



AGENDA

Agricultural Service Board Meeting

9:00 AM - Thursday, September 10, 2020
Council Chambers

Page

A. CALL TO ORDER - OPENING REMARKS

B. AMENDMENTS/DELETIONS - CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3 - 5

1. **September 12, 2019 - Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes (Rescheduled from April 9, 2020)**
[Agricultural Service Board - 12 Sep 2019 - Minutes - Pdf](#)

D. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

E. REPORTS

6 - 57

1. **Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report (Report to be followed by a Power Point Presentation)**
[Supervisor of Agriculture Services - Fall Report - Pdf](#)

58 - 60

2. **Rural Extension Specialist Report - Fall 2020**
[2020 Rural Extension Specialist - Fall Report - Pdf](#)

F. APPOINTMENTS

61 - 65

1. **9:45 AM - Melody Garner-Skiba, Executive Director, Alberta Sugar Beet Growers Presentation (Rescheduled from April 9, 2020)**
[Alberta Sugar Beet Growers Presentation Report - Pdf](#)

G. NEW BUSINESS

66 - 69

1. **Farming the Right of Way**
[Farming the Right of Way - Pdf](#)

70 - 73

2. **Policy 623 - Chemical Spills (Rescheduled from April 9, 2020)**
[Policy 623 - Chemical Spills Report - Pdf](#)

74 - 79

3. **Policy 627 - Grasshopper Spraying Program (Rescheduled from**

April 9, 2020)

[Policy 627 - Grasshopper Spraying Program Report - Pdf](#)

H. INVITATIONS

I. CLOSED SESSION

J. ADJOURN



MINUTES

Agricultural Service Board Meeting

10:00 AM - Thursday, September 12, 2019
Council Chambers

The Agricultural Service Board of the Lethbridge County was called to order on Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 10:00 AM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Chairman Steve Campbell
Reeve Lorne Hickey
Deputy Reeve Ken Benson
Councillor Klaas VanderVeen
Councillor Morris Zeinstra
Councillor Tory Campbell
Chief Administrative Officer Ann Mitchell
Director of Public Operations Jeremy Wickson
Director of Community Services Larry Randle
Agricultural Services Supervisor Gary Secrist
Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Derek Vance
Rural Extension Specialist Dwayne Rogness
Executive Administrative Assistant Donna Irwin

EXCUSED: Councillor Robert Horvath

A. CALL TO ORDER - OPENING REMARKS

Agriculture Service Board Chairman Steve Campbell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

B. AMENDMENTS/DELETIONS - CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

ASB Chairman Steve Campbell and members of the Agriculture Service Board made the following additions to the September 12, 2019 Agriculture Service Board agenda.

G6. Cody Metheral Report, CFO Extension Specialist, Alberta Agriculture & Forestry

11-2019 Councillor MOVED that County Council approve the September 19, 2019
VanderVeen Agenda as amended. CARRIED

C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

C.1. April 11, 2019 Agriculture Service Board Minutes

12-2019 Councillor MOVED that the Agriculture Service Board approve the minutes from
T.Campbell the April 11, 2019 Agriculture Service Board meeting as presented. CARRIED

D. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

E. REPORTS

E.1. Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report

Gary Secrist, Supervisor of Agriculture Services presented his September 12, 2019 Supervisor of Agriculture Services report to the Agriculture Service Board Members.

E.2. Rural Extension Specialist Report

Dwayne Rogness, AESA Coordinator and Rural Extension Specialist presented his report to the Agriculture Service Board members.

F. APPOINTMENTS

F.1. 10:45 a.m. - Virginia Nelson, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry/Engineering and Climate Services Section: Update on Weather Stations

Chairman Steve Campbell welcomed Virginia Nelson, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry/Engineering and Climate Services Section to the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Ms. Nelson provided the Agriculture Service Board with an update on Weather Stations and other related activities.

Chairman Campbell thanked Ms. Nelson for her presentation. Ms. Nelson departed the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1. Agricultural Service Board Policy #622 Promotions, Tours and Conferences

13-2019 Councillor T.Campbell MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board approves Policy #622 Promotions, Tours and Conferences as amended. CARRIED

G.2. Agriculture Policy #626 Roadside Mowing

14-2019 Councillor VanderVeen MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board approves Policy #626 Roadside Mowing as amended. CARRIED

G.3. Agricultural Service Board South Region Conference-Special Areas #2 - October 22, 2019 - Hand Hills Community Centre, Hanna, AB

15-2019 Deputy Reeve Benson MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board recommends to County Council that any member of the Agricultural Service Board wishing to attend the 2019 ASB South Region Conference in Special Areas #2 at the Handhills Community Centre on October 22, 2019 be authorized to do so. CARRIED

G.4. 2020 Agricultural Service Board Conference - January 21st-24th, Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel

16-2019 Deputy Reeve Benson MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board recommends to County Council that any member of the Agricultural Service Board wishing to attend the 2020 Provincial ASB Conference in Banff scheduled for January 21st to 24th, 2020 be authorized to do so. CARRIED

G.5. 2020 Agriculture Service Board - Meeting Dates

17-2019 Councillor Zeinstra MOVED that the Agriculture Service Board approves the 2020 ASB meetings dates of Thursday April 9 and Thursday, September 10, 2020. CARRIED

G.6. Cody Metheral Report, CFO Extension Specialist, Alberta Agriculture & Forestry

Chairman Campbell welcomed Cody Metheral, CFO Extension Specialist, Alberta Agriculture & Forestry to the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Metheral provided an update to the Agriculture Service Board on the following topics: Roller Compacted Concrete, Dust Fact Sheet, Short Term Manure Stockpiling, Livestock Mortality Management, Lethbridge City Landfill project regarding wood pallettes and wood product - chip product for ag industry, CAP Program, Municipality Funding Workshop in Lethbridge (November/December - date to be determined).

Chairman Campbell thanked Mr. Metheral for attending the meeting. Mr. Metheral retired at 12:10 p.m.

- H. INVITATIONS
- I. CLOSED SESSION
- J. ADJOURN

18-2019	Councillor VanderVeen	MOVED the meeting adjourn at 11:45 a.m.	CARRIED
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ASB Chairman

CAO

AGENDA ITEM REPORT



Title: Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report
Meeting: Agricultural Service Board - 10 Sep 2020
Department: Agriculture Service Board
Report Author: Gary Secrist

APPROVAL(S):

Jeremy Wickson, Director of Public Operations
Ann Mitchell, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 18 Aug 2020
Approved - 21 Aug 2020

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:



Outstanding Quality
of Life



Effective Governance
and Service Delivery



Prosperous
Agricultural
Community



Vibrant and Growing
Economy



Strong Working
Relationships

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This is the Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report for the September 10, 2020 Agriculture Service Board Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

The Agriculture Service Board is given the report verbally by the Supervisor of Agriculture Services and given the opportunity to receive clarification if required. The report is then accepted for information.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

September 10, 2020

Agriculture Service Board (ASB) Grant

The current ASB Grant cycle ended in 2019. Lethbridge County ASB has applied for a new 5-year cycle from 2020-24 in the spring and have yet to be informed by the ministry of the amount allocated. Recent government reduction in funding levels to the previous yearly base amount from 2017-19 has been estimated to be \$46,000 or 27% for each ASB in the Province.

Mowing

- The first cut of all gravel roads is complete at this time; the second cut is underway. The second cut will focus on alleviating snow trap areas.
- Hamlets and subdivisions have received a second cut. A second cut on our paved roads has also been completed. Some of our paved roads will see a third cut this year as the gravel mowers pass by.
- Last year's Shoulder Pull roads were mowed several times for weed control before the grass was mature enough to take a chemical application.
- Mowing was also done for weed control in areas where spraying was not possible. This primarily occurred on roads with a very narrow right of way in the dryland areas.

Weed Control

- The majority of the roadside spraying took place in Divisions 2 and 3 this year, with spot spraying being done throughout the County. Increased spot spraying was performed in areas where the mowers are last to arrive, and there will be additional spot spraying of thistle areas in all divisions into the fall as weather permits;
- Custom spray work was performed for Volker Stevin on Provincial Highways. Revenue from this work was just over \$28,000;
- The road top vegetation control truck assisted the division grader operator with excess vegetation on the shoulders. The shoulder vegetation was increased in mileage of roads sprayed for this program with mixed results;
- Weed inspections are ongoing. Inspectors have implemented a new mapping program which is addressing our tracking needs;
- Bio-Control agents for Leafy Spurge were released in 4 spot location, and 2 other spots for Knapweed.

Pest Control

- The annual grasshopper survey showed numbers fairly average in comparison from previous years. There was an increase in the collected numbers in the North end of the County;
- Seven fields were inspected for Bacterial ring rot with no suspect plants found;
- Canola surveys for Blackleg and Clubroot have been completed;
- The bertha army worm survey was carried out by ASB staff once again this year with numbers coming in less than average;
- A total of 2561 bottles of strychnine were sold for gopher control, the amount sold is over 400 bottles from 2019. Strychnine use will be discontinued after our inventories are sold off in 2021;
- A private trapper was hired for 2 weeks to trap Skunks for Rabies detection. The focus area was the Southern border of the County.

Soil Erosion

- There were several soil movement events in early spring. Landowners were reminded of their responsibility in this regard with Public Service Announcements and in some cases personal contact.

Roadside Seeding

- ASB Crews undertake the seeding of drains and shoulder pulls as required. This includes rock removal, disking, mowing, and seeding.

Equipment Rental

- Brillion drill rental has been consistent, primarily being utilized for small area plantings. Annual revenue has averaged approximately the \$2,000 mark and this season's rentals currently are 26 users with \$4,400 in revenue;
- The plastics baler is seeing use again with Iron Springs being a drop-off point for rolled plastic. Four producers have made use of the roller this year;
- Skunk, raccoon, and magpie trap usage have been constant throughout the year.

Parks

- Parks, playgrounds, and shop yard maintenance are ongoing including monthly equipment inspections. In 2019 one of our ASB employees became a Certified Playground Inspector;
- 2020 Capital project was in Sunset Acres community in playground, paved trail and court upgrades;
- Several trees were added in various County owned park properties;
- Cemeteries were mowed and weed whipped twice this season.

Other

- In coordination with Hamman Agriculture the ASB hosted a Farmer Pesticide Course;
- Our 2020 BMO Farm Family was awarded to the Slomp Family of Division 6;
- Attended AG-Expo as a vendor;
- The 2021 Agricultural Service Board Conference will be a virtual format.

****Supervisor of Agriculture Services will now present a Power Point presentation on the 2020 ASB Season to date.**

Respectfully Submitted by Gary Secrist

Supervisor of Agriculture Services

ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

That the report not be received for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

To update the Agriculture Service Board on activities.

ATTACHMENTS:

[2020 Resolution Grading](#)

[2020 Report Card on the Resolutions - To ASBs DRAFT](#)

2020 Resolution Grading

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How to Use:

1. Use dropdown menu to insert name of municipality in Box A24 (highlighted)
2. Use dropdown menu in column D to grade each resolution
3. Add comments that can assist the Committee in assigning final grade in Column E
4. Submit completed spreadsheet by **September 25** to Linda Hunt, Executive Assistant to the ASB Provincial Committee at: **asbprovcommittee@gmail.com**

Definitions:

Accept the Response

A response that has been graded as **Accept the Response** addresses the resolution as presented or meets the expectations of the Provincial ASB Committee.

Accept in Principle

A response that is graded **Accept in Principle** addresses the resolution in part or contains information that indicates that further action is being considered.

Incomplete

A response that is graded as **Incomplete** does not provide enough information or does not completely address the resolution.

Follow up is required to solicit information for the Provincial ASB Committee to make an informed decision on how to proceed.

Unsatisfactory

A response that is graded as **Unsatisfactory** does not address the resolution as presented or does not meet the expectations of the Provincial ASB Committee

2020 Resolution Grading

Resolution #	Resolution Name
1-20	Ropin' the Web
2-20	Weed and Pest Surveillance and Monitoring Technology Grant
3-20	Clubroot Pathotype Testing
4-20	Education Campaign for Cleanliness of Equipment for Industry Sectors
5-20	AFSC Assist in Preventing the Spread of Regulated Crop Pests
6-20	Beehive Depredation
7-20	Agricultural Related Lease Dispositions
8-20	Emergency Livestock Removal
9-20	Mandatory Agriculture Education in the Classroom
10-20	Reinstate a Shelterbelt Program
11-20	Compensation to Producers on Denied Land Access to Hunters
12-20	Proposed Amendments to Part XV of the Federal <i>Health of Animals Regulations</i>
13-20	Canadian Product and Canadian Made
E1-20	Review of Business Risk Management Programs
E2-20	Initiate Agri-Recovery Framework
E3-20	Agri-Invest and Agri-Stability Changes



Report Card on the Resolutions

2020

Abstract

2020 Resolution Responses and Update on previous year's resolution

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee

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Executive Summary

The Provincial ASB Committee has assigned the following grades to responses by government and non-government organizations for resolutions passed at the 2020 Provincial ASB Conference.

Resolution Number	Title	Proposed Grade
1-20	Ropin' the Web	Accept the Response
2-20	Weed and Pest Surveillance and Monitoring Technology Grant	Incomplete
3-20	Clubroot Pathotype Testing	Unsatisfactory
4-20	Education Campaign for Cleanliness of Equipment for Industry Sectors	Unsatisfactory
5-20	AFSC Assist in Preventing the Spread of Regulated Crop Pests	Unsatisfactory
6-20	Beehive Depredation	Accept in Principle
7-20	Agricultural Related Lease Dispositions	Accept in Principle
8-20	Emergency Livestock Removal	Accept in Principle
9-20	Mandatory Agriculture Education in the Classroom	Unsatisfactory
10-20	Reinstate a Shelterbelt Program	Accept in Principle
11-20	Compensation to Producers on Denied Land Access to Hunters	Defeated
12-20	Proposed Amendments to Part XV of the Federal <i>Health of Animals Regulations</i>	Accept in Principle
13-20	Canadian Product and Canadian Made	Incomplete
E1-20	Review of Business Risk Management Programs	Unsatisfactory
E2-20	Initiate Agri-Recovery Framework	Unsatisfactory
E3-20	Agri-Invest and Agri-Stability Changes	Unsatisfactory

Introduction

The Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee is pleased to provide Agricultural Service Board (ASB) members and staff with the 2020 Report Card on the Resolutions. This report contains the government and non-government responses to resolutions passed at the 2020 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.

2020 ASB Provincial Committee Members

Members	Alternates	Representation
Corey Beck, Chair	Dale Smith	Peace
Marc Jubinville, Vice Chair	Kevin Smook	Northeast
Morgan Rockenbach	Shawn Rodgers	South
Wayne Nixon	Brenda Knight	Central
Dale Kluin	Vacant	Northwest
Brian Brewin		Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Sebastien Dutrisac		Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen
Doug Macaulay		Agriculture and Forestry
Jane Fulton, Secretary		Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen
Pam Retzlöff, Recording Secretary		Agriculture and Forestry

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 grading and comments submitted by ASBs when grading the resolutions. The grades assigned by the Committee are intended to provide further direction for advocacy efforts for each resolution. Please contact your Regional Representative if you have questions or comments about the grade assigned to a resolution or advocacy efforts.

A summary of grading provided by ASBs is attached for information. The Committee appreciates the input of ASBs into the grading process.

2020 Activities

Meetings:

January 21, 2020

- Regular ASB Provincial Committee Meeting
- AAAF Meeting
- Rural Municipalities of Alberta Meeting

March 16, 2020

- Regular Meeting
- Delegation: John Conrad, Assistant Deputy Minister, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

April 30, 2020

- Regular Meeting

May 22, 2020

- Regular Meeting

June 23, 2020

- Regular Meeting
- Delegation: Jamie Whyte, Acting Deputy Minister, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

September 1, 2020

- Meeting with Deputy Minister Lajeunesse and Assistant Deputy Minister Loo

Other Activities:

Hiring of new Executive Assistant

South Caucus Invitation - TBD

Events:

January 21 – 24, 2020: 75th Anniversary of ASBs, Provincial Conference

Definition of Terms

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

Accept the Response

A response that has been graded as **Accept the Response** addresses the resolution as presented or meets the expectations of the Provincial ASB Committee.

Accept in Principle

A response that is graded **Accept in Principle** addresses the resolution in part or contains information that indicates that further action is being considered.

Incomplete

A response that is graded as **Incomplete** does not provide enough information or does not completely address the resolution. Follow up is required to solicit information for the Provincial ASB Committee to make an informed decision on how to proceed.

Unsatisfactory

A response that is graded as **Unsatisfactory** does not address the resolution as presented or does not meet the expectations of the Provincial ASB Committee

2020 Resolutions

DRAFT

RESOLUTION 1-20: ROPIN' THE WEB

- WHEREAS:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is responsible for the policies, legislation, regulations, programs, and services that enable Alberta's agriculture, food, and forest sectors to grow, prosper, and diversify;
- WHEREAS:** The Ministry of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's Ropin' the Web provided relevant and reliable information from knowledgeable specialists and experts and a general store for agricultural and forestry related supplies and services;
- WHEREAS:** Rural businesses and organizations were provided opportunities to facilitate business networks with assistance from the Ministry through the Ministry website Ropin' the Web;
- WHEREAS:** As part of a larger Government of Alberta web consolidation project, Agriculture and Forestry's web presence, including Ropin' the Web, moved to [Alberta.ca](https://alberta.ca) and by March 31, 2019, online government directories and some relevant agricultural information was no longer available;
- WHEREAS:** The intent of the consolidation of the various Alberta Government websites on [Alberta.ca](https://alberta.ca) to provide a one-stop shop for government information and services that is useable and accessible to all Albertans, is no longer providing a valuable services and information for Alberta's farmers;
- WHEREAS:** The former Alberta Agriculture Website "Ropin the Web" was easy to use and navigate for farmers and those involved in agriculture;
- WHEREAS:** Many farmers and people working in the agriculture sector appreciate web-based learning, information sources, and web-based tools;
- WHEREAS:** The current revised Alberta Agriculture Website is difficult to navigate and with some of the useful extension material no longer available;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Government of Alberta review its Agriculture section of the website ensuring that extension material, online courses and other useful items are easy to find and access for farmers and those in the agriculture industry and reintroduce the general store.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Agriculture and Forestry's web presence is an important source of information for Alberta farmers. In early 2019, Ropin' the Web content was moved over to the main government website, Alberta.ca. More than 700 pages of content were transferred. Many of the reports and

publications that were found on Ropin' the Web can now be found on the Alberta government's Open Data site, [open.Alberta.ca](https://open.alberta.ca)

Our former website also offered a listings service for producers seeking to purchase and sell hay, straw, pasture and various species of livestock. While these directories have been discontinued, the demand for these services have remained strong. Alberta farmers have been clear that the hay and livestock listings are a well-used tool for producers in their day-to-day business.

With the operation of buy-and-sell product and services websites falling outside the role of government, Agriculture and Forestry has provided the Alberta Forage Industry Network with a one-time grant through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership to host the hay, straw, pasture and livestock marketplace listings. Progress on this project was shared at the Alberta Forage Industry Network's March 10, 2020, Annual General Meeting with a final product projected for late spring.

SERVICE ALBERTA

No response received; Alberta Agriculture & Forestry submitted response on their behalf.

PROPOSED GRADE: Accept the Response

COMMENTS: *The Committee graded the resolution as Accept the Response as the government is continuing to provide access to extension materials and other documents through the open.alberta.ca data site, and has granted funding to an industry organization to develop a market place replacement website.*

RESOLUTION 2-20: WEED AND PEST SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING TECHNOLOGY GRANT

- WHEREAS:** Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs) advise on and help organize direct weed and pest control;
- WHEREAS:** ASBs promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer;
- WHEREAS:** ASBs promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality;
- WHEREAS:** All ASBs must report weed and pest monitoring and surveillance as part of their grant requirement;
- WHEREAS:** The compilation of data collected from the 69 different Agricultural Service Boards requires extensive labour and time on the part of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and municipalities;
- WHEREAS:** The information received may be for up to 2 growing seasons and has become dated for municipal and provincial use;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry provide a technology grant and personnel resources to assist municipalities in establishing a provincial pest and weed surveillance and monitoring system to improve timely access to data for all the Agricultural stakeholders.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Agriculture and Forestry administers the Weed Control Act and Agricultural Pests Act, and their associated Regulations, and it is our mandate to monitor regulated pests and survey for new and evolving pests that pose a risk to Alberta crop production.

We recognize the limitations in the current pest tracking and reporting system, and the challenges in accessing data in a timely manner. In this regard, Agriculture and Forestry had begun development of a data management system in the early 2010s, but rapidly changing technology advancements made the computer-based system redundant.

We are currently exploring the development of a new database that effectively interacts (communicates) with mobile devices and allows for timely dissemination of data. At this time, no timeline is available for initiation/completion of this initiative.

PROPOSED GRADE: Incomplete

COMMENTS: *The committee graded this resolution as Incomplete as the response did not include important details about the new database that is being explored. A letter has been drafted to send to the Minister requesting further information and the Committee plans to bring up the issue with the Minister when they are able to meet.*

DRAFT

RESOLUTION 3-20: CLUBROOT PATHOTYPE TESTING

- WHEREAS:** Canola production generates over \$7 billion in revenues in the Province of Alberta annually, is adversely impacted by clubroot;
- WHEREAS:** Clubroot surveillance and pathotype testing completed by the University of Alberta Clubroot Research Team led by Dr. Strelkov is the only testing of its kind being done in Western Canada, and is used to inform the Industry, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and producers;
- WHEREAS:** The unbiased, world recognized testing conducted by the University of Alberta has been vital to the agricultural industry in breeding canola cultivars resistant to the ever-evolving number of pathotypes being found in Alberta agricultural fields;
- WHEREAS:** Alberta Agriculture and Forestry recently denied a Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Project funding application which would allow this extremely important research to continue;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

the Province of Alberta commit to consistent and sustainable funding for the Clubroot Surveillance and Pathotype Monitoring conducted by the University of Alberta.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Agriculture and Forestry has a mandate to monitor regulated pests like *Plasmodiophora brassicae*, the causal agent of clubroot. The department conducts clubroot surveillance activities in collaboration with stakeholders such as rural municipalities, Applied Research Associations, the canola industry, and the University of Alberta.

- The recent profiling of virulent pathotypes of clubroot, for which current sources of resistance are not effective, and the development of the Canadian Clubroot Differential Set are both positive examples of results delivered through effective collaboration.
- A significant portion of this work took place in Agriculture and Forestry facilities located at the Crop Diversification Centre North in Edmonton.

In 2019, we provided \$1.1 million for two three-year projects at the University of Alberta via the Strategic Research and Development Grant Program to support further research on management options (such as resistance testing, rotations, liming, weed implications, impact of inoculum pressure) and pathotyping through the development of a polymerase chain reaction based assay. In addition, through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Plant Health Surveillance Program, Agriculture and Forestry approved a project supporting clubroot surveillance activities in six

county and municipal districts in the North East Region, and a second project supporting clubroot surveillance activities by 13 county and municipal districts in the Peace Region.

The department also provides support to the crop community in the area of crop assurance through grants, a dedicated Agriculture and Forestry monitoring/surveillance program, and a Level Two Diagnostics Lab.

PROPOSED GRADE: Unsatisfactory

COMMENTS: *The Committee graded this resolution as Unsatisfactory as the response does not acknowledge the importance of committing to consistent sustainable funding for Clubroot Surveillance and Pathotype Monitoring. The response does not respond to the current situation being experienced by the municipalities and the issues that the U of A researchers have put forward.*

Going forward the Committee will write a letter to the minister reiterating the need for ongoing monitoring and surveillance support at the U of A and clarifying the value of this work to the industry. The committee will also continue to discuss this issue with the minister when they meet.

Aug 10 update: An email was received from Dr. Strelkov regarding the outcome of this resolution. His email is copied below and will be used to inform the final grading of this resolution:

"I appreciate the strong support from the ASB for the important clubroot pathotyping and monitoring work. I would like to update you on the status of the situation.

We had submitted two proposals for pathotyping research to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF), for support under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Program. The first was rejected in a letter dated Oct. 16, 2019, and the second (revised based on the comments on the first proposal) was rejected in a letter dated Jan. 6, 2020.

However, I would like to share some good news: in an email dated Jan. 21, 2020 from Brian Karisa, Science Lead, Innovation Agriculture Grants (AAF), we were invited to resubmit our pathotyping proposal for consideration through the Strategic Research and Development Program (SRDP).

We submitted the revised proposal as requested, and I'm happy to inform you that this proposal was SUCCESSFUL, with funding to be provided for continued clubroot surveillance and pathotyping for the period March 2020 - March 2024. Hence, there is now support for this research for the next few years under the SRDP program.

I am happy to chat further in person if you have any questions: I am available anytime this afternoon from 1:00 - 4:30 pm or other times this week. However, given that we did receive support in the end, albeit via the SRDP rather than CAP program, I think the matter has been resolved in an acceptable manner.

Thank you once again for your support. I believe that the resolution and support from the Ag Service Boards helped to secure this continued funding.

Sincerely,
Steve"

Aug 10, 2020

RESOLUTION 4-20: EDUCATION CAMPAIGN FOR CLEANLINESS OF EQUIPMENT FOR INDUSTRY SECTORS

WHEREAS: Farm and construction equipment can be purchased from any dealership and moved to any area;

WHEREAS: Equipment dealerships could play a better role in ensuring weeds and pests from one area stays out of another area;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry create an education campaign directed specifically at equipment dealerships or equipment auction services that outlines their role and promotes the importance of moving clean, uncontaminated equipment.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Equipment in multiple sectors—including farming, construction, and oil and gas—can inadvertently transport soil-borne diseases as well as plant material and weed seeds. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's pest management programs focus on integrating monitoring and policy to protect Alberta's agricultural crops from the invasion and spread of plant pests. The Agricultural Pests Act is the provincial legislation to help prevent the introduction and spread of pests in Alberta. Certain parts of the Act prohibit the propagation, sale and distribution of anything containing a pest, which would include soil movement.

As part of AF's mandate to monitor soil-borne regulated pests, such as clubroot (*Plasmodiophora brassicae*), we have evaluated methods of reducing the inadvertent movement of this and other soil borne pests, including methods of transmission and control options.

The department has published sanitation options for managing the inadvertent movement of soil borne pests. For example, the 'Clubroot Management Plan', describes best management practices for producers and industry for cleaning equipment that may spread soil borne disease. The Clubroot Management Plan was revised in 2019 and can be found on Alberta.ca at the following link: <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-clubroot-management-plan.aspx>. Many of the strategies for sanitation can be extrapolated to weeds and weed seeds in soil as well. For example, Aphanomyces root rot of peas is also soil borne, and AF's sanitation measures can be applied to help control this disease in Alberta.

AF also supports industry/government activities such as the Clubroot Management Committee, a multi-stakeholder group with interest in canola and clubroot. The Clubroot Management Committee provides a forum to represent the interests and views of the agriculture and oil and

gas industries in Alberta and Western Canada regarding the management of clubroot. The Committee:

- Recommends management strategies, and
- Assists in educating the agriculture, oil and gas industries in Western Canada about clubroot and the threat it represents to canola and cole crop production.

Extension activities by AF include presentations to industry as well as field demonstrations on sanitation and mitigating the risk of pest spread through equipment cleaning measures. Lectures at colleges and universities reach both agriculture students as well as those in natural resource management, land reclamation, and energy programs.

Additionally, AF co-leads the Biosecurity Working Group under the umbrella of the Canadian Plant Health Council. The working group is invested in assessing gaps in on-farm biosecurity, which includes equipment sanitation and mitigating the threats to crop health.

While we promote equipment sanitation in our presentations and field demonstrations, we do not currently have additional educational activities planned.

PROPOSED GRADE: Unsatisfactory

COMMENTS: *The Committee graded this resolution as Unsatisfactory as it did not address the intent of the resolution or meet the expectations of the Committee. The intent of the resolution was to encourage the government of Alberta to commit to a campaign similar to the one they have for zebra mussels. A letter from the Committee to the ministry explaining the unsatisfactory rating and clarifying the type of response being requested will be sent. This topic will be brought up with the minister when the Committee meets with him later this year.*

This topic has been added to the list of advocacy topics to be brought to the attention of the Alberta Canola Producers Commission to see if there is a fit with their organization or partners.

RESOLUTION 5-20: AFSC ASSIST IN PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF REGULATED CROP PESTS

- WHEREAS:** Crop diseases are becoming more prevalent and wide spread in Alberta due to shortened crop rotations;
- WHEREAS:** Disease resistance is breaking down more quickly due to shortened crop rotations;
- WHEREAS:** Longer crop rotations can significantly decrease pest and disease infestations;
- WHEREAS:** Most crop producers carry crop insurance through the provincial crown corporation Agricultural Financial Services Corporation (AFSC);
- WHEREAS:** AFSC has the ability to promote better and longer crop rotations by declining or pricing insurance in a manner that discourages short crop rotations;
- WHEREAS:** Other jurisdictions such as Saskatchewan use their provincial Crown corporations for crop insurance to promote recommended crop rotations;
- WHEREAS:** The Minister has the ability under the Agricultural Pests Act Section 3(d) to enter into an agreement with AFSC to prevent establishment of or control or destroy pests;
- WHEREAS:** During the 2015 ASB Provincial Conference Resolution #1 ADAPT CROP INSURANCE TO PROTECT CLUBROOT TOLERANT VARIETIES was passed. The resolution requested similar actions to be taken, the response report card deemed actions taken to be unsatisfactory;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Forestry per section 3(d) of the Agricultural Pests Act enter into an agreement with AFSC to decline insurance on canola acres under their program if canola has been planted back to back in rotation.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Forestry per section 3(d) of the Agricultural Pests Act enter into an agreement with AFSC to impose an insurance premium on land which has been planted to canola in contradiction to the Province's Clubroot Management Plan.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Clubroot and blackleg of canola are some of the declared pests under Agriculture and Forestry's Agricultural Pest Act (APA). This act sets out the duties of individuals and local authorities (municipalities) related to the prevention and destruction of pests, and allows the local authority to deal with pests that affect agricultural production. In addition, it also outlines the appointment and powers of inspectors to enforce the APA.

With support from the province, enforcement of the APA and the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation is done through Agriculture Service Boards and the Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen. Alberta also has a Clubroot Management Plan that outlines best management practices for clubroot, which include various practices such as the use of resistant varieties, equipment sanitization, and a one-in-four year crop rotation for crucifer crops.

In 2015 and 2016, Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) included the topic of clubroot management as a topic in the client consultation meetings held in several locations throughout the province. Feedback indicated clients did not feel AFSC should enforce crop rotations or advise on management practices. The current crop insurance mechanisms were seen as reasonably able to cover most cases. For instance, while AFSC does not expressly prohibit growing practices that may contribute to clubroot, the organization does encourage producers to use best management practices through:

- The option to deny or reduce an indemnity on a claim when best practices are not followed;
- The ability to provide coverage based on individual yield history. As a disease such as clubroot adversely impacts crop yield, the subsequent coverage for that crop will be adversely affected;
- Applying a surcharge on subsequent coverage for producers with high loss experience; and
- Denying, limiting or restricting crop insurance coverage when any practice or action taken by the insured would prove detrimental or would limit the production of a producer's crop.

The removal of Fusarium head blight as a declared pest under the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation is a Red Tape Reduction initiative by Agriculture and Forestry. Alberta was the only jurisdiction to regulate Fusarium, limiting growers and producers access to seed varieties. Fusarium is established in significant portions of the province making absolute control of the pest untenable. Moving to a best management practice approach to mitigate spread recognizes the significance of the pest while allowing for more flexibility for producers to manage their operations. Agriculture and Forestry has worked closely with our industry partners on this change to ensure it is supported and the benefits recognized.

AGRICULTURE FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION ALBERTA

Clubroot, a serious soil-borne disease, is a declared pest under the Alberta Agricultural Pest Act (APA). This act, which is administered by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF), is the legislative authority for the enforcement of control measures for declared pests.

This act sets out the duties of individuals and local authorities (municipalities) related to the prevention and destruction of pests, and allows the local authority to deal with pests which affect agricultural production. In addition, it also outlines the appointment and powers of inspectors to enforce the APA.

Under the act, Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs) have the responsibility to administer and enforce the APA. With support from the province, enforcement of the APA and the Pest and

Nuisance Control Regulation is done through Agriculture Service Boards, the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, and the Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen. Under the APA, all agricultural fieldmen are inspectors. As such, the County is responsible for limiting the spread of clubroot and providing adequate enforcement.

Alberta has a Clubroot Management Plan (CMP) that outlines best management practices for clubroot. These best management practices include various practices such as the use of resistant varieties, equipment sanitization and a one-in-four year crop rotation for crucifer crops.

In 2015 and 2016, AFSC included clubroot management as a topic in the client consultation meetings held in several locations throughout the province. Feedback indicated clients did not feel AFSC should enforce crop rotations or advise on management practices. The current crop insurance mechanisms were seen as reasonable to cover most cases.

AFSC does not provide compensate producers for clubroot-related losses, even though clubroot is a declared pest under the APA.

While AFSC does not expressly prohibit growing practices which may contribute to clubroot, it encourages the use of best management practices through the following:

- The ability to deny or reduce an indemnity on a claim when:
 - improper crop rotation practices are used;
 - seed not recommended for the area is used;
 - unapproved, untimely or improperly applied methods for the control of plant diseases are used; and
 - failure to follow acceptable practices as recommended by the Alberta government responsible for Agriculture (Alberta Agriculture and Forestry).
- The ability to provide coverage based on individual yield history. As a disease (e.g., clubroot) adversely impacts crop yield, the subsequent coverage for that crop will be adversely affected.
- The ability to apply a surcharge on subsequent coverage for producers with high loss experience.
- The ability to deny, limit or restrict crop insurance coverage when any practice or action taken by the insured would prove detrimental or limits the production of a producer's crop.

PROPOSED GRADE: Unsatisfactory

COMMENTS: *The Committee graded this resolution as Unsatisfactory since the responses did not meet the expectation of the ASB. The intent of the resolution was to reward producers who followed best management practices outlined in the Clubroot Management Plan. We believe that offering lower premiums to farmers that have a lower risk of clubroot, encourages producers to look at the Clubroot Management Plan and consider adopting the recommended practices. Rewarding lower risk clients with lower premiums is a common practice in the insurance industry, and fits with the mission of AFSC to "...grow agriculture in Alberta.". Following the recommendations of the Clubroot Management Plan lowers the risk of clubroot increasing to levels that affect crop yields, and the profitability of the farms*

that support rural economies. The intent is not to impose further regulations, red tape or burden on producers, or restrict in anyway the rights of producers to make decisions on their crop rotations.

DRAFT

RESOLUTION 6-20: BEEHIVE DEPREDACTION

- WHEREAS:** Alberta agriculture has a spectrum of different farming and ranching operation;
- WHEREAS:** The Ungulate Damage Prevention Program, offers producers advice and assistance to prevent ungulates from spoiling stored feed and unharvested crops;
- WHEREAS:** All commercially grown cereal, oilseed, special and other crops that can be insured under the Production and Straight Hail Insurance programs are eligible for compensation;
- WHEREAS:** The Wildlife Predator Compensation Program provides compensation to ranchers whose livestock are killed or injured by wildlife predators;
- WHEREAS:** Alberta Beekeepers, as an Alberta Agricultural Producers, also experiences wildlife damages such as hive destruction every year by bear depredation but is not covered by a program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks work with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation to amend the Wildlife Compensation Program to include coverage for hive destruction by bear activity.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

From February 6 to 13, 2020, AFSC conducted five Input Advisory Groups meetings throughout the province with Alberta beekeepers. These meetings—held in Falher, Lacombe, Lethbridge, Vermillion, and Westlock—focused on the suite of Business Risk Management (BRM) and Wildlife programs currently administered by AFSC and how those programs work for beekeepers.

AFSC is reviewing the feedback collected at these meetings and formulating potential program improvements that will be vetted through additional industry consultation. Program improvements are expected to be implemented by 2021.

AGRICULTURE FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION ALBERTA

From February 6 to 13, 2020, AFSC conducted five Input Advisory Groups (IAG) meetings throughout the province with Alberta beekeepers. These meetings, held in Falher, Lacombe, Lethbridge, Vermillion and Westlock, focused on the suite of Business Risk Management and Wildlife programs currently administered by AFSC and how those programs work for beekeepers.

AFSC is reviewing the feedback collected at these meetings and formulating potential program improvements that will be vetted through additional industry consultation. Program improvements are expected to be implemented by 2021.

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

PROPOSED GRADE: Accept in Principle

COMMENTS: *The Committee graded this resolution as Accept in Principle as the responses to the resolution were that there were consultations ongoing and changes to the program to be implemented by 2021. The Committee has added this resolution to the list of resolutions to monitor and request information as it becomes available.*

DRAFT

RESOLUTION 7-20: AGRICULTURAL RELATED LEASE DISPOSITIONS

- WHEREAS:** Agricultural Lease Dispositions on Public Lands are an integral component of many livestock operations throughout the Province of Alberta;
- WHEREAS:** The demographics of the Province of Alberta's Agricultural Producers indicate that the sector is experiencing and will continue to experience the rapid succession of livestock operations for the foreseeable future;
- WHEREAS:** The sale and/or purchase of Agricultural Lease Dispositions represent the transfer of an asset and the capital used to develop that asset;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

the Government of Alberta streamline and/or provide increased resources to expedite the disposition of Agricultural Leases within the Province of Alberta.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Environment and Parks is modernizing and bringing into compliance all agricultural dispositions under the Public Lands Administration Regulation. As part of this process, Environment and Parks is overhauling its approach to agricultural dispositions to improve the assignment process, and their goal is to ensure that department's approach is as streamlined as possible. So far, they have updated the grazing rental rates and assignment fees. For more information, please visit www.alberta.ca and search for "public lands fee updates".

Additionally, Environment and Parks has embarked on a grazing lease renewal backlog project, as many of our agricultural dispositions have expired. They are excited about this project and have already seen a significant positive impact on both their department and those that hold grazing leases.

Environment and Parks is confident the work being done to streamline agricultural disposition processing will better serve Albertans by shortening processing times.

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

Response as above

PROPOSED GRADE: Accept in Principle

COMMENTS: *The Committee graded this resolution as Accept in Principle as the responses indicated that the government was aware of the issues and working to address them. It is noted that there was no commitment to increased resources to address the problems, however streamlining the process was their intention. The Committee will monitor this process and revisit when new information becomes available.*

RESOLUTION 8-20: EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK REMOVAL

- WHEREAS:** Maintaining livestock health, viability and profitability during emergency situations such as, but not limited to, disease, fire and flooding is a major priority to livestock producers;
- WHEREAS:** Livestock removal during emergency situations pose major challenges to producers' safety, livelihoods and animal welfare;
- WHEREAS:** Major challenges arise from transportation, acquiring pasture and red tape from various departments to access grazing reserves;
- WHEREAS:** These major challenges restrict the ability of these producers to evacuate rapidly and pose serious risk to life and property;
- WHEREAS:** Removal of red tape and rapid access to grazing reserves and/or created areas allotted for the use during emergency situations would improve the evacuation process, protect life and property;
- WHEREAS:** Currently Municipal Affairs and Agriculture and Forestry do not coordinate an effort to make livestock removal a priority under the Emergency Management Act in rural areas;
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of an Agricultural Service Board is to improve the economic welfare and safety of producers and by not having a provincial streamlined system to safely and effectively remove and rehome livestock; emergency situations will continue to plague the life and property of producers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD REQUEST

that Municipal Affairs and Agriculture and Forestry work together to research and develop best practice procedures in the event livestock are to be left behind due to an Evacuation Order issued under the *Emergency Management Act*.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Agriculture and Forestry and Municipal Affairs, through the Alberta Emergency Management Agency, acknowledge that livestock removal during emergency situations poses major challenges to producer safety, livelihoods and animal welfare. We have been working together to improve the emergency management systems' ability to address livestock concerns during emergencies, including evacuations. The emergency management system is intricate and has a number of different levels that need to be considered when addressing livestock in emergencies.

The initial responsibility for being prepared for emergencies rests with individuals (including farmers and other small businesses). Each farm should have its own plan for when, how and to where the farmer would evacuate their livestock should it be necessary. When the emergency event is more than an individual or business can manage on their own, they should reach out to

their municipality for assistance, who can provides support through the traditional emergency services. The municipality is also responsible for developing response plans and strategies. When the emergency event is greater than a community can manage on their own, they can reach out to the provincial government for assistance. Requests for provincial assistance are coordinated through the Alberta Emergency Management Agency's Provincial Emergency Operations Centre, at which all provincial departments work collaboratively to provide support and assistance to communities in need.

Following discussions with communities after the 2019 Wildfire season, Agriculture and Forestry is looking at a multipronged approach to improving the emergency management system's ability to address livestock issues, while enhancing farmers' awareness of the emergency management system and their own emergency preparedness. In this regard, we will provide support to the extension efforts of Agriculture Service Boards to enhance emergency planning at the community level. Agriculture and Forestry will also continue to work with agriculture industry associations to support on-farm emergency preparedness and the development of response and recovery strategies for large emergencies, disease outbreaks or other disasters.

Further efforts in this area include finalizing the development of a temporary re-entry process that communities could build upon and implement after they have ordered an evacuation; working with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency to complete a "Livestock Emergency Planning Guide" for communities; and working with Environment and Parks to develop a rapid access protocol for the provincial grazing reserves, so that communities or the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre will have a quick option to consider when there is a need to evacuate large numbers of animals.

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

Answer was coordinated with AF. See above response.

ALBERTA MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Alberta's emergency management system operates on a decentralized model with local authorities, such as municipalities, Metis Settlements, and First Nations having the primary responsibility for managing emergency or disaster events within their boundaries. In January 2020, the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation came into effect, and is intended to strengthen local authority emergency management systems.

Decisions on evacuation are generally made by the local authority under a state of local emergency, and would include considerations such as evacuation of livestock. I encourage local authorities having a significant livestock presence in their communities to ensure they have considered livestock evacuation within their municipal emergency management plans.

Thank you again for writing and for your efforts on behalf of Alberta's economic growth and development.

PROPOSED GRADE: Accept in Principle

COMMENTS: *The Committee graded this resolution as Accept in Principle as the ministries are aware of the need for Emergency Livestock Removal to be addressed in emergency response planning and have*

been working with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency to address the concerns that have come out of the 2019 wildfire responses. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is working on a “multipronged” approach to improve the emergency response system and increase awareness of the need for emergency response planning to be done by producers who own livestock, and states that they will “support” efforts of municipalities to increase awareness with livestock owners. There were no firm commitments to resources or activities in the resolution response, the Committee will monitor the progress and follow up if needed.

DRAFT

RESOLUTION 9-20: MANDATORY AGRICULTURE EDUCATION IN THE CLASSROOM

- WHEREAS:** Agricultural production in Alberta has historically been and continues to be a major economic force and employer of workers;
- WHEREAS:** Generations ago, most Albertans grew up on the family farm and had an intimate knowledge about how livestock, crops, and other agricultural commodities were raised;
- WHEREAS:** Most Albertans now live in urban non -farm environments and do not have the same level of knowledge about how livestock, crops, and other agricultural commodities are being raised;
- WHEREAS:** The general public has historically had a high regard for agriculture and farmers as they put food on their table in Alberta, Canada, and the rest of the world;
- WHEREAS:** Modern agriculture in Alberta is being severely tested by concerns about how livestock, crops, and agricultural produce is being raised, especially regarding environmental impacts, animal cruelty, and farm safety;
- WHEREAS:** Many of these concerns stem from a lack of knowledge about agriculture in the general community;
- WHEREAS:** Alberta Education is currently reviewing the teaching curriculum making it very timely to consider this resolution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Agricultural Service Boards, Rural Municipalities of Alberta and Alberta Agriculture & Forestry work with other rural stakeholders, Alberta Education, and the Alberta Teachers' Association to request that mandatory agriculture education be implemented in the school curriculum in Alberta.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Education be approached to add Canada Agriculture Day as an event to their school activities.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to connect consumers with where their food comes from. To facilitate public understanding of the industry, government has taken concrete steps to support agriculture education in our province.

In partnership with Alberta Education, Agriculture and Forestry has developed the Green Certificate Program, a dual-credit program where students can earn both high school credits and an industry certification in a variety of agriculture career paths. Students select a specialization,

and under the guidance of a trainer, work towards mastering all of the skills within their training program. Upon completion, the trainee receives 16 grade-12 credits.

We are also committed to working with Alberta Education as it reviews the curriculum to find ways to integrate agriculture into Alberta's K-12 core courses like science and social studies. Currently, agriculture is represented in subjects like Social Studies, Science, Foods and Health, but many teachers may not have the knowledge or the resources to be able to integrate agriculture themes into the curriculum.

To help facilitate getting agriculture into classrooms, Agriculture and Forestry developed a Canadian Agricultural Partnership Public Trust Youth Agriculture Education Grant for industry organizations and education organizations to develop curriculum-linked programs that build public trust in agriculture. The grant has \$2 million dollars allocated over the five-year agreement.

RURAL MUNICIPALITIES OF ALBERTA

Thank you for your letter dated February 7, 2020 regarding ASB resolution 9-20: Mandatory Agriculture Education in the Classroom. I wanted to share with you a similar resolution endorsed at our fall 2019 RMA convention, 23-19F: Mandatory Agriculture Education in the Classroom.

<https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/23-19f-mandatory-agriculture-education-in-the-classroom/>

We received a response from the Government of Alberta (GOA) outlining the current agricultural education opportunities offered in Alberta schools. However, the GOA response does not indicate action to have mandatory education in agricultural topics for all Alberta students. As a result, RMA has assigned this resolution a status of intent not met.

I look forward to working together as we continue to advocate on this issue.

ALBERTA EDUCATION

I believe all Albertans share the same values in wanting a strong, vibrant education system that meets the learning needs of all students and gives them the skills and knowledge they will need to be successful in school, work and life.

As a farmer myself, I am very aware that agriculture is an important part of Alberta's economy, and I appreciate the value of providing students with an understanding of this industry and of its role in food production. Both the current Science and Social Studies Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum provide students opportunities to learn about a wide range of topics, including concepts related to agriculture in Alberta. I have asked my department to explore the possibilities of further enhancement to the curriculum.

Alberta's provincial Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum outlines what students are expected to know, understand and be able to do in each subject and grade. While Alberta Education determines curriculum content, teachers use their professional judgement to determine how students achieve the learning outcomes in the provincial curriculum. School authorities have the

autonomy, flexibility and responsibility to determine which supports, resources or programs are most appropriate for their students and school community. This provides Alberta's school jurisdictions with the opportunity to best address the needs of the students and the communities they serve, using the resources available to them.

In order to ensure students in Alberta receive the best education possible, our government established an independent curriculum advisory panel to provide a new vision for student learning, as well as recommendations on the direction for future Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum. The panel's report is available at open.alberta.ca/publications/curriculum-advisory-panel-recommendations-on-direction-for-curriculum, and a link to the draft vision for student learning is available at www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/educ-draft-ministerial-order.pdf.

The draft vision for student learning emphasizes the knowledge, skills and competencies that students should have when they finish high school. Establishing a new vision for student learning is an important first step in ensuring we take the right approach in updating the provincial curriculum.

Government has engaged with Albertans through an online survey to gather feedback on the panel's draft vision. This feedback, along with the recommendations from the curriculum advisory panel, will help guide our work as we move forward with updating the curriculum.

I hope this information is helpful, and I appreciate you taking the time to write.

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/curriculum-advisory-panel-recommendations-on-direction-for-curriculum>

ALBERTA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Thank you for providing the Alberta Teachers' Association with a copy of Resolution 9-20, Mandatory Agriculture Education in the Classroom.

The Association is pleased to receive the resolution as information. However, Alberta Education, not the Association, establishes the curriculum and the resolution is best directed to the ministry for action. As the resolution notes, your advocacy is especially timely given that the ministry is currently updating the curriculum.

Once again, thank you for sharing the resolution.

PROPOSED GRADE: Unsatisfactory

COMMENTS: *The Committee graded this resolution response as Unsatisfactory as the response from the ministry did acknowledge the need for increased awareness of food and where it comes from, but did not commit to making Agriculture Education mandatory. There was no response to the request to add Canada Agriculture Day as an event in the school calendars. This response from the Ministry, the Alberta Teachers Association and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is consistent with past responses. The Committee will reach out to other organizations that are working to address this issue and see if there*

are other opportunities to have influence on this topic, and looks forward to hearing about activities funded through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Public Trust Youth Agriculture Education Grant.

DRAFT

RESOLUTION 10-20: REINSTATE A SHELTERBELT PROGRAM

- WHEREAS:** The Government of Canada cancelled the Prairie Shelterbelt Program in 2013, a program which ran successfully from 1901-2013;
- WHEREAS:** Shelterbelts provide many direct benefits to landowners, including snow trapping, reducing soil erosion from wind, and acting as visual screens;
- WHEREAS:** Shelterbelts provide indirect benefits to all Canadians by providing ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, and pollinator habitat;
- WHEREAS:** Weather conditions and high levels of pest pressure has taken its toll on existing shelterbelts;
- WHEREAS:** Municipalities bear the extra cost of road maintenance (snow clearing, dust control) when shelterbelts start to die;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry implement a shelterbelt program

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

The Government of Alberta shelterbelt program closed in 1997, and the Government of Canada's Prairie Shelterbelt Program closed in 2013. The programs provided technical services and tree and shrub seedlings at no cost to eligible landowners. Municipalities also assisted with distribution of seedlings as well as access to planting and maintenance equipment.

We recognize that shelterbelts provide a variety of positive benefits, including decreased soil erosion, improved soil fertility and soil moisture retention, wildlife habitat, and carbon storage. While there is no government shelterbelt program currently being considered, a number of commercial nurseries have taken over the large-scale production of shelterbelt stock, and they make them available at low cost to bulk orders. Agriculture and Forestry believes the private sector can efficiently supply the need for shelterbelt stock in Alberta, while some Alberta counties still make planting and maintenance equipment available through their Agriculture Service Boards.

Shelterbelts and eco-buffers are eligible projects under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change - Producer program. The minimum shelterbelt length is 100 meters, and there is a maximum price per tree of \$5.00. Only native species of tree will be approved. Program details and applications can be accessed at:

https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/program/STEW_PROD

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA – Minister

The Government of Canada has a long history of working with provincial and territorial partners and industry stakeholders to help support and enhance the sustainability of Canada's agriculture sector. This has included researching the benefits of on-farm woodlots and shelterbelts, and encouraging their establishment on working lands. The Canadian Agricultural Partnership is continuing to help producers to address soil and water conservation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and adapt to climate change.

Under the Partnership, approximately \$430 million is available for FPT cost-shared programs that are designed to raise producer's awareness of environmental risks and accelerate the adoption of on-farm technologies and practices to reduce these risks, including the on-farm shelterbelts. These cost-shared programs are delivered by provinces and territories, enabling them to reflect the environmental priorities of the sector in each region, including identifying the practices and technologies eligible for incentives to producers.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) remains committed to collaborating with provinces, territories, and the sector to explore alternate approaches that support and encourage the adoption of innovation and nature-based climate solutions, such as establishing shelterbelts, as a way to address climate change and contribute toward Canada's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

PROPOSED GRADE: Accept in Principle

COMMENTS: *The committee graded this as Accept in Principle as it addresses the resolution in part, but does not meet the expectations of the resolution. It is clear from the response that the ministry feels that the funding provided to producers for native shelterbelt species under CAP and the programs offered by commercial nurseries are sufficient.*

RESOLUTION 11-20: COMPENSATION TO PRODUCERS ON DENIED LAND ACCESS TO
HUNTERS

DEFEATED AT THE 2020 PROVINCIAL ASB CONFERENCE

- WHEREAS:** Damage to livestock fencing, stacked feed, green feed or silage pits has increased due to the growing deer and elk population;
- WHEREAS:** Damage caused by deer and elk may be reduced through best management practices including issuance of additional hunting tags;
- WHEREAS:** Controlled reduction of the ungulate population cannot be undertaken on lands where hunting is not permitted;
- WHEREAS:** No compensation should be paid to landowners for damage to fences, stacked feed, green feed losses or silage pits and tubes if land access to hunters is denied;
- WHEREAS:** Landowners can develop their own system to allow land access to hunters;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Environment and Parks withhold compensation for damage caused to fences, stacked feed or green feed to landowners that do not permit access to land for hunting of wildlife.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE: N/A

RESOLUTION 12-20: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PART XV OF THE FEDERAL *HEALTH OF ANIMALS REGULATIONS*

- WHEREAS:** Under the authority of the Federal *Health of Animals Regulations*, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is proposing significant amendments to the reporting requirements regarding the movement of livestock in Canada;
- WHEREAS:** The “data requirements” as identified by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency are exhaustive, unreasonable and seriously taxing to many livestock producers and farm operators;
- WHEREAS:** Dependable, long range, high frequency identification tags and consequent readers are not currently readily available;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency postpone their proposed amendments to the federal *Health of Animals Regulations* until such a time that the identified “data requirements” can be accurately collected by livestock producers and farm operators.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is proposing amendments to the Federal traceability regulations (Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations, within the Health of Animals Act) that will expand the scope of requirements for identifying and reporting the movement of beef, bison, sheep and pigs, while introducing traceability requirements for goats and cervids.

The goal of the proposed amendments is to address gaps in Canada's traceability system, identified during consultations in 2013 and 2015, to ensure a robust system and ability to trace livestock in the event of a disease outbreak or natural disaster event.

As a result of the consultations, the CFIA revised several elements of the regulatory proposal and ensured alignment with the Cattle Implementation Plan supported by the beef cattle sector.

Alberta supports and will continue to work with industry and our federal and provincial partners on an integrated national traceability program. Alberta also remains committed to maintaining its Premises Identification (PID) system and increasing PID registrations (with over 50,000 active accounts in its PID system, Alberta has the highest level of PID registrations in the country).

In addition, Alberta is looking at ways to use current livestock movement reporting tools/systems (e.g. livestock movement manifests) to report traceability information both provincially and federally. The use of existing provincial movement reporting processes will simplify the process for Alberta users and reduce duplication.

Alberta has also developed a "Locate Premises" application (accessible online or through a mobile device), which will allow producers and other livestock industry stakeholders to easily look up PID Numbers for entry on livestock manifests. The URL address for the Locate Premises application is <https://lp.agric.qov.ab.ca>.

Finally, we encourage producers and other livestock industry stakeholders to express their concerns to CFIA during the Canada Gazette 1 comment period. The proposed amendments were expected to be published in spring 2020 at the earliest; however, due to COVID-19, only urgent items are being published in the Canada Gazette at this time. Following the publication, stakeholders will have 75 days to review and provide comment.

CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY – PRESIDENT Siddika Mithani, PhD

As detailed in Dr. Jaspinder Komal's response to Mr. Lawson's letter of July 22, 2019, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is considering advancing proposed regulations to strengthen the traceability system in order to enable effective and timely disease control investigations, better manage animal health, and help improve Canada's capacity to maintain market access as well as consumer confidence.

With respect to resolution 12-20 of the Alberta Agricultural Service Board, I wanted to take this opportunity to note that the current and proposed livestock traceability regulations are outcome-based; in that there is no prescribed method or technology by which regulated data is provided to the administrators of the program or by which the identification numbers of tags must be read and reported. CFIA encourages industry to innovate and explore effective technology that allows for the introduction of effective identification tags and readers.

CFIA is having ongoing dialogue with industry sectors on the proposed requirements and open to feedback. All stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide comments during the formal consultation period upon publication in Canada Gazette, Part I.

I appreciate you forwarding the resolution, which will be taken into consideration as CFIA further develops the regulatory proposal.

Thank you for writing about this important matter

CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY – Chief Veterinary Officer

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA - Minister

PROPOSED GRADE: Accept in Principle

COMMENTS: *The committee graded this resolution as Accept in Principle as there is still an opportunity to participate in CFIA consultations through the federal government Gazette, and the resolution is being taken under advisement by the CFIA. The referred to regulations were not published in this spring's Part 1 of the Gazette so the Committee will watch for consultation opportunities in future Gazettes. It is clear that the issue of long-range tag reading technology was not addressed or a concern to the CFIA or AF, however the changes are being made in consultation with industry.*

RESOLUTION 13-20: CANADIAN PRODUCT AND CANADIAN MADE

- WHEREAS:** The guidelines for "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" claims promote compliance with subsection 5(1) of the Food and Drugs Act and subsection 6(1) of the Safe Food for Canadians Act, which prohibit false and misleading claims;
- WHEREAS:** A food product may use the claim "Product of Canada" when all or virtually all major ingredients, processing, and labour used to make the food product are Canadian;
- WHEREAS:** A "Made in Canada" claim with a qualifying statement can be used on a food product when the last substantial transformation of the product occurred in Canada, even if some ingredients are from other countries;
- WHEREAS:** Products will qualify for a "Made in Canada" when at least 51% of the total direct cost of producing or manufacturing the good must have occurred in Canada;
- WHEREAS:** Some of our "Made in Canada" raw products such as honey could be mixed with up to 30% of imported honey which is misleading to the Canadian consumers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Canadian Food Inspection Agency amend the Guidelines for "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" claims to not include pure products such as honey.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Agriculture and Forestry supports and advocates for food labelling requirements that are modern, consistent, and relevant to meet the needs of industry and consumers.

Agriculture and Forestry does not have jurisdiction on product claims or labelling guidelines for food products. All food labelling requirements, including "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada", are enforced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency as per their Guidelines for "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" Claims. As per the guidelines, the "Product of Canada" label can be used when 98 per cent or more of the major ingredients, processing, and labour used to make the food product are Canadian in origin. The "Made in Canada" label can be used when the last substantial transformation of the product occurred in Canada, with a qualifying statement to indicate that the food product is made from imported ingredients or a combination of imported and domestic ingredients.

The federal government conducted industry and public consultation on potential changes to these guidelines in 2019. Some of the feedback they received to increase the number of products eligible to use the claims, to promote Canadian products, recognizes investment, economic growth in Canada (labour and manufacturing), to respond to consumer interest in knowing where their food is coming from, and to help consumers make informed purchasing decisions.

CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY- President

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA- Minister

I recognize that industry has raised concerns that the current “Product of Canada” and “Made in Canada” guidelines are overly restrictive and inconsistent with some provincial requirements. Recommendations to revise these guidelines were included in the Agri-Food Economic Strategy Table Report. In response to these recommendations, CFIA and AAFC committed to review the guidelines as part of the Agri-Food and Aquaculture Regulatory Roadmap.

The review sought to encourage increased use of the claims on food labels. AAFC consulted with industry in March 2019 on a proposal to lower the 98 percent threshold for “Product of Canada” claims to 85 percent, and to allow more flexibility for “Made in Canada” claims. CFIA’s survey of Canadians in June 2019 sought to verify that any proposed changes continue to provide valuable information for making purchasing decisions. These consultations generated a number of comments from consumers and industry, including some similar to those outlined in your resolution 13-20. These comments are being taken into consideration as the Government considers next steps. The Government of Canada will communicate any changes that are made to the guidelines to industry stakeholders and Canadians.

The 51 percent Canadian content requirement quoted in your resolution comes from a previous policy. Currently, the use of the “Made in Canada” claim applies to food products whose substantial transformation has occurred in Canada. You can find more details on CFIA’s current guidelines for these claims at www.inspection.gc.ca/food-label-requirements/labelling/industry/origin-claims-on-food-labels/eng/139362222140/1393622515592?chap=5#s1c5.

You may also be interested to know that, regarding honey, the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations require any blended varieties to state the country or countries of origin on the label. Any changes to “Product of Canada” and “Made in Canada” guidelines would not alter this requirement. You can view the guidance on labelling blended honey at www.inspection.gc.ca/food-labelrequirements/labelling/industry/honey/eng/1392907854578/1392907941975?chap=6.

PROPOSED GRADE: Incomplete

COMMENTS: *A response from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency was not received. The Agriculture and Agri-food Canada response was received after the initial grading but will be reviewed in the final report card.*

RESOLUTION E1-20: REVIEW OF BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

- WHEREAS:** Current Business Risk Management Programs do not currently reflect the rising cost of agriculture;
- WHEREAS:** Western Canadian agricultural producers are in dire straits following this past year's cropping issues and marketing issues, both of which are from forces beyond their control;
- WHEREAS:** The current suite of programs available to farmers are insufficient to address the crisis facing many agricultural producers; either new programs need to be developed or increased competition in existing programs needs to occur;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada immediately begin a review of all Business Risk Management Programs involving all stakeholders, including producers, to explore potential new programs or amendments to current programs.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada look to increase competition by allowing private industry access to cost shared subsidies through programs like AgriInsurance to prevent certain companies from having a monopoly on government subsidies.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

In 2018, the Canadian and provincial governments committed to a review of BRM programs. An external panel, drawn from producers from across the country, was created to review the existing programs and make recommendations to the ministers. At the ministers' meeting in July 2019, the external panel made several recommendations to improve the BRM suite. Recommendations included reviewing the AgriStability program, examining its complexity, timeliness and predictability. Since the external panel's recommendations, federal and provincial officials have been working on possible options to improve the program.

In December 2019, the ministers made an announcement that AgriStability would exclude private-sector, producer-paid insurance payments as eligible AgriStability eligible income. This change will allow AgriStability to provide more coverage in times of severe losses with private insurance options (such as hail insurance, Global Ag Risk Solutions) complementing AgriStability, bringing the producer back to a higher support level.

At the same December meeting, ministers extended their commitment to the BRM review by challenging federal and provincial officials to evaluate the BRM programs against specific objectives and start to explore possible alternative approaches to BRM programming in Canada. Ministers are aware of industry's ask to remove the Reference Margin Limit and return the AgriStability trigger to 85 per cent of a producer's historical support level.

Federal and provincial ministers also acknowledged there are changing risks in the agriculture sector, with climate and international trade highlighted as specific risks. Similarly, following the last federal election, the federal mandate letter specifies that the BRM review should seek to "draw on lessons from trade disputes" and emphasize "faster and better adapted support". Federal and provincial officials are considering various options as potential replacements for AgriStability as part of a longer-term approach to refreshing the BRM suite. On a parallel track, work on short-term changes to AgriStability will continue.

For the past two years, AFSC has been meeting with producers at Input Advisory Group meetings to seek input on how to improve AgriStability's simplicity, timeliness and predictability. AFSC is currently engaged in province-wide Input Advisory Group meetings to facilitate producer discussions on the way forward for our BRM programs. A summary of their findings will be made available as soon as possible.

AGRICULTURE FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION ALBERTA

(Same as above)

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA - Minister

Federal, provincial, and territorial (FPT) officials are continuing to examine ways to improve business risk management (BRM) programs. In December 2019, FPT ministers agreed to conduct an assessment of the BRM programs to help guide the ongoing work to develop approaches to better meet the needs of producers and make programs more effective, agile, timely, and equitable for producers. We continue to work with our provincial and territorial partners to ensure that the suite of programs is meeting new and evolving risks in the sector.

Under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, FPT governments continue to provide support to producers through BRM programs, as well as strategic initiative programs. This includes \$2 billion in FPT cost-shared strategic initiatives and \$1 billion in federal activities and programs aimed at growing trade and expanding markets, fostering innovative and sustainable growth in the sector, and supporting diversity in a dynamic, evolving sector. Over the Growing Forward 2 period (2012-2017), FPT governments provided producers across Canada with over \$8 billion in support.

PROPOSED GRADE: Unsatisfactory

COMMENTS: *The Committee graded this resolution as Unsatisfactory as the response from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry did not address trade relations and they have not committed to doing anything to address the resolution. The Agriculture and AgriFood Canada response was received after the initial grading but will be reviewed in the final report card. The Committee will draft letters to the respective ministries relaying the grade and the reasons.*

RESOLUTION E2-20: INITIATE AGRIRECOVERY FRAMEWORK

- WHEREAS:** AgriRecovery is a federal-provincial-territorial disaster relief framework intended to work together with the core Business Risk Management Programs to help agricultural producers recover from natural disasters and the extraordinary costs producers must take on to recover from disasters;
- WHEREAS:** Numerous municipalities have declared an agricultural disaster due to drought, fire, flood, early frost, disease and excessive moisture;
- WHEREAS:** These producers accrued exorbitant costs to even attempt harvest or put up feed, manage tough grain, feed shortages and the rehabilitation of land in the coming years;
- WHEREAS:** The current agriculture and economic climates is plagued by lower commodity prices from trade restrictions and poor relations leading to lower profits and decreased cash flow;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry work together to initiate the AgriRecovery disaster framework and begin an immediate analysis of impact for additional financial support to assist field rehabilitation, costs accrued to attempt harvest and manage tough grain, feed shortages, losses incurred from lower commodity prices due to trade wars and any other out of the ordinary accrued expenses upon assessment.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada immediately work to resolve trade restrictions and improve relations with countries like China and India to improve movement and commodity prices.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

The Government of Alberta appreciates that harsh weather conditions experienced by Alberta producers in 2019 have created challenges, and have resulted in the declaration of a State of Agricultural Disaster by several municipalities. Many of the expenses identified as part of these weather events are covered within the full suite of BRM programs, which include AgriStability, AgriInsurance, and AgriInvest. These programs are designed to cover severe margin declines and production declines in perennial and annual crops, and they also provide self-directed saving accounts for investments.

Part of this suite is the AgriRecovery framework. AgriRecovery works in conjunction with the existing programs to help producers recover from natural disasters. The focus of AgriRecovery is

the extraordinary costs producers face to recover from natural disasters like disease, pests, or weather-related events, such as large-scale flooding or tornadoes. The AgriRecovery framework provides a method for officials to determine if an AgriRecovery initiative should be pursued. This is a two-stage process that includes a preliminary assessment and a secondary, or full, AgriRecovery assessment.

The preliminary assessment evaluates each disaster event individually. This is done to determine the size and scope of a situation by looking at specific criteria that answer the following questions: Is it a recurring event (has it happened before)? Is it an abnormal event (how often has it happened)? And are there significant, extraordinary costs that threaten the viability of an operation?

While the situation farmers currently face is difficult, it is unlikely this year's situation would pass the preliminary AgriRecovery assessment. There have been challenging harvests in the past, including snowed under acres, and an AgriRecovery program has not been declared.

The secondary, or full assessment, would evaluate each of the extraordinary costs identified and whether those costs would be covered by existing programs, insurance or other initiatives—such as the Livestock Tax Deferral Program. There are some items that would not be eligible for compensation under the AgriRecovery framework. These include costs such as taxes, machinery costs, repairs or alterations, or the sale of agricultural commodities. The secondary assessment also looks at what programs were/are available to producers and determines how well the existing programs respond to the identified extraordinary expenses.

The majority of costs accrued to harvest and manage tough grain or to purchase feed are eligible expenses under the AgriStability program. This program is designed to respond when there is a fluctuation in prices, be it from normal market fluctuations or trade restrictions put in place by other countries. In order to pass the secondary assessment, these costs would have to equate to a 30 per cent decline in a producer's program year margin compared to historical or the program reference margin. These estimates are done regardless of whether a producer is enrolled in the program, as it is support already available to producers.

AFSC is also monitoring the spring harvest conditions, as many of the producers in the province will try to harvest their crops this spring. Producers who are not able to harvest their crops and who have crop insurance coverage may be eligible for benefits under AgriInsurance.

At this time, there is a sense that the existing suite of programs should be able to address many of the challenges faced by producers, as the programs are designed based on an individual producer's situation. This individual design ensures producers that are impacted have access to support even if other producers or areas are impacted less by the specific events.

Under AgriStability, producers are eligible for compensation when their current year margin falls below 70 per cent of their historical level of support or reference margin. The program is designed to focus on helping producers experiencing severe margin declines, beyond normal risks or fluctuations. Producers participating in AgriStability may be able to receive an interim AgriStability advance, depending on their current situation, which may help with cash flow.

Also to assist with cash flow, impacted producers may want to consider applying for a cash advance through the Feeders Association of Alberta, Canadian Canola Growers Association, or the Alberta Wheat Commission. Eligible producers are able to access up to \$1 million, with the initial \$100,000 being interest free for eligible commodities.

AGRICULTURE FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION ALBERTA

Individual producers have access to a suite of Business Risk Management (BRM) programs – AgriStability, AgriInsurance, and AgriInvest. These programs are designed to cover severe margin declines and production declines in perennial and annual crops and also provide self-directed saving accounts for investments.

Part of this suite is the AgriRecovery framework. AgriRecovery works in conjunction with the existing programs to help producers recover from natural disasters. The focus of AgriRecovery is the extraordinary costs producers face to recover from natural disasters like disease, pest or weather-related events, such as a large-scale flooding or tornadoes.

The AgriRecovery framework provides a method for officials to determine if an AgriRecovery initiative should be pursued. This is a two-stage process that includes a preliminary assessment and a secondary, or full, AgriRecovery assessment.

The preliminary assessment evaluates each disaster event individually. This is done to determine the size and scope of a situation by looking at specific criteria that answer the following questions:

- Is it a recurring event (has it happened before)?
- Is it an abnormal event (how often has it happened)? and
- Are there significant, extraordinary costs that threaten the viability of an operation?

The secondary, or full assessment, would evaluate each of the extraordinary costs identified and whether those costs would be covered by existing programs, insurance or other initiatives— such as the Livestock Tax Deferral Program. There are some items that would not be eligible for compensation under the AgriRecovery framework. These include costs such as taxes, machinery costs, repairs or alterations or the sale of agricultural commodities. The secondary assessment also looks at what programs were/are available to producers and determines how well the existing programs respond to the identified extraordinary expenses.

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Although the harsh weather conditions experienced by Alberta producers in 2019 have resulted in the declaration of a State of Agricultural Disaster by several municipalities, many of the expenses identified are covered within the full suite of BRM programs.

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA – Minister

In addition, the recently announced national AgriRecovery initiative, of up to \$125 million in funding, will help producers faced with costs incurred by COVID-19. This includes a \$50-million set-aside program for cattle producers dealing with the consequences of market disruptions. I encourage your organization and industry groups across Canada to continue to work with provincial and territorial governments to initiate AgriRecovery assessments to provide support to producers facing extraordinary costs associated with recovering from a disaster.

PROPOSED GRADE: Unsatisfactory

COMMENTS: *The Committee graded this response as Unsatisfactory as it does not address the resolution but rather lists in detail the programs currently available. The Agriculture and AgriFood Canada response was received after the initial grading but will be reviewed in the final report card. The Committee will draft letters to the respective ministries relaying the grade and the reasons.*

RESOLUTION E3-20: AGRIINVEST AND AGRISTABILITY CHANGES

- WHEREAS:** Business Risk Management Programs such as AgriInvest are administered federally by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada;
- WHEREAS:** AgriInvest lowered the percentage of allowable net sales and does not keep up with the rising cost of farms production;
- WHEREAS:** Business Risk Management Programs such as AgriStability are administered through Agriculture Financial Services Corporation in Alberta;
- WHEREAS:** AgriStability recently lowered the reference margin and added reference margin limits;
- WHEREAS:** The purpose of AgriStability is to provide support for a large margin decline and the purpose of AgriInvest is to help manage small income declines;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) work collaboratively to adjust AgriStability to increase covered losses starting at 85 per cent of reference margins and for the removal of Reference Margin Limits.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Canada Revenue Agency adjust AgriInvest to move the Allowable Net Sales under AgriInvest to 3 percent with maximum Allowable Net Sales of \$500,000.00.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE:

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the federal and provincial governments committed to a review of BRM programming to ensure that producers were covered for severe losses. An external panel completed the review and provided recommendations to the federal and provincial governments on how to improve the current suite of BRM programs, while remaining cost neutral.

The review panel indicated they did not want to see AgriInvest maintained. At this time, there has been no commitment or desire to increase the maximum deposit to AgriInvest accounts from \$10,000 to \$15,000. There are currently over 23,600 producers in Alberta that have AgriInvest balances that average over \$27,500. Producers could use these account balances to help offset the costs associated with the difficult harvest conditions of 2019.

In response to the recommendations, AFSC conducted Input Advisory Group meetings at seven locations across Alberta, from north to south Alberta, to get producer input on possible programming changes. To date, the BRM review has been focused on improving the timeliness, predictability and simplicity of the AgriStability program. AFSC found most Alberta producers would like to see the program simplified, which, in turn, could make it more predictable. To simplify and improve the program responsiveness, all private-sector insurance payments have been removed as income for the program year margin for the 2020 AgriStability program year. This will allow producers to benefit from participating in private insurance programs without having their AgriStability payment reduced when receiving a payment from a private-sector insurance program, such as hail insurance or the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program.

Additionally, in response to the numerous requests received by industry, we have prioritized our efforts to explore the feasibility of removing the Reference Margin Limit. Removing the limit would increase the total liabilities covered by governments, which would translate into increased costs to the program. At this time, the costs to remove the limit is unknown, and as such, governments are not able to commit to seeking additional funding to pay for these costs.

Under the Growing Forward 2 and Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreements, governments developed a policy position stating that BRM programming should not cover normal losses, and should focus on severe or disaster situations. This is one of the reasons the AgriStability trigger was changed from 85 to 70 per cent of a producer's reference margin. This move was a shift away from the previous Agriculture Policy Framework and Growing Forward agreements that were more focused on providing income assurance. Returning to the 85 per cent trigger will require a review of how it conforms with our international trade obligations, as well as determining the costs to governments.

The federal and provincial governments have committed to continuing the BRM review. Some of the focus will continue to be on program design, although the review will also include program objectives. This includes a review of the fairness and accessibility of producers to BRM programming. For example, the AgriStability program is a whole-farm program, intended to provide coverage for all producers, in all sectors, regardless of their farm structure. As such, AgriStability provides coverage to areas within the agriculture sector that do not have access to, or have limited access to, crop insurance products.

With an understanding of the current trade, market, and production challenges faced by many producers, it is important that government and industry at the national, provincial, and regional levels work together to improve our suite of BRM programming.

AGRICULTURE FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION ALBERTA

Under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), the federal and provincial governments committed to a review of BRM programming to ensure that producers were covered for more severe losses and not for what is considered normal risk. An external panel completed the review and provided recommendations to the federal and provincial governments on how to improve the current suite of BRM programs, while remaining cost neutral (no new funding).

In response to the recommendations, AFSC conducted Input Advisory Group meetings at seven locations across Alberta, from north to the south, to get Alberta producers' input on possible programming changes. To date, the BRM review has been focused on improving the timeliness, predictability and simplicity of the AgriStability program. AFSC found most Alberta producers would like to see the program simplified, which, in turn, could make it more predictable. To simplify and improve the program responsiveness, all private-sector insurance payments have been removed as income for the program year margin for the 2020 AgriStability program year. This will allow producers to benefit from participating in private insurance programs without having their AgriStability payment reduced when receiving a payment from a private-sector insurance program, such as hail insurance or the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program.

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The federal and provincial governments have committed to continuing the BRM review. Some of the focus will continue to be on program design, although the review will also include program objectives. This includes a review of the fairness and accessibility of producers to BRM programming. For example, the AgriStability program is a whole-farm program, intended to provide coverage for all producers, in all sectors, regardless of their farm structure. As such, AgriStability provides coverage to areas within the agriculture sector that do not have access to, or have limited access to, crop insurance products.

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA – Minister

To enable AgriStability to help more producers manage the challenges of COVID-19, the enrollment deadline for the 2020 program year has been extended without penalty, from April 30 to July 3, 2020. Furthermore, interim payments have been increased from 50 to 75 percent in most jurisdictions, facilitating greater access to cash flow.

CANADA REVENUE AGENCY – Minister

PROPOSED GRADE: Unsatisfactory

COMMENTS: The Committee graded this resolution as Unsatisfactory as it did not address moving the Allowable Net Sales under AgriInvest to 3 percent with maximum Allowable Net Sales of \$500,000. *The*

Agriculture and Agrifood Canada response was received after the initial grading but will be reviewed in the final report card. The Committee will draft letters to the respective ministries relaying the grade and the reasons.

DRAFT

AGENDA ITEM REPORT



Title: Fall 2020 ASB Meeting
Meeting: Agricultural Service Board - 10 Sep 2020
Department: Agriculture Service Board
Report Author: Dwayne Rogness

APPROVAL(S):

Jeremy Wickson, Director of Public Operations
Ann Mitchell, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 28 Aug 2020
Approved - 31 Aug 2020

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:



Outstanding Quality
of Life



Effective Governance
and Service Delivery



Prosperous
Agricultural
Community



Vibrant and Growing
Economy



Strong Working
Relationships

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This is the Rural Extension report for the September 10, 2020 Agriculture Service Board Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

Move that the Agriculture Service Board receive the Rural Extension Specialists report for information.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

The Agriculture Service Board is given the report verbally by the Rural Extension Specialist and given the opportunity to receive clarification if required. The report is then accepted for information.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

September 10, 2020 Agriculture Service Board Meeting

Report from April 2020 to September 2020. This has been a very challenging year. However, one benefit is that I have attended several conferences and workshops online and they have proven to be a great resource of time management. Financially, they have been excellent, as most have been free. Our extension program is the most diverse program in Alberta. The intensive agricultural industry dictates that this program remain very flexible for our rapidly evolving industry. Throughout the year discussions with producers have been on stocking densities, riparian management, wind and water soil erosion, manure management, watershed management, integrated pest management and dugout management. In the last 2 years presentations on manure management, sustainable agriculture, funding opportunities and Environmental Farm Plans have been given to students and producers. Covid has put a bit of a halt to this however, we are working with Lethbridge College to create Environmental Farm Plan

material online for their students. I have added the activities I have been active with since our last report period below:

- **Alberta Environmental Farm Plans (AEFP)** has been slow but that is understandable considering that spring is a busy time for agriculture producers. Reviewed and approved 5 EFPs since April. Presently there are 20 producers that have registered but not completed their plan.
- **Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)** Assisted 9 producers with applications for CAP funding. There is not a lot of confidence that there is any money left here but I am instructed that producers will receive funding, if their applications are approved, if not this year then next year.
- **Oldman Watershed Council (OWC)** has proven to be a great resource for watershed education. Presently we represent the Agriculture Sector on the OWC and advise on the Watershed Legacy Program team (WLP). The WLP is a fund that helps producers with; Riparian and Creek Restoration Projects, Invasive Species Management Programs, Wetland Restoration and Development, Nutrient Management Projects, Land Management e.g. salinity, wildlife issues, recreational, etc., Water Quality e.g. home water testing, river/creek testing, etc. and Outreach, Communication, or Education Programming. The OWC with Lethbridge County ASB has completed 3 videos, highlighting agriculture in the Lethbridge County. Only one has been released to date.
- **Lower Little Bow Watershed Group** this group has been inactive for the last couple years. There will be a group meeting before the end of November.
- **The Battersea Drain Watershed Group** has been idle, there will be a group meeting before the end of November.
- **Oldman River Mainstem Watershed Group** have been very active. This group started 3 years ago and they have been working diligently with bio control and riparian management practices. They started out with 6 folks present. At our last meeting in early summer there were 16 in attendance.
- **Biocontrol Release Program for 2020** distributed a flea beetle called *Aphthona lacertosa* on 4 leafy spurge sites and knapweed gall wasp called *Aulacidea acroptilonica* on 2 Russian knapweed sites.
- **Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Crop Reporting** is sent in once a month, from the beginning of April to the end of October. Crop staging, yield, disease, soil and moisture conditions and pests are recorded.
- **Agroclimate Impact Reporter** is sent once a month during the growing and harvest season. The reports help accurately represent the impacts of weather in our region. The data collected from this survey helps inform recommendations for Livestock Tax Deferral, the Canadian Drought Monitor, and updates to the Minister of Agriculture.
- **The Sustainable Ag Tour** is cancelled this year, presently working on developing a virtual tour, that will be finished at the end of September, please stay tuned.
- **Partner with Cows and Fish** to host 2 events on our Lower Little Bow Riparian property. One event was a Train the Trainer event and the other was for producers and extension folks.

- **The Nutrient Management Conference has a new name “Sustainable Soils”.** This event is partnered with Lethbridge College and was held in November last year. Committee members are from Albert Agriculture and Forestry, Ag Canada, Lethbridge College, and crop consultants. The event was a sellout last year. The committee decided to host this in January during the time that the Albert Agriculture and Forestry Agronomy Update is held, as it is finished and will not be back. This leaves us sitting in a great timeslot. This will more than likely be offered online; the committee has been planning to go this way.
- **Presently working on videos for Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs).** Applying the Environmental Farm Plan to put together informative videos that explain and show the various BMPs that can be used by producers to reduce their agricultural footprint.

Respectfully Submitted by Dwayne Rogness, Agricultural Service Board Rural Extension Specialist

ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

That the Agriculture Service Board not receive the Rural Extension report.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

To update the Agriculture Service Board on the Rural Extension Specialists activities since the last reporting period.

AGENDA ITEM REPORT



Title: Alberta Sugar Beet Growers Presentation
Meeting: Agricultural Service Board - 10 Sep 2020
Department: Agriculture Service Board
Report Author: Gary Secrist

APPROVAL(S):

Jeremy Wickson, Director of Public Operations
Ann Mitchell, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 24 Feb 2020
Approved - 25 Feb 2020

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Representatives from the Alberta sugar Beet Growers are here today to give an update on the status of the industry as they move into the 2020 growing season.

RECOMMENDATION:

MOVED that the presentation from Ms. Melody Garner-Skiba, Alberta Sugar Beet Growers, be received for information.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

To receive agriculture presentations for information.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Alberta Sugar Beet Growers are important component of Agriculture in Lethbridge County. As an Agricultural Service Board it is important to have productive and collaborative relationships between agriculture organizations within our boundaries.

ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

That we do not receive the presentation for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board seeks to create and maintain positive relationships with the agriculture producers in our County.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Alberta Sugar Beet Growers Invite Meeting](#)



#100, 905 - 4th Avenue South, Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 4E4

X:\Executive Files\Alberta Sugar Beet Growers re Updates on Sugar Beet Industry.docx

October 24, 2019

Melody Garner-Skiba, Executive Director
Alberta Sugar Beet Growers
5810 – 62nd Street
Taber, Alberta
T1G 1Y7

Dear Melody:

Re: Update on Sugar Beet Industry

Thank you for your letter of October 9, 2019 regarding an update on the status of the sugar beet industry.

Lethbridge County invites you and your organization to make a presentation at our Agricultural Service Board meeting, which is scheduled for April 9, 2020.

A copy of this letter will be forwarded to County Council, who also sits as our Agricultural Service Board, to keep them informed about the status of the sugar beet industry.

We appreciate all the information provided as the sugar beet industry is an important part of the agriculture sector. We look forward to your presentation at our ASB meeting in 2020.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

Regards,

Ann Mitchell
Chief Administrative Officer

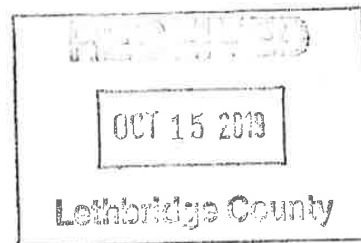
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cc: County Council
G. Secrist, Sup. Of Ag Services
J. Wickson, Dir. Of Public Operations



5810 – 62nd Street, Taber, Alberta T1G 1Y7

October 9, 2019

Ag Services Board
Lethbridge County
905 4 Ave South
Lethbridge, AB
T1J 4E4



Re: Update on Sugar Beet Industry

Dear Ag Services Board Chair,

Building a strong and diverse agricultural community is paramount to the success of the region and your municipality. With this in mind, the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers (ASBG) would like to provide you with an update on the status of the industry as we move into the 2019 harvest. Please see below for some highlights and if you would prefer, we would be happy to attend an upcoming meeting to provide you with this information and engage in dialogue as to how we can work together.

The 2018 harvest and sugar campaign ended in early July with over 133,000 tonnes of sugar being extracted and refined from the crop of 848,000 tonnes of sugar beets. We were extremely pleased with the processing and results of the 2018 crop. The 2019 harvest is set to be an average harvest with an expected yield of just shy of 30 tonnes per acre and approximately 810,000 tonnes of sugar beets to be harvested. Due to the dryness and coolness of the summer, the sugar content is not anticipated to be higher than average. Many of our growers experienced hail damage and yield loss, with 10% of our crop being severely impacted by the storm on August 6th. With the early snow and freezing temperatures, we are also anticipating a challenging harvest with the potential of "frosty" beets a concern. At this point we only have 13% of the harvest completed but hope that the weather will warm up so that we can dig the rest of the beet crops.

As an organization, we are in negotiations with Lantic to work on a long-term contract to provide stability for the industry. Many of our growers have made significant investment in capital for their sugar beet operations including securing of additional quota and new equipment. This capacity building has not been met by the factory at this point due to the investment needed to meet regulatory and environmental guidelines that they were not in compliance with. We have been assured that these guidelines are now being met and our hope is that capacity building can occur within the next 5-7 years at the factory. Our long-term goal is to ensure we have a sustainable industry for future generations, and this includes growing the industry.

www.albertasugarbeets.ca

Ph: (403) 223-1110

office@asbg.ca

Priorities for ASBG besides the long-term contract negotiation include;

- Completion of the Farm Sustainability Assessment Tool and Certification for the Sugar Beet Growers to help assist in selling the sugar extracted.
- Building relationships with the new Provincial Government to ensure that the voice of the agriculture industry and sugar beet grower is heard and listened to.
- Connecting with consumers to provide education and build the public trust for our industry to grow and expand.
- Reducing the red tape and administrative burden on our growers so they can spend more time growing quality food in a safe manner versus filling out paperwork.
- Ensuring our industry is sustainable and contributing positively to reduce the impact of climate change and developing ways for our farmers to take advantage of carbon offsets.
- Provincial priorities include; Highway 3 twinning, MELT, and Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding.

If any of these priorities resonate with your Board, we would be happy to provide additional information or potentially partner with you on initiatives that we either have underway or could develop together. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this in more depth, feel free to reach out to me at (403) 223-1110 or melody@asbg.ca. We appreciate your work in ensuring a productive and collaborative relationship exists between our organizations.

Sincerely,



Melody Garner-Skiba
Executive Director, ASBG

AGENDA ITEM REPORT



Title: Farming the Right of Way
Meeting: Agricultural Service Board - 10 Sep 2020
Department: Agriculture Service Board
Report Author: Gary Secrist

APPROVAL(S):

Jeremy Wickson, Director of Public Operations
Ann Mitchell, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 14 Aug 2020
Approved - 17 Aug 2020

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Farming inside the road right of way has led to many road maintenance issues. It is being suggested that Lethbridge County promote proper farming practices when it comes to this topic to progressively address the effect this will have short and long term on operational activities. The framework of this topic is to educate producers on the negative effects of this practice and for this not to become an enforcement situation down the road.

RECOMMENDATION:

MOVED that the Agriculture Service Board recommends that Lethbridge County develop promotional material to help producers understand the adverse effects of farming inside the right of way. The information can be made available to producers through newsletters and social media outlets.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

Although there are policies in place to protect road encroachment, there has been no program to promote proper practices in regards to farming the right of way.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Farming of the road allowance has been a historical practice that in most instances has been relatively acceptable with the farming of the back slope. As road allowances become more congested with fences, power poles, and other utilities, the establishment of a distinguished developed road is of high importance.

Farming in the road right of way can cause many issues for the overall safe use of and maintenance of the road's design. Crops like corn for example, that have been planted too close to the road can cause sightline issues for signs and intersection visibility. Farming encroachment can also lead to

soil erosion that can impede drainage, impede culverts, and jeopardize the stability of the shoulders and the roadbed itself. Agricultural Services finds these narrow areas difficult to maintain with mowing and spray operations which can lead to weed infestations.

ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

An alternative to an education program is that the County not address this issue which would lead to ongoing and possibly worsening road issues for this practice to continue.

The negative aspects of farming of the right of way may include making it increasingly difficult to spray along susceptible crops with herbicide when the right of way is narrower than one boom width. For mowing operations when the mower cannot reach deep enough into the ditch the grass and weeds are thrown onto the road which creates a road top vegetation problem and unsafe narrowing of the driving surface. For proper drainage, there must be a grassed bottom for stormwater to travel or silting of culverts or road slumping occurs downstream. Although it may seem a smaller ditch area would be beneficial, it adds to the maintenance costs and potential flooding issues in the County.

The County would prefer to bring attention to the issue of farming in the right of ways and promote better farming practices through education and awareness. This can be accomplished through workshops, social media updates, website notices, etc, to bring attention to the issue and work with the public in a collaborative approach.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This program would be developed to work within current budget amounts.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

To promote proper farming practices as it relates to farming inside the road right of way. This will lead to safer and easier to maintain roads while also maintaining the road structure.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Road Allowance Encroachment Pictures](#)



Grass being thrown onto road

Picture 1:



Right of way sprayed out

Picture 2:



Right of way sprayed out



Page 2 of 21

AGENDA ITEM REPORT



Title: Policy 623 - Chemical spills
Meeting: Agricultural Service Board - 10 Sep 2020
Department: Agriculture Service Board
Report Author: Gary Secrist

APPROVAL(S):

Jeremy Wickson, Director of Public Operations
Ann Mitchell, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 04 Mar 2020
Approved - 11 Mar 2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Agricultural Service Board Policy 623 - Chemical Spills came into effect on March 4, 2004. Some changes are necessary to clarify what actions need to be taken should a chemical spill occur in Lethbridge County.

RECOMMENDATION:

MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board approves Policy 623 - Chemical Spills as amended.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

Policy 623 - Chemical Spills came into effect on March 4, 2004. The Policy is attached with suggested changes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As a result of a couple of significant Chemical Spills prior to 2004 Policy 623 was brought forward to guide staff on what actions needed to be taken should a chemical spill occur. Since that time Alberta Environment Legislation has changed and the updated policy will reflect the current regulations.

ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

That we do not approve the changes to Policy 623 - Chemical Spills.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

To clarify what actions need to be taken should a chemical spill occur involving Agriculture Service Board staff in Lethbridge County.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Policy 623 Chemical Spills](#)



County of Lethbridge Policy Handbook

EFFECTIVE:

SECTION: 600 NO. 623

APPROVED BY: A.S.B.

SUBJECT: Chemical Spills

REVISED DATE: March 4, 2004

The purpose of this policy is to define what action will take place should a chemical spill occur.

1. Should a chemical spill occur involving County equipment or employees, the employee(s) will notify a Supervisory Staff immediately.
2. The Supervisor of Ag & Municipal Services, Director of Disaster Services or his designate, shall dispatch material, equipment and manpower necessary to:
 - a. contain the spill.
 - b. neutralize the chemical.
 - c. clean up the contaminated area.
 - d. dispose of the contaminants as directed by Alberta Environment pollution control.
 - e. track expenses.
3. A review of the incident will be conducted so steps can be taken to reduce the chance of a similar incident occurring in the future.
4. Alberta Environment be notified if it is a measurable chemical spill.



Lethbridge County Policy Handbook

EFFECTIVE:

SECTION: 600 NO. 623

APPROVED BY: A.S.B.

SUBJECT: Chemical Spills

REVISED DATE: April 9, 2020

The purpose of this policy is to determine what action will take place should a chemical spill occur.

1. Should a chemical spill occur involving Lethbridge County equipment or employees, the employee(s) will notify Supervisory Staff immediately.
2. The Supervisor of Agriculture Services or his designate, shall dispatch material, equipment or manpower necessary to take the following actions:
 - a) Control the spill
 - b) Contain the spill
 - c) Clean up the spill
 - d) Clean up equipment and people involved
3. Alberta Environment shall be notified if the spill exceeds legislated thresholds and/or has caused, is causing, or may cause an adverse effect defined as "impairment or damage to the environment, human health or safety or property." Legislated thresholds for each pesticide can be accessed through calling Alberta Environmental and Dangerous Goods 24 Hour hotline. Spills can be reported to any Alberta Environment Office.
4. A review of the incident will be conducted so steps can be taken to reduce the chance of a similar incident occurring in the future.

AGENDA ITEM REPORT



Title: Policy #627 - Grasshopper Spraying Program
Meeting: Agricultural Service Board - 10 Sep 2020
Department: Agriculture Service Board
Report Author: Gary Secrist

APPROVAL(S):

Jeremy Wickson, Director of Public Operations
Ann Mitchell, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 27 Feb 2020
Approved - 02 Mar 2020

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Agricultural Service Board Policy #627 regarding the Grasshopper Spraying Program was last reviewed March 4, 2004. Some changes are being suggested to bring the policy up to date. It is also being suggested we rename the policy Grasshopper Control Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Agricultural Service Board approves the amendments and renames Policy #627 Grasshopper Control Program.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

Policy #627 Grasshopper Spraying Program came into effect in 1999 and was last reviewed in 2004. the policy is attached with suggested changes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Grasshoppers can be a major pest in both cultivated crops and rangeland grasses in Lethbridge County. Although Lethbridge County has not had a significant grasshopper problem in many years it is important to be prepared and provide producers with options should we have an outbreak. Updating this policy will allow producers to apply Bran type baits to Lethbridge County right of ways in efforts to control grasshoppers. The way Policy 627 is currently written it allows producers to apply for a grant of \$14 per lineal mile to spray County Road Allowances for grasshoppers if needed. It is being suggested that we remove this grant as it offers insignificant funding and the updated policy is more of giving permission than providing funding. Lethbridge County has not had an application for the \$14 grant in over 25 years. It is also being suggested that we rename the policy Grasshopper Control Program as the method of applying Bran baits is not a spray application.

ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

The alternative is that we do not approve the revisions to Policy #627 Grasshopper Spraying Program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The revisions to this policy would eliminate any financial implications.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

To be prepared for possible grasshopper infestations and allow producers to treat County owned right of way if necessary.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Policy 627 Grasshopper Control Revised](#)



Lethbridge County Policy Handbook

EFFECTIVE: June 17, 1999

SECTION: 600 NO. 627

APPROVED BY: A.S.B.

SUBJECT: Grasshopper Control

REVISED DATE: April 9, 2020

Lethbridge County recognizes the need to provide guidelines for landowners who wish to control severe grasshopper infestations on County owned right-of-ways adjacent to their property. This policy will provide those guidelines.

1. Lethbridge County will permit landholders (landowner or lessee) to perform grasshopper control on County owned right-of-way adjacent to their lands if approved by the Supervisor of Agriculture Services or his designate.
2. The Landholder wishing to control Grasshoppers on adjacent right-of-way must carry out control methods that minimizes risk to road traffic.
3. Any application for grasshopper control must include a signed waiver agreement attached as Appendix "A" prior to control measures taking place.
4. For control measures to be approved grasshopper numbers must be above the economic threshold.
5. Control work must include the use of an approved bran formulation registered for use on grasshoppers and be applied in accordance with label directions.

APPENDIX 'A'



Owner Name: _____

Legal Description: _____

Phone Number: _____

I, _____, agree to comply with
Lethbridge County's policy in order to undertake the following work:

For the purpose of this operation, I will at all times indemnify and save harmless Lethbridge County and/or its employees from, and against, all losses, damage or injury however caused to any person or property of any person, including myself, as a result of any actions deemed necessary for the above noted work. I will also provide proof of liability insurance at the time of approval.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Owners Signature

Lethbridge County Representative



County of Lethbridge Policy Handbook

EFFECTIVE: June 17, 1999

SECTION: 600 NO. 627

APPROVED BY: A.S.B.

SUBJECT: Grasshopper Spraying
Program

REVISED DATE: March 4, 2004

Owner(s) or renter(s) of land within the boundaries of the County of Lethbridge shall be able to apply for a grant of Fourteen Dollars (\$14.00) per lineal mile to spray the County Road Allowance (one side only) adjacent to the owner(s) or renter(s) land for control of grasshoppers.

The owner(s) or renter(s) of land wishing to participate in this program will carry out spraying in such a manner that no hazard to road traffic will exist due to the operations.

In consideration of carrying out and/or applying for compensation under this program, the owner(s) or renter(s) agrees to hold, indemnify, and save harmless the County from any claims arising out of his/her/its operations, including legal costs on a Solicitor - Client basis.

A declaration form will be made available at the County Office(s) to be signed by the applicant and shall include a copy of proper documentation proving expenditures for chemical purchase.

Applications will be accepted until September 30th of the current year. This grant will be limited to a one time basis only.

Extension or deletion of the program at any time will be at the discretion of County Council.



County of Lethbridge Policy Handbook

ROAD ALLOWANCE GRASSHOPPER SPRAYING

I, _____ of _____

do hereby apply for a grant of \$14.00 per mile from the County of Lethbridge to spray grasshoppers along the County road allowance, adjacent farmland that I own, rent or control.

I declare that I have incurred expenses along the following rights-of-way as described by the following legal land locations:

1.	Number of miles:	
2.	Number of miles:	
3.	Number of miles:	
4.	Number of miles:	
5.	Number of miles:	
6.	Number of miles:	

The attached invoices and receipts are proof of expenditures incurred by myself in carrying out a roadside grasshopper spraying program.

Date

Signed