data to determine who qualifies for the programs offered. The Committee agrees with the grade of “Responded in Part” and encourages continued engagement on this topic.

It is clear that if data will be used to determine eligibility, then the availability of data in the north needs to be visited, with consideration given to ensure that the cost of increasing weather stations doesn’t get downloaded onto municipalities. It was suggested to RMA that AFSC should be encouraged to invest in more detailed data collection. AFSC currently has an MOU with the province for the data on current weather stations.

RESOLUTION 4-25: WEED CONTROL IN DRAINAGE CANALS (REGISTERED DRAINAGE DITCHES)

- WHEREAS** under the Weed Control Act of Alberta, Municipalities are tasked to Monitor and Enforce control of Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds;
- WHEREAS** the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides severely restricts the application of herbicides within 30 metres of a "drainage canal" and the amount of area that can be treated in a calendar year;
- WHEREAS** under a Special Use Approval to apply herbicides within 30 metres of an open body of water, the area allowed to be treated is still restricted; and
- WHEREAS** a Notice to Remedy Weed Problem in a "drainage canal" cannot be fully acted upon due to the limitations of the area allowed to be treated under the Code of Practice allowing for the proliferation of the weeds.

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

The Government of Alberta - Environment and Protected Areas remove "drainage canal" from the definition of "open body of water" under the Pesticide Sales, Handling, Use and Application Regulation.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

To allow municipalities that have control over maintenance of drainage canals to treat invasive species listed in the Weed Control Act or those species elevated in the respective municipality, as they would control the same species in roadside ditches or under Notice to Remedy Weed Problem.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Smoky River #130
MOVED BY: _____
SECONDED BY: _____
CARRIED: _____
DEFEATED: _____
STATUS: Provincial/Federal
DEPARTMENT: Department of Environment and Protected Areas

RESPONSE:

1. Environment and Protected Areas – April 1, 2025

The response from the Alberta Minister of Environment and Protected Areas regarding concerns about weed control in Drainage Canals was to emphasize the Government of Alberta's commitment to balancing effective weed management with environmental protection. They explained that special use permits for pesticide application in or near water bodies are available for circumstances where noxious weed control is needed. They further explained the rationale behind regulations protecting aquatic environments and defining drainage canals as open water.

GRADE: RESPONDED

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

ASB	GRADE	ACTION	COMMENTS
Birch Hills	Did Not Address		The response does not address the limitations of the Special Use Approval Process brought up in the "Where As" Statements and its impact on adequate control. It only reiterated the procedure already in place.
Minburn	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Newell	Responded		
Barrhead	Responded		
Thorhild	Responded		Team Alberta Study, Funded By RDAR
Smoky River	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	Perhaps can be addressed during water act review
Smoky Lake	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Grande Prairie	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	Agree with ASBPC comments
Cypress	Responded		
Bonnyville	Responded		
Saddle Hills	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Northern Sunrise	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	The response is sufficient, as the rules and regulations offer a clear explanation, and special approvals remain possible on a case-by-case basis.
Region - Central	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Lamont	Responded		
Flagstaff	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	Special Use Approval is sufficient.
Big Lakes	Responded	No opinion	
Warner	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Brazeau	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Woodlands	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Willow Creek	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Wheatland	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	

Yellowhead County	Responded		ASB would like to see more staff applied to this division so that special use approvals are happening in a more timely manner
Greenview	Responded		
Leduc	Responded		

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The Committee felt that the response contained clear rules and reasons for the regulations and stated that there was allowances for exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

RESOLUTION 5-25: CENTRAL CONTACT FOR THE *WEED CONTROL AND AGRICULTURAL PEST ACTS*

- WHEREAS** the lack of centralized point of contact can lead to delays in addressing weed and pest issues, resulting in possible environmental and economic impacts;
- WHEREAS** there are thousands of oil and gas wells, including abandoned wells, across Alberta where site maintenance following the *Weed Control Act* and *Agricultural Pests Act* must be followed;
- WHEREAS** challenges often stem from incorrect contact information and changes in leaseholders that are not consistently updated, hindering communication and compliance;
- WHEREAS** government agencies have multiple offices throughout the province, and ministry changes cause difficulties providing the information to the appropriate contact; and
- WHEREAS** municipalities face significant challenges in enforcing the *Weed Control Act* and *Agricultural Pests Act* due to difficulties in establishing and maintaining contact with landholders.

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

That the Ministers of Energy, Environment and Ag work collaboratively to establish a central point of contact for identifying landholder to send communication to industry and government agencies for matters related to agriculture legislation. This would involve municipalities sending notices and other communications regarding the Acts to a central government contact, who would then distribute the information to the respective landholders.

SPONSORED BY: Northern Sunrise County
STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Energy and Minerals
Environment and Protected Areas
Agriculture and Irrigation
Transportation and Economic Corridors

Response:

1. Agriculture and Irrigation – March 25, 2025
2. Environment and Protected areas – April 1, 2025
3. Agriculture and Irrigation – May 15, 2025
4. Triage resource for determining land ownership AGI May 5
5. Triage resource for determining land ownership AGI May 23 **UPDATED
6. Transportation and Economic Corridors June 6

To address the inefficiencies and unresolved cases faced by municipal inspectors because they cannot reliably reach responsible parties, the Government of Alberta ministries worked together to create "Government of Alberta Triage Process and Contacts When Invasive Pests are Detected on Public Land or Water" document.

While acknowledging that a single point of contact for public lands is not feasible due to their specialized nature, this triage document serves as an endorsed approach by the GOA's Cross Ministry Invasive Species Group. It aims to assist with identifying appropriate landowners and contacts for managing regulated pests under various acts, including the *Weed Control Act/Regulations*, *Agricultural Pest Act/Regulations*, and the *Alberta Fisheries Act*.

The Triage Process document provides a structured flowchart and a comprehensive list of contacts based on the type of invasive pest and the land where it's detected. For instance, it first asks if the pest is regulated under the *Agricultural Pest Act*. If not, it then asks if the plant is a prohibited aquatic invasive plant under the *Fisheries (Alberta) Act*. If neither applies, it asks if the terrestrial invasive plant is on vacant public land or Alberta Parks land. Based on these questions, it directs users to specific contacts such as the Pest Regulatory Officer, Provincial Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist, or regional Recreation and Resource Management Coordinators. It also provides contacts for various specialized areas like Rat & related Agricultural Pests, Wild Boar, Plant Health, Forest Entomology, and Wildlife/Fish Diseases.

GRADE: RESPONDED

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

ASB	GRADE	ACTION	COMMENTS
Thorhild	No Response	No opinion	
Minburn	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Newell	Responded		
Barrhead	Responded		Ministries still have internal silo style communication. Needs improvement.
Smoky River	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Smoky Lake	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Grande Prairie	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	Agree with ASBPC comments
Cypress	Responded		
Bonnyville	Responded		
Saddle Hills	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Region - Central	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Lamont	Responded		
Flagstaff	Responded	No opinion	
Big Lakes	Responded	No opinion	
Brazeau	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	

Birch Hills	Responded		
Woodlands	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Willow Creek	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Wheatland	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Yellowhead County	Responded		ASB would like to send a thank you for developing the Alberta Triage Process and Contacts
Greenview	Responded		
Leduc	Responded		
Northern Sunrise	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	While the triage documentation is useful, there is concern about whether the OneStop link information will remain up to date, particularly in the event of land or asset transfers.
Warner	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE:

Recognizing the logistics of creating a single point of contact at the GOA and staffing needed to respond to each request from all the municipalities, the Triage document seems to be an acceptable compromise. Many government departments came together to put the list of connections together making the document comprehensive and feedback to its usefulness has already been received.

However, this approach comes with some risk.

- 1) **Keeping the Document Updated:** As government contacts and departmental responsibilities can change, it will be important to regularly review and update the triage document to ensure the information remains accurate and relevant.
- 2) **Accessibility and Distribution:** Ensuring that all committee members and stakeholders know about the triage document and can easily access it (e.g., through a central website or regular email updates) will maximize its usefulness.
- 3) **Concern – Outdated Information:** A potential concern is that if the document is not maintained, it could quickly become outdated, leading to confusion or frustration.

To mitigate these risks, the Cross Ministry Working Group on Invasive Species has made the Triage document a standing item on their agenda and committed to keeping it up to date, and the ASB Program Manager has committed to keeping the latest version up to date with the ASBPC. Additionally, the ASBPC has made a commitment to keep the latest document on the website and to check in periodically to make sure it is working as needed.

One other concern is One Stop is not an intuitive program and so there is a need for further training for municipal staff. The ASB Program team is aware of this and will advocate to have One Stop training added to the in-service training for AAAP members.

RESOLUTION 6-25: RURAL VETERINARY STUDENT SUPPORT

- WHEREAS** veterinary services are a critical component of rural sustainability through the industry's contributions to agriculture, food safety and animal welfare;
- WHEREAS** the Government of Alberta currently provides a Veterinary Student Bursary to veterinary students living and working in Northern Alberta via the Northern Alberta Development Bursary Program;
- WHEREAS** veterinary student temporary employment subsidies exist in other jurisdictions struggling to attract and retain rural veterinarians;
- WHEREAS** costs associated with completing the necessary educational requirements to become a veterinarian continue to increase; and
- WHEREAS** rural Alberta is experiencing a continued decline in veterinarian availability.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Jobs, Economy, and Trade and Ministry of Advanced Education create a complimentary program to the Northern Alberta Development Program Veterinary Student Bursary, to make bursary funds accessible to veterinary students working in mixed and large animal veterinary clinics throughout rural Alberta.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Trade institute a veterinarian student temporary employment program for rural mixed and large animal veterinary clinics to support the attraction and retention of veterinary students throughout rural Alberta.

SPONSORED BY: Lacombe County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

1. RESPONSE Agriculture and Irrigation – March 25, 2025
2. RESPONSE Advanced Education – April 17, 2025

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's response did not address the resolution directly. Their response primarily focuses on their collaborations, significant investments in veterinary education and infrastructure, and initiatives to enhance rural practice and diagnostic services to address the shortage of veterinarians in rural Alberta. The Ministry along with Advanced Education and Jobs, Economy and

Trade, are working in partnership with stakeholders to address the shortage of veterinarians and veterinary technologists in rural Alberta. They did however mention that the Chief Provincial Veterinarian has "**commenced work on a program within the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to provide funding for summer student hiring, housing assistance, community appreciation programs, and similar initiatives**".

The Ministry of Advanced Education's response also did not directly address the resolution but instead acknowledges the importance of veterinary services and the existence of the Northern Alberta Development Program Veterinary Student Bursary and the availability of the Bursary Partnership Program for Northern veterinary practices.

GRADE: RESPONDED IN PART

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

ASB	GRADE	ACTION	COMMENTS
Lamont		not completed	
Brazeau	Did Not Address	Bring to a Minister Meeting	provide incentives for rural and large animal practices
Minburn	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	
Cypress	Responded		
Wheatland	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Yellowhead County	Responded		ASB still feels more needs to be done. Refer to RES 1-23
Newell	Responded in Part		
Barrhead	Responded in Part		Increase encouragement on large animal enrollment and practice.
Thorhild	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	
Smoky River	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	
Smoky Lake	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	
Grande Prairie	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	Agree with ASBPC comments
Bonnyville	Responded in Part		

Saddle Hills	Responded in Part	Bring to a Minister Meeting	Clarification on who should be responsible for administering bursary program
Northern Sunrise	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	The response does not suggest the bursary will be across the whole province or targeted for rural veterinarians as was requested.
Region - Central	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	
Flagstaff	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	
Big Lakes	Responded in Part	No opinion	
Warner	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	
Birch Hills	Responded in Part		
Woodlands	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	
Willow Creek	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	Need to continue to look at admission requirements as well
Greenview	Responded in Part		
Leduc	Responded in Part		

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

There are some inaccuracies in the response from Alberta Advanced Education: *“Administration of these initiatives was proposed to the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, but they did not pursue the opportunity.”*. The Committee did meet with the Chief Provincial Vet and agreed with the creation of a program in the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, but was not asked, nor are they legally able to administer a program. The RMA does not have a mandate to administer initiatives like this. The response clearly re states the situation and work that has been done and is in progress but does not talk about expanding the bursary program to be across the province so is not a complete response.

The Committee sent letters in April to Advanced Education and Jobs Economy and Trade reiterating the request for a bursary program expansion to the whole province and has not yet received a further response.

This is an on-going concern that requires a multi-year attention. The new seats at UCMV and diagnostics lab are steps in the right direction, but the impact of these decisions will not be known for many years. More should be done to encourage investment in rural veterinary practices.

RESOLUTION 7-25: ROADKILL CARCASS DISPOSAL

WHEREAS the Alberta Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors stated in a letter received on September 12, 2024, that Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) and Alberta Forestry and Parks (FP), the administrators of the Wildlife Act, do not currently “have formal guidance for the disposal of wildlife animal carcasses. However, both departments strongly recommend minimizing handling and transport of carcasses due to.... disease transmission,” further stating that any departure from these current disposal methods would require EPA and FP to issue permits under the Act for each carcass transported;

WHEREAS Highway Maintenance Contractors frequently transport carcasses to disposal and stockpiling sites that are easily accessible to the public and become utilized for the disposal of dead livestock and roadkill, through scavenger disposal;

WHEREAS the proximity of these disposal sites to active livestock production increases the impact of predators on livestock by providing a plentiful and easily accessible food source during winter scarcity; and

WHEREAS this disposal method comes with a high probability of disease spread through the landscape, including but not limited to foot-and-mouth disease, which infects deer and would cost billions of dollars in lost markets to the province and the country, and chronic wasting disease, a prion disease that is resistant to environmental degradation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas and Alberta Forestry and Parks to develop formal guidance on the disposal of wildlife carcasses hit by vehicles to minimize disease transmission vectors that may pose a serious economic threat to the livestock industry, such as foot-and-mouth disease.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

THAT THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Transportation amend the Standard Specification for Highway Maintenance to require contractors to maintain controlled access to carcass disposal sites, the composting of roadkill carcasses.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Greenview #16

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
Alberta Forestry and Parks
Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

RESPONSE:

1. RESPONSE Transportation and Ec. Corridors March 31, 2025
2. RESPONSE Agriculture and Irrigation – March 25, 2025
3. RESPONSE Environment and Protected areas – April 1, 2025
4. FURTHER RESPONSE TEC May 13, 2025
5. REPONSE Forestry and Parks – May 15, 2025

Both responses from Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC) confirm that the Ministries of Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) and Forestry and Parks (FP), who administer the Alberta Wildlife Act, currently **have no formal guidance for the disposal of wildlife carcasses**, which aligns with the "WHEREAS" statement in the resolution and recommends pursuing the matter with them.

TEC states it currently **follows guidance published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for the disposal of deceased livestock** to reduce disease transmission and predator conflicts. The guidelines being used assume that the disease status of the dead animal is known.

TEC's responses state that its highway maintenance contracts follow principles to reduce disease and predator risks by **"limiting the distance the carcass is moved, avoiding the reuse of natural disposal sites, and not centralizing disposal at single locations such as gravel pits"**.

The resolution specifically requested that TEC **"amend the Standard Specification for Highway Maintenance to require contractors to maintain controlled access to carcass disposal sites, [and] the composting of roadkill carcasses"** Neither response from TEC explicitly commits to amending these specifications. Instead, their statements imply that the problematic practices (uncontrolled access, centralized sites, stockpiling) are either *already not permitted* by TEC's policies or that current practices (following Agriculture and Irrigation's livestock mortality guidance) are sufficient to mitigate risks.

Environment and Protected areas deferred to Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC) stating **"as it falls under the purview of his ministry"**. EPA's response does not provide any information or commitment regarding the development of formal guidance for wildlife carcass disposal as requested by the Agricultural Service Boards.

The Ministry of Forestry and Parks (FP) response addresses Resolution 7-25 by **deferring the primary responsibility for developing roadkill disposal policy and guidelines** to the Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC).

GRADE: RESPONDED IN PART

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

ASB	GRADE	ACTION	COMMENTS
Lamont	Did Not Address		request to develop carcass disposal
Minburn	Responded	No opinion	
Newell	Responded		
Bonnyville	Responded		
Wheatland	Responded	no actions	

Yellowhead County	Responded		ASB feels that a BMP needs to be created for non producers ex. Alberta Transportation.
Barrhead	Responded in Part		Continue awareness around issues of disease
Thorhild	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	
Smoky River	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	
Smoky Lake	Responded in Part	No opinion	
Grande Prairie	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	Agree with ASBPC comments
Cypress	Responded in Part		
Saddle Hills	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	Address the intent of the resolution
Northern Sunrise	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	The responses do not clearly outline the guidelines or procedures for disposing of roadkill carcasses to prevent the spread of disease to farm animals. It is recommended to follow Minister Devin Dreesen's suggestion to pursue the matter further by contacting Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, Rebecca Schulz.
Region - Central	Responded in Part	Town Hall topic	Various Municipal /TEC Contractors with differing practices.
Flagstaff	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	
Big Lakes	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	We would like to know the actual on the ground management of the current practices on how the roadkill is being disposed of and would like input from conservation officers.
Warner	Responded in Part	Bring to a Minister Meeting	
Brazeau	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	the 2 ministries need to come up with a plan for disposal without affecting agricultural community
Birch Hills	Responded in Part		

Woodlands	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	
Willow Creek	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	There should be a clear standard of disposal provincially
Greenview	Responded in Part		
Leduc	Responded in Part		

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASB Provincial Committee acknowledges the responses received from Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC), Environment and Protected Areas (EPA), and Forestry and Parks (FP) regarding wildlife carcass disposal. TEC accurately identified the lack of formal guidance from EPA and FP and redirected ASBs to those ministries for further action. However, TEC did not directly address the resolution's request to amend maintenance specifications for controlled access or composting of carcasses. Instead, their response outlined existing contractor policies that appear to contradict the operational concerns raised by ASBs.

The Committee remains concerned that current guidelines are tailored for agricultural producers disposing of owned animals, and do not adequately address wildlife killed in collisions—especially when disease status is unknown. There is no evidence that carcasses are being tested or disposed of in ways that prevent disease transmission to livestock or wildlife. Diseases such as Chronic Wasting Disease, Tuberculosis, Avian Influenza, and Foot-and-Mouth Disease remain serious threats.

While TEC is not pursuing new guidelines, they have encouraged ASBs to report problematic sites and contact local district offices. The Committee views this as a first step and will continue to advocate for improved practices. **ASBs are urged to engage their district TEC office and ask critical questions about carcass disposal procedures and proximity to livestock operations, and share their responses with the ASBPC.**

RESOLUTION 9-25: NON-MATCHING FUNDING FOR AGKNOW

- WHEREAS** the farming population is at a high risk of mental illness when compared to the general population;
- WHEREAS** studies and surveys have shown that farmers are less likely to seek mental health care due to associated costs, lack of time during the day, and counselors lacking an understanding of agriculture;
- WHEREAS** the AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Initiative was established in 2022 with the intent to provide Alberta's farming population with agriculturally-informed mental health supports;
- WHEREAS** AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network has received grants for project-based services through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, which has 50% matching funds requirement; and
- WHEREAS** AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network faces funding gaps and restricted operating funds, leading to jeopardization of high-demand mental health programming and support services currently being delivered to Alberta's farming population.

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

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation waive the matching funding requirement through Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to support AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network to ensure that the Farm-Informed Therapy Program for agricultural producers continues to grow and is free of charge in Alberta.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Fairview No.136
MOVED BY: _____
SECONDED BY: _____
CARRIED: _____
DEFEATED: _____
STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

RESPONSE:

1. RESPONSE Agriculture and Irrigation – March 25, 2025

AGI's response directly addresses this by explaining **why the matching requirement through SCAP cannot be waived** (due to the program's structure for cost-sharing and project-based nature, not ongoing operations). Therefore, it doesn't fulfill the exact request but provides a clear rationale for the inability to do so. AGI did connect AgKnow/ARECA to the Mental Health and Addictions for a funding request that does not require matching, offering alternative pathway for AgKnow to potentially secure funding that would allow the Farm-Informed Therapy Program to remain free of charge, addressing a key barrier identified in the resolution's background.

GRADE: RESPONDED

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

ASB	GRADE	ACTION	COMMENTS
Brazeau	Did Not Address	Town Hall topic	the request was for specifically trained individuals rather than AHS referral
Minburn	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Barrhead	Responded		
Thorhild	Responded	No opinion	
Smoky River	Responded	No opinion	
Smoky Lake	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	Given the response provided by the ASBPC, Smoky Lake County agrees it is a full response on this resolution. However, there seems to be a disconnect of having agricultural/farmer specific mental health resources as compared to MHA resources for everyone. AgKnow is tailored for specific challenges our producers face year-round that other agencies lack. We want to assist our provinces producers as best as we can. This best way is AgKnow.
Grande Prairie	Responded	No opinion	Agree with ASBPC comments
Cypress	Responded		
Bonnyville	Responded		
Saddle Hills	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Region - Central	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Flagstaff	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	Concerned for the future of AgKnow. Services still available through AHS.
Big Lakes	Responded	No opinion	
Warner	Responded	No opinion	
Birch Hills	Responded		
Woodlands	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Willow Creek	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	This is a very important issue that should fall under the umbrella of Mental Health with a focus on agriculture

Wheatland	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	AGI states that programs must be industry driven. Has AgKnow solicited funds from fertilizer, chemical, seed companies?
Yellowhead County	Responded		The ASB feels the question was answered but that doesn't solve the problem. If match funding is required SCAP then why can't AGKNOW apply for funding under the Mental Health Network. They realize the province is spending money on mental health in AB but we also know that ag producers have unique lifestyles that may not be well served by the current resources. For example farmers live where they work, creating a separation is difficult, farmers are paid yearly, farmers can't control the circumstances that cause them stress, weather for example.
Greenview	Responded		
Leduc	Responded		
Newell	Responded in Part		
Northern Sunrise	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	Ongoing advocacy is needed to eliminate the 50% matching funds requirement for AgKnow.
Lamont	Responded in Part		pushed off

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The response shows that the mandate of farm informed therapy program is with the ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and that AGI has aided AgKnow in achieving engagement with MHA to create an agriculture counselling program for the province and that MHA does not require matching funds for their grant programs. AGI is unwilling to wave the matching funds required for the SCAP grant programs for AgKnow.

RESOLUTION 11-25: AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FUNDING

- WHEREAS** agricultural production in Alberta has historically been, and remains, a significant economic driver and source of employment;
- WHEREAS** generations ago, many Albertans were raised on family farms, gaining firsthand knowledge of livestock, crops, and other agricultural practices;
- WHEREAS** today, most Albertans reside in urban areas and lack the same level of understanding about how livestock, crops, and agricultural products are cultivated;
- WHEREAS** the public has traditionally held agriculture and farmers in high esteem for their role in providing food for Albertans, Canadians, and people worldwide, leading to an increasing consumer interest in agricultural production and food sourcing;
- WHEREAS** misunderstandings regarding agricultural practices and food production are becoming more common, and without proper education, these misconceptions are likely to grow within the expanding population;
- WHEREAS** educating our children and youth about agriculture is crucial for fostering a deeper understanding of food production, sustainability, and the vital role agriculture plays in our economy and environment; and
- WHEREAS** stable funding would empower educators and childcare providers to access essential agricultural education materials and programs, allowing ASBs across Alberta to effectively enhance agricultural knowledge among the younger generation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Education work collaboratively with the Agricultural Services Boards, Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to establish a dedicated funding stream aimed for agriculture education.

SPONSORED BY: Lac La Biche County

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Education
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Rural Municipalities of Alberta

RESPONSE:

1. RESPONSE Agriculture and Irrigation – March 25, 2025
2. RESPONSE Education – April 11, 2025
3. RESPONSE Rural Municipalities of Alberta – April 14, 2025

The Ministry of Education's (MoE) response acknowledged the importance of agriculture and highlighted existing initiatives such as the Alberta Dual Credit Framework (supported by \$4.8 million this school year and \$43 million for new collegiate schools) and the Green Certificate Program, a collaboration with Agriculture and Irrigation designed for students interested in agricultural careers. However, the Ministry did not commit to establishing a new, dedicated funding stream as requested by the resolution. Instead, it emphasized that over 98 percent of its budget flows to school boards, granting them autonomy and accountability to prioritize local needs and make decisions in the best interest of their communities.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) affirmed the importance of agriculture education for industry capacity and resiliency. While it did not commit to creating a *new dedicated funding stream* with the Ministry of Education, it pointed to existing funding opportunities available through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP). Specifically, AGI noted that Alberta's Sustainable CAP Resiliency and Public Trust Program already includes a youth agriculture education priority area, providing funding for K-12 agriculture education field trips, learning activities, and teacher training.

The **Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)** unequivocally **expressed strong support for Resolution 11-25**, which requests a dedicated funding stream for agriculture education. The RMA emphasized the growing disconnect between urban populations and agricultural practices, leading to misinformation and reduced public trust, and highlighted that a dedicated and stable funding stream is crucial to provide educators and childcare providers with the necessary support for curriculum-linked agricultural resources. The RMA also recalled its own previous resolution in 2019 calling for mandatory agriculture education, noting that past government efforts lacked coordinated or consistent embedding of agriculture education.

GRADE: RESPONDED

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

ASB	GRADE	ACTION	COMMENTS
Minburn	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	
Newell	Responded		
Barrhead	Responded		Need for Resolution clarity and targeted requests
Thorhild	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Smoky River	Responded	No opinion	
Smoky Lake	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Grande Prairie	Responded	No opinion	Agree with ASBPC comments
Cypress	Responded		
Bonnyville	Responded		
Saddle Hills	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Northern Sunrise	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	

Region - Central	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Flagstaff	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Big Lakes	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	Can we receive more information on the funding and support for programming in post secondary that relates to agriculture
Warner	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Brazeau	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Birch Hills	Responded		
Woodlands	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Willow Creek	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	We agree we need to promote the use of the program, as well as encourage commodity groups to assist with Ag in the classroom.
Yellowhead County	Responded		
Greenview	Responded		
Leduc	Responded		
Lamont	Responded in Part		
Wheatland	Responded in Part	Bring to a Minister Meeting	I believe this isn't a funding issue, it is an issue that Alberta Education should make agriculture education a part of every elementary curriculum, regardless of urban or rural schools

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The response indicates that a funding stream already exists and encourages ASBs and municipalities to engage at the school board level and put in joining applications for funding to do agriculture themed events for their local schools.

RESOLUTION 12-25: CHARITABLE GAMING POLICIES HANDBOOK

- WHEREAS** rural municipalities have been encouraging non-profit organizations to increase activities that generates revenue and build reserve funds for future projects and capital replacements to use as matching funds when applying for provincial and federal grants;
- WHEREAS** the 2020 Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook (CGPH) section 4.4 indicated clear use of proceeds was consistent to the supportive intent of gaming funds as earned revenue;
- WHEREAS** the updated 2022 CGPH section 4.4 now states charitable programs expenses for that generate or receive revenue must be managed on a cost recovery;
- WHEREAS** the updated 2022 CGPH section 4.4 also states the purchase of any equipment, supplies, or services used in any activity or operation intended to generate profit is forbidden; and
- WHEREAS** the updated 2022 CGPH section 4.4. states that only when program revenues are not sufficient to cover program expenses, gaming proceeds may be used to pay the shortfall for approved expenses and therefore forcing the depletion of the organizational reserves.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction and the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission to amend the Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook so rural non profit organizations are allowed to build reserves and generate revenues once again without affecting the ability to use the gaming proceeds.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction and the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission suspend any audits until stakeholder engagements are completed and the amendments to the Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook are adopted.

SPONSORED BY: County of Two Hills

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction
Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission

RESPONSES:

1. RESPONSE Government press release March 10, 2025

The press release from the government **partially but significantly addresses** the core concern of Resolution 12-25 by providing more flexibility for charities to retain and manage their gaming proceeds, particularly through the increased retention limit without AGLC approval. This action helps to alleviate the pressure on depleting reserves. However, the press release does not specifically address the prohibition on purchasing equipment for profit-generating activities or the request to suspend audits.

It does not however address or reverse the decision to not allow the purchase of equipment or supplies that could be used to turn a profit, or suspending audits until stakeholders engagements and amendments can be made to the Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook.

GRADE: NO RESPONSE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

ASB	GRADE	ACTION	COMMENTS
Newell	No Response		
Barrhead	No Response		Disparity between Rural and Urban access a concern
Thorhild	No Response	No opinion	
Smoky River	No Response	No opinion	
Smoky Lake	No Response	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Grande Prairie	No Response	Issues Resolved, no actions	Agree with ASBPC comments
Cypress	No Response		
Bonnyville	No Response		
Saddle Hills	No Response	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Lamont	No Response		
Flagstaff	No Response	Follow up and provide updates	
Big Lakes	No Response	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Birch Hills	No Response		The press release covered the topic.
Woodlands	No Response	Issues Resolved, no actions	Press Release that addressed the issue
Willow Creek	No Response	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Greenview	No Response		
Leduc	No Response		

Minburn	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Northern Sunrise	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	News release confirms the request of the resolution.
Region - Central	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	
Warner	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Brazeau	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Wheatland	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Yellowhead County	Responded		

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

Shortly after the resolution request for response was delivered, the Province released the following press release that addressed the concerns in the resolution, however no response was received from Red Tape Reduction or Service Alberta. the underlying issues for rural non-profit organizations regarding charitable gaming policies persist.

The current AGLC policies contradict rural municipalities who continue to encourage non-profits to develop sustainable revenue streams and build reserves for future projects and capital replacements, which are essential for leveraging matching funds. Specifically, the definition of "cost recovery" is a problem for rural not for profits that don't have the support of a large tax base. Much of the social infrastructure in rural Alberta is held up by fundraising and donations, and these funds need to be able to cover the total costs associated including future buildings and expansions. The Current policies still prevent organizations from reinvesting in equipment or services that could enhance programs and long-term sustainability.

Further letters were sent to the AGLC and Red Tape Reduction and we are still waiting on a response.

RESOLUTION PC01-25: INFLATIONARY INCREASE FOR ASB GRANTS

WHEREAS the province of Alberta has included inflationary increases in multi year grants made to ASB stakeholders;

WHEREAS the ASBs continue to be important partners with the province on food and agriculture products assurance systems providing 1:7 return on investment with the ASB grant program;

WHEREAS the ASB grants have not received an increase beyond 2014 levels so grant amounts have not kept up with inflation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation approve a 3%/year inflationary increase for the ASBs grant program.

SPONSORED BY: ASBPC
STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Irrigation

RESPONSE:

1. RESPONSE Agriculture and Irrigation – March 25, 2025

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) acknowledges the **critical partnership** it shares with Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs) and their vital role in administering various acts (like the Agricultural Service Board Act, Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pest Act, and Soil Conservation Act) and assisting with animal disease control. AGI also recognizes ASBs' crucial contribution to protecting Alberta's access to markets through pest surveillance and control, as well as the strong relationship with municipalities.

The Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, RJ Sigurdson, communicated that the **budget planning process for 2025-26 was already complete** at the time the request (and resolution) was received, making it impossible to consider the increase for that budget year.

- Despite this, the Minister **approved the renewal of the ASB Grant for the next five years at the 2023-24 funding level.**

- AGI is **open to discussions for future budget years**, specifically stating that the request for an inflationary increase "will be discussed for the 2026-27 budget

GRADE: RESPONDED

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

ASB	GRADE	ACTION	COMMENTS
Thorhild	No Response	No opinion	
Minburn	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Barrhead	Responded		ASB PC follow up letter
Smoky River	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	
Smoky Lake	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	
Grande Prairie	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	Agree with ASBPC comments
Cypress	Responded		
Bonnyville	Responded		
Saddle Hills	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	
Northern Sunrise	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	Ongoing advocacy needed for an increase of the grant in the next budget cycle, to align with inflation.
Region - Central	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	
Lamont	Responded		ASBPC follow-up 2025-2029
Flagstaff	Responded	No opinion	
Big Lakes	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Warner	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	
Brazeau	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Birch Hills	Responded		
Woodlands	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Willow Creek	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	
Wheatland	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	
Yellowhead County	Responded		ASB would like to thank the Province for considering this resolution in the 2026/2027 budget deliberations.
Greenview	Responded		
Leduc	Responded		
Newell	Responded in Part		

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

AGI expressed gratitude and reaffirmed its commitment to ASBs but was unable to implement the requested inflationary increase immediately due to the budget cycle, promising to consider it for the subsequent budget year while renewing the grant at its current level for five years

The Committee was pleased that the Province indicated that inflationary increases were reasonable and encouraged a letter of request during the 2025 fall budget process. A letter of request was sent in on August 8, and an email response was received on August 26. (see below)

“Dear Brenda Knight:

Thank you for your letter regarding an inflationary funding increase request for the Agricultural Service Boards (ASB) grant program.

ASBs are critical partners with the Government of Alberta and have been for the past 80 years. I remain committed to supporting the important work done to govern, administer, implement, and enforce the Agricultural Service Board Act, Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pest Act, Soil Conservation Act, and for assisting with the Animal Health Act. The Government of Alberta recognizes the vital role ASBs have in protecting Alberta’s access to markets through the surveillance and control of weeds and pests.

Municipalities and the province continue to have a strong working relationship and that is why I have secured the ASB Grant Funding Program for 68 ASBs for the next five-years (2025-29). The grant provides ASBs with long-term support in the administration of legislative requirements and delivery of rat control and resource management programs.

As previously communicated, the budget planning process for 2025-26 was already complete at the time we received your three per cent inflationary increase request in November 2024 and through Resolution PC01-25. While I am unable to commit additional funds at this time, I will ensure that your request is brought forward for consideration during the 2026-27 budget planning process.

The growth and success of Alberta’s agriculture industry remains at the heart of the Government of Alberta’s economic strategy. ASB’s will continue to be an important partner in that success.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

*Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation
AR88198”*

UPDATE ON PREVIOUS YEARS' RESOLUTIONS

2024 Resolutions

RESOLUTION NUMBER	RESOLUTION	GRADE	UPDATE
1-24	AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT HIGHWAY SIGNS - The response from Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC) stated that department staff will contact the ASB Provincial Committee directly to discuss potential options for addressing the safety of farm equipment on provincial highways. - This discussion will also encompass actions the department could take to increase driver awareness and improve safety for both operators and motorists The ASBPC was not contacted.	Incomplete	INCOMPLETE
2-24	COMPENSATING PRODUCERS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES	Accept in Principle	
3-24	CREATION OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION INSURANCE	Accept in Principle	
4-24	SUPPORTING A COMPENSATION MULTIPLIER	Accept in Principle	
5-24	WILD BOAR AND THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT - March 24, wild boar producers and farmers who have worked with Agriculture and Irrigation in the past, or who have indicated they have wild boar through the Premise Identification System were informed through emails and phone calls that the government is considering changes to the farmed wild boar industry - April 15, 2025 AGI AGM met with the ASBPC to tell them about consultations with Wild boar Farms and industry groups around the possibility of shutting down farms. Blog was posted for the rest of the ASBs and a deadline of May 15 set for one on one consultations with Ministry staff on concerns. - ASB Provincial Committee is expecting a letter from Minister Sigurdson providing an updated response to the 2024 Agricultural Service Board's Resolution 5-24: Wild Boar and the Alberta Agricultural Pest Act. Letter not yet received.	Accept the Response	

6-24a	IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH BEE PACKAGE IMPORTS - RESPONSE: CFIA embarked on a re assessment of the risks of imports from the US given that both sides of the border now have Varroa mites - Oct 10, 2024 ASBPC sends follow up request for update to CFIA - Nov 4, 2024 CFIA response is “unable to provide a response” - Nov 5, 2024 Risk Management Framework created by CFIA - Nov 7, 2024 statement on the CFIA website “Currently, the importation of honey bee packages from the U.S. is not permitted. The import status remains unchanged until all activities associated with the risk analysis are completed and the outcome of the risk analysis is communicated.” - Nov 20, 2024 USDA report on CFIA process - Jan 31, 2025 CFIA consultation closed. “The risk analysis is being conducted based on guidelines provided by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures agreement, and includes hazard identification, risk assessment for the identified hazards and risk management.” - Aug 6, 2025: CFIA Notice to Industry published “After careful evaluation of all input received, the CFIA concluded that no feasible, scientifically-supported mitigation measures are currently available to bring all identified risks within acceptable levels. As a result, Canada will maintain its current import restrictions and will not permit the importation of honey bee packages from the United States at this time.” - Aug 8, 2025 CFIA published a statement with a bit more detail “Altogether, the risk assessment concluded that the probability of entry, exposure and establishment of any of the 4 hazards of concern on at least one receiving hive in Canada over a period of one year was 100%. The overall, national-	Accept the Response Incomplete (CFIA)	
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	scale impact of projected importations would be moderate, with immediate and significant impacts within importing provinces and potential dissemination of all hazards within the Canadian honey bee industry. The risks identified in the risk assessment are above Canada's acceptable level of risk. Therefore, risk mitigation measures are required in order to determine if honey bee packages can be imported from the US." - since there are no risk mitigation strategies... no bee imports.		
6-24b	IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH THE CONTROL OF VARROA MITES	Accept the Response Incomplete (CFIA)	
7-24	RE-REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR CERTIFIED APPLICATORS -	Accept the Response	
E2-24	SUPPORT FOR THE EXPORT OF LIVE HORSES FOR SLAUGHTER	Accept in Principle	
PC1-24	FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (FCDC)	Accept the Response	

EXPIRING RESOLUTIONS

The January 2023 Provincial Rules of Procedure state in section 3(d) that the ASB Provincial Committee will actively advocate for resolutions for a period of three years. Any expiring resolutions that an ASB wishes to remain actively advocated for must be brought forward for approval at the next Provincial ASB Conference.

The following resolutions are set to expire December 31, 2025

2023 Resolutions

RESOLUTION NUMBER	RESOLUTION	GRADE	UPDATED
1-23	CREATION OF A MID-LEVEL ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (ABVMA) PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION	Accept in Principle	
2-23	RURAL VETERINARY STUDENTS It was discussed at length that the need for students with lived experience and coming from rural areas should be considered along with the academic standards when the Committee met with the ABVMA delegation in 2023. The	Incomplete	

	veterinarian community continues to invest in expanding the criteria that qualifies students for vet school, and look for ways to encourage rural livestock vets. In August of 2024, the Chief Provincial Vet met with the ASBPC to propose a program that would provide support for rural vet practices to hire intern vets to increase the opportunities for students to experience rural livestock vet practices. They offered some suggestions including engagement with the Vet Services Cooperation, RhPAP and the SCAP secretariat. Looking forward to updates over the next while.		
3-23	APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS FUNDING The ARAs and Forage associations continue to engage with RDAR and expand engagement in key projects that include post secondary institutions and ag tech and regenerative ag projects. They continue to receive base funding from RDAR	Accept in Principle	
4-23	GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION The ASBPC has not received a response to this resolution and will continue to follow up. In August the Province provided a media release entitled "Protection of Life and Property from Problem Wildlife". "“Alberta’s government is announcing a multi-pronged approach to solving the issue of problem and dangerous wildlife by offering a range of management tools to address challenges and keep Albertans safe. Alberta’s government is creating a new network of wildlife management responders to help stop dangerous and deadly grizzly bear attacks on people and livestock. When a problem animal like a grizzly or elk is identified, members of the approved network will help provide rapid conflict response times across all regions of Alberta. This response could include tracking and euthanizing	Incomplete	

	a problem animal, while still following all rules and regulations already in place. This is not a bear hunt; this is a measure to ensure the safety of humans and livestock.” These measures do not respond to any of the ASB resolutions. There has been no engagement from the province on issues around elk or grizzlies. No mention of regional or provincial planning or more frequent counts. Aren’t “fish and wildlife officers” already “wildlife management responders”?		
5-23	LANDOWNER SPECIAL LICENSE In 2024 more elk licenses became quietly available in regions that had high elk numbers.	Accept in Principle	
6-23	ENFORCEMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT ALBERTA WATER ACT Delegation from Environment and Protected Areas addressed the ASBPC in April 2024 to explain the enforcement of the Water Act and answer questions about the level of enforcement and engagement. They were assured that while some areas have had open positions there are still a mandate to investigate and follow up with every complaint. 2024 the Water Act was opened up for review and engagement and is ongoing. ASBPC invited to the table 2025 Alberta Launches Regulatory Dialogue Portal for Water Management (see ASB blog post from July 17, 2025)	Incomplete	Accept in Principle
7-23	CAMPAIGN TO RAISE AWARENESS ON THE DISPARITY BETWEEN CONSUMER PRICING AND PRODUCER REVENUE	DEFEATED	
8-23	CONSIDERATION OF MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES FOR LARGE SCALE SOLAR AND RELATED ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS	Incomplete	

	- RMA taking the lead, continues to advocate for rural municipalities - Gaps in regulations and oversight as well as ability to keep developers accountable to environmental laws and consider the loss of ag lands continues. Landowners are cautioned to review any contracts submitted to them with a lawyer as they are not regulated and many of them have significant holes and restrictions on the use of the land during and after the development. 2025 ongoing, New regulation prevents renewable projects on Class 1 and 2 agricultural lands unless it can be demonstrated that 80% of the agriculture use can be maintained. The same restrictions apply to Class 3 soils in municipalities that do not have Class 1 or 2 soils. See ASB Blog post June 24, 2025 ADM Townhall summary.		
9-23	SYNTHETIC FERTILIZER EMISSIONS	Incomplete	
10-23	ORGANIC PRODUCTION CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PROVINCIALLY REGULATED WEEDS	Incomplete	
11-23	LOSS OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE 2024 ASB Position on Richardson's Ground Squirrel Control published and distributed 2024 Met with the Minister twice and brought it up. Individual ASBPC reps also mentioned it whenever the opportunity arose 2025 Met with SARM to discuss and compare notes 2025 met with RDAR, Lakeland Collage and connected with the SK pest specialist to look for opportunities to test IPM strategies and products for usefulness to farmers in different regions – ongoing discussion. 2025 MP Lowen asks ASB to provide information about the extent of the damage	Accept the Response	

	2025 ASBPC launches a survey to gather stories, data and pictures to support the efforts. Continued advocacy. PMRA (the regulator) cannot legally respond to the concerns from Canadian citizens and has not responsibility to ensuring that the products they register are effective and practical on farm. Provincial and Federal Ministers of Agriculture have no influence over the Federal Ministry of Health which is responsible for PMRA. See the ASB website and pages for details.		
12-23	REVIEW OF THE LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS TRIBUNAL (LPRT) Feb – June 2025 an online review and engagement was conducted. See March 5, 2025 blog post on the ASB website August 30, 2025 There is no update on the website as to the status. LPRT Business Process Review and Engagement Alberta.ca	Incomplete	Accept in Principle
E1-23	STABLE REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION FUNDING The province engaged with numerous industry partners to work out what a cooperative extension system might look like, and went so far as to encourage the development of a pilot project. However the funding proposal was declined and the committee was disbanded in August of 2024.	Incomplete	
E2-23	STABLE FUNDING FOR FARM MENTAL HEALTH This resolution asked for 5 year funding for the AgKnow initiative to support operational costs to continue the supports and services offered. While there has been as positive and encouraging engagement at the ministry level for this project and the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions continues to be engaged, the funding commitment has shifted to project and	Incomplete	

	operational costs are not covered. RDAR has extended some grant funds to help fill gaps however a stable funding model is still not yet established for 2024. In June of 2024 the AgKnow initiative reached out to its closest stakeholders for bridge funding support between grants. ASBs, ag business, commodity boards and individual farmers have responded and the initiative managed to make payroll one month at a time. The need for a stable funding model remains as the initiative has uncovered significant gaps and has made excellent progress to connect and be useful to the agriculture industry.		
E3-23	SUPPORTING A VIBRANT CERVID INDUSTRY IN ALBERTA While there has been few changes to the CWD program and approach by CFIA, advocacy by the Alberta government, industry and ASBs continues to push back and ask questions about the approach being taken and its impact on the industry and the health and welfare of the farmers involved. 2025 – ASBPC member asked to represent agriculture producers at a CWD model development with the UofA. President of the Whitetail association reported that CWD is not an issue, vaccines are in development. President of the Elk Commission is encouraged by the CFIA leaving the issue to the province, and the current engagement with the Ministry. The situation is not resolved but some movement in a positive direction is indicated. CFIA is governed under the World Animal Health Organization mandate and is unresponsive to farmers. They continue to be the number one killer of Cervids in Canada.	Incomplete	

CURRENT ADVOCACY

- Weeds on Wellsites working group.
- Richardson's Ground Squirrel Control
- Ag Plastic - Circular Responsibility
- Chronic Wasting Disease
- Rural Veterinary shortage

Mental Health and farmer wellbeing:

- E-19: ACCESS TO AG SPECIFIC MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES
- E2-23 STABLE FUNDING FOR FARM MENTAL HEALTH
- 9-25: NON-MATCHING FUNDING FOR AGKNOW

Managing wildlife:

- 4-22: PROPERLY MANAGING UNGULATE POPULATIONS and
- E3-23: SUPPORTING A VIBRANT CERVID INDUSTRY IN ALBERTA
- 4-23: GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION
- 5-23: LANDOWNER SPECIAL LICENSE
- 7-25: ROADKILL CARCASS DISPOSAL

Terms of Reference Alberta Biocontrol Consortium (ABC)

1. Purpose: To collaboratively facilitate, support, and coordinate the research, implementation, and delivery of sustainable biological control programs for invasive species in Alberta.
2. Objectives:
 - a. Identify and prioritize invasive species targets for biocontrol in Alberta.
 - b. Support the development and evaluation of biocontrol agents.
 - c. Facilitate knowledge sharing among member organizations.
 - d. Secure financial and in-kind resources to support biocontrol initiatives.
3. Membership
 - a. Membership in the Alberta Biocontrol Consortium (ABC) shall be open to organizations only.
 - b. Organizations interested in joining the Alberta Biocontrol Consortium (ABC) must submit a simple membership application outlining their interest and alignment with the Consortium's objectives. The Steering Committee will review and approve all new applications.
 - c. Membership is renewed annually through a straightforward confirmation process, giving existing members the opportunity to reaffirm their participation and allowing new organizations to apply.
 - d. The Membership year is April 1 – March 31.
 - e. Expectations of Members:
 - i. Actively participate in meetings, discussions, and decision-making processes.
 - ii. Designate a representative to attend meetings and communicate on behalf of the organization.
 - iii. Share relevant information, expertise, and resources to support the objectives of the ABC.
 - iv. Contribute, where possible, financial or in-kind support toward collaborative initiatives.
 - v. Promote the work and goals of the ABC within their own networks and sectors.
 - vi. Adhere to the agreed-upon principles of collaboration, transparency, and mutual respect.
4. Governance Structure: The ABC shall be governed by a Steering Committee elected from among the member organizations. The Steering Committee is responsible for providing strategic direction, overseeing implementation of activities, and ensuring alignment with the organization's objectives.
 - a. The Steering Committee shall be composed of up to 19 Steering Committee Members:
 - a. Federal Government (1)

- b. Provincial Government (1)
 - c. Indigenous Government (1)
 - d. Rural Municipality (5 one from each AAAF region)
 - e. Urban Municipality (5)
 - f. Producer Group (1)
 - g. Industry (1)
 - h. Non-Government Organization (1)
 - i. Member at Large (3)
 - b. Steering Committee Members will be elected by a vote of the ABC membership during the spring meeting. Each member organization gets one vote. If a vacancy comes up mid-term, the Steering Committee can appoint someone to fill the role until the next election.
 - c. Alternates: Each Steering Committee Member may appoint an Alternate, who may vote in their absence.
 - d. Term periods: Steering Committee Members shall serve two-year terms and may seek re-election for a second consecutive term. After serving two consecutive terms, Steering Committee Members must step down from the Steering Committee for a minimum of one year before being eligible to stand for election again.
 - e. The Steering Committee shall vote on funding priorities and decisions related to the allocation of resources.
 - f. The Steering Committee shall operate in accordance with the principles and decision-making processes outlined in these Terms of Reference.
 - g. The Steering Committee shall elect Officers, which include a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary through a member-nominated election process.
5. Roles and Responsibilities of Officers
- a. Chair - Provides leadership to the group, sets meeting dates, develops or approves agendas, calls and facilitates meetings. Serves as the primary point of contact and represents the group externally as needed.
 - b. Vice-Chair - Supports the Chair and assumes their duties when the Chair is unavailable. May take on specific tasks or projects as delegated.
 - c. Treasurer - Oversees the financial management of the group, including tracking contributions and expenditures.
 - d. Secretary – Maintains official records. Records and distributes meeting minutes, and ensures communication and documentation are organized and accessible.
6. Meetings
- a. The ABC shall meet a minimum of two times per year. Ideally, in the spring and in the fall.
 - b. The Chair calls the meetings and sets the agenda.
 - c. Quorum is 50% +1 of voting members.
 - d. Voting is decided by a simple majority – 50% plus 1.
7. Funding and Financial Management

- a. The Consortium will be funded through a combination of member and non-member contributions, as well as grant funding secured to support its activities.
 - b. The Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC) will be responsible for administering all Consortium funds.
 - c. AISC will provide financial updates at each ABC meeting and prepare a comprehensive financial report for the membership.
- 8. Reporting and Communication
 - a. Members will receive an annual summary of ABC activities, a financial report, and an annual update on biocontrol research progress from the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI).
 - b. All documents related to the ABC will be stored in a centralized location accessible to all members.
- 9. Amendments
 - a. Amendments to these Terms of Reference must be presented as a Special Resolution, with the proposed changes circulated to all members at least 21 days in advance of the meeting where the vote will take place. Amendments require approval by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of members present at a meeting with quorum.
- 10. Dissolution
 - a. If the ABC chooses to dissolve for reasonable and justifiable reasons, dissolution must be approved by a unanimous vote of the Steering Committee. Following dissolution, and after all outstanding obligations are settled, any remaining assets will be distributed to a registered charity or non-profit organization, as determined at the discretion of the Steering Committee.
- 11. Guidelines for Use of Funds
 - a. The Consortium shall develop a prioritized list of invasive plant species for which the development of new biological control agents will be explored.
 - b. This list will be submitted to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) first and then to researchers at the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) for review. CABI will provide feedback on the biocontrol potential of each species and submit preliminary proposals outlining estimated timelines and budgets for the research and development of prospective agents.
 - c. A majority vote of the ABC Steering Committee Members is required to approve any expenditures.
 - d. All approved funds will be used solely to advance the purpose and objectives of the ABC as outlined in these Terms of Reference.

Alberta Biocontrol Consortium Member Application

Date_____

Organization_____

Type of Organization_____

Main Contact: Name_____

Main Contact: Email_____

Main Contact: Phone_____

Alternate Contact (if applicable):

Name_____

Alternate Contact:

Email_____

Alternate Contact:

Phone_____

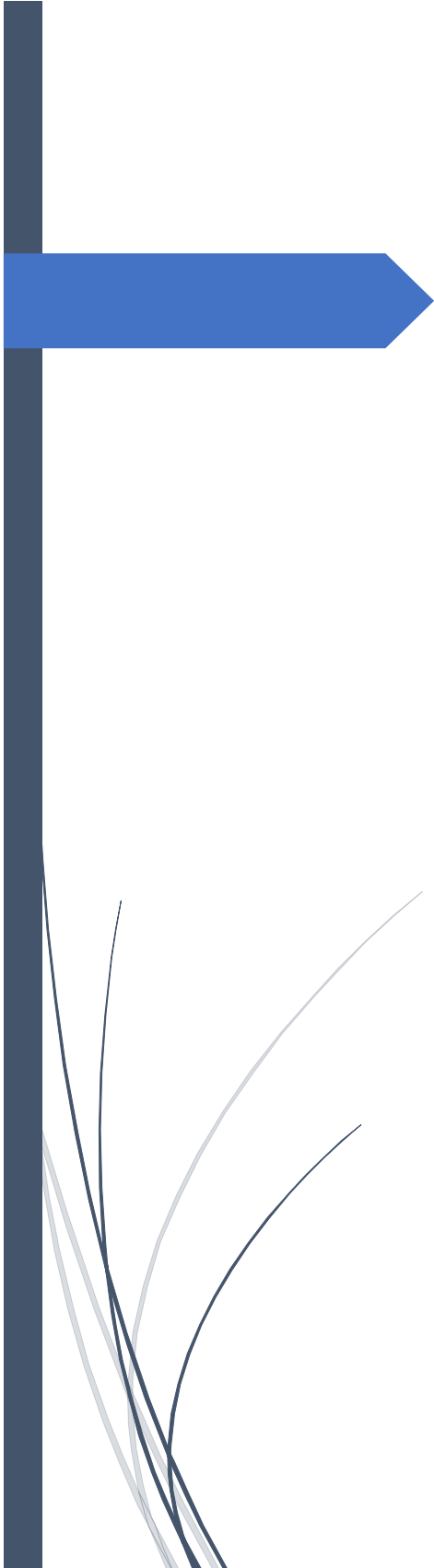
Organizational Commitment (please agree with the following):

- ☐ We support the objectives of the Alberta Biocontrol Consortium.
- ☐ We commit to active participation in meetings and decision-making processes.
- ☐ We agree to adhere to the principles of collaboration, transparency, and mutual respect.

Membership Term Confirmation

- ☐ This is a new membership application
- ☐ This is a renewal of existing membership for the April 1 to March 31, 20____ year.

Signature_____



Proposed Provincial Resolutions Process

Sept 1, 2025

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

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Message from your ASBPC

Dear Agricultural Service Board Members,

Enclosed you will find important materials on the proposed Provincial Resolutions Process (PRP), which is a full revision of the current Rules of Procedure. These changes are the direct result of your feedback following the 2025 Conference, and the Committee's work with Parliamentarian Todd Brand to strengthen clarity, fairness, and professionalism in our resolution sessions.

Todd Brand, M.A., CP-T, PRP is the registered parliamentarian, and current school board trustee that has been coaching the Committee and staff and supporting the resolution session. Todd's background and training in organizational leadership span over thirty years. His education and wide experience cover many unique organizations and come together in his ability to coach, lead and train others for organizational effectiveness. As an expert in meeting rules, Todd provides parliamentary support for both the ASBPC and RMA resolution sessions.

It has been a pleasure to work with Todd, and we are pleased to provide you with what we feel is a solid framework to move forward. With Todd's expert advice we were able to simplify and clarify the resolutions process to address your concerns and feedback.

Please join us on September 16, 3-5pm for an online information session where we will present the proposed full revision of the Rules of Procedure (to be renamed the Provincial Resolutions Process).

This session will cover the key changes, the reasons behind the updates, and what members can expect moving forward. Attendees will receive supporting documents, including the original and proposed new rules, as well as a summary of major changes.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions and clarify any points ahead of the upcoming vote at the Provincial ASB Conference in January 2026. This is your chance to understand the process, the rationale for the changes, and how these updates will impact future ASB resolution sessions.

🔗 Register Here: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/eee7404e-ed7e-4178-826d-d7bcfa1959da@f11e1fc2-203b-418d-ba67-3b45e7b00b3b>

To further support these efforts the ASBPC is pleased to provide a short orientation session at the 2026 Chair and Fieldman meeting, and to open the meeting to all ASB members. The agenda of the meeting we feel responds to the feedback from the 2025 Chair and Fieldman meeting survey and supports our ongoing efforts to improve our resolution process.

The Committee is confident that these improvements will enhance transparency, increase accountability, and provide a stronger foundation for engagement at the Provincial Conference.

With thanks for your continued support,

The Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

Message from the Executive Assistant

Dear Agricultural Service Board Members,

Over the past year, alongside ongoing advocacy efforts, the ASBPC has responded to your feedback on the Provincial Resolution Session and the desired purpose of the annual Chair and Fieldman meeting. I am pleased with the work done to review and streamline the resolution process.

Thank you for your continued engagement in our surveys. Your feedback is vital to ensuring the work of the ASBPC reflects both the diversity and commonalities of ASBs as we elevate their significance, as stated in the Terms of Reference.

Each year, the Chair and Fieldman meeting provides a valuable opportunity for dialogue, collaboration, and direction-setting. Following the 2025 meeting, we gathered feedback from participants to better understand what was most useful and where improvements could be made.

From the survey of participants, several key themes emerged:

- Guidance and Orientation – clearer context on the purpose and role of the ASBPC, especially for new members.
- Opportunities for Discussion – more time for open exchange, not just presentations.
- Prioritization of Issues – strong support for identifying top issues.
- Improved Communication and Updates – more clarity on how priorities and resolutions influence advocacy.

At its August 2025 meeting, the ASBPC considered several options for the 2026 Chair and Fieldman meeting, recognizing that 2026 is an election year. Attendance will be open to all ASB members and include:

- A comprehensive orientation on the purpose, terms of reference, and processes of the ASBPC;
- Ways to participate as members in the resolution process and advocacy;
- Open roundtable discussion, to allow for sharing regional issues and priorities.

This approach ensures new members are well-prepared, returning members are refreshed on process and purpose, and everyone has a chance to contribute to shaping our shared advocacy.

Thank you for your ongoing engagement with our surveys and for holding this process to a high standard. Together, we are building a resolution process that reflects the professionalism and influence of Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards.

Sincerely,

Linda Hunt
Executive Assistant
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

List of Proposed Changes to Resolutions Rules of Procedure

LIST OF MAJOR AMENDMENTS - GENERAL

AMENDMENT	RATIONALE
Retitled the document.	The new titles better reflect the purpose of this document.
Reordered and reorganized the document for better flow and simplicity.	Makes it easier to follow and understand.
Removed all reference to the PRC to now only reference the ASBPC.	These appear to be one and the same. Having two terms is confusing.
Removed sections 1 (Provincial Resolution Committee) and 2 (Responsibilities of PRC Members).	These areas are better placed in the ASBPC TOR or in policy & procedures.
Amending the Rules -revised this section for clarity of wording.	Provides clarity.
Changed amendments to become effective immediately.	This allows the wishes of the majority to be actioned immediately making the work of the ASBPC more responsive to the current situation.

LIST OF MAJOR AMENDMENTS - PROCESS

AMENDMENT	RATIONALE
Numerous changes to clarify/simplify the process of submitting resolutions.	Simplify and clarify the process.
Removed the following clause: "Inform the membership, at the conference resolution session, when the resolution was amalgamated or divided or how it will materially change or contradict a current ASB position."	Not clear as to why the Membership needs this information.
Added specific date deadlines at some points of the process.	Provides more clarity for deadlines. Please note the dates I selected may not be best and the Committee may wish to propose alternatives.
Removed the following clause: "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."	Aligns with current practice. Not required if all have received an electronic version by the deadline.
Removed note about Members changing the order of the resolutions as this is	Unnecessary to include as this is part of the Call to Order process outlined.

automatically allowed. (at the adoption of the agenda stage)	
All resolutions are adopted by 2/3 majority vote including those requiring changes to legislation.	Felt that 2/3 is a stronger provincial voice than the 50+1 in the current ROP.
All emergent resolutions accepted by the ASBPC require 2/3 majority Emergent not accepted by the ASBPC can be added to the order paper at the session with 2/3 majority vote.	Deters skipping the regional conference process
Simplified (for this document) the handling of endorsed resolutions.	Reduced this to key details that should be owned by the ASBs and removed those that should be decided and owned by the ASBPC.
Simplified the fees section.	Made this more clear and less repetitive, and annually discussed.

LIST OF MAJOR AMENDMENTS - RULES

Removed the section on Robert's Rules of Order.	Much of the outlined process does not apply to the ASBPC Resolution Session and some of the information is inaccurate. This level of information is not needed in this type of document.
Major revision and integration of Sections 5 (Procedures) and 6 (Voting and Speaking).	Numerous changes in wording and practice. Major changes are outlined in this chart below.
Removed all moving and seconding of resolutions.	There is no need for this since the agenda is adopted at the beginning of the session; all items listed in the agenda become orders for the meeting. The sponsoring ASB may speak to their resolution.
Removed speaking by the seconder.	Seconding does not typically include a right to special speaking status; also see the note above.
Speaking time for sponsor reduced from five to three minutes and reduced to one minute for closing.	This is ample time to review the highlights of the information that all Members have had a chance to review in advance.
Added rule that resolutions may not be postponed or referred.	Neither of these parliamentary options are helpful for a Resolutions Session and they are typically very time consuming.
Added ability for the parliamentarian to preside for the meeting.	Allows more option for chairing.

Removed ranking of the motions in order.	Ranking does not provide value for the amount of work required and the potential for raising unnecessary contention.
Added an order of Business (agenda) for the Resolution Session.	This will help Members understand the purpose, order and scope of the meeting.
Simplified amendment wording.	More clarity.
Removed Chair speaking to the reasons why a resolution was deemed emergent.	Not a bad idea but not necessary and is time consuming. If the practice is retained it should be another Member of the ASBPC and not the Chair providing this information.
Addition of Minutes Approval (4)	By authorizing the Alternates to review the resolution session minutes within 30 days, there will be an officially approved minutes of the AGM a few weeks after the AGM. Proposed amendments to the minutes can still be made at the following AGM or any future AGM.

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DRAFT Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee Provincial Resolutions Process

Purpose: The purpose of this Provincial Resolutions Process is to formalize the resolution process used by the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC). It includes all aspects of the resolution process including oversight, resolution types, writing and submission guidelines, the resolution session order and rules of procedure 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 document formalizes all aspects of the resolution process to provide clarity and consistency.

1) Resolution Types & Process

- a) Regional Conference Endorsed Provincial Resolutions
 - i) Resolutions that are provincial in scope and having been passed by majority vote at a Regional Conference shall be submitted to the Secretary of the ASBPC by November 15. 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) The ASBPC will review all submitted resolutions.
 - iii) The ASBPC will forward properly submitted and in-order resolutions electronically to each ASB by December 1. These resolutions will be considered at the Provincial ASB Conference.
- b) ASBPC Endorsed Provincial Resolutions
 - i) The ASBPC may develop resolutions that are provincial in scope. These will be forwarded electronically to each ASB by January 7. These resolutions will be considered at the Provincial ASB Conference.
- 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 consideration by the ASBPC if:
 - (1) the resolution is deemed an emergent issue of provincial significance regarding Agricultural Legislation or Agriculture policy that has arisen since the Regional ASB Conferences, or
 - (2) if the sponsoring ASB can justify to the Committee why the resolution did not come to the floor of a Regional Conference.

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- ii) All Emergent Resolutions need to be moved and seconded by different ASBs.
- iii) Emergent Resolutions must be submitted to the Secretary of the ASBPC by December 31 prior to the Provincial Conference.
- iv) If the ASBPC deems the resolution to be emergent it will be sent electronically to all ASB(s) by January 7.
 - (1) Before adopting the Provincial Resolutions Session order paper, ASB(s) will decide whether to add proposed emergent resolutions that were deemed emergent by the ASBPC to the order paper. A 2/3 majority vote is required for addition.
- v) If the ASBPC does not deem the resolution to be emergent the resolution will not be sent to the ASB(s).
 - (1) The sponsoring ASB may appeal this ruling at the designated time during the Provincial Resolution Session. A 2/3 majority vote is required for an appealed emergent resolution to be added to the order paper. In order for an appeal to be considered, sufficient paper copies of resolutions that are intended to be appealed as emergent must be made available by the sponsoring ASB to all conference delegates at registration.

*** Please note this document covers Provincial Resolutions. 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.*

2) Resolution Authority of the ASBPC

- a) The ASBPC has authority to review Provincial resolutions. This authority includes the ability to:
 - i) request clarification on resolution(s) from the sponsoring ASB(s).
 - ii) modify resolution(s) from the sponsoring ASB(s) in terms of wording etc. to:
 - (1) Amend the title, grammar, wording or format of the resolution provided it does not change the intent.
 - (2) Provide comments on each resolution with regards to the background.
 - iii) Amalgamate two or more resolutions between jurisdictions if several resolutions are of similar topic and content.
 - iv) Divide a resolution with multiple proposals of action into separate resolutions
 - v) Request withdrawal of a resolution if the resolution:
 - (1) Has no bearing whatsoever with the agriculture industry
 - (2) Has been resolved prior to the resolution screening meeting, or
 - (3) Has been covered by another resolution
 - vi) Inform the sponsoring ASB(s) when the resolution will be changed by amalgamation or division, or how it materially changes or contradicts a current ASB position.

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- vii) Notify the sponsoring ASB(s) of any deficiencies in meeting the guidelines of resolutions as outlined in the ASBPC Provincial Resolutions Process.
- b) Determine the order that resolutions will be presented with the following guidelines:
 - 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
- c) The ASBPC may provide training on the ASBPC Provincial Resolutions Process for members.

3) Resolution Session

A. Order of Business

The following is the normal Provincial Resolutions Session Order of Business (Agenda):

Call to Order

Welcome and Introductions

Activity Report of the ASBPC

Proposed Amendments to the ASBPC Provincial Resolutions Process

Consideration of Adding Emergent Resolutions to the Order Paper

- 1. Emergent Resolutions considered emergent by the ASBPC
- 2. Emergent Resolutions not considered emergent by the ASBPC (if Sponsor appeals)

Approval of Agenda

Approved Minutes of the Previous AGM minutes (opportunity for amendments)

Approval of Committee Fees

Consideration of Resolutions including emergent approved by ASBPC

- (list of the resolution in the ASBPC order)

Consideration of Resolutions added to the Order Paper as Emergent

- (list of the emergent resolutions in order)

Adjournment

B. Consideration of Resolutions - Process

- a) The Title, name of Sponsoring ASB and “Therefore Be It Resolved” clause(s) will be read to the Members by the ASBPC.
- b) One Member of the Sponsoring ASB may speak for up to three minutes on the resolution.
- c) The floor will be open to all Members. The Chair will call for anyone wishing to speak in opposition, ask a question for clarification, or propose an amendment. If no one seeks

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recognition for any of these purposes or if only questions for clarification are brought forward, the resolution proceeds immediately to a vote. The mover does not speak in closing.

- d) If any Member speaks in opposition or if an amendment is proposed, the resolution will become fully debatable. The mover may speak in closing for up to one minute.
- e) All other speakers, for or against the resolution, or speaking to an amendment or other motion are allowed a maximum of two minutes.
- f) No Member (other than the Sponsor who may open and close) may speak more than once to any resolution, amendment or other motion per resolution.

C. Consideration of Resolutions - Other Rules of Procedure

- a) Resolutions may not be postponed nor referred.
- b) The Chair has the discretion to request a proposed amendment be provided in writing.
- c) Two delegates from each municipality's ASB at the conference shall be recognized voters on any resolution.
- d) An Agricultural Service Board member may have any person speak to a resolution with majority approval by the Members.
- e) All Resolutions are adopted by 2/3 majority vote including resolutions requesting changes to legislation.
- f) Process for adding appealed emergent resolutions to the order paper during the approval of the agenda:
 - a. The Title, name of Sponsoring ASB and "Therefore Be It Resolved" clause(s) will be read to the Members.
 - b. The sponsor of the appealed proposed emergent resolution will have one minute to present why the issue is emergent. Members will immediately vote without debate whether to accept the resolution as emergent and have it added to the order paper. 2/3 in favor is required for addition to the order paper.
 - c. If accepted for consideration as an emergent resolution, such resolutions will be added to the end of the list of resolutions and the handling of each resolution will follow the same procedure as all other resolutions.
- g) Members must maintain good decorum at all times. Debate may not include any rude or threatening comments.
- h) A parliamentarian may be engaged to support the Chair during the Resolutions Session or to chair the meeting itself. The parliamentarian shall be appointed by the ASBPC.
- i) The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the procedure of the Provincial Resolutions Session in all cases for which they are applicable, except if the rules are in conflict with this document.

4) Minutes Approval

- a) In order to provide approved minutes in a timely manner the ASBPC Alternates will review and approve the minutes of the resolution session within 30 days of the conference.
- b) The approved minutes will be made available to Members.
- c) The approved minutes will be presented at the next Provincial ASB Conference and are subject to amendment by the Membership.

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5) Procedures for Approved Resolutions - Post Resolution Session

- a) The ASBPC shall submit approved resolutions to all ASBs by February 14 of the Provincial ASB Conference year.
- b) The ASBPC will submit approved resolutions to appropriate agencies and organizations for response. Responses will be compiled, returned to the Secretary for distribution to the ASBPC and individual ASBs, and posted electronically.
- c) Resolutions passed at a Provincial ASB Conference will be advocated on for a period of three 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 Provincial ASB Conference
 - ii) Only resolutions from the previous two years will be reported on in the annual Report Card on the Resolutions

6) ASB Provincial Committee Fees

- a) The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen will collect approved fees on behalf of the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee to support the costs of the Committee.
- b) The recommended fee will be based on financial need and will be approved annually at the Provincial ASB Conference.
- c) Billing to all municipalities with Agricultural Service Boards will be in the following year.

7) Amendments to this Document

- a) This document is in effect from year to year without the requirement for annual approval.
- b) All proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the ASBPC by December 31.
- c) Proposed amendments to this document, the Provincial Resolutions Process, may be moved at the Provincial Resolutions Session by:
 - a. The ASBPC, or,
 - b. Any voting delegate at the conference.
- d) Approval of proposed amendments is by 2/3 vote.
- e) Amendments that are adopted will take effect immediately unless otherwise noted in the motion to amend.

Note: Any appendices to this document are for information only and are not subject to amendment by the Membership. These will be updated as needed by the ASBPC.

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Appendix A

Resolution Writing Guidelines

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

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Appendix B

Resolution Sample Template

RESOLUTION XX TITLE

WHEREAS insert your words here.....;

WHEREAS insert your words here.....;

WHEREAS insert your words here.....;

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

(Insert your words here. Be concise and specific. Outline clearly WHO you want to do WHAT specifically. Think about the letters that will be written to address this resolution, who do they need to be written to and what is your request. What is the intended result that you hope to achieve.)

SPONSORED BY: (name of sponsoring municipality)

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: (Local, Regional or Provincial?)

DEPARTMENT: (which government ministries, programs or departments will be contacted to address this resolution?)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

(Your words here. Background information should include the history of the issue, potential impacts for the sponsoring municipality and the province wide impacts for the municipalities. Previous related resolutions can help with the background information. It is always good to align and build on past resolutions. Be sure to list any attached supporting documents)