

AGENDA
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
January 12, 2015

The Agricultural Services Board meeting of Clear Hills County will be held immediately after the Organizational meeting on Monday, January 12, 2015 in the Council Chambers of the County Office, Worsley, Alberta.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **AGENDA**
3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**
November 10, 2014..... 2
4. **BUSINESS ARISING**
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. **Activity Report** 7
 - b. **Date, Time and Place of Board Meetings**..... 10
 - c. **Large Animal Composting** 11
 - d. **Veterinary Services Incorporated**..... 12
 - e. **Holistic Management Course**..... 18
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference**..... 20
7. **REPORTS**
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10. **CONFIDENTIAL**
11. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
November 10, 2014**

PRESENT

Brian Harcourt	Chair
Mackay Ross	Member
Leslie Davis	Member
Baldur Ruecker	Deputy Chair
Jason Ruecker	Council Representative (Alternate)

IN ATTENDANCE

Aaron Zylstra	Agricultural Fieldman
Audrey Bjorklund	Community Development Manager
Sarah Hayward	Community Development Clerk

IN REGRET

Stan Logan	Member
Jake Klassen	Council Representative

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Harcourt called the meeting to order at 10:39 am.

AGENDA

AG148 (11/10/14)

RESOLUTION by Councilor Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda governing the November 10, 2014 Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting with the following additions:

- 6. b. Member Logan Authorization to be Absent**
 - 6. c. Peace Country Beef and Forage Association Peace Cattle Day December 3, 2014 in Fairview**
 - 6. d. Holistic Management by Don and Bev Campbell January 15-17 or 22-24, 2015 location to be announced.**
 - 6. e. Cow/calfenomics in Grande Prairie January 20, 2015.**
 - 6. f. AFSC Customer appreciation lunch November 14, 2014 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Fairview Provincial Building.**
- CARRIED.**

MINUTES

AG149 (11/10/14)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the October 20, 2014 Agricultural Service Board Meeting as presented.

CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

Activity Report

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

AG150 (11/10/14)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the November 10, 2014 Agricultural Services Board Activity Report as presented.

CARRIED.

Back Forty Newsletter

The Board has requested to review the circulation of the Back Forty Newsletter at the November meeting.

AG151 (11/10/14)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council to remove funding for the Back Forty newsletter from the 2015 Operating Budget and include the web link in the County newsletter for the Back Forty Newsletter. CARRIED.

Large Animal
Composting

The Board requested to bring large animal composting discussion back to the November 2014 ASB meeting.

AG152 (11/10/14)

RESOLUTION by Councilor Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board to table the large animal composting to the next Agricultural Service Board meeting. CARRIED.

Foxtail Barley

The Board is presented with research regarding the process of elevating Foxtail Barley to a Noxious weed species designation at the municipal level.

AG153 (11/10/14)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the process for elevating a plant species to a Noxious Weed designation. CARRIED.

AG154 (11/10/14)

RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agriculture Board recommend to Council to control Foxtail Barley on County roadsides. CARRIED.

Chair Harcourt recessed for a break at 11:19 a.m.

Chair Harcourt called the meeting back to order at 11:25 a.m.

Fertilizer Inspectors

The Board has requested to send letters to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and to the Federal and Provincial Agricultural Ministers regarding the lack of fertilizer inspectors.

AG155 (11/10/14)

RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council to send a letter to Minister Olson, Minister Ritz and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency regarding the lack of fertilizer inspectors. CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Rental Equipment

The Board is requested to review the following rental equipment fleet items:

- Liquidation of the livestock ultrasound, bale sampler, RFID tag readers and remove magpie traps from the Schedule of Fees.

AG156 (11/10/14)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council to dispose of livestock ultrasound and bale sampler from the rental equipment fleet due to lack of use. CARRIED.

- AG157 (11/10/14) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council to remove the magpie traps from the Schedule of Fees and continue to hand out instructions on how to build magpie traps on request. CARRIED.
- AG158 (11/10/14) RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council to give the RFID tag readers to an association that will use the units. CARRIED.
- ADD-IN:
Member Logan
Authorization to be
Absent
- The Board is requested to grant authorization for Member Logan to be absent from today's meeting. This will be the third meeting in a row that Member Logan has not been able to attend; as set out in Section 3(5) of the Agricultural Service Board Act he will cease to be a member of the board without his absence being authorized by a resolution of the board.
- AG159 (11/10/14) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board authorizes the absence of Member Logan from the November 10, 2014 Agricultural Service Board meeting. CARRIED.
- AG160 (11/10/14) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service board approve the attendance of Member Davis, Deputy Chair Ruecker and Chair Harcourt to the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association Cattle Day December 3, 2014 in Fairview. CARRIED.
- AG161 (11/10/14) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board table attendance to the Holistic Management by Don and Bev Campbell on January 15-17th, 2015 or 22-24, 2015 to the next Agricultural Service Board meeting. CARRIED.
- AG162 (11/10/14) RESOLUTION by Councilor Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board approve the attendance of Member Ross and Member Logan to Cow/Calfenomics in Grande Prairie on January 20, 2015. CARRIED.
- Chair Harcourt recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m.
Reconvened at 12:33 p.m.
- AG163 (11/10/14) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service approve the attendance of Deputy Chair Ruecker and Chair Harcourt to the Alberta Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) Customer appreciation lunch on November 14, 2014 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Fairview Provincial Building. CARRIED.
- AG164 (11/10/14) RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service approve the attendance of Deputy Chair Ruecker to the Alberta Beef Producers meeting on November 4, 2014 in Grande Prairie at the Pomeroy Hotel. CARRIED.

REPORTS

Agricultural
Fieldman's Report

The Agricultural Fieldman had the opportunity to present his report.

AG165 (11/10/14)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that the Agricultural Service Board accepts the November 10, 2014 Agricultural Fieldman report for information. CARRIED.

Board Reports

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

- Member Davis: attended the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association Gabe Brown Cover Crops on October 27 at the Legion Hall in Grimshaw and the Regional ASB Conference in Rycroft on October 24, 2014.
- Deputy Chair Ruecker: Attended the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association Gabe Brown Cover Crops on October 27, 2014 at the Legion Hall in Grimshaw, Regional ASB Conference in Rycroft on October 24, 2014, PARN meeting at the Fairview College, Christine Jones Soil Health at the Rycroft Ag Center on November 3, 2014, Alberta Beef Producers meeting at the Pomeroy Hotel in Grande Prairie November 4, 2014
- Member Ross: attended the Regional ASB Conference in Rycroft on October 24, 2014.
- Chair Harcourt: Attended the Regional ASB Conference in Rycroft on October 24, 2014 and Christine Jones Soil Health at the Rycroft Ag Center on November 3, 2014.

AG166 (11/10/14)

RESOLUTION by Councilor Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' written or verbal reports of November 10, 2014 for information. CARRIED.

INFORMATION &
CORRESPONDENCE

The following information and correspondence was provided to the Board:

1. Resolution #4 Peace Region Chair Committee- (63-02-02)
2. Peace Region Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference- Minutes- (63-02-02)
3. New Clubroot Pathotype 5x: Updates and Information- email- (63-02-02)
4. Safe Farm Health and Safety Information- email- (63-02-02)
5. Canada growers crippling clubroot resistance with short rotations- article- (63-02-02)
6. Report to Community and 2013-2014 Report Card- Letter- (63-02-02)

-
7. VSI Services- letter- (63-10-40)
 8. VSI Services- meeting minutes- (63-10-40)

AG167 (11/10/14)

RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board bring the County's and VSI Municipal partners service agreements back for review to the next Agricultural Service Board meeting. CARRIED.

AG168 (11/10/14)

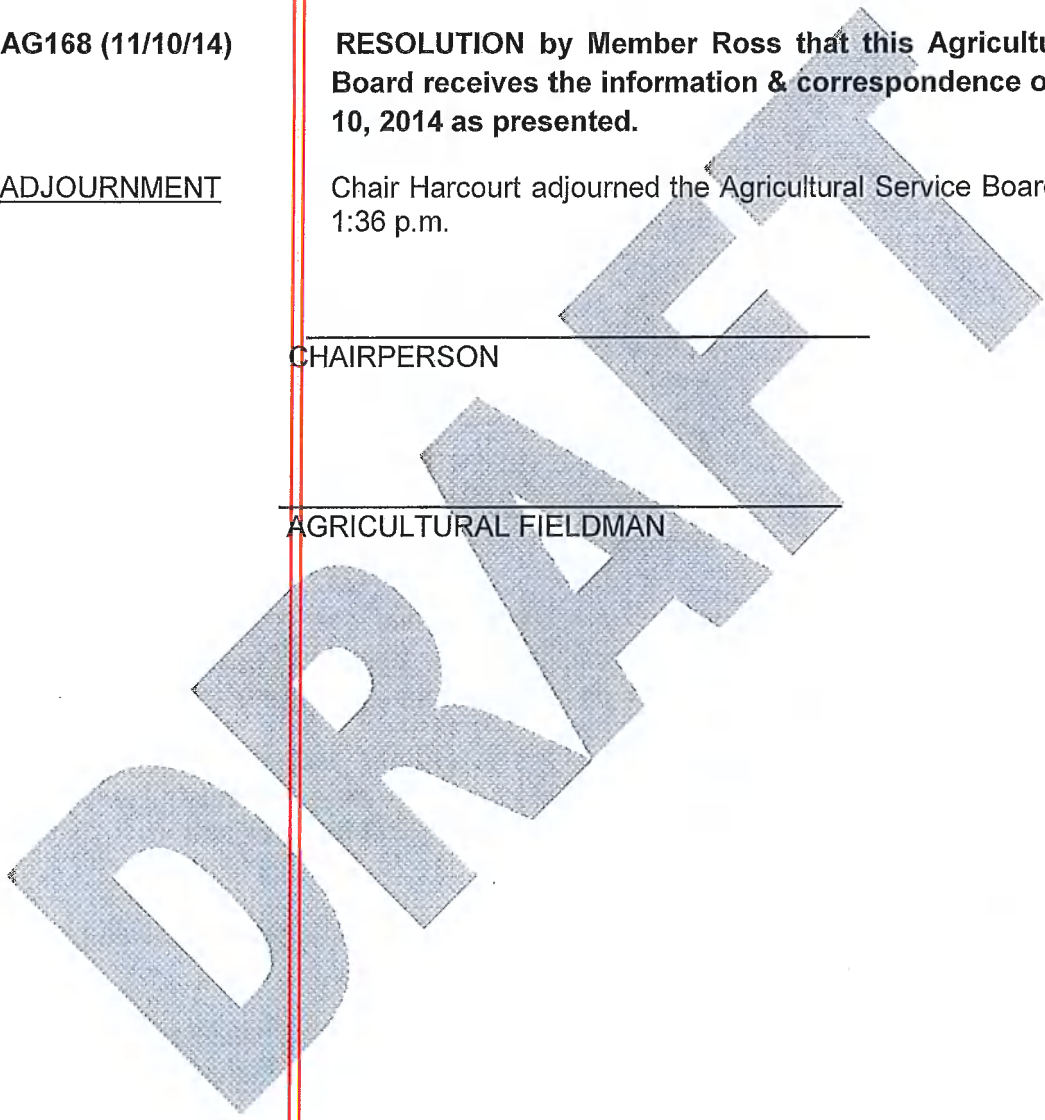
RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of November 10, 2014 as presented. CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Harcourt adjourned the Agricultural Service Board meeting at 1:36 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN



Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	January 12, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, 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 12, 2015 ASB Activity Report as presented.

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



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for January 12, 2015 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				
February 10, 2014				
AG29	(02/10/14)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Reeve Klassen that this Agricultural Service Board approve the 2014 Farm Family to Pieter and Nancy van Herk and family and direct administration to purchase a gate sign to a maximum of \$300 to be presented at the County's Agricultural Trade Show banquet on April 12th, 2014.	AF	Sourcing sign maker
November 10, 2014				
AG151	(11/10/14)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council to remove funding for the Back Forty newsletter from the 2015 Operating Budget and add a link in the County newsletter for the Back Forty Newsletter.	CDM	Approved
AG152	(11/10/14)	RESOLUTION by Councilor Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board to table the large animal composting to the next Agricultural Service Board meeting. CARRIED.	AF	January 12, 2015 RFD
AG154	(11/10/14)	RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agriculture Board recommend to Council to control Foxtail Barley on County roadsides.	AF	Developing inventory of infestation, options and cost estimates for 2016 budget.
AG155	(11/10/14)	RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council to send a letter to Minister Olson, Minister Ritz and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency regarding the lack of fertilizer inspectors.	CDM	Approved
AG156	(11/10/14)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council to dispose of livestock ultrasound and bale sampler from the rental equipment fleet due to lack of use.	CDM	Approved
AG157	(11/10/14)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council to remove the magpie traps from the Schedule of Fees and give out instructions on how to build upon requests.	CDM	Approved
AG158	(11/10/14)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council to give the RFID tag readers to an association that will use the units.	CDM	Approved



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for January 12, 2015 Page 2 of 2

Budget Items:

Completed Items:

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer

CSM = Corporate Services Manager

DO= Development Officer

AF = Ag. Fieldman

EA = Executive Assistant

CDM = Community Development Manager

MOTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEPT	STATUS
AG 161	(11/10/14)	AG161 (11/10/14)RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board table attendance to the Holistic Management by Don and Bev Campbell on January 15-17th, 2015 or 22-24, 2015 to the next Agricultural Service Board meeting.	AF	January 12, 2015 RFD
AG167	(11/10/14)	RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board bring the County's and VSI Municipal partners service agreements back for review to the next Agricultural Service Board meeting.	AF	January 12, 2015 RFD

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	January 12, 2015
Originated By:	Audrey Bjorklund Community Development Manager
Title:	DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF BOARD MEETINGS
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Agricultural Service Board meets every month except April and August. The Board will now select the day of the month and the commencement time for the monthly meetings. All members must be present to change the date, time and place of the meetings.

BACKGROUND:

AG147 (11/10/14) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board willtable the date, time and place of board meetings, until a meeting when all board members are present. CARRIED.

Procedure 6301-01(3.2) states that the Board will meet every second Wednesday of the month except for April and August and that Regular meetings commence at 10:00 a.m., unless an earlier start time is selected to deal with special issues.

AG22(02/11/13) RESOLUTION by Councilor Klassen that this Agricultural Service Board authorize that ten (10) regular meetings be held the second Monday of every month at 10:00 a.m., with the exception of April and August. At the call of the Chair, special meetings shall be posted 48 hours in advance. CARRIED.

The board may change the day and time of meetings by resolution if the second Wednesday and 10:00 a.m. start time are not acceptable to the members.

OPTIONS:

1. Set ASB meetings for the second Monday of each month except April and August at a selected time.
2. Set ASB meetings for an alternate day of each month except April and August at a selected time.
3. Table the date, time and place of Board meetings until all members are present.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board authorize that ten (10) regular meetings are to be held the **second** Monday of each month at **10:00 a.m.**, with the exception of April and August. At the call of the Chair, special meetings shall be posted 48 hours in advance.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: *ABj* AF: *A*

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	January 12, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	LARGE ANIMAL COMPOSTING
File Code:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board directed the large animal composting topic be brought back to a future ASB meeting.

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

AG152 (11/10/14) RESOLUTION by Councilor Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board to table the large animal composting to the next Agricultural Service Board meeting. CARRIED.

ATTACHMENTS:

OPTIONS:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board...

Initials show support - Reviewed by:

Manager:

abj

AF:

[Signature]

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	January 12, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	VETERINARY SERVICES INCORPORATED (VSI)
File Code:	63-10-40

DESCRIPTION:

The Board directed that the County's and the Veterinary Services Incorporated (VSI) Municipal partners' service agreements be brought to the January Agricultural Service Board Meeting for review.

BACKGROUND:

AG167 (11/10/14) RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board bring the County's and VSI Municipal partners service agreements back for review to the next Agricultural Service Board meeting. CARRIED.

Currently we have 153 memberships from the County registered for VSI.

Here are the amounts for the past five years of requisitions

- 2014: \$33,100
- 2013: \$22,400
- 2012: \$18,700
- 2011: \$27,516
- 2010: \$30,284

ATTACHMENTS:

- VSI Summary
- Clear Hills County VSI Contract

OPTIONS:

1. Accept for information
2. Recommend the following changes.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board...

Initials show support - Reviewed by:

Manager:

ABJ

AF:

AZ

50% Coverage without any restrictions

Birch Hills County
Mackenzie County
Municipal District of Big Lakes
Municipal District of Greenview
Municipal District of Peace
Municipal District of Smoky River
Northern Lights County
Northern Sunrise County
Saddle Hills County

50% Coverage with restrictions as noted:

Clear Hills County
Caesareans – limit of 3 per producer
Semen Tests – limit of 8 bulls per producer
Pregnancy Tests – limit of 150 cows per producer
Elk & Bison – Coverage of postmortems & semen tests are covered with a limit of 5 semen tests

Municipal District of Bonnyville
Semen Tests – limit of 20 bulls per producer
Elk & Bison – Full coverage of all services with a limit of 20 Semen Tests per producer
Elk & Alpaca – Full coverage of all services as per fee schedule for sheep and goats

Woodlands County
Semen Tests – limit of 20 bulls per producer
Pregnancy Tests – limit of 400 per producer

60% COVERAGE

Lac La Biche County
No restrictions on the number of claims
Also provide full coverage of all services for elk & bison

Municipal District of Lesser Slave River
Semen Tests – limit of 7 per producer
Pregnancy Tests – limit of 200 per producer
Elk & Bison – Only cover postmortem & semen test services with a limit of 7 semen tests

70% COVERAGE

Municipal District of Fairview
No restrictions

Municipal District of Spirit River
Semen Tests – Limit of 7 bulls per producer
No other limitations

COMMENTS

Other than those noted non of the jurisdictions provide any coverage for alternative livestock species of bison, elk, deer, alpacas, etc.

Both the veterinary clinics and V.S.I. would like to see the fee schedules harmonized as much as possible. Variation creates increased work in processing claims.

There are extra administrative costs associated with the restriction of services at least when you look at the administrative costs as a percentage of total VSI claims. It takes just as long to process a small claim as it does to process a large claim thus jurisdictions with restrictions tend to pay a greater percentage of their total claims for administration.

The policing of restrictions is up to each individual jurisdiction. I will reject claims that exceed specified limits on each individual invoice but I have no way of tracking how many semen tests or pregnancy tests have been done for each producer when the services are provided on different dates and/or by different veterinary clinics. The quarterly reports will provide the jurisdiction with the number of services provided for each producer.

Please remember that I will be preparing the 2015 contracts right after the V.S.I. AGM on November 28th. At this time I will need to know your level of coverage and restrictions.

V.S.I. SERVICES (1980) LTD

A nonprofit organization providing veterinary care in Alberta

BOX 202

FAIRVIEW, AB T0H 1L0
PH 780 835 4531

Mr. Allan Rowe, CAO
Clear Hills County
Box 240
Worsley, AB T0H 3W0

December 8, 2014

Dear Allan

Enclosed are two (2) copies of the 2015 VSI contract for Clear Hills County. The copy with the attached schedules is yours to keep. Please sign and return the other copy.

The VSI Board of Directors approved a basic 2.5% increase in fees to stay in line with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (AB.VMA) recommended fees. The only exception to the 2.5% increase was a somewhat larger increase in code 31 (calving). The fee for this service went up to \$220.00 from \$205.50 again following the recommended AB. VMA fee schedule.

Similar to last year the Board also recommended that a 10% contingency be factored into the estimates for 2015. This is intended to prevent the need for Councils to find money at the end of the year to cover any over expenditures.

The \$32,000.00 figure in your contract was reached as follows:

- a) The cost of your claims, for the period October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014, was increased by 12.5% (2.5% fee increase plus a 10% contingency).
- b) Estimated net administration costs of \$3,000, were added to the above total.
Note: Net administrative cost includes GST
- c) The final step was to round off the estimate to the nearest \$500.00

Please **do not remit any funds at this time.**

Your requisition will be determined in late January or early February, after all of your 2014 claims have been processed. Your requisition will be based on actual claims for 2014, plus 12.5%, plus an estimate of your net administrative cost. Deficits or surpluses, as of December 31, 2014, will be added to, or subtracted from, your 2015 requisition.

Please feel free to call me if there are any questions or if you see any errors in my estimates.

Thank you

J. M. Henderson, Manager
Encl.

This agreement made effective as of January 1, 2015.

Between

V.S.I. SERVICES (1980) LTD.

A body corporate under the laws of the Province of Alberta (hereinafter called "V.S.I.")

and

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY of the Province of Alberta, representing the district ratepayers (hereinafter called the "Municipal Jurisdiction").

Whereas the parties hereto are parties to an agreement in writing dated January 1, 2014 (hereinafter referred to as the "agreement"); and

Whereas the agreement, by its terms, is deemed to terminate on December 31, 2014; and

Whereas the parties hereto desire to continue the agreement in full force and effect for the period from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

Now therefore this agreement witnesses that in consideration of the premises and the covenants hereafter contained:

1. The agreement shall be deemed to continue in full force and effect for the period from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 and all references to any date or dates in the agreement and the term of its termination shall be amended accordingly.
2. Schedule "A" **50/50** and Schedule "B" to the agreement shall be dated effective January 1, 2015.
3. The Municipal Jurisdiction agrees to provide V.S.I. with the funds necessary to implement, administer and carry out the Veterinary Health Program until this agreement is terminated. The Municipal Jurisdiction agrees to advance the sum of

THIRTY TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$32,000.00)

to establish the Veterinary Health Program in the Jurisdiction for the 2015 calendar year.

...2

The parties agree to observe and perform all other terms, covenants, conditions and provisions on the part of each of them respectively contained in the agreement subject only to the amendments contained herein.

V.S.I. SERVICES (1980) LTD.

Per _____

Signed, sealed and delivered
in the presence of:

Witness

Clear Hills County

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	January 12, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT
File Code:	63-10-20

DESCRIPTION:

The Board directed attendance to the Holistic Management by Don and Bev Campbell on January 15-17th, 2015 & 22-24, 2015 be tabled to the January Agricultural Service Board Meeting.

BACKGROUND:

Holistic Management course is a six day course on January 15, 16, 17, 22, 23 & 24, 2015.

AG161 (11/10/14) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board table attendance to the Holistic Management by Don and Bev Campbell on January 15-17th, 2015 or 22-24, 2015 to the next Agricultural Service Board meeting. CARRIED.

RSVP deadline was December 8, 2014 with a \$500 deposit and a registration cost of \$1,495 excluding GST per farm unit up to four people.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Holistic Management Course Poster

OPTIONS:

1. Authorize attendance of _____
2. Do not authorize attendance.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board...

Initials show support - Reviewed by:

Manager:

ABJ

AF:

AZ

HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT COURSE WITH DON & BEV CAMPBELL

6 DAY COURSE
Jan 15, 16, 17 &
Jan 22, 23, 24
9AM-4PM EACH DAY



WHERE
Waterhole Hall
Fairview, AB

**A HAND'S ON
COURSE COVERING**
GOAL SETTING
LAND MANAGEMENT
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
DECISION MAKING

RESULTING IN
IMPROVED QUALITY
OF LIFE
HEALTHIER LAND
INCREASED PROFIT



COST
\$1495 + GST per farm
unit of up to 4 people
Growing Forward will pay
part of the tuition under the
Business Management
Program. Please check with
us for more details.

\$500 DEPOSIT &
RSVP DUE BY
DEC 8

To Register Contact
Stacy Pritchard
780-772-0277
spritchard2@grpc.ab.ca



Agriculture Opportunity Fund

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	January 12, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD CONFERENCE
File Code:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference will be held at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton on January 20-23, 2015.

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

There are four rooms reserved for this conference. Three are reserved at the Fantasyland Hotel and the fourth reservation is at the West Edmonton Mall Inn.

Only voting members are allowed to vote at the Provincial ASB Conference. Voting members are Chair Harcourt and Deputy Chair Ruecker with the alternate being Member Davis.

Registration fees are \$475 and an additional \$75 for the extra banquet.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Provincial ASB Conference Agenda
- 2014 Resolution Package

OPTIONS:

1. Authorize the attendance of...
2. Accept for information

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of _____ to attend the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference on January 20-23, 2015 in Edmonton, Alberta.

Initials show support - Reviewed by:

Manager:

AZ

AF:

AR



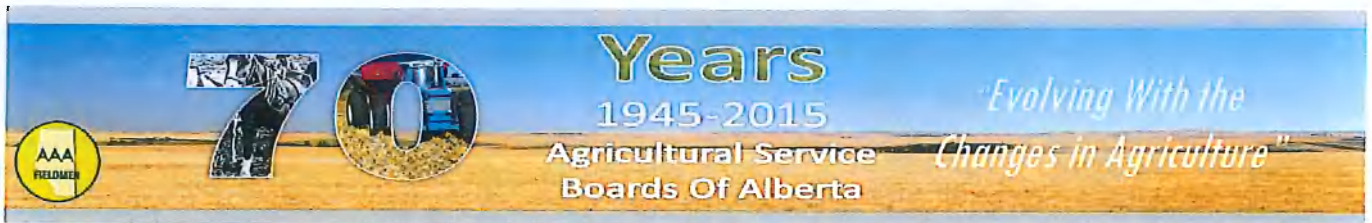
DAY 1: TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2015

4 – 8 pm Registration Ballroom Foyer, Level 3

5 – 10 pm Tradeshow Ballroom Foyer, Level 3

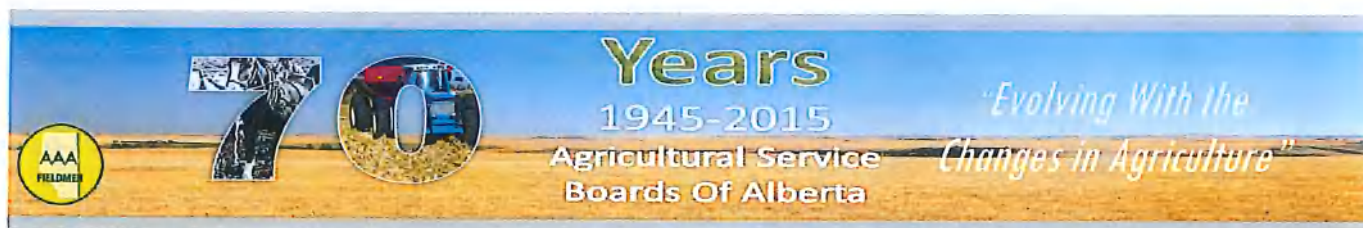
6 – 10 pm Reception Beverly Hills Ballroom

7 pm Welcome – Jim Duncan
 Central Provincial ASB Committee Chair, Clearwater County
 Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development – Hon. Verlyn Olson



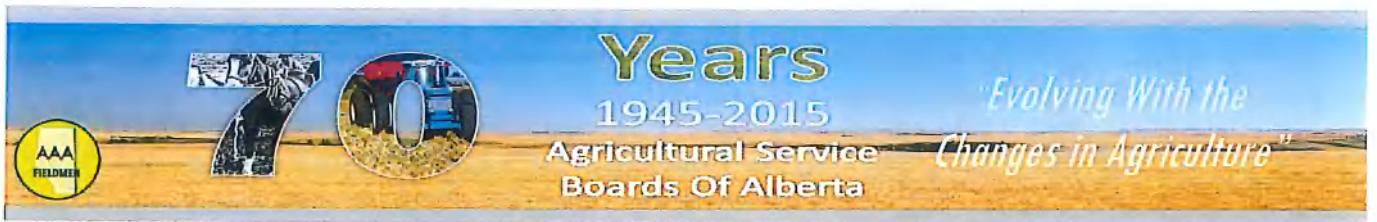
DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Conference Rooms 6 & 7
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Registration	Ballroom Foyer
8:15 – 8:40 a.m.	Welcome from Conference Chair, Les Kletke National Anthem, Fallon Sherlock City of Edmonton Mayor, Don Iveson AAMD&C President, TBA AAAF President, Jason Storch	Beverly Hills Ballroom
8:40 – 9:50 a.m.	WHY FUTURE TRENDS IN AGRICULTURE DEMAND UNLEARNING TODAY Jack Uldrich, Futurist, School of Unlearning	
9:50 – 10:20 a.m.	Coffee, Tradeshow	Ballroom Foyer
10:20 – 11:30 a.m.	IS MODERN AGRICULTURE SUSTAINABLE Lyndsey Smith – RealAgriculture.com	
11:30 – 12:00 p.m.	Alberta Updates: Provincial ASB Committee , Patrick Gordeyko, Chairman ASB Program , Maureen Vadnais, ASB Specialist	
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	Conference Rooms 5,6,7
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	THE ENERGY OF LAND USE Dr. Brad Stelfox, ALCES	
2:00 – 2:50 p.m.	Resolutions 1	
2:50 – 3:20 p.m.	Coffee, Tradeshow	Ballroom Foyer
3:20 – 4:30 p.m.	FEEDING THE EXPANDING WORLD POPULATION Les Kletke, Les Kletke Communications	



DAY 3: THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2015

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Conference Rooms 6,7
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Registration	Ballroom Foyer
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	UNDERSTANDING DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES AND THE IMPACTS ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECTOR Candace Vanin, Agriculture & Agri-food Canada	
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	NOT YOUR FATHER’S FARM ANYMORE; 21ST CENTURY POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND REGULATORY REALITY Harry Harker, City Spaces, Manager, Alberta and the Prairies Operations	
10:30 – 10:50 a.m.	Coffee	
10:50 – 12:00 p.m.	HOW MOBILE TECHNOLOGY CAN ADVANCE FARMS Andrew Campbell, Fresh Air Media	
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	Conference Rooms 5,6,7
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	BENEFITS & CHALLENGES OF ESTABLISHING AN ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN Blayne West, Lacombe County	
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	NAVIGATING FOOD INDUSTRY MARKETING TRENDS Steve Savage, Savage International	
3:00 – 3:20 p.m.	Coffee	
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Resolutions 2	
6:00 – 6:45 p.m.	Cocktails	
6:45 – 10:00 p.m.	Awards Presentations & Banquet - Beverly Hills Ballroom Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon. Verlyn Olson Entertainment – SaFire Entertainer	



DAY 4: FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2015

7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast Conference Rooms 6,7

8:30 – 8:45 a.m. **Conference Chair Address** Beverley Hills Ballroom
Les Kletke

8:45 – 10:15 a.m. **Ministers Forum—TBA**

10:15 a.m. *Invitation to 2015 ASB Tour, Grande Prairie*
Invitation to 2016 ASB Provincial Conference, NE Region
Wrap-up, Jim Duncan, Chairman

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME!

Resolution 1

ADAPT CROP INSURANCE TO PROTECT CLUBROOT TOLERANT VARIETIES

- WHEREAS:** Clubroot (*Plasmodiophora brassicae*) is a declared pest throughout the province of Alberta, and once established is nearly impossible to completely eradicate from a field. Current data indicates that clubroot infestations are spreading throughout Alberta, and threaten all of our canola acres if we fail to take this pest seriously;
- WHEREAS:** “5X”, which is a recently discovered pathotype of clubroot, has been discovered north of Edmonton and is able to infect all current tolerant varieties. If the 5x pathotype is allowed to spread in the same manner as others have, present tolerant varieties will be ineffective against clubroot;
- WHEREAS:** The first clubroot tolerant varieties were developed in a short period of time from other closely related winter canola’s and rapeseed; it is unknown how long it will take to develop a variety tolerant to the 5X pathotype of clubroot;
- WHEREAS:** While the Province’s 70 ASBs conduct clubroot surveys and issue notices on infested land, they are not unified in their approach to dealing with rotational considerations. Many have accepted tighter rotations with the introduction of tolerant varieties, but this appears to be a short term solution, as current clubroot resistance is not durable and may break down in as little as two crop rotations, and some producers have actually been growing canola back to back;
- WHEREAS:** Most canola producers carry crop insurance through AFSC which is a Provincial crown corporation. If given the right mandate, AFSC has the ability to persuade a lengthier rotation by declining or pricing insurance high enough to make it undesirable to grow canola in short rotation. With the assistance of ASB inspectors a reasonable canola rotation can be encouraged on all agricultural land in Alberta. This will help protect the canola industry in this Province, and ensure that ASBs are performing their duties under the *Agricultural Pests Act*;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

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

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That the Alberta Minister of Agriculture per section 3(d) of the *Agricultural Pests Act* enter into an agreement with AFSC to put an insurance price premium on canola acres under their program if canola has been planted in contradiction to the Province’s Clubroot Management Plan, which recommends canola be grown in rotation no more than once every four years.

Sponsored by: Starland County

Moved By: _____

Seconded By: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

BACKGROUND

In 2003, the first report of clubroot in a commercial canola field in Canada was identified near Edmonton. In April 2007 clubroot was declared a pest under the Alberta *Agricultural Pests Act* and the province developed a Clubroot Management Plan to assist municipalities in dealing with this pest. In 2011 the first clubroot resistant varieties were introduced in Alberta. In June 2014 a new clubroot pathotype "5X" was identified, and all of the current commercially available clubroot resistant cultivars are considered susceptible. The map below shows where clubroot has been found and the color code indicates the number of fields that have been found in the affected municipalities. In 10 years from first being reported clubroot has spread and is now found in over 1000 fields in this province affecting 25 counties plus the city of Edmonton.

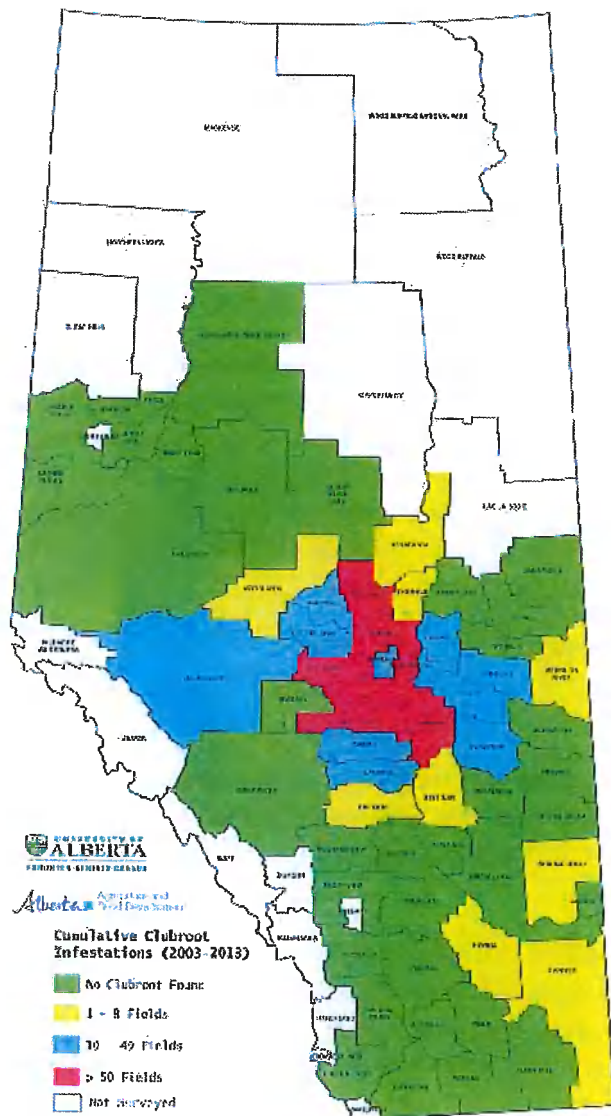


Figure 1. Alberta Clubroot Map: Cumulative clubroot infestations as of December 2013. Map courtesy of S.E. Strelkov, University of Alberta and M. Hartman, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.

Starland County is currently considered clubroot free, but we are concerned about the potential arrival of this pathogen and the implications that come with it. We have been preaching rotation to our farmers per the AB Ag Clubroot Management Plan and some of our producers have been following the protocol. The unfortunate part is that many of our producers have actually tightened rotations and some have even planted canola back to back in our County. The introduction of resistant varieties has reduced the fear of clubroot but this appears to be short sighted.

The announcement in June of a different clubroot pathotype labeled “5X” sent a wakeup call to our board. The news release stated that all of our currently available varieties are susceptible to this new pathotype, and an effective source of resistance will not be available for at least the next year or two, or maybe longer. Since no one knows how quickly new strains of resistant clubroot might appear, longer rotations are likely the key to slowing the development of resistance. Murray Hartman, oilseed specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development has said that with a one-in-four year rotation, resistance might last eight or 10 years. This is not a silver bullet but it certainly gives breeders more time to create new resistant varieties.

Given the current status of quick resistance breakdown we feel it is imperative that all ASB’s in this Province unite and impose at least a 1 year rotational break between canola crops to try and protect our current resistant varieties and keep clubroot at bay. A longer rotation would likely be more sustainable, but unfortunately somewhat tougher to regulate. Given the potential economic impact of clubroot infestation throughout all of the canola growing areas in Alberta we propose that the Agricultural Service Boards ask for assistance from Agri Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) to help us in the fight against clubroot.

Section 3 of the *Agricultural Pests Act* it states the following:

Powers of Minister

3(1) The Minister may investigate any matter, conduct surveys, establish programs, or enter into agreements with any person, local authority, agency or government, for the purpose of preventing the establishment of, controlling or destroying a pest or nuisance and preventing or reducing damage caused by a pest or nuisance.

We believe that section 3(d) of the *Agricultural Pests Act* allows the Agriculture Minister to enter into an agreement with AFSC who are a Provincial Crown Corporation. Getting support from AFSC to decline insurance to those producers who grow canola back to back in rotation would enhance all ASB’s ability to prevent or slow the spread of clubroot, and buy needed time for plant breeders to create new resistant varieties.

Resolution 2
PEST CONTROL ACT – CLUBROOT

WHEREAS: Clubroot is becoming more prevalent throughout the Province of Alberta;

WHEREAS: Municipalities have been working diligently to limit the spread of clubroot through their inspection and enforcement programs;

WHEREAS: Municipalities are being hampered in their efforts to limit the spread of clubroot because instances of clubroot are not being reported;

WHEREAS: The *Agricultural Pest Act* does not require industry, agri-retailers, crop insurance adjusters or producers to notify the municipality or Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development when clubroot is found;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development review the *Agricultural Pest Act* and require mandatory notification of the land location to the municipality whenever clubroot is found.

Sponsored by: Lamont County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – PEST CONTROL ACT – CLUBROOT

Clubroot is becoming more prevalent in Lamont County. During random sampling an additional five fields have been found in 2014. The lack of communication within the Agri-retailers, crop adjusters and industry is having a negative effect towards municipality as currently there is no obligation to notify the municipality or provincial inspectors. Local Agricultural Fieldmen have been appointed by the province to enforce the Pest Acts and cannot if all effected parties do not work together.

If comparison of the Pest Act is made to the Animal Disease Act, all parties (producers, local government, provincial and federal government) have notification of outbreaks (e.g. Anthrax, BSE, hoof and mouth disease, and bird flu).

The pest act is scheduled for review. It is our feelings that transparency be done to allow all involved to try to limit the spread. During the pre-assessment on the Atco Transmission line, soil sampling was conducted and results were kept to themselves and Atco. When the rig mats were being moved, the producer effected asked when the mats on his property would be removed and was told they wouldn't until the end of the project due to having clubroot in field. Neither the landowner, occupant, municipality, or retailer knew of this. Better communication and onus needs to be in place to limit the spread of clubroot or any pest indentified under the Pest Control Act.

Resolution 3
STANDARDIZED CLUBROOT INSPECTION PROCEDURE

- WHEREAS:** The canola industry contributes \$19.3 billion to the Canadian economy each year;
- WHEREAS:** Clubroot poses an extremely serious threat to Alberta's Canola Industry;
- WHEREAS:** Clubroot is a declared pest under the *Agricultural Pests Act*, Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation;
- WHEREAS:** A new clubroot pathotype has been confirmed in Alberta, to which current genetic resistance is ineffective against;
- WHEREAS:** Early detection of the new pathotype can promote more vigilant quarantine measures for the prevention of the spread of clubroot.

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

That Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development encourage Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards to adopt a standardized clubroot inspection procedure by reimbursing ASBs for each field of canola surveyed for clubroot using the standard protocol in the amount of \$50 per field inspected, to a maximum of \$20,000 for each municipality through the use of new grant funding.

- Sponsored by:** Leduc County
- Moved by:** _____
- Seconded by:** _____
- Carried:** _____
- Defeated:** _____
- Status:** Provincial
- Department:** Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

BACKGROUND

A study released in 2013 revealed that the Canola industry in Canada was valued at \$19.3 billion dollars (Canola Council of Canada, 2014). A disease that can threaten this industry, such as clubroot, is a serious threat that must be monitored and managed closely. Heavily infested fields can reduce canola yields by up to 50%. Clubroot resting spores can remain viable in the soil for up to 20 years (Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, 2010).

On June 17, 2014, the Canola Council of Canada issued a news release confirming the presence of a new pathotype (5x) in Alberta (Canola Council of Canada, 2014). Current genetic resistance is ineffective against this new pathotype. If this pathotype spreads throughout the province, canola producers will be reduced to managing clubroot only through equipment sanitation and long crop rotations.

Currently, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) is taking the step of coordinating and supporting “ongoing surveillance and research with our academic, municipal and industry partners” (email correspondence from Maureen Vadnais).

With the confirmation of pathotype 5x within Alberta, it is imperative that municipalities become aware of the level of clubroot infestation within their borders. Genetic resistance breakdown can occur in a relatively small area within a very short time frame. As such, the only way to definitively determine the extent of pathotype 5x, or other “immune” pathotypes, is to survey all canola fields (or a very high percentage of fields) throughout the Province of Alberta.

Although some level of galling is expected in a clubroot-infested field seeded to a resistant variety, patches of galled plants within these fields would be highly suspect for developing resistance breakdown. It is the identification of these potential areas that is imperative for mitigating the spread of potential resistance breakdown. The early detection of pathotype 5x in a field will lead to quicker quarantine measures before contaminated soil can be unknowingly spread to other fields by equipment.

Leduc County’s Clubroot Inspection Program surveys all canola fields within the municipality. It hires one seasonal Inspector to conduct the majority of the surveying and sample collection. A minimum of 100 plants are pulled in each field with the number of plants with suspect galls recorded. All suspect fields have samples sent to an accredited laboratory for confirmation of the presence of clubroot. Fields with high levels of infestation will be re-inspected after swathing with a more thorough survey done across the field. Land owners and renters of fields confirmed to contain low levels of clubroot will receive a letter informing them of the infestation and the options for mitigating the spread of the disease. Fields with consistently high levels of clubroot will receive a notice prohibiting the growing of canola for a minimum of three years.

For the 2014 growing season, the cost of the program (excluding the time and effort of the Fieldman responsible for the Clubroot Program) will be approximately \$33,000, broken down into:

- \$12,000 for lab testing (150 samples sent for testing at \$80/test)

- \$24,645 for one seasonal Inspector (salary and benefits)
- \$5,000 for mileage or vehicle rental for Inspector use
- \$1,900 for miscellaneous supplies

Leduc County will inspect approximately 860 canola fields in 2014, which equates to a cost of just over \$50 per field inspected. Of these 850 fields, 145 were confirmed to have clubroot present (17%). In 2013, the approximate cost per field was \$50/field (850 fields inspected with 244 samples submitted). These costs do not include the wages and benefits or the time spent by the Fieldman in support of this program.

REFERENCES

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (2010). *Agdex 140/638-1 Clubroot Disease of Canola and Mustard*. Retrieved September 18, 2014 from [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex11519/\\$file/140_638-2.pdf?OpenElement](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex11519/$file/140_638-2.pdf?OpenElement)

Canola Council of Canada (2014). *Industry Overview*. Retrieved September 18, 2014 from <http://www.canolacouncil.org/markets-stats/industry-overview/>

Canola Council of Canada (2014). *Equipment sanitation is the first line of defense...* Retrieved September 18, 2014 from <http://www.canolacouncil.org/news/equipment-sanitation-is-first-line-of-defense-to-help-prevent-spread-of-different-clubroot-pathotype/>

ATTACHMENTS

August 26, 2014 Email from Manager, ASB Program – New Clubroot Pathotype 5x: Updates and Information

Good Afternoon,

We would like to provide a quick update about a new clubroot pathotype that has been found in the province and some of the steps that are being taken to address the threat this poses to the canola industry.

WHAT WE KNOW

- The 2013 Provincial Clubroot Survey identified several fields where clubroot resistant varieties showed a high incidence of clubroot infection.
- These samples were brought back to the University of Alberta greenhouse and U of A and ARD carried out testing over the winter/spring to determine the cause of the breakdown in resistance.
- U of A and ARD determined that there was a pathotype shift causing the resistance breakdown. A new pathotype was identified, and all of the current commercially available clubroot resistant cultivars are susceptible.
- The new pathotype is being called 5x because it shows traits that are similar to pathotype 5. Pathotype 5x has other traits that make it more virulent than pathotype 5.
- Pathotype 5x has been confirmed on only one field in the Edmonton area to date.

ACTION TAKEN TO DATE

- Maureen Vadnais will coordinate ARD's response team.
- ARD continues to work with the farmer affected by pathotype 5x and agricultural fieldman in the area to prevent movement of this pest. The municipality issued a notice restricting access to the affected field and outlining cleaning requirements and cropping restrictions. The farmer has been very cooperative.
- The Clubroot Action Committee met on August 15. Amendments were made to the Clubroot Management Plan and the response plan was outlined.

NEXT STEPS

- ARD will continue to support and work with the farmer and municipality to limit movement of the pest from the known field.
- ARD is currently evaluating resources to ensure we can accommodate testing of suspect fields. The Plant Diagnostic Lab will assist with testing.
- ARD is working to support ongoing surveillance and research with our academic, municipal and industry partners.

HOW CAN MUNICIPALITIES HELP WITH THIS RESPONSE?

- Conduct a survey of your municipality for clubroot.
 - Link to survey protocol: [2014 Clubroot Survey Protocol to Identify Novel Clubroot Strains](#)
- Report all suspicious fields to ARD and encourage producers to report fields either to you or ARD where they see a breakdown in resistance.
 - Please report suspect fields directly to Maureen Vadnais at this time.
 - A process is being developed for producers to report suspect fields through the Ag-Info Centre.

WHAT YOU MAY BE HEARING OUT THERE?

Q: Are clubroot resistant canola varieties no longer resistant to clubroot?

A: The current susceptibility is due to a pathotype shift. The clubroot resistant varieties are still showing good resistance to the more commonly found pathotypes 3 and 5.

Q: Are there penalties for the farmer? Is he not even allowed to go onto his field?

A: The farmer is allowed to conduct farming operations. The notice outlines cleaning requirements for all equipment leaving the field and the farmer is complying with these requirements. Access is restricted to the farmer, his employees, the agricultural fieldman and ARD/U of A research staff. ARD and U of A staff must follow certain protocols to enter and exit the field. Anyone else wishing access to the field must first be vetted by ARD and the

agricultural fieldman 72 hours before access is granted to the field. Access has already been denied in some instances because of the risk it represented for spreading the pest.

Q: Is ARD allowing seed companies access to the 5x inoculum to test their new varieties for resistance to the new pathotype?

ARD is not allowing the inoculum to be transported outside of the current testing facility. It would contravene the *Agricultural Pests Act* to transport the pest outside of this controlled environment.

Seed companies currently work with ARD to screen their new varieties for resistance to clubroot. This process will remain the same.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

Maureen Vadnais
Manager, ASB Program
Room 200, 7000 113 Street
Edmonton, AB T6H 5T6

PH: 780.644.4432

Cell: 780.909.5798

Resolution 4

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR MUNICIPALITIES DEALING WITH PROHIBITED NOXIOUS WEEDS THAT COME FROM OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

- WHEREAS:** There is an increase of spotted knapweed and other prohibited noxious weeds coming into Alberta from Montana and British Columbia;
- WHEREAS:** Spotted Knapweed can be spread via the corridors that come from outside the province of Alberta... Rivers, highways, rail lines, and wildlife;
- WHEREAS:** In trying to fulfill their responsibility required in the *Weed Control Act* there is a heavy financial burden placed on these municipalities that border Montana and BC;
- WHEREAS:** These municipalities are the “front line” of defense in controlling these invasive weeds in trying to stop the spread to the rest of the province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development supply additional funding up to \$75,000 per year for each municipality with an Agricultural Service Board that is affected by the constant flow of prohibited noxious weeds coming into their municipality from outside the province of Alberta.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Funding for this program be in addition to the current ASB Grant Program Funding.

Sponsored by: Cardston County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

BACKGROUND

Alberta/Montana Border

Cardston County is situated in the south west corner of Alberta with the State of Montana to the south, and Waterton Lakes National Park to the west. There are 5 rivers that flow north into Cardston County from Montana. The Waterton River, Belly River, St. Mary River, North fork of the Milk River and South fork of the Milk River. All these rivers carry spotted knapweed into Cardston County, but the major concerns come from the Belly River, St Mary River and the South fork of the Milk River. There are also two year round border crossings and one seasonal border crossing that allow access into Cardston County and the Province of Alberta from Montana. The wildlife in this area travel back and forth across the 49th parallel at will. All of these vectors allow prohibited noxious weeds to enter the Province of Alberta via Cardston County. Driving down many of the roads and highways in Glacier County in Montana the roadside ditches and fields are polluted with spotted knapweed and there appears to be no control work being done. In 1991 there was estimated to be 2 to 5 million acres infested with spotted knapweed in Montana. And the latest figures estimate over 100,000 acres infested in Southeastern British Columbia.

Cardston County is the front line of defense in trying to stop the spread of these weeds into the rest of the province. Not that many years ago Cardston County employed 2 local men to ride the rivers on horseback to control problem weeds, and then 2 students with back pack sprayers were added. Now we have 5 staff with quads and back pack sprayers along with many of the land owners taking action just to keep the prohibited noxious weeds in check. This is a heavy financial burden on our ASB and the landowners along all the river systems in the county. This is going to be a very long term task to try and gain control of the weed problem coming in from our US neighbors, not only for the county but also for all the affected landowners as well.

Dollars spent by Cardston County controlling Spotted Knapweed

YEAR	Dollar Amount
2014	\$95,850
2008	\$80,609
2002	\$30,670
1998	\$23,620

Alberta/British Columbia Border

The Municipality of Crowsnest Pass borders British Columbia and is established along Highway 3, a major vector for traffic (Highway and Rail) between the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. Also referred to as the Crowsnest Highway, Highway 3 has a total length of 837 km in British Columbia, and a total length within Alberta of 326 km (BC Highway, 2013). CP Rail, a

major rail link to the west coast, moves freight both east and west through the Crowsnest Pass, directly affecting the movement of invasive species. Freight and rail movement averages approximately 6 trains in a 24 hour period (B. Hnatiuk, personally observed).

The province of British Columbia has a Weed Control Act, but this act only lists noxious weed species and suggests that landowners control the spread instead of destroy them (Ministry of Agriculture, 2013). However, this provincial Act is not consistently enforced throughout the province. British Columbia's noxious weed list includes many prohibited noxious weed species currently listed under the Alberta Weed Control Regulations. This inconsistency in the management of invasive species between provinces has posed many issues within border specific areas of Alberta, such as the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass.

The transport of seed by vehicles, trains, back country use, animals, wind etc. through the Municipality has been a concern for many years, and continues to be a major expense. According to recent traffic reports by the municipal Peace Officer, the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass experiences an average of 6104 westbound vehicles and 4879 eastbound vehicles travelling through the municipality on Highway 3 each weekend during the summer months (Duguay, 2014). During the growing season of 2013, Municipality of Crowsnest Pass has spent \$400,052.00 on the total operational disbursement in the Agricultural and Environmental Services Department (Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, 2014). As the total Municipal land base is 94,439 acres, vegetation management accounts for the majority of this budget for monitoring/controlling invasive weed species on municipally owned or managed property (Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, 2001). The targeted weed species are currently listed in the Alberta Weed Control Regulations of 2010 under both noxious and prohibited noxious species categories. This environmental enforcement is an annual activity, and requires diligence and funding in order to effectively create a weed free barrier between the province of British Columbia and Alberta. This includes the east bordering municipal agricultural districts with the province of Alberta that are inevitably affected by the presence of invasive species near the AB/BC border.

After performing a standard plant density transect along Highway 3, the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass' Agricultural and Environmental Services Department attempted to document the increase of invasive weed species on the British Columbia side of the AB/BC border to highlight the issues of managing weeds within the Municipality. Results from this transect showed a direct relationship between the location on Highway 3 and the percentage of invasive species. There was approximately a 70% increase of invasive species in British Columbia compared to Alberta along the highway (Hynes et al., 2014). With dense infestations of invasive species in British Columbia and the dominant wind patterns blowing from the west, the struggle to physically and financially control the spread of seed along Highway 3, railway right-of-ways, and back country roads/trails is an issue that could perhaps be solved with political support.

References

Duguay, V. (2014). *Summer traffic count stats* (Unpublished government records). Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, AB.

Hynes, A., Morrison, N., Hnatiuk, B. (2014). *Weed control measures Plant Density AB/BC*. [PPT Presentation]. Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, AB.

Ministry of Agriculture (2013). *B.C. Weed Control Act; Noxious weeds in B.C.* Retrieved on September 24, 2014 from <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/noxious.htm>

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (2013). *Best practices for managing invasive plants on roadsides; A pocket guide for British Columbia's maintenance contractors*. [PDF file]. Retrieved on September 24, 2014 from http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/invasiveplant/documents/Invasive_Plants_Pocket_Guide.pdf

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (2013). *Invasive plant management*. Retrieved on September 24, 2014 from <http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/invasiveplant/index.html>

Municipality of Crowsnest Pass (2001). *Municipal development plan background report*. Oldman River Intermunicipal Service Agency. Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, AB.

Municipality of Crowsnest Pass (2014). *Protective Services Budget 4-30-2014; 26-06 Agriculture and Environment Services Budget* (Unpublished government records). Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, AB.

A few facts about Spotted Knapweed:

- It is a taprooted, rosette-forming perennial forb that spreads by seed. Stem height varies from 8 to 50 inches (0.2-1.2 m). The slender stems are multi branched and have a single flower at the tip of each branch. Flower color is usually pinkish-purple, but can also be light purple or white. Flower heads are surrounded by small leaf-like structures called bracts. The bracts are marked with fine vertical streaks and tipped with a dark comb-like fringe. These bracts give a "spotted" appearance to the flower head.
- Spotted knapweed seed production varies from 500 to 4,000 seeds per plant depending on environmental conditions. Seed longevity is greater than eight years. While seeds have no specialized appendages for dispersal, other vectors enable widespread dispersal. Seed heads are caught in the undercarriage of vehicles enabling long distance dispersal. Contaminated crop seed, hay, gravel and road fill also contribute to spread. Wildlife and domestic livestock that consume mature seed heads excrete viable seed seven to 10 days after consumption, providing seed dispersal into remote areas. Seed can be spread via rivers and other waterways, especially when spotted knapweed grows along banks.
- Knapweeds have the ability to kill out competing vegetation, and can become a mono culture. Knapweeds are associated with reductions in native plants, reduced forage yields and degraded habitats in range, grasslands and agricultural areas. Based on estimates from 1996, knapweeds cost Montana \$42 million per year in direct and

indirect costs. By 1991 the weed had been recorded in every Montana County. Spotted Knapweed is the most widespread knapweed in the state, infesting from two to five million acres. (MSU Document 2011)



Banks of St. Mary/Milk River Diversion near Babb, MT. 10 miles from Cardston County



Spotted Knapweed along Montana Highway 89, 8 Miles South of Cardston County (not alfalfa)



Field along Montana Highway 89, solid knapweed 6 miles from border

Resolution 5

**MAINTAINING CANADA THISTLE (*Cirsium arvense*) AS A NOXIOUS WEED UNDER
THE ALBERTA WEED CONTROL ACT AND REGULATION**

WHEREAS: Currently, Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) is designated a noxious weed under the *Weed Control Act* of Alberta;

WHEREAS: The Alberta Weed Regulatory Advisory Committee (AWRAC) has discussed the possibility of removing Canada thistle from the *Alberta Weed Control Act*;

WHEREAS: Canada thistle continues to be an invasive weed that impacts our province both economically and ecologically and should remain on the *Weed Control Act* and continue to be controlled;

WHEREAS: Canada thistle continues to meet the noxious weed criteria outlined by AWRAC;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) continue to regulate Canada thistle as a noxious weed on the *Alberta Weed Control Act*.

Sponsored by: Strathcona County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Background information

Canada thistle has been regulated as a weed since the first Alberta Weed Regulation adopted 1907. It is currently regulated as a noxious invader under the Alberta *Weed Control Act*.

In recent meetings held by the Alberta Weed Regulatory Advisory Committee (AWRAC), it has been discussed that this highly competitive weed should be no longer designated as a noxious weed under the Alberta *Weed Control Act and Regulation*.

Due to the large number of small holdings and country residential properties that maintain pasture and rangeland, Canada thistle continues to be a weed of concern within Strathcona County. The Government of Alberta released a study in 2004 titled *Costs and Threats of Invasive Species to Alberta's Natural Resources* (McClay et al.). This study highlights the following key points regarding the impact of Canada thistle in Alberta:

Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) is widespread throughout the province. It occurs along roads and pipelines, on well sites, grazing leases, cut blocks and recreation areas. It is a common weed on agricultural land, wasteland, and urban areas.

Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) is one of the major agricultural weeds of the prairies. It causes significant yield losses and management problems in a wide variety of crops. It is also common and abundant in pastures. Studies have shown that it reduces forage yield of pasture at a rate of 2:1 forage:thistle biomass.

Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) is capable of crowding out and replacing native grasses and forbs, and can severely decrease species diversity in an area. It is an aggressively growing species.

The following graph demonstrates the crop losses that can be experienced by an affected field.

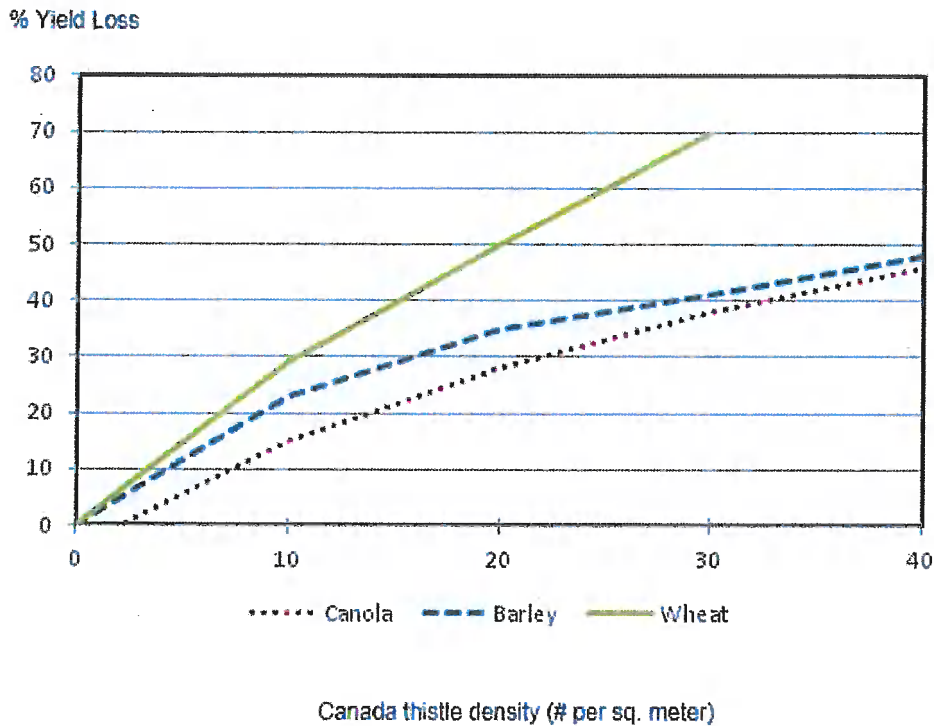


Figure 1. Estimated yield losses of canola, barley and wheat caused by Canada thistle. (Kimmel, 2013)

Because Canada thistle causes yield losses at relatively low population density, keeping it in check can provide substantial economic benefit both within Strathcona County and province wide.

References:

- Kimmel, N. 2013. *Canada Thistle*. Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/prm2585](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/prm2585) > Consulted on.
- McClay, A.S, K.M. Fry, E.J. Korpela, R.M. Lange, L.D. Roy. 2004. *Costs and Threats of Invasive Species to Alberta's Natural Resources*. Edmonton, AB: Alberta Research Council.

Alberta Weed Control Act and Regulation

Resolution 6

LEGAL OPINION ON THE JURISDICTION OF THE WEED CONTROL ACT ON CN RAIL

- WHEREAS:** At the 2014 Provincial A.S.B. Conference, a resolution was passed asking in the Therefore Be It Resolved that; Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development work with Alberta Justice, Canadian National Railways and Alberta's Municipalities to confirm that CN Rail is bound by the *Weed Control Act* of Alberta;
- WHEREAS:** Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development have received legal opinion on the matter from Alberta Justice, but have stated in letters from Deputy Minister Jason Krips that the opinion is confidential under the client relationship that is created;
- WHEREAS:** Deputy Minister Krips encourages municipal authorities who require clarification to seek their own legal advice on issues relating to the Alberta *Weed Control Act* (WCA);
- WHEREAS:** In a letter from the M.D. of Smoky River to Deputy Minister Krips, we opined that "Having each affected municipality request their own legal opinion in such a matter would be a criminal waste of money, in addition to potentially creating more issues if some legal opinion was positive (we have jurisdiction) and others were negative." Our opinions regarding having individual municipalities requesting legal opinion in this matter have not changed;
- WHEREAS:** In the responses and correspondence received from CN rail regarding the resolution, there is no indication that CN's stance vis a vis being bound by the *Weed Control Act* has changed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Association of Alberta Municipal District's and Counties (AAMD&C) obtain a legal opinion on the jurisdiction of the *Weed Control Act* of Alberta on CN Rail property, and that the opinion be shared with all of its member municipalities.

Sponsored by: Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: AAMDC Board of Directors

Background information:

CN Railways Weed control resolution, passed at the Provincial ASB Conference January, 2014

Resolution response from AARD and CN

July 7th, 2014 letter from CN's Mario Pagé to Provincial ASB Committee Chair Patrick Gordeyko

July 11th letter from AARD Deputy Minister Jason Krips to Provincial ASB Committee Chair Patrick Gordeyko

July 16th letter from M.D. of Smoky River Reeve Robert Brochu to AARD's David Feindel

August 1st letter from AARD DM Krips to MDSR Reeve Brochu

August 13th letter from MDSR Reeve Brochu to Provincial ASB Committee Chair Patrick Gordeyko

August 14th letter from MDSR Reeve Brochu to AARD DM Krips

September 11th letter from AARD DM Krips to MDSR Reeve Robert Brochu

CN Railways Weed control

- Whereas:** Canadian National Railways is a large private company which owns land in the province of Alberta. Ongoing issues with CN's weed control programs exist in the province, and
- Whereas:** Over the course of the summer season 2013, CN staff stated that 'CN Rail is Federally Regulated and the Weed Control Act of Alberta does not have jurisdiction on CN property', and further stated that: 'It is considered trespassing if there is entry onto CN property without the proper CN documentation and permissions.', and
- Whereas:** In past responses to Resolutions requesting Railways in Alberta to control the noxious weeds on their properties, CN has stated they wish to work with municipal inspectors and accepted their responsibility under the Weed Control Act, and
- Whereas:** CN requires an onerous and involved work permit application, contractor training course and insist on a minimum 24 hours notice just to allow entry onto property, which during the busy weed season, when a 5 minute walk onto a Right-of-way may be needed to confirm a plant's identity, is ludicrous, and
- Whereas:** The *Railway Safety Act* states: "No person shall, without lawful excuse, enter on land on which a line work is situated", and
- Whereas:** The *CN Guidelines Regarding Access to Workplace* lists Types of Access, Requirements and Documentations ie for Contractors, Visitors and "Regulators in line of duty (for example: Transport Canada, Transportation Safety board, Human Resources Development of Canada (HDRC), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), National Transportation Safety Board (NTSC)" whose requirements for access are simply - 'Must present Inspector/Investigator ID card' and 'Must be given Safety Briefing where applicable' Documentation required is 'Regulatory ID card'.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST THAT Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development work with Alberta Justice, Canadian National Railways and Alberta's Municipalities to confirm that CN Rail is bound by the Weed Control Act of Alberta.

AND FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST THAT Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, work with CN to confirm that Inspectors appointed under the Weed Control Act of Alberta are considered to be "Regulators in line of duty" under *CN Guidelines Regarding Access to Workplace* thereby waiving the requirements for Work Permits, Contractor training and notice to be given prior to entry onto CN Rail property.

Sponsored by: Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

CN Railways Weed Control

Therefore be it resolved that Alberta's Agricultural Service Board request that Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development work with Alberta Justice, Canadian National Railways and Alberta's Municipalities to confirm that CN Rail is bound by the Weed Control Act of Alberta.

And further be it resolved that Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards request that Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, work with CN to confirm that Inspectors appointed under the Weed Control Act of Alberta are considered to be "Regulators in line of duty" under *CN Guidelines Regarding Access to Workplace* thereby waiving the requirements for Work Permits, Contractor training and notice to be given prior to entry onto CN Rail property.

Response:

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Thank you for your February 14, 2014 letter requesting a Departmental Response to the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee Resolution #1, Canadian National (CN) Railways Weed Control. I appreciate the opportunity to provide the following response on behalf of Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD).

Railways often have right-of-way weed inspection/enforcement issues that obstruct appointed municipal inspectors in the efforts to enforce the Weed Control Act (WCA). While railway right-of-ways in Alberta are covered under the WCA, the railways also have issues that need to be considered for WCA enforcement in areas that may present safety concerns for railways. For example, CN property requires an approved work permit in place prior to entry, which even

includes urban Police forces should they wish entry onto railway lands. These permits can be dated for a maximum of one year, and the railway requires that each municipality have its own work permit in place, as permits are limited to one general location, and the railway supervisors responsible for the track in each area can vary.

With these issues in mind, ARD staff are reviewing situations in neighbouring provinces that have developed a plan to deal with weed management issues. This review will help inform the development of our own plan that sets out procedures that satisfy both WCA-appointed inspectors, and any railway safety and procedural concerns. Both CN and Canadian Pacific Railways will be involved, as each railway has weed problems and safety concerns.

If there are any questions with regard to this issue, they can be directed to Mr. David Feindel, Branch Head of ARD's Crop Research and Extension Division at 780-422-4911 (toll-free by first dialing 310-0000).

Further response from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Thank you for sending me copies of your June 11, 2014 letters in reference to the 2014 Resolution Number 1: CN Railway Weed Control. As you indicated in your letter, the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee was unclear whether an inspector appointed under the Alberta Weed Control Act was considered to be a "Regulator in the Line of Duty".

By way of clarification the term "Regulator in the Line of Duty" is in the CN policy that grants access to Federal Agencies: "Regulators in line of duty for example: (Transport Canada, Transportation Safety Board, Human Resources Development of Canada, Federal Railroad Administration, National Transportation Safety Board)". According to the enclosed CN document, CN Guidelines Regarding Access to Workplace, Weed Inspectors appointed under the Alberta Weed Control Act are not Regulators in the Line of Duty.

I assure you that Agriculture and Rural Development is committed to addressing this issue, and will keep you informed regarding our discussions with the railways on this matter.

CN

As you may already be aware, CN has an extensive weed control program in Alberta, and, indeed, throughout its network. We hire professional contractors to carry out the program, and these contractors are required to respect all applicable laws and regulations. Furthermore, these contractors are required to carry out all weed control activities in an environmentally responsible manner and following best-established industry standards.

Spraying for weeds on the railway is carried out for safety reasons. The elimination of weeds greatly reduces tripping hazards where CN personnel and contractors are working, and also limits the potential for drainage problems and damage to the track infrastructure caused by invasive or fast-growing weeds. Furthermore, effective weed control also limits the future need for brush cutting in order to protect sightlines along our corridors. CN's weed control program helps us operate a safe and efficient railway.

As CN strives to be a good neighbour in all of the communities where we operate, we try to incorporate community concerns pertaining to specific locations and issues into the weed control work schedule, whenever feasible.

We note your letter states that railway safety concerns often obstruct municipal inspectors from being able to do their legislated inspection and enforcement duties. The process CN has put in place for accessing its property was developed for safety reasons. Under the Railway Safety Act, railways are responsible for all aspects of railway safety which includes ensuring the safety of CN personnel, the safety of operations through the communities we cross and the safety of third parties while on the right-of-way. Uncontrolled access to the rail right-of-way, without proper briefing and instructions, can have serious consequences. CN's right-of-entry process was developed for this very reason and application of this process also ensures compliance with the provisions of the Railway Safety Act.

Resolution No. 1 also refers to the simplified access procedure for regulators in the line of duty. It is important to note that this simplified procedure only applies to federal regulators specifically charged with overseeing CN compliance with various aspects of rail and workplace safety; these include Transportation Safety Board investigators and Transport Canada inspectors, and their equivalents in the United States. Representatives of these organizations are trained in railway safety and fully understand the risks associated with entry onto a railway right-of-way.

We hope that the information above has shed some light on CN's weed control program. CN would be pleased to collaborate with the ASB in the handling of any specific weed control issue you may identify in the future.

Resolution 7
PREVENTION OF THE INTRODUCTION OF ZEBRA AND QUAGGA MUSSELS INTO
ALBERTA WATER BODIES

- WHEREAS:** Alberta is free of the above mentioned Aquatic Invasive Species;
- WHEREAS:** All watercraft inspections are voluntary which lends itself to common non-compliance issues;
- WHEREAS:** Without strict policies making people with watercraft, of any kind, stop at all border crossings into Alberta, these species will become established;
- WHEREAS:** These two species have enormous destructive potential, both in damage to infrastructure (irrigation) and to the environment;
- WHEREAS:** Once established in Alberta, containment becomes extremely difficult, very expensive and with eradication being unlikely, the costs will be permanent;

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

That Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development urge Alberta Transportation to have all border crossings into Alberta have a water craft inspection station where it is mandatory for all water craft to stop and be inspected for the presence of these two aquatic invasive species.

Sponsored by: Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Department of Transportation
Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

Background

There are many aquatic invasive species that are of concern, but for agriculture in Alberta the most potentially problematic species are going to be the Zebra and Quagga Mussels.

Irrigation infrastructure is the reason. If these pests manage to get into the irrigation system, damage to infrastructure could be severe and continuous. Once established, there is little that can be done to get rid of them, and if widely distributed in a water system, there is nothing that can be done. This makes prevention the far more reasonable option. Ontario is experiencing inland spread from the Great Lakes through the Trent-Severn and Rideau Canal systems, which have similarities to our irrigation systems. From there, contamination is spreading from lake to lake by recreational users.

There are measures being taken by our provincial government. They have set up a few inspection stations around the province, with voluntary compliance by boaters. They are distributing extension materials and putting up signs in provincial park areas. Our purpose in presenting this resolution is to help show our support for these measures, and ask that they be continued and increased.

We would request that the province please have all highways coming into our province have inspection stations that people with watercraft are required to stop at. There are currently only a few such stations, with inspections being voluntary only. For the months of May to October we would ask that there be around the clock inspections, seven days a week. There is evidence that these organisms have difficulty establishing at temperatures below 12 degrees Celsius, which would make the summer months the most important for inspections.

Having a robust inspection system now will help ensure that we don't incur the significantly higher costs of being infested with these invasive species later. Our provincial authorities are moving towards the solutions required to keep Alberta Zebra and Quagga Mussel free, and we at Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development would request that, going forward, these measures are continued and increased.

Resolution 8
MONITOR ERGOT LEVELS IN LIVESTOCK FEEDS

- WHEREAS:** The increase of ergot in recent years is showing up in concentrated levels in screenings where safe allowable levels have not been determined;
- WHEREAS:** Screenings with ergot being processed as pelleted feed cannot be easily identified without costly lab tests;
- WHEREAS:** The symptoms of ergot toxicity in livestock cannot be easily differentiated from other livestock diseases;
- WHEREAS:** The use of ergot in livestock feed is not regulated and Feed companies are setting their own, hit and miss, tolerable levels and herds have been affected;
- WHEREAS:** Cattle have died in the past number of years due to ergot poisoning in prepared feeds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

Regulations be put into place by Alberta Agriculture to monitor the use and movement of ergot into livestock feeds until research can determine acceptable levels.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That Alberta Agriculture better inform all those involved in feeding, shipping and processing of feed containing ergot of the toxicity, symptoms and devastating consequences of feeding ergot toxic feeds.

Sponsored by: Red Deer County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Background

Myths & Facts: Ergot in Screenings Myth Fact

10 ergot bodies per litre is safe (Ag Canada publication #1701, 1980) This recommendation is based on data from grain. Screenings are less dense than grain, therefore fewer ergot bodies per litre of screenings are necessary to reduce the risk.

Summary of baseline analysis of ergot bodies in screenings: Alkaloids (ppm)

		Average (ppm)
5 bodies/L	5-8	6.6
10 bodies/L	10-14	13.1
15 bodies/L	15-21	18.8

Feed industry standard operating procedures or GMPs catches contamination

Hot spots exist within each load of screenings:

-each load of is made up of 30 to 50 loads of grain

-varying densities cause layering within the load as screenings are trucked over long distances.

Grain industry would not ship deleterious products into the food chain

Our mills have refused numerous loads of refuse screenings with as many as 180 ergot bodies/litre.

Feed intake is not affected by ergot

Reduced feed intake has been observed when feed is high in ergot alkaloids, however this may or may not be a direct effect of alkaloid content (ie may occur because the animal feels sick).

Safe levels for livestock is 2-3 ppm
(CFIA regulatory guidance)

"200–600 ppb ergot alkaloids may cause clinical signs and effects; however, this is influenced by the relative amounts of various ergot alkaloids in the grain."

(Merck Veterinary Manual)

Does not have a significant impact on the Western Canadian livestock industry

Losses are significant, with counts as high as 100 head of beef cattle reported.

CFIA regulates ergot	Ergot is not regulated.
Livestock producers would not expose animals to deleterious feeds	Livestock producers buy on price. The lowest price/T feed is what they buy, believing that all pellets are equal.
Feeds containing ergot can be diluted	This practice is unlikely and needs to be based on confirmed alkaloid types and concentrations.
Grain handlers are set up to remove ergot from feed ingredients	It appears most inland terminals clean to a single bin, thus loads containing ergot are mixed with clean loads.

Importance of Ergot Research in Saskatchewan August 19, 2013

Title: Prevalence and effects of ergot contaminated feed in Saskatchewan cow-calf operations

Principle Investigator: Dr. J. Singh

Objective: To investigate the extent of the problem in Saskatchewan and begin to evaluate effects on performance

Industry Perspective – Co-op Feeds:

In 2012, ergot was highly prevalent across Western Canada, even gaining media attention in publications such as the Western Producer and Cattlemen Magazine. The presence of ergot has implications for both livestock producers and the feed industry. All domestic animals are susceptible to ergotism, especially cattle. The effect of ergot consumption is both a welfare and production concern. Consumption of ergot alkaloids causes irreversible vasoconstriction, which results in reduced blood flow. Initial symptoms generally include lameness, swelling, and tenderness of the extremities. Pain inhibits movement and reduces feed intake. Eventually, tissue necrosis due to thrombosis causes the affected body parts (ie lower limbs, ears, and tails) to be sloughed. Additionally, ingestion of lesser amounts of ergot alkaloids by gestating animals can interfere with prolactin release, causing agalactia at parturition.

For the feed industry, the widespread presence of ergot increased the risk of receiving contaminated ingredients, particularly grain screenings. Ergot bodies are more difficult to detect in grain screenings, as foreign material is already intrinsically present. Further, variable density of material within grain screenings causes layering within the load when transported long distances, compounding the challenge of detecting contamination when receiving loads. Pelleted grain screenings pose an even greater threat, as visual detection is rendered impossible by the pelleting process, which does not destroy the alkaloids.

Currently, the only mycotoxin for which a maximum level is regulated is aflatoxin. Guidelines exist for ergot alkaloid concentrations, but are not monitored. The suggested limit for ergot bodies in cereal grain is approximately 10 ergot bodies per litre of grain (Ag Canada Publication #1701, 1980). No such recommendation for ergot bodies in grain screenings is available;

however the presence of ergot bodies in screenings is much more likely. Transposing the current suggested ergot body limit for grain onto screenings is not sufficient due to the variable density of screenings products.

Due to the lack of guidelines and the low supply, high demand situation, high levels of ergot bodies are often present in grain screenings. Tolerance levels are set by the company or individual receiving such loads; no legal responsibilities are presumed by the distributors. Producers receiving grain screenings or grain screenings pellets directly from grain cleaners may not have been aware of the prevalence of ergot and may have had significant production loss when feeding this material unknowingly.

Based on internal testing, Co-op Feeds has rejected screenings loads from our feed mills in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba contaminated with 3 to 180 ergot bodies per litre. Despite this stringent internal receiving protocol, contamination of grain screenings pellets did occur and several herds were affected, resulting in claims. As such, Co-op Feeds has developed a waiver for customers wishing to purchase feeds with high levels of grain screenings to increase the awareness of the potential for contamination and the risk involved with these types of products.

While the symptoms and consequences of alkaloid ingestion are well defined and documented, the prevalence and potency of the various alkaloids are unknown for Western Canada. Also unknown are the concentration and combination of alkaloids which cause the various symptoms and what levels cause irreversible damage. Research is required to determine the true no effect levels of ergot alkaloids which can be tolerated by livestock and to determine the tolerable limits of ergot bodies in grain and grain screenings products based on the alkaloids most commonly found in Western Canada. Following their determination, the limits need to become regulation, or at minimum a guideline, to ensure responsible sale and purchase of grain screenings products by companies and individuals in the grain cleaning and feed industries.

References:

- Canadian Food Inspection Agency. 2012. RG-8 Regulatory Guidance: Contaminants in Feed. Available at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/feeds/regulatory-guidance/rg-8/eng/1347383943203/1347384015909?chap=1>.
- Furber, D. 2012. Pellets can have ergot too. Cattleman Magazine. September 2012: 20-22.
- Glen, B. 2012. Rancher warns feed buyers of ration containing ergot. The Western Producer. Available at <http://www.producer.com/2012/07/rancher-warns-feed-buyers-%e2%80%a8of-ration-containing-ergot-%e2%80%a9/>.
- Kainulainen, K. 2003. Ergotism and ergot alkaloids – a review. Semandervag. 9-232, 75262. Uppsala University.
- McMullen, M. and Stoltenow, C. 2002. Ergot. North Dakota State University Extension article. Available at <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/plantsci/crops/pp551w.htm>.

Merck Veterinary Manual. 2011. Ergotism. Available at
<http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/htm/bc/212203.htm>.

Disclaimer and Limitation of Liability

This high screenings based product (the "Product") is sold to you on an "as is" basis. You acknowledge that the use of this Product is high risk. Federated Co-operatives Limited ("FCL") has shown due diligence requesting assurances from its suppliers that the Product is free from potentially harmful contaminants. However, FCL cannot guarantee that the Product is free from all potentially harmful contaminants, including but not limited to ergot, mustard seed, injurious seeds and fusarium. Accordingly, FCL makes no representations, warranties, guarantees or conditions of any kind with respect to the Product, including but not limited to fitness for a particular purpose. FCL hereby disclaims any such representations, warranties, guarantees or conditions.

Your purchase and use of this high screenings based product is at your own risk. You acknowledge and assume any and all such risk. You acknowledge that FCL has reviewed alternative feeding options and products available to you that FCL does guarantee but you have specifically chosen to purchase the Product, acknowledging the risks.

In no event shall FCL, its subsidiaries, member retail co-operatives, affiliates, assigns, directors, officers or employees be liable for any damages arising out of or in connection with your purchase and/or use of the Product. You hereby release and forever discharge FCL, its subsidiaries, member retail co-operatives, affiliates, assigns, directors, officers, employees and agents from any and all actions, causes of action, suits, claims and demands for damages of any nature arising out of the purchase and/or use of the Product.

(Customer Signature)

(Co-operative Retailing System
Representative Signature)

(Printed Name)

(Printed Name)

(Date)

(Title)

(Date)



Feed Identification

Research Proposal March 15, 2013

Title: Identification of tolerable limits of ergot bodies in grain screenings for the grain cleaning and feed industries

Objective: To create industry standards for allowable levels of ergot bodies in grain screenings products.

Background: Ergot is a disease of cereals and grass caused by the *Claviceps* fungus. Ergot bodies, presenting as dark purple to black sclerotia, replace the seed heads of cereals and grasses prior to harvest. While ergot can occur in any year, wet conditions will increase the incidence.

Ergot bodies contain alkaloids which are toxic to animals upon ingestion. Alkaloids caused by *Claviceps purpurea* are most common and cause gangrenous ergotism, while alkaloids from *Claviceps paspali* are associated with central nervous derangement. All domestic animals are susceptible to ergotism, especially cattle. Consumption of ergot alkaloids causes irreversible vasoconstriction, which results in reduced blood flow. Initial symptoms generally include lameness, swelling, and tenderness of the extremities. Eventually tissue necrosis due to thrombosis causes the affected body parts (ie lower limbs, ears, and tails) to be sloughed. Additionally, ingestion of lesser amounts of ergot alkaloids by gestating animals can interfere with prolactin release, causing agalactia at parturition. As such, the effect of ergot consumption is both a welfare and production concern.

Currently, the only mycotoxin for which a maximum level is regulated is aflatoxin. Guidelines exist for ergot alkaloid concentrations, but are not monitored. The suggested limit for ergot bodies in cereal grain is approximately 10 ergot bodies per litre of grain (Ag Canada Publication #1701). No such recommendation for ergot bodies in grain screenings is available; however the presence of ergot bodies in screenings is much more likely. Transposing the current suggested ergot body limit for grain onto screenings is not sufficient due to the variable density of screenings products.

Due to the lack of guidelines and the low supply, high demand situation, high levels of ergot bodies are often present in grain screenings. Tolerance levels are set by the company or individual receiving such loads; no legal responsibilities are presumed by the distributors.

Proposal: Research is required in order to determine the tolerable limits of ergot bodies in screenings products. Due to the variable density of screenings, such limits need to be expressed by a weight basis. Following their determination, the limit needs to become regulation, or at minimum a guideline, to ensure responsible sale and purchase of grain screenings products by companies and individuals in the grain cleaning and feed industries.

References:

Canadian Food Inspection Agency. 2012. RG-8 Regulatory Guidance: Contaminants in Feed. Available at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/feeds/regulatory-guidance/rg-8/eng/1347383943203/1347384015909?chap=1>.

Furber, D. 2012. Pellets can have ergot too. Cattlemen Magazine. September 2012: 20-22.

Glen, B. 2012. Rancher warns feed buyers of ration containing ergot. The Western Producer. Available at <http://www.producer.com/2012/07/rancher-warns-feed-buyers-%e2%80%a8of-ration-containing-ergot%e2%80%a9/>.

Kainulainen, K. 2003. Ergotism and ergot alkaloids – a review. Semandervag. 9-232, 75262. Uppsala University.

McMullen, M. and Stoltenow, C. 2002. Ergot. North Dakota State University Extension article. Available at <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/plantsci/crops/pp551w.htm>.

Merck Veterinary Manual. 2011. Ergotism. Available at <http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/htm/bc/212203.htm>.



Ergot Poisoning in Cattle

G. Dewell, DVM, MS, PhD Steve Ensley, DVM, PhD

Beef Extension Veterinarian Veterinary Toxicologist

Clinical Signs

The most common sequelae of ergot poisoning is associated with vasoconstriction of the small arteries. Vasoconstriction can prevent thermoregulation and result in “summer slump” during the hot summer. Cattle will commonly develop a rough hair coat, lose weight and have extended periods of time standing in water or shade if available. Gangrenous ergotism (synonymous with fescue foot) is also a result of vasoconstriction in the legs and tail. Gangrenous ergotism is often associated with cold temperatures but can be seen in the summer also. Initially cattle will be lame usually in the hind limbs first. Swelling at the coronary band develops and the animal will eventually slough its hoof if not removed from the ergot alkaloid in time. Necrosis of the tail and ears can also occur.



**Resolution 9
ELK QUOTA HUNT**

- WHEREAS:** Many Eastern Slopes and Peace Region Municipalities are having difficulties with problem elk populations;
- WHEREAS:** Many Peace Region Municipalities have submitted many resolutions in this regard for these same problems;
- WHEREAS:** Minimal and modest increases have been made to Eastern Slopes and Peace Region Wild Life Management Units (WMU's) harvest limits;
- WHEREAS:** These increases in tag allocations have not resulted in alleviating or mitigating economic losses sustained by producers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resources implement an Elk Quota Hunt, based upon the principles of the former Chronic Wasting Disease Quota Hunt and/or other ways the ministry can develop to alleviate this problem.

Sponsored by: Municipal District of Greenview No. 16

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

Background Elk Quota Hunt Resolution:

Peace Region Wildlife Non-Waterfowl Damage

Crop Year	Acres Damaged	Loss
2011	33,608	\$3,818,333.68
2012	17,033	\$3,104,054.51
Total	50,641	\$6,922,388.19

Average Elk Harvest in 300, 400, and 500 WMU's

300 Series					
2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	5 Yr Average
12.475%	15.119%	13.709%	15.262%	13.176%	m = 13.95%
400 Series					
2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	5 Yr Average
11.172%	9.379%	14.270%	7.641%	6.048%	m = 9.7%
500 Series					
2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	5 Yr Average
12.742%	22.058%	18.750%	15.936%	18.035%	m = 17.50%

Based upon previous statistics crop losses are significant, while hunter harvest success ratios are on average below 20%.

In 2006 the Province implemented a quota hunt to help decrease the numbers of deer in the Chronic Wasting Disease control area. Using the principles of this quota hunt would help Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources (AESRD) reduce elk herds in the problem areas.

Suggested measures:

To reduce elk densities in known high risk areas (areas of elk crop depredation), increased elk hunting opportunities should be made available in these WMU's. Elk hunt quota licenses for all resident hunters can be made available through the hunting draws process, and the undersubscribed special licenses process. In addition, area landowners or their immediate family could apply for these licenses through local offices of AESRD – similar to existing landowner license approvals.

Three tags should be issued with each elk hunt quota license. The first two tags are valid for two antlerless elk. The third tag can be used for any elk, but is not valid until the heads from the first two elk have been submitted to an AESRD office for verification.

Resolution 10
ALBERTA FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICER AVILABILITY

WHEREAS: Fish and Wildlife (F&W) Officers are traveling outside of their office jurisdiction, because of a reduced number of officers in Alberta. Central Alberta area officers have seen the area they cover increase largely, due to the shortage of Officers;

WHEREAS: The Education and awareness portion of the F&W Officer's job has been all but removed. The direction the Province has gone is to rely on farmer/ hunter relations to do the leg work and monitoring, then reporting to F&W Officers to go to the respective complaint area and investigate;

WHEREAS: Interaction between F&W Officers and the Province of Alberta's young hunters ceases to exist. Public perception is key, if F & W Officers are seen in the public like they were 10-20 years ago, there will be more caution amongst hunters to be as ethical as possible;

WHEREAS: To target commercial rings, more enforcement is needed. In order to do this, more man power is needed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That Alberta Justice and Solicitor General hire more staff to fill all positions that are now vacant.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That Alberta Justice and Solicitor General reopen office closures from 2014, hire F&W Officers to staff these offices and increase manpower so that all Offices have two F&W Officers in them.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That Alberta Justice and Solicitor General encourage more awareness and education between hunters and the public and that the level of enforcement of infractions be increased.

Sponsored by: County of Stettler No. 6

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Justice and Solicitor General

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the early 1990's the province did not fill any empty positions, competition between provinces pulls good officers away.

From 1995 there has been a trend to delay or manage vacant offices or a slowing of recruitment to vacant positions.

Problem wildlife always takes precedence over enforcement.

Wolf numbers and grizzly cougar numbers are all up. When life is at risk officers always deal with it first.

Officers look after an area roughly the size of a MD, they are pulling the officers from the outer areas into the heavier populated areas.

The population of Alberta was 601,000 and has increased 700 percent to today at 4,200,000. The officers have not increased at all the same, they have decreased.

Problem Wildlife calls, and recreation has always pulled officers away from investigations.

Community engagement is gone.

8 Central Alberta Offices (Vermilion/ Lloydminster, Provost, Vegreville, Camrose, Ponoka, Wetaskiwin, Red Deer and Stettler) are supposed to house 15 F & W Officers. Currently there are 6 F & W Officers in this vast area, one in Vermilion/Lloydminster, one in Provost and two in each Wetaskiwin and Red Deer.

F & W Officers are under Solicitor General whose mandate is enforcement, while licensing and Problem Wildlife are under Environment and Sustainable Resources Development (ESRD). The Province is promoting one stop shopping, yet Sol. Gen. and ESRD under different Ministries have to work together. Similar issue with Zebra Mussels and Quagga Mussels and aquatic weeds being enforced through two different Ministries.

Resolution 11

WILDLIFE PREDATOR COMPENSATION FOR DOMESTIC EQUINE LOSS

- WHEREAS:** Domestic horses are recognized as livestock under *Section 1 (m) of the Alberta Livestock Identification and Commerce Act*, *Section 2 (f) of the Alberta Stray Animals Regulations*, *Table 1 of the Standards and Administration Regulation*, *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* and are already partially recognized under *Section 11 (b) of the Alberta Wildlife Regulations*;
- WHEREAS:** Under *Section 11 (b)* of the *Alberta Wildlife Regulations*, a domestic horse is already recognized as compensable within the shot livestock compensation program;
- WHEREAS:** Many domestic equine, including horse and donkey, owners are in the business of breeding, promoting and selling their domestic equines for an income, in the same way as other livestock producers;
- WHEREAS:** When loss to predation by wolves, bears, cougars or eagles occurs, there is no compensation available to domestic equine producers for their economic loss as their animals are not recognized as a compensable livestock.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources Development fully recognize domestic equines, including horses and donkeys, as livestock under the *Alberta Wildlife Regulation*, *Section 11 (b)*.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources Development allow owners of domestic equines, including horses and donkeys, to be eligible for compensation when a loss is caused by predation of wolves, bears, cougars and eagles.

Sponsored by: Brazeau County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

Background Information

In legislation such as: *Agricultural Operation Practices Act, Stray Animals Act, Livestock Identification and Commerce Act and the Animal Health Act*, domestic equines are classified as livestock along with cattle, sheep, goats, swine and bison. However, the owners of all livestock other than horses are eligible for compensation due to predator kills under *Section 11 (b) of the Alberta Wildlife Regulations*. The lack of equality within these Wildlife Regulations is present where horses are already recognized for compensation under the shot livestock compensation program.

Many domestic equine, including horse and donkey, owners are in the business of breeding, promoting and selling their domestic equines for an income, in the same way as other livestock producers, and when they encounter a loss from a predator such as a wolf, cougar, bear or eagle, the economic loss to their operations is substantial.

Our neighbouring Prairie Provinces, Saskatchewan and Manitoba and Ontario as well, recognize equines, including horses and donkeys as livestock and are eligible for compensation due to a predator kill at the market value of the time of the loss. Ontario has a very detailed scheduling of compensation amounts for their domestic livestock, clearly outlining compensation for each recognized livestock animal.

This resolution will mainstream the *Alberta Wildlife Regulations*, and keep it consistent throughout the document, and recognize domestic horses and donkeys as livestock, staying consistent with all other legislation in Alberta.

Agricultural Operation Practices Act of Alberta

Definitions

1 In this Act,

- (c.1) "livestock" means poultry, horses, cattle, sheep, swine, goats, bison, fur-bearing animals raised in captivity and domestic cervids within the meaning of the Livestock Industry Diversification Act;

Stray Animals Act of Alberta

Definitions

1 In this Act,

- (c) "livestock" means livestock as defined in the regulations;

Stray Animals Regulation of Alberta

Definition

1(1) In this Regulation, "Act" means the Stray Animals Act.

(2) In the Act, "livestock" means

- (a) alpacas,
- (b) bison,
- (c) cattle,

- (d) donkeys,
- (e) goats,
- (f) horses,
- (g) llamas,
- (h) mules,
- (i) sheep, and
- (j) swine.

Livestock Identification and Commerce Act of Alberta

Definitions

1 In this Act,

- (m) “horse” means an animal of the horse family Equidae;
- (s) “livestock” means cattle, horses and other species designated as livestock in the regulations;

Animal Health Act of Alberta

Definitions

1 In this Act

- (b) “animal” means any animal other than a human being;

Wildlife Act of Alberta

Wildlife Regulations

Interpretation of sections 13 to 16

11 In sections 13 to 16,

- (b) “livestock” means domestic cow (*Bos taurus*) (*indicus*), domestic goat (*Capra hircus*), domestic sheep (*Ovis aries*), domestic swine (*Sus scrofa domesticus*) and bison (*Bos bison*) and, for the purposes only of interpreting those sections in respect of shot livestock compensation, domestic horse (*Equus caballus*).

Shot livestock compensation

- 13(1) A person whose livestock is shot by another person in a wildlife management unit in which there is an open season for the hunting of big game or game birds by individuals with recreational licences may claim from the Minister shot livestock compensation for the death of or injury to the livestock.

Resolution 12
AGRICULTURE PLASTICS RECYCLING

WHEREAS: Several Alberta Municipalities have implemented Agricultural plastics collection and recycling pilot programs in recent years and have invested significantly in these initiatives;

WHEREAS: Options for recycling are very limited and inventory is beginning to accumulate at collection sites;

WHEREAS: This product is either using an excessive amount of landfill space, or if not accepted at landfills, is being stockpiled or burned on farm sites;

WHEREAS: Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources Ministry together with the Alberta Recycling Management Authority have implemented a number of stewardship programs which collect environmental fees to help fund the collection and recycling of products like tires, electronics and paint;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources implement a stewardship program that will provide funding and add value to both collection and recycling of Agricultural Plastics in the Province of Alberta.

Sponsored by: County of Minburn No. 27

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Counties of Minburn and Vermilion River have conducted a pilot program for the collection and recycling of Agricultural Plastics (grain bags and twine) which began in the fall of 2012.

We have discovered that there appears to be a market for this material, however further processing (e.g.: cleaning, compacting, pelletizing, etc.) is required before many processors will purchase this material from the collection locations like Municipal landfills.

We believe that the costs associated with the value adding process should be borne by the industry generating and using this product through a sales check-off similar to the Alberta Recycling Management Authority Stewardship Programs for tires, computers and paint.

In 2012 our pilot program generated 18 ton of grain bag plastic and in 2013 we generated 81 ton. That is a 450% increase in grain bag plastic in one year. Should this industry continue to grow at this rate, landfills will cease taking this product (many already have) and disposal options will become extremely limited.

Resolution 13

PESTICIDE CONTAINER COLLECTION PROGRAM

WHEREAS: Since 1989, Alberta's municipalities have been involved with the collection of empty pesticide containers and have done so with only one time funding from Alberta Environment to establish permanent collection sites within their municipalities. Since that time no funding has been provided to municipalities to assist with collection and upkeep of the container collection facilities;

WHEREAS: The pesticide container collection program is the responsibility of CleanFARMS Canada, a non-profit industry stewardship organization representing Pesticide manufacturers and retailers;

WHEREAS: CleanFARMS oversees the removal of the containers sites by hiring contractors to process the containers and funds this program through a levy collected from its pesticide manufacturer members on each container (less than 23 litre) sold into the market place;

WHEREAS: Local municipalities expend a significant amount of manpower and money to operate the program; building and maintaining the sites, transferring containers from temporary storage sites, controlling what is entering the sites at their manned sanitary landfills and transfer stations as well as dealing with containers and refuse dumped at the sites which is not collected by CleanFARMS contractor.

WHEREAS: Alberta is only one of two provinces in Canada that utilize municipalities at their expense to deliver the pesticide collection program within their province while the remaining provinces place this responsibility and cost on agricultural retail facilities who market and sell pesticide products;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development develop, with CleanFARMS, an empty pesticide container program that places the responsibility of collecting pesticide containers in Alberta with the Agricultural Retail/Dealer and removes the responsibility from the municipalities.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That should Alberta Environment and CleanFARMS prefer the municipalities continue to co-operate in the Pesticide Container Collection program, that all costs to the municipalities including upgrade and future liability expenses associated with the program be recovered from Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and CleanFARMS.

Sponsored by: Flagstaff County and Vulcan County
Moved by: _____
Seconded by: _____
Carried: _____
Defeated: _____
Status: Provincial
Department: Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

BACKGROUND

The Empty Pesticide Container Recycling Program is an industry led, voluntary extended producer responsibility program delivered by CleanFARMS. The program operates to collect, clean and recycle empty commercial class pesticide containers (less than 23 litres) from farmers and other pesticide users. Upon collection, the containers are shredded, cleaned and recycled into various value added plastic products.

CleanFARMS is a non-profit industry stewardship organization that funds this program through a levy collected from its pesticide manufacturer members on each container sold into the marketplace. In 1989 when the program was established a levy of \$1.00 per container was charged, it is currently \$ 0.50 cents.

There are approximately 1200 collection sites throughout Canada (British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island) that utilize Agricultural Retail Facilities while two provinces (Alberta and Manitoba) rely upon municipal collection facilities.

Most Alberta municipalities have been involved with the Pesticide container collection program since its inception and established permanent collection facilities with one-time funding from Alberta Environment. However, the municipalities have become responsible to fund the maintenance and operation costs of the temporary and permanent collection sites while the Agricultural Retail Industry in the other provinces handles this responsibility.

Municipalities should not have to fund a portion of the end of life management costs of these containers through facility maintenance and labor expense. Since 1989 the volume of containers received by Flagstaff County and many other municipalities has increased five times and the levy collected on these containers has decreased by half.

The issue of inadequate collection space for pesticide containers in municipalities was evident this year when CleanFARM'S contractor was unable to remove containers in a timely manner. This issue has since been addressed.

According to CleanFARMS, Alberta has an empty pesticide container rinse rate of 90% as opposed to Saskatchewan's 95%. Ontario and East have the best rinse rate at 99+%. The higher rinse rate in Ontario and the East is attributed to a zero tolerance for un-rinsed containers. The containers are rejected if they do not meet the requirements. A retailer-based collection system would be able to provide consistent supervision and would increase the rinse-rate of empty herbicide containers.

Alberta should move towards a dealer collection program, it would provide CleanFARMS the opportunity to develop a system similar to the one that exists in Saskatchewan. They would be able to implement a program with zero tolerance for un-rinsed containers. Industry would then be able to establish environmentally acceptable collection sites in a controlled environment that would eliminate many of the issues that have been stated.

Our concern is why municipalities should share the end of life management expense of handling these containers. Municipalities have not received funding support in over 25 years while the volume of containers collected continually increases.

Resolution 14
MANAGEMENT OF FARM AND AGRICULTURAL LEASES

- WHEREAS:** Currently the department of Public Lands, under the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Resource development (ESRD), manage the use and operation of farm development leases and agricultural leases;
- WHEREAS:** Alberta Agriculture would be better adapted to manage the lease land as their expertise in agricultural production would give stronger representation as to the needs of producers;
- WHEREAS:** The current policies and practices utilized by the ESRD do not account for the unique nature of agriculture, and frequency in which the market changes, thus effecting the financial abilities of producers to operate;
- WHEREAS:** More direct control from the Ministry of Agriculture would allow the policies and procedures adapted in a more timely manner minimizing the negative effects on producers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development transfer Management of Farm Development leases and Agricultural leases to The Ministry of Agriculture.

Sponsored by: Municipal District of Big Lakes

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

BACKGROUND

Farm development leases are currently managed by Public Lands under the Ministry Environment and Sustainable Resources. Under the current management practice Farm Development Leases are leased for 10 year terms, with a 5 year review. At this time lease rates are adjusted based on the current market value. The most recent assessments were done at seven years, two full years overdue. This caused for major increases to lease rates in the region.

The assessment does not take into consideration environmental factors that affect the producers. The problem with this type of approach is that most Crown leases are in marginal areas which would not otherwise be suited for farming. Many leases are in areas that flood from year to year, in some instances over ninety percent of the usable land is under water. The current policies do not address this issue and producers are charged the full acreage rate, whether the land is useable or not. Forage production is also overlooked as land production varies from quarter to quarter and the assessments can be derived for upward of 10km away from the lease site.

Another factor overlooked by ESRD is that comparing private lease land and Crown Lease land is not a direct comparison, as there are restrictions set in place on lease land that would not otherwise be placed on private leases. ESRD has limited the ability to clear brush, apply herbicide, develop drainage, or install sensible fencing designs to further help efficiency thus lowering the production potential. Best management practices are not taken into account. Requests to control weeds and improve the productivity of the lease land are often delayed to the point the land is completely consumed by noxious weeds. In many cases these leases are near or part of environmentally sensitive areas and if immediate action had been taken the impacts to the environment could have been substantially decreased.

Saskatchewan and Manitoba have both defined agricultural leases and now manage them under their Ministries of Agriculture, as they saw the need to have a more direct role in the management practices. Saskatchewan has implemented the use of field Agrologists, to help determine more accurate land production and thus helping calculate lease rates and determine whether the producers are adhering to the policies and practices set forth by the Minister. Annual reviews are implemented with the producer having the ability to dispute lease rates with in the current season, based on economic and environment factors.

The Agenda of ESRD and ARD are very similar with regards to the protection of the provinces natural environment, the difference resides in the way each Ministry mitigates the impact to the environment. To have ESRD apply a natural only approach to an environment that is by no means a natural ecosystem is not only impractical but impossible. If lands are to be used for agriculture, then management practices must be such that producers can improve productivity while controlling the impact on the environment. The ability to manage the land in a timely manner would not only increase productivity, but reduces the spread of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds in the surrounding environment. If we have deemed this land for agricultural

use, then the Ministry with the strongest connection to agriculture, *Agriculture and Rural Development* should manage these leases.

Resolution 15
FARM PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

WHEREAS: Alberta Municipal Affairs has launched a Municipal Government Act (MGA) review during 2014;

WHEREAS: Discussion during the review resulted in a proposal to alter the assessment of Farm Land, the intent of the land, and assessment of residences and intensive livestock operations;

WHEREAS: Farm property is currently assessed at agricultural use values not market values;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Municipal Affairs stay with status quo on Farm Property Assessment of farmland, farm residences, and farm buildings when completing the Municipal Government Act Review.

Sponsored by: Lamont County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Municipal Affairs

Background

Based on the information that was sent to the municipalities, the following options have been recommended according to Policy Issues 33-36

33. Farm Property:

Assessment of Farm Residences: Should owners of farm land continue to receive an exemption on their residence?

34. Farm Property: Assessment of Farm Land: Should farm land continue to be assessed at agriculture use value?

Owners of farm land receive an assessment exemption to their residences based on the amount of farm land they own. The purpose and amount of this exemption has not been updated since the 1980s. No other acreage owners receive this exemption.

Farm land is assessed at its agricultural use value through regulated rates and processes. These rates have not been updated since the 1980s. Remove the assessment exemption on farm residences.

Assess farm land at its agricultural use values through annually updated regulated rates and procedures.

Update the amount of the assessment exemption on farm residences.

Assess farm land at market value.

35. Farm Property: Assessment of Farm Land Intended for

Development: Should farm land soon to be developed be assessed and taxed at its agricultural use value?

36. Farm Property: Assessment of Farm Buildings and Intensive Livestock Operations: Should farm buildings, including those in urban areas, and those that are used for intensive livestock operations, continue to receive significant reductions in assessment?

Farm land is assessed and taxed annually at its agricultural use value until the year in which it converted to a non-farm use.

Farm buildings are exempt from assessment in rural areas, and are only assessable to a 50% level in urban areas. As such rural municipalities containing intensive livestock operations receive little property tax revenue from this sector.

When farm land held for speculative purposes is converted to a non-farm use, apply a retroactive market-value-based levy to the property owner.

Assess farm buildings used for intensive livestock operations at their agricultural use value in rural and urban areas.

Assess and tax farm land held for speculative purposes annually at its market value.

Assess all farm buildings at their agricultural use value in rural and urban areas.

Resolution 16
PREVENTING LICENSING OF TOLERANT WHEAT

WHEREAS: Canada is known around the world as a wheat producing country and several countries will not buy genetically modified or genetically engineered products;

WHEREAS: Licensing glyphosate tolerant wheat would compromise Canada's position in the world trade market;

WHEREAS: At the 2014 Agricultural Service Board Conference, the emergent resolution #1 Licensing of Glyphosate Tolerant Wheat in Canada was carried but did not receive a satisfactory response of how to prevent market loss to countries that may ban genetically engineered wheat;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT THE ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, together with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency prevent licensing of glyphosate tolerant wheat in Canada.

Sponsored by: Clear Hills County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Background

At the 2014 Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Conference, the emergent resolution #1, *Licensing of Glyphosate Tolerant Wheat in Canada*, was carried. The ASBs of Alberta considered licensing glyphosate tolerant wheat a threat to agricultural production of wheat in Canada. Although the resolution responses addressed the licensing process of genetically engineered (GE) crops through 'rigorous regulatory systems', they did not address the potential market loss to countries that may ban GE wheat.

The possibility of GE wheat entering Canadian crops could affect Canadian wheat exports for decades. As seen in the June 1, 2013, CBS News article the USA Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Monsanto's genetically modified (GM) wheat in 2004. Nine years later, when GM wheat was found in an Oregon field, Japan and South Korea suspended wheat imports from the U.S.

The potential for disruption in Canadian wheat exports is substantial, even if GE wheat has passed the 'rigorous regulatory systems' of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Health Canada. This is the reason for bringing this resolution before the ASBs again.

2014 Resolution Response

Emergent Resolution #1

Licensing of glyphosate tolerant wheat in Canada

Therefore be it resolved that Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards request that Alberta Agriculture and Rural development, together with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency prevent the licensing of glyphosate tolerant Wheat in Canada.

Response:

Health Canada

Thank you for your letter of February 19, 2014 enclosing a copy of the Agricultural Service Board's resolution on the licensing of glyphosate tolerant wheat in Canada. I regret the delay in responding.

As the issue you raise falls within the purview of the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, you have taken the correct course of action by sending him a copy of your correspondence. I trust that Minister Ritz will give your concerns every consideration.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Thank you for your letter, with which you enclosed the Alberta Agricultural Service Board's *Emergent Resolution, Licensing of glyphosate-tolerant wheat in Canada*. I appreciate being made aware of the Board's views on this issue.

Please be assured that the Government of Canada considers issues of food and feed safety to be of the utmost importance. Canada has one of the most stringent and rigorous regulatory

systems in the world. Canada's regulatory system for products of agricultural biotechnology requires that new products undergo science-based safety assessments before they can be cultivated by a grower, used in livestock feed or made available to the consumer.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Health Canada are responsible for assessing the safety of the agricultural products and foods in Canada's food production system. When it assesses new seeds, plants, livestock feeds, fertilizers and veterinary biologics for safety, the CFIA considers human, animal and environmental safety aspects. Health Canada assesses all novel food products for safety before they can be sold to consumers. This rigorous science-based assessment process is applied in the same way to traditionally developed products that have new characteristics and to products of biotechnology.

Agricultural products of biotechnology, such as genetically engineered (GE) wheat, require three separate safety assessments and authorizations prior to commercial use. The CFIA assesses the safety of the end product for release into the environment and its safety for use as a livestock feed, while Health Canada assesses its safety for use as food and its effect on human health. The environmental safety assessment would consider the potential of the plant to become a weed of agriculture or to be invasive of natural habitats; the potential consequences of gene flow to wild relatives; the potential to increase the activity of a plant pest; and the potential impact on non-target organisms and biodiversity. As you are aware, to date, no GE wheat has been authorized for use in Canada.

Any new authorizations by the CFIA for the environmental release of herbicide-resistant plants include a requirement to implement stewardship plans, which are designed to delay weeds from developing tolerance. These plans include guidelines on crop and herbicide rotation, and describe the means by which growers can report any problems they have while growing the crop.

As previously mentioned, significant work goes into ensuring that the appropriate precautions are taken before a product of biotechnology is approved in Canada. It is important to maintain our rigorous, science-based assessment process to protect human and animal health and the environment while benefiting from the advances brought by these technologies.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Thank you for your correspondence with which you enclosed a copy of a resolution that received support from delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference in January 2014 regarding glyphosate-tolerant wheat in Canada. I regret the delay in this response.

First, let me clearly state that no genetically engineered (GE) wheat has been authorized for use in Canada. Please be assured that when it comes to the approval of GE crops, the Government of Canada considers issues of food and feed safety to be of the utmost importance. Canada has one of the most stringent and rigorous regulatory systems in the world. Canada's regulatory system for products of agricultural biotechnology requires that new products undergo science-based safety assessments before they can be cultivated by a grower used in livestock feed or made available to the consumer.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Health Canada are responsible for assessing the safety of the agricultural products and foods in Canada's food production system. When it assesses new seeds, plants, livestock feeds, fertilizers and veterinary biologics for safety, the CFIA considers human, animal and environmental safety aspects. Health Canada assesses all novel food products for safety before they can be sold to consumers. This rigorous science-based assessment process is applied in the same way to traditionally developed products that have new characteristics and to products of biotechnology.

Agricultural products of biotechnology require three separate safety assessments and authorizations prior to commercial use. The CFIA assesses the safety of the end product for release into the environment and its safety for use as a livestock feed, while Health Canada assesses its safety for use as food and its effect on human health.

Significant work goes into ensuring that the appropriate precautions are taken before a product of biotechnology is approved in Canada, and it is important to maintain our rigorous, science-based assessment process to protect human and animal health and the environment while benefiting from the advances brought by these technologies.

With regard to concerns pertaining to the impact of herbicide-resistant crops on sustainable agriculture please be assured that the CFIA takes this issue seriously. In Canada authorizations for the environmental release of new herbicide-resistant plants include a requirement to implement stewardship plans designed to address the development of herbicide-resistant weeds. Authorizations also include a requirement to monitor the effectiveness of these plans and to report on their implementation to the CFIA. You may be interested to read a recent AgBioForum paper that praises Canada for its effective stewardship of glyphosate-resistant crops. It states that effective crop rotation has been used in Canada to significantly reduce the selection intensity for glyphosate-resistant weeds and suggests that other countries follow suit. The paper can be viewed at the following link: www.agbioforum.org/v12n34/v12n34a10-duke.htm.

The regulatory assessment process for genetically modified crops is science-based. This ensures a predictable environment for the introduction of new products. It is important that regulatory decisions be evident-based and impartial. If new information relevant to the safety of a product, including those derived from biotechnology, comes to light, the CFIA conducts a review of this information. The Agency may change or revoke authorization, if warranted for safety reasons.

I would note that it is important to the Government that producers continue to have choice in selecting the agricultural practices and technologies that offer them the most benefits, both economic and environmental. Again, thank you for informing me of the Agricultural Service Board Conference's resolution.

CBS NEWS June 1, 2013, 12:40 PM

Genetically modified wheat found in Oregon spurs international backlash

(Chip Reid, CBS News) An international backlash against U.S. agricultural practices is building in response to the discovery of genetically modified wheat on a farm in Oregon.

Commercial farming of genetically modified wheat is banned in the United States. The practice is primarily not allowed because about half of America's wheat is sold overseas and many foreign countries prohibit the import of genetically modified foods.

So when modified wheat was discovered recently on a small farm in Oregon, the response from U.S. trading partners was fierce. Japan, the number one buyer of U.S. wheat, suspended some imports, as did South Korea.

Korean scientists are testing their U.S. wheat for signs of genetic modification and the European Union is also urging its 27 member nations to test American wheat.

It's not known how the modified wheat got into the Oregon field. Genetically it's the same wheat that Monsanto tested for possible commercial use in 16 states including Oregon a decade ago.

In a [statement](#) the food giant says the presence now of any modified wheat from their experiment is "unexpected" and likely to be "very limited."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is investigating the situation but said in a [statement](#) "the detection of this wheat variety does not pose a food safety concern."

However, not everyone agrees that genetically modified crops are safe. Last weekend in hundreds of cities around the world there were protests against Monsanto's leading role in genetically modified foods.

"There's not hard evidence that genetically modified crops are safe for human consumption because they've never really been tested that way," Center for Food Safety policy director Jaydee Hanson said.

The genetically modified wheat that Monsanto tested in Oregon was tested by the FDA in 2004 and found to be safe. But the Center for Food Safety says there has never been the kind of long-term testing needed to determine if wheat and other genetically modified foods are safe.

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**REGIONAL RESOLUTION: SOUTH
ELK (*Cervus elaphus*) POPULATION CONTROL AT CANADIAN FORCES BASE (CFB)
SUFFIELD**

- WHEREAS:** The elk (*Cervus elaphus*) population from the CFB Suffield is currently at 5,900 and will surpass 7,200 in 2015 according to Alberta Wildlife estimates;
- WHEREAS:** There is an exponential increase in the CFB Suffield elk herd population as elk cows are more consistently producing 3 calves per season;
- WHEREAS:** There are no natural predators on CFB Suffield;
- WHEREAS:** Increasing harvest tag numbers and seasons have been ineffective in reducing the current elk population;
- WHEREAS:** Elk threaten the cattle industry in southern Alberta, which is already a drought sensitive area, due to destruction of feeds stocks, forage, fences and introduction of diseases such as tuberculosis;
- WHEREAS:** Civilian safety on the major and secondary highways that surround CFB Suffield is a serious concern with the number of elk collisions rising steadily;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Federal Government and Department of National Defence produce a wildlife management plan in conjunction with ESRD, the neighbouring municipalities and ranchers to decrease the current elk population by at least 60% on CFB Suffield to levels under 2,000 that could be managed to be sustainable for the base and neighbouring ranchers.

Sponsored by: Special Areas 2

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

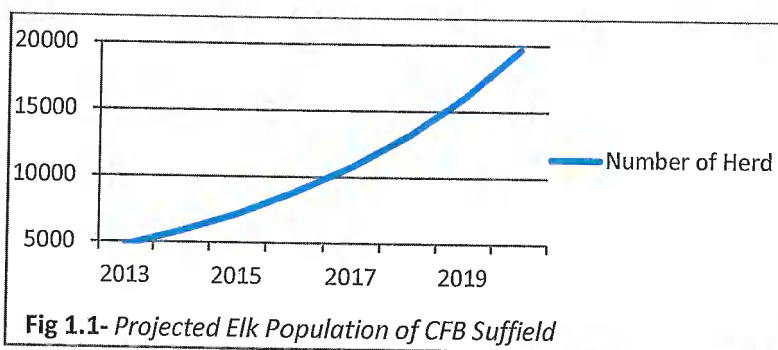
Carried: _____

Status: Regional

Department: Department of National Defence
Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Up until the 1990's, feral horses occupied the CFB Suffield base and did not pose much of a threat to the adjacent landowners. In the mid 1990's, after much controversy the horses were taken off the base and dispersed through an adoption program across Canada. In 1997, 132 elk were introduced into CFB Suffield Base from Elk Island National Park, with an additional 89 added in 1998. According to the military, the population was never intended to surpass 800. This initial population has increased to nearly 6,000 strong for what is now the largest elk population in Alberta. While normal reproduction in a year would yield 2 calves per cow, more mothers are now giving birth to 3 calves in a birth which will increase the production rate substantially if a continued trend. Alberta Wildlife biologists predict the 2015 population will increase another 20-25% overall putting the total population over 7000, with no natural predators on the base the population will continue to increase, as shown in Figure 1.1 below, based on a 20-25% annual increase.



Although Alberta has been declared Bovine Tuberculosis free, the presence of brucellosis and tuberculosis within the Elk Island National Park (EINP) population is endemic to the dynamic of a large enclosed herd. The CFB Suffield population that was moved from EINP has now reached levels that dramatically increase the risk of these diseases developing in the herd. As elk have also passed the disease to cattle in the past this becomes a huge threat to the cattle producers surrounding CFB Suffield.

Not only do cattle producers deal with the threat of disease being introduced to their herds, but the Elk are doing significant damage to what sustenance is available to cattle as well as destruction to boundaries between lands. Community pasture supervisors from Special Areas say that at least 2 hours per day is spent fixing fence due to the elk damage along the base and also worry that an incoming year of typical drought could be even further damaging to the cattle industry as ranchers will have to compete with the large ungulates for both food and water sources. Opportunity to expand herds in the areas surrounding the base has been hindered by the daily expansion of the herd onto grazing and forage lands, increasing the need to downsize herds or import feed to the area.

The sheer size and nomadic nature of elk poses a serious threat to both civilian and local drivers that frequent all major and secondary highways as well as the municipal roads surrounding the base. They are not only difficult to see at night to drivers, but can cause serious destruction when they come in contact with a motor vehicle. The damage incurred from such a large animal has not yet produced a fatality, but with the population and number of collisions on the rise (3 already this year) the probability increases each year.

The 2014 Elk resolution put forth by Alberta's ASBs did not speak to the level of overpopulation seen at CFB Suffield where hunting, while a valid mechanism of control will not compete with the rate of reproduction seen in this population. The current number of available harvest tags inside the base is now 600, last season only 67% of these tags were filled, making hunting ineffective at managing the population at this level. The Special Areas Board has brought this issue to the attention of the appropriate MLA's, Minister's and MP's and found, federal lands such as CFB Suffield require the action of the Federal Government to decrease the herd as the base is on federal lands. We understand this will more than likely also involve the cooperation of the provincial government as well and have been told no more can be done without federal approval.

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	January 12, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, 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:

- Written report for Agricultural Fieldman
- Draft rental equipment agreement
- Rental Agreement Usage Summary

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that the Agricultural Service Board accepts the January 12, 2015 Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

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

Clear Hills County

Agricultural Fieldman Report

January 6, 2015

Aaron Zylstra

Pest Control

- 58 wolves have been claimed in 2014.(\$14,500)
- 69 (\$17,250) in 2013
- 102 (\$43,500) in 2012, prior to program changes

Rental Program

- We have revised the Equipment Rental Agreement (attached). The new form includes an equipment check list pre-rental and post rental. It also includes a few more terms & conditions listed on the reverse side. Including the damage deposit refund information should reduce administration time and paper work.
- The grain extractor is being repaired for a broken gearbox.
- Additional 4 inch discharge hose has been ordered & received. We are working on getting quotes for building an additional 13 hose reels.
- We're receiving quotes and moving toward purchasing parts for the new portable toilets trailer.
- Council approved the removal of the RFID tag readers, the bale sampler, the livestock ultrasound, and the magpie traps from the rental program.
- Rental equipment summary is attached to this report.

Weed Program

- MRF is in the process of updating the FieldGIS Weed inspection program for 2015.

Other Topics

- The shelterbelt trees order form has been revised and we've included multiple suppliers including Woodmere Nurseries in Fairview. The new form is available at the front counter.
- There will be a Virulent Blackleg & Clubroot 5X workshop in Fairview on March 19, 2015.
- Coming events:
 - Peace Agronomy Update – January 15th in Fairview
 - Dylan Biggs Low Stress Cattle Handling Clinic – January 9th, Evergreen Park
 - PCBC Young Cattlemen's Day - January 10th, Evergreen Park
 - Peace Country Beef Congress – January 9th&10th, Evergreen Park
 - Provincial ASB Conference – January 20 to 22nd, Edmonton
 - Winter Watering Systems – January 31st, Silver Valley



Clear Hills County
 Box 240, Worsley, Alberta T0H 3W0
 Phone: 780-685-3925 Fax: 780-685-3960

EQUIPMENT RENTAL AGREEMENT

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Equipment	Unit #:	Rental Charges/Day
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

By signing this agreement, I agree I have read and understand the terms and conditions of this rental as stated on the reverse side of this sheet; and, the above information is accurate and correct.

Signed at _____, Alberta, on _____, 20____.

_____ Print Name (Renter) _____ County Representative

_____ Signature (Renter)

Equipment Departure

Equipment Return

Y	N		Y	N
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check for bent or broken parts, including welds.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure hitch and safety chains are in place and secure.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure operating instructions are available and advise location.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check for leaks, loose fittings, hoses or belts.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check for loose or disconnected wires.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check air pressure in tires, oil levels and fuel levels.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Advise of any PPE that may be required.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure slow moving sign or lights are in place and operational.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure safety guards are in place and functional.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Note: Ensure equipment is cleaned of dirt, debris, seed, chemical, and sprayer tanks are triple rinsed before returning. Do not exceed maximum speed posted on the equipment.

_____ Signature (Renter) _____ Signature (Renter)

_____ Date & Time _____ Date & Time

Comments: _____

Days Used (not including travel): Mark days the equipment was active or operational.

	Sun.	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Week 1							
Week 2							

Administration Only: Rental Equipment Damage Deposit Refund

Deposit Receipt No.: _____ Rent Payment Amount: _____ Rent Receipt No.: _____

	GL CODE	AMOUNT	INSPECTED BY	DATE	AUTHORIZATION BY:	
					CDM	AG FIELD
DEPOSIT	6-00-00-00-478					
REPAIR COSTS	1-63-10-00-560	< >				

REFUND: \$ _____

Attach copies of letter and repair invoices, if any, to file copy

Comments: (Cost of repairs/cleaning, if any) _____

Terms and Conditions of Rental:

The following terms and conditions apply to the Clear Hills County (Owner) rental program, and must be agreed to by the Renter, by way of signature, prior to the Renter being allowed to use the equipment specified.

1. The Renter assumes all responsibility for any loss or damage to the said equipment (item), and agrees to pay the full cost of repairs, whether through accident, neglect or misuse. (Check with your insurance provider to see if you are covered.)
2. The Renter will indemnify and hold harmless the Clear Hills County, its employees and agents from any and all claims, demands, actions and costs, including legal costs (on a solicitor/client basis) including claims from the Renter and third parties for any loss arising out of this agreement, excluding any loss resulting from the negligence of the Clear Hills County or its employees or Agents.
3. The Renter agrees that all rental charges will be paid immediately upon return of the above described equipment (item) and that all collection fees, attorney fees, court costs or any other expenses involved in the collection of rental charges will be borne by the renter.
4. The Renter agrees to pay the above rental rate for all days that the equipment was active or operating during the rental period.
5. The Renter agrees to pay cleaning charges on rental equipment returned unclean. (Equipment must be returned thoroughly cleaned.)
6. The maximum rental period is five consecutive (5) days unless otherwise stated in the current Fees and Charges Bylaw or as approved by the Agricultural Fieldman.
7. No repairs shall be conducted or arrangements made to have repairs conducted without prior approval from the Agricultural Fieldman or his (her) designate. The Renter will receive the equipment and will return it to the Owner in the same condition as obtained. Normal wear and tear is expected.
8. Rental Equipment shall be picked up and returned between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the designated location and returned to the same location.
9. It is recommended that the Renter maintain Comprehensive General Liability Insurance in the amount of not less than \$1,000,000 inclusive per occurrence against bodily injury, personal injury, and property damage including the loss of use of the property.
10. Rental equipment is for use by the residents of, community groups and commercial organizations in Clear Hills County, Municipal District of Fairview No. 136, Municipal District of the Peace No. 135, and the Village of Hines Creek.
11. The Renter will agree to pay a minimum one day's rent whether the rental item was used or not.
12. The Renter is responsible to ensure the equipment can be transported safely. The Owner has the right to refuse to release any piece of equipment if in their opinion it cannot be transported in a safe manner.
13. The Renter's rental privileges may be terminated if they do not pay rental, cleaning, retrieval, administrative or repair fees are not paid.
14. Rental equipment rates and other fees and charges are as set out in Clear Hills County Fees and Charges Bylaw.
15. It is the Renter's responsibility to be familiar with the rental equipment. Written and/or verbal instructions may be provided.

Equipment	Totals		
	# of Users	# of Days	\$ Made
Backpack Sprayer	-	-	\$ -
Bale Carrier	1	1	\$ 150.00
Bale Scale	4	4	\$ 90.00
Bale Tester	-	-	\$ -
Ball Hitch (2" & 2 5/16")	-	-	\$ -
Livestock Ultrasound	-	-	\$ -
Chairs	10	13	\$ 250.50
Community Centre	10	15	\$ 150.00
Community Tables/Chairs	12	14	\$ -
Corral Panels	6	9	\$ 400.00
Coyote Trap	1	7	\$ -
Eco-Bran Applicator	-	-	\$ -
Grain Bag Roller	1	1	\$ -
Grain Bagger	3	6	\$ 2,100.00
Grain Bag Extractor	2	5	\$ 1,600.00
Grain Vac	1	2	\$ 700.00
Grass Seeders-Hand Held	-	-	\$ -
Grass Seeders-Quad Mount	-	-	\$ -
Grill	8	12	\$ 50.00
Hand Held Rope Wick	-	-	\$ -
Land Leveller	11	24	\$ 3,120.00
Livestock Scale	2	2	\$ -
Loading Chute	12	13	\$ 325.00
Manure Spreader	2	11	\$ 1,650.00
Mulch Applicator	1	1	\$ 25.00
Extra Hoses	2	15	\$ 213.00
Post Pounder	11	17	\$ 2,125.00
Pull/Push Roller Applicator	-	-	\$ -
Quad Mount Rope Wick	-	-	\$ -
Quad Mounted Sprayer	4	4	\$ -
Quad Pull Type Sprayer	8	29	\$ -
RFID Tag Reader	-	-	\$ -
Rock Picker	1	2.5	\$ 750.00
Rock Rake	1	2.5	\$ 750.00
Roller Mill	2	2	\$ -
Rotowiper	1	1	\$ 75.00
Scare Cannon #91060254	-	-	\$ -
Signs	-	-	\$ -
Skid Mount Sprayer	-	-	\$ -
Steam Tables	-	-	\$ -
Tables	8	8	\$ 131.00
Toilets	5	8	\$ 280.00
Tree Spade	7	12	\$ 1,800.00
Truck Mount Sprayer	2	2	\$ 200.00
Wash Station	2	4	\$ 10.00
Water Pumps	32	54	\$ 7,625.00
Zero Till Drills	2	6	\$ 1,800.00
Totals rental(by month)	175	307	\$ 26,369.50

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	January 12, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, 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 12, 2015 for information.

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

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	January 12, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, 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:

- Low Stress Handling Clinic with Dylan Biggs – Poster – (63-02-02)
- Winter Watering System – Poster – (63-02-02)
- Young Cattlemen's Days – Poster – (63-02-02)
- Peace Country Agronomy Update – Poster – (63-02-02)
- Peace Country Beef and Forage Association – Newsletter – (63-02-02)
- Peace Country Beef and Forage Association Winter Water – Newsletter - (63-02-02)
- Peace Country Beef and Forage Association – Job Listing – (63-02-02)
- Chris Warkentin – Response Letter – 63-02-02
- 2015 Wheat Midge Forecast – Report and map – 63-02-02
- Peace Country Crop Production Workshop – Poster – (63-02-02)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of January 12, 2015 as presented.



"Every step of every animal should be voluntary"

JAN 9, 2015 LOW STRESS HANDLING CLINIC WITH DYLAN BIGGS

Whether it's calving, branding, turning out or pulling bulls, weaning, treating animals or simply moving them to fresh pasture, cattle handling can be stressful and hectic. If you would like to learn a stress-free way to handle your cattle that will make these jobs easy and trouble free, plan to attend one of Dylan's powerful, workshops.

dylanbiggs.com



PEACE COUNTRY
BEEF CONGRESS

EVERGREEN PARK,
GRANDE PRAIRIE

LEWIS HAWKES
PAVILLION

FREE TO ATTEND

TIME TBA

SPONSORED BY



A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

WINTER WATERING SYSTEMS TOUR

Warm Bus Tour & Learning Day

JAN 31, 2015

SILVER VALLEY

9:30AM COFFEE & REGISTRATION

MEET @ SAVANNA SCHOOL

\$25/member; \$40/farm pair

\$35/non-member; \$50/farm pair

HOT LUNCH INCLUDED!

Join us to take a tour of some innovative winter watering systems. Get tips on how to set up your own system and engage in discussion with other local producers!

Call Stacy to register today!

780-772-0277





PRESENTS

YOUNG CATTLEMEN'S DAY

**JAN 10, 2015
AT THE
PEACE COUNTRY BEEF CONGRESS**

**SAFE & LOW STRESS
HANDLING TECHNIQUES
FOR YOUTH & CATTLE
with Dylan Biggs**

**Followed by a
Grooming Tips Clinic**



**ALL YOUTH INVITED
TO ATTEND!**

TIME

**9am Registration
9:30 am Start Time**

WHERE

**Evergreen Park,
Grande Prairie**

**LUNCH PROVIDED
FOR PARTICIPANTS**

**PRE-REGISTER BY
DEC 20TH:**

Danica Tremblay

danica.tremblay@hotmail.com

**Youth Heifer & Steer
Classes to take place
during the afternoon**

To enter visit:

www.pcbeefcongress.ca



2015 PEACE AGRONOMY UPDATE



Thursday, January 15, 2015
9:00 am *Registration & Coffee*
Dunvegan Motor Inn, Fairview

Crop Nutrition Problems Can Become Pest Problems

Tom Jensen, Director, International Plant Nutrition Institute

Soybean Production

Garry Hnatowich, Research Agronomist

Wheat Midge & Cutworms

Scott Meers, Insect Management Specialist

Market Update

Errol Anderson, ProMarket Communications

For more info contact North Peace Applied Research
Association @ 780-836-3354 or email nora@npara.ca





News, Soil Health & Events

By: PCBFA Staff

Volume 10
Issue 119
December 2014

FORAGE

Our New Cropping Program!

The goal of this new program is to fill an extension gap that has become prevalent in the Central Peace region. We will be extending this new program to grain producers in areas not already receiving crops applied research and extension, including: MD of Fairview, Clear Hills County, MD of Peace, Saddle Hills County, MD of Spirit River, and Birch Hills County. Our cropping program will be administered out of the Fairview Office by our new Crop Program Coordinator, Kaitlin McLachlan, and any small plot research will be done at the MD of Fairview Research Farm near the Fairview Airport. We are also going to be partnering with other organizations and experts in the region such as NPARA out of Manning and Calvin Yoder as we develop and administer the program.

As the cropping program is in the developing stages, there will be a strong focus on extension events to reach our area grain, oilseed & pulse growers. Currently in the works are: a sprayer technology workshop, a controlled traffic farming workshop, and a crop production series workshop that will include information on pests, pea standability, and more! Much of the programming will complement work that PCBFA already has underway, such as trials to improve soil health.

The coming year will be very exciting for PCBFA, and we are looking forward to developing our cropping program! We are actively seeking producer input and suggestions, so if you have any ideas please contact Kaitlin at (780) 835-6799, or kmclachlan@gprc.ab.ca

Employee Introduction!

Hi everyone! I'm baaaaack!

For those who don't know me, I'm Kaitlin McLachlan and I am the new Crop Program Coordinator with PCBFA! I was a summer technician with PCBFA the summer of 2012, and I am very excited to be back on the team.

Since my summer with PCBFA, I have completed my diploma in Agri-Business majoring in agricultural marketing from Lakeland College in Vermilion. I worked at AFSC as an Insurance summer student, and was working with AFSC insurance and lending product lines for the past 7 months. I am also currently farming with my mom Val and brother Allan on our family ranch south of Fairview near Dunvegan, where we run a cow/calf and backgrounding operation.

I have a passion for the agriculture industry, the Peace Region, and all it has to offer. I am excited to get going with PCBFA's new crop program and help our local producers get the most out of their resources. Feel free to stop by the Fairview office and chat or give me a shout!



Interpreting Your Feed Test

Winter is here. With the arrival of frigid temperatures, thoughts turn to winter feeding and feed quality. With your membership to PCBFA, you receive 2 FREE feed tests, but what do the results mean?

Cow Feeding Ration Rules of Thumb		
Animal Type	Energy (TDN)	Protein (CP)
Mid Gestation	55	7
Late Gestation	60	9
After Calving	65	11

When reading your feed test, look at the "Dry Matter" values, these values have the moisture of the feed factored out, so you can compare feed types, from silage to hay to grain.

The most important numbers to look at on your feed test are the "Crude Protein - CP" and "Total Digestible Nutrients - TDN". These values will tell you the protein and energy level of your feed, respectively.

A good rule of thumb to remember is for every degree drop below -20°C, a cow's energy requirements increase by 2%. Monitoring Body Condition during the winter months is very important, as with decreasing temperatures, and advancing pregnancy, the energy in the feed we provide can easily be used up by the cow to keep herself warm and by the growing calf. This can result in thin cows who may not cycle as quickly after calving because she is putting energy towards building condition instead of reproduction.

Other aspects of your feed test including the Calcium to Phosphorus Ratio (C:P) and minerals like magnesium (Mg) and potassium (K) are also worth looking at. Your Ca:P ratio should be between 2:1 and 7:1. Ca:P and other mineral requirements can be addressed by using commercial mineral or with feed blends.

For more information on feed testing and developing a winter feeding program, contact us here at PCBFA and we would be happy to help you. Agri-Facts: Beef Ration Rules of Thumb from Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development is another good resource for producers.



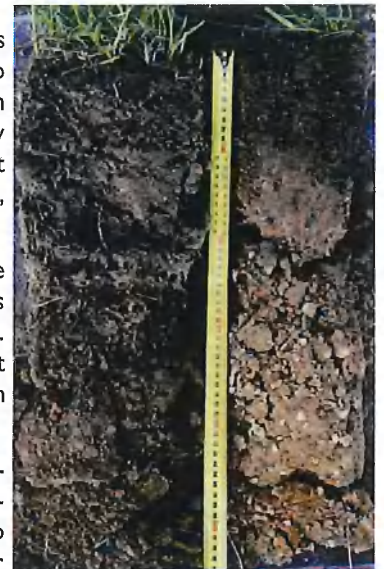
Diversity Builds Soil Health —

Agriculture is an evolving industry, and though change and shifting our thinking isn't always easy, it is something that all farmers, ranchers and other sectors of agriculture need to be open to in order to thrive. Recently, PCBFA, along with other applied research groups and some producers have been exploring new methods of building soil health with things like cover crops and increasing diversity on our land and it has opened up a whole new way of thinking about how we manage our land. It has brought up questions about seeding monocultures year after year with limited crop rotations, the use of synthetic fertilizers and the value of livestock on the land.

Last fall, we were very lucky to have the opportunity to host several workshops with rancher Gabe Brown of North Dakota. Gabe inspired some of our 2014 field trials, as well as several producers across the Peace to try something different, and the first cover crop experiments were conducted. This fall, we were once again given the opportunity to co-host an evening with Gabe Brown on Oct 27th in Grimshaw, and then on Nov 3rd in Rycroft we hosted a world-renowned soil scientist from Australia, Dr. Christine Jones, as she made her first trip ever to Canada.

Both Gabe and Christine presented information on improving soil health and increasing the production of our land by mimicking nature, allowing us to reduce our commercial inputs. The presentations complemented each other very well, especially for producers who were able to make it to both. These concepts contradict what is generally practiced in conventional agriculture, but a closer look at the science and the results may open your eyes to a whole new way of looking at our soil.

Christine Jones' approach to soil health can help us understand how plant diversity leads to improved soil health and increased production on our land. She explained that plants are conduits for the transfer of light energy to soil microbes. It is this concept that begins to explain why we should never have bare soil.



Comparison of soil profiles on either side of a fence line
Left: Actively managed soil (cropped & grazed). Right: Conventionally managed (set-stocked). Source: Christine Jones—Carbon that Counts

“Diversity of plants above ground = Diversity of microbes below ground”

How exactly does that work? The carbon provided to the soil from plants above ground support the microbial activity in the soil. This increased activity by soil microbes can improve soil structure, increase nutrient availabilities (both macro- and micro-nutrients) as well as increase infiltration and water-holding capacity. These are all factors that increase the productivity of the land.



Mycorrhizal fungi colonising root system.

Source: Christine Jones: Mycorrhizal Fungi—Powerhouse of the Soil

Lets start with how we get carbon into the soil to support the microbial population – photosynthesis. Photosynthesis by plants converts sunlight into carbon. When there are beneficial bacteria and fungi present, the rate of photosynthesis increases, this process allows carbon to become available to the soil microbes through the plants roots. The link between photosynthesis and soil microbes can be broken or damaged if there are no green plants in the soil.


One of the concerns with conventional mono-culture systems is that it goes against what occurs in nature. Just think about how many species are found in native pasture, or even in the bush! The good news is that we can mimic nature by using cover-crops. The key to successfully mimicking nature is to provide year-round groundcover with a diverse mixture of plant species. By using a diverse mixture we can restore the diversity of soil microbes, leading to increased microbial activity and healthier soil


What does increased microbial activity mean for productivity? One of the beneficial microbes that can be impacted by conventional farming practices is mycorrhizal fungi, which plays a key role in accessing soil nutrients and water that plant roots can't reach. When plants are colonised by mycorrhizal fungi, a symbiotic relationship is formed, in which the fungi supply the plant with P, Zn, Ca, B, Cu and organic N in exchange for photosynthate (soluble carbon product of photosynthesis). It is interesting to note that plants colonised by mycorrhizal fungi have higher photosynthesis rates and can grow 10-20% faster than

non-colonised plants. This symbiotic relationship includes more than just the plant and fungi, there are beneficial bacteria that help the mycorrhizae colonize the plant roots, in addition to colonies of bacteria associated with the mycorrhizal hyphae that help solubilise nutrients that wouldn't normally be available to plants.

Find us online!

www.peacecountrybeef.ca

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 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/pcbfa/>

Changing How We Think About Soil

By: Stacy Pritchard



Cover Crop Mixture in Peace Country

As you can see, there is a lot to be said for the power of soil microbes and a golden opportunity to manage our land more efficiently and profitably. In order to harness this and improve the productivity of the land we need to begin to consider how we manage land and the long term benefits to managing it for soil health.

Gabe Brown, once a conventional producer, has increased the soil health on his farm by changing his thinking. Gabe is from North Dakota, so he experiences similar growing conditions as here in the Peace Country, although he is adamant that what works for him, may not work for you, so don't be afraid to try new species and combinations.

By switching from a monoculture system to a much more diverse plant population over the last 20 years, the Browns have increased the organic matter of their soil, eliminated the use of synthetic fertilizer, pesticides, fungicides, and are down to one pre-burn herbicide pass every 2-3 years, with the goal of eliminating herbicide entirely in the future.

Gabe's operation incorporates forage production, cash crops and livestock. These separate enterprises complement each other and lead to the success of the operation as a whole. For example, a companion crop of hairy vetch seeded with corn provides ground cover while the corn is getting established, retains moisture and increases mycorrhizal activity in the soil which helps both the hairy vetch and the corn. In the fall, the corn is harvested, and cattle are turned out to graze the hairy vetch. This is a very simple example, using only 2 crops, but the possible cropping combinations are limitless.

"What is your resource concern?"

Whether the issue is compaction, organic matter, weed pressure, soil structure, fertility, yield, pasture rejuvenation, nitrogen, carbon, infiltration or anything else, the answer to this question will help you choose species for your mixtures and design your system for what you don't have.

The Browns aim to keep the soil covered 100% of the time, by seeding combinations including both warm and cool season grasses and broadleaves to use as forage, harvest as cash crops and improve the soil health on their farm. They have also seen added benefits including lengthening the growing season because the ground cover helps to increase soil temperature. This can allow you to get a new cover crop established between harvest and winter, which we all know can be a pretty narrow window some years. Diversity is the key to healthy soil. Both above and below ground.

There is much work to be done and many things to learn about these practices. PCBFA will be continuing to work on cover-crop projects in the Peace in the future. Watch for a Soil Health Conference in Dec 2015!

More information can be found on Gabe and Christine's websites:

www.brownsranch.com
www.amazingcarbon.com

Gabe's Advice for Getting Started with Cover-Cropping:

Ask yourself "What is my resource concern?"

Choose plant species accordingly.

Start with fall-seeded biennials, as they provide a lot of different options for the next year

Spray out grass and plant into cover crop in the spring

Leave the legumes to produce N

Use to build organic matter and for uniform emergence

Calve on it

Move cows every few days, can graze and re-graze with good management

Provides clean calving ground

Share-combine cover-crops for seed (Winter Wheat, Winter Triticale, Hairy Vetch)

Mob-graze high carbon biennials

Trying to add soil armor

Wait for seed set and terminate growth with grazing, then seed straight into residue

Put up for forage

Try to feed out on the land to prevent removing nutrients

Leave armor on the soil surface

50% for cattle; 50% for microbiota

Want at least 1-2" of cover on the soil

Keys to achieving a healthy soil

Least soil disturbance possible (no-till/minimal till)

Armor on soil surface

Plant diversity!

Integration of livestock on cropland

Contact us for:

- Project Ideas
- Feed Testing
- Environmental Farm Plans
- Growing Forward 2 Assistance
- Ration Formulation Help
- Past Project Information

Upcoming Events!

**Thanks
to our
Sponsors!**



Peace Country Cattle Day

- * Dec 3, 2014
- * Dunvegan Motor Inn, Fairview
- * 9am-3pm
- * Hear from:
 - * Brenda Schoepp (Ag from a Global Perspective)
 - * Dr. John Basarab (Feeding Efficiency)
 - * Larry Thomas (BIXS Update)
 - * Dr. Bart Lardner (Alternative Feeding Systems)



Western Canadian Grazing Conference "Going Beyond Sustainability"

- * Dec 9, 10 & 11, 2014
- * Radisson Hotel, Edmonton South
- * www.wcgconference.ca
- * Keynote Speakers
 - * Judith Schwartz (Cows Save the Planet)
 - * Dr. Diane Knight (How Legumes Feed the Soil)
 - * Josh Dukart (Thinking Regeneratively...Beyond our Borders)



Holistic Management Course with Don & Bev Campbell

- * 6 Days-Jan 15-17 & 22-24
- * Where: Fairview
- * Cost: \$1495+GST
- * Registration & Deposit due Dec 8.



Cow-Calfenomics

- * Jan 20, 2015
- * Grande Prairie-Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
- * 8:30am-3pm
- * Cost: \$25
- * Register by Jan 14, 2015 by calling the Ag-Info Centre 1-800-387-6030
- * Agenda
 - Opportunities & Challenges to expanding the Cow Herd
 - * Transition Tactics * Cost of Bred Heifers * Managing Prosperity * Innovative Business Models * and more!

Winter Watering Systems Tour

- * Warm Bus Tour & Learning Day
- * Jan 31, 2015
- * See innovate ways other producers in the area are using!
- * Helpful Tips to Help you Succeed
- * More details to come!



AGM

- * Feb 6, 2015
- * Fairview
- * 5pm registration
- * 5:30pm Meeting
- * 6pm Supper
- * 8pm Entertainment
- * \$55/person or \$75/farm pair
- Includes 2015 annual membership!



Peace Agronomy Update

- * Jan 15, 2015
- * Dunvegan Motor Inn, Fairview
- * Topics to be covered include:
 - * Crop Nutrition, Soybean Production, Wheat Midge & Cutworms, and a Market Update



For more information or to register for PCBFA events please call Stacy at
780-835-6799 or 780-772-0277!

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Water vs. Snow – Facts, Science & Management

The reasons we use extended winter grazing programs are numerous and range from economics, soil health, manure management, water quality management and forage yield increase, among others. One of the challenges faced by producers is how to water animals in these systems. The use of remote winter watering systems solves this issue, but what if there isn't a water source on the field we'll be using to swath-graze, or in the hayfield we plan on bale grazing? Is having your cows rely on snow as a water source a viable option? First, let's look at some facts about winter watering.



Facts

- * Bred heifers and dry cows require between 20 and 33L for water per day. In the winter a good average to use is 20L/cow/d and lactating animals require 50% more water than dry cows.
- * Cattle get water from 3 sources – liquid water provides the most, they also get water from their feed, and finally, a small amount from metabolic processes.
- * Watering on dugouts and cutting holes in ice for animals to water is risky – to both people and animals.
- * Cattle snow-grazing consume snow all day, rather in 1-2 visits to a trough.
- * Snow-grazing is a learned behaviour, and typically has an adjustment period of 1-3 days.

Science

There have been a number of studies conducted comparing snow as a water source, and many of them have been done in Alberta. Here is a summary of the results of this work: (sources: Young, Tennessen & Degen 1980; Young, Degen & Tennessen 1980; Degen & Young 1984; Degen & Young 1990)

- * Heat of digestion melt snow and warms it to body temperature.
- * Feed intake of animals using snow as a water source does not change in most circumstances.
- * The form of water does affect energy requirements. Since snow is consumed slowly and all day, the rumen temperature is minimally affected, however when cattle water from troughs, they consume all their water for the day in 1-2 visits, where the large volume of cold water can drop the rumen temperature quickly.
- * If water is limited, cattle will consume snow to compensate, and cattle with access to water will still snow-graze.
- * Studies have shown no change in feed intake & rate of gain or in milk output of lactating cows.
- * Cows consume 14-20kg of snow/day to meet water requirements (Degen & Young, 1990)
- * It takes 10cm of snow to get 1cm of water.

Management

What may be more important than the science, is how snow-grazing is managed. On the second page of this issue we talk about how no winter watering system is maintenance-free, and the same applies to snow-grazing. Proper management is the key to making all winter watering systems successful. Many of these management suggestions are applicable to any wintering system.

- * Snow must be clean and soft in order to be used as a water source - cattle must be able to lick large quantities into their mouths. Trampled, crusted or snow with lots of ice crystals make it difficult for cattle to consume enough to meet their requirements.
- * Monitor herd for water intake; decreased feed intake usually follows inadequate water consumption. This leads to loss of condition.
- * Cows should be in good body condition (BCS>3) if they are to snow-graze as their only water source.
- * Snow-grazing is a learned behaviour. By including cows who have experience snow-grazing, new animals will learn quicker. The transition period can still be 1-3 days.
- * An alternative water source must be available – conditions may change to where animals can't meet water requirements.
- * Ensure that cattle have a balanced ration, so they are meet all of their protein, energy and mineral requirements too.
- * Provide shelter and bedding (windbreaks allow cattle to get out of harsh winds).

There are a number of things to consider when it comes to providing water to livestock in the winter, but it is essential that a reliable water source is available. In the next pages we'll see more options for winter water.



Winter Water—

Canadian farmers are an innovative bunch and some of the watering systems being used as an alternative to heated water bowls can definitely be categorized as innovative.

Nowadays there are several commercial options when it comes to winter watering systems, the important thing to remember is that none are maintenance free. Any kind of system that depends on water remaining liquid in a climate that has the potential to be -30°C or colder on a regular basis will require maintenance. The amount of maintenance can vary though, depending on the type of system that is used.

Geothermal Watering Systems

The key to designing a winter watering system is to prevent freezing. This can be done by supplying heat, reducing heat loss from the water, or to drain the water below the frost line when animals aren't watering. Geothermal heat is a popular choice for use in winter watering systems. This concept is utilized by the majority of the commercial watering systems available. The main differences in these systems comes from the above-ground component, ie. how the water is delivered to livestock.

The basics of a geothermal watering system involve a water source of course, and a water supply line within an insulated tube. The supply line enters the insulated tube below the frost line, and depending on the system, water either remains in the line at all times, or is allowed to drain back below the frost line when the waterer is not in use. Another standard feature of these systems

is a layer of frost limiting Styrofoam or an insulated pad around the waterer that helps to prevent cattle from punching out the ground around the waterer and also prevents frost around the system. The insulated tube, whether it's a culvert or even industrial tires, contains the geothermal warmth, and keeps the supply line from freezing

As previously mentioned, the primary difference in these systems is how livestock access the water, the options vary from continuous access, to animal operated or motion activated. In the following sections we'll go through some of these geothermal or wet-well based systems as well as some other systems.

Ice-Free Geothermal Waterers

This is a good example of how geothermal heat can be used to keep water available to livestock, even in the coldest winter. With this system, cattle have direct access to water through a drinking tube. The tube has a small diameter and therefore, the heat of the water can keep it ice-free. The water level is regulated with a float and valve, and the float level must be adjusted to that cattle can reach the water. These systems do have the potential of developing an ice-plug in extremely cold weather, in which case the plug would need to be cleared.

Tire Geothermal Waterers

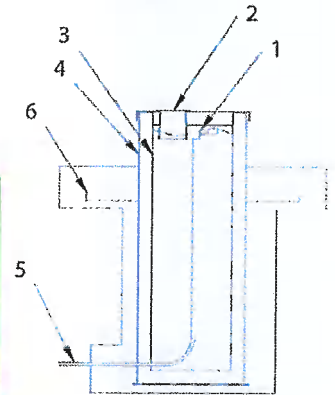
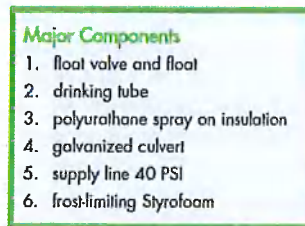
These systems are typically built from used industrial mining tires. With this system, a stack of tires is buried in the ground and around the water supply-line. The best tires to use still have a very thick layer of rubber, as the thicker the rubber, the higher the insulating value of the tire. The tires contain the geothermal heat, which keeps the supply line thawed, and also heats the bottom of the trough-tire and keeps the water on the surface liquid for livestock. This system operates with a pump-triggered float, which is also a drawback for this system, as the float can often freeze in the thin layer of ice overnight. This system needs to be checked daily to make sure the float hasn't frozen.



Motion Controlled Water Bowls

This type of system is quite versatile and can be run off either a dugout, where the water is gravity fed, or off a well or pressurized line. These systems require power to run the motion eye and the pump, and this power can be supplied by tying into the power grid or by using solar panels to recharge deep-cycle batteries. These systems utilize a wet well, where the waterline is below the frostline. Livestock simply walk up to the water bowl, where the motion eye detects them, and triggers the pump, which pumps water from the wet well up into the waterbowl. After the animals have left, the water drains out of the waterbowl, back down into the wet well.

This type of system doesn't leave any water in the bowl to freeze, and there is no learning curve for the cattle. Access should be limited so that the eye will see livestock as they approach specifically for water, this can be done easily by having the bowl only accessible from one side.



Basic design of a geothermal watering system
(Remote Winter Watering Systems for Beef Cattle—MAFRI)



(Remote Winter Watering Systems for Beef Cattle—MAFRI)

Find us online!

www.peacecountrybeef.ca



@pcbfa

@pcbfa_crops



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/pcbfa/>

Solutions for Your Farm

By: Stacy Pritchard

Thermosink

The Thermosink system uses gravity and water pressure to provide water to livestock with no electricity required. The design of the system is pretty simple, 2 heavy polyethylene pipes are buried vertically side-by-side. One is topped with a float, and the other with a removeable water bowl. Water enters through a pressurized inlet into the Thermosink, where it fills the main tank, which has an adjustable float. There is a crossover pipe between the 2 tanks that allows the water in the first tank to fill the second tank as animals drink out of it. The tanks are made of polyethylene, which means there are no parts to worry about rusting. Water heated by geothermal heat rises to the surface, and cooler water settles to the bottom where it is heated and the water continues to circulate enough to keep the surface water from freezing. The Thermosink is available with either a single water bowl or with a double waterer.



(<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wat/wq/nps/>)



(frostfreenosepumps.com)

Frostfree Nosepumps

The Frostfree Nosepump was developed by Jim Anderson of Rimbey, AB. They also operate off a wet well, but require no power source, as livestock pump their own water up. The Frostfree Nosepump (FFNP) is suitable for use by cattle, horses and bison. Animals need to be taught to use the FFNP, this should be done with a small group (15 head) first where the FFNP is the only water source. Starting in warmer temperatures, where the pendulum is set to the back, so cattle don't have to push as hard to get water as they are learning. Pump water a couple times a day so cattle can learn where the water is coming from. Cattle will learn quickly how to use the FFNP, and once the initial group has learned, the rest of the herd can be introduced gradually, and the new cattle will learn from the initial group.

Insulated Troughs

These systems can either be filled from below, with a pipe buried below the frost line, or from above, using a pump with a pipe that drains to the source. These troughs are designed with a thick layer of insulation to prevent the trough from freezing solid. An important thing to note when using insulated water troughs, is to select the size that is most appropriate, as having a trough that is too big can result in limited water movement and freezing. Having a trough that is empty and has to refill is better than one that stays full and freezes.

Home-Built Systems

There are also a variety of innovative home-built systems that have been working for producers for years. Year after year, tweaks and changes are implemented based on trial and error, learning from the previous year. Every year, PCBFA organizes a Winter Watering Systems Tour where we see how innovative local producers are watering their cattle during the winter. This year, we will be in Silver Valley on January 31, 2015. This is a great opportunity to see what your neighbours are doing, to brainstorm and troubleshoot your own systems, and network with producers facing the same challenges.

There are a number of resources available for more information on winter watering:

frostfreenosepumps.com

thermosink.com

kellinsolar.com

Water Requirements for Livestock—Alberta Agri-Facts
Remote Winter Watering Systems for Beef Cattle—MAFRI

Keys to Keeping Your Batteries Charged

Remote watering systems are often off-grid and so the use of solar energy is a great option. The majority of solar systems use solar panels to charge batteries which run the pumps in whichever system is being used. Here are some tips for ensuring that your batteries are staying charged:

- * Discarded chest freezers make excellent storage compartments for batteries. These will protect batteries from the elements and warm batteries charge better, so keeping them insulated against the weather is important.
- * Solar panels can keep your battery charged, but aren't efficient for charging to start with.
- * Solar panel angle
 - * Minimum angle of 15°
 - * This prevents build-up of dust and dirt, and the rain can wash the surface of the panel.
 - * Ideal Angle = Latitude + 15°
(latitude in Fairview is 56°)
- * Don't forget to clear the snow off the panel!
- * Select the right battery, or use several batteries to meet the needs of your system,
- * Deep cycle (marine or leisure) batteries are suggested.
- * Consider providing a back-up power source like a wind generator, for stretches without much sunlight.



Contact us for:

- Project Ideas
- Feed Testing
- Environmental Farm Plans
- Growing Forward 2 Assistance
- Ration Formulation Help
- Past Project Information

Upcoming Events!

Cow-Calfenomics

- * Jan 20, 2015
- * Grande Prairie-Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
- * 8:30am-3pm
- * Cost: \$25
- * Opportunities & Challenges to Expanding the Cow Herd * Transition Tactics * Cost of Bred Heifers * Managing Prosperity * Innovative Business Models * and more!
- * Register by Jan 14, 2015 by calling the Ag-Info Centre 1-800-387-6030

Winter Watering Systems Tour

- * Warm Bus Tour & Learning Day
- * Jan 31, 2015
- * Silver Valley
 - * 9:30am Coffee & Registration at Savanna School
- * See innovate ways other producers in the area are using!
- * Helpful Tips to Help you Succeed



Peace Agronomy Update

- * Jan 15, 2015
- * Dunvegan Motor Inn, Fairview
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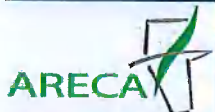
Managing Information of Profitable Cow/Calf Production

- * Feb 10, 2015
- * Days Inn, High Prairie
- * 9:30am-3:30pm
- * Cost: \$25
- * BIXS 2.0 * Herd Management Options * Genetic Selection Tools * Animal Health & Welfare * Nutrition * Profiting for Information Management & Genomics
- * Register by Feb 6, 2015 by calling the Ag-Info Centre 1-800-387-6030



Alberta Crops Extension Meeting

- * Feb 12, 2015
- * Spirit River
- * 9:30am Registration
- * Topics to be covered include:
 - * Crop Pest Update & 2015 Forecast * Market Update & Outlook * Local Producer Panel



AGM

- * Feb 20, 2015
- * Fairview
- * 5pm registration
- * 5:30pm Meeting
- * 6pm Supper
- * 8pm Entertainment
- * \$55/person or \$75/farm pair
- Includes 2015 Annual Membership!

Agricultural Tour of Scotland

- Foothills Forage & Grazing Association*
- * July 16th—July 3rd, 2015
- * See a variety of operations - from sheep to beef, dairy and even reindeer!
- * Castles, Sheepdog Demo, Highland Games, Distillery Tour & the Royal Highland Show
- * Contact Cassie with questions: 403-652-4900 or cassie@foothillsforage.com
- * Registration by Jan 15, 2015

For more information or to register for PCBFA events please call Stacy at 780-835-6799 or 780-772-0277!

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Peace Country Beef and Forage Association

Box 2803

High Prairie, AB T0G 1E0

780-523-4033

www.peacecountrybeef.ca

Summer Technician Position 2015

Full Time from May 1 –August 31, 2015

Location: Fairview or High Prairie, AB

Deadline for application February 15th, 2015

Peace Country Beef and Forage Association (PCBFA) is a producer organized, unbiased applied research and extension group focusing on Forage and Beef profitability and sustainability in the Peace River Region of Northern Alberta.

Successful applicants should have experience and show a genuine interest in the agriculture industry, as well as have a general knowledge of livestock production and primary agriculture systems. The successful applicant must be self-motivated, be a team player, have good computer skills and be comfortable operating ATVs and small machinery. This position interacts closely with producers and requires teamwork, so communication skills are important.

70% of this position will be spent outside assisting PCBFA staff with the planning and implementation of applied research projects and demonstrations, as well as compiling, analyzing and reporting project data generated from said projects. Projects include maintaining various demonstration sites located throughout the Peace Region.

20% of this position is spent in the office helping with the writing, preparation, coordination and mailing of extension articles and publications, as well as the analyzing and reporting of project data generated from research projects.

10% of this position gives support in the planning, coordination and implementation of tours, workshops, schools and extension events put on by the PCBFA.

Students whom are obtaining an agriculture related science diploma or degree are preferred, however not required. Must have a valid driver's license. Remuneration \$16/hr.

Please email cover letter, resume and references to Monika Benoit, Manager @ mboenit@gprc.abca. Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.



Chris Warkentin
Member of Parliament for Peace River

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Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V 8E6
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Fax: (780) 538-9257
Website: www.chriswarkentin.ca

Ottawa, ON
December 15, 2014

Charlie Johnson, Reeve
Clear Hills County
Box 240
Worsley, AB
T0H3W0

Charlie,

Thank you for copying me on your letter to the provincial and federal Ministers of Agriculture.

I understand the importance of quality fertilizers for agricultural producers and will pass on your concerns to the Minister of Agriculture.

Thank you again for writing to me with your concerns. If you have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Chris Warkentin, MP

RECEIVED
DEC 29 2014
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

[Alberta.ca](#) > [Agriculture and Rural Development](#)

2015 Wheat Midge Forecast

 [Agri-News](#)

[This Week](#)

[Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network](#)

The [wheat midge forecast](#) for 2015 shows a collapse of the extreme populations in the eastern Peace Region. Caution must be taken in interpreting this due to the potential for residual populations from the very high levels of the 2013 crop year. Wheat midge has not followed our forecasts very well in the Peace region.

Central Alberta has shown a general increase in wheat midge risk with several areas of particular concern east of Edmonton.

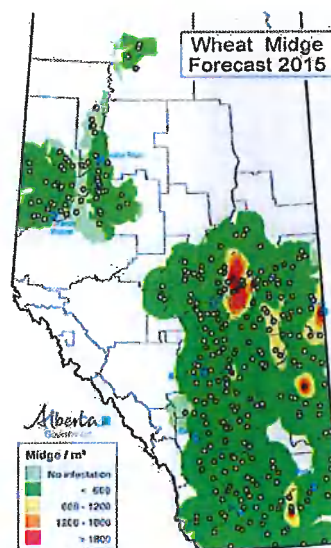
The population has fallen to very low numbers in much of southern Alberta with the exception of some irrigated fields in the County of Forty Mile.

Producers should pay attention to midge downgrading in their wheat samples and use this as a further indication of midge risk in their fields. Over the past several years the field to field variation is very considerable throughout the province, especially in those areas with higher counts.

Individual fields throughout Alberta may still have economic levels of midge. Each producer also needs to assess their risk based on indicators specific to their farm.

This forecast is not intended to take the place of individual field monitoring. The forecast for Alberta shows areas of **risk** for midge damage in 2015. It is important to note that over such a wide range, populations in individual fields can be and often are highly variable. Producers should plan to monitor their fields when the midge adults are flying and their wheat is in anthesis (susceptible stage). Regular field scouting on multiple nights in succession is important in understanding the population in a particular field.

The 2014 fall survey included wheat growing areas throughout Alberta. In total 310 samples were taken from 61 counties. The survey involves taking soil samples from wheat fields after harvest using a standard soil probe. Larval cocoons are washed out of the soil using a specialized series of screens. Larvae are counted, and then dissected to determine if they are parasitized.



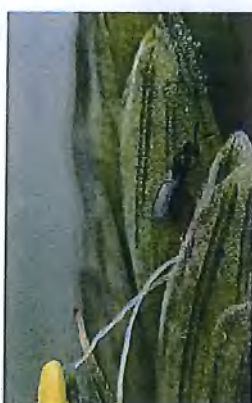
The midge density displayed on the forecast map is based on viable (live, non-parasitized) midge larvae.

Although a number of factors influence the overwintering survival of the midge, the survey and map provide a general picture of existing densities and the potential for infestation in 2015. Weather conditions, specifically temperature and moisture will ultimately determine the extent and timing of midge emergence during the growing season. Temperature and wind also play critical roles in egg laying activities of the adult female wheat midge. **The level of damage from wheat midge is determined by the synchrony of wheat midge emergence and wheat coupled with the number of wheat midge.**

[Diagnostic guide](#)
[Life cycle information](#)

[Economic thresholds](#)
[Midge tolerant wheat varieties](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)



Macroglenes penetrans

Parasitism of midge larvae by a small wasp species (*Macroglenes penetrans*) has been important in keeping wheat midge populations below the economic threshold in many areas. These beneficial wasps tend to thrive in warm, dry conditions. Parasite populations increase and decrease with changes in the midge population and are very important in moderating population levels in Alberta.

It is important to understand that once midge has established in an area it unlikely to ever completely disappear. Low lying and moist areas in a field provide a refuge, enabling the population to survive even when conditions are not favorable in the rest of the field. These low population levels, however, also help sustain a population of natural enemies.

The wheat midge survey was conducted by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development with assistance from:

[Battle River Research Group](#)

[Farming Smarter](#)

[Mackenzie Applied Research Association](#)

[Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association](#)

[Parkland County](#)

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Beaverlodge

Staff

Pest Surveillance Branch, AARD

[Chinook Applied Research Association](#)

Lakeland Applied Research Association

[Northern Peace Applied Research Association](#)

[Mountain View County](#)

[County of Two Hills](#)

[Leduc County](#)

Our map was produced by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatoon SK

Thank you David Giffen, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatoon for building the map.

Updates of current conditions and wheat midge emergence will be available through the Ag-Info Centre (310 FARM) during the 2014 growing season.

[A print version of this map.](#)

The wheat midge forecast map for [Southern Alberta irrigation area](#).

Other Documents in the Series

2015 Wheat Midge Forecast - **Current Document**

[2014 Wheat Midge Forecast](#)

[2013 Wheat Midge Forecast](#)

[2012 Wheat Midge Forecast](#)

[2011 Wheat Midge Forecast](#)

[2010 Alberta Wheat Midge Forecast](#)

[2009 Alberta Wheat Midge Forecast](#)

[2008 Alberta Wheat Midge Forecast](#)

[2007 Wheat Midge Forecast Map](#)

[2006 Wheat Midge Map](#)



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

This document is maintained by [Shelley Barkley](#).

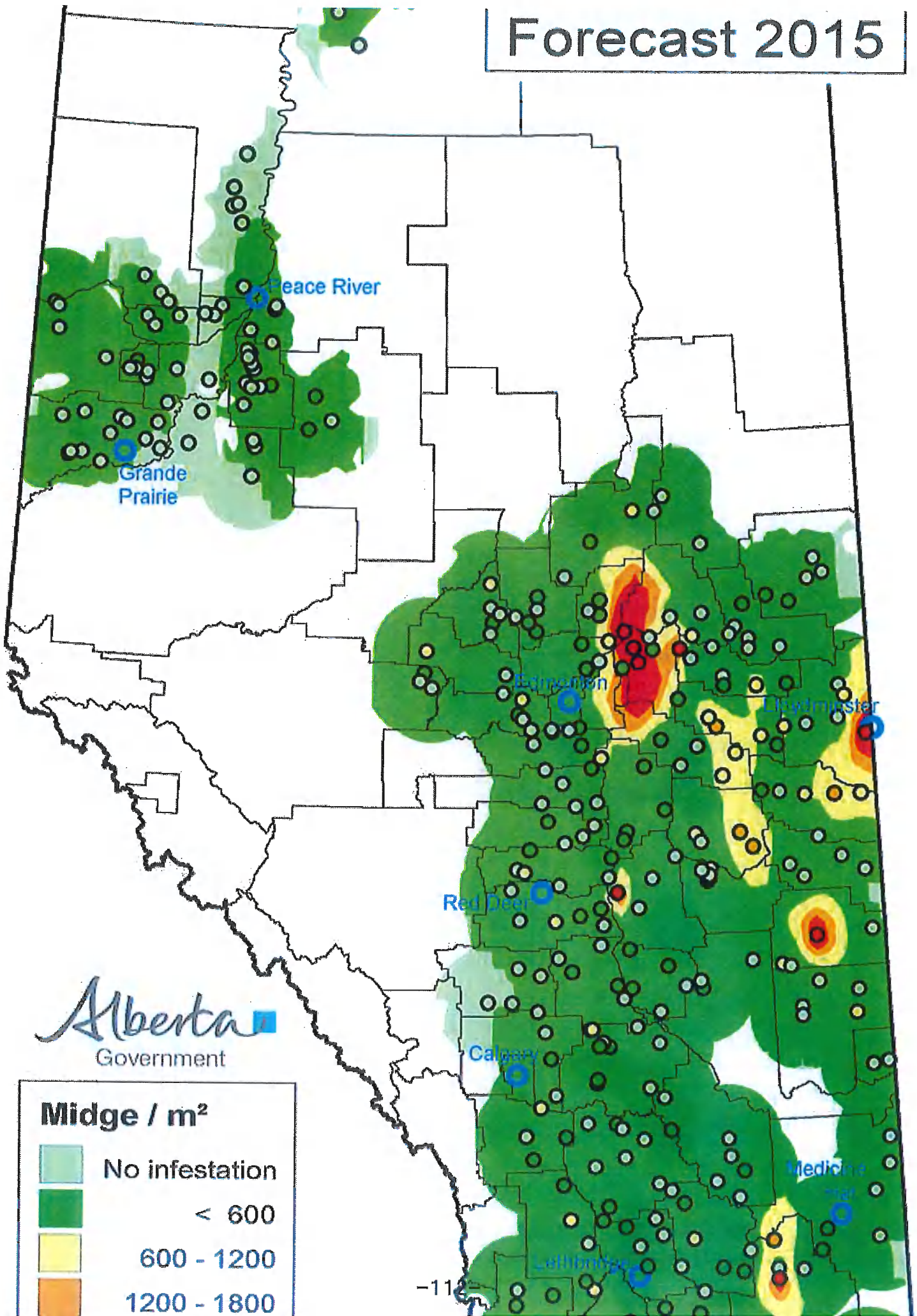
This information published to the web on December 3, 2014.

Last Reviewed/Revised on December 4, 2014.

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

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Forecast 2015



Alberta
Government

Midge / m²



-116

PEACE COUNTRY CROP PRODUCTION WORKSHOP

Thursday, February 12th - 9:30 am
Registration - 10:00 am Start—Culture
Room, Upstairs Spirit River Arena -
\$25.00/Person - Lunch Provided



Topics Include:

- Crop Pest Update & 2015 Forecast
 - Jennifer Otani, Pest Management Biologist, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
- Market Update & Outlook
 - Neil Blue, Market Specialist, Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development
- Pea Producer Panel
 - Local Producers
- And More!

For More Info & to Register, call Kaitlin (780) 835-6799

This event in partnership with



Alberta
Barley



