AGENDA
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
December 17, 2024

The Agricultural Service Board meeting of Clear Hills County will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the County Administration Office, 313 Alberta Avenue, Worsley, Alberta.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **AGENDA**

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**
   - **November 19, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes** 2

4. **Delegation(s)**
   - **PCBFA 11:30a.m** 5

5. **BUSINESS ARISING**

6. **OLD BUSINESS**
   - a. **Activity Report** 7
   - b. **Board Reports** 10

7. **NEW BUSINESS**
   - a. **Provincial ASB Conference Resolutions** 11
   - b. **Weed Review** 73
   - c. **Events** 77

8. **REPORTS**
   - a. **Agricultural Fieldman Report** 82

9. **INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE** 85

10. **CLOSED MEETING ITEMS**
    - a. **Closed Session- Legal**

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WORSLEY, AB
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024

PRESENT	David Janzen	Chairman
	Jason Ruecker	Deputy Chair
	Ron Jensen	Member
	Garry Candy	Member
	Julie Watchorn	Member
	Baldur Ruecker	Member
	Stacy Johnson	Member
ABSENT		
ATTENDING	Greg Coon	Agricultural Fieldman
	Allan Rowe	Chief Administrative Officer
	Natasha Gillett	Community Services Clerk
	Carter Clay	Community & Agricultural Extension Services Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Janzen called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

AGENDA

AG109-24(11/19/24)

RESOLUTION by member Jensen that this Board adopts the agenda governing the November 19, 2024, Agricultural Service Board meeting, as presented. CARRIED.

MINUTES

Previous Meeting Minutes

Agricultural Service Board is presented with previous meeting minutes.

AG110-24(11/19/24)

RESOLUTION by Member Johnson that this Board adopts the minutes of the October 15, 2024, Agricultural Service Board Meeting. CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

Activity Report

The Board is presented with the Agricultural Service Board Activity Report.

AG111-24(11/19/24)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Board accepts the November 19, 2024, Agricultural Service Board Activity Report, as presented. CARRIED.

Board Reports

At this time the Board members will have an opportunity to present their reports on meetings attended and other agricultural related topics.

AG112-24(11/19/24)

RESOLUTION by Chair Janzen that this Board accepts the Agricultural Service Board members' verbal reports of November 19, 2024, for information. CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Roadside Brushing

the Board is presented with information regarding roadside brushing equipment and programs to achieve road right-of-way widening.

AG113-24(11/19/24) **RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board Recommend Council examine roadside brushing equipment and programs that may be used to achieve clearing of existing road right-of-way. CARRIED.**

Clubroot of Canola Update

The Board is presented with information regarding a clubroot of canola discovery within Clear Hills County.

AG114-24(11/19/24) **RESOLUTION by Member Candy to accept the discussion regarding a clubroot of canola discovery within Clear Hills County. CARRIED.**

Bill C - 293 Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness

The board is presented with Bill C-293, an Act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness.

AG115-24(11/19/24) **RESOLUTION by Member Jensen to draft a letter of concern to be send to the Senate of Canada regarding Bill C-293, an Act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness. CARRIED.**

Events

The Board is presented with a list of upcoming agricultural related events for their information.

AG116-24(11/19/24) **RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker to authorize the attendance of all Agriculture Service Board members to the Environmental Farm Plan and CAP grant presentation on November 27, 2024 at the Menno Simmons Community School in Cleardale, AB. CARRIED.**

AG117-24(11/19/24) **RESOLUTION by Member Jensen to authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board members to the Grower Engagement Meeting on December 11, 2024 in Grande Prairie, AB. CARRIED.**

REPORTS
Agricultural Fieldman Report

At this time the Agricultural Fieldman will have an opportunity to present his report.

AG118-24(11/19/24) **RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker that this Board accepts the November 19, 2024, Agricultural Fieldman's Report for information, as presented. CARRIED.**

INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE

The Board is presented with correspondence for review.

AG119-24(11/19/24) **RESOLUTION by Chair Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the November 19, 2024, information and correspondence, as presented. CARRIED.**

ROUND TABLE:

Members had a chance to have a round table discussion regarding topics of interest.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Janzen adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

_____ _____
DATE CHAIR

_____ _____
DATE AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

Clear Hills County
Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 17, 2024
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	**DELEGATION – PCBFA 11:30 A.M.**
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:
Peace Country Beef and Forage Association (PCBFA) will be in attendance to present a report on the 2024 Resource Management partnership program as well as present their funding request for 2025.

BACKGROUND:
PCBFA was under an agreement for 2020-2024 to deliver Resource Management partnership programs and services that are funded by a Provincial ASB grant of $110,000 and cost share funding from each partner municipality ($7,500 each Clear Hills County, MD Fairview, MD Peace, MD Spirit River, Saddle Hills County and $3,000 Birch Hills County.)

Clear Hills County will not be renewing the partnership agreement with the above listed parties and will be administering the extension programs and services that are partially funded by the Resource Management stream Provincial Grant in house.

ATTACHMENTS:
PCBFA 2025 Funding Request Letter

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
RESOLUTION by… that this Agricultural Service Board accept the delegation from Peace Country Beef and Forage Association on the 2024 program, for information.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: **Manager:** **AgFieldman:**

Peace Country Beef & Forage Association
Box 3000 / 820059 Range Road 35
Fairview, AB T0H 1L0
P: (780) 835-6799
F: (780) 835-6628

November 25th, 2024

Council and Agriculture Service Board Members
Clear Hills County
Box 240
Worsley, AB T0H 3W0

Dear Council and Agriculture Service Board Members,

On behalf of the PCBFA staff, board of directors, and members, I want to express our deep gratitude for your ongoing support and partnership. Our municipal support is a crucial piece of a stable base for the association, as well as a source of matching funds to leverage for research and extension projects, and therefore is our most important funding source.

We would greatly appreciate your continued support of **$17,500** for 2025. We would love the opportunity to attend one of your meetings over the winter as a delegate, to provide an update on our deliverables from this past year and discuss plans and ideas for future years. Should you have any questions, concerns, or any other feedback – please don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Sincerely,

Liisa Jeffrey, B.Sc.(Agr.), P.Ag.
Executive Director, Peace Country Beef & Forage Association
(825) 345-0806
liisa@pcbfa.ca

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 17, 2024
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	**ACTIVITY REPORT**
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:
The Board is presented with the Agricultural Service Board Activity Report.

BACKGROUND:
The Activity report is helpful to administration and the board for tracking the status of resolutions and directions from the board. Items will stay on the report until they are completed. Items that are shaded indicate that they are completed and will be removed from the list once presented at the current Agricultural Service Board meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:
Agricultural Service Board Activity Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
RESOLUTION by.. that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the December 17, 2024, Board Activity Report, as presented.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: **Manager:** **AgFieldman:** GC

Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for November 19, 2024 Page 1 of 2

Budget Items: ☐ Completed Items: ▒

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer
AF = Ag. Fieldman
CSC = Community Services Coordinator

MOTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEPT	STATUS
REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETINGS				
		February 6, 2024		
AG06-24	(02/06/24)	**RESOLUTION by Member Lemoine that this Agricultural Service Board provide a summary of Agricultural Service Board events and reports to be showcased in the Clear Hills County monthly newsletter. CARRIED.**	CC	Continuous
		May 21, 2024		
AG35-24	(05/21/24)	**RESOLUTION by Member Lemoine to advertise the 2025 Alberta Open Farm Days on the County Facebook page, website, and newsletter. CARRIED.**		Advertise in Fall 2024
		September 17, 2024		
AG82-24	(09/17/24)	**RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker to research hosting a Livestock Handling Demonstration presented by Kobe Fehr of RCK Cowdogs in 2025. CARRIED.**		2025
		October 15, 2024		
AG92-24	(10/15/24)	**RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker to amend the rental equipment schedule of fees with the addition of a onetime fee of $100.00 for specified pieces of rental equipment that will be charged if taken out of the Clear Hills County borders, as well as a clause stating non-County resident bookings will not be accepted prior to three (3) days before intended booking date. CARRIED.**	AG/ CSM	Future Council Meeting
AG93-24	(10/15/24)	**RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker to recommend Council decrease the Grain Bagger Agricultural rental rate to $200.00 per day, with the addition of a clause stating that rent will be charged for every day rented opposed to every day used. CARRIED.**	AG/ CSM	Future Council Meeting
AG95-24	(10/15/24)	**RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn to direct administration to gather information on roadside brushing equipment and programs to achieve road right-of-way widening, and bring it back to the November 19, 2024 Agricultural Services Board meeting. CARRIED.**		November 19 ASB Meeting
AG99-24	(10/15/24)	**RESOLUTION by Member Jensen to authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board members to the Winter**		November 20

Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for November 19, 2024 Page 2 of 2

Budget Items: ☐ Completed Items: ☐

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer AF = Ag. Fieldman

CSC = Community Services Coordinator

MOTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEPT	STATUS
		Watering Tour on November 20, 2024 in Goodfare, AB. CARRIED.		
AG100-24	**(10/15/24)**	**RESOLUTION by Chairman Janzen to authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board members to the PCBFA Annual General Meeting November 30, 2024 at the Chateau Nova Hotel in Peace River, AB. CARRIED.**		November 30
		November 19, 2024		
O108-24	**(11/19/24**	**RESOLUTION by member Jensen that this Agricultural Service Board set the 2024/2025 Agricultural Service Board Meetings for the third Wednesday of each month, except for the months of May and August, with a start time of 10:00 A.M. CARRIED**		November 19
		November 19, 2024		
AG113-24	**(11/19/24)**	**RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service board Recommend to Council examine roadside brushing equipment and programs that may be used to achieve clearing of existing road right-of-way. CARRIED.**		December 10 Council Meeting
AG115-24	**(11/19/24)**	**RESOLUTION by Member Jensen to draft a letter of concern to be sent to the Senate of Canada regarding Bill C-293, an act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness. CARRIED.**		November 27
AG116-24	**(11/19/24)**	**RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker to authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board Members to the Environmental Farm Plan and CAP grant presentation on November 27, 2024 at the Menno Simmons Community School in Cleardale, AB. CARRIED.**		November 27,2024
AG117-24	**(11/19/24)**	**RESOLUTION by Member Jensen to authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board Members to the Grower Engagement Meeting on December 11, 2024 in Grande Prairie, AB. CARRIED.**		December 11, 2024

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	**Agricultural Service Board Meeting**
Meeting Date:	December 17, 2024
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	**BOARD REPORTS**
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:
At this time the Board members will have an opportunity to present their reports on meetings attended and other agricultural related topics.

BACKGROUND:

ATTACHMENTS:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
RESOLUTION by.. that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' verbal reports of December 17, 2024, for information.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: **Manager:** **AgFieldman:** GC

Clear Hills County
Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 17, 2024
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	**Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference Resolutions**
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:
The Board is presented with the resolutions that will be coming to the floor at the 2025 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference, for their review.

BACKGROUND:
Each year, Agricultural Service Board's from around the province submit resolutions from their regions to be brought forward to the provincial conference for debate and lobbying when passed.

ATTACHMENTS:
2025 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference Resolutions

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
RESOLUTION by… that this Agricultural Service Board accepts for information the 2025 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference resolutions.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: **Manager:** **AgFieldman:**

PROVINCIAL ASB RESOLUTION SESSION AGENDA PACKAGE

December 1, 2024

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

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01 2025 Provincial ASB Conference Resolution Session Agenda

January 21, 2025
Edmonton, Alberta
Delta Hotel – South Conference Centre

1. Call meeting to order
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Adoption of previous year's resolution session minutes
4. 2023 Report Card on the Resolutions (link to report card on website)
5. 2025 Funding Update
6. Call for Amendments to the Provincial Rules of Procedure
   a. Provincial Rules of Procedure – (Jan 18, 2023)
   b. Regional Rules of Procedure – (Jan 18, 2023)
7. Review of Provincial Rules of Procedure (Jan 18, 2023)
8. Adoption of Emergent Resolutions
9. Adoption of the order of resolutions
10. 2024 Resolution Voting
11. Motion to Adjourn

03 Minutes for the 2024 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Resolution Session

Lethbridge Agri-Food & Trade Hub, 3401 Parkside Dr S, Lethbridge, AB T1J 4R3

January 23 & 24, 2024

In attendance from the ASB Provincial Committee:

Brenda Knight, Chair, Central Region Representative
Dustin Vossler, Vice Chair, South Region Representative
Sebastian Dutrisac, Northeast Region Representative
Walter Preugschas, Northwest Region Representative
Corinna Williams, Peace Region Alternate Representative
Aaron Van Beers, President Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen
Jason Schneider, Rural Municipalities of Alberta Representative
Linda Hunt, Executive Assistant, ASB Provincial Committee
Stephan Bevans, Secretary
Kerrianne Koehler-Munro, ASB Program Manager

Tietsia Huyzer, Central Region Alternate Representative
Ross Bohnet, South Region Alternate Representative
Gene Hrabec, Northeast Region Alternate Representative
John Van Driesten, South Region Alternate Representative

Regrets:

Bob Chrenek, Peace Region Representative
Anita Ash, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Knight called the meeting to order at 2:58 pm.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Chairperson Knight presented the agenda for the resolution session.
By unanimous consent, adopted the agenda as presented.

3. Adoption of Minutes

By unanimous consent, adopted the Minutes for the 2023 Resolution Session as presented.

4. Review of the 2023 Report Card on the Resolutions

Chairperson Knight presented the highlights from the 2023 Report Card on the Resolutions.

5. Call for Amendments to the Provincial Rules of Procedure

Chairperson Knight made a call for any amendments to the Provincial or Regional Rules of Procedure. No amendments presented; provincial rules of procedure adopted.

6. Review of Provincial Rules of Procedure

Chairperson Knight reviewed the Provincial Rules of Procedure for the Resolution Session.

7. Adoption of Emergent Resolutions

Chairperson Knight presented two emergent resolutions that have come forward to the ASB Provincial Committee.

By unanimous consent E1-24, Financial Sustainability for FCDC is added as an emergent resolution.

MOVED: Sebastian Dutrisac, ASBPC

SECONDED: Gene Hrabec, Beaver County

By unanimous consent E2-24, Federal Bills S-270 Health of Animals Act (Horse Protection Act) and C-355 Prohibition of the Export of Horses by Air for Slaughter Act is added as an emergent resolution.

MOVED: Kathy Rooyakers, County of Wetaskiwin

SECONDED: John Ireland, Lacombe County

8. Adoption of the Order of Resolutions-Proposed Order of Resolutions

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

9. 2024 Resolution Debate

1-24 Agricultural Equipment Highway Signs

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST Alberta Transportation provide each Agricultural Service Board with **six** signs that state "Slow Down Around Agricultural Equipment" to be installed on highways, at locations determined by the individual municipality.

MOVED: Dallas Ekstrom, Brazeau County

SECONDED: Bryce Liddle, Ponoka County

AMENDED: Klaus Vander Veen, Lethbridge County, moved to amend the resolution to:

remove the number of signs, stated as six

SECONDED: name and county/municipality, N/A

Point of Order was called for a seconder. Parliamentarian advised that it was a moot point, and a seconder was not needed because the debate started without a seconder.

AMENDMENT CARRIED: 52% (59 - 54)

The resolution was voted on as amended.

MOTION CARRIED: 50% (58 - 57)

2-24 COMPENSATING PRODUCERS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that the Federal and Provincial governments develop and implement immediately a "good actor" compensation mechanism for producers performing ecosystem services beneficial for society.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that the Federal and Provincial governments investigate creating an exchange to trade Carbon and other ecological services for compensation at the minimum rate already determined by the Federal Government.

MOVED: Terry Ungarian, County of Northern Lights

SECONDED: Alian Blanchette, MD of Smoky River

AMENDED: Brian Rodger, Mountainview County, moved to amend the resolution to: Covers all forms of sequestering carbon throughout agriculture and getting credit for it.

SECONDED: Jim Duncan, Clearwater County

AMENDMENT DEFEATED: 48% (56 - 58)

Chairman Knight called for a vote to the original resolution.

MOTION CARRIED: 52% (52 - 48)

3-24 Creation of Livestock Production Insurance

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation work with AFSC and consult stakeholder groups in the livestock sector to develop a new Livestock Production Insurance Program or other suitable program.

MOVED: Gary These, County of Northern Lights

SECONDED: Philip Kolodychuk, MD of Fairview

Chairman Knight called for a vote to the resolution.

MOTION CARRIED: 73% (93 - 25)

4-24 Supporting a Compensation Multiplier

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and Environment and Protected Areas work with the Alberta Beef Producers to adopt their proposed compensation multiplier to address direct and indirect losses from predation.

MOVED: Gary These, County of Northern Lights

SECONDED: Tyler Airth, Big Lakes County

Chairman Knight called for a vote to the resolution.

MOTION CARRIED: 83% (98 - 17)

5-24 WILD BOAR AND THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST that the Government of Alberta amend the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act to require Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms, with penalties to enforce noncompliance.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST that Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation invoke a moratorium on expansions of Wild Boar Farming in Alberta, until the province makes a decision on the future of Wild Boar Farming in Alberta.

MOVED: Les Stulberg, Stettler County

SECONDED: Jackie Watts, Starland County

Chairman Knight called for a vote to the resolution.

MOTION CARRIED: 97% (115 - 3)

6-24 IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH BEE PACKAGE IMPORTS AND THE CONTROL OF VARROA MITES

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) permit Honeybee shipments from the United States for the purpose of hive repopulation, to combat the depopulation of Canada's Honey Beehives.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that the CFIA and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) conduct further research on Varroa Miticide controls and approve a new Varroa Mite miticide to address the lack of control options available to honey producers.

MOVED: Gene Hrabec, Beaver County

SECONDED: Corinna Williams, Northern Sunrise

AMENDED: Holly Johnson, County of Newell, moved to amend the resolution to have two separate resolutions, one being the "Therefore be it Resolved" statement resolution and the second resolution being the "Further be it Resolved" statement.

AMENDMENT CARRIED: (52) % (62 - 57)

Chairman Knight called for a vote to the resolution to the "Therefore be it Resolved", now called resolution 6-24a.

MOTION CARRIED: 70% (82 - 35)

Chairman Knight called for a vote to the resolution to the "Further be it Resolved", now called resolution 6-24b.

MOTION CARRIED: 91% (105 - 10)

7-24: RE-REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR CERTIFIED APPLICATORS

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation propose to Health Canada and Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to allow Strychnine to be used exclusively by certified applicators.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that the existing strychnine label be subject to meticulous review and amendment, with a specific focus on reducing the potential for off-target exposure and implementing enhanced control measures to mitigate any adverse environmental impact.

MOVED: Howard Shield, Flagstaff County

SECONDED: Dale Pederson, Beaver County

Chairman Knight called for a vote to the resolution.

MOTION CARRIED: 71% (90 - 26)

Resolution E1-24: FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (FCDC)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation (AGI) facilitate the establishment of a stable funding framework for FCDC that includes the retention of existing infrastructure, sites, and human capital for the continued enhancement of programs for seed breeding and agronomic research.

MOVED: Sebastien Dutrisac, County of Two Hills

SECONDED: Gene Hrabec, Beaver County

Chairman Knight called for a vote to the resolution.

MOTION CARRIED: 93% (111 - 8)

Resolution E2-24: SUPPORT FOR THE EXPORT OF LIVE HORSES FOR SLAUGHTER

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that the Government of Alberta jointly lobby the Government of Canada alongside Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) to prevent these Bills from receiving royal assent.

MOVED: Kathy Rooyakers, County of Wetaskiwin

SECONDED: John Erdman, Thorhild County

Chairman Knight called for a vote to the resolution.

MOTION CARRIED: 98% (114 - 2)

10. Motion to Adjourn

Brenda Knight, Lacombe County, moved to adjourn the 2024 resolution session at 4:39 PM.

04 2024 Report Card on the Resolutions

05 2025 Funding Update

BACKGROUND:

- **2005** - The ASB Provincial Committee was formed from the Resolution Committee that was comprised of the same members.
- The ASB Provincial Committee advocates for the resolutions passed at the Provincial Conference, and as an advisor providing grassroots feedback on policy and programs related to agriculture, meeting with Ministers and various levels of government.
- **2005-2015** - the administration of the Committee was heavily supported by the government of Alberta ASB Program staff.
- **2016** - a grant was given to the AAAF to hire an Executive Assistant (EA) for the ASB Provincial Committee.
- **2016-2021** - the grant was extended each year, but in 2021 the ASBs were advised that the grant may not be extended again.
- **2021** conference, the Rules of Procedure (ROP) were changed to allow for fees to be collected from each ASB in the event that the grant for the EA position was not approved or was delayed.

10. ASB Provincial Committee Fees

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

- **2022** - two motions were passed at the conference with a clear majority:
  - **MOTION** to support the collection of an ASB Provincial Committee Support fee of up to $600 from each ASB with the Provincial ASB Conference Registration to support the activities of the ASB Provincial Committee.
  - **MOTION** to set the 2022 ASB Provincial Committee Support Fees at $375/municipality if needed.
- **2022-2024** - The grant for the EA position came in on time and was extended for 2 years, making it unnecessary to renew these motions until now.

CURRENT SITUATION:

- **2025** - The current ASBPC EA grant agreement expires March 2025, and although the AAAF has sent in a letter of request to the minister it is unlikely that a response will be received, or grant application approved prior to the 2025 Provincial ASB Conference.
- **The following motions will be presented during the ASB Resolution session to be voted on by the assembly** that would allow the AAAF to collect a fee in the event that a grant for the ASBPC Executive Assistant is not approved or is delayed.

- **MOTION** to support the collection of an ASB Provincial Committee Support fee of up to $1000 from each ASB with the Provincial ASB Conference Registration to support the activities of the ASB Provincial Committee.
- **MOTION** to set the ASB Provincial Committee Support Fees at $600/municipality in 2025, and $750 in 2026 if needed.

06 Call for Amendments to the Provincial Rules of Procedure

From the January 18, 2023 Provencial ROP

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

From the January 18, 2023 Regional ROP

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

Please submit any proposed amendments to the ASBPC by January 1, 2025 so they can be included in the resolution session slides.

07 Review of the PROP

PROCEDURES:

1. All Movers, Seconders and individuals entering the debate must be ASB Committee Members
2. Only the Therefore Be It Resolved (TBIR) will be read
3. Mover and Seconder will be allowed five (5) minutes in total to speak
4. Chairman shall call for opposition. If there is no opposition, the question shall be called
5. Each speaker has two (2) minutes to debate the resolution.
6. Mover and Seconder each have two (2) minutes to close the debate
7. Friendly amendments will only be considered for punctuation and spelling

PROCEDURES FOR EMERGENT RESOLUTIONS:

- Emergent resolutions are dealt with last
- The Committee recommends whether a resolution is considered emergent or not
- A Mover and Seconder are required to present emergent resolutions for acceptance by the Assembly
- Delegates may speak to the motion
- Mover and Seconder have the right to close the debate
- 3/5 majority needed to accept the resolution as emergent

PROCEDURES VOTING AND SPEAKING

- All Movers, Seconders and individuals entering the debate must be ASB Committee Members
- Two delegates from each Municipality, who display voting credentials, shall be recognized as voters
- An ASB member may request to have any person speak to a resolution
- Resolutions require a simple majority unless a legislative change is requested
- Legislative changes require a 3/5 majority
- Seconders please accompany Movers to the microphones
- Please state your name and municipality clearly

08 Emergent Resolutions

From the Provincial Rules of Procedure:

4. Resolutions ...
   b. Emergent Resolutions
      i) A resolution received by the ASBPC that was not presented and voted on at a Regional ASB Conference may be considered by the Committee as a potential Emergent Resolution. It may be recommended for acceptance by the PRC if the resolution is deemed an emergency issue of provincial significance regarding Agricultural Legislation or Agriculture Policy that has arisen since the Regional ASB Conferences, or if the sponsoring ASB can justify to the Committee why the resolution did not come to the floor of a Regional Conference.
      ii) If a resolution is denied Emergent status by the PRC, the sponsoring ASB may appeal this ruling through the Chair to the floor of the Provincial ASB Conference Resolution Session, where it may be reconsidered as Emergent at the pleasure of the Voting ASB Conference Delegates. The vote for acceptance of an appealed Emergent Resolution must be carried by a 3/5 majority of voting Provincial ASB Conference delegates.
      iii) Sufficient copies of resolutions accepted as Emergent must be made available by the sponsoring ASB to all conference delegates.
      iv) Emergent Resolutions must be submitted to the Secretary of the ASBPC 24 hours prior to the start of the Provincial Conference.

The deadline to submit resolutions is 3pm on January 21, 2025, please supply sufficient printed copies to the AAAF conference organizers to be handed out with the conference packages.

Emergent resolutions delivered digitally to the ASBPC by January 10, can be included in the digital conference packages.

09 Proposed Order of Resolutions

Resolution Number	Resolution
1-25	DROUGHT AND LIVESTOCK AGRISTABILITY
2-25	LANDOWNERS' RIGHTS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS
3-25	PROTECTION OF CLASS 3 SOILS IN ALBERTA FROM RENEWABLE DEVELOPMENT
4-25	WEED CONTROL IN DRAINAGE CANALS (REGISTERED DRAINAGE DITCHES)
5-25	CENTRAL CONTACT FOR THE WEED CONTROL AND AGRICULTURAL PEST ACTS
6-25	RURAL VETERINARY STUDENT SUPPORT
7-25	ROADKILL CARCASS DISPOSAL
8-25	COYOTES ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION
9-25	NON-MATCHING FUNDING FOR AGKNOW
10-25	FARM FAMILY AWARDS
11-25	AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FUNDING
12-25	CHARITABLE GAMING POLICIES HANDBOOK
13-25	RESOLUTION LOBBYING INCLUSION

10 2025 Resolution Voting

RESOLUTION 1-25: Drought and Livestock Agri-Stability

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2023, the impacts of drought within Alberta were far reaching and in response to the situation, Canada and Alberta partnered on a one-time funding initiative called the Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance initiative. On October 20th, 2023, the Alberta Government announced the inclusion of 41 rural municipalities in the program, leaving a further 28-member rural municipalities out of the program. On January 25th, a further 20 rural municipalities were announced as additions to the funding. Oddly, Kananaskis, Calgary and Edmonton were included in the January 25th announcement. This left 8 rural municipalities out of the funding program. Letters were sent to the federal and provincial governments asking for explanation and the response provided was that these municipalities had received average to above average precipitation over the course of the 2023 growing season.

A review of the Canadian Drought Monitor revealed that these municipalities are comprised of large areas of forested crown lands with relatively small zones of privately held agricultural lands. Further analysis suggested that while these agricultural areas experienced significant drought impacts, when balanced against moisture in the crown lands, the municipalities appeared to receive adequate moisture. GIS mapping proved more definitive when the map of crown lands was excluded.

Precipitation patterns are highly variable between white and green zones. If entire areas are being aggregated in the Canadian Drought Monitor assessments, it is not a fair reflection of what is being experienced by producers in white zones that are adjacent to green zones. Aggregate weather data loses the nuance of seasonal variation and other contributing factors. Moisture that falls within forested crown lands does not address moisture deficits experienced in privately held agricultural lands.

The following excerpt can be found from the AFSC website:

> *"AgriStability is one program in a suite of business risk management programs that governments offer to help producers manage significant risks. Other programs in the suite include AgriInvest, AgriInsurance and AgriRecovery.*
>
> *AgriStability provides Canadian producers with an ongoing whole-farm risk management tool that offers protection against large declines that threaten the viability of their farm and are beyond their capacity to manage.*
>
> *Under the program, allowable income includes the proceeds from agricultural commodity sales and the proceeds from production insurance. Allowable expenses include commodity purchases, along with direct input costs incurred in the farming operation."*

The summary of the audit of the program indicated the following:

- Participation for underrepresented populations such as young farmers, women, Indigenous Peoples, and persons with disabilities.
- AgriStability is expensive to administer due to its tailored (individualized) and complex nature.
- AgriStability provides access to individualized whole-farm protection from large income declines, and helped protect producers' incomes, for large producers, but did not always meet performance targets.

CONCLUSION

AgriStability has the potential to provide a broader level of support for Canada's agricultural sector and support a larger number of small operations. However, current design and delivery favours larger operations and sectors with narrow margins. Program payment predictability, timelines and program complexity continue to be an issue. Tailored communications and capacity building activities with underrepresented groups could improve their participation in the program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Assistant Deputy Minister, Programs Branch, in consultation with provincial administrators, should:

RECOMMENDATION 1: identify ways to simplify AgriStability to reduce producer administrative burden.

RECOMMENDATION 2: find ways to make interim and final payments more predictable and to improve the timeliness of final payments.

RECOMMENDATION 3: develop and implement a means to increase access to AgriStability by underrepresented populations.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE AND ACTION PLAN

Management agrees with the evaluation recommendations and has developed an action plan to address them by April 1, 2024.

Evaluation of AgriStability - agriculture.canada.ca

Canadian Drought Monitor - agriculture.canada.ca

Locations of weather stations in Alberta https://acis.alberta.ca/weather-data-viewer.jsp

RESOLUTION 2-25: Landowners' Rights for Renewable Energy Projects

WHEREAS landowners surrounding renewable energy developments often face significant impacts, including changes to land value, reduced crop yields, proliferation of weeds, and potential irreversible damage to the land;

WHEREAS landowners are exposed to great risk as it relates to the determination and structure of compensation, recovery for unpaid rentals, off lease damages, and potential long-term impacts;

WHEREAS the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) regulates renewable energy projects, but the regulatory framework for protecting landowners in renewable energy cases is less detailed compared to the Oil and Gas Industry;

WHEREAS the Oil & Gas Industry has legal protections under the Surface Rights Act, including compulsory access rights, standardized compensation structures, and formal dispute resolution mechanisms via the Surface Rights Board; and

WHEREAS landowners facing renewable energy project proposals must negotiate directly with developers to establish their own terms, with the potential for costly legal counsel and limited government support.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
That the Alberta Utilities Commission provide landowners with access to legal frameworks, such as the Surface Rights Act, which includes compensation guidelines, environmental protection measures, and land reclamation requirements supported by strong enforcement mechanisms.

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

That the Alberta Utilities Commission create an independent tribunal to oversee regulatory compliance and handle disputes related to Renewable Energy projects.

SPONSORED BY:	**Northern Sunrise County**
MOVED BY:	_____
SECONDED BY:	_____
CARRIED:	_____
DEFEATED:	_____
STATUS:	Provincial
DEPARTMENT:	Ministry of Affordability and Utilities
	Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

AUC inquiry update: Alberta to declare no-build zones and mandatory reclamation security requirements for renewable energy projects.

AUC's Module A Report was released on January 31, 2024. The report is an inquiry into the ongoing economic, orderly and efficient development of electricity generation in Alberta, but does not address landowner compensation. The report only indicates that some energy proponents are offering neighborhood agreements or "community benefit funds", however there is no official requirement or regulation being implemented for energy developers to offer this.

Under the *Surface Rights Act,* landowners are entitled to several protections when it comes to oil and gas leases. For example, compensation must be reviewed every 5 years throughout the life of the oil well.[1] If an energy company fails to make its annual lease rental payments, a landowner has the right to apply to the Land and Property Rights Tribunal to recover those payments. Additionally, if any off-site damage occurs – such as loss or damage to livestock or personal property – or if any time is spent recovering property, landowners may apply to the Tribunal for compensation up to $50,000.[2]

There are some studies that have been done regarding the impact on property values due to renewable energy projects. The bulk of the existing studies focus on wind power plants. Overall, some studies found a statistically significant and negative impact; other studies found no material impact.[3] Further research is needed to better quantify the impact they would have on property values in close proximity to solar panels and windmills.

AUC inquiry update: Alberta to declare no -build zones and mandatory reclamation security requirements for renewable energy projects, by Osler

On February 28, 2024, Alberta Premier Danielle Smith and Minister of Affordability and Utilities Nathan Neudorf announced the intended policy, legislative and regulatory changes following the conclusion of Module A of the Alberta Utilities Commission's (AUC) inquiry into the ongoing economic, orderly and efficient development of electricity generation in the province.

We have previously reported on the AUC's inquiry regarding electricity generation in prior Updates on August 3, September 8, September 13, 2023, and January 30, 2024.

The AUC established two separate modules for its consideration of the issues identified by the Alberta government in their Order in Council: Module A and Module B.

Module A considered the following factors:

1. the development of power plants on specific types or classes of agricultural or environmental land
2. the impact of power plant development on Alberta's viewscapes
3. the implementation of mandatory reclamation security requirements for power plants
4. the development of power plants on lands held by the Crown in right of Alberta

This culminated with the AUC delivering its Module A Report to the Minister of Affordability and Utilities on January 31, 2024.

1. Section 27 of *Surface Rights Act*
2. Section 30(2) of *Surface Rights Act*
3. "Impact of Power Plant Development on Viewscapes" Report by Nichols Applied Management Inc. for the AUC.

Module B is ongoing. In this proceeding, the AUC is considering the impact that increasing growth of renewables has on both the generation supply mix and electric system reliability. The AUC will deliver the Module B Report to the Minister of Affordability and Utilities no later than March 29, 2024.

The AUC has continued to process applications [PDF] up to the decision stage for new power plants that produce renewable electricity while the approval pause period has been in effect.

With the pause lifting as the *Generation Approvals Pause Regulation* expired on February 29, 2024, the Minister of Affordability and Utilities issued a letter to the AUC [PDF] to provide policy guidance regarding the issues considered in Module A along with the following policy, legislative and regulatory changes.

1. An 'agriculture first' approach

   The Alberta government will direct the AUC to take an "agriculture first" approach to the approval of future renewable electricity generation projects with the goal of ensuring Alberta's that native grasslands, irrigable and productive lands continue to be available for agricultural production. Enhanced standards will be introduced for project development on Class 1 and Class 2 agricultural lands, as classified by the Alberta Land Suitability Rating System (LSRS). Alberta does not have any LSRS Class 1 agricultural lands, but LSRS Class 2 agricultural lands account for approximately 25% of the land in what is known as the White Area[1] of Alberta.

   If a project is proposed to be located on Class 1 or Class 2 agricultural lands, proponents must demonstrate the ability for both crops and/or livestock to coexist with the renewable generation project. Examples could include a demonstrated plan for agrivoltaics or sheep grazing alongside solar projects, or clearly demonstrating that continuing crop growth and livestock grazing is possible following the implementation of a wind project. The scope and scale of any such required agricultural integration and coexistence is currently unspecified.

   The AUC will begin taking into consideration this "agriculture first" approach on March 1, 2024, and has indicated that this approach will not be applied retroactively.

2. Reclamation securities for future development

   The Government of Alberta will develop and implement the necessary policy and legislative tools to ensure that developers are responsible for reclamation costs through bond or security requirements, with appropriate security amounts and timing to be determined by Environment and Protected Areas in consultation with Affordability and Utilities. Developers will be responsible for reclamation costs, which will be either paid directly to the Government of Alberta or negotiated with landowners if sufficient evidence is provided to the AUC.

   In addition, the AUC will require more details in terms of reclamation commitments as part of the application process and will also be actively engaging in a process to determine the appropriate level of reclamation security on a project-by-project basis. In the government's press conference on February 28, 2024, Premier Smith suggested that a reclamation trust structure where developers contributed amounts over time could be a sensible outcome. A gradual contribution to the reclamation security would be a better outcome for renewables developers than

some alternatives, such as a requirement to post 100% of the reclamation security prior to the commencement of construction (which has associated costs).

The new requirements will apply to all AUC approvals issued on or after March 1, 2024.

3. Buffer zones surrounding protected areas and 'pristine viewscapes'

The Government of Alberta will develop and implement the necessary policy and legislative tools to establish buffer zones, of a minimum of 35 kilometres, around protected areas or other "pristine viewscapes." The scope of this exclusion zone is not clear, but has the potential to be extensive as there are 464 protected areas within Alberta that amount to 4,551,912.39 hectares of land.[2]

New wind projects will no longer be permitted within these exclusion zones and other proposed developments located within such buffer zones may be subject to a visual impact assessment before approval.

The AUC will also be required to perform site visits in order to determine impacts on viewscapes as part of the approval process. The province has yet to provide a definition for the term "pristine viewscapes" and has indicated that it will work alongside the Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas, Ministry of Forestry and Parks and Ministry of Tourism and Sport to identify areas that would be considered "pristine viewscapes."

Of the announcements, this likely creates the most uncertainty and is likely to be the most challenging for wind developers. Given the significant upfront time and cost for wind project development, it is important that developers know on day one whether the options to lease or other land agreements they are entering into are or are not in an area with pristine viewscapes. It will be important that the Government of Alberta provide additional certainty over this rule sooner rather than later so that development of new wind projects can continue.

The government indicated that this policy change will not be applied retroactively to approved projects and will only impact project approvals issued on or after March 1, 2024.

4. Crown land

The Government of Alberta will develop and implement the necessary policy and legislative tools to enable the development of renewable generation on Crown lands on a case-by-case basis. Development on Crown lands will be supported by a new policy that will require meaningful engagement, including with Indigenous communities, before any policy changes are implemented. Overall this is a positive development for renewables developers, as to date there was no policy in place permitting the granting of land rights for renewable energy projects on Alberta Crown Lands, and this opens up to an additional 60% of Alberta to renewables development.[3]

This government's intention is to have such policy and legislative changes developed and implemented by late 2025.

5. Consideration of appropriate setbacks

The Minister's letter to the AUC states that the AUC will conduct a proceeding or other process to consider appropriate setbacks of renewable infrastructure from neighbouring residences and other important infrastructure.
No timeline is provided for this policy change.

6. Municipal participation

The AUC will automatically grant municipalities the right to participate in AUC hearings and the permitting process. This will include the opportunity for municipalities to seek participant funding to engage in the AUC processes and expanding eligibility for cost recovery to municipalities to reduce barriers for participationin circumstances where they intend to file expert evidence or arguments that will assist the AUC.

The AUC has also committed to allowing municipalities to review rules related to municipal submission requirements while clarifying consultation requirements. No timeline is provided for this policy change.

7. Upcoming Transmission Regulation changes

The Minister of Affordability and Utilities advised that future changes would occur to Alberta's *Transmission Regulation* (Alta. Reg. 86/2007) originating from the *Transmission Green Paper* [PDF]. These changes are expected in the coming months and renewable projects should expect changes to the allocation of transmission costs.

We summarized the recommendations in the Green Paper in our Update in late January. Whether and to what extent any such changes could allocate these costs to existing (or in-construction) renewable projects was not specified in the Minister's announcement and remains a key concern for industry.

Impact to projects

The Minister stated that these new policies will only be applied to renewable project approvals going forward, not retroactively to existing projects, though their application to amendments to existing approvals is unconfirmed. Nonetheless, considerable uncertainty remains for renewable energy developers in the province.

While the details of these policy changes have not yet been developed, the Minister's announcement introduces potentially significant siting restrictions on renewable generation facilities. Furthermore, with the quantum and framework for reclamation security still under development and uncertainty as to the allocation of transmission costs, the implications for the economics of proposed renewable generation projects remains unclear.

Following the government's announcement, the AUC issued Bulletin 2024-03, providing an update on its application review process to facilitate the March 1, 2024, recommencement of approvals being issued. Power plants' applications affected by the pause will be assessed based on their individual merits. Depending on the circumstances of each application and the adequacy of the existing evidence, additional steps may be necessary for applications that are currently under review by the AUC. The AUC will communicate with the parties involved in each existing application to provide details on the next actions to be taken in the process.

Bulletin 2024-03 also indicates that the AUC will initiate a stakeholder consultation to discuss specific subjects within Rule 007.[4] These topics will include matters that were addressed during Module A of the inquiry, as well as topics that are the focus of the Alberta government's proposed policy, legislative and regulatory changes, among other items. In September 2023, the AUC issued interim Rule 007 information requirements [PDF] for new power plant applications related to agricultural land, viewscapes, reclamation security and land use planning. These interim information requirements will continue to be in effect for all current and prospective applications following the end of the pause, and the AUC will evaluate whether these interim information requirements should be permanently incorporated into Rule 007 through its consultation. The AUC will provide additional details regarding the Rule 007 consultation process in due course.

[1] The White Area (settled portion) consists of the populated central, southern and Peace River areas of the

province. The Green Area (forested portion) includes most of northern Alberta as well as the mountain and foothills areas along the province's western boundary. Source: Government of Alberta, "Sustainable Forest Management: 2015 Facts & Statistics," 2017.

[2] See the registry of protected areas compiled in the Land Reference Manual. Source: Alberta Parks, "Land Reference Manual," May 25, 2023.

[3] Government of Alberta, "Alberta Crown Land Vision" January 15, 2021.

[4] Alberta Utilities Commission, "*Rule 007: Applications for Power Plants, Substations, Transmission Lines, Industrial System Designations, Hydro Developments and Gas Utility Pipelines*," March 18, 2022.

RESOLUTION 3-25: Protection Of Class 3 Soils In Alberta From Renewable Development

WHEREAS 32,300 acres of Alberta farmland was lost between 2021-2022 with much of that due to renewable energy projects, such as solar power farms;

WHEREAS the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) Module A Report focuses only on protecting class 1 and 2 lands and leaves classes 3 to 7 unprotected, while soils in classes 1 to 3 are considered suitable for the sustained production of common field crops;

WHEREAS limiting protection to only classes 1 and 2 land leaves over 50 million acres of Alberta's agricultural land, or more than 80% of the total land, vulnerable to development;

WHEREAS increased regulation on class 2 land will most likely result in increased development on class 3 land;

WHEREAS food security is a growing global concern due to population growth, unpredictable crop yields, trade disruptions, and the impact of agricultural monopolies, all of which contribute to increasingly volatile conditions;

WHEREAS the permanent placement of solar farms on productive land restricts crop rotation and the ability to return the land back to agricultural use; and

WHEREAS the AUC reported that the public prefers power plant development on industrial Crown land that's already been disturbed.

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

That the Government of Alberta include the protection for Class 3 agricultural lands, ensuring that these valuable agricultural areas are not left vulnerable to renewable energy development.

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

That the Government of Alberta continue to implement an "agriculture- first approach" by allowing and prioritizing the approval of renewable power plants on already disturbed sites located on crown land before considering productive agricultural land.

SPONSORED BY: Northern Sunrise County
MOVED BY: _____
SECONDED BY: _____
CARRIED: _____
DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Affordability and Utilities
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The loss of agricultural land has been a significant concern for the Government of Alberta since the completion of the Land Use Framework Public Consultations in 2008, and it remains a priority as highlighted in the 2023 Annual Report on Land Use Changes.

The Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) released Module A Report on January 31, 2024. The report addresses issues related to the development of power plants, including the impact on specific classes of agricultural land, and the development of power plants on Alberta's crown lands. However, the AUC observed these issues without making any formal commitments.

Soil classes in Alberta are categorized under the Land Suitability Rating System (LSRS), based on the Canada Land Inventory. Generally, LSRS classes 1 to 3 are considered prime agricultural land, with approximately 40 percent of Alberta's total land in both the green and white zones falling into classes 2 and 3.

According to the 2017 Food Security in the Context of Agricultural Land Loss Report, around 18 percent, or 50.3 million acres, of class 2 and 3 land is either already being used for non-agricultural purposes or remains undeveloped.[1] While the Alberta government believes that the province likely does not have any class 1 land, they directed the AUC on March 1, 2024, to prohibit renewable power plants on class 1 or class 2 agricultural lands due to the potential negative impact on prime agricultural land. However, as outlined in the AUC Module A Report, there is currently no universal consensus on what constitutes 'prime agricultural land.' Some argue that classes 1 to 4 should be considered high-quality agricultural land, with irrigated land also deemed prime, while others suggest that classes 3 and 4 are "moderately productive".[2]

AUC commitments currently extend only to exploring requirements for proponents to provide soil field verification earlier in the application process. Regarding Crown land, the Module A Report indicates that the AUC is not making any commitments to prioritize the development of renewable energy projects on already disturbed sites, and any proposed projects on Crown land must be approved on a case-by-case basis.

The consequences of leaving class 3 land unprotected are substantial, as these lands encompass a significant portion of farmland that greatly contributes to Alberta's agricultural productivity. Northern Alberta, for example, is predominantly composed of class 3 land and already faces challenges due to a shorter growing season.

Over 60 percent of Alberta's land is Crown land. Thermal and hydro power plants, as well as transmission lines, and oil and gas facilities have already been constructed on Crown land. In most provinces where renewable energy developments are permitted on Crown land, the common approach is to make all Crown land available for consideration, but only grant a land disposition where it can be demonstrated that the land use is appropriate. Parks and protected areas, research locations, and areas with community infrastructure and recreation are typically not suitable.

[1] "Food Security in the Context of Agricultural Land Loss in Alberta", Government of Alberta, pg. 3

[2] Alberta's Utility Commission, Module A Report, An Inquiry into the Ongoing Economic, orderly, and efficient Development of Electricity Generation in Alberta, January 31, 2024, pg. 20.

RESOLUTION 4-24: Weed Control In Drainage Canals (Registered Drainage Ditches)

WHEREAS under the Weed Control Act of Alberta, Municipalities are tasked to Monitor and Enforce control of Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds;

WHEREAS the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides severely restricts the application of herbicides within 30 metres of a "drainage canal" and the amount of area that can be treated in a calendar year;

WHEREAS under a Special Use Approval to apply herbicides within 30 metres of an open body of water, the area allowed to be treated is still restricted; and

WHEREAS a Notice to Remedy Weed Problem in a "drainage canal" cannot be fully acted upon due to the limitations of the area allowed to be treated under the Code of Practice allowing for the proliferation of the weeds.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
The Government of Alberta - Environment and Protected Areas remove "drainage canal" from the definition of "open body of water" under the Pesticide Sales, Handling, Use and Application Regulation.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
To allow municipalities that have control over maintenance of drainage canals to treat invasive species listed in the Weed Control Act or those species elevated in the respective municipality, as they would control the same species in roadside ditches or under Notice to Remedy Weed Problem.

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Weed Control Act was enacted in 1907 and is in place to prevent the introduction and spread of weeds and to protect agricultural production and native vegetation from the detrimental effects of weed infestations.

The Province of Alberta previously had programs to develop drainage canals (also known as registered drainage ditches) to improve agricultural production in areas with poor drainage or subject to large overland flow. These drainage canals were subsequently turned over to the municipalities for care and maintenance. Part of care and maintenance is adhering to the Weed Control Act and controlling species listed in the regulation and any species that are elevated through municipal bylaw. Many times these canals transfer water in the spring or in heavy rain events and the remainder of the year are dry or have very little water in them similar to a roadside ditch.

The Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides regulates the application of herbicides within 30 metres of an open body of water, of which drainage canals are classified as. By following the code of practice municipalities are restricted to treating 10% of 100 square metres in a zone 1 - 5 metres from an open body of water with certain active agreements, and up to 30% of an area from 5 - 30 metres from an open body of water with other active ingredients. This small area of application just allows weeds and deep-rooted perennial weeds such as Toadflax and Canada Thistle to proliferate uncontrolled thereby affecting native vegetation and encroaching into farmland. Under section 9(4)(b) of the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act - Pesticide (Ministerial) Regulation "(b) a person using or applying pesticides on cultivated land." is exempt from a special use approval in the 30 metre zone to an open body of water. This is a two-tiered system which restricts municipalities from controlling weeds on lands they are in control of.

Resolution #6 in 1989 being *Problem Vegetation Control on Drainage Ditches* identified the issue of weed control in drainages. Weed control in drainage ditches is not a new or isolated issue.

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that Alberta Environment draft a standard set of instructions and precautions and issue one permit to each Municipality which would cover all applications to any ditches within that Municipality in that year."

There is also a jurisdictional question between the Weed Control Act and the Environmental Code of Practice which poses the question as to which has paramountcy? Municipalities are charged with upholding the Weed Control Act but are hindered by the Act, Code and Regulation. Even under a Notice to Remedy Weed Problem for Prohibited Noxious where all growing parts of the plant are to be destroyed this is not likely to occur due to the restrictions in the Code of Practice as is seen in 11(A) in the Code of Practice for Control of Purple Loosestrife.

(ll) "open body of water" means the bed and shore of an irrigation canal, drainage canal, reservoir, river, stream, creek, lake, marsh or other body of water, but does not include the following:

(i) waterworks systems;
(ii) reservoirs, lakes, marshes or other bodies of water that arecompletely surrounded by private land, that have an area of less than 4 hectares and have no outflow of water beyond the private land;
(iii) reservoirs, lakes, marshes or other bodies of water that are located on public land, that have an area of less than 0.4 hectares, and have no outflow of water;
(iv) irrigation and drainage canals that are completely surrounded by private land and have no outflow beyond the private land;
(v) roadside ditches;
(vi) wastewater systems;
(vii) storm drainage systems;
(viii) dry streams having a bed and shore averaging 0.5 metres or less in width within the boundaries of the treatment area;
(ix) a constructed water hazard that is located on a golf course and has no outflowof water beyond the golf course boundary;

Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act - Pesticide (Ministerial) Regulation

Special use approval

9(1) No person shall, unless the person holds a special use approval issued by the Director,

(a) use or apply a pesticide in or on an open body of water,
(b) use or apply a pesticide listed in Schedule l, 2 or 3 within a horizontal distance of30 metres from an open body of water,
(c) store a pesticide within a horizontal distance of 30 metres from an open body of water, or
(d) wash equipment or vehicles used to apply pesticides within a horizontal distance of 30 metres from an open body of water.

(2) Subsection (l)(p) does not apply to a person using or applying a fish toxicant in accordance with a written authorization issued by the Director of Fisheries Management of the Department.

(3) Subsection (!)(a) and (l)(b) do not apply to a person using or applying a vertebrate toxicant bait in, on or within 30 horizontal metres of a frozen open body of water pursuant to a Government pest control program.

(4) Subsection (l)(b) does not apply to

(a) an applicator using or applying pesticides in accordance with the latest edition of the *Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides* published by the Department, or
(b) a person using or applying pesticides on cultivated land.

Application for special use approval

10 An applicant for a special use approval must submit an application in a form acceptable to the Director containing the following information:

(a) the name and address of the applicant;

(b) the location of the area to be treated;

(c) the pest to be controlled;

(d) the name of the pesticide to be used;

(e) alternative pest management strategies that have been investigated;

(f) any other information the Director may require.

Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides

Pesticide Application Within 30 Horizontal Metres of an Open Body or

Water

16 **(1)** In this section "deposit" means depositing an amount that results in visible effects on vegetation or an amount that is likely to cause an adverse effect.

(2) All applications must be conducted or supervised by

(a) the holder of a certificate of qualification for pesticide application, or

(b) the holder of a certificate recognized by the Director

(3) Subsection (2)(b) docs not apply to pesticide applications made under the provisions of subsections 16(12).

(4) The application must not result in the deposit of pesticides into or onto any open body of water except in accordance with subsection 16(12).

(5) Applications must not be made within 250 metres upstream of any surface water intake of a waterworks system.

(6) Aerial applications of pesticides to land must not be conducted while flying directly over an open body of water.

Herbicide Applications - General

(7) Herbicides must not be deposited within 30 horizontal metres of an open body of water unless the herbicide application is conducted by ground application equipment only
(8) Herbicides must not be deposited on areas that have slumped, been washed out or are subject to soil erosion into the water body
(9) Unless otherwise specified in the manufacturer's product label, applicators may apply the herbicides listed in Table: 1 provided that

(a) herbicides are not deposited closer than I horizontal metre from an open body of water;

(b) applications are conducted for

(i) the control of herbaceous plants classified as weeds named under the *Weed Control Act*; or

(ii) control of woody plants less than 1.5 metres in height, to areas where the woody plants interfere with forest generation or the safe operation, functioning, or maintenance of man-made structures such as dams, canals, drainage ditches, roads, industrial facilities, or utility or pipeline rights-of-way;

(c) applications are made selectively using

(i) a backpack sprayer,

(ii) a pump-sprayer,

(iii) a hand-gun sprayer, or

(iv) an application method that targets individual plants; and

(d) no more than 10 percent of any 100 square metres in the zone 1 -5 metres from an open body of water receives treatment in any calendar year

---

Table I

- aminopyralid (what used up to a maximum application rate of 0 12 kg/ha)
- chlorsulfuron

- glyphosate
- metsulfuron methyl (when used up to a maximum application rate of 0.09 kg/ha)
- triclopyr (when used up to a maximum application rate of 1.92 kg/ha)

(6) Unless otherwise specified in the manufacturer's product label, applicators may apply the herbicides listed in Table I or Table 2 pro,·idcd that

(a) herbicides in Table 2 an: not deposited closer than S horizontal metres from an open body of water;

(b) applications are conducted for:

(i) the control of herbaceous plants classified as weeds named under the *Weed Control Act,* or

(ii) the control of woody plants *to* areas where the woody plants interfere with forest regeneration or the safe operation. functioning, or maintenance of man-made structures such as dams.canals.drainage ditches, roads, industrial facilities, or utility or pipeline rights-of-way;and

(c} applications arc1113dc selectively using a backpack sprayer, a pump-sprayer. a hand-gun sprayer, a boom or boomless sprayer. or an application method that targets individual plants;

(d) no more than 30 percent of any 100 square metres in the zone *5-30* metres from $_{m1}$ open body of water receives treatment in any calendar year

Table 2

- 2,4-D (when used up to a maximum application rate of 1 4 kg active ingredient per hectare)
- aminopyralid (when used up to a maximum application rate of0.12 kg active ingredient per hectare)
- dicamba (when used up to a maximum application rate of 1 2 kg active ingredient per hectare)
- dichlorprop (when used up to a maximum application rate of 1 2 kg active ingredient per hectare)
- MCPA (when used up to a maximum application rate of0 675 kg acti\ c ingredient per hectare)
- tridopyr

(I I) Unless otherwise specified in the manufactures product label, applicators may apply herbicides for specific vegetation management situations as follows·

(a) **Purple Loosestrife** *(l)'thrum solicarla)* may be treated with glyphosate or triclopyr, applied selectively by **backpack** or hand-pump sprayer to purple loosestrife growing on dry land provided that:

(i) no herbicide is deposited closer than I horizontal metre from standing water, and

(ii) no more than 10 percent of any 100 square metres of land closer than I metre from an open body of water receives treatment in any calendar year.

(b) **Front Regeneration Siles** may be treated with glyphosate applied selectively or non-selectively by aircraft or gro1D1d equipment provided that glyphos:1tc is not deposited within 5 horizontal metres from an open body of water.

(c) **Non-Vegetated Developed Areas** such as maintained trails, road.\, vehicle parking lots, railway ballasts, shoreline rip-rap or annour, water management structures and industrial sites such as flare stacks, pump sites. equipment yards, and electrical substations may be trca1ed with glyphosate selectively or non-sclccti\·ely by ground application equipment over the entire area that is to be maintained
non.vegetated

(d) **Railway Ballmts** may be treated with imazapyr provided that no herbicide is deposited within 15 horizontal metres of an open body of water.

RESOLUTION #6

PROBLEM VEGETATION CONTROL ON DRAINAGE DITCHES

WHEREAS Drainage ditches are often infested with thistles and other noxious weeds; and

WHEREAS Weed seeds produced in and adjacent to these ditches are often capable of moving over long distances when water flows in these ditches; and

WHEREAS Weed problems are often not discovered until mid summer; and

WHEREAS Delays of up to three months in receiving permits to apply herbicides mean that control cannot be achieved before seed set in that season; and

WHEREAS Cultural control methods are most often expensive, time consuming and not effective in these situations; and

WHEREAS Most permits issued contain virtually identical directions and precautions to be observed when applying herbicides,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Environment draft a standard set of instructions and precautions and issue one permit to each Municipality which would cover all applications to any ditches within that Municipality in that year.

Sponsored By: Improvement District #16

Status: Provincial Department: Alberta Environment

Branch: Pollution Control

RESOLUTION #6

PROBLEM VEGETATION CONTROLONDRAINAGEDITCHES

BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Environment draft a standard setof instructions and precautions andissueonepem1ttoeachMun1c1pal1ty which would cover all applications to any ditches within that Municipality in thatyear.

Response

Alberta Environment:

AlbertaEnvironmentissuespermitstoapplypesticideson,in,orwithin 30 horizontal metresofdrainageditches. Permitapplicationsare reviewedby AlbertaEnvironmentandAlbertaForestry,LandsandWildlife toassess potential environmental impacts and impart mitigating conditions topermits.

We recognize that in some instances the nature ofaweedproblem maybe such that amunicipality maynot know precisespraying locationsatthe timewhenpermitsmustbeappliedfor. Inthesecases,wehaveworked withthemunicipalitiesinvolved and have developeda suitablesystem.

Weacceptpen11tapplicationswherethemunicipalityhasidentifiedthe

watercoursestobeinvolvedinthesprayprogram. Specificareastobe

sprayedalongthewatercourses need notbeidentified1ftheyarenot known atthe time the permit application is made.

Ifpermitapplications aresubmitted well inadvanceofthespray season,aunic1pa11tieswillencounternodelaysinimplementing their sprayprogramsinatimelymanner.

RESOLUTION 5-25: Central Contact for the *Weed Control* and *Agricultural Pest Acts*

WHEREAS the lack of centralized point of contact can lead to delays in addressing weed and pest issues, resulting in possible environmental and economic impacts;

WHEREAS there are thousands of oil and gas wells, including abandoned wells, across Alberta where site maintenance following the *Weed Control Act* and *Agricultural Pests Act* must be followed;

WHEREAS challenges often stem from incorrect contact information and changes in leaseholders that are not consistently updated, hindering communication and compliance;

WHEREAS government agencies have multiple offices throughout the province, and ministry changes cause difficulties providing the information to the appropriate contact; and

WHEREAS municipalities face significant challenges in enforcing the *Weed Control Act* and *Agricultural Pests Act* due to difficulties in establishing and maintaining contact with landholders.

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

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

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

BACKGROUND:

Effective control of weeds & pests is critical for maintaining the ecological balance and agricultural productivity of a region. Inspectors play a key role in this effort by enforcing the *Weed Control Act* & *Agricultural Pests Act* by issuing notices. This act requires landholders to manage and control the spread of weeds & pests on their properties. When landholders fail to comply, municipalities are allowed to enforce these notices.

However, the enforcement of these notices faces significant challenges, one being the difficulty in contacting the owners of oil and gas well sites. Multiple changes in leaseholders can cause inaccurate contact information leading to frustration and inefficiencies for municipal inspectors. This lack of reliable contact information results in many notices of non-compliance remaining unresolved, as the inspectors are unable to reach the responsible parties.

Government changes throughout the years along with multiple offices have led to land information being addressed to various locations and often mis-directed which results in mail being returned to sender causing further delays. Ministry changes have also compounded this issue. Certain municipalities must deal with multiple local government jurisdictions which further fragments communication.

With accurate and accessible contact details, the process of enforcing notices would become more efficient, reducing the number of unresolved cases and improving overall compliance with the *Acts*. To address this issue, the implementation of a central contact is proposed. This would involve municipalities sending communications regarding the Acts to a central government contact, who would then accurately distribute the information to the respective agencies.

RESOLUTION 6-25: Rural Veterinary Student Support

WHEREAS veterinary services are a critical component of rural sustainability through the industry's contributions to agriculture, food safety and animal welfare;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta currently provides a Veterinary Student Bursary to veterinary students living and working in Northern Alberta via the Northern Alberta Development Bursary Program;

WHEREAS veterinary student temporary employment subsidies exist in other jurisdictions struggling to attract and retain rural veterinarians;

WHEREAS costs associated with completing the necessary educational requirements to become a veterinarian continue to increase; and

WHEREAS rural Alberta is experiencing a continued decline in veterinarian availability.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

SPONSORED BY: Lacombe County
MOVED BY: _____
SECONDED BY: _____
CARRIED: _____
DEFEATED: _____
STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Trade
Ministry of Advanced Education
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Several resolutions have been accepted in the past addressing the shortage of rural veterinarians in Alberta, and we applaud the positive movement we have seen on this issue including the work already underway by the Alberta Veterinary Medical

Association, University of Calgary and Alberta Government. Based on what we have learned following previous resolutions and the conversations between Lacombe County and local veterinarians, we believe that the actions listed in this resolution will continue to increase the availability of rural veterinarians throughout Alberta.

In the Spring of 2024, Lacombe County surveyed veterinarians within the County. Six veterinary practices were provided with the survey which was completed by seven veterinarians. Highlights of the survey responses are identified below:

- 71% of respondents identified that there is currently a shortage of large animal vets within/servicing Lacombe County.
- 100% of respondents identified that there will be a shortage of large animal veterinarians in Lacombe County within the next 10-15 years. Respondents also identified that the anticipated shortage is based on feedback from clients, an inability to keep up with requests from clients and a shortage of qualified individuals to fill vacant roles.
- 86% of respondents identified job factors (work hours, work-life balance, dealing with difficult people) as the main challenge facing the large animal vet industry.
- Access to professional mentorship was identified as the main factor impacting the retention of veterinary students in Lacombe County.
- 85% of respondents identified that the attraction of vet students is best addressed by a combination of municipal government and local clinics.
- 57% of respondents identified subsidies for vet clinics hosting vet students as the most impactful vet student support.

To support veterinary students, Lacombe County has instituted a veterinary student billet program which connects veterinary students with local families and producers while students complete their practicum rotation with a local veterinary clinic. The goal of this program is to connect students with affordable short-term housing and members of the community to foster the student's connection with the community. Additionally, Lacombe County sponsors a $1,850 veterinary student scholarship in partnership with Red Deer Polytechnic to financially support local veterinary students.

The challenges facing the veterinary industry within Alberta, and across Canada are well documented. Feedback from local veterinary professionals and students has identified several concerns relating to the veterinary industry provincially and locally. This includes financial constraints faced by students due to the cost of schooling and operational challenges relating to the additional costs or inability to afford students for summer positions by clinics.

The Northern Alberta Development Bursary Program, Veterinary Student Bursary, is funded and administered by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Trade. This bursary provides funding for veterinary students to live and work in Northern Alberta. Students may apply for the $7,000 bursary annually for the full length of their veterinary program to a maximum of four years and has been active since 2011. To receive the bursary funds, the student must sign a return of service agreement identifying that the student must return to work in northern Alberta for each year the bursary is paid. If the student does not return to Northern Alberta for work, the student must repay the amount.

As previously discussed, operational challenges are also faced by rural veterinary clinics to attract veterinary students to open opportunities or clinics being unable to afford to hire a veterinary student. As a solution, the Manitoba government has instituted the Veterinary Student Employment Program (VetSTEP) which provides funding to mixed and large animal clinics in rural Manitoba that employ veterinary students. Clinics are eligible for funding up to $6,500 for employing first year students and $5,000 for second and third year students. Students must work a minimum of 471.25 hours for the participating clinic to receive the full subsidy. In 2023, the Manitoba VetSTEP program funded summer work for 21 veterinary students to work in rural Manitoba.

The challenge of attracting and retaining veterinary students to rural Alberta, along with the financial costs borne by veterinary students is a concern faced throughout rural Alberta. By implementing a province-wide rural Alberta veterinary student bursary program, and veterinary student temporary employment program there may be a higher likelihood of attracting students to spend the summer months working with rural veterinary professionals. Additionally, the time spent working in rural practices may allow students to connect with the community, be mentored, and remain in rural Alberta following graduation.

Previous Resolutions:

- 1-23: Creation of a Mid-Level Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (AbVMA) Professional Designation
- 2-23: Rural Veterinary Students
- RMA 3-22S- Attraction and Retention of Veterinarians to Rural Veterinary Practice

RESOLUTION 7-25: Roadkill Carcass Disposal

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
Alberta Environment and Protected Areas and Alberta Forestry and Parks to develop formal guidance on the disposal of wildlife carcasses hit by vehicles to minimize disease transmission vectors that may pose a serious economic threat to the livestock industry, such as foot-and-mouth disease.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED
THAT THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Transportation amend the Standard Specification for Highway Maintenance to require contractors to maintain controlled access to carcass disposal sites, the composting of roadkill carcasses, and that the site be a minimum of 8 kilometers from an active livestock operation.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Greenview #16
MOVED BY: _____
SECONDED BY: _____
CARRIED: _____
DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since early 2023, Greenview has been in discussion with Alberta Transportation to address a roadkill carcass disposal site that has been identified as a contributor to predation of livestock in the vicinity of the site. While located on crown land,

the site is adjacent to livestock operations and has no controlled access. The location is being utilized by the public for disposal of dead livestock, equine, as well as roadkill.

Through these discussions, we found that this is an acceptable disposal method for Alberta Transportation throughout the province, as Highway Maintenance Contractors seek roadkill carcass disposal sites that are central to their operations and low cost. Unfortunately, these sites are not controlled access and the challenges seen in Greenview are mirrored in other locations. We believe this is an oversight that we wish to bring to the attention of all identified ministries.

The municipal concern for this practice is threefold; Firstly, easily accessible food sources in harsh winter months artificially support predator populations, removing the population control factor of scarce food. Secondly, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a prion disease that is resistant to environmental degradation, is spreading throughout Alberta and represents a threat to Alberta Elk producers. Lastly, this biosecurity concern could extend to Foot and Mouth Disease, African Swine Fever, Porcine Endemic Diarrhea, and a host of other contagions, many of which could cost Alberta and the Country of Canada billions of dollars in lost markets. It is in the interest of the Provincial Government to address these biosecurity risks as a proactive way of preventing a costly livestock emergency, also representing a potential threat to the livelihoods of Alberta livestock producers.

RESOLUTION 8-25: Coyotes Eligible For Compensation

WHEREAS coyotes are currently listed as a nuisance under the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation pertaining to the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta;

WHEREAS coyotes are an adaptable, relentless and reproductive predator with most producers having faced economic loss due to their predation;

WHEREAS wild boar are listed as a pest under similar legislation and the Province has a proactive coordinated approach to eliminating the threat of invasive wild boar, involving compensation for eligible damages to unharvested crops, stacked hay, stacked greenfeed, as well as silage and haylage in pits and tubes through AFSC's Wildlife Damage Compensation Program;

WHEREAS the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program is cost shared between the federal and provincial governments; producers pay no premium or administration cost;

WHEREAS other neighboring Provinces pay compensation for coyote predation and even bounties that are funded in a similar manner; and

WHEREAS it is our determination that because the Province does not proactively mitigate coyote predation, producers are entitled to fair compensation arising from damages caused by predation of livestock.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation under Section 3 of the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta establish a Federal-Provincial cost shared program to mitigate and compensate producers for confirmed coyote predation on livestock, work with the Ministries of Forestry and Parks and Environment and Protected Areas to utilize Fish and Wildlife staff to confirm the predation and submit confirmation forms to AFSC for payment administration.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Forestry and Parks, and Environment and Protected Areas consult with Alberta Lamb Producers and Alberta Beef Producers to adopt their proposed changes to the current Wildlife Predator Compensation Program to provide more fair compensation when predation occurs.

SPONSORED BY: County of Northern Lights
MOVED BY: _____
SECONDED BY: _____
CARRIED: _____
DEFEATED: _____
STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Irrigation

Forestry and Parks
Environment and Protected Areas

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Summary Points:

- Alberta does not pay for coyote kills but other Western provinces do. They utilize cost share funding with the Federal government for wildlife compensation.
- Saskatchewan paid nearly $2.3M on the 5 year avg for confirmed coyote predation. That is a huge amount to ask producers in Alberta to cover, this still does not take into account missing livestock.
- Alberta's current Wildlife Compensation Program has an approximate 10 yr avg payout of $391,000.00 Alberta wide, which is much lower than Saskatchewan and we have more livestock.
- Predation has both direct and indirect costs. Lots of predation is not reported or never found.
- Direct costs are losses from found confirmed kills.
- Indirect losses can be, but not limited to decreased gain, lower conception, missing animals, wounded animals, discounts at market, stress, mental health, and increased time surveilling.
- Agriculture and Irrigation in conjunction with the federal government, Alberta Pork and AFSC administer compensation arising from Wild Boar damages and a trapping program. Both are listed in similar legislation, why can livestock producers not get a similar program for coyotes?

Currently coyotes are listed under the Agricultural Pest Act which offers producers assistance through Form 7 and 8 under the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, creating a compensation program would allow livestock producers to seek out compensation for death or injury to livestock caused by coyotes similar to how crop and pasture producers can apply for compensation for damages to their business.

Alberta is the only Western province to not include coyotes as part of the predatory compensation program. The report "Impact of Wildlife to Beef Producers in Alberta", by the Miistakis Institute in 2015, showed that 65% of Alberta beef producers are impacted by coyote predation. We lack hard relevant data in Alberta and rely on producer surveys or old 40+ year old data. Currently Fish and Wildlife is doing most the verification on confirmed kills, but doesn't seem to keep or provide data on species that are not listed as eligible species for compensation under the current Wildlife Predator Compensation Program. Please see below the 1975-1981 data from the 1982 Compensation For Vertebrate Pest Damage at the Vertebrate Pest Conference.

Table 1a-c offers a look at predator claims from 1975-1981[1],[2] and Table 2: Predators Compensation Programs in Western Canada offers a comparison between Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

[1] Gurba, Joseph. Compensation for Vertebrate Pest Damage. 1982 <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/vpc10/18/>
[2] It is estimated that several times the amount of predator loss of livestock goes undetected or cannot be proven and validated to the satisfaction of government officers (Gurba, 93))

Table 1a. Damage claims for predator inflicted losses of Alberta livestock.

Species	1975**	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	TOTAL
Coyote	221	160	198	274	214	315	295	**1677**
Wolf	106	79	139	94	91	93	86	**688**
Bear	79	42	90	56	59	40	63	**429**
Others*	35	48	40	40	52	58	62	**335**
TOTAL	**441**	**329**	**467**	**464**	**416**	**506**	**506**	**3129**

*** Includes feral dogs, cougar, mink, weasel, hawks, owls, etc.**

**** Includes retroactive claims for 1973 and 1974.**

Table 1b. Alberta predator loss indemnity program 1973-80.**

Species	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Swine	Poultry	TOTAL
Coyotes	66	795	8,142	86	4,213	**13,302**
Bears	371	1,026	165	158	283	**2,003**
Wolves	689	1,277	188	28	62	**2,244**
Others*	51	113	462	39	8,383	**9,048**
TOTAL	**1,177**	**3,211**	**8,957**	**311**	**12,941**	**26,597**

*** Includes feral dogs, cougar, mink, weasel, hawks, owls, etc.**

**** Includes only those losses validated by Gov't investigators.**

Table 1c. Compensation for predator inflicted livestock losses ($,000) in Alberta

Species	1975**	1976	1977	1978	1979***	1980	1981	TOTAL
Coyote	39.5	36.9	41.2	80	107.3	138.3	123.4	**566.6**
Wolf	43.3	29.8	45.2	52.4	85.1	49.1	56.7	**361.6**
Bear	24.4	25.3	44.4	32.1	58.2	40.7	43.4	**268.5**
Others*	6	5	8.2	13	20.1	32.3	28.7	**113.3**
TOTAL	**113.2**	**97**	**139**	**177.5**	**270.7**	**260.4**	**252.2**	**1,310.00**

*** Includes feral dogs, cougar, mink, weasel, hawks, owls, etc.**

**** Includes retroactive payment for 1973 and 1974 loss claims.**

***** Adjustment for increased livestock market values.**

A comparison of the predator compensation programs in Western Canada best attributed from information obtained online or over the phone.

Table 2: Comparison of Predator Compensation Programs

	Alberta	**British Columbia**	**Manitoba**	**Saskatchewan**
Who runs the program	F&W,Environment and Protected Areas	BC Cattlemen's	Manitoba Agriculture Services Corporation	Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation
Funding	Alberta Conservation Association through a levy on hunting and angling licenses	60% Federal Government, 40% Provincial Government	60% Federal Government, 40% Provincial Government, up to 80% of livestock value. Beyond 80% is	60% Federal Government, 40% Provincial Government, up to 80% of livestock value. Beyond 80% is

			covered by the province.	covered by the province.
Compensation for livestock predation	100% value of the market value	80% of market value	90% value	100% value (minimum for cattle of $400) 1.5x on purebreds
Compensation for suspected predation	50% value	None	45% value	50% value
Compensation for livestock injury	100% animal value for veterinary costs	Vet costs covered up to the value of animal, if the animal dies they pay the difference.	Losses also include all reasonable veterinary and medical expenses incurred to treat injured livestock (up to the value of the animal).	80% animal value for veterinary costs
Value based on	Highest of the Can Fax price for the week before, the week of, and week after the loss. For calves producers can choose to wait for the Can Fax October price for fall weight 550 lbs.	The compensation rates are set usually in April or May and they use the WLPIP to set a price for the year.	Commercial market prices are derived from either the CanFax Weekly Summary or a price list. Purebred are valued at double. Capped at $3000.00 per animal.	Highest of the market sales for the week before, the week of, and week after the loss (minimum for calf in 2024 is $2136).
Eligible livestock	Cattle, sheep, goats, swine, bison	Cattle and sheep	Cattle, horse, sheep, hogs, wild boars, goats, elk, fallow deer, bison, llamas, donkeys, ostriches, emus and other ratites	Cattle, sheep, goats, bison, horses, hogs (excluding wild boar), elk, fallow deer, llamas, donkey, ostrich, emu, ducks, geese, chickens, turkeys
Eligible predator	Bear, cougar, eagle, wolf	Wolves, coyotes, bears, cougars, ravens and eagles	Bear, cougar, coyote, fox, wolf	Coyote, cougar, lynx, fox, wolf, eagle, birds of prey, scavenging birds, raccoon, skunk, badger, mink, weasel, any other wild animal that causes injury or death to eligible livestock.

Table 3: Saskatchewan Predator Compensation 5 yr payouts and the percent compensation due to coyotes.

	Coyote			
	Number of Animals Lost	**Percent of total losses**	**Compensation**	**Percent of Total Compensation**
2019	**2,092**	**72%**	**$ 1,682,868.37**	**74%**
2020	**2,420**	**72%**	**$ 1,924,885.61**	**73%**

2021	**2,005**	**74%**	**$ 1,757,466.37**	**73%**
2022	**2,512**	**78%**	**$ 2,536,660.52**	**77%**
2023	**2,812**	**79%**	**$ 3,569,653.11**	**75%**
Average	**3,368**		**$ 2,294,306.80**	

Please see attached pdf regarding **2024 Alberta Livestock Inventory Estimates.** Alberta has the most rangeland livestock of any province or territory in Canada and Alberta pays out the least amount of financial compensation in the event of predation in Western Provinces. Is it fair to require our producers to eat the cost of feeding the Crowns animals when other provinces are compensating more?

Proposed changes producer groups are requesting to existing Wildlife Compensation include:

- Move to compensate at a rate of 2.5x on confirmed kills
- Compensate probable kills at 100%, rather than 50%
- Eliminate the current requirement of a second kill by the same predator species within 10 km and 90 days, in order to pay on a probable
- Compensate at 1.5x when the producer can verify that the animal in question was a purebred (this could also be determined by evaluating the market price for breeding stock)
- Compensate for livestock guard animals killed by predators
- Compensate for bulls at 1.75x canfax cull price (market price will likely dictate price of bulls)
- Compensate for breeding cows and heifers using the following formula:
    - 1.75 x 1400 lb. xD1/D2 price (same as above comments for breeding stock)
- For feeder yearlings, give producers the option of receiving value at time of death or Canfax fall average at 950 lb. (similar to option on calves)
- Certify producers and other government staff in the verification of predator kills

RESOLUTION 9-25: Non-Matching Funding For Agknow

WHEREAS the farming population is at a high risk of mental illness when compared to the general population;

WHEREAS studies and surveys have shown that farmers are less likely to seek mental health care due to associated costs, lack of time during the day, and counselors lacking an understanding of agriculture;

WHEREAS the AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Initiative was established in 2022 with the intent to provide Alberta's farming population with agriculturally-informed mental health supports;

WHEREAS AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network has received grants for project-based services through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, which has 50% matching funds requirement; and

WHEREAS AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network faces funding gaps and restricted operating funds, leading to jeopardization of high-demand mental health programing and support services currently being delivered to Alberta's farming population.

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

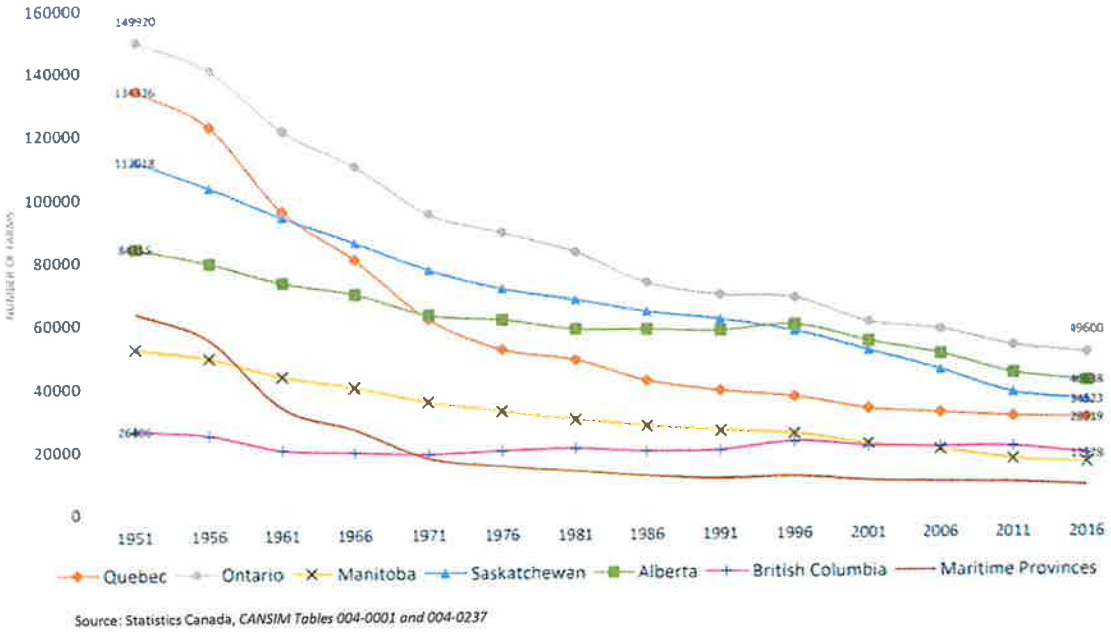
That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation waive the matching funding requirement through Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to support AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network to ensure that the Farm-Informed Therapy Program for agricultural producers continues to grow and is free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

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Agriculture is one of the most important industries to Alberta's economy. Alberta is one of the most productive agricultural economies in the world, employing approximately 69,000 people and contributing $10.3 billion to the provincial economy in 2022. [i] Alberta is home to 41,505 farms according to the 2021 Census, which was a 2.1% increase over the 2016 Census.[ii] This is an interesting finding given that the historically, farm numbers across Canada have declined year over year as illustrated below.

Total Number of Farms by Province, 1951 - 2016[iii]



Source: Statistics Canada, *CANSIM Tables 004-0001 and 004-0237*

This increase in farm numbers shows that farming and ranching remains an important way of life for Albertans.

Preliminary results from a 2023 survey conducted by Dr. Rebecca Purc-Stephenson of the University of Alberta regarding stress, mental outcomes and coping strategies of Alberta farmers had some interesting results. The survey found that 66.7% of Alberta farmers experienced depression, 78.5% experienced anxiety, and higher than average rates of burnout characterized by exhaustion, cynicism, and low self-esteem.[iv]

Farmers are less likely to seek help for their mental health when compared to the general population. A 2021 study from the University of Guelph evaluated barriers and motivations for seeking mental health

support with a group of 75 Ontario farmers. The main barriers to seeking mental health support were as follows:

- Lack of accessible mental health supports;
- Lack of anonymity in seeking mental health support;
- Stigma about mental health in the agricultural community; and
- Feeling that healthcare providers don't understand the "culture of farming".[v]

Due to the economic importance of the agricultural sector, and the growing number of the population entering the industry, the susceptibility of farmers suffering from mental health struggles, and the overall reluctance for farmers to engage with current mental health supports, it is imperative that the Province support appropriate mental health care to ensure the long-term success and survival of the agricultural industry.

At the 2019 Provincial ASB Conference, Resolution E1-19: Access to Agriculture Specific Mental Health Resources was passed. The resolution asked for the Province to provide a 24/7 crisis line providing the farming population with access to agriculturally-informed professionals and resources.

EMERGENT RESOLUTION E1-19

ACCESS TO AGRICULTURE-SPECIFIC MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

WHEREAS Agriculture is economically essential, both provincially and federally, and agriculture needs healthy farmers to function;

WHEREAS Agriculture is a stressful occupation, which has become especially clear with three consecutive years of poor harvests, livestock feed shortages and other effects of climate change;

WHEREAS Despite mental illness diagnoses increasing, a large stigma exists around mental illness and asking for help which is especially prominent in industries like agriculture where members are isolated and have a distinct workplace culture of not requesting help;

WHEREAS Alberta does not have an agriculture-specific mental health crisis line, although neighbouring provinces do (e.g. Saskatchewan);

WHEREAS 310-FARM is a well-known and commonly utilized number that can direct callers to an abundance of resources, but only offers agronomic information during office hours;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Provincial Government of Alberta facilitates the formation of a free, year-round, all hours, mental health crisis hotline, dedicated to the agriculture industry, providing farmers with direct access to uniquely qualified professionals and resources, whom have both an understanding of mental health issues and agriculture-specific stresses.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Provincial Government of Alberta secure long term, sustainable funding for the operation and maintenance of this mental health crisis hotline.

SPONSORED BY: Lac Ste. Anne County
MOVED BY:
SECONDED BY:
CARRIED:
DEFEATED:

STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Forestry

Additionally, at the 2023 ASB Provincial Conference, another resolution was passed, Resolution E2-23, Stable Funding for Farm Mental Health. This resolution focused on the need for stable, 5-year funding for AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network so that they could continue to grow their reach and programing. The resolution follows:

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.

SPONSORED BY: MD Peace

CARRIED

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation,

AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network was established in 2022 as an initiative of the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) in response to Emergent Resolution E1-19. ARECA was provided a one-off $524,500 grant through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) for the development of AgKnow and farm mental health supports. This funding helped achieve the following: hiring of team members, research contracts, launch the AgKnow.ca website, a platform to connect farmers with agriculturally-informed therapists, and launch the Livestock Depopulation Support Program.

During late 2023 and early 2024, AgKnow conducted a survey with the goal of gathering insights to shape the development of mental health initiatives tailored to the needs of the Alberta agricultural community. Participants were asked about the importance of having access to farm-informed counselors. Preliminary results showed 70% found it important, 24% somewhat important, and 6% not important. The primary reasons for seeking or contemplating counselling services were family dynamics (such as relationships

with spouses, children, and extended family members) and coping with mental illness (like depression, anxiety, or dementia). These were followed by challenges related to managing financial stress on the farm, navigating farm transition/succession, and seeking grief support, respectively. Additionally, participants who had not sought counselling were asked to provide their reasons for not pursuing support. The top three reasons provided in the survey were cost, not having enough time during the day, and counselors lacking understanding of agriculture.[vi]

AgKnow has developed a number of services that have garnered very positive results in a short period of time. The Farm-Informed Counselling Program is a particular program of importance. Participants can see each therapist bio, including their agricultural background, professional qualifications, specialties, and their availability for in-person, virtual, and after-hours service. Allowing participants to book with the therapist right for them. This program has engaged with 19 agriculturally-informed therapists who have provided 123 free therapy sessions as of June 2024. This program was piloted offering two free sessions per participant, and has tripled in participation since February 2024, clearly showing the high demand for the programming.

Currently, AgKnow can access project-based funding through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Program (SCAP) under the Resiliency and Public Trust stream. However, this funding has a 40% matching requirement and is only for project costs. The funding will not cover day-to-day operating expenses or staff salaries.

In June of 2024, AgKnow reached out to Alberta ASB's regarding a gap between grants, with an urgent ask for bridge funding to support and sustain the ongoing delivery of current services. As a result of this funding gap, the free access to the Farm-Informed Counselling Program was forced to pause. Producers can still access the service, however there is now a cost associated to the service. This is concerning as the top barrier to Alberta farmers accessing mental health support was the associated cost of accessing care.

In the brief time AgKnow has been delivering programming, it has made a significant impact on mental health support in Alberta's agricultural landscape. Many Alberta municipalities wished to answer the call to support AgKnow, however, many were unable to support due to budgetary constraints. Waiving of the matching requirements through SCAP until such time that the AgKnow initiative can amass appropriate sponsorship, corporate partnerships, and self-generating funds to offset funding granted through SCAP, would ensure that Alberta's farmers and ranchers are ensured access to free, agriculturally-informed mental health supports.

RESOLUTION 10-25: Farm Family Awards

WHEREAS since its launch in 1969, farm families from northern and central Alberta communities have been recognized as recipients of the Farm Family Award;

WHEREAS the farm family award honours both farming business practices and community involvement;

WHEREAS Agricultural Service Boards have traditionally been responsible for selecting families who best represent values of the family farm in their rural community;

WHEREAS in 2024 Explore Edmonton decided to suspend the Farm Family Awards Program indefinitely; and

WHEREAS the Calgary Stampede Agricultural Society continues to honour farm families in southern Alberta.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation and/or the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies work to ensure an annual Farm Family Awards Program is available for all communities in Alberta with an established Agricultural Service Board.

SPONSORED BY: Parkland County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial _____

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Since its launch in 1969, farm families from northern and central Alberta communities have been recognized as recipients of the Farm Family Award.
- In the past, Northlands Agricultural Society has administered and presented the Farm Family Award to producers in Northern and Central Alberta.

- In 2021 Northlands Agricultural Society ceased to exist and various aspects of their operations, including the Farm Family Awards Program were taken over by Explore Edmonton. However, Explore Edmonton is not an AgriculturalSociety.
- In 2024 Explore Edmonton decided to suspend the Farm Family Awards Program indefinitely.
- Every year, the Calgary Stampede and BMO Bank of Montreal recognize outstanding farm families in southern Alberta. The awards program was created to promote a renewed urban-rural relationship and to recognize outstanding southern Alberta farm families who best typify the value of the family farmer to our society. The program focuses on recognizing the contribution to the enhancement of quality of life as a family unit. Each year, the municipal districts in southern Alberta nominate one family. The families are invited to the Stampede for the presentation of the BMO Farm Family Awards.
- Parkland County has a long agricultural history, and it is still a strong driver ofour industry and community. Every year in which an award has been distributed since its inception in 1969, except for one, a farm family in Parkland County has been nominated for a Farm Family Award. This has resulted in forty-three Parkland County families being presented the prestigious award.
- In Spring of 2024, Parkland County's Council and Agricultural Service Board both provided letter to Explore Edmonton urging their organization to continue administering the awards program to recognize the hard work of farm families in northern and central Alberta and to elevate the agricultural industry in Alberta. This advocacy effort was unsuccessful.

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RESOLUTION 11-25: Agriculture Education Funding

WHEREAS agricultural production in Alberta has historically been, and remains, a significant economic driver and source of employment;

WHEREAS generations ago, many Albertans were raised on family farms, gaining firsthand knowledge of livestock, crops, and other agricultural practices;

WHEREAS today, most Albertans reside in urban areas and lack the same level of understanding about how livestock, crops, and agricultural products are cultivated;

WHEREAS the public has traditionally held agriculture and farmers in high esteem for their role in providing food for Albertans, Canadians, and people worldwide, leading to an increasing consumer interest in agricultural production and food sourcing;

WHEREAS misunderstandings regarding agricultural practices and food production are becoming more common, and without proper education, these misconceptions are likely to grow within the expanding population;

WHEREAS educating our children and youth about agriculture is crucial for fostering a deeper understanding of food production, sustainability, and the vital role agriculture plays in our economy and environment; and

WHEREAS stable funding would empower educators and childcare providers to access essential agricultural education materials and programs, allowing ASBs across Alberta to effectively enhance agricultural knowledge among the younger generation.

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

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

SPONSORED BY: Lac La Biche County
MOVED BY: _____
SECONDED BY: _____
CARRIED: _____
DEFEATED: _____
STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Education
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Rural Municipalities of Alberta

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Lac La Biche County, like most Alberta rural municipalities, has a significant world – class agricultural sector that is a Canadian success story sometimes unknown to the community at large.

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In 2019 Lac La Biche County presented the Resolution Mandatory Agriculture Education in the Classroom, to which the government responded with an emphasis on the Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP) which began delivering agriculture education to Alberta students in 1985. The program is presented to grade four and five students across Alberta at no charge. Volunteers deliver the program through storytelling, engaging props and fun activities. CAP is now part of Agriculture For Life, a long-time funding partner of the program.

We wholeheartedly support the valuable efforts of the CAP / AgForLife initiative and recognize the positive impact they have made. However, we believe that smaller and Northern communities could greatly benefit from supports to ensure a more balanced outreach. While the organization administers the CAP through dedicated volunteers, it's important to note that their team does not have a physical presence in this region of Alberta. Enhancing in-person engagement would further enrich the educational experience and foster greater connection with agriculture among our local youth. The educational funding stream would be utilized to create local opportunities and partnerships for expanding agricultural education at a grassroots level, rather than one-size fits all provincial solutions.

Lac La Biche County started a program called the Agriculture and Safety Education Program to allow for local schools, individual educators, childcare centres and day homes to apply for funding to gain knowledge and experience about agriculture whether it be for field trips, in-classroom experiments, presentations or materials. The County's Agricultural Service Board wants to see this type of program and initiative expanded, and additional funding provided by the province to be utilized for similar programs to increase the awareness and knowledge of farm safety, agriculture production and sustainable practices among children and youth, ultimately fostering a stronger connection to the agricultural community and encouraging future generations to engage in and support the industry through locally created and sourced initiatives.

RESOLUTION 12-25: Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook

WHEREAS rural municipalities have been encouraging non-profit organizations to increase activities that generates revenue and build reserve funds for future projects and capital replacements to use as matching funds when applying for provincial and federal grants;

WHEREAS the 2020 Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook (CGPH) section 4.4 indicated clear use of proceeds was consistent to the supportive intent of gaming funds as earned revenue;

WHEREAS the updated 2022 CGPH section 4.4 now states charitable programs expenses for that generate or receive revenue must be managed on a cost recovery;

WHEREAS the updated 2022 CGPH section 4.4 also states the purchase of any equipment, supplies, or services used in any activity or operation intended to generate profit is forbidden; and

WHEREAS the updated 2022 CGPH section 4.4. states that only when program revenues are not sufficient to cover program expenses, gaming proceeds may be used to pay the shortfall for approved expenses and therefore forcing the depletion of the organizational reserves.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
That the Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction and the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission to amend the Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook so rural non profit organizations are allowed to build reserves and generate revenues once again without affecting the ability to use the gaming proceeds.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
That the Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction and the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission suspend any audits until stakeholder engagements are completed and the amendments to the Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook are adopted.

SPONSORED BY: County of Two Hills
MOVED BY: _____
SECONDED BY: _____
CARRIED: _____
DEFEATED: _____
STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction
Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The updated CGPH 2022 https://aglc.ca/sites/aglc.ca/files/2023-10/22-05-02%20CGP%20Handbook_0.pdf

POLICY 4.4 USE OF GAME PROCEEDS

4.4.1 Gaming proceeds must only be spent on charitable purposes approved by AGLC.

4.4.2 Gaming proceeds are funds remaining from total gaming event revenue after the payment of approved prizes and event expenses, and the commission for groups at whose licensed gaming events AGLC conducts provincial lotteries.

4.4.3 Gaming proceeds include all donations received from gaming funds and interest, dividends, or other income earned from gaming proceeds.

4.4.4 Gaming proceeds must only be used for AGLC approved objects which are consistent with the group's eligibility for a gaming licence and essential to the delivery of the group's charitable objectives, programs, and services. Gaming proceeds must be spent reasonably and in a cost-effective manner to support the group's charitable purpose.

4.4.5 Groups may use gaming proceeds to pay reasonable bank fees required for the operation of the group's gaming bank account(s). Gaming funds must not be used for avoidable fees such as late fees, non-sufficient funds (NSF), overdraft, etc.

4.4.6 Groups requesting changes to currently approved use of proceeds must submit the Request to Amend Use of Gaming Proceeds (Form 5506) to AGLC and must have AGLC approval prior to the use of proceeds for those purposes.

4.4.7 Payments for approved charitable purposes must be:

a) made directly from the gaming account to the vendor or supplier by credit card, debit card, pre-authorized debit (PAD), electronic funds transfer (EFT), bank draft, or cheque;
b) fully supported by receipts, invoices, and/or other documents such as contracts, agreements, time sheets, etc.; and
c) authorized by two current members of the group's volunteer elected executive:
    i. invoices or other supporting documents for credit card, debit card, PAD, EFT, and bank draft payments must be signed by two members of the group's executive; and
    ii. cheques must be signed by two authorized signing authorities of the group's executive.

4.4.8 Transfers from the gaming account to a non-gaming account must only be made for reimbursement of AGLC- approved wages paid from a non-gaming account.

4.4.9 Gaming proceeds must be deposited with a recognized financial institution in Alberta and must remain in the respective gaming account(s) until spent on the group's approved uses. If not immediately required, gaming proceeds may be:

a) deposited into separate Canadian Deposit Insurance Corporation (CDIC) insured account(s); or
b) used to purchase Guaranteed Investment Certificates. Note: the financial institution, account or deposit number, and value of funds in the account(s) must be identified on all financial reports.
c) All interest, dividends, or other income earned by these funds are deemed gaming proceeds.

4.4.10 A group must not use proceeds for debt incurred except as permitted in Section 5.15 – Facility.

a) Proceeds must be used for current expenses only. Non-gaming funds must be used when gaming funds have been exhausted.
b) If non-gaming funds are deposited to the gaming account, these funds may not be removed from the gaming account once financial reporting for AGLC is complete.
c) Proceeds from one licence must not be used to cover gaming losses from another licence.

4.4.11 Gaming proceeds must not be used for:

a) fundraising activities;
b) the purchase of any equipment, supplies, or services used in any activity or operation intended to generate profit;
c) members' self-interest or individual/personal benefit;

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d) the social, recreational, hobby, commercial, or professional interested of its members or others; and
e) expenses not specifically accommodated in the use of
proceeds policies. Cost-Recovery

f) Expenses for charitable programs that generate or receive revenue (e.g., admission fees, registration fees, donations, grants, advertising revenue, facility rental revenue, etc.) must be managed on a cost recovery basis.Program revenue must be used to pay for program expenses first.
g) Any revenue, donations, and/or grants received for programs or activities must be spent prior to any gaming proceeds being used.
h) If program revenues are not sufficient to cover program expenses, gaming proceeds may be used to pay the shortfall for approved expenses.

The 2020 CGPH https://aglc.ca/sites/aglc.ca/files/2020-12/19-09-10_CGP_Handbook.pdf

Section 4.4

POLICY:

Gaming proceeds shall only be spent on charitable and religious purposes approved by AGLC.

STANDARDS:

1. Gaming proceeds are funds remaining from total gaming event revenue after the payment of approved prizes and approved gaming event expenses, and the commission for charities at whose licensed gaming events the AGLC conducts provincial lotteries. Gaming proceeds shall also include all interest, dividends or other income earned on gaming proceeds deposited in interest accounts or held, with AGLC approval, in deposit certificates or investments made by a trustee.
2. A charitable or religious purpose is a program or service which provides a charitable community benefit to a significant segment of the community as defined in Section 2.1 - Basic Eligibility.
3. Gaming proceeds must only be used for AGLC approved objects which are consistent with the group's eligibility for a gaming licence and essential to the delivery of the group's charitable or religious programs. (Amended Jul. 2016)
4. Gaming proceeds shall be used to support the group's overall objectives, programs and services as approved; and not solely to provide benefits to specific or select members of the group.
5. Changes to the approved use of proceeds after the gaming licence is issued must be approved by AGLC prior to the disbursement of proceeds. Two executive members of the licensed group must sign the letter of request for the change in the use of proceeds.
6. Payments for approved charitable and religious purposes must be: (Added Sept 2019)
   a) made directly from the gaming account to the vendor or supplier by credit card, debit card, pre-authorized debit (PAD), electronic funds transfer (EFT), bank draft or cheque;
   b) be fully supported by receipts, invoices and/or other documents such as contracts, agreements, time sheets, etc.; and
   c) authorized by two current members of the group's executive:
      i. invoices or other supporting documents for credit card, debit card, PAD, EFT and bank draft payments must be signed by two members of the group's executive; and
      ii. cheques must be signed by two authorized signing authorities of the group's executive. Note: With prior notification to AGLC wages paid from a non-gaming account may be reimbursed with gaming funds.
7. Gaming proceeds shall normally remain in the respective gaming account until spent on the approved uses. If not required immediately, gaming

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proceeds may:

a) be put into a separate interest account(s);
b) be used to purchase deposit certificate(s); or
c) if the group qualifies as a Trustee under the Trustee Act, be invested subject to the conditions established for and applying to, investments by a trustee under the Trustee Act. To qualify to invest, AGLC will require a letter from the group's lawyer confirming the trustee qualification.
d) If gaming proceeds are re-directed as stated in Standard 7a) to c), the following conditions apply:
    i) investments made as stated in Standard 7a) and b) shall be fully insured as defined in the Canada Deposit Insurance Act;
    ii) the financial institution, account or deposit number, or details of other permitted investments and the total value of the proceeds transferred or invested shall be identified on financial reports
    iii) all interest, dividends or other income earned becomes part of gaming proceeds and shall be retained in the separate interest-bearing account or shall be retained as part of the investment if the income is in the form of shares or units; and
    iv) when needed for approved uses, proceeds shall be transferred back to the gaming account to be disbursed.
e) be contributed to an endowment fund as specified in Section 5.25.

8. Disbursements of gaming proceeds must be made within 24 months of receipt of the funds, unless the proceeds are contributed to an endowment fund.

9. A group may request prior written approval from AGLC to extend its disbursement of proceeds for a period longer than 24 months. Extensions may be approved to a maximum of $75,000 in proceeds and/or, to a maximum of an additional 24 months during which time the retained proceeds must be disbursed as per a group's approved use of proceeds. (Added Mar 2018)

Note: Standard 9 does not apply to: (Added Mar 2018)

- fundraising groups, licensed under Section 3.10, which may request approval to retain an amount higher than $75,000 but may not retain proceeds longer than an additional 24 months; and groups approved by AGLC to retain proceeds for a facility (see Section 5.11).

10. All requests for an extension must be submitted using AGLC's "Request for Extension to Disburse Proceeds" form. The request form includes, but is not limited to: (Amended Mar 2018)

a) amount of proceeds for which an extension is being requested;
b) source of proceeds (e.g. casino, raffle) and the dates the proceeds were received;
c) a written explanation why the proceeds have to be accumulated beyond 24 months;
d) any other sources of revenues associated with the planned project or event;
e) a list of expenditures associated with the planned project or event; and
f) timelines for the anticipated disbursement of the accumulated proceeds.

11. If a group fails to comply with Standards 8 or 9 above, or fails to meet the terms granted in an extension, the group may be subject to Board-directed sanctions, such as: (Amended Mar 2018)

a) a temporary suspension of gaming licences, resulting in a delay in conducting further charitable gaming events until the group has demonstrated that policies have been met;
b) permanent revocation of gaming licences; and/or directives to donate a portion or all gaming proceeds to other eligible charitable organizations as approved by AGLC.

12. A use of proceeds not specifically accommodated in the use of proceeds policies is considered an ineligible use of proceeds.

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RESOLUTION 13-25: Resolution Lobbying Inclusion

WHEREAS the sponsoring municipality has a deep understanding and stake in lobbying the position of the resolution;

WHEREAS this knowledge is critical regarding the delivered intent; and

WHEREAS the current approach potentially falls short in accurately conveying that intent and direction of the requested change.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST
That when specific resolutions secure lobbying opportunities for the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee, they in turn invite or consult with the sponsoring municipality to verify the resolution is communicated accurately and effectively.

SPONSORED BY: County of Northern Lights

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The resolutions we draft take substantial time and commitment to develop. We feel that after a resolution passes the Provincial Conference, we should be extended the opportunity to be in the room when and if the time arises to discuss our resolutions with the various departments. We feel too often the intent of the resolution gets lost as the sponsoring municipality is not included in the lobbying process. Also, as the writers of the resolutions our input into the grading process should be weighted heavier as to whether we agree with the grade or not. It shouldn't necessarily be a simple majority for grade determination.

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[i] Government of Alberta (2022). *Agri-Food Investment and Growth Strategy.* https://www.alberta.ca/agri-food-investment-and-growth-strategy

[ii] Statistics Canada (2021). *Canadian Agriculture at a Glance.* https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/96-325-x/2021001/article/00009-eng.htm

[iii] Chen, H., Weersink, A., Beaulieu, M., Lee, Y. N., & Nagelschmitz, K. (2019). *A Historical Review of Changes in Farm Size in Canada.* University of Guelph, Institute for the Advanced Study of Food and Agricultural Policy. Retrieved from https://forecastinstitute.com/documents/Farm-Size-Historical-Review-2019-03.pdf

[iv] AgKnow Alberta Farm Mental Health Network (2024). *2024 Annual Report.* https://www.agknow.ca/annual-report-2024

[v] Hagen, B. N. M., Sawatzky, A., Harper, S. L., O'Sullivan, T. L., & Jones-Bitton, A. (2021). "Farmers Aren't into the Emotions and Things, Right?": A Qualitative Exploration of Motivations and Barriers for Mental Health Help-Seeking among Canadian Farmers. *Journal of Agromedicine*, *27*(2), 113–123. https://doi.org/10.1080/1059924X.2021.1893884

[vi] AgKnow (2024). *Support for Farm Families Survey – An Alberta Approach to Mental Health.* https://www.agknow.ca/latest-news/farm-farmily-research-survey-results

Clear Hills County
Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 17, 2024
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	**Weed Review**
File:	63-50-02

DESCRIPTION:
The provincially appointed weed review committee met December 2, 2024 to discuss 10 weeds that are being reviewed for redesignation on the weed act. Each region brought back poll results and then voted on each of the 10 weeds. The results are attached. The review committee is looking for concerns or suggestions on the results.

BACKGROUND:

ATTACHMENTS:
Weed Committee Results Chart

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board accept the information regarding weed review, as presented.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: **Manager:** **AgFieldman:**

	Weed Committee Meeting Results			
Weed	Keep PN	Change N	Keep N	Remove
Himalayan Balsam	80%	20%		
Hoary Alyssum	70%			
St. Johns Wort	70%			
Common Mullein			90%	
Creeping Bellflower				60%
Perennial Sowthistle				60%
Yellow Clematis			60%	
Diffuse Knapweed	90%			
Spotted Knapweed	90%			
Bigheaded Knapweed				

Weed	Survey						Peace Region Proposed Recommendation	Concerns
		Keep PN	Change N	Unsure	Remove	Keep N		
Himalayan Balsam	AAAF/ASB	43%	46%	11%			Rec for Peace: Keep PN. Would support a change to N but PN is in line with the Fisheries Act- similar to a municipality being able to upgrade but not down grade, fisheries act should be taken into consideration for species on the WCR NOTE: AIS needs to be made a Provincial Weed Inspector for the management of Aquatic species to become more streamlined. This would allow the AIS to act under the WCA, saving time, eliminating red tape. While some infestations are not within the jurisdiction of the municipalities,a close working relationship with the AIS will lead to wins against aquatic invasive plants- See also Common Buckthorn. Currently, no Provincial Inspectors have jurisdiction over AIS, this would correct this and stregthen an already advantageous and strong relationship. Additionally, this plant should be prioritized for biological control due to its proximity to water bodies. Pls reference CABI paper: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.invasive-species.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2021/04/Pollard-et-al-2019-Biological-control-of-HB.pdf	Keep PN for reasons stated
	Invited	76%	21%	3%				
Hoary Alyssum	AAAF/ASB	50%	33%	17%			**Rec for Peace: Keep PN. Listed as a prohibited noxious seed in the Seeds Act, should align with CFIA on recommendation, similar to the Fisheries Act.**	Keep PN
	Invited	36%	23%	21%				
St John's Wort	AAAF/ASB	36%	30%	21%	13%		Rec for Peace: Keep PN. Populations in AB are low. Costly to manage if population grows. Keep as PN to provide municipalities with regulatory backing for destruction vs. WCA definition of control, which can be subjective. **NOTE: Moving forward, it would be advantageous that criteria of what is required to meet the bar of prohibited noxious is defined**. Individually, I have used population distribution vs difficulty to control vs overall impact if regulatory teeth taken away.	Keep PN
	Invited	44%	18%	17%	21%			
Common Mullien	AAAF/ASB			57%	34%	9%	Rec for Peace: Remove from WCR While the 100 yr seed longevity gives pause, its intolerance of shade and preference for areas lacking plant community competition leads me to believe producers can easily manage the plant.Its invasive tendancy is far surpassed by other species we are reviewing. Even in BC and Sask, infestations seem limited to areas with no plant community competition.	Keep N: Why not keep all of them? What reason to take them off?
	Invited			74%	21%	5%		
Creeping Bellflower	AAAF/ASB			51%	41%	8%	Rec for Peace: Remove from WCR. Predominanlty an urban invasive, though sometimes found in limited populations outside of urban centres. The limitation is in there being few registered herbicides for control and of those available, mopst instances are in a Landscape site, limiting what is allowable under the PMRA and Environmental Code of Practice. Municipalities can elevate if they feel the need, or look at an Urban Specific designation	Keep N: Will be many bylaws otherwise
	Invited			68%	29%	3%		

Perennial Sowthistle	AAAF/ASB			49%	46%	5%	Rec for Peace: Remove from WCR. Perennial Sow Thistle has excellent feed qualities and is palatable to livestock and horses. Control along paved road edges is difficult as there is not enough soil to hang onto residual chemical for effective rotational control efforts and what is there is frequently removed with snowplows. Due to its qualities as forage, and weak invasive tendancies, recommend for removal.	Keep N: Will be many bylaws otherwise to keep N
	Invited			71%	26%	3%		
Yellow Clematis	AAAF/ASB			50%	37%	13%	Rec for Peace: Undecided. If removed, believe it will be elevated by many. The case to remove is there, just feel it will result in the Minister needing to sign many bylaws- and it is in the ditches of Jasper National Park :(	Keep N
	Invited			65%	23%	12%		
Diffuse Knapweed	AAAF/ASB	65%	24%	11%			Rec for Peace: Reclassify as N. Populations exceed what I feel a PN pop distribution should be and very effective biocontrols now available. Municipalities with no populations can elevate but PN should remain for species with little to no distribution in the province and difficult to control, IMO	Keep PN
	Invited	58%	34%	8%				
Spotted Knapweed	AAAF/ASB	55%	37%	8%			Rec for Peace: Reclassify as N. Populations exceed what I feel a PN pop distribution should be and very effective biocontrols now available. Municipalities with no populations can elevate but PN should remain for species with little to no distribution in the province and difficult to control, IMO	Keep PN
	Invited	74%	18%	8%				
Bigheaded Knapweed	AAAF/ASB	33%	27%	17%	23%		Rec for Peace: Remove from WCR. Does poorly in areas where the cold tempeture is considered below 0C, no mention of climactic averages experienced in AB. As climate change advances, may need watching but most of AB does not have the hardiness zone to support invasive tendancies. Is listed as a Class A Noxious by Washington State	
	Invited	50%	15%	17%	18%			

Clear Hills County
Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	**Agricultural Service Board**
Meeting Date:	December 17, 2024
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	**EVENTS**
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:
The Board is presented with a list of upcoming agricultural related events for their information.

BACKGROUND:
Upcoming Events:

- Clubroot of Canola Event- December 19, 2024
- CAP grant and EFP event
- Provincial ASB Conference in Edmonton, AB from January 20-22, 2025.

ATTACHMENTS:
Clubroot of Canola Poster
Calanders: December, January, February

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
RESOLUTION by... to authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board members to the Clubroot of Canola event, on December 19, 2024, at the Eureka River Hall.

RESOLUTION by... to authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board members to the upcoming Environmental Farm Plan and CAP grant presentation, at the Dave Shaw Memorial Complex, in Hines Creek, AB.

RESOLUTION by... to authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board members to the Provincial ASB Conference in Edmonton, AB from January 20-22, 2025.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: **Manager:** **AgFieldman:**

Join Us for An Informative Session On Clubroot of Canola!

What is Clubroot? Clubroot is a serious soil-borne disease that affects canola crops, causing significant yield loss. Understanding it is key to managing and protecting your crops!

📅 Event Details:

Date: December 19, 2024
Time: 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Location: Eureka River Hall

📚 Session Highlights:

In-depth look at Clubroot's lifecycle and how it spreads.
Early detection techniques and symptoms to watch for
Best **management strategies** to protect your canola crop.
Updates on **research** and **preventative measures** available

👨‍🌾 Expert Speakers:

Jason Casselman - Agronomy Specialist Canola Council of Canada

💡 Whether you are a seasoned farmer or new to canola production, this session will equip you with the knowledge you need to safeguard your crops from Clubroot.

📣 Why Attend?

Don't miss out on this crucial opportunity to learn how to protect your canola crops from Clubroot! 🌾

Contact Info

Carter Clay (780) 685-3925 ext. 116 or
Email: extensionservices@clearhillscounty.ab.ca

DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 **Council**	11 Grower Engagement Meeting	12	13	14
15	16	17 **ASB**	18	19 Clubroot Event- Eureka River	20	21
22	23 Closed	24 Closed	25 Christmas	26 **Boxing Day**	27 Closed	28
29	30 Closed	31 Closed	1 **New Years Day**	2	3	4

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1 Office Closed	2	3	4
5	6	7 P&P	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Council	15 ASB	16	17	18
19	20 ASB Conference	21 ASB Conference	22 ASB Conference	23	24	25
26	27	28 Council	29	30	31	1

FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4 P&P	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Council	12	13	14	15
16	17 Family Day	18	19 ASB	20	21	22
23	24	25 Council	26	27	28	1

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	**Agricultural Service Board Meeting**
Meeting Date:	December 17, 2024
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	**AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT**
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:
At this time the Agricultural Fieldman will have an opportunity to present his report.

BACKGROUND:

ATTACHMENTS:
Agricultural Fieldman Report – December 17, 2024
Rental Equipment Summary

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
RESOLUTION by.. that the Agricultural Service Board accepts the December 17, 2024, Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: **Manager:** **AgFieldman:** GC

DEC 17, 2024

PEST CONTROL

- **Wolves Claimed 2024 YTD:**

Total #	Total $
22	$4400.00

OTHER TOPICS

1. The CAP grant and OFCAF grant presentation was held on November 27th in Cleardale. There were 31 producers that attended. One producer has got back to me since that he had completed his Environmental Farm Plan and was planning on applying for a fencing grant. We are working on a second presentation in Hines Creek in January or February.
2. A pest notice for clubroot was delivered to a producer on Dec 2,24. Letters to all landowners within a 5-mile radius of the infected field have been sent notification and a public notice has been posted on our Facebook Page, on the County Website and The County Stay Connected Text line.
3. We will be hosting a clubroot information session on December 19th at 10:00am at the Eureka River Hall.
4. I am working on Applying for the ASB Legislative Stream and Resource Funding Stream Grants. These Applications are due into the Province by January 30th 2025.
5. I attended In Service Training in Edmonton Dec.2-6 to earn pesticide applicator credits.

January 1 - November 30, 2024

Rental Equipment	Rental Deposit	Rental Rates	Total Users	Total Days	Total	Equipment Expense
Backpack Sprayer	*$ 50.00*	*$ -*	1	1	$ -	
Bale Scale	*$ 100.00*	*$ 30.00*	4	4	$ 120.00	
BBQ Trailer	*$ 150.00*	*$ 75.00*	6	6	$ 225.00	
Chairs	*$ 50.00*	*$0.50/chair*	15	15	$ 658.00	
Community Centre	*$ 50.00*	*$ 50.00*	3	5	$ 200.00	
Corral Panels	*$ 50.00*	*$ 50.00*	4	4	$ 100.00	
Eco-Bran Applicator	*$ 50.00*	*$ -*	0	0	$ -	
Exta Hoses	*$ 50.00*	*$1.000/hose*	1	1	$ 9.00	
Grain Bagger	*$ 350.00*	*$ 350.00*	1	5	$ 1,750.00	
Grain Bag Roller	*$ 50.00*	*$ -*	11	27	$ -	$ 2,920.27
Grain Bag Extractor	*$ 350.00*	*$ 350.00*	6	15	$ 5,250.00	$ 282.20
Grain Vac	*$ 400.00*	*$ 200.00*	23	22	$ 5,908.00	$ 1,511.55
Grill	*$ 50.00*	*$ 5.00*	8	17	$ 510.00	
Land Leveller	*$ 300.00*	*$ 150.00*	4	6	$ 900.00	$ 766.92
Loading Chute	*$ 50.00*	*$ 25.00*	10	9	$ 200.00	$ 349.54
Manure Spreader	*$ 400.00*	*$ 200.00*	6	17	$ 3,450.00	$ 1,963.63
Mulch Applicator	*$ 50.00*	*$ 25.00*	2	11	$ -	
Post Pounder	*$ 300.00*	*$ 150.00*	12	16	$ 2,250.00	$ 3,006.16
Pull/Push Roller Applicator	*$ 50.00*	*$ -*	5	14	$ -	
Quad Mount Rope Wick	*$ 50.00*	*$ -*	0	0	$ -	
Quad Mounted Sprayer	*$ 50.00*	*$ -*	0	0	$ -	
Quad Pull Type Sprayer	*$ 50.00*	*$ -*	2	4	$ -	
Roller Mill	*$ 50.00*	*$ 20.00*	2	3	$ 60.00	
Rotowiper	*$ 150.00*	*$ -*	0	0	$ -	
Skidmount Sprayer	*$ 50.00*	*$ -*	1	8	$ -	
Smoke Signs	*$ 60.00*	*$ -*	4	56	$ -	
Scare Cannon	*$ 50.00*	*$ -*	1	10	$ -	
Tables	*$ 50.00*	*$1.00/table*	15	15	$ 212.00	
Toilets	*$ 100.00*	*$ 40.00*	8	8	$ 310.00	
Truck Mount Sprayer	*$ 200.00*	*$ -*	2	3	$ -	
Wash Station	*$ 50.00*	*$ 10.00*	4	5	$ 10.00	
Water Pumps	*$100 (summer) $1000 (winter)*	*$75 (summer) $200 (winter)*	55	74	$ 9,837.56	$ 7,118.89
Wire Roller	*$ 50.00*	*$ 25.00*	11	17	$ 425.00	
			227	**398**	**$ 32,384.56**	**$ 17,919.16**

Revenue	$ 32,384.56
Equipment Expense	$ 17,919.16
Insurance	$ 1,967.35
Chargeback	$ 20,796.11
Profit/Loss	-$8,298.06

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	**Agricultural Service Board Meeting**
Meeting Date:	December 17, 2024
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	**INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE**
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:
The Board is presented with correspondence for review.

BACKGROUND:

ATTACHMENTS:
Municipal District of Smoky River NO. 136 Declaration of Agricultural Disaster for Honey Letter.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
RESOLUTION by.. that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of December 17, 2024, as presented.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: **Manager:** **AgFieldman:**

Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130

P.O. Box 210 FALHER, ALBERTA T0H 1M0
Phone: (780) 837-2221
Fax: (780) 837-2453

November 19, 2024

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Members of Executive Council
Executive Branch
131 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Sigurdson;

RE: Declaration of Agricultural Disaster - Extreme Loss of Honey Production

The Council of the MD of Smoky River #130 has declared an Agricultural Disaster for Extreme Loss of Honey Production. Local honey producers reported losses between 60% to 90% of average annual production from their hives. Agronomic and environmental factors played a role in decreased honey yields in the MD of Smoky River. The Agronomic factors being a shortened flowering period and heat blast during the flowering period of Canola. The high temperatures during July of 2024 coupled with heavy rainfall immediately afterward had detrimental impacts on the canola flowers. With Canola making up to ½ of the crops in the MD this was a significant impact to the availability of flowers to develop the nectar required for honey production. This declaration is intended to provide awareness to the challenges of the local honey industry which is an important sector of agriculture in the MD of Smoky River.

Sincerely,

Robert Brochu

Reeve

c.c. Via Electronic copy.
Todd Loewen, MLA - Grande Prairie-Smoky
Arnold Viersen, MP -Peace River-Westlock
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Provincial Agricultural Service Boards
Alberta Beekeepers Commission
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation