

**AGENDA
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
December 14, 2015**

The Agricultural Services Board meeting of Clear Hills County will be held on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the County Office, Worsley, Alberta.

1. CALL TO ORDER	
2. AGENDA	
3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES	
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**MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
 AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
 COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
 NOVEMBER 2, 2015**

PRESENT

Brian Harcourt	Member
Les Davis	Member
Charlie Johnson	Council Representative
Baldur Ruecker	Member
Mackay Ross	Member

IN ATTENDANCE

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

IN REGRET

Stan Logan	Member
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CALL TO ORDER

Community Development Manager Bjorklund called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

AG97 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda governing the November 2, 2015 Organizational Meeting. CARRIED.

VOTING
PROCEDURE

By resolution the Board shall determine if they wish to vote by secret ballot or show of hands, at the organizational meeting.

AG98 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board determine the voting of chairperson and deputy chairperson by show of hands. CARRIED.

ELECTION OF
 CHAIR

As per Bylaw 177-13 annually at the first meeting following the Council Organizational Meeting, the Agricultural Service Board will appoint a Chairperson from among all voting members for the year.

A call will be made three times for nominations for the position of Chair. Following the third call, a request will be made for a motion for nominations to cease.

Audrey Bjorklund, CDM, called for nominations for Reeve.

Member Davis nominated Member Harcourt.
 Member Harcourt accepted.

Audrey Bjorklund, CDM, called for nominations for Chair a second time.

Audrey Bjorklund, CDM, called for nominations for Chair a third and final time.

AG99 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Davis nominations for Chair ceased. CARRIED.

Chair Harcourt was declared Chair by acclamation.

Chair Harcourt took the chair.

**ELECTION OF
DEPUTY CHAIR**

Bylaw 177-13 states that the Agricultural Service Board annually, at the first meeting following the Council Organizational Meeting, appoint a Deputy Chairperson from among all voting members for the year.

A call will be made three times for nominations for the position of Deputy Chair. Following the third call, a request will be made for a motion for nominations to cease.

Brian Harcourt, Chair, called for nominations for Deputy Chair.

Councilor Johnson nominated Member Ruecker.
Member Ruecker accepted.

Brian Harcourt, Chair, called for nominations for Chair a second time.

Brian Harcourt, Chair, called for nominations for Chair a third and final time.

AG 100 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Davis that nominations for Deputy Chair cease. CARRIED.

Member Ruecker was declared Deputy Chair by acclamation

**APPOINTMENT OF
VOTING MEMBERS**

As per Agricultural Service Board Administration Bylaw 175-13 annually, at the first meeting following the Council Organizational Meeting, the Agricultural Service Board selects voting delegates for the annual Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference.

AG 101 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board appoint Chair Harcourt and Councilor Johnson be voting members and Deputy Chair Ruecker be the alternate voting member for the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference. CARRIED.

AG102 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Chair Harcourt that this Agricultural Service Board start the review of the Agricultural Services policies at the December 2015 Agricultural Service Board meeting. CARRIED.

DATE, TIME AND
PLACE OF BOARD
MEETINGS

The Agricultural Service Board meets every second Monday except May when the meeting will be held on the first Monday of the month and there are no meetings held in April or September.

AG103 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board will table the date, time and place of board meetings, until a meeting when all board members are present.

CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Harcourt adjourned the Agricultural Service Board Organizational meeting at 10:12a.m.

CHAIR

AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

**MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Worsley, Alberta
November 2, 2015**

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Aaron Zylstra	Agricultural Fieldman
Audrey Bjorklund	Community Development Manager
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 10:14 am.

AGENDA

AG104 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda governing the November 2, 2015 Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting with the following additions:

7 c. Rental Equipment- McFarlane Harrows CARRIED.

MINUTES

AG105 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the October 5, 2015 Agricultural Service Board Meeting as presented. CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

Activity Report

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

AG106 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the November 2, 2015 ASB Activity Report as presented. CARRIED.

Rental Equipment

The Board is requested to review the following rental item:

- Bale Sampler

AG107 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council include the bale sampler in the Schedule Fees and Charges Bylaw and set a damage deposit of \$50 and no charge for rentals. CARRIED.

AG108 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board include an insert in the County newsletter of all rental equipment items. CARRIED.

Regional ASB Resolutions

The board is presented with resolutions being brought to the Regional Agricultural Services Board Conference on November 5, 2015 being held at the Community Hall in Guy, Alberta.

AG109 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board accepts for review the resolutions being brought to the

Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference on November 5, 2015 at the Community Hall in Guy, Alberta. CARRIED.

Report Card on
Provincial
Resolutions

The board is presented with the Report Card on Government and Non-Government Responses to the 2015 Provincial Agricultural Services Board Resolutions.

AG110 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the Report Card on Government and Non-Government Responses to the 2015 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Resolutions as presented. CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

VSI Letter

The board is requested to review a letter regarding potential inclusion of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) testing through Veterinary Services Program (VSI) and provide direction to the VSI representative so he is prepared to discuss the matter at the VSI annual general meeting on November 6, 2015.

AG111 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board notify VSI that Clear Hills County supports the recommendation to implement BSE testing compensation in the amount of \$125.00 per animal; and further that the municipalities be responsible for releasing the funds directly to the producers within their municipalities. CARRIED.

Chair Harcourt recessed for lunch at 11:43 a.m.
Chair Harcourt reconvened at 12:19 p.m.

Events

The Board is presented with events for their consideration. The Board requested the Agronomy Update 2016 item be brought back in December for attendance consideration.

AG112 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all available members to attend the following:

- **Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) meeting on November 6, 2015 at Dunvegan Motor Inn in Fairview, Alberta.**
- **The Herd Management Software & Verified Beef Production Training Seminar on Tuesday, November 17th, 2015 at the Rycroft Ag. Society in Rycroft, Alberta starting at 4:00 p.m.**
- **Western Canadian Conference on Soil Health being held on December 8th-10th, 2015 at the Radisson Hotel Edmonton South. CARRIED.**

Add in:
Rental Equipment
McFarlane Harrows

Chair Harcourt requested this item be added to today's agenda.

AG113 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Chair Harcourt that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to bring back information on availability and cost of 50 to 70 foot McFarlane Harrows.

CARRIED.

REPORTS

Agricultural Fieldman
Report

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

AG114 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the November 2, 2015 Agricultural Fieldman Report for information.

CARRIED.

Board Reports

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

- Deputy Chair Ruecker:
 - Ration Balancing Workshop on October 7, 2015 in Hines Creek, Alberta
- Chair Harcourt:
 - Ration Balancing Workshop on October 7, 2015 in Hines Creek, Alberta
 - Biosecurity Workshop at Grande Prairie Regional College in Fairview, Alberta, Peace Country Beef
 - Forage Association Fall GF2 & EFP Workshop on October 22, 2015 at the Brownvale Small Hall in Brownvale, Alberta.

AG115 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' written or verbal reports of November 2, 2015 for information.

CARRIED.

INFORMATION &
CORRESPONDENCE

The following information and correspondence was provided to the Board:

1. Peace Country Beef and Forage Association – (63-10-02)
2. Preventing Wildlife Damages – (63-10-02)
3. VSI Services – 3rd quarter report – (63-10-40)

AG116 (11/02/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information and correspondence of November 2, 2015 as presented.

CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Harcourt adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

CHAIR

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 14, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	ACTIVITY REPORT
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

- Agricultural Service Board Activity Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board (ASB) accepts the December 14, 2015 ASB Activity Report as presented.

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



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for October 5, 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				
January 12, 2015				
AG05	(01/12/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board arrange for two composting demonstration sites for large animal composting.	AF	1 site completed, seeking 2 nd site.
November 2, 2015				
AG107	(11/02/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council include the bale sampler in the Schedule Fees and Charges Bylaw and set a damage deposit of \$50 and no charge for rentals	CDM	DONE
AG108	(11/02/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board include an insert within the County newsletter of all rental equipment items.	AF	DONE
AG111	(11/02/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board Notify VSI that Clear Hills County supports the recommendation to implement BSE testing compensation in the amount of \$125.00 per animal; and further that the municipalities be responsible for releasing the funds directly to the producers within their municipalities.	AF	Done VSI AGM November 6/15
AG113	(11/02/15)	RESOLUTION by Chair Harcourt that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to bring back information on availability and cost of 50 to 70 foot McFarlane Harrows.	AF	Future meeting

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 14, 2015
Originated By:	Audrey Bjorklund, Community Development Manager
Title:	DATE, TIME & PLACE
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

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

AG22 (03/09/15) RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board authorize that regular meetings will be held the second Monday of each month except May when the meeting will be held on the first Monday of the month; meetings will commence at 10:00 a.m.; and no meetings will be held in April or September. At the call of the Chair, special meetings shall be posted 48 hours in advance. CARRIED.

The board may change the day and time of meetings by resolution if the second Monday and 10:00 a.m. start time are not acceptable to the members. All members must be present to change the date, time and place of the meetings.

OPTIONS:

1. Set ASB meetings for the second Monday of each month except May when the meeting will be held the first Monday, and no meetings will be held in April and September at a selected time.
2. Set ASB meetings for an alternate day of each month except April and September at a selected time.
3. Table the date, time and place of Board meetings until all members are present.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

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

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 14, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	2016 PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

The following resolutions were approved at the Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference on November 5, 2015 and will be brought forward for consideration at the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference.

- Compensation for Coyote Depredation
- Hay Insurance Program
- Climate Stations
- Emergent Resolution - Agricultural Opportunity Fund for Agricultural Research & Forage Association
- Species at Risk Act (SARA)
- Agricultural Plastics Recycling
- Reinstate Provincial Funding for the Canada and Alberta Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Surveillance Program

Voting members for the Provincial Conference are Chair Harcourt, Councilor Johnson and Alternate Deputy Chair Ruecker.

OPTIONS:

1. Approve the attendance of all available members to attend the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference being held on January 18-21, 2016 at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton, Alberta.
2. Provide direction to the voting member on resolutions being debated at the Conference.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 2016 Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference agenda
- 2016 Resolutions

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:



AgFieldman:

2016 ASB Provincial Conference



"Concerns of Today for Agriculture of Tomorrow"



AGENDA PACKAGES & SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**HOSTED BY: THE NORTHEAST REGION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN**

JANUARY 18th-21st , 2016

FANTASYLAND HOTEL

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

2016

Agricultural Service Board Conference

"Concerns of Today
for Agriculture of
Tomorrow"



DAY 1: Monday, January 18, 2016

4:00-8:00 pm	Conference Registration	Ballroom Foyer, Level 3
5:30-10:00 pm	Northeast Welcome Reception	Beverly Hills Ballroom
4:00-10:00pm	Tradeshow	Beverly Hills Ballroom

Welcome to the 71st ASB Provincial Conference!

Please note assigned seating in the Ballroom for the duration of the Conference

2016

Agricultural Service Board Conference

“Concerns of Today
for Agriculture of
Tomorrow”



DAY 2: Tuesday, January 19, 2016

7:00-8:00 am	Breakfast	Conference Room 6 & 7
7:00-8:30 am	Registration	Ballroom Foyer
8:30-8:45 am	Welcome from Conference Chair, Rob Saik	Beverly Ballroom
	National Anthem AAMD&C President AAAF President	
8:45-9:45 am	Confessions of a Greenpeace Dropout Patrick Moore, Ex-Greenpeace President	
9:45-10:15 am	Coffee Break	
10:15-11:15 am	Alberta Agriculture Updates , Doug Macaulay Provincial ASB Committee , Patrick Gordeyko, Chairman	
11:15-12:00 pm	The Agriculture Manifesto 10 Key drivers that will shape Agriculture in the Next Decade Rob Saik, Agri-Trend	
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch Break	
1:00-2:00 pm	Tornado Hunters Greg Johnson, Professional Storm-chaser	
2:00-3:00 pm	2016 Cattle Market Situation and Outlook Debbie McMillin, Market Analyst	
3:00-3:15 pm	Fortis Alberta Presentation	
3:15-3:35 pm	Coffee Break	
3:35-4:35 pm	Resolution Session 1	

2016

Agricultural Service Board Conference

"Concerns of Today
for Agriculture of
Tomorrow"



DAY 3: Wednesday, January 20, 2016

7:00-8:00 am	Breakfast	Conference Room 6 & 7
7:30-8:30 am	Registration	Beverly Hills Ballroom
8:30-9:30 am	Recognize, Rebrand, Revive One Farm's Story, the state of Animal Agriculture and looking into the Future Gary Conklin, Farmer	
9:30-10:30am	On Farm Economic Strategies Kevin Hursh, Agrologist and Consultant	
10:30-11:00 am	Coffee Break	
11:00-12:00 pm	Agriculture Tomorrow: Future Success Strategies Jim Bottomley, Futurist and Consultant	
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch	
1:00-1:30 pm	Carnivore Management Paul Frame, Carnivore Specialist	
1:30-2:00 pm	Wildlife Management Matt Besko- Wildlife Management Policy	
2:00-2:30 pm	Don't Let Activists Drive Your Combine Sarah Schultz	
2:30-3:00 pm	Livestock Diseases in Alberta and Steps to Prevent and Mitigate the Risk Drs. Ana Ulmer-Franco and Hernan Ortegon	
3:00-3:15 am	Coffee Break	
3:15-4:00 pm	Resolution Session 2	
5:30-6:00pm	Cocktails	Beverly Hills Ballroom
6:00- 7:00pm	Supper - Assigned seating	
7:00-8:00 pm	Awards Presentations Invitation to 2017 ASB Provincial Conference	
8:00-9:00pm	Entertainment- Comedian Howie Miller	

2016

Agricultural Service Board Conference

"Concerns of Today
for Agriculture of
Tomorrow"



DAY 4: Thursday, January 21, 2016

7:00-8:15 am	Breakfast	Conference Room 6 & 7
8:30-8:45 am	Conference Chair Address	Beverly Ballroom
8:45-10:30 am	Ministerial Forum	Beverly Ballroom

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME!

COMPENSATION FOR COYOTE DEPREDAATION

WHEREAS: Coyotes are currently regulated under the *Alberta Agricultural Pest Act* and Alberta is the only province in Canada to not include coyotes as part of the predatory compensation program;

WHEREAS: Wildlife predator compensation is paid for livestock depredation by wolves, grizzly bears, black bears, cougars and eagles;

WHEREAS: Coyotes also cause considerable damage to livestock resulting in 65% of Alberta's beef producers having an economic impact from coyote damage;

WHEREAS: Adding coyotes to the Alberta Wildlife Regulation would allow producers to claim compensation for livestock depredation caused by this species.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Minister of Environment and Parks add coyotes to the compensation list as a predator under the Alberta Wildlife Regulation paying the same level of compensation for depredation that is paid for livestock death and injury from wolves, grizzly bears, black bears, cougars and eagles.

SPONSORED BY: County of Northern Lights

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: _____

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Environment and Parks

Background information:

Currently coyotes are listed under the Agricultural Pest Act which offers producers assistance through Form 7 and 8 under the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, also listing them under the Wildlife Act would allow livestock producers to seek out compensation for death or injury to livestock caused by coyotes. Alberta is the only province to not include coyotes as part of the predatory compensation program. The report "Impact of Wildlife to Beef Producers in Alberta", by the Miistakis Institute in 2015, showed that 65% of Alberta beef producers are impacted by coyote predation. And in Saskatchewan over the last 3 years coyotes depredation accounted for 80-88% of claims for livestock losses. Table 1a-c offers a look at predator claims from 1975-1981^{1,2} and Table 2: Predators Compensation Programs in Western Canada offers a comparison between Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

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

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

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

** Includes retroactive claims for 1973 and 1974.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*** Adjustment for increased livestock market values.

¹ Gurba, Joseph. Compensation for Vertebrate Pest Damage. 1982 <<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/vpc10/18/>>

² It is estimated that several times the amount of predator loss of livestock goes undetected or cannot be proven and validated to the satisfaction of government officers (Gurba, 93))

A comparison of the predator compensation programs in Western Canada is shown in Table 1 (from Tracey Lee. A Review of Compensation Programs for Livestock in Southwestern Alberta. 2011.).

Table 2: Comparison of Predator Compensation Programs

	Alberta	British Columbia	Manitoba	Saskatchewan
Who runs the program	Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development	Business Risk Management Branch, BC Ministry of Agriculture	Manitoba Agriculture Services Corporation	Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation
Funding	Alberta Conservation Association through a levy on hunting and angling licenses	60% Federal Government, 40% Provincial Government	60% Federal Government, 40% Provincial Government	60% Federal Government, 40% Provincial Government, up to 80% of livestock value. Beyond 80% is covered by the province.
Compensation for livestock predation	100% value (minimum for cattle is \$400)	75% value (minimum \$300)	80% value	100% value (minimum for cattle \$400)
Compensation for suspected predation	50% value	None	40% value	50% value
Compensation for livestock injury	100% animal value for veterinary costs	75% animal value for veterinary costs	80% animal value for veterinary costs	80% animal value for veterinary costs
Value based on	Highest of the Can Fax price for the week before, the week of, and week after the loss. For calves producers can choose to wait for the Can Fax October price for fall weight 550 lbs.	Can Fax price at time of loss (minimum for calf \$400).	Can Fax price at time of loss.	Highest of the market sales for the week before, the week of, and week after the loss (minimum for calf is \$400).
Eligible livestock	Cattle, sheep, goats, swine, bison	Cattle	Cattle, horse, sheep, hogs, wild boars, goats, elk, fallow deer, bison, llamas, donkeys, ostriches, emus and other ratites	Cattle, sheep, goats, bison, horses, hogs (excluding wild boar), elk, fallow deer, llamas, donkey, ostrich, emu, ducks, geese, chickens, turkeys
Eligible predator	Bear, cougar, eagle, wolf	Bear, coyote, cougar, wolf	Bear, cougar, coyote, fox, wolf	Coyote, cougar, lynx, fox, wolf, eagle, birds of prey, scavenging birds, raccoon, skunk, badger, mink, weasel, any other wild animal that causes injury or death to eligible livestock.

HAY INSURANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS: Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) crop insurance and farm income disaster assistance is based on the annual yields by crop type;

WHEREAS: Currently, there is no adjustment for hay quality;

WHEREAS: Moisture Deficiency Insurance (MDI) is an area-based program which provides coverage on pasture using precipitation information from weather stations and spring soil moisture estimates to reflect moisture conditions across the province;

WHEREAS: Feed barley is used as the proxy crop for hay to determine the Variable Price Benefit (VPB) trigger;

WHEREAS: The Fall Market Price of feed barley reported for the Edmonton Region must increase by at least 10 per cent above the production insurance spring price for barley, for the VPB to trigger;

WHEREAS: The indemnities are paid using the increased price up to a maximum increase of 50 per cent, and producers are absorbing additional costs over 50%;

WHEREAS: Producers are left absorbing the cost of feed supplements when it comes to poor hay and pasture quality as well as the trucking cost when it comes to purchasing hay during the droughts and other agricultural disasters.

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

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry update the Hay and Pasture Insurance Program to accurately cover the impact of the market fluctuation on hay production for livestock producers based on hay commodities. Amendments need to include removing the 50% price cap on the VPB, assistance to cover the cost of feed supplements due to poor quality as well as trucking costs due to insufficient quantity of feed.

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

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation give authority to the adjusters to modify the amount when the adjuster is of the opinion that the livestock producer is facing additional expenditures that are directly linked to poor hay and pasture yields.

SPONSORED BY: Northern Sunrise County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: _____

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation

Background information

Data collected from Northern Sunrise County producers

Some producers suffered from lack of precipitation and an increase pressure from flea beetles, cutworms, and grasshoppers which left them experiencing an increase of expenditures with less than average to no yield production to offset those cost. Grasshoppers in those specific areas averaged 3 times above the economic threshold indicated and as high as 5 times, even after control measures were implemented. Hay yield averages are down by 73% from last year and cattle producers are anticipating selling more than 24% of their breeding stock. Cost of hay increased up to four fold while the pasture sustained around 50% of the average grazing period or herd size in affected areas.

Excerpt from the AFSC website.

Overview

AFSC offers insurance for both dryland and irrigated hay and provides a production guarantee based on the average of historical yields and coverage option selected. When hay production (harvested and appraised) falls below the guarantee, and the loss is due to an insured peril, the shortfall amount will be paid at the selected price option.

Hay Insurance does not compensate for quality loss. The Variable Price Benefit (VPB) is included with Hay Insurance and is triggered when the fall market price for barley increases by at least 10 per cent above the spring insurance price for barley and the client suffers a production loss. For details on VPB, see page 4.

Moisture Deficiency Endorsement (MDE) is an option available for purchase with Hay insurance. See MDE information starting on page 8.

Designated Perils

Only yield losses due to the following designated perils are covered under Hay Insurance policies:

- drought on dryland crops
- fire by lightning (in field only, not stacked, baled or in yard)
- hail
- Richardson ground squirrel (gopher)
- waterfowl and wildlife
- excessive moisture
- insect infestations
- wind
- flood
- frost
- plant disease
- snow
- winterkill

Winterkill Provision

Clients must have an active insurance policy for the acres that are damaged in the year the claim is requested and must have insured these acres in the previous year. Acres cannot have more than five years of production for alfalfa and legumes, and no more than eight years of production for grass.

Price

Hay insurance offers four prices based on forecasted market prices for the year that allow clients to customize their insurance.

Variable Price Benefit (VPB)

Hay Insurance includes VPB. This feature compensates the client when the client has a production shortfall below their insurance coverage and the price of feed barley increases by at least ten per cent during the growing season. As hay is a difficult commodity to price accurately, feed barley is used as the proxy crop for hay to determine the VPB trigger. The Fall Market Price of feed barley reported for the Edmonton Region must increase by at least 10 per cent above the production insurance spring price for barley, for the VPB to trigger. This is calculated by averaging the weekly feed barley price for the Edmonton Region reported by Alberta Canola Producers Commission during the month of October, expressed in \$/kg. The indemnities are paid using the increased price up to a maximum increase of 50 per cent.

Premium and Cost Sharing

Federal and provincial governments support AgrilInsurance programs, including Hay Insurance, by paying all administration expenses and sharing premium costs with clients. Premium rates are set annually based on historical losses and reflect the likelihood of future production losses. Premium rates vary by crop type, Risk Area, and coverage option. The client's premium is calculated by multiplying the dollar coverage by the client's share of the premium rate and applying any applicable premium adjustments.

Indemnity

To qualify, total production for all hay types must fall below the total coverage. There is no adjustment for hay quality. An indemnity is calculated separately for dryland and irrigated hay and losses are not offset for claim calculations.

Pasture Insurance

Overview

Moisture Deficiency Insurance (MDI) is an area-based program which provides coverage on pasture. This program uses precipitation information from weather stations and spring soil moisture estimates to reflect moisture conditions across the province. MDI losses are paid when accumulated precipitation at a selected weather station(s) in a given year falls below the normal expected precipitation for that weather station according to Payment Schedule A and B (page 18). MDI is not based on actual pasture production and conditions on insured fields may not reflect conditions at selected weather stations.

Designated Perils

Lack of moisture at the selected weather station(s) is the only peril insured.

Prices

MDI has four prices based upon a forecast of hay market prices for the year, allowing clients to customize their insurance.

Variable Price Benefit (VPB)

The VPB is automatically included in MDI and increases the dollar coverage if there has been a significant increase in the cost of replacement feed during the growing season. However, MDI only pays if the measured precipitation at the selected weather station(s) for the current year is less than the long term average. Feed barley is used as the proxy crop for MDI to determine the VPB trigger as pasture is a difficult commodity to price accurately.

CLIMATE STATIONS

- WHEREAS:** Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) crop insurance and farm income disaster assistance is based on the data collected from the nearest approved weather station;
- WHEREAS:** The locations of the weather stations that Agro Climatic Information Service (ACIS) collects data from are not consistently located geographically or reflecting microclimate areas;
- WHEREAS:** Producers are dealing with microclimates that AFSC insurance programs do not have accurate information on;
- WHEREAS:** Producers are situated too far from a weather station for the data to be precise when dealing with AFSC crop insurance and farm income disaster assistance;
- WHEREAS:** The adjusters doing the investigation are not left with the final say on the relevancy of the data of the nearest weather station.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry increase the amount of weather stations in a geographically consistent manner in the agricultural areas to ensure accuracy of weather data used by Agriculture Financial Services Corporation and other departments.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation give authority to the adjusters to modify the data when the adjuster is of the opinion that the claimant is in a microclimate that is different from the closest weather station for the crop insurance and farm income disaster assistance claim purposes until all additional weather stations are operational.

SPONSORED BY: Northern Sunrise County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

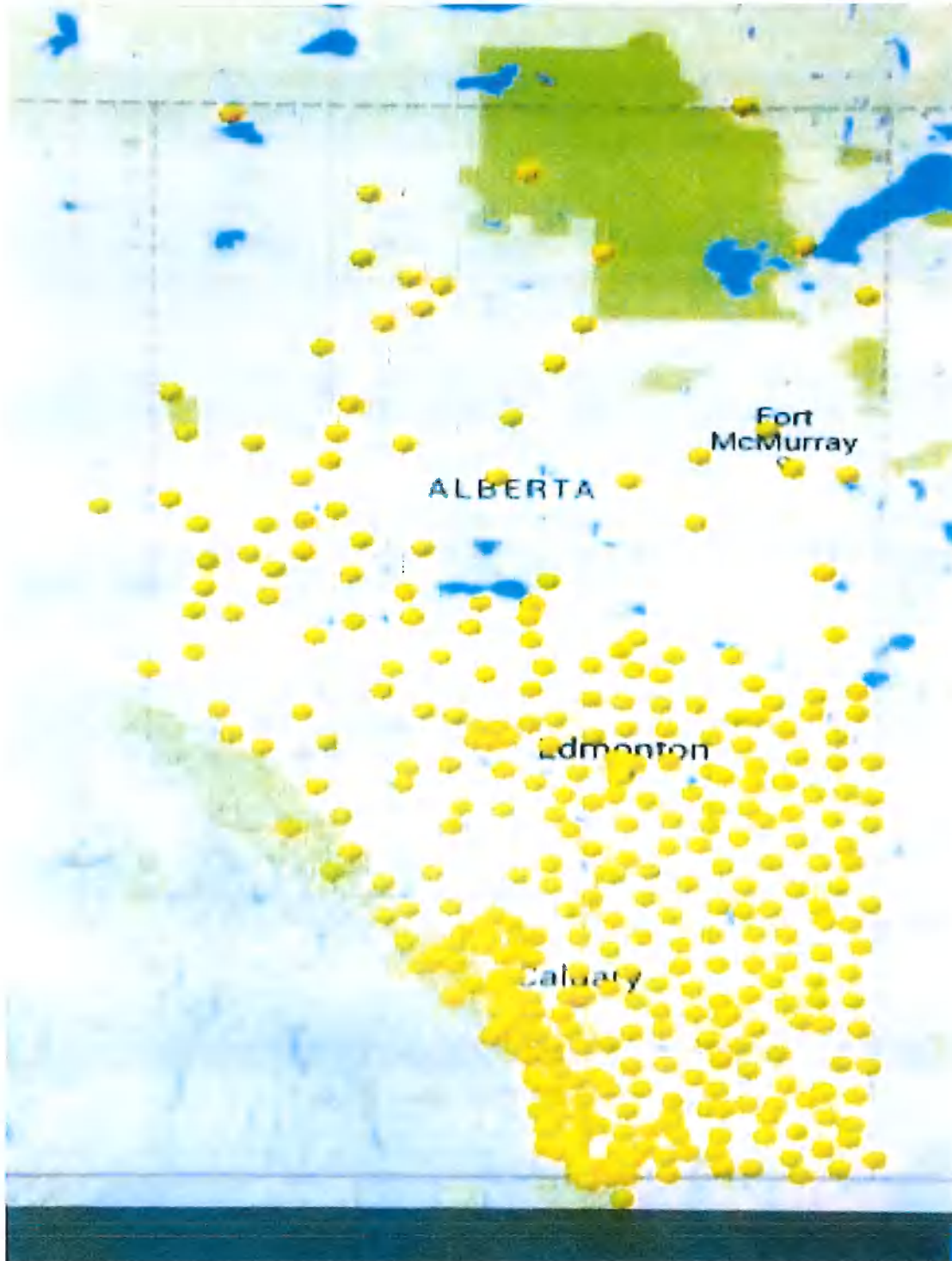
DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: _____

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation

Background information

Locations of ACIS weather stations across the province



Provincial Location of Weather Station

Area	South	Central	North East	North West	Peace	Total
Wether Stations (WS)	83	38	45	34	34	234
Cultivated Land Acres	7,610,573	5,830,737	4,034,758	2,811,511	3,708,794	23,996,373
Provincial % of Cult. Acres	32%	24%	17%	12%	15%	100%
Cult. Acres / Station	91,694	153,440	89,661	82,692	109,082	102,549
Agricultural land Acres	19,369,995	10,954,021	7,995,296	5,318,152	6,725,414	50,362,878
Provincial % of Ag land Acres	38%	22%	16%	11%	13%	100%
Ag Acres / Stations	233,373	288,264	177,673	156,416	197,806	215,226
All land acres	25,055,278	18,660,622	14,899,059	20,982,978	58,811,214	163,546,203
Provincial % of Acres	15%	11%	9%	13%	36%	85%
Acres /Stations	301,871	491,069	331,090	617,146	1,729,742	698,915
% Provincial station total	35%	16%	19%	15%	15%	100%
Average distance between WS	< 20	30	37	37	>37	27
Average longest distance to WS (km)	25	25	25	25	>30	21
Longest distance to WS (km)	37	37	>50	>50	>50	26

Calculation based on data from the AFSC website info and 2011 agricultural data from Stats Canada

Distance observations using AFSC map and attached legend

AGRICULTURAL OPPORTUNITY FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND FORAGE ASSOCIATIONS

WHEREAS: The continuing staffing decline in both provincial and federal government employees has resulted in the Agricultural Research and Forage Associations becoming the primary source of unbiased information for agricultural producers throughout the Province;

WHEREAS: Many Research and Forage Associations lack adequate staff to assist with important government initiatives such as pest monitoring without jeopardizing research integrity;

WHEREAS: Many of the Agricultural Research and Forage Associations are unable to enact long term research and demonstration programs or develop a capital asset replacement strategy at the current levels of funding provided by the Province;

WHEREAS: Many Research and Forage Associations expend a large portion of staff resources seeking funding vs performing program operations;

WHEREAS: In March 2014, Agriculture Minister Verlyn Olson announced that the Agricultural Opportunity Fund grant amount had been increased by \$2.5 million and Research and Forage Associations could proceed with program expansion;

WHEREAS: In January 2015 the \$2.5 million increase in funding was suddenly revoked.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry reinstate the 2014 Agricultural Opportunity Fund increase that was allocated for the Agricultural Research and Forage Associations.

SPONSORED BY: **Municipal District of Greenview No. 16**

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: _____

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Background information

"We need to ensure this province's rural and resource communities have the tools they need to keep contributing to the prosperity of Alberta." A quote from Premier Notley's election platform

ARAs and FAs are one of the essential tools used by our agricultural producers. If we can provide unbiased data that assists an agricultural producer increase his yield by 5% and reduce his inputs by 5% his net profitability can increase by up to 60%. If that same producer can improve his marketing skills and increase his returns at the elevator by 5% he can double his profit. With today's tight margins, 5% is a BIG deal even though it is so small you cannot see a visual difference in the field.

The Agricultural Opportunity Fund was created in 2002 to provide program funding for both Research and Forage Associations. Prior to its inception, the Government of Alberta provided core funding to Research and Forage Associations. In 2007 a resolution was put forward at the Agricultural Service Board conference requesting that Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development establish a consistent level of core funding to Agricultural Research and Forage Associations. They responded that AOF is program based and as such does not provide core funding but encouraged delivery of programs that were consistent with the goals of AOF. Starting in the 2006/2007 year, "AOF provided 3 year funding to ARAs and FAs who delivered the programs as described in their application." Alberta Agriculture and Food (AF) continue to support provincial coordination and collaboration of ARAs and FAs by funding the Agriculture Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA). AF provided \$1.5 million to ARECA in September 2006 to distribute to their members for improvements to the capital infrastructure of each association. In addition, program funding flows to ARAs and FAs through the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Program (AESAP). In September 2006, \$700,000 was made available to ARECA to manage through an application process for additional environmentally sustainable agriculture programs".

For ARAs and FAs to provide quality data and service they need to hire and retain highly qualified staff. Attracting employees to rural Alberta and retaining them requires an assurance of full-time employment and a competitive salary. With government grants being one of the main sources of revenue, it is imperative that they are reflective of rising costs.

SPECIES AT RISK ACT (SARA)

- WHEREAS:** The federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) and the designated independent committee for habitat protection legislation will have long lasting negative economic impact on agriculture, industry, rural development, and land use in Alberta and is of great concern to rural municipalities and elected officials;
- WHEREAS:** Agriculture, industry, species at risk and rural development can co-exist;
- WHEREAS:** Rural municipalities are firm supporters of the goals of the *Species at Risk Act*;
- WHEREAS:** All municipalities, industry and agricultural producers are affected by the above, leading to a shift in the social and economic balance between urban and municipalities in the Province.

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

AAAF and AAMDC facilitate a round table discussion with representation from the Federal Environment Minister, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and the Minister of Environment and Parks to rebuild the current *Species at Risk Act* to improve it in a way that seeks a balanced and cooperative approach (economic, environmental, and social) to species protection that focuses on ecosystem protection; limiting impact on agriculture, industry, rural development, and land use in Alberta.

SPONSORED BY: County of Warner No. 5/County of Forty Mile No. 8

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Alberta Environment and Parks
Environment Canada

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Agricultural Service Board has no active resolutions directly related to this issue

AAMDC Background: Resolution ID 4-14-S Year: **2014 Fall Convention**

Title: SPECIES AT RISK ACT (SARA) Sponsor: McKenzie County

Vote results: 3/5 Majority required (carried) endorsed by Northern District

Current Status: Incomplete

Preamble

WHEREAS the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) and embedded habitat protection legislation will have long lasting negative effect on rural municipalities in Alberta by limiting the ability of people and our province to grow and prosper; and

SPECIFIC LEGISLATION LINKAGES

- **SPECIES AT RISK ACT (SARA) setting the stage**
- **(From Wikipedia)**

The **Species at Risk Act (SARA)** is a piece of Canadian federal legislation which became law in Canada on December 12, 2002. It is designed to meet one of Canada's key commitments under the International Convention on Biological Diversity. The goal of the Act is to protect endangered or threatened organisms and their habitats. It also manages species which are not yet threatened, but whose existence or habitat is in jeopardy.

SARA defines a method to determine the steps that need to be taken in order to help protect existing relatively healthy environments, as well as recover threatened habitats. It identifies ways in which governments, organizations, and individuals can work together to preserve species at risk and establishes penalties for failure to obey the law.

The Act designates [COSEWIC](#), an independent committee of wildlife experts and scientists, to identify threatened species and assess their conservation status. COSEWIC then issues a report to the government, and the Minister of the Environment evaluates the committee's recommendations when considering the addition of a species to the List of Wildlife Species at Risk.

- **Alberta Government by Alberta's Endangered Species Conservation Committee (current list attached)**

Member Background:

1. The Species at Risk Act (SARA), while important in principal; the current wording and application limits rural communities and our province to grow and prosper and does not take into account the impact on agriculture, industry, rural development and land use in Alberta.

2. SARA will not do what is intended to do for the species it wants to protect nor the Rural Municipal economy.
3. Repeal current SARA provisions and rebuild with an approach to species protection that seeks a balanced and cooperative approach (economic, environmental, and social); agriculture, industry, species at risk and development can co-exist
4. The habitat protection position of SARA is problematic; however, we believe these problems can be addressed.
5. SARA removes development control away from municipalities and does not allow them to perform the core responsibility of balancing the public interest as it relates to land use.
6. Negative effect on future growth - long lasting negative economic impact on agriculture, industry, rural development and land use in Alberta.
7. Rural municipalities are committed to a healthy, sustainable environment. We firmly believe that endangered species can co-exist successfully with agriculture, industry, rural development and land use; it isn't an "either/or"
8. Endangered / Species at Risk Species is affecting agriculture and industry in the grassland and farming communities. Milk River Watershed, including Fish in the Milk River and tributaries ~ list attached.
9. Protecting biodiversity and protection for endangered species and their habitats are important. Governments, organizations, industry and individuals can work together to preserve species at risk that is enforced by legislation.
10. The goals and intent of SARA can be achieved by repealing the current SARA provisions and rebuilding the legislation in a way that seeks a balanced and cooperative approach (economic, environmental, and social) to species protection that focuses on ecosystem protection; limiting impact on agriculture, industry, development and rural municipal land use in Alberta.

(HISTORY OF THE ISSUE)

Other stakeholders with a vested interest:

Province wide impacts for municipalities

1998 Agricultural Service Board Resolutions

Resolution #1

Endangered species legislation

Be it resolved - That the Government of Canada reject proposals for federal endangered species legislation and ensure that future efforts to protect Canada's endangered species and their habitats focus on cooperative, compensatory, voluntary programs driven by local officials and private landholders and not through mandatory, restrictive and unenforceable federal legislation.

Response - Alberta Environmental Protection. As this resolution is directed strictly to the Government of Canada, a departmental response is unnecessary.

Environment Canada. The federal government remains committed to protecting endangered species. Minister Stewart is aware that private property owners and farmers in particular have raised concerns regarding the legislation that was before the House in April 1997. She also appreciates the agricultural community's cooperative, voluntary approach to conservation activities. Environment Canada officials are reviewing the legislation with the intent of ensuring that landowners are not unfairly penalized. The review also seeks to ensure that the voluntary efforts of landowners to protect and conserve endangered species are recognized and encouraged.

Programs and policies must be developed to support and reinforce the stewardship of our lands, the conservation of species and the protection of species at risk. To this end, work has started on the issue of stewardship to complement legislation, and we will hold workshops this summer. Representatives of the provincial and territorial governments will be well informed of the plans.

I am confident that the legislation that emerges from the current review will foster the cooperation and partnership required to protect Canada's species at risk. Please be assured that your comments will be taken into account as we prepare for the re-introduction of federal endangered species legislation.

1998 Agricultural Service Board Resolutions

Resolution #2

The Canada Endangered Species Protection Act

Be it resolved - The Provincial Government of Alberta actively lobby the Federal Government of Canada to ensure that the Canada Endangered Species Protection Act does not unduly inhibit the ability of individuals involved in the agricultural industry and others to carry on their normal business activities.

Response - Alberta Environment. The Government of Alberta is actively lobbying the federal government to ensure that federal endangered species legislation is consistent with the National Accord for the

Protection of Species at Risk and its supporting framework. The National Accord is the umbrella agreement under which all provinces, territories and the federal government agreed to cooperatively establish national endangered species programs and legislation. Based on the principles of cooperation, education, awareness, and partnerships, it encourages a cooperative approach to endangered species conservation by governments, private organizations, industry and citizens. We are also lobbying the federal government to abandon its confrontational approach respecting civil remedies which will avoid costly and time consuming delays in resource and land management decisions, and better respect the rights of individuals.

AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS RECYCLING

WHEREAS: 56% of farms in Alberta use one or more types of agricultural plastics (baler twine, net wrap, silage plastic, grain bags, bale bags/tubes);

WHEREAS: The disposal and/or recycling of agricultural plastics is not consistent across the province;

WHEREAS: Agricultural plastics are either burned on farm or sent to the landfill;

WHEREAS: Agricultural plastics users are concerned with how they deal with agricultural plastics and feel it is important to be able to recycle agricultural plastics;

WHEREAS: The Government of Saskatchewan, in partnership with a number of stakeholders, has been running a successful pilot program for managing the recycling of agricultural plastics;

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

That the Ministry of Environment and Parks and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry research, develop, and implement an agricultural plastics recycling program modelled after the pilot program in the Province of Saskatchewan.

SPONSORED BY: **Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124**

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Environment and Parks
 Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

BACKGROUND

The disposal of these materials has been a concern of the Agricultural Service Boards for a number of years. Resolutions dealing with the disposal/recycling of agricultural plastics, directly and indirectly, have been presented, and passed at the Agricultural Service Board conference in 2002, 2006, 2011, 2012, and 2015. There is still no province wide agricultural plastics recycling program.

It is clear that there is interest, from continuous resolutions from Agricultural Service Boards, in having some sort of recycling program available to Alberta's producers. According to the Government of Alberta's Agricultural Plastics Recycling – Agricultural Producer's Survey Final Report, producers are also interested in disposing of their agricultural plastics in an environmentally responsible way (see attached document, titled Key Takeaways).

Surveys indicate that the most common ways of disposing of agricultural plastics, in Alberta, are to burn the product on farm, or send it away to be buried in a landfill. Both of these options are known to have negative effects on the environment. Agricultural plastics, especially grain bags take up a significant amount of space. Using up valuable landfill space is not a long term solution. Some may not see the effects of burning plastics immediately, but it is known that this practice is harmful to the environment over time. Toxins from burning plastics are deposited on the land and into the air and water.

Introducing a program for recycling agricultural plastics in Alberta would benefit the entire province. Implementing a program at a provincial level, rather than municipal would provide consistent service for all of Alberta's producers. It would reduce the negative environmental impacts from improper disposal of large amounts of plastic, reduce the amount of space used in landfills, increase the profile of Alberta's producers as being "sustainable", and possibly improve the aesthetics by reducing the amount of white plastic blowing around rural areas.

REFERENCES:

- CleanFARMS Inc. Saskatchewan Agricultural Plastic Packaging Study of Potential Collection and Processing Option Draft Report. Retrieved September 8th, 2015 from <http://www.cleanfarms.ca/sites/default/files/Clean%20Farms%20DRAFT%20Report%20%20Saskatchewan%20120413.pdf>
- Government of Alberta. *Agricultural Plastics Recycling Agricultural Producers Survey Final Report*. Retrieved September 8, 2015 from [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/com14387/\\$file/Plastics_Recycling_Agricultural_Producers_Survey_Final_Report.pdf?OpenElement](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/com14387/$file/Plastics_Recycling_Agricultural_Producers_Survey_Final_Report.pdf?OpenElement)

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. The majority (56%) of farms in Alberta use one or more types of agricultural plastics. Usage is relatively equal amongst most regions – South (60%), Central (59%), Northeast (58%) and Northwest (52%) – but significantly lower in the Peace region (44%).
2. A best estimate of the total amounts of agricultural plastics eligible for recycling in the past 12 months would be in the ballpark of 3,000 metric tonnes. The amounts (by weight) of plastic grain bags or tubes, baling twine and silage pit or pile covers are roughly equal: 969 tonnes, 857 tonnes and 1,066 tonnes, respectively. One should keep in mind that agricultural plastics usage can vary dramatically from year to year, thus data based on a one year timeframe should be interpreted with caution.
3. Seven-in-ten Alberta farmers expect their usage of agricultural plastics to remain the same over the next three years, while just one-in-ten anticipate an increase.
4. Baling twine is by far the most commonly used type of agricultural plastic among all agricultural plastics users (i.e. crops, livestock or mixed); 90% reported using plastic baling twine in the past 12 months.
5. Burning is a common practice for managing agricultural plastic at end-of-life, while sending plastics to a landfill site is also a frequently used practice. From the Municipal Waste Authority survey, we know a relatively small percentage of plastic is diverted for recycling as among the 71% of authorities that accept plastic, 84% say they have buried one or more types of agricultural plastics in their landfill while 33% say they have shipped any type of plastic to a recycler.
6. Incidence of recycling agricultural plastics among producers is low. Overall, 17% of agricultural plastics users sent one or more types of plastics for recycling in the past 12 months.
7. There is strong consensus among agricultural plastics users that it is important to be able to recycle their agricultural plastics. A clear majority, however, feel it is difficult to do so and are dissatisfied with their current access to agricultural plastics recycling.
8. The most frequent difficulty identified with regards to recycling agricultural plastics is by far “no recyclers nearby” (43%). For producers who had not recycled or tried to recycle agricultural plastics in the past, just under half (46%) said “more recycling or collection facilities” would encourage them to do so. Increasing convenience and/or ease of recycling is also important.
9. Various environmentally-related motivators emerge as the key reasons for recycling or trying to recycle agricultural plastics. These include, among others, “to re-use or recycle” (19%), “environmental concerns” (16%), “plastics do not degrade easily” (6%) and “air pollution” (5%).

Executive Summary

1.0 Introduction

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment provided funding to CleanFARMS to undertake this work entitled 'Saskatchewan Agricultural Plastic Packaging – Study of Potential Collection and Processing Options' (the Study). 2cg Inc., in association with Sheri Praski Environmental Consulting, was retained to undertake this Study. The Study was supported in-kind by CleanFARMS and with oversight from the Saskatchewan Agricultural Stewardship Council (SASC), a subcommittee of the CleanFARMS Board.

The Ministry has indicated they are seeking the development of a regulation (target launch date of June 2014) that would require Stewards in Saskatchewan to establish a stewardship program. This program would include collection/processing programs for four designated products (Grain Bags, Bale Wrap/Silage Film, Twine and Net Wrap). For the purpose of this Study, 'Stewards' are defined as the first seller of the designated products into the province of Saskatchewan.

Table 1 presents a brief summary of agricultural plastics use and management.

Table 1 Overview of Agricultural Plastic Use and Management

Agricultural Plastic	Plastic Resin	Use	Management
Grain Bags	LDPE	Used to store grain	Stored on farm Burned on farm Landfilled off farm Recycled
Twine	PP	Used for baling hay and straw	Stored on farm Burned on farm Landfilled off farm Recycled
Bale wrap	LLDPE	Used to wrap hay	Stored on farm Burned on farm Landfilled off farm
Silage wrap	LDPE	Used to store silage	Stored on farm Burned on farm Landfilled off farm Could be recycled with grain bags
Net wrap	HDPE or PP	Used to wrap hay and straw	Stored on farm Burned on farm Landfilled off farm

Ultimately any collection and processing option must be convenient for the farmer, cost effective and demonstrate environmental benefit. As well it will be imperative that Stewards work cooperatively and collaboratively with the agricultural community to develop practical solutions.

This Study includes a review of current Stewardship programs for non agricultural waste materials such as beverage containers and the two pilot scale programs operating in Saskatchewan for the diversion and recycling of agricultural plastics.

The focus of this Study includes the development of collection and processing options to recover these agricultural plastic packaging materials and a cost analysis of these options.

2.0 Current Pilot Programs

The Moose Jaw River Watershed Stewards Inc. (MJRWS) launched a pilot program to collect and recycle grain bags and bale twine in March 2010. It is set to conclude in March 2014.

The non profit agriculture organization Provincial Council of Agriculture Development and Diversification (ADD) Boards for Saskatchewan Inc. (PCAB) launched a province wide pilot program to collect grain bags and twine since March, 2011.

The data from the MJRWS and PCAB programs were extrapolated, annualized and summarized as depicted in Table 2.

Table 2 Extrapolated and Annualized Cost Estimates for the Pilot Programs

Program	Recovered	Cost	Revenue	Net Cost	Depots	Depot Costs	Recycling Costs
	kg/year	\$/year	\$/year	\$/year	#	\$/year	\$/kg
MJRWS	83,000	\$73,000	\$5,000	\$68,000	3	\$22,667	\$0.82
PCAB	148,000	\$141,300	\$5,000	\$136,300	11	\$12,391	\$0.92

Based on available information it is estimated that on average a pilot depot costs \$12,000-\$23,000 to operate; that agricultural plastics cost between \$0.82-\$0.92/kg to recycle and that the revenue for agricultural plastics is \$0.04-0.06/kg (i.e. \$40-\$50/tonne). A relevant lesson is that more depots may increase the overall recovery but not necessarily the amount of agricultural plastics recovered (i.e. MJRWS sites collected 28,000kg/depot; PCAB depots collected 13,500kg/depot).

3.0 Cost Analysis of Collection, Consolidation and Transfer and Processing Options

The diversion of agricultural plastics (grain bags, twine, bale and silage film and netwrap) from Saskatchewan must follow a series of steps, similar to that depicted in Figure 1.

There are four key steps:

- Generation;
- Collection;
- Consolidation and transfer; and
- Processing.

A network of consolidation depots would be set up to receive agricultural plastics. Farmers could deliver their agricultural plastics to these depots or a network of service providers could be deployed to undertake this work. The depots would transfer agricultural plastics to processors for recycling.

There are two options for the collection of agricultural plastics that were investigated and costed:

- Option 1. Farmer Delivers Agricultural Plastic Waste to Consolidation Depot; and
- Option 2. On Farm Collection by Service Provider and Delivery to Consolidation Depot.

The following general assumptions were used:

- Consolidation depots located at public sector (default) or private sector locations;
- Staffed consolidation depots receive a minimum of 50 tonnes/year of agricultural plastics;
- Service providers can collect a minimum of 180 tonnes/year of agricultural plastics and take them to unstaffed consolidation depots;
- Grain bags arrive at consolidation depots rolled;
- Baling can be made available (if required) for twine and net wrap;
- Agricultural plastics are transferred to processors that offer the highest revenue for agricultural plastics; and
- Costing models were developed for each model to help estimate capital and operating costs.

3.1 Option 1. Farmer Collects and Delivers to Consolidation Depot

In this option the farmer is responsible for collecting and delivering agricultural plastics from their farm to a consolidation depot operated by an Industry Stewardship Organization.

A template consolidation depot was developed and would consist of the following:

- Land for storage and loading (ca. 1 acre) at an existing public site;
- Roller and trailer;
- Loading ramp to accommodate van trailers;
- Full-time or Part-time operator (i.e. on-site staff);
- Site management; and
- Access to Bobcat (or similar) for loading trailers.

A model was developed to help estimate consolidation depot costs. It assumed that a consolidation depot would receive a minimum of 50 tonnes/year of agricultural plastics.

Two Scenarios based on facility operating times and staffing level were tested.

Scenario 1-Low	6 months per year with part time on site personnel during business hours (ca. 16 hours/month).
Scenario 2-High	12 months per year with part time on site personnel during business hours (ca. 80 hours/month).

Table 3 provides some detail on estimated annual consolidation depot operating costs.

Table 3 Overview of Consolidation Depot Operating Costs

Cost Items	Scenario 1-Low	Scenario 2-High
Capital	\$2,100	\$2,100
Land leasing	\$3,000	\$6,000
Management time	\$2,000	\$3,900
Staff time	\$2,400	\$24,000
Maintenance	\$1,000	\$1,000
Insurance	\$1,000	\$1,000
Other	\$1,000	\$1,000
Standby Time	\$900	\$900
Bobcat rental	\$1,000	\$1,000
Bags	\$800	\$800
Baling Cost	\$600	\$600
Transportation	\$5,700	\$5,700
	\$21,500	\$48,000
Revenue	\$6,300	\$6,300

If one assumes agricultural production spans the width of the province (about 600 km) wide and that it extends north from the US border about 700 km to Meadow Lake then it would take 42 consolidation depots to provide coverage so that each farm would not need to travel more than 50 km to access a consolidation depot.

3.2 Option 2. On Farm Collection by Service Provider and Delivery to Consolidation Depot

In this option a service provider hired by an Industry Stewardship Organization would come to the farm and collect agricultural plastics and deliver them to a consolidation depot. There would be no out-of-pocket costs for this service for the farmer.

A template service provider system was developed and would consist of the following:

- Flat bed work truck, trailer and roller;
- Access to baler (if required);
- Operator(s) (one or two);
- Cell phone and GPS;
- Fuel for travel to and from the sites; and
- Hotel and accommodations for operators while collecting from a geographic area.

A model was developed to help estimate on farm collection costs with the following assumptions:

- Service providers would be on the road from October through March to coincide with grain bag extraction;
- Each service provider could collect 10 grain bags or equivalent agricultural plastics each day;
- Costs were based on the collection of grain bags;
- There would be one consolidation depot per service provider; and
- The consolidation depots would be unstaffed and used only by service providers.

Two Scenarios based on the number of operators was tested.

Scenario 1-Low	Collection service provided for 6 months with one full time operator per service provider.
Scenario 2-High	Collection service provided for 6 months with two full time operators per service provider.

Table 4 provides some detail on estimated operating costs.

Table 4 Estimate of Collection by Service Provider Costs

Cost Items	Scenario 1-Low	Scenario 2-High
	\$/year	
Capital	\$12,000	\$12,000
Management time	\$0	\$0
Staff time	\$32,000	\$64,000
Mileage	\$33,000	\$33,000
Daily expenses	\$20,000	\$40,000
Other	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total	\$98,000	\$150,000

It was estimated that up to 10 service providers would be required to cover the province.

3.3 Summary of Costs

Table 5 presents a summary of the cost/kg to operate a consolidation depot or a service provider.

Table 5 Summary of Costs

	Description	Low	High	Comments
		\$/kg		
Option 1	Farmer Delivers Agricultural Plastic Waste to Consolidation Depot	\$0.28	\$0.77	50 tonnes per staffed consolidation depot
Option 2	On Farm Collection by Service Provider and Delivery to Consolidation Depot	\$0.66	\$0.95	180 tonnes per service provider to unstaffed consolidation depot

For Option 1 it will cost an estimated \$16,000-\$42,000/year to operate a staffed consolidation depot. Table 6 shows the estimated overall system costs based on current assumptions and 42 consolidation depots. It includes the costs to operate consolidation

depots (net annual operating costs) as well as program administration and education and awareness costs.

Table 6 Summary of Total System Costs- Option 1

Consolidation Depots	Scenario 1-Low	Scenario 2-High
42		
Net Annual Operating Costs	\$639,000	\$1,752,000
Administrative Costs	\$190,000	\$190,000
Subtotal	\$829,000	\$1,942,000
Education and Awareness Cost	\$42,000	\$98,000
Total Cost	\$871,000	\$2,040,000

For Option 2 it will cost \$100,000-\$150,000/year/service provider to collect agricultural plastics directly from the farm. Table 7 shows the estimated overall system costs based on current assumptions and 10 service providers. It includes the costs for a network of service providers (net annual operating costs) as well as program administration and education and awareness costs.

Table 7. Summary of Total System Costs- Option 2

Service Providers	Scenario 1-Low	Scenario 2-High
	On Farm Service Provider Collection	
10	#/day	
Net Annual On Farm Operating Costs	\$980,000	\$1,500,000
Net Annual Consolidation Depot Operating Costs	\$191,000	\$191,000
Total Annual Cost	\$1,171,000	\$1,691,000
Administrative Costs	\$190,000	\$190,000
Subtotal	\$1,361,000	\$1,881,000
Education and Awareness Cost	\$69,000	\$95,000
Total Cost	\$1,430,000	\$1,976,000

4.0 Methods to Facilitate the Capture of Agricultural Plastics

Financial incentives can be used to stimulate the capture rate of agricultural plastics. These incentives will need to be over and above the costs of recycling these plastics.

There are a number of financial incentives that could be implemented.

4.1 Bounty Based

A service provider financial incentive (bounty) could be developed whereby a collector of agricultural plastics would be financially rewarded (on a per kg or per unit basis) for agricultural plastics that it is able to collect from farms.

4.2 Deposit Return

A deposit return system could be used to encourage farmers to divert agricultural plastics. This would include the addition of a deposit fee placed on agricultural plastics at the point of purchase. To be clear this deposit return would be over and above the fees required to finance the agricultural plastic recycling program. With the return of those items the deposit would be returned.

This may further stimulate the ability of an entrepreneur (i.e. service provider) to set up a business to collect agricultural plastics and work out with the farmer a fair approach on how to split up the deposit for recycling agricultural plastics.

5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

General Conclusions

- The provision of consolidation depots where farmers deliver their own agricultural plastics are less expensive (Option 1) than where a service provider collects agricultural plastics (Option 2);
- Public sites such as municipal/regional landfills that already handle wastes appear to be the best candidates for consolidation depots;
- Private sites such as agricultural equipment and supply retail stores, grain elevators, etc are less feasible for consolidation depots because of possible conflicts with their operation including vectors and odour; and
- The two agricultural plastic recycling pilot programs provide a good starting point for a province wide program and current depots, infrastructure and systems should be incorporated where practical.

General Recommendations

- Start with a voluntary program;
- Use PCAB/MJWRS consolidation depots sites as starting point and ensure that all have loading ramps;
- Assess current consolidation depots to ensure they achieve a critical mass of a minimum van trailer load and consolidate as necessary;
- Identify other high agricultural plastic generation areas and develop consolidation depots around these areas;
- Provision in the program plan for undertaking a pilot using Option 2 (i.e. service provider) in part of the province once consolidation depots are operational; and
- Encourage private sector to set up service delivery programs to collect agricultural plastics from farmers. This could be coupled with financial incentives.

REINSTATE PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR THE CANADA AND ALBERTA BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

- WHEREAS:** Since 2007, Canada has been recognized by the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) as a controlled BSE risk country
- WHEREAS:** Canada may be at risk of losing its status as a controlled BSE risk country due to tested numbers not meeting the 30,000 animal annual requirement set by OIE
- WHEREAS:** If Canada does not meet these requirements, we may fall into the negligible BSE risk category where OIE and trading partners may close borders to Canadian cattle. International perception on the change in risk status may negatively impact our sound beef export market.
- WHEREAS:** By reinstating Provincial funding, it will encourage more producers to participate in the BSE program realizing our target
- WHEREAS:** On September 15, 2011 the province decided to discontinue the \$150 incentive given to producers to allow sampling their animals and for maintaining control of the carcass pending test results

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

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry reinstate the \$150.00 incentive given to producers for participating in the BSE program.

SPONSORED BY: M.D. of Bonnyville

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Background

Current Program:

Reimbursement for Producers

Eligible producers are reimbursed \$75 for each eligible animal. Reimbursement to producers under the CABSESP is performed to offset the costs to have an animal assessed for eligibility, sampled if eligible, and to retain control of the carcass until a negative BSE test result is available.

Overview of the Canada and Alberta BSE Surveillance Program

History

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

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

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

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

After July 1, 2008, age verification became a challenge for certified veterinarians, since age verification by dentition was a requirement for animals from 30 to 59 months of age and proper documentation/records to verify age was a requirement for eligibility on animals 60 to 107 months. It was estimated that these changes would result in a reduction in sampling numbers of about 50%, without affecting the number of OIE points produced by Alberta, and creating significant savings for taxpayers. However, analysis conducted by the CABSESP revealed that sampling numbers were reduced more than expected. As a result, a series of surveys were conducted by the CABSESP to determine the contributing factors of this reduction. One of the major issues was the lack of proper farm records to age verify animals from 60 to 107 months, but other factors such as reduced cattle inventories, increased cull cow market prices and animals remaining longer in pasture, were also contributing factors.

Recent Changes to the CABSESP

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

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

On September 15, 2011 the province decided to discontinue the \$150 Incentive given to producers to allow sampling their animals and for maintaining control of the carcass pending test results. Alberta producers are now receiving \$75 from the federal government (CFIA). The province continues administering the program and testing samples for BSE in the TSE Edmonton laboratory.

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

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

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

The World Animal Health (OIE) Point System

The changes to the CABSESP respond to the need for Canada to meet the OIE requirements in BSE surveillance and to improve and increase its efficiency. The OIE implemented a point system to assess the quality of BSE surveillance conducted by member countries. In this manner, and together with testing a significant yearly number, each country also needs to earn certain number of points over a period of time. Each collected sample is assigned a point value based on the subpopulation (category) where the sampled animal came from, its age and the animal's history and clinical data. For example, a 4-year old animal exhibiting neurological signs consistent with BSE would be assigned the highest value (1,741 points); while healthy yearlings sampled at routine slaughter are much less valuable from a BSE surveillance perspective with a value of no more than 0.01 points. Since samples from a clinical suspect animal are worth more than samples from healthy animals, or those dead of unknown causes, the quality and detail of the clinical history/signs and the determination of the real age is extremely important.

Clinical Information

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

Veterinarians In the Program

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

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

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

- Veterinarians currently participating in the program: 277
 - Veterinary clinics participating in the program: 150
 - Total veterinarians certified since 2008: 515
- For more information, please visit the BSE web page from the CFIA.

The Veterinary Certification Program

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

a change has implemented to the program, and this assures that certified veterinarians are current on the latest version of the program conditions.

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

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

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

Recommendations for Producers

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

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

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

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

Program Insights

- New graduates in veterinary medicine, as well as other veterinarians moving to Alberta are participating in two certification sessions scheduled each year.
- The TSE Unit is in charge of receiving application forms, entering data into the system, pre-verifying information, auditing, controlling and making sure that the forms are complete to trigger payments.

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

BSE Enhanced Surveillance Program

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

Surveillance is one of many BSE-related actions Canada has implemented to manage BSE. The program tests a sample of animals from the national cattle herd and focuses on higher-risk animals that are most likely to be affected by the disease. The surveillance program's objectives are to determine and monitor the level of BSE present in Canada and to confirm the effectiveness of the suite of measures Canada has implemented to protect human and animal health from the disease.

- Canada's Protocols for BSE Surveillance
- National BSE Surveillance Reimbursement Program
- BSE Surveillance: Maintaining confidence in Canadian beef

Sample Status and Testing Results

Updated monthly. Last updated 2015-07-31

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

2015

Month	<u>Samples Tested</u>	<u>Negative</u>
July	1823	1823
June	2041	2041
May	1915	1915
April	3008	3008
March	2763	2763
February	2242	2241
January	2902	2902
Year to date	16694	16693

Previous Years

Year	<u>Samples Tested</u>	<u>Negative</u>
2014	27604	27604
2013	31021	31021
2012	27371	27371
2011	33458	33457

PROACTIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON ALBERTA PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS

WHEREAS: The Government of Alberta's strategy to realize savings over the next 3 years by reducing the summer maintenance budget by \$27.8 million in 2015 alone is showing signs that the right-of-ways of Alberta's highways cannot be sustained at that level;

WHEREAS: Invasive plants cause significant changes to ecosystems that result in economic harm to our agricultural and recreational sectors. Highway corridors facilitate the spread not just locally, but internationally as well that impacts our neighbor's;

WHEREAS: Provincially, reductions were made that specifically state only 1 shoulder cut per year, no full width mowing, on all highways as well as no scheduled weed spraying, only reactive spot spraying after receiving a weed notice from a municipality;

WHEREAS: The most cost-effective strategy against invasive species is preventing them from establishing rather than relying on a municipality to hopefully identify an infestation and react by issuing a notice. Allowing other undesirable plants growing increases the risk to human health (poisonous plants) and public safety as well by reduced visibility along the shoulders of the road when wildlife are crossing or grazing;

WHEREAS: Alberta Transportation in the past had the option of signing Service Agreements with each municipality to do invasive plant control, but that option is no longer available in some districts due to some of the highway maintenance contracts;

WHEREAS: With 31,000 kilometers of highway in the province the land base in which it is responsible for weed control within its right-of-way's is regulated by the Weed Control Act which requires attention and sufficient funds to be able to abide by its own legislation.

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

The Government of Alberta restores funding levels to Alberta Transportation for summer maintenance programs for vegetation management (weed control and mowing).

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

Alberta Transportation gives the option in all districts of the province to enter into Service Agreements with municipalities for weed control as the prime contractor, but if highway

maintenance contracts do not allow for that then the Government of Alberta reopen those contracts to allow municipalities to become prime contractors.

SPONSORED BY: County of Paintearth No. 18

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Transportation
Alberta Environment and Parks

Background

In 2006 a resolution was passed "**Resolution #10 - Weed Control Along Primary and Secondary Highways**" that requested "the Provincial Government allocate sufficient funds to control the weeds and undesirable vegetation along their primary and secondary highways within the Province". At that time Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation indicated that they placed a "high priority on weed control within all highway rights-of-way". The department also stated that in 1999 a process was initiated "to involve the Fieldmen more directly in the weed control programs by allowing them, in urgent situations, to order work directly from highway maintenance contractors or to undertake weed control using their own forces. This process has been quite successful on a provincial basis".

In 2010 a resolution was passed "**Resolution #4 - Alberta Transportation Roadside Weed Control**" that requested "Alberta Transportation review their current weed control program to ensure the effectiveness of the program and give consideration to an increase in the current width of ditch that is sprayed as well as implementing a monitoring and assessment program to ensure that severe populations are dealt with proactively not reactively." Alberta Transportations (AT) response indicated that it was working with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development to increase the effectiveness of its weed control program and the knowledge of the field staff. It also indicated that is establishing standards for a province-wide integrated invasive species management program. The information gathered by the maintenance contract inspectors and other Alberta Transportation staff will be incorporated into Alberta's Pest Surveillance System as well as Alberta Transportation's internal tracking systems, which will allow effective herbicide application and rotation.

Today there is no consistency in regards to how weed control work is done. Individual highway maintenance contractors have their own way of dealing with weed control and mowing. Some municipalities are indicating they have service agreements in place with AT others are saying that service agreements are "sort of" in place in that those agreements are in reality with the contractor and others are told no service agreements are allowed and the municipality would have to be a sub-contractor. In the County of Paintearth No. 18 we previously had Service Agreements with AT, but after a new maintenance contractor was awarded our district Service Agreements were no longer allowed and meeting with the maintenance contractor were told that any work the municipality wanted to do would have to be as a sub-contractor through them.

Most municipalities would prefer to be the prime contractor of any weed control work that they agree to do rather than being required to be a sub-contractor for the highway maintenance contractor. Some districts require the municipality to be the sub-contractor, which adds another cost (usually in the form of an Administration Fee by the contractor) to the province which is not needed, and some municipalities by policy are not allowed to be sub-contractors.

Attached to this background is a memo from the Alberta Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association that stated what specific changes would occur for the 2015/16 Highway Maintenance Budget. In that memo it stated weed notices would be required to do any weed control work. Some areas of the Province were told in order to get weed control work done a weed notice would need to be issued while others were told that was not required? Enforcement on the Weed Act is dealt with in different ways across the province, but in general enforcement depends on the seriousness of the infestation and should not require a notice for every occurrence.

In 2005/06 \$2.9 million was spent on weed control and in 2004/05 another \$4 million on mowing according to AT. If we were to assume a 2% inflation increase to those budgets each year the estimated weed control budget would have been \$3.53 million and \$4.97 million for mowing in 2015 before the cuts.

Weed populations that are not addressed early will require costly ongoing control efforts. For example, spotted knapweed was introduced to Montana in the 1920s, and by 1988, had infested more than 4.7 million acres. The economic impact is approximately \$42 million annually. Development and implementation of roadside management plans requires stable funding to keep costs down over time. If we continue to reduce the amount of vegetation control work within them what will the final price be for that and how will that impact our neighbours who may not have some of these invasive plants that our Province does? In 2015 “**Resolution 14- Additional Funding for Municipalities dealing with Prohibited Noxious Weeds that come from Outside the Province of Alberta**” was passed just for that reason.

Right-of-ways are a pathway for invasive plants to spread to our agricultural, forestry, water bodies, and recreational lands. The impacts of invasive plants to all natural resource sectors of the economy are being felt across the nation. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) estimates that of the 485 invasive plant species in Canada, invasive plants in crops and pastures alone cost approximately \$2.2 billion every year. The CFIA classifies 94 invasive species as agricultural or forest pests and estimates that these regulated species cost the Canadian economy \$7.5 billion annually. The recreational economic impact is harder to quantify, but Canadians spend approximately \$11 billion on nature-related activities in a single year. Invasive plants have the potential to endanger the value of Canada’s protected areas by compromising their natural integrity and diminishing their quality.

A consistent province-wide invasive plant management budget is needed for Alberta’s highways.

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 14, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	ALUS MEETING REVIEW
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

This meeting was held November 6, 2015 in Fairview, Alberta. This was a joint meeting with the two ASB's we partner with under the Environmental Stream Funding component of the Provincial Agricultural Service Board grant, M.D. of Fairview and M.D. of Peace, the Manager and representatives from the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association (PCBFA). The PCBFA administers the Environment Stream program for the three municipalities. Denika Piggott from Municipal Affairs was presenting on this program that is now being undertaken by 7 municipalities in Alberta.

Outcomes/Next Steps:

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

BACKGROUND:

Once the level of commitment from the municipalities and their vision are identified the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association will consider if this can fit under their programming.

If the ALUS partnership proceeds the next steps will be:

1. Forming the steering committee and developing the program outline, budget & cost share commitments.
2. Getting ALUS support for the proposed program.
3. Peace Country Beef & Forage Association (or another administering agency) implementing the program.

ATTACHMENTS:

- ALUS meeting package from November 6, 2015

OPTIONS:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: <i>ABj</i> AgFieldman:
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ALUS Meeting
November 6, 2015
8:30 a.m.
Dunvegan Motor Inn



A Community Introduction to the ALUS Program

Introduction

Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) has a simple goal...create a healthy landscape that sustains agriculture, wildlife and natural spaces for all Canadians.

ALUS is an innovative model for conservation, one that puts farmers, ranchers and local communities at the centre of conservation policy. ALUS focuses on the working landscape where important opportunities for conservation action exist. ALUS sees the production of agricultural crops and livestock as compatible with the conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems.

There is a growing awareness that nature and natural areas provide many benefits valuable to humans, things like water filtration and flood control. That recognition has served to highlight some very important ideas; firstly, that such benefits from nature are real and can be quantified and valued. Secondly, that the farmers and ranchers of Canada can use their skills and intimate knowledge of their working lands to return marginal or ecologically significant areas into natural ecosystems that produce nature's benefits for all of society. ALUS has been uniquely designed to harvest the potential of both these ideas by engaging farmers, ranchers and local communities to create more benefits from nature for Canadians.

ALUS delivers nature's benefits such as clean water, clean air, erosion control, wildlife habitat, and can reduce the impacts of extreme weather. ALUS farmers and ranchers do this through things like wetland restoration, the addition of hedgerows and windbreaks, the provision of habitat for pollinator species and native biodiversity and the establishment of vegetative cover along streams and rivers.

There are several innovative elements enabling the ALUS approach to improve environmental health. One is delivering targeted project types (e.g. restoring wetlands and establishing reduced grazing in riparian areas) on marginal or ecologically sensitive agricultural lands to illustrate how ALUS delivers significant environmental benefits on the working landscape. The other key element is supporting community decision-making – empowering local stakeholder groups to work with producers in a shared responsibility to care for the natural world.

ALUS empowers local farmers/ranchers to provide environmental solutions by combining a farmer-to-farmer approach to enhance program acceptance and enrollment. With technical support, incentives, and a community-driven process, the farmer's expertise can be leveraged – helping them provide and maintain nature's benefits alongside traditional food and fiber. Conserving working farms and ranches is a high priority for ALUS. ALUS projects are always integrated with existing locally available conservation programs ensuring a collaborative approach that utilizes resources from other sources.



lost to development. For the first time in Vermilion, the delivery of incentives and water management would be integrated at the local level.

- Saskatchewan adopted the ALUS program in 2011 and has started demonstration programs to showcase how ALUS works at a local level, embracing the passion of the producers to enhance their environment as well as partnering with local government to deliver the program.

There are currently 550 farm families participating in the ALUS Program across Canada. More than 9000 acres of selected parcels of marginal or ecologically sensitive farmland have been enrolled since September 2007. Projects include: tree planting, prairie restoration, wetland creation, pollinator hedgerows, expanded buffer zone creation and nest box establishment etc.. Such ALUS projects have demonstrated the enthusiasm with which landowners and local communities will embrace conservation when they are included and engaged.

ALUS in the Community

ALUS Canada has spent the past decade developing a highly transferable yet flexible program to meet the environmental priorities of local communities. The ALUS program includes all the necessary administration systems and support materials including concrete legal agreements, partnership tools, fund development templates, a robust GIS mapping and database system for tracking and reporting, monitoring systems to ensure the health of ALUS projects and third party verification to ensure transparency.

The ALUS program is implemented by a number of partners, including community agencies that act as the local legal entity. The local legal entity facilitates the development of a multi-partner, community-driven process to deliver projects on the working landscape.

ALUS PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

1. **LEADERSHIP**-A local community governance body called the Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC), is established, and includes local producers, representatives from local farm groups, environmental agencies, conservation groups, as well as other local stakeholder groups. This PAC leads the program, manages the Program Coordinator, identifies priorities, and reviews projects.
2. **BUDGET**- establish a minimum three year working budget, set objectives on numbers of participants and acreage of projects targeted. Secure financing can come various levels of government, grants, philanthropic and corporate sources and ALUS Canada.
3. **STAFF**- Program coordinator and local farmer liaisons conduct outreach and identify others interested in participating, enrolls participants and helps to plan and design their conservation projects.
4. **PROJECTS ESTABLISHMENT**-Projects are established- contributions from the participant, community partners, and project cash are used to establish the conservation projects (prepare land, purchase seed, plant seed, fence riparian areas, restore wetlands, etc.).
5. **MONITORING**- Site visits and an ALUS Report Card are used for quality assurance monitoring and to confirm acreage. Feedback to and from participants regarding success of individual farm projects is



ALUS is following this precedent and valuing water filtration, biodiversity and wildlife habitat in the same way. ALUS is working on development of permanent revenue streams, which will include wetland mitigation monies, species at risk benefits exchange and the ALUS credit. The ALUS credit will provide purchasers an alternative to investing in only the sequestration of carbon by offering the whole suite of nature's benefits produced by project sites. The ALUS credit will be used to support corporate social responsibility or to offset habitat or wetland losses from growth and development. The credits will be available to industry, government, and individuals and will have the flexibility to be directed towards specific geographic regions.

Summary

ALUS is leading cultural change by raising Canadian awareness about the important role farmers can play in building a healthy environment, ALUS sees the production of agricultural crops and livestock as compatible with the conservation and restoration of native habitats and rewards farmers for land management practices that create productive agricultural systems and a healthier rural Canada. ALUS is a system that allows market dollars to address conservation needs in specific communities across Canada, while leveraging farmers' skills in the production of nature's benefits such as clean water, clean air, erosion control, and habitat for pollinators, fish and wildlife. It creates areas for outdoor recreation; and can reduce the impacts of extreme weather. ALUS uses a farmer's intimate knowledge of the land to return selected marginal or ecologically sensitive areas into natural systems, linking our natural heritage across working farms and ranches. The program contributes to the economic success of farms, ranches and rural communities and works to create a healthy countryside that sustains agriculture, wildlife and natural spaces for all Canadians.

Call to Action

By choosing to join ALUS your community will join the growing movement to contribute directly to the production of nature's benefits linking our natural heritage across the working landscape. To learn more about this innovative community developed farmer-delivered program, please visit www.alus.ca.

STARTING ALUS IN YOUR COMMUNITY



To start ALUS in your community you need at least one energetic and passionate person who believes in the program and will lead the development phase. This person or people will start by connecting a small group of people who can act as the steering committee for the development of the program. Ideally this steering committee will include leaders in the agricultural sector, environmental groups, businesses, government, etc. You are looking to build support of the program with key players in your community.

STEPS TO START AN ALUS PROGRAM



1. Set up a Steering Committee Meeting

Hold a meeting and invite all relevant parties with strong representation from the farm community including farm leaders. The committee needs to be made up of a diversity of stakeholders to ensure the community needs are well represented. Pay special attention to invite people who may become Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) members. Invite your regional ALUS Transfer Facilitator who can come to this meeting and speak knowledgeably about the program and answer any questions that might arise. Consensus should be sought to proceed with an ALUS program.

2. Build a budget

In the first year of program development it is possible to run off a small budget while developing the program structure in your community, however after this initial year it is necessary to have a budget of at least \$60,000-\$100,000/year to get your ALUS program off the ground and keep it running. This money will cover staff (one part-time Program Coordinator to start), establishment costs for a number of projects, PAC per diems, wheels and meals, insurance, admin, annual payments for the benefits of nature and other expenses. Refer to "Budget TEMPLATE". Funding



National v. Local Functions

Successful ALUS operations involve a blend of functions distributed between ALUS Canada (National) and the local entity, broadly described as follow:

National

- Program support by Regional Manager
- Duplication Guide
- Standard operating protocols and documentation
- Database system and technical support
- Verification procedures, and reporting tools (GIS)
- National communications, including website, Facebook, Twitter, e-news
- National branding and recognition tools
- National donor development/fundraising & grant administration tools

Still to come

- Ecological Credit Sales Portal
- Research & evaluation

Local

- Community engagement/landowner liaison
- Project establishment
- Management of payments to landowners
- Local donor development/fundraising
- Local grant administration
- Local communications

ALUS Community Guidelines



All ALUS communities must adhere to the following:

1. Be managed by a diverse PAC.
2. Engage farmers to support program delivery (Farmer Liaisons).
3. Deliver ALUS to farmers or ranchers with a registered or legally defined farming operation (ie: eligible for farm tax status in their respective province).
4. ALUS projects must occur primarily on marginal or environmentally sensitive agricultural lands as defined by the local PAC.
5. Target local environmental priorities.
6. Use the ALUS database system.
7. Use ALUS Participant Agreement.
8. Adhere to Brand Guidelines and use ALUS materials including logo and communications templates.
9. Use the ALUS Communication Guide when creating messaging.
10. Have 10% of total past projects verified annually.
11. Be run under a legal entity that can offer liability coverage.
12. Report to ALUS Canada twice annually including financials.

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 14, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	POLICIES REVIEW
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

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

OPTIONS:

ATTACHMENTS:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by that this Agricultural Service Board...

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

ABJ

AgFieldman:

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 14, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	VSI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REVIEW
File:	63-10-40

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

One of the topics discussed was eliminating the limits on use of services.

- Clear Hills County currently has the following caps:
 - Caesarean Section – Cattle, Beef and Sheep limit of 3 per producer
 - Semen Testing – Cattle limit of 8 per producer. Sheep & Goat limit of 2 per producer.
 - Pregnancy Testing – Cattle limit of 150 per producer

VSI is also requesting if Clear Hills County will be participating in any type of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (B.S.E) testing initiative.

AG111 (11/02/15) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board notify VSI that Clear Hills County supports the recommendation to implement BSE testing compensation in the amount of \$125.00 per animal; and further that the municipalities be responsible for releasing the funds directly to the producers within their municipalities.

CARRIED.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Email from Jim Henderson
- VSI Annual General Meeting minutes
- Clear Hills County VSI Schedule "A" & "B"

OPTIONS:

Limits

1. Recommend Council remove the service limits for Caesarean Section, Semen Testing and Pregnancy Testing in the V.S.I. contract.
2. Accept for information (No change in contract)

B.S.E Compensation

1. Recommend Council implement B.S.E. testing compensation in the amount of \$125.00 per animal and establish a budget of \$5,000.00 in the 2016 budget on a one year trial basis.

And, if approved

2. Direct administration to draft a B.S.E Compensation policy based on \$125.00 per animal and bring back to the January 11, 2016 Agricultural Service Board meeting for consideration.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:

ABj

AgFieldman:

Attached are copies of the minutes from the V.S.I. AGM and Board of Directors meetings that were held on Friday November 6.

Please ensure that copies are sent to your VSI representative and to any one else that you feel should require a copy.

Please note that these minutes won't be official until they have been approved at the next meeting.

I would particularly like to know whether your jurisdiction will be participating in any type of B.S.E. (mad cow) testing initiative. [See item 12g in the AGM minutes]

If so please let me know as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at your convenience

Jim Henderson

**Minutes
Annual General Meeting
VSI Services (1980) Ltd
November 6, 2015**

ATTENDEES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>MUNICIPALITY</u>
Dale McQueen	Woodlands County #15
Dale Smith	MD of Greenview #16
Wanda Austin	Lac La Biche County #18
Jack McAuley	Birch Hills County #19
Lawrence Andruchiw	Saddle Hills County #20
Charlie Johnson	Clear Hills County #21
Terry Ungarian	County of Northern Lights #22
Walter Sarapuk	Mackenzie County #23
David Fox	MD of Bonnyville #87
George Blackhurst	MD of Big Lakes #125
Robert Brochu	MD of Smoky River #130
Wayne Wright	Northern Sunrise County #131
Stan Bzowy	MD of Spirit River #133
Sandra Eastman	MD of Peace #135
Peggy Johnson	MD of Fairview #136
Richard McWatt	North Peace Animal Hospital (Fairview)
Tara Guglich	Mighty Peace Veterinary Clinic
Jim Henderson	VSI Manager

Note: Dale Smith, Charlie Johnson, Walter Sarapuk, Stan Bzowy & Sandra Eastman are new Directors for their respective jurisdictions.

Jack McAuley, George Blackhurst & Wayne Wright were attending on behalf of Gerald Manzulenko, Dave Marx & Doug Dallyn respectively

OTHERS

Mr. Shayne Steffan, Assistant CAO & Acting Manager of Rural Development – Saddle Hills

Dr. Kevin Breker – Veterinary Practitioner & V.S.I. Member – Peace River

Dr. Claudia Metz – Veterinary Practitioner, V.S.I. Member & Guest Speaker – Sunset House

REGRETS

Darren Fulmore

MD of Lesser Slave River #124

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Peggy Johnson at 9:55 a.m.

2. Introductions

All attendees were asked to introduce themselves and to indicate who they were representing.

P2 Annual General Meeting - November 6, 2015

3. Additions to Agenda

The following changes were made to the agenda that had been circulated

- Change item 12(e) – Review of 2016 Fee Schedule to item 12 (h)
- 12(e) change to concurrent code 31 & code 71 claims
- Add item 12(f) X-rays for broken legs in calves
- Add item 12(g) Dr. Metz B.S.E. presentation & letter from Northern Sunrise County.

4. Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Walter Sarapuk that the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

5. Minutes of last AGM – November 28, 2014

There was consensus that the minutes could be adopted as circulated and no errors or omissions were brought forward

It was moved by Dale McQueen that the minutes of the November 28, 2014 Annual General Meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

No business from the minutes was brought forth.

7. Manager's Report

Dr. Henderson presented the Manager's report for 2015. In addition to a formal written report that was passed out Dr. Henderson provided details of ongoing problems experienced with the Canadian Revenue Agency which hopefully will be resolved in the near future. In summary the problems revolve around who, in the opinion of the CRA, is authorized to act as an agent for V.S.I. and a notification that our January to June G.S.T. rebate has been held because V.S.I. is deemed to not be in compliance. We don't have formal notification of how we don't comply but our best guess is that V.S.I. hasn't been filing annual tax returns as we had been advised on several occasions, by at least two different accountants, that non-profit organizations don't have to do so. It is now apparent that this was bad advice.

It was moved by Dale Smith that the Manager's Report be accepted.

CARRIED

A copy of Dr. Henderson's report is attached to the file copy of these minutes.

P3 Annual General Meeting - November 6, 2015

8. VSI Update (Round Table Discussion)

President Peggy Johnson asked everyone to indicate the level of support they were willing to provide for 2016. They were also invited to make any other comments they would like to make about V.S.I.

County of Northern Lights

Terry Ungarian stated that they would be staying with their current 50% level of support with no restrictions on the number of services.

He cautioned that they are starting to hear negative comments about the cost of V.S.I. with certain individuals suggesting that now that cattle prices are so high producers could start standing on their own feet regarding veterinary fees.

These comments prompted a discussion on the value of V.S.I.

It was pointed out that this has happened in the past and it falls to the V.S.I. representatives to emphasize the importance of V.S.I. in helping to maintain veterinary services in an area.

Dr. McWatt said that he would hate to see the demise of V.S.I. as it is an important aspect of their practice. Dr. McWatt's comments were seconded by Drs. Kevin Breker, Tara Guglich and Claudia Metz. Dr. Breker emphasized that it has been a long dry run since B.S.E. in 2003. Livestock producers need more years of high prices to make up for losses in the lean years.

It was emphasized that the selling price of cattle is only one aspect. This final price isn't pure profit given the dramatic increased costs for feed, fuel, equipment, etc. Dr. Metz stated that critics need to be told that livestock producers are not exactly rolling in cash due to high input costs.

M. D. of Peace #135

Sandra Eastman said that they would continue with 50% coverage with no limits on services.

Saddle Hills County

Lawrence Andruchiw said that they would continue with 50% coverage with no limits on services

M. D. of Smoky River #130

Robert Brochu said that they would continue with 50% coverage with no limits on services

Mackenzie County

Walter Sarapuk said that, in addition to a direct subsidy that they provide to their veterinarian, they would continue with 50% coverage with no limits on services

M. D. of Spirit River #133

Stan Bzowy said that they would stay with the same level of coverage which is 70% with a limit of seven (7) semen tests per producer. He also stated that one year of high prices isn't a valid reason to cut back on V.S.I. support.

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V.S.I. Update (cont)

Clear Hills County

Charlie Johnson stated that they would stay with the same program as last year which was a 50% level of coverage with restrictions of three (3) caesareans, eight (8) semen tests and one hundred & fifty (150) pregnancy tests. Charlie emphasized that he felt that the role of V.S.I. was to encourage livestock producers to seek out veterinary help. He stated that he hasn't heard any comments about cutting back on V.S.I.

M. D. of Greenview #16

In response to Terry Ungarian's comments Dale Smith stated that they feel that the potential for loss of V.S.I. is a problem and they want to see continued support. They will continue with 50% coverage without any limits for 2016 but they are considering possible limits on the number of semen tests. A dollar value of \$1,500 per producer has been suggested as a limit for this service.

Northern Sunrise County

Wayne Wright stated that they would stay with 50% coverage with no limits on services.

Birch Hills County

Jack MacAuley said that they would stay with 50% coverage with no limits on services.

Woodlands County

Dale McQueen said that they would continue with 50% coverage with a limit of twenty (20) bulls and four hundred (400) cows for semen testing & pregnancy testing respectively. He also reported that they hadn't heard any complaints about the costs of V.S.I. but some veterinarians serving both V.S.I. and non V.S.I. clients had expressed some concerns about the extra book-keeping requirements of V.S.I.

M. D. of Bonnyville #87

David Fox stated that they would continue with their 50% level of coverage with a limit of twenty (20) semen tests. David said that they are very happy with their program which now has 404 eligible livestock producers and 10 veterinarians in 3 clinics providing services.

M. D. of Big Lakes #125

George Blackhurst said that they would continue with a 50% level of coverage with no limits on services.

Lac La Biche County

Wanda Austin stated that they would be staying at a 60% level of coverage without any restrictions. She emphasized that there was a sudden drop in calf prices yesterday which indicates that there is no absolute guarantee of high prices continuing forever.

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Round Table Discussion (cont.)

M. D. of Fairview #136

Peggy Johnson stated that they would continue with their 70% level of coverage with no limits on services.

M. D. of Lesser Slave River #124

Jim Henderson stated that he received an e-mail indicating that they would continue with their 60% coverage with a limit of seven (7) bulls and two hundred (200) cows for semen testing & pregnancy testing respectively.

9. Approval of New Members

Peggy Johnson announced that the following veterinarians have applied for VSI membership:

Dr. Leisa Floreani	North Peace Animal Hospital - Fairview
Dr. Jocelyn Gibson	Valleyview Veterinary Clinic
Dr. Kelli Haggett	High Prairie Veterinary Clinic
Dr. Cali Lewis	Westlock Veterinary Center
Dr. Lynn Tait	Bentley, AB
Dr. Melissa Westling	Peace River Veterinary Clinic

It was moved by Dale Smith that Drs. Floreani, Gibson, Haggett, Lewis, Tait and Westling be approved as V.S.I. members.

CARRIED

10. Deletions from Membership list

Peggy Johnson announced that Drs. Meagan Beal, Kim Beaudette, Amanda Breuer, and Richelle Neundorf did not sign a 2015 VSI contract thus are no longer eligible to be members of VSI and that Dr. Meghan would not be signing a contract in 2016.

Stan Bzowy moved that Drs. Beal, Beaudette, Breuer, McCarty and Neundorf be removed from the VSI membership list.

CARRIED

As of this date there are fifty-four (54) veterinary members out of the seventy-three (73) that signed a 2015 contract. We are up two (2) veterinarians from 2013 and our membership has also increased by two (2).

11. Nomination of Veterinary Directors

Dr. Richard McWatt was nominated by Terry Ungarian

Dr. Tara Guglich was nominated by Stan Bzowy

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Nomination of Veterinary Directors (cont.)

Dr. Kevin Breker moved that nominations cease.

It was moved by Wanda Austin that the Drs. Guglich & McWatt be recommended for appointment to the Board of Directors.

CARRIED

12. Other Business

a) Claims for professional and/or surgical services relating to predator attacks

In early August a veterinary practitioner enquired as to whether V.S.I. covered predator attacks because compensation was available through the Alberta Government. This prompted Dr. Henderson to call Marc Heckbert, of Sustainable Resource Development - Fish & Wildlife Division, on August 21.

A summary of key points for compensation is as follows:

- a) Compensation is paid for wolf, cougar, bear or eagle attacks
- b) Only cattle, sheep, goats and pigs are covered
- c) Claims must be adjudicated by a Conservation officer
- d) Claims recommended for payment are forwarded to the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA)
- e) Claims are either rejected, approved for full or partial payment

Partial payments are approved when there is some evidence of a covered attack accompanied by evidence of a confirmed attack within 10 kms or within 90 days.

Ways in which V.S.I. could recover the costs of predator claims were discussed.

It was agreed that because of the length of time that it takes to confirm the payment of compensation and because not all types of predator attacks are eligible for compensation, V.S.I. should continue covering claims for predator attacks as they occur.

Mr. Heckbert agreed to take forward a proposal that the ACA should agree to reimburse V.S.I. for covering claims in cases that were eventually deemed to be eligible for full or partial payment. Mark felt that this could be accomplished providing veterinarians clearly show the total fee for their services along with a statement of the V.S.I. discount.

Following a full discussion Walter Sarapuk moved that V.S.I. will continue to honor claims for predator attacks providing the veterinarian shows the full fee for all services provided along with a clear statement of the V.S.I. discount(s). Further the Manager is hereby directed to let veterinarians know about this policy when the 2016 contracts are sent out.

CARRIED

Claims for professional and/or surgical services relating to predator attacks (cont.)

Payments received by V.S.I. would then be credited back to the appropriate MD or County.

Note: Final ratification of this agreement, by the ACA won't occur until later in the year as the new government wants this committee to review its mandate.

12(b) Policy on internal fixation of fractures

Dr. Henderson reported on a claim that had been received for the internal fixation (insertion of a stainless steel pin) of a fractured femur (thigh bone) in a calf. In addition to the large amount of the claim this claim raised the question of whether V.S.I. should be subsidizing a procedure that could present a very real hazard for packing plant workers that might inadvertently run a bone with a steel pin in it through a band saw.

Following a full discussion Dale Smith moved that, because of inherent risks to packing plant workers, internal fracture fixation procedures be placed on Schedule "B" of the V.S.I. contract.

CARRIED

12 (c & d) Issues relating to codes 12 & 13

At this point Dr. Henderson was called upon to discuss a number of items relating to our hourly codes primarily those for major & minor surgical codes, codes 12 & 13 respectively.

It was pointed out that while it has always been his desire to treat all veterinarians in a fair manner there are times when claims made under our hourly codes are very difficult to assess.

He believes that the development of flat rates for a service is the most effective way of ensuring consistency and fairness. However it is also recognized that we will never be able to develop flat rate codes for every service a veterinarian might be called upon to provide thus hourly rates will always have to be used but we need ways to address widely varying claims between veterinarians for what appear to be the same service.

The main problems appear to be:

- a) A tendency to treat the hourly rates as flat rates
- b) Providing compensation for non-surgical professional services
- c) Inefficiencies of new graduates leading to increased claim amounts

Possible methods to address these issues include"

- a) Developing more flat rate codes
- b) Stating the rates for hourly codes as the amount paid for each 1/10 of an hour
- c) Claiming actual surgical time to be claimed under codes 12 & 13
- d) Charging concurrent non-surgical services under separate codes

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- e) Putting a statement in the fee schedule indicating that times claimed under hourly rates should be consistent with the amount of time required by a veterinarian with good to average skills.

Flat Rate Codes

Lawrence Andruchiw moved that the following flat rate codes be approved for the 2016 V.S.I. fee schedule

- a) Gastric or intestinal torsions - \$275.00
- b) Umbilical Hernia – Eviscerated - \$275.00
- c) Intra-abdominal Debridement of Umbilical Infections – \$260.00

CARRIED

1/10 Hour Gradients & Non-Surgical Time

Dr. Henderson suggested that the rates for codes 12, 13 & 25 be stated in the amount paid for 6 minute intervals (one-tenth of an hour) to make it clear that the hourly rates are not de facto flat rates and that additional codes be developed to distinguish between actual surgical time and other professional services relating to the surgery.

There was general consensus with the intent of the above proposal but it was felt that the time interval should be ¼ of an hour rather than 6 minute intervals.

Charlie Johnson moved that separate codes be developed for non- surgical and surgical professional services relating to major or minor surgeries and that the rates be quoted as the amount paid for each ¼ hour or portion thereof:

CARRIED

Suboptimal Skills

David Fox moved that a statement be placed in the 2016 fee schedule that time claimed under codes 12 & 13 should be consistent with the time required by a surgeon of average competence.

CARRIED

12(e) Concurrent Code 31 & 71 Claims

Dr. Henderson brought up the issue of what should be claimed in cases where a uterine prolapsed occurs immediately after a calving case while the veterinarian is still in attendance.

Two extremes were expressed:

- 1. This situation should be viewed as a complication of a calving case thus no further compensation should be expected above and beyond the code 31 flat rate
- 2. V.S.I. should allow the veterinarian to make a full code 71 claim along with the code 31 claim

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Concurrent Code 31 & 71 Claims (cont.)

Discussion led to a position that while a veterinarian is entitled to some extra compensation the relative ease of reducing a fresh prolapsed would not justify a full code 71 claim

The compromise position is as follows:

Robert Brochu moved that when a uterine prolapse occurs immediately after a forced extraction the maximum amount that could be claimed for a code 71 service will be a maximum of ½ the regular rate.

CARRIED

12(f) X-rays for broken legs

Dr. Henderson spoke to the issue of whether V.S.I. should be covering the cost of x-rays for broken legs in calves. He stated that a large majority of veterinarians don't take x-rays but that a few claim for x-rays on a frequent basis.

There is a general consensus that in the vast majority of cases that an x-ray doesn't tell the veterinarian anything that isn't already obvious nor does an x-ray tend to result in any alteration of the treatment to be administered.

Based on the foregoing Dr. Henderson suggested the adoption of one of the following courses of action:

1. Discontinue coverage of x-rays completely for any procedure. This could be justified for the same reason that V.S.I. doesn't cover laboratory tests.
2. Discontinue coverage of x-rays for broken legs in calves unless the veterinarian can provide justification as to why the x-ray claim is justified.
3. Put a statement in the fee schedule reminding veterinarians to be judicious in their decisions to take an x-ray.

Charlie Johnson moved that a statement be placed in the fee schedule reminding veterinarians to be judicious in their decision for taking an x-ray.

CARRIED

12(g) Northern Sunrise Proposal re a B.S.E. Testing Incentive

Peggy Johnson advised the meeting that Dr. Claudia Metz had been invited to speak to us in response to the proposal from Northern Sunrise County that V.S.I. play a role in providing an incentive for increased B.S.E. testing.

Dr. Metz gave an overview of B.S.E. testing and outlined how Canada was falling short in the number of animals tested. While she said that she wasn't selling a program to V.S.I. she felt that any show of support would be beneficial in providing an impetus for increased testing thus allowing Canada to meet their international requirements and keep the borders open for the export of Canadian beef products. It was emphasized that failure to meet testing targets would be devastating to our cattle industry.

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Northern Sunrise Proposal re a B.S.E. Testing Incentive (cont.)

In closing Dr. Metz stated that she was more than willing to make arrangements to speak to the Councils of individual V.S.I. jurisdictions.

Following Dr. Metz's presentation Dr. Henderson stated that there are a couple of logistical problems for V.S.I.

Currently V.S.I. reimburses veterinarians for discounts that the veterinarian has given to the livestock producer. The Government of Canada, through the CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) pays the veterinarian for B.S.E. testing including mileage, conducting the postmortem and submitting samples for testing. As a result no discount is given to the producer. This would mean that V.S.I. would have to make payments directly to the producer if V.S.I. was going to pay the incentive. Issuing cheques directly to producers would substantially increase the V.S.I.'s administrative costs.

Dr. Henderson suggested that V.S.I. could play a role by serving as an intermediary between the livestock producer and the respective municipal jurisdictions. Veterinarians could be asked to send V.S.I. a copy of the claims that they submit to the CFIA. V.S.I. could then forward these documents to the individual jurisdictions who would then issue payment to the livestock producer.

Following discussion of these matters:

Charlie Johnson moved that V.S.I. should facilitate the collection of copies of veterinary B.S.E. claims and submit them to jurisdictions that wish to provide a subsidy for B.S.E. testing.

CARRIED

12(h) 2016 Fee Schedule

Dr. Henderson distributed a 50/50 fee schedule with a 2.2% increase as suggested by the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association.

Following a review there was a consensus that this increase would be acceptable and would be voted on at the Board of Directors meeting

13. Adjournment

President Peggy Johnson declared the V.S.I. AGM adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Peggy stated that because we had taken a break prior to Dr. Metz's presentation that the Board of Directors meeting would proceed immediately

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

SCHEDULE "A" 50/50 – Effective January 1 2014

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

Until this Tariff is amended and subject to the terms and conditions of the year 2014 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 and all drug administration procedures.** **Oxytocin** and/or **uterine boluses** are also **included** for obstetrical procedures & prolapses.

CATTLE

A. Ancillary (add-on) Services

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Clinic Outpatient Fee	9	20.00	20.00
Epidural	1	15.50	15.50

Note: **Epidurals can only be claimed** in conjunction **with dystocias** (code 31), **embryotomies** (code 44) & **prolapse revisits** under code 52. Epidurals are included in other surgery codes including hourly rated codes (12 & 13).

Intramuscular or Subcutaneous Injections	3	2.80	2.80
Intravenous Injections	4	5.65	5.65
Stall Fee (calves - per day)	10	13.75	13.75
Stall Fee (older animals)	11	22.25	22.25
Oral Drug Administration	5	15.50	15.50
Subconjunctival injection	7	5.65	5.65

Note: Claims for I.M., I.V., & subconjunctival injections and oral drug administration (codes 3, 4, 5 & 7) can only be levied in conjunction with codes 26, 27, 50, 51, or 52.

X-ray (2 views)	2	64.50	64.50
X-ray (subsequent views - each)	21	13.50	13.50
X-ray – Digital Equipment Surcharge	8	18.00	18.00

B. Flat Rate Inclusive Surgical Procedures

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Abscesses	28	83.25	83.25
Claw Amputation	17	118.75	118.75
Epididymectomy	20	127.25	127.25
Eye Enucleation	16	177.75	177.75
LDA (Left Displaced Abomasum)	22	206.50	206.50
RDA (Right Displaced Abomasum)	23	230.75	230.75
Rumen Fistula	24	83.50	83.50
Sole Abscess	29	64.00	64.00
Urethrostomy	15	103.50	103.50
Vasectomy	19	139.75	139.75

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	236.50	236.50
Note: There is a limit of 3 per producer			
Dystocia	31	100.25	100.25
Embryotomy (1 or 2 cuts)	44	160.50	160.50
Embryotomy (3 or more cuts)	45	189.25	189.25
Note: Code #1 (epidural) can be added, as appropriate, with codes 31, 44, 45 & 52.			
Scrotal Circumference Measurement	65	11.00	11.00
Note: This fee only applies for bulls eliminated from further breeding soundness evaluations.			
Semen Test (1 st bull)	60	47.25	47.25
Semen Test (2 nd to 8 th bull)	61	33.50	33.50 each
Note: There is a limit of 8 bulls per producer			
Pregnancy Testing (per head)	6	2.35	2.35 each
Note: There is a limit of 150 per VSI client More can be charged for the first animal as per the AB.VMA fee schedule but VSI will only pay \$2.25 for this animal			
Prolapses			
-Rectal	74	55.50	55.50
- Uterine	71	105.75	105.75
-Vaginal	81	72.50	72.50
-Vaginal & Rectal	84	83.50	83.50
Uterine Torsion (manual correction)	46	116.75	116.75

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
12	166.75	166.75	Surgery (major)
Surgery (minor)	13	111.25	111.25
Note: The time taken for examination, and immediate post surgical treatments can be included in the calculation of total time taken under codes 12 & 13.			
Professional Services (general)	25	100.25	100.25

Note: This fee is used:

- For herd health visitations
- In place of codes 50 & 51 when more than two animals are examined
- 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	58.50	58.50
Cast Removal	27	27.75	27.75
Examination	50	47.25	47.25

Note: When two (2) animals have different conditions two (2) code 50 claims can be made. When two (2) animals have the same condition code 50 is used for the first animal and code 51 for the second. If services normally covered by codes 50, 51 or 52 are rendered to more than 2 animals a single code 25 claim for the time taken will be honored.

Examination (2 nd animal)	51	32.75	32.75
Examination (re-visit)	52	32.75	32.75

Note: Codes 3, 4 & 5 can be claimed with codes 26, 27, 50, 51, & 52, as appropriate.

I.V. Hook - up (1 st & 2 nd no monitor)	55	47.25	47.25 each
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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	83.25	83.25
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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.

Postmortem - Brain Removal	99	31.50	31.50
Postmortem - 300 pounds or less	90	49.75	49.75
Postmortem - 300 to 800 pounds	91	54.25	54.25
Postmortem - over 800 pounds	92	81.25	81.25

Note: VSI postmortem fees are set between the postmortem fees in the AB.VMA fee schedule designated as "routine" and "extensive". Using the VSI flat rate, in all cases, will provide compensation for cases requiring a more comprehensive procedure. If more than 2 postmortems are done at the same time a single code 25 claim must be made.

Technovit Block - Application of	30	41.75	41.75
----------------------------------	----	-------	-------

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	47.25	47.25
Examination (2 nd animal)	51	32.75	32.75
Examination (re-visit)	52	32.75	32.75

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

Postmortem - 20 pounds or less	93	33.50	33.50
Postmortem - 20 to 100 pounds	94	35.50	35.50
Postmortem - over 100 pounds	95	44.25	44.25

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 of the following:

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	150.60	150.60
Note: There is a <u>limit of 3</u> per producer			
Dystocia	33	66.75	66.75
Examination	50	47.25	47.25
Examination (2 nd animal)	51	32.75	32.75
Examination (re-visit)	52	32.75	32.75
Note: Codes 3, 4 & 5 can be claimed with codes 26, 27, 50, 51 & 52, as appropriate.			
Postmortem - 20 pounds or less	96	35.50	35.50
Postmortem – 20 to 100 pounds	97	35.50	35.50
Postmortem - over 100 pounds	98	44.25	44.25
Prolapse - Rectal	76	47.00	47.00
Prolapse - Uterine	73	69.25	69.25
Prolapse - Vaginal	83	47.00	47.00
Semen Test (1 st animal)	66	40.00	40.00
Semen Test (subsequent animals)	67	30.50	30.50

Note: There is a limit of 2 animals per producer for semen testing.

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	31.50	31.50
Postmortem - 300 pounds or less	90	49.75	49.75
Postmortem - 300 to 800 pounds	91	54.25	54.25
Postmortem - over 800 pounds	92	81.25	81.25

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

SCHEDULE "B"

Annexed to and forming a part of the agreement dated effective January 1, 2013

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.

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 14, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	EVENTS
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with events for their consideration.

BACKGROUND:

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

OPTIONS:


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

ATTACHMENTS:

- Peace Agronomy Update information
- Sustainable Farm Families information
- FarmTech 2016 agenda
- Peace Country Beef Congress

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That this Agricultural Service Board ...

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

Audrey Bjorklund

From: Fred <fred@mdfairview.ab.ca>
Sent: November-20-15 3:44 PM
To: Shayne Steffen; Audrey Bjorklund
Cc: Queen Bee
Subject: FW: 2016 Peace Agronomy Update

Hi all. Nora had most of us Peace Region names but thought I would forward this to you Shayne and Audrey, FYI.

*Fred Sawchuk
Agricultural Fieldman
M.D. of Fairview #136
Phone (780) 835-4903
Fax (780) 835-3131*

From: Nora Paulovich [mailto:nora@npara.ca]
Sent: November-20-15 2:54 PM
To: 'Aaron Zylstra'; Amanda Ouellet; Blake Gaugler; Elaine Armagost; Fred; Kelly Hudson; Nasar Iqbal; Normand Boulet; Quentin Bochar; Robbie Klatt; Sebastien Dutrisac; Smith, Grant; Sonja Raven
Subject: 2016 Peace Agronomy Update

ATTENTION: Agriculture Service Boards of the Peace

The **2016 Peace Agronomy Update** will be on **Wednesday, January 13** at the Dunvegan Motor Inn in Fairview with these speakers & topics:

- **Integrated Weed Management Systems:**
Neil Harker, Research Scientist, Weed Ecology & Crop Management, Agriculture Canada, Lacombe
- **Rail Transportation:**
CN Rail Representative
- **Crop Symptom Diagnosis – A CSI Experience**
Emile deMilliano, Manager, Training, Crop Production Services, Fort Saskatchewan, AB
- **Grain, Pulse & Oilseed Market Update**
Neil Blue, Provincial Market Analyst, Alberta Agriculture, Vermilion, AB

If you are interested in supporting and sponsoring this successful event, please contact us by phone @ 780-836-3354 or email nora@npara.ca by **Dec 15, 2015**. The sponsorship packages are:

- Tabletop Sponsor - \$250.00 (a table will be supplied for display purposes)
- Coffee Break Sponsor - \$500.00

Your support will be acknowledged on the day of the update in a written brochure and a PowerPoint presentation played during all breaks.

Thank-you very much and we look forward to working with you to make the Peace Agronomy Update a continued success!

Cheers, Nora

Nora Paulovich
Nora Paulovich, B.Sc.
Manager
North Peace Applied Research Association (NPARA)
116-4th Ave, SW
Box 750, Manning, AB T0H 2M0
PH: 780-836-3354; FAX: 780-836-2670; CELL: 780-836-5230

The North Peace Applied Research Association is a non-profit, producer driven organization providing applied research and extension in the North Peace to encourage a healthy agriculture industry and promote a future in agriculture through improved stewardship.

**Registration open for the Western Canada Conference on Soil
Health! www.albertasoilhealth.ca**

Audrey Bjorklund

From: Jill Henry <jhenry@countyp.ab.ca>
Sent: November-16-15 3:38 PM
To: Blake Gaugler (gauglerb@countyofnorthernlights.com); Nasar Oqbal (agfieldman@mdpeace.com); fred; Audrey Bjorklund; Aaron Zylstra; Amanda Ouellet (amandao@birchhillscounty.com); ssteffen@saddlehills.ab.ca; Sebastian Dutrisac (sdutrisac@northernsunrise.net); ssoucy@northernsunrise.net; Wayne Wright (wwright@northernsunrise.net); gsmith@mackenziecounty.com; Kelly Hudson (khudson@mdspiritriv.ab.ca); Norm Boulet; Quentin Bochar (Quentin.Bochar@MDGreenview.ab.ca); Dave Berry (dave.berry@mdgreenview.ab.ca); kristin.King@mdgreenview.ab.ca; rklatt@biglakescounty.ca; smonteith@biglakescounty.ca
Cc: cbrett@saddlehills.ab.ca; Benoit, Monika (MBenoit@gprc.ab.ca)
Subject: Pilot Sustainable Farm Families Regional Workshop - Feb 3, 4
Attachments: Sustainable Farm Families - Short Introduction.pdf

Good Afternoon

Further to our meeting , we will be hosting a Pilot Regional Sustainable Farm Families Workshop February 3 and 4 2016 at the Community Services Building.

We hope to have 10 farm units (couples). This workshop is Free and also includes lunches and coffee breaks.

Please forward to any producers, your ASB Board or anyone you think may be interested in attending this important Pilot Program

I can provide an updated information and registration package to anyone that is interested in attending.

Thanks so much !

Regards

Jill

From: Jill Henry
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2015 11:50 AM
To: Blake Gaugler (gauglerb@countyofnorthernlights.com); Nasar Oqbal (agfieldman@mdpeace.com); fred; Audrey Bjorklund (audrey@clearhillscounty.ab.ca); 'Aaron Zylstra'; Amanda Ouellet (amandao@birchhillscounty.com); ssteffen@saddlehills.ab.ca; Sebastian Dutrisac (sdutrisac@northernsunrise.net); ssoucy@northernsunrise.net; Wayne Wright (wwright@northernsunrise.net); gsmith@mackenziecounty.com; Kelly Hudson (khudson@mdspiritriv.ab.ca); 'Norm Boulet'; Quentin Bochar (Quentin.Bochar@MDGreenview.ab.ca); Dave Berry (dave.berry@mdgreenview.ab.ca); kristin.King@mdgreenview.ab.ca; rklatt@biglakescounty.ca; smonteith@biglakescounty.ca
Subject: Sustainable Farm Families Peace - Meeting November 16 @ 1:30 Community Services Building

Good Morning

We are meeting with Jordan Jensen of the Sustainable Farm Families Program on November 16 @ 1:30 in the Front room of the Community Services Building to discuss the potential of bringing this important workshop to the Peace . (Sorry about the short notice, but I just received confirmation of his attendance)

You are all welcome to join this meeting if you are at all interested in hosting in your areas. Please let me know if you are able to attend or if you would like to meeting with Jordan via conference call instead

The call in number is :

1- 877- 385-4099

Participant code: 5642602#

Thanks so much

Jill

From: Jordan Jensen [<mailto:j.jensenSFF@abfarmsafety.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 2:14 PM

To: Jill Henry

Subject: Sustainable Farm Families - Grande Prairie Region

Hello Jill,

Thank you for your interest in the Sustainable Farm Families program and for your willingness to help us introduce the program to the Grande Prairie region. I have attached a brief introduction which outlines the basics of the program and includes some simple stats provided by previous participants. Please feel free to forward this to anyone you would like and likewise don't hesitate to share my contact information or send people my way. I still haven't received confirmation about our anticipated trip to Grande Prairie November 14 – 17 but when I do I will let you know.

Thanks again for your support and for your willingness to help, I greatly appreciate it. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes,

Jordan Jensen | Project Manager

Sustainable Farm Families

j.jensenSFF@abfarmsafety.com

Office: (403) 752-4585

Cell: (403) 593-8960

Sustainable Farm Families in Alberta

The health, wellness,
and safety of our
human resources
is essential for the
sustainability of
agriculture.

Sustainable Farm Families Alberta: Free workshops for Alberta Farmers

Sustainable Farm Families™ (SFF) is a highly successful health and wellness program developed for the farming industry in Australia. It provides farm managers, families and workers with tools and techniques to effectively manage their health, well-being, and safety. Activities like personal health assessments, peer-to-peer sharing, group projects and personal action planning encourage and empower participants to make positive lifestyle choices.

SFF™ has already influenced thousands of farmers and helped them understand and acknowledge how important their own health and safety is to the economic success and sustainability of their farming operation. In 2014, the Farm Safety Centre delivered 4 SFF™ Alberta workshops throughout the province and received positive feedback from 100% of the participants.

Participant Feedback

- 97% - believed the workshop was a good investment of their time
- 87% - believed workshop learning's will benefit their farm
- 97% - more aware of beneficial lifestyle changes
- 100% - intend to make proactive changes to improve their lifestyle
- 96% - comfortable with the physical assessment and believed it was worthwhile
- 92% - plan to complete Years 2 & 3 of the program

Participant Quotes

- *"You don't realize just how important you are to your farm until you are not able to tend to it anymore"*
- *"I take good care of my combine, but who is going to run it if I don't take care of myself?"*
- *"Without health, there is no farming"*

For information about these workshops please contact: Jordan Jensen

Jordan Jensen | Project Manager
Sustainable Farm Families Alberta

j.jensenSFF@abfarmsafety.com

Office: (403) 752-4585

Cell: (403) 593-8960

AGENDA

FarmTech™ 2016 Agenda

Agenda

DAY 1

25 Jan 2016

DAY 2

26 Jan 2016

DAY 3

27 Jan 2016

DAY 4

28 Jan 2016



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PM

7:30 AM - 6:00



HALL E

AGRICULTURAL SHOWCASE OPENS

Agricultural Showcase closes at 6pm.



9:00 AM - 9:30

AM

GRAND OPENING



HALLS G & H



9:30 AM - 10:30

AM

TERRY O'REILLY KEYNOTE



HALLS G & H

TERRY O'REILLY



11:00 AM -

12:00 PM

BARLEY POWER HOUR



HALL F

Drink Barley - Why Alberta's brewing future is brighter than ever. Join Alberta's best and brightest brewers, for a revealing panel discussion on everyone's favourite agricultural product: Alberta beer. This beer-centric sit-down will feature a discussion on why Alberta barley makes great beer, the unique process that these craft brewers undertook to create their world-class...



12:00 PM - 1:00

PM

LUNCH



HALLS G & H



1:00 PM - 2:00

PM



ROOM 3

PLANT GROWTH REGULATORS – PANEL

GREG STAMP
RYAN ADAMS
TOM EPPINGA
EMILE DEMILLIANO
P.AG, CCA

Plant Growth Regulators (PGR's) have gained significant attention in recent years. European growers have utilized PGR's for many years. In western Canada, usage has been focused in irrigated areas of southern Alberta but with higher grain prices, new and renewed PGR product introductions and the desire to push yield barriers, PGR's have again come into...



1:00 PM - 2:00

PM



ROOMS 1-7

CONCURRENT SESSIONS BEGIN – BLOCK 1



1:00 PM - 2:00

PM



ROOM 2

THE SUSTAINABILITY IMPERATIVE

GORD WINKEL

Mining and Agriculture are critically important supply industries that make our current standard of living possible. As a guide towards realizing sustainable development in Agriculture and Mining, the presentation explores oil sands mining operations in northern Alberta that have made significant improvements in workplace safety and have developed

leading environmental technologies. These ongoing achievements reflect...



1:00 PM - 2:00

PM



ROOM 4

**RIGAS
KARAMANOS**

NITROGEN LOSSES IN OUR SOILS AND STRATEGIES TO REDUCE THEM

Achieving high yields of crops requires careful attention to both the agronomic and nutrient requirements of the crop. Maximum yield of a crop is determined by crop genetics, solar radiation, water and nutrients. While farmers have little control over year-to-year variability in environmental conditions, they can implement management strategies that will ensure they optimize production...



1:00 PM - 2:00

PM



ROOM 5

**GINETTE
GAMACHE**

RELATIONSHIP AWARENESS

Relationship awareness helps everyone improve their understanding of themselves and others in order to build, sustain, and develop more effective relationships. The goal of the workshop is to help individuals understand their own and other people's internal thought and emotional responses in order to handle conflict and stress more effectively.



1:00 PM - 2:00

PM



ROOM 1

**ANGELA
BRACKENREED**

MANAGING CANOLA HARVEST

Angela will discuss various tips to manage canola harvest to ultimately add bushels to the bin. Included in the conversation will be how to measure and reduce losses from the combine, as well as considerations for implementing straight cutting to one's operation.



2:15 PM - 3:15

PM



HALL F

ALBERTA CANOLA PRODUCERS COMMISSION AGM



3:30 PM - 4:30

PM



ROOMS 1-7

CONCURRENT SESSIONS BEGIN - BLOCK 2



3:30 PM - 4:30

PM



ROOM 3

SCOTT MEERS

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF CROP PESTS.

Insect issues are always a concern for producers and agrologists. Every year presents a few new challenges along with some well known ones. We will review the insects of 2015 and crystal ball what to expect in 2016 and introduce you to some of the good guys along the way. Come prepared to ask questions...



3:30 PM - 4:30

PM



ROOM 1

GREG GARTNER, QC, CA

FARMLAND & FAMILY

"FARMLAND AND FAMILYPeople die but the land is forever!! Prairie agriculture in the 21st century needs to revisit the traditional business models of both land ownership and access. With ever increasing acreages needed to farm, fracturing land ownership between siblings may be the Achilles heel of the next generation. Attend this session to understand...



3:30 PM - 4:30

PM



TBC

YOU USE WHAT ON YOUR FARM? EXPLAINING MODERN FARMING TO

YOUR NON-FARMING FRIENDS

There are many reasons why plant science technologies are used on most farms today and yet many of us struggle to explain why tools like pesticides and plant biotechnology matter. Join CropLife Canada president and CEO Ted Menzies to learn more about how to talk to non-farming consumers about the benefits that farming technologies deliver...



3:30 PM - 4:30

PM



ROOM 6

**KELLY
TURKINGTON**

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR DISEASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Based on current research and recent experiences, Kelly will provide an overview of getting the most out of the strategies you can use for managing cereal and canola diseases.



3:30 PM - 4:30

PM



ROOM 7

DAVID DERWIN

PRECISION FARMING FOR YOUR MARKETING PLAN

Just as farms are implementing cutting edge information technology, gaining from advances in crop sciences and using high-precision equipment, your

farm marketing strategies must stay ahead of the curve as well. Learn, understand, and implement systematic option price protection strategies that deliver farmers a unique way to look beyond risk to enhance marketing returns.



3:30 PM - 4:30

PM



ROOM 5

YOUR FUTURE AND THE FUTURE OF FOOD

GORD BACON

You are in the food business. Farmers grow products and ingredients that are used in the foods that fill shelves in markets around the world. Is Canadian agriculture keeping pace with the changes that are shaping the future of food? Is Canadian agriculture focusing on the sectors of the food industry that will be the...



4:45 PM - 5:45

PM



ROOM 1

CROP ROTATION – PANEL

KENT ERICKSON
SCOTT KELLER





4:45 PM - 5:45

PM



ROOMS 1-7

CONCURRENT SESSIONS BEGIN - BLOCK 3



4:45 PM - 5:45

PM



ROOM 5

PETER WATTS
MICHAEL
BROPHY

TRANSITION TO NEW MALTING VARIETIES

The Canadian malting barley industry must do a better job of transitioning to new malting varieties that meet the needs of both end-users and Canadian producers. Canada has a world class breeding system that requires significant investment and the effective promotion of new varieties will ensure these investments pay dividends for the industry as a...



4:45 PM - 5:45

PM



ROOM 4

SEAN MYLES

HOW TO IMPROVE FOOD: THE MODERN BREEDER'S TOOLKIT

Breeders in the 21st century have a diverse range of technological tools at their disposal that promise to significantly accelerate the improvement of our food. In particular, the information encoded in the genomes, or DNA, of our food is now cheap and accessible. While genomic technologies hold enormous potential for our environment and our economy,...



4:45 PM - 5:45

PM



ROOM 2

**KRISTJAN
HEBERT**

THE 5% RULE – BABY STEPS TO BIGGER PROFITS

Hoping for unicorns and settling on good enough are very real when it comes to under-performing on your farm's bottom line. Instead let's focus on small improvements, balancing perfection and logistics, and aiming for excellence. The simple math will surprise you..."



4:45 PM - 5:45

PM



ROOM 6

CLAIRE CITEAU

REMOVING BARRIERS TO AGRICULTURAL TRADE TO ENSURE CANADIAN PRODUCTS CAN THRIVE IN FOREIGN MARKETS.





4:45 PM - 5:45

PM

**MICHAEL
BROPHY**

TRANSITION TO NEW MALTING BARLEY VARIETIES

Significant progress is made in research and breeding of better malting barley for both the needs of growers and customers. Some attributes of newer varieties as potential replacements for older varieties will be presented.



4:45 PM - 5:45

PM



ROOM 7

**ERROL
ANDERSON**

STRAINED GLOBAL ECONOMICS AND THE IMPACT ON COMMODITY PRICES

How does it all tie together? Central bankers continue to ease monetary policy in a desperate effort to kick-start inflation and economic growth, but with little success. And a powerful El Nino weather event stands in the shadows that may impact global supplies and prices. Grain, livestock, and currencies are all impacted that directly impact...



6:00 PM - 9:00

AGENDA

FarmTech™ 2016 Agenda


Agenda



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 HALL E

 7:30 AM - 6:30
PM

 HALL E

AGRICULTURAL SHOWCASE OPENS

Agricultural Showcase Floor closes at 6:30pm


 9:00 AM -
10:00 AM

 HALLS G & H

CHARLIE ARNOT

CHARLIE ARNOTT KEYNOTE



 10:15 AM - 11:15
AM


 ROOM 2

DR. DAVID KATZ

HEALTHY LIVING

Dr. Katz is recognized globally for expertise in nutrition, weight management and the prevention of chronic disease. He has delivered addresses in numerous countries on four continents, and has been acclaimed by colleagues as the “poet laureate” of health promotion



 10:15 AM - 11:15
AM

 ROOM 4

**GREG STAMP
RYAN ADAMS
TOM EPPINGA
EMILE
DEMILLIANO
P.AG, CCA**

PLANT GROWTH REGULATORS – PANEL

Plant Growth Regulators (PGR's) have gained significant attention in recent years. European growers have utilized PGR's for many years. In western Canada, usage has been focused in irrigated areas of southern Alberta but with higher grain prices, new and renewed PGR product introductions and the desire to push yield barriers, PGR's have again come into...



10:15 AM - 11:15 AM



ROOMS 1-7

CONCURRENT SESSIONS BEGIN - BLOCK 4



10:15 AM - 11:15 AM



ROOM 5

TRANSITION TO NEW MALTING VARIETIES

PETER WATTS
MICHAEL
BROPHY

The Canadian malting barley industry must do a better job of transitioning to new malting varieties that meet the needs of both end-users and Canadian producers. Canada has a world class breeding system that requires significant investment and the effective promotion of new varieties will ensure these investments pay dividends for the industry as a...



10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

THE 5%⁻¹⁰²⁻ RULE - BABY

ROOM 3

**KRISTJAN
HEBERT**

STEPS TO BIGGER PROFITS

Hoping for unicorns and settling on good enough are very real when it comes to under-performing on your farm's bottom line. Instead let's focus on small improvements, balancing perfection and logistics, and aiming for excellence. The simple math will surprise you..."



10:15 AM - 11:15
AM

ROOM 7

DAVID DERWIN

PRECISION FARMING FOR YOUR MARKETING PLAN

Just as farms are implementing cutting edge information technology, gaining from advances in crop sciences and using high-precision equipment, your farm marketing strategies must stay ahead of the curve as well. Learn, understand, and implement systematic option price protection strategies that deliver farmers a unique way to look beyond risk to enhance marketing returns.



10:15 AM - 11:15
AM

ROOM 6

CLAIRE CITEAU

REMOVING BARRIERS TO AGRICULTURAL TRADE TO ENSURE CANADIAN PRODUCTS CAN THRIVE IN FOREIGN MARKETS



10:15 AM - 11:15

AM

**MICHAEL
BROPHY**

TRANSITION TO NEW MALTING BARLEY VARIETIES

Significant progress is made in research and breeding of better malting barley for both the needs of growers and customers. Some attributes of newer varieties as potential replacements for older varieties will be presented.



11:30 AM -
12:30 PM



HALL F

ALBERTA WHEAT COMMISSION AGM



12:30 PM - 1:30
PM



HALLS G & H

LUNCH



1:30 PM - 2:30

PM

CONSUMERS



ROOM 4

CHARLIE ARNOT



1:30 PM - 2:30

PM

FARM LABOUR MANAGEMENT – PANEL



ROOM 3

ROD BRADSHAW

MARGOT ROSS

GRAHAM

KEVIN SERFAS



1:30 PM - 2:30

PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS BEGIN – BLOCK 5



ROOMS 1-7



1:30 PM - 2:30

PM

AG TECHNOLOGY: WHAT'S WORKING AND WHAT WE NEED NEXT ON THE FARM



ROOM 2

LISA PRASSACK

Saving Decisions Most growers are able to stop yield loss in it's tracks once issues are determined. However greater returns can be realized if these issues are caught earlier. Proactive use of imagery provides the opportunity to cooperate with consultants/advisors, neighbors, irrigation techs and applicators to...



1:30 PM - 2:30

PM



ROOM 6

**KELLY
TURKINGTON**

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR DISEASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Based on current research and recent experiences, Kelly will provide an overview of getting the most out of the strategies you can use for managing cereal and canola diseases.



1:30 PM - 2:30

PM



ROOM 7

JOHN DEPUTTER

MARKET OVERVIEW

John DePutter will provide a Market Overview, focusing first on the macro-picture and long-term cycles, then zeroing in on the trends, cycles, opportunities and risks in various crop sectors including canola, wheat, feedgrains, pulses and livestock.



1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

YOUR FUTURE AND THE FUTURE OF FOOD



ROOM 1

GORD BACON

You are in the food business. Farmers grow products and ingredients that are used in the foods that fill shelves in markets around the world. Is Canadian agriculture keeping pace with the changes that are shaping the future of food? Is Canadian agriculture focusing on the sectors of the food industry that will be the...



2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

ALBERTA PULSE GROWERS AGM



HALL F



4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

HEALTHY LIVING



ROOM 2

DR. DAVID KATZ

Dr. Katz is recognized globally for expertise in nutrition, weight management and the prevention of chronic disease. He has delivered addresses in numerous countries on four continents, and has been acclaimed

promotion



4:00 PM - 5:00

PM



ROOMS 1-7

CONCURRENT SESSIONS BEGIN - BLOCK 6



4:00 PM - 5:00

PM



ROOM 5

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF CROP PESTS.

SCOTT MEERS

Insect issues are always a concern for producers and agronomists. Every year presents a few new challenges along with some well known ones. We will review the insects of 2015 and crystal ball what to expect in 2016 and introduce you to some of the good guys along the way. Come prepared to ask questions...



4:00 PM - 5:00

PM



ROOM 1

2016 WEATHER OUTLOOK: WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER A DRY SPRING

Drew will present a detailed assessment of current and expected weather and field conditions across the prairies during the balance of winter and spring. An assessment of prevailing weather patterns will then be presented and finally a prediction of how those conditions will interact with our growing season in 2016. Guidance will be provided as...



4:00 PM - 5:00

PM



ROOM 6

SEAN MYLES

HOW TO IMPROVE FOOD: THE MODERN BREEDER'S TOOLKIT

Breeders in the 21st century have a diverse range of technological tools at their disposal that promise to significantly accelerate the improvement of our food.

In particular, the information encoded in the genomes, or DNA, of our food is now cheap and accessible.

While genomic technologies hold enormous potential for our environment and our economy...



4:00 PM - 5:00

PM



ROOM 3

TOM MUELLER

WEED CONTROL IN AGRONOMIC CROPS



4:00 PM - 5:00

PM



ROOM 4

**GINETTE
GAMACHE**

RELATIONSHIP AWARENESS

Relationship awareness helps everyone improve their understanding of themselves and others in order to build, sustain, and develop more effective relationships. The goal of the workshop is to help individuals understand their own and other people's internal thought and emotional responses in order to handle conflict and stress more effectively.



4:00 PM - 5:00

PM



ROOM 7

**ERROL
ANDERSON**

STRAINED GLOBAL ECONOMICS AND THE IMPACT ON COMMODITY PRICES

How does it all tie together? Central bankers continue to ease monetary policy in a desperate effort to kick-start inflation and economic growth, but with little success. And a powerful El Nino weather event stands in the shadows that may impact global supplies and prices. Grain, livestock, and currencies are all impacted that directly impact...



5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

SYNGENTA BEER EVENT



HALL E



6:30 PM -
10:00 PM

DEKALB DINNER – COMEDY IN MOTION



HALLS G & H

BOB CATES

Bob Cates is a Canadian Juggling Champion, clean comedian and physical variety artist that has been delighting audiences for 20 years. He keeps the crowd laughing with fast paced comedy routines involving advanced juggling, wild unicycling and balancing skills, magic, video game/dance, black light, laser manipulation, cigar box manipulation and an insane 22 real plate...



**FARMTECH IS PROUDLY
HOSTED BY**

AGENDA

FarmTech™ 2016 Agenda

Agenda

DAY 1

25 Jan 2016

DAY 2

26 Jan 2016

DAY 3

27 Jan 2016

DAY 4

28 Jan 2016



7:30 AM - 8:45

AM



HALL E


**CANADIAN CANOLA
GROWERS ASSOCIATION
FRESH START BREAKFAST**



7:30 AM - 3:00

PM

AGRICULTURAL SHOWCASE


 9:00 AM -
10:00 AM

DOUG LIPP KEYNOTE

 HALL G & H

DOUG LIPP




 10:15 AM - 11:15
AM

CROP ROTATION - PANEL

 ROOM 3


KENT ERICKSON
SCOTT KELLER



 10:15 AM - 11:15
AM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS BEGIN - BLOCK 7

 ROOMS 1-7

 10:15 AM - 11:15
AM

AG TECHNOLOGY: WHAT'S WORKING AND WHAT WE NEED NEXT ON THE FARM

 ROOM 6

LISA PRASSACK

Saving Decisions Most growers are able to stop yield loss in it's tracks once issues are determined. However greater returns can be realized if these issues are caught earlier. Proactive use of imagery provides the opportunity to cooperate with consultants/advisors, neighbors, irrigation techs and applicators to...



10:15 AM - 11:15

AM



ROOM 1

GORD WINKEL

THE SUSTAINABILITY IMPERATIVE

Mining and Agriculture are critically important supply industries that make our current standard of living possible. As a guide towards realizing sustainable development in Agriculture and Mining, the presentation explores oil sands mining operations in northern Alberta that have made significant improvements in workplace safety and have developed leading environmental technologies. These ongoing achievements reflect...



10:15 AM - 11:15

AM



ROOM 4

**RIGAS
KARAMANOS**

NITROGEN LOSSES IN OUR SOILS AND STRATEGIES TO REDUCE THEM

Achieving high yields of crops requires careful attention to ~~both~~ the agronomic and nutrient requirements of the crop. Maximum yield of a crop is

nutrients. While farmers have little control over year-to-year variability in environmental conditions, they can implement management strategies that will ensure they optimize production...



10:15 AM - 11:15

AM



ROOM 7

JOHN DEPUTTER

MARKET OVERVIEW

John DePutter will provide a Market Overview, focusing first on the macro-picture and long-term cycles, then zeroing in on the trends, cycles, opportunities and risks in various crop sectors including canola, wheat, feedgrains, pulses and livestock.



10:15 AM - 11:15

AM




ROOM 5

**ANGELA
BRACKENREED**

MANAGING CANOLA HARVEST

Angela will discuss various tips to manage canola harvest to ultimately add bushels to the bin. Included in the conversation will be how to measure and reduce losses from the combine, as well as considerations for implementing straight cutting to one's operation.



 11:30 AM -
12:30 PM

 HALL F

ALBERTA SEED GROWERS ASSOCIATION EVENT


**DR. IGOR
KOVALCHUK**

**ERIN
ARMSTRONG,
PHD**

**DR. FLAVIO
CAPETTINI**


Moderated by Shawn Brooks



 12:30 PM - 1:30
PM

 HALLS G & H

LUNCH


 1:30 PM - 2:30
PM

 HALLS G & H

W. BRETT WILSON - KEYNOTE

**W. BRETT
WILSON**



 2:45 PM - 3:45
PM

FARM LABOUR MANAGEMENT - PANEL

ROD BRADSHAW
MARGOT ROSS
GRAHAM
KEVIN SERFAS



2:45 PM - 3:45

PM



ROOMS 1-7

CONCURRENT SESSIONS BEGIN - BLOCK 8



2:45 PM - 3:45

PM



ROOM 1

GREG GARTNER,
QC, CA

FARMLAND & FAMILY

"FARMLAND AND FAMILYPeople die but the land is forever!! Prairie agriculture in the 21st century needs to revisit the traditional business models of both land ownership and access. With ever increasing acreages needed to farm, fracturing land ownership between siblings may be the Achilles heel of the next generation. Attend this session to understand...



2:45 PM - 3:45

PM



TBC

TED MENZIES

YOU USE WHAT ON YOUR FARM? EXPLAINING MODERN FARMING TO YOUR NON-FARMING FRIENDS

There are many reasons why plant science technologies are used on most farms today and yet many of us struggle to explain why tools like pesticides and plant biotechnology matter. Join CropLife Canada president and CEO Ted Menzies to learn more about how to talk to non-farming consumers about the benefits that farming technologies deliver...



2:45 PM - 3:45

PM



ROOM 2

DREW LERNER

2016 WEATHER OUTLOOK: WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER A DRY SPRING

Drew will present a detailed assessment of current and expected weather and field conditions across the prairies during the balance of winter and spring. An assessment of prevailing weather patterns will then be presented and finally a prediction of how those conditions will interact with our growing season in 2016. Guidance will be provided as...



2:45 PM - 3:45

PM



ROOM 4

TOM MUELLER

WEED CONTROL IN AGRONOMIC CROPS



[HOME](#) [GENERAL INFORMATION](#) [ACCOMMODATIONS](#)

[AGENDA](#) [SPEAKERS](#) [SPONSORS](#) [REGISTER](#)

Agenda

DAY 1
25 Jan 2016

DAY 2
26 Jan 2016

DAY 3
27 Jan 2016

DAY 4
28 Jan 2016



4:00 PM - 8:00

PM



MAIN FOYER

***NEW* FARMTECH™ PRE-REGISTRATION AT EXPO**



7:30 PM - 11:00

PM



ART GALLERY

***NEW* FARMTECH™ CHAIRMAN'S RECEPTION**



Peace Country Beef Congress

Peace Country Beef Congress

pcbeefcongress.ca

<http://pcbeefcongress.ca/>

18th Annual Peace Country Beef Congress, Coming January 8th & 9th, 2016 to the Lakota Center, Dawson Creek BC.



The Peace Country Beef Promotion Society is excited to announce the dates and location of the 18th Annual Peace Country Beef Congress! The 2016 Congress will be taking place January 8th & 9th 2016 in Dawson Creek, returning to the Lakota Center!

The Peace Country Beef Congress is back and better than ever! We have many great plans for the 2016 show!

Join us for the unique opportunity to not only showcase your herd to the Peace Region, but see what the Peace Country has to offer in the way of cattle, agriculture products and programs.

The trade show will also be returning and will be bigger and better than ever! Check back often for more

information on how to reserve your trade booth space!

We will also be continuing our commitment to local youth and 4-H clubs by once again having a fabulous Youth/4-H Program at the show! We invite all youth & local 4-H Clubs to join us in Dawson Creek this year.

Check back soon for Sponsorship & Exhibitor Packages!

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Peace Country Beef Congress, please feel free to [contact us](#).

For the Results for the 2015 Show, [Click Here](#)

Thank You to our 2016 Show Sponsors!

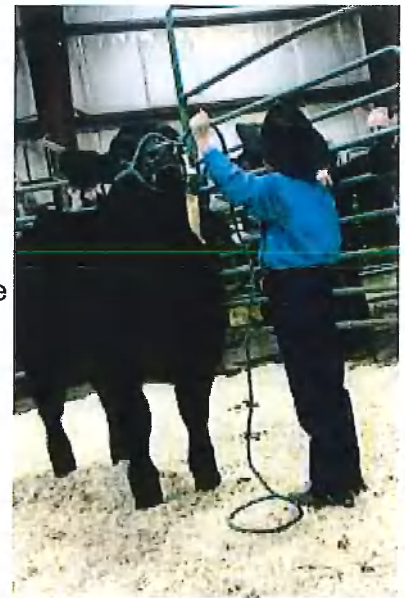
Gold Sponsors

Silver Sponsors

Bronze Sponsors

Supporting Sponsors

Trade Booths



Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 14, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	BILL 6 SESSION UPDATE
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

Council requested a letter be drafted and sent to the government of Alberta and copied to all municipalities regarding Bill 6.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Bill 6 information
- Safety, fairness focus of farm and ranch workers legislation article
- Farm and Ranch Workplace Legislation Changes article
- Bill 6 Enhances Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act
- Alberta News Release from December 7, 2015

OPTIONS:

1. Accept for information.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion around Bill 6 and the information gathering the session that was held in Grande Prairie, Alberta on November 26, 2015.

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

FORWARDED ON BEHALF OF JOBS, SKILLS TRAINING AND LABOUR. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CALL 1-866-415-8690 OR EMAIL farmandranch@gov.ab.ca

The Honourable Lori Sigurdson, Minister for Jobs, Skills Training and Labour (JSTL) has tabled Bill 6, the [*Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act*](#) in the Legislature.

This bill proposes changes to four major areas of workplace legislation:

- Occupational Health and Safety,
- Workers' Compensation,
- Employment Standards, and
- Labour Relations.

If the bill is passed, the farm and ranch industry would be covered by occupational health and safety laws, and workers' compensation coverage would be mandatory for all farm and ranch workers. Those changes are expected to take effect January 1, 2016.

The government's proposed changes would also extend employment standards and labour relations legislation to the farm and ranch industry.

The government wants to hear from Albertans about these changes. There will be a series of town halls across the province to discuss employment standards and labour relations rules that make sense for the farm and ranch industry. Ads will be placed in newspapers in the centres and surrounding communities in advance of the town halls.

- Grande Prairie area – November 26, 2015
- Red Deer area – December 1, 2015
- Calgary area (Okotoks) – December 2, 2015
- Lethbridge area – December 3, 2015
- Edmonton area (Leduc) – December 7, 2015

Stakeholders can also participate in an online survey, which is being prepared and will be available soon, or email comments to farmandranch@gov.ab.ca.

For more information on the *Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act* visit work.alberta.ca/farm-and-ranch.

Hard copy resources relating to today's announcement are being printed and will be available soon at [Alberta Agriculture Field Offices](#). Please email farmandranch@gov.ab.ca if you would like hard-copy resources mailed to you. In the meantime, all resources are housed on the [website](#).

Government of Alberta contacts:

Occupational Health and Safety contact centre: 1-866-415-8690

Employment Standards contact centre: 1-877-427-3731

Ag-Info Centre: 310-FARM (3276)

Workers' Compensation Board

Workers' Compensation Board contact centre: 1-866-922-9221 or email:
employer.account.services@wcb.ab.ca

Safety, fairness focus of farm and ranch workers legislation

Proposed new legislation will ensure Alberta's farm and ranch workers are kept safe and treated fairly.



Your Alberta

Government announces farm an...

SOUNDCLOUD



[Cookie policy](#)

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

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

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

If approved, the law would ensure that 60,000 farm and ranch workers in Alberta will have the same basic protections that other workers in the province have received for decades.

- The *Workers' Compensation Act* was introduced in 1918, nearly a century ago.
- The first comprehensive Labour Relations legislation was put in place in 1938, a year before the Second World War.
- Alberta's Occupational Safety and Health Act was implemented in 1976, nearly four decades ago.

Changes would include:

- Ensuring farms and ranches are subject to Occupational Health and Safety legislation to prevent farm and ranch incidents that can result in injury or death.

- Providing Workers' Compensation Board insurance coverage so that workers can continue to support their families if they are injured on the job, and protecting farm and ranch owners against the impact of workplace injuries and illness.
- Including farm and ranches in Employment Standards and Labour Relations legislation.

Farm and ranch workers will be protected by the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and regulations beginning January 1, 2016. Workers' Compensation Board coverage for farm and ranch workers will also be mandatory as of this date.

Changes to Alberta's Employment Standards and Labour Relations legislation will come into effect in the spring of 2016, following consultations with industry regarding exemptions that may be needed for unique circumstances such as seeding or harvesting.

Government will work with industry over the next year to develop detailed occupational health and safety technical rules for farms and ranches. The rules are expected to be in place in 2017.

"We know Alberta's farmers and ranchers are concerned about providing safe and fair workplaces, and I look forward to our discussions with them as we work out the details on the best way to do it."

- Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

Albertans wishing to provide input into the proposed changes or find out more information can attend town hall meetings to be held across the province this fall:

- Grande Prairie area – November 26, 2015
- Red Deer area – December 1, 2015
- Calgary area (Okotoks) – December 2, 2015
- Lethbridge area – December 3, 2015
- Edmonton area (Leduc) – December 7, 2015

Albertans can also participate in an online survey, accessible on the Government of Alberta website. For more information on the *Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act* and proposed changes and timelines, or to provide your input online, visit work.alberta.ca/farmandranch.

Related information

Farm and ranch website

Register for a town hall

Frequently asked questions

Listen to the news conference

Acts, Codes & Regulations

Occupational Health and Safety Act

Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

Occupational Health and Safety Code

Employment Standards Code

Employment Standards Regulation

Labour Relations Code

Workers' Compensation Act

Workers' Compensation Regulation

Media inquiries

✉ **Leah Holiday**

☎ 780-721-4007

Press Secretary, Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour

✉ **Renato Gandia**

☎ 780-638-9466

Press Secretary, Agriculture and Forestry



Farm and Ranch Workplace Legislation Changes

The Alberta government wants to give farm and ranch workers the same protection as other workers in the province.

Overview

Every worker in Alberta has the right to a safe, healthy and fair workplace. Currently, Alberta offers less protection for farm and ranch workers than any other jurisdiction in Canada. The Government of Alberta is proposing changes to its workplace legislation through the new Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act.

Who's affected?

Alberta employers/owners in the farm and ranch industry who aren't currently covered by workplace legislation and their workers would be affected.

What workplace legislation would this affect?

[Occupational Health and Safety Act](#)

[Workers' Compensation Act](#)

[Employment Standards Code](#)

[Labour Relations Code](#)

When will these changes happen?

If the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act passes, the following changes will take effect:

- January 1, 2016: *OHS Act* amended
- January 1, 2016: Workers' Compensation Board coverage
- Spring 2016: Employment Standards Code amended
- Spring 2016: Labour Relations Code amended
- 2017: OHS technical requirements introduced

Get informed

Find out more about these changes by reading our [FAQ](#).

Get involved

Your input matters! Make sure your voice is heard by joining in these discussions:

Farm and Ranch sessions

Albertans wishing to learn more or provide input into the proposed changes, can attend public meetings. Input from these sessions will be used to inform farm and ranch legislative changes.

[Register for one of the sessions](#)

- Grande Prairie – November 26, 2015
- Red Deer – December 1, 2015
- Okotoks – December 2, 2015
- Lethbridge – December 3, 2015
- Leduc – December 7, 2015

Online survey

Your feedback is important. An online questionnaire is being prepared and will be available shortly. If you would like to be notified when the survey is available [click here](#) to send us your email.

Email

Send us your thoughts or ideas to farmandranch@gov.ab.ca

Created:

Modified: 2015-11-17

PID: 15252

Get informed

- [News release](#)
- [Bill 6 – The Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act](#)
- [FAQ](#)

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PID:15252

2015 Bill 6

First Session, 29th Legislature, 64 Elizabeth II

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

BILL 6

ENHANCED PROTECTION FOR FARM AND RANCH WORKERS ACT

THE MINISTER OF JOBS, SKILLS, TRAINING AND LABOUR

First Reading

Second Reading

Committee of the Whole

Third Reading

Royal Assent

Bill 6

BILL 6

2015

ENHANCED PROTECTION FOR FARM AND RANCH WORKERS ACT

(Assented to _____, 2015)

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

Part 1 Employment Standards Code

Amends RSA 2000 cE-9

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

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

Explanatory Notes

Part 1 Employment Standards Code

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 This Part comes into force on Proclamation.

Part 2
Labour Relations Code

Amends RSA 2000 cL-1

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

- (f) *regulations under section 138(1)(d) respecting vacations, vacation pay, general holidays and general holiday pay;*
- (g) *regulations under section 138(1)(f) respecting the minimum wage.*

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

- (a) *the primary production of eggs, milk, grain, seeds, fruit, vegetables, honey, livestock, diversified livestock animals within the meaning of the Livestock Industry Diversification Act, poultry or bees, or*
- (b) *any other primary agricultural operation specified in the regulations,*

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 Coming into force.

Part 2 Labour Relations Code

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

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

(3) This section comes into force on Proclamation.

**Part 3
Occupational Health and Safety Act**

Amends RSA 2000 cO-2

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

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

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

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

(2) This Act does not apply to

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

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

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

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

(3) Coming into force.

Part 3 Occupational Health and Safety Act

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

(2) Section 1(s) presently reads:

1 In this Act,

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

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

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

6 Repeals Alberta Regulation 27/95.

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

(2) The following is added after section 1:

Farming and ranching operations

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

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

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

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

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

**Part 4
Workers' Compensation Regulation**

Amends AR 325/2002

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

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

7 Amends Occupational Health and Safety Code 2009.

8 Coming into force.

Part 4
Workers' Compensation Regulation

9 Amends Alberta Regulation 325/2002.

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

Coming into force

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

10 Coming into force.

Audrey Bjorklund

Subject: FW: Alberta News Release - Amendments confirm farm and ranch families will be excluded from new rules

From: Tom Burton [<mailto:TBurton@aamdc.com>]

Sent: December-07-15 5:16 PM

To: Tom Burton <TBurton@aamdc.com>

Subject: FW: Alberta News Release - Amendments confirm farm and ranch families will be excluded from new rules



Dec 07, 2015

Amendments confirm farm and ranch families will be excluded from new rules

Amendments to the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act, confirm the government's intent to exclude farm and ranch owners, and their families, from Occupational Health and Safety and mandatory Workers' Compensation Board coverage.

"Across Alberta, we have heard farming and ranching families' concerns. We know that farming in Alberta is more than a business, it is a way of life. It has always been our intention to preserve that way of life. The amendments explicitly exclude owners of farming or ranching operations, and their family members, from the mandatory application of WCB and OHS rules. We are also introducing amendments to assure Albertans that neighbours can still volunteer to help each other out, without being subject to the new rules."

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

The provisions for family members and non-waged individuals in the amendments were to be set out in regulations. Public concerns about whether OHS rules and WCB coverage applied to family operations required that they be stated within the Act itself for greater clarity and certainty.

“Families will be able to teach their children the farming and ranching way of life, as they always have, and neighbours will be able to volunteer to help each other out in times of need, as they always have.”

Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

At a glance

- The amendments to the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act explicitly exclude the application of WCB and OHS to owners of a farm or ranch operation, family members of the owners, and friends and neighbours who volunteer their time on the farm or ranch.
- Only where non-owner or non-family waged individuals are involved in a farm or ranch operation will WCB and OHS apply to the operation, and only to those non-owner and non-family waged individuals.
- If waged individuals are owners or family members of owners, the application of WCB and OHS will be excluded as it pertains to those individuals.
- In all cases, farm and ranch families may elect to choose WCB coverage for waged owners, waged family members and unwaged neighbours and friends.

Media inquiries

- Leah Holoïday
780-721-4007
Press Secretary, Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour
- Renato Gandia
780-638-9466
Press Secretary, Agriculture and Forestry

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting: **Agricultural Service Board**
 Meeting Date: December 14, 2015
 Originated By: Audrey Bjorklund, Community Development Manager
 Title: **CDM Report**
 File: 63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

Pest & Predation Control:

Beavers: to December 7	2015	641 tails	\$19,230
Budget \$20,000	2014	188	\$5,460
Wolves: to December 4	2015	45 wolves	\$ 13,950
Budget: \$30,000	2014	58	\$14,500
Policy 6307	2013	78	\$19,500
Rate increase from \$2502012		118	\$49,550
To \$400 C492-15(10/13/15)	2011	93	\$44,750
	2010	46	\$22,250

Peace Region Agricultural Service Board Conference: I attended this with ASB members on November 5, 2015 in Guy, Alberta. Information on the various sessions is provided below:

- Importance of the Honeybee to Agriculture, presenter Eric Stromgren.
 - Honey is federally regulated.
 - Currently about 700,000 colonies in Canada & less than 100,000 beekeepers.
 - Pesticides – it's about how your exposed as much as it's about what your exposed to.
 - Rules to Spray By:
 - Only if you have to
 - Late in the day (in the hive by 8 p.m.)
 - Use safest option
 - Resist the free ride (tank mixes)
 - Don't spray directly on the colonies.
 - Just say no to tank mixes (adjuvants & surfactants)
 - The One Big Thing? Flowers – bees nutrition comes from flowers, pollen & nectar. Suggest seeding barren corners & areas to flowering species. Grow a wide variety of flowering species that will provide blooms throughout the growing season. Suggested Borage (Star Flower) to attract bees to your garden or yard.
 - He had some interesting stats on increased yield when there were pollinator colonies within 700 feet of a crop, fields with hedgerows provided higher yields due to the pollination from the bees.
 - Ecosystem measures for healthy bee numbers: leaving bush, wetlands, corners and hedgerows.

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

- App under development that farmers can anonymously enter where and what they will be spraying, and if it's within 5 km of a bee colony the keeper will be notified, so they can take mitigation steps to reduce/prevent potential bee kill.
- ASB Program Updates – presenter Doug Macauley
 - Agriculture & Forestry – new Minister is Oneil Carlier,
 - - new Deputy Minister is Bev Yee.
- Pest Regulatory Office – presenter Gayah Sieusahai
 - Clubroot – new strain has been discovered with 5x stronger virulence and an infection rate of up to 90%.
 - Future – grow Clubroot resistant varieties
 - Long rotations = less spore buildup.
 - Equipment sanitization
 - Verticillium Wilt – NEW disease in Canola, found in Manitoba in 2014, not a regulated pest by CFIA (yet).
 - At the study stage
 - Recommending Equipment Sterilization.
 - Jimsonweed (Devil's Trumpet) – Now in 12 counties in Alberta.
 - Class I prohibited noxious weed with zero tolerance under the Federal Seed Act.
 - The seed is the same size as canola so it cannot be separated.
 - 600-700 seeds per plant, viable for up to 30 years.
 - There are lots of control options.
 - Plant Health Lab – New Structure – January 2016 launch
 - 2 to man the lab when it is operating.
 - Regulatory Support Lab, for new pathogens, not competing with existing labs for known pathogens
 - Sole purpose is for further Identification of new and variant pathogens.
- Genetically Modified Alfalfa - presenter Heather Kerschbaumer
 - Potential negative impact on economy from more & more countries not accepting genetically modified hay, as well as the impact on contamination of seed.
 - This is the first and only perennial that is Roundup resistant.
 - Imperial Valley in California is the only Roundup Ready Genetically Engineered free zone for alfalfa in the US. Alfalfa is the 4th largest export hay crop in the US.
 - Her message to alfalfa growers: Growers beware by being aware!
- SARDA (Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association) update - presenter Audrey Gall
 - Goal – quality unbiased information
 - Established in 1986 (29 years)
 - 1000 trial years
 - 4000 varieties of seed trialed.
 - Funding is an ongoing challenge as Alberta Opportunity Fund (AOF) is no longer funding the research component. AOF was funding 25% of the research for SARDA so this will be a drop of approximately \$30,000 from \$150,000. This loss of funding will make it difficult to grab projects that required matching dollars.
- MD of Smoky River shelter belt program - presenter Norm Boulet
 - Have adopted a shelter belt program very similar to Clear Hills County's with the closure of the provincial tree nursery.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:	AgFieldman:
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- Use Woodmere nursery as well due to hardiness of native local stock and value.
 - Have been very successful and shelterbelt orders have been on the upswing.
 - "Best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the next best time is now!
- Resolution Session Outcomes:
 - Compensation for Coyote Depredation Carried.
 - Hay Insurance Program Carried
 - Climate Stations Carried.
 - Emergent –Alberta Opportunity Fund funding Carried.

Alternative Land User Services (ALUS): This meeting was held November 6, 2015 in Fairview, Alberta. This was a joint meeting with the two ASB's we partner with under the Environmental Stream Funding component of the Provincial Agricultural Service Board grant, M.D. of Fairview and M.D. of Peace, the Manager and representatives from the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association (PCBFA). The PCBFA administers the Environment Stream program for the three municipalities. Denika Piggott from Municipal Affairs was presenting on this program that is now being undertaken by 7 municipalities in Alberta.

Outcomes/Next Steps:

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

Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen In-Service-Training (AAAF IST) Attended November 30 – December 3, 2015 in Edmonton. Several of the sessions at this training provide credits for retaining my Pesticide Applicator's Certificate. Topics include insect identification, best practices for weed control, pest control and soil conservation, spray technology and methods, new technology and programs.

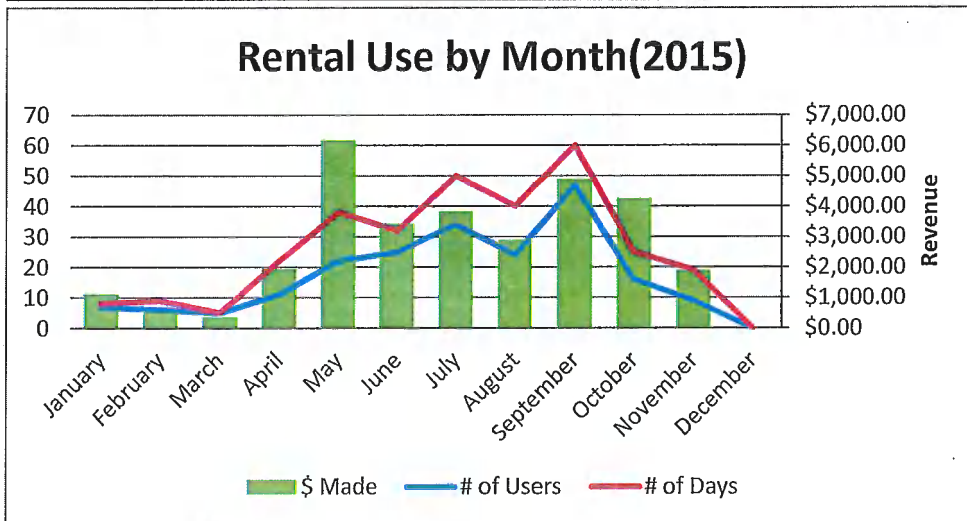
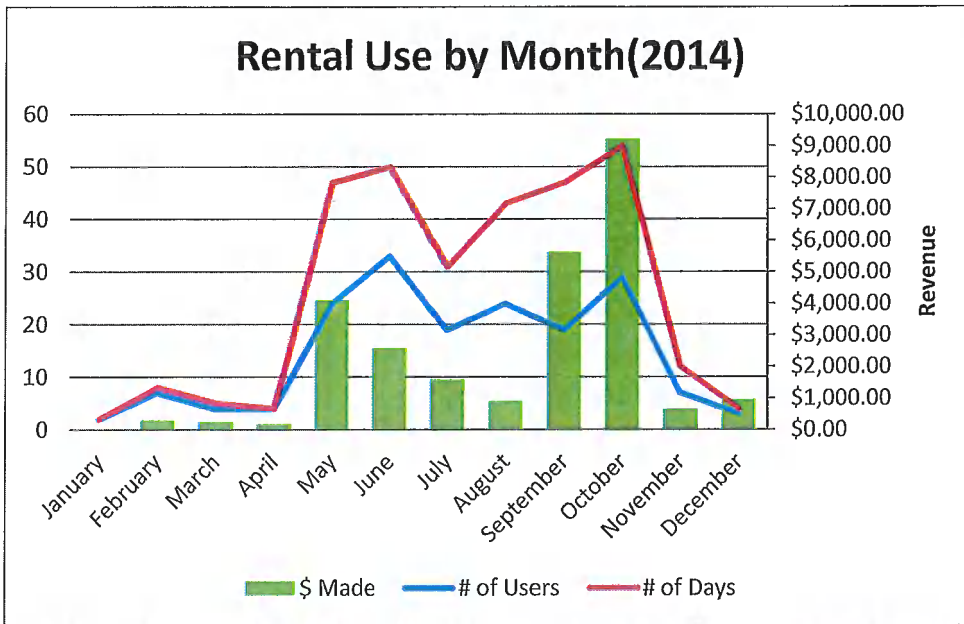
ATTACHMENTS:

- Rental Equipment Use Summary

RECOMMENDATION:

Resolution by Member _____ to accept the Community Development Manager's report to December 14, 2015 as presented.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:	AgFieldman:
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Equipment Use and Revenue
as of December 9, 2015

Equipment	Totals		
	# of Users	# of Days	\$ Made
Backpack Sprayer	-	-	\$ -
Bale Scale	11	11	\$ 330.00
Bale Tester	2	2	\$ 20.00
Ball Hitch (2" & 2 5/16")	-	-	\$ -
Livestock Ultrasound	-	-	\$ -
Chairs	7	9	\$ 459.50
Community Centre	6	16	\$ 800.00
Corral Panels	6	7	\$ 350.00
Coyote Trap	-	-	\$ -
Eco-Bran Applicator	2	2	\$ 100.00
Grain Bag Roller	9	9	\$ -
Grain Bagger	-	-	\$ -
Grain Bag Extractor	2	2	\$ 700.00
Grain Vac	23	27	\$ 5,200.00
Grass Seeders-Hand Held	-	-	\$ -
Grass Seeders-Quad Mount	1	1	\$ 5.00
Grill	10	16	\$ 80.00
Hand Held Rope Wick	-	-	\$ -
Land Leveller	7	8	\$ 1,430.00
Livestock Scale	-	-	\$ -
Loading Chute	16	16	\$ 450.00
Manure Spreader	5	16	\$ 2,400.00
Mulch Applicator	-	-	\$ -
Extra Hoses	2	3	\$ 2.00
Post Pounder	25	37	\$ 4,625.00
Pull/Push Roller Applicator	-	-	\$ -
Quad Mount Rope Wick	-	-	\$ -
Quad Mounted Sprayer	3	3	\$ -
Quad Pull Type Sprayer	1	1	\$ -
RFID Tag Reader	-	-	\$ -
Rock Picker	1	2	\$ 600.00
Rock Rake	2	10	\$ 3,000.00
Roller Mill	1	1	\$ 20.00
Rotowiper	1	6	\$ 600.00
Scare Cannon #91060254	-	-	\$ -
Signs	5	-	\$ -
Skid Mount Sprayer	1	1	\$ -
Steam Tables	-	-	\$ -
Tables	8	12	\$ 65.00
Toilets	6	11	\$ 550.00
Tree Spade	6	8	\$ 1,200.00
Truck Mount Sprayer	-	-	\$ -
Wash Station	6	7	\$ 70.00
Water Pumps	40	70	\$ 8,125.00
Zero Till Drills	3	3	\$ 900.00
Totals rental(by month)	218	317	\$ 32,081.50

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	December 14, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	BOARD REPORTS
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

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

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	December 14, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE
File No:	63-02-02

DESCRIPTION:

The board is presented with correspondence for review.

BACKGROUND:

Attached are documents for the Board's information:

ATTACHMENTS:

- Peace Country Beef & Forage Association Newsletter

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of December 14, 2015 as presented.

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

Pain Management Requirements Continued

As you can see, implementation of pain management and pain mitigation will become a requirement under the Code of Practice. This has several implications for beef producers, and below we will discuss some of the options available for pain mitigation during these procedures.

Dr. Cody Creelman from Veterinary Agri-Health says that the most effective and practical way to manage pain during surgical castration is to use a combination of local anesthetic (lidocaine) and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (meloxicam). An epidural will provide immediate pain relief of the scrotal skin, and a testicular block to desensitize the testicular cords, while the meloxicam will provide pain relief for 3 days afterwards.



Banding a bull upon entry at a feedlot. www.producer.com

Pain management when banding bulls is more difficult to manage, due to the nature of the procedure. The Band is applied, and approximately 3-6 weeks later, the scrotum sloughs off. Determining the best timing for the administering of pain control is difficult. However, the administration of meloxicam when the band is applied can help with pain control at the time of band application.

Meloxicam as an oral formulation from Solvet is the only product in Canada with a label claim for controlling castration pain. Meloxicam can also be found in an injectable form – Metacam. Injectable analgesics like ketoprofen (Anafen) and flunixin meglumine (Banamine) and meloxicam are longer-acting than anesthetics, providing pain relief up to 3 days after castration. There are other analgesics on label for use in beef cattle, although few have claims for pain control following castration, but because of their ability to control pain and swelling for other conditions they may provide some relief following castration. When using an anesthetic, it should ideally be injected 5-20 min prior to the procedure, and can provide pain relief for several hours after the procedure.

Dehorning is becoming a practice that is performed less and less due to the inclusion of polled genetics. Veterinarians will often use a lidocaine block of the coronal nerve. Once the nerve block is performed, it should ideally be left for 10-15min before the dehorning is performed.

The best case scenario for controlling pain during these procedures is to perform them at as early an age as possible.

So what exactly does this mean for producers?

A valid Veterinary-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR) is a good place to start. This basically means that you have a working relationship with a practicing veterinarian, who is familiar with your herd and can diagnose and treat any medical conditions that may arise. An examination of your cattle or herd is required to establish a VCPR, this relationship is necessary for a veterinarian to ethically dispense or prescribe medications or recommend treatment. With that said, to be in compliance with the Requirements of the Code of Practice, veterinarians do not need to do the castration or dehorning, so long as the procedure is completed by a properly trained person using accepted techniques. Dr. Creelman suggests that pain control be managed based on recommendation from each producer's vet. With an established VCPR, veterinarians are able to prescribe and dispense medication for pain control. Some veterinarians may make the choice to recommend and dispense lidocaine for pain management during these procedures, while others may not. This decision in the end comes down to individual veterinary practice's protocols as well as appropriate training and confidence in the producer.



Developing a VCPR with your local veterinarian is an important relationship for all producers.

www.cattlenetwork.com

The changes to the requirements in the Beef Cattle Code of Practice will impact all Canadian Producers. The best resource for the best way to manage pain on your operation is your local veterinarian. They will be best equipped to answer all of the questions specific to your operation.

Thanks to Dr. Cody Creelman of Veterinary Agri-Health for your help with this article.

Find us online!

www.peacecountrybeef.ca



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www.facebook.com/peacecountrybeef

Biosecurity: The What, The Why and The How

By: Carly Shaw

Biosecurity, what is it and why does it matter to us in the Peace Country you ask? Alberta Agriculture refers to biosecurity as “practices designed to prevent, reduce or eliminate the introduction and incidental spread of disease among livestock and poultry.” From this definition alone you can begin to understand the importance of implementing biosecurity practices on your farm. When we take biosecurity into consideration, we start to minimize the risks of diseases spreading on our farms, between our farms and between species by a great extent. This prevents massive disease outbreaks from occurring nationally or internationally and destroying the cattle markets. Some of the key points biosecurity can accomplish are outlined in the



article *Biosecurity in Alberta* by Alberta Agriculture:

- ◆ prevent the introduction and spread of disease
- ◆ protect humans from zoonotic diseases (diseases found in animals that are transmissible to humans and vice versa)
- ◆ be indicators of commitment to the health of livestock and poultry industries
- ◆ provide confidence that risk managers are doing the 'right thing'
- ◆ elevate awareness of animal health and disease transmission
- ◆ be used as a recovery tool if disease incursions occur
- ◆ save money spent on disease recovery costs (disease costs producers, industry, government and marketers hundreds of millions of dollars each year – simple biosecurity steps can be implemented to reduce such costs)

Firstly it is important to understand how livestock diseases are typically spread (direct contact, indirect contact or airborne) and the pillars of biosecurity in order to implement the best biosecurity practices

When we take Biosecurity into consideration, we start to minimize the risks of diseases spreading on our farms.
www.albertawheat.com

that fit your farm's needs. The three pillars of biosecurity are Animal Health Management, Production Management and Access Management. Animal Health Management includes quarantining new stock, managing animal movement and vaccination programs. Production Management consists of controlling rodents, limiting exposure to wild birds/ wildlife, building and equipment maintenance. Access Management involves creating designated zones categorized by the amount of protection needed in them. There are 5 different zones which should be considered. The first is a controlled access zone which is limited to the producer and employees, typically a pasture or a barn and identified by a fence or sign. Second is a restricted access zone which should be identified at all entrances and exits with signage that could include “employees only”, “Biosecurity Standards in place” or “PPE required”. Third is a quarantine zone which is an area for new animals to reside in to check for diseases or for animals returning from an exhibition or show where it could have contracted a disease. Isolation is the fourth zone to be considered which is an area used for the separation of diseased animals. It is extremely important that post cleaning and disinfection protocols are strictly followed in this zone. Lastly the fifth zone is a public access zone which is an area that indicates that there are areas that are not for public access and generally have handwashing stations positioned strategically and frequently (The above information was collected from the AB.VMA's *Biosecurity in practice* book).

So now you may be wondering how you would begin to create a Biosecurity plan. The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (AB.VMA) recommends in their book *Biosecurity in Practice* that you follow these 5 basic steps:

- ◆ Establish a Biosecurity team- What skills, knowledge and value each member bring
- ◆ Identify outcomes and goals- Why are we doing this? What will this program change?
- ◆ Perform a risk assessment- Identifying risks and the most practical and feasible ways to eliminate them
- ◆ Develop and implement protocols, best management practices and operations based on the three pillars of Biosecurity
- ◆ Measure, review, improve and train

If there is still more you would like to learn about Biosecurity feel free to contact one of our offices or talk to your local vet.

Documents referenced and available for more information:

Alberta Agriculture & Forestry, Government of Alberta. 'Biosecurity in Alberta.' Alberta Agriculture.

Alberta Veterinary Medical Association. 'Biosecurity in Practice'. 2011

Contact us for:

- Project Ideas
- Feed Testing

- Growing Forward 2 Assistance
- Ration Formulation

- Environmental Farm Plans
- Past Project Information

Upcoming Events!

Event	Date & Time	Location
2015 Western Canadian Conference on Soil Health	Dec 8-10, 2015	Radisson Hotel Edmonton www.albertasoilhealth.ca
Peace Country Beef Congress	Jan 8-9, 2016	Dawson Creek
Peace Agronomy Update	Jan 12 or 13, 2016	Dunvegan Motor Inn Fairview
Holistic Management Course <i>with Don & Bev Campbell</i>	Jan 14, 15, 16 & Jan 21, 22, 23 Jan 28, 29, 30 & Feb 4, 5 6	Valleyview Ag Society Hall Demmitt Community Hall
Cost: \$1495 + tax per farm unit up to 4 people		
Winter Watering Systems Tour	Jan 30, 2016	Birch Hills County
Peace Country Beef Cattle Day	Feb 1, 2016	Dunvegan Motor Inn Fairview
Tactical Farming Conference	Feb 9 & 10, 2016	Deerfoot Casino Calgary
PCBFA AGM	Feb 26, 2016	Dunvegan Motor Inn Fairview
Peace Country Classic & Beef Market Outlook <i>with Anne Wasko</i>	March 11, 2016	Grande Prairie
Sprayer School <i>with Tom Wolf</i>	March 2016	County of Grande Prairie & MD of Peace
Succession Planning Workshop <i>with Merle Good</i>	March 30, 2016	TBA
PCBFA Tour to the Denver Stock Show!	January 2017	<i>More Details to Come!</i>

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

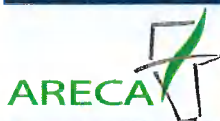
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