



AGENDA

Agricultural Service Board Meeting

9:00 AM - Thursday, October 26, 2023
Council Chambers

Page

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3 - 4

1. Agricultural Service Board Minutes
[Agricultural Service Board - 28 Mar 2023 - Minutes](#)

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Chair and Vice Chair Discussion
2. 2024 Agricultural Service Board Conference - January 22-24, 2024 - Agri-Food Hub & Trade Centre

E. REPORTS

5 - 17

1. Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report
[Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report](#)

F. DELEGATIONS

1. 10:00 a.m. - Greg Daniels - Senior Plant Pathology Technologist (Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation) - Crop Disease Monitoring Presentation

G. CORRESPONDENCE

18 - 19

1. Saddle Hills County - Funding for the Diagnostic Services Unit at the University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine
[Saddle Hills County](#)

20 - 21

2. Northern Sunrise County - Pest Management Regulatory Agency Changes to the Insecticide Lambda-Cyhalothrin Concern
[Northern Sunrise County](#)

- 22 3. **Northern Sunrise County - Appreciation of the Increase of Funding for Agricultural Service Boards**
[Northern Sunrise County](#)
- 23 - 25 4. **Agricultural Service Board Position Statement on Agriculture Extension**
[ASB Position Statement on Agriculture Extension](#)
- 26 - 95 5. **ASB Report Card on Resolutions**
[ASB Report Card on Resolution](#)
- 96 6. **County of Warner No. 5 - Increase of Funding for Agricultural Service Boards**
[County of Warner No. 5 - Increase of Funding for Agricultural Service Boards](#)
- 97 - 98 7. **Big Lakes County - Maintaining the Integrity of our Pesticide Regulatory System**
[Big Lakes County - Maintaining the Integrity of our Pesticide Regulatory System](#)
- 99 - 100 8. **Big Lakes County - Support for University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Programs**
[Big Lakes County - Support for University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Programs](#)

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Liquid Manure Dragline Update - Bill MacMillan**
2. **Research Possibilities with the University of Lethbridge - Bill MacMillan**
3. **ASB Strategic Planning Possibility**
4. **Shaughnessy Playground Video**

I. CLOSED SESSION

1. **2024 Bank of Montreal/Calgary Stampede Farm Family Awards Program**

J. ADJOURN



MINUTES

Agricultural Service Board Meeting

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

The Agricultural Service Board of Lethbridge County was called to order on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 9:00 AM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Chairman Klaas VanderVeen
Deputy Reeve John Kuerbis
Councillor Lorne Hickey
Councillor Eric Van Essen
ASB Member at Large Dan Chapman
ASB Member at Large Ken Coles
ASB Member at Large Logan Miller
Director of Public Operations, Jeremy Wickson
Agricultural Services Supervisor, Gary Secrist
Environmental Services Manager, Bill MacMillan
Executive Assistant, Candice Robison

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Klaas VanderVeen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

B. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

1-2023 Councillor Van Essen MOVED that the March 28, 2023 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda be approved, as presented. CARRIED

C. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

C.1. Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes

2-2023 Deputy Reeve Kuerbis MOVED that the September 8, 2022 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes be approved, as presented. CARRIED

D. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

E. REPORTS

E.1. Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report

3-2023 Deputy Reeve Kuerbis MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board receives the report from the Supervisor of Agriculture Services for information. CARRIED

F. NEW BUSINESS

F.2. Terms of Reference - 2023 Update

4-2023 Deputy Reeve Kuerbis MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board Terms of Reference be recommended to County Council for approval. CARRIED

Chairman VanderVeen recessed the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Chairman VanderVeen reconvened the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

F.1. 10:15 a.m. - Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) - On-Farm Climate Action Fund - Rob Dunn

5-2023	Councillor Hickey	MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board receives the RDAR presentation from Rob Dunn and FarmWise as information.	CARRIED
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F.3. Agricultural Service Board Level of Service

6-2023	Deputy Reeve Kuerbis	MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board 2023 Level of Service be recommended to County Council for approval.	CARRIED
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Chairman VanderVeen recessed the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Chairman VanderVeen reconvened the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

G. CORRESPONDENCE

G.1. 2022 Insect Survey Results
The 2022 Insect Survey results were discussed in the Supervisor of Agriculture Service report.

G.2. Farm Safety Centre
Correspondence from the Farm Safety Centre thanking Lethbridge County for their donation, was discussed in the Supervisor of Agriculture Services report.

G.3. 2023 Provincial ASB Resolution Session Minutes & Resolutions
The 2023 Provincial ASB Resolution Session Minutes and Resolutions were reviewed by the ASB members.

E. REPORTS

E.2. Alan Efetha/Agricultural Service Board Member Training

7-2023	Deputy Reeve Kuerbis	MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board receives the ASB member training from Alan Efetha as information.	CARRIED
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H. CLOSED SESSION

I. ADJOURN

8-2023	Councillor Van Essen	MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board Meeting adjourn at 12:57 p.m.	CARRIED
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ASB Chairman

CAO

AGENDA ITEM REPORT



Title: Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report
Meeting: Agricultural Service Board - 26 Oct 2023
Department: Agriculture Service Board
Report Author: Gary Secrist

APPROVAL(S):

Bill MacMillan, Environmental Services Manager
Jeremy Wickson, Director of Public Operations,
Cole Beck, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 16 Oct 2023
Denied - 18 Oct 2023
None

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:



Governance



Relationships



Region



Prosperity

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This is the Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report for the October 26th, 2023 Agricultural Service Board meeting. The attached format was submitted to the Province as part of the ASB grant cycle application for 2020 to 2024. The Agricultural Service Board department uses the strategies listed as guide to achieving both our Legislative and Resource Management commitments.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

To update the Agricultural Service Board and citizens on the Level of Service provided by the Agriculture Services department.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY:

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The attached ASB Grant format is the basis for our current Level of Service document and outlines the work of the ASB department. Each year staff report back to the Province on the performance measures achieved. The ASB Grant was amended this year and the Legislative portion was returned to the previous cycles funding level of \$166,000. The Resource Management portion remains at \$91,000 and is a competitive process among municipalities for funding.

The Legislative portion of the grant focuses on administering ASB base activities that include work related to the Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pest Act, Soil Conservation Act and the Animal Health Act. The Resource Management portion encompasses our Rural Extension activities.

ALTERNATIVES / PROS / CONS:

That the report is not received for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

All activities being reported were included in the 2023 ASB budget and Level of Service.

LEVEL OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

☒ Inform ☐ Consult ☐ Involve ☐ Collaborate ☐ Empower

ATTACHMENTS:

[ASB Grant September 2023](#)

Vision	
Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board effectively supports one of the strongest agricultural economies in the Country.	
Mission	
Lethbridge County council and staff will support Agriculture Sustainability in all sectors through strong leadership and empowered employees. Our parks environment will inspire residents to be active and involved in their rural community.	
Values	
Value 1	Service- Agriculture is the foundation of the Lethbridge County. We are committed to achieving the highest level of customer service through evolving programs that support Agriculture.
Value 2	Financial Accountability- Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board will make wise use of financial resources in providing efficient and effective services.
Value 3	Staff- Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board intends to recruit and retain committed staff by providing a positive work environment that encourages teamwork, initiative, respect, innovation, learning and hard work.
Value 4	Strong Relationships- Lethbridge County Agricultural Service Board is committed to maintaining strong working relationships with provincial and federal governments, provincial and regional associations, agricultural commodity groups, neighboring municipalities, research and training institutions and educational institutions.

Goal Area 1: Delivery/support of the Agricultural Pests Act		
Strategy	Actions	Performance Measures
To control the spread and establishment of declared pests and nuisances as outlined in the Pest and Nuisance Regulation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint, as outlined in the Agricultural Pests Act, at least two Pest Control inspectors. • Carry out Field inspections for • Clubroot, Fusarium Head Blight, Virulent Blackleg, Grasshopper, Bertha Army Worm and Bacterial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 2 pest inspectors are continuously appointed. ✓ In cooperation with Alberta Agriculture have a total of 20 fields inspected for Clubroot, Fusarium Head

	<p>Ring Rot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have skunk and magpie traps available to lend out to landowners. • Trap skunks for rabies detection. • Ensure all Agriculture Pest Act related policies are up to date. • Make pest information available to producers through newsletter and website. 	<p>Blight, Virulent Blackleg, Bertha Army Worm and Bacterial Ring Rot.</p> <p>✓ Each township in the County will be surveyed for grasshoppers.</p> <p>✓ 15 producers will make use of our live traps for nuisance species.</p> <p>X Hire a private trapper to collect skunks for 10 days.</p> <p>✓ Review policies once per year and update where necessary.</p> <p>✓ Up to date pest information is available on County website. Newsletter to publish relevant articles once per year.</p>
<p>Goal Area 2: Delivery/support of the Soil Conservation Act</p>		
Strategy	Actions	Performance Measures
To prevent or stop the loss of soil or deterioration from taking place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint at least two qualified Soil Conservation officers as outlined under the Soil Conservation Act. • To inspect all known instances of Soil erosion. • Ensure all Soil Conservation Act policies are up to date. • Soil conservation information will be available through website and newsletter. • Have available equipment to control soil erosion. 	<p>✓ Two soil conservation officers will be appointed and will have the opportunity to pursue continuing education on the subject.</p> <p>✓ A total of 5 soil conservation inspections are completed.</p> <p>✓ Review policies once per year and update where necessary.</p>

		<p>✓ Current information on how to control soil erosion will be posted on website and will be promoted through newsletter and social media.</p> <p>✓ Lethbridge County has trucks, tractors, bale processor, straw crimper, lister shovels and heavy equipment to carry out control measures.</p>
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Goal Area 3: Delivery/support of the Weed Control Act		
Strategy	Actions	Performance Measures
To control the spread and establishment of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds in Lethbridge County on both private and public land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint, as outlined in the Weed Control Act, at least two qualified people as weed inspectors to initiate control measures on both private and public land. • Carryout yearly inspections on all seed cleaning plants including collecting a minimum of twenty samples of cleaned product per year from each plant including portables. • Control noxious and prohibited noxious weeds on Lethbridge County right of ways through an Integrated Pest Management Plan. • To investigate and control all known prohibited noxious weed sites. • Enter into a service agreement for weed control with the Department of Transportation. • Ensure all Weed Control Act related policies are up to date. • Have staff trained in identification and control of weeds. 	<p>✓ Two weed inspectors will be continuously appointed.</p> <p>✓ A total of 4 municipal and portable seed cleaning plants within the county will be inspected.</p> <p>✓ 33% of municipal right of way will be sprayed to control regulated weeds. 40 miles will be mowed to control weeds on newly seeded roads.</p> <p>✓ Continue working with Alberta Transportation on their weed control program.</p> <p>✓ Review policies once per year and update where necessary.</p> <p>✓ Relevant staff will attend</p>

		annual events such as In-Service training and other weed control seminars.
Goal Area 4: Support of the Animal Health Act		
Strategy	Actions	Performance Measures
Support the Chief Provincial Vet should a disease outbreak occur in the County of Lethbridge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have staff trained on relevant diseases and how to support an outbreak situation should one occur. 	✓ Number of reportable or notifiable diseases reported to the Office of the Chief Provincial Vet
Goal Area 5: Roadside Mowing		
Strategy	Actions	Performance Measures
Mow all roads within Lethbridge County as part of an integrated weed management plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mow all roads a minimum twice per year using 15-foot triple gang mowers. Mow deeper in the ditch where there are heavy weed infestations. 	✓ A minimum of 2000 kilometres of roadside will be mowed twice per year.
Goal Area 6: Rental Equipment		
Strategy	Actions	Performance Measures
To have a variety of agriculture related equipment to loan or rent to producers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following pieces of equipment will be available: Brillion Drills, Mulcher, Tree Planter, and Chisel Plow with Lister shovels, Plastic Roller, Bale shredder and Straw crimper. 	✓ 15 producers will make use of our rental equipment on an annual basis.
Goal Area 7: Parks, Cemetery, Hamlet and Subdivision Maintenance		
Strategy	Actions	Performance Measures
Public areas will be maintained to a high standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employ 1.5 student employees and provide them with proper equipment and training. Have a certified playground inspector on staff. Enhance and renew playground equipment in cooperation with community groups. 	✓ See an increased use of Parks and Playgrounds. ✓ Reduced risk to playground equipment users. ✓ Citizens will become involved

		in their rural community and be proud to support County initiatives.
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Resource Management Self Assessments Tools (such as EFP)

<p align="center">Resource Management Goal 1</p> <p align="center">Deliver Environmental Farm Plan to Lethbridge County Producers</p>
<p align="center">Strategy 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to be Delivery Agent, TA and Nutrient Management Committee member for EFP. Produce agricultural stewardship videos for Lethbridge County website based on content from

Performance Measures for the next 5 years

- 75 producers will renew or do new self-assessments for their farms on the EFP website.
 - Assist 75 producers with EFP self-assessments and other EFP information.
 - 700 people will attend extension events
 - 1000 people will view Sustainable Ag videos
- 1100 people will read extension material (e.g. Newsletters, web pages, articles, etc.)
- Attend 100 farm visits to extend CAP Programming, Environmental Farm Plan and environmentally sustainable agriculture information.

Activity	Contributors / Partners Involved	To be carried out in: (Please check all which apply)				
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Describe your activities	Include Names, roles and responsibilities					
Ag Expo Booth	Lethbridge County	x	x	x	x	x
Sustainable Ag Tour	Lethbridge County	x	x	x	x	x
Nutrient Management Conference	Lethbridge County	x	x	x	x	x
Watershed Group Meetings	Lethbridge County	x	x	x	x	x

Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Producer Programs

<p align="center">Resource Management Goal 2 Continue Delivering CAP Program</p>						
<p align="center">Strategy 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include CAP Funding information in Lethbridge County Newsletters, on County website and all extension events. 						
<p align="center">Performance Measures for the next 5 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist 60 producers with CAP funding. • 700 people will attend extension events and Receive CAP information. • 1100 people will access extension materials (e.g. Newsletters, web pages, articles, etc.) that describe CAP 						
Activity	Contributors / Partners Involved	To be carried out in: (Please, check all which apply)				
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Describe your activities	Include Names, roles and responsibilities					
Ag Expo Booth	Lethbridge County	x	x	x	x	x
Sustainable Ag Tour	Lethbridge County	x	x	x	x	x
Nutrient Management Conference	Lethbridge County	x	x	x	x	x
Watershed Group Meetings	Lethbridge County	x	x	x	x	x

<p align="center">Resource Management Goal 3</p> <p>Balance crop nutrient uptake with organic and inorganic nutrient applications, to reduce the agricultural non-point source pollution that occurs in and along irrigation drainage areas, to improve water quality in Lethbridge County.</p>

Strategy 1

- Promote 4 R Nutrient Stewardship.
- Produce agricultural stewardship videos for Lethbridge County website based on content from Environmental Farm Plan.
- Continue to work with the Battersea Drain Watershed Group (BSDWG) and the Lower Little Bow Watershed Group (LLBWG) as coordinator. Keep coordinating the Oldman Watershed Mainstem Group. Maintain the valuable relationships with partners that have helped this program succeed such as the Oldman Watershed Council (OWC), Alberta Conservation Association (ACA), Farming Smarter, Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District (LNID), Tiffin Conference Committee, Cows and Fish, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (AARD) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. (AAFC).
- Continue to host Nutrient Management Conference with Lethbridge College, Newell County, Warner County, NRCB, Ab Ag and Forestry and Agriculture Canada.
- Continue delivering sustainable agriculture message during speaking events at Lethbridge College, SAIT in Calgary, University of Lethbridge and Community Groups.
- Offer Nutrient Workshop for targeted groups like watershed/stewardship groups that have been established in Lethbridge County.
- Continue looking for partners for water sampling regime to establish baseline information on water quality in the irrigation canals and drainage areas that are not being sampled.
- Host annual agriculture tour that emphasizes sustainable agriculture practices. Content always includes EFP and CAP information.
- Attend training opportunities that maintain the RES's knowledge of current and relevant environmentally sustainable agriculture information. This will allow the RES to remain an indispensable resource for the agricultural producers in the Lethbridge County.
- Pursue AIA designation to add more authority to the RES program. Nutrient management information would have more credibility. If producers knew that the RES was associated with a professional organization, they may be more willing to accept nutrient management information.
- Distribute Lethbridge County Nutrient Management Newsletter. Articles that deal with Nutrient Management, EFP information, CAP funding, Riparian Management, Climate Change and Land

Performance Measures for the next 5 years

- 1080 County of Lethbridge Producers will be informed of timely nutrient management information and practices 4 times (seasonally) a year, for the next 5 years.
- The 2 Watershed Groups that have been a bit inactive will become active again. New Chairs will be found to help keep the group motivated. We will have 1 to 2 meetings per year. There are 3 groups. Potentially 30 meetings by the end of this 5-year grant period.
 - All 3 watershed groups will attend informative workshops
- An increase in water quality in the drainage areas will indicate whether producers acknowledge cropping and nutrient management BMP's.
- 600 agriculture producers and crop consultants will continue to attend the Nutrient Management Conference in the next 5 years.
 - 500 participants will attend the Lethbridge County Sustainable Agriculture tours.
- Photos of problem areas at the beginning of the 5-year program and at the end will provide proof of practice change and or will identify troubled areas.
- Workshops, field days and tours will be evaluated by having participants fill out surveys. This feedback will indicate what is successful and what is not.
- 50 CFO's will sample manure as well as soil to get an accurate analysis of nutrients. Creating Formal Nutrient Management Plans.
 - Partnerships will be formed with local commodity groups.
- Obtain 5 producer testimonials in newsletters. Testimonials will share the successes and obstacles that a farming operation can face when trying to implement BMP's.

Activity	Contributors / Partners Involved	To be carried out in: (Please check all which apply)				
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Describe your activities	Include Names, roles and responsibilities					
Education and Awareness workshops on: Nutrient Management, Land Use Framework, shelterbelts, salinity management and Climate Change and Water for Life and BMPs.	Lethbridge County to host events. Utilize, AAF, AAFC, ACA, Cows and Fish to bring practical information to attendees.	x	x	x	x	x

Nutrient Management Conference	Lethbridge County, Lethbridge College, Warner County, Newell County, AAF, AAFC and NRCB	x	x	x	x	x
Private and group tours of producer and demonstration sites.	Lethbridge County	x	x	x	x	x
Newsletters sent to agricultural producers 4 times per year.	Lethbridge County will host the event utilizing the following groups as speakers for events: LNID, AAF, AAFC, Cows and Fish, ACA	x	x	x	x	x
Farm Visits to address needs as well as information sharing	Lethbridge County	x	x	x	x	x

Strategy 1

- Continue to work with watershed groups.

Performance Measures for the next 5 years

- Give 5 LLBW producers an off-site water system to demo. One new producer to be chosen for every year of the ASB Environmental Stream funding.
- Obtain 5 producer testimonials in newsletters. Testimonials will share the successes and obstacles that a farming operation can face when managing riparian areas.
 - The RES will assist 6 new riparian fence projects.
- An increase in water quality in the drainage areas will indicate whether producers acknowledge cropping and nutrient management BMP's. This will be done by comparing historical data to future data.
 - 10 new riparian health assessments will be completed.
- Producers will continue to attend workshops, tours and field days.
- Producers continue to call for Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture information, EFP and CAP funding, confirming the Rural Extension Specialists role as an essential resource for producers.
- Photos of problem areas at the beginning of the 5-year program and at the end will provide proof of practice change and or will identify troubled areas.
 - 20 Producers will ask for Watershed Stewardship Group information.
- Workshops, field days and tours will be evaluated by having participants fill out surveys. This

feedback will indicate what is successful and what is not.

- Partnerships will be formed with local commodity groups.
- Attend 100 farm visits to extend environmentally sustainable agriculture information.

Activity Describe your activities	Contributors / Partners Involved	To be carried out in: (Please check all which apply)				
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Producer/Watershed/ Stewardship Group meetings. 2 per year.	Include Names, roles and responsibilities	x	x	x	x	x
Workshops, Tours and Field Days of Producer and Demonstration sites	Lethbridge County will work with AAF, OWC, Cows and Fish	x	x	x	x	x
Riparian Health Assessments	OWC, ACA, Lethbridge County, AAF, AAFC (WEBs), Cows and Fish	x	x	x	x	x
Newsletters sent to agricultural producers 4 times per year.	Lethbridge County, AAF, AAFC, Cows and Fish and landowners	x	x	x	x	x
Farm Visits to address needs as well	Lethbridge County	x	x	x	x	x

Local Resource Management Initiatives

Resource Management Goal 5
Work with commercial manure haulers to ensure they are applying manure as per AOPA Guidelines
Strategy 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend the North American Manure Management Expo and any like events to gather new, relevant information for our Commercial Applicators.
Performance Measures for the next 5 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of Commercial Applicators and the acres they work with in Lethbridge County will be realized. • 6 Commercial Applicators in Lethbridge County will inform me as to how to get them information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Commercial Applicators will integrate load cells on their hauling equipment. • 6 Commercial Applicators will explore portable nutrient analyses equipment to offer better application results. • All Commercial Applicator Companies in the county and neighboring counties will attend a workshop developed for them annually. • Commercial Applicators will attend my Nutrient Management Conference in November.

Activity	Contributors / Partners Involved	To be carried out in: (Please check all which apply)				
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Describe your activities	Include Names, roles and responsibilities					
Education and Awareness workshops on: Nutrient Management and AOPA Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Trevor Wallace, AAF<ul style="list-style-type: none">NRCBNewell CountyWarner County	x	x	x	x	x
Nutrient Management Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Trevor Wallace, AAF<ul style="list-style-type: none">NRCBNewell CountyWarner County<ul style="list-style-type: none">AAFC	x	x	x	x	x



Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Legislative Building
10800 – 97 Ave
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Honourable Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
1341 Baseline Rd
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0C5

Dear Honourable Ministers Sigurdson and Bibeau,

RE: Funding for the Diagnostic Services Unit at the University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine

The Diagnostic Services Unit (DSU) at the University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) aims to advance education and research at the UCVM while offering services to the veterinary community as well as researchers. The DSU offers necropsy/post-mortems, surgical pathology, cytology, and clinical bacteriology services. Necropsies and post-mortems are essential to pinpoint changes in disease trends and identify emerging or exotic diseases that could threaten public health, market access or food safety on both provincial and national levels. Bacteriology testing services can help prevent misuse and overuse of antibiotics, reducing potential antimicrobial resistance of disease.

In 2020, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) along with Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) provided funding to the DSU to support a focus on bacteriology to support antimicrobial resistance initiatives. The Alberta poultry industry also directed funding to the UCVM, while they were seeking to amend their approach to diagnostic services for their industry. This funding has allowed the unit to increase its capacity, expanding teaching material for UCVM students and implementing services for local producers, and will support livestock services until February 2024.

While the funding from RDAR, AGI, and the poultry industry helped bolster the lab for a short period of time, going forward the diagnostics lab will face several challenges. The first is that a lack of sustainable long-term funding increases the risk of staff leaving the DSU in search of more stable employment. There is a crisis-level workforce shortage of veterinarians and veterinary technologists both in Alberta and across Canada. The veterinary profession is currently losing more qualified veterinarians each year than the UCVM graduates from its



Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program. Providing stable funding for the Diagnostic Services Unit increases the chances that veterinarians and veterinary technologists will not search for employment elsewhere and could possibly influence them to stay in their chosen profession.

The second problem relates to the services that the DSU can provide with limited funding. Veterinarians are more likely to utilize labs that have a wider scope of testing available. Currently, the DSU is providing a limited scope of services. Stable funding would allow the DSU to continue providing timely diagnoses and extended laboratory services which in turn increases public health, food safety, and improves markets access for producers.

The Saddle Hills County Agricultural Service Board believes that the Diagnostic Services Unit is a valuable resource and provides important services to Alberta producers as well as unique learning opportunities for student veterinarians. The Saddle Hills County Agricultural Services Board strongly recommends that both Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada provide stable funding in perpetuity to the Diagnostic Services Unit at the University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine.

Sincerely,

Adam Fitzpatrick
Saddle Hills County ASB Chair

CC:
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Saddle Hills County Council
Alberta Veterinary Medical Association
University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine



July 11, 2023

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos
Minister of Health
Pest Management Information Service
Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Health Canada
2 Constellation Drive
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0K9

RE: Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) Changes to the Insecticide Lambda-Cyhalothrin Concern

To the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos,

Northern Sunrise County's Agricultural Service Board (ASB) would like to express their support for the former Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Nate Horner's request for the PMRA to reconsider their April 1, 2023, decision to restrict the use of the insecticide lambda-cyhalothrin. As a result of the PMRA changes, lambda-cyhalothrin is now prohibited for use on crops that may be used in livestock feed, and consequently, the manufacturer of the product has removed it from Western Canada. However, this product is still available for horticultural use in Eastern Canada.

This insecticide is critical for control of flea beetle, grasshoppers, cutworms, bertha armyworms and other serious crop pests in forage, cereal, oilseed, and horticulture crops. With the 2023 growing season experiencing drought conditions and major grasshopper and other pest pressures, restrictions on the use of this product are likely to result in yield reductions or crop failure. Furthermore, the elimination of the insecticide lambda-cyhalothrin for feed use will further exasperate the issues related to feed shortages in Alberta due to the extreme wildfire situation which has eliminated pasture and hay reserves for livestock feed for many farmers. The issues we are facing this season are not unprecedented and will likely continue in the future as climate change progresses, therefore there is a continued need for this product.

While research is conducted to find a viable alternative, we are urging the PMRA to reconsider their decision to severely restrict the use of the insecticide lambda-cyhalothrin, and that farmers be allowed to continue to use the product in the interim. This will ensure that producers have the proper tools to effectively control pests on their farm and continue to produce high yielding crops to feed Canadians and keep our nation economically competitive.

Sincerely,

Dan Boisvert, Chairman
Agricultural Service Board
Northern Sunrise County

c:



Northern Sunrise County is a supportive
community where people can grow,
prosper, and belong.
We've got it all!



**NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD**

Bag 1300, 135 Sunrise Road
Peace River, AB
T8S 1Y9

northernsunrise.net

RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Dan Williams, MLA, Peace River
Paul McLauchlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)
Sebastien Dutrisac, Chair, Provincial Agricultural Service Board
Corinna Williams, Reeve, Northern Sunrise County



**Northern Sunrise County is a supportive
community where people can grow,
prosper, and belong.
We've got it all!**



July 11, 2023

The Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation
Executive Branch | 131 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Ave, Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

To the Honourable RJ Sigurdson:

RE: Appreciation for the Increase of Funding for Agricultural Service Boards

The Northern Sunrise County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) would like to express their appreciation regarding the increase in funding provided to the Alberta Agricultural Service Boards.

We are committed to providing exceptional service to our community and ensuring that the highest standards are met in the agricultural industry. The increase in funding is a positive measure to improve the funding needs of ASBs and assists our municipality in achieving our legislative duties as outlined in the *Agricultural Service Board Act*. As we move forward, we hope that the funding will be adjusted for inflation and will continue to reflect the shared responsibilities of the municipalities and province.

In 2022, we hired 16 seasonal staff and completed 5,631 inspections for regulated weeds, 623 pest inspections, 554 hectares of weed control, and numerous public education workshops. We look forward to building upon these achievements and continuing to serve our residents with the help of our ASB grant agreement. Once again, we express our sincere appreciation for your support.

Sincerely,

Dan Boisvert, Chairman
Agricultural Service Board
Northern Sunrise County

C:

Dan Williams, MLA, Peace River
Paul McLauchlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)
Sebastien Dutrisac, Chair, Provincial Agricultural Service Board
Corinna Williams, Reeve, Northern Sunrise County



Northern Sunrise County is a supportive
community where people can grow,
prosper, and belong.
We've got it all!

Agricultural Service Board

Position Statement

Agriculture Extension

ASBs are one of many agriculture extension agents and have a unique and integral role in agricultural extension. ASBs exist in every rural municipality where agriculture production takes place, and are mandated by legislation to promote, enhance and protect viable sustainable agriculture with the view to improve the economic viability of the agriculture producer. They do this by advising their local municipal government and the provincial government on agriculture issues and concerns and promoting the development of policies and programs that support the farmers in their regions.

ASBs are responsible for implementing and enforcing legislative requirements under [4 agriculture related Acts](#) and to assist with the control of animal disease under the Animal Health Act. They are assurance partners with the province to provide monitoring, detection and enforcement services that work to minimize the risk of disease and pest outbreaks keeping markets open and accessible to agriculture producers. ([About ASBs](#), <https://agriculturalserviceboards.com/about-asbs/>)

Agriculture extension topics that encourage sustainable agriculture practices, that encourage compliance with the legislation, promote economic viability and enhance community/family wellbeing are important to ASBs. ASBs are empowered by their local councils to respond to both agriculture and non agriculture rate payers and so have a broad understanding of how agriculture practices impact those outside the industry.

What is the ASB's position on the importance of having a municipal perspective in agriculture extension?

ASBs have a unique and important perspective on agriculture extension, and it is important that they have input into the development and governance of agriculture extension programs and services. ASBs:

- are positioned to address regional/local issues
- have a unique mandate and therefore have unique role to play in extension, Their extension differs from that done by ARA's, post secondary institutions or private industry
- are mandated to serve both farming and non farming communities, so offer a wide perspective and insight on issues impacting agriculture.
- serve all farmers as assurance partners working to keep market access.

What financial considerations do ASB's have with respect to agriculture extension delivery?

The majority of ASBs feel that they require more base operating funding to provide quality stable extension services to meet the needs of their farmers.

- Many ASBs feel that the current ASB grant does not fund enough manpower for market assurance activities and preventative agriculture extension.
- The financial needs of each municipality vary.
- Agriculture extension agents are not evenly distributed throughout the province, so it can be expensive for ASBs to partner to provide their farmers access to relevant extension resources.
- ASB grants and grants provided to partnering agriculture extension agents are not keeping up with the increasing cost of extension delivery.

What do the ASBs believe is needed to continue to support agriculture extension?

ASBs believe the formation of an organized coordinated system that provides access to current agriculture extension resources and the specialists to adapt them to local situations is needed.

To do that:

1. A coordinating body that identifies needs in the industry and works with the relevant agriculture extension agents to meet those needs in the most efficient way possible.
 - a. ASBs need to be part of the steering and governance
 - b. ASBs are in a position to provide advice on the current issues and needs for agriculture extension because of their legislated advisory role.
 - c. A coordinating body would help to reduce competition between extension service providers and improve efficiency for the greatest value to farmers and the public.
2. Access to current unbiased information and agriculture specialists that can work with ASBs to customize innovations and agronomics to local conditions, addressing regional concerns.
 - a. ASBs staff tend to be generalists and are best suited to delivering extension messages and ideas that were well developed by the experts and known to be relevant and useful to farmer audiences.
 - b. Agriculture specialists are needed to adapt innovations, extension resources and programs to address regional concerns and fit the mandate of the ASBs.
 - c. ASBs are positioned to deliver extension across the entire province, when adequately funded
3. All extension agents need access to stable consistent reliable funding that is responsive to the cost of delivery that consists of:
 - a. Operational funding that is not traditionally covered in projects.
 - b. Opportunities for capital funding.

What current agriculture issues are impacting rural Alberta that are important to the ASBs but are not currently addressed in the CEM model?

- **Security** - Extension efforts that inform and provide practical solutions for increasing security on farm for bio control, protection from activism, and rural crime as well as increasing the understanding of laws in place to protect citizens. More needs to be done to ensure people know the laws, are being proactive to prevent crime. Coordinated
- **Mental Health/ Wellbeing** - Extension products to inform rural service providers, municipal officials, and those involved in the agriculture industry about the current state of farm wellbeing, and how to access supports is an ongoing need.
- **Economic development** - Extension products that keep farmers, agriculture associations, and municipalities up to date with the latest programs and opportunities that are designed to encourage rural economic development. The average age of farmers is 56, and only 19% of farmers are under the age of 35. This means a lot of assets and equity will need to change hands, and having access to schools, sports, health care and other amenities is an important part of encouraging families to farm.
- **Emergency planning** - Systems need to be in place to accommodate livestock in evacuation or disease outbreaks. Extension that educates farmers, first responders, and municipal emergency response teams about the processes, responsibilities, and regulations governing animal welfare and traceability are needed.
- **Conflicting land use** - Selling agricultural land to other development is financially attractive, particularly to older farmers looking to retire, but has a negative impact on the amount of farmland available to farm.
- **Soil Conservation** - Extension resources and activities that give farmers and municipalities the tools and knowledge needed are not readily available.



Report Card on the Resolutions 2023

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

Table of Contents

Contents

Introduction	3
Executive Summary	4
Resolution Table	4
Response Summary	5
2023 Activities of the ASBPC	6
ASBPC Regular Meetings	6
Engagements:	6
Activities on Appointed Committees:	6
Definition of Terms	7
2023 Resolutions	8
RESOLUTION 1-23: CREATION OF A MID-LEVEL ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (ABVMA) PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION	9
RESOLUTION 2-23: RURAL VETERINARY STUDENTS	24
RESOLUTION 3-23: APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS FUNDING	27
RESOLUTION 4-23: GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION	31
RESOLUTION 5-23: LANDOWNER SPECIAL LICENSE	33
RESOLUTION 6-23: ENFORCEMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT ALBERTA WATER ACT	36
RESOLUTION 8-23 : CONSIDERATION OF MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES FOR LARGE SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS	37
RESOLUTION 9-23: SYNTHETIC FERTILIZER EMISSIONS	46
RESOLUTION 10-23: ORGANIC PRODUCTION CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PROVINCIALLY REGULATED WEEDS	49
RESOLUTION 11-23: LOSS OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE	50
RESOLUTION 12-23: REVIEW OF THE LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS TRIBUNAL (LPRT)	55
RESOLUTION E1-23: STABLE REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION FUNDING	56
RESOLUTION E2-23: STABLE FUNDING FOR FARM MENTAL HEALTH	59
RESOLUTION E3-23: SUPPORTING A VIBRANT CERVID INDUSTRY IN ALBERTA	62
Update on Previous Years' Resolutions	64
2022 Resolutions	64

Expiring Resolutions	66
2021 Resolutions	66
2020 Resolutions	66
2019 Resolutions	67
Current Advocacy	68

Introduction

The Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee is pleased to provide Agricultural Service Board (ASB) members and staff with the 2023 Report Card on the Resolutions. This report contains the government and non-government responses to resolutions passed at the 2023 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.

2023 ASB Provincial Committee Members

Position	Members	Alternates	Representation
Chair, Region Rep.	Sebastien Dutrisac	Clifford Wowdzia	Northeast Region
Vice, Region Rep.	Brenda Knight	Kathy Rooyakkers	Central
Region Rep	Walter Preugschas	Ross Bohnet	Northwest Region
Region Rep	Morgan Rockenbach	John Van Driesten	South
Region Rep	Christi Friesen	Bob Chrenek	Peace
Secretary	Stephen Bevans		AAAF
Executive Assistant	Linda Hunt		
RMA Rep.	Jason Schneider		RMA
AAAF President	Aaron VanBeers		AAAF
ASB Program Manager	Doug Macaulay		AFRED
Recording Secretary	Anita Ash		AFRED

2023 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS		
COMMITTEE	APPOINTMENT	ALTERNATE
Agriculture Plastics Recycling Group	Walter Preugschas	Brenda Knight
Alberta Game Policy Advisory Committee Previously the Alberta Game Management Advisory Group (AGMAG)	Brenda Knight	Walter Preugschas
Alberta Endangered Species Conservation Committee (ESCC)	Brenda Knight	Walter Preugschas
Clubroot Action Committee	Walter Preugschas	Christi Friesen
Fusarium Action Committee	Morgan Rockenbach	Sebastian Dutrisac
Wildlife Predator Compensation Committee	Christi Friesen	Sebastian Dutrisac
Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (Alternate for RMA appointment)	RMA	Sebastian Dutrisac
Weed Issues on Oil and Gas Sites in Rural Alberta working group	Brenda Knight	Walter Preugschas

Executive Summary

The ASB Provincial Committee has assigned the following grades to responses by government and non-government organizations for resolutions passed at the 2023 Provincial ASB Conference.

Resolution Table

Resolution Number	Resolution	Grade
1-23	CREATION OF A MID-LEVEL ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (ABVMA) PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION	Accept in Principle
2-23	RURAL VETERINARY STUDENTS	Accept in Principle
3-23	APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS FUNDING	Accept in Principle
4-23	GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION	Incomplete
5-23	LANDOWNER SPECIAL LICENSE	Accept in Principle
6-23	ENFORCEMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT ALBERTA WATER ACT	Incomplete
7-23	CAMPAIGN TO RAISE AWARENESS ON THE DISPARITY BETWEEN CONSUMER PRICING AND PRODUCER REVENUE	DEFEATED
8-23	CONSIDERATION OF MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES FOR LARGE SCALE SOLAR AND RELATED ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS	Incomplete
9-23	SYNTHETIC FERTILIZER EMISSIONS	Incomplete
10-23	ORGANIC PRODUCTION CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PROVINCIALLY REGULATED WEEDS	Incomplete
11-23	LOSS OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE	Accept the Response
12-23	REVIEW OF THE LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS TRIBUNAL (LPRT)	Incomplete
E1-23	STABLE REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION FUNDING	Incomplete
E2-23	STABLE FUNDING FOR FARM MENTAL HEALTH	Incomplete
E3-23	SUPPORTING A VIBRANT CERVID INDUSTRY IN ALBERTA	Incomplete

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

Response Summary

Number of ASBs that Responded

Region	#ASBs Responding	% of Region 2023	% of Region 2022	% of Region 2021
South	4	22	33	33%
Central	14	100	93	43%
Northeast	9	82	82	15%
Northwest	2	15	38	31%
Peace	5	38	38	23%
Overall	34	49%	55%	32%

Summary of Grading Responses Submitted

Resolution No.	Accept the Response	Accept in Principle	Incomplete	Unsatisfactory
1-23	3	31	0	0
2-23	4	1	28	1
3-23	1	28	4	1
4-23	1	1	16	15
5-23	1	31	1	1
6-23	0	0	17	16
8-23	1	0	28	5
9-23	0	0	32	1
10-23	0	0	18	15
11-23	32	1	0	1
12-23	0	0	18	15
E1-23	2	1	30	1
E2-23	0	4	28	2
E3-23	1	5	28	0

2023 Activities of the ASBPC

ASBPC Regular Meetings

Date	Delegations
September 2, 2022	
November 7, 2022	Organizational Meeting; ADM Conrad, DM Hale
November 21, 2022	
January 17, 2023	Parliamentarian Todd Brand
March 20, 2023	RMA and DM Hale/Marcia Hewit-Fisher
April 17, 2023	
May 15, 2023	
July 19, 2023	ABVMA
August 18, 2023	Alberta BeeKeepers Association

Engagements:

Date	Event
November 28, 2022	RDAR Extension Taskforce stakeholder engagement
November 30, 2022	Minister Horner meeting - resolutions
December 16, 2022	ADM Townhall
January 17, 2023	Dinner with Minister Horner
March 6, 2023	RALP discussion GOA
March 30, 2023	RALP review
April 18, 2023	ASB Townhall
May 11, 2023	ABVMA initial discussion
June 21, 2023	AG Plastics Recycling

Activities on Appointed Committees:

Date	Committee	Member Attending
August 2022	AgPlastics	Walter
November 28, 2022	AgPlastics tour	Walter, Brenda
December 7, 2022	ASBPC Extension Committee	Walter and Sebastian
March 17, 2023	ASBPC Extension Committee	Walter,
March/April?	AB Game Policy	Brenda, Jason (RMA)
April 26	ASBPC Extension Committee	Walter, Sebastian, Christi
April 26, 2023	ESCC	
May 2, 2023	Fusarium Action Committee	Sebastian
June 21, 2023	AgPastics	Brenda

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 ASB Provincial 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 ASB Provincial 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 ASB Provincial Committee

2023 Resolutions

**RESOLUTION 1-23: CREATION OF A MID-LEVEL ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (ABVMA)
PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION**

- WHEREAS** the scope of practice for Alberta veterinary professionals is governed by the ABVMA, which is governed by the Veterinary Profession Act, (RSA 200, Ch. V-2); and
- WHEREAS** the lack of veterinary professionals has a direct impact on the sustainability and profitability of livestock producers; and
- WHEREAS** medical doctor shortages led to the growth of the Nurse Practitioner designation in human medicine; and
- WHEREAS** addressing the current rural veterinary shortage will take a number of years to have an impact, but the livestock industry needs assistance now; and
- WHEREAS** there are veterinary services that could be performed by a mid-level veterinary professional, alleviating some pressure on Doctors of Veterinary Medicine.

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

The Alberta Minister of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development work with the ABVMA to create a Mid- Level Veterinary Professional designation within the Veterinary Profession Act to address the rural veterinary shortage and provide mid-level supportive care to Alberta livestock producers with veterinary oversight, including but not limited to:

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

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development

RESPONSE:

1. Agriculture and Irrigation (response to 1-23 and 2-23)
2. Skilled Trades and Professions (response to 1-23 and 2-23)
3. ABVMA (response to 1-23, and 2-23)

Resolution 2-23: Rural Veterinary Students

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

Response:

The University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine has a current class size of 50 students and plans to expand its class size to 100 students. This places Alberta in a high-ranking position within Canada in terms of its number of veterinary students per capita. It is noteworthy that a consistent 30-35 per cent of veterinary students at the University of Calgary come from rural communities. Unfortunately, approximately only half of those students return to a rural community to practice.

The University of Calgary has adjusted its admissions process for the latest intake of veterinary students. After identifying applicants that meet a minimum academic threshold, academic standing is no longer a consideration in the further evaluation of those qualified applicants. Instead, an applicant's work experience, hobbies, volunteer experience and home community are considered to determine which students will advance to the interview stage. The admissions process was adjusted to help ensure graduates will meet the needs of the profession and the province.

Agriculture and Irrigation continues to work with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association and the University of Calgary to develop strategies to address the shortage of veterinarians in rural communities. Attracting these professionals to rural Alberta poses complex challenges, and we continue to look at ways to help our rural communities recruit and retain veterinarians.

Resolution 1-23, which is directed to the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development, proposes a nurse practitioner model in the veterinary profession. The development of training and evaluation materials for this model, as well as the legal framework within which those materials will operate, will take time. It is also worth noting that most of the tasks mentioned in the resolution – livestock pregnancy-checks, livestock vaccinations, semen collection, blood collection, injections, catheterization and dispensing prescription medication – may already be delegated to registered veterinary technologists.



ALBERTA

SKILLED TRADES AND PROFESSIONS

*Deputy Premier
Office of the Minister
MLA, Edmonton - South West*

AR 318

MAR 14 2023

Mr. Sebastien Dutrisac
Chair, Provincial ASB Committee
c/o Mr. Stephen Bevans
Secretary, Provincial ASB Committee
Box 580
Cardston AB T0K 0K0

Dear Mr. Dutrisac:

The Honourable Brian Jean, Minister of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development, forwarded a copy of your February 2, 2023 letter regarding the 2023 Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Resolutions. As Minister of Skilled Trades and Professions responsible for the *Veterinary Profession Act*, I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

The Alberta government is aware of the severe shortage of veterinarians across all veterinary practice types in Alberta. Recognizing the particularly acute scarcity of veterinarians in rural Alberta, we have been working closely with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) to address this critical issue.

In 2021, the ABVMA and the Alberta Veterinary Technologist Medical Association (ABVTA) collaborated with the Government of Alberta to conduct a workforce study to gain a comprehensive understanding of key human resource issues facing the veterinary profession in Alberta. As a result of the study, the ABVMA established two industry-focused working groups to explore possible actions. One of the working groups is on domestic education of veterinary professionals in western Canada and the other is on utilization and retention of veterinarians and veterinary technologists. Both the ABVMA and the ABVTA are optimistic that through working with stakeholders, educational institutions, and the Alberta government, the issue will be resolved.

The ABVMA has also recently completed a study, namely the Economic Impact Assessment of the Veterinary Medical Sector in Alberta, to document the economic benefits of veterinary medicine to the province of Alberta. The study addresses the impact of the veterinary medical sector on rural communities and has become a useful tool in supporting the ABVMA and the veterinary profession's efforts to address the critical workforce shortage issues.

As part of the Alberta Recovery Plan and under the Alberta Advantage Immigration Strategy, the Alberta government has recently developed new entrepreneur immigration streams for the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program to help bring in skilled economic immigrants, including veterinarians, to support the province's workforce. There are two streams that may contribute to addressing the

Mr. Sebastien Dutrisac
Page 2

labour shortage in rural Alberta. The Rural Renewal Stream supports attraction and retention of immigrants through a community-driven approach responsive to local economic development needs in rural Alberta communities, and the Rural Entrepreneur Stream attracts and encourages qualified and capable immigrant entrepreneurs to start new or buy existing businesses, conduct the day-to-day operations, and live-in rural communities to support economic growth in rural Alberta.

As you know, the Alberta government has also recently provided additional funding to the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM). This money will be used to increase programming for veterinary studies and allow the UCVM to double its yearly enrolment of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students from 50 to 100 by 2025.

Regarding your suggestion to establish a mid-level veterinary professional designation to address the rural veterinary shortage and provide mid-level supportive care to Alberta livestock producers, my department will confer with the ABVMA to discuss the proposal. To implement another category of veterinarian, the ABVMA will require member approval, a formal proposal for changes to the *Veterinary Professional Act*, and significant consultations with stakeholders, educational institutions, and the public. While not a fast solution to the situation, it may fit into the range of responses that will work together to help address the shortage.

Like your committee, the Government of Alberta recognizes the important role of veterinarians in this province and the critical need to address the labour shortage in this profession. Thank you for writing and bringing this proposal to my attention.

Yours very truly,



Honourable Kaycee Madu, KC, ECA
Deputy Premier and Minister of Skilled Trades and Professions

cc: Honourable Brian Jean, KC, ECA
Minister of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development



May 12, 2023

Agricultural Service Board Executive Committee
c/o Mr. Sebastian Dutrisec
Chair, ASB Committee
Delivered Via Email

Dear Mr. Dutrisec and the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee Members,

Re: Response to ASB Resolutions 1-23 and 2-23

The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) is the professional regulatory organization responsible for regulating and supporting the profession of veterinary medicine in Alberta. This includes regulatory oversight and advocacy for both Alberta's veterinarians and veterinary technologists (RVT's). There are 3982 professionals practicing in Alberta which is comprised of 1925 practicing veterinarians and 2057 technologists many of whom are practicing medicine within one of the 580 veterinary practices located throughout Alberta. Less than half of those practices are located in rural Alberta.

We would like to thank the Agricultural Service Board for your willingness to address the shortage of veterinary professionals in Alberta. You recently passed two resolutions, Resolution 1-23, Creation of a Mid-level Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) Professional Designation and Resolution 2-23 Rural Veterinary Students. We recognize that these two resolutions are intended to provide some solution to this complex problem of veterinary professional labour shortage, especially as they affect rural animal owners. While we recognize the intention of the resolutions, we would like to provide some updates on the activities we have been undertaking that will hopefully provide some insight and will allow us to further our discussion with you on some key activities for which we would seek your support.

Our association works closely with partner organizations including the Alberta Veterinary Technologists Association (ABVTA), University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM), the intensive livestock sector, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, Alberta Municipalities, and the Alberta government. Together we have been actively engaged in addressing the issue of veterinary professional shortages which are at a crisis level not only in Alberta but globally. Although labor shortages affect both mixed animal and companion animal veterinary practice, we have been especially aware of the acute need of veterinary professionals in rural communities.

In 2020, ABVMA undertook a workforce study with the support of the Alberta government. This report was completed in 2021 and underscored the crisis level shortage of veterinarians and veterinary technologists in the province. Today we need nearly 900 professionals that includes at minimum 377 veterinarians and 487 technologists. In less than 20 years we will need three and

a half times that amount. Even today, in 2023 the professional job vacancy rate exceeds the provincial job vacancy rate and attrition in clinical practice remains high at 3% for veterinarians and 8% for RVT's. We know that with Alberta having the highest pet ownership rate in Canada at 65% and with continued growth of foundational livestock production, the demand for veterinarians and technologists is increasing.

We also know that educational seats are not keeping pace to the demand of students. In the Alberta Budget 2022-23, the Alberta government committed \$69 million to UCVm to expand the veterinary program from 50 students to 100 students over 3 years. This was a generational investment and was the first time since the inception of the school in 2005 that money was allocated to veterinary medicine in Alberta. Of note, you must be an Alberta resident to attend UCVm making this a critical investment in veterinary education of Alberta students. Additionally in budget 2022, money was available for colleges offering animal science programs including registered veterinary technologist education.

We also recognize that only 7-9% of the veterinarians registered to practice in Alberta are international trained veterinarians. With a global shortage of veterinarians, it is competitive to attract professionals from an accredited school. Internationally trained veterinarians require support to ensure successful placement. Alberta does not have an bridging program at UCVm which will allow more veterinarians from non-accredited schools to come to Alberta. Receiving some short-term training in the form of a micro-credentialing program will augment their veterinary knowledge and skills to ensure they are at the Canadian standard that animal owners expect.

Despite the 50 additional seats allocated under budget 2022, we believe that was a start and not an ending. There is a need to expand seat capacity at UCVm and the four technical colleges in Alberta offering veterinary technologist (animal health technology) education in Alberta. We also believe that further collaborative work needs attention to attract and retain professionals in rural communities in Alberta. We want to assure you that we have been addressing this issue with our partners as a profession. We need the assistance of stakeholders like you to also make positive strides to growing a veterinary workforce that comes and stays in rural practice. We need to ensure we are working collaboratively and with an understanding of the complexity of the issues.

Resolution 2-23

As per resolution 2-23, one of the ways you have identified to help rural Alberta veterinary shortages is by *"...directing the University of Calgary to adjust admissions to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine for students from rural areas applying by providing credit for rural acuity and prioritize students who intend to specialise in large animal practice and return to work in rural areas following completion of their program"*. As a profession we work closely with the UCVm and are very pleased that, beginning with the class admitted in the fall of 2022, they have changed their selection policy and process to acknowledge that academic ability is necessary but not sufficient. There is three step process that includes:

1. Confirm Academic Ability: the qualified pool consists of Alberta residents who have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on their four most recent full-time terms of undergraduate education, a passing grade in 10 of the required courses and a score of at least 495 on the MCAT within 3 years of application.

2. File Review: each qualified applicant's file is reviewed by 3 members of the file review subcommittee to score "goodness of fit" for the UCVM DVM program, which includes assessment of rural attributes. The top 128 are invited for an interview.
3. Non-academic attributes: are evaluated which includes multiple mini-interviews and an on-site essay. The activities of the rural students are highlighted including their hobbies, agriculture experience, work experience, etc.

Interestingly, of the 50 students accepted in 2022 who will graduate in 2026, 36.5% identify their home as an acreage or farm within a community of less than 10,000 population. 32.7% identify themselves as residing within a metropolitan region of more than 50,000 people. The data from this class supports us saying that rural students are being accepted to the veterinary program. Additional data for the class to be admitted in the fall of 2023 will be available shortly. ABVMA is pleased that UCVM has made significant changes to its admissions process and requirements that are not solely academically focused and that consider a student's overall qualifications which will not disadvantage a rural student.

UCVM has also provided information on where the veterinary graduates go upon graduation. Out of the 273 graduates from 9 graduating classes, 195 veterinarians, or 71% are registered to practice in Alberta. Of the 195 veterinarians working in Alberta, 92 (47%) are working in small communities (defined as a community of less than 37,000 people) and 83 (43%) are working in large urban communities (defined as a community with population greater than 100,000). The remainder will work in academia, industry, or other animal facilities such as feedlots and zoos. This means that of all the 273 graduates of UCVM since inception, 33.7% are working in a small community in Alberta.

The data supports that not only are rural based students being selected for the veterinary program at UCVM, but they are also returning to those smaller communities. Despite this, we recognize that there are not enough graduates for the demand making increasing capacity of seats critical for Alberta. We also note that graduates are returning to rural Alberta and mixed animal practice, but they are not staying. Retention is an issue for veterinarians and technologists in rural Alberta because of a number of factors among which include reliable broadband services, livable housing, and daycare options.

Resolution 1-23

We also want to address the issue raised by ASB's resolution 1-23 that requests *"The Alberta Minister of Job, Economy, and Northern Development work with the ABVMA to create a Mid-Level Veterinary Professional designation within the Veterinary Profession Act to address the rural veterinary shortage and provide mid-level supportive care to Alberta livestock producers with veterinary oversight, including but not limited to:*

1. *Pregnancy checking*
2. *Vaccination*
3. *Semen testing*
4. *Blood draws*
5. *Injections*
6. *Catheterization*

7. *Wellness checks*
8. *Renewing prescriptions*
9. *Establishing required relationship for producers to purchase prescribed medicines."*

The veterinary profession is facing shortages of veterinary technologists that exceeds normal practice standards. There is a demand for veterinary technologists with recent graduates having no delay for job entry. The four veterinary technology (animal health technology) programs in Alberta are competitive meaning there are more qualified applicants than there are seats for all the students looking for technologist education. Quite simply, there is not enough educational capacity to graduate enough veterinary technologists and there is a need for further government investment in the veterinary technology educational programs.

Attraction of veterinary technologists from other jurisdictions including Canada, the US and international is minimal largely because of the non-competitive wages in Alberta. Retention is an issue in rural Alberta due to the low wages and physical demands of the job combined with a lack of services such as daycare, options for livable, affordable housing and educational options for children. Ninety-eight per cent (98%) of technologists are female, they are on average between 25 and 29 years of age and remain in clinical practice for an average of 9.31 years. In a recent compensation survey, it was found that while the average hourly compensation for veterinary technologists in urban Alberta is \$27.07, the average hourly rate in rural Alberta practice is only \$24.95. Technologists are choosing the career but not staying in it making turnover within the profession very high. We do not believe that a new level of professional will address these issues facing a technologist. In fact, adding in an additionally trained professional will place greater financial strain on the veterinary practice and higher fees for veterinary service will result.

The ABVMA policy regulating delegation of veterinary services to a registered veterinary technologist (RVT) has been updated as of February 2023 with both the veterinarians and veterinary technologists working collaboratively and in agreement to this new professional standard. This was in collaboration with the Alberta Veterinary Technologists Association (ABVTA). It is accepted that the barrier to increasing the engagement of veterinary technologists in veterinary practice is mainly culture in veterinary practices and is not a regulatory barrier. Updated policy seeks to encourage increased engagement of veterinary technologists in practice.

Under the Veterinary Profession General Regulation, sec 9(2), veterinarians may delegate veterinary medical services to registered veterinary technologists. A veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) must exist prior to delegation of any medical task. The VCPR exists by virtue of the registered veterinarian having sufficient knowledge of a person's animals by examination of the animals, and/or medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animals are kept.

The scope of practice that may be delegated by a veterinarian to a veterinary technologist, pursuant to a VCPR being in place between the client and the veterinarian, is defined as:

(2) A technologist may practice all aspects of veterinary medicine other than (a) making a diagnosis (b) determining a course of treatment (c) applying surgical techniques.

Registered Veterinary Technologists (RVTs) are allowed, by legislation, to perform a broad scope of primary animal health care tasks and veterinary practice activities. RVTs are

precluded from making a diagnosis, determining a course of treatment (which includes prescribing medications), or performing any surgical procedure. RVTs may appropriately perform triage in the absence of a VCPR.

Whether a specific veterinary medical procedure is delegated, and the level of supervision required for RVTs performing various tasks is determined by the veterinarian's assessment of the competency of the technologist, the complexity of the task and the risk to the patient and client. The veterinarian is responsible for verifying the competency or skill level of the employee to whom any procedure is delegated. Verification is achieved by observing and evaluating to the satisfaction of the individual registered ABVMA member.

Certain higher risk procedures, such as administering anesthesia, while they may be delegated, require a higher level of supervision by a veterinarian given the risks and obligation to protect the public interest.

The following skills are medical in nature, constitute the practice of veterinary medicine, pose a risk to the patient and the public, and therefore can only be delegated to a registered veterinary technologist.

<p style="text-align: center;">Client Relations/Practice Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain client informed consent. • Administer and maintain Infection Prevention and Control and biosecurity protocols and staff education with a focus on limiting hospital-acquired infection, recognition of potentially infectious patients, isolation protocols • Develop and provide client education on topics including clinical nutrition, tube feeding care, • diabetes management, behaviour, post chemotherapy care • Discharge medical/surgical patients with communication of medical instructions • Participate in the development, implementation and review of practice policies, protocols and procedures • Perform patient triage including teletriage
<p style="text-align: center;">Pharmacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and dispense pharmaceuticals, including performing final check • Prepare and administer medications i.e. calculate, reconstitute, dilute oral and parental, IV fluid rates, constant rate infusions • Educate clients regarding prescribed drugs i.e., indications and contraindications, handling, storage, administration, side-effects, drug interactions, safety for patient and humans • Use and explain the 5 rights of pharmaceuticals and biologics • Respond to abnormal and normal responses to medication • Handle, measure and administer controlled substances • Maintain controlled substance acquisition and usage logs
<p style="text-align: center;">Nursing Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform a comprehensive physical examination including assessments and documentation of findings including mentation, heart rate, pulse rate, respiratory rate, heart/lung sounds, body condition score, pain score, hydration

- Perform venipuncture for treatment or blood sampling including identifying appropriate and inappropriate sites and blood volumes
- Administer oral and parenteral medications
- Administer biologicals (including rabies)
- Express anal sacs
- Perform fluorescein staining, Schirmer tear test and tonometry
- Establish and manage intravenous access sites as determined by the patient conditions and therapy required
- Administer and maintain fluid therapy
- Assess volume status and administer crystalloid and colloids via infusion pump or drip set. Assess response to fluid therapy plan 5
- Collect and administer blood and blood products, monitor administration, and adjust administration as required
- Place and maintain of advanced catheters such as PICC lines, intraosseous, arterial, central, catheters
- Perform and evaluate invasive (pressure transducer or aneroid manometer) and non-invasive blood pressure measurement. (oscillometric, Doppler, etc)
- Perform thoracocentesis and non-surgical chest tube placement
- Maintain chest, tracheotomy, pharyngostomy, nasogastric, esophagostomy tubes
- Place and care for urinary catheters
- Collect urine samples including by cystocentesis (including ultrasound guided)
- Setup and evaluate normal vs abnormal ECG
- Apply established emergency protocols for CPR e.g. RECOVER CPR Algorithm
- Perform appropriate wound care
- Administer enemas
- Perform tattoo
- Insert microchip
- Trim hooves
- Clean sheath
- Calculate and administer nutritional support using a variety of techniques (esophagostomy, nasogastric, parenteral)
- Perform nasogastric intubation
- Use esophageal feeder
- Apply and remove bandages and splints
- Remove sutures or staples
- Remove casts
- Perform rehabilitation techniques including massage therapy, cryo/heat therapy, range of motion, low level laser therapy, shockwave therapy
- Explain timing and types of pregnancy testing
- Semen collection
- Electrostimulation and semen collection for breeding soundness examination
- Perform artificial insemination
- Assist and prepare for large animal reproductive procedures including embryo flush, oocyte aspirations, endometrial biopsies etc
- Assist with birthing, both routine and dystocia
- Provide resuscitation and nursing care to neonates

Peri and IntraOperative Procedures

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize medical records/consent forms, review pre-operative evaluation, evaluate current patient status, organize, and implement anesthesia • Perform a surgical clip and aseptic prep application • Perform set-up, maintenance, troubleshooting and operation of surgical equipment including suction, cautery, laser and fiberoptic equipment • Aseptically handle tissues, instruments, and supplies during surgery • Administer post-operative care including hydrotherapy, orthopedic, and neurological care • Perform the role of laser safety officer
<p style="text-align: center;">Dental Prophylaxis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform scaling and polishing, subgingival scaling, root planing and curettage • Probe, measure, and chart pockets with a periodontal probe; grade periodontal disease; complete dental chart • Obtain diagnostic images using intraoral radiology positioning • Perform dental anesthesia blocks • Perform flotation of equid teeth • Rabbit and rodent non-surgical occlusal adjustment and correction
<p style="text-align: center;">Anesthesia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review patient history, PE, and diagnostic results in collaboration with a veterinarian to assign patient anesthetic status score (ASA) • Assign appropriate numerical pain score after reviewing patient history and physical examination in conjunction with evaluation of any prescribed analgesic plans to provide effective pain management • Set up, test, and/or troubleshoot anesthesia machines and breathing circuits • Develop patient-specific anesthetic protocols for veterinarian review and implementation to provide effective pain management and maximum anesthetic • Calculate dosages for and administer injectable analgesics and anesthetics as prescribed by the veterinarian • Perform regional nerve blocks i.e. dental, biopsy site, testicular, linea, distal limb • Perform epidural anesthesia Utilize ECG, capnography, pulse oximetry, blood pressure monitors and thermometers to assess patient status and anesthetic depth • Use clinical signs and monitoring equipment to monitor patient status in all stages of anesthesia • Record and maintain anesthesia and operative medical records • Evaluate the effects of common pre-anesthetic, induction, and maintenance drugs, recognize, and respond to adverse reactions, complications, or emergencies • Use and assess peripheral nerve stimulation • Monitor and evaluate appropriate extubation time, anesthetic recovery, postoperative care, and pain management during the recovery period
<p style="text-align: center;">Diagnostic Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform urinalysis • Perform CBC • Identify blood, external and internal parasites • Perform blood chemistry tests • Perform serologic tests • Perform bacteriologic procedures • Examine canine vaginal smears

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in collecting, preparing, and appropriately evaluating transudate, exudates & cytologic specimens e.g. joint, cerebrospinal, airway and body cavity • Perform and evaluate fine needle tissue aspirates and impression smears • Perform point of care tests e.g. lactate, blood glucose, ketostix Collect and evaluate skin scrapings • Perform blood type and cross match, and evaluate results • Prepare and stain bone marrow specimens • Examine semen • Evaluate blood gases • Perform California mastitis test • Perform necropsy procedures including collecting photographs, videos and tissue samples Prepare samples for analyses and submission • Perform the role of lab quality assurance officer
<p style="text-align: center;">Diagnostic Imaging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate and maintain xray, CT and MRI machines to produce diagnostic images • Calculate and administer contrast media via different routes for contrast studies • Maintain and utilize ultrasound to obtain diagnostic images* • Perform the role of radiation quality assurance officer • * Council has established policy for pregnancy detection by ultrasound in beef cattle and small ruminants
<p style="text-align: center;">Euthanasia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss quality of life assessments with client • Administer premedication and euthanasia solution with or without client present • Confirm patient is deceased * Council has established policy for pregnancy detection by ultrasound in beef cattle and small ruminants

While engagement of the RVT in clinical practice has been improving, the ABVTA and ABVMA continue to work on educating practice owners and staff on utilization of technologist and retention strategies. A new class of professional as suggested by this resolution will not improve utilization of RVT's, and a new professional will take considerable time to establish. The expectation would be that ABVMA membership and stakeholders would need to be consulted on the scope of practice and utilization of the professional. Further, the current legislation provides that the scope of practice that may not currently be delegated to an RVT is narrow – making diagnosis, surgery and determining the course of treatment. Any scope of practice afforded to a new professional designation would venture into the scope of practice for a veterinarian. A new curriculum would need to be developed at colleges and would require extensive consultation and ongoing advocacy for additional public dollars for this educational program. Legislation would need to be changed to accommodate this new professional which is at the discretion of the provincial government. We estimate this process to take 4-6 years with dedicated work from the profession, academia, government, and stakeholders including ASB.

The concept of a “mid-level practitioner” has been discussed across Canada and in the US. While it is acknowledged that at some point it may play a role in delivery of veterinary medical services, there is an unrecognized opportunity to leverage improved engagement of veterinary technologists in clinical practice.

While we appreciate ASB's interest in and resolutions related to the veterinary professional workforce shortage, we believe that time will be better spent working with Alberta's post-secondary institutions to ensure that the veterinary professional educational programming is relevant and meeting the needs of animal owners. Micro-credential programs at Alberta's technical colleges for RVT's will provide a technologist interested in expanding their knowledge and skills an opportunity in a shorter program of study. In our study of the labour issues, we believe these actions will improve retention of RVT's much better than a new classification of professional that will take, considerable time and money to implement.

We also believe that rural communities need to be engaged in attraction programs to their communities. Providing veterinary students with a positive experience for summer employment in a rural veterinary practice requires a community to be engaged and welcoming to that student. Municipalities that have housing that is affordable and livable will be attractive to a student and professional. Local bursaries are helpful, but success will be best achieved when your local veterinary practices are engaged, and the definitions of eligibility are not narrowly defined.

We also believe that engagement with younger students, those in junior high and high school, about the value of veterinary medicine is helpful to ensuring there is a continued stream of qualified applicants to the veterinary medicine programs. Providing incentives such as scholarships to local students who pursue veterinary medicine and return to the local rural community to practice, may also be an important tool to recruitment and retention of rural veterinary professionals. UCVM is open to providing assistance to municipalities to support recruitment of students.

We together with UCVM and ABVTA would appreciate an opportunity for our delegation to meet with the ASB Provincial Committee members to discuss the labour issues, provide relevant information on activities and to determine further ways our organization can work collaboratively with the ASB's. We would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you in July 2023.

Thank you again for the interest and willingness of the ASB to address the workforce issues facing the veterinary medical profession. It is our intention to work collaboratively with stakeholders to find the best solutions to the problem which is compounded by the global shortage. I can assure you that Alberta is taking the lead in Canada to address this issue and we appreciate the opportunity to work with you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,



Phil Buote
Interim Registrar and CEO, ABVMA

GRADE: ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE	%	COMMENTS
Accept the Response	9	The response from the GoA was less than informative, but the response from the ABVMA provided a substantive amount of detail as to the enhanced role RVTs can play within veterinary medicine. That seems worth exploring and discussing with practices in our area as to the degree of utilization of RVT scope-of-practice. This seems an appropriate first step before pushing further for a mid-tier professional designation which would require a large investment of time and resources and will have a long lag time to realize.
Accept in Principle	91	The response is disappointing as there could be great merit in a new professional designation. Although the process to do so may be cumbersome due to the number of parties involved, the long process should not result in no attempt for an additional professional designation.
Incomplete	0	
Unsatisfactory	0	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The responses from the Ministry of Skilled Trades and Professions and the ABVMA addresses the resolution in part and contains information that indicates that further action is being considered.

In May, the Committee was approached by Pam Cholak, a consultant hired by the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, the Alberta Veterinary Technologist Association, and the UofC Faculty of Veterinary Medicine to work on the Veterinarian shortage issue.

The following delegation attended the July 19 ASBPC meeting to discuss this resolution further.

- Dr. Phil Buote, ABVMA Interim CEO
- Dr. Navjot Gosal, ABVMA Council member on behalf of Dr. Natasha Kutryk, ABVMA President, who is unable to attend.
- Darryl Haugen, ABVTA President
- Vanessa George, ABVTA Executive Director
- Dr. Renate Weller, Dean of UCVM
- Dr. Robert McCorkell, Associate Dean of Admissions and Outreach at UCVM
- Pam Cholak, Consultant to ABVMA, President of What Matters Consulting

The delegation did not feel that creating a mid level vet professional designation would solve the issues facing rural vet practices. They found in their research that rural RVTs are paid less than urban ones, that they are mostly women so need access to child care and affordable housing to live rural, and as a result there is a large turnover of RVTs with an average of only 9.3 years in the profession. Municipalities can assist with reducing the turnover by actively addressing community barriers for young professional women.

In February 2023, the ABVMA and the ABVTA worked collaboratively to adjust their bylaws to ensure that vet practices were able to fully utilize the knowledge and skills of the professionals they employ. These changes allow veterinarians to delegate veterinary services to a RVT provided a relationship

between the veterinarian and the client exists, and the veterinarian did the diagnosis and determined the course of treatment.

It was found that limits placed on the RVTs in a practice are most often due to the culture of the practice rather than the regulations. Further efforts are being taken by RVT programs to provide further training in specific veterinarian services like pre-checking cows, to further improve skills and build trust with the Veterinarians and the clients. See the ABVMA response for more details.

ASBPC will continue to monitor the progress over the next three years.

RESOLUTION 2-23: RURAL VETERINARY STUDENTS

WHEREAS rural Alberta is experiencing a significant shortage of rural based veterinary medical professionals; which has now reached a crisis level, and

WHEREAS there are five veterinary schools in Canada, students may only attend school in the region where they live. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary currently accepts fifty (50) students into the program each year, while it is expanding to one hundred (100) students in 2024 the current program selection process is not resulting in enough graduates to sustain rural veterinary practices; and

WHEREAS it has been shown that students originating from rural areas and/or having significant interest in and have experience with rural veterinary practice and the rural lifestyle are far more likely to locate and be successful in rural veterinary practice;

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

That the Government of Alberta aid the crisis of rural veterinary shortage by directing the University of Calgary to adjust admissions to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine for students from rural areas applying by providing credit for rural acuity and prioritize accepting students who intend to specialize in large animal practice and return to work in rural areas following completion of their program.

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Advanced Education

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

RESPONSES:

1. Agriculture and Irrigation (see above)
2. Skilled Trades and Professions (see above)
3. ABVMA (see above)

GRADE: INCOMPLETE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	12	The information provided in the ABVMA response (and in other information that they have made publicly available) gives the appearance that rural enrollment makes a substantive proportion of their admissions. The only sticking points are in the varying ways of defining "rural". As to students admissions, the number of <10,000 population was given to define rural, but this did not define whether this was the population size of a rural town or rural town plus catchment area. The working definition in their response became even more confusing when talking about the distribution of veterinary practices as the distinction became between "small" (<35,000 population) and "large urban" communities. By the standard of "small" communities in much of rural Alberta, that is a big population centre. Greater clarity and consistency about their definitions would help in better ascertaining the ongoing success of their changes to admissions.
Accept in Principle	3	By doubling enrolment, they are also allowing in more possible large animal vets

Incomplete	82	The Board would like tangible results on the number of rural students being admitted into the program based on their hands-on experience. They feel the difficulty of the MCAT exam in conjunction with the lack of resources available to rural students for success when writing the exam was not addressed. // ASB was hoping/want to see an incentive to pay for part of the tuition for rural students paid by GoA, and for a signed contract between student/vet and clinic to keep them as a large animal vet for a minimum of 5 years.
Unsatisfactory	3	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The ASBPC initially graded this response as incomplete, and the further information provided by the ABVMA was sent to the ASBs in May. After engagement from the ABVMA the ASBPC recommends a grade of Accept in Principle and will continue to monitor progress.

In May, the Committee received an ABVMA response to this resolution (see above) and received the following delegation at their July 19 ASBPC meeting to discuss this resolution further.

- Dr. Phil Buote, ABVMA Interim CEO
- Dr. Navjot Gosal, ABVMA Council member on behalf of Dr. Natasha Kutryk, ABVMA President, who is unable to attend.
- Darryl Haugen, ABVTA President
- Vanessa George, ABVTA Executive Director
- Dr. Renate Weller, Dean of UCVm
- Dr. Robert McCorkell, Associate Dean of Admissions and Outreach at UCVm
- Pam Cholak, Consultant to ABVMA, President of What Matters Consulting

The faculty of VM at the UofC made changes to admittance for the fall of 2022 that recognizes that academic ability should not be the only criteria for selection. The process attempts to both evaluate the candidates qualitatively (academic score) and quantitatively (experience and aptitude).

The process has three parts:

1. Confirm Academic Ability - 3.0 GPA on their undergraduate, passing grade in 10 required courses, and score a minimum of 495 on the MCAT.
2. File Review: reviewed for “goodness and fit”, including rural attributes, by three committee members.
3. Non-academic attribute evaluation: interviewed by 14 individuals in 8 different stations and complete an onsite essay. Work experience and hobbies related to the profession are reviewed as part of the file review process.

In the application process, applicants are asked if they have lived in or on a farm, acreage or community with a population less than 10,000 people. About 25% of the applicants fit one of these three categories which is about the same number that come from communities with populations over 50,000. 50% of the students come from communities with populations between 10,000 to 50,000.

At the conclusion of the engagement, the ASBPC recommends the following:

1. Continue to ask the government to invest in Veterinary post secondary education for more seats for the UofC VM program and the Veterinarian technologist programs. Government has already increased the number of seats, but they still are not enough to meet the current demand and keep up with retirements.
2. Encourage municipalities to use a similar process for recruiting Vets to their rural communities as the RhPAP does to encourage health care professionals. Anything a municipality can do to showcase their amenities and opportunities will help with encouraging graduates to establish practices in rural Alberta.
3. ASBs to support a bridging program that would create a way for internationally trained veterinarians who want to work in rural Alberta to become credentialed. This was proposed to the Alberta government already but was not yet supported.

The ASBPC will continue to keep tabs on progress.

RESOLUTION 3-23: APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS FUNDING

- WHEREAS** the Alberta Provincial Government outsourced the agriculture research and extension services within the province and Applied Research Associations (ARA) have taken on a larger role without sources of funding to sustain these operations; and
- WHEREAS** Applied Research Associations have been historically funded by the Alberta Government and changes in their funding structure threatens the longevity of their operations; and
- WHEREAS** the current proposed funding from the organization Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) is project based and does not adequately meet the needs for regional extension and knowledge transfer; and
- WHEREAS** local research and knowledge transfer funding is not dependable as it is not provided long-term; and
- WHEREAS** the services provided by ARAs are especially important when considering the increasing social and political pressure for innovation to improve the sustainability of Canadian agriculture; and
- WHEREAS** Applied Research Associations are an integral source of unbiased regional research and extension services pertinent to local producers and Agricultural Service Boards (ASB).

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

That the Ministry of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation provide sustainable operational funding to Applied Research Associations to maintain local, unbiased research and extension services that keep Alberta agriculture innovative and competitive.

- STATUS:** Federal and Provincial
- DEPARTMENT:** Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

RESPONSE:

1. Agriculture and Irrigation
2. ECCC

Resolution 3-23: *Applied Research Associations Funding*

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

Response:

Alberta's 12 Agricultural Research Associations (ARA), and the Alberta Research and Extension Council of Alberta, are recognized and valued partners in agricultural research programming and delivering extension activities to many municipalities in Alberta. Agriculture and Irrigation is committed to supporting the vital work ARAs undertake to provide producers with unbiased extension information and to help grow Alberta's agriculture sector.

Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) provides the 12 ARAs with \$2.5 million per year in operational funding for a two-year period – similar to the funding the ARAs received under the discontinued Agriculture Opportunities Fund. RDAR also initiated and facilitated a process to examine the operational needs of the ARAs, which resulted in a Harmonized Base Funding proposal that ARAs shared with the department and RDAR in summer 2022. RDAR is committed to continuing to fund ARA operations to ensure capacity to transfer knowledge between academia and farmers is maintained. In fiscal year 2023-24, ARA funding will increase by \$1.5 million, bringing the total funding to support ARA operations to \$4 million.



MAY 12 2023

Sebastien Dutrisac
Chair
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Dear Sebastien Dutrisac:

On behalf of the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I am responding to your letter of February 13, 2023, concerning resolutions 3-23, 8-23 and 9-23 passed in January by the Agricultural Service Boards. I regret the delay in replying.

Please be assured that your comments and resolutions have been reviewed, and that your commitment to environmental protection is appreciated. As the matter you raise falls under the purview of Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, I am forwarding your email to the Office of the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agrifood, for consideration. As well, I understand that the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, which falls under Minister Guilbeault's portfolio, has responded to your correspondence directly.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Sylvie Poulin
Manager
Departmental Correspondence Unit

c.c.: Office of the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P.

GRADE: ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE	%	COMMENTS
Accept the Response	3	
Accept in Principle	82	
Incomplete	12	Does not address the request for sustainable operational funding.//The response delivered does not provide information on new funding that could aid the ARAs with capital and operational needs, nor does it address the long-term sustainability of funding for the associations. In addition, RDAR has not proven to be as effective as intended to be. It appears that the funding is more-so directed to industry partners rather than the local producer, due to stipulations of hiring contractors. //
Unsatisfactory	3	The response emphasizes the \$2.5M increase, but the funding is still only 2-year funding. This does not constitute sustainable funding for agricultural research with most projects running a minimum of 3-years and with any climate-related activity needing 5-10 years project times so as to capture longer-term climate cycles and trends. Sustainable is more about duration of funding and not just amount of funding.

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: All of the concerns from the resolution were addressed in part and there is information to suggest that further actions are being considered. There remains ambiguity around whether or not the funding provided will be “sustainable operational funding” as the response did not specify that the funding would cover operational costs or commit to funding past two years. The Committee is open to feedback from ASBs regarding this resolution and will continue to express the need for provincial support for the applied research associations.

RESOLUTION 4-23: GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

WHEREAS population assessments completed in 2014 and 2018 of Alberta's Grizzly Bear in Bear Management Area (BMA) 3, 4, and 5 revealed that population and density has increased in all three BMAs since the 2006-2008 estimates were completed; and

WHEREAS population assessment of BMA 7 in 2018 provided population and density figures for the first time, but the research institute performing the assessment warned the results should be interpreted with caution due to low precision of the data collected; and

WHEREAS population assessment of BMA 2 was completed in 2008 and revealed a density of 18.1 grizzly per 1000 km², the highest density in Alberta; and

WHEREAS programming exists in BMA 5 to mitigate the impacts of Grizzly Bear populations on agricultural production, there are few programs to mitigate impacts elsewhere in the province; and

WHEREAS rendering of deadstock is a difficult option, with rendering trucks not servicing north of Highway 16; and

WHEREAS there has been an increase of reported grizzly sightings in BMA 2 along with the associated impact on cattle, bees and grain storage.

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

The Minister of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas to have BMA 2 population and density of Grizzly Bears assessed and develop a suite of programs for Agricultural Producers, like those available to agricultural producers in BMA 5, including a Provincial Grizzly Impact Mitigation Plan.

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

RESPONSE: None received

GRADE: INCOMPLETE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	3	
Accept in Principle	3	
Incomplete	48	
Unsatisfactory	45	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The ASBPC will continue to bring up the lack of response from the Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas, and encourages ASBs attending the Town Halls with ADM John Conrad to bring up the concern as well.

RESOLUTION 5-23: LANDOWNER SPECIAL LICENSE

WHEREAS	wildlife ungulate populations, specifically elk, continue to cause significant damage to agricultural commodities; and
WHEREAS	current tag allocations and hunting quotas have not alleviated or mitigated economic losses for producers; and
WHEREAS	landowners must currently apply and be unsuccessful in the draw for regular season before applying for a Landowner Special License; and
WHEREAS	the Landowner Special License is only valid for a single season; and
WHEREAS	the ungulate issue is an ongoing agricultural problem as evidenced by previous resolutions regarding the management of elk at both the ASB Conference as well as RMA.

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

That Alberta Environment and Protected Areas restructure the criteria for Landowner Special Licenses to allow for landowners to receive tags without having to previously be unsuccessful in a regular draw.

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

That Alberta Environment and Protected Areas allow Landowner Special Licenses to be valid for the entirety of the season in all Wildlife Management Units (WMU's) in which the applicant has deeded land.

STATUS:Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

RESPONSE:

1. Forestry and Parks



ALBERTA
FORESTRY, PARKS AND TOURISM

Office of the Minister

AR-819

APR 25 2023

Sebastien Durtrisac
Chair, Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Box 580
Cardston AB T0K 0K0

Dear Sebastien Durtrisac:

My colleague, Honourable Sonya Savage, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, forwarded your recent letter regarding Landowner Special License (LSL) hunting tags. As Minister of Forestry, Parks and Tourism, I appreciate the opportunity to provide the following information.

Amendments to the Wildlife Regulations to restructure the eligibility criteria for an LSL, including the potential change to allow for landowners to receive tags without having been previously unsuccessful in a regular draw, would require broad public engagement. We will bring this issue for engagement at a provincial scale to assess concerns for all stakeholders this may affect. While the current system is generally effective and well supported by users, there are limitations that preclude creating conditions on special licences specific to landowners.

My ministry is exploring options to support agricultural producers experiencing ungulate depredation, including increasing hunting opportunities and strategies to harvest in Wildlife Management Units where conflict is high, relaxing restrictions on the number and type of elk licences held by an individual, increasing the diversity of programs and potential municipal partnership opportunities under the Ungulate Damage Prevention Program to reflect the diversity of stored livestock crops and storage systems, and exploring alternate strategies and regulations to decrease elk populations on a sub-regional basis.

Ministry staff will continue working with agricultural producers to explore options and develop effective tools to meet the combined goals of sound wildlife management and allocation and the needs of landowners.

I hope this information has been helpful.

Sincerely,

Todd Loewen
Minister

cc: Honourable Sonya Savage, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
Matt Besko, Director, Hunting and Fishing Branch, Forestry, Parks and Tourism

GRADE: ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	3	Only exploring options at this point, nothing in action
Accept in Principle	91	The response demonstrates they are working toward a solution.// We recognize the time it take to shift approaches so we acknowledge the commitment to exploring how to enhance landowner opportunities to have more management tools for wildlife competition with and/or damages to feed. Would like commitment to more open window for Landowner, 1 season only, not multiple.
Incomplete	3	
Unsatisfactory	3	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The response addresses the resolution in part and that they are working towards a solution, but no solution was given. The ASBPC will continue to engage the ministry on this resolution and press for an extended season for landowners dealing with large herds of elk that fit better with farming.

RESOLUTION 6-23: ENFORCEMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT ALBERTA WATER ACT

WHEREAS some landowners are in contravention to the Alberta Environment Water Act; diverting, pumping, blocking waterways, unapproved creek crossings; and

WHEREAS the contravention is affecting adjacent landowners and municipal infrastructure; and

WHEREAS complainants are referred to the Alberta Environment 24/7 Complaint Hotline; and

WHEREAS the affected landowners/complainants do not receive a response, an investigation or a follow up, due to a lack of staff and funding.

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

That Alberta Environment and Protected Areas provide adequate resources to support the Alberta Water Act, to ensure these contraventions are being dealt with.

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

RESPONSE: NONE

GRADE: INCOMPLETE/UNSATISFACTORY

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response		
Accept in Principle		
Incomplete	52	
Unsatisfactory	48	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The ASBPC will continue to bring up the lack of response from the Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas, and encourages ASBs attending the Town Halls with ADM John Conrad to bring up the concern as well.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

STATUS: Federal and Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Canada Energy Regulator
Alberta Energy
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
Alberta Environment & Protected Areas
Alberta Energy Regulator
Alberta Utilities Commission

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSES:

1. Agriculture and Irrigation
2. Affordability and Utilities
3. ECCC
4. Canadian Energy Regulator
5. Impact Assessment Agency

Resolution 8-23: *Consideration of Municipal Policies for Energy Developments*

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

Response:

In 2016, the *Renewable Energy Act* established the "30 in 30" target: at least 30 per cent of the electric energy produced in Alberta must be produced from renewable energy resources by 2030. Additionally, Alberta's deregulated electricity market and rich solar and wind resources have created a surge of investment in renewable energy projects. Protecting individual property rights, conserving Alberta's finite agricultural land base and encouraging the growth of renewable energy resources are all important. However, they also create conflicting priorities.

Agriculture and Irrigation recognizes this is an important issue. The Ministry continues to work with the utility sector, municipalities and landowners to identify issues and opportunities for resolution regarding renewable energy developments on agricultural land.



ASB Committee <asbprovcommittee@gmail.com>

RE: Considering Municipal zoning and development bylaws in Renewable Energy projects

1 message

AU Minister <AU.Minister@gov.ab.ca>

Tue, Apr 4, 2023 at 2:59 PM

To: ASB Committee <asbprovcommittee@gmail.com>

Cc: AGRIC Minister <AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca>, Minister of Energy <Minister.Energy@gov.ab.ca>

Dear Mr. Dutrisac:

The development of renewable energy projects on agricultural land is an important issue in Alberta as the impacts cut across electricity development, agriculture, municipalities, and private landowners. I appreciate your frustrations regarding appropriate weed and vegetation control for these projects, especially in light of the significant wind and solar development currently occurring in the province.

The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) covers the area in which much of the wind and solar development is currently occurring. The SSRP recognizes the importance of both agricultural production and renewable energy in the region but does not address these specific issues.

As you are aware, the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) is exempt from the requirement to align decisions with municipal statutory plans, per the *Municipal Government Act*. However, the AUC is responsible to ensure that municipalities and affected landowners are provided the opportunity to participate in the project review process. The AUC has indicated it would appreciate having the municipal perspectives presented and welcomes increased participation by municipal governments.

Some municipalities have expressed concerns and would like to see legislation changed to ensure their municipal plans are respected. I do not want to understate the challenges for both municipalities and the provincial government relating to this issue, as limiting development options for private landowners may be perceived as an infringement on property rights. Respecting property rights is a tenet of this government and any actions that may eliminate a potential source of revenue for a landowner must be carefully weighed against the potential benefits.

I would like to thank you for bringing this issue forward. I expect it will be the subject of further discussion this year and welcome further input and suggestions from rural municipalities and private landowners.

Sincerely,

Matt Jones

Minister



MAY 12 2023

Sebastien Dutrisac
Chair
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Dear Sebastien Dutrisac:

On behalf of the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I am responding to your letter of February 13, 2023, concerning resolutions 3-23, 8-23 and 9-23 passed in January by the Agricultural Service Boards. I regret the delay in replying.

Please be assured that your comments and resolutions have been reviewed, and that your commitment to environmental protection is appreciated. As the matter you raise falls under the purview of Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, I am forwarding your email to the Office of the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agrifood, for consideration. As well, I understand that the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, which falls under Minister Guilbeault's portfolio, has responded to your correspondence directly.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Sylvie Poulin
Manager
Departmental Correspondence Unit

c.c.: Office of the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P.



ASB Committee <asbprovcommittee@gmail.com>

RE: Resolving conflicts between federally approved developments and local bylaws/conditions

Library Bibliotheque <library@cer-rec.gc.ca>
 To: ASB Committee <asbprovcommittee@gmail.com>
 Cc: Library Bibliotheque <library@cer-rec.gc.ca>

Tue, Feb 21, 2023 at 3:12 PM

Hi Linda,

I have heard back from an internal contact regarding your enquiry, and they suggest that you contact the province of Alberta regarding this matter.

"Non-emergency 311 call systems, used increasingly in Alberta cities, offer a number of advantages. They give citizens a quick, convenient way to report about problems in their neighborhoods, and get a response. Assistance with civic information and services." [Bylaws | LawCentral \(lawcentralalberta.ca\)](#)

Regards,

Lindsay Griffin, MLIS, LIT, BMus (she/her/elle)
 Librarian | Bibliothécaire
 Library & Publications Services | Services de bibliothèque et de publications
 Open Government | Gouvernement ouvert
 Data & Information Management | Gestion des données et de l'information
 Telephone | Téléphone 403-292-4800

From: Library Bibliotheque <library@cer-rec.gc.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 4:35 PM
To: ASB Committee <asbprovcommittee@gmail.com>
Cc: Library Bibliotheque <library@cer-rec.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: Resolving conflicts between federally approved developments and local bylaws/conditions

Hi Linda,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your message, and to let you know that your email enquiry has been forwarded to the appropriate internal contacts.

Regards,

Lindsay Griffin, MLIS, LIT, BMus (she/her/elle)
 Librarian | Bibliothécaire
 Library & Publications Services | Services de bibliothèque et de publications
 Open Government | Gouvernement ouvert
 Data & Information Management | Gestion des données et de l'information
 Telephone | Téléphone 403-292-4800

From: ASB Committee <asbprovcommittee@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 2:18 PM
To: INFO INFO <INFO@cer-rec.gc.ca>
Subject: Resolving conflicts between federally approved developments and local bylaws/conditions

41

You don't often get email from asbprovcommittee@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This message was sent from outside of the organization.

MISE EN GARDE: Ce message a été envoyé de l'extérieur de l'organisation.

To Whom it May Concern:

The Alberta Agricultural Service Boards recently held their annual Provincial Conference in Grande Prairie January 17-19, 2023. The delegates passed 14 resolutions at their conference and passed Resolution 8-23 asking for your assistance to ensure that municipal zoning and bylaws are considered when approving large scale renewable energy projects.

There have been several significant issues including interference with air ambulance services to communities. Please find the attached letter and resolution for more details and respond in writing on or before April 7, 2023.

On behalf of the Committee,

--

Linda Hunt

Executive Assistant

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

PH: 780-678-5984

Website: www.agriculturalserviceboards.com



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

President

Président

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

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

February 23, 2023

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

Sebastien Dutrisac:

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

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

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

.../2



- 2 -

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Terence Hubbard (he/him, il)

GRADE: INCOMPLETE**GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:**

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	3	Would we like to put forward a resolution for a process change not just to consider municipal policies?
Accept in Principle	0	
Incomplete	82	The Board feels the concern is ongoing as there is uncertainty of new windmill locations, their impacts on the environment, the use of productive agricultural land, and reclamation assurance of the land if the company that constructs the windmill becomes insolvent. The board feels municipalities should have more input in the land used in the establishment of these sites.//
Unsatisfactory	15	All the responses dance around the issue with emphasis that developers and the AUC will "provide opportunities to participate" and like to "have municipal perspective". The word participate really gets overused when other statements acknowledge that the AUC is exempt from municipal bylaws and policy and that government has no desire to "infringe on personal property rights... that may limit potential revenue"; i.e., government won't let municipal desire to have regional planning and land use decisions get in the way of individual economic activity, even if that activity may need to be consider for its potential detriment to the collective good and to good neighbourliness. A real emphasis is placed on the revenue opportunity for landowners without at all acknowledging the major liabilities that a landowner, and potentially municipalities as recipients of tax-defaulting lands, can face. They face this as regulatory requirements safeguarding landowners—to ensure minimum standards are achieved in proponent-landowner negotiations—are almost fully absent for renewable energy developments.

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The responses do not provide enough information and don't completely address the resolution. Feedback from the ADM Townhall is that the issue is known and that they are working out how to address it. The ASBPC will continue to engage the ministry of Affordability and Utilities on this topic and follow the progress. The RMA representative has committed to getting an update on progress to the ASBPC to pass on to the ASBs.

RESOLUTION 9-23: SYNTHETIC FERTILIZER EMISSIONS

- WHEREAS** the federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change is seeking to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with synthetic fertilizer by 30% below 2020 levels by 2030; and
- WHEREAS** the federal government has set a goal for 2025 to achieve \$75 billion in agricultural exports; and
- WHEREAS** instituting a reduction of synthetic fertilizer emissions will inevitably place a cap on synthetic fertilizer use and limit crop production for Canadian farmers; and
- WHEREAS** limiting crop yield by limiting fertilizer usage will inevitably reduce production and food security; and
- WHEREAS** regional research and development is necessary to eliminate the uncertainty resulting from incomplete data for measuring fertilizer emission levels in different crop types, geographical regions, and growing conditions; and
- WHEREAS** the 4R Climate-Smart Protocol is designed to promote sustainable use of fertilizer in crop production and can reduce GHG emissions by focusing on the “4 Rs” of fertilizer application: Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time, and Right Place; and
- WHEREAS** the 4R Climate-Smart Protocol optimizes plant nutrient uptake, increases yield, maximizes profitability, and minimizes nitrous oxide emissions.

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

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

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

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

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada

STATUS: Federal

RESPONSE:

1. ECCC



MAY 12 2023

Sebastien Dutrisac
Chair
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Dear Sebastien Dutrisac:

On behalf of the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I am responding to your letter of February 13, 2023, concerning resolutions 3-23, 8-23 and 9-23 passed in January by the Agricultural Service Boards. I regret the delay in replying.

Please be assured that your comments and resolutions have been reviewed, and that your commitment to environmental protection is appreciated. As the matter you raise falls under the purview of Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, I am forwarding your email to the Office of the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agrifood, for consideration. As well, I understand that the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, which falls under Minister Guilbeault's portfolio, has responded to your correspondence directly.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Sylvie Poulin
Manager
Departmental Correspondence Unit

c.c.: Office of the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P.

GRADE: INCOMPLETE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	0	
Accept in Principle	0	
Incomplete	97	
Unsatisfactory	3	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The response does not provide enough information and does not completely address the resolution. The ASBPC will continue to monitor the concern and communicate with ASBs.

RESOLUTION 10-23: ORGANIC PRODUCTION CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PROVINCIALLY REGULATED WEEDS

- WHEREAS** organic producers must achieve organic certification through the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and no other regulatory body; and
- WHEREAS** the CFIA establishes the Canadian Organic Standards and procedures for certification and maintenance of organic status; and
- WHEREAS** the provinces may enact legislation to control or destroy invasive species of concern; and
- WHEREAS** all producers, regardless of production method must comply with provincial invasive species legislation; and
- WHEREAS** the current organic management standards do not explicitly state that organic producers must be in compliance with provincial regulations regarding invasive species; and
- WHEREAS** an explicit standard for certification and maintenance of organic status regarding compliance with provincially mandated invasive species legislation would reinforce the need to effectively address regulated weeds.

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

That Canada Food Inspection Agency add a requirement to the Canadian Organic Standards that requires the organic grower be compliant with any provincial legislation regarding invasive species in order to achieve and maintain organic certification.

STATUS: Federal

DEPARTMENT: Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Agriculture and Agri Food Canada
Minister of Health Canada

RESPONSE: NONE RECEIVED

GRADE: INCOMPLETE/UNSATISFACTORY

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	0	
Accept in Principle	0	
Incomplete	55	
Unsatisfactory	45	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: No response was received, so graded as Unsatisfactory.

RESOLUTION 11-23: LOSS OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE

WHEREAS under the authority of the *Pest Control Product Act* and based on the evaluation of currently available scientific information, Health Canada has stated that products containing strychnine for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels do not meet the current standards for environmental protection and therefore canceled the product; and

WHEREAS Alberta producers have used Strychnine to effectively control Richardson's Ground Squirrels for decades; and

WHEREAS in an integrated pest management plan there is a need for options of control like 2% liquid Strychnine dependent on different circumstances (time of year, area of land infected, infestation levels, pest being controlled, etc.).

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

That Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency make 2% Liquid Strychnine available to agricultural producers to utilize on their farms for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels through an emergency registration for the 2023 season and until an alternative single feed product is available.

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

That Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation study alternative products in part with Health Canada and Pest Management Regulatory Agency to replace 2% liquid Strychnine with a viable single feed alternative product that is classified as safe and effective for the control of Richardson ground squirrels.

STATUS: Federal and Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Health Canada
Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

RESPONSE:

1. Agriculture and Irrigation
2. PMRA

Resolution 11-23: Loss of 2 per cent Liquid Strychnine

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

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation study alternative products in part with Health Canada and Pest Management Regulatory Agency to replace 2% liquid Strychnine with a viable single feed alternative product that is classified as safe and effective for the control of Richardson ground squirrels.

Response:

In 2020, Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) deregistered two per cent Liquid Strychnine Concentrate for the control Richardson ground squirrel (gophers). This decision was made to address significant environmental concerns and risks to wildlife caused by secondary poisonings. March 4, 2023, was the last day two per cent Liquid Strychnine Concentrate could be used for gopher control.

In 2021, the Alberta government filed a Notice of Objection regarding this decision. On February 3, 2023, the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation wrote to the federal government to request a reversal of the decision. The letter stated that the loss of this pesticide could cost hay and pasture producers nearly \$800 million per year. The Minister also advised that with no viable alternative to control Richardson's ground squirrel, the decision will create immense pressure for producers and potentially exacerbate the food affordability and security crisis.

Furthermore, Agriculture and Irrigation officials have engaged Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) officials on this issue to press AAFC to support producers in the transition to alternatives. AGI expects that a key element of this transitional support would be federal compensation to cover crop losses and cost differentials of using alternative pesticides.

The Government of Saskatchewan conducted an evaluation of available alternatives, including zinc phosphide products, ZP Rodent Oat Bait and Burrow Oat Bait. Some evidence indicated these alternatives might be as effective as strychnine, and less expensive. In spring 2022, the Government of Alberta conducted a similar evaluation; however, conclusive evidence was not available due to inclement spring weather. Alberta hopes to conduct a similar evaluation again this year.



Health
Canada

Pest
Management
Regulatory
Agency

Santé
Canada

Agence de
réglementation
de la lutte
antiparasitaire

May 10, 2023

Sebastien Dutrisac
Chair, Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Dear Sebastien Dutrisac:

Thank you for your correspondence of April 19, 2023, addressed to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency's Pest Management Information Service, requesting the emergency registration and use of strychnine in Canada to control Richardson's Ground Squirrels (RGS) for the 2023 season, as well as collaborative work to find a single feed alternative for strychnine. I appreciate your taking the time to send us a copy of a recent resolution passed by the Alberta Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee on this important topic.

Health Canada acknowledges the implications the cancellation of the pesticide product containing strychnine could have on agricultural producers in Alberta and Western Canada and takes them seriously.

As outlined in [Re-evaluation Decision RVD2020-06, Strychnine and Its Associated End-use Products \(Richardson's Ground Squirrels\)](#) published on March 4, 2020, Health Canada concluded that the environmental risks associated with the use of strychnine for the control of RGS were not shown to be acceptable when used according to label directions and that no further feasible mitigation measures could be implemented by users of the product. Consequently, the registration of products containing strychnine used to control RGS was cancelled and a 3-year phase-out period was allowed until March 4, 2023.

In its decision, Health Canada recognized the value of strychnine because it is easy to use, cost effective and manages RGS in a single feeding. However, there are other alternatives to strychnine registered to control RGS available to users: chlorophacinone, diphacinone, zinc phosphide, and aluminum phosphide. While these alternatives may have some limitations compared to strychnine, they were found to be efficacious against the target pest during the scientific review that led to their registration.

.../2

Canada

2 Constellation Drive Woodline Bldg. Nepean Ontario K1A 0K9

- 2 -

Under section 18 of the [Pest Control Products Regulations](#), the Minister of Health may register a pest control product or amend the registration of a pest control product to permit its use, for a period not exceeding one year, for the emergency control of seriously detrimental pest infestations. For information on emergency registrations, such as criteria and information requirements, please refer to Regulatory Directive DIR2017-03, *Registration of Pesticides for Emergency Use: Revised Procedures*. With respect to strychnine, an Emergency Use Registration is not an option as there are alternative products registered for the control of RGS and the environmental risks have been shown to not be acceptable. Emergency registrations are not a tool to be used to extend access to the use of a pest control product that has been cancelled. For known or ongoing pest problems where no registered product is available, the normal registration processes would apply to address such situations.

Efforts to identify new products and to conduct additional research into RGS control should involve grower groups, registrants of potential alternative products, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and/or provincial representatives. Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency will continue to be available to provide information and guidance regarding the registration process, and information on currently registered products.

I hope this information is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

2023-05-10

X 

Frédéric Bissonnette
A/Executive Director, PMRA
Signed by: Bissonnette, Frederic

GRADE: ACCEPT THE RESPONSE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	94	The response is sufficient for the resolution put forward.//The decision by the PMRA is done, that ship has sailed. And the request to evaluate alternatives has already been done in Saskatchewan (which represented a cross-border study with locations in Cypress County) and the GoA has committed to another round of evaluation as their study last year ran into issues. So we may not like the loss of product, but the ask within the resolution has been responded to.// But, didn't address the the single use alternative.
Accept in Principle	3	
Incomplete	0	
Unsatisfactory	3	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The response addresses the resolution as presented and although disappointing meets the expectations of the ASBPC.

RESOLUTION 12-23: REVIEW OF THE LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS TRIBUNAL (LPRT)

- WHEREAS:** agricultural producers in rural Alberta remain some of the most skilled individuals agrowing, harvesting, and producing high quality food products for Canadian, as well as international consumers; and
- WHEREAS:** the oil and gas industry and the agricultural production industry are both very important parts of the Alberta economy; and
- WHEREAS:** the oil and gas industry and the agricultural production industry both benefit from an environment of mutual cooperation when the surface of privately owned lands are being utilized for the purpose of extracting natural resources; and
- WHEREAS:** the Surface Rights Act and related legislation outlines considerations for landowner compensation through surface leases for these expropriation-like activities; and
- WHEREAS:** a level of knowledge of relevant modern agricultural practices including agricultural law, science, agronomy, valuation and business experience is imperative to surface rights deliberations; and
- WHEREAS:** the LPRT has in recent years seen a steady and significant increase in the number and type of applications received, indicating a consistent trend of year over year increases in the number of disputes between landowners and oil and gas companies; and
- WHEREAS:** the LPRT is the appointed body that is mandated to provide Albertans with access to independent, fair and timely quasi-judicial and alternative dispute resolution processes.

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

That Municipal Affairs establish a task force comprised of Agricultural Service Board Members, agricultural producers, experts in agricultural science, agronomy and business, as well as representatives from the oil and gas industry associations, to conduct a full review into the function and mandate of the Surface Rights components of the LPRT as directed by related legislation, with a focus on matters of, or related to:

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

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Municipal Affairs

RESPONSE: NONE RECEIVED

GRADE: INCOMPLETE/UNSATISFACTORY

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	0	
Accept in Principle	0	
Incomplete	55	
Unsatisfactory	45	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: No response was received, so graded as Unsatisfactory.

RESOLUTION E1-23: STABLE REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION FUNDING

WHEREAS The RDAR lead Extension Task Force presented their recommendations for a cooperative extension model on November 28, 2022 which considered research extension exclusively, and there are many agricultural extension topics outside of research important to farmers;

WHEREAS ASBs and other agriculture not for profits work collaboratively on provincial priorities that address regional needs of farmers on topics such as sustainable farming, business acumen, rural economic development, food safety, animal welfare and other best management practices that impact public trust;

WHEREAS ASBs collaborate with the province and not for profits such as the Applied Research and Forage Associations, ALUS, Cleanfarms, Environmental Farm Plan, riparian and watershed associations and Ag in the Classroom on topics outside of the RDAR mandate;

WHEREAS ASBs and their not-for-profit partners do not currently have a stable reliable source of funding to support non research extension activities in their regions;

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

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation make available five-year stable regional funding for ASBs and their agriculture not for profit partners to hire and maintain the staff and operational costs associated with maintaining regional agricultural extension networks.

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

RESPONSE:

1. Agriculture and Irrigation

Resolution E1-23: Stable Regional Agricultural Extension Funding

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

Response:

Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) facilitated a review of agricultural extension in Alberta with a seven-member, industry-led Extension Task Force (ETF). The ETF was to deliver recommendations to improve knowledge transfer and innovation mobilization for agricultural producers in Alberta. Work focused on understanding the current practices and existing capacity of the extension model as well as examining future needs. This work identified three opportunities for extension improvement:

- Establish shared accountability to improve cooperative extension.
- Build connections across sectors to address industry gaps.
- Ensure intentional and deliberate cooperative extension.

The ETF concluded Alberta's existing extension model has many strengths, and that it should be leveraged, not remade, to foster future improvement and success. The group recommended building a Cooperative Agricultural Extension model in Alberta.

The ETF recommendations have given all extension partners a clearer picture of the agricultural extension landscape and a road map to move forward. Agriculture and Irrigation will continue to work with partners, including RDAR, Applied Research Associations (ARA), Agricultural Service Boards (ASB), post-secondary institutions and many others to analyze and implement the ETF recommendations.

As the response to Resolution 3-23 indicates, RDAR provides the 12 regional ARAs with operational funding of \$2.5 million per year for a two-year period. This is similar to the funding ARAs received under the defunct Agriculture Opportunities Fund. RDAR also initiated and facilitated a process to examine the operational needs of ARAs. In fiscal year 2023-24, ARA funding will increase by \$1.5 million to \$4 million to support ARA operations.

Agriculture and Irrigation also provides long-term, stable funding to ASBs. The ASB grant is \$11.9 million for 2023-24 – an increase of \$3 million from the previous year.

In particular, the Resource Management stream supports regional extension work to promote the Canadian Agricultural Partnership and Environmental Farm Plans. Additionally, it supports the extension work that helps build awareness and promote the adoption of various beneficial management practices.

GRADE: INCOMPLETE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	6	Does not address the timeline of 5-years or stability of the funding.
Accept in Principle	3	
Incomplete	88	The responsibility for agricultural extension is being downloaded to municipalities. The Board is concerned that Agricultural Service Boards and the Applied Research Associations should not have blended funding as they are two very different entities with different priorities.
Unsatisfactory	3	As with Resolution 3-23, a short-term increase in money to ARAs does not represent stable funding, particularly when a 5-year ask was clearly made. There is also an assumption that our request for regional extension activities for "ASB and their regional not-for-profit partners" means just ARAs. We (ASBs) do our own extension for things other than ARAs do to fill the void left by the gutting of Provincial extension activities and the 310-FARM call centre. We also do much of our environmental programming and extension work in partnership with other non-ARA groups (watershed councils, conservation groups, etc.).

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The response does not provide enough information and does not completely address the resolution. There is no indication of an intention to continue funding beyond 2 years, or to ensure that the funding is available in every region. The ASBPC will continue to monitor the concern and communicate with ASBs.

RESOLUTION E2-23: STABLE FUNDING FOR FARM MENTAL HEALTH

- WHEREAS** Canadian research shows that farmers currently have 20% more moderate and severe anxiety and depression than the general population, and 1 in 4 farmers had suicidal thoughts in the past 12 months;
- WHEREAS** An Alberta white paper released in spring of 2022 recommends the creation of a farm mental health network to create specific mental health resources and service accessible to farm families;
- WHEREAS** the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has supported the above recommendation by providing a one off grant for the development of the AgKnow initiative in November 2022 which expires in March 2023;
- WHEREAS** The Alberta Farm Mental Health Network (AgKnow) is looking for operational funding to continue to pilot the free counselling session and other initiatives that make supports affordable and accessible to farm families;

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

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation provides stable 5 year funding support to the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network to hire and maintain staff and cover operational costs to continue the support and services offered through AgKnow.ca.

STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation,

RESPONSE:

1. Agriculture and Irrigation

Resolution E2-23: Stable Funding for Farm Mental Health

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

Response:

The mental health of farmers is an important topic. Agriculture and Irrigation is actively working to provide support for Farm Mental Health Network.

Last year, the Ministry provided \$524,500 to the Agriculture Research Extension Council of Alberta to fund proposals for farmer mental health supports in the province. To date, this funding has helped achieve the following milestones:

- Team members for the Farm Mental Health Network were established.
- Research contracts for University of Alberta studies on Farm Mental Health were signed.
- The AgKnow.ca website was soft launched.
- A Community of Practice platform for mental health professionals that have experience in providing farmers with support was established.
- The Livestock Depopulation Support Program was launched.

Agriculture and Irrigation is currently working on the Resiliency and Public Trust Program under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership. This program will include funding opportunities for projects that support and empower producers and agri-food workers to take care of their mental health.

GRADE: INCOMPLETE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	0	
Accept in Principle	12	
Incomplete	82	The response does not address the resolution E1-23 or the current state of the mental health crisis for farmers.
Unsatisfactory	6	The Province references a sum of money given to ARECA that has resulted in funding for aspects of what AgKnow is doing, but they don't articulate how much of that sum and for what duration to AgKnow projects and core operating funding. Again, as with some of the other resolutions, the request is for stable funding; one-off or short duration are not stable funds. The letter skirts directly responding to the ask within the resolution.// Would like to see a statement of commitment and increase in funding.

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The response does not provide enough information and does not completely address the resolution. The ASBPC will continue to monitor the concern and communicate with ASBs. ASBs are looking for a long term commitment to farm specific mental health supports and services.

RESOLUTION E3-23: SUPPORTING A VIBRANT CERVID INDUSTRY IN ALBERTA

WHEREAS even though the value of cervid carcasses, velvet and exports has remained strong, the number of animals, their movement within Alberta and the use of provincial slaughter facilities has dramatically declined since 2005;

WHEREAS Alberta Elk Commission has identified that cervid farmers are disproportionately and negatively impacted by current federal programs and regulatory processes, and that the industry which had a value of over \$13 million in sales in 2021 is in crisis;

WHEREAS successful regulations and processes for protecting human health and preventing the spread of prion diseases already exist for cattle and sheep, and chronic wasting disease poses no more threat than scrapie in sheep or BSE in cattle;

WHEREAS the current regulatory process is resulting in farmers having to actively participate in the needless slaughter of their healthy animals causing unnecessary mental health trauma and distress;

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

That the minister of Agriculture and Irrigation support the requests of the Alberta Elk Commission to reduce regulatory burden and bring the legislation and regulatory processes in line with other livestock.

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Irrigation

RESPONSE:

1. Agriculture and Irrigation

Resolution E3-23: *Supporting a Vibrant Cervid Industry in Alberta*

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

Response:

There are significant differences between bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and chronic wasting disease (CWD), as well as significant unknowns related to CWD and risks to environmental and human health.

The CWD situation has evolved significantly in Alberta over the past 20 years. Cervid producers farm an exact duplicate of an animal that exists as wildlife, which has resulted in certain regulations and processes for the cervid industry.

Agriculture and Irrigation has conducted ongoing engagement with the cervid industry to discuss regulation of the industry. Engagement on this topic will continue.

On February 27, 2023, the Ministry held an industry meeting to discuss these issues. Based on discussions, we are committed to working with industry to resolve regulatory processes in the following areas:

- Removing restrictions on out-of-province cervids that enter Alberta for immediate slaughter.
- Identifying alternative options for CWD sample collection or identification.
- Including cervids in the predator compensation program.
- Modifying CWD control policies for farmed cervids (regarding not requiring herd depopulation and allowing repopulation in certain situations).
- Committing to work with Environment and Protected Areas regarding the wild CWD situation and with the federal government on other policy issues that affect the cervid industry.

GRADE: INCOMPLETE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	3	
Accept in Principle	15	The response seems to suggest that the Feb 2023 meeting with industry was successful (from the GoAs perspective) in addressing some of the regulatory burden faced by cervid farms. The changes listed do seem to be within the resolution. But with very limited presence of the cervid industry in our County we have limited ability to understand the value in the measures taken. As such, it seems a reasonable response, but we would defer to other regions with a greater presence of cervid farms to critique the response for the validity and utility of the statements.
Incomplete	82	The Board feels the response is incomplete as it did not provide clarity on the changes that are required for an effective solution.
Unsatisfactory	0	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE: The response does not provide enough information and does not completely address the resolution. The ASBPC will continue to monitor the concern and communicate with ASBs.

Update on Previous Years' Resolutions

2022 Resolutions

Resolution Number	Resolution	Grade	Updated
1-22	VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON ALBERTA PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spring of 2022 Ministry of Transportation agrees to review how weeds on highways are dealt with and get back to the ASB - Feb 2023 the Committee learns that their key contact for the file has changed and reaches out to brief the new contact - Chase Milligan is the new contact and delegates the conversation to staff, they agree to create a plan, and once it is approved by management communicate it with the ASBs. - Summer 2023 ASBPC follows up with Chase, the plan is enacted and there is a plan to communicate it with the RMA. Chase agrees to send someone to the next ASBPC meeting to present plan. Next meeting scheduled for September 15, 2023 	Accept in Principle	
2-22	RESTORATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL NETWORK OF EXPERTS	Accept in Principle	

3-22	CELEBRATE CANADA AGRICULTURE DAY IN ALBERTA SCHOOLS (FEB 22, 2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - response received by sponsoring municipalities and they are encouraged to engage directly with schools and districts 	Accept the Response	
4-22	PROPERLY MANAGING UNGULATE POPULATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - still no movement or engagement on this resolution - Ministries are reorganized and contacts are lost. 	Incomplete	
5-22	EXEMPTION OF NATURAL GAS AND PROPANE FOR AGRICULTURE UNDER THE GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION PRICING ACT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senate had two readings for bill S-234, and on June 8, 2023 the bill went to committee for consideration. After a report from the committee is received it will go for the third reading - Alberta Pork posted information on how ASB members and farmers could support this bill by writing to the Senators involved. Information posted in the ASB Blog - ASBPC writes to all the Senators listed in support of Bill S-234 	Incomplete	
6-22	AMENDMENTS TO THE ASB CONFERENCE RESOLUTION RULES OF PROCEDURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All amendments were presented at the 2023 conference and adopted by the assembly. - Changes come into place for the 2024 and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ability for the ASBPC to bring emergent resolutions to the assembly for vote if not addressed by Regions - align the years of advocacy for resolutions with the RMA process so move from 5 years to 3 years of active resolutions - Adjustments made to the Regional ROP to align with the Provincial ROP 	Accept the Response	

Expiring Resolutions

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

The following resolutions are set to expire December 31, 2023.

2021 Resolutions

Resolution Number	Resolution	Grade	Updated
1-21	Weed Issues on Oil and Gas Sites in Rural Alberta - 2023-nothing to report	Accept in Principle	
2-21	Pesticide Container Collection Program	Unsatisfactory	Accept the Response
3-21	An Effective Solution for Control of RG Squirrels in Alberta - results of a study done in SK and AB on the different control products on market was presented by webinar (recording available) on the Chinook Applied Research Association website and a blog post created on the ASB website to bring new information on the effective and safe use of the products on market.	Accept the Response	
4-21	Registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine	Accept the Response	
5-21	Fusarium Testing After Cleaning	Incomplete	
6-21	Agriculture Research Association Check Off Option	Accept the Response	
7-21	Delegation of ASBs and AAAF to Agriculture Associations and Commodity Groups	DEFEATED	
8-21	Reinstating Provincial Agriculture Department Staff	Accept the Response	
9-21	Protect Farmers Right to Farm Saved Seed - Further discussion occurred at the 2022 Provincial ASB Conference	Incomplete	
10-21	Federal Fuel Charge	Accept the Response	

2020 Resolutions

Resolution Number	Resolution Grade	Grade	Updated
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	<i>Accept in Principle</i>
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 - Beekeeper Commission is satisfied with the response and delivery of this program and is	Accept in Principle	

	hopeful that it will be well utilized by their beekeepers		
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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RALP program has ability for farmers to plant trees, 	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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	Unsatisfactory	
E2-20	Initiate Agri-Recovery Framework	Unsatisfactory	
E3-20	Agri-Invest and Agri-Stability Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	Unsatisfactory	

2019 Resolutions

Resolution Number	Resolution Name	Grade	Update
1-19	Loss of 2% Liquid Strychnine	Accept in Principle	
2-19	Wildlife Predator Compensation Program Enhancement	Incomplete	Accept in Principle
3-19	Deadstock Removal	Unsatisfactory	
4-19	Carbon Credits for Permanent Pasture and Forested Lands	Accept in Principle	
5-19	Multi-Stakeholder Committee to Work at Reducing the Use of Fresh Water by the Oil and Gas Industry in Alberta	Incomplete	
6-19	STEP Program Agricultural Eligibility	Accept the Response	
E1-19	Access to Agriculture Specific Mental Health Resources AgKnow, Developing an Alberta approach to farm mental health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - www.agknow.ca launched January 2023, - Identified mental health supports available to all farmers on the website “get support” page 	Unsatisfactory	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnered with Counselling Alberta to provide farm culture training to all counsellors - Conducted Alberta specific research to identify gaps, issues and ways to impact the wellbeing of Alberta Farmers - Engagement with Health Care and Mental Health service providers to improve their understanding of farming, farm stress and coping strategies - Created a customize Suicide Prevention and Awareness training and trained facilitators across the province to deliver it. - Created Farm specific mental health workshops and engaged with agriculture associations for delivery - Continue to build a community of engagement through social media, newsletters and direct connections. - Connected with ABVMA, Uof C VM and CFIA/provincial vets to see what can be done to support vets and farmers impacted by depopulation - Farmer and vet group in Togetherall app made available to farmers by Do More Ag 		
E2-19	No Royalties on Farm Saved Seed	Accept in Principle	

Current Advocacy

Creating a Position Statement on Agriculture Extension for the ASBs to ensure they have a voice in the ongoing discussions and development of the Collaborative Extension Model.

- 2-22: RESTORATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL NETWORK OF EXPERTS (ASB extension Committee formed, preparation for Fall engagements)
- 3-23: APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS FUNDING
- E1-23: STABLE REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION FUNDING

Mental Health and farmer wellbeing:

- E-19: ACCESS TO AG SPECIFIC MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES
- E2-23 STABLE FUNDING FOR FARM MENTAL HEALTH

Managing wildlife:

- 4-22: PROPERLY MANAGING UNGULATE POPULATIONS and

- E3-23: SUPPORTING A VIBRANT CERVID INDUSTRY IN ALBERTA
- 4-23: GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION
- 5-23: LANDOWNER SPECIAL LICENSE

5-22: EXEMPTION OF NATURAL GAS AND PROPANE FOR AGRICULTURE UNDER THE *GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION PRICING ACT*



COUNTY OF WARNER NO. 5
AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD
P.O. Box 90 / Rural Address 172008 Twp Rd 4-2
WARNER, AB T0K 2L0

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Fax: 403-642-2256
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Website: www.warnercounty.ca

October 3, 2023

ASB2023-023

The Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Executive Branch | 131 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

To the Honourable RJ Sigurdson,

RE: Appreciation for the Increase of Funding for Agricultural Service Boards

The County of Warner Agricultural Service Board (ASB) is pleased to acknowledge the increase in funding provided to the Alberta Agricultural Service Boards.

There has been a lot of uncertainty and changes in the Agricultural Service Board program in the past few years. We appreciate that we now have a signed agreement for confirmed funding through 2024.

This supports ASBs with the administration of legislative requirements under the Agricultural Service Board Act. This enables ASBs in the development and delivery of programming to increase awareness, understanding and implementation of sustainable agricultural practices with an emphasis on meeting industry standards that support consumer expectations.

We look forward to continuing to promote environmental sustainability of the agriculture industry with the help of our ASB grant agreement. We express our sincere gratitude for your support.

Yours truly,

Shawn Rodgers, ASB Chairman
Councillor Division 5 | County of Warner No. 5

c: Grant Hunter MLA Cardston-Taber-Warner
Paul McLaughlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)
Sebastien Dutrisac, Chair, Provincial Agricultural Service Board
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards

October 6th, 2023

Honourable Lawrence MacAulay
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Honourable Mark Holland
Minister of Health Canada

Honourable Ministers,

RE: Maintaining the Integrity of our Pesticide Regulatory System

I would like to congratulate Minister MacAulay on his recent return as the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada and congratulate Minister Holland on taking on the portfolio of Minister of Health Canada. As you take leadership of these Ministries, I would like to encourage your continued support for the maintenance of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) as a robust and scientifically based regulatory system.

I am concerned when we see a private members bill from a member of your own party requesting removal of glyphosate (Bill C-287). We recognize the right of MPs to forward such private members bills and we understand how very unlikely it is that such a bill will move forward. But Ms. Atwin's bill is not the only form of recent attack against glyphosate nor the only form of recent political interference into pesticide regulatory processes. I can understand societal uncertainty about the manner in which modern agriculture operates as many urban folk have such a limited opportunity to directly engage with and understand the complexities of modern agriculture and the intense demands placed on us producers to increase yields and decrease cost to the consumer. This uncertainty can give rise to fear when misinformation about how different pesticides are used is encountered. And this fear or scepticism can cover over the substantive benefits for using pesticides beyond just crop protection. Minister MacAulay just visited western farms over the summer and recognized the value of agronomic practices like no-till in better managing soil health, soil moisture retention, and in reducing the carbon requirements of pre-seeding field preparation. This practice relies on pre-seed weed management which often relies on the use of glyphosate.

In stating the above, I am not trying to be dismissive of the fear or scepticism some people may have about a product like glyphosate. As someone who directly handles these products, I care about my safety and the implications for my land and animals based on how I use these products. But rather than respond from fear, I support valid and scientifically based criticisms and scrutiny of the pesticides we use and the manner in which we use them. I have no way of making these determinations on my own, so I recognize my reliance—for my health and my economic viability—on a regulatory agency like the PMRA to establish and enforce standards to make sure that pesticides, and the ways that they can be used, protect public and environmental health.



September 8th, 2023

Page 2

As such, I have grave concerns when decisions made by a science-based agency repeatedly come under attack and are subject to not only societal scrutiny (which is fair), but also political actions—such as Ms. Atwin's private members bill and the current delay on Maximum Residue Level increases for glyphosate—which amount to political interference. Again, scrutiny is reasonable, as a democratic institution, the PMRA needs to be transparent about how and from what sources they make their decisions. The previous Minister in AAFC—Minister Bibeau—and her colleagues in Health Canada and Environment and Climate Change committed a lot of dollars to helping the PMRA better resource their activities to do just these things with a commitment to supporting the productivity and competitiveness of Canadian farmers. This is appropriate political oversight and support of a science-based agency. I look forward to the increased toolbox the PMRA will be able to use and to investments made to enhance integrated pest management approaches that will allow us producers to hopefully further limit our use of pesticides. I'm about producing as much quality food off my land base as I can while maintaining the long-term viability and health of my land; society is demanding the same. I'll use whatever tools and management approaches that are deemed appropriate and effective, but I want them vetted by the best science available and not by the court of public opinion.

We ask you to use your positions as the Minister of AAFC and Health Canada to affirm the integrity of our regulatory institutions and to educate your political peers on the many benefits of supporting the PMRA and not engaging in political interference by looking to address pesticide regulation outside the bounds of appropriate political oversight and support.

Sincerely,



Tyler Airth
Big Lakes County Councillor and Agricultural Service Board Chair

Cc: Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta



October 6th, 2023

Rajan Sawhney
Minister of Advanced Education
107 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton AB, T5K 2B6

Honourable Minister Sawhney,

RE: Support for University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Programs

The University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) provides a critical educational program to Albertans. As a rancher myself, I am appreciative of having quality veterinary medicine training in Alberta as I rely on veterinarians to provide me critical supports in maintaining the health and welfare of my herd. But veterinary medicine provides societal and economic benefits well beyond being a critical service to livestock producers like me. The majority of veterinarians in the province provide services to the general public and their companion animals which supports a fundamental human-animal bond important to many individuals and families. Companion animal ownership also meets many people's recreational needs and interests and contributes to active and lifestyles; those are big wins for our public health system that veterinary care supports. Veterinarians also serve society by working in research and industry to support activities like biosecurity, laboratory testing, and pharmaceutical research. Veterinarians are critically important in public health to monitor and respond to zoonotic disease outbreaks and monitor for zoonotic diseases of concern to human health. Veterinarians work in our food inspection and trade regulatory institutions to ensure food safety and maintenance of our trading opportunities. Beyond the direct work they do, the presence of these professionals, and the many support personnel they employ in their practices, are a valuable contributor to the economic and societal well-being of the many urban and rural communities these professionals are distributed across.

The current and projected shortage of veterinarians in the province is concerning giving the range of services and benefits listed. The acuity of this shortage is particularly hard on rural communities. We feel this in Big Lakes County as we are an under-serviced community for veterinary care, particularly to our livestock industry with only one veterinary practice located in the bounds of our municipality who provides mixed practice (i.e., both companion animals and livestock). This practice primarily serves companion animals which requires many livestock producers to seek services from other municipalities up to two hours away. We are hurting for service.

As such, we applaud the current expansion at UCVM to double the seats in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program. This was much needed and overdue, and we continue to support further expansions of seats in the program to meet the critical current and projected shortage of veterinarians in Alberta. I realize encouraging even more Provincial financial support on the heels of a big increase is a big ask, but it's necessary. And, even with expanded seats, a lag time exists to



September 8th, 2023

Page 2

fill the current shortage. Attraction and retention of quality internationally trained veterinarians can help address this lag and UCVM is well positioned to support integrating newly arriving veterinarians as they face several challenges in integrating into practice in Alberta. Transferring international credentials and passing necessary Canadian certification examinations is a substantive task that can pose a hurdle for immigrating veterinarians to have to navigate. Additionally, depending on the region of the globe that an international vet is emigrating from, a difference in practice, practice environment, climate, language, and socio-cultural dynamics can exist. Having just served as Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism, I am sure you have given thought to such challenges already. A stream-lined bridging program to assist internationally trained vets to either fast-track their examination schedule or to surrogate a supervised practicum year—like that already required of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Students at UCVM—as an alternative to the international examination schedule would be very helpful. Additionally, a bridging program could assist with professional English-language credentialling and could provide immigrating veterinarians with exposure and insight into the nuances of practicing veterinary medicine in Alberta, and in rural Alberta specifically. That would be a massive benefit to better integrate newly immigrated vets into practice and life here.

UCVM is well set-up to provide this type of bridging program and we are aware that they are looking at this option in coordination with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association. We would like to express our support and appreciation for the relevance and benefit such a program would be to a rural municipality like ours and like so many others throughout the province. Your interest and support in such a program would be well appreciated. Part of a complement to a bridging program is having supports in place to ensure learning opportunities for both immigrating vets and UCVM students can be had in all regions of the province. Urban centres are already well-positioned and services to provide short-term learning opportunities—summer work and practicum placement The province is also well positioned to provide financial supports to help rural and remote regions attract students for summer work opportunities and practicum placements.

Beyond advocating in support of veterinary medicine educational opportunities, I wanted to take this opportunity to promote the value of ensuring continued and expanded supports for the quality agricultural educational programming that takes place across the province. These institutions—colleges and universities alike—comprise a critical core of agricultural post-secondary programming that contributes to ensuring agriculture remains an integral part of our provincial economy and ecosystems. Thank you for your continued support of veterinary education at UCVM and for agricultural education in general.

Sincerely,



Tyler Airth
Big Lakes County Councillor and Agricultural Service Board Chair

Cc: University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Alberta Veterinary Medical Association
Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta

Phone 780-523-5955 | **Fax** 780-523-4227 | **BigLakesCounty.ca**

