

**AGENDA**  
**CLEAR HILLS COUNTY**  
**AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING**  
**August 10, 2015**

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The Agricultural Services Board meeting of Clear Hills County will be held on  
Monday, August 10, 2015 in the Council Chambers of the County Office,  
Worsley, Alberta.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. AGENDA
3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES  
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11. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING  
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
July 13, 2015**

PRESENT

Brian Harcourt	Chair
Mackay Ross	Member
Leslie Davis	Member
Baldur Ruecker	Deputy Chair
Jake Klassen	Council Representative

IN ATTENDANCE

Aaron Zylstra	Agricultural Fieldman
Sarah Hayward	Community Development Clerk

IN REGRET

Stan Logan	Member
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CALL TO ORDER

Chair Harcourt called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

AGENDA

**AG53 (07/13/15)**

**RESOLUTION by Deputy Reeve Klassen that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda governing the July 13, 2015 Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting. CARRIED.**

MINUTES

**AG54 (07/13/15)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the May 4, 2015 Agricultural Service Board Meeting as presented. CARRIED.**

OLD BUSINESS

**AG55 (07/13/15)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board (ASB) accepts the July 13, 2015 ASB Activity Report as presented. CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS

2015 Provincial Conference  
Resolutions  
Responses

The Provincial Agricultural Service Board (ASB) committee is requesting Agricultural Service Boards to provide grades to the 2015 ASB provincial conference resolutions responses offered by government and non-government organizations.

**AG56 (07/13/15)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board submits the 2015 Agricultural Service Board Resolutions Grading Form as discussed to the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee. CARRIED.**

Regional Agricultural  
Service Board Chair  
Meeting

The Peace Region Agricultural Service Board Chair meeting will be held in Grande Prairie following the Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour on July 17th, 2015 at the Entrec Centre.

**AG57 (07/13/15)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accepts for information the Peace Region Agricultural Service Board Chair meeting being held at the Entrec Centre in Grande Prairie on July 17th, 2015. CARRIED.**

	<p>Chair Harcourt recessed for lunch at 11:44 a.m. Chair Harcourt reconvened at 12:21 p.m.</p>
Multi-Year Capital Plan	<p>The Board is presented with the Multi Year Capital Plan for review.</p>
AG58 (07/13/15)	<p>RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board remove the 9 Shank Subsoiler and the 30ft Heavy harrows off the Multi-Year Capital Plan. CARRIED.</p>
AG59 (07/13/15)	<p>RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board move the PTO Water Pump from 2016 to 2020 in the Multi-Year Capital Plan. CARRIED.</p>
AG60 (07/13/15)	<p>RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board(ASB) recommend Council lower the ASB annual capital budget allocation from \$70,000.00 to \$30,000.00. CARRIED.</p>
AG61 (07/13/15)	<p>RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend researching a Post Hole Auger and a 800-1000 bushel batch dryer and bring to the August Agricultural Service Board meeting. CARRIED.</p>
Events	<p>There are two local extension events being held by the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association.</p>
AG62 (07/13/15)	<p>RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board members to attend the Building Soil – Creating Land (Part 2) field day with Dr. Christine Jones on July 28, 2015 at the Rycroft Agricultural Society Hall or July 29, 2015 at the Manning Legion Hall. CARRIED.</p>
AG63 (07/13/15)	<p>RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all members to attend Plot Tours on August 5, 2015 at the Fairview Research Farm starting at 8:00 a.m. CARRIED.</p>
<u>REPORTS</u> Board Reports	<p>At this time the Board members will have an opportunity to present their reports.</p> <p>Chair Harcourt: Written report from Peter Donovan, Soil Carbon Coalition on June 15, 2015 and Control Traffic Farming in Cleardale on June 29, 2015. Deputy Chair Ruecker: Control Traffic Farming in Cleardale on June 29, 2015.</p>
AG64 (07/13/15)	<p>RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' written or verbal reports of July 13, 2015 for information. CARRIED.</p>
Agricultural	

Fieldman's Report

The Agricultural Fieldman had the opportunity to present his report.

**AG65 (07/13/15)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Davis that the Agricultural Service Board accepts the July 13, 2015 Agricultural Fieldman report for information. CARRIED.**

INFORMATION &  
CORRESPONDENCE

The following information and correspondence was provided to the Board:

1. V.S.I – Letter – (63-10-40)
2. Peace Country Beef and Forage Association – Newsletter – (63-10-02)
3. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry – Letter – (63-10-02)

**AG66 (07/13/15)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information and correspondence of July 13, 2015 as presented. CARRIED.**

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Harcourt adjourned the Agricultural Service Board meeting at 1:18 p.m.

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CHAIRPERSON

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AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	August 10, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>ACTIVITY REPORT</b>
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 August 10, 2015 ASB Activity Report as presented.

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



## Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

### Activity Report for August 10, 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				
<b>November 10, 2014</b>				
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
<b>January 12, 2015</b>				
AG05	(01/12/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board To arrange for two composting demonstration sites for large animal composting.	AF	
<b>March 9, 2015</b>				
AG25	(03/09/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct an implementation plan for the recommended actions contained in the Agricultural Service Board Program Manager's Clear Hills County Field Visit report of July 3, 2014 be prepared for review at the next meeting.	AF	August 10, 2015 meeting
AG31	(03/09/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that the Agricultural Service Board invite a representative of Alternative Land Use Services to provide a presentation on setting up a similar program and invite MD of Peace, MD of Fairview and Peace County Beef and Forage Association to attend and book the David Thompson Hall.	AF	
<b>May 4, 2015</b>				
AG45	(05/04/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board prepare a letter for the next Agricultural Service Board meeting to the Provincial and Federal Agricultural Ministers concerning the Agricultural Growth Act and concern over potential seed check off dollars and retaining farmers' rights to use their own seed.	AF	
<b>July 13, 2015</b>				
AG58	(07/13/15)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board remove the 9 Shank Subsoiler and the 30ft Heavy harrows off the Multi-Year Capital Plan.	CDM	To Council August 18 meeting
AG59	(07/13/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board move the PTO Water Pump from 2016 to 2020 in the Multi-Year Capital Plan.	CDM	To Council August 18 meeting



## Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

### Activity Report for August 10, 2015 Page 2 of 2

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CAO = Chief Administrative Officer

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<b>MOTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DEPT</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
AG60	(07/13/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board(ASB) recommend Council lower the ASB annual capital budget allocation from \$70,000.00 to \$30,000.00.	CDM	To Council August 18 meeting
AG61	(07/13/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend researching a Post Hole Auger and a 800-1000 bushel batch dryer and bring to the August Agricultural Service Board meeting	AF	August 10 meeting

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board</b>
Meeting Date:	August 10, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>AGRICULTURAL GROWTH ACT</b>
File:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

The Board requested administration to draft a letter to the Provincial and Federal Agricultural Ministers concerning the Agricultural Growth Act and concern over potential seed check off dollars and retaining farmers' rights to use their own seed.

### BACKGROUND:

AG45 (05/04/15) RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board prepare a letter for the next Agricultural Service Board meeting to the Provincial and Federal Agricultural Ministers concerning the Agricultural Growth Act and concern over potential seed check off dollars and retaining farmers' rights to use their own seed.

CARRIED.

### ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft letter
- Plant Breeders Rights article
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency Article
- Breeders Rights Act in Canada

### OPTIONS:

1. Recommend to Council to send the letter to the Provincial and Federal Ministers concerning the Agricultural Growth Act as presented/amended.
2. Accept for information.

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board...

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





## CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

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File No. 63-20-02

July 23, 2012

Honorable Gerry Ritz  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
1341 Baseline Road  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0C5

**Subject: Agricultural Growth Act**

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Dear Honorable Minister Ritz

The new Agricultural Growth Act has led to some concerns with the use of crops for farmers.

Our first concern is the potential seed check-off dollars that may be required from the sale of seed. Seed costs are substantial and the risk in farming is high, having more check-offs is one more way to reduce the profit of grain producers.

We are also concerned about retaining the Farmers' rights to use their own seed. We believe that the farmer should have the right to keep seed produced on their own land. The producer purchased the original seed and should be able to use the crop in whatever way profits their business.

Please consider these issues as the Agricultural Growth Act Regulations are being developed.

Yours truly,

Charlie Johnson  
Reeve, Clear Hills County

/az

cc: Honourable Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development



Parliamentary Information and Research Service  
Library of Parliament

# IN BRIEF

Frédéric Forge  
11 October 2005

## Intellectual Property Rights in Plants and the Farmer's Privilege

Since agriculture first began, farmers have manipulated and selected the plants they grow in order to improve their performance and the quality of crops. Research organizations have gradually taken over this role. More recently, intellectual property rights in new plant varieties have been introduced as a means to encourage innovation and the dissemination of information, and to protect the investment of the “discoverers.” Recent progress in biotechnology and the desire to provide further protection for “inventions,” however, have called into question certain long-standing practices such as the farmer’s privilege to use part of his or her harvest as seed, and free access to genetic resources in the search for new varieties. This publication provides an overview of intellectual property rights relating to plants grown in Canada and their possible development in light of recent advances in biotechnology.

### **THE PLANT BREEDERS’ RIGHTS ACT: PROTECTING AGRICULTURAL VARIETIES**

Paragraph 27.3(b) of the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (the TRIPs Agreement) authorizes governments to exclude some types of invention such as plants and animals from patentability. However, it must be possible to protect plant varieties<sup>(1)</sup> by patents, or by a system created specifically for this purpose (*sui generis*) or by a combination of these.

In Canada, the *Plant Breeders’ Rights Act* (PBRA) provides the necessary protection for new varieties. This Act, which came into force in 1990,<sup>(2)</sup> is based on the model established by the 1978 revised version of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

A plant breeder’s right is a form of intellectual property granted to a breeder<sup>(3)</sup> of a new plant variety. This protection confers an exclusive right to produce and sell material for the propagation of this variety (for a period of up to 18 years in Canada); but a number of exceptions make it different from a patent. For example, according to the 1978 version of the UPOV Convention, the breeder’s authorization is not required for use to be made of a protected variety in order to create and market a new variety (*breeder’s exception*).<sup>(4)</sup> The Convention also implicitly recognizes<sup>(5)</sup> that a farmer may use part of his or her harvest to plant his or her fields (*farmer’s privilege*).

### **THE 1991 UPOV CONVENTION: STRENGTHENING PROTECTION FOR VARIETIES**

The UPOV Convention was revised in 1991 and signed by Canada in 1992. In order to ratify the Convention, Canada needs to amend the PBRA. These amendments were the subject of a bill that died on the *Order Paper* at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 36<sup>th</sup> Parliament in 1999. Since then, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has resumed consultations, which were concluded in March 2005.

The 1991 Convention clarifies the question of the breeder’s exception<sup>(6)</sup> and limits the farmer’s privilege by including it explicitly in the text. The scope of the protection given to breeders in the 1978 Convention allowed the farmer’s privilege to be given a broad interpretation and application. The 1991 Convention provides that the breeder’s authorization is required to use harvested material as seed, but it includes an *optional* provision (para. 15(2)) stating that national states may authorize farmers to use seed from a protected variety for propagating purposes on their own holdings, within reasonable limits and subject to the safeguarding of the legitimate interests of the breeder.

Changes in the farmer's privilege in the United States illustrate this strengthening of the protection afforded to new varieties. Prior to 1994, farmers could keep and sell seed from protected varieties. In September 1994, Congress repealed the provision authorizing them to sell such seed. A legal battle followed and in January 1995, the U.S. Supreme Court limited the farmer's privilege to the quantity of seed the farmer needed for his or her own sowing purposes, with permission to sell seed being limited to the unused surplus of the retained seed.

In Canada, the PBRA does not prohibit farmers from keeping and using seed produced from a protected variety, although it does not contain an express provision to this effect. The CFIA has therefore proposed that such an exemption for the farmer's own use be included in the PBRA.

#### **PATENTS ON PLANTS: AN INEVITABLE DEVELOPMENT?**

The enforcement policy that applies to the *Patent Act* does not permit the patenting of higher life forms such as animals and plants. This policy was upheld by the Supreme Court in the "Harvard mouse" case.<sup>(7)</sup> However, patents on DNA sequences (one or more genes) may now be used to claim control over an entire plant. In *Monsanto Canada Inc. v. Schmeiser*,<sup>(8)</sup> the Supreme Court held in a majority five-to-four decision that even though plants may not be patented in Canada, a patent relating to a plant cell or a modified gene in a cell gives its holder the right to decide what others may do with the plant in question, since each plant cell contains the modified gene.

In practice, this means that transgenic (or genetically modified) varieties<sup>(9)</sup> would enjoy patent protection, because a patented gene or a patented gene sequence has been added to them. The farmer's privilege and the breeder's exception could not apply under these circumstances. Consequently, breeders that used genetic engineering would have an advantage over those that used traditional methods of plant selection, because the latter can rely only on the PBRA to protect their varieties. To eliminate this discrimination, the *Patent Act* could be amended to include provisions to protect plant varieties or, conversely, the PBRA could be amended so that the rights to plant varieties were strengthened and offered protection similar to that provided by patent.

The patentability of higher life forms raises many questions. Unlike other types of invention, higher life forms that might be patented could reproduce and acquire important characteristics that had nothing to do with the invention. Consequently, some people fear that the gradual addition of characteristics that could be patented in plants would allow the private sector to assume control of the genetic variety of plants.<sup>(10)</sup> According to the Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee (CBAC), "If patent rights were simply extended to higher life forms, the patent holder not only would be given rights that inhibit other useful activity, but would also gain rights [that are] disproportionate ... over other inventions."<sup>(11)</sup>

Many voices, including that of the CBAC, have called for Parliament to determine whether – and to what extent – patent rights should be extended to include plants and animals. In 2002, the CBAC recommended, among other things, that the *Patent Act* be amended to make non-human higher life forms patentable, but only within certain limits in order to avoid providing disproportional protection, for example by including a recognition of the farmer's privilege.<sup>(12)</sup> The CBAC repeated its recommendations after the Supreme Court issued its judgments in 2002 (*Harvard v. Canada*) and 2004 (*Monsanto v. Schmeiser*).<sup>(13)</sup>

- (1) An "agricultural variety" is a group of plants that are distinguished from other varieties of the same species by their structural characteristics. "Plant variety" and "cultivar" are synonyms.
- (2) The Act received Royal Assent on 19 June 1990 and came into force on 1 August 1990.
- (3) According to s. 2(1) of the Act, a breeder is "(a) where any person acting within the scope of the person's duties as an officer, servant or employee of another person originates or discovers the plant variety, that other person, and (b) where any person not acting as described in paragraph (a) originates or discovers the plant variety, that person."
- (4) Para. 5(3) of the 1978 Convention.
- (5) Primarily because of the relatively limited extent of the protection. The 1978 Convention does not refer to this privilege.
- (6) The breeder's exception still exists but no longer applies to "essentially derived" varieties. A variety is considered to be "essentially derived from another variety ('the initial variety') when ... it is predominantly derived from the initial variety" (1991 Convention, para. 14(5)(b)). This clarification was added to avoid abuses because in the past, minor changes were sometimes sufficient for a new variety to be protected.

- (7) *Harvard College v. Canada (Commissioner of Patents)*, [2002] 4 S.C.R. 45. In December 2002, in a majority five-to-four decision, the Supreme Court of Canada held that animals were not included in the definition of “invention” in the *Patent Act* and that they could not therefore be patented in Canada.
- (8) [2004] 1 S.C.R. 902.
- (9) The term “genetically modified organism” (GMO) generally refers to an organism – plant, animal or microorganism (bacterium, fungus, yeast, etc.) – that was created by means of genetic engineering, including recombinant DNA technology. For more information, see F. Forge, *Genetically Modified Organisms*, TIPS-2E, Parliamentary Information and Research Service, Library of Parliament, Ottawa, 11 June 2004.
- (10) It is recognized that the success of the “Green Revolution” owes much to the international cooperation that facilitated the free exchange of genetic information and materials. Many discoveries were made possible thanks to genetic material from plants or animals from developing countries, where most of our planet’s biological diversity is found. Scientists often relied on the traditional knowledge of the local peoples in choosing the plants and animals to study, but they did not generally offer their sources anything in return.
- (11) It should be noted, however, that there are other ways for breeders to obtain protection identical to that conferred by patent: for example, contracts with farmers requiring the farmers not to use part of the harvest as seed; or devices included in the plant, such as a “terminator” gene that makes the harvested grain sterile.
- (12) Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee, *Patenting of Higher Life Forms and Related Issues*, Report to the Government of Canada Biotechnology Ministerial Coordinating Committee, June 2002.
- (13) See the advisory memoranda of the Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee: “Higher Life Forms and *The Patent Act*,” February 2003, and “Rationalizing Patent Law in the Age of Biotechnology,” September 2004.

# Canadian Food Inspection Agency

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## Questions and Answers

### ***Agricultural Growth Act: Updating the *Plant Breeders' Rights Act* in Canada***

The [Agricultural Growth Act](#) is a bill designed to modernize Canada's agriculture legislation and encourage innovation in the sector. Among the key changes being proposed in this bill are amendments to the [Plant Breeders' Rights Act \(PBR Act\)](#) to encourage investment in plant breeding in Canada and foster more accessibility to foreign seed varieties for farmers.

#### **What are plant breeders' rights?**

Plant breeding is an intensive process that requires significant time and investment, often taking 10 to 12 years to bring a new variety to market. [Plant breeders' rights \(PBR\)](#) are a form of intellectual property protection for plant breeders who develop new plant varieties and want to sell and collect royalties from the sale of reproductive material from those varieties (i.e., seeds, cuttings, budwood, runners). It is a voluntary process that allows plant breeders to have exclusive control over the sale of propagating material for a specified length of time (currently 18 years in Canada).

#### **What is the *Plant Breeder's Rights Act (PBR Act)*?**

The PBR Act is administered by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Plant Breeders' Rights Office, and provides legal protection to plant breeders for new plant varieties.

#### **What changes are being proposed to Canada's PBR Act?**

The proposed changes to the PBR Act will strengthen the rights of breeders and improve accessibility to protection by:

- extending plant breeders rights to include reproduction, import, export, conditioning (clean, treat), and stocking for the commercial purposes of propagating, in addition to the current system that already allows for the sale of propagating material and the production of propagating material intended for sale;
- allowing plant breeders to sell a variety in Canada for up to one year before applying for PBR protection in order to test the market, advertise, or to increase stock;
- providing automatic provisional protection for a new plant variety from the date of filing, which would allow applicants to exercise their rights while applications are pending "grant of rights" (no legal action in respect of provisional protection could be initiated until after the rights are granted);
- extending the protection period from the current 18 years to 25 years (for trees, vines or any specified categories) and 20 years for all other crops, unless the breeder terminates them earlier; and
- clarifying that plant breeders may only collect royalties once on the initial sale of a particular cycle of propagating material (i.e., a breeder does not get to "double dip" or collect again unless the protected variety is reproduced further). If a breeder is denied a reasonable opportunity (e.g. cases where protected seed is stolen or illicitly shared) to collect royalties on the sale of propagating material, he/she may exercise rights on the harvested material (e.g. grain).

#### **Under the proposed changes, what would be the eligibility requirements for PBR protection of a plant variety?**

To be eligible for PBR protection in Canada, a variety would need to be:

- new, meaning it may not have been sold for more than one year in Canada prior to the filing date of the application, and it may not have been sold outside of Canada for more than four years before the filing date of the application (six years in the case of trees and vines);
- distinct from all other varieties of the same plant species;
- uniform in its relevant characteristics; and
- stable so that its characteristics do not change after repeated propagation over several generations.

### **How will these changes help Canadian farmers?**

These changes will encourage increased investment in plant breeding in Canada and encourage foreign breeders to protect and sell their varieties here. As a result, Canada's farmers will benefit from improved access to innovative new varieties that have been bred to enhance crop yields, improve disease and drought resistance and meet specific market demands. Canadian farmers can expect access to higher yielding varieties that will thrive in the Canadian agricultural environment.

### **How would these changes support Canadian plant breeding programs?**

Canada's plant breeding industry will benefit from a more stable, modern intellectual property environment that is in line with international partners. The proposed PBR Act amendments will strengthen protection for new plant varieties and foster a positive business environment for private investment in Canadian research and plant breeding programs.

The proposed amendments specifically allow anyone to have unrestricted access to protected varieties for the purpose of breeding other, new varieties. This is called Breeders' Exemption. Unrestricted access to a protected variety is also allowed for conducting experimental research or for propagating protected varieties for private or non-commercial purposes (such as by home gardeners, hobbyists, subsistence farmers, etc.). Individuals can use a PBR-protected variety for any of these activities without seeking authorization from the right's holder.

### **Have stakeholders been consulted on the proposed changes?**

Yes. The CFIA held a national public consultation and received feedback from plant breeders, farmers, horticulturalists, seed dealers and the general public. The feedback confirmed that affected stakeholders are generally supportive of the proposed changes.

### **Will farmers continue to be able to save seed from their crop and use it on their land?**

Yes, this is referred to as Farmer's Privilege. The Farmer's Privilege for farm-saved seed remains firmly in place and is explicitly stated in the Act. The bill allows farmers to continue saving and conditioning (clean, treat, etc.) seed of PBR-protected plant varieties for replanting on their own land.

## **UPOV 91**

### **What is UPOV 91?**

The [International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants](#) (commonly known by its French acronym "UPOV") sets the international standard for plant breeder rights. Over 70 countries are members of UPOV. Membership in UPOV allows a country to fulfill its obligations for protecting plant varieties under the [World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#).

Over the years, there have been several updates to the UPOV requirements for plant breeder rights protection. Canada's current legislation meets the requirements of the 1978 update. The most recent update was in 1991 (UPOV 91) and the proposed changes in the [Agricultural Growth Act](#) would bring Canada in line with UPOV 91. Most UPOV members are already meeting UPOV 91 requirements, including many of our key trading partners, such as Australia, the European Union, Japan, South Korea and the United States.

## **How would meeting UPOV 91 requirements encourage foreign breeders to protect and sell their varieties in Canada?**

Plant breeders must apply for protection rights in each country and are subject to the level of protection legislated in that country. Many plant breeders only sell their new plant varieties in countries that meet the level of protection provided by UPOV 91.

## **Farmer's Privilege**

### **What is Farmer's Privilege?**

Farmer's Privilege is an exemption to the breeder's right that allows a farmer to save, condition (clean and treat), store, and reuse seed of a PBR-protected variety for replanting on their own farm. Canada adopted the Farmer's Privilege as part of the suite of UPOV 91 amendments in order to allow farmers to continue this practice of saving and reusing seed.

### **What does this new bill mean for farm-saved seed (Farmer's Privilege)?**

The Farmer's Privilege for farm-saved seed remains firmly in place.

### **Could additional restrictions be placed on farm-saved seed in the future?**

Any future changes to Farmer's Privilege would follow regulatory processes and be based on the following principles:

- extensive consultation with all affected stakeholders on a crop-by-crop basis;
- research to examine best practices and approaches in UPOV 91 countries that already have farm-saved seed conditions in place;
- clear research priorities and needs defined by farmer/producer organizations and the agricultural industry; and
- a regulatory amendment process that includes another opportunity for comments and feedback before any changes would be finalized.

Furthermore, should changes to farm-saved seed be applied in the future, these would follow the Government's commitment to transparency, predictability and low administrative costs for farmers to implement.

### **What are the international practices related to farm-saved seed?**

Many of Canada's trading partners have conditions on farm-saved seed in order to stimulate investment in certain under-funded sectors (e.g. wheat, barley, oats, etc.). Some have implemented royalty collection mechanisms on farm-saved seed (i.e., United Kingdom) or end-point royalties on harvested grain (i.e., France and Australia).

### **Will changes to the PBR Act have an impact on "heritage" or "heirloom" varieties?**

No. Heritage or heirloom varieties tend to be freely available in the public domain and, in most cases, would not be eligible for protection by a plant breeder's right because they are not "new".

Date modified: 2014-12-03

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

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→ [Impact - UPOV \(International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants\)](#)

# The Impact of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) Conventions on Plant Breeders' Rights in Canada - Questions and Answers

The *Agricultural Growth Act* (<http://www.parl.gc.ca/LegisInfo/BillDetails.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&billId=6373658>) is designed to modernize Canada's federal agriculture legislation and encourage innovation in the sector. Among the key changes implemented through this legislation are amendments to the *Plant Breeders' Rights Act (PBR Act)* ([/english/reg/jredirect2.shtml?pbrpova](#)) to encourage increased investment in plant breeding in Canada and foster greater accessibility to foreign seed varieties for farmers. The amendments to the *PBR (Plant Breeders' Rights) Act* **came into force on February 27, 2015** and include provisions that bring it into line with the 1991 Act of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV 91).

**Note:** For the purposes of this document, the holder of a plant breeders' right is referred to as "the breeder." However, in many cases, the holder of a right is not the individual breeder of the variety but is the employer. Or, in some cases, the holder of the right may be a third party who has legally acquired the right to the variety by an assignment or succession.

## What is the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)?

Since 1991, Canada has been a member of the [International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants \(http://www.upov.int/portal/index.html.en\)](#). The Union is commonly known by its French abbr "[UPOV \(International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants\)](#)."

This organization's mission is to provide and promote an effective system of plant variety protection which will encourage plant breeders to develop new varieties of plants, for the benefit of society.

With its formation in 1961, [UPOV \(International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants\)](#) established the very first Convention, [UPOV \(International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants\) 61](#). Since that time, there have been three revisions in 1972, 1978



and 1991. Canada enacted Plant Breeders' Rights Act in 1990, and was based on the 1978 UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) Convention (UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 78) (<http://www.upov.int/en/publications/conventions/1978/content.htm>). On February 27, 2015, as part of the *Agricultural Growth Act*, amendments to the Canada's Plant Breeders' Rights Act came into force, bringing it into conformity with UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91.

To learn more about the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, please visit the UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) (<http://www.upov.int/portal/index.html.en>) website.

### **Why did the federal government revise the existing Canadian Plant Breeders' Rights Act to conform to the 1991 UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) Convention?**

The 1991 UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) Convention (UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91) (<http://www.upov.int/en/publications/conventions/1991/content.htm>) contains some new elements that provide stronger protection for plant breeders than any of the previous conventions.

An effective plant breeders' rights system is intended to create an environment that encourages and supports the development of new plant varieties. In fact, amending the Plant Breeders' Rights Act encourages increased investment in plant breeding, giving Canadian farmers more access to new and innovative plant varieties which allows them to be more competitive in the global marketplace.

### **What are the steps required for Canada to conform to the 1991 UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) Convention (UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91)?**

To change existing law and amend a federal act, such as the Plant Breeders' Rights Act (/english/reg/jredirect2.shtml?pbrpova), a bill must go through a formal process. This includes several steps, such as:

- being introduced and read in Parliament,
- being debated in Parliament (which usually includes being referred to a standing committee for study),
- receiving royal assent by the Governor General,
- coming into force of the legislative amendments,
- tabling of the UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91 Convention in Parliament for 21 sitting days,

- ratification of the UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91 Convention, and
- deposition of the instrument of ratification with the Secretary General of UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants).

### **Did the government consult with stakeholders regarding the changes to the Canadian Plant Breeders' Rights Act?**

Yes. From November, 2004 to March 2005, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) conducted a public, web-based consultation to determine stakeholders' opinions regarding potential changes to the Plant Breeders' Rights Act to conform to UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91. The CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection agency) heard from plant breeders, farmers, horticulturalists, seed dealers and other interested citizens. Additionally, over 30 organizations representing the agriculture, horticulture, and ornamental sectors, as well as, livestock producers and seed dealers, provided expert witness testimony at the House of Commons – Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food and the Senate – Agriculture and Forestry Committee. The overwhelming majority of these stakeholders strongly supported legislative amendments to Canada's PBR (Plant Breeders' Rights) Act to conform to UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91. The feedback from national consultations and expert testimony in Parliament confirmed that impacted stakeholders are in favour of the legislative changes.

### **Will amendments to the Canadian Plant Breeders' Rights Act to conform to the 1991 UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) Convention (UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91) negatively affect Canadian farmers?**

No. The amendments to Canada's Plant Breeders' Rights Act (/english/reg/jredirect2.shtml?pbrpova) to conform to the 1991 UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) Convention (UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91) will not change what farmers are allowed to do with respect to protected plant varieties.

The amendments contain new elements which are intended to facilitate a breeder's ability to enforce his/her rights on protected plant varieties.

### **Will amendments to Canada's Plant Breeders' Rights Act to conform to the 1991 UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) Convention (UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91) eliminate the "farmers' privilege"?**

No. The amendments brought forward by the 1991 UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) Convention (UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91) would make it possible for Canada to explicitly lay out in the Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR) Act that farmers would be allowed to save, condition (clean and treat), and store seed produced from a protected plant variety, and use it for replanting on their own farms.

This is known as the "farmers' privilege" and is currently considered implicit in the PBR (Plant Breeders' Rights) Act. The legislative amendments to the PBR (Plant Breeders' Rights) Act to conform UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91 make the "farmers' privilege" entrenched in legislation and explicit.

**Will the 1991 UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) Convention (UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91) create more restrictions for farmers in buying and selling seed?**

No. Even under the previous version of the Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR) Act, a farmer is restricted from buying or selling either pedigreed or common seed (/eng/1360122407834/1360122517324#a3), or any other type of propagating material of a protected variety, without the permission of the breeder.

**Will the 1991 UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) Convention (UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91) change the responsibility for the burden of proof in infringement cases?**

No. Similar to the previous version of the Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR) Act, in an infringement case it is up to the breeder (holder of the plant breeders' rights) to provide sufficient evidence to prove that someone has committed acts which constitute an infringement of the breeder's right.

**Will the 1991 UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) Convention (UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91) place greater liability on farmers when harvesting grain from seed of protected varieties?**

No. If farmers are obtaining seed of a protected variety legitimately, then there will be no increased liability. In other words, if a farmer purchases seed of a protected variety from someone authorized by the breeder to sell it, the breeder will not be able to exercise his/her rights on the grain.

UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91 provides breeders the opportunity to exercise their rights on the grain only if there was no reasonable opportunity to exercise their rights on the initial seed.

## **Will the 1991 UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) Convention (UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91) create more liability for seed cleaners?**

The 1991 UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) Convention (<http://www.upov.int/en/publications/conventions/1991/content.htm>) (UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91) extends the scope of the breeder's right to include the following with respect to a protected variety

- importing,
- exporting,
- stocking, and
- conditioning reproductive material (such as seed).

This means that activities such as seed cleaning (conditioning) of a protected variety will require the permission of the breeder, unless the seed being cleaned is for planting on the grower's own land (that is, farm-saved seed).

Where necessary, seed cleaners will need to be aware of which varieties have been granted rights, so that proper authorization has been obtained before cleaning seed of a protected variety.

## **Will the 1991 UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) Convention (UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91) affect grain processors?**

The 1991 UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) Convention (UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants) 91) (<http://www.upov.int/en/publications/conventions/1991/content.htm>) allows a breeder to exercise their rights on harvested grain, providing they did not have a reasonable opportunity to collect their royalties on seed from which the grain being processed was produced.

Grain processors may be liable if the seed of a protected variety, from which grain was produced, was obtained from someone not authorized by the breeder to sell seed of the variety.

Grain processors may need to implement verification measures to reduce the chance of liability, if they are contracted to process grain that, unknown to them, may be produced from illegitimately obtained seed of a protected variety.

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**Date modified:**

2015-03-24

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board Meeting</b>
Meeting Date:	August 10, 2015
Originated By:	Audrey Bjorklund, Community Development Manager
Title:	<b>FIELD REPORT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN</b>
File Code:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

The Board had directed an implementation plan for the recommended actions contained in the Agricultural Service Board Program Manager's *Clear Hills County Field Visit Report* be prepared for review.

### BACKGROUND:

#### Report Recommendations:

1. More focus needs to be placed on duties related to *Agricultural Pests* and *Soil Conservation Acts*.  
**Action** – surveying some fields every year for the presence of clubroot, virulent blackleg and fusarium.
2. Ensure independent appeal committees are appointed annually under the *Agricultural Pests Act* and *Weed Control Act*.  
**Action** – have entered into an ongoing reciprocal agreement with the M.D. of Peace to have members of each others Agricultural Service Boards form the Appeal Committees.
3. Work with local veterinarians to ensure there is a process put into place for reporting of reportable and notifiable diseases.  
**Action** – winter 2015 investigate how other municipalities have successfully implemented this and then approach local vets.
4. May want to look at an emergency response plan in the event of a large scale animal disease outbreak.  
**Action** – current tool kit includes provincial permission for mass burial at a designated transfer site. Winter 2015 investigate how other municipalities have addressed this and bring back recommendations.
5. Continue with research and innovation within program – solutions that are being investigated show potential to make program more effective and efficient.  
**Action** – mower/bagger purchase and design, Boards ongoing analysis and recommended improvements to programs and services .

### ATTACHMENT:

- March 9 RFD & Clear Hills County Field Visit Report

Initials show support - Reviewed by:

Manager:

ABJ

AF:

AF

OPTIONS:

- Accept for information the implementation plan as presented
- Direct the following changes to the implementation plan.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board .....

DRAFT MOTIONS:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the implementation plan for the recommended actions contained in the Agricultural Service Board Program Manager's Clear Hills County Field Visit Report.

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board direct the following additions/deletions to the implementation plan for the recommended actions contained in the Agricultural Service Board Program Manager's Clear Hills County Field Visit Report.

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

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board Meeting</b>
Meeting Date:	March 9, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>FIELD REPORT VISIT</b>
File Code:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with the Clear Hills County Field Visit report from the July 3, 2014 site visit by the Agricultural Service Board Program Manager.

### BACKGROUND:

### ATTACHMENT:

- Clear Hills County Field Visit Report

### OPTIONS:

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board direct an implementation plan for the recommended action contained in the Agricultural Service Board Program Manager's Clear Hills County Field Visit report of July 3, 2015 be prepared for review at the next meeting.

Initials show support - Reviewed by:

Manager:

*ABj*

AF:

*AZ*

February 13, 2015

RECEIVED

MAR - 2 2015

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

Mr. Stan Logan  
ASB Chairman  
Clear Hills County  
Box 240  
Worsley, AB T0H 3W0

Dear Mr. Logan:

Please find enclosed the report from the field visit we conducted with Clear Hills County in 2014.

The ASB Team members appreciated the opportunity to visit with the ASB members and Agricultural Fieldman to learn about the County's programs related to the ASB Grant.

Please contact me directly if you have questions regarding the field visit report. I can be reached at (780) 644-4432.

Yours truly,



Maureen Vadnais  
Program Manager  
Agricultural Service Board Program

Enclosure

cc: Allan Rowe, CAO  
Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman



RECEIVED

MAR - 2 2015

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

# Clear Hills County Field Visit July 3, 2014

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## INTRODUCTION

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Program conducts field visits annually to ensure that ASB Grant dollars are being used appropriately to support the objectives of the ASB Grant Program. Information gathered from field visits is used to assist other ASBs in the development and delivery of programs related to the ASB Grant and to provide evidence to the Office of the Auditor General that ASB Grant dollars are being used effectively and efficiently to support programs related to the ASB Act and environmental extension and awareness.

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) visited 18 municipalities in 2014 for the field visit program. Six municipalities from the South Region were chosen to receive a field visit in 2014 as ARD would like to have visited all 70 ASBs by the end of 2015. The following municipalities were visited in 2014:

South	Central	Northwest	Northeast	Peace
M.D. of Acadia	Camrose County	Westlock County	M.D. of Bonnyville	Clear Hills County
Cypress County	Ponoka County	Woodlands County	Lamont County	Mackenzie County
County of 40 Mile	County of Wetaskiwin	Yellowhead County	County of Two Hills	County of Northern Lights
Special Area 2				
Special Area 3				
Special Area 4				

ASBs were primarily randomly selected to receive field visits. ARD did put priority on visiting municipalities where an agricultural fieldman had been recently appointed in some instances in order to meet the new agricultural fieldman and allow him the opportunity for individual training on the ASB Program. Once one municipality is chosen for a region, ARD reviews its records to determine if adjacent municipalities have been visited. Adjacent municipalities are often chosen, especially when there are partnerships in place under the Environmental Funding Stream, to allow ARD to gain a broader perspective of how municipalities are working together to ensure the ASB Grant requirements are being met.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Maureen Vadnais, Agricultural Service Board Program Manager, attended the field visit for Clear Hills County on July 4, 2014. I met with the agricultural fieldman, Aaron Zylstra, and reviewed examples of various components of the ASB Grant Program that Clear Hills has implemented using funding received from the Legislative and Environmental Funding Streams of the Grant.

Clear Hills County was able to demonstrate programs put into place for the Legislative Funding Stream but did not have the opportunity to visit any projects related to the Environmental Funding Stream at the time of the field visit. This indicates that ASB Grant dollars are being used effectively to support activities related to the Legislative Funding Stream but we are unable to make an assessment at this

time as to the effectiveness of dollars allocated under the Environmental Funding Stream. Clear Hills County works with the M.D. of Fairview and Peace Country Beef and Forage Association to deliver the Environmental Funding Stream so further follow up is required in 2015 to adequately assess whether Environmental Funding Stream dollars are being used effectively. The ASB Grant Program will be conducting a field visit in 2015 in the neighbouring municipality of Fairview and will review programs related to the Environmental Funding Stream of this grant at that time.

## FIELD TOUR SITES

- Met with Aaron Zylstra, agricultural fieldman, and Andrea (weed inspector) and toured office and shop
  - Saw samples gathered from seed cleaning plant inspections
  - Has form 7 certification
  - MRF program being used for weed inspection program
  - Rental equipment
  - Spray boom that Aaron designing to help with roadside spraying program
  - Inspectors trucks have spray rack in them and is an authorized assistant
  - Saw example of inspector identification with joint authority for Hines Creek
- Baseball diamond to look at possible sulphur cinquefoil, saw Floodman's thistle
- Field where notice had been previously issued for Canada thistle infestation
  - The farmer that the notice was issued to has rented some of his land and kept some under his control – land that is rented is “clean” while land under his control is infested and looks like nothing has been seeded in those quarters
- Area where caraway has been controlled – could see areas where sprayer couldn't reach
- Mowing program example along roadside
- Hines Creek
  - Concrete dump site to look at spraying done for yellow toadflax infestation – plants looked injured
  - Ox eye daisy and Himalayan balsam infestation – landowner has been working with County to destroy
- Sewage lagoon – example of spraying program
- George Lake campground

## OBSERVATIONS

- Agricultural fieldman is very innovative in finding solutions to address problems within program i.e. development of an extendable boom for roadside spraying program, use of the MRF program
- Primary focus of program appears to be on the *Weed Control Act*. Did not see examples of inspections or control work done under the *Agricultural Pests Act* or *Soil Conservation Act*. Agricultural fieldman did have his Form 7 certificate indicating he was aware of duties related to the *Agricultural Pests Act*.

- Mowing appears to be primary method used for weed control for roadside program
- Weed control program appears to be effective – right of ways were fairly free of noxious weed infestations
- Like that they are using MRF program for inspection program – program seems limited at this time as it doesn't allow the inspectors to add disease inspections into it
- Did not appear to have a process in place for duties related to the *Animal Health Act*.
- Lots of rental equipment available to farmers. Some of the equipment is unique to Clear Hills County, such as the Rotowipers.

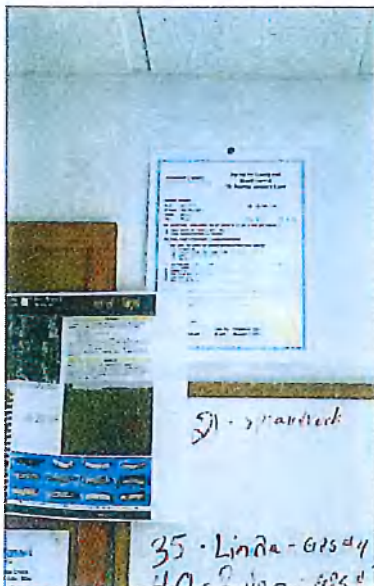
## RECOMMENDATIONS

- More focus needs to be placed on duties related to the *Agricultural Pests* and *Soil Conservation Acts*.
  - Recommend that municipality surveys some fields every year for the presence of clubroot, virulent blackleg and fusarium
  - Inspections for the *Soil Conservation Act* are completed on an "as needed" basis
- Ensure independent appeal committees are appointed annually under the *Agricultural Pests* and *Weed Control Act*
- Work with local veterinarians to ensure that there is a process put into place for reporting of reportable and notifiable diseases
- May want to look at an emergency response plan in the event of a large scale animal disease outbreak
- Continue with research and innovation within program – solutions that are being investigated show potential to make program more effective and efficient

# APPENDIX

# Agricultural Pests Act Programs

Form 7 Certification



# Weed Control Act Programs

## MRF Program



Hines Creek: Mapping Weed Infestation



## Inspection Reports

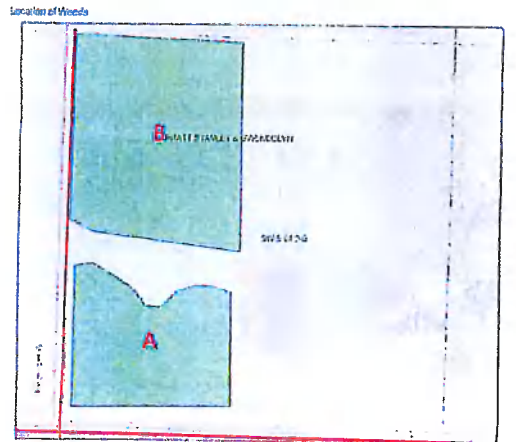


Clear Hills County  
 Box 240, Wainwright, Alberta T6H 3T0 Phone: (780) 695-3925  
 Report ID: SW-5, 84, 8, 6

### PARCEL INSPECTION REPORT

Legal Land Description: SW-5 84-8-6 Report prepared by: Andrea Rusliher

Owner Name: FRANK STALEY & GRACIELLE	Company Name:
Address: 878-28	Address:
City: CALGARY	City: Province:
Postal Code: T0B 1A8	Postal Code: Water Meter Number:
Telephone Number:	



### PARCEL INSPECTION REPORT

Report ID: SW-5, 84, 8, 6

#### Weed Inspection for area: A

Has the Owner been contacted? Yes  No  Has the Occupant been contacted? Yes  No

Inspection on: Jul 2, 2014

Inspected by: Andrea Rusliher

Time of entry to property: Jul 2, 2014 5:23 PM

Time out to property: Jul 2, 2014 6:25 PM

Weed Type	Wheat, Corn (Yellow)		
Weed(s)	Crop		
Growth Stage	Flowering/Seedling		
Abundance	Very High		

#### Comments:

Power Blade here. Looks like field was worked up last year. This is coming up again.

#### Weed Inspection for area: B

Has the Owner been contacted? Yes  No  Has the Occupant been contacted? Yes  No

Inspection on: Jul 2, 2014

Inspected by: Andrea Rusliher

Time of entry to property: Jul 2, 2014 6:21 PM

Time out to property: Jul 2, 2014 6:21 PM

Weed Type	Wheat, Corn (Yellow)		
Weed(s)	Crop		
Growth Stage	Flowering/Seedling		
Abundance	Field Infestation		

#### Comments:

Wheat growing in field. This is very thick almost everywhere. Looks like nothing was done last year.



**Clear Hills County**  
 Box 240, Voreley, Alberta T0H 3V0 Phone: (780) 625-2325  
 Fax: (780) 625-2325

**WEED INSPECTION REPORT**

Legal Land Description: SW-1-24-8-0	Report prepared by: Andrea Ruestler
Has the Owner been contacted? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Has the Occupant been contacted? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Owner Name: FINEBERG, JOSEPH A & ROSA LAY	Occupant Name:
Address: 6016 161st	Address:
City: EARSBETH	City: EARSBETH
Postal Code: T0H 1S0	Postal Code: T0H 1S0

**Location of Weeds:**



1/2

**WEED INSPECTION REPORT**  
 Report ID: WH197\_0V\_1\_04\_3\_0

Inspection on: Jul 2, 2014  
 Inspected by: Andrea Ruestler  
 Time of entry to property: Jul 2, 2014 3:07 PM Time out to property: Jul 2, 2014 3:47 PM

Weed Type	dry, empty container		
Habitat	Yard		
Ground Type	Flies in		
Abundance	patchy infestation		

**Comments:**  
 large patch along west side by road, smaller patches along driveway

Picture 1: Date Pict: 2014-07-02 15:55:31 Location: SW-1-24-8-0



Description: dairy yard, along fence road

2/2

**Seed Cleaning Plant Inspection Samples**



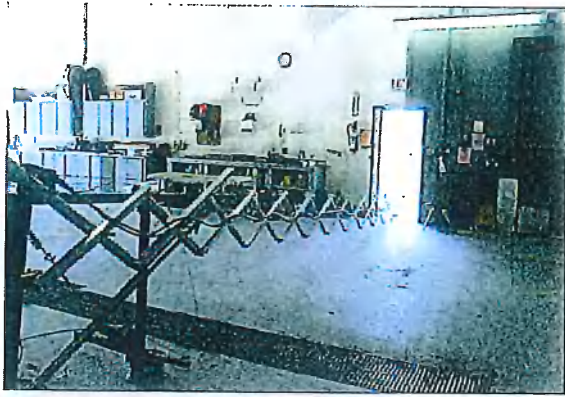
**Inspector's Truck w/ Spray Unit**



**Extendable Spray Boom**







Ball Diamond: Sulphur Cinquefoil



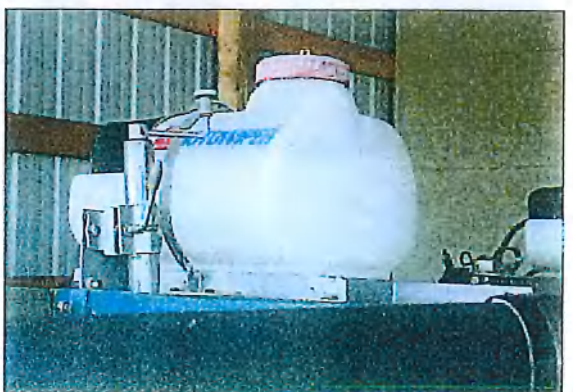
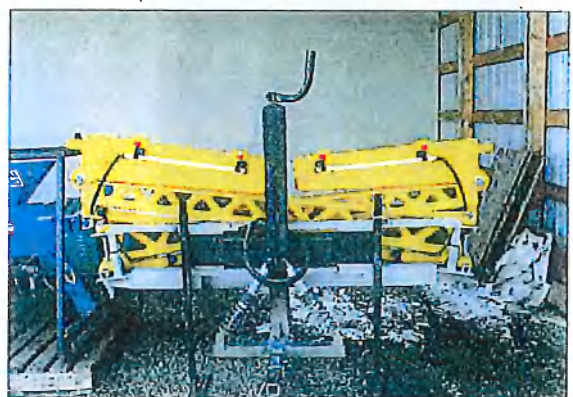
Hines Creek: Toadflax control



Himalayan Balsam Eradication Project



## Other Programs: Rental Equipment



# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board</b>
Meeting Date:	August 10, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>Sickle Mower &amp; Bagger</b>
File:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

7' Sickle Mower and bagger is included the 2015 Capital Budget.

### BACKGROUND:

In the 2015 Capital Budget for the Sickle Mower & Bagger is \$12,000.00.

To purchase a local Sickle mower and bagger the price range is between \$5,900.00 and \$6,500.00. Many modifications would need to be made to make this self-powered, pull type with bagging capability. Estimated cost to modify a 3 point hitch model to self-powered, trailer model would be about \$12,000.00 to \$14,000.00.

There is a self-powered, trailer version available through I&J Manufacturing in the United States, for approximately \$11,000.00 (CDN). Duties are unknown at this time and currency exchange will vary. Modifications would still be needed to make this a bagger mower. Estimated cost to modify is about \$4,000.00 to \$6,000.00.

### OPTIONS:

1. Proceed to purchase from the United States and budget \$6,000.000 and make modifications in 2016.
2. Purchase locally and budget \$14,000.00 and make modifications in 2016.
3. Recommend to remove from the Capital Plan.

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by that this Agricultural Service Board recommend to waive the requirement for three sealed tenders and proceed to purchase a sickle mower from I&J Manufacturing in the United States.

AND

RESOLUTION by that this Agricultural Service Board recommend \$6,000.00 be included in the 2016 Capital Budget for modifications to the sickle mower to make it self-powered, pull-type with bagging capability.

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

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board</b>
Meeting Date:	August 10, 2015
Originated By:	Audrey Bjorklund, Community Development Manager
Title:	<b>Multi-Year Capital Plan</b>
File:	63-10-02

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Board is presented with the Multi Year Capital Plan for review.

**BACKGROUND:**

- A 800 to 1000bu/hr batch dryer is \$65,000.00 to \$75,000.00 depending on options and if a propane tank would be included. Natural gas setup would be similar pricing, but not very portable.
- Used grain dryers are available at farm and equipment auctions
- Grain drying is available through the elevators. Grain dryers are usually tied up for extended periods of time especially on a wet year. During a wet harvest when the entire areas is affected the dryer can only help one producer at a time.

**Current ASB Multi Year Capital Plan to 2021**

**Annual budget allocation: \$70,000 (30,000)**

Year	Equipment	Budget \$	Reserve Transfer \$	Reserve Balance estimate
2015	Portable Toilets on Tandem Trailer	\$14,000		
	Hose for Water Pumps	40,000		
	Sickle Mower/Swather/Bagger	\$12,000	4000	
	2015 Year End Balance			118,828
2016	9-shank Subsoiler	\$18,500	(30,000)	
	30ft Heavy Harrows with Valmar	30,000		
	PTO Water Pump	25,000	<del>(3,500)</del>	115,328 (145,328)
2017			70,000 (30,000)	185,328 (175,328)
2018			70,000 (30,000)	255,328 (205,328)
2019			70,000 (30,000)	325,328 (235,328)
2020	<b>PTO Water Pump</b>	<b>25,000</b>	70,000 (30,000)	395,328 (240,328)
2021			70,000 (30,000)	465,328 (270,328)

**OPTIONS:**

1. Include \$75,000.00 for a portable 1,000bu/hr propane batch dryer in the 2016 multi-year capital plan.
2. Receive the grain dryer pricing and options for information

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Resolution by..... that this Agricultural Service Board receive grain dryer for information.

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

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board</b>
Meeting Date:	August 10, 2015
Originated By:	Audrey Bjorklund, Community Development Manager
Title:	<b>2016 OPERATING BUDGET</b>
File:	63-10-02

## DESCRIPTION:

As part of the 2016 Budget preparation the board is requested to review the Operating Budget items.

## BACKGROUND:

- A one person post hole Auger is between \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00 (which is not a Capital purchase)
- Budget \$2,600 to purchase plastic mulch rolls to sell with our shelterbelt tree program and with our mulch applicator.

## ATTACHMENTS.

## OPTIONS:

1. Recommend to Council to include a one person post hole auger and plastic mulch rolls in the 2016 Operating Budget.
2. Recommend to Council to include a one person post hole auger in the 2016 Operating Budget.
3. Recommend to Council to include plastic mulch rolls in the 2016 Operating Budget.
4. Not recommend a one person post hole auger or plastic mulch rolls.

## RECOMMENDED MOTION:

RESOLUTION by ..... that this Agricultural Service Board....

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

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board</b>
Meeting Date:	August 10, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>OCTOBER MEETING</b>
File:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

The October Agricultural Service Board meeting falls on October 12, 2015 which is Thanksgiving Day.

### BACKGROUND:

Having the Agricultural Service Board meeting on Monday, October 5, 2015 may affect those members who may still be still harvesting and having the meeting on Monday, October 19, 2015 may affect administration with budget preparation to take to Council.

### ATTACHMENTS:

### OPTIONS:

1. Moving the October Agricultural Meeting to Monday, October 5, 2015.
2. Moving the October Agricultural Meeting to Monday, October 19, 2015.

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board move the October 12, 2015 Agricultural Service Board meeting to Monday, October 5, 2015 due to Thanksgiving.

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board move the October 12, 2015 Agricultural Service Board meeting to Monday, October 19, 2015 due to Thanksgiving.

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

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board</b>
Meeting Date:	August 10, 2015
Originated By:	Audrey Bjorklund, Community Development Manager
Title:	<b>VSI PROGRAM</b>
File:	63-10-40

### DESCRIPTION:

Annually the Board reviews the Veterinary Services Inc. (VSI) Program. Any proposed changes are then forwarded to the VSI administrator for consideration at the VSI Annual General Meeting that is held each November.

### BACKGROUND:


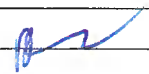
### ATTACHMENTS:

- VSI agreement
- VSI second quarter report

### OPTIONS:

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board...

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

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.

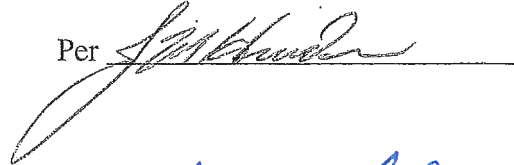
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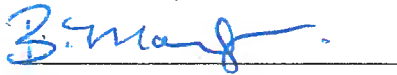
The parties agree to observe and perform all other terms, covenants, conditions and provisions on the part of each of them respectively contained in the agreement subject only to the amendments contained herein.

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

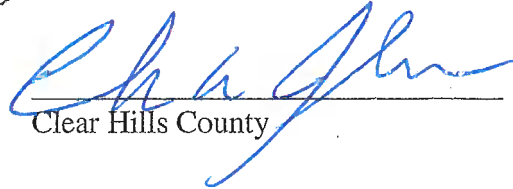
Per



Signed, sealed and delivered  
in the presence of:



Witness

  
Clear Hills County

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

SCHEDULE "A" 50/50 – Effective January 1 2015

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

Until this Tariff is amended and subject to the terms and conditions of the year 2015 contract, VSI Services (1980) Ltd. will pay the listed VSI fee charged by the veterinarian for the services stated herein. All other charges levied in association with the service(s) being claimed must be shown on the invoice.

**Note: Unless otherwise noted all flat rate and hourly fees are fully inclusive which means the fee includes local anaesthetic procedures (including the drugs), surgical packs, stitch removal, and all drug administration procedures.**

**CATTLE**

**A. Ancillary (add-on) Services**

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Clinic Outpatient Fee	9	20.50	20.50
<b>Note: This fee can <u>only</u> be <u>claimed</u> in conjunction <u>with another valid VSI claim</u>. It can only be charged once per occurrence. It is <u>not a per animal</u> fee.</b>			
Epidural	1	16.00	16.00
<b>Note: Epidurals can <u>only</u> be <u>claimed</u> in conjunction <u>with dystocias</u> (code 31), <u>embryotomies</u> (code 44) &amp; <u>prolapse revisits</u> under code 52.</b>			
Intramuscular or Subcutaneous Injections	3	2.85	2.85
Intravenous Injections	4	5.75	5.75
Stall Fee (calves - per day)	10	14.00	14.00
Stall Fee (older animals)	11	22.75	22.75
Oral Drug Administration	5	16.00	16.00
Subconjunctival injection	7	5.75	5.75
<b>Note: Codes 3, 4, 5 &amp; 7 can <u>only</u> be <u>claimed once per animal</u> and only in conjunction with a code 26, 27, 50, 51, or 52 claim.</b>			
X-ray (2 views)	2	66.00	66.00
X-ray (subsequent views - each)	21	13.75	13.75
X-ray – Digital Equipment Surcharge	8	18.50	18.50

**B. Flat Rate Inclusive Surgical Procedures**

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Abscesses	28	85.25	85.25
Claw Amputation	17	121.75	121.75
Epididymectomy	20	130.50	130.50
Eye Enucleation	16	182.00	182.00
LDA (Left Displaced Abomasum)	22	211.75	211.75
RDA (Right Displaced Abomasum)	23	236.50	236.50
Rumen Fistula	24	85.50	85.50
Sole Abscess	29	65.50	65.50
Urethrostomy	15	106.00	106.00
Vasectomy	19	143.25	143.25

**C. Flat Rate Obstetrical and Reproductive Services**

Note: **Oxytocin** and/or **uterine boluses** are **included** in **all obstetrical procedures**.

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Caesarean Section	41	242.50	242.50
Note: There is a <b>limit of 3</b> per producer			
Dystocia	31	110.00	110.00
Embryotomy (1 or 2 cuts)	44	164.50	164.50
Embryotomy (3 or more cuts)	45	194.00	194.00
Note: Code #1 (epidural) can be added, as appropriate, with codes 31, 44, 45 & 52.			
Scrotal Circumference Measurement	65	11.25	11.25
Note: This fee <b>only</b> applies for <b>bulls eliminated</b> from further breeding soundness evaluations.			
Semen Test (1 <sup>st</sup> bull)	60	48.50	48.50
Semen Test (2 <sup>nd</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> bull)	61	34.25	34.25 each
Note: There is a <b>limit of 8</b> bulls per producer			
Pregnancy Testing (per head)	6	2.40	2.40 each
Note: There is a <b>limit of 150</b> per VSI client			
More can be charged for the first animal as per the AB.VMA fee schedule but VSI will only pay the VSI rate for the first animal.			
Prolapses			
-Rectal	74	57.00	57.00
- Uterine	71	108.50	108.50
-Vaginal	81	74.25	74.25
-Vaginal & Rectal	84	85.50	85.50
Uterine Torsion (manual correction)	46	119.75	119.75

**D. Hourly Rates for Surgical & Professional Services**

Note: **All** of the **services** in this section are **fully inclusive**. An hourly rate can't be used for services for which a flat rate has been established.

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Surgery (major)	12	171.00	171.00
Surgery (minor)	13	114.00	114.00
Note: The time taken for examination, and immediate post surgical treatments can be considered when calculating the total time taken under codes 12 & 13.			
Professional Services (general)	25	102.75	102.75

Note: This fee is used:

- For **herd** health visitations and/or **problems**
- In place of codes 50, 51, 52, 55 & 56 **as specified in section "E"**
- When **more than two postmortems** are conducted
- When a single animal is examined, euthanized then subjected to a postmortem
- Other instances as agreed to or recommended by the VSI Manager

**E. Flat Rate Non-Surgical Professional Services**

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Cast Application (closed reduction)	26	60.00	60.00
Cast Removal	27	28.50	28.50
Examination	50	48.50	48.50
Examination (2 <sup>nd</sup> animal)	51	33.50	33.50
Examination (re-visit)	52	33.50	33.50
I.V. Hook - up (1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> no monitor)	55	48.50	48.50 each

Note: **This code includes the examination** and is for situations where the animal is not hospitalized for follow-up care.

I.V. Hook - up + 24 hour monitor	56	85.25	85.25
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Note: **Only** for calves up to **two months old**. It **includes the exam and professional services** for the **first 24 hours**. Code 52 should be used to cover professional services in **subsequent 24 hour periods**.

**NEW** Services normally covered by codes 50, 51, 52, 55 & 56 will be claimed under code 25 in the following situations:

- When more than two (2) claims are made using any combination of codes 50, 51, 52, 55 & 56 or
- When one or more specific flat rate codes are claimed which are equal or greater in value to two (2) code 50 claims

Postmortem - Brain Removal	99	32.25	32.25
Postmortem - 300 pounds or less	90	51.00	51.00
Postmortem - 300 to 800 pounds	91	55.50	55.50
Postmortem - over 800 pounds	92	83.25	83.25

Note: If **more than 2** postmortems are done at the **same time** a single **code 25** claim must be made.

Technovit Block - Application of	30	42.75	42.75
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Note: **Materials are included** in this service.

**PIGS****All Services**

Note: With the exception of the following pig services are to be billed by the hour under codes 12, 13, or 25, as appropriate:

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Examination	50	48.50	48.50
Examination (2 <sup>nd</sup> animal)	51	33.50	33.50
Examination (re-visit)	52	33.50	33.50
Postmortem - 20 pounds or less	93	34.25	34.25
Postmortem - 20 to 100 pounds	94	36.50	36.50
Postmortem - over 100 pounds	95	45.25	45.25

Note: Codes 3, 4 & 5 can be claimed with codes 50, 51 & 52, as appropriate.

**SHEEP & GOATS**

**All Services**

Note: Most sheep and goat services can be billed by the hour under codes 12, 13, or 25, as appropriate, with the exception the specific flat rate codes in this section:

All of the sheep codes are inclusive with the exception of codes 33, 50, 51 & 52 where the same conditions apply as for cattle.

Oxytocin and/or uterine boluses are included in all obstetrical procedures.

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Caesarean	43	154.25	154.25
Dystocia	33	68.50	68.50
Examination	50	48.50	48.50
Examination (2 <sup>nd</sup> animal)	51	33.50	33.50
Examination (re-visit)	52	33.50	33.50
Note: Codes 3, 4 & 5 can be claimed with codes 26, 27, 50, 51 & 52, as appropriate.			
Semen Test (1 <sup>st</sup> animal)	66	41.00	41.00
Semen Test (subsequent animals)	67	31.25	31.25
Note: There is a limit of 2 animals per producer.			
Postmortem - 20 pounds or less	96	34.25	34.25
Postmortem – 20 to 100 pounds	97	36.50	36.50
Postmortem - over 100 pounds	98	45.25	45.25
Prolapse - Rectal	76	48.25	48.25
Prolapse - Uterine	73	71.00	71.00
Prolapse - Vaginal	83	48.25	48.25

**ELK & BISON**

**All Services**

Note: The only services covered for elk & bison are postmortems and semen tests. There is a limit of 5 semen tests per producer. Semen tests are to be charged by the hour under code 25.

The following codes apply to postmortems for elk & bison:

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Postmortem - Brain Removal	99	32.25	32.25
Postmortem - 300 pounds or less	90	51.00	51.00
Postmortem - 300 to 800 pounds	91	55.50	55.50
Postmortem - over 800 pounds	92	83.25	83.25

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

### SCHEDULE "B"

Annexed to and forming a part of the agreement dated effective January 1, 2015"

Following are some of the services not payable by V.S.I. Services (1980) Ltd

- a) castrations
- b) dehorning
- c) dockings
- d) spaying heifers
- e) embryo transplants
- f) routine trimming of feet
- g) meat inspection
- h) scrotal hernias - all species
- i) umbilical hernias - all species
- j) cryptorchid surgery- all species
- k) insurance examinations (including mortality, loss of use exams & reports)
- l) listed herd and dispersal sales
- m) shows & sales
- n) endorsement fees
- o) export testing
- p) parentage sampling
- q) routine vaccinations
- r) all drugs and medicines
- s) all laboratory fees
- t) waiting time
- u) after hours or holiday fees
- v) mileage
- w) services relating to quality assurance programs such as CQA & QSH.

Hospitalization for any service not specifically listed in Schedule "A".

All "Schedule A" services for species not specifically identified on "Schedule A".

**Note:** All jurisdictions cover "Schedule A" services for the bovine, porcine, caprine and ovine species. Some jurisdictions cover some, or all, "Schedule A" services for alternative livestock species (e.g. elk, bison, deer, etc.). The specific species and services covered will be identified on the "Schedule A" that was approved by that particular jurisdiction.

All other veterinary services not specifically listed in "Schedule A" as amended from time to time.

1120  
Correspondence

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

A nonprofit organization providing veterinary care in Alberta

BOX 202

FAIRVIEW, AB T0H 1L0

PH 780 835 4531

July 24, 2015

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

RECEIVED

JUL 27 2015

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

Dear Allan

I am sending this letter as a follow up to the second quarter report of VSI expenditures, for your jurisdiction, that was e-mailed to [aaron@clearhillscounty.ab.ca](mailto:aaron@clearhillscounty.ab.ca) and [sarah@chlearhillscounty.ab.ca](mailto:sarah@chlearhillscounty.ab.ca).

Following is an estimate of your current VSI account status:

	Claims	Payments	Balance
Jan. 1, 2015			\$ 706
Payments in 2015		\$31,800	32,506
First Quarter	\$ 5,839		26,667
Second Quarter	14,466		12,201

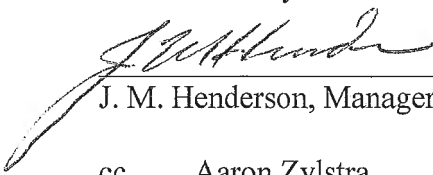
Your opening balance is subject to slight modification, at a later date, because we do not have the audited financial statement for 2014.

Administrative fees and investment income have not been calculated or included for the first six months of 2014.

Your claims for the first half of 2015 are \$4,395 (27.62%) higher than for the same period in 2014. Your claims for the last half of 2014 were \$10,240. If the 27.62% increase continues for the rest of the year your claims for the rest of 2014 will be approximately \$13,000 resulting in a deficit of approximately \$800 not including administrative costs. → 2015

If you have any questions or if you detect any errors in the report or in my calculations in this letter please let me know.

Yours sincerely

  
J. M. Henderson, Manager

cc Aaron Zylstra  
Sarah Hayward

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board Meeting</b>
Meeting Date:	August 10, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>BOARD REPORTS</b>
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 August 10, 2015 for information.

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



# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	August 10, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT</b>
File No:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

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

### BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

### ATTACHMENTS:

- Report

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Agricultural Service Board accepts the August 10, 2015 Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

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

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board Meeting</b>
Meeting Date:	August 10, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>INFORMATION &amp; CORRESPONDENCE</b>
File No:	63-02-02

### DESCRIPTION:

The board is presented with correspondence for review.

### BACKGROUND:

Attached are documents for the Board's information:

### ATTACHMENTS:

- Peace Country Beef & Forage Association – Summer Forage Management Newsletter – (63-10-02)
- Peace Country Beef & Forage Association – Feeding During & After a Drought Newsletter – (63-10-02)
- Peace Country Beef and Forage Association – Poster – (63-10-02)
- Whole Farm Water Planning – Poster – (63-10-02)
- Alberta Crop Report – Article – (63-10-02)
- The Pest Insider – Newsletter – (63-10-02)
- Peace Region ASB Meeting – Minutes – (63-10-02)
- Tax Relief for Western Livestock Producers – Article – (63-10-02)
- Peace Region Agricultural Service Boards – Guideline 1.1 Terms of Reference – (63-10-02)
- Peace Region Agricultural Service Boards – Guideline 2.1 Clubroot of Canola – (63-10-02)
- Peace Region Agricultural Service Boards – Guideline 2.2 Fusarium Graminearum – (63-10-02)
- Peace Region Agricultural Service Boards – Guideline 2.3 Virulent Blackleg of Canola (63-10-02)
- Pedigree Cereal Seed Testing for Fursarium Graminearum – M.D of Smokey River No. 130 Resolution – (63-10-02)

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of August 10, 2015 as presented.

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



## Summer Forage Management Forage Harvesting & Weed Management

Volume 11  
Issue 126  
July 2015

FORAGE

### Weed Management in Perennial Pasture

by Stacy Pritchard

There are several reasons that we begin to see weeds appearing in our pastures. The most common being that when we have bare ground in our pastures, weeds appear. Weeds are opportunistic and take advantage of bare ground and decreased competition of our established species in those areas. We can learn a lot about our management from the appearance of weeds in pasture, as bare ground and weed growth are typically a symptom of overgrazing.

Now, you might ask how overgrazing can result in weed growth, and it comes down to the bare ground again. When we overgraze and don't allow plants to recover and remove all the plant matter from a pasture, there is no litter left to cover the ground, and our soil conditions deteriorate. This results in the bare ground that opportunistic weeds are only too willing to take advantage of.

The appearance of weeds is not always a negative sign though. In areas where we have a hard time establishing desired species so we work to improve the soil conditions, the appearance of weeds is a vast improvement over nothing growing, and is a sign that our management to improve the soil is working.



[smallfarms.oregonstate.edu](http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu)

In cases where weeds are undesired there are 3 main options for controlling undesired species; 1) Grazing Management, 2) Mechanical Control and 3) Chemical Control. It should be noted though, that controlling weeds is an ongoing management concern, and with appropriate management, preventing weeds from establishing is the best method of control.

#### Grazing Management

We will focus primarily on grazing management, as it offers the best long-term solution for managing and controlling weeds in perennial pasture.

The most obvious impact of grazing management, is that desired species like seeded grasses and legumes become stronger and can out-compete the undesired species. One grazing strategy that aids in this process is rotational grazing. Planned rotational grazing allows plants the ability to re-  
cover before being grazed again. Planned rotational grazing also reduces overgrazing, which is the root of most weed problems on pasture.



PCBFA photo

Continuous grazing is a good option for some producers, however it does promote the consumption of preferred forage species by cattle, and it is these species that are often overgrazed in continuous grazing systems. Undergrazing can also occur in continuously grazed pastures, as areas that cattle avoid become overgrown and prevent the emergence of new plants as well as tillering. This is potentially detrimental to our pastures as it can also lead to open, bare spaces where weeds thrive.

In pastures that already have a weed "problem" there are a few grazing strategies that may help control and reduce the weed populations. The first is to use high stocking rates in small paddocks to force the animals to consume the weeds. A more effective method of biological control could include the use of multiple grazing species such as sheep and goats.

Each grazing species (cattle, sheep and goats), all have difference selection preferences for grazing, as well as different abilities to consume certain problem plants. For example, goats have been successful for limiting brush encroachment when managed appropriately. Goats will also consume thistles more readily than either sheep or cattle, and therefore could be used for managing thistle on pasture. Sheep are also a good option for biological control, especially if our problem weeds are broadleaf plants. Sheep naturally select for broadleaf plants over grasses and shrubs, this makes them the ideal species for managing broadleaf weeds in pasture. The use of different grazing species for biological control of undesirable species is known as “Targeted Grazing,” and is defined as “the application of a specific kind of livestock



farmandredmoon.com

at a determined season, duration, and intensity to accomplish defined vegetation or landscape goals” (Launchbaugh and Walker 2006). By using short duration, high intensity grazing strategies, animals have a decreased ability to avoid undesirable species, and this can be used to control weeds in pastures.

No matter what grazing species we intend to use to help control our weed issues, it is important to remember that there is an ideal timing for using grazing animals for targeted grazing. The relationship between plant susceptibility and palatability is important to consider, as palatability tends to decrease as plants mature, and weeds are typically most susceptible to damage in and around flowering. Determining which species we are targeting with our grazing, and at what time it is most susceptible to damage, but also palatable to the animals is very important.

Mechanical Control

By using mechanical control, we are using equipment to control relatively small infestations of weeds. Like all weed control, mechanical control also takes time, planning and dedication to be successful. Examples of mechanical control include hand weeding, mowing and clipping. Mechanical control may not be the best option for some species as it could induce an extra seed set, as in the case of Canada Thistle. So making a plan that includes both weed species and control option is important.

Chemical Control

In some cases, chemical control is the first option we think of, however, using chemicals to control weed problems takes planning. When using chemical control, often the best product for the weeds in our fields will also take out some, if not all of our desired species in the pasture. Spot spraying problem areas may also be an option if only small areas are infested. If we believe that chemical control is the best option for our operations, care must be taken to consult experts not only for rates and recommendations, but also for grazing restrictions and timelines on when it will be safe to use those pastures again.



Photo from Stacy Pritchard

It should be noted that when weeds begin to become a problem in our pastures, the first step should be looking back at our management of those pastures to see if there is something we can do to improve management to control and prevent weed infestations.

Information for this article was found on [www.wmaine.edu](http://www.wmaine.edu), as well as “Opportunities and Challenges of Multi-Species Grazing” by Stacy Pritchard.

**Steps for Effective Weed Control in Perennial Pasture**

- \* Appropriate nutrients and management for desired forage species
- \* Identify weed problems & location
- \* Select which option(s) to use for control:
  - \* Grazing Management
  - \* Mechanical Control
  - \* Chemical Control
- \* Perform Practice
- \* Evaluate Outcome

Using this strategy, we can manage and evaluate our individual decisions for controlling weeds in our perennial pastures.

From [www.umaine.edu/](http://www.umaine.edu/)

# A Recipe for Harvesting Forages

by Carly Shaw & Monika Benoit

Nutrition plays a huge role in our cow herd's performance, and overall, the profitability of our operations.

The main ingredient in the diets of our cows is our forage, and we can do our best to harvest it at the stages of maturity that will give us the required nutrient levels for each stage of production. Although harvesting earlier in the season will give us lower yields, it results in a higher quality feed which decreases or eliminates the needs of supplements. Harvesting high quality feed along with some lower quality feed then using a combination of the two is an ideal way to feed a cow herd.

**Making Hay while the Sun Shines:** Nutritional quality in dry hay will be highest when the plants getting cut are still growing and in the vegetative stage. During and after flowering, the protein and energy contents of a plant decrease. One of the biggest challenges with making dry hay is getting it to dry down enough to bale. According to UNL Forage Specialist, Bruce Anderson, research has shown that the most important factor in hay dry-down is sunlight; temperature, humidity, wind speed and soil moisture are all important, but not nearly as important as solar radiation. New research being done in Manitoba and Eastern Canada has shown that sunny conditions increase the sugar content of harvested forage, making it more palatable and higher in energy. When the hay is cut in a wide swath, the sugars can be preserved, and to maximize the sugar content, cutting should be done in the afternoon (Western Producer 05/30/14, Berthiaume). Another method is to turn over or rake your hay, however, this should only be done if the moisture content is 40% or greater, otherwise the leaf loss will be between 10 and 25%, which will be a significant sacrifice of quality (extension.missouri.edu).



PCBFA Photo

**Rainy Season:** In years where we experience much more moisture alternative methods of putting up feed can be attractive, including silage and wrapping bales.

**Silaging:** The benefit of silaging your forage is that you don't have to wait for it to dry down but it must be put up properly in order to ensure that the ensiling process occurs. You must consider what stage to harvest it at based on the protein and energy levels you hope to have in your feed. Lately Protein content has been quite low in silage around the Peace Country in cereal silages like barley, so if possible, try to harvest it at the boot-to-head emerged-stage, when it has its highest protein content. For oats, total digestibility of the entire plant is highest at the milk stage, but protein content will continue to increase until the dough stage, where yields are maximized, so harvesting of oats in between these two stages is ideal (Sask Ministry of Ag). Corn is also becoming more common across the Peace, and should be harvested for silage when the moisture content of the entire plant is between 60% and 70%, the hard dough stage (Sask Ministry of Ag). The key to making good silage is keeping the oxygen out, so chopping the forage at the proper length, then filling the pit quickly, getting it packed tightly, and quickly covered is very important. When there is spoiled material in your silage pit, it will decrease animal consumption and performance, and mold and other mycotoxins could be found. A great resource for more information is [www.foragebeef.ca](http://www.foragebeef.ca), maintained by Alberta Agriculture.

**Bale silage:** Balage helps to reduce field losses and gives us the chance to get a forage crop off the field even if it's not dried



makingbestsilage.com

down, both resulting in increased nutritional value of the feed. Bale silage requires less labour and equipment than making silage. In comparison to dry hay, wrapping bales has more cost involved, but the potential gains in nutritional quality and feed quantity, could be worth it; each operation must pencil this out to make the decision. When making bales for bale silage, the moisture content will be higher so it is a good idea to make the bales smaller for easier handling. Bale silage should be put up at 45-55% moisture. If you do not wrap the bales within this range they will not go through the ensiling process properly and need to be fed right away (Bale Silage Agri Facts, AB Ag). Excess moisture is also not good, as you can have leaching as well as losses of protein and energy from an extended fermentation period. If you have hay or greenfeed that you meant to bale up for dry feed, but it got rained on, it is not a good idea to wrap the bales, as the water soluble carbohydrate levels have decreased, making the ensiling process not as effective (AB Ag, Ag-Info Center).

It is ideal to get the bales wrapped within 5 hours of baling to ensure good quality feed. Bales can be fed 12-20 days after they've been wrapped, giving them enough time to ensile. If the bales are wrapped after the 5 hour timeframe, it will take the bales longer to ensile so it's best to wait a bit longer than the 20 day time frame. An Alberta Ag publication, 'Bale Silage Agri Facts' recommends that the wrapping or tubing be at a minimum of 4 ml, and if you're storing into the next feeding season, 8 ml is recommended. It is vital that the plastic is stretched and sealed so that oxygen doesn't get in; if oxygen gets in, respiration occurs and heat is produced, which can denature and damage the protein in the feed.

**Other Methods** If you have other methods for gathering your annual forage supply you can still apply some of the practices mentioned above. If you purchase feed, testing is very important, especially if they are asking a premium for good quality hay.

## Contact us for:

- Project Ideas  
- Feed Testing

- Growing Forward 2 Assistance  
- Ration Formulation Help

- Environmental Farm Plans  
- Past Project Information

# Upcoming Events!

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## Building Soil—Creating Land Part 2!

with Dr. Christine Jones

July 28, 2015

Join us for a Field Day this summer to learn more from this renowned soil scientist! We'll spend the morning getting a refresher on soil health basics, and the afternoon in the field with Dr. Jones looking at rooting depth, forage/pasture condition and soil microbes.

**Location: Rycroft Ag Society Hall**

**10am-4pm with Lunch provided!**

**\$25/member & \$30/non-member**

## PCBFA Field Day

August 5th

**We Want to Show Off our Plots!**

- ⇒ Tour the plots: corn, cover crops, fescue, sainfoin and much more!
- ⇒ Hear from experts on grazing, fescue production, electric fencing and more!
- ⇒ **8am Pancake breakfast to start the day!**

**MD of Fairview Research Farm**

**This event is Free to Attend!**

## PCBFA Corn Tour

**DATE**

**Sharing Our Knowledge of Corn in the Peace!**

- ⇒ Tour corn sites in the Valleyview area, as well as cocktail cover crops!
- ⇒ Hear From Experts on grazing, corn production, electric fencing and more!

**Valleyview**

**10am-3pm**

**This Event is Free to Attend!**

## Whole Farm Water Planning

*A Workshop with Rob Avis*

Join us with Rob Avis to learn how to use your landscape to fill your dugouts every year and maximize your water by selecting the most economical dam and dugout location!

**In 2 Locations!**

**High Prairie**

**Aug 18th**

**Nampa**

**Aug 19th**

For more information, directions or to register for PCBFA events please call Stacy or Kaitlin at 780-835-6799!

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## Feeding During & After a Drought

By Stacy Pritchard

Volume 11  
Issue 127  
August 2015

FORAGE

With below average precipitation falling during 2015's growing season, hay land, pasture and crops are suffering from these dry conditions. When faced with tough times, farmers are known to get creative; PCBFA has been receiving calls and visits with questions ranging from grazing canola, baling or silaging peas and making greenfeed out of cereals. With all the questions surrounding feed for this summer, fall and winter, we thought we'd address some feeding solutions that may fit your operations.



Photo: americancattlemen.com

Maintaining our cowherds is still possible, even with dry conditions and feed shortages, it takes some innovation, research and planning. Some of the options include using feedstuffs that we normally wouldn't consider and formulating rations more carefully and using supplements. Culling older, non-productive animals may also be a good option that will allow the feed we have to go a little further.

While we are still in summer, and the grazing season, reviewing the Summer 2015 *Forage Country* article, "Pasture Management in Dry Weather" is a good place to start. To summarize, by grazing a little more severely, we can allow plants more time to recover before potentially grazing them again. By supplementing feed during the summer, we also extend this recovery time and buy more time before the next rain event. Supplementing with hay, pellets or grain are options for extending the amount of time in a given pasture. It should be noted, that this type of management decision is entirely operation dependent, and the same decision may not be right for every operation. By planning for a dry year when the forecast is dry, we can plan our grazing accordingly.

As summer continues and our cows are bred, we definitely want to be conscious of the increasing requirements of the bred cow, including a mineral package to help cows obtain the vitamins and minerals she may not be getting from dry pasture.

### Options

Some emergency feeding options include cutting crops that just aren't producing between heading and soft dough stage to stockpile for winter feed. Cutting these crops may also encourage regrowth that can later be grazed as well. Grazing cereal crops is also an option, but care should be taken that the heads haven't filled as to avoid grain overload, as cattle will preferentially consume heads. Purposely seeding summerfallow or a poor producing pasture to cereals can also be used for emergency pasture, however this strategy is ideally implemented in the spring or previous fall.



Grazing Cereal Crops to Extend the Season  
Photo: [www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au)

Preparing for winter feeding is already on the minds of producers with the shortage of feed due to dry conditions.

Slough Hay is a good option for feed in dry years, especially as producers may be able to access more of it than in a normal year. Weed infested crop areas, and wild oats are also good options to consider haying.

Crop residue and aftermath may be an especially important feed source in times of drought, as it provides roughage for cattle when being supplemented with pellets or grain.

By collecting straw & chaff to use in feeding systems, or by bunching it with equipment like the “Whole Buncher” and leaving it on the field to limit feed (much like swath or bale grazing), we can utilize residue to its full potential. One of the issues with using straw chaff is the inconsistency in the yield, and especially in a dry year where crops are shorter than normal, even straw may be in short supply. The efficiency of modern combines can also pose a problem in collecting straw & chaff, as it is often chopped too fine to bale. In this case, bunching it may be a good option. Being aware of the cereal variety when feeding straw chaff is also important, as rough or barbed awns can pose problems in cattle, and even make the chaff unpalatable.



Piles from the “Whole Buncher”  
Photo: www.farmshow.com

Canola silage is alternative feed that can be considered and is nutritionally comparable to low-to-medium quality haylage. It's important when putting up canola silage, that it is harvested at 55-60% moisture, if it's wetter than that there are issues with palatability, and if harvested over 70% moisture, cattle will only eat it as a last resort (Canadian Cattlemen 10-19-09). In addition to feeding canola silage, canola straw can also be baled and fed. However, canola in the form of greenfeed or straw isn't very palatable to cattle, but grinding and mixing with silage produces a palatable feed. Some stats on harvesting canola for feed: full bloom 19-20% CP; late bloom 12-16% CP; full pod 10% CP; canola straw 6-8% CP. We need to be careful not to lose leaves or flowers when baling. Canola silage takes about an extra day to dry down after cutting to silage, something to be aware of to prevent seepage from the pile and to make sure it's not too wet for fermentation (Canadian Cattlemen 10-19-09).

Ammoniation of straw and chaff is an option that can increase the feed value of low-quality hay and crop residues. This process increases the feed quality by increasing both TDN and CP, as well as increase the amount of feed cattle will consume. This process involves sealing the roughage (hay or straw) in a gas tight enclosure and adding anhydrous liquid ammonia. This reaction is complete after 21 days if the temperature remains above 10°C (Cattle Producer's Library CL1150).

### **Feed Testing**

When feed is in short supply it is more important than ever to test feed and use those tests to formulate rations. This allows producers to make the most efficient use of the feed they have in supply, as well as to allow time to make plans to acquire additional feed if needed. Formulating a ration will also allow producers to determine it can be stretched by incorporating a pellet or supplement.



Photo: albertafarmerexpress.ca

### **Supplementation**

There are several options for supplementing cattle rations, from grain, to pellets, to screenings and by-products. Determining what we are looking for in a supplement can aid in the decision process, as can availability.

Liquid Protein Supplements – mixtures based on molasses and contain urea, pre-formed protein, vitamins and minerals.

Canola Meal – produced after oil is extracted from canola (avg 35% CP)

Western Grain Screening Pellets (GSP) – contain grains, wild oats, weed seeds, chaff and hulls that are ground and pelleted, similar to oats in feeding value.

Fortified Grain Screening Pellets – similar to GSPs, but also fortified with Ca & P, as well as trace minerals and vitamins and may contain ionophores

Canola fines screenings – small or broken pots, chaff and weed seeds, oil content is high.

Lentil screenings – good protein source for cattle

Cereal Grains – Barley, Oats, Wheat & Rye

Pea Vines – residue from pea and lentil fields (equivalent to low-quality grass hay)

Brewer's mash (distillers grains) – by-product of malting barley or corn, can be fed wet or dry

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[www.peacecountrybeef.ca](http://www.peacecountrybeef.ca)



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Now that we've come up with some possible solutions and alternatives to stretch feed through the winter, we should come up with a strategy for how we're going to feed it. Minimizing feed wastage should be a high priority, as well as minimizing the effect on cattle when switching between feedstuffs. By switching feed slowly and incorporating new feedstuffs a little at a time, we can allow the rumen to adapt to the new feed source and prevent any kind of upset to the rumen environment.

Heading into winter with cows in good condition is important and will leave cows in better shape to make it through the winter in better shape, as well produce healthy calves, and still be able to produce enough milk to raise those calves. Something else to consider as we plan for winter feeding, is that thin cows require more feed to maintain and to keep warm through the winter than cows in good condition.

Some approaches to maximizing the feed we do have on farm include preg-checking and culling open animals, also culling lame, non-productive and hard-keepers will reduce the amount of feed going to non-productive cows. Grouping our herd in to mature cows, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> calf heifers and thin cows will allow us to target the appropriate nutrition to the animals that need it. This will increase the efficiency with which we can utilize our feed.

Being aware of nitrate levels in crop residues, canola straw or silage and cereal crops harvested for



Winter cereals for spring grazing  
Photo: agronomator.wordpress.com

forage is also an important detail. Cows can adapt to higher nitrate levels if they are increased slowly, and the rumen is allowed time to build up the appropriate microbes, however, abortions do occur in late pregnancy if cows are fed a high-nitrate diet in the last 30-45 days of gestation.

This spring we may still be looking for feed, and now (August, September) is the time to be thinking about seeding winter annuals into summerfallow, unproductive pasture, or fields. These winter annuals (fall rye, winter wheat, and winter triticale) will grow in the spring and provide much-needed nutrition for our livestock. These crops can be grazed and rested throughout the following summer as well, to provide more rest to the pastures that were stressed this year.

### Feed Shortage Feeding Resources

The following are some great resources available online for more information on feeding during droughts and feed shortages:

- PCBFA Summer 2015 Forage Country "Pasture Management in Dry Weather"
- Feeding Livestock During Feed Shortages—Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture  
<http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=e05fd8c9-ff22-44c7-9500-ad1619cdc7f6>
- Foragebeef.ca  
[http://www.l.foragebeef.ca/\\$foragebeef/frgebeef.nsf/all/ccf78](http://www.l.foragebeef.ca/$foragebeef/frgebeef.nsf/all/ccf78)  
[http://www.l.foragebeef.ca/\\$foragebeef/frgebeef.nsf/all/frg77](http://www.l.foragebeef.ca/$foragebeef/frgebeef.nsf/all/frg77)
- Alternative/Emergency Feeds for Cattle—Canadian Cattlemen  
<http://www.canadiancattlemen.ca/2009/10/19/alternativeemergency-feeds-for-cattle/>
- Canola as a Forage Crop—Manitoba Agriculture  
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/production/beef/canola-as-a-forage-crop.html>
- Alternative Feeds for Cattle During Drought—Colorado State University  
<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/livestk/01626.html>
- Alternative Feeding Strategies for Cows and Calves Due to Drought Related Forage Shortages—Colorado State University  
<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/drought/altfeed.html>
- Beef Cattle Management Strategies During a Drought—West Virginia University  
<https://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/forglvst/stokdrut.htm>

For more resources and information please contact us! We'd be happy to help!

**With your PCBFA Membership you are Entitled to 2 FREE Feed Samples! These results are more important than ever in a year with feed shortages! Get yours in today!**

**Look for Feed & Ration Workshops coming this Fall!**

#### Contact us for:

- Project Ideas
- Feed Testing

- Growing Forward 2 Assistance
- Ration Formulation Help

- Environmental Farm Plans
- Past Project Information

# Upcoming Events!

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GROUP**

A proud  
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## Morning at the Research Farm

August 5th

### We Want to Show Off our Plots!

- ⇒ Tour the plots: corn, cover crops, fescue, sainfoin, silage and much more!
- ⇒ Hear from experts on grazing, fescue production, electric fencing and more!
- ⇒ **8am Pancake breakfast to start the day!**

**MD of Fairview Research Farm**

**This event is Free to Attend!**

## PCBFA Valleyview Field Day

Aug 12th

**~Corn Tour ~ Soil Pit ~ Cocktail Cover Crops~**

- ⇒ Hear from the Experts: Grazing Corn & Corn Production
- ⇒ Cocktail Cover Crops & a Soil Pit!

**North of Valleyview, At Pat Eaton's**

**10am-3pm**

**This Event is Free to Attend!**

## Whole Farm Water Planning

*A Workshop with Rob Avis*

Join us with Rob Avis to learn how to use your landscape to fill your dugouts every year and maximize your water by selecting the most economical dam and dugout location!

**In 2 Locations!**

**High Prairie**

**Aug 18th**

**Nampa**

**Aug 19th**

## WESTERN CANADA



**Conference on Soil Health**

**December 8-10, 2015**

**Radisson**  
HOTEL EDMONTON SOUTH

**Visit [www.albertasoilhealth.ca](http://www.albertasoilhealth.ca)  
for more information on this  
and more!**

For more information, directions or to register for PCBFA events please call  
Stacy or Kaitlin at 780-835-6799!

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Fairview, AB  
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# PCBFA FIELD DAY

## August 12th, Valleyview

~Corn Tour ~ Soil Pit ~ Cocktail Cover Crops~



Hear from the Experts:  
Grazing Corn & Corn Production  
View Local Soil Structure First Hand  
Cocktail Cover Crops & More!

9:30am Registration  
Pat Eaton's  
North of Valleyview AB

This Event is FREE!  
Lunch Included!

For More Information, Directions &  
To Register Contact  
Stacy or Kaitlin at 780-835-6799



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Association of Corn and Inbred Development



**PIONEER**  
A DUPONT BUSINESS

# Whole Farm Water Planning with Rob Avis of Adaptive Habitat

Join us for a day of learning:

- Dam & Dugout Design
- Storing water for drought years,
- Controlling runoff from your farm



## August 18th, Marie Reine

Location: Marie Reine Hall and  
Mike & Annette Rosendal's

Registration at 9:30 am @ Marie  
Reine Hall

Cost: \$25/Member,  
\$30/Non-Member  
Lunch Included

## August 19th, Kinuso

Location: Kirk McLaughlin's Farm  
(Watch for signs on highway East of  
Kinuso)

Registration at 9:30 am

Cost: \$25/Member,  
\$30/Non-member  
Lunch Included

## August 20th, Manning

Location: NPARA Research Farm  
(4 miles south & 1/2 mile west of  
Manning)

Registration at 9:30 am

Cost: \$25/Member  
\$30/Non-Member  
Lunch Included

For more information or to register for the August 18th or 19th  
workshops, please contact Kaitlin at 780-835-6799  
RSVP is appreciated by August 12th.

For more information on the August 20th  
workshop, contact Nora at 780-836-3354.

These Events Brought to you in Collaboration With:



# Alberta Crop Report



## Alberta Crop Conditions as of July 28, 2015

The continuation of moderate temperatures combined with wide spread shower activity throughout the province have placed crops under less stress and crop condition ratings have stabilized at 30% rated good or excellent (See Table #1). The precipitation received this week has provided modest improvements to soil moisture ratings. Surface moisture ratings increased 2 points to 32% rated good or excellent and sub soil ratings improved 4 percentage points to 29% rated good or excellent. Most crops have completed their reproductive stage with only a small amount of late seeded crop remaining. Precipitation from this point onward will have minimal effect on yield potential but would continue to be very beneficial in kernel filling and seed test weight which would affect grade and ultimately price to the producer.

The first yield estimates of the season (See Table #2) have been published. These estimates are provided based upon extremely limited information at this time and will be updated bi-weekly. Current provincial estimates are approximately 25 – 30% below the average of the past 5 years though it should be noted that 2 of those years (2013 & 2014) produced the highest average yields ever reported for the province.

Hay and pastures continue to green up with the moisture and growth has restarted. First cut dryland haying is 90% complete with poor yields and so-so quality as only 65% of the crop is rated as good or excellent. 2<sup>nd</sup> cut irrigated haying is 20% completed with average yields and very good quality. Hay/pasture ratings have improved slightly this week to 44% poor (-4), 38% fair (no change), 18% good (+4), 1% excellent (no change).

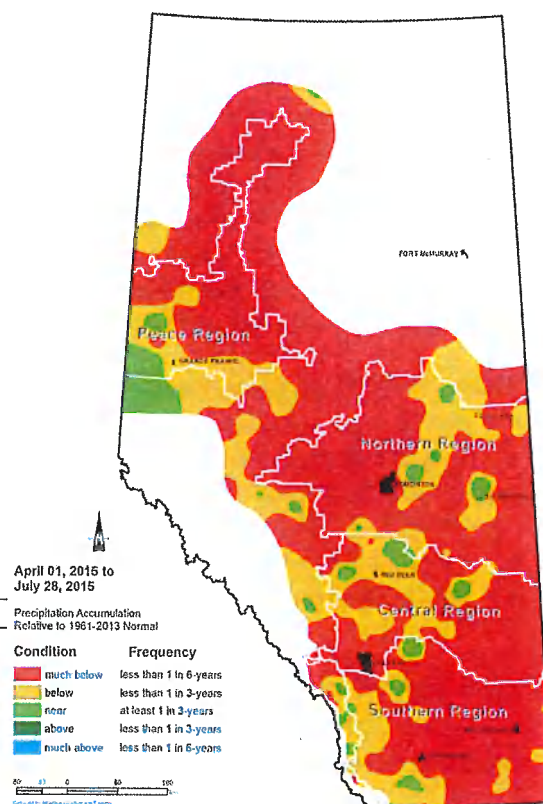
Table 1: Alberta Crop Condition Ratings as of July 28, 2015

	% Rated Good or Excellent					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Average
Spr. Wheat	45.6%	17.1%	37.3%	16.4%	22.7%	31.5%
Dur. Wheat	42.1%	16.8%	37.3%	---	---	38.6%
Barley	44.3%	23.1%	35.4%	13.6%	20.8%	31.0%
Oats	45.7%	22.9%	36.9%	13.6%	24.6%	26.2%
Canola	45.7%	15.3%	31.5%	14.6%	14.6%	25.3%
Dry Peas	44.0%	20.2%	46.5%	19.6%	28.8%	36.7%
Mustard	42.2%	18.8%	31.5%	---	---	35.6%
Flax	38.6%	9.9%	30.0%	14.6	---	32.4%
Potatoes	84.4%	10.0%	100%	61.7%	---	78.2%
Dry Beans	81.6%	---	---	---	---	81.6%
Chickpeas	35.0%	4.0%	---	---	---	33.2%
Lentil	36.0%	4.7%	---	---	---	31.7%
Sugar Beets	86.8%	---	---	---	---	86.8%
<b>Average</b>	<b>45.91%</b>	<b>18.45%</b>	<b>34.90%</b>	<b>15.17%</b>	<b>18.77%</b>	<b>30.15%</b>
Last Week	42.2%	19.7%	37.5%	13.5%	21.1%	29.7%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates as of July 28, 2015

	Estimated Yield (bushels/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	33.8	35.9	33.4	39.9	29.7	34.2
Durum Wheat	34.3	28.0	N/A	---	---	33.4
Barley	51.2	52.4	47.5	43.6	50.8	50.1
Oats	56.5	58.7	52.8	60.7	61.5	58.0
Canola	26.4	30.1	28.9	29.3	23.1	27.6
Dry Peas	32.2	33.3	31.7	29.9	32.3	32.2
<b>% of 5 Year Ave</b>	<b>74.3%</b>	<b>78.1%</b>	<b>71.0%</b>	<b>67.3%</b>	<b>79.9%</b>	<b>73.8%</b>



Growing Forward 2

A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

Alberta  
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## Regional Assessments:

The 2015 Alberta Crop Report Series provides summaries for the following five regions:

### Region One: Southern (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Spring cereals entering early dough stage; winter cereals ripening; canola 85% podding; field peas podded.
- Harvest is starting on winter cereals, field peas, lentils and barley in a few areas.
- 1<sup>st</sup> cut haying complete for dryland and 20% of irrigated 2<sup>nd</sup> cut has been harvested. Small amount of dryland 2<sup>nd</sup> cut hay expected to be harvested if weather cooperates.
- Initial crop yield estimates 15 - 25% below 5 year averages and 5 – 10% below last difficult year of 2009.

### Region Two: Central (Rimbey, Airdrie, Coronation, Oyen)

- Spring cereals have completed pollination and entering milk stage; winter cereals in soft dough; canola 74% podding; field peas are podded.
- Rain combined with hail in west and central areas benefitted head filling and hay/pasture recovery. Crops continue to deteriorate in the east portion with spotty showers only.
- 82% of 1<sup>st</sup> cut dryland haying completed; yields poor; only 60% of crop rated good or excellent for quality. 35% of the region anticipating the ability to get a 2<sup>nd</sup> hay cut.
- Initial crop yield estimates 20 – 25% below 5 year averages but 15 – 30% above 2009.

### Region Three: North East (Smoky Lake, Vermilion, Camrose, Provost)

- Spring cereals in early milk stage; winter cereals beginning to ripen; canola 68% podding; field peas 98% podding.
- Most areas received some precipitation which benefitted head filling but slowed haying and hurt hay quality.
- 1<sup>st</sup> cut dryland hay is 82% complete. Only 58% of the crop is rated good or excellent for quality. Half of the region anticipating the ability to get a 2<sup>nd</sup> hay cut.
- Grasshoppers moving off dried out hay and pastures have become an issue with 11% of region rating damage at over economic thresholds.
- Initial crop yield estimates are 25 – 35% below 5 year averages; 5% below 2009.

### Region Four: North West (Barrhead, Edmonton, Leduc, Drayton Valley, Athabasca)

- Spring cereals in early milk stage; canola 63% podding; field peas 93% podding.
- Spotty precipitation noted throughout the region with highly variable quantities reported.
- Desiccation of early maturing field peas has begun.
- 1<sup>st</sup> cut dryland hay is 90% completed. 81% of crop rated good or excellent for quality. Region optimistic regarding the ability to get a 2<sup>nd</sup> hay cut.
- Grasshoppers have become an issue with 17% of region rating damage at over economic thresholds.
- Initial crop yield estimates are 30 – 35% below 5 year averages; 10% below 2009.

### Region Five: Peace River (Fairview, Falher, Grande Prairie, Valleyview)

- Spring cereals in medium to late milk stage; canola 81% podding; field peas 92% podding.
- Spotty light showers across the region did little except delay haying operations.
- 1<sup>st</sup> cut haying is 87% completed. 64% of the crop rated good or excellent for quality. Two thirds of region optimistic for a 2<sup>nd</sup> cut of hay.
- Grasshoppers and lygus bugs are an issue with damage rated a 14% & 12% respectively over economic thresholds.
- Initial crop yield estimates are 15 – 25% below 5 year averages; 10 – 20% below 2009.

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation  
Actuarial, Analytics & Forecasting Unit  
Lacombe, Alberta  
July 31, 2015

James Wright, Risk Analyst  
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# THE PEST INSIDER

Pest Control Officer Newsletter

July 2015



## ***Pet Rats in Alberta***

Agriculture and Forestry sometimes receives inquiries asking why pet rats are illegal in Alberta. Alberta's laws on pet rats have even been mentioned and discussed online, including on Facebook. The prohibition of pet rats of the genus *rattus* (such as Norway and roof rats) is essential in helping Alberta maintain its status as a rat-free province.

There is no resident population of rats in Alberta, and rats are not a natural part of our ecosystem. If pet rats were to be allowed, one concern is that Alberta might no longer be considered rat-free, and the public could become complacent in reporting rat sightings. Public vigilance is crucial to assist with detecting rat infestations before they can become permanently established. Other types of rats, such as the African soft fur rat, are allowed as pets, but only because they are not as invasive and destructive as the *rattus* rats. Alberta has no plans to change its policy on pet rats.

The Verge published an interesting feature story about Alberta's rat control program. The article features images from Alberta and interviews with staff, as well as information about rat control in other notable jurisdictions.

You can read the story here:

<http://bit.ly/1lynMey>

## **Wild boar surprises shoppers at a Hong Kong mall**

A shopping mall in Hong Kong had a surprise visitor from a wild boar, when the animal fell through the ceiling and was trapped in a children's clothing store. Watch the video and read more on the Associated Press website here: <http://bit.ly/1Kfti5r>

## **In This Issue**

- Pet rats
- Table for commercial rodenticide use
- Rat Control Zone
- Wild Boar update
- Rat update

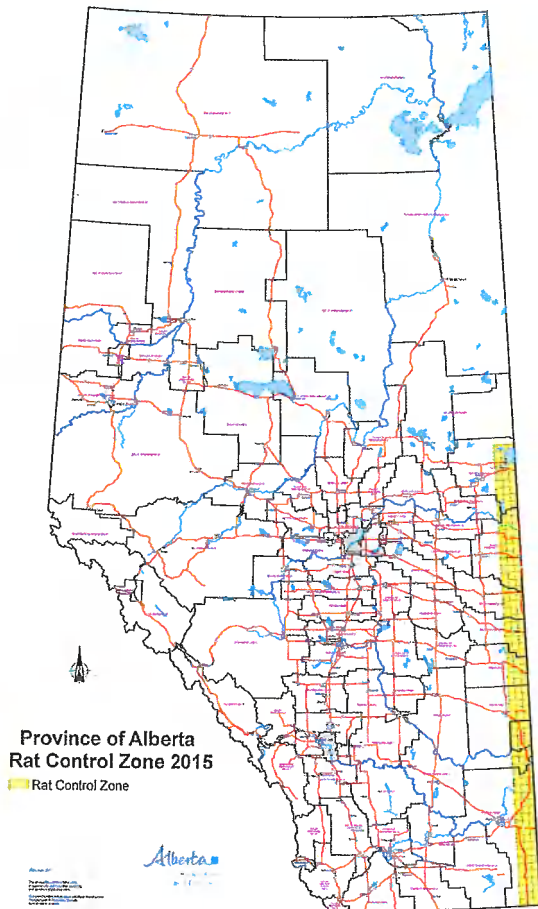
The following table provides general information on registered use areas for commercial class rodenticides.

Registered use areas for commercial class rodenticides		Active Ingredient Product Names	Bait Form	Use Areas			
				Indoors	Outdoors around buildings/structures 1.	Landfills (garbage dumps)	Other outdoor areas (e.g., crop land, fields, nurseries)
<b>Non-Anticoagulants</b>	<b>Bromethalin</b> <i>Rampage, Fastrac, Terminator</i>	Solid	✓				
	<b>Zinc Phosphide</b> <i>B.O.B. Bait (burrow oat bait 2%), ZP</i>	Solid	✓	✓		✓	
<b>First-Generation Anticoagulants</b>  <i>Must be ingested for several days for lethal dose</i>	<b>Warfarin</b> <i>no trade names</i>	Solid	✓	✓			
	<b>Chlorophacinone</b> <i>Rozol, Ground Force, Ratol, Gopher Doom</i>	Solid	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	<b>Diphacinone</b> <i>Ramex, Ramik, Ditrac, Tomcat Liqua-tox II</i>	Solid Liquid	✓ ✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Second-Generation Anti-coagulants</b>  <i>Generally provide a lethal dose after one single feeding</i>	<b>Brodifacoum</b> <i>Ratak, Talon, Jaguar, Final/Final (soft pac)</i>	Solid	✓				
	<b>Bromadiolone</b> <i>Maki, Contrac, Hawk, Boothill, Ruse, Tomcat</i>	Solid	✓	✓			
	<b>Difethialone</b> <i>Generation, Hombre, BlueMax, FirstStrike/FastDraw(soft pac)</i>	Solid	✓				

1. Within 15 meters of buildings/structures, or up to 100 meters from buildings/structures if bait is placed along fence lines in a secured, tamper-resistant bait station.

**NOTE: For any specific active ingredient, registered use areas may vary among product labels. Always read and follow all label directions on these and other pest control products.**





## The Rat Control Zone

William Lobay, supervisor, crop protection, originally conceived the idea of a control zone to prevent rats from spreading into Alberta, and was initially responsible for organizing, supervising and administering the program during 1950 to 1953.

Geographical area covers the first 29 kilometres west of the Alberta/Saskatchewan border from the United States border to Cold Lake.

The Zone falls within the following districts/counties: Cypress County, MD of Acadia, Special Areas, MD of Provost, MD of Wainwright, County of Vermillion River and MD of Bonnyville.

The rat control program provides grants to municipalities to monitor this control zone and supplies bait for rat control along the Alberta/Saskatchewan border.

## Feral Wild Boar Update

Agriculture and Forestry implemented new minimum containment standards for farmed wild boar effective July 1, 2014, to reduce wild boar escapes and prevent them from becoming pests when at large anywhere in Alberta. These standards included an accepted equivalency of staking fences which was to be met by October 1, 2014. Producers were then to meet the minimum containment standards within a reasonable time period but no later than December 31, 2018.

Implementing containment standards for farmed wild boar is the first component of a two-phased approach. The second phase involves implementing an enhanced eradication program in the province to address eradication of wild boar at large. Meetings are currently underway, and a working group that will involve various stakeholders is being assembled to develop an eradication strategy. Agriculture and Forestry's Inspection and Investigation Branch investigators are currently consulting with municipalities that have wild boar producers to discuss the roles in the formal enforcement process, as stat-

ed in the Agricultural Pests Act and the written agreements. There are some very good articles in relation to wild boar listed below.

<http://www.saskpork.com/images/File/Symposium%202014/Feral-Boar-A-Potential-Threat-Pork-Producers-Ruth-Kost-Dr-%20Ryam-Brook.pdf>

<http://www.saskpork.com/images/File/feral%20wild%20boar%20canadian%20prairies%20WILDSOCBULL2014.pdf>

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife\\_damage/feral\\_swine/pdfs/managing-feral-pigs.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/feral_swine/pdfs/managing-feral-pigs.pdf)

# RAT UPDATE

This quarter was a busy month for rat calls. Our 310-RATS (7287) number provides quick and easy reporting of possible rat sightings, so we continue to get more calls. Most sightings reported through the various channels turn out to be misidentified rodents such as pocket gophers or muskrats. The majority of our confirmed rat sightings are reported through 310-RATS. Credit goes to the on-call staff in our ministry's Animal Health and Assurance Division for their assistance with follow-up on after-hours and weekend calls.

We had no infestations in the rat control zone this spring, except for a small infestation in Lloydminster at a recycling centre. We believe the cause of the infestation was likely refuse coming in from Saskatchewan to the recycling plant. Thanks to Cal and the staff in Lloyd for their work in cleaning up the five confirmed rats there. The rest of the rat control zone was free of infestations, and special thanks go to the Acadia Valley crew for ensuring the Sibbald area was free from infestations this spring!

Outside the rat zone, we were busy fighting roof rats or black rats that came from the west coast. We had an infestation in Bon Accord this April that had been there for a while before the owner trapped a roof rat and called 310-RATS. This infestation had three confirmed roof

rats with likely several more eradicated through baiting. The owner of the small acreage found the rats in a small shed where he kept his chicken feed. At least two generations of rats were eradicated.

At an Edmonton landfill, three live rats were discovered in a tote bag shipped from B.C. One rat was eliminated immediately, and the other two were held in the tote bag. Unfortunately, the tote bag was not tough enough to contain the rats long enough for our PCO from Edmonton to arrive. The two escaped rats were trapped a few weeks later.

The Lac La Biche landfill found two dead rats that were thought to be pet burials, and we thank the staff at the landfill for their sharp eyes.

We had five other confirmed single rat reports in Alberta in Edmonton, Calgary, Oyen, Olds and Linden.

In total, there were 18 confirmed rats eradicated this quarter: five Norway rats and 13 roof rats.

## Contacts

**310-RATS (7287)**  
**310-FARM (3276)**

### Bob Phillips

A/Unit Manager  
Inspection Branch

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### Phil Merrill

Provincial Rat and Pest  
Specialist

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[Link to ARD webpage](#)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.agriculture.alberta.ca](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca)

## 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate (LSC)

A supply of 2% LSC arrived in Alberta municipalities in early May. It was a bit late for good gopher control but still welcomed by many producers. Our Richardson's ground squirrel (RGS) population in the south/central part of the province is much higher this year than in recent years, due in large part to our dry conditions. The effects on cropland have been reduced with the LSC, but pastures have already been damaged, and reducing populations of RGS for next year likely hasn't been as effective.

**Peace Region ASB Meeting  
July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 9:30 am.  
Entrec Center  
minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Peace Region A.S.B. Provincial Committee representative Corey Beck at 9:32 am.

**2. Introductions**

Attendance

Mackenzie County; Joe Peters, and Grant Smith, Agricultural Fieldman  
Clear Hills County; Brian Harcourt and Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman  
County of Grande Prairie; Corey Beck and Sonja Raven Agricultural Fieldman  
M.D. of Greenview; Quentin Bochar, Agricultural Fieldman  
M.D. of Fairview; Beverly Wieben and Fred Sawchuck, Agricultural Fieldman  
M.D. of Peace; Veronica Bliska and Nasar Iqbal, Agricultural Fieldman  
M.D. of Smoky River; Robert Brochu  
Birch Hills County; Amanda Ouellet, Agricultural Fieldman  
Northern Sunrise County; Doug Dallyn and Sebastien Dutrisac, Agricultural  
Fieldman  
Big Lakes County; Doug Meneice, Rob Klatt, Agricultural Fieldman and Sherry  
Monteith, Ass. Ag Fieldman

Absent

Saddle Hills County;  
M.D. of Spirit River;  
Northern Lights County;

Guest

Thorhild County; Dan

**3. Appointment of a recording secretary**

Appointment motion  
2015-07-01

Moved by Veronica Bliska to appoint Sebastien Dutrisac Ag. Fieldman as recording secretary Doug Dallyn.

**Carried**

**4. Adoption of Agenda**

Agenda motion  
2015-07-02

Moved by Doug Dallyn to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded Robert Brochu

**Carried**

**5. Adoption of Minutes**

Minute motion  
2015-07-02

Moved by Joe Peters to adopt the minutes as presented, seconded Beverly Wieben

**Carried**

## 6. Business Arising from Minutes

TOR amendment motion 2015-07-03	<b>Terms of Reference</b> Moved by Joe Peters amend the TOR by adding motions be carried by 50% plus one of the votes as item 1.a v and quorum will consist of 8 Municipalities as item 1.a vi , seconded by Robert Brochu.	<b>Carried</b>
TOR motion 2015-07-04	Moved by Doug Dallyn to adopt the Terms of Reference as amended, seconded by Beverly Wieben	<b>Carried</b>
	<b>Regional Representative Report – Corey Beck</b> Discussion held regarding problems with the ruminant and the unsuccessful attempts to raise awareness with the Provincial Ministry. Discrepancy with numbers coming from different sources is a concern.	
Invitation motion 2015-07-05	Moved by Doug M moved to direct the Regional Representative to invite an rep of Solicitor General for our next meeting to discuss Ruminant and predator issues, seconded by Robert Brochu	<b>Carried</b>
Chair’s report motion 2015-07-06	Moved by Veronica Bliska to adopt the Regional Representative’s report as presented, seconded by Doug Dallyn	<b>Carried</b>

## 7. Old Business

## 8. New Business

Grading Response motion 2015-07-07	<b>a. Resolution Response Grading</b> Moved by Doug Dallyn to direct the regional committee to send a reminder for response Beverly Wieben.	<b>Carried</b>
	<b>b. Regional Guidelines</b>	
2.1 amendment motion 2015-07-08	<b>Guideline 2.1 Clubroot of Canola</b> Move by Joe Peters to amend the Guidelines 2.1 to be consistent with Guideline 2.3 by stating the Municipalities should consider adopting the following measures, seconded by Beverly Wieben.	<b>Carried</b>
2.2 amendment motion 2015-07-09	<b>Guideline 2.2 Fusarium Graminearum</b> Move by Doug Dallyn to amend the Guidelines 2.2 to be consistent with Guideline 2.3 by stating the Municipalities should consider adopting the following measures, seconded by Robert Brochu.	<b>Carried</b>

- 2.3 amendment motion  
2015-07-10
- Guideline 2.3 Virulent Blackleg of Canola**  
Move by Joe Peters to amend the Guidelines 2.1 to be consistent with Guideline 2.3 by stating the Municipalities should consider adopting the following measures, seconded by Beverly Wieben. **Carried**
- Guideline motion  
2015-07-11
- Move by Doug Dallyn accept the Guidelines 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 as amended, seconded by Joe Peters. **Carried**
- Provincial ASB motion  
2015-07-12
- c. Location for the 2018 ASB Conference**  
Doug D moved to direct the Sebastien Dutrisac to look into sending a doodle poll in regards to location of the 2018 ASB Provincial location (GP Entrec or Edmonton) and response deadline August 15, seconded Beverly Wieben. **Carried**
- d. Drought report**  
Round table discussion about drought conditions in the Peace Region.
- e. AFAC**  
Discussion about AFAC
- Next meeting motion  
2015-07-13
- 9. Next meeting –Guy AB**  
Moved by Doug Dallyn that next meeting is to be held in Guy, AB during the Regional Conference on Nov 5, 2015, seconded by Beverly Wieben. **Carried**
- Adjournment motion  
2015-07-09
- 10. Adjournment**  
Moved by Doug Meneice to adjourn the meeting at 12:30, seconded by Doug Dallyn. **Carried**



# News Release

For immediate release

## Harper Government Announces Tax Relief for Western Livestock Producers

July 23, 2015 - Ottawa, Ontario - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz today released a list of designated regions in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba where tax deferrals have been authorized for 2015.

The designation allows livestock producers in prescribed drought regions who are facing feed shortages to defer a portion of their 2015 sale proceeds of breeding livestock for one year in order to help replenish that stock in the following year. Proceeds from deferred sales are then included as part of the producer's income in the next tax year, when those proceeds may be at least partially offset by the cost of replacing their breeding animals.

To defer income, the breeding herd must have been reduced by at least 15%. If this is the case, 30% of income from net sales can then be deferred. In cases where the herd declines by 30 per cent or more, 90% of income from net sales can be deferred. Eligible producers can request the tax deferral when filing their 2015 income tax returns.

### Quick facts

- AgriInsurance is the first line of response for producers dealing with weather related damages to their crops, while AgriInvest and AgriStability can help with income losses.
- From April 1 to July 21, 60% of the Prairie agricultural landscape has received 'Very Low' to 'Record Low' precipitation. This area represents 27,000 farms and more than 5.8 million cattle.
- In addition to the tax deferral, producers are encouraged to take full advantage of assistance available under the suite of Business Risk Management programs.
- Producers facing cash-flow challenges are encouraged to apply to the federal Advance Payments Program to access low interest guaranteed loans of up to \$400,000 to help them manage their financial obligations. The interest on the first \$100,000 is paid by the Federal Government. This may be of particular interest to livestock producers looking for cash to purchase feedstocks. APP administrators will work with producers to find the best option to suit the unique needs of each farm operation.
- This list represents the current designation of affected areas. Subsequent regions may be added to the list as required, in consultation with the provinces.

### Quotes

"Our Government understands the situation facing livestock producers across western Canada. This tax deferral will provide producers with the flexibility they need to make decisions in the best interest of their individual operations."

- Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz

### Related Products

- [Livestock Tax Deferral Provision](#) – List of Designated Areas Eligible for 2015

### Additional links

[Canada Revenue Agency -- Drought and Excessive Moisture Advance Payments Program](#)

### Contacts

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Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
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Follow us on Twitter: [@AAFC Canada](#)



## GUIDELINE 1.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

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Committee: Peace Regional ASB

Date Approved: July 17 2015

Rescinds: N/A

PRASB Res. No: 2015-07-04

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1. Regional Committee Structure (amendments to Regional Committee Structure can be made at Regional ASB Conferences)
  - a. **Organization:**
    - i. One representative, typically the chair, from each Agricultural Service Board (voting)
    - ii. Regional Agricultural Fieldmen of their respective Boards (non-voting)
    - iii. The ASB Coordinator representing ARD - (non-voting) if requested
    - iv. Recording Secretary- the Recording Secretary appointed by the hosting municipality at each annual Regional ASB Conference
    - v. Of a quorum that will consist of 8 of the Peace Region Municipalities
  - b. **Motions will be carried with a 50% plus one of the votes.**
  - c. Regional Agricultural Service Board Committee representatives must currently sit as Agricultural Service Board members.
  - d. One Regional Committee Chair and one Vice-Chair shall be elected annually at each Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference and shall act as the Peace Regional Representative and alternate respectively at the Provincial ASB committee.
  - e. Individual ASB Regional Committee Representative expenses to be paid by individual Boards.
  - f. All Regional Committee meeting expenses will be covered by the host municipality with an attempt to circulate the host municipality throughout



the Region on a rotating basis.

## 2. Regional Committee Responsibilities

- a. Regional Committee Chairman and Peace Region AAAF Director shall develop and prepare the agenda for the regional meeting.
- b. Regional Committee Chairman and Secretary shall fulfill the duties prescribed under the Regional ASB Resolutions Rules of Procedure in regards to regional resolutions.
  - i. Review Regional Resolutions and present at Regional Conference
  - ii. Review Resolution Responses
- c. Regional Committee will meet annually or as needed to:
  - i. Address Regional Agricultural Issues
  - ii. Review Resolution response report card and provide Regional feedback
  - iii. Act as a liaison between individual Boards and Provincial ASB Coordinator
  - iv. Provide Regional Direction and Guidance to Regional Chair and Vice-Chair
  - v. Provide an avenue for the Regional ASB Committee Chair to Report back to ASB Chairmen on Meetings with the Ag Minister or on the Provincial ASB Program, (usually 4 per year)
  - vi. Provide the Opportunity for the Regional ASB Committee Chair to present a "Regional View" and for local Boards to contribute to that "View."
  - vii. Establish Regional Guidelines

Regional Committee members will be accountable to their respective Ag Service Boards

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Peace Regional Chair

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Peace Regional Vice-Chair

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Director of Peace Region AAF



## GUIDELINE 2.1 CLUBROOT OF CANOLA

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Department: Crop Diseases

Date Approved:

Rescinds:

PRASB Res. No:

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### OBJECTIVE:

To provide direction for the Peace Region to reduce the impact of Clubroot of Canola

### PURPOSE:

Establishing a minimum standard in the Peace Region municipal programs and policies in dealing with Clubroot of Canola

### DEFINITIONS:

For the purposes of this Guideline, the following definitions shall apply:

- a. Agricultural Township – an area as defined by Alberta Township System, that contains a field currently in agricultural production.
- b. *Agricultural Pest Act* - the *Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta* (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter A-8) and the *Agricultural Pest Regulation* (184/2001).
- c. Field – a plot of land capable of growing a crop susceptible to Clubroot.
- d. Municipal Policy – policy established by each of the Peace Region Municipalities.
- e. Pest Inspector – Agricultural Fieldman or Pest inspector employed by the Municipality.
- f. Reported Field - any field for which a complaint is received as having any symptoms or signs of Clubroot of Canola.

### AUTHORITY:

Clubroot of Canola is a pest under the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta.

The Agricultural Pests Act requires the municipality to "take active measures to prevent the establishment of, or control or destroy pests in the municipality" (Sec. 6)

The municipality shall appoint Pest Inspector(s) under the Act who are authorized to

- enter onto land and inspect for pests; and may
- issue notice specifying measures required to control the pest or prevent the pest from establishing.

**GUIDELINES:**

1. Each Municipality shall have a Clubroot Policy and a Foreign Equipment Cleaning Policy (or section within the Clubroot Policy) in place.
2. Inspectors will inspect a minimum of 1 field per every agricultural township for Clubroot of Canola in the Municipality each year. An attempt will be made to ensure the canola fields inspected are spread as equally as possible throughout the Municipality.
3. Priorities for inspected fields may include:
  - i) Symptoms are noticed through other inspections (i.e. weed inspections)
  - ii) The possibility that infected equipment was utilized (i.e. equipment was imported from outside the Peace Region)
  - iii) Canola grown in short rotation, especially if grown in succession
  - iv) Reported Fields

**AWARENESS:**

The stakeholders will have access to information as the Region will:

1. Maintain information handouts and annually print information in various media;
2. Inform municipally-based construction and earth moving companies of Municipal Policy and concerns and request that local equipment be used;
3. Have Regional Agricultural Service Board members act as ambassadors to inform producers and industry on Clubroot of Canola;
4. Advocate that all seed (of a host crop) should be of a resistant variety and this should become mandatory when the disease has been found in the immediate area.
5. Advocate longer rotations between host crops.
6. Inform all Peace Region Agricultural Fieldmen when Clubroot is confirmed within a municipality.

**ENFORCEMENT:**

When Clubroot of Canola is found within the boundaries of any Peace Region municipality, the landowner will be encouraged to adopt the following measures:

1. Harvest the crop with the total crop being sold or fed, but not sold or kept for seed;
2. Store future seed and crop on site until ground is less prone to contaminate vehicles, i.e. frozen or dry ground;

3. Tarp any loads being transported from the infested land;
4. Clean any crop residue and soil from all equipment and implements before taking it off the infested land (*following the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan*);
5. Seed an area to grass around field approaches so equipment and vehicles can be parked and cleaned while minimizing contamination;

When Clubroot of Canola is found within the boundaries of any Peace Region municipality, the Municipality should consider adopting the following measures:

1. The Pest Inspector shall ensure that the operating producer follows the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan and Municipal Policy
2. The Pest Inspector shall issue a Notice that should contain the following
  - i. Seed a non-host crop and /or perform summer-fallow, for 3 or more consecutive years from initial infestation;
  - ii. Store the crop on site until it can be removed from the field while minimizing contamination of other areas (i.e. moving the crop while the ground is frozen).
  - iii. Clean any crop residue and sterilize (*following the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan*) all equipment and implements before taking them off the infested land.
  - iv. For the 3 or more consecutive crop years from initial detection, the Field is to be inspected annually by the Pest Inspector.
  - v. Following the expiry of the Pest Notice, the landowner may return to a Clubroot tolerant variety of canola.
  - vi. If an infected field is re-seeded to a host crop prior to the expiry of the Pest Notice, the crop will be destroyed as per the Agricultural Pest Act.
  - vii. Seed an area to grass around field approaches so equipment and vehicles can be parked and cleaned while minimizing contamination.

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Peace Regional Chair

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Peace Regional Vice-Chair

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Director of Peace Region AAFF



## GUIDELINE 2.2 FUSARIUM GRAMINEARUM

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Department: Crop Diseases

Date Approved: July 17, 2015

Rescinds: N/A

PRASB Res. No: 2015-07-11

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### OBJECTIVE:

To provide direction for the Peace Region to reduce the impact of *Fusarium graminearum*

### PURPOSE:

Establish a minimum standard in the Peace Region municipal program and policies for dealing with *Fusarium graminearum*

### DEFINITIONS:

For the purposes of this Guideline, the following definitions shall apply:

- a. Agricultural Township – an area as defined by Alberta Township System (ATS) that contains a field currently in agricultural production.
- b. Agricultural Pest Act - the *Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta* (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter A-8) and the *Agricultural Pest Regulation* (184/2001).
- c. Field – a plot of land capable of growing a crop susceptible to *Fusarium graminearum*
- d. Municipal Policy – policy established by each of the Peace Region Municipality.
- e. Pest Inspector – Agricultural Fieldman or Pest inspector employed by the Municipality.
- f. Reported Field - any field for which a complaint is received as having any symptoms or signs of *Fusarium graminearum*.

### AUTHORITY:

*Fusarium graminearum* is a pest under the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta. The Agricultural Pests Act requires the municipality to "take active measures to prevent the establishment of, or control or destroy pests in the municipality" (Sec. 6)  
The municipality shall appoint Pest Inspector(s) under the Act who are authorized to

- enter onto land and inspect for pests; and may
- issue notice specifying measures required to control the pest or prevent the pest from establishing.

#### **GUIDELINES:**

1. Each Municipality shall have a *Fusarium graminearum* Policy in place.
2. Inspectors will inspect a minimum of 1 field per every agricultural township for *Fusarium graminearum* in the Municipality each year. An attempt will be made to ensure the cereal fields inspected are spread as equally as possible throughout the Municipality.
3. Priorities for inspected fields may include:
  - i) Symptoms are observed through other inspections (i.e. weed inspections)
  - ii) The possibility that infected seed was utilized (i.e. seed was imported from outside the Peace Region)
  - iii) Cereals grown in succession, short rotation and particularly those that includes corn in the rotation
  - iv) Reported Fields

#### **AWARENESS:**

The stakeholders will have access to information as the Region will:

1. Maintain information handouts and annually print information in various media;
2. Inform municipally-based Seed Outlets of Municipal Policy and concerns. Request that seed, preferably of a more tolerant variety, from a non-infected area be utilized;
3. Keep Regional Agricultural Service Board members as ambassadors to inform producers and industry about *Fusarium graminearum*;
4. Advocate that all seed (of a host crop) should be of a more tolerant variety and treated with a product registered to control *Fusarium graminearum* if the disease has been found in the immediate area.
5. Advocate longer rotations between host crops.
6. Inform all Peace Region Agricultural Fieldmen when *Fusarium Graminearum* is confirmed within a municipality.
7. Work with seed cleaning plants offering services within their municipality to ensure all cereal crops are tested and certified fusarium free prior to entering the plant. In addition work with area seed plants to ensure they share information regarding positive test results for cereal samples submitted to the plants.

#### **ENFORCEMENT:**

When *Fusarium Graminearum* is found within the boundaries of any Peace Region municipality, the producer will be encouraged to adopt the following measures:

1. Harvest the crop with the total crop being sold or fed, but not sold or kept for seed;
2. Tarp any loads being transported from the infested land;
3. Clean any crop residue from all equipment and implements before taking it off the infested land
4. Test any grain which is to be fed for mycotoxins & adjust feed ratios to ensure livestock are not affected, severely infected grain may need to be disposed of;
5. Chop & spread straw uniformly during the harvest operation;
6. Treat all seed of a susceptible crop being farmed by the producer with a product registered to control *Fusarium graminearum*.

When *Fusarium Graminearum* is found within the boundaries of any Peace Region municipality, the Municipality should consider adopting the following measures:

1. The Pest Inspector shall ensure that the operating producer follows Alberta *Fusarium Graminearum* Management Plan and Municipal Policy
2. The Pest Inspector should issue a Notice that contains the following
  - i. Seed a non-host crop and /or perform summer-fallow, for 3 or more consecutive years from initial infestation;
  - ii. Clean any crop residue off all equipment and implements before taking them off the infested land.
  - iii. For the 3 or more consecutive crop years from initial detection, the Field is to be inspected annually by the Pest Inspector.
  - iv. Following the expiry of the Pest Notice, the landowner may return to a tolerant variety of host crop treated with a product registered to control *Fusarium graminearum*.
  - v. If an infected field is re-seeded to a host crop prior to the notice expiring, the crop will be destroyed as per the Agricultural Pest Act.

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Peace Regional Chair

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Peace Regional Vice-Chair

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Director of Peace Region AAF





## GUIDELINE 2.3 VIRULENT BLACKLEG OF CANOLA

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Department: Crop Diseases

Date Approved: July 17, 2015

Rescinds: N/A

PRASB Motion. No: 2015-07-11

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### OBJECTIVE:

To provide direction for the Peace Region to reduce the impact of Virulent Blackleg of Canola

### PURPOSE:

Establish a minimum standard in the Peace Region municipal program and policies for dealing with Virulent Blackleg of Canola

### DEFINITIONS:

For the purposes of this Guideline, the following definitions shall apply:

- a. Agricultural Township – an area as defined by Alberta Township System (ATS), that contains a field currently in agricultural production.
- b. Agricultural Pest Act - the Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter A-8) and the Agricultural Pest Regulation (184/2001).
- c. Field – a plot of land capable of growing a crop susceptible to Virulent Blackleg.
- d. Municipal Policy – policy established by each of the Peace Region Municipality.
- e. Pest Inspector – Agricultural Fieldman or Pest inspector employed by the Municipality.
- f. Reported Field - any field for which a complaint is received as having any symptoms or signs of Virulent Blackleg of Canola.

### AUTHORITY:

Virulent Blackleg of Canola is a pest under the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta. The Agricultural Pests Act requires the municipality to "take active measures to prevent the establishment of, or control or destroy pests in the municipality" (Sec. 6)

The municipality shall appoint Pest Inspector(s) under the Act who are authorized to

- enter onto land and inspect for pests; and may

- issue notices specifying measures required to control the pest or prevent the pest from establishing.

#### **GUIDELINES:**

1. Each Municipality shall have a Virulent Blackleg of Canola Policy in place.
2. Inspectors will inspect a minimum of 1 field per every agricultural township for Virulent Blackleg of Canola in the Municipality each year. An attempt will be made to ensure the canola fields inspected are spread as equally as possible throughout the Municipality.
3. Priorities for inspected fields may include:
  - i) Symptoms are observed through other inspections (i.e. weed inspections);
  - ii) The possibility that infected seed was utilized (i.e. seed was imported from outside the Peace Region);
  - iii) Canola grown in short rotation, especially if grown in succession;
  - iv) Reported Fields;

#### **AWARENESS:**

The stakeholders will have access to information as the Region will:

1. Maintain information as handouts and annually print information in various media;
2. Inform municipally-based Seed Outlets of Municipal Policy and concerns. Request that seed preferably of a more tolerant variety be utilized;
3. Have Regional Agricultural Service Board members act as ambassadors to inform producers and industry about Virulent Blackleg of Canola;
4. Advocate that all seed (of a host crop) should be of a more tolerant variety;
5. Advocate longer rotations between host crops.
6. Inform all Peace Region Agricultural Fieldmen when Virulent Blackleg of Canola is confirmed within a municipality.

#### **ENFORCEMENT:**

Since Virulent Blackleg of Canola can potentially be found within the boundaries of any Peace Region municipality, landowners will be encouraged to adopt the following measures:

1. Harvest canola crops with the total crop being sold or fed, but not sold or kept for seed;
2. Tarp any loads being transported;
3. Clean any crop residue and soil from all equipment and implements before moving from fields known to be infested;

Since Virulent Blackleg of Canola can potentially be found within the boundaries of any Peace Region municipality, the Municipality should consider adopting the following measures:

A Notice should be issued when a situation becomes unabated and the inspection results are averaging more than 3 on the Blackleg rating scale. If the Pest Inspector issues a notice it should contain the following;

- i. Seed a non-host crop and /or perform summer-fallow, for 3 or more consecutive years from initial infestation;
- ii. Clean any crop residue from all equipment and implements before taking them off the infested land.
- iii. For the 3 or more consecutive crop years from initial detection, the Field is to be inspected annually by the Pest Inspector.
- iv. Following the expiry of the Pest Notice, the landowner may return to a tolerant variety of host crop.
- v. If an infected field is re-seeded to a host crop during the four following crop years of the initial detection, the crop will be destroyed as per the Agricultural Pest Act.

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Peace Regional Chair

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Peace Regional Vice-Chair

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Director of Peace Region AAAF

## **Pedigreed Cereal seed testing for Fusarium graminearum**

### **Sponsored by the M.D. of Smoky River No. 130**

- Whereas: Fusarium graminearum has for years been considered the most serious disease of cereal crops in Canada affecting yield and grade, impacting the grains' ability to be used for food, feed and malt; and
- Whereas: The most likely means of transmission of Fusarium graminearum from one area to another is with infected seed; and
- Whereas: The Canada Seeds Act regulates pedigreed seed, which means seed that is designated as "foundation", "registered" or "certified", and
- Whereas: The Federal Seeds Act and Regulation sets a precedence to prevent the spread of disease via seed as outlined in Schedule I, Table I (applicable to wheat) which states a maximum number of ergot bodies that is allowable, and in Table II (applicable to Barley) which states a maximum allowable percentages set for True Loose Smut; and
- Whereas: There is currently no requirement to have any grade of pedigreed cereal seed tested for Fusarium graminearum; and
- Whereas: Setting a maximum allowable standard would, at minimum, make it a requirement that all Pedigreed cereal seed being sold in Canada be tested for the presence of Fusarium graminearum.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties lobby the Government of Canada to amend the Seeds Act and Regulation to set allowable maximum levels of Fusarium graminearum for all grades of pedigree seed for cereal crops.

## **Background information:**

Fusarium graminearum (Fg) is one of the causal agents of Fusarium Head Blight (FHB). When FHB is caused by Fg, it often results in significant yield and grade loss, light shriveled kernels and the presence of a mycotoxin called deoxynivalenol (DON) which is poisonous to humans and livestock above certain threshold levels. Fusarium damaged kernels may prevent the grain from being used for flour, feed or as malt.

Fusarium graminearum was declared a pest in Alberta under the Agricultural Pests Act in 1999.

Currently the purchaser of seed must request the results of any fusarium graminearum tests, but there are many types of tests available, and testing grain to be sold for seed is voluntary, not mandatory. By adding it as a required test under the Seeds Act, the type of test performed would become standardized, and mandatory.

At the 2015 Provincial A.S.B. Conference the Emergent Resolution "Fusarium Graminearum Management Plan" was carried by the A.S.B.'s, direction from the Resolution was:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED  
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST  
That Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development maintain the current tolerance level in the Fusarium Graminearum Management Plan with no detectable amount allowed.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED  
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST  
That Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development keep Fusarium Graminearum on the Agricultural Pests Act as a Pest.

Of important note; the resolution passed at the 2015 Provincial A.S.B. Conference does not request or state "zero tolerance" it asks for "no detectable amount allowed". The primary difference is that if Fg is present, and the seed is treated with a fungicide registered to control it and tested the disease is controlled and therefore "non-detectable". The Seeds Act makes the same "exemption" with True Loose Smut of Barley, it is only allowed at set levels, but if the seed is treated the levels no longer apply.

Requiring pedigreed cereal seeds to be tested under the Federal Seeds Act would be complementary to Alberta's Agricultural Pests Act. Currently it is not mandatory for Pedigreed seed to be tested, this would make it a required test, and the Federal government would then set allowable limits as well as stipulating which specific type of test would be required. The Province can decide to accept those allowable limits, or they can set more stringent limits (but not less-stringent) under the Agricultural Pests Act.

SCHEDULE I(Sections 2, 5 to 7, 11 and 12, 18, 23 to 27, 30 and 40)

TABLE I

Applicable to:

(a) Wheat, common — *Triticum aestivum* L.

(b) Wheat, durum — *Triticum turgidum* L. subsp. *durum* (Desf.) Husn. (= *T. durum* Desf.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Maximum Number of Seeds per kg								
	Noxious Weeds								Minimum Percentage of Germination
Grade Name	Primary	Primary Plus Secondary	Total Weeds	Total Barley, Rye & Triticale	Other Crops Including Total Barley, Rye & Triticale	Additional Common Wheat in Durum & Durum Wheat in Common Wheat	Maximum Number of Ergot Bodies per kg	Common Wheat	Durum Wheat
1. Canada Foundation No. 1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	85	80
2. Canada Foundation No. 2	0	0	4	1	2	0	8	75	70
3. Canada Registered No. 1	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	85	80
4. Canada Registered No. 2	0	0	6	1	2	0	8	75	70
5. Canada Certified No. 1	0	0	3	1	2	5	2	85	80
6. Canada Certified No. 2	0	0	6	2	5	10	8	75	70
7. Common No. 1	0	2	10	10	10	12	2	85	80
8. Common No. 2	2	4	20	20	20	24	8	70	70

TABLE II

Applicable to:

- (a) Barley, six-row, two-row, hulless — *Hordeum vulgare* L. subsp. *vulgare*  
 (b) – (k) includes Bean, mung, Buckwheat, common, Buckwheat, tartarian, Emmer, Thell,  
 Lentil, Lupine, lupin, Oats including hulless, Rye, Spelt, Triticale

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Maximum Number of Seeds per kg									
	Noxious Weeds					Maximum Number of Ergot Bodies per kg			Minimum Percentage of Germination	
		Primary Plus Secondary								
Grade Name	Primary	In Oats	In Other Kinds	Total Weeds	Other Crops	In Barley & Oats	In Triticale & Rye	Maximum Percentage of True Loose Smut in Barley	Rye, Triticale, Hulless Barley & Hulless Oats	Other Kinds
1. Canada Foundation No. 1	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	2	75	85
2. Canada Foundation No. 2	0	0	0	4	2	8	10	4	65	75
3. Canada Registered No. 1	0	0	0	3	2	1	2	2	75	85
4. Canada Registered No. 2	0	0	0	6	4	8	10	4	65	75
5. Canada Certified No. 1	0	0	0	3	4	2	4	2	75	85
6. Canada Certified No. 2	0	1	1	6	10	8	15	4	65	75
7. Common No. 1	0	2	2	10	25	2	4	4	75	85
8. Common No. 2	2	4	4	20	50	8	15	6	65	75

# Fusarium takes toll on seed - Western Producer article

Posted Jan. 11th, 2013 by [Brian Cross](#)



Fusarium cut grain yields by as much as 50 percent in some parts of the province, and the proportion of fusarium damaged kernels (FDK) in certified wheat and barley crops was unusually high, leading to additional cleanout losses of 30 percent or more. | File photo

Yields cut by nearly half | Concerns rise over spread of disease through cleaned pedigreed seed

Fusarium graminearum took a huge bite out of pedigreed seed supplies in 2012, particularly in Saskatchewan where some seed growers harvested unusually small crops that were heavily infected with the disease.

Fusarium cut grain yields by as much as 50 percent in some parts of the province, and the proportion of fusarium damaged kernels (FDK) in certified wheat and barley crops was unusually high, leading to additional cleanout losses of 30 percent or more.

The disease's prevalence is raising concerns about whether it is being spread via pedigreed seed that contains traces of fusarium graminearum, even after the seed has been cleaned and conditioned. Graminearum is the most aggressive and costly of the fusarium species.

The yield losses caused by fusarium will almost certainly result in regional shortages of certified wheat and barley seed, said Bruce Carriere, manager of Discovery Seed Labs.

"There's going to be a seed shortage, big time," Carriere said. "There are some growers that have nothing to sell."

Fusarium losses in Saskatchewan varied from region to region and were largely influenced by local weather conditions.

Seeding date was also an important factor in determining overall infection rates.



Some crops planted in early to mid-May were heavily infected while others planted later experienced minor losses.

Overall, there were numerous hotspots where infection rates reached record levels and where fusarium graminearum was evident on more than 50 percent of harvested kernels.

Joe Rennick, a certified seed grower from Milestone, Sask., south of Regina, said certified seed crops on his farm produced variable yields, depending on when they were seeded.

In some instances, wheat crops that looked like they would produce 50 or 60 bushels per acre yielded in the mid 20s.

"In the crops that were affected, it really hit the yield hard," said Rennick.

He said certified wheat crops that were hardest hit produced yields of 22 to 28 bu. per acre, a disappointing outcome considering the density of the stands.

Clean-out losses on that material could cut production by another 20 to 30 percent, pushing the total marketable yield of conditioned certified seed as low as 15 to 20 bu. per acre.

The prevalence of fusarium in certified seed crops is prompting discussions about whether the pedigreed seed industry should establish fusarium thresholds on certified seed supplies.

Most fusarium damaged kernels can be cleaned out of pedigreed seed using a gravity table, but there is no guarantee that the remaining seeds do not carry traces of fusarium graminearum.

Commercial grain growers who buy certified seed are responsible for asking whether the seed has been tested for fusarium graminearum and whether fusarium damaged kernels were prevalent in pre-conditioned seed lots.

Growers who plant farm-saved seed should check seed for traces of the disease.

In Alberta, fusarium graminearum was declared a pest under the province's Agricultural Pest Act in 1999.

The declaration, when combined with Alberta's fusarium management plan, means there is a zero-tolerance threshold on pedigreed seed that contains detectable traces of fusarium graminearum.

In other words, it is illegal for any Alberta farmer to buy, sell, distribute or grow seed that is contaminated with the fungus.

The increasing prevalence of the disease in Western Canada has the Alberta government and some Alberta seed growers questioning whether the zero-tolerance policy for seed-borne fusarium graminearum should be revisited.

Fusarium has already been detected in cereal crops produced in southern Alberta in 2010 and 2011.

The disease has also been confirmed in the Peace River district.

As well, unusually wet weather in Alberta last year is expected to encourage the disease's spread.

Gayah Sieusahai, chair of the province's fusarium action committee, said plant pathologists are reviewing the province's fusarium management plan.

Support for a zero-tolerance policy on seed-borne fusarium may be waning in Alberta, especially given that the disease has already been detected in the province.

As well, Sieusahai said it is difficult to ensure that all certified seed transported across the Saskatchewan-Alberta border is fusarium-free.

To complicate matters, plots of breeder seed planted at Agriculture Canada's seed increase unit near Indian Head, Sask., were also heavily infected in 2012.

That has prompted concerns that breeder seed from Agriculture Canada's newest and most promising cereal varieties may contain traces of fusarium graminearum, even after the seed has been cleaned and conditioned.

If that is the case, breeder seed from Agriculture Canada's Indian Head facility would be prohibited from entering Alberta's pedigreed seed system unless existing terms of the province's fusarium management plan are amended.

Officials at Indian Head will be examining conditioned seed lots in early 2013 to determine if heat treatment procedures were effective in eliminating seed-borne traces of fusarium graminearum.