

AGENDA
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
January 11, 2016

The Agricultural Service Board meeting of Clear Hills County will be held on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the County Office, Worsley, Alberta.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. AGENDA
3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES
 - a. December 14, 2015 2
4. Delegation(s)
5. BUSINESS ARISING
6. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Activity Report 7
 - b. Heavy Harrows 10
 - c. Wire Roller 13
 - d. Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy 16
 - e. Genetically Engineered Alfalfa & Wheat Free Zones 27
 - f. Bill 6 30
 - g. Policies Review 59
7. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Events 60
8. REPORTS
 - a. Agricultural Fieldman Report 63
 - b. Board Reports 68
9. INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE 69
10. CONFIDENTIAL
11. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Worsley, Alberta
December 14, 2015**

PRESENT

Brian Harcourt	Chair
Mackay Ross	Member
Leslie Davis	Member
Baldur Ruecker	Deputy Chair
Stan Logan	Member
Charlie Johnson	Council Representative

IN ATTENDANCE

Audrey Bjorklund	Community Development Manager
Sarah Hayward	Community Development Clerk

IN REGRET

Aaron Zylstra	Agricultural Fieldman
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CALL TO ORDER

Chair Harcourt called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

AGENDA

AG117(12/14/15)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda governing the December 14, 2015 Agricultural Service Board meeting with the following additions:

- 7.c. Glyphosate**
- 7.d. Newspapers**
- 7.e. Rental Equipment**

CARRIED.

AG118(12/14/15)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the November 2, 2015 Organization Meeting as corrected.

CARRIED.

AG119(12/14/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the November 2, 2015 Agricultural Service Board Meeting as presented.

CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

Activity Report

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

AG120 (12/14/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the December 14, 2015 ASB Activity Report as presented.

CARRIED.

2016 Provincial Conference

The Board is presented with the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference resolutions and agenda. The conference is being held January 18th-21st, 2016 at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton, Alberta.

AG121(12/14/15)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council implement a Coyote bounty in the amount of \$30.00 per coyote with an initial budget of \$10,000.00.

CARRIED.

AG122(12/14/15)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board approve the attendance of all Board members to attend the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference on January 18-21, 2016 at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton, Alberta.
CARRIED.

Member Logan entered the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Date, Time and Place

This item was tabled at the November 2, 2015. Organizational meeting as all members must be in attendance to change the date, time and place of the meeting.

AG123(12/14/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board authorize that ten (10) regular meetings are to be held the second Monday of each month except May when the meeting will be held the first Monday; meetings will start at 10:00 a.m.; and no meetings will be held in April and September. At the discretion of the Chair, special meetings may be called and shall be posted 48 hours in advance.
CARRIED.

ALUS Meeting Review

This meeting was held on November 6, 2015 in Fairview, Alberta. This was a joint meeting with two ASB's we partner with under the Environmental Stream Funding component of the Provincial Agricultural Service Board grant, M.D. of Fairview and M.D. of Peace, and the Manager and representatives from the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association (PCBFA). The PCBFA administers the Environment Stream program for the three municipalities. Denika Piggott from Municipal Affairs was presenting on this program that is now being undertaken by seven municipalities in Alberta.

Outcomes/Next Steps:

1. ASB's decide if they wish to pursue or not.
2. What's our (the ASBs) vision?
3. Seek Council support in principle to pursue

AG124(12/14/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Logan that this Agricultural Service Board table consideration of participating in an Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) partnership to a future meeting pending more information from the current ALUS participants.

CARRIED.

VSI Annual General Meeting Review

Councillor Johnson will report on the Veterinary Services Program (VSI) annual general meeting he attended on Friday, November 6, 2015.

AG125(12/14/15)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council that V.S.I. cost-share levels with producers remain at 50% coverage with no service limits and an individual producer limit of \$3,000.00 annually.

CARRIED.

AG126(12/14/15)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council implement B.S.E. testing compensation in the amount of \$125.00 per animal and establish a budget of \$5,000.00 in the 2016 budget on a one year trial basis. **CARRIED.**

AG127(12/14/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to draft a B.S.E testing compensation policy based on \$125.00 per animal and bring back to the January 11, 2016 Agricultural Service Board meeting for consideration. **CARRIED.**

Chair Harcourt recessed for lunch at 11:36 a.m.
Chair Harcourt reconvened from lunch at 12:10 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Events

The Board is presented with events for their consideration.

AG128(12/14/15)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all available members to attend the following events:

1. Peace Country Beef Congress on January 8 and 9, 2016 at the Lakota Center in Dawson Creek, British Columbia.
2. 2016 Peace Agronomy Update on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at the Dunvegan Motor Inn in Fairview, Alberta.
3. FarmTech 2016 will be held on January 26-28, 2016 at the Edmonton Expo Centre at Northlands.
4. The Pilot Regional Sustainable Farm Families Workshop on February 3 and 4, 2016 at the Community Services Building in Grande Prairie, Alberta. **CARRIED.**

Bill 6 Session Update

The Board members that attended the Bill 6 session that was held on November 26, 2015 in Grande Prairie, Alberta will update the rest of the Board.

AG129(12/14/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board table the discussion on Bill 6 and bring back more information on the proposed legislation changes to the January 11, 2016 meeting. **CARRIED.**

Add In:
Glyphosate
Newspapers

Chair Harcourt requested these items be added to today's agenda.

AG130(12/14/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion around glyphosate and newspapers. **CARRIED.**

Rental Equipment

Chair Harcourt requested these items be added to today's agenda.

AG131(12/14/15) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board to bring back cost and availability on wire rollers as a potential rental equipment item. CARRIED.

AG132(12/14/15) RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion around rental equipment. CARRIED.

REPORTS

Community Development
Manager Report

At this time the Community Development Manager will have an opportunity to report on Community Development agricultural topics.

AG133(12/14/15) RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board is in support of making the Peace Region a Round Up Ready genetically engineered free zone for alfalfa in Alberta; and circulate this information in a letter to the Agricultural Service Boards in the region. CARRIED.

AG134(12/14/15) RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board is in support of making the Peace Region a Round Up Ready genetically engineered free zone for wheat in Alberta; and circulate this information in a letter to the Agricultural Service Boards in the region. CARRIED.

AG135(12/14/15) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board is in support of making the Province of Alberta a Round Up Ready genetically engineered free zone for alfalfa; and circulate this information in a letter to the Agricultural Service Boards in the province. CARRIED.

AG136(12/14/15) RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board is in support of making the Province of Alberta a Round Up Ready genetically engineered free zone for wheat; and circulate this information in a letter to the Agricultural Service Boards in the province. CARRIED.

AG137(12/14/15) RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board accept the Community Development Manager's report to December 14, 2015 as presented. CARRIED.

Board Reports

At this time the Board members will have an opportunity to present their reports.

Deputy Chair Ruecker: Attended ALUS on November 6, 2015 at the Dunvegan Motor Inn in Fairview, Alberta, the Regional ASB Conference in Guy, Alberta on November 5, 2015 and Herd Management Software & Verified Beef Production Seminar at the Rycroft Ag. Society Hall.

Member Davis: Attended the Regional ASB Conference in Guy, Alberta on November 5, 2015. ALUS on November 6, 2015 at the Dunvegan Motor Inn in Fairview, Alberta.

Councilor Johnson: Attended the VSI annual general meeting and attended the Regional ASB Conference in Guy, Alberta on November 5, 2015

Member Logan: attended Farm Fair in Edmonton, Alberta, Agri-Trade in Red Deer, Alberta, ALUS meeting on November 6, 2015 at the Dunvegan Motor Inn in Fairview, Alberta and the Western Canadian Soil Conference at the Radison in Edmonton, Alberta.

Member Ross: Attended the Regional ASB Conference in Guy, Alberta on November 5, 2015, ALUS meeting on November 6, 2015 at the Dunvegan Motor Inn in Fairview, Alberta, Bill 6 Session in Grande Prairie, Alberta on November 26, 2015 and the Western Canadian Soil Conference at the Radison in Edmonton, Alberta.

Chair Harcourt: Attended the Regional ASB Conference in Guy, Alberta on November 5, 2015, ALUS meeting on November 6, 2015 at the Dunvegan Motor Inn in Fairview, Alberta, Bill 6 Session in Grande Prairie, Alberta on November 26, 2015

AG138(12/14/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' written or verbal reports of December 14, 2015 for information. CARRIED.

AG139(12/14/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Logan that this Agricultural Service Board table policy review until the January 11, 2016 meeting. CARRIED.

AG140(12/14/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Logan that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion around potential modifications to the loading chute. CARRIED.

**INFORMATION &
CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board is presented with correspondence to review.
1. Peace Country Beef & Forage Association newsletter

AG141(12/14/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of December 14, 2015. CARRIED.

ADJORNMENT

Chair Harcourt adjourned the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

CHAIR

AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	January 11, 2016
Originated By:	Al Fletcher, 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 (ASB) accepts the January 11, 2016 ASB Activity Report as presented.

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



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for January 11, 2016 Page 1 of 2

Budget Items:

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer

DO= Development Officer

EA = Executive Assistant

Completed Items:

CSM = Corporate Services Manager

AF = Ag. Fieldman

CDM = Community Development Manager

MOTION DATE DESCRIPTION DEPT STATUS

REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETINGS				
January 12, 2015				
AG05	(01/12/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board arrange for two composting demonstration sites for large animal composting.	AF	1 site completed, seeking 2 nd site.
November 2, 2015				
AG113	(11/02/15)	RESOLUTION by Chair Harcourt that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to bring back information on availability and cost of 50 to 70 foot McFarlane Harrows.	AF	January 11, 2016 RFD
December 14, 2015				
AG121	(12/14/15)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council implement a Coyote Bounty in the amount of \$30.00 per coyote with an initial budget of \$10,000.00.	CDM	Going to Council January 12, 2016
AG124	(12/14/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Logan that this Agricultural Service Board table consideration of participating in an Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) partnership to the next board meeting pending more information from the current ALUS participants.	CDM	
AG125	(12/14/15)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council V.S.I. funding remain at 50% coverage with no service limits and a an individual producer limit of \$3,000.00 annually.	CDM	Going to Council January 12, 2016
AG126	(12/14/15)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council implement B.S.E. testing compensation in the amount of \$125.00 per animal and establish a budget of \$5,000.00 in the 2016 budget on a one year trial basis.	CDM	Pending policy recommendation to Council
AG127	(12/14/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to draft a B.S.E Compensation policy based on \$125.00 per animal and bring back to the January 11, 2016 Agricultural Service Board meeting for consideration.	CDM	January 11, 2016 RFD



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for January 11, 2016 Page 2 of 2

Budget Items:

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer

DO= Development Officer

EA = Executive Assistant

Completed Items:

CSM = Corporate Services Manager

AF = Ag. Fieldman

CDM = Community Development Manager

MOTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEPT	STATUS
AG129	(12/14/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board table the discussion on Bill 6 and bring back more information on the proposed legislation changes to the January meeting.	CDM	January 11, 2016 RFD
AG131	(12/14/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board to bring back cost and availability on wire rollers as a rental equipment item.	CDM	January 11, 2016 RFD
AG133	(12/14/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board is in support of making the Peace Region a Round Up Ready genetically engineered free zone for alfalfa in Alberta; and circulate this information in a letter to the Agricultural Service Boards in the region.	CDM	January 11, 2016 Draft Letters RFD
AG134	(12/14/15)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board is in support of making the Peace Region a Round Up Ready genetically engineered free zone for wheat in Alberta; and circulate this information in a letter to the Agricultural Service Boards in the region.	CDM	January 11, 2016 Draft Letters RFD
AG135	(12/14/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board is in support of making the Province of Alberta a Round Up Ready genetically engineered free zone for alfalfa; and circulate this information in a letter to the Agricultural Service Boards in the province.	CDM	January 11, 2016 Draft Letters RFD
AG136	(12/14/15)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board is in support of making the Province of Alberta a Round Up Ready genetically engineered free zone for wheat; and circulate this information in a letter to the Agricultural Service Boards in the province.	CDM	January 11, 2016 Draft Letters RFD

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	January 11, 2016
Originated By:	Al Fletcher, Ag Fieldman
Title:	Heavy Harrows
File No:	63-10-10

DESCRIPTION:

The Board directed cost and availability of 50-70 foot heavy harrows be researched for consideration as rental equipment. The Board is requested to provide further direction on the type of harrows being proposed.

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

The Board is also provided with the Rental Equipment Policy to determine if this item is in compliance with the policy. If not, why would it be beneficial to add to the rental equipment fleet, and should the policy be amended?

AG113 (11/02/15) RESOLUTION by Chair Harcourt that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to bring back information on availability and cost of 50 to 70 foot McFarlane Harrows.
CARRIED.

The different type of options available:

- straw management or
- soil and straw management.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Rental Equipment Policy 6310

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION byto bring back information on _____
heavy harrows as a potential rental equipment item.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: <i>ABj</i> AgFieldman:
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Clear Hills County

Effective Date: February 22, 2011	Policy Number 6310
Title: RENTAL EQUIPMENT POLICY	

1. Policy Statement:

- 1.1. Clear Hills County recognizes the value of utilizing tax dollars to provide equipment available for rent to County residents, land managers and agricultural producers.

2. Purpose:

- 2.1. To supply equipment for rent that would not be economically feasible for individual agricultural producers or land managers to purchase and is not readily available for rent through other rental agents.
- 2.2. To provide innovative tools and equipment for local agricultural producers and land managers that promotes innovative agricultural management practices.
- 2.3. To provide tools and equipment that assist agricultural producers and land managers to comply with their legislative requirements under Alberta's Weed Control Act, Soil Conservation Act and Agricultural Pests Act.

3. Responsibilities

- 3.1. The Agricultural Service Board will recommend to Council a list of rental equipment and a schedule of fees for equipment deposits and rental rates.
- 3.2. The Agricultural Service Board may recommend to Council to purchase, replace, or liquidate rental equipment based on the three purposes in section 2.
- 3.3. Agricultural Services will provide the Agricultural Service Board with a list of rental rates and deposits based on the following structure:
 - 3.3.1. Equipment purchased to fulfil subsection 2.1 will have a rental rate to recover capital costs and maintenance costs of that equipment;
 - 3.3.2. Equipment purchased to fulfil subsection 2.2 will have a rental rate to recover maintenance costs only;
 - 3.3.3. Equipment purchased to fulfil subsection 2.3 will have a minimal rental rate to maximize the equipment use;
 - 3.3.4. Deposits greater than the designated minimum amount will be double

the rental rate of that equipment.

- 3.4. County staff will have knowledge of each piece of equipment and will inform the renter of proper operating procedures and safety precautions.
- 3.5. Agriculture Services will conduct pre- and post-rental inspections of all equipment to ensure equipment is in good condition, will operate properly and is safe to use.
- 3.6. Renters will sign a rental agreement form and assume responsibility for all costs associated with equipment returned damaged or not properly cleaned.
- 3.7. County staff will refuse to rent out equipment that is unfit and/or unsafe for use.
- 3.8. Agricultural Services will provide an annual report to the Agricultural Service Board for a program review in February of each year.

4. Reference to Legislation

- 4.1. Weed Control Act
- 4.2. Soil Conservation Act
- 4.3. Agricultural Pests Act

5. End of Policy

ADOPTED:
Resolution C170(02/22/10)

Date: February 22, 2011

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	January 11, 2016
Originated By:	Al Fletcher Ag Fieldman
Title:	Wire Roller
File No:	63-10-10

DESCRIPTION:

The Board directed costs and availability of a wire roller be researched for consideration as rental equipment. The Board is requested to provide further direction on the type of wire roller being proposed.

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

The Board is also provided with the Rental Equipment Policy to determine if this item is in compliance with the policy. If not, why would it be beneficial to add to the rental equipment fleet, and should the policy be amended?

AG131(12/14/15) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board to bring back cost and availability on wire rollers as a potential rental equipment item. CARRIED.

Options

- Hitch mount for a tractor or pickup
- Self-contained gas engine with hydraulics on a trailer pulled with a pickup
- Post puller back of a pickup skid mount.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Rental Equipment Policy

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by to bring back information on _____ style wire roller as a potential rental equipment item.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:  AgFieldman: 



Clear Hills County

Effective Date: February 22, 2011	Policy Number 6310
Title: RENTAL EQUIPMENT POLICY	

1. Policy Statement:

- 1.1. Clear Hills County recognizes the value of utilizing tax dollars to provide equipment available for rent to County residents, land managers and agricultural producers.

2. Purpose:

- 2.1. To supply equipment for rent that would not be economically feasible for individual agricultural producers or land managers to purchase and is not readily available for rent through other rental agents.
- 2.2. To provide innovative tools and equipment for local agricultural producers and land managers that promotes innovative agricultural management practices.
- 2.3. To provide tools and equipment that assist agricultural producers and land managers to comply with their legislative requirements under Alberta's Weed Control Act, Soil Conservation Act and Agricultural Pests Act.

3. Responsibilities

- 3.1. The Agricultural Service Board will recommend to Council a list of rental equipment and a schedule of fees for equipment deposits and rental rates.
- 3.2. The Agricultural Service Board may recommend to Council to purchase, replace, or liquidate rental equipment based on the three purposes in section 2.
- 3.3. Agricultural Services will provide the Agricultural Service Board with a list of rental rates and deposits based on the following structure:
 - 3.3.1. Equipment purchased to fulfil subsection 2.1 will have a rental rate to recover capital costs and maintenance costs of that equipment;
 - 3.3.2. Equipment purchased to fulfil subsection 2.2 will have a rental rate to recover maintenance costs only;
 - 3.3.3. Equipment purchased to fulfil subsection 2.3 will have a minimal rental rate to maximize the equipment use;
 - 3.3.4. Deposits greater than the designated minimum amount will be double

the rental rate of that equipment.

- 3.4. County staff will have knowledge of each piece of equipment and will inform the renter of proper operating procedures and safety precautions.
- 3.5. Agriculture Services will conduct pre- and post-rental inspections of all equipment to ensure equipment is in good condition, will operate properly and is safe to use.
- 3.6. Renters will sign a rental agreement form and assume responsibility for all costs associated with equipment returned damaged or not properly cleaned.
- 3.7. County staff will refuse to rent out equipment that is unfit and/or unsafe for use.
- 3.8. Agricultural Services will provide an annual report to the Agricultural Service Board for a program review in February of each year.

4. Reference to Legislation

- 4.1. Weed Control Act
- 4.2. Soil Conservation Act
- 4.3. Agricultural Pests Act

5. End of Policy

ADOPTED:

Resolution C170(02/22/10)

Date: February 22, 2011

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	January 11, 2016
Originated By:	Audrey Bjorklund, Community Development Manager
Title:	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board directed administration to draft a B.S.E Compensation policy and bring back to the January 11, 2016 Agricultural Service Board meeting.

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

AG126(12/14/15) RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council implement B.S.E. testing compensation in the amount of \$125.00 per animal and establish a budget of \$5,000.00 in the 2016 budget on a one year trial basis.

CARRIED.

AG127(12/14/15) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to draft a B.S.E Compensation policy based on \$125.00 per animal and bring back to the January 11, 2016 Agricultural Service Board meeting for consideration.

CARRIED.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft Policy 6314
- Fact Sheet

OPTIONS:

1. Table consideration of this policy pending the outcome of the Agricultural Service Board Resolution at the Provincial Conference lobbying the province to reinstate B.S.E testing compensation at the Provincial response.
2. Recommend Council adopt as presented
3. Direct the following changes...

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by that this Agricultural Service Board table consideration of this policy pending the outcome of the Agricultural Service Board Resolution at the Provincial Conference lobbying the province to reinstate B.S.E testing compensation, and if approved at the Provincial Response.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: <i>ABj</i> AgFieldman:
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Clear Hills County

Effective Date: Drafted for January 11,2016 ASB review	Policy Number 6314
Title: Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Testing Incentive Program	

1. **Policy Statement:**

Clear Hills County recognizes the value of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) testing.

Canada may be at the risk of losing its status as a controlled BSE risk country due to tested numbers not meeting the 30,000 animal annual requirements.

In September of 2011 the province decided to discontinue the \$150.00 per animal incentive given to producers for sampling their animals and maintaining control of the carcass pending BSE test results.

By providing a municipal BSE testing incentive, it will encourage producers to participate in the BSE program, realizing our target.

2. **Purpose:**

2.1. To establish guidelines for Clear Hills County's BSE testing incentive program.

3. **Responsibilities**

3.1. Council will allocate an annual BSE budget.

3.2. The BSE testing incentive will be \$125.00 per animal tested.

3.3. Only beef cattle are eligible for BSE testing and incentive payments.

3.4. The Agricultural Service Board will be provided with an annual report on the number of users of the BSE testing incentive program and recommend to Council amendments to the BSE testing incentive program as necessary.

3.5. Eligible participants must be Veterinary Services (1980) Ltd. (VSI) members.

3.6. Eligible participants must be a resident in Clear Hills County for three consecutive months or a landowner in Clear Hills County with livestock.

3.7. V.S.I. Services will provide a list of Clear Hills County VSI members that had animals testing for BSE in the quarterly reports.

3.8. Clear Hills County will pay VSI members that have been identified as having animals tested for BSE.

3.9. Only Veterinary Clinics will have access to the results of the BSE tests.

4. **End of Policy**



[Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(/eng/1297964599443/1297965645317\)](#)

[Home](#) → [Animals](#) → [Terrestrial Animals](#) → [Diseases](#) → [Reportable](#)

→ [BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)](#) → [Fact Sheet](#)

Fact Sheet - Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)

What is BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy)?

[BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)](#) is a progressive, fatal disease of the nervous system of cattle. It is what is known as a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE (transmissible spongiform encephalopathy)). Other TSEs (transmissible spongiform encephalopathy) include [scrapie in sheep \(/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/scrapie/eng/1329723409732/1329723572482\)](#), [chronic wasting disease in deer and elk \(/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/cwd/eng/1330143462380/1330143991594\)](#), and [Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease \(http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cjd-mcj/index-eng.php\)](#) in humans. Although the exact cause of [BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)](#) is unknown, it is associated with the presence of an abnormal protein called a prion. There is no treatment or vaccine currently available for the disease.

BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) in Canada

[BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)](#) has been a reportable disease in Canada since 1990.

In 1993 [BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)](#) was found in a beef cow that had been imported from Britain in 1987. The animal was destroyed and additional measures were taken immediately by the federal government to deal with any risk that Canadian cattle might have been affected.

Canada's first case of [BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)](#) in a domestic animal was found in May 2003.

Symptoms/Signs of BSE (Bovine Spongiform

Encephalopathy)

BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) is an unusual disease in that the time between an animal's exposure to the disease and the onset of clinical signs normally ranges from four to five years. Animals with BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) may show a number of different symptoms including nervous or aggressive behavior, abnormal posture, lack of co-ordination or difficulty in rising from a lying position, decreased milk production, and weight loss despite an increased appetite. These symptoms may last for a period of two to six months before the animal dies.

Transmission of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy)

Scientists believe that the spread of this disease in cattle in Great Britain was caused by feeding protein products made from infected cattle or sheep. This occurred in the late 1970s and early 1980s. It was then magnified by the practice of feeding rendered material from slaughtered cattle to other cattle. The protein that is linked to BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) is resistant to normal inactivation procedures such as heat, which means that it may not be completely destroyed in the rendering process and could remain active in rendered material. In 1988, Great Britain banned the use of this rendered material in animal feeds, thus removing potentially contaminated material from the food chain. As a result, since the winter of 1992-93, the number of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) cases reported in Great Britain has been progressively dropping. In addition, other possible methods of transmission are still being scientifically investigated.

Diagnosis of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy)

There is no test to diagnose BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) in live animals, although a tentative diagnosis may be made based on clinical signs. Diagnosis can only be confirmed by microscopic examination of the animal's brain after its death.

How Does Canada protect food safety and animal health from BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy)?

Canada, as well as many other countries, has taken precautions to prevent the introduction and spread of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy). These measures include the following:



[Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(/eng/1297964599443/1297965645317\)](#)

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BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) Enhanced Surveillance Program

Canada implemented a national bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) surveillance program in 1992. In 2003, the Government announced that the number of annual [BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)](#) samples tested through this program would be increased. The level and design of [BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)](#) testing in Canada has always been, and continues to be, in full accordance with the guidelines recommended by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

Surveillance is one of many [BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)-related actions \(/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/bse/safeguards/eng/1363896195473/1363896681768\)](#) Canada has implemented to manage [BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)](#). The program tests a sample of animals from the national cattle herd and focuses on [higher-risk animals \(/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/bse/enhanced-surveillance/maintaining-confidence/eng/1356646924535/1356647039774#ris\)](#) that are most likely to be affected by the disease. The surveillance program's objectives are to determine and monitor the level of [BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)](#) present in Canada and to confirm the effectiveness of the suite of measures Canada has implemented to protect human and animal health from the disease.

- [Canada's Protocols for BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\) Surveillance \(/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/bse/enhanced-surveillance/protocols/eng/1356653159068/1356653329490\)](#)
- [National BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\) Surveillance Reimbursement Program \(/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/bse/enhanced-surveillance/reimbursement/eng/1356644370690/1356645004073\)](#)
- [BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\) Surveillance: Maintaining confidence in Canadian beef \(/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/bse/enhanced-surveillance/maintaining-confidence/eng/1356646924535/1356647039774\)](#)

Sample Status and Testing Results

Updated monthly. Last updated 2015-07-31

No validated live animal test for [BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)](#) currently exists. Accordingly, testing for [BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)](#) can only be done on the brains of dead animals. Brain samples are screened using rapid tests that accurately and quickly detect a [BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)](#) positive sample nearly 100% of the time. Rapid tests can, in rare cases, react when a sample is not infected with [BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)](#). These are known as "inconclusive" results. All samples that yield inconclusive results using a rapid test are sent to the [CFIA \(Canadian Food Inspection Agency\)](#) laboratory in Lethbridge, Alberta for confirmatory testing.

2015

Month	Samples Tested	Negative	Positive
July	1823	1823	0
June	2041	2041	0
May	1915	1915	0
April	3008	3008	0
March	2763	2763	0
February	2242	2241	1
January	2902	2902	0
Year to date	16694	16693	1

Previous Years

Year	Samples Tested	Negative	Positive
2014	27604	27604	0
2013	31021	31021	0
2012	27371	27371	0

Previously published reports are available in archives maintained by Library and Archives Canada.

- [Reports for results from 2008 to 2010 \(http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/003/008/099/003008-disclaimer.html?orig=/100/206/301/cfia-acia/2011-09-21/www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/disejala/bseesb/surv/surve.shtml\)](http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/003/008/099/003008-disclaimer.html?orig=/100/206/301/cfia-acia/2011-09-21/www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/disejala/bseesb/surv/surve.shtml)
- [Reports for results from 2004 to 2007 \(http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/webarchives/20071115055040/http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disejala/bseesb/surv/surve.shtml\)](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/webarchives/20071115055040/http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/disejala/bseesb/surv/surve.shtml)

Samples collected

"Samples collected" indicates the number of samples submitted or being submitted to provincial or federal laboratories. Each sample represents one animal. Monthly values represent only the number of samples obtained in that month. "Year to date" values represent cumulative samples.

In January 2004, the Government of Canada announced that it would enhance its [BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)](#) surveillance testing to at least 8,000 cattle during the first year and to 30,000 per year in subsequent years to calculate the prevalence of [BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)](#) in Canadian adult cattle. The level and design of this enhanced program continues to be in full accordance with the guidelines recommended by the [OIE \(World Health Organization for Animal Health\)](#).

[BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)](#) surveillance samples come from a variety of sources, including the farm, federal, provincial and territorial abattoirs, rendering and deadstock operations, veterinary practitioners, and university and provincial veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

Samples Pending

Pending samples are those for which final results are unavailable. This may be because they have yet to be tested, or testing is ongoing. Monthly values represent only the number of samples pending in that month. "Year to date" values represent cumulative pending samples.

Negative

Negative samples have been determined negative based on screening results or confirmatory testing. Monthly values represent only the number of samples testing negative in that month. "Year to date" values represent cumulative negative samples.

Positive

Positive samples are those that have been confirmed as positive by immunohistochemistry (IHC), or in the case of poor quality samples and IHC ([immunohistochemistry](#)) negative suspect tests, the [SAP \(Serum Amyloid P\)](#) immunoblot, both internationally recognized confirmatory tests for [BSE \(Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy\)](#). Monthly values represent only the number of samples testing positive in that month. "Year to date" values represent cumulative positive samples.

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Overview of the Canada and Alberta BSE Surveillance Program

 [Agri-News](#)

[This Week](#)

[OIE point system](#) | [Clinical information](#) | [Veterinarians in the program](#) | [The Veterinary Certification program](#) | [Recommendations for producers](#) | [Program insights](#)

History

In 2004, the [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#) (CFIA) announced that Canada required increasing its testing for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in order to meet national and international animal health standards, to assure food safety and to guarantee market access for our cattle and meat products in international markets.

On September 10, 2004, CFIA and Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) jointly announced the creation of the [Canada and Alberta BSE Surveillance Program \(CABSESP\)](#) which focuses on animal surveillance categories with higher-risk to be more likely affected by the disease. This program rapidly became the pillar for BSE surveillance in Alberta and a role model for the rest of Canada and the world.

During the Fall of 2007, the [Food Safety and Animal Health Division \(FSAHD\)](#) of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) initiated a review of the CABSESP. Three main objectives were identified: 1) to detect gaps and inefficiencies within the administration and in the delivery of the program; 2) to improve the quality, accuracy and auditability of data, and 3) to adapt to the new guidelines established by the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) on BSE surveillance. A number of issues were detected and solutions were proposed to increase the administrative efficiency, reduce internal costs and expedite the data flow process. As a result, a series of internal changes were performed and a new program conditions document was produced defining new eligibility criteria for the CABSESP. A Veterinary Certification Program was also created to improve the quality and accuracy of data, as well as to assure that the program conditions were properly delivered.

On July 1, 2008 the new program conditions came into effect clearly defining the eligibility of producers, cattle and samples. Sampling on provincial abattoirs was eliminated. The biggest change after July 1, 2008 is represented by targeting high risk individuals, those animals whose age ranges from 30 to 107 months, which, according to science-based risk assessments, are the most likely to develop BSE.

After July 1, 2008, age verification became a challenge for certified veterinarians, since age verification by dentition was a requirement for animals from 30 to 59 months of age and proper documentation/records to verify age was a requirement for eligibility on animals 60 to 107 months.

It was estimated that these changes would result in a reduction in sampling numbers of about 50%, without affecting the number of OIE points produced by Alberta, and creating significant savings for taxpayers. However, analysis conducted by the CABSESP revealed that sampling numbers were reduced more than expected. As a result, a series of surveys were conducted by the CABSESP to determine the contributing factors of this reduction. One of the major issues was the lack of proper farm records to age verify animals from 60 to 107 months, but other factors such as reduced cattle inventories, increased cull cow market prices and animals remaining longer in pasture, were also contributing factors.

Recent Changes to the CABSESP

As of November 1, 2012, the Canada and Alberta BSE Surveillance Program (CABSESP) is once again accepting all high risk cattle (down, diseased, dying or dead) older than 30 months, **without any upper age limit**. Also, the restriction for possession of animals for at least 30 days **has been eliminated**. Therefore, the CABSESP now accepts animals *30 months of age and older that are legally possessed by Alberta's farmers* falling into any of the high risk categories. The other eligibility criteria for the high risk categories remain the same.

On May 2012, the CABSESP started sampling in rendering facilities using CFIA inspectors.

On September 15, 2011 the province decided to discontinue the incentive given to producers to allow sampling their animals and for maintaining control of the carcass pending test results. Alberta producers are now receiving \$75 from the federal government (CFIA). The province continues administering the program and testing samples for BSE in the TSE Edmonton laboratory.

During early spring 2011, group cases were defined as three or more animals dying over a period of 30 days due to obvious causes, or management-associated reasons. Also, assessment for eligibility and sample collection was allowed for veterinarians on cattle owned by relatives or by business associates. Excluded in this rule are the spouse, independently of the form of cattle's ownership, as well as minor children whose parents are either the collecting veterinarian, or the spouse.

Other changes to the CABSESP as of December 2009 included accepting neurological animals of any age that are older than 30 months, post calving and post surgical cases without waiting period and, dead cases when the postmortem is not feasible to perform due to the carcass being frozen-solid, decomposed or scavenged. These cases require a good history and a brainstem sample that is in good condition and meets the eligibility criteria.

On January 26, 2009 the CABSESP-program conditions were changed to allow certified veterinarians to determine age on eligible animals using dentition in those cases where there were no farm records available. The CABSESP developed a dentition guideline to be used in those cases when there are no accurate farm records, ear tags, or tattoos to confirm age. Click link to review this [guideline](#).

The World Animal Health (OIE) Point System

The changes to the CABSESP respond to the need for Canada to meet the OIE requirements in BSE surveillance and to improve and increase its efficiency. The [OIE](#) implemented a point system to assess the quality of BSE surveillance conducted by member countries. In this manner, and together with testing a significant yearly number, each country also needs to earn certain number of

points over a period of time. Each collected sample is assigned a point value based on the subpopulation (category) where the sampled animal came from, its age and the animal's history and clinical data. For example, a 4-year old animal exhibiting neurological signs consistent with BSE would be assigned the highest value (1,741 points); while healthy yearlings sampled at routine slaughter are much less valuable from a BSE surveillance perspective with a value of no more than 0.01 points. Since samples from a clinical suspect animal are worth more than samples from healthy animals, or those dead of unknown causes, the quality and detail of the clinical history/signs and the determination of the real age is extremely important.

Clinical Information

To accomplish the OIE requirements in terms of more and better clinical data, two steps have been performed: 1) creation of new BSE Applications Forms that reflect the changes to the program and, 2) creation of the Veterinary Certification Program. The new forms request detailed animal information, means by which age verification is assessed and more intensive and detailed clinical and postmortem information. The use of digital pictures is recommended for veterinarians to back up their assessments, specially in those cases where there is some doubt on the diagnosis. In face of these requirements, only licensed veterinarians are allowed to participate in the program when farm visits are required.

Veterinarians in the Program

The CABSESP is executed through a network of certified veterinarians licensed in Alberta, who visit the farm on the producer's request, examine the animals to determine its eligibility, perform a clinical examination on live animals, a postmortem on dead cases (with the exceptions described previously), and determine the eligibility of the animal for the program. If eligible, the brainstem is collected and delivered, together with the appropriate information to the laboratory. Collection and delivery of the sample has to be done as soon as possible, avoiding accumulation of samples for more than 2 days in the spring/summer/fall seasons, or for more than a week during winter time. The veterinarian is also responsible for communicating the laboratory results to the producer within 24 hours of receiving them, to allow for proper disposal of the carcass.

The program offers reimbursements to: 1) producers for their participation in the program by holding and securing the carcasses pending test results; and, 2) veterinarians for delivery of professional services, sample collection, delivery and provision of meaningful clinical and surveillance information. Samples are to be submitted either to the CFIA-Lethbridge laboratory, if the farm is located south of Innisfield, or to the ARD-Edmonton laboratory, if the farm is located north of Innisfield.

These practitioners visit the farm at the producer's request,

- Veterinarians currently participating in the program: 277
- Veterinary clinics participating in the program: 150
- Total veterinarians certified since 2008: 515

For more information, please visit the [BSE web](#) page from the CFIA.

The Veterinary Certification Program

The Veterinary Certification Program was created by the administration of the CABSESP in May 2008 to improve the knowledge and understanding of veterinarians in the program and to implement a consistent approach for eligibility among veterinarians in the province. The veterinary community responded to this proposal by registering almost 300 large and mixed animal practitioners licensed in Alberta. Twelve certification sessions were delivered by the CABSESP during the summer of 2008 in different cities of the province. The certification sessions involve general information on BSE, detailed explanation on the OIE point system, a deep description of the CABSESP's program conditions, understanding the veterinarian's roles and responsibilities as described in the *Manual for Certified Veterinarians* and discussion of different case scenarios. Veterinarians are required to attend annual re-certification updates via teleconference or webinar to retain their certification status. Subsequent updates are performed every time a change has implemented to the program, and this assures that certified veterinarians are current on the latest version of the program conditions.

The Investigations Branch of the Regulatory Services Division of ARD conducts regular audits and verification on producers and veterinarians to confirm or find more information on certain cases.

The Manual for Interpretation and Guidelines for Certified Veterinarians produced by the CABSESP is a reference document for certified veterinarians. Licensed veterinarians wishing to be certified may contact the CABSESP at 780-644-2148 to inquire for the date of the next certification session.

In 2013 the CABSESP in coordination with the University of Calgary-School of Veterinary Medicine, initiated an on-campus pre-certification session for third year veterinary students. In this session students attend the classroom component and a wet lab in a similar fashion as if they were participating in the regular certification sessions. When students graduate and receive a registration number for the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, they are allowed to apply to the CABSESP to become BSE certified.

Recommendations for Producers

Producers are asked to give certified veterinarians access to farm records if they need to verify the age, history and other relevant information. Also, personal and/or business information must be provided in the BSE application form in order to process payments. If a producer has a farm registered as a business, he/she must give the commercial name as it appears in the corporate registry list. If a producer is not frequently present on farm, he/she must give written authorization to one or more people who are frequently there, in order to sign on his/her behalf. For copies of the Letter of Authorization, please visit the [Canada-Alberta BSE Surveillance Program](#)

If in partnership, partners must provide the name of the person who is to receive the cheques. Before signing either application form (Non submission form, General Information Form), the producer should read the CABSESP program conditions to make sure that he/she understands the eligibility criteria, rights and responsibilities.

One of the causes for payment delays to producers corresponds to the incomplete producer information on the BSE application form. This causes pre-verification personnel at the TSE Unit to initiate a chase for missing data, sometimes with negative results. BSE applications, where missing information is not collected within a 90-day period after being received at AARD, may be

cancelled. It is recommended that producers provide complete information at the time of sampling to reduce delays and cancellation of BSE applications.

Producers who think they have an eligible animal are advised to call their local veterinary clinic and ask for a CABSESP's certified veterinarian. Also, producers who would like to get copies of the National BSE Surveillance program, or the CABSESP's program conditions, or to search the world wide web to locate the [closest certified veterinarian](#).

Program Insights

- New graduates in veterinary medicine, as well as other veterinarians moving to Alberta are participating in two certification sessions scheduled each year.
- The TSE Unit is in charge of receiving application forms, entering data into the system, pre-verifying information, auditing, controlling and making sure that the forms are complete to trigger payments.
- Mapping and reporting is done with Cognos, a program that allows determination of sample distribution, follow trends in animal type, target animal category, exact location of farms, as well as performance of veterinarians in the CABSESP.
- The CABSESP team lead by Dr. Hernan Ortegon, received the Alberta Agriculture Performance of Excellence (AAPEX) Silver Award, which is one of the highest recognitions given by AARD for outstanding team work.
- The dynamics of the program allow participating veterinarians to provide input regarding specific conditions, to confirm or eliminate them as eligible and to tune in details of the program.
- The number of compliance issues and audits on veterinarians fell dramatically after the July 1st 2008's changes, demonstrating that these issues were clearly identified and that proper solutions were implemented.
- The application forms corresponding to samples tested in the ADRI lab in Lethbridge, are now being entered daily into the system by the TSE Unit in Edmonton.



For more information about the content of this document, contact [Hernan Ortegon](#).

This document is maintained by [Sandra Clarke](#).

This information published to the web on November 23, 2004.

Last Reviewed/Revised on April 24, 2015.

Phone the [Ag-Info Centre](#), toll-free in Alberta at 310-FARM (3276), for agricultural information.

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Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	January 11 2016
Originated By:	Audrey Bjorklund, Community Development Manager
Title:	Genetically Engineered Alfalfa & Wheat Free Zones
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board had directed letters be circulated to the Agricultural Service Boards in the region supporting the Peace Region, and Province being declared genetically engineered (ie Roundup Ready™) freezones for alfalfa and wheat. The draft letters are attached for the Board's review.

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

AG133(12/14/15) RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board is in support of making the Peace Region a Round Up Ready genetically engineered free zone for alfalfa in Alberta; and circulate this information in a letter to the Agricultural Service Boards in the region. CARRIED.

AG134(12/14/15) RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board is in support of making the Peace Region a Round Up Ready genetically engineered free zone for wheat in Alberta; and circulate this information in a letter to the Agricultural Service Boards in the region. CARRIED.

AG135(12/14/15) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board is in support of making the Province of Alberta a Round Up Ready genetically engineered free zone for alfalfa; and circulate this information in a letter to the Agricultural Service Boards in the province. CARRIED.

AG136(12/14/15) RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board is in support of making the Province of Alberta a Round Up Ready genetically engineered free zone for wheat; and circulate this information in a letter to the Agricultural Service Boards in the province. CARRIED.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft letters

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by that this Agricultural Service Board approve the draft letters to the Agricultural Service Boards in the region supporting the Peace Region and Province be declared genetically engineered (ie Roundup Ready™) freezones for alfalfa and wheat as presented/amended.

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



CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

Peace Region Agricultural Service Boards

January 11, 2016

Dear fellow Agricultural Service Board members:

RE: Clear Hills County Agricultural Service Board's Position on Roundup Ready™ Alfalfa

The Clear Hills County Agricultural Service Board is strongly opposed to the introduction of recombinant DNA technology and subsequent genetically modified alfalfa, including Roundup Ready™ alfalfa within the Province of Alberta and in particular to the Peace Region of Alberta and British Columbia.

Our concern is similar to that of the Peace Region Forage Seed Association and Forage Seed Canada Inc.; that international market opportunities will be greatly reduced if genetically modified alfalfa (ie Roundup Ready™) is grown in Alberta and the Peace Region. We are concerned that the forage grasses and legume markets will be damaged as well as the export markets for products such as hay and alfalfa pellets. Further, the potential for cross pollination and mixing of the genetically engineered trait during normal handling could result in disqualification of alfalfa from our province and the Peace Region to key markets.

To maintain and grow international markets this Agricultural Service Board proposes that we collectively pursue keeping the Peace Region and Alberta as a Roundup Ready™ genetically engineered free zone for alfalfa. And further that this status remain in place until such time as regulatory approval for the specific transgenic alfalfa variety (ie Roundup Ready™) is obtained in the following export markets: the United States, the European Union, China, Japan, Mexico, South America and Asia.

We look forward to discussing this and strategies to implement this freezone with you during the ASB Provincial Conference.

Sincerely,

Brian Harcourt, Chair
Agricultural Service Board.



CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

Peace Region Agricultural Service Boards

January 11, 2016

Dear fellow Agricultural Service Board members:

RE: Clear Hills County Agricultural Service Board's Position on Roundup Ready™ Wheat

The Clear Hills County Agricultural Service Board is strongly in support of Alberta's largest crop, Wheat remaining strictly non-genetically modified (ie Roundup Ready™), and keep GM wheat from being grown in Canada, and in particular the Province of Alberta and the Peace Region of Alberta and British Columbia.

While genetically modified wheat has not been approved for commercial sale or sold into markets, it has been created by both public and private organizations. In light of organizations such as Cereals Canada encouraging the governments of Canada, the U.S. and Australia to take steps to bring GM wheat to market we believe steps should be taken to ensure that our country, province and region remain GM wheat free. The potential impact if GM wheat is approved to be grown on a commercial scale could be devastating to the Alberta economy as wheat is this province's largest crop. Potential boycotts from international markets as well as the potential for cross pollination and mixing of the genetically engineered trait during normal handling could result in disqualification of wheat from our province and the Peace Region to key markets.

To maintain and grow international markets this Agricultural Service Board proposes that we collectively pursue promoting that GM wheat remain unapproved for growing on a commercial scale, in Canada and in particular that the Province of Alberta and in particular the Peace Region be declared a genetically engineered free zone for wheat (ie Roundup Ready™)

We look forward to discussing our position on GM wheat remaining unapproved for growing in Canada with you during the ASB Provincial Conference.

Sincerely,

Brian Harcourt, Chair
Agricultural Service Board.

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	January 11, 2016
Originated By:	Al Fletcher Ag Fieldman
Title:	BILL 6
File No:	63-10-10

DESCRIPTION:

The Board directed administration to bring back more information on the proposed legislation changes from Bill 6 *Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act*.

The regulations and technical codes supporting the bill have not been drafted yet.

The Board is provided with the amendments to Bill 6, Bill 6 and an article comparing Bill 6 with Farm and Workplace legislation in other provinces.

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

AG129(12/14/15) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board table the discussion on Bill 6 and bring back more information on the proposed legislation changes to the January meeting. **CARRIED.**

ATTACHMENTS:

- Bill 6 Amendments
- Bill 6
- Bill 6 Article
- AAMDC Bill 6 Environmental Scan of Farm Safety Legislation

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the amendments to Bill 6 *Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers*.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: *Al* AgFieldman: *[Signature]*

GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT

AMENDMENTS TO BILL 6

**ENHANCED PROTECTION FOR FARM
AND RANCH WORKERS ACT**

Amendment A1 Agreed to on December 9, 2015

The Bill is amended as follows:

A Section 5(2) is struck out and the following is substituted:

(2) Section 1 is amended

(a) by adding the following after clause (k):

(k.1) "family member", in relation to a shareholder, sole proprietor or partner, means

(i) the spouse or adult interdependent partner of the shareholder, sole proprietor or partner, or

(ii) whether by blood, marriage or adoption or by virtue of an adult interdependent relationship, a child, parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew or first cousin of the shareholder, sole proprietor or partner or of the shareholder's, sole proprietor's or partner's spouse or adult interdependent partner,

and includes any other person prescribed by the regulations to be a family member;

(b) by repealing clause (s)(i) and substituting the following:

(i) farming and ranching operations that are specified in the regulations and in respect of which

(A) no wages, as defined in the *Employment Standards Code*, are paid to persons for the performance of farming or ranching work, or

- (B) wages, as defined in the *Employment Standards Code*, are paid only to the following persons for the performance of farming or ranching work:
 - (I) shareholders of a corporation engaged in a farming or ranching operation of which all shareholders are family members of the same family;
 - (II) family members of a shareholder of a corporation engaged in a farming or ranching operation of which all shareholders are family members of the same family;
 - (III) family members of a sole proprietor engaged in a farming or ranching operation;
 - (IV) family members of a partner in a partnership engaged in a farming or ranching operation where all partners are family members of the same family,

and

(c) by repealing clause (bb) and substituting the following:

- (bb) “worker” means a person engaged in an occupation, but does not include, except for the purpose of section 2(2), the following persons engaged in a farming and ranching operation specified in the regulations:
 - (i) a person to whom no wages, as defined in the *Employment Standards Code*, are paid for the performance of farming or ranching work;
 - (ii) a person referred to in clause (s)(i)(B)(I) to (IV) to whom wages, as defined in the *Employment Standards Code*, are paid for the performance of farming or ranching work;

B Section 6 is struck out and the following is substituted:

Amends AR 27/95

6 The *Farming and Ranching Exemption Regulation* (AR 27/95) is amended by repealing sections 2 and 3 and substituting the following:

Excluded farming and ranching operations

2(1) Subject to subsection (2), the following farming and ranching operations are specified for the purpose of section 1(s)(i) and (bb) of the Act:

- (a) the production of crops, including fruits and vegetables, through the cultivation of land;
- (b) the raising and maintenance of animals or birds;
- (c) the keeping of bees.

(2) For greater certainty, the following are not farming and ranching operations:

- (a) the processing of food or other products from the operations referred to in subsection (1);
- (b) the operations of greenhouses, mushroom farms, nurseries or sod farms;
- (c) landscaping;
- (d) the raising or boarding of pets.

C Section 9 is struck out and the following is substituted:

Amends AR 325/2002

9(1) The *Workers' Compensation Regulation* (AR 325/2002) is amended by this section.

(2) Section 3 is amended

- (a) in subsection (1) by striking out "or" at the end of clause (b), adding "or" at the end of clause (c) and adding the following after clause (c):
- (d) persons in an industry listed in Schedule D

- (i) to whom no wages, as defined in the *Employment Standards Code*, are paid for the performance of farming or ranching work, or
 - (ii) to whom wages, as defined in the *Employment Standards Code*, are paid for the performance of farming or ranching work and who are
 - (A) shareholders of a corporation engaged in a farming or ranching operation of which all shareholders are family members of the same family;
 - (B) family members of a shareholder of a corporation engaged in a farming or ranching operation of which all shareholders are family members of the same family;
 - (C) family members of a sole proprietor engaged in a farming or ranching operation;
 - (D) family members of a partner in a partnership engaged in a farming or ranching operation where all partners are family members of the same family.
- (b) in subsection (2) by striking out “subsection (1)(a) or (b)” and substituting “subsection (1)(a), (b) or (d)”;**
- (c) by adding the following after subsection (3):**
- (4) In this section, “family member”, in relation to a shareholder, sole proprietor or partner, means**
- (a) the spouse or adult interdependent partner of the shareholder, sole proprietor or partner, or
 - (b) whether by blood, marriage or adoption or by virtue of an adult interdependent relationship, a child, parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew or first cousin of the shareholder, sole proprietor or partner or of the shareholder’s, sole proprietor’s or partner’s spouse or adult interdependent partner,

and includes any other person prescribed to be a family member.

(3) Schedule A is amended by striking out

“agrology and agronomy services, provision of;”,
“apiary, operation of;”,
“artificial breeding services, provision of;”,
“breeding of animals, birds, fish or reptiles;”,
“collection of urine from pregnant mares;”,
“dude ranch, operation of;”,
“egg producer, commercial, carrying on business as;”,
“farming, carrying on business of;”,
“farming contracting, including haying and threshing, carrying on business of;”,
“feed lot, commercial, operation of;”,
“fertilizer spreading services, provision of;”,
“fruit grower, commercial, carrying on business as;”,
“game farm, operation of;”,
“horse exercising, training or racing, carrying on business of;”,
“poultry producer, commercial, carrying on business as;”,
“rabbit producer, commercial, carrying on business as;”,
“ranching;”,
“riding academy or horse stable, operation of;”, **and**
“vegetable grower, commercial, carrying on business as;”.

(4) The following is added after Schedule C:

Schedule D

The following are industries to which section 3(1)(d) of this Regulation applies:

agrology and agronomy services, provision of;
apiary, operation of;
artificial breeding services, provision of;
breeding of animals, birds, fish or reptiles;
collection of urine from pregnant mares;
dude ranch, operation of;
egg producer, commercial, carrying on business as;
farming, carrying on business of;
farming contracting, including haying and threshing, carrying on business of;
feed lot, commercial, operation of;
fertilizer spreading services, provision of;

fruit grower, commercial, carrying on business as;
game farm, operation of;
horse exercising, training or racing, carrying on business
of;
poultry producer, commercial, carrying on business as;
rabbit producer, commercial, carrying on business as;
ranching;
riding academy or horse stable, operation of;
vegetable grower, commercial, carrying on business as.

2015 Bill 6

First Session, 29th Legislature, 64 Elizabeth II

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

BILL 6

ENHANCED PROTECTION FOR FARM AND RANCH WORKERS ACT

THE MINISTER OF JOBS, SKILLS, TRAINING AND LABOUR

First Reading

Second Reading

Committee of the Whole

Third Reading

Royal Assent

Bill 6

BILL 6

2015

ENHANCED PROTECTION FOR FARM AND RANCH WORKERS ACT

(Assented to _____, 2015)

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the
Legislative Assembly of Alberta, enacts as follows:

Part 1 Employment Standards Code

Amends RSA 2000 cE-9

1(1) The *Employment Standards Code* is amended by this
section.

(2) Section 2(3) and (4) are repealed.

Explanatory Notes

Part 1 Employment Standards Code

1(1) Amends chapter E-9 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000.

(2) Section 2(3) and (4) presently read:

(3) The following Divisions and regulations do not apply to employees and employers specified in subsection (4):

(a) Part 2, Division 3, Hours of Work;

(b) Part 2, Division 4, Overtime and Overtime Pay;

(c) Part 2, Division 5, General Holidays and General Holiday Pay;

(d) Part 2, Division 6, Vacations and Vacation Pay;

(e) Part 2, Division 9, Restriction on Employment of Children and regulations made under section 138(1)(e), prohibiting or regulating the employment of individuals under 18 years of age;

(3) Section 138(1)(l) is repealed.

2 The *Employment Standards Regulation* (AR 14/97) is amended by repealing section 1.1.

3 This Part comes into force on Proclamation.

Part 2
Labour Relations Code

Amends RSA 2000 cL-1

4(1) The *Labour Relations Code* is amended by this Part.

(f) regulations under section 138(1)(d) respecting vacations, vacation pay, general holidays and general holiday pay;

(g) regulations under section 138(1)(f) respecting the minimum wage.

(4) The Divisions and regulations specified in subsection (3) do not apply to employees employed on a farm or ranch whose employment is directly related to

(a) the primary production of eggs, milk, grain, seeds, fruit, vegetables, honey, livestock, diversified livestock animals within the meaning of the Livestock Industry Diversification Act, poultry or bees, or

(b) any other primary agricultural operation specified in the regulations,

or to their employer while acting in the capacity as employer.

(3) Section 138(1)(l) presently reads:

138(1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations

(l) specifying an operation to be a "primary agricultural operation" for the purpose of section 2.

2 Amends Alberta Regulation 14/97. Section 1.1 presently reads:

1.1 An operation that produces cultured fish within the meaning of the Fisheries (Alberta) Act is specified as a primary agricultural operation for the purpose of section 2(3)(i) of the Act.

3 Coming into force.

Part 2 Labour Relations Code

4(1) Amends chapter L-1 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000.

(2) Section 4(2)(e) is repealed.

(3) This section comes into force on Proclamation.

**Part 3
Occupational Health and Safety Act**

Amends RSA 2000 cO-2

5(1) The *Occupational Health and Safety Act* is amended by this section.

(2) Section 1(s)(i) is repealed.

6 The *Farming and Ranch Exemption Regulation* (AR 27/95) is repealed.

(2) Section 4(2) presently reads in part:

(2) This Act does not apply to

(e) employees employed on a farm or ranch whose employment is directly related to

(i) the primary production of eggs, milk, grain, seeds, fruit, vegetables, honey, livestock, diversified livestock animals within the meaning of the Livestock Industry Diversification Act, poultry or bees, or

(ii) any other primary agricultural operation specified in the regulations under the Employment Standards Code

or to their employer while the employer is acting in the capacity of their employer;

(3) Coming into force.

Part 3 Occupational Health and Safety Act

5(1) Amends chapter O-2 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000.

(2) Section 1(s) presently reads:

1 In this Act,

(s) "occupation" means every occupation, employment, business, calling or pursuit over which the Legislature has jurisdiction, except

(i) farming or ranching operations specified in the regulations, and

(ii) work in, to or around a private dwelling or any land used in connection with the dwelling that is performed by an occupant or owner who lives in the private dwelling or a household servant of the occupant or owner;

6 Repeals Alberta Regulation 27/95.

7(1) The *Occupational Health and Safety Code 2009* as adopted by the *Occupational Health and Safety Code 2009 Order* (AR 87/2009) is amended by this section.

(2) The following is added after section 1:

Farming and ranching operations

1.1(1) Subject to subsection (2) and except as expressly provided in this Code, this Code does not apply to the following farming and ranching operations:

- (a) the production of crops, including fruits and vegetables, through the cultivation of land;
- (b) the raising and maintenance of animals or birds;
- (c) the keeping of bees.

(2) For greater certainty, the following are not farming and ranching operations:

- (a) the processing of food or other products from the operations referred to in subsection (1);
- (b) the operations of greenhouses, mushroom farms, nurseries or sod farms;
- (c) landscaping;
- (d) the raising or boarding of pets.

8 This Part comes into force on January 1, 2016.

**Part 4
Workers' Compensation Regulation**

Amends AR 325/2002

9 The *Workers' Compensation Regulation* (AR 325/2002) is amended in Schedule A by striking out

- “agrology and agronomy services, provision of;”,
- “apiary, operation of;”,
- “artificial breeding services, provision of;”,
- “breeding of animals, birds, fish or reptiles;”,

7 Amends Occupational Health and Safety Code 2009.

8 Coming into force.

Part 4
Workers' Compensation Regulation

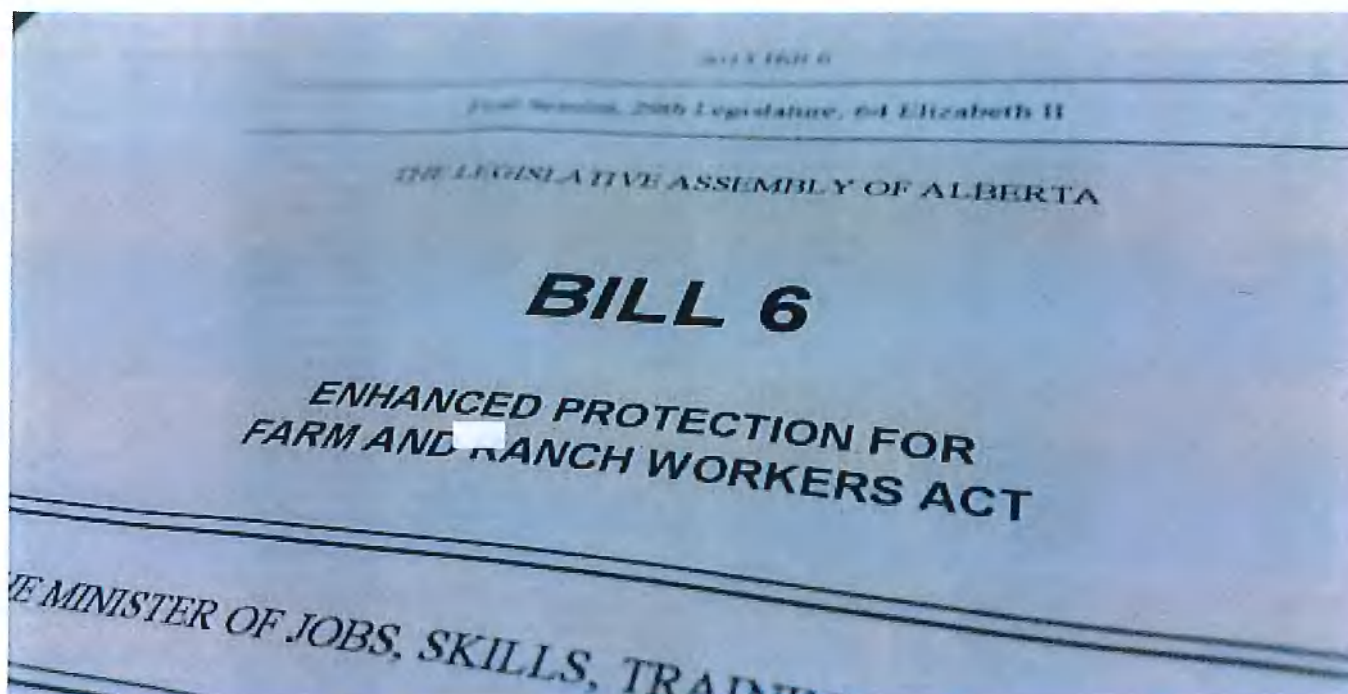
9 Amends Alberta Regulation 325/2002.

“collection of urine from pregnant mares;”,
“dude ranch, operation of;”,
“egg producer, commercial, carrying on business as;”,
“farming, carrying on business of;”,
“farming contracting, including haying and threshing, carrying
on business of;”,
“feed lot, commercial, operation of;”,
“fertilizer spreading services, provision of;”,
“fruit grower, commercial, carrying on business as;”,
“game farm, operation of;”,
“horse exercising, training or racing, carrying on business of;”,
“poultry producer, commercial, carrying on business as;”,
“rabbit producer, commercial, carrying on business as;”,
“ranching;”,
“riding academy or horse stable, operation of;”, **and**
“vegetable grower, commercial, carrying on business as;”.

Coming into force

10 This Part comes into force on January 1, 2016.

10 Coming into force.



HOW DOES BILL 6 COMPARE WITH FARM WORKPLACE LEGISLATION IN OTHER PROVINCES?

RealAgriculture News Team © December 14, 2015

Canadian Agriculture Policy, Farm Management, Western Canada, Ag Policy, Human Resources, News, Bill 6 - Enhancement of Protection of Farm and Ranch Workers

The Alberta government passed its new farm labour legislation last week. Bill 6 is supposed to make Workers' Compensation Board insurance coverage mandatory for farm workers while bringing Occupational Health and Safety and labour standards to farms.

Amendments made to the bill clarified that it only applies to farms with at least one paid worker.

Since the regulations and technical codes supporting the bill have yet to be written, there's been plenty of frustration and confusion caused by an absence of concrete information about how the legislation will affect farms. The government says it will consult with the industry in developing these employment and labour relations standards over the next 12 to 18 months.

In trying to understand the context of Bill 6 we examined the policies that are already in place in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. In most cases, these provinces adopted their farm workplace policies in stages over several decades, rather than a simultaneous change to WCB, OHS and labour relations rules. It's also difficult to assess how strictly each province enforces its policies.

This is meant for information purposes only. Sources are listed below.

Can OHS Inspectors visit farms unannounced?	Farms are exempt from OHS standards.	Where OHS standards apply, an officer may at any reasonable hour enter into or on any work site and inspect that work site.	Occupational health officers can conduct an inspection at any plant, place of employment, worksite, or vehicle where workers usually work or have worked. An officer can conduct an inspection at any reasonable time or at any time they have grounds to believe that a hazardous situation towards workers exists.	Yes, by law you must allow an officer into your workplace or farm if the officer has reason to believe there is a harmful or unsafe condition on the premises.	they go into any industry sector. When an Inspector arrives at a farm, however, they have to follow and respect all farm safety processes (e.g. established biosecurity protocols for the farm). Farmers can't tell a Ministry of Labour Inspector to go away. They have the right to inspect a workplace. Family farms that do not have paid workers are not part of their jurisdiction and they do not have the right to enter.
Can OHS investigate incidents?	No	Yes, if there are waged, non-family workers on the farm or ranch.	Yes	Yes	If there is a critical injury or fatality, investigators must investigate. They also have to respond to and investigate complaints, even anonymous ones.
How do regulations apply to children?	Restrictions on child employment don't apply to farms and ranches. Children under 16 must attend school during school hours.	TBD	Youth workers must be 16 years old to operate powered mobile equipment on a worksite or to work in areas where they may be exposed to dangerous chemicals or biological substances. There is an exception for family farms so that the immediate family members of the farm owner are able to work on farms with no restrictions to work hours other than workers younger than 16 cannot work during school hours without the permission of the school principal.	Most restrictions on child employment do not apply in the agricultural sector. However, children younger than 16 cannot work during school hours without a permit. Children younger than 15 may not get such a permit. However, children who are family members of farmers are exempt from this section of the code.	There is no age limit for work in agriculture or farming. Determination for age of work is actually covered under the School Act. There are some rules about working during school hours. It really comes down to parents' assessment of age appropriateness and ability. Farmers are allowed to pay their kids an allowance for farm work. It does not classify them as a paid worker.
Do farm workers have legal right to unionize and seek collective bargaining?	No	Yes	No	Yes	Farm employees can form associations, which can be a union or a branch of a union. This is included in the Employee Protection Act, which has been in place for 14 years. There have been attempts to unionize primary farm workers, but they have all failed to meet the requirements of the Act.

**As of December 10, 2015. Regulations could change. This chart is meant for information only.*

Sources/Further Reading:

- Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties Environmental Scan of Farm Safety Legislation
- Alberta Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour website
- Alberta Workers' Compensation Board
- Bill 6 — Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act
- MB Workplace Safety and Health Act

AAMDC Bill 6

Environmental Scan of Farm Safety Legislation

December 2015



Partners in Advocacy & Business

Prepared by the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties
2015

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN – BILL 6

This document is a jurisdictional scan of the areas within Bill 6: *The Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act* introduced into the legislature in November 2015. The jurisdictions reviewed are British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Other provinces are mentioned when something unique was identified.

1. Occupational Health and Safety

British Columbia

The Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OSHR) under the *Workers Compensation Act* stipulates that every workplace in BC that employs workers must have a health and safety program, including farms.

However, only employers that have *twenty* or more employees and have a workplace with a moderate to high risk of injury must develop and maintain an occupational health and safety program. An OHS program in BC must include the employer's aims and responsibilities with respect to OHS, regular inspection schedules, written directions for employees, maintenance of statistics and records, and a regular review of OHS standards and their implementation.

The BC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation also includes a number of workplace safety conditions specific to the agriculture industry including barriers for manure pits, cold storage, animal handling, use of hay balers, among many others. There are no exemptions for family farms or differentiations between large or small farming operations.

A variety of training and information is made available through the [Farm and Ranch Safety Association](#).

Saskatchewan

In Saskatchewan, the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, 1993 (OHS Act) and Regulations (1996) apply to all workplaces, including farms.

The OHS Act places responsibilities for health and safety on everyone who works in or in relation to the workplace. These individuals include employers, workers, self-employed persons, supervisors, contractors, owners and suppliers. The level of responsibility for each of these persons is based on the extent of their authority and control over the workplace. For example, the employer - who has the most control over the business - has the greatest degree of responsibility to ensure health and safety standards are met. This includes duties to ensure equipment and work practices are safe and that workers are given the equipment, information, instruction, supervision and training they need to protect their own health and safety.

On the other hand, workers' responsibilities are limited to what they can control. For the most part this includes a responsibility to cooperate with others in matters of health and safety, to comply with health and safety instructions given to them, and to take reasonable care that they do not endanger themselves or others who could be affected by their actions.

Under Saskatchewan's OHS Act, workers are given three basic health and safety rights:

- Workers have the right to know about the hazards of their jobs. They should know how to recognize and deal with those hazards so they will not cause injury or health problems to themselves or to others in the workplace.
- Workers have the right to participate in health and safety education and training in the workplace. Employers should consult with them about matters that affect their safety.
- Workers have the right to refuse work that they believe to be unusually dangerous to themselves and/or others in the workplace.

A self-employed person, such as a farmer who does not employ others, has the same responsibilities under the OHS Act as both an employer and worker combined. In short, they must give themselves and expect from themselves the same standards of health and safety, as is given to and expected from any other worker or employer.

Manitoba

In Manitoba, the *Workplace Safety and Health Act* governs the relationship between employers and employees with regard to workplace safety and applies generally to all workplaces including farms. Under the Act, every employer must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety, health and welfare of all their workers. The specific workplace safety requirements are found in the Workplace Safety and Health Regulation.

The Act and Regulation in Manitoba gives direction on how farmers should protect those who work on a farm as well as how workers are required to protect themselves and others.

2. Workers Compensation

British Columbia

In British Columbia, the *Workers Compensation Act (1996)* applies to all employers and workers in the province that are engaged in paid work, although it does allow for the Workers Compensation Board to exempt certain workers.

Currently, the exemptions in place in British Columbia are not based on industry type (ex. there is no exemption for agriculture or any other specific industry), but rather are based on the duration of employment and if the employment is taking place at a private residence. For example, the following scenarios are exempt:

- You regularly employ a person or firm for an average of less than eight working hours per week.
- You employ a person or firm to do a specific job or jobs for a temporary period of less than 24 working hours.

As such, paid workers and the employers of those workers on all commercial farming operations, regardless of size, are included under WCB legislation in British Columbia.

Unpaid workers, such as children or family members performing chores or assisting in seasonal activities, are not included under the legislation.

Saskatchewan

Similar to Alberta, the *Workers' Compensation Act* (2013) establishes the Workers Compensation Board to manage a compensation system for workplace injuries on behalf of workers and employers. In Saskatchewan, there are exemptions for certain industries including many workers in the agriculture sector covered by the following areas:

- Dairy farming
- Demonstrating and exhibiting
- Feedlot or livestock yard operation
- Fur farms
- Grazing co-operatives
- Land clearing, brush cutting, or stumping
- Livestock brokers
- Mobile farm feed service or portable seed-cleaning plants
- Piggery farms
- Poultry farms
- Trapping
- Voluntary workers (except those involved in rescue or emergency work)

Manitoba

In Manitoba, the *Workers Compensation Act* applies to all employers and workers in all industries. However, Regulation 196/2005 (the *Excluded Industries, Employers and Workers Regulation*) does exempt "farmers and family members of farmers" from WCB regulations. This exemption is as follows:

A farmer or family member of a farmer engaged in farming on a farm that is owned or operated

- a) by the farmer, or
- b) by a family farm corporation – being a corporation
 - i. that is primarily engaged in the business of farming,
 - ii. that is under the control in fact of the farmer, a family member of the farmer or any combination of them, and
 - iii. of which a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of each class of shares are legally and beneficially owned by

the farmer, a family member of the farmer or any combination of them.

The definitions included in the legislation include:

“family member of a farmer”

- a) a spouse or common-law partner of the farmer;
- b) a child of the farmer or a child of the farmer’s spouse or common-law partner;
- c) a parent of the farmer or a spouse or common-law partner of the parent;
- d) a brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, grandchild or grandparent of the farmer or of the farmer’s spouse or common-law partner;
- e) a parent of the farmer’s spouse or common-law partner;
- f) a current or former foster parent of the farmer or of the farmer’s spouse or common-law partner;
- g) a current or former foster child, ward or guardian of the farmer or of the farmer’s spouse or common-law partner;
- h) The spouse or common-law partner of a person mention in any of the clauses (d) to (g); and
- i) Any other person whom the farmer considers to be like a close relative, whether or not they are related by blood, adoption, marriage, or a common-law relationship

“farming” - the primary production of livestock, poultry, livestock and poultry products, fruits, vegetables, grains, oilseeds, pulse, forage, market garden or horticultural products or other agricultural products, and includes the cutting of timber or lumber ties, cordwood or pulpwood.

“farmer” - an individual who

- a) Receives a significant portion of his or her income either directly or indirectly from his or her occupation of farming; and
- b) Spends a significant portion of his or her time actively engaged in farming.

This exemption for farmers is written in a very liberal and far-reaching manner, as it exempts nearly any “close friend” as identified by the farmer from WCB coverage. This allows for the continuation of family members and neighbours working together on family farms. At the same time, requiring that the “farmer” be actively engaged in farming in order for the exemption to apply ensures that the exemption is limited to relatively small farms.

Within this exemption, however, farming remains a designated voluntary coverage industry. Those operating ‘family farms’ can still apply for coverage for farmers and their

family members. Farmers who get workers' compensation coverage are entitled to benefits such as:

- Disability insurance for work-related injuries
- Wage loss benefits
- Lump sum payments if permanently impaired
- Freedom from legal action by an injured employee

3. Labour Standards

British Columbia

A farm worker is defined in the *Employment Standards Regulation* as a person employed in a farming, ranching, orchard or agricultural operation and whose principal employment responsibilities consist of any of the following:

- Growing, raising, keeping, cultivating, propagating, harvesting or slaughtering the product of any of the above operations.
- Clearing, draining, irrigating or cultivating land.
- Operating or using farm machinery, equipment or materials for the above purposes.
- Direct selling of a product of any of the above operations if the sales are done at the operation and are only done during the normal harvest cycle for that product.
- The initial washing, cleaning, sorting, grading or packing of an unaltered product produced by the operation, or a similar product purchased from another operation during the normal harvest cycle for that product.

Farm workers are covered by most sections of the *Employment Standards Act* and Regulation with certain important exceptions including application of the minimum wages, pay wages, deductions of wages, and statutory holidays. Farm workers are not entitled to overtime pay. However, a farm worker must not work excessive hours detrimental to the employee's health or safety.

Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan *Labour Standards Act* (LSA) is the legislation that outlines the relationship between the employer and the employee including the application of minimum wages, holidays, maternity leave, etc.

The LSA does not apply to an employee employed primarily in farming, ranching, or market gardening; however, the Act does apply to those in the operation of egg hatcheries, greenhouses, nurseries, bush clearing, feedlots/confined feeding operations, and commercial hog operations.

Manitoba

In Manitoba, labour standards are regulated by the *Employment Standards Code*. Some sections of the *Code* apply to agricultural workers, while others do not. There are also different exemptions for paid farm workers with no relationship to the family that owns and/or operates the farm, and for family members being paid to work on the farm.

Specifically, paid, non-family member agricultural workers are not regulated by the standard hours of work requirements, overtime requirements, general holiday requirements, and wages for reporting to work requirements. Non-family agricultural workers are still regulated by minimum wage requirements, annual vacation and vacation allowance requirements, weekly day of rest requirements, work break requirements, unpaid leave requirements (maternity leave, compassionate care leave, etc.), termination of employment requirements, and employment of children requirements.

Paid family member agricultural workers are subject only to Division 13, Part 2 of the *Code*, which requires that employers may not discriminate between male and female employees by paying one gender more than the other for the same work. The requirements that are applicable to paid non-family workers described in the paragraph above are not applicable to family paid workers. For the purposes of the *Employment Standards Code*, a family member is defined as:

- a) A spouse or common-law partner of the employee;
- b) A child of the employee or a child of the employee's spouse or common-law partner;
- c) A parent of the employee or a spouse or common-law partner of the parent;
- d) Any other person who is a member of a class of persons prescribed in the regulations for the purpose of this definition

4. Collective Bargaining

Eight provinces in Canada allow farm workers to unionize and seek collective bargaining including British Columbia, Manitoba, and Quebec. In Ontario, the *Agricultural Employees Protection Act* (AEPA, 2002) grants the freedom for agricultural workers to 'associate', but not collectively bargain.

Alberta's previous exclusion for farm workers from the *Labour Relations Code* is considered by some in the legal community to interfere with the Canadian Charter's right to association. Several Canadian Supreme Court decisions in the last year have favoured expanding collective bargaining rights under the charter including:

- Mounted Police Association of Ontario v Canada (Attorney General), [2015 SCC 1](#)
- Meredith v Canada (Attorney General), [2015 SCC 2](#)
- Saskatchewan Federation of Labour v Saskatchewan, [2015 SCC 4](#)

5. Children and Farm Work

Alberta

Prior to Bill 6, restrictions on child employment do not apply to most farm and ranch employees. Children under 16 must attend school during normal school hours, unless they have a special permit.

British Columbia

Workers must be 15 years old or hold a permit from the Employment Standards Branch to work in any sector, including farm work.

Saskatchewan

Youth workers must be 16 years old to operate powered mobile equipment on a worksite or to work in areas where they may be exposed to dangerous chemicals or biological substances. There is an exception for family farms whereby the immediate family of the farm owner are able to work on farms with no restrictions to work hours other than youths under 16 cannot work during school hours without the permission of their school's principal.

Manitoba

Most restrictions on child employment do not apply in the agricultural sector. However, children under 16 cannot work during school hours without a permit. Children under 15 may not get such a permit. However, children who are family members of farmers are exempt from this section of the *Employment Standards Code*.

Ontario

Most restrictions on children's work do not apply in the farm sector. Youth under 16 must go to school and cannot work during school hours without a permit, unless they have completed high school.

New Brunswick

Youths under 18 may not work during school hours unless they have graduated from high school. Youths under 16 cannot work on a farm or in other sectors:

- More than 6 hours/day;
- More than 3 hours/school day;
- On any school day when work and school add up to more than 8 hours;
- Between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Youths under 14 cannot be employed in the forestry industry, including tree planting, brushing and spraying, without a permit from the Director of Employment Standards.

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	January 11, 2016
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	POLICIES REVIEW
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

Chair Harcourt requested that the Board start the review of the Agricultural Service Board Policies.

BACKGROUND:

AG139(12/14/15) RESOLUTION by Member Logan that this Agricultural Service Board table the policy review until the January meeting. CARRIED.

Bring your Agricultural Service Board binders and the updated copies of the Policies, Procedures and Bylaws that was given to the Board at the November Organizational meeting.

OPTIONS:

ATTACHMENTS:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by that this Agricultural Service Board...

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:	<i>ABj</i>	AgFieldman:
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Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	January 11, 2016
Originated By:	Al Fletcher, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	EVENTS
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with events for their consideration.

BACKGROUND:

- High Quality Forages for growing & Finishing Cattle with Dr. Anibal Pordomingo on Monday, February 1, 2016 at the Dunvegan Motor Inn in Fairview, Alberta.
- Tactical Farming Conference on February 10 & 11, 2016 at the Deerfoot Inn & Casino in Calgary, Alberta.
-

OPTIONS:

1. Approve the attendance of one or more members to one or more of the events listed.
2. Accept for information.

ATTACHMENTS:

- High Quality Forages for Growing & Finishing Cattle with Dr. Anibal Pordomingo
- Tactical Farming Conference

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That this Agricultural Service Board ...

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

ABJ

AgFieldman:

[Signature]

High Quality Forages for Growing & Finishing Cattle with Dr. Anibal Pordomingo



Dr. Pordomingo resides in La Pampa Argentina, and is a Senior Researcher with the National Institute of Agriculture Research of Argentina, and is the National Coordinator for the National Animal Production Program for the National Institute for Agriculture Technology. His work and areas of expertise encompass; ruminant nutrition, feeds & feeding, and animal performance. As well as forage sequencing for finishing cattle, grazing strategies for optimal gain, and beef quality under various grazing systems.

Clayton Robins owns and operates a fourth-generation mixed family farm in Rivers, Manitoba, focusing on cow/calf, back-grounding, and custom grazing steers. He is also a former beef and forage researcher with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Clayton is a 2013 Nuffield Scholar Graduate, where he studied feeding energy-dense forages and their place in production systems in Canada.



Join us for a day during Anibal & Clayton's Alberta Tour!

Thursday, January 28th - Heritage Inn - Brooks
 Friday, January 29th - Smoky Lake Ag Complex - Smoky Lake
 Monday, February 1st - Dunvegan Motor Inn - Fairview

- Cost: \$40/Person,
\$30/Association Members
- Registration at 9 am
- Lunch will be provided

Please contact your local Applied Research Association to register for an event near you!

Brooks: 403-652-4900

Smoky Lake: 780-826-7260 Fairview: 780-835-5799

These events brought to you in collaboration with:





TACTICAL FARMING CONFERENCE

February 10 & 11, 2016

Location: Deerfoot Inn & Casino
11500 35 St SE Calgary, AB

KEYNOTES:

Steve Dotto, Dotto Tech
Raj Khosla, Colorado State University
Sarah Schultz, Nurse loves Farmer

OTHERS INCLUDE:

Peter Gamache, Paul Hamer,
Lewis Baarda, & Steve Larocque

HOSTED BY:



REGISTER: Contact Eric at 780-582-7308 or events@battliverresearch.com

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	January 11, 2016
Originated By:	Al Fletcher, 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 / PROPOSAL:

ATTACHMENTS:

- Report
- Rental Equipment Usage

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that the Agricultural Service Board accepts the January 11, 2016 Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

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

Clear Hills County

Agricultural Fieldman Report

January 11, 2016

Al Fletcher

Pest Control

- 53 wolves (\$17,150) have been claimed in 2015.
 - 58 (\$14,500) in 2014
 - 69 (\$17,250) in 2013
 - 102 (\$43,500) in 2012, prior to program changes
- 658 (19,740) Beaver 2015
- 3 landowners were issued coyote control poison ; total of 12 -1080 tablets 2015

Rental Program

- Minor repairs were made to water pump trailers (wires ,lights)
- Small problem with manure spreader end gate freezing (thaw)
- Lots of use for the grain extractor, grain bag roller.
- Tree spade replacing axel
- Developing rental parts inventory .

Weed Program

- Completed 1 seed plant inspection, working on seed samples now.
- Working on pesticide applicators course.
- Working on Form 7 training ,(to allow me to issue 1080 tablets)
- Reviewing 2015 weed inspections

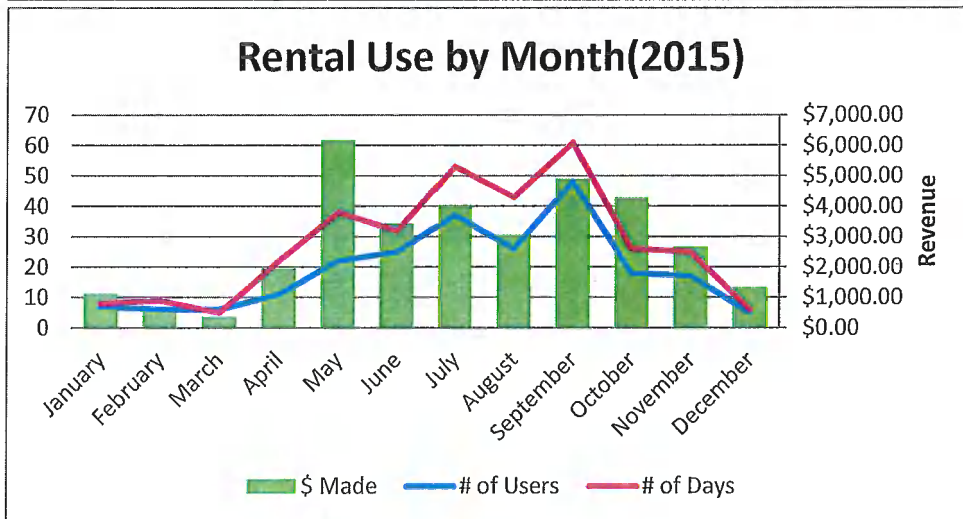
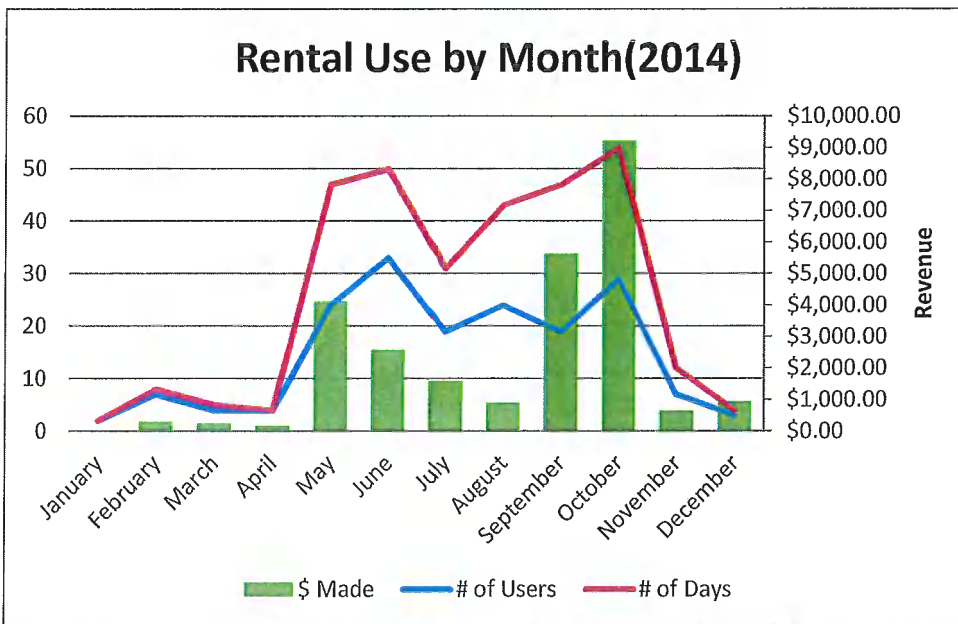
Other Topics

- Coming events:
 - Peace Agronomy Update – January 13 in Fairview
 - Provincial ASB Conference – January 18 to 21, Edmonton
 - Farmtech - January 25-28, Edmonton

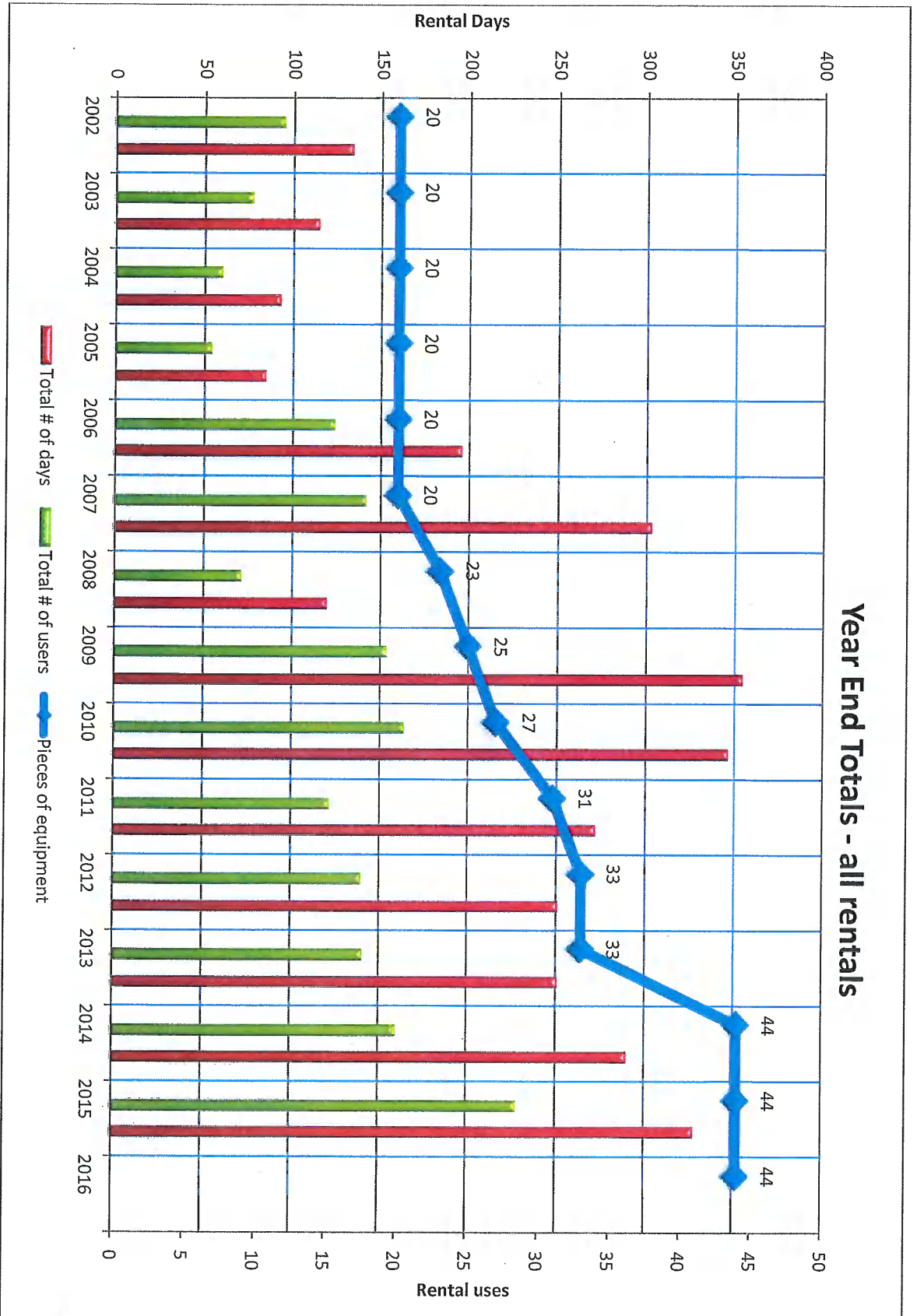
Equipment Use and Revenue
as of December 31, 2015

Equipment	Totals		
	# of Users	# of Days	\$ Made
Backpack Sprayer	-	-	\$ -
Bale Scale	12	12	\$ 360.00
Bale Tester	2	2	\$ 20.00
Ball Hitch (2" & 2 5/16")	-	-	\$ -
Livestock Ultrasound	1	-	\$ -
Chairs	7	9	\$ 459.50
Community Centre	7	17	\$ 850.00
Corral Panels	6	7	\$ 350.00
Coyote Trap	-	-	\$ -
Eco-Bran Applicator	2	2	\$ 100.00
Grain Bag Roller	10	10	\$ -
Grain Bagger	-	-	\$ -
Grain Bag Extractor	3	5	\$ 1,750.00
Grain Vac	24	28	\$ 5,400.00
Grass Seeders-Hand Held	-	-	\$ -
Grass Seeders-Quad Mount	1	1	\$ 5.00
Grill	10	16	\$ 80.00
Hand Held Rope Wick	-	-	\$ -
Land Leveller	7	8	\$ 1,430.00
Livestock Scale	-	-	\$ -
Loading Chute	16	16	\$ 450.00
Manure Spreader	6	17	\$ 2,550.00
Mulch Applicator	-	-	\$ -
Extra Hoses	2	3	\$ 2.00
Post Pounder	25	37	\$ 4,625.00
Pull/Push Roller Applicator	-	-	\$ -
Quad Mount Rope Wick	-	-	\$ -
Quad Mounted Sprayer	3	3	\$ -
Quad Pull Type Sprayer	1	1	\$ -
RFID Tag Reader	-	-	\$ -
Rock Picker	1	2	\$ 600.00
Rock Rake	2	10	\$ 3,000.00
Roller Mill	1	1	\$ 20.00
Rotowiper	1	6	\$ 600.00
Scare Cannon #91060254	-	-	\$ -
Signs	6	-	\$ -
Skid Mount Sprayer	1	1	\$ -
Steam Tables	-	-	\$ -
Tables	9	13	\$ 75.00
Toilets	6	11	\$ 550.00
Tree Spade	6	8	\$ 1,200.00
Truck Mount Sprayer	-	-	\$ -
Wash Station	6	7	\$ 70.00
Water Pumps	41	72	\$ 8,525.00
Zero Till Drills	3	3	\$ 900.00
Totals rental(by month)	228	328	\$ 33,971.50

Rental Equipment Use Summary(Dec - 2014)



Rental Equipment Use Summary(Dec - 2015)



Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	January 11, 2016
Originated By:	Al Fletcher, 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.

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' written or verbal reports of January 11, 2016 for information.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: *ABJ* AgFieldman: *[Signature]*

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	January 11, 2016
Originated By:	Al Fletcher, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE
File No:	63-02-02

DESCRIPTION:

The board is presented with correspondence for review.

BACKGROUND:

Attached are documents for the Board's information:

ATTACHMENTS:

- Back Forty Year End Issue – (63-02-02)
- Alberta Farm Animal Care Quarterly Update December 2015 – (63-02-02)
- Alberta Farm Animal Care Council Vs. Board – (6-02-02)
- Leduc County Letters – (63-02-02)
- County of St Paul letter (63-02-02)
- Municipal District of Bonnyville No.87 letter - (63-02-02)
- Westlock County Letter – (63-02-02)
- Lamont County letter – (63-02-02)
- AAAF Letter – (63-02-02)
- Trait Stewardship Responsibilities Notice to Farmers – (63-02-02)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of January 11, 2016 as presented.

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



SARDA

Back Forty

Mission: To facilitate the transfer of unbiased ideas and information between research institutions, industry, and agricultural producers.

YEAR END ISSUE

DECEMBER 2015

IN THIS ISSUE



2015 Variety Testing Results from South Peace Region

Kabal S. Gill, SARDA

The objective is to determine relative performance of different varieties under local environmental conditions. As for any one year results, the 2015 data must be used cautiously, as these represent what happened at a specific location under this year's weather. Better comparisons can be made by combining this year's results with the long term results, which you can find in the seed.ab.ca, **Seed Guide** or agric.gov.ab.

The 2015 trials were conducted south of Donnelly (NE8-77-20W5 & NW9-77-20W5) and North of High Prairie (NW25-74-17W5). Rainfall in the growing season (May to Aug.) was 124 mm Donnelly and 174 mm at High Prairie site.

Interpreting the results

Included with each graph are the yields from each variety and the 2 statistical parameters, LSD and CV, of each trial to help with

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Canola Crush Margins	23

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This publication made possible in part by:

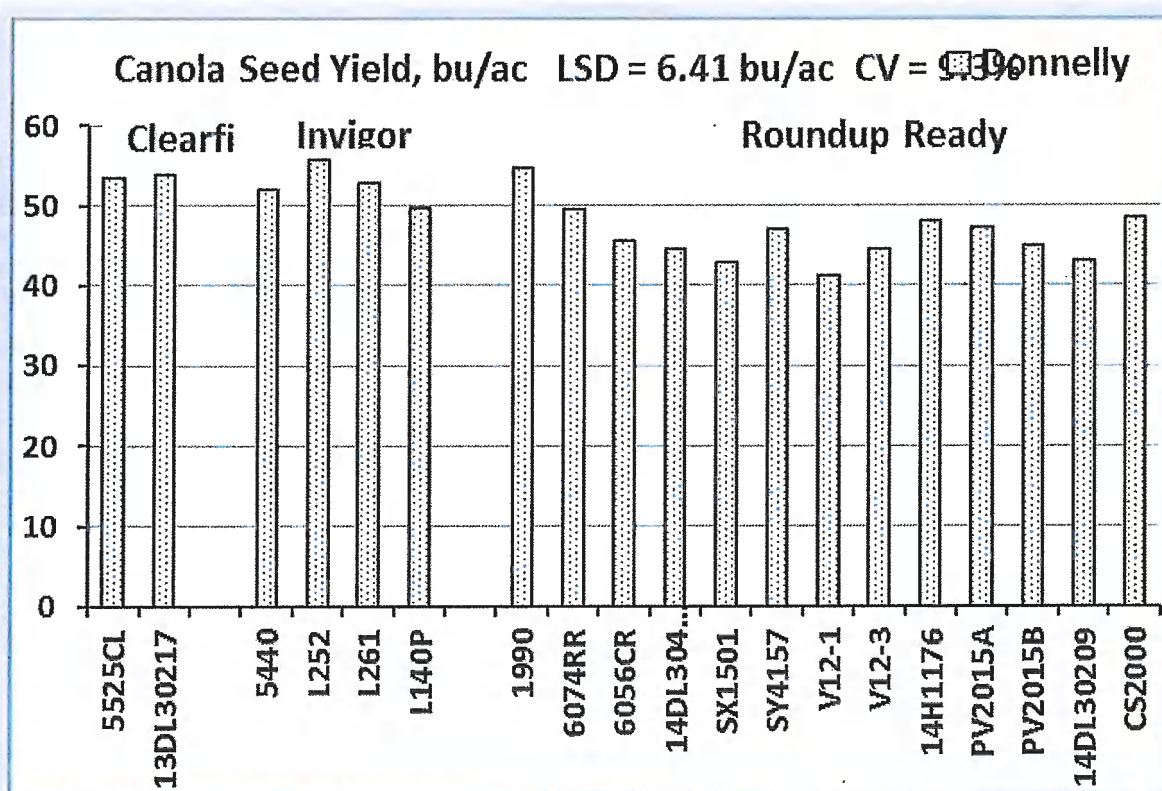
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interpretation of the results.

The LSD (Least Squares Difference) is a statistical measure to determine significant differences, in this

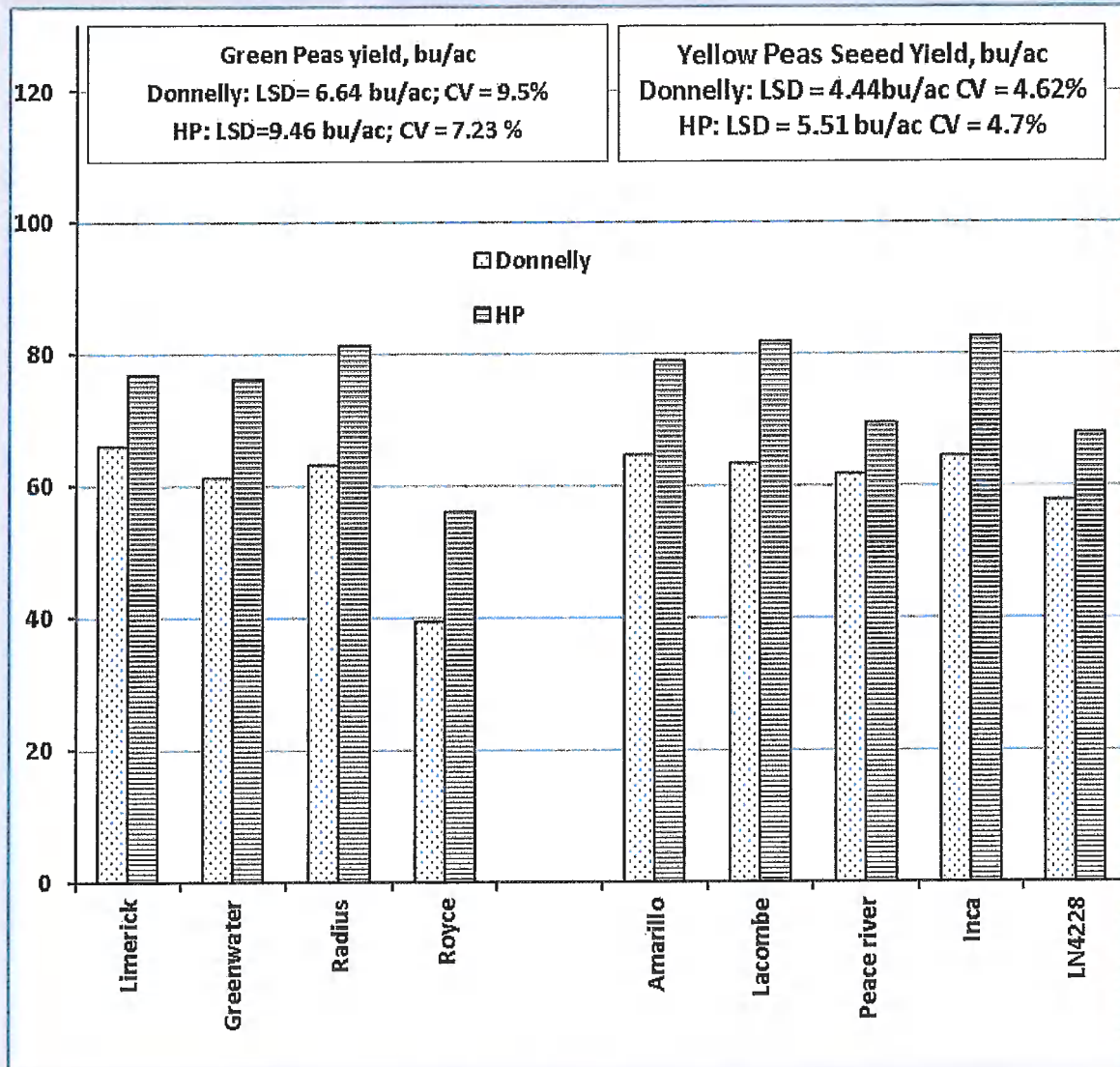
case yield, between varieties. If the LSD is 10, it requires a greater than 10 bushels per acre (bu/ac) difference for the one variety to be significantly different in yield than another. Differences in yield within 10

bu/ac are not significant and we cannot conclude that one is better than the other. For example, the canola results from Donnelly have LSD of 6.41 bu/ac. We can safely say that yield of L252 (55.55 bu/



Build a Legacy!

Give a gift that benefits the Agricultural Community by providing a piece of land or funds to assist with the purchase of land. SARDA is a producer directed, not for profit organization whose Vision is to own an advanced agriculture resource center of excellence. Build your legacy. Call Vance at 780-837-2900. Tax deductible benefits available.



ac) is significantly greater than of 6056CR (45.43 bu/ac), but not of 6074RR (49.50 bu/ac). We can only state that the L252 tended to outyield 6074RR, but not significantly.

The CV (Coefficient of Variation) indicates the degree of variation due to other factors. This indicates whether the data describes the genetic

yield expression, or is influenced by external forces, such as a low spot or weed patch that influenced the yield in one part of the trial and not another. Typically, data with CV's higher than 15 should be used with great caution and between 10 and 15 with some caution as they may be influenced by external forces. Lower than 10 CV indicate that

the results are more likely influenced by varieties and not outside forces.

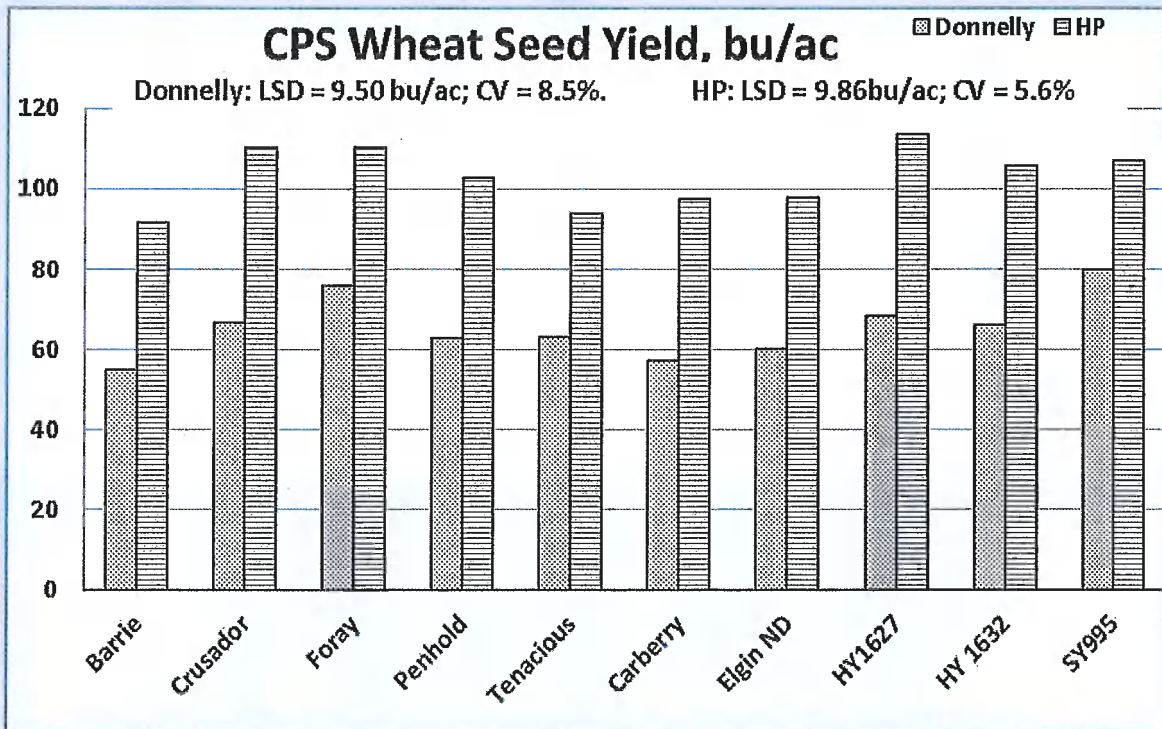
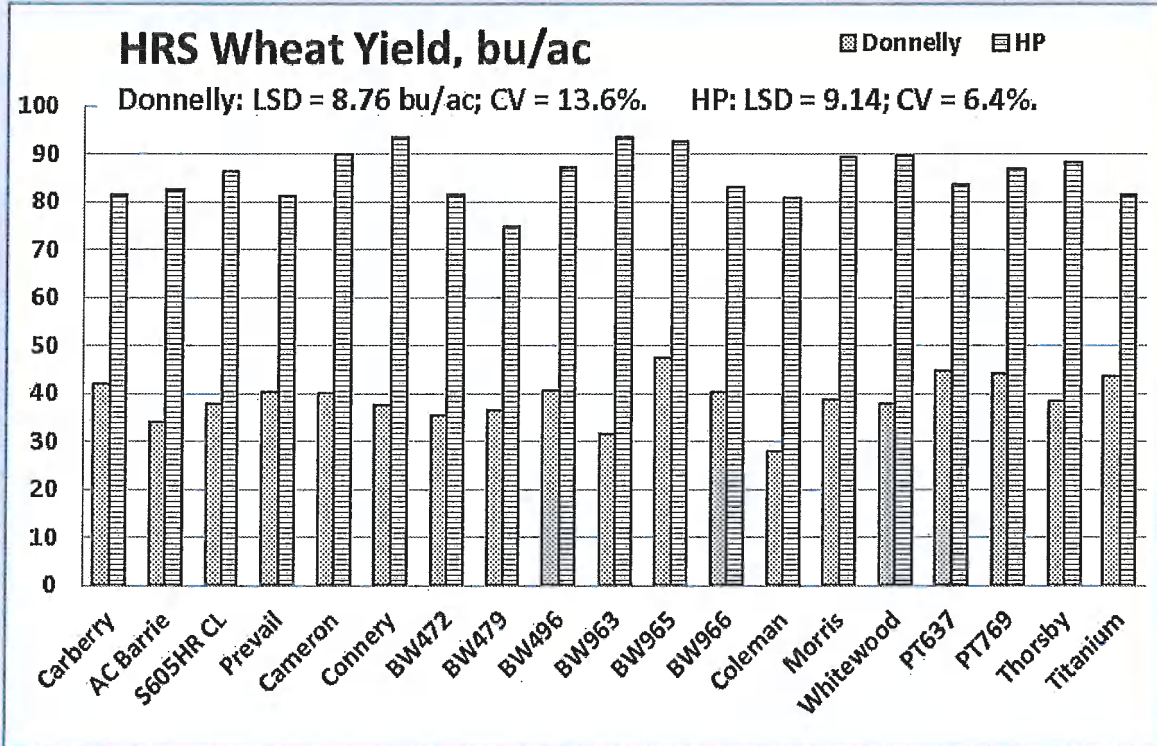
If you have any questions please contact Kabal S. Gill at research@sarda.ca.

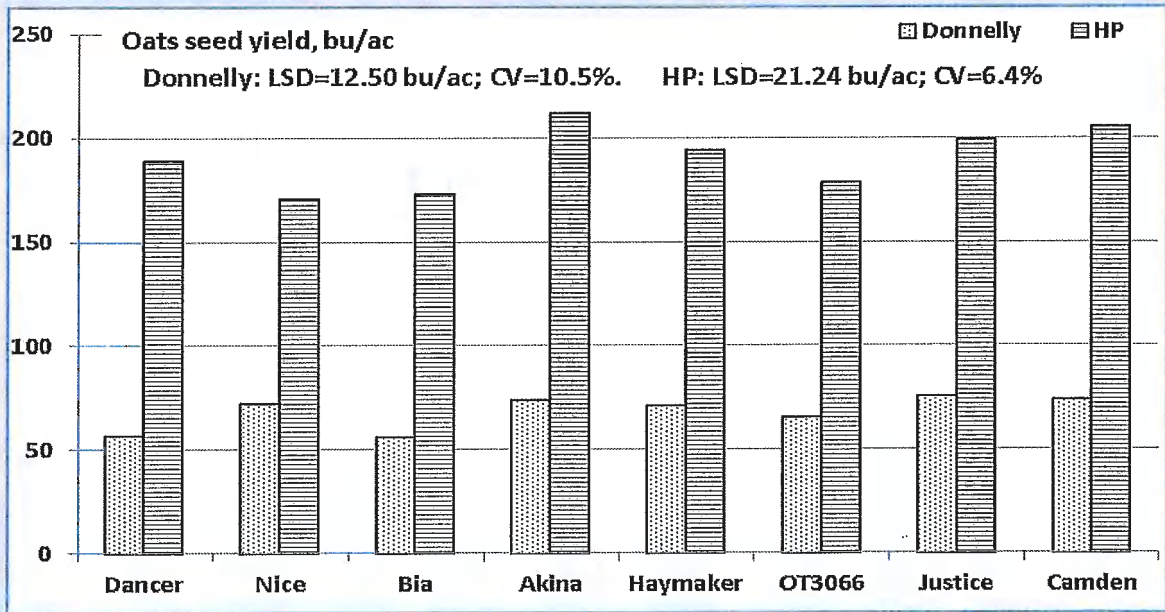
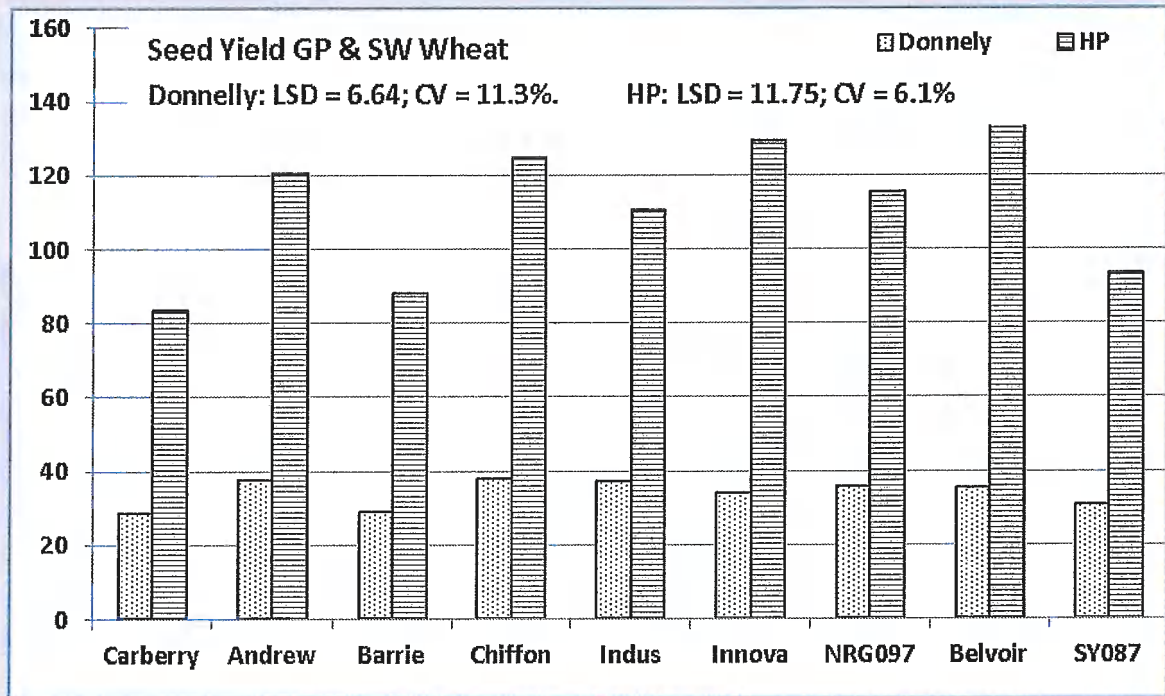
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Further Information

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www.sarda.ca

Continued from page 3

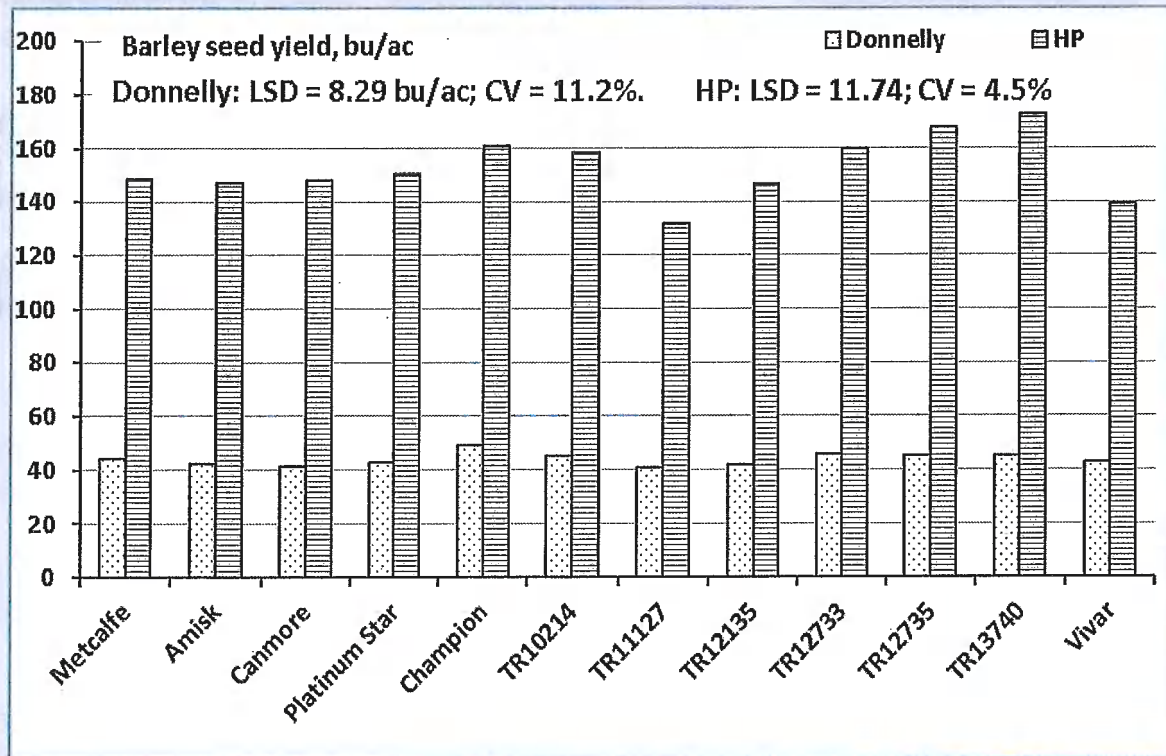




Rural Farm mailboxes in the MD's of Smoky River and Greenview, the County of Grande Prairie, Big Lakes County and Northern Sunrise County, all receive complementary issues of the Back Forty Newsletter. Request your mailbox be classified as Farm by talking to your local Post Mistress to ensure you receive your copy.

Do you
Receive the
Back Forty?

Continued from page 5



Concerned forage seed industry wants Western Canada to be a GM alfalfa-free zone

Current export markets could be increased and premiums for non-GM alfalfa hay and seed products could be the new norm

by: Heather Kerschbaumer, President of Forage Seed Canada, Vice-President of Organic Alberta, Director of Peace Region Forage Seed Association, Farmer, Mother, and Grandmother



The alfalfa industry in Canada has a potential market-compromising threat lurking just across the US border. Genetically modified (GM) alfalfa is already being grown and sold south of the border, but so far, not seen in Western Canada. It was approved for sale in Canada in 2013, but it isn't being marketed here yet. Alfalfa is the very first perennial crop to be genetically modified, compared to other crops such as canola, corn, or soybeans, which are annuals. American

hay and alfalfa seed growers are suffering the consequences of contamination from the Roundup Ready gene transferring from GM alfalfa grow-zones to non-GM zones. Their overseas markets are being compromised and hay shipments rejected.

If we can keep GM alfalfa out of Western Canada (or all of Canada), we could gain access to markets that are being lost by the US. There are several countries, including China, Japan, and most of Europe, where there is an absolute zero tolerance for GM alfalfa, hay and seed. Testing is becoming more and more precise, down to .005% now.

The Imperial Valley, located in California are the only example of a GM Alfalfa free zone in the US. GM alfalfa is not allowed to be grown or marketed. They have agreements with Monsanto and

Forage Genetics International, owners and marketers of the Roundup Ready technology, that says so.

Forage Seed Canada, along with all the provincial forage seed associations, National Farmers' Union, all organic associations, all the hay exporting companies, the honey producers, the provincial forage associations, have taken the position that they are opposed to the

release of this technology until the international marketplace accepts it.

It seems like Roundup Ready GM alfalfa should be a good thing – after all, you can spray an alfalfa field with the herbicide Roundup to control all weeds in the field, and have a perfectly clean field.

However, when you think about it, there are very few growers of pure alfalfa stands, as almost all growers prefer a

mix of grasses and legumes fields, producing better quality hay. For seed growers, —again no weeds. BUT, if there is no market for the seed that is produced, or the hay going to market, or if some of the alfalfa in this GM field has bees or other pollinators that transfer pollen and nectar (and GM genes) to a neighbor's field, or to the wild alfalfa in the ditch or along a fence line a mile or two away,

POSITION STATEMENT of FORAGE SEED CANADA INC.

Position Statement on Recombinant DNA Technology and Subsequent Genetically Engineered (GE) Alfalfa and GE Forage Seeds including Roundup Ready™ Alfalfa for

**Forage Seed Canada Inc.
Box 2000
Arborg, MB R0C 0A0**

Whereas it is the position of Forage Seed Canada Inc. that the CFIA has failed to do a complete due diligence assessment in the approval of GE alfalfa for release into Canada, by neglecting to factor in potential market losses or market impact by allowing GE traits in alfalfa into Canada before widespread market acceptance;

Therefore, the following is the position of Forage Seed Canada Inc. on recombinant DNA technology and subsequent genetically engineered alfalfa and genetically engineered forage seeds, including Roundup Ready™ alfalfa:

We do support a regulatory environment based on sound science that openly communicates clear and meaningful information to stakeholders. We do not support testing or commercialization that poses a risk for release of a specific transgene or any forage seed transgenes (ie the Roundup Ready™ alfalfa transgene) into the environment or commercialization of any transgenic variety including Roundup Ready™ alfalfa or stacked traits in Canada until such time as:

-Federal, Provincial, and Municipal regulatory approval, consumer acceptance by the majority of each individual market, marketplace acceptance by not only governments, but also the majority of buyers, seed multipliers, end users, and their customers, in not only Canada, but also in the export markets including United States, the European Union, China, Japan, Mexico, South America, and the Middle East;

-a strong identity preservation system for alfalfa varieties is in place in Canada;

-a rapid, cost-effective, sensitive, accurate test (based on each export market's specific requirements) for the specific transgene is available;

-issues including legal or fiduciary pertaining to responsibility, liability, loss of markets, insurance, and consequences of contamination are clarified;

-a current economic impact assessment on how this product would impact all forage seed markets and other industries that forage seed has an impact on, including GE sensitive export markets is done;

-a liability clause is in place to compensate affected stakeholders fully for lost seed markets due to contamination by gene transfer, or contamination by uncontrolled feral alfalfa populations, and also for monetary losses and costs due to rejected seed shipments due to GE contamination.

Until such time as all the above stipulations are in place, Forage Seed Canada Inc. opposes the release of this technology into western Canada.

Approved by Forage Seed Canada Inc. as of February 12, 2015.

Per: M. K. K. K.
President

Continued from page 7

those GM genes may quickly spread to other areas. Herbicide tolerant weeds, or superweeds, that are developing because of the continual use of similar herbicides is another negative consequence of GM alfalfa. GMO canola and the proposed GMO wheat. GM alfalfa would be disastrous to organic farms, since there is a zero tolerance and any trace would make certification extremely hard to maintain.

Once the technology starts to spread, there is no way to contain it. Pollinators fly, and genes move. There are no walls between fields, and alfalfa is everywhere- along bushlines, fencelines, pipelines, cutlines, ditches. And it isn't only alfalfa fields that will be affected, because any other crop with an alfalfa plant in it, such as other forage seed crops like fescues, bromegrasses, clovers, or timothy, could also be disqualified from export markets, if an alfalfa seed shows up on a seed test. The brunt of all the costs of testing, losses of markets due

to contamination, and liability issues will be carried by the contaminated parties (farmers), rather than the developers and marketers of this product.

Where is our government in all this? They (Health Canada and CFIA) have decided that it is safe and "substantially equivalent" to regular alfalfa. There has been no economic impact assessment done to show the costs to Canadian farmers.

A voluntary Best Management Practices (BMPs) was drawn up by the Canadian Seed Trade Association (CSTA) for the release of GM alfalfa into Eastern Canada. The CSTA is now working on another voluntary BMPs for Western Canada. The massive contamination that is hampering alfalfa exports in the US is proof that BMPs won't work. American growers who used to get a premium price for growing GM varieties of alfalfa are now being penalized. Having clean non-GM alfalfa seed and hay now commands a premium. BMPs didn't work in the US, and it is unlikely that they will work in Canada either.

The only way to maintain our markets, or gain new higher value alfalfa export markets, is to keep GM alfalfa out of Canada, or out of Western Canada, or out of Alberta, or at least out of the Peace River Region of Canada. That is what my goal is – that is why I continue to travel and give presentations about this serious situation.

More and more voices are joining together in opposition of this product, and if there is a way to make our Peace River Region a GM alfalfa-free zone, perhaps other areas will jump onto our bandwagon and figure out how to keep their areas free as well.

More Information

- <https://albertaviews.ab.ca/2014/09/24/a-line-in-the-dirt/>
- <http://www.albertafarmexpress.ca/2015/04/06/forage-seed-industry-wants-western-canada-to-be-a-gm-alfalfa-free-zone-2/>
- <http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-hay-exports-to-china-shrivel-up-1418598477>



FarmTech™

January 26-28, 2016



Farm and Workplace Legislation

Excerpts from November 23, 2015 issue of *Agri-News* and November 18 issue of *Alberta Canola Connections*

Bill 6, the *Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act*, has been introduced in the Alberta Legislature.



“Everyone deserves a safe, fair and healthy workplace. With this bill, workplace legislation will now extend to farms and ranches. The rules we implement must respect the unique qualities of the farm and ranch industry, and I look forward to working with industry members to develop rules that make sense.”

- Lori Sigurdson, Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour

If approved, the law would ensure that 60,000 farm and ranch workers in Alberta will have the same basic protections that other workers in the province have received for decades. As a start, Bill 6 – Enhanced Protection for

Farm and Ranch Workers Act will remove exemptions from existing workplace rules. Then, existing regulations and code will be amended in consultation with farmers, larger-scale producers, industry associations and the public.

The workplace legislation affected would include:

1. Occupational Health and Safety Act.
2. Worker’s Compensation Act,
3. Employment Standards Code and
4. Labour Relations Code.

The Government of Alberta is looking for input on how to best implement the changes to meet the proposed timelines for Occupational Health and Safety, Labour Relations and Employment Standards legislation, as well as on what supports industry might need from government. “We know Alberta’s farmers and ranchers are concerned about providing safe and fair workplaces, and I look forward to our discussions with them as we work out the details on the best way to do

it.”

- Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

Make informed decisions.

The following links will provide information from media releases, question and answer sheets. Also included is a link to read the act in its entirety.

Producers are encouraged to participate in the TownHall

meetings and/or comment online at Farm and Ranch /

Get involved (<http://work.alberta.ca/farm-and-ranch-get-involved.html>)

- The new Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act (http://www.assembly.ab.ca/ISYS/LADDAR_files/docs/bills/bill/legislature_29/session_1/20150611_bill-006.pdf)
- Media Release November 17, 2015 (<http://alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=38853E7C1F49F-F880-84ED-FB41A569968F17BD>)
- Question and Answer Sheet (<http://work.alberta.ca/documents/farm-and-ranch-QAs.pdf>)

Alberta AgriProfit\$ 2016

Sign-up for a customized business analysis of your farm to maximize profits and lower your costs.

AgriProfit\$ – your customized business analysis

Participation on the *AgriProfit\$* program will give you a customized business analysis of your farm, and your key enterprises, that you can use to help identify and manage costs towards increased profitability. Your farm information is confidential. Registration for the program opens November 1 and closes on January 15th of each year.

Understand your Business

An *AgriProfit\$* analysis helps measure your costs and includes valuable management information. The analysis will help you focus on things that matter and where you will get the biggest “bang for your buck”. Understanding your business is the foundation to growth and success.

When you agree to participate on the *AgriProfit\$* program, we will send you a

number of data collection forms to pull together the details of your farm. A farm visit will be arranged to help you complete the forms. Once all your data is collected and reviewed, you will receive your customized farm business analysis report.



An *AgriProfit\$* analysis:

- details your production costs and returns for your beef, forage, grazing, and crop productions on a per unit basis. (i.e: per cow, per lb. weaned, per bushel, per tonne.)
- provides the information needed to help assess practical, on farm management options.

- supports annual budgeting and strategic planning, which are more effective when you use your own costs.

Knowledge of your production costs is an important element in managing and controlling your business. There is no cost for the *AgriProfit\$* business analysis – your investment is time and the benefits are considerable.

The data from all participants is used to establish provincial benchmarks. This information is used as reference for producers and industry.

For more information, or to register for the program, contact the Economics Branch of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry at 780-415-2153 or the Ag-Info Centre at 780-310-FARM (3276).

More Information

Alberta Agriculture
www.1.agric.gov.ab.ca
Ag Info Call Centre
 310-Farm (3276)



AFSC's Peace River, Falher and High Prairie Branches Serve Area Small Business and Agriculture Producers

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) is a provincial Crown corporation that works with Alberta's commercial enterprises and agriculture producers to help grow their business. With 46 offices located across the province, including ones in Peace River, Falher, Fairview and High Prairie, AFSC delivers income stabilization programs, provides insurance products and offers a range of lending products and services.

Lending Products and Services

A proud supporter of rural Alberta, AFSC strives to help grow and sustain small businesses across the province by offering loans to commercial and agri-businesses, as well as

lending products to agriculture producers and value-added enterprises. AFSC also offers loan guarantees services. Loan programs can be customized with flexible repayment options as well as long-term, fixed and renewable rates. Additional interest rate incentives are offered to qualifying clients, and all AFSC loans can be prepaid or paid in full at any time without penalty.

Income Stabilization Programs

AFSC is the delivery agent for the AgriStability program in Alberta. AgriStability directs government funds to those program participants who experience profit margin declines.

Insurance Products

AFSC offers a range of insurance programs that include production insurance for annual

crops, hay and honey; area-based insurance programs for silage and green feed, corn heat units, moisture deficiency and satellite yield; cattle and hog insurance programs; straight hail; and bee-overwintering.

Drop into one of our local offices for more information about these programs and services. We invite you to call one of our professional specialists who through their many years of experience in their fields of expertise can help you create a service solution tailored to your unique needs.

For your ease of reference we provide below each of these knowledgeable specialists contact information. Each stands ready to answer your questions and help your business be successful.

Jeannie Szpuniarski
Lending Specialist
Peace River, AB
780-617-7228

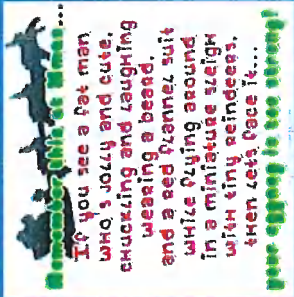
Michelle Simoneau
Lending Specialist
Falher/High Prairie, AB
780-837-2545

Anne Marie Johnson
Lending Specialist
Falher, AB
780-837-4627

Lil Trudeau
Insurance Specialist
Falher, AB
780-837-2521

Zoe Iwasiuk
Insurance Specialist
High Prairie, AB
780-523-6507

Edith Kaut
Product Specialist - AgriStability
Fairview, AB
780-835-2295



Event Name	Location	Time	Date	Cost	Comments
Western Canada Conference on Soil Health	Radisson Hotel, Edmonton	7 pm	Dec 8-10	\$275 for producers	Registrations now open! Click Here or phone 780-612-9712
Peace Country Beef Congress	Dawson Creek	TBA	Jan 8-9	TBA	Contact Stacy Pritchard for more information. 780-835-6799
Peace Agronomy Update	Dunvegan Motor Inn, Fairview	8:30	Jan 12 or 13 TBA	TBA	Visit www.sarda.ca for the latest information
Agronomy Update	Sheraton Red Deer Hotel, Red Deer	7:45 am	Jan 19 & 20	\$145	Registrations now open! Phone 1-800-387-6030
Holistic Management Courses	Valleyview	9:00-4:00	Jan 14-16 & Jan 21-23	\$1,495 + GST	Contact Stacy Pritchard for more information. 780-835-6799
Demmit	Demmit	9:00-4:00	Jan 28-30 & Feb 4-6		
Farm Tech	Edmonton	7:30 am	Jan 26-28	\$370 (early bird)	Registrations Now Open! Click Here (farmtechconference.com)
Winter Watering Systems Tour	Birch Hills County	TBA	Jan. 30	TBA	Contact Stacy Pritchard for more information. 780-835-6799
Tactical Farming Conference	Deerfoot Inn and Casino, Calgary	7:30 am	Feb 10-11	\$250	Registrations Now Open! Click Here (www.tacticalfarming.ca)
SARDA SARDA AGM	Falher Regional Recreational Complex, Falher	9:00 am	Feb 25	FREE	Please register at www.sarda.ca /events or phone 780-837-2900 ext. 3
SARDA 2016 Summer Field School	TBA	8:30 am	June 22	\$200	Registrations accepted online www.sarda.ca or phone 780-837-2900 ext 3






2015 Peace River Region Annual Canola Survey

Jennifer Otani

1. Beaverlodge Research Farm, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, P.O. Box 29, Beaverlodge AB, jennifer.otani@agr.gc.ca.
2. Saskatoon Research Centre, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, 107 Science Place, Saskatoon SK.
3. BC Pest Monitoring Contactor, Dawson Creek BC.
4. Canola Council of Canada, Beaverlodge AB

The 2015 Annual Peace Canola Survey was completed by Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada staff based at Beaverlodge¹, and Saskatoon². Samples were also kindly collected with help from the BC Pest Monitoring Contractor, Arlan Benn³, and Canola Council of Canada Student Assistant, Trina Drummond⁴.

Since 2003, the annual survey has been performed with the main objectives of (i) collecting insect pest data throughout the region and (ii) to detect introduction of the Cabbage seedpod weevil into the Peace River region. In 2015, a total of 162 canola fields were randomly selected. Fields were spaced approximately 10 km apart and surveying was performed through the main canola producing areas of the BC and Alberta Peace during early- to mid-flower stages. Unfortunately, fewer fields were sampled north of 57.3° in 2015

(i.e., near Manning, LaCrete, Fort Vermilion and High Level) owing to sparse and patchy canola fields that suffered from repeated frost events and severe drought. In 2015, sweep-net monitoring was performed in 162 commercial fields of *Brassica napus* (e.g., each field ≥80 acres in size) using 50 - 180° sweeps on the following dates in these areas:

- July 5 near Grimshaw, Manning, Hawk Hills, LaCrete.
- July 6 near Valleyview, Guy, Falher, Nampa, Peace River, Jean Cote, Girouxville.
- July 7 near DeBolt, Grande Prairie, Bezanson, Teepee Creek, Wanham, Rycroft, Sexsmith.
- July 8 near Fairview, Blue Sky, Berwyn, Tangent, Watino, Eaglesham, Ridge Valley, Kleskun Hills, Wembley, LaGlace, Dawson Creek, Rolla, Rose Prairie, Montney, Beaverlodge, Valhalla, Woking, Spirit River, Dunvegan, Hines Creek.
- July 9 near Rolla, Doe River,

Clayhurst, Farmington, Taylor, Baldonnel, Fort St. John, Golata Creek.

Sweep-net samples were frozen then processed to generate data for 16 species of arthropods. *Lygus* specimens were identified to all five instar stages. **The 2015 summary includes seven economically important pests of canola reported from 162 surveyed canola fields:**

1. **Lygus** (Miridae: *Lygus* spp.) were the most common insect pest observed in sweep-net samples collected in our 2015 surveying. *Lygus* populations of **≥5 adults plus nymphs per 10 sweeps were observed in 40.1% of fields surveyed** (Figure 1 and Table 1; N=162 fields). Densities of

More Information

Alberta Agriculture
www.1.agric.gov.ab.ca
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 310-Farm (3276)



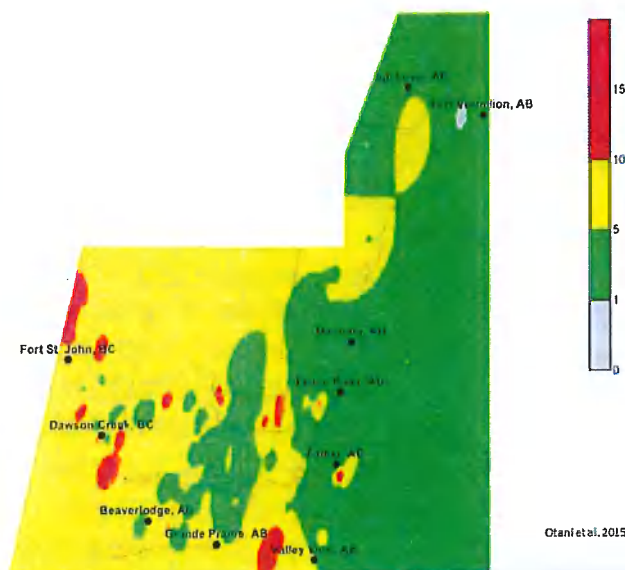
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≥15 adults plus nymphs per 10 sweeps were recorded in 7.4% of fields surveyed (Figure 1 and Table 1).

There were zero *Lygus* present in only 2.5% of fields surveyed (Table 1) whereas 21.6% of the canola fields contained only adult *Lygus* versus 75.9% of the fields that were populated by both adults and nymphs (Table 2). Note that all nymphs collected during surveying were expected to have matured into new adults by the early pod stage. **Areas highlighted yellow, orange or red in Figure 1 may contend with *Lygus* with the continuation of dry, warm growing conditions typically favouring the development of *Lygus***

Figure 1. Contoured map reflecting *Lygus* densities (adults+nymphs) in sweep-net samples collected between July 5-9, 2015, in canola fields throughout the Peace River region.

Number of *Lygus* per 10 sweeps - 2015



nymphs to adults.

2. Grasshoppers were present in 35 of 162 canola fields surveyed. Late-instar

and adult stages of two-striped, clearwinged, lesser migratory, and red legged grasshoppers were present in the sweep-net samples (listed

Table 1.

Summary of *Lygus* densities occurring in surveyed fields in 2015.

Continued on page 16

Lygus bugs per 10 sweeps	Number of fields	Percent of fields sampled
≥15.0	12	7.4%
10.1-15.0	11	6.8%
5.1-10.0	42	25.9%
0.1-5.0	93	57.4%
0	4	2.5%
Sum	162	100%

Continued from page 15 **Table 2. Proportion of fields surveyed containing zero *Lygus*, only adults, only nymphs or adults plus nymphs in commercial fields of canola in 2015.**

<i>Lygus</i> stages collected	Number of fields	Percent of fields sampled
No <i>Lygus</i>	4	2.5%
Adults only	35	21.6%
Nymphs only	0	0%
Adults + Nymphs	123	75.9%
Sum	162	100%

from most numerous to least) in canola growing near Valleyview, Eaglesham, Whitemud Creek, Manning, Bluesky, Blueberry Mountain, Peace River, Ridge Valley, DeBolt, Rose Prairie, Rycroft, Hotchkiss, Savannah, Berwyn, Bonanza, Farmington, Beaverlodge, Blue Hills, Teepee Creek, Sturgeon Lake, Wembley, LaGlace, Poplar Ridge, Bridgeview, Dixonville, Tangent, Fairview, and Royce.

Click [here](http://www.westernforum.org/Documents/IPMN%20Protocols/2010_Grasshopper%20protocol.pdf) (http://www.westernforum.org/Documents/IPMN%20Protocols/2010_Grasshopper%20protocol.pdf) to review the entire grasshopper protocol and biological descriptions. Additional information related to grasshoppers can be located on Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development's webpage located [here](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/) (<http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/>

department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex3497) or the BC Ministry of Agriculture's webpage located [here](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/grasshopper.htm) (<http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/grasshopper.htm>).

3. **Diamondback moth** (Plutellidae: *Plutella xylostella*) were generally present in low numbers in the sweep-net samples (N=162 fields) in 2015. Sweep-net monitoring is NOT recommended for this insect pest yet we collected a total of 672 specimens from 162 fields in 2015 compared to 230 specimens in the 206 fields in 2014 and 93.6% of the 672 specimens were DBM larvae. Sites with higher numbers of DBM included Valleyview, Farmington, Ridge Valley, Baldonnel, Donnelly, Fort St. John, Beaverlodge, Blue Hills, and DeBolt.

It's important to note that parasitoid wasps (e.g., *Diadegma* sp. and *Microplitis* sp.) were observed

throughout the region and the presence of these natural enemies of DBM is strongly suspected to be keeping DBM densities relatively low.

4. **Root maggot (*Delia* sp.)** adults were again prevalent in fields and were collected from 122 of the 162 sites surveyed throughout the Peace River region in 2015. Numbers collected by sweep-net surveying ranged from 0.2-5.6 *Delia* sp. flies per 10 sweeps versus 0.2-10 flies per 10 sweeps in 2014 but growers should note – root assessments, rather than sweep-net monitoring, is recommended to accurately assess densities of root maggots. More information related to root maggots in canola can be found by linking [here](http://www.prairiesoilsandcrops.ca/articles/volume-4-4-screen.pdf) (<http://www.prairiesoilsandcrops.ca/articles/volume-4-4-screen.pdf>).

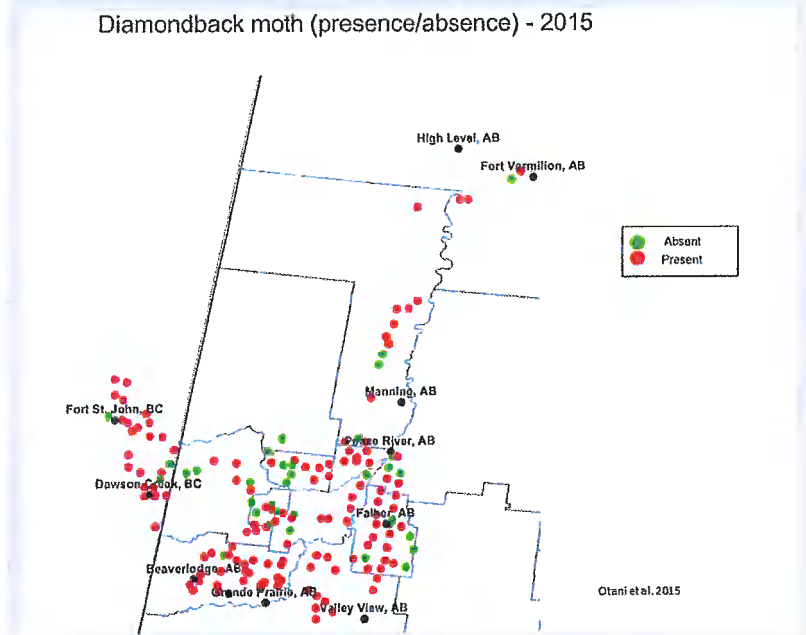
5. Normally, the annual canola survey is conducted during the initial weeks of the **Bertha**

armyworm adult flight period so larval stages, if present, are typically very small and difficult to accurately detect and identify within the sweep-net samples. Even so, seven of 162 fields surveyed contained early instar larvae tentatively suspected as Bertha armyworm larvae (e.g., Hawk Hills, Blue Hills, Valleyview, Guy, LaGlace and Scotswood). It should also be noted that early instar larvae suspected as Salt Marsh Caterpillars were tentatively identified from three fields surveyed (e.g., Doe River, Clayhurst, Taylor).

6. **Leafhoppers** were observed in 69 of 162 fields yet densities were consistently low in our canola sweep-net samples in 2015. The highest density was six per 50 sweeps in a canola field near Fort Vermillion and near Bezanson. More information related to leafhopper biology and monitoring can be found by linking [here \(http://www.westernforum.org/Documents/IPMN%20Protocols/2010_Leafhopper%20protocol.pdf\)](http://www.westernforum.org/Documents/IPMN%20Protocols/2010_Leafhopper%20protocol.pdf).

7. We are again happy to report that zero cabbage seedpod weevil (Curculionidae: *Ceutorhynchus obstrictus*) were observed in the 162

Figure 2. Presence/absence map reflecting distribution of diamondback moth (adults, larvae, pupae) occurring in sweep-net samples collected in canola from July 5-9, 2015.



fields sampled in the Peace River region in 2015. Approximately nine small weevils measuring <4mm in length and <20 beetles measuring <5mm in length were retained from the survey samples for forwarding to the National Identification System (AAFC-Ottawa) for species confirmation.

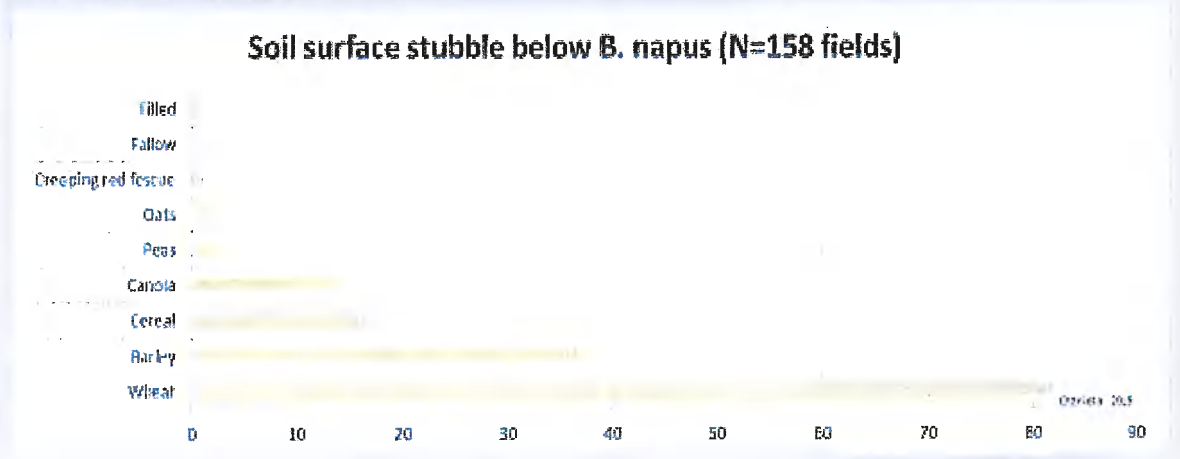
8. **Previous cropping data** was recorded by visually inspecting the soil surface of surveyed canola fields. Surface field trash was categorized then summarized in the figure below (Note: category "cereal" was used to describe fields where the

previous crop was either barley or wheat yet no seed was readily observed nor was the straw sufficiently intact to determine the presence/absence of auricles).

The most frequently observed soil surface stubble encountered beneath surveyed canola fields in 2015 was wheat stubble, followed by barley, residue that was characterized as "cereal", canola, peas, oats with single fields of stubble remaining from creeping red fescue, left fallow, or tilled (N=158 fields).

Continued on page 18

Figure 3. Field surface condition or stubble type observed in canola fields surveyed in the Peace River region in 2015.



THANK YOU to the following hard working AAFC staff who surveyed†, processed‡, and mapped∞ this data: Owen Olfert2†∞, Ross Weiss2†∞, Shelby Dufton1†‡, Amanda Jorgensen1†‡, Holly Spence1†‡, Andras Szeitz1†‡, Jadin Chahade1†‡, and Kaitlin Freeman1†‡.

Finally, and MOST IMPORTANTLY, Thank you to our canola producers for allowing us to sample in their fields!

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From the Desk of Researcher" "International Year of Pulses 2016"

By Junejo N. SARDA

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) announced 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP 2016). Pulses are Canada's fifth largest crop. Canada is the world's largest producer and exporter of pulses; pulses are grown in crop rotations on roughly 40% of the 20 million crop land of western Canada. In 2014, Canada pulse export valued \$3billion CDN (Agri-News, November, 2015).

Pulses are considered nutritious and part of healthy diet. Pulses are an excellent source of plant based protein, dietary fiber and other complex carbohydrates (Mitchell et. al. 2009).

Current research studies

stated that the use of pulses in diet can help to reduce and control cancer, heart disease, diabetes, cholesterol, anemia and obesity (WHO fact sheets, 2015).

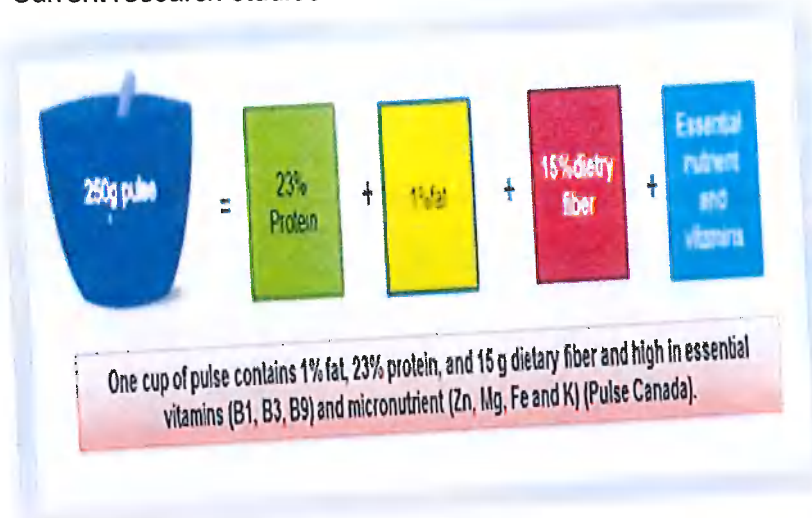
Agriculture research

Pulses cultivation is one of the easiest ways towards sustainable agriculture due to its benefits. Crop rotation is a common farming practice, where different crops are grown in a particular sequence year after year. Common crop rotations include canola, wheat and pulses in Alberta.

- The outcomes of a research trial conducted by University of Alberta showed 11% increase in Barley yield and 5 to 7% increase in seed N

yield when grown as subsequent crop with peas, fababean and lentils (Can. J. Plant Sci. 2015).

- In 2008 a research published in peer-reviewed Canadian Journal of Plant Science, concluded that pulse crops are well-suited to low moisture conditions.
- Pulses release organic compounds that affect soil microbe's population and produce different types of acids that can make soil nutrients more available to other crops. The diversity in soil micro-organism leads to improve plant growth and enhances the resistance of crops to stresses such as diseases and drought (Lupwayi and Kennedy, 2007).



Research by SARDA

Significantly higher yields of canola and wheat were obtained in a long and short term trials of crop rotation (2009-2015) at SARDA research plots when grown on peas and legumes stubble (Fig 1&2).

References

Continued on page 20

Continued from page 19

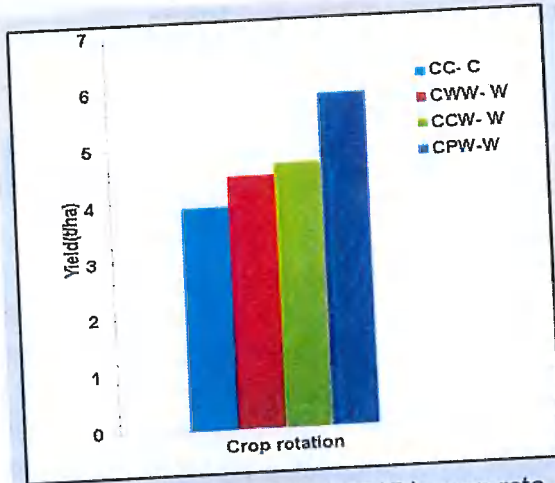


Fig 1. Canola yield (t/ha) 2015 in crop rotation trial at SARDA research plots. The symbol represents the crop rotation sequences C (Canola), W (Wheat), P (Peas).

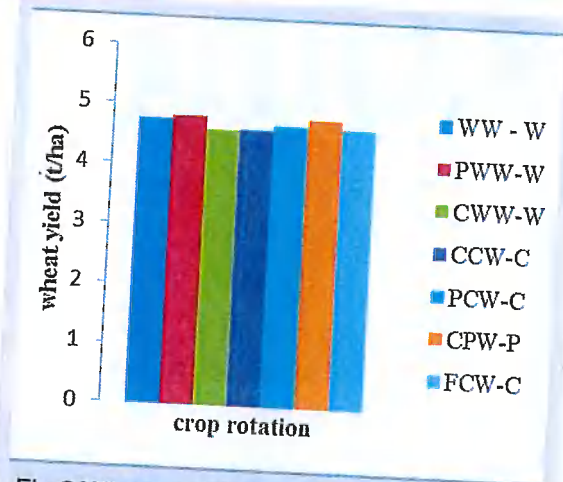


Fig 2. Wheat yield (t/ha) 2015 in crop rotation trial at SARDA research plots. Symbol represents the crop rotation sequences C (Canola), W (Wheat), P (peas), F (Fababean).

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- ♦ calculate expected total margins and probabilities based on your knowledge of soil and moisture conditions, along with long term yield and price expectations.
- ♦ create a "base" cropping plan, then compare it to other different scenarios.
- ♦ choose a plan that works for your operation by looking at forecasted margins and their probability of success.





County of Grande Prairie Corner

By Sonja Ravens, Agricultural Fieldman



Sonja Ravens,
Agricultural
Fieldman

Well here we are, harvest done and Christmas on the way. It was a very busy year for the Ag Department, as we hosted the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour in July, in addition to our regular programs. The successful tour, was enjoyed by all, and many found our area to be an oasis compared to much of the rest of the Province.

In spite of the Tour, we completed our seasonal work, thanks to the dedicated to the seasonal staff. Our roads were targeted and spot sprayed for a variety of weeds, all ditches were mowed at least once, with about 1/3 receiving a second pass. We participated in AB Ag pest surveys, including Bertha Army worm, wheat midge, and our regular round of inspections for Virulent Blackleg and Clubroot of canola.

We are committed to addressing weed issues on County property. The weed inspectors completed inspections on all county-owned properties (several hundred) this summer, in addition to their regular workload. Many of those inspected and treated, with the remainder scheduled for early 2016.

Problem wildlife staff removed approximately 200 dams that were threatening ag lands or infrastructure this summer. They are now focusing on controlling coyotes and wolves.

The Rural Extension Program continues to offer support and projects to restore riparian function within the Beaverlodge watershed. Trees have been replanted, and we are attempting to establish willow growth to reduce erosion along the Beaverlodge river banks. A number of area producers are working with us on their land to improve riparian function.

Over the winter, the Ag Department will be reviewing all of our programs, looking for efficiencies and areas where we can improve our service. We are committed to delivering the best programs efficiently.

In 2016, we aim to control tansy in one target area. Tansy infests about 1 1/2 townships.

Landowners in the target area will be receiving a letter explaining the goals and plans, and offering herbicide control options along fence lines. In early 2016, an intensive program of targeted spot spraying will commence, which should control this invasive weed.

SARDA has helped us address the issue of many of our rural citizens not receiving this newsletter. We have gone to an addressed newsletter with the county providing the labels each month. Your personal information has not been sent to SARDA. If there are individuals in our rural areas that are not getting this newsletter and would like to, please contact the Ag Department at 780-532-9727 and we will add you to our list.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and all the best for the coming year. May you enjoy all that this upcoming holiday season has to offer.

More Information

Sonja Ravens, AF
780-567-5585
sraven@countygpr.ab.ca

**Knock, knock?
Who's there?
Megan and chicken
Megan and chicken
who?
He's Megan a list and
chicken it twice, he's
gonna find out who's
naughty and nice...**



On-farm Safety Training - a Great Winter Activity

November 23, 2015 issue of Agri-News

"It's the time of year when some farmers take a step back from their hectic physical farm work and make assessments for the future," says Kenda Lubeck, farm safety coordinator, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF). "Farming is a demanding and frequently hazardous occupation. Keeping safety top of mind is important for all farm owners and workers to make it home safely each evening. Be pro-active and use this winter to ensure next season's farm work is injury- and incident-free."

Now is the time to plan for training during the winter months. Some courses you might consider taking:

- **First aid** – this is a must for any farm. It is advisable for all workers to have some sort of first aid training, whether it be first aid on the farm, emergency first aid, standard first aid or higher. There are a few options to access training. St. John's Ambulance has a great program and they are available toll free at 1-800-665-7114.
- **Equipment operator's training** – this is particularly important for new and young farm workers. Equipment such as skid steers, loaders, and tractors are powerful and have the potential to severely injure workers. Check online or look for courses in your area.
- **Chemical-related courses** –

farmers working with pesticides, ammonia and in the presence of sour gas will benefit from courses such as pesticide applicators, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) or H2S Alive. Check with your chemical supply dealer for pesticide applicator training in your area. WHMIS training can be accessed online, while H2S courses are available through safety companies who specialize in oilfield safety courses.

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) training** – for those handling chemicals, respirator training will be beneficial. For anyone working from heights, a fall protection course is recommended.
- **Livestock safety** – virtually any course involving livestock includes aspects of safety. For those using horses to tend cattle, perhaps a horsemanship or ranch hand course will help. Others to consider are stockman courses and horse/livestock hauling. Check with local agricultural societies, livestock clubs and organizations for upcoming clinics.
- **Machinery maintenance** – well cared for machinery and equipment means increased safety during use. Take a quick course in how to care for and properly maintain your

equipment to decrease the risk of down-time due to machinery failure.

- **Fire extinguisher training** – there are many types of fire extinguishers, and they can be intimidating to operate. It is a good idea to take this training before you need it.
- **Safety systems training** – at the basic level, this type of training course will teach participants the value of a safety program and how to get started setting one up. There are many courses aimed at different industries; farmers should look for a generic course provided by a private consultant or a reputable post-secondary institution.

"Winter is a great time to pull out your farm safety plan – or develop one if you haven't already – and decide what kind of training program your family members and employees should take," says Lubeck "This can be formal training such as mentioned, or simply going over the plan you have in place along with any farm workplace protocols."

In addition to training, take into consideration protocols for:

- hazard assessment and control
 - record keeping
 - communications
 - emergency situations
- AF has recently developed FarmSafe Alberta – A Safety Planning Guide for Farms and Ranches.. This is a tool that

farmers can use to create and implement a health and safety management system specific to their farming operation. For more information on the guide, or how to set up a FarmSafe Alberta workshop in your area, contact

farm safety coordinator Laurel Aitken at 780-980-4230.

"Planning now for a safe and prosperous year ahead is a sound investment for the future," says Lubeck.

More Information

Alberta Farm Safety Program
[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/All/aet623](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/All/aet623)



Canola Crush Margins

By Neil Blue

September 14, 2015 issue of Agri-News

What is the crush margin and why is important to canola prices?

"The crush margin is a comparison of the buying price of canola to the selling price of the products of the canola crush, canola oil and canola meal," says Neil Blue, crop market analyst, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Vermilion. "The actual crush margins are known only to the individual commercial businesses involved in the processing. They can reflect premiums or discounts for quality factors and be based on contracts entered into many months ago. From their crush margin, the crusher still has all of the costs of operation to cover."

To calculate a "board" canola crush margin, the ICE Canada canola futures price is used and, since there is not a canola oil or canola meal futures market trading in Canada, the U.S. futures markets for soybean oil and soybean meal are used as a substitute, with an adjustment for average

component differences. "U.S. soybean oil trades in cents/pound and U.S. soybean meal trades in \$/2000 lb. ton, so adjustments are made to convert the products to \$/metric tonne. Although it no longer accurately reflects current canola seed content, canola is assumed to contain 40 per cent oil and 60 percent meal. Because the U.S. futures prices are used in the calculation, a currency adjustment is also made."

The following is the board canola crush formula:

Canola Board Crush Margin
 (Can \$/tonne) = (BO X 22.046 X US\$/Cdn\$ X 0.40)
 + (SM X 1.1023 X US/Cdn \$ rate X 0.60 X 0.75)
 - ICE Futures Canada Canola seed futures

"Keeping in mind that actual crusher margins do not necessarily match the calculated board crush margin, over the last 18 months, the canola board crush margin has dropped from \$200+/tonne in February 2014 to the current level of about \$50/tonne, even

though the Canadian dollar has weakened during that time," says Blue.

"The implication, especially with the limited size of the 2015 Canadian canola crop, is that Canadian canola crushers will not be operating at full capacity this crop year. However, canola crush margins could improve! The Canadian dollar could remain low, U.S. meal prices could rebound after harvest, and vegetable oil values in general may improve. May through August rain in Malaysia and Indonesia, who are major producers of palm oil, has been just half of average. That could reduce palm oil production in a few months and support all vegetable oil prices."

Canola meal and oil have well developed markets, and that will keep Canadian crushers keen to attract canola deliveries in competition with export demand. "You may expect stronger canola basis levels again this season after harvest selling pressure subsides."



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Alberta Farm Animal Care Quarterly Update December 2015

It has been an absolutely wonderful and crazy fall at Alberta Farm Animal Care! In the September update, we shared how wonderful it was to have the opportunity to visit a number of farmers and capture their wonderful stories. This fall we were able to carry that excitement through in our presentations to students at four different post-secondary schools! It's so inspiring to engage with our future producers, veterinarians, and industry professionals.

Emergency Livestock Handling Equipment Trailers:

- The trailers have really been out and about these last few months – awareness of the trailer program is increasing and interest in purchasing trailers for additional counties continues to grow.
- In December, we had the opportunity to speak on AFAC and the trailers at a farm and ranch emergency workshop for the MD of Willow Creek in Fort MacLeod.

Workshops:

- Two Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue workshops were held in November in Leduc and Drumheller, AB. The workshops were a huge success and we received a ton of positive feedback on these.
- We hosted a Speakers' Bureau producer ambassador training workshop in October – this workshop focused on teaching producers to answer tough questions they get from family, consumers, the public, etc. If individual member organizations are interested in hosting one of these workshops for their producers or Board members, please get in touch with us!
- The crisis communications discussion forum took place in October and provided a fantastic opportunity for our members and others in the industry to gain some media training and to become more aware of how to deal with activist pressure.

Livestock Care Conference:

- The Livestock Care Conference will be held on March 22 and 23, 2016 at the Pomeroy Inn & Suites in Olds, AB with the theme of "Going Global: Exploring Animal Care Around the World". You can now register for the conference here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2016-livestock-care-conference-tickets-18749938571>





✓ High River PO Box 5201
#5 112 Centre Street
High River, AB T1V 1M4

☎ 403-652-5111
FAX: 403-663-3035
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Out and About:

- As mentioned above, we had the opportunity to speak to four of the post-secondary schools this fall – Olds College, Lakeland College, Lethbridge College, and the University of Alberta. **We were able to reach over 300 students!!!** (...so far)
- An AFAC booth was set up and engaging with the public/industry at Farm Fair in Edmonton; we also had a booth at the Canwest veterinary conference in Banff
- We presented on AFAC and animal welfare at a number of events, including: a Facility Design Workshop (hosted by Foothills Forage and Grazing Association), the equine industry collaborative meeting, the Alberta Goat Association convention, the Alberta Lamb Producers Zone 7 regional meeting, and the industry collaborative meeting in Red Deer
- We also attended a number of industry events, including: the Canadian Meat Council Symposium in Toronto where the focus was on animal care programs, the National Farm Animal Care Council meeting in Ottawa, and a Verified Sustainable Beef workshop in Longview

Industry Participation/Facilitation:

- An animal welfare crisis preparedness manual and poster were created for Alberta Chicken Producers (and their BC and SK counterparts)
- The Cattle Benchmarking Project is now underway with data collection ongoing at auctions and abattoirs across the province
- Several videos have been developed and rolled out through the "Telling Our Story" project, including "Heart of a Farmer" stories and "Fast Facts" videos. Visit our YouTube and social media channels regularly for the latest videos and updates!
- A new children's workbook is completed and will be available in 2016.
- AFAC staff attended a "Train the Trainer" session and are now certified to teach a Poultry Handling and Transportation Training course – a GF2 application has been submitted for funding to conduct a series of these courses across the province and to adapt existing materials for Alberta's poultry producers.
- The Social Licence and Public Relations subcommittee, which AFAC chairs, met in November to discuss a collaborative project. An application has been drafted for this work and will be submitted before the new year.

Governance:

- The last year has been focused on refreshing and revitalizing AFAC. The AFAC Board has approved a change in organizational structure to an Advisory Council/Board format. This will result in a more inclusive





✉ High River PO Box 5201
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High River, AB T1V 1M4

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organization with more targeted goals and a greater meeting focus on animal care and welfare. A smaller Board of Directors will govern the organization. This is an exciting change for AFAC and we hope that you will all bear with us and support us as we move forward with this adjustment!

- AFAC attended a Board policy workshop facilitated by Jim Brown of Strive; as we transition to our new structure we will create and implement Board policies
- The first Advisory Council meeting will take place January 7, 2016 at the Holiday Inn Red Deer South (Gasoline Alley). Invitations were sent to all AFAC members in December.

Coming Up:

- Over the summer we have been working on a new series called "Considering the Codes". This initiative aims to break down the Codes of Practice into bite-sized, easily implementable chunks that can be used by producers to make changes on-farm. We have been working with NFACC and both the national and provincial commodity organizations on this initiative.
- Bridging the gap between research and practice – AFAC previously released an "Insights" publication every few months that would highlight new research with a focus on how this could be applied on farm, cost savings, and other need-to-know information; we plan to re-start Insights in 2016
- The AFAC Executive will meet with Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry on January 6 to provide updates on animal care initiatives.





High River PO Box 5201
#5 112 Centre Street
High River, AB T1V 1M4

403-652-5111
FAX: 403-663-3035
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Alberta Farm Animal Care Council vs. Board – What to Expect

Why the changes?

- AFAC staff met individually with all commodity organization members in Fall 2014. It was identified that the current governance structure of AFAC was not working well; the organization was losing value with its commodity members
 - Three new structures were proposed to the AFAC Board in December 2014. After much discussion, the Council format was widely agreed to be that which will best move AFAC's mandate forward; it is more inclusive and allows individual producers, industry organizations, and service providers an opportunity to become more engaged

What is the “Advisory Council”?

- The Advisory Council will include all voting members who choose to attend Council meetings – likely three meetings each year
- The focus of each meeting will be to learn about, discuss and debate topics of farm animal welfare in order to direct the activities of AFAC
 - The Council is about information sharing and idea generation, not decision making
 - Council meetings will be FUN! They will feature invited speakers, small group breakouts, and large group discussion. At the end of each meeting, attendees will have learned something about other species or sectors.
 - Council will recommend projects, activities, communications, studies, surveys etc. that AFAC or AFAC members can undertake to enhance animal welfare in Alberta with respect to the selected topic(s)
- Member organizations may send a staff member as well as their designated Council member (typically a producer) to Council meetings. This will allow the greater AFAC membership to benefit from the knowledge of staff and input of producers, handlers, and processors
- Any gaps in animal welfare will be easily identified by this inclusive structure and discussion format and recommendations made by Council will guide AFAC's strategic plan, goals, projects, and programs moving forward

What will the Board do now?

- The Board will now include a maximum of 8 members selected from the voting membership (the Advisory Council) at the AGM in March
 - Most importantly, the Board will become a governance Board, whose responsibilities are to ensure the directions from Council are implemented. Once someone is elected to the AFAC Board, they will remove their “organization or producer hat” and put on their “AFAC hat” – **they now represent AFAC, not a specific organization**
 - The majority of the Board must be from commodity organizations
 - The Board will set the direction of AFAC through strategic planning
 - A good set of policies to guide staff decision making will be established, reviewed, and maintained
 - The implementation of the plan and operations will be delegated to staff





✓ High River PO Box 5201
#5 112 Centre Street
High River, AB T1V 1M4

☎ 403-652-5111
FAX: 403-663-3035
🌐 www.afac.ab.ca

📘 Alberta Farm Animal Care

🐾 @AbFarmAnimal

Alberta Farm Animal Care Council Hot Topics in Animal Care and Welfare

10:00 am – 3:00 pm, Thursday, January 7, 2016

Holiday Inn & Suites Red Deer South, 33 Petrolia Drive – Gasoline Alley

Purpose

All Alberta Farm Animal Care voting members are invited to attend Council meetings. This includes commodity organizations (producers and staff), individual producer members, industry associations, and agricultural service providers.

The Advisory Council is intended to provide a forum for discussion and debate, information sharing, and idea generation.

Objectives:

- Understand the top areas of concern (“hot topics”) in each farm animal species
- Recognize and understand viewpoints, efforts, and initiatives around the hot topics.
- Determine best next steps on tackling and moving these issues forward (i.e. protocols, tools, research, etc.)

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION AGENDA

- 10:00 am** **Arrival, settling in, coffee**
- 10:30 am** **Setting the Stage** – Angela Greter, Alberta Farm Animal Care
- Welcome and opening remarks
 - Council purpose and objectives
 - Participant introductions
 - Discussion expectations
- 10:45 am** **Identifying the Hot Topics** – breakout groups
- By species, what are current issues in animal care?
 - What do you see coming down the pipe?
 - There are no limits on your thinking – brainstorm!
 - What are you and/or your organization doing around these issues, if anything?
- 12:00 pm** **LUNCH**





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🐾 @AbFarmAnimal

12:45 pm Round Table Exchange

- Common interests/findings
- Discussion

2:00 pm BREAK

2:15 pm Identifying Next Steps – breakout groups

- Messages and key information for your organization/business
- Need or opportunity for cooperation / collaboration
- Areas in industry that need more information or that others need to understand more fully
- Recommendations to AFAC

2:45 pm Summary

- Review key messages from small group sessions
- Session summary – what to expect from AFAC

3:00 pm Adjournment – thanks for your contribution today!





Agricultural Service Board

December 16, 2015

Honourable Rachel Notley
Premier of Alberta
307 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
EDMONTON, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Notley:

The Leduc County Agricultural Service Board, which consists of all seven Councillors and two public members, is responsive to the interests and concerns of over 1250 farms and ranches located within our municipal boundaries and is committed to promoting the sustainability of the agriculture industry in Leduc County. Farm safety is a significant aspect of this.

Our Agricultural Service Board closely monitored the discussions and engagement around Bill 6 in our local communities and recognizes that respectful collaboration is key to a positive and productive consultation process. Our Board shares your goals of a common sense framework to realize protection of paid farmworkers while supporting the realities of the family farm. We welcome the opportunity to participate in and facilitate constructive dialogue with local agriculture producers, industry representatives, and the government of Alberta.

The agriculture community knows it is in our best interest to remain fully committed to an outcome of greater safety at the farm level. The perception on social media that farmers do not care about safety has been an unfortunate aspect of the passionate reaction from Alberta's rural community. Our Agricultural Service Board is keenly aware of the importance of public trust and the impact of social license on the ability of farmers to operate. Individual farmers and the agriculture industry as a whole do place a high value on safety. Through open, focused collaboration and with an attitude of mutual respect we believe that direct involvement in the consultation process can achieve a common sense framework supporting a sustainable agriculture industry. We look forward to contact early in the new year.

Yours truly,

Audrey Kelto
Agricultural Service Board Chair

cc: Honourable Lori Sigurdson, Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour
Honourable Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture & Forestry
Agricultural Service Boards
Shaye Anderson, MLA for Leduc-Beaumont
Mark Smith MLA for Drayton Valley-Devon



Agricultural Service Board

December 16, 2015

Honourable Rachel Notley
Premier of Alberta
307 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
EDMONTON, AB T5K 2B6

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Agricultural Service Board Chair

cc: Honourable Lori Sigurdson, Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour
Honourable Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture & Forestry
Agricultural Service Boards
Shaye Anderson, MLA for Leduc-Beaumont
Mark Smith MLA for Drayton Valley-Devon



Office of the Mayor

November 30, 2015

Honourable Rachel Notley,
Office of the Premier
Minister, International &
Intergovernmental Relations
307 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Honourable Oneil Carlier
Minister of Agriculture & Forestry
229 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Hon. Premier Rachel Notley and Hon. Oneil Carlier:


Bill 6 - Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act

Leduc County Council, at their November 24, 2015 regular meeting, were brought aware of the changes announced through Bill 6, the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act.

First and foremost Leduc County supports the safety of all workers in Alberta including those in the agricultural sector. However, Leduc County expresses concern with the insufficient time for family farms that will be impacted to be provided with any input. There are questions that need to be addressed such as the effects on producers and the implications to the average family farm.

Farming is more than a business, it is a way of life and considerations must be made to allow family farms to continue and thrive.

Sincerely,


TANNI DOBLANKO
Deputy Mayor

cc: Council Members
Brian Jean, Leader of Wildrose (Brian.Jean@wildrose.ca)
Shaye Anderson, Leduc-Beaumont Constituency (leduc.beaumont@assembly.ab.ca)
Mark Smith, MLA Drayton Valley-Devon Constituency (draytonvalley.devon@assembly.ab.ca)



County of St. Paul No. 19

December 9th, 2015

The Honourable Lori Sigurdson
Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training, and Labour
404 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Sigurdson,

The County of St. Paul No. 19 firmly believes that farming and agriculture industry is paramount to the success of rural Alberta. As the second largest industry in our great province, farming and agriculture delivers economic and community benefits to Alberta that must be recognized and respected.

Undoubtedly, the farming and agriculture industry is evolving and it is imperative that the industry as a whole adapt and adjust to changing circumstances. The groundswell of attention that Bill 6: *The Enhanced Protection of Farm and Ranch Workers Act* has generated demonstrates that farmers and ranchers are deeply concerned about their ability to adapt to this proposed legislation given the ambiguity surrounding it.

The County of St. Paul emphasizes its belief that the issue of safety on Alberta's farms and ranches is a critical one and is worthy of the high prioritization that your government has dedicated to it. That said, the County strongly believes that the concerns expressed by farmers and ranchers, in particular those operating family farms, are justified and warranted.

Over the past several weeks, your Government has itself indicated that many of the implications of the proposed bill are unclear at this time and inconsistent information has been released to the public. Specifically, there is a tremendous amount of uncertainty around what types of workers and farm work falls under the proposed bill as well as how these changes will financially impact the farming and agriculture industries. It is incumbent upon your Government to provide answers to farmers and ranchers with regards to the implications of this bill.

The farming and ranching industry is unique; the demands of the profession are unlike any other occupation. The County of St. Paul strongly believes that this uniqueness must be reflected in the proposed legislation. Attempting to assimilate the farming and agriculture industry into a traditional employment standards and occupational health and safety framework, simply does not reflect the distinctive nature and nuances of the farming and ranching professions.

The County of St. Paul acknowledges and appreciates the Government's efforts to hold consultations across the Province. Yet, the Government's insistence on implementing these sweeping changes by January 1st, 2016 is deeply concerning given that the Government has been vague about how the input

from these consultations will be incorporated into the legislation. Moreover, the sheer volume of attendees at the consultation sessions has resulted in many individuals being unable to attend.

During the election campaign this spring, your party made an honourable commitment to “work closely with all members in this House, and will take careful account of your views and those of all Albertans.” The County of St. Paul would encourage the Government to adhere to this pledge and work together with the opposition parties and Albertans to address the remaining concerns related to Bill 6. Devoting additional time for consultations and legislative review will ensure that both the Government of Alberta as well as all farmers and ranchers understand the implications this proposed legislation will have on the operations of small family farms.

It is noteworthy that many industries across Alberta have special provisions related to hours of work, overtime, and workers’ compensation; all industries are not treated equally under Employment Standards, Occupational Health and Safety, and Workers’ Compensation legislation. The County of St. Paul encourages the Government to consider special provisions for the farming and agricultural sector that will meet the Government’s aim to enhance farm safety while reflecting unique conditions on farms and ranches.

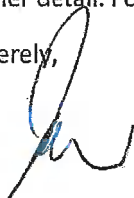
Albertans support stronger, fairer and safer working conditions. However, the appropriate time must be taken to tailor regulations that reflect the nuances of the farming and agriculture industries. Further consideration will also prevent the agricultural industry from being unfairly managed by legislation that treats office workers the same as farmers and ranchers. Further review is required to safeguard against any unintended consequences that may prove detrimental to our farmers and ranchers as well as the Alberta economy as a whole during a time of tremendous economic uncertainty in our province.

The County of St. Paul would like to encourage the Government to consult the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties as well as the Agriculture Service Boards as these organizations reflect the diversity of rural Alberta and can provide direct knowledge of the farming and agriculture industries which would be highly beneficial as the Government seeks to bring this proposed legislation to fruition.

The Government of Alberta has made the case that more needs to be done to enhance farm safety. The County of St. Paul implores the Government not to implement legislative half-measures and hurried consultations to achieve your aim of enhanced farm safety. Haphazard legislation will result in haphazard safety in our farming and agriculture industries and this would be a great shame.

On behalf of the County of St. Paul, I thank you for your consideration of this matter and appreciate your commitment to assuring rural Alberta and the farming and agricultural industry remain successful and sustainable moving forward. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter in further detail. I can be contacted at supham@county.stpaul.ab.ca or at (780) 614-5107.

Sincerely,



Steve Upham
Reeve



COPY

Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
Honourable Oneil Carlier
229 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Ave
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

December 4, 2015

Dear Honourable Oneil Carlier

BILL 6: ENHANCED PROTECTION FOR FARM AND RANCH WORKERS ACT

The M.D. of Bonnyville No. 87 is kindly requesting a delay in the passage of *Bill 6: Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers*. It is with strong conviction; we feel Bill 6 requires more time and consideration to ensure extensive consultation has been given to our farm and ranch operations prior to being passed through legislation. Our Community and Agricultural representatives are available and informed and have a responsibility to be involved in discussions with regards to farm and ranch worker safety.

Our family farms, over the past few decades, have been diminishing at an alarming rate. These families are smaller, they have increased pressure to be more productive, the equipment prices are soaring, the market is less stable, and the weather still challenges them each year. Yet the sons and daughters of our pioneers are still growing our grains and produce on these hundred year old family farms in order to feed our communities. "Farming is not an occupation, it is a life style" we hear this time and time again from our farming community. They depend on family members, urban extensions of the families, neighbors, and friends to meet these challenges they face each day. Often farmers find themselves with time and manpower constraints to complete a necessary task in their agricultural process, relationships have been built and strengthened over the years and tasks are often completed in-kind within the community itself. Bill 6 challenges these relationships and we are *all* concerned these may not have had enough attention and consideration within this proposed act.

Safety is important! We all want our family members to come home each night; our farming community is no different. Canada's statistics on farm accidents show that our Alberta farms are the safest in this country. Is more education rather than legislation a more practicable option?

Far too many questions and concerns still reside within this proposed act. Bill 6 must be delayed until an agreement and/or understanding is determined. We fully support our Agricultural Industry and ask that you extend the time to pass Bill 6 and address the concerns brought forth from our rural communities.

Sincerely,

Ed Rondeau, Reeve
M.D. of Bonnyville No. 87



COPY

Premier of Alberta
Honourable Rachel Notley
307 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Ave
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

December 4, 2015

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Sincerely,

Ed Rondeau, Reeve
M.D. of Bonnyville No. 87

December 9, 2015

Premier of Alberta
Honourable Rachel Notley
307-Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Notley,

Westlock County firmly believes rural Alberta's success is very dependent on the farming and agriculture industry. Agriculture is the second largest industry in the province of Alberta and delivers many benefits to the economy and our communities. Westlock County wishes to make it clear that we are not against promoting farm safety and the protection of farm and ranch workers, rather we prefer a proper consultation procedure for all Albertans prior to passing Bill 6.

Westlock County is requesting the Government of Alberta delay the passage of Bill 6: Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers. It is with strong determination; we feel Bill 6 requires more time and consideration for the consultation process to be effective prior to being passed. Our community and agricultural representatives are available and informed and have a responsibility to be involved in discussions with regards to farm and ranch worker safety.

One of the campaign promises made to the people of our province was the NDP would "work closely with all members of this house and will take careful account of your views and those of all Albertans". Far too many questions and concerns still reside within this proposed act. Further review is required to safeguard against any unintended consequences that may prove detrimental to our farmers as well as the Alberta economy as a whole during a time of economic uncertainty in our province.

Westlock County urges the Provincial Government to delay the passage of Bill 6 until further consultation and stakeholder input has been heard and acted upon. We welcome an opportunity to meet with you to further discuss this pending legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this important component of farm and ranch worker safety.

Sincerely,

Bud Massey, Reeve and ASB Chairman
Westlock County

Lamont County

Lamont County
5303 – 50 Avenue
Lamont, Alberta T0B 2R0

December 10, 2015

Honourable Rachel Notley,
Office of the Premier
Minister, International & Governmental Relations
307 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Honourable Premier Rachel Notley,

Lamont County Council and Agriculture Service Board at their regular meetings, discussed Bill 6, *the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act*, and thus have raised concern over the changes proposed on the agriculture community in their municipality.

Lamont County does support that the issue of safety being raised is critical, and is worthy of government consideration. All workers should be able to work safely at their worksite and this does not exclude the agriculture sector.

Given that many of the regulations and modifications to the current legislation are not defined or clarified, it has led to much worry and uncertainty in the agriculture community. Producers have wanted more information on how this legislation is going to affect their families and their community. There needs to be proper, concise and appropriate information provided to farm families prior to the acceptance of this bill.

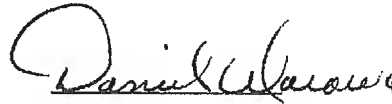
In conclusion, Lamont County strongly recommends the Government delay passage of this bill until there is a clear and precise notion of what exactly this bill will entail. Prior to the bill being passed, appropriate consultation with stakeholders and producers in the agriculture sector will need to be required to correct the uncertainty from both parties.

Farming and ranching are integrated lifestyles, more than just an occupation, let's continue to have family farms thrive and carry on their legacy.

Sincerely,



Wayne Woldanski
Reeve



Daniel Warawa
ASB Chairman

.../2

Administration Building
5303 – 50th Avenue
Lamont, Alberta T0B 2R0
www.lamontcounty.ca



Telephone: 780-895-2233
Fax: 780-895-7404
Toll Free: 877-895-2233
Email: info@lamontcounty.ca

Cc: Council Members
Brian Jean, Leader of the Wildrose
Dr. David Swann, Leader of the Liberals
Ric McIver, Leader of the Conservatives
Honourable Deron Bilous, Minister of Economic Development & Trade
Honourable Lori Sigurdson, Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour
Honourable Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture & Forestry
Honourable Jessica Littlewood – MLA Fort Saskatchewan
Al Kemmere – AAMDC President



December 15, 2015

Honorable Rachel Notley
Premier, President of Executive Council
Office of the Premier
Executive Branch
307 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Re: Bill 6: Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers

Dear Premier Notley:

The Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) wishes to make it clear that farm safety and the protection of farm and ranch workers is a top priority for everyone involved. It is a great tragedy when any worker, owner, or a family member is injured or killed while working. It greatly impacts those directly affected, as well as the entire community. The AAAF is strongly recommending that the Government of Alberta engages the agricultural sector regarding Bill 6: *Enhanced Protection of Farm and Ranch Workers and its corresponding regulations*. By engaging a broad range of agricultural producers, workers, contractors, as well as agriculture and rural organizations such as the AAAF, AAMDC and the Provincial ASB Committee, discussions clarifying roles and responsibilities under the proposed legislative changes would identify any concerns and unnecessary negative impacts.

Our greatest concern was the consequences that resulted from the passage of this Bill. As much as farming and ranching is a job, it is also a lifestyle and as a result, the sector is more inclined to collaborate in change than being mandated to change. Most people who grew up on a farm fondly remember days spent helping their family or enjoying the uniqueness that comes with rural life.

When it comes time to begin the consultation process, the AAAF is willing and able to participate. As municipal employees we have experience working with OH&S legislation on a daily basis and with our strong connection to grass roots agriculture we can also provide the perspective of the farming and ranching community.

If you would like to discuss any of this further, please feel free to contact me directly at Athabasca County, 3602-48th Ave, Athabasca AB. T9S 1M8

Sincerely,

Trent Keller
AAAF President
tkeller@athabascacounty.com
780 675-2273

Cc: Honorable Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
229 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Honorable Lori Sigurdson, Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labor
404 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Brian Jean, Honorable Leader of the Official Opposition
5th Floor, Legislature Office
9820 - 107 Street
Edmonton, AB
Canada T5K 1E7

Grant Hunter, Shadow Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour
5th Floor, Legislature Office
9820 - 107 Street
Edmonton, AB
Canada T5K 1E7

Rick Strankman, Shadow Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
5th Floor, Legislature Office
9820 - 107 Street
Edmonton, AB
Canada T5K 1E7

All members of the AAAF

Trait Stewardship Responsibilities Notice to Farmers

Monsanto Company is a member of Excellence Through Stewardship® (ETS). Monsanto products are commercialized in accordance with ETS Product Launch Stewardship Guidance, and in compliance with Monsanto's Policy for Commercialization of Biotechnology-Derived Plant Products in Commodity Crops. Commercialized products have been approved for import into key export markets with functioning regulatory systems. Any crop or material produced from this product can only be exported to, or used, processed or sold in countries where all necessary regulatory approvals have been granted. It is a violation of national and international law to move material containing biotech traits across boundaries into nations where import is not permitted. Growers should talk to their grain handler or product purchaser to confirm their buying position for this product. Excellence Through Stewardship® is a registered trademark of Excellence Through Stewardship.

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS. Roundup Ready® crops contain genes that confer tolerance to glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup® brand agricultural herbicides. Roundup® brand agricultural herbicides will kill crops that are not tolerant to glyphosate. Acceleron® seed treatment technology for canola contains the active ingredients difenoconazole, metalaxyl (M and S isomers), fludioxonil, and thiamethoxam. Acceleron® seed treatment technology for soybeans (fungicides only) is a combination of three separate individually registered products, which together contain the active ingredients fluxapyroxad, pyraclostrobin and metalaxyl. Acceleron® seed treatment technology for soybeans (fungicides and insecticide) is a combination of four separate individually registered products, which together contain the active ingredients fluxapyroxad, pyraclostrobin, metalaxyl and imidacloprid. Acceleron® seed treatment technology for corn (fungicides only) is a combination of three separate individually-registered products, which together contain the active ingredients metalaxyl, trifloxystrobin and ipconazole. Acceleron® seed treatment technology for corn (fungicides and insecticide) is a combination of four separate individually-registered products, which together contain the active ingredients metalaxyl, trifloxystrobin, ipconazole, and clothianidin. Acceleron® seed treatment technology for corn with Poncho®/VoTivo™ (fungicides, insecticide and nematicide) is a combination of five separate individually-registered products, which together contain the active ingredients metalaxyl, trifloxystrobin, ipconazole, clothianidin and Bacillus firmus strain I-5821. Acceleron®, Acceleron and Design®, DEKALB and Design®, DEKALB®, Genuity and Design®, Genuity®, RIB Complete and Design®, RIB Complete®, Roundup Ready 2 Technology and Design®, Roundup Ready 2 Yield®, Roundup Ready®, Roundup Transorb®, Roundup WeatherMAX®, Roundup®, SmartStax and Design®, SmartStax®, Transorb®, VT Double PRO® and VT Triple PRO® are trademarks of Monsanto Technology LLC. Used under license. LibertyLink® and the Water Droplet Design are trademarks of Bayer. Used under license. Herculex® is a registered trademark of Dow AgroSciences LLC. Used under license. Poncho® and Votivo™ are trademarks of Bayer. Used under license. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.



Prepare to



FULLY ACCREDITED

