

**AGENDA  
 CLEAR HILLS COUNTY  
 AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING  
 December 12, 2016**

The Agricultural Service Board meeting of Clear Hills County will be held on Monday, December 12, 2016 following the Organization Meeting in the Council Chambers of the County Office, Worsley, Alberta.

1.	CALL TO ORDER	
2.	AGENDA	
3.	ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES	
	a. October 17, 2016 .....	2
4.	Delegation(s)	
5.	BUSINESS ARISING	
6.	OLD BUSINESS	
	a. Activity Report .....	7
	b. CombCut Selective Mower .....	10
	c. VSI AGM Update .....	27
7.	NEW BUSINESS	
	a. Events .....	45
	b. Stock Trailer .....	61
	c. AAMD&C Draft Guide to Declaring Municipal Agricultural Disasters .....	67
	d. Agricultural Service Board Business Plan .....	79
8.	REPORTS	
	a. Agricultural Fieldman Report .....	86
	b. Board Reports .....	89
9.	INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE .....	104
10.	CONFIDENTIAL	
11.	ADJOURNMENT	

**MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Worsley, Alberta  
October 17, 2016**

PRESENT

Brian Harcourt	Chair
Charlie Johnson	Council Representative
MacKay Ross	Member
Baldur Ruecker	Deputy Chair
Garry Candy	Member
Julie Watchorn	Member

IN ATTENDANCE

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

IN REGRET

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Harcourt called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

AGENDA

**AG104(10/17/16)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda governing the October 17, 2016 Agricultural Service Board meeting with the following additions:**

- 7 d. CombCut Weed Cutting Machine
- 10 a. Confidential: Legal matter **CARRIED.**

**AG105(10/17/16)**

**RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the August 8, 2016 Agricultural Service Board Meeting as presented. **CARRIED.****

DELEGATION

**AG106(10/17/16)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board table the Delegation item until it's scheduled time later in the meeting. **CARRIED.****

OLD BUSINESS

Activity Report

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

**AG107(10/17/16)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the October 17, 2016 Agricultural Service Board Activity Report as presented. **CARRIED.****

2017 Operating Budget

The Board is presented with the first draft of the 2017 Agricultural Service Operating Budget.

**AG108(10/17/16)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council approve the 2017 Agricultural Service Operating Budget at presented. **CARRIED.****

Glyphosate Tolerant  
Wheat

The Board requested administration bring back further information on the health and trade impacts of Glyphosate Tolerant Wheat.

**AG109(10/17/16)**

**RESOLUTION** by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board submit the following resolution to the Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference:

**WHEREAS** glyphosate tolerant canola is not accepted by Japan, European Union and South Korea.

**WHEREAS** glyphosate tolerant alfalfa is not accepted in Japan European Union, China and South Korea.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT PEACE REGION AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST** that glyphosate tolerant wheat not be licensed for growing in Canada to protect our world market. **CARRIED.**

Municipal Weed Control

The Board is presented with the draft letter to the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry regarding Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds becoming increasingly prevalent with the increase of traffic, equipment and movement of people.

**AG110(10/17/16)**

**RESOLUTION** by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council send the drafted letter to the Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Forestry in regards to Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds becoming increasingly prevalent with the increase of traffic, equipment and movement of people. **CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS

Regional Agricultural  
Service Board  
Conference

County of Northern lights is hosting the Peace Region Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference in Dixonville, Alberta on November 9, 2016.

**AG111(10/17/16)**

**RESOLUTION** by Chair Harcourt that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all members to attend the 2016 Peace Region Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference on November 9, 2016 in Dixonville, Alberta. **CARRIED.**

Events

The Board is presented with events for their consideration.

**AG112(10/17/16)**

**RESOLUTION** by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board table the Upcoming Events item to further in the meeting. **CARRIED.**

DELEGATION

Peace Country Beef  
And Forage Association

Peace Country Beef & Forage Association (PCBFA) Managers, Monika Beniot and Liisa Vihvelin and Research Coordinator, Dr. Akim Omokayne were in attendance at 11:15 a.m. to present a report on the 2016 Environmental Stream partnership program and present the plans for the 2017 program along with a funding request.

Chair Harcourt adjourned for lunch at 11:56 a.m.  
Chair Harcourt reconvened at 12:37 p.m.

AG113(10/17/16)

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

- Alberta Young Farmers and Ranchers Lead the Farm on November 5, 2016 at the Grande Prairie Corn Maze in Grande Prairie, Alberta.
  - Dugout Workshop on November 24, 2016 at the Grimshaw Legion in Grimshaw, Alberta.
  - Peace Beef Cattle Day on November 30, 2016 in Fairview, Alberta.
  - Ration Balancing Workshops in November, details to be announced.
  - Farm Transition on December 1, 2016 and February 16, 2017 in Grande Prairie, Alberta.
- CARRIED.**

AG114(10/17/16)

**RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agriculture Service Board accept for information the delegation from Monika Benoit and Liisa Vihvelin, Managers, and Research Coordinator, Dr. Akim Omokayne of Peace Country Beef and Forage Association on the 2016 Environmental Stream partnership program and 2017 programming and to recommend Council increase the 2017 funding to Peace Country Beef and Forage Association by \$2,500.00 to a total of \$20,000.00.**

**CARRIED.**

VSI Program

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

AG115(10/17/16)

**RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion around the Veterinary Services Inc. Program Annual General Meeting being held on November 4, 2016 at the Peace River Legion.**

**CARRIED.**

CombCut Weed  
Cutting Machine

Member Ross requested that this item be added to today's agenda.

AG116(10/17/16)

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to bring back further information on the costs of a CombCut Weed cutting machine.**

**CARRIED.**

REPORTS

Community  
Development Manager  
Report

At this time the Community Development Manager will have an opportunity to report on Agricultural Services topic.

**AG117(10/17/16)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accept that Community Development Manager's report of October 17, 2016 as presented. CARRIED.**

Board Reports

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

- Chair Harcourt: Attended Canfax Cattle Market Update in Teepee Creek, Alberta on September 19, 2016, Agriculture Farms Tour in Grande Prairie, Alberta on August 24, 2016 and Soil Field School at the NPARA Research Farm on August 18, 2016.
- Deputy Chair Ruecker: Attended Canfax Cattle Market Update in Teepee Creek, Alberta on September 19, 2016 and Soil Field School at the NPARA Research Farm on August 18, 2016.
- Member Ross: Soil Field School at the NPARA Research Farm on August 18, 2016.
- Member Candy: Whole Farm Water Planning Workshop at Dave and Kim Kuntz Farm on August 4, 2016 and Soil Field School at the NPARA Research Farm on August 18, 2016.

**AG118(10/17/16)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' written or verbal reports of October 17, 2016 for information. CARRIED.**

INFORMATION &  
CORRESPONDENCE

The Board is presented with correspondence to review.

1. Alberta Invasive Species Council – The Invader 2016 (Volume 3) – (63-10-02)
2. SARDA – Article – (63-10-02)
3. Country Guide Article – (63-10-02)
4. 2017 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour – Invitation – (63-10-02)
5. County of St. Paul No. 19 – Letter – (63-10-02)
6. Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman – Letter – (63-10-02)
7. Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130 – Letter – (63-10-02)
8. Peace Country Beef and Forage Association – September Newsletter – (63-10-02)
9. Peace Country Beef and Forage Association – October Newsletter – (63-10-02)
10. Alberta Crop Report – Article – (63-10-02)

11. Alberta Farm Animal Care – Article – (63-10-02)
12. Alberta Farm Animal Care - Article – (63-10-02)
13. Alberta Farm Animal Care – Newsletter – (63-10-02)
14. Rental Equipment Usage Summary – (63-10-10)
15. Parks and Environmental responses to Provincial Agricultural Service Board Resolutions – (63-10-02)

AG119(10/17/16)

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board receives the Information & Correspondence of October 17, 2016 as presented. CARRIED.**

Confidential  
Legal

Member Ross requested a discussion on a previous legal matter that was addressed by Council.

AG120(10/17/16)

**RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board go in camera at 1:37 p.m. CARRIED**

AG121(10/17/16)

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board to come out of camera at 1:48 p.m. CARRIED**

AG122(10/17/16)

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board to accept for information the legal matter discussion. CARRIED.**

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Harcourt adjourned the meeting at 1:49 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 12, 2016
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>ACTIVITY REPORT</b>
File:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

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

### BACKGROUND:

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

### ATTACHMENTS:

- Agricultural Service Board Activity Report

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board (ASB) accepts the December 12, 2016 ASB Activity Report as presented.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: <i>ABJ</i> AgFieldman: <i>GC</i>
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## Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

### Activity Report for December 12, 2016 Page 1 of 2

Budget Items:   
 CAO = Chief Administrative Officer  
 DO = Development Officer  
 EA = Executive Assistant

Completed Items:   
 CSM = Corporate Services Manager  
 AF = Ag. Fieldman  
 CDM = Community Development Manager

MOTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEPT	STATUS
<b>REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETINGS</b>				
<b>March 18, 2016</b>				
AG48	(03/18/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to arrange an Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) joint meeting with M.D. of Fairview No. 136 and M.D. of Peace No. 135 in October 2016.	AF	Planning for a January date. Determining ALUS rep availability.
<b>June 13, 2016</b>				
AG60	(06/13/16)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board requires all Agricultural Service Board members to attend the Clear Hills County Agricultural Trade Show and Farmers' Appreciation Banquet.	AF	
<b>October 17, 2016</b>				
AG108	(10/17/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council approve the 2017 Agricultural Service Operating Budget as presented.	CDM	Council approved. C652-16(11/08/16)
AG109	(10/17/16)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board submit the following resolution to the Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference: WHEREAS glyphosate tolerant canola is not accepted by Japan, European Union and South Korea. WHEREAS glyphosate tolerant alfalfa is not accepted in Japan European Union, China and South Korea. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT PEACE REGION AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that glyphosate tolerant wheat not be licensed for growing in Canada to protect our world market.	AF AZ	Review after 2017 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference.
AG110	(10/17/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council send a letter to the Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Forestry in regards to Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds becoming increasingly prevalent with the increase of traffic, equipment and movement of people.	CDM	Council approved. C624-16(10/25/16)





**Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board**

**Activity Report for December 12, 2016 Page 2 of 2**

Budget Items:

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer

DO= Development Officer

EA = Executive Assistant

Completed Items:

CSM = Corporate Services Manager

AF = Ag. Fieldman

CDM = Community Development Manager

<b>MOTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DEPT</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
AG113	(10/17/16)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agriculture Service Board accept for information the delegation from Monika Benoit and Liisa Vihvelin, Managers, Peace Country Beef and Forage Association on the 2016 Environmental Stream partnership program and 2017 programming and to recommend Council increase the 2017 funding to Peace Country Beef and Forage Association by \$2,500.00 to a total of \$20,000.00.	CDM	C652-16(11/08/16)
AG115	(10/17/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to being back further information on the costs of a CombCut Weed cutting machine.	AF GC	December 12, 2016

# Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 12, 2016
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>CombCut Selective Mower</b>
File:	63-10-10

## DESCRIPTION:

The Board requested administration bring back further information on the CombCut Selective Mower.

## BACKGROUND:

AG115(10/17/16) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to bring back further information on the costs of a Combcut Weed cutting machine. **CARRIED.**

University of Saskatchewan started a 5 year field trial in 2016 to determine effectiveness on Canadian crops. There are no published results at present.

## OPTIONS:

- Accept for information
- Table and bring back U of S field trial results once complete
- Recommend including \$\_\_\_\_\_ in year \_\_\_\_ of the multi-year capital plan

## ATTACHMENTS:

- Pros and cons of CombCut Selective Mower
- CombCut put to test in organic trial
- Resistance fight goes mechanical
- Swedish field test
- Excerpt from operators manual on machine adjustment
- Rental Equipment Policy #6310

## BUDGET/COST:

\$41,600.00 for 2016 purchases. A price increase is expected for 2017.  
Projected Ag Reserve balance at Dec. 31, 2016 = \$165,582.09

## RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board table and bring back U of S field trial results once complete.

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

*Abj.*

**AgFieldman:**

*GC*

## CombCut Selective Mower

### Pros

- Only moving part is the brushes
- Maintenance is minimal (spraying a lubricant on the blades after use to prevent rusting)
- A set of knives should last for over 2000 acres of cutting (a new set are approximately \$390.00)
- Limited field studies show encouraging results as far as increasing crop competitiveness (Weeds weren't eliminated, but were cut to below crop canopy, making the crop more competitive.)
- Field studies over two years of use in barley showed a decrease in weed growth of between 66-79%.

### Cons

- Machine is limited to mounting on either a front or rear 3 point hitch
- Cannot be transported other than with a three point hitch.
- Most reviews indicate knife adjustment can be "trial and error". Crop damage can occur if not adjusted properly or if crop stems are in their later development stage.
- Because a tractor is used for propulsion, a certain amount of crop is damaged by the tractor tires

### Other Information

- The 27ft model is selling for \$41,600.00. A 30% deposit is required at time of order. A price increase is expected in 2017.

## CombCut put to test in organic trial



Thistles dominate a check strip purposely left in an organic wheat field at the Ian N. Morrison Field Research Farm in Carman. Photo: Shannon VanRaes

### ***Mechanical weed removal without intensive manual labour possible with Swedish implement***

By Shannon VanRaes  
OrganicBiz staff

Like a spiky purple mohawk, thistles dominate a check strip purposely left in an organic wheat field at the Ian N. Morrison Field Research Farm in Carman.

Pointing to it, the farm's senior technician Keith Bamford tells a groups of producers and researchers that if not for a piece of equipment known as a CombCut, the entire field would have been worked under by now.

"This was a field that was seeded really early this spring," he said. "I thought I was going to get a jump on some thistles and that didn't happen ... the thistles came up almost as quickly as the wheat did and it looked like a disaster in the making."

And so it would have been if not for the Swedish-made device, which developers believe could play a key role in not just organic systems, but also in the fight against herbicide-resistant weeds.



“For those that aren’t familiar with a CombCut, you have the blades and there are no moving parts except the reel, so it’s really using two blades and spacing to cut off wider than desirable weeds,” said Bamford. “This can be used for thistles, it can be used for wild mustard, anything that is thicker than say wheat.”

According to the implement’s developers at JustCommonSense, the implement’s static knives work like tiny scythes, catching and cutting broadleaf weeds and volunteers, while slender crops like wheat slip through unharmed. In crops too thick or bushy for the machinery to comb through, it can be raised above the canopy to shear off weeds that are out pacing a given crop.

” They have actually regrown, but the regrowth is really spindly and that is kind of what we were looking for. – *Keith Bamford*

Several of those participating in the University of Manitoba’s annual Ecological and Organic Farming Field Tour last week had seen video footage of the CombCut in action, but few has seen the results. Bamford stressed that anyone interested in using a new weed suppression technology should incorporate a check strip into their fields to judge efficacy.

Beyond the check strip at the research farm a reduction in thistles could easily been seen, and those that remained lacked the vigour and height of their uncut neighbours.

“They have actually regrown, but the regrowth is really spindly and that is kind of what we were looking for,” said the technician. “It’s set them back and they are now below the wheat canopy, so the wheat now has the advantage ... **There are still thistles there, it’s not gotten rid of the thistles, but it’s made the crop more competitive.**”

**He noted there was some damage to the wheat as well,** but added using the CombCut earlier in the growing season have reduced that damage. But given the choice between light damage and losing a field to weeds, the answer is clear.

“It’s not going to make our crop better, but it’s going to preserve some of that crop,” Bamford said. “I don’t think we’re going to increase our yields, but we’re not going to lose more, we’re not going to have as many thistles going to seed out here.”

Thistle reduction will also make harvesting the wheat easier, he added.

"And if we'd been able to get into this field of wheat earlier, if we'd done that treatment much earlier, I think the response probably would have been stronger," he said. It's just that balancing act between the weeds and the crop."

Whether the using the CombCut will provide a long-term reduction in weeds, year over year, remains to be seen, but Bamford expects more research will be done on the recently developed implement in the coming years.

"There are lots of ways of dealing with perennial weeds," he said. "But when all of that falls apart, it's nice to have a tools like this that we can sort of fall back on, and I'll say, sort of rescue a crop."



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## Resistance fight goes mechanical

Tillage might not be the tool of choice, but combing and cutting could have a place in the weed war

Posted Mar. 17th, 2016 by [Ron Lyseng](#)

19



The CombCut tool can remove weeds from a standing cereal crop by taking advantage of the plant's structure. | Combcut photo

According to the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences:

*Herbicide resistant weeds, despite new technologies and recent research, remains a challenge for producers globally. Herbicide resistance in Russian thistle recently turned up in Montana — [page 3 of the March 10 edition](#) of *The Western Producer*. Look for a series of stories in the Production section, beginning in this edition, that look at the issue from a prairie point of view.*

Organic farmers and farmers facing herbicide resistance have a new tool that some would call revolutionary.

The CombCut mechanically removes broadleaf weeds from standing cereals without inflicting crop damage.

The term “mechanical weed control” conjures up images of intensive cultivation and the associated soil degradation issues.

However, selectively clipping broadleaf weeds in a standing cereal crop without hurting the crop can go a long way toward breaking weed cycles, and with no risk of soil erosion.

The Swedish-built CombCut weed mower employs sharp little knives that slice the stiff stems of most broadleaf plants, including volunteer canola, while allowing pliable grassy plants to bend and slide through unharmed. It's like a scythe with a discriminating blade.

At first glance, CombCut looks like a swather with bright orange bristle brushes that sweep the crop and weeds into the fixed position cutter bar. In some respects, it resembles a stripper header.

The cutter bar is fitted with teeth to direct every plant into the straight blade knives. All coarse plant stems are severed or severely damaged by the razors.

Younger, thinner crop stems that offer no resistance pass through unscathed.

The implement normally runs through at 10 km-h, but Swedish researchers say they have had good results all the way up to 22 km-h.

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The cutter bar can run at a safe level just below the heads of standing weeds, while running it lower to the ground results in higher rates of weed kill and running right at ground level provides the best rate of weed kill.

However, that may damage to the delicate blades.

The machine runs on wheels, which should prevent a major wreck when run close to the surface.

Timing is critical. The weed mower should be used only when the cereal crop is young and the plants still pliable. The blades will cut more mature cereal crops.

The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences conducted field trials with the CombCut, reporting a grain yield increase of 76 to 94 percent on fields infested with thistle and docks.

The studies showed a reduction in flower buds of 87 to 100 percent. It's recommended that CombCut be used before the weeds have a chance to go to seed. They point out that using a weed clipper instead of tillage leaves the weed seed bank undisturbed.

Above ground dry plant matter for weeds was reduced 68 to 89 percent, while underground dry root material of the weeds was reduced by 66 to 79 percent.

Even if the weeds aren't killed outright, they are damaged to the extent that the crop will grow and out-compete them.

Not only does this reduce herbicide use, but it also lets a producer kill weeds when wet weather prevents spraying.

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Colin Tanner, whose family organically farms 800 acres near Pense, Sask., and whose company, SonTanner Sales, is the CombCut dealer for the Prairies, said they imported a six metre CombCut



last spring as a way to clean up thistles without chemicals or cultivation.

"We tried it on 280 acres of cereals and 40 acres of fall rye. I was going to do test strips, but we had such a terrible stand because of the drought that it wouldn't have been valid," Tanner said.

"But visually, the difference was night and day between the CombCut acres and the acres I left untouched.

"I'm going to conduct field trials this year. The University of Manitoba and the Crop Development Center at the University of Saskatchewan both have CombCuts, and they also plan on conducting field trials in 2016."

The CombCut reel is hydraulically driven. It mounts to a three-point hitch at the front or back of the tractor. There is no draught requirement and no need for a high horsepower tractor.

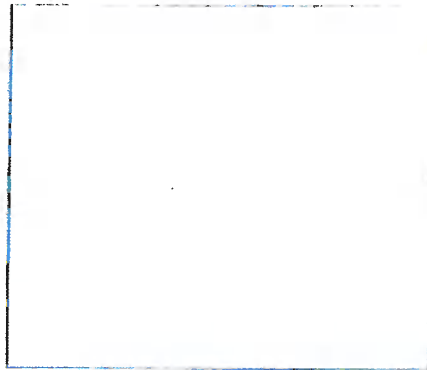
Tanner has about a dozen of the weed mowers on order with a handful already sold.

The six metre CombCut has 150 blades, weighs 1,900 pounds and sells for about \$36,000.

The eight metre model has 210 blades, weighs 2,300 lb. and sells for about \$44,000.

For more information, contact Tanner at 306-546-5686 or visit [www.justcommonsense.eu](http://www.justcommonsense.eu).

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Contact [ron.lyseng@producer.com](mailto:ron.lyseng@producer.com)

- Crop timing is by far the most important factor.
- Use CombCut when the physical difference between weed and crop culture is most significant.
- Start as early in the season as possible, before the crop starts to form firm straws.
- Comb through the flag leaves of the crop. Before the flag leaves are formed, the risk of harming the crop is minimal.
- "Cut the weed before the seed."
- For best effect, cut thistle when it has six to eight leaves. If necessary, repeat the cutting after one to four weeks.

#### Popular articles

[Could India's 2016 monsoon disappoint again?](#)

[#Plant16 photo contest](#)

[116 bushel canola in Saskatchewan](#)

[Versatile gets its colour back](#)

[Is glyphosate really dangerous?](#)

#### About the author

[Ron Lyseng](#) — Western Producer staff

*Also by this author*

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[Pro-Stitch's notched wheel shines in...](#)

[Military know-how leads to ag spray...](#)

Join the discussion...

**ed** • 7 months ago

At a meeting that we were at years ago, the Monsanto rep told us that without question, resistance to roundup by plants could not happen because of it's mode of action. That tells you that they didn't know what they were talking about. Or does it. Within a couple of years they had Roundup resistant plants of their own to sell to farmers, and you don't develop those overnight. Wait a minute, if they already knew that, then those reps were knowingly or trained by those who did know, to put across to the farmers a story that contained little white ones when needed to keep the sales of Roundup high and drive them higher. Could bel They need to develop GM sheep, pocket gophers and underground bugs with forked velcro tongues to devour these different types of plants and roots and to help with this "New" weed problem plus preserve their precious GM technology and sales at the same time. They may be promoting better small mixed farms again. A long slow way around to progress.

1 ^ v • Reply • Share ›

**bufford54** • 7 months ago

sounds like a lot of extra fuel, not to mention the damage from running over the crop several times

^ v • Reply • Share ›

ALSO ON THE WESTERN PRODUCER

**Rocks: don't pick them, pulverize them**

1 comment • 11 days ago

**MiniBulk Inc.** — As somebody who picked rocks as a kid, I welcome this new tech with open arms!

**Oh, snow**

2 comments • 3 days ago

**Dayton** — Too bad, you wouldn't need crop insurance at all if the old Agri stability program was around.

**Feds stun provinces with carbon plan**

8 comments • 14 days ago

**Harold** — How does a carbon tax reduce rainfall? How does not having a tax create rain? I am assuming that your ...

**Dangers lurk for children on the farm**

2 comments • 3 days ago

**old grouchy** — Oh boy - - - - childhood is just so risky. Maybe we should just not allow children anything that might be ...



Latest opinion pieces

Former WP editor Keith Dryden dead

Canada needs trade deals with India, China

Melander et al., 2005). The method is most efficient against annual weeds but may also give some control effects on perennial weeds with a rather shallow underground root/stem system. Inter-row cultivation is usually carried out in row crops (i.e. crops like sugar beet, potatoes and maize grown with relatively large row spacing) but also used in small grain crops like cereals sown with a row spacing of 20-30 cm in organic farming.

To study the control effects of inter-row cultivation on *Sonchus arvensis*, three field experiments in oats were performed in central Sweden during 2006-2007 with an inter-row cultivator. The immediate control effect was rather good which is illustrated in Fig. 6. However, at the end of the season no significant effects were obtained on either weed biomass or crop yield probably due to a rather low soil nitrogen content which favoured the efficient nitrogen absorbing *S. arvensis* (Lundkvist et al., unpublished data).



Fig. 6. Effects of inter-row cultivation in oats with a large abundance of *Sonchus arvensis* in spring 2006. A) Control plot, B) Inter-row cultivation performed. Photo: Kurt Hansson.

### 3.2.6 Mowing

Mowing is a traditional weed control method by which growth and development of the weeds are disturbed by removing parts of their above ground biomass. Mowing is used in leys, near ditches and road verges and is often a rather efficient weed control method.

When mowing is combined with competition from a well established crop, proper weed control effects may be obtained (Graglia et al., 2006; Bicksler & Masiunas, 2009). In Sweden, a selective weed mower 'CombCut' has been developed in such a way that it is possible to cut weed plants in a growing cereal crop without damaging the crop (<http://www.jcs-innovation.se/enghem.html>; Lundkvist et al., 2011a). CombCut combs through the field, down in the growing crop, cutting weeds which compete with the developing crop, while leaving the crop undamaged (Fig. 7). This is a novel weed control method since it is normally not possible to perform any type of mechanical weed control in cereals after crop emergence. Selective weed mowing is based on differences between the physical properties of crop and weed plants which - given a proper mowing timing, frequency and machine settings - can be used to control weeds in a growing crop without damaging the crop. Apart from counteracting vegetative weed biomass accumulation and competition with the crop, mowing may prevent weed seed formation, thereby preventing weed seed bank replenishment, and enhances the quality of seed crops.

The effects of the weed mower on weeds and crops are currently evaluated in an ongoing research project at SLU, Sweden (Lundkvist et al., 2011a). The hypotheses are that selective weed mowing (i) decreases the ability of the weeds to compete and reproduce in a crop, (ii) decreases the long term development of the weed populations, and (iii) increases the crop yields. To test these, we performed two field experiments and two outdoor pot experiments during 2008-2010 in Sweden. In the field experiments, the effects of selective mowing on *C. arvensis* and spring wheat were determined by mowing at two different development stages of *C. arvensis*. In pot experiment 1, effects of mowing two years in a sequence on *C. arvensis* and spring barley were studied. In pot experiment 2, effects of different machine settings on spring barley were evaluated. Statistical analyses were done by ANOVA and comparisons were made by Student *t*-test. Preliminary results from the pot experiment 1 showed that growth of *C. arvensis* was significantly reduced after mowing two years in a sequence (38-49%,  $P=0.001$ ) compared with the control (Fig 8). When competition from spring barley was added, the reduction was even higher (66-79%,  $P=0.001$ ). Also crop yields were significantly higher after mowing (76-94%,  $P=0.03$ ) compared with the control (Fig 9). Machine settings had strong effects on the crop. A more aggressive setting caused stronger damage to the crop at later development stages. In the field experiments, no significant effects were obtained with regard to the crop yield due to large amounts of *C. arvensis*. The results showed that selective mowing combined with crop competition seem to decrease the abundance of *C. arvensis*.



Fig. 7. Weed mower CombCut (upper left and right). Close up pictures of the brush reel (lower left) and the knives (lower right). Photo: Jonas Carlsson, JustCommonSense AB.

## Adjustment of knives.



**Note: Be careful! Knives are razor sharp. Risk of cuts!**  
Use the orange knife protection plates when CombCut is not in use!

The knives can be adjusted in two ways, tilting of knives or changing angle of attack. See section "Practical Hints"

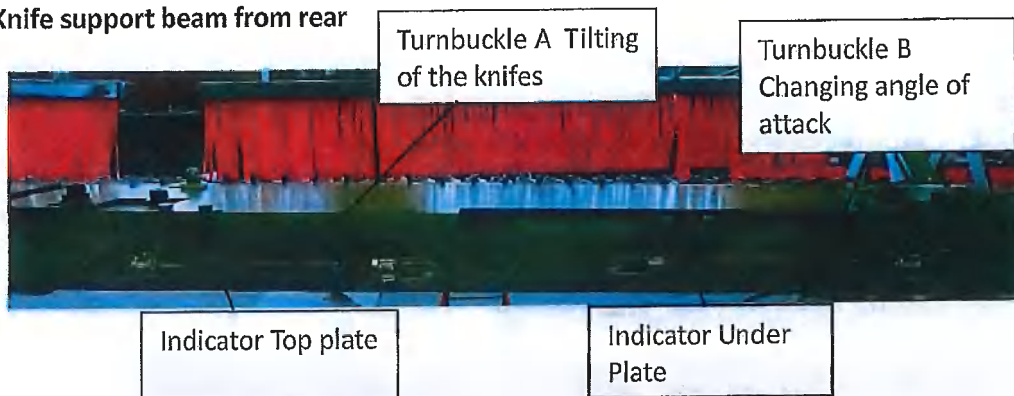
1. Tilting of knives (opening between the knives)



2. Angle of attack



Knife support beam from rear



Always start adjusting the outer section.

**Tilting of knives: (Adjustment 0-15 on the indicator)**



Risk of cutting

Tilting of knives is adjusted by turnbuckle "A". **Factory setting: 5 on the indicator.**

Adjustment: Loosen the lock nuts on turnbuckle "A".

Adjust the length of the turnbuckle. Wrench size 19 mm. The top plate is now moved sideways.

Higher value on the indicator means more distance between the knives. More material will pass through the knives. Less cut material. Indicator at "0" means that the knives are completely closed and all material is cut.

Tighten the lock nuts. Adjust all sections to the same indication value. See section "Practical hints".

**Angle of attack: (Adjustment 40-70 on the indicator)**



Risk of cutting.

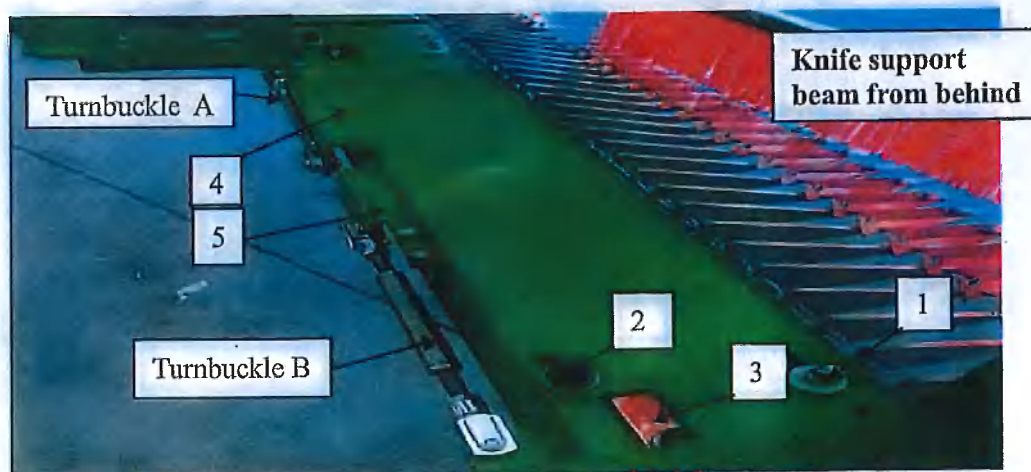
Adjusted by turnbuckle "B". **Factory setting: 50 on the indicator.**

Adjustment: Loosen the lock nuts on turnbuckle "B".


Adjust the length of the turnbuckle. Wrench size 19 mm. The under plate is now moved sideways.

Higher value on the indicator means more aggressive cutting (specially if the weed straws are stiff).


Tighten the lock nuts. Adjust all sections to the same indication value. See section "Practical hints".



Bolts 1; 2 och 3 are pre-adjusted with spring washers from factory. Plates 4 (top plate) and 5 (under plate) is moving sideways when the turnbuckles are adjusted. Bolts 1; 2 and 3 keep a constant spring pressure on all knives.

**Tilting of machine**  **Make sure no person is close to the machine. Risk of crush injuries**  
Tilting of machine is done with the top link. Cutting height is changed.  
A few degrees forward tilting could be advantageous to optimize the cutting result. Hydraulic top link is recommended if tilting of machine is adjusted frequently. See section "Practical hints"

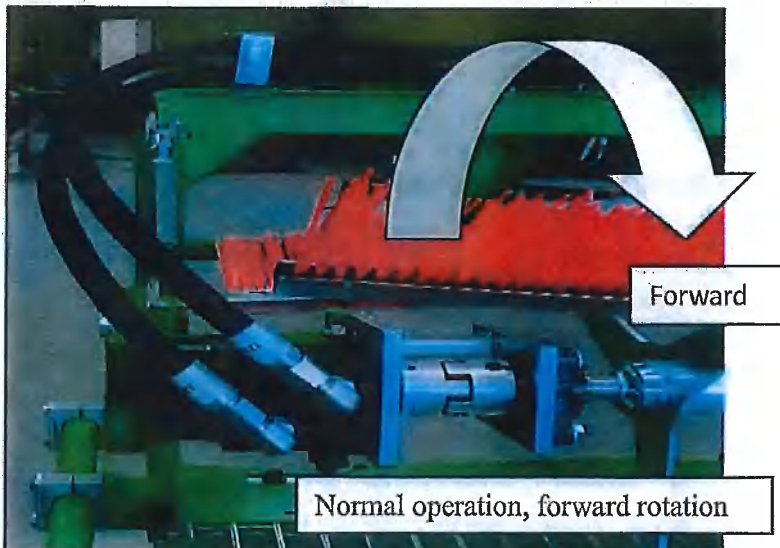


**Hydraulic drive of the brushes.**  **Warning, rotating parts.**

The brushes are driven by a hydraulic motor on CombCut's right side. The hydraulic hoses are connected to the tractor's hydraulic system. Red marking=pressure. Blue marking=Return. These two hydraulic hoses regulate the rotation direction of the brushes, both forward and reverse. The flow is controlled from the tractor.

Rotation forward is normal operation.

Reverser rotation is used when cut material needs to be cleaned from the knives. Cleaning is only done when needed and in short sequences (5-10 sek). Rotation speed of the brushes (approx 250 rpm) is pre-adjusted from factory and should normally not be adjusted.



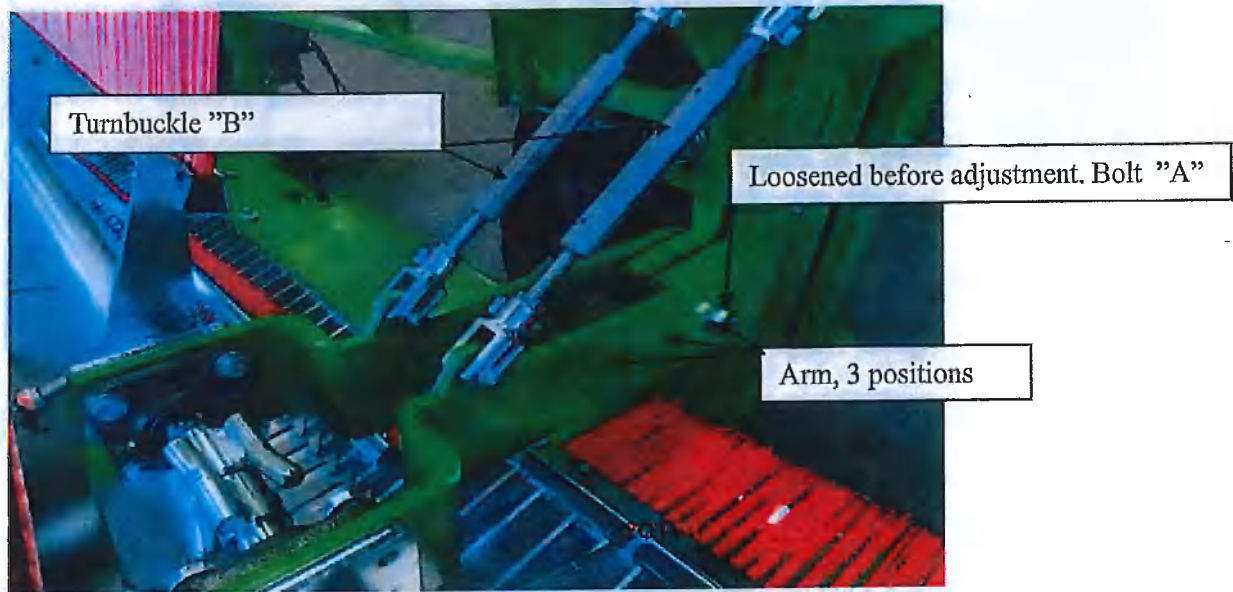
### Arms for brushes. 3 settings



Risk of cuts.

There are 3 positions for the support arms. The center shaft for the brushes must always be "in line", so the claw couplings will have a good grip. The claw couplings is the connection between the shafts. The support arms are mounted in the middle position from factory (Brushes moved towards the front).

Brushes can be moved to achieve the optimum cutting effect. All brushes must be moved equally and the center shaft must be "in line". If needed, also the turnbuckles and the bearing supports must be adjusted. After adjustment, make sure all bolts, arms and turnbuckles are securely tightened.



### Adjustment of center shaft with claw couplings



Risk of crush injuries and cuts.

- 1) Start with the right outer section where the hydraulic motor is placed.
- 2) Loosen the bolts A on the arms , 2 pc.
- 3) Release the lock nuts B on the turnbuckles.
- 4) If needed, loosen the bolts for the bearing housings C (2 x 4 bolts)
- 5) Adjust to new position and tighten all bolts and nuts.

Adjust all center shafts so they are "in line" with the shaft from the hydraulic motor.

If this adjustment is not correct, there is a risk that the machine and brushes will create vibrations, harming the claw couplings and optimal function of the machine.





# Clear Hills County

Effective Date: <b>February 22, 2011</b>	Policy Number <b>6310</b>
Title: <b>RENTAL EQUIPMENT POLICY</b>	

## 1. Policy Statement:

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

## 2. Purpose:

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

## 3. Responsibilities

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

the rental rate of that equipment.

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

**4. Reference to Legislation**

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

**5. End of Policy**

ADOPTED:  
Resolution C170(02/22/10)

Date: February 22, 2011

# Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board</b>
Meeting Date:	December 12, 2016
Originated By:	Charlie Johnson, Deputy Reeve
Title:	<b>VSI AGM Update</b>
File:	63-10-40

## DESCRIPTION:

Councilor Johnson will update the board regarding matters discussed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of V.S.I. Services (1980) Ltd. that was held on Friday November 4, 2016 in Peace River, Alberta.

## BACKGROUND:

BSE Incentive Programs update:

Clear Hills County BSE Testing Incentive Policy 6214

\$125 per animal                      \$5,000 budget.

At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter in 2016 Clear Hills County has paid out for 19 animals x \$125 = \$2,375

To date 2 municipalities in the Peace Region have adopted a BSE Testing Incentive.

Clear Hills County \$125

MD Fairview \$75

Northern Sunrise County will be considering a BSE Testing Incentive at their next ASB meeting.

Once the fourth quarter for 2016 has been completed for VSI and BSE testing (in early 2017) these numbers will be brought to the board for their review. There will also be a summary of VSI coverage by each member municipality.

## ATTACHMENTS.

- Manager's Report for 2016 AGM
- Estimated Account Balanced as of Dec 31, 2016
- 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter letter from VSI
- BSE Testing Incentive Program Policy 6314
- VSI Agreement

## RECOMMENDED MOTION:

RESOLUTION by ..... that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information Deputy Reeve Johnson's update on the VSI Annual General Meeting outcomes.

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

## Managers Report for 2016 AGM

The following table compares the differences in services & costs for the top 10 codes for the periods Oct 1/14 to Sept 30/15 and Oct 1/15 to Sept 30/16

Notes: Items are listed from highest to lowest total costs for 2015/2016.

Most pregnancy testing is done in the fall thus for this service we are basically comparing 2014 with 2015.

Code	Description	14/15 Services	15/16 Service	% Change	14/15 Cost	15/16 Cost	% Change
6	Pregnancy Tests	54,290	58,598	7.9	130,535	144,461	10.7
60	Semen Tests	3,341	3,481	4.2	124,299	130,009	4.6
41	Caesareans	283	245	13.4	67,756	64,414	4.9
25	Herd Health	142	144	1.4	21,743	26,097	20.0
50	General Examinations	456	541	18.6	21,947	25,545	16.4
9	Clinic Fees	1,040	1,087	4.5	19,411	22,037	13.5
31	Calvings	160	152	5.0	17,608	17,115	2.8
56	Fluid Therapy (calves)	122	147	20.5	10,000	12,658	26.6
71	Uterine Prolapse	97	75	22.7	10,639	8,420	20.9
81	Vaginal Prolapses	64	48	25.0	4,810	3,579	25.6
	Other Services	1,113	1,473	32.3	56,030	64,108	14.4
<b>Grand Totals</b>		<b>61,108</b>	<b>65,991</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>484,778</b>	<b>518,443</b>	<b>6.9</b>

Between the two 12 month periods under comparison:

- Total claims were up 8.5% (5,482 vs 5,051)
- Total services were also up 22.0% (65,991 vs 61,074)
- Total costs were up 6.9% (518,443 vs 484,778)

Percentage changes for the first 3 quarters are as follows:

Woodlands County	Up	19.8%
M. D of Greenview	Up	7.8%
Lac La Biche County	Up	10.8%
Birch Hills County	Down	36.5%
Saddle Hills County	Down	6.2%
Clear Hills County	Up	36.9%
County of Northern Lights	Down	1.9%
Mackenzie County	Down	20.1%
M. D. of Bonnyville	Down	13.7%
M. D. of Lesser Slave River	Down	0.8%
M. D. of Big Lakes	Up	11.6%
M. D. of Smoky River	Up	6.2%
Northern Sunrise County	Up	6.7%
M. D. of Spirit River	Up	75.8%
M. D. of Peace	Up	2.9%
M. D. of Fairview	Down	17.9%

## **P2      Manager's Report for 2016 AGM**

Three applications were received for the V.S.I. manager position. The applications were reviewed, by the V.S.I. Executive Committee and Dr. Rik Vandekerhove was selected to start training for the position.

Detailed instructions for all of the manager's duties were prepared and given to Dr. Vandekerhove. To date he has reviewed the procedures and has had practice in processing invoices and doing quarterly reports. Dr. Vandekerhove's appointment will be up for ratification during the Board of Director's meeting.

In August, information was received in the form of a revised invoice that a veterinary practice appeared to be contravening section 7 of the V.S.I./Veterinary contract in which it is agreed that clients covered by V.S.I. will be charge the same rate as clients that are not covered by V.S.I.

We were not advised in time for the AGM about what increase, if any, the Food Animal Committee (FAC) of the Alberta Veterinary Association will be recommending for 2017.

All of our Surplus funds were invested with Manulife Bank. A total of \$2,533.62 in interest has been paid to the end of September.

We got a real good deal from H & R Block. They only charged us \$950.00 for completion of both our tax return and financial statements.

All veterinary claims were paid by the last business day of each month and quarterly reports were issued to all municipalities within 5 to 6 weeks of the end of each quarter.

At this time I would like to wish Dr. Rik Vandekerhove the best as he takes over my managerial responsibilities. I would like to thank the Board for their support over the past 13 plus years. It is hard to step away from V.S.I. but it is time. I have been involved with V.S.I. since July 1 1970.

**Estimated Account Balances as of December 31, 2016**

Note: Fourth Quarter estimates are 2015 actuals adjusted by the percentage increase or decrease for the first 3 quarters.

**Woodlands County #15**

	<b>Claims</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Jan. 1, 2016			\$ 4,152
Payments in 2016		\$24,000	28,152
First Quarter	\$7,845		20,307
Second Quarter	6,969		13,338
Third Quarter	2,428		10,910
Fourth Quarter Estimate	4,415		6,495

- In 2015 net administrative costs were \$1,977

**MD of Greenview #16**

	<b>Claims</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Jan. 1, 2016			\$ 5,239
Payments in 2016		\$89,300	94,539
First Quarter	\$26,757		67,782
Second Quarter	22,590		45,192
Third Quarter	7,908		37,284
Fourth Quarter Estimate	26,537		10,747

- In 2015 net administrative costs were \$7,483

**Lac La Biche County #18 (11,125 supplementary requisition)**

	<b>Claims</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Jan. 1, 2016			\$ 4,598
Payments in 2016		\$27,400	31,998
First Quarter	\$ 7,478		24,520
Second Quarter	11,562		12,958
Third Quarter	2,760		10,198
Fourth Quarter Estimate	7,715		2,483

- In 2015 net administrative costs were \$2,102

**Birch Hills County #19**

	<b>Claims</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Jan. 1, 2016			\$ <2,518>
Payments in 2016		\$21,500	18,982
First Quarter	\$1,902		17,080
Second Quarter	3,071		14,009
Third Quarter	2,179		11,830
Fourth Quarter Estimate	2,791		9,039

- In 2015 net administrative costs were \$1,280

**P2 Estimated Account Balances as of December 31, 2015**

**Saddle Hills County #20**

	<b>Claims</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Jan. 1, 2016			\$ 5,490
Payments in 2016		\$40,500	45,990
First Quarter	\$ 9,426		36,564
Second Quarter	11,293		25,271
Third Quarter	5,447		19,824
Fourth Quarter Estimate	9,368		10,456

- In 2015 net administrative costs were \$3,016

**Clear Hills County #21**

	<b>Claims</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Jan. 1, 2016			\$ <3,739>
Payments in 2016		\$43,900	40,161
First Quarter	\$ 9,388		30,733
Second Quarter	19,577		11,196
Third Quarter	3,962		7,234
Fourth Quarter Estimate	11,061		<3,827>

- In 2015 net administrative costs were \$4,159
- This year limits on pregnancy testing & semen testing were removed thus an over run was anticipated

**County of Northern Lights #22**

	<b>Claims</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Jan. 1, 2016			\$ 1,798
Payments in 2016		\$44,100	45,898
First Quarter	\$ 7,088		38,810
Second Quarter	14,897		23,913
Third Quarter	3,896		20,017
Fourth Quarter Estimate	11,262		8,755

- In 2015 net administrative costs were \$3,744

**Mackenzie County #23**

	<b>Claims</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Jan. 1, 2016			\$ 1,798
Payments in 2016		\$44,100	45,898
First Quarter	\$ 7,088		38,810
Second Quarter	14,897		23,913
Third Quarter	3,896		20,017
Fourth Quarter Estimate	11,262		8,755

- In 2015 net administrative costs were \$4,068

**P3 Estimated Account Balances as of December 31, 2014**

**MD of Bonnyville #87**

	<b>Claims</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Jan. 1, 2016			\$ <3,563>
Payments in 2016		\$112,200	108,637
First Quarter	\$20,047		88,590
Second Quarter	37,416		51,174
Third Quarter	4,870		46,304
Fourth Quarter Estimate	23,753		22,551

- In 2015 net administrative costs were \$9,195

**MD of Lesser Slave River #124**

	<b>Claims</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Jan. 1, 2016			\$1,220
Payments in 2016		\$7,300	8,520
First Quarter	\$2,676		5,844
Second Quarter	3,411		2,433
Third Quarter	0		2,433
Fourth Quarter Estimate	892		1,541

- In 2015 net administrative costs were \$625

**MD of Big Lakes #125**

	<b>Claims</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Jan. 1, 2016			\$ <1,576>
Payments in 2016		\$53,600	52,024
First Quarter	\$15,445		36,579
Second Quarter	21,475		15,104
Third Quarter	3,185		11,919
Fourth Quarter Estimate	10,344		1,575

- In 2015 net administrative costs were \$4,737

**MD of Smoky River #130**

	<b>Claims</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Jan. 1, 2016			\$ 947
Payments in 2016		\$16,600	17,547
First Quarter	\$3,423		14,124
Second Quarter	6,137		7,987
Third Quarter	1,326		6,661
Fourth Quarter Estimate	4,735		1,926

- In 2015 net administrative costs were \$1,179



**P4 Estimated Account Balances as of December 31, 2014**

**Northern Sunrise County #131**

	<b>Claims</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Jan. 1, 2016			\$ 68
Payments in 2016		\$27,500	27,568
First Quarter	\$5,601		21,967
Second Quarter	7,850		14,117
Third Quarter	5,290		8,827
Fourth Quarter Estimate	5,122		3,705

- In 2015 net administrative costs were \$1,862

**MD of Spirit River #133**

	<b>Claims</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Jan. 1, 2016			\$ 70
Payments in 2016		\$10,900	10,970
First Quarter	\$1,484		9,486
Second Quarter	4,348		5,138
Third Quarter	411		4,727
Fourth Quarter Estimate	9,958		<5,231>

- In 2015 net administrative costs were \$667
- There may have been a doubling up of Pregnancy Testing claims from a large herd that was done in the 3rd quarter this year as opposed to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter in 2015

**MD of Peace #135**

	<b>Claims</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Jan. 1, 2016			\$ 2,282
Payments in 2016		\$19,200	21,482
First Quarter	\$3,544		17,938
Second Quarter	6,668		11,270
Third Quarter	3,891		7,379
Fourth Quarter Estimate	4,047		3,332

- In 2015 net administrative costs were \$1,846

**MD of Fairview #136**

	<b>Claims</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Jan. 1, 2016	Claims	Payments	\$<4,201>
Payments in 2016		\$33,700	29,499
First Quarter	\$5,948		23,551
Second Quarter	7,717		15,834
Third Quarter	1,165		14,669
Fourth Quarter Estimate	4,884		9,785

- In 2015 net administrative costs were \$2,497

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

A nonprofit organization providing veterinary care in Alberta

BOX 202

FAIRVIEW, AB T0H 1L0

PH 780 835 4531

October 31, 2016

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

RECEIVED  
NOV 03 2016  
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

Dear Allan

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

Following is an estimate of your current VSI account status:

	Claims	Payments	Balance
Jan. 1, 2016			\$ <3,739 >
Payments in 2016		\$43,900	40,161
First Quarter	\$ 9,388		30,733
Second Quarter	19,577		11,196
Third Quarter	3,962		7,234

Note: The above table **does not include** your share of **administration fees** or **investment income** for 2016.

Your claims for the first three quarters of 2016 are \$8,882 (36.9%) higher than for the same period in 2015. Last year your fourth quarter claims were \$8,077. If the 36.9% increase in claims continues your fourth quarter expenses are projected to be approximately \$11,061. This would leave you with a deficit of approximately \$4,000 not including your net administrative costs. In 2015 your net administrative costs were 12.9% of your claims. Note: Administrative costs include G.S.T.

Removal of limits for semen testing is the main reason for the 36.9% increase. Removal of the pregnancy testing limits will have a similar effect in the fourth quarter. How much of an effect this will have remains to be seen. Please let me know if you want to make an additional payment in 2016. I would estimate that an additional \$10,000 would cover cost for 2016.

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

Yours sincerely

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. M. Henderson, Manager

cc Aaron Zylstra  
Sarah Hayward



# Clear Hills County

Effective Date: January 26, 2016	Policy Number <b>6314</b>
Title: <b>Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Testing Incentive Program</b>	

## 1. Policy Statement:

Clear Hills County recognizes the value of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) testing. Canada may be at the risk of losing its status as a controlled BSE risk country due to tested numbers not meeting the 30,000 animal annual requirements.

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

By providing a municipal BSE testing incentive, it will encourage producers to participate in the BSE testing program and assist in realizing the target of keeping the Country's status as a controlled BSE risk country.

## 2. Purpose:

2.1. To establish guidelines for Clear Hills County's BSE Testing Incentive Program.

## 3. General:

3.1. Council may annually during budget deliberations, establish a budget for the BSE Testing Incentive Program.

3.2. By resolution of Council the BSE Testing Incentive Program will be activated and deactivated.

3.3. Council will establish the amount of compensation per animal to be paid as an incentive payment for eligible beef cattle that have been BSE tested.

## 4. Responsibilities

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

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

4.3. Eligible participants must be Veterinary Services (1980) Ltd. (VSI) members and a resident in Clear Hills County for three consecutive months or a landowner in Clear Hills County with livestock.

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

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

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

## 5. End of Policy

This agreement made effective January 1, 2016 between:

V.S.I. SERVICES (1980) LTD.  
a body corporate under the laws of the Province of Alberta  
(hereinafter called V.S.I.)

-and-

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

of the Province of Alberta, representing the district ratepayers  
(hereinafter called the "Jurisdiction").

Whereas:

- A. V.S.I. is a non-profit organization created to assist Approved Producers of participating Jurisdictions to acquire professional veterinary services;
- B. The Jurisdiction has requested V.S.I. to arrange for certain veterinary services to Approved Producers of the Municipal Jurisdiction; and
- C. V.S.I. has entered into agreements with one or more Veterinarians for the provision of certain veterinary services to Approved Producers of the Jurisdiction from January 1 to December 31, 2016 and V.S.I. has agreed to pay a portion of the fees for those services in accordance with the funds received from the Jurisdiction;

Now therefore this agreement witness that in consideration of the premises and of the covenants of the parties herein contained, it is agreed as follows:

- 1. In this agreement
  - (i) "Approved Producer" means an individual, group of individuals, or corporate entity determined from time to time, by the Jurisdiction, to be eligible to receive veterinary services pursuant to the V.S.I. Program.
  - (ii) "Jurisdiction" means that geographic area in the Province of Alberta commonly known of as Clear Hills County.
  - (iii) "Schedule A", attached to the V.S.I. contract accepted by Clear Hills County defines the services covered and tariff of fees for these services for the current year.
  - (iv) "Veterinarian" means a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, licensed to practice, in the Province of Alberta, by the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association.
  - (v) "V.S.I. Program" means the periodic payment of the Jurisdiction's portion of fees for veterinary services listed in Schedule A of the V.S.I. contract.
  - (vi) "V.S.I." means V.S.I. Services (1980) Ltd. and its successors and assigns.

...2

2. Subject to the terms of this agreement, V.S.I. agrees to pay FIFTY (50%) percent of the fees of the Veterinarian for the performance of those services set forth in Schedule A for Clear Hills County annexed hereto and forming a part of this agreement. Payment of the Jurisdiction's share of these veterinary services, on behalf of an Approved Producer, shall constitute the V.S.I. Program.
3. V.S.I. will only pay 50% of the fees of the Veterinarians whose fees shall be rendered in accordance with Schedule A provided however that V.S.I. will not pay:
  - (i) any fee or charge for any service not specifically set forth in Schedule A;
  - (ii) any fee or charge in excess of 50% of the fee or charge prescribed by V.S.I. in Schedule A;
  - (iii) for any service specifically listed in Schedule B attached;
  - (iv) for any veterinary service for animal species raised, or grown, for the production of food for human consumption other than those specifically identified in Schedule A;
  - (v) for the travelling charges of a Veterinarian; and
  - (vi) for any additional fee, or charge, rendered for the provision of veterinary services performed at any time other than the normal office hours of the Veterinarian.
4. The Jurisdiction acknowledges that to implement and maintain the V.S.I. Program, V.S.I. will enter into contracts with one or more Veterinarians, which will require V.S.I. to pay a portion of the fee of those Veterinarians in accordance with Schedule A. The Jurisdiction agrees to provide V.S.I. with the funds necessary to implement, administer and carry out the V.S.I. Program until this agreement is terminated. The Jurisdiction agrees to advance the sum of **THIRTY EIGHT THOUSAND AND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$38,500.00)** to establish the V.S.I. Program in Clear Hills County for the period January 1 to December 31, 2016.
5. The parties acknowledge and agree that the funds of the Jurisdiction shall only be used for implementing administering and carrying out the V.S.I. Program for Clear Hills County. The Jurisdiction further acknowledges and agrees that neither V.S.I. nor any of its members, directors, officers, or employees, are trustees of the funds of the Jurisdiction and that V.S.I. is not under any duty or liability to provide veterinary services to the full extent of the funds provided by the Jurisdiction.

6. The parties to this agreement acknowledge and agree that any unexpended funds paid by the Jurisdiction, to V.S.I. shall be carried forward to cover expenses in the next year should the Jurisdiction decide to extend this contract.
7. V.S.I. shall periodically provide the Jurisdiction with statements indicating the cost and expenses of the V.S.I. Program in the Jurisdiction.
8. Within a reasonable time following the execution of this agreement, the Jurisdiction shall provide V.S.I. and Veterinarians, working within the Jurisdiction, with a list of the eligible ratepayers. The Jurisdiction may amend this list from time to time but all such amendments will be effective only after the amended list has been provided to V.S.I. and to the Veterinarians providing services in the Jurisdiction.
9. Immediately upon approval by V.S.I. the Jurisdiction shall deliver a schedule of fees to the Approved Producers detailing the services available under the terms of the V.S.I. Program and explaining the obligation of the ratepayer to pay the balance of the fees charged by the Veterinarian and not payable by V.S.I.
10. The Jurisdiction acknowledges that nothing in this agreement shall be deemed to enlarge upon the duties and liabilities of the practicing Veterinarian; who shall at all times and in all circumstances be entitled to decline to provide veterinary service to any ratepayer in accordance with the standards prevailing for the practice of veterinary medicine in the Province of Alberta.
11. Nothing contained in this agreement or in any agreements between V.S.I. and the Veterinarian shall be interpreted or construed in any way to limit the normal professional liability of any Veterinarian.
12. Any report, notice, statement, or other document shall be delivered to:

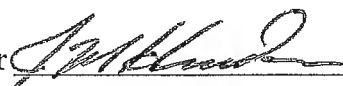
V.S.I. Services (1980) Ltd.  
Box 202  
Fairview, AB T0H 1L0

and

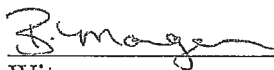
Clear Hills County  
Box 240  
Worsley, AB T0H 3W0


- 13. This agreement shall come into effect on January 1, 2016
- 14. This agreement may be amended by the mutual consent of the parties in writing.
- 15. This agreement and the V.S.I. Program shall terminate:
  - (a) if V.S.I. is unable to enter into and maintain an agreement with a Veterinarian(s) contemplated in the premises to this agreement; or
  - (b) upon 10 days notice by either party to the other party; or
  - (c) on December 31 2016
- 16. Notwithstanding the termination of this agreement pursuant to clause 14, the parties shall be liable to each other for the settlement of accounts as between them to the date of the termination of the agreement.
- 17. Where this agreement is terminated and accounts are settled in accordance with this agreement any unexpended funds, contributed by the Jurisdiction shall be returned to the Jurisdiction.
- 18. The parties agree to observe and perform all terms, covenants, conditions and provisions of this agreement.

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

Per   
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed, sealed and delivered  
in the presence of:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clear Hills County  
Reeve, Jake Klassen

*signed Dec 8/16*

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

**SCHEDULE "A" 50/50 – Effective January 1 2016**

This schedule covers the Counties of BIRCH HILLS, CLEAR HILLS, MACKENZE, NORTHERN LIGHTS, NORTHERN SUNRISE and SADDLE HILLS and the MDs of BIG LAKES #125, GREENVIEW #16, PEACE #135, and SMOKY RIVER #130.

Until this Tariff is amended and subject to the terms and conditions of the year 2016 contract, VSI Services (1980) Ltd. will pay the listed VSI fee charged by the veterinarian for the services stated herein. All other charges levied in association with the service(s) being claimed must be shown on the invoice.

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

**CATTLE**

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

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Clinic Outpatient Fee	9	21.00	21.00
<b>Note:</b> This fee can <u>only</u> be <u>claimed</u> in conjunction <u>with another valid VSI claim</u> . It can <u>only</u> be charged once per occurrence. It is <u>not</u> a <u>per animal</u> fee.			
Epidural	1	16.50	16.50
<b>Note:</b> Epidurals can <u>only</u> be <u>claimed</u> in conjunction <u>with dystocias</u> (code 31), <u>embryotomies</u> (code 44) & <u>prolapse revisits</u> under code 52.			
Intramuscular or Subcutaneous Injections	3	2.90	2.90
Intravenous Injections	4	5.90	5.90
Stall Fee (calves - per day)	10	14.50	14.50
Stall Fee (older animals)	11	23.25	23.25
Oral Drug Administration	5	16.50	16.50
Subconjunctival injection	7	5.90	5.90
<b>Note:</b> Codes 3, 4, 5 & 7 can <u>only</u> be <u>claimed once per animal</u> and <u>only</u> in conjunction with a code 26, 27, 50, 51, or 52 claim.			
X-ray (2 views)	2	67.50	67.50
X-ray (subsequent views - each)	21	14.00	14.00
X-ray – Digital Equipment Surcharge	8	19.00	19.00

**Note:** Please be judicious in taking x-rays in situations where the x-ray won't add to the diagnosis or alter the course of treatment (e.g. most cases of broken legs in calves).

**B. Flat Rate Inclusive Surgical Procedures**

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Abscesses	28	87.00	87.00
Claw Amputation	17	124.50	124.50
Epididymectomy	20	133.50	133.50
Eye Enucleation	16	186.00	186.00
LDA (Left Displaced Abomasum)	22	216.40	216.40
Omphalitis – Intra-abdominal debridement	35	130.00	130.00
<b>Note:</b> For superficial procedures with minimal debridement use code 28			
RDA (Right Displaced Abomasum)	23	241.50	241.50
Rumen Fistula	24	87.50	87.50
Sole Abscess	29	67.00	67.00
Torsions (abomasal or intestinal – calves > 200#)	14	137.50	137.50
Umbilical Hernia (eviscerated in newborn calves)	18	137.50	137.50
Urethrostomy	15	108.50	108.50
Vasectomy	19	146.50	146.50



**SCHEDULE "A" – Effective January 1 2016 for: Birch Hills, Clear Hills, Mackenzie, Northern Lights, Northern Sunrise & Saddle Hills Counties & the MDs of Big Lakes, Greenview, Peace, and Smoky River**

**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	248.00	248.00
Dystocia	31	112.50	112.50
Embryotomy (1 or 2 cuts)	44	168.00	168.00
Embryotomy (3 or more cuts)	45	198.50	198.50

**Note: Code #1 (epidural) can be added, as appropriate, with codes 31, 44, 45 & 52.**

Scrotal Circumference Measurement	65	11.50	11.50
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**Note: This fee only applies for bulls eliminated from further breeding soundness evaluations.**

Semen Test (1 <sup>st</sup> bull)	60	49.50	49.50
Semen Test (2 <sup>nd</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> bull)	61	35.00	35.00 each
Semen Test (11 <sup>th</sup> to 50 <sup>th</sup> bull)	62	32.00	32.00 each
Semen Test (51 <sup>st</sup> bull plus)	63	29.00	29.00 each
Pregnancy Testing (per head)	6	2.50	2.50 each

**Note: A higher fee can be charged for the first animal as per the AB.VMA fee schedule but VSI will only pay the VSI rate for the first animal.**

Prolapses			
-Rectal	74	58.50	58.50
- Uterine	71	111.00	111.00
-Vaginal	81	76.00	76.00
-Vaginal & Rectal	84	87.50	87.50
Uterine Torsion (manual correction)	46	122.50	122.50

**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.**

**Rates are quoted for 1/4 hour (15 minute) intervals.**

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Surgery (major)	12A	43.75	43.75
Non Surgical Professional time	12B	26.25	26.25
Surgery (minor)	13A	29.50	29.50
Non Surgical Professional time	13B	26.25	26.25

**Note: Only the actual surgical time should be claimed under codes 12 & 13. Time required for related services, e.g. examination, surgical preparation, immediate post surgical treatments, etc. should be claimed under codes 12B or 13B.**

Professional Services (general)	25	26.25	26.25
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**Note: This fee is used:**

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

**Time claimed for codes 12, 13 & 25 should be consistent with time required by a veterinarian of average competence.**

**SCHEDULE "A" – Effective January 1 2016 for: Birch Hills, Clear Hills,  
Mackenzie, Northern Lights, Northern Sunrise & Saddle Hills Counties &  
the MDs of Big Lakes, Greenview, Peace, and Smoky River**

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

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Cast Application (closed reduction)	26	61.50	61.50
Cast Removal	27	29.00	29.00
Examination	50	49.50	49.50
Examination (2 <sup>nd</sup> animal)	51	34.00	34.00
Examination (re-visit)	52	34.00	34.00
I.V. Hook - up (1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> no monitor)	55	49.50	49.50 each

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

I.V. Hook - up + 24 hour monitor	56	87.00	87.00
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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.

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

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

Postmortem - Brain Removal	99	33.00	33.00
Postmortem - 300 pounds or less	90	52.00	52.00
Postmortem - 300 to 800 pounds	91	56.50	56.50
Postmortem - over 800 pounds	92	85.00	85.00

**Note:** For more than 2 postmortems at the same time make a single code 25 claim.

Technovit Block - Application of	30	43.50	43.50
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**Note:** Materials are included in this service.

**PIGS****All Services**

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

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Examination	50	49.50	49.50
Examination (2 <sup>nd</sup> animal)	51	34.00	34.00
Examination (re-visit)	52	34.00	34.00

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

Postmortem - 20 pounds or less	93	35.00	35.00
Postmortem - 20 to 100 pounds	94	37.50	37.50
Postmortem - over 100 pounds	95	46.00	46.00

**Note:** For more than 2 postmortems at the same time make a single code 25 claim.

**SCHEDULE "A" – Effective January 1 2016 for: Birch Hills, Clear Hills, Mackenzie, Northern Lights, Northern Sunrise & Saddle Hills Counties & the MDs of Big Lakes, Greenview, Peace, and Smoky River**

**SHEEP & GOATS**

**All Services**

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

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

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

<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>VSI Code</b>	<b>50% VSI fee</b>	<b>50% CLIENT fee</b>
Caesarean	43	157.50	157.50
Dystocia	33	70.00	70.00
Examination	50	49.50	49.50
Examination (2 <sup>nd</sup> animal)	51	34.00	34.00
Examination (re-visit)	52	34.00	34.00
<b>Note: Codes 3, 4 &amp; 5 can be claimed with codes 26, 27, 50, 51 &amp; 52, as appropriate.</b>			
Semen Test (1 <sup>st</sup> animal)	66	42.00	42.00
Semen Test (subsequent animals)	67	32.00	32.00
Postmortem - 20 pounds or less	96	35.00	35.00
Postmortem - 20 to 100 pounds	97	37.50	37.50
Postmortem - over 100 pounds	98	46.00	46.00
<b>Note: For <u>more than 2</u> postmortems at the <u>same time</u> make a <u>single code 25 claim</u>.</b>			
Prolapse - Rectal	76	49.50	49.50
Prolapse - Uterine	73	72.50	72.50
Prolapse - Vaginal	83	49.50	49.50

# 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 12, 2016
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>EVENTS</b>
File:	63-10-02

## DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with events for their consideration.

## BACKGROUND:

- Winter Watering Systems Tour on January 21, 2017 in Saddle Hills County, details to be announced.
- Holistic Management Course January 26-28, 2017 and February 2-4, 2017 in Rycroft, Alberta.
- 2017 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference on January 24-27, 2017 at the Westin Conference Centre in Edmonton, Alberta.
- Back to Your Roots Soil Solutions Inc. on January 31 – February 1, 2017 at TCU Place in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.
- Organic Alberta Conference on February 17-18, 2016 in Lacombe, Alberta.

## OPTIONS:

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

## ATTACHMENTS:

- 2017 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference Agenda
- Back to Your Roots Soil Solutions Inc. Poster
- Alberta Beef Industry Conference information

## RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That this Agricultural Service Board ...

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

**AgFieldman:**

# 2017 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference

“Under the Alberta Sky:  
People,  
Partnerships,  
Progress”

## Day 1

Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

4:00 – 9:00 pm

Conference Registration

4:00 – 7:00 pm

Under the Northwest Sky Tradeshow

7:00 – 7:30 pm

*Welcome Reception*

7:30 – 8:00 pm

Keynote speaker – Bill Wilson, CEO, The Rural Channel

*Join us for an evening with Bill Wilson, The Rural Channel CEO who hosts one of the longest running agriculture based programs airing on TV today - Prairie Farm Report.*

8:00 – 10:00 pm

Under the Northwest Sky Tradeshow & Wine and Cheese Reception

## 2017 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference

“Under the Alberta Sky:  
People,  
Partnerships,  
Progress”

### Day 2

Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

6:00 am

#### Workout with Olympian Adam Kreek!

*Join Adam for a fun and invigorating early morning fitness session. All abilities welcome and encouraged to attend! Most importantly, this session is all inclusive: all age, all body shapes, all fitness levels are welcome. If the only people who show up are the three exercise freaks training for their next seven marathons, Adam will sweep the halls knocking on room doors... That's a joke. Bring your runners and join in!*

7:00 – 8:15 am

**Breakfast**

7:00 – 5:00 pm

**Registration Desk Open**

8:30 – 8:50 am

#### Welcome from Conference Chairman, Bill Lee

National Anthem  
AAMD&C President  
City of Edmonton  
AAAF President

8:50 – 9:50 am

**Lessons in Leadership:** *It's the strength to continue that counts-*

Adam Kreek

9:50 – 10:20 am

*Refreshment Break and Industry Trade Show in Foyer*

10:20 – 12:00 pm

**2016 Report Card and Resolutions Session 1**

12:00 – 1:15 pm

*Lunch and Industry Trade Show open in Foyer*

1:15 – 2:15 pm

**Humor for the Heart of Agriculture - Damian Mason**

2:15 – 3:00 pm

**Safe Food for Canadians Act Update – TBA**

3:00 – 3:30 pm

*Refreshment Break and Industry Trade Show in Foyer*

3:30 – 4:30 pm

**Local Food Isn't the Solution - Kevin Kossowan**

4:30 – 5:30 pm

*Industry Trade Show in Foyer*

## 2017 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference

“Under the Alberta Sky:  
People,  
Partnerships,  
Progress”

### Day 3

Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

7:00 - 8:15 am

Breakfast

7:00 - 5:00 pm

Registration Desk Open

8:25 - 8:30 am

Opening Remarks

8:30 - 9:15 am

People, Partnerships, Progress Panel

9:15 - 9:30 am

Agriculture for Life Presentation

**9:30 -10:00 am**  
**Foyer**

***Refreshment Break and Industry Trade Show open in***

10:00 - 11:00 am

**Popular Culture versus Science: A Battle We Must Win! - Timothy Caulfield**

11:00 -12:00 noon

**Global Macro-trends and the Future of Agriculture in Alberta - John Knapp**

**12:00 - 1:15pm**

***Lunch and Industry Trade Show in Foyer***

1:15 - 2:15pm  
Michael Kerr

**Inspiring Workplaces -The Way Work OUGHT to be! -**

2:15 - 3:15pm

**Rethinking Carnivores - Kevin Van Tighem**

3:15 - 3:30 pm

**Fortis Alberta Presentation**

**3:30 - 3:50pm**  
**Foyer**

***Refreshment Break, last chance for Industry Trade Show***

3:50 - 4:30 pm

**Resolutions Session 2**

6:00 -7:00 pm

**Cocktails**

7:00 - 10:00 pm

**Banquet and Awards**



**2017 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference**

“Under the Alberta Sky:  
People,  
Partnerships,  
Progress”

*Entertainment - Dueling Pianos*

**Day 4**

**Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**7:15 - 8:30 am**

**Breakfast**

**8:30 - 8:45 am**

**Provincial Act Updates - Doug Macaulay, Agricultural Service Board Manager**

**8:45 - 9:00am**

**Conference Summary**

**9:00 - 10:30 am**







**Ministerial Forum**

**10:30 am**

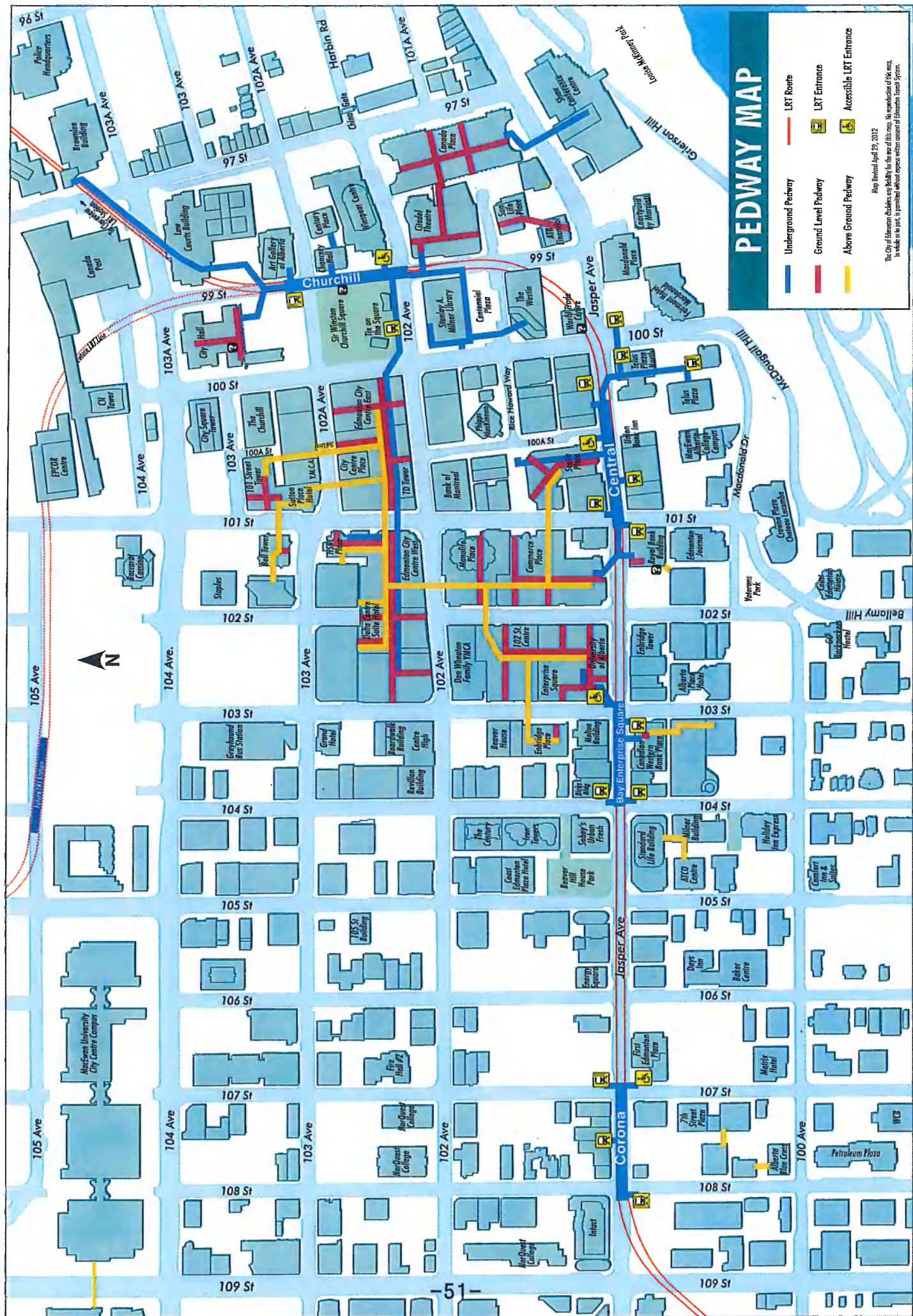
**Closing Remarks**

*Safe Travels Home!*

# PEDWAY MAP

-  Underground Pedway
-  LRT Route
-  Above Ground Pedway
-  LRT Entrance
-  Ground Level Pedway
-  Accessible LRT Entrance

Map Revised April 27, 2012  
 The City of Edmonton includes map liability for the area of this map. No reproduction of this map, in whole or in part, is permitted without express written consent of Edmonton Transit System.



**ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN**

*Working for a Better Agricultural Industry Across Alberta, Canada*



2016 In Service Training- Parking restrictions if parking under the Westin (which is heated)

1. No 1 ton pickups
2. No headache racks
3. No propane

If you are not parking under the Westin no restrictions apply

If you are parking that the library there will be no in/out privileges

# Back to Your Roots Soil Solutions Inc.

2017 Producers Conference

"Ready for Change?"

January 31 - February 1, 2017

TCU Place

Saskatoon, SK



Photo Credit—Wendy Wendel

Be sure to download, complete and mail in the [2017 Conference Registration Form](#).

Greetings from Back to Your Roots Soil Solutions.

Are you ready for change? As we announced last email, we are busy planning our Western Canadian Producers Conference. The theme this year is Ready for Change?

We have chosen TCU place as our venue this year, and have reserved a block of rooms across the street at the Holiday Inn Downtown. It will be a quick walk across the street, where your vehicle can remain in covered parking for a reduced cost of \$7.50 per night. Included in the room cost, is breakfast for 2 people. The link for booking hotels will be at the end of this email.

The conference begins January 31st at 9:00am with Glen Rabenberg's "Boots in the Dirt" soil health class. Making an ecological farming system consistently produce in varying field and weather conditions demands a skillset – and tricks of the trade – of an experience advisor. In the practical session farmer/consultant Glen Rabenberg will teach how to integrate the key tools available to eco-farmers – mineral balancing, foliar feeding, biological, energetic, and more – to build a program that works for your farm.

This course will take you beyond the classroom and into the real world where you will learn the rest of the story. Based on years of experience-based and traditional agronomy, this course will focus on the interrelationships that allow the soil, plant, animal, and human systems to co-exist.

Course topics include:

- What is balanced soil and how to obtain it?
- How to build nutrient-dense, high-quality, high-profit crops with simple tools and sound advice.
- How to grow and identify high quality food better than your neighbour.
- How to decrease your inputs and increase your profitability.

The course will not be taught from a textbook, but from boots in the dirt experience taking you into the field and out of the classroom.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided this day. After you enjoy supper at the place of your choice, you can come to the Holiday Inn Downtown, to the Cosmopolitan Room to enjoy our "BS" aka Brain Storming session, which gives us a chance to meet other producers, members of the Back to Your Roots team, as well as our knowledgeable speakers.

The second day, also at TCU place, begins with various speakers, including Glen Rabenberg, Chris Kniffen, Dr. Tom Dykstra, and Cindy Nikolaisen as

Ron & Linda Catt - Austin: 204.723.2831

Nathalie Hosmann - Sandy Lake: 204.868.6026

Lorne Muller - Minitonas: 204.734.8600

Lyndon Toews - Altona: 204.324.5895

## Head Office

Back To Your Roots Soil Solutions

101A Railway Avenue, Shellbrook, SK, S0J 2E0

Ph: 306.747.4744

Email: [backtoyourroots@sasktel.net](mailto:backtoyourroots@sasktel.net)

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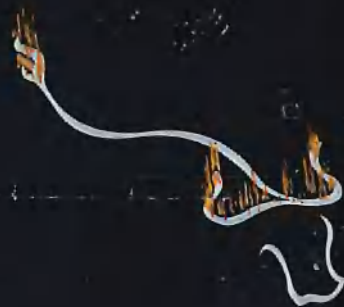
# STEAKING OUT

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THE CONSUMER

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*Options & Opportunities*



**Alberta Beef  
Industry Conference**

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February 15-17, 2017 at the  
Sheraton Red Deer Hotel



*Come and celebrate Alberta's  
other natural resource - BEEF*

**Welcome to the  
14<sup>th</sup> Annual Alberta Beef  
Industry Conference**  
*Steaking out the Consumer  
Options & Opportunities*

The 2017 Alberta Beef industry Conference will present valuable information and perspectives about key strategies for beef producers as it relates to the consumer. We will be presenting an in-depth look into consumer trends, the need for a strong connection to the consumer through the supply chain, and answering the inevitable question: will recent marketing trends prevail?

Detailed speaker descriptions can be found on the following pages. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact our office at 403-250-2509 or email [jbrunette@cattlefeeders.ca](mailto:jbrunette@cattlefeeders.ca).

*We look forward to seeing you in February!*

Register online at:  
[www.abiconference.ca](http://www.abiconference.ca)



@ABBeefConf



Alberta Beef Industry  
Conference

**PRE CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS**  
**February 15, 2017**

**Animal Welfare in Canadian Feedlots**

10:00am – 3:30pm

Dr. Joyce Van Donkersgoed will review the development of the Canadian Animal Care Assessment Program as well as go through the feedlot welfare audit program with participants. They will answer questions and help feedlot producers and staff understand the requirements of this PAACO certified audit tool and how to implement it in their own yard. Dr. Karen Schwartkopf-Genswein will follow and summarize her related research findings on the effects of long distance transport on cattle welfare, as well as the characterization and risk factors associated with lameness in feedlot cattle.

**Holistic Management Introduction**

10:00am – 12:00pm

An introduction to the decision making process of holistic management which results in decisions that balance the social, financial and environmental considerations of farming. Blain will focus on the soil building aspects of planned grazing and share the results of the carbon monitoring he has been doing.

**Uncovering Your Personal Brand** 

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Wondering where your farm business fits in a marketplace dominated by slick brands and striking images? Join us for the Uncovering Your Personal Brand seminar, presented by BMO Bank of Montreal! You'll learn how producers benefit from developing and setting their brand apart through exploration of your business' key values and audiences. We'll follow it up with a discussion of effective communication and promotion tactics so you're set to compete in the evolving business world of agriculture!

**Alberta's Premiere Beef Industry Event**

Workshops | Tradeshow | Education Sessions  
Networking | Social Functions

## CONFERENCE SESSIONS

February 16, 2017

### Changing Minds: How to Turn Negative Perceptions Into Positive Ones

Terry O'Reilly | Host of CBC's *Under the Influence*  
8:45am

One of the most difficult tasks marketing can undertake is to change a perception. But it can be done. If the beef industry is facing perception obstacles, it must get ahead of the problem. Terry will talk about the process behind changing public behaviour and turning a negative perception into a positive one and will demonstrate the ways other advertisers have tackled this difficult problem with extraordinary results.

### Lessons Learned Through Advocacy

Ryan Goodman | *Agriculture Proud*  
9:45am

In a time of constant communication, consumers want more information about their food. Can agriculture have a voice in these conversations? Ryan Goodman shares his experiences and a few lessons learned through advocacy.

### Survey says ... BEEF!

#### What consumers are thinking now

Doug Lacombe | President & Founder, *Communicatto*  
10:45am

We all hear a lot of noise about beef, from health scares to environmental concerns, hormones to antibiotics. There's a loud minority that has a lot of opinions. But what about the silent majority? And what does the data say? Is this minority really having an impact? Are their views becoming mainstream? Doug will present the latest findings from the research data and put these trends in context.

### The Real Beef ~ Panel Discussion

David Carriere | President, *Centennial Foodservice*  
Mike Beretta | CEO & President, *Beretta Farms & One Earth Farms*  
Retailer | *Invited*  
11:45pm

Panelists will talk about the realities they are facing in the market place, consumer buying patterns, preferences, challenges and opportunities.

(continued on insert)

## SCHEDULE

### February 15th, 2017

10:00am – 3:30pm *Animal Welfare in Canadian Feedlots*

10:00am – 12:00pm *Holistic Management*

1:00pm – 2:00pm *Uncovering Your Personal Brand*

6:00pm *El Noche de Havana Opening Dinner*



Guest Payments

### February 16th, 2017

8:30am *Welcome*

8:45am *Changing Minds: How to Turn Negative Perceptions Into Positive Ones*

9:45am *Lessons Learned Through Advocacy*

10:45am *Survey says ... BEEF! What consumers are thinking now?*

11:15am *Behind the Brand ~ Canada Beef*

11:45pm *The Real Beef ~ Panel Discussion*

2:00pm *Global Beef Market Outlook*

2:45pm *Tell Me a Story: The Power of Storytelling in Marketing*

4:00pm *Reception* **ATB**

5:30pm *Dave Hemstad*

6:15pm *Taste of Alberta Dinner & Live Auction*

9:30pm *Billy Bob's after party featuring ~ Wooden Nickel*

### February 17th, 2017

8:30am *2017/18 Weather Forecast*

10:00am *Global Economic Outlook*

10:45am *North American Cattle Market Outlook*

11:30am *Emissions Pricing in North America and Impacts on Agriculture*

(Subject to change)

## Hotel Information

### **Sheraton Hotel & Conference Centre**

3310 – 50 Ave Red Deer Alberta  
Toll Free Reservations: 1-800-662-7197

### **Sandman Hotel**

2818 Gaetz Ave Red Deer Red Deer Alberta  
Toll Free Reservations: 1-800-726-3626

### **Black Knight Inn**

2929 – 50 Ave Red Deer Alberta  
Toll Free Reservations: 1-800-661-8793

### **Red Deer Lodge**

4311 – 49 Ave Red Deer Alberta  
Toll Free Reservations: 1-800-661-1657



### Disclaimers

All suppliers and equipment of any kind brought onto the premises by the exhibitor before, during or after the show shall be at the exhibitor's own risk. Tradeshow management, facility management and their employees and agents shall be protected and indemnified from all claims made by or on account of loss or damage to property, injury or death resulting from the show or occupancy of the space allotted as per this agreement.

RECEIVED

NOV 09 2018

CLEAR HILLS COLLEGE

**Global Beef Market Outlook**

Richard Brown | Director, GIRA

2:00pm

Review of the global beef demand outlook in the context of Asian demand growth, the expanding competition from South American and Indian supply, and the dynamics which are driving this.

**Tell Me a Story:**

**The Power of Storytelling in Marketing**

Terry O'Reilly

Host of CBC's *Under the Influence*

2:45pm

If you don't have a story, you don't have a business. All the top industries in the world are underpinned by compelling brand stories. Stories move people, stories attract business and stories can be used to turn negative perceptions into positive ones. Join Terry O'Reilly as he talks about the best brand stories in the world, how they are created, how the beef industry can harvest its own stories and how to use the power of honest storytelling to guide your brand into a positive place in your customers' minds.

**February 17, 2017**

**Weather Forecast**



Dr. Art Douglas | Creighton University

8:30am

The Alberta Beef Industry Conference is pleased to welcome back Art Douglas to discuss our upcoming weather forecast. This year's session will look at the impact of upcoming weather patterns and the effect they have on the agricultural community.

**Global Economic Forecast**

Dina Ignjatovic | Economist,  
Agriculture Services TD Bank



10:00am

Macro review of the North American economy including an interest rate forecast, CAD / USD currency forecast and a briefing on world commodities.

**North American Cattle Market Outlook**

Brian Perillat | Canfax

Duane Lenz | CattleFax

10:45am

This session will focus on the beef industry's supply, demand, and future price trends in Canada and the U.S. as well as macro trends affecting the industry and how they will impact beef supply and cattle prices in the year ahead.

**Emissions Pricing in North America and Impacts on Agriculture**

Jennifer Winter

Director, Energy & Environmental Policy, U of C

11:30am

This presentation will outline the components of Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan and compare it to other emissions and climate change policies in North America. It will describe the effect of Alberta's carbon tax on costs in Alberta's various industries, with a focus on the agricultural sector.



**Join us for the Taste of Alberta**

Dave Hemstad



5:30pm

Called a "Canadian Master" by Just For Laughs, Dave Hemstad has skyrocketed to the top of the national comedy scene, appearing regularly across the country and on a hit show on CBC. Brashly confident on stage and downright hilarious, Hemstad muses on daily life, modern world frustrations and social tensions we all experience, but keep to ourselves.



# Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 12, 2016
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>Stock Trailer</b>
File:	63-10-10

## DESCRIPTION:

Councillor Janzen requested the Agricultural Service Board investigate adding a 16' bumper pull stock trailer to the rental fleet.

## BACKGROUND:

C671(11/23/16) RESOLUTION by Councillor Croy to receive the discussion regarding rental equipment for information. **CARRIED.**

## OPTIONS:

- Accept for information
- Include funds in year \_\_\_\_ of the multi-year capital plan

## ATTACHMENTS:

- Rental Equipment Policy is attached to CombCut RFD
- Cost and revenue comparison
- 2 quotes from Canwest Trailers
- 1 quote from Quapp Equipment Ltd.
- 1 quote from Foster's Covered Wagons

## BUDGET/COSTS:

- Low end = \$15,950.00 High End = \$17,790.00
- Projected Ag Reserve balance at Dec.31,2016 = \$165,582.09

## RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board accept the information on the Stock Trailer as presented.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:

*ABJ*

AgFieldman:

*GC*

# 16' Livestock Trailer

Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman  
Clear Hills County

### Item Description:

16' tandem axle livestock trailer. A new item, not a replacement.

### Options:

5200 lb. axles  
- 2 5/16" ball hitch  
Aluminum construction

### Costs:

Capital -	\$16,000.00	
Annual use --	5	days [compare to Flaman rental history of 3 days/year]
Maintenance -	\$350.00 per year	
Useful life --	8 years	
Salvage value -	\$8,000.00 after 8 years	
$16000 - 8000 / 8 =$	$\$1,000.00 + 350 =$	$\$1,350.00$ in annual costs
$1350 / 5 \text{ days} =$	$\$270.00$	per day
$1350 / 10 \text{ days} =$	$\$135.00$	
$1350 / 15 \text{ days} =$	$\$90.00$	

### Safety Concerns:

<u>Concern</u>	<u>Mitigating Factors</u>

### Partnerships:

none

### Other Rental Suppliers:

Flaman Rentals Fairview: Rental cost = \$125.00 per day

# CANWEST TRAILERS

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## KB4137 2017 Stockman Sundowner

[Ask about this product](#)

Category: **Bumper Pull**

Producer: Sundowner [show products](#)

2017 16' Stockman

2017 Sundowner 16' Stockman, bumper pull, 2-5200lb torsion axles w/ electric brakes, 16" wheels, full swing rear gate with calf slider gate, floor mats, rear load light, Center gate, running boards, gravel guard, 7' tall, 6'9" wide, full aluminum construction, 3 years hitch to bumper and 8 years structural warranty

**\$17,325.00 + GST**



[← previous](#)

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## KB4136 2017 Sundowner

[Ask about this product](#)

Category: **Bumper Pull**

Producer: Sundowner [show products](#)

2017 Black Sundowner 16' Stockman

2017 Black Sundowner 16' Stockman Trailer, 2-5200lb torsion axles, 15" tires, rear load light, full swing rear gate with slide gate, running boards, escape door, greaseable hinges, rubber floor mats, Angled divider gate, inside load light, clear lens LED lighting, 2 Horse vents, 3 inside tie rings, 4 outside tie rings, Blanket Bar, 6 hanger bridle bar, 24" gravel guard, Spare Tire, 7' tall, 6'9" wide, 2984 lbs shipping weight, 11660 lbs GVWR, full aluminum construction, one piece aluminum roof, 1.25"x2" tubular uprights, plus the full Sundowner warranty.

**\$17,790.00 + GST**



11055





**(780) 532-6827**  
**9905 132nd Avenue**  
**Grande Prairie AB, T8V4J7**

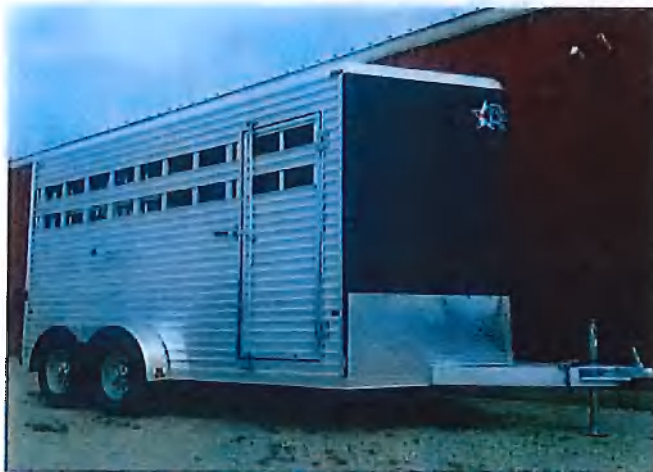
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## 2017 Frontier 16' Livestock Trailer

[Request More Info](#)   [Apply For Financing](#)   [View Unit Info](#)



### Item Location

QUAPP EQUIPMENT  
 9905 132nd Avenue  
 Grand Prairie, AB, T8V4J7  
 (780) 532-6827

Stock No: ALCOM16BP

Our Price: **\$15,950.00**

Condition:	New
Year:	2017
Manufacturer:	Frontier
Model:	16 LIVESTOCK
Length:	16' 7"
Width:	7'
Height:	7'
GVWR:	10000 lbs
Axle Capacity:	5200 lbs
Axles	2
Construction	Aluminum
Pull Type	Bumper

### Request More Info

#### 2017 Frontier 16' Livestock Trailer

Please enter your contact information and one of our representatives will get back to you with more information.

First Name\*

Last Name\*

Preferred Contact\*

Email Address\*

Zip Code

Phone Number

Comments

**Submit**

- Jack and Coupler Features**
  - Manual Top Wind Jack
  - 2 5/16 Coupler
- Wheels and Suspension Features**
  - Break away Switch
  - Electric Brake(s)
  - 6 Hole Wheels
  - Rubber Torsion Suspension
- Exterior Features**
  - Aluminum Floor
  - Fenders
  - D-Rings Installed
- Safety Convenience and Electrical**
  - Spare Tire Mount
  - 7-Way Plug
  - DOT Approved Lighting
  - LED Lighting
- Interior Features**
  - Lights
- Doors, Windows and Ramps**
  - Side Door
  - Split Rear Doors
- Details**

### Specifications

Coupler Bumper Pull, 2 5/16"  
 Floor Material Extruded Aluminum Flooring  
 Box Length 16'7"  
 Exterior Extruded Aluminum Sides

Quote from Foster's Covered Wagons:

16' Aluminum stock trailer = \$16,595.00 + GST

# Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 12, 2016
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>AAMD&amp;C Draft Guide to Declaring Municipal Agricultural Disasters</b>
File:	63-10-02

## DESCRIPTION:

The Board is provided with the draft *A Guide to Declaring Municipal Agricultural Disasters in Alberta* from AAMD&C. The draft is being circulated to the Agricultural Service Boards for review and comments.

## BACKGROUND:

C655-16(11/08/16) RESOLUTION by Deputy Reeve-Johnson to declare a state of agricultural disaster for Clear Hills County due to the wet weather and snow that is preventing harvest, damaging and destroying crops and forage.

CARRIED

## OPTIONS:

1. Provide the following feedback on the draft:
2. Accept for information

## ATTACHMENTS:

- AAMD&C draft *A Guide for Declaring Municipal Agricultural Disasters in Alberta*

## RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by that this Agricultural Service Board to provide the following feedback on the draft *A Guide for Declaring Municipal Agricultural Disasters in Alberta*.

Delete:

Change:

Add:

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:

ABJ

AgFieldman:

JK

# A Guide for Declaring Municipal Agricultural Disasters in Alberta

DRAFT



Partners in Advocacy & Business

Prepared by the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties  
2016

# Contents

About This Guide .....3

Condition Statement Tool Overview .....4

Technical Information to Support Data .....5

Government of Alberta Declaration.....6

Municipal Communications Process .....7

Appendix A: Condition Statement Tool .....8

Appendix B: Municipal Agricultural Disaster Declaration Template .....9

Appendix C: Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group .....10

Acknowledgments.....11

DRAFT

## About This Guide

Steps used towards declaring a municipal agricultural disaster can bring awareness to a developing situation, inform residents, industry and provincial and federal governments and enable collaboration with impacted producer groups.

This guide is intended to be used as a tool to enable municipalities to use informed decision making process prior to making a formal declaration of agricultural disaster as conditions evolve. **Municipal declarations do not automatically trigger access to increased funding programs, provincially or federally.**

A number of elements drove the creation of this guide, including:

- Past drought and excessive moisture experiences impacting agricultural production and crop yields,
- 2015 drought which resulted in a provincial declaration and multiple municipal declarations,
- Discussion stemming from the provincial Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group (DEMAG) whose mandate is to provide advice and recommendations to complement government actions on drought and excessive moisture related issues affecting Alberta's agricultural producers in Alberta and to advise and provide recommendations to government on long-term strategies for mitigating the effects of drought and excessive moisture. More information regarding DEMAG is included in Appendix C.

### **Purpose of the Guide:**

The purpose of the Guide is to promote a consistent mechanism for data collection and monitoring to support municipal decision making to guide agricultural disaster declarations.

Through the use of information provided in the Guide, municipalities can bring awareness to a situation as it is developing and ensure all levels of government and local residents are aware of the situation, without immediately declaring it as a "disaster."

The use of this guide is intended as a source of information that will allow data comparisons within a municipality year after year.

The Guide provides:

- Directions for consistent and clear messaging
- Identification of tools available to arrive at condition statement
- Access to technical data to support condition statement
- Timeline documentation of conditions
- The ability to modify condition statements due to a change in conditions
- An explanation of the differences between a condition statement versus a provincial declaration of agricultural disaster
- A recommendation as to when a municipal declaration should be made
- A communications guide noting key parties to notify

## Condition Statement Tool Overview

The Condition Statement Tool is intended to provide a tracking mechanism that will enable data-driven municipal decision making where agriculture production is impacted by natural causes.

Utilizing data available through Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (ASFC) (ex. crop reports customized to the municipal level) and/or municipal resources such as agricultural fieldmen, the condition statement tool can be used to highlight and track the percentage of crops in poor condition. The use of a colour-coded chart demonstrates a snapshot of conditions at a given time, and includes identification of the size of area impacted (in hectares).

Municipalities are encouraged to attach a map highlighting the impacted area(s) where possible.

It is advisable to assess conditions through this tool every two to three weeks to monitor and document any changes prior to making a formal declaration. It is important to note that improved conditions can result in a declaration being lifted.

The Condition Statement Tool is available in Appendix A for use and a sample is provided below:

<b>Date:</b>	July 7, 2015					
<b>Municipality:</b>	County of AAMDC					
<b>Total Area Impacted:</b>	324 seeded hectares					
<b>Map Included:</b>	No					
<b>Next Report Due:</b>	July 21, 2015					
	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Drought</b>	<b>Excessive Moisture</b>	<b>Floods</b>	<b>Pests</b>	<b>Hail</b>
<i>Annuals Impacted (% rated poor):</i>						
Cereals		13% poor				
Oil Seed					26% poor	
Others						
<i>Perennials Impacted (% rated poor):</i>						
Tame Hay				55% poor		
Tame Pasture						
Nature Pasture						
<i>Other: (please indicate)</i>						

Legend: % of crop (in hectares) rated 'poor':

	0 - 10%	Crops near normal and above
	10% - 25%	Expected diminished crop yields
	25% - 50%	Pending disaster
	50% or higher	Definite disaster
	No impacts being experienced	

## Technical Information to Support Data

There are a number of tools available that supply data municipalities can use in assessing their local conditions and utilizing the condition assessment tool. Click on the hyperlinks provided for access to information.

### Agriculture and Forestry

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry houses significant data sources that municipalities can utilize, including:

- [Instructions for Accessing Precipitation Data from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry](#)
- [Agroclimatic Atlas Introduction](#)
- [Agroclimatic Atlas Maps](#)
- [Agriculture and Forestry Climate Services Staff Resources](#)

### Agriculture Financial Services Corporation ([AFSC](#))

AFSC can assist municipal districts and counties when they are experiencing drought or excessively wet conditions. AFSC provides information through the following mechanisms:

- **[Crop Reports](#):** AFSC senior adjusters report on crop conditions every two weeks from emergence until harvest is complete. These reports provide information at the county or municipal district level and are available on the AFSC website. This information can be presented in more detail during severe dry or wet conditions, for example maps that show the percent of crops rated poor relative to previous years.
- ***Insurance Program Response*:** Detailed information on how AFSC's existing insurance products respond to a specific conditions are made available on the AFSC website. This would include options for putting crops to an alternate use when crops are deteriorating and there is a shortage of feed in an area.
- ***AgriStability Response*:** How AgriStability responds can be posted on the AFSC website along with procedures for obtaining an advance under this program.
- ***AgriRecovery Process*:** AFSC along with Agriculture & Forestry staff can provide municipalities with detailed information on what is required to trigger an AgriRecovery response.
- ***Information on accessing Environment Canada data:***
  - [Instructions for Accessing Precipitation Data](#)
  - [Instructions for Accessing Historical Radar Data](#)

Municipal Information:

- [AAMDC](#)
- Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen ([AAAF](#))



## Government of Alberta Declaration

### *The Role of AFSC*

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) is a provincial Crown corporation that provides farmers, agribusinesses and other small businesses with loans, crop insurance and farm income disaster assistance. AFSC expenditures are consolidated into the provincial budget and the provincial budgeting process includes requirements for ministries and Crown corporations to live within budgeted expenditures, meaning that departments or Crown corporations cannot spend more than what has been budgeted for.

AFSC forecasts annual revenues that will be gained through premiums and estimates expenditures to pay out indemnities. AFSC provides those budget estimates to the Government of Alberta for inclusion into the provincial budget. If indemnities exceed budget amounts, AFSC needs to access reserve funds and the remainder of premiums as expenditures. This requires a formal process through the Treasury Board.

### *Provincial Declaration*

In order to access additional funds the Government of Alberta must declare a disaster to access those funds for claim payments. This decision is made by Cabinet and is informed by data and analytical information provided by AFSC and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. This declaration triggers a financial transaction through the Treasury Board to enable AFSC access to reserve funds.

### *Municipal Role*

A common misperception is that a municipal declaration of an agricultural disaster will influence a provincial declaration or access to funding supports. This is simply not the case. Municipal declarations bring awareness to an issue in a specific area of the province, but they do not trigger a provincial declaration or access to any funding to support the issue.

Municipalities can work with their local agriculture industries or industry/producer organizations to communicate concerns and assess challenges being experienced.

## Municipal Communications Process

The AAMDC assists AFSC and the Government of Alberta in distributing information to municipalities and Ag Service Board members. Providing a central communication hub for information sharing improves understanding of the challenges being experienced and connecting impacted municipalities with appropriate resources and support.

Before a municipality formally declares a state of agriculture disaster, a number of questions should be considered to enable consistent and thorough communications. These include:

- Does the state of agricultural disaster cover the entire area or just a region within the municipality?
- Does the agriculture disaster cover all agriculture in the municipality or only certain commodity products?
- Has the municipality used AFSC data for the local area to assess the level of impact being experienced?
- Has the municipality contacted producer groups and associations to discuss impacts being experienced?
- Does the municipality have data to support this decision (ex. completed condition assessment tool(s) and municipal mapping)?

Once a declaration of agriculture disaster has been made, the municipality should provide information regarding the details of the agriculture disaster to the following organizations for access to consistent information:

- Government of Alberta (Agriculture and Forestry)
- AFSC
- AAMDC

## Appendix A: Condition Statement Tool

Utilizing data available through Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (ASFC) (ex. crop reports customized to the municipal level) and/or municipal resources such as agricultural fieldmen, the condition statement tool can be used to highlight and track the percentage of crops in poor condition.

The use of a colour-coded chart demonstrates a snapshot of conditions at a given time, and includes identification of the size of area impacted (in seeded hectares where applicable).

Municipalities are encouraged to attach a map highlighting the impacted area(s) where possible. It is advisable to assess conditions throughout the growing season to monitor and document any changes.

<b>Date:</b>						
<b>Municipality:</b>						
<b>Total Area Impacted:</b>						
<b>Map Included:</b>						
<b>Next Report Due:</b>						
	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Drought</b>	<b>Excessive Moisture</b>	<b>Floods</b>	<b>Pests</b>	<b>Hail</b>
<i>Annuals Impacted (% rated poor):</i>						
Cereals						
Oil Seed						
Others						
<i>Perennials Impacted (% rated poor):</i>						
Tame Hay						
Tame Pasture						
Nature Pasture						
<i>Other: (please indicate)</i>						

Legend: % of crop (in hectares) rated 'poor':

	0 - 10%	Crops near normal and above
	10% - 25%	Expected diminished crop yields
	25% - 50%	Pending disaster
	50% or higher	Definite disaster
	No impacts being experienced	

## Appendix B: Municipal Agricultural Disaster Declaration Template

### Municipal Agricultural Disaster Declaration

*(attach all relevant data and completed condition statements to support declaration)*

<b>Municipality:</b>	
<b>Type of Agriculture Disaster:</b>	[Type of disaster experienced and impact, such as drought conditions impacting 60% of cereal yields]
<b>Stages of Disaster Declaration:</b>	[Document the stages on the spectrum of the agriculture disaster and, as best as possible, the dates at which each stage was met]
<b>Data to support:</b>	[Insert or reference the data used to justify the state of agriculture disaster]
<b>Level of impact:</b>	[Describe the areas and commodity types impacted by the agriculture disaster]
<b>Communication process:</b>	[Outline the stakeholders to be contacted by the municipality following the declaration of agriculture disaster including Government of Alberta ministries, AFSC, AAMDC, and producer associations]
<b>Other information:</b>	

## Appendix C: Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group

The Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group (DEMAG) is comprised of appointed representatives of key stakeholder agencies:

- Agri-Environmental Services Branch of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC)
- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
- Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)
- Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC)
- Alberta Environment and Parks
- Crop sector
- Irrigated Crop sector
- Livestock sector
- Wildrose Agricultural Producers Association

### **Mandate:**

- To provide consistent and consolidated advice and recommendations to complement government actions on drought and excessive moisture related issues affecting the agricultural producers in Alberta.
- To advise and provide recommendations to government on long-term strategies for mitigating the effects of drought and excessive moisture.

### **Key Duties and Responsibilities of DEMAG:**

- Facilitate two-way communication that is effective, timely, respectful and clear.
- Recommend extension activities and provide input to drought and excessive moisture related and related risk management information for key stakeholder groups.
- Serve as a formal communication connection between industry and government, and from government back to industry.
- Provide recommendations and policy advice to the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry for effective, fiscally responsible drought and excessive moisture preparedness, monitoring and reporting, and response actions.
- Actively participate in long-term strategic planning for future drought conditions in Alberta; for example, long-term water management and production/crop choices.
- Work with industry organizations to identify how to best assist producers in preparing for and coping with drought and excessive moisture, and develop these discoveries into recommendations.
- Oversee the implementation of the Agriculture Drought Risk Management Plan (ADRMP), and provide advice on and input during the ADRMP's review and evaluation.

## Acknowledgments

The AAMDC would like to thank the following organizations for their contributions in developing this guide:

- Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
- Alberta Association Agriculture Fieldmen
- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

DRAFT

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 12, 2016
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD BUSINESS PLAN</b>
File:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with the draft 2017 - 2019 Agricultural Service Board Business Plan for review.

### BACKGROUND:

The business plan is reviewed annually. The updated business plan is required for the ASB Grant Program through the Government of Alberta. The ASB Grant application deadline is January 31, 2017.

The board is requested to review and direct addition or deletions to the business plan.

### ATTACHMENTS:

- 2017 – 2019 ASB Business Plan

### OPTIONS:

1. approve 2017 – 2019 Agricultural Service Board Business plan as presented
2. approve the 2017 – 2019 Agricultural Service Board Business plan with the following changes:
3. table for further discussion at the regular Agricultural Service Board meeting in January.

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

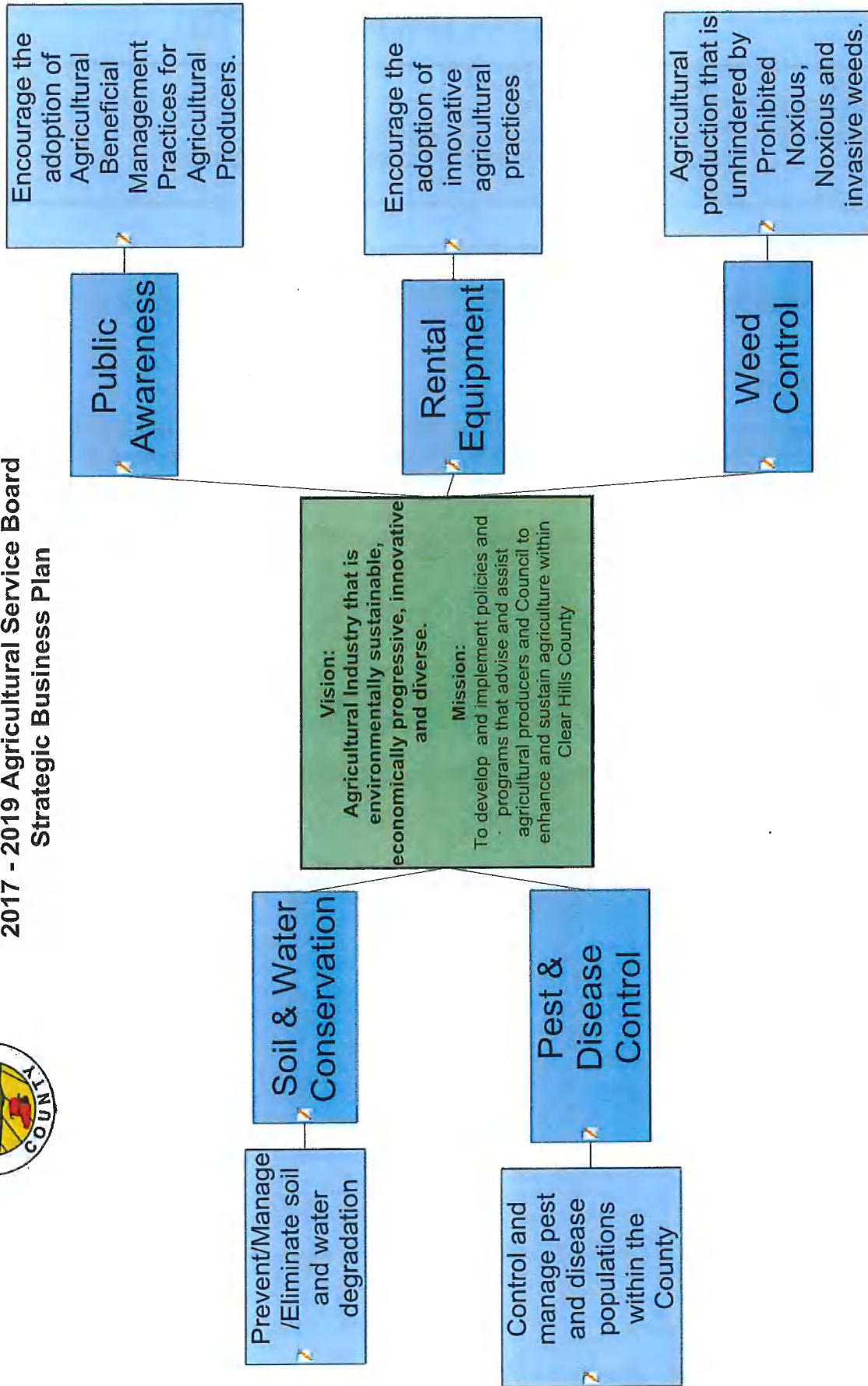
That this Agricultural Service Board approve the 2017 – 2019 Agricultural Service Board Business plan with the following changes:

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

**AgFieldman:**

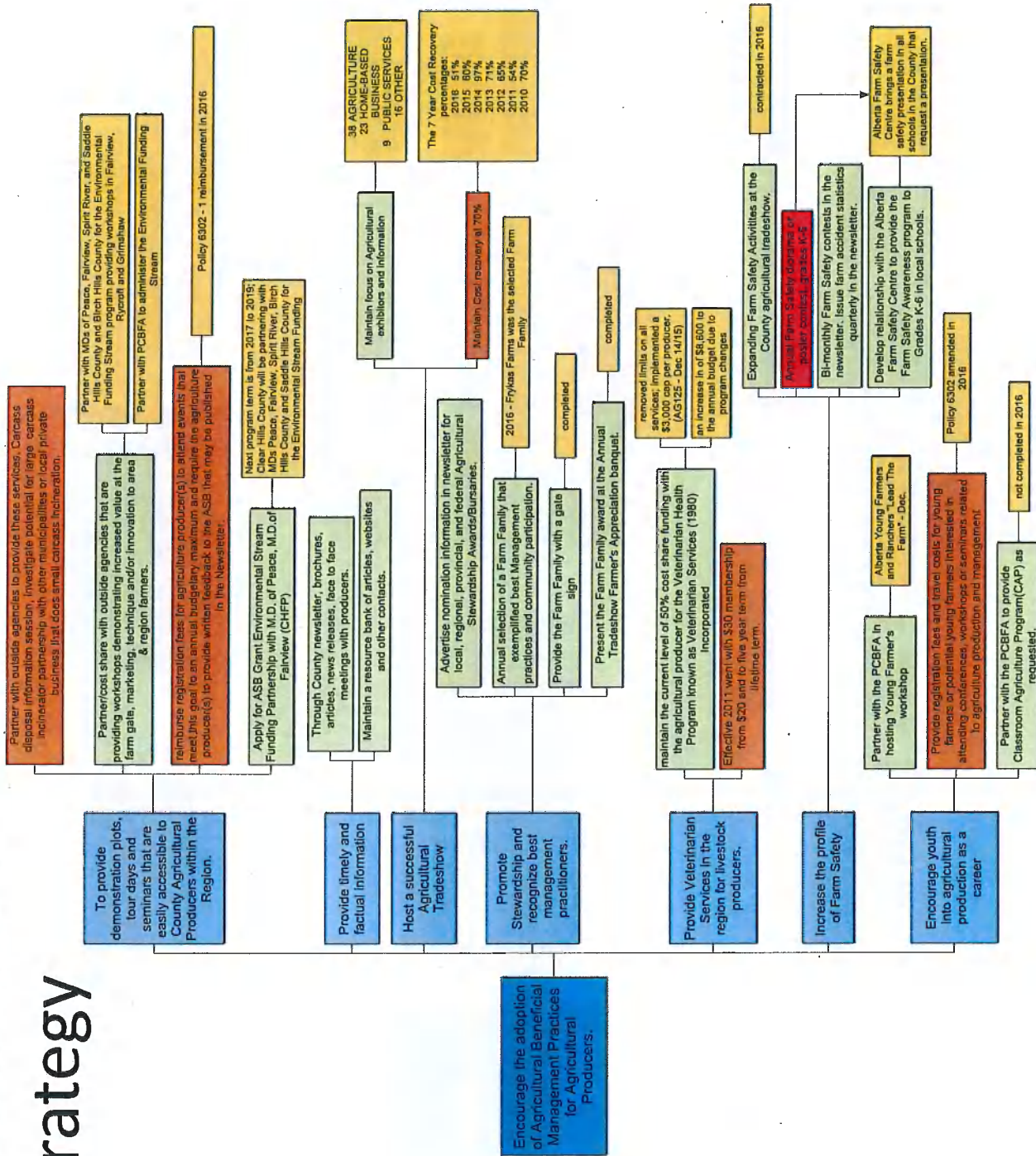


Clear Hills County  
2017 - 2019 Agricultural Service Board  
Strategic Business Plan

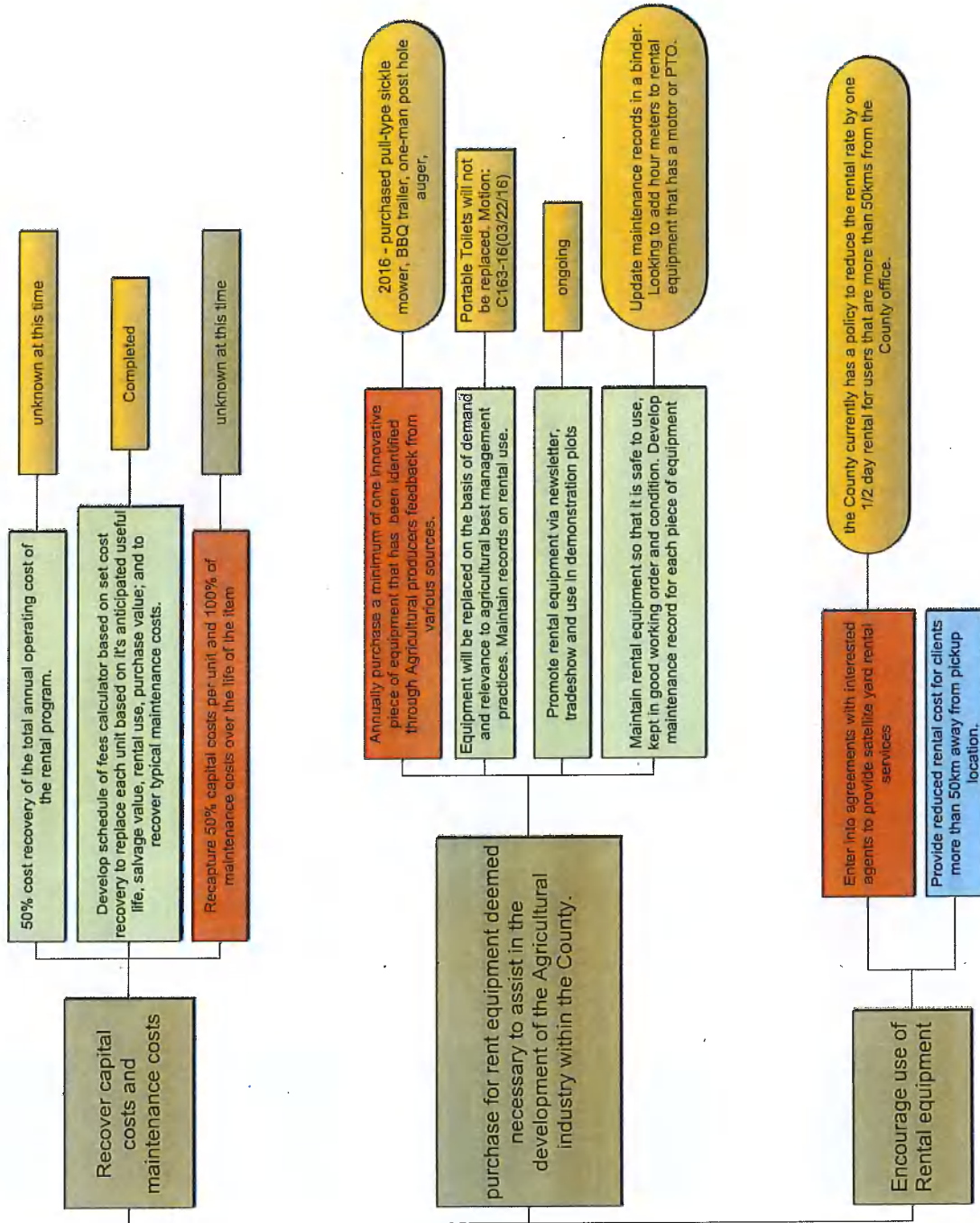




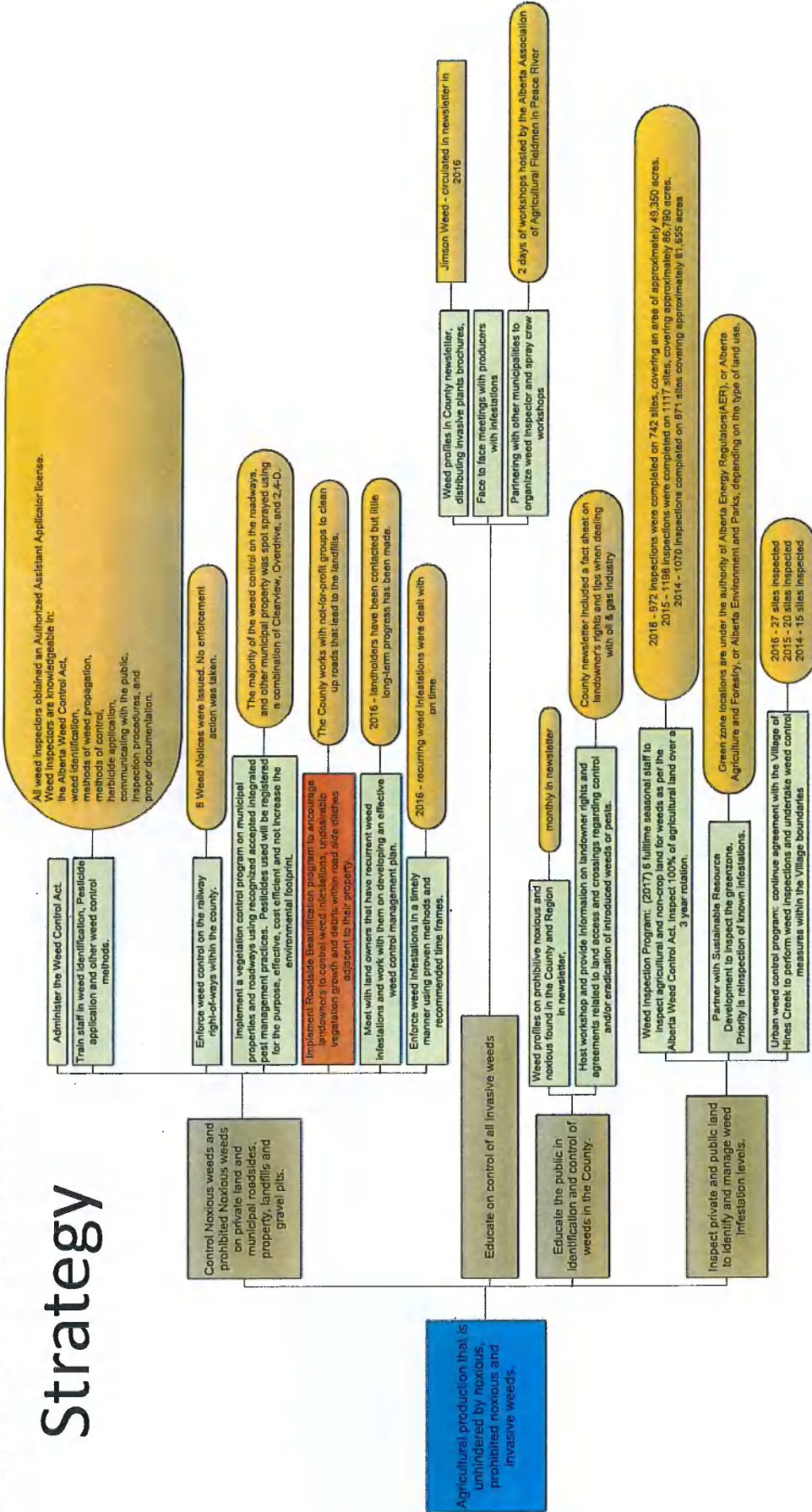
# Public Awareness Strategy



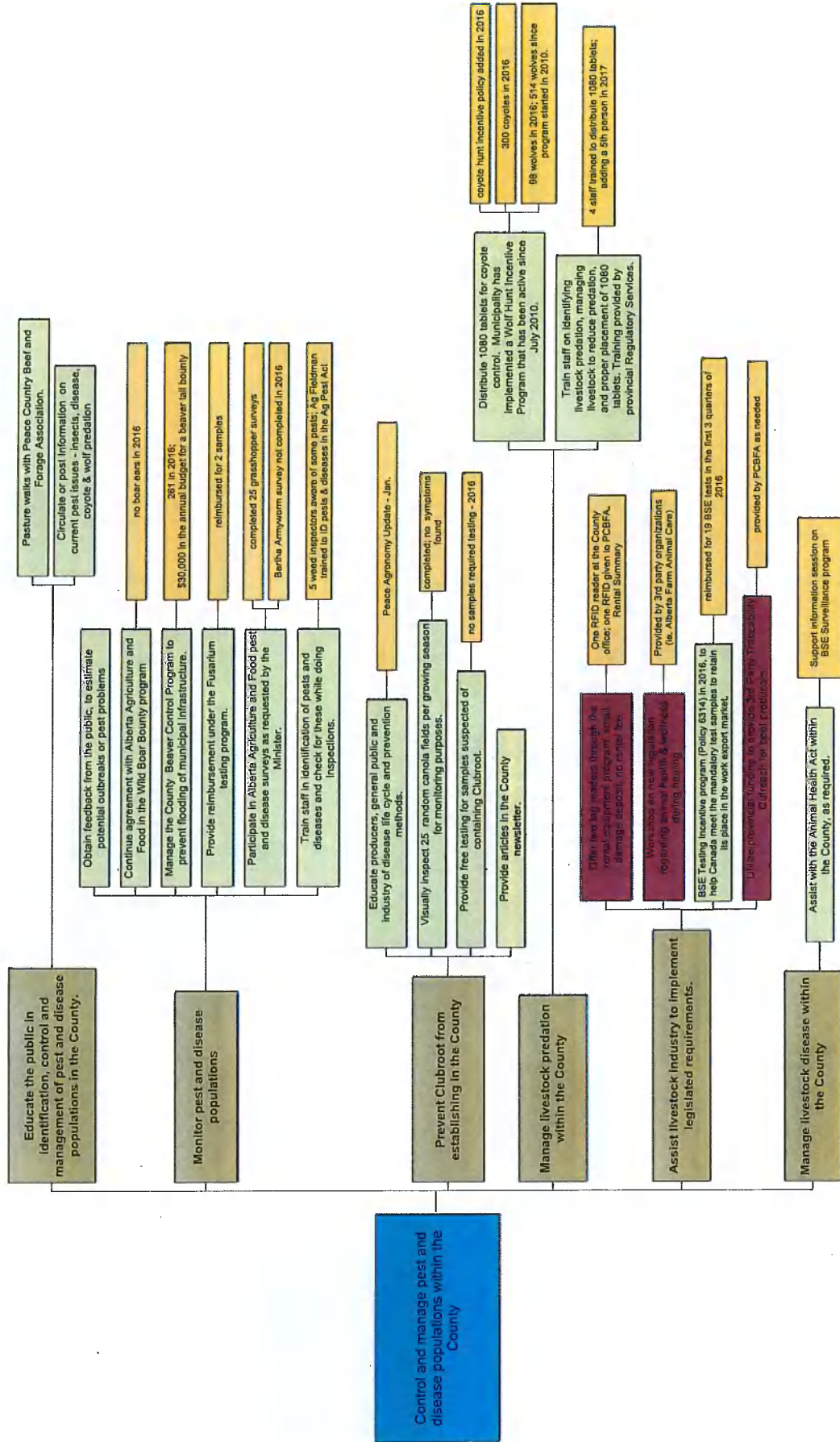
# Rental Equipment Strategy



# Weed Control Strategy

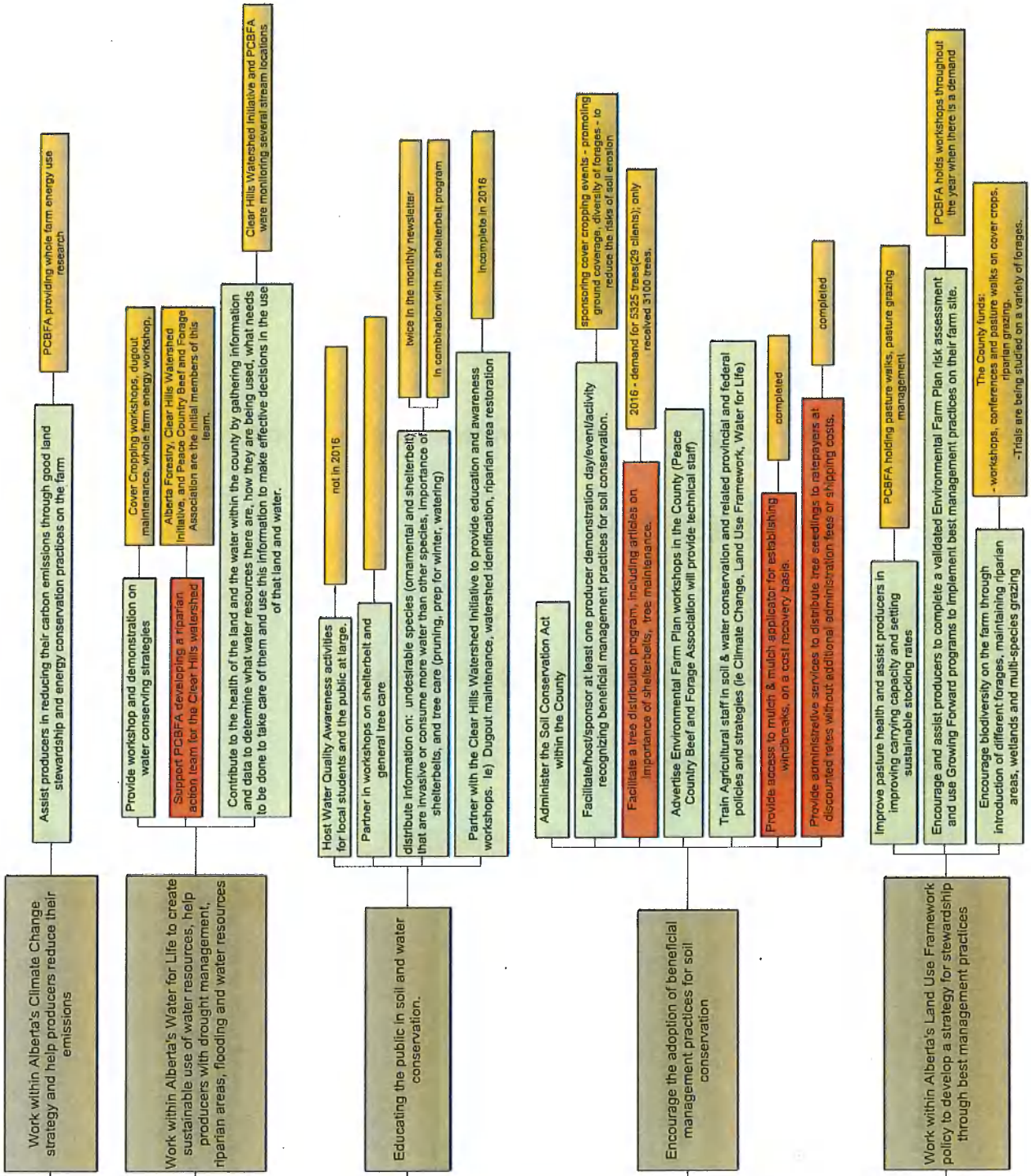


# Pest & Disease Control Strategy



# Soil & Water Conservation Strategy

## Prevent and Manage Soil and Water Degradation



# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board Meeting</b>
Meeting Date:	December 12, 2016
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT</b>
File No:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

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

### BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

### ATTACHMENTS:

- Greg- Agricultural Fieldman Report-Dec 12

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Agricultural Service Board accepts the December 12, 2016 Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

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

# CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

## AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT

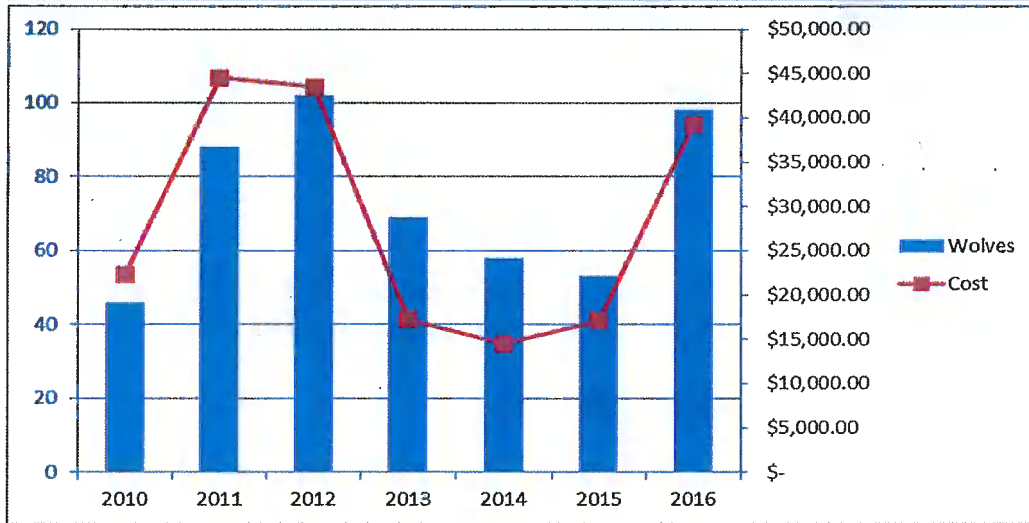
DEC 12, 2016

GREG COON

### PEST CONTROL

- **Wolf numbers:**

Year	Comments	Wolves	Cost
2010	start of program - adults \$500; juvenile \$250	46	\$ 22,250.00
2011		88	\$ 44,500.00
2012	adults \$500; juvenile \$350	102	\$ 43,500.00
2013	all wolves \$250ea; Only private property & grazing leases are eligible as of March 2013 C195-13(03/26/13)	69	\$ 17,250.00
2014		58	\$ 14,500.00
2015	Incentive increased from \$250 to \$400 in October 2015; C492-15(10/13/15)	53	\$ 17,150.00
2016	Jan 2016 accept unskinned carcasses only; C52-16(01/26/16)	98	\$ 39,200.00
2017		0	\$ -
2018		0	\$ -
2019		0	\$ -
<b>Total</b>		<b>514</b>	<b>\$ 198,350.00</b>



- **Coyotes claimed:** 2016 -297(\$8910)
- **Beaver tails claimed:** 2016 - 259 (\$7860); 2015 – 658 (\$19,740); 2014 – 188 (\$5,460)

### Rental Equipment Usage January 1, 2016 - November 17, 2016

Equipment	Rental Rates	Total Users	Total Days	Total Revenue
Backpack Sprayer	\$ -	1	1	\$ -
Bale Scale	\$ 30.00	4	4	\$ 120.00
Bale Tester	\$ 10.00			
Ball Hitch (2" & 2 5/16")	\$ -			
Livestock Ultrasound	\$ 25.00			
Chairs	\$0.5/chair	7	9	\$ 268.50
Community Centre	\$ 50.00	2	2	\$ 100.00
Corral Panels	\$ 50.00	3	4	\$ 175.00
Coyote Trap	\$ -			
Eco-Bran Applicator	\$ 50.00	1	1	\$ 50.00
Grain Bag Roller	\$ -	4	8	\$ -
Grain Bagger	\$ 350.00	3	3	\$ 1,050.00
Grain Bag Extractor	\$ 350.00	2	2	\$ 700.00
Grain Vac	\$ 200.00	24	25	\$ 5,000.00
Grass Seeders-Hand Held	\$ 5.00			
Grass Seeders-Quad Mount	\$ 5.00			
Grill	\$ 5.00	3	11	\$ 55.00
Hand Held Rope Wick	\$ 10.00	2	2	\$ 20.00
Land Leveller	\$ 130.00	3	3	\$ 390.00
Loading Chute	\$ 25.00	14	15	\$ 375.00
Manure Spreader	\$ 150.00	1	7	\$ 1,050.00
Mulch Applicator	\$ 25.00			
Extra Hoses	\$ 1.00	2	2	\$ 67.50
Post Pounder	\$ 125.00	14	16	\$ 2,000.00
Pull/Push Roller Applicator	\$ -			
Quad Mount Rope Wick	\$ -			
Quad Mounted Sprayer	\$ -	5	5	\$ -
Quad Pull Type Sprayer	\$ -	4	4	\$ -
RFID Tag Reader	\$ -			
Rock Picker	\$ 300.00	2	2	\$ 600.00
Rock Rake	\$ 300.00	1	2	\$ 600.00
Roller Mill	\$ 20.00	1	2	\$ 40.00
Rotowiper	\$ 75.00	2	3	\$ 150.00
Scare Cannon #91060254	\$ -			
Signs	\$ -	1		
Skid Mount Sprayer	\$ -	2	2	\$ -
Steam Tables	\$ 5.00			
Tables	\$1.00/table	5	5	\$ 111.00
Toilets	\$ 40.00	1	3	\$ 120.00
Tree Spade	\$ 150.00	7	8	\$ 1,200.00
Truck Mount Sprayer	\$ 100.00			
Wash Station	\$ 10.00	3	5	\$ 40.00
Water Pumps	\$75.00(Summer) \$200 (Winter)	23	41	\$ 3,950.00
Zero Till Drills	\$300.00/20 feet	5	6	\$ 1,800.00
Wire Roller		5	7	\$ 175.00
Post Hole Auger		2	2	\$ 50.00
Sickle Mower				
BBQ Trailer		3	3	\$ 150.00
		<b>48</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>215 \$ 20,407.00</b>

#### OTHER TOPICS

- Pesticide Applicator Certification – I have gone through the home study course once and I am now reviewing the study guides and practice exams in preparation for the final exam. I will be writing the exam in January.
- I attended in-service training in Edmonton Dec.5-9.



# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board Meeting</b>
Meeting Date:	December 12, 2016
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>BOARD REPORTS</b>
File No:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

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

### BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

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

### ATTACHMENTS:

- Chair Harcourt
- Member Watchorn
- Member Ross
- Member Candy

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' written or verbal reports of December 12, 2016 for information.

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

## ASB Regional Conference

By: Brian Harcourt

Conference was catered to by NPARA..

Tom Fromme gave an update on the year of the "Pulses".

Keep the soil covered, minimum tillage.

Use a diverse species of plants and keep living roots as long as possible.

Graze with livestock.

Brassicas, the cabbage family, great root systems.

Check out cover crop mixes for old brome fields.

Make sure there is Hairy Vetch in the mix, helps to cover the ground.

Dr Ravindra Chibbar spoke on GMOs, Opportunities and Challenges..

He spoke at length on molecular crop quality groups of cereals

pulse, low temperature tolerance wheat and preharvest sprouting.

Change your life style from treatment to prevention.

Let food be your medicine .

Plant breeding has for certain increased the yield but not the protein so much.

First GE crop was the tomato in 1992, many more since then.

Some traits include herbicide and insect resistant and also to some viruses.

Obesity has become a huge problem, with overprocessing of most foods

and sugar added to almost every thing. IE white bread..not good, whole grain much better.

Less processing the better.

David Feindel...ASB Program for AB.

Minister, Oneil Carlier, Deputy Minister, Bev Yee..

His responsibilities include the MGA, ASB, Weed act, Pests act,

Soils Conservation act, Animal Health act and the ASB Grant Program.

69 ASBs in the province and 6500 employees province wide.

We in Alberta will soon have an Alberta Plant Health Lab,

17807 FT Road, NW, Edmonton.

Plant tissue, weed and insect specimens, and soil testing, service will be free!

Jimson weed has been added to the noxious list, use good gloves!

Elaine Stenbrotten...AB AG & Forestry..

She is responsible for helping new or expanding businesses with ideas, innovations, plans, strategies.

She knows the regs, the markets, funding options, Growing Forward 2.

GF2 and environmental farm plan workshop will be held in

Hines Creek Dec 6th. this workshop should be on all farmers bucket list.

Harcourt.

## Water Resiliency Workshop

Brian Harcourt

Marsha Trites-Wilson..AB Environment & Parks.

Operations branch in Grande Prairie.

She is a wetlands specialist and instrumental in developing the Wetland Rapid Evaluation Tool.

She spoke on the AB Water Act it's functions, benefits, mitigation, municipal participation, and opportunities.

The goal is to Conserve, Restore, Protect our waters.

The Prov. claims all waters and thereby approves all activities, or not.

The Public Lands Act the shore and beds of all natural permanent flooded water bodies.

The AB Wetlands Policy, 2013, regulates all classes of waters including marshes, fens, bogs, swamps and open water.

Mitigate--Avoid impact, minimize the action, replace and reclaim and restore.

Jay White..Aquality Environmental Consulting Ltd.

Jay is a certified Alberta Professional Biologist. Earned his M.Sc. degree at U of A.

He worked with Ducks Unlimited on Frank Lake, the largest wetland restoration project in Canada.

The AB Water Act of 1999 prohibits the draining of any wetlands in AB.

If you own any property with classified water on it, you do not own the land under it!!!

Wetlands cover 17% of Alberta.

Fens--68% of wetlands, Bogs--17%, marshes and swamps--5%.

Fens will run a small amount of water away.

Bogs, the water is trapped.

Swamps, are treed.

Lakes must be 2 meters deep.

If you are planning a project on your land that has any type of wetland be sure you have all the info possible in place then call Jay.

Les Kletke...of Les Kletke Communications..of Buffalo Point, Manitoba.

Les is a book coach, freelance writer and speaker.

He coaches people on the writing of and the publishing of their books.

Trends..Problems..Drought #1..Flooding #2...

You can deal with conditions on your land but who is making the "decisions" that affect you.

Legislation is a construct of the Rich and Powerful...Not Justice.

Production...Brazil grows three crops per year..they will be exporting pork this year, Russia..Their equipment is now as good as North American has.

Their farms are 80 to100K acres.

China...they have what Les called a "Terminator" gene but what will they do with it?

The unknown...the youth of China.

Harcourt.

## Speaker, Dan Benson, Agriculture Water Specialist, Peace River AB, 780 624 6532.

By: Brian Harcourt

If you don't have a dugout and your thinking of digging one

check with the county office, there may be some rules you have to follow.

The dugout should be in an area that will drain the water into it naturally,

except the barn yard or feed lot.

Do not put it in a stream, small as it may be.

It needs to be 40 feet from a road.

There is a Prov. Water Act, you may need to get approval and a License.

If the location is in a water body, or change the flow of water on adjacent land,

or the capacity will be greater than 550,000 gallons.

Locate in an open area, consider safety, does not need to be fenced.

Grass the water ways that will fill the dugout, helps filter the water.

Sizing is very important, deeper is better, long and narrow, steep slopes 1.5:1 will help.

Aeration will be required, preferably 24..7..365.

Dugouts can be dangerous, small children and or animals in the area, may have to fence.

It's easier to prevent a problem than to fix it.

Good management is key to good water quality.

The latter end of Spring run-off is as good as it gets for quality water and it's free.

Over time you will get an algae buildup, Do not use bluestone(copper sulfate).

There other treatments available and they do work.

Do not use Javex or Perflex, they kill good and bad bacteria.

There is an aquatic dye to put on top of the water that helps keep the water cooler

If you are in doubt about the quality of your water, get it tested.

There many ways to treat your water to make it safer to use, but if your family

is going to be drinking the H<sub>2</sub>O you will almost certainly have to use a

chlorinating system.

## Holistic Management

November 30, 2016

By: Brian Harcourt

Quest Speaker..Kelly Sidoryk...Lloydminster, AB

Quotes and comments...

Holistic management..A process to set your goals.

The whole farm/ranch, "Profound Changes" are happening.

Be a lifelong learner.

Succession Planning should be on everyones agenda, may not always be within the family.

The Financial plan...what is your goal?

Nature functions in wholes in our environment.

Take one out and things change!

Define what you manage, state what you want.

Aim for healthy soil.

Consider all your tools.

Test your decisions and monitor them.

The Golden Circle...Why..How..What..

Work smarter not harder.

Identify the issues, what is the cause, is there a weak link?

What single thing will have the greatest impact.

Invest funds to give the greatest return, maximize ROI.

Compare options, best bang for the buck.

"Gut check your decisions" What would be your "definition of wealth"?

Grazing planning..it happens to plants not pastures, the plant needs recovery time!

Rate pastures quantity and quality...wheres the water?

Livestock..a tool, multifunctional, a mower, seeder and presses fertilizer into the ground.

The worst thing you can do to your pastures is over graze.

Smaller paddocks are better if you can.

E [mail...sidoryk@yahoo.ca](mailto:sidoryk@yahoo.ca).

To improve is change...to improve is to change often.

## Ration Balancing Workshop

By: Julie Watchorn

On November 23, 2016 I went to Spirit River, Ab to a Ration Balancing Workshop put on by Peace Country Beef & Forage Association. The speaker was Agricultural Beef & Forage Specialist Barry Yarencia .

Using the computer program Cow Bytes we were taught how to read our feed tests results, how to save money feeding your cows over winter and formulate feed rations to using our test results. He answered many nutritional questions that we had, the best way to feed whether processing which has a 19-20% waste or rolling out which only has a 12% waste ,told us the best way to stack bales ; which is individually set down not touching and covered ! Highly recommended!

## Peace Region Agricultural Service Board Conference

Julie Watchorn

November 9, 2016 we had an early start to Dixonville ,Ab where we attended the Peace Region Agricultural Service Board Conference which was hosted by Northren Lights County

Our first speaker was : Ton Fromme from North Peace Applied Research Center out of Manning ,Ab. He spoke a little about the research farm, the many plots and trials they do each year (25-40)

They have 4500 trees growing there ,over 20 types and they also grow cover crop gardens where each " garden" has an individual crop growing where You can see what each plant looks like to identify what you're growing in your field

We listened to Dr. Ravindra Chibbar from The University of Saskatchewan on the Pros and Cons of growing GM crops, to increase yields, increase farmers top end and to increase amount of food; with people living longer . He also spoke on how they are working with wild shrubs to see what grows to reclaim oil sands

Doug Macaulay -Crop Development Center

He is the go to person with the Ag Service Board Act , the Weed Control Act, Animal Health Act, and the Agricultural Pest Act [Doug.macaulay@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Doug.macaulay@gov.ab.ca)

David Feindel- under the Pest Surveillance Section of the Agricultural Pest Act He works out of the Alberta Plant Health Lab in Edmonton, Ab They do testing on

- plant tissue
- weed specimens
- insect specimens
- limited soil samples

Currently free of charge for Ag Fieldman , Applied research, Alberta Agricultural and Forestry and Municipal Pest Management Planthealthlab@ gov.ab.ca

Bill and Jane Farney from the Peace Forge Seed They were here asking all the Ag Service Boards to help ban GM alfalfa , to have zero tolerance and to adopt a by-law in the Peace Country Extension@ peaceforgeseed.ca

And our last speaker was Elaine Stenbraaten -New Ventures Services Working out of Fairview she helps entrepreneurs with planning a new business and marketing and finance

310-FARM(3276)

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

We went into the Resolution session

Cory Beck who is the 2016 ASB Representative talked about Bill 6 and how he's on a table to help sort it out ! Then we went through amendments and resolutions Fred Sawchuck, MD of Fairview invited everyone to the 2017 ASB Conference which they are hosting .



## Water Resiliency Water Management Workshop

Julie Watchorn

On October 31 2016 we went to the water resiliency water management workshop at Rycroft Ab in the Rycroft Society Hall We started with a wonderful supper and the first speaker was:

Marsha Tritees-Russell; she works for Alberta Environment and Parks Marsha talked a little bit about the policies of Alberta wetlands The Water Act, the Public Land Act , what types of wetlands that are in Alberta .She also said that the wetland losses have been high in the Peace Country,it has been approximately 75% loss.Most times it's landowners that are unaware of legislation requirements but they also need to know that they can make you restore as it was !

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

The second speaker was

Jay White ; certified biologist/consultant with Aquality Environment Consulting Ltd.

His message was you don't own the water on your land and you don't own the land under it ! Which means any permanent naturally occurring bodies of water,all beds and shores [www.aquality.ca](http://www.aquality.ca)

The last speaker was

Les Kletke of Les Kletke Communications. He has worked as an agronomist in Russia,studied in Canada,the US, Korea,Brazil,New Zealand, and recently in Mongolia and China. He now works as a book coach at Buffalo Point,MB He was a very entertaining listening to him but he did have a very strong message How we in North America are too complacent in our over-production,there is 25-30% of our food is wasted in the US/Canada.He mentioned how South Africa doesn't worry about GMOs RoundUp or Organic " Africa does not want fat white guys in North America making the rules! they just want to feed their people."

## Farm Dugouts

By: Julie Watchorn

In November 24 2016 we went to Grimshaw Ab to hear Dan Benson of Alberta Agricultural and Forestry talk on Farm Dugouts

He was telling us how to properly design your dugout if digging new and the best locations to dig.

The water biology; the good and the bad on algae that grows in our dugouts and the types of treatments for water quality problems. He mentioned how you should always prevent the problem first than to fix it!

Aeration always, let the spring runoff in but never the summer run off!

There is a Growing Forward 2 program for new wells, dugouts, dams and aeration systems On-Farm Water Management Program [Dan.benson@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Dan.benson@gov.ab.ca)  
(780)624-6532

## Wetlands Management

By: MacKay Ross

Rycroft Oct 31

Marsha Trites-Russell

Avoid (whenever possible), Minimize (the impact with BMP), Replace (is last resort) wetlands in all aspects; grazing, cropping, development of any kind. Replacement pre 2005 was 3:1, now requires study and varies from 0.125:1-8:1. Value given to a wetland determines replacement (cost).

Provincial government estimates 75% of the wetlands in the white zone have been lost.

Province is going to increasingly place the wetland awareness (my note; management) on the counties.

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

Jay White

Informative and entertaining, good refresher of key points discussed at the Wetlands Workshop in Grande Prairie this spring (March? Padolen Inn?)

Counties should map/inventory their wetlands. (My note; connects with Marsha's comment)

Les Kletke

Entertaining and informative, I have heard him speak before, he has good (world perspective) points.

Ronald MacDonald is making the decisions on most farms; largest buyer of beef, non-GEO/GMO potatoes.

Many other agricultural parts of the world are ramping up production, which is good for hungry nations, but what does it mean for us? Can we compete with 15 cent/hr labour? (My note; why would we try to, they need the work and the food, it is a win/win for them.)

Business; if you aren't farming for profit, you either won't be farming long, or you are subsidising food production with off farm income. (my note; everyone is in business)

Oct. 31, 2016

Water Resiliency Water Management Workshop  
Rycroft, Alberta

By: Garry Candy

Began with a roast beef supper at 5:00 pm, seminars started at 6:30 pm

1<sup>st</sup> speaker – Marsha Trites – Russell. She is a wetlands specialist (one of two in Alberta). Her office is in Grande Prairie – she clarified that the wetland classification system was not to defend legislation. She spoke on the Environmental Water Act, Public Lands Act and Provincial controls – there have been no policy changes. She talked about 2013 wetland policy and white areas and green areas.

White areas are in the south and central parts of AB. White areas were created in 2015, green areas in northern AB were created in 2016.

The Mitigation System means:

- Avoid destruction of wetlands
- Minimize destruction of wetlands
- Replace wetlands lost

Replacement means replacing 3 acres of wetland for each 1 lost. 75% of wetlands in white areas have been lost – landowners are not aware of the requirements to replace them. Reclamation cost if a wetland has been drained in the Peace area is 18,500 per hectare. Her website is [Wetlandsalberta.ca](http://Wetlandsalberta.ca)

2<sup>nd</sup> speaker – Jay White

He had two main messages

- You do not own the water on your land
- You do not own the land under it

The province owns it.

Wetlands are identified as fens, bogs as marsh and swamps as shallow open water.

A comment from an audience member: “Twenty years ago I worked with Alberta Agriculture to drain some land and now you want to start to put it back!”

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Speaker – Les Kletke

His home is in Manitoba but he has travelled the world viewing several things, primarily agriculture. He is a dynamic speaker, book writer and book writing coach. He studied agriculture in Russia, Canada, USA, Korea, Brazil, New Zealand, Mongolia and China as an agronomist. He showed slides of crops in most of these countries that because of labour costs and long growing seasons can produce crops at a low cost:

He said Brazil is the country to watch; with 3 crops a year and expansion at 100,000 acres per year as mahogany is harvested. The land under will not require fertilizer for up to 6 years. He also stated that the railroad iron being picked up here is headed to Brazil to get their product to market as a major exporter. He also showed slides of farm equipment being manufactured elsewhere due to low labour costs. Brazil is also big on bio-diesel.

Excellent seminars presented by excellent speakers

Alberta Beef Producers Meeting  
Dunvegan Inn, Fairview, AB.

By: Garry Candy

November 4, 2016

Facilitators: John MacArthur and Roland Cailliau

Meeting started with a roast beef supper. MacArthur and Cailliau started the meeting by asking each table at supper to write down 2 questions or concerns they have (most tables had 3). They then addressed these concerns.

When Earl's announced their USA beef purchasing, business dropped 30 – 40% so they backed off. Letters were sent to the A&W suggesting a lawsuit since McDonalds serving western Canada serves Canadian beef processed in Spruce Grove. Trade rules state that if you can't find what you want in Canada then you can look elsewhere.

Another concern voiced about a calf shot 6 days before hunting season opened and there was no compensation – had it happened during hunting season, compensation would have been awarded.

Peace Country Beef and Forage Association appealed for funds for research.

Purchasing cattle price insurance is up to the individual.

A new slaughtering plant is being built in Balzac by JBS Cargill.

Wildlife kills by wolves or bears are covered but by the time the carcass is found there is no concrete evidence and so no compensation.

Talk on Bill 6 – bringing in workers' compensation, unions and right to strike – these could put animal welfare at risk.

Carbon tax will have an exemption for farmers but they will still be hit with higher costs from companies being dealt with.

Comments were made on air pollution in the Three Creeks area – moved all cattle out for a period of time. People have to move out if a buzzer sounds, pollution is being blamed for abortion of calves.

Resolutions were put forward:

- Alberta Producers Board to research pollution in Three Creeks area with a goal of determining why cows are sick and aborting. Carried

- Alberta Producers Board to work with the government to link compensation for wildlife predation to best practices in husbandry. Agreement already in place regarding bears.
- Alberta Producers Board to lobby government for compensation for animals shot year round, not just during hunting season. Carried
- Alberta Producers Board to work with government to provide compensation for wildlife predation on additional animals found in same area as a proven wildlife kill. Denied.

Very interesting meeting – board members seem very active in pursuing concerns.

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board Meeting</b>
Meeting Date:	December 12, 2016
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>INFORMATION &amp; CORRESPONDENCE</b>
File No:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

The board is presented with correspondence for review.

### BACKGROUND:

Attached are documents for the Board's information:

### ATTACHMENTS:

- Wheat Midge Forecast 2017 – (63-10-02)
- Alberta Crop Report – Article – (63-10-02)
- The Classroom Agriculture Program – Letter – (63-10-02)
- Highlights from 2015 Market Based Solutions for Used Agricultural Plastics – Newsletter – (63-10-02)
- Alberta Farm Animal Care – E Newsletter – (63-10-02)
- Alberta Farm Animal Care – Article – (63-10-02)
- The Pest Insider – Newsletter – (63-10-02)
- Manure Management Update 2017 – Poster – (63-10-02)
- Minutes of the Peace Region Agricultural Service Board Conference Resolutions Session – (63-10-02)
- Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman – Response Letter – (63-10-02)
- Forage Country – Newsletter – (63-10-02)

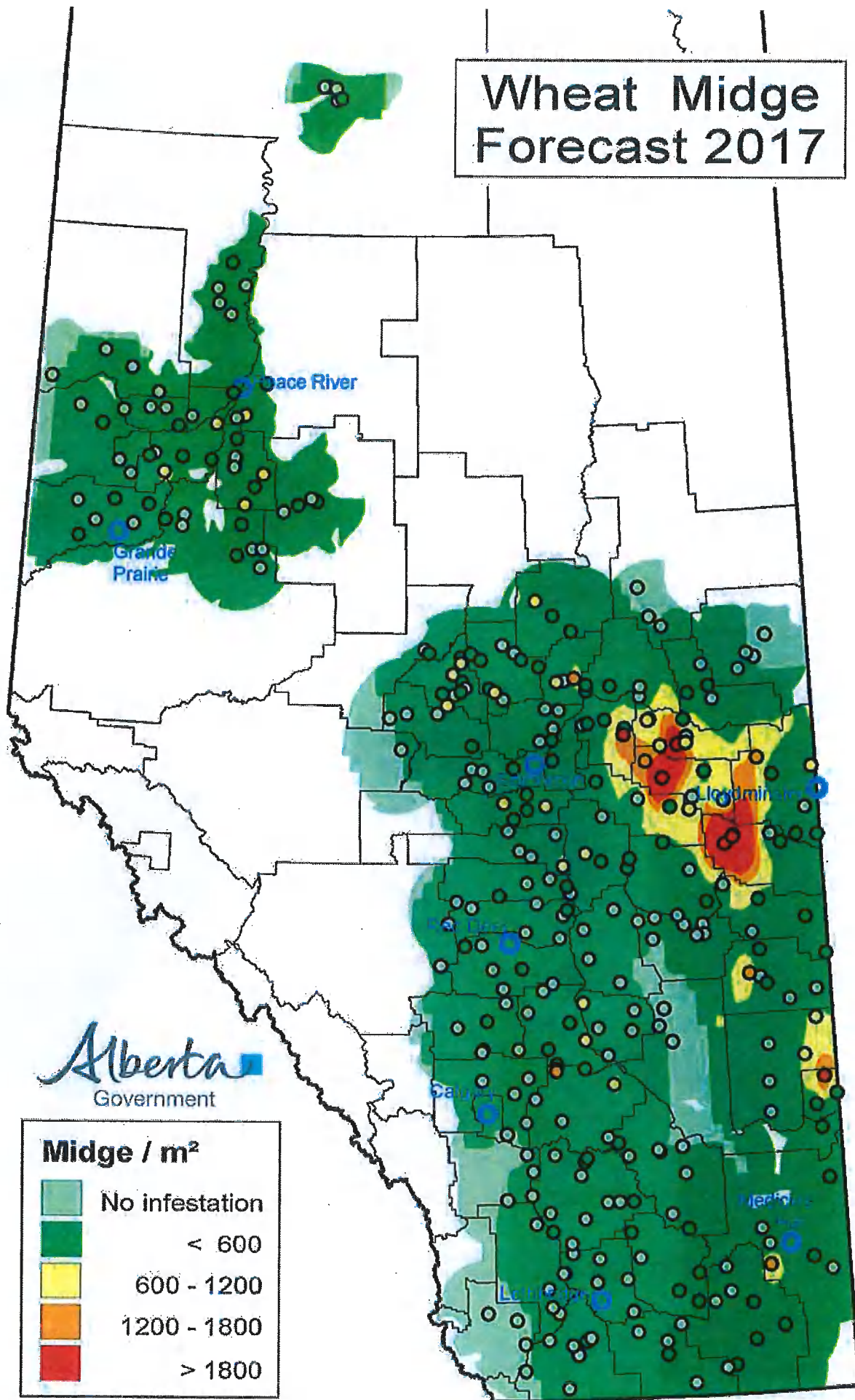
### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of December 12, 2016 as presented.

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



# Wheat Midge Forecast 2017



*Alberta*  
Government

# Alberta Crop Report



## Crop Conditions as of November 29, 2016 – Final Report of 2016

The harvest season for 2016 was one of the longest ones on record. Some producers began harvest operations in the first week of August and were unable to complete it until the end of November, due to cool wet weather that delayed harvest progress. As of November 29, Alberta producers combined 90 per cent of crops (see Table 1), with seven per cent in swath and three per cent standing. These will likely be left until the spring. Moisture over last few months was beneficial for fall seeded crops, which are now rated as two per cent poor, 14 per cent fair, 60 per cent good and 24 per cent excellent.

Despite the harvest challenges for crops across the province, the dryland yield index was estimated 14.1 per cent above the 5-year average (see Table 2). However, the crop quality for cereals are below their 5-year averages, except malt barley which is higher. Crop quality for canola number one and the top two grades of dry peas are in line with the 5-year averages. About 66 per cent of hard red spring wheat has now graded in the top two grades, down 12 per cent from the 5-year average. About 54 per cent of durum wheat has graded number 2 or better, down 23 per cent from the 5-year average. About 23 per cent of barley is eligible for malt (up five per cent from the 5-year average) and 60 per cent is graded as number 1 (down seven per cent from the 5-year average). About 58 per cent of oats is graded in the top two grades, down 20 per cent from the 5-year average. Almost 81 per cent of harvested canola is graded as number one (in line with the 5-year average), with 14 per cent graded as number 2 (up two per cent from the 5-year average). About 73 per cent of dry peas are graded in the top two grades, in line with the 5-year averages.

Provincially, feed supplies are anticipated to be very good. Both forage and feed grain reserves are estimated as adequate to surplus, with very few producers anticipating a shortfall. Forage reserves are reported as one per cent deficit, nine per cent shortfall, 62 per cent adequate and 28 per cent surplus, while the rating for feed grain reserves is three per cent deficit, four per cent shortfall, 61 per cent adequate and 32 per cent surplus.

Table 1: Estimates of Crop Harvest Progress as of November 29, 2016

	Per cent of Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Average
Spr. Wheat	100.0%	92.7%	85.4%	83.5%	85.3%	90.8%
Dur. Wheat	100.0%	100.0%	---	---	---	100.0%
Barley	100.0%	92.6%	72.8%	77.0%	81.0%	88.7%
Oats	100.0%	90.6%	66.5%	70.6%	79.3%	77.1%
W. Wheat	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	---	---	100.0%
Canola	100.0%	92.8%	78.5%	83.5%	83.6%	86.8%
Dry Peas	100.0%	98.3%	99.8%	98.5%	93.0%	98.5%
Lentils	100.0%	100.0%	---	---	---	100.0%
Chick peas	100.0%	100.0%	---	---	---	100.0%
Mustard	100.0%	100.0%	---	---	---	100.0%
Flax	100.0%	91.1%	57.5%	---	---	92.9%
All crops	100.0%	93.2%	81.0%	82.4%	84.6%	89.7%

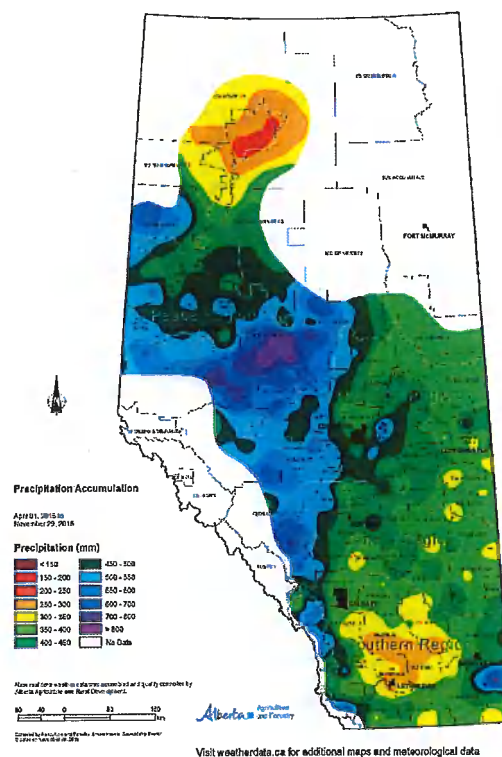
Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates (Major Crops) as of November 29, 2016

	Estimated Yield (bushel/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spr. Wheat	46.5	55.7	57.4	63.1	47.1	53.3
Dur. Wheat	46.8	49.0	---	---	---	47.1
Barley	66.3	77.1	78.1	74.4	58.3	72.7
Oats	70.1	82.9	84.6	89.9	69.6	81.8
Canola	42.5	49.2	44.9	45.5	35.6	43.7
Dry Peas	40.1	47.5	45.5	49.2	45.3	43.6
Yield Index	106.3%	120.5%	119.1%	109.6%	116.1%	114.1%
Last Year	82.0%	90.8%	85.7%	86.0%	94.4%	86.9%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen, staff of AFSC and the Alberta Ag-Info Centre for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program. The precipitation map is compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Environmental Stewardship Branch, Engineering and Climate Services Section.



## **REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS:**

*The 2016 Alberta Crop Report Series continues to provide summaries for the following five regions:*

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

- Harvest is complete in this Region. Yields are above average, but quality has been impacted by the wet harvest season. Considerable fall works have also been done.
- Crop quality for malt barley, the top two grades of oats, canola number two and the top two grades of dry peas are above the provincial 5-year average.
- Overall, forage reserves are reported as one per cent deficit, 18 per cent shortfall, 70 per cent adequate and 11 per cent surplus, while the rating for feed grain reserves is seven per cent deficit, four per cent shortfall, 70 per cent adequate and 19 per cent surplus.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as two per cent poor, 13 per cent fair, 56 per cent good and 29 per cent excellent.

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

- About 93 per cent of crops (up two per cent from two weeks ago) have been harvested. Of the remainder, four per cent are still in swath and three per cent standing and likely not to be harvested until spring.
- While three per cent of spring wheat, four per cent of barley, five per cent of oats and canola are still in swath, four per cent of spring wheat and barley, five per cent of oats, two per cent of canola and nine per cent of flax are standing.
- Crop quality is below the provincial 5-year averages for the top two grades of spring and durum wheat, as well as barley and canola number 1. For the other crops, the quality is above the provincial 5-year average.
- Regionally, forage reserves are reported as two per cent shortfall, 80 per cent adequate and 18 per cent surplus, while the rating for feed grain reserves is two per cent shortfall, 75 per cent adequate and 23 per cent surplus.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 14 per cent fair, 80 per cent good and six per cent excellent.

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

- Despite wet and cold conditions, producers were able to combine 81 per cent of the crops (up five per cent from two weeks ago). There are still 19 per cent of crops left in the field (15 per cent in swath and four per cent standing).
- Six per cent of spring wheat, 22 per cent of barley, 27 per cent of oats and 21 per cent of canola are still in swath, while eight per cent of spring wheat, five per cent of barley, seven per cent of oats and 42 per cent of flax are standing.
- The quality for harvested crops is below the provincial 5-year averages, excepting barley and canola number 1 which are higher, and canola number two, which is in line with the 5-year average.
- Regionally, forage reserves are reported as six per cent shortfall, 55 per cent adequate and 39 per cent surplus, while the rating for feed grain reserves is 57 per cent adequate and 43 per cent surplus.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 88 per cent good and 12 per cent excellent.

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

- Harvest for the season is over, with about 83 per cent of crops in the bin (up five per cent from two weeks ago), 12 per cent in swath and five per cent still standing. Very little fall work has been done.
- About seven per cent of spring wheat, 14 per cent of barley, 15 per cent of oats and canola are still in swath, while nine per cent of spring wheat and barley, 14 per cent of oats and one per cent of canola and dry peas are standing.
- The quality for harvested crops is below the provincial 5-year averages, excepting canola number 1 which is higher.
- Regionally, forage reserves are reported as seven per cent shortfall, 54 per cent adequate and 39 per cent surplus, while the rating for feed grain reserves is 10 per cent shortfall, 51 per cent adequate and 39 per cent surplus.

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

- About 85 per cent of crops are now in the bin, nine per cent in swath and six per cent still standing.
- About three per cent of spring wheat, five per cent of barley, four per cent of oats, 15 per cent of canola and two per cent of dry peas are still in swath, while 12 per cent of spring wheat, 14 per cent of barley, 17 per cent of oats, two per cent of canola and five per cent of dry peas are standing.
- The quality for harvested crops is below the provincial 5-year averages, excepting malt barley and canola number 1, which are higher.
- Regionally, forage reserves are reported as five per cent deficit, 10 per cent shortfall, 35 per cent adequate and 50 per cent surplus, while the rating for feed grain reserves is four per cent deficit, 10 per cent shortfall, 36 per cent adequate and 50 per cent surplus.
- Fall seeded crops are reported as 27 per cent fair, 56 per cent good and 17 per cent excellent.

**Alberta Agriculture and Forestry  
Economics and Competitiveness Branch  
Statistics and Data Development Section  
December 2, 2016**

**Ashan Shooshtarian, Crop Statistician  
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Phone: 780-422-2887**

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The 2016 Alberta crop reporting series is available on the Internet at: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd4191](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd4191)



## **The Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP) is in need of volunteers!**

**CAP is a not-for-profit organization that relies on people who are dedicated to preserving and promoting agriculture.**

**Anyone who has a passion for agriculture can be involved in CAP.**

**What do Volunteers do in CAP?**

- Any Grade 4 teacher in Alberta can register for CAP and when they do an agriculture volunteer goes into their classroom and teaches the students about agriculture. The volunteers in CAP all have unique presentations because each one focuses on their own specialty, such as cattle, chickens, environment etc., but in the end they have a common message – that agriculture plays a very important role in students daily lives.
- This one hour, free presentation uses story-telling, hands-on props and fun activities to engage the children.

**When does CAP occur and how much TIME is involved?**

- Presentations occur in March, April or May depending on the volunteers schedule (CAP is a very flexible program and we work around volunteers schedules.) Last year volunteers reported that about 5 hours was the norm for time dedicated to the CAP presentations, this includes preparation time.

**Background information on CAP:**

CAP is a not-for profit organization that teaches grade 4 students where their food comes from and the importance of agriculture in their daily lives. Industry experts volunteer their time to help teach students about agriculture. Each lesson is free for the classroom and is typically about an hour long.

- Since 1985, over 600,000 students across Alberta have taken part in CAP.
- CAP is a multi-commodity initiative supported by:
  - Agriculture For Life
  - Alberta Beef Producers
  - Alberta Chicken Producers
  - Egg Farmers of Alberta
  - Alberta Barley Commission
  - Alberta Canola Producers Commission
  - Eastern Irrigation District
  - Alberta Wheat Commission
  - Alberta Milk
  - Alberta Irrigation Projects Association
  - Alberta Pork
  - Alberta Pulse Growers Commission
  - Alberta Veterinary Medical Association.
  - Alberta Institute of Agrologists

This initiative has been endorsed by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, and Minister of Education

To register as a volunteer with CAP please go to our website at [www.classroomagriculture.com](http://www.classroomagriculture.com) and use the volunteers pull down menu or contact Don George (GM) email [don.george@classroomagriculture.com](mailto:don.george@classroomagriculture.com), phone 587-877-2544.

**Grow with Agriculture**



## Highlights from 2015 Market-Based Solutions for Used Agricultural Plastics: Survey of Municipalities

### A challenging issue

With the increasing usage of agricultural plastics, like grain bags, twine, net wrap and silage bags, it is more important than ever to properly manage used agricultural plastics. Finding cost-effective, environmentally friendly ways to manage used agricultural plastics remains a serious challenge in Alberta.

Several Alberta studies and surveys have looked into this issue. For example, a 2013 report entitled *Alberta Agricultural Waste Characterization Study: Final Report* estimated that between 6,600 and 14,000 tonnes of agricultural plastic waste are generated in Alberta every year. The report *Agricultural Plastics Recycling: Agricultural Producers Survey, Final Report* detailed the results of a 2012 survey of 660 agricultural producers in Alberta. It found that producers dealt with used plastics in various ways such as burning them, sending them to a landfill, sending them for recycling, burying them on-farm, and reusing them. The surveyed producers said they used burning as a means of dealing with various used plastics including: baling twine (52% of respondents), silage pit or pile covers (42%), bale wrap (27%), grain bags or tubes (20%), and silage bags or tubes (15%).

6,600 tonnes of used agricultural plastic = total combined weight of 77 fully loaded SuperBs with cabs



Burning of plastics can release highly toxic substances, like dioxins, heavy metals and volatile organic compounds. These substances have many potential health impacts ranging from headaches and dizziness to lung disease, cancer and growth defects. Burning of plastics can also leave toxic residues that

impair soil and water quality. Due to these serious health and environmental impacts, burning of plastics is illegal under *Alberta's Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*.

For proper disposal, agricultural plastics should be either buried in a landfill or diverted from the waste stream into a market. Examples of possible markets include recycling into other plastic products, conversion into fuel, and conversion into electricity. However, the 2012 producer survey results showed that producers faced barriers for the proper disposal of their used agricultural plastics. In addition, a 2012 report entitled *Agricultural Plastics Recycling: Municipal Waste Authorities Survey, Final Report* found that municipal waste authorities in Alberta also encountered challenges in managing used agricultural plastics.

### About the 2015 survey

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) conducted the 2015 Market-Based Solutions for Used Agricultural Plastics study to get a deeper understanding of the current practices for disposal of used agricultural plastics. In this study, AF conducted a survey of municipalities in Alberta through the agricultural fieldmen and a similar survey followed for the Alberta municipal waste authorities. The two surveys build on the previous Alberta research. The goal is to use the survey results as a springboard to move forward on this issue and make progress toward solutions.

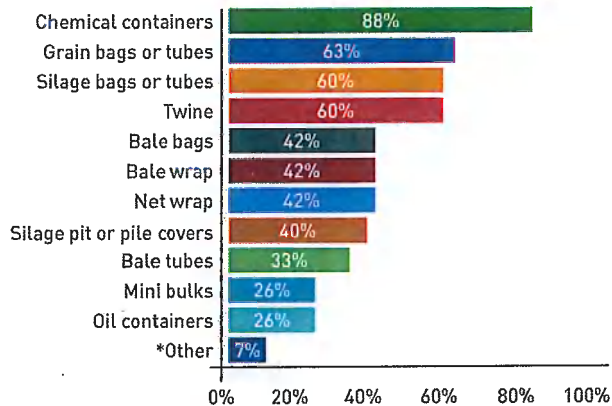
This summary highlights the key findings from the survey of municipalities with agricultural fieldmen. Agricultural fieldmen interact with agricultural producers, with municipal agencies, and in some cases with plastic recyclers. So agricultural fieldmen have valuable perspectives on the challenges involved in managing used agricultural plastics.

Agricultural fieldmen from 61 out of Alberta's 69 municipalities participated in the survey. The survey was conducted by phone, which allowed AF to provide greater context to the results.

## Highlights of 2015 municipalities survey results

Various used agricultural plastics were accepted at many municipal waste sites: Respondents were aware of assorted types of used agricultural plastics that were being accepted at their municipality's waste site. Grain bags or tubes and silage bags or tubes were the most commonly identified type (after chemical containers, which are collected in the CleanFARMS recycling program) (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Used Agricultural Plastics Accepted at Municipal Waste Site (n=57)



\*Other: Antifreeze jugs, hay tarps

\*Chemical containers accepted through CleanFARMS recycling program

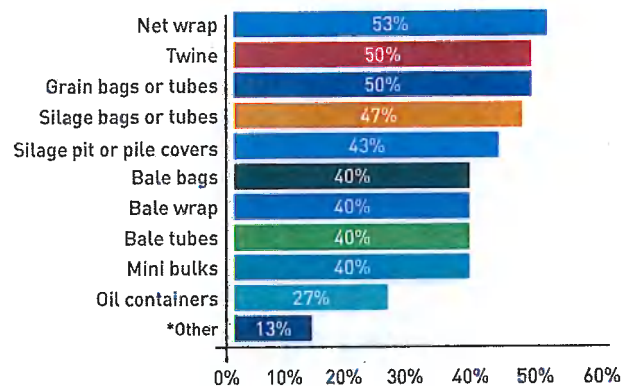
Used agricultural plastics were brought to landfills/transfer stations mainly by producers: The respondents said agricultural producers were the main agents bringing used agricultural plastics to landfills/transfer stations. Drop-off sites organized by municipalities and pickups by 4-H groups played a role in getting the plastics to the waste sites.



These results suggest that, for at least some producers, the distance to a landfill/transfer station was not an insurmountable barrier to taking their used plastics for proper disposal.

Some used agricultural plastics were not accepted at municipal waste sites: About half of the respondents believed that one or more types of used agricultural plastic were not being accepted at their municipal waste site. As Figure 2 shows, the most commonly identified unaccepted plastics were net wrap (53% of respondents), twine (50%), grain bags or tubes (50%), silage bags or tubes (47%), and silage pit or pile covers (43%). It is important to remember that these responses reflect the perceptions of agricultural fieldmen, and that some of the agricultural fieldmen said they did not know if agricultural plastics were accepted at their municipal waste site. However, if a municipal waste authority does not accept certain types of agricultural plastics, then that would be a critical barrier for local producers wanting to properly dispose of their plastics.

Figure 2. Used Agricultural Plastics Not Accepted at Municipal Waste Site (n=30)



\*Other: Hay tarps, tarps, totes, chemical barrels

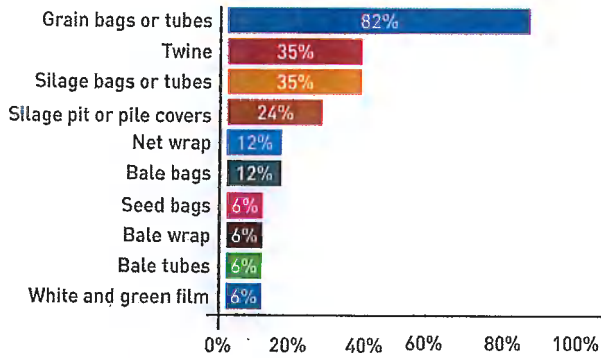
Some municipalities accessed markets for used agricultural plastics: In this survey, "markets" are businesses that obtain used agricultural plastics for purposes such as recycling or energy production opportunities.

The only market type identified by the respondents was recycling. About 30% (18 municipalities) said they were sending used agricultural plastics to recycling companies.

Grain bags or tubes were the most popular used agricultural plastics for recycling: In a follow-up question, the 18 municipalities identified 11 types of used agricultural plastics that were going to recyclers (Figure 3). According to the survey responses, the following recycling companies were being accessed:

- Blue Planet Recycling
- Capital Paper Recycling Ltd.
- Crowfoot Plastics Inc.
- Everclean Recycling
- Meridian Wealth Management Inc.
- Merlin Plastics Alberta Inc.
- SWA Developing Company Ltd.
- Vikoz Enterprises Inc.

Figure 3. Used Agricultural Plastics Entering Market by Type (n=18)



\*Chemical containers were noted through the CleanFARMS recycling program.

The intent of sharing the survey results is to communicate and not to endorse one company over another. Municipalities interested in accessing markets for used agricultural plastics would need to contact the individual companies to find out what types of used agricultural plastics are being accepted.

**Used agricultural plastics had to meet a variety of requirements to be accepted for the recycling market:** The requirements most commonly identified by the respondents related to proper preparation, cleanliness, shipping weight, and quality control/consistency of the plastics.

- **Preparation:** Respondents defined “properly prepared” in various ways, but generally it meant the plastic has to be baled, bundled or rolled for easy handling, transportation and storage.
- **Cleanliness:** Most respondents said the plastic has to be clean. However, there were different definitions of “clean” such as “less than 5% contamination” or “less than 10% contamination.” Used agricultural plastics should contain only minimal amounts of dirt, plant matter and other materials because biological contaminants above a certain amount can negatively affect the recycled process.
- **Weight:** Responses about weight requirements ranged from 30,000 pounds to 33 tonnes. Weight and volume affect transportation costs. For instance, a recycling company or municipality may not want to transport used agricultural plastics until a full truckload is ready if transporting partial loads is not cost-effective. Similarly, a recycling company that ships used agricultural plastics overseas may need to fill a shipping container to a certain minimum weight to be profitable.
- **Quality control/consistency:** Respondents noted that prolonged sun exposure can negatively impact the quality of the plastic.

Some respondents indicated that their municipal waste authority accepted used agricultural plastics but the plastics

needed to be clean and baled/bundled/rolled to enable access to recycling markets. Municipalities interested in accessing markets for used agricultural plastics would need to contact the individual companies to find out their requirements.



**Most municipalities that were sending used agricultural plastics to a market did not have a formal written agreement with a company:** Of the respondents who said their municipality was sending agricultural plastics for recycling, most (63%) said their municipality did not have an established agreement with the recycling company. Nineteen percent had verbal agreements, and 13% had written agreements. Not having a formal agreement can be risky for payment or delivery logistics.

**Most municipalities were not making money from marketing used agricultural plastics:** Respondents reported various prices for the plastics. For many municipalities, the inability to recover costs for handling and transporting used agricultural plastics was a significant barrier to recycling these plastics. Municipalities would need to contact the individual companies to find out their current prices.

**Handling of used agricultural plastics required equipment, space and manpower:** Respondents identified various types of equipment used by their municipality for handling used agricultural plastics such as grain bag rollers, vertical balers, ramps, forklifts and skid steers. A total of 23 types of equipment were identified, indicating that there is no particular “right” way of handling used agricultural plastics. In a follow-up question, respondents identified assorted challenges with this equipment such as troubles with old equipment and difficulties with twine getting tangled in the equipment. They also identified the need for space for the equipment and labour to operate it.

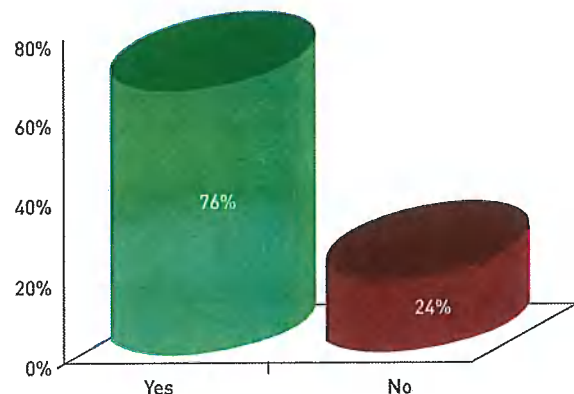
**Municipalities faced significant barriers when attempting to access markets for used agricultural plastics:** Respondents were asked several questions regarding barriers to accessing markets for used agricultural plastics. Table 1 lists examples of the identified barriers.

Table 1. Examples of identified barriers to participating in markets for used agricultural plastics

Government and/or programming barriers	Equipment, facility, manpower and cost barriers	Barriers related to marketing and/or companies	Barriers related to agricultural producers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of an organized program</li> <li>Lack of support/ direction from municipality's council or managers</li> <li>Not a priority for waste management authority</li> <li>Lack of coordinated information on dealing with these plastics</li> <li>Lack of leadership</li> <li>View this issue as the responsibility of Alberta Environment</li> <li>View this issue as the responsibility of vendors</li> <li>Lack of legislation</li> <li>No regulatory body</li> <li>No public demand; no push from ratepayers</li> <li>No demand from producers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Costs associated with getting the plastic to market</li> <li>Poor rate of return; costs are higher than payment</li> <li>Need to close the gap between overhead and capital expense</li> <li>Need to move the plastic to market before winter</li> <li>Site logistics</li> <li>Insufficient manpower, insufficient storage space, insufficient funding for manpower and storage</li> <li>Additional equipment needed for plastic handling</li> <li>Difficulties in handling the plastics</li> <li>Preparation required for the plastics to go to recycler</li> <li>Poor location or insufficient number of transfer stations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficulty in getting company's confirmation to accept the plastics</li> <li>Problems with reliability of company to accept the plastics on a yearly basis</li> <li>Distance to market</li> <li>No market contact</li> <li>Requirements for agricultural plastics from companies</li> <li>Difficulty in getting the right information to enter market</li> <li>No certain market opportunities</li> <li>Limited markets for specific agricultural plastics</li> <li>Difficulty in getting enough volume/weight to make a load</li> <li>Difficulty in getting enough supply of quality material</li> <li>No market opportunity for smaller quantities of the plastics</li> <li>Shipping or transportation issues</li> <li>Need for clean plastics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to raise producer awareness of the issue</li> <li>Need to educate producers on how to properly clean and prepare the plastics</li> <li>Time, effort and expense involved for producers to clean, bundle and deliver their plastics to waste site</li> <li>No financial incentive for producers to clean, bundle and deliver their plastics</li> </ul>

Many respondents were considering entering markets for used agricultural plastics in the future: The respondents were asked several questions about potential markets they were aware of. Then they were asked if they were considering entering these markets in the future. Seventy-six percent said yes (Figure 4). In many cases, future participation was conditional on removal of some key barriers. Nevertheless, the strong "yes" response indicates a significant interest among agricultural fieldmen in participating in markets for used agricultural plastics.

Figure 4. Are You Considering Entering into Used Agricultural Plastic Markets in the Future? (n=55)







## Conclusions and next steps

The survey results provide many examples of barriers to proper disposal of used agricultural plastics. However, the results also show that some municipalities are already involved in recycling, and that most agricultural fieldmen are interested in participation in recycling or other markets for used agricultural plastics in the future. This indicates that the agricultural fieldmen are focused on the long term. By finding ways to sustainably deal with used agricultural plastics now, they hope to be better prepared for any changes that may occur around the issue of used agricultural plastics.



The next step for Alberta Agriculture and Forestry is to complete the analysis and communicate the results from the municipal waste authority's survey. Combining the results from the surveys of the agricultural fieldmen and the municipal waste authorities will highlight the complexities and the important issues by shedding more light on this matter.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry hopes the results from the two surveys will open the door to increased communication among stakeholders on this issue. Stakeholders include producers, agricultural fieldmen, municipal waste authorities, provincial government (Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Alberta Environment and Parks), recycling companies, Recycling Council of Alberta, Alberta CARE, Alberta Plastics Recycling Association, agricultural plastic manufacturers and retailers and any other interested parties that could play valuable roles in the sustainable management of used agricultural plastics.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry will be looking for opportunities to help connect and build relationships among stakeholders so people can share information and ideas, and learn from others' experiences. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry looks forward to progressing together with stakeholders and partners as we continue to seek better ways to deal with used agricultural plastics.

July 2016



## Highlights from 2015 Market-Based Solutions for Used Agricultural Plastics Part 2: Survey of Municipal Waste Authorities

Agricultural plastics are used in a wide variety of applications on Alberta farms and ranches. These include grain bags, twine, net wrap, silage bags and many others. Once these materials have served their intended purpose, their post-use management becomes a challenging and complex issue.

The volume of plastic used in agriculture is significant. According to the 2013 report entitled *Alberta Agricultural Waste Characterization Study: Final Report*, between 6,600 and 14,000 tonnes of agricultural plastic waste are generated in Alberta every year. This estimate is conservative; the actual volume of used agricultural plastic waste could be even higher.



In the 2012 *Agricultural Plastics Recycling-Municipal Waste Authorities Survey-Final Report 660*, agricultural producers in Alberta used several approaches for the management of used agricultural plastics. The most common method noted in that survey was burning. It is important to note that the burning of plastics is associated with numerous harmful impacts. Burning plastics can release highly toxic substances, like dioxins, heavy metals and volatile organic compounds that have been associated with health impacts ranging from headaches and dizziness to lung disease, cancer and growth defects. Burning plastics can also leave behind toxic residues that impair soil and water quality. Because of these impacts on health and the environment, the burning of plastics is illegal under Alberta's *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*.

Other management methods noted in the 2012 survey for used agricultural plastics include sending them to a landfill, burying them on-farm, reusing them or sending them for recycling.

For proper disposal, several post-use management options are available. Used agricultural plastics can be buried in a landfill or diverted into other markets such as recycling for use in other plastic products, conversion into fuel, and conversion into electricity. Recycling used agricultural plastics is considered the most environmentally preferable way for municipalities and municipal waste authorities to deal with these materials at this time.



### About the 2015 survey

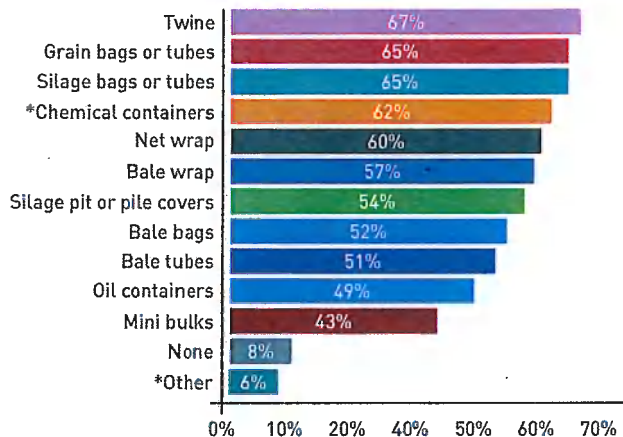
In 2015, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) conducted a two-part survey on market-based solutions for used agricultural plastics. In one part of the survey, AF gathered the responses of agricultural fieldmen representing 61 out of Alberta's 69 municipalities. In the second part of the survey, AF gathered the responses of 63 out of 74 municipal waste authorities (MWAs) in Alberta.

This factsheet is intended to highlight key findings of the 2015 *Market-Based Solutions for Used Agricultural Plastics Part 2: Survey of Municipal Waste Authorities*. The survey responses highlight the MWAs practices, experiences and barriers they face in dealing with used agricultural plastics.

## Highlights of 2015 municipal waste authorities survey results

Municipal waste authorities (MWAs) currently accept several types of used agricultural plastics. In the survey of MWAs, respondents were asked to outline which types of materials they accept. The top-three most accepted materials were twine, grain bags and silage bags. Nine different types of used agricultural plastics were accepted by half or more of the 63 respondents to this question.

Figure 1. Used agricultural plastics accepted at municipal waste sites (n=63).



\*Chemical containers are accepted through the CleanFARMS empty container recycling program

\*Other: Hay tarps, windshield washer jugs, antifreeze jugs, plastic film

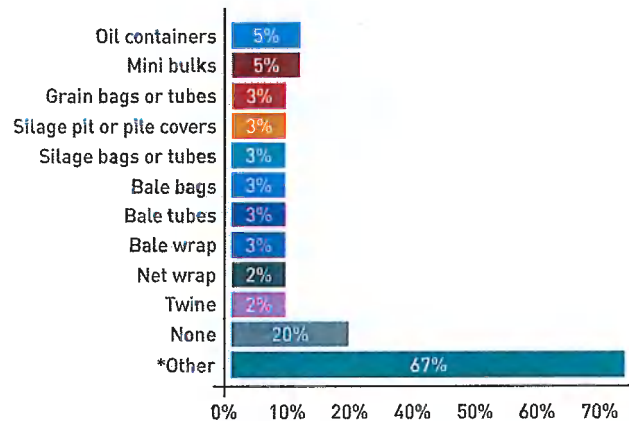
Note: Multiple responses permitted

A large proportion of these used agricultural plastics are delivered to MWAs by producers. The survey found that by far the most common source of used agricultural plastics delivery to disposal sites or transfer stations was agriculture producers themselves. Some of these materials were brought to the facility by a municipality.

**Types of used agricultural plastics being accepted at MWAs.** The survey found different views on which used agricultural plastics can be accepted at MWAs. Responses included used agricultural plastic either going into the waste site, being stored onsite or being marketed. Some respondents identified oil containers, mini-bulks and grain bags and tubes as types of used agricultural plastics not being accepted at their municipal waste sites, while other MWAs accepted these materials routinely.

If the options to properly dispose of used agricultural plastics are not completely understood by the producers, this could potentially be seen as a critical barrier for local producers wanting to properly dispose of their used agricultural plastics.

Figure 2. Used agricultural plastics not accepted at municipal waste site (n=30)



\*Other: Hazardous materials, containers not clean, PVC pipe, fiber-woven mini bulks, poly pipe, trailer tarp, hard chemical totes  
Note: Multiple responses permitted

Most MWAs do not maintain records of used agricultural plastics. More than two-thirds of respondents indicated that they do not keep records of the type and volume of used agricultural plastics coming to their facilities. However, 20% of respondents indicated that they do keep such records and some are only recorded at the landfill.

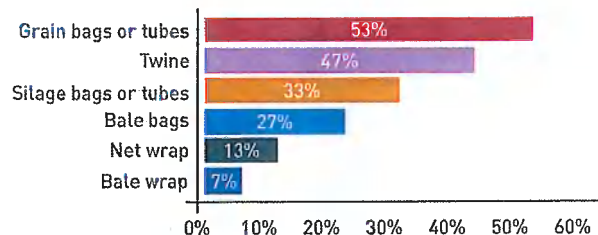
Most MWAs do not participate in markets for used agricultural plastics. Used agricultural plastics can have economic value and a number of companies are set up to purchase these materials, ship and resell them. However, among the MWAs surveyed, 73% indicated that they are not currently participating in a market for used agricultural plastics. For the MWAs who were participating in used agricultural plastics markets, the following recycling companies were listed:

- Capital Paper Recycling Ltd.
- Crowfoot Plastics Inc.
- Dock 7 Materials Group
- Eco Green International Service Ltd.
- Everclean Recycling
- Meridian Wealth Management Inc.
- SWA Developing Company Ltd.
- Vikoz Enterprises Inc.

The intent of sharing the survey results is to communicate and not to endorse one company over another. Municipal waste authorities interested in accessing markets for used agricultural plastics would need to contact the individual companies to find out what types of used agricultural plastics are being accepted.

Grain bags or tubes most commonly marketed materials. Of the 15 respondents indicating they currently participate in used agricultural plastics markets, six different types of materials are involved. The leading materials are grain bags or tubes (53%), twine (47%) and silage bags or tubes (33%).

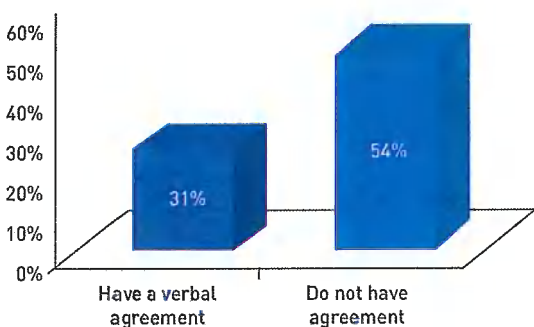
Figure 3. Used agricultural plastics entering market by type (n = 15).



Note: Multiple responses permitted

Formal marketing arrangements are rare. Most respondents indicated that they did not have an established agreement in place to market used agricultural plastics (54%), while 31% of respondents said they had a verbal agreement in place. Some respondents commented that they were able to arrange for the sale of materials on an occasional basis without a formal agreement being used.

Figure 4. Used agricultural plastics marketing agreement (n = 13)



Note: The remaining percentage not represented is from those who chose not to respond to this question.

Some MWAs receive payment for used agricultural plastics. Five MWAs indicated they received payment, while others indicated they received transport and/or associated labour at no cost to them. Respondents who received payment indicated they could receive up to \$30 per tonne for twine, up to \$65 per tonne for bale bags and up to \$500 per load for silage and grain bags.

These prices are only representative of the numbers shared at the point of the survey and can fluctuate due to changing economic situations.

Municipal waste authorities would need to contact the individual companies to find out their current prices.

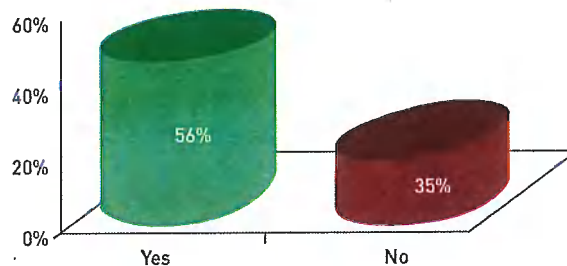
Most used agricultural plastics move via truck. When used agricultural plastics are transported from the MWA to another destination, trucking is the primary mode of transportation. Other modes of transport, such as container, train and ship, were also noted by respondents.



Greatest equipment challenge: proper packaging for shipment. Despite the availability of markets for used agricultural plastics, some MWAs find it difficult to participate. Thus 38% of respondents indicated that proper packaging for shipment posed a challenge. Other equipment-related issues were also identified as management challenges in this area. For MWAs dealing with used agricultural plastics requires a variety of equipment which they might not already own. Respondents identified 23 types of equipment that may be needed.

Most MWAs are considering entering the market for used agricultural plastics. Currently a minority of MWAs participate in a market for used agricultural plastics but 56% of the respondents said they are considering entering the markets in the future.

Figure 5. In the future, are you considering entering into this/these markets? (n = 52)



Note: The remaining percentage not represented is from those who chose not to respond to this question.

### Challenges and barriers to market participation

Most municipal waste authorities (MWAs) receive used agricultural plastics from producers. These MWAs are generally aware that markets exist for used grain bags, twine, silage bags and other materials. Used agricultural plastics are either sold for payment or taken away at no cost. In some cases, MWAs have to pay for these materials to be removed from their facilities.

How is it that some Alberta MWAs are aware of these markets, yet do not participate in them? In the 2015 survey, AF asked non-participating MWAs about what they considered the most significant challenges or barriers they face.

Costs, smaller quantities pose biggest barriers. Municipal waste authorities that were not active in the used agricultural plastics market were asked, why? While a variety of barriers were indicated, the highest ranked reason was costs associated with getting used agricultural plastic to market (11%), followed by no market opportunity available for smaller quantities (9%). Four other barriers to entry were also identified.

The table on the following page lists the key challenges and barriers to market participation identified by Alberta's municipal waste authorities.



This factsheet is intended to highlight key findings of the 2015 Market-Based Solutions for Used Agricultural Plastics Part 2: Survey of Municipal Waste Authorities. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry will communicate the full results of the survey, as well as its companion survey that was completed with agricultural fieldmen from Alberta Municipalities.

Together, these surveys provide a useful portrait of how some municipalities and MWAs are successfully managing used agricultural plastics after their primary use. The surveys also highlight why many other municipalities and MWAs seem to be less engaged in managing these materials.

## Conclusions and next steps

The issue of managing used agricultural plastics after its primary use may seem straightforward; however, the framework for managing used agricultural plastics is more challenging and complex than it might first appear.

Many of the most common types of used agricultural plastics (such as grain bags, twine and silage bags) can be and are sold by MWAs to different companies for recycling. This marketplace then sells and ships these plastics to other companies that recycle them to make new plastics. Thus, producers avoid burying these materials on the farm, taking them to a landfill or (unlawfully) burning them.

In this survey, 73% of Alberta's MWAs indicated they do not participate in markets for used agricultural plastics. The primary reason is that, while many are aware of these markets, they face various challenges or barriers to participation. These can involve operating costs and lack of means to recoup them, lack of knowledge of the used agricultural plastics marketplace, labour shortages and processing and equipment considerations. Further details of the challenges and barriers are listed below in Table 1.



While cost is often a significant barrier, more municipalities and MWAs may participate if they had access to information about materials, markets and management processes. It is significant that 56% of MWAs indicated they are considering entering the used agricultural plastics marketplace in the future. As more information becomes available, more MWAs could begin to participate in the markets for used agricultural plastics.

*Alberta Agriculture and Forestry will be looking for opportunities to help connect and build relationships among stakeholders so people can share information and ideas, and learn from others' experiences. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry looks forward to progressing together with stakeholders and partners as we continue to seek better ways to deal with used agricultural plastics.*



Table 1. Examples of identified barriers to participation in markets for used agricultural plastics

Barriers to market entry	Challenges at waste management facilities	Local barriers
<p><i>These factors were identified by survey respondents as complicating or preventing their participation in markets for used agricultural plastics.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting confirmation from company to accept ag plastic</li> <li>• Repackaging for seacan loading</li> <li>• Cleanliness levels of materials</li> <li>• No end-of-life strategy for ag plastics</li> <li>• Contamination levels</li> <li>• Finding markets</li> <li>• Ability to clean/wash it and do something with it</li> <li>• Criteria from other markets</li> <li>• Costs of getting ag plastic to market</li> <li>• Limited markets for specific ag plastics</li> <li>• Distance to market</li> <li>• Decent quality of ag plastics from farmers</li> <li>• Tight and heavy enough rolls</li> <li>• Farmers' knowledge of used ag plastic options</li> </ul>	<p><i>MWAs' success at receiving and handling used agricultural plastics is influenced by many factors, according to survey respondents.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storage space</li> <li>• Cleanliness of ag plastics</li> <li>• Finding market</li> <li>• Finding consistent market</li> <li>• Educating producers</li> <li>• Wear and tear on equipment</li> <li>• Lack of government leadership</li> <li>• Costs</li> <li>• Timely/reliable transportation and pickup</li> <li>• Need for more sites and bins</li> <li>• Contamination and management logistics</li> <li>• Ag plastic hard to work with/caught in equipment</li> <li>• Handling of ag plastics</li> <li>• Heavy manual labour project</li> <li>• Ability to make weight requirements</li> <li>• Large space (volume) taken up by ag plastics</li> <li>• Handling of ag plastics (in cold weather)</li> <li>• Disposal or marketing of ag plastics</li> <li>• Proper containment and consistency</li> <li>• No set program for ag plastics</li> <li>• Hard to bury</li> </ul>	<p><i>Some of the factors influencing MWAs' participation in markets for used agricultural plastics are local in nature. The following were identified by respondents as being relevant in their area.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distance to transport ag plastic</li> <li>• Cleanliness expectations</li> <li>• Need company to help with recycling program</li> <li>• Costs</li> <li>• Lower tipping fee doesn't encourage recycling</li> <li>• Infrastructure to house and handle ag plastics</li> <li>• Money to get equipment</li> <li>• Ability to separate ag plastics from loads</li> <li>• No incentive to bring in clean product</li> <li>• Nowhere to take it</li> <li>• Lack of participation/will</li> <li>• Costs are higher than the payment</li> <li>• Labour and time to manage project</li> </ul>

**Sarah Hayward**

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**From:** Aaron Zylstra  
**Sent:** October-31-16 4:12 PM  
**To:** Sarah Hayward  
**Subject:** FW: Alberta Farm Animal Care October E-Newsletter

ASB agenda

**Aaron Zylstra**  
*Clear Hills County Ag. Fieldman*

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**From:** Alberta Farm Animal Care [mailto:afac@afac.ab.ca]  
**Sent:** October-31-16 3:43 PM  
**To:** Aaron Zylstra  
**Subject:** Alberta Farm Animal Care October E-Newsletter



## Alberta Farm Animal Care E-Newsletter

October 2016

Welcome to the 13th edition of the Alberta Farm Animal Care e-newsletter.  
We're excited to tell you what we've been up to over the last couple of months!

The AFAC Team





### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### AFAC Advisory Council meeting

- Red Deer, AB
- November 4, 2016

#### Farmfair

- Edmonton, AB
- November 9-13, 2016
- Click [here](#) for more information

#### Agricultural Excellence Conference

- Calgary, AB
- November 22-24, 2016
- Click [here](#) for more information

#### Livestock Care Conference

- March 21 and 22, 2017
- Click [here](#) for more information and to register

### Volunteers Needed!!!

We are always looking for hardworking, enthusiastic volunteers to help out at our conference or at our booth at FarmFair, Aggie Days, Stampede, Western Days, K-Days, and more! It's a great opportunity to meet great people, network, and gain valuable skills.

If this seems like something you or someone you know is interested in please email Kristen Mortensen at [kristenm@afac.ab.ca](mailto:kristenm@afac.ab.ca)

If you are a post-secondary student in Alberta, we have 1 paid internship available this year as a Livestock Care Educator!

Check out the link below:

<http://www.joinscip.ca/internships/163>

## 2016-2018 Strategic Plan

The Alberta Farm Animal Care Board of Directors and staff were hard at work over the summer crafting a new strategic plan for the organization!

The new plan includes four main Key Result Areas: Continuous Improvement, Member Engagement, Public Confidence, and Organizational Capacity. Each of these areas is accompanied by a number of strategies and initiatives relating to a central objective.

#### Objectives include:

1. Support continual improvement in responsible, humane animal care.
2. Increase and enhance member engagement
3. Become the trusted, credible source for information on farm animal care and welfare.





4. Enhance Alberta Farm Animal Care's leadership capacity and bring producers, industry, and the public together to foster understanding of animal care and welfare in Alberta.

An updated mission and guiding principles were also developed through the strategic planning session and these reflect the work that we do and the values that our members adhere to.

**Mission:**

We promote best practices in farm animal care and handling and provide a forum connecting organizations and individuals with a stake in animal agriculture. Together we work towards continual improvement in responsible, humane animal care. We engage with consumers in a transparent manner to enhance public confidence in farm animal care.



**Guiding Principles:**

1. AFAC believes it is an ethical and social responsibility to raise and handle livestock in ways that result in a high state of animal welfare.
2. AFAC is an impactful, proactive organization that helps to communicate the principles of farm animal care and welfare.
3. AFAC is committed to open and fair communication.
4. AFAC influences improvement in farm animal welfare through our discussions and work with stakeholders in animal agriculture.
5. AFAC engages with consumers in a transparent manner to enhance public confidence in farm animal care.
6. AFAC believes collaboration with all animal agriculture organizations and stakeholders is crucial to the advancement of our vision and mission.
7. AFAC supports continuous improvement in farm animal welfare by encouraging respect and compassion for farm animals and the implementation of science-based best practices.

You can view the whole plan [here](#).

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**What's N"ewe"?**



## Post-Secondary Schools

It's been an extremely fun and rewarding fall, as we have spent quite a bit of time engaging with some of the agricultural post secondary schools in Alberta! Since the beginning of the school year we have been to the following schools:

- Animal Health Technology Students
- Grande Prairie Regional College: Fairview Campus
  - Olds College
  - Lakeland College

- Agriculture Students
- Olds College
  - Lakeland College
  - University of Alberta

The goal of these presentations is to get the students excited about livestock welfare and to raise some awareness about Alberta Farm Animal Care. The students are all taught about the different programs and resources that we have available for them to use both now AND in the future! Along with hilarious jokes, the presentations include the differences between animal welfare and animal rights, an activity on the 5 Freedoms and ways for the students to get involved with the organization and agricultural industry.

We have tried to do things a little bit differently this year by providing the students with a sign up sheet where they have the options to become a member, receive information about student sponsorship activities at the Livestock Care Conference, volunteer for AFAC, and join our mailing list.



## New AFAC materials!

We recently finished and released our latest AFAC magazine, "The Barn Door", which is jam-packed full of games, quizzes, and (obviously) a lot of great information!

We cover a broad range of topics including: antibiotic use and resistance, the Codes of Practice, housing, transportation, reproduction, common husbandry procedures, and so much more! This magazine is a great compliment to our kid's workbook, which we released last summer (and is targeted at a younger demographic). This magazine is great for older kids and adults alike and it manages to make some heavy topics easily accessible for consumers, while still remaining factual and interesting to producers.

Our first chance to show off "The Barn Door" was at James Fowler High School in Calgary where we participated in Ag 101. The magazines (and our puns) were very well received and we can't wait to reach an even wider audience at Farmfair in November!

We can't wait to share this multi-talented resource with you - so give us a call (403 652 5111) or email ([info@afac.ab.ca](mailto:info@afac.ab.ca)) if you'd like your own copies! Or it can be found online [here](#).

So far we have had a great response from the students, and we are looking forward to having some young, excited people take part in the organization whether that be through the conference, as a volunteer and/or as a member!



## Looking for LCC Sponsorship

We don't know how this is happening already, but somehow the 2017 Livestock Care Conference is just a hop, skip and a jump away! We have a fantastic line up of speakers and some interesting topics and activities. Click [here](#) to see the draft agenda!

We are so thankful for our conference sponsors from all of the previous years, and we are in the process of trying to secure funds again for this year. If you are looking for a place to show your support for the advancement of livestock welfare within Alberta, this is one way to do that!

If this sounds like something you would like to be involved with, check out our [sponsorship package](#) for more information on the benefits that you receive as a conference sponsor!



## Canadian Livestock Transport

The Canadian Livestock Transport Certification Program is a comprehensive training course and support service for those involved in the livestock transportation industry.

It was started by Alberta Farm Animal Care in 2007 and although the torch was passed off to the Canadian Animal Health Coalition in 2013, we still 100% support and recommend this program!

For more information check out their website at:  
<http://livestocktransport.ca>

## Heart of a Farmer

We had a great day in October filming our Heart of a Farmer video series!

We drove up to Two Hills and spent the day touring a beef operation, meeting some furry friends, and took some exciting footage that we can't wait to show you.

Stay tuned to see who we visited!

## AFAC videos

Check out our latest **Heart of a Farmer** video from the Hehli's dairy farm!

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## Become a Member!

Are 'ewe' feeling left out? You can 'bee' part of the 'farm'ily too!

Show your commitment to

# Livestock Care

by becoming a member of

## ALBERTA FARM ANIMAL CARE

JOIN AT [WWW.AFAC.AB.CA](http://WWW.AFAC.AB.CA)

The advertisement features a dark blue background with a photograph of a barn at night. The Alberta Farm Animal Care logo is in the top right corner, and the text is in white and red.

Membership Levels  
[Supporter \$25.00 CAD V]

**Buy Now**





## Amendments to Health of Animals Regulations (Livestock Transportation)

December 2, 2016

Dear Alberta Farm Animal Care Members,


The long-awaited changes to the *Health of Animals Regulations* have just been released (and in fact are dated December 3 although it is only December 2!). The *Regulations* include the transportation of livestock regulations.


The complete document may be viewed in the Canada Gazette here: <http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2016/2016-12-03/html/reg2-eng.php>

Happy reading!

Angela Greter  
*Executive Director*

Alberta Farm Animal Care | [afac@afac.ab.ca](mailto:afac@afac.ab.ca) | PO Box 5201, #5-112 Centre Street  
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# Canada Gazette

[Home](#) > [Publications](#) > [Vol. 150 \(2016\)](#) > [December 3, 2016](#) > Regulations Amending the Health of Animals Regulations

Vol. 150, No. 49 — December 3, 2016

## Regulations Amending the Health of Animals Regulations

### Statutory authority

*Health of Animals Act*

### Sponsoring agency

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

### REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS STATEMENT

*(This statement is not part of the Regulations.)*

### Executive summary

**Issues:** The current provisions of the *Health of Animals Regulations* (HAR or the Regulations) dealing with the transportation of animals do not reflect current science regarding the care and handling of animals, do not align with the standards of Canada's international trading partners, and are not aligned with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) welfare standards for animals transported by land, air, and sea. This leads to a continuing risk that animals will suffer during transportation.

**Description:** The HAR would be amended to

- Provide clarification by adding definitions (for example definitions for compromised and unfit animals) and establishing clear requirements for regulated parties to better understand what is expected of them;
- Improve animal welfare and reduce risk of suffering during transportation by establishing clear and science-informed requirements that better reflect animals' needs and current industry practices;
- Better align with the standards of Canada's international trading partners and the OIE animal welfare standards for animals transported by land, air, and sea; and
- Remove obsolete or unnecessary requirements to reduce the burden on the industry.

**Cost-benefit statement:** It is anticipated that a small portion of commercial carriers that transport animals by land would bear additional costs, as an estimated 98% of all shipments are already in compliance with the proposed amendments. Some processors in the poultry industry may experience incremental costs associated with changes in management practices, but will realize cost savings in relation to the benefits resulting from these changes. The present value of the total industry costs is estimated to be approximately \$3.9 million.

In addition to improving animal welfare, the proposed amendments would reduce transport losses and improve marketability and product quality, leading to benefits for consumers.

**"One-for-One" Rule and small business lens:** The "One-for-One" Rule would apply to the proposed amendments. The total administrative cost increase is estimated to have an annualized value of approximately \$320,000. The small business lens would also apply. The total cost savings of the flexible option for small business is estimated to have an annualized value of approximately \$87,000.

**Domestic and international coordination and co-operation:** Protecting animal welfare in Canada is a shared responsibility between federal, provincial and territorial governments, producers, transporters, processors, retailers, and many other stakeholders.

The proposed amendments to the HAR would significantly improve alignment with the OIE animal welfare standards for animals transported by land, air and sea. Furthermore, based on a comparative review conducted by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the proposals respecting feed, water and rest would align Canada's regulatory outcomes more closely with those of its trading partners, such as New Zealand, Australia, the United States, and the European Union (EU).

### Background

Animals are valued by people for social, cultural, economic and emotional reasons. They provide food, fibre, and companionship; are used in sport, recreation, education, and scientific study; and have increasing importance as aesthetic assets in their own right.

Canadians strongly support animal-handling processes that allow animals to express normal behaviours and do not result in animal pain, injury, or ill health. [\(see footnote 1\)](#) Good animal welfare practices contribute to reduced food safety risks and increased environmental sustainability by reducing the risk of disease. [\(see footnote 2\)](#) Similarly, poor animal welfare practices can contribute to economic losses. [\(see footnote 3\)](#)

The transportation of animals in Canada is a complex and wide-ranging activity carried out by a diverse set of stakeholders. Humane transportation of animals is a shared responsibility between several partners, including owners, producers, buyers, sellers, auction markets, assembly points, abattoirs, and transporters. Businesses range from small operators that move one animal to vertically integrated systems that transport multiple animals over short and long distances. It is estimated that 700 million animals are transported per year in Canada.

Transportation is an unfamiliar event for animals that can cause significant anxiety. [\(see footnote 4\)](#) Poor welfare leads to increased physiological and psychological stress, which in turn can lead to increased susceptibility to disease among animals and increased shedding of pathogens due to increased intestinal motility. This poses a risk to human and animal health. [\(see footnote 5\)](#)

Animals are transported, sometimes for long distances, for many reasons, including breeding, shows, feeding, sale, and slaughter. The continual consolidation of growing and finishing operations in the Canadian agriculture sector, as well as processing plants, has

contributed to an increase in the distances animals are transported to reach production points. For example, the number of federal facilities processing beef decreased from 400 in 1976 to 30 in 2015. Similar consolidation has occurred at the farm level. For example, the number of farms decreased by 45.8% between 1976 and 2001. [\(see footnote 6\)](#)

Due to these increased distances, animals may be loaded and unloaded multiple times, over prolonged periods, and can be exposed to adverse environmental conditions such as excessive heat, cold, snow, and rain. The equipment used to transport animals is similarly varied, ranging from home-made trailers to commercial stock liners to containerized jumbo jets and specialized ships.

Part XII (Transportation of Animals) of the *Health of Animals Regulations* (HAR), which was first passed into law in 1977 pursuant to the authorities of the *Health of Animals Act* (the Act), regulates animal transportation, including the loading and unloading of animals within Canada as well as entering into or leaving Canada, by imposing requirements on those individuals involved in the transportation of animals and setting out prohibitions to address the welfare (humane treatment) of animals during transportation.

## Issues

Part XII of the HAR was enacted to address animal welfare problems encountered during the long distance transport of cattle by rail. At the time, there was little research or information pertaining to the effects or risks of transportation on the well-being of animals. The provisions of the HAR were consequently written in general terms, using words such as “undue” as it applies to suffering, to qualify prohibitions. This can lead to inappropriate decisions, such as loading animals deemed unfit for transportation or loading compromised animals for transportation over long distances without special measures. This, in turn, may increase the risk of animal welfare issues.

By extrapolating from the rate of compliance in inspection data, it can be estimated that 2% of all shipments of animals being transported in Canada are not in compliance with the current regulatory requirements. This represents an estimated 14 million animals per year that may be suffering during transportation, of which 1.59 million animals per year are reported as dead on arrival at their final destination. Given the strong public support for preventing the suffering of animals, and the risk to human and animal health, this must be addressed.

More recent scientific evidence shows that transportation can be one of the most stressful experiences for animals, when animal welfare is not taken into account and addressed. [\(see footnote 7\)](#) The HAR do not reflect current science regarding the care and handling of animals, and frequently do not take the physical, behavioural, and physiological needs of animals into consideration. In addition, the HAR do not consistently align with current, generally accepted industry practices. The joint industry-government National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) develops codes of practice, which are nationally developed guidelines for the care and handling of farm animals. A code of practice for the transportation of farm animals was released in 2001. While the transportation code of practice considered the current requirements of the HAR when it was drafted, the recommendations in more recent codes of practice for the care and handling of farm animals meet, and in certain circumstances exceed, the requirements of the HAR.

Finally, the HAR do not consistently meet the standards of Canada’s international trading partners, such as the United States and the European Union (EU), and are not adequately aligned with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) welfare standards for animals transported by land, air and sea. As a member country of the OIE, Canada is expected to meet or exceed OIE standards. This lack of alignment could compromise market access for Canadian products in the future. For example, a recent European survey concluded that 93% of Europeans agree it is important to establish animal welfare standards that apply to products sourced from within and outside of the EU. [\(see footnote 8\)](#)

## Objectives

The proposed amendments to the HAR would

- Move towards a more outcome-based regulatory framework (for example replacing the requirement for a plane to “provide a change of air not less than once every five minutes” with a requirement to provide “adequate ventilation to prevent injury, suffering or death”), which would give regulated parties greater flexibility to apply technological advances in transportation, while maintaining high standards for animal welfare;
- Clarify expectations and better reflect new science regarding the care and handling of animals, thereby reducing the risk to animal welfare during loading, transportation, and unloading;
- Better align Canada’s requirements with those of other jurisdictions (for example the United States, Australia and the EU) and the OIE’s animal welfare standards for animals transported by land, air and sea; and
- Satisfy Canadian societal expectations regarding the responsible care of farm animals and the humane treatment of animals during transport, including loading and unloading.

## Description

The HAR would be amended to

- Provide clarification by adding definitions (for example definitions of compromised and unfit animals) and establishing clear requirements for regulated parties to better understand what is expected of them;
- Improve animal welfare and reduce the risk of suffering during transportation by establishing clear and science-informed requirements that better reflect animal needs and current industry practices;
- Better align with the standards of Canada’s international trading partners and the OIE’s animal welfare standards for animals transported by land, air, and sea; and
- Remove obsolete or unnecessary requirements.

### Clarifications — definitions and outcomes

The proposed amendments would provide clear requirements for animal transportation to allow regulated parties to better understand what is required of them to be in compliance. The proposed amendments would establish either prescriptive requirements (in which case the process or procedure requirements are defined in regulation) or outcome-based requirements (in which case the required outcome or level of performance is defined in regulation), where appropriate. Prescriptive requirements would be established in cases where any alternative to the prescriptive requirements or ambiguity would predictably result in animal suffering, injury, or death. In other situations, outcome-based amendments were deemed appropriate for obtaining desired results.

#### *(i) Definitions and outcomes for “compromised” and “unfit” animals*

Definitions for both “compromised” and “unfit” would clarify whether an animal could be transported with special measures (compromised) or not transported at all (unfit).

The proposed amendments state that compromised animals can be transported provided that they are segregated from other animals; that measures are taken to avoid injury, death, or suffering; and that the animals are transported directly to the nearest place, other

than an auction market or assembly yard, where they can receive care, receive treatment, or be humanely killed. A compromised animal may be transported with one other animal with which it is familiar. A list of conditions that would mean an animal has an impaired capacity or is in a compromised state would be provided in the amendment as part of the proposed definition.

Unfit animals would only be able to be transported for diagnosis, care or treatment on the advice of a veterinarian. A list of conditions that would mean an animal is unfit would be provided as part of the proposed definition.

To prevent suffering or further injury, the proposal also includes options for how an animal is to be treated, cared for, or humanely killed when it is found to be in a compromised or unfit condition on board a vessel, in a conveyance or in a container during transportation. The options provide for some flexibility when situations arise in which an animal's status changes during transportation.

Provisions are proposed that would clarify when the activities of loading and unloading would be considered to begin and end, which should contribute to defining critical periods when transfer of responsibility for the animal's care occurs between regulated parties.

A definition of confinement is also proposed to support improving animal welfare. The proposed definition would include the period of time an animal is held in a container prior to being placed on a conveyance, the period during transportation, and the period of time after the container is removed from the conveyance.

#### *(ii) Clearer, science-informed standards of conduct*

As stated previously, the current HAR are written in general terms, which may lead to misunderstanding of the required conduct for ensuring animal welfare. In order to address this, provisions in the proposed regulatory amendments described below would provide clear standards of conduct for regulated parties.

#### *Knowledge, skills, and training*

The proposed amendments would establish standards of knowledge and of care in the *Health of Animals Regulations* (the Regulations) for any person loading, transporting, or unloading animals.

Commercial carriers would be responsible for training, or ensuring that training is or has been received by, their employees or agents to conduct activities in compliance with Part XII of the HAR. The training would cover animal behaviour, animal handling, restraint, loading densities, and transportation methods for the species being transported, as well as risk factors that can impact animal welfare and contingency plans.

#### *Risk factors and contingency planning*

There are a number of interrelated factors that must be included in a regulatory framework if animals are to be transported safely and humanely. Therefore, it is proposed that any person loading, transporting, or unloading animals would be required, prior to loading, transporting, or unloading, to assess risk factors that could reasonably be viewed as having an impact on the animal's capacity to withstand the loading, transportation and unloading (for example foreseeable weather conditions, duration of transportation, loading density).

As a complementary element to this risk factor assessment prior to loading, it is further proposed that every person who transports an animal, or causes one to be transported, establish a contingency plan for unanticipated events, for example what to do in case of a mechanical failure while en route. This contingency plan would need to be communicated to any person involved with the loading, transportation, or unloading of animals.

Having a contingency plan would support mitigating the risk of injury, suffering, or death of an animal on the conveyance should an event occur while in transit that could place the welfare of the animals in the conveyance at risk.

#### *Animal handling*

The proposed regulatory amendments would include prohibitions against unacceptable handling practices by persons involved in the loading, transportation, confinement, and unloading of animals. It would be prohibited to handle an animal in any way that would likely result in suffering, injury, or death to the animal.

The regulatory proposal would limit the use of an electric prod during the loading, confinement, transportation, or unloading of an animal. While electric prods are commonly used to encourage animals to move in a required direction (for example to move animals onto a conveyance), the regulatory proposal would prohibit the use of an electric prod on sensitive areas or regions on an animal's body (for example belly, genital, or facial regions) and if animals do not have a clear path to move forward.

#### *Loading density and overcrowding*

The proposed requirements related to loading density would establish clear parameters for what conditions would constitute overcrowding in a container or conveyance. Loading, confining, or transporting animals in a conveyance or container that is overcrowded would be prohibited.

Overcrowding would occur when, due to the loading density or the size of the conveyance or container, the animal cannot maintain its preferred position or adjust its body position to protect itself from injuries or from being crushed or trampled; the animal is likely to develop conditions such as hyperthermia, hypothermia, or frostbite; or the animal is likely to suffer, sustain an injury, or die.

#### *Segregation*

The prescriptive nature of the current requirements respecting segregation by species, age, and weight would be replaced with an outcome-based provision that would prohibit loading, transporting, or confining animals that are incompatible (by reason of their nature, species, temperament, gender, weight or age, which are likely to result in injury, suffering or death to any animal transported in the same conveyance), unless they are segregated. This outcome-based approach is consistent with OIE standards, and provides the flexibility for animals that prefer travelling together to be kept together; under the current requirements, these animals would need to be segregated irrespective of compatibility.

Guidance would be made available to industry to assist in the determination of compatibility in respect of species, class, size, level of fitness, familiarity with one another, and behaviour. The guidance would be available on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Web site.

#### *Container or conveyance requirements*

These amendments would also provide additional clarity about the preferred position of various species during transportation and propose outcome-based requirements respecting the height of the roof or top of the conveyance or cover of the container needed to



accommodate the animal's natural behaviour. For example, horses may wish to hold their heads straight or hold their heads up, depending on the breed, size and type.

For animals transported by air, the container requirements set out in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) *Live Animals Regulations* (IATA-LAR), as amended from time to time, would be incorporated by reference into Part XII of the HAR. IATA is a trade association for the world's airlines, representing some 240 airlines, or 84% of total air traffic, and is responsible for formulating industry policy on aviation industry issues. The IATA-LAR is a global standard for transporting animals by air in a safe and humane manner and is referenced by the OIE in its animal welfare standards for animal transportation by air. Container requirements in the IATA-LAR are established on a species-by-species basis, and include construction, design, and stocking density guidelines. The IATA-LAR is currently in its 42nd edition, is available as a printed manual and as a software application, and may be purchased online at <http://www.iata.org/publications/Pages/live-animals.aspx>. The CFIA intends to review the changes made to subsequent editions of the IATA-LAR on an annual basis, to ensure the requirements are still suitable. Stakeholders will be notified each time the IATA-LAR has been updated and reviewed.

#### *Condition, maintenance, and use of conveyances*

Requirements respecting the condition, maintenance, and use of conveyances and containers used for transporting animals, including sea vessels and aircraft, would be clarified by these amendments. In addition, requirements that pose an unnecessary regulatory burden would be removed, such as specific ventilation requirements for aircraft or vessels. The proposed amendments would also provide clarity on what conditions would be prohibited due to the potential for an animal to be injured, suffer, or die.

#### *Feed, water, and rest for animals*

Recent scientific studies provide more conclusive species-specific guidance than what was available at the time Part XII of the HAR first came into force. ([see footnote 9](#)) ([see footnote 10](#)) ([see footnote 11](#)) ([see footnote 12](#)) Significant advances have been made in determining animals' needs for feed, water, and rest to prevent suffering from extreme hunger, dehydration, or excessive fatigue. ([see footnote 13](#)) With this new information, there is a basis for redefining time periods during which animals can be without feed, water, or rest to reduce their risk of suffering, injury, or death during transportation. The regulatory proposal establishes new maximum intervals without access to feed and water, which are summarized in Table 1 by species and class.

Once the proposed maximum time intervals without feed and water are reached, a minimum rest period of eight hours, increased from five hours in the current Regulations, would be required during which animals would be provided with access to feed and water. The rest period could be conducted on a stopped conveyance that is suitably equipped to provide space for the animals to lie down at the same time, to eat and to drink, while providing adequate ventilation and other acceptable environmental conditions. Alternatively, animals could be unloaded to a suitable rest area.

In addition to the feed, water, and rest time requirements, the regulatory proposal also includes an outcome-based requirement to provide feed, water, and rest to animals to prevent them from becoming dehydrated, suffering from nutritional metabolic abnormality, or suffering from fatigue during transportation. Both the prescriptive requirements and the outcome-based requirements would need to be met. The combination of prescriptive and outcome-based requirements would provide flexibility and clear expectations to the regulated party without compromising animal welfare.

Interpretive guidance is being developed to accompany the proposal, which would also provide additional information for clarity. For example, the guidance would define when an interval of time is considered to have ended and the next interval begun. This information would assist in improving compliance and would reduce the risk of animals suffering.

**Table 1:** Proposed maximum intervals for access to feed and water

<b>Species and class</b>	<b>Proposed (hours)</b>	<b>Current (hours)</b>
Compromised animals	12	N/A
Ruminants that are too young to be fed exclusively on hay and grain	12	18
Broiler chickens, spent laying hens and rabbits	24	36
Beef and dairy cattle and other adult ruminants that can be fed exclusively on hay and grain	36	52
Other adult monogastrics	36	36
Equines and pigs	28	36
Day-old birds	72 ( <a href="#">see footnote *</a> )	72

#### *(iii) Transfer of responsibility*

Many people are involved in the transportation of animals. The chain of responsibility for animal welfare during transport begins with the owner or their agent, and extends to the final receiver of the animals. The welfare of animals during loading, transport, and unloading is the joint responsibility of all those involved. Producers, handlers, shippers, drivers, and receivers share important responsibilities, as they ensure animals are transported safely.

According to the proposal, it would be prohibited for any person who transports an animal to leave the animal at a slaughter establishment, auction market, assembly yard, or feedlot without a representative of those locations being present and accepting responsibility for the animal's care upon arrival, in writing. Moreover, the person accepting responsibility for the animal's care at the

destination location would be responsible for taking the measures that would be necessary to prevent suffering, injury, or death of the animal, including meeting feeding and watering requirements.

*(iv) Record-keeping*

Record-keeping is essential to encouraging compliance, ensuring a complete chain of custody for shipments, and further enabling CFIA enforcement activities. All commercial carriers would be required to maintain records of animal transport for each shipment of animals, including, for example, the amount of floor space in the conveyance available to the animals, the last time the animals were fed and watered prior to loading, the date, time and place the animals were unloaded at destination, and the name of the person who accepted responsibility for their care. Records are currently required for carriers engaged in the inter-provincial or international transportation of livestock, and must be retained for a duration established in Part X of the HAR. The proposed amendments would only constitute a change for commercial carriers either transporting non-livestock animals, such as zoo animals, or operating intra-provincially.

*(v) Application of animal welfare transportation requirements to import and export shipments*

Currently, all shipments of animals transported into, transported within, or leaving Canada must comply with Part XII of the HAR. In terms of export of animals, this means that the CFIA is unable to take enforcement actions in situations where the shipment is compliant as it leaves Canada, but may not be compliant once it reaches its destination. The proposed amendments prohibit the export of an animal unless the person has reasonable grounds to believe that the animal will be transported in accordance with Part XII of the HAR. Therefore, for example, for animals in a shipment that would require a feed, water, and rest stop during the transport, the person exporting the animals would be required to have reasonable grounds to believe that the feeding, watering and resting requirements could be met for the entire journey. This amendment would better allow the CFIA to take enforcement action in situations where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the animals cannot be, or would not be, transported in compliance with Part XII of the HAR.

## **Regulatory and non-regulatory options considered**

### *Option 1 — Status quo*

Under this option, the CFIA would maintain the regulatory requirements for the transportation of animals as currently prescribed in Part XII of the *Health of Animals Regulations*.

This option would result in a continued risk that animals transported in Canada could be injured, suffer, or die. An estimated 14 million animals are transported every year in a way that is not compliant with Part XII of the HAR, and 1.59 million animals each year are reported dead on arrival at their final destination. Continuing with the current humane transport requirements would result in continued use of general terms in the HAR, ineffectiveness in protecting animals often due to the regulated parties' misunderstanding of the required conduct for ensuring animal welfare, gaps in enforceability, lack of relevance regarding current practices, and a continued misalignment with the OIE animal welfare standards for the transport of animals and the animal welfare standards of Canada's international trading partners. While the current code of practice, developed jointly by industry and Government, outlines best practices during transportation, it is not law. Further revisions to the transportation code of practice are pending, and have been delayed for some time in the hopes that amendments to Part XII are made first.

This option would not move towards meeting societal expectations regarding responsible farm animal care and the humane treatment of animals during animal transport, including loading and unloading.

### *Option 2 — Amend Part XII using a combination of outcome-based and prescriptive requirements*

Under this option, Part XII of the HAR would be amended to clarify and modernize requirements, using a combination of outcome-based and prescriptive requirements. Modernized requirements would better reflect the needs of the animals. This option would clearly define prohibitions. Greater clarity would allow regulated parties to better understand the standards of conduct expected of them in order to comply with the requirements and would make the requirements more easily enforceable.

## **Benefits and costs**

It is anticipated that the following stakeholders would be affected by the proposed regulatory amendments:

- Commercial carriers transporting livestock (pigs: 480 businesses, horses: 96 businesses, cattle: 470 businesses, sheep/goat: 71 businesses);
- Commercial carriers transporting poultry (135 businesses);
- Commercial carriers who either transport non-livestock animals or operate intra-provincially;
- Abattoirs (i.e. meat product processors) [348 businesses];
- Livestock and poultry producers (approximately 84 000 businesses);
- Retailers and consumers;
- The Canadian public; and
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

The proposed regulatory amendments would reduce the maximum time limits for animals to be without access to feed, water, and rest. Training would also be required for drivers who cannot demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed for transporting animals. Finally, commercial carriers transporting non-livestock animals, or those who operate only intra-provincially, would be required to keep records for each shipment of animals. Commercial carriers transporting animals by land would be expected to carry incremental costs as a result of these proposed requirements.

Commercial air carriers providing air transportation services are not expected to carry additional costs. Commercial air carriers (IATA members and non-members) generally move animals that are more valuable to their owners (e.g. performance horses, breeding animals, pets and endangered species), which are typically well fed and watered. Furthermore, commercial carriers who transport animals by air are also encouraged to comply with the IATA-LAR. It is also assumed that non-IATA members are already following industry's best practices and would not carry additional costs.

The requirements of the proposed amendments to the HAR are consistent with OIE guidelines for animals transported by sea, including record-keeping requirements. It is therefore not expected that the proposed amendments to the HAR would result in incremental costs to sea carriers.

## **Benefits**

The potential benefits associated with the regulatory proposal would be the following.

### *Increased compliance with regulatory requirements*

The amended Regulations would clarify expectations and, in turn, make it easier for industry to comply with the HAR. For example, the record-keeping requirements for commercial carriers who transport non-livestock animals, and those who operate intra-provincially for commercial purposes, would facilitate enforcement by the CFIA. This, in turn, is expected to lead to increased compliance rates, which would improve the welfare of animals and reduce the resources allocated to respond to non-compliance. It is similarly expected that the requirements for regulated parties to assess risk factors and have a contingency plan would also increase compliance.

Furthermore, the move from prescriptive to outcome-based regulatory requirements would provide the industry the flexibility to choose the least costly option to achieve the required outcome under the proposal. This is also expected to contribute to improved compliance with the regulatory requirements. For example, the current segregation requirement of species, age, and size is based on those differences alone, while the proposed amendment would instead focus on incompatibility of the animals in load. A further example is the removal of the specific number of attendants per number of animals transported by sea, to focus instead on the provision of adequate care.

### *Improved animal welfare and prevention of animal suffering during transportation*

The implementation of the proposed regulatory amendments, and the resulting increased compliance, would prevent animal suffering, thus improving animal welfare and ensuring that animals are free of pain. Added clarity, such as defining a compromised or unfit animal, would provide clear expectations for producers and transporters. This, in turn, is expected to reduce the number of compromised and unfit animals loaded and transported.

The implementation of the proposed regulatory amendments would also benefit Canadian livestock and poultry producers by reducing economic losses as a result of animals being injured, dying, or being severely bruised in transport. Bruising and losses due to shrinkage (depletion of body reserves) increase with increased transportation times. [\(see footnote 14\)](#)

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the benefits of animal welfare extend to consumers through the availability of a secure and safe food supply. [\(see footnote 15\)](#) Consuming safe food is important for Canadians. Stressed animals are more likely to shed pathogenic organisms and, as a result, increase the risk to food safety. It is anticipated that the improved animal welfare during transportation resulting from the proposed regulatory amendments would contribute to reducing risks to food safety from animal-based food products.

### *Improved regulatory alignment*

The regulatory proposal would also lead to improved regulatory alignment between Canada and international trading partners (for example the United States and the European Union) and would contribute to improving alignment with the OIE animal welfare standards related to the transport of animals by land, sea, and air. This, in turn, could facilitate or maintain trade and market access for Canadian products, by avoiding trade barriers that could arise due to differences in regulatory requirements.

If amended, the HAR would better reflect current science regarding the care and handling of animals and animal needs. Since the transportation of farm animals code of practice was drafted with consideration of the current Regulations, subsequent updates of this code of practice would be strengthened.

### *Increased consumer confidence in animal food products*

As a result of the previous three benefits — increased compliance, improved animal welfare, and improved regulatory alignment — the proposed regulatory amendments would move towards meeting Canadian societal expectations that animals be free of pain, be healthy, and have the ability to express natural behaviours. [\(see footnote 16\)](#) [\(see footnote 17\)](#) Decisions on animal welfare are therefore considered an ethical issue, not just an economic one. [\(see footnote 18\)](#) Consumers consider animal welfare when making purchasing decisions and assessing the quality of animal products, whether implicitly or explicitly, [\(see footnote 19\)](#) and improved management practices during transportation would help ensure that those consumers have the assurances they need to make those decisions. [\(see footnote 20\)](#)

Since the regulatory proposal is designed to improve animal welfare conditions that are of importance to consumers, such as transportation and maximum intervals without feed, water, and rest, it is expected that the proposed amendments would contribute to increased consumer confidence in animal food products purchased.

## Costs

### *Costs associated with feed, water, and rest*

The CFIA conducted a survey of businesses that would be potentially affected by the proposed regulatory change to feed, water, and rest provisions. Based on survey results and CFIA inspection data collected at federally registered abattoirs, it was concluded that, overall, 98% of current shipments would not be affected by the proposed requirements, as the shipments already meet the proposed maximum intervals. This percentage varies across commercial carriers depending upon the animal being transported.

The proposed maximum interval for access to feed and water for pigs is 28 hours, compared to the 36 hours under the baseline scenario (i.e. in the current regulation). With the shorter time interval, some commercial carriers transporting pigs currently exceed the proposed time limits. These carriers, representing approximately 1% of all commercial pig carriers, would assume additional upfront costs associated with potentially retrofitting or installing feed and water systems in the conveyances and ongoing costs associated with maintaining the feed and water systems in the retrofitted conveyances in order to comply with the proposed requirement. These upfront costs are estimated to be \$5,000 per retrofit with annual maintenance costs of \$1,000.

Also, based on current industry practice, pigs are not off-loaded during rest periods. These conveyances would also require sufficient space for all animals to lie down at the same time, and to be fitted with equipment which would allow animals to eat and drink while providing adequate ventilation and protection. The costs of these measures were also estimated to be \$5,000 per retrofit with annual maintenance costs of \$1,000.

For some commercial carriers transporting slaughter and feeder horses that would exceed the time limit, there would be a need to off-load the animals at stations (off-loading is an industry practice), to allow them to rest and be provided with feed and water. Approximately 14% of all commercial horse carriers would assume the incremental cost of the amount paid to the owners of rest stations for the entire duration of the stay of the animals. This amount was estimated to be \$200 per 8–10 hour stay.

For commercial poultry processors, less than 1% would assume the incremental costs of changing the management of their operation to reduce the lairage times, that is, the length of time that poultry are kept in containers at processing establishments waiting to be slaughtered. This would be required to comply with the proposed maximum intervals for access to feed and water. The costs associated with change would be the time and salary required for a scheduling expert to make adjustments to their standard operating

procedures in order to comply with the requirements. This reduction in lairage time could benefit some businesses, due to the reduced costs associated with keeping the lairage area lit, cooled, and heated. The rest of the poultry processors are already in compliance with the proposed feed, water, and rest requirement.

Provincial and federal regulations have been enacted that outline driver hours of service and rest requirements during long-haul transportation. These requirements were taken into consideration when analyzing the impact of the proposed regulatory amendment. It is anticipated that animal and driver rest stops can be managed to occur at the same time and, as a result, the affected commercial carriers would not expect to carry additional feed, water, and rest costs due to additional stops.

#### *Costs associated with training*

The proposed regulatory amendments would require the training of those drivers who operate under a commercial carrier. Some commercial carriers would assume training costs for their drivers who have not received training. It was estimated that approximately 1.45% of commercial carriers transporting pigs, horses, cattle and sheep/goat and 2.45% of commercial carriers transporting poultry would be impacted.

Due to a lack of data and information, the CFIA estimated the number of drivers who would require training by analyzing CFIA inspection data for the rate of shipments that were not compliant with the current regulatory requirements for animal transport. Non-compliant shipments can be considered evidence that those drivers require training or retraining.

The Canadian Livestock Training (CLT) program is considered to provide drivers all the required competencies referred to in this amendment. It is therefore used as a reference for estimating training costs.

The livestock transportation industries have been proactively making livestock transport training mandatory for drivers. As a result, the training costs attributable to the proposed regulatory requirements would be expected to decrease over time, and to be negligible within five years, as this training will be the livestock transportation industry standard.

#### *Costs associated with record keeping*

There would be incremental costs associated with record-keeping requirements assumed by all commercial carriers who transport non-livestock animals and those who operate for commercial purposes intra-provincially. Costing assumptions for these incremental costs can be found in the "One-for-One" Rule section below. Note that commercial carriers of poultry would not assume incremental costs in this respect, since they are already required to maintain records for inter-provincial and international movements, and flock-based records for all loads of commercial poultry irrespective of destination. In addition, the proposed Regulations would not specify technical formats for record keeping, which would allow commercial carriers to select the method that involves the least cost or greatest efficiency to them.

#### Methodology

All of the identified costs have been monetized in the analysis, while all of the identified benefits are described qualitatively. The standard cost model was used to estimate incremental costs associated with feed, water, and rest; training; and administration. The standard cost model takes into account the time required for individuals to perform a task, the individuals' wage rate and how often the task must be performed. Data sources used for the analysis include industry survey data, the CFIA's Compliance Verification System (CVS) database, the input of program subject matter experts, and published data. The assumptions used in the cost estimation were made based on the best available information.

#### Results

- The total incremental costs for all affected stakeholders are estimated to have an annualized value of \$556,217. This equates to a cost of approximately \$444 per business.
- The total incremental costs associated with the proposed feed, water, and rest requirement for all affected stakeholders are estimated to have an annualized value of \$80,452. This equates to a cost of approximately \$64 per business.
- The driver's training course costs \$235. The total incremental costs associated with the proposed training requirement for affected stakeholders are estimated to have an annualized value of \$26,953. The total incremental costs associated with the proposed record-keeping requirement for all affected stakeholders are estimated to have an annualized value of \$448,812.

#### **Cost-benefit statement**

	2017	2018	2026	Total (Present Value)	Annualized Average
<b>A. Quantified impacts (in Canadian dollars [CAD], constant 2012 prices)</b>					
<b>Feed, water and rest costs</b>					
Commercial carriers transporting livestock and poultry	\$30,616	\$79,279	\$46,141	\$565,966	\$80,452
<b>Training costs</b>					
Commercial carriers transporting livestock and poultry	0	\$104,350	0	\$189,304	\$26,953
<b>Record-keeping costs</b>					
Commercial carriers who transport non-livestock animals or those who operate intra-provincially	0	\$467,737	\$272,227	\$3,152,265	\$448,812

<b>Total costs</b>	<b>\$30,616</b>	<b>\$651,366</b>	<b>\$318,368</b>	<b>\$3,906,635</b>	<b>\$556,217</b>
<b>B. Qualitative impacts</b>					
Canadians					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved compliance and enforcement of regulations leads to better animal welfare and prevention of animal suffering during transportation, consistent with societal expectations.</li> </ul>					
Industry					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarified regulatory expectations and increased flexibility for industry to choose the least-cost option to best meet outcome-based requirements.</li> <li>Reduced economic losses and improved international reputation for Canadian industry following regulatory alignment.</li> </ul>					
Consumers					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A safer food supply for Canadian consumers and increased confidence in purchased animal food products.</li> </ul>					

**Notes:**

The analysis covered a 10-year time period (2017–2026), using a 7% discount rate.

Numbers may not add up due to rounding.

Feed, water and rest compliance costs in 2017 are associated with the costs of retrofitting existing transportation vehicles.

Costs are not reported by type of livestock to protect confidential business information.

*Cost impacts per business*

<b>Costs per business (in CAD, constant 2012 prices)</b>					
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>Total (Present Value)</b>	<b>Annualized Average</b>
FWR	\$24	\$63	\$37	\$452	\$64
Training	\$0	\$83	\$0	\$151	\$22
Sub-total (Compliance costs)	\$24	\$146	\$37	\$603	\$86
Administrative costs (Record-keeping costs)	\$0	\$374	\$217	\$2,518	\$358
<b>Total (Compliance and administrative costs)</b>	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$520</b>	<b>\$254</b>	<b>\$3,121</b>	<b>\$444</b>

**“One-for-One” Rule**

The proposed regulatory amendments would impose incremental administrative costs associated with the proposed record-keeping requirement for affected commercial carriers who transport animals intra-provincially for commercial purposes. Therefore, the “One-for-One” Rule applies. The total annualized administrative cost increase for all businesses would be approximately \$319,996. The annualized administrative cost increase per affected business would be approximately \$286.

These results are based on the following assumptions that are based on the data sources listed in the methodology:

- it would take an additional five minutes to complete a record that includes the new requirements;
- the wage of the individual taking the record is equal to the Canadian average wage rate for a transport and equipment operator; and
- the average affected business would have to keep 176 records per year.

Businesses have been consulted on the potential administrative burden as a result of the proposed amendments through an industry survey. The surveyed businesses were requested to provide their estimated time to complete a record in complying with the proposal. Once the survey data analysis was completed, the industry was consulted again through a validation survey, which found that the majority of businesses were in agreement with the estimated time based on their previous responses.

**Small business lens**

Based on an analysis of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes 484110 (general freight trucking, local), 484121 (general freight trucking, long distance, truck-load) and 484122 (general freight trucking, long distance, less than truck-load), 1 239 businesses, or approximately 99% of the 1 252 affected businesses, in the commercial animal carrier industry are classified as “small business” by the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat definition. Therefore, the small business lens would apply because these small businesses would face incremental compliance and administrative costs as a result of the regulatory proposal.

Small businesses were consulted on the potential economic impacts as a result of the regulatory proposal through three surveys conducted by the CFIA between November 2013 and May 2015. The initial survey was sent to 30 transporters, who were then asked to distribute it further. The survey was designed to collect information and data. The CFIA received 10 responses to the first survey. A follow-up survey was sent to 1 130 stakeholders, including (but not limited to) processors, transporters, and auction markets. The

second survey was designed to validate the findings and conclusions. The CFIA received 70 responses to the second survey. Respondents to the second survey were contacted to validate the responses received. The CFIA received 10 responses to the validation survey. The majority of respondents agreed with the data and conclusions as they relate to the economic impacts of the proposed amendments.

Based on the survey findings, the affected small commercial animal carriers would expect to carry incremental compliance costs associated with (i) training for those employees and agents who have not been trained, (ii) potentially retrofitting or installing feed and water systems in the conveyances (trailers), and (iii) animal rest stations for animals to feed, drink and rest. Those carriers who transport animals intra-provincially for commercial purposes would also carry incremental administrative costs associated with the record-keeping requirements.

For the small business lens analysis, the initial option would be to set the coming-into-force date of the regulatory proposal on the date when it is registered. The flexible option would be to set the coming-into-force date of the regulatory proposal to be 12 months from the date when it is registered, in order to allow time for transition. This option would be available to all businesses.

For the flexible option of delaying the coming into force 12 months after registration, the incremental compliance costs (annualized average) would be approximately \$71,970 for all small businesses. The incremental administrative costs (annualized average) would be approximately \$444,070 for all small businesses. The total annualized average costs would be approximately \$516,040 for all small businesses and \$416 per small business.

**Regulatory flexibility analysis statement**

	Initial Option		Flexible Option	
Short description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed Regulations come into force on the date they are registered</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed Regulations come into force 12 months from the date they are registered</li> </ul>	
Number of small businesses impacted	1 239		1 239	
	Annualized Value	Present Value	Annualized Value	Present Value
Feed, water, and rest costs	\$51,603	\$362,434	\$45,298	\$318,157
Feed, water, and rest costs per small business	\$42	\$293	\$37	\$257
Training costs	\$39,467	\$277,196	\$26,672	\$187,333
Training costs per small business	\$32	\$224	\$22	\$151
<b>Total compliance costs</b>	<b>\$91,070</b>	<b>\$639,630</b>	<b>\$71,970</b>	<b>\$505,490</b>
<b>Total compliance costs per small business</b>	<b>\$74</b>	<b>\$516</b>	<b>\$58</b>	<b>\$408</b>
Record-keeping costs	\$512,270	\$3,597,940	\$444,070	\$3,118,980
Record-keeping costs per small business	\$413	\$2,904	\$358	\$2,517
Record-keeping costs per shipment per small business	\$2	\$17	\$2	\$14
<b>Total administrative costs</b>	<b>\$512,270</b>	<b>\$3,597,940</b>	<b>\$444,070</b>	<b>\$3,118,980</b>
<b>Total administrative costs per small business</b>	<b>\$413</b>	<b>\$2,904</b>	<b>\$358</b>	<b>\$2,517</b>

<b>Total costs (all small businesses)</b>	<b>\$603,330</b>	<b>\$4,237,570</b>	<b>\$516,040</b>	<b>\$3,624,480</b>
<b>Total cost per small business</b>	<b>\$487</b>	<b>\$3,420</b>	<b>\$416</b>	<b>\$2,925</b>
Risk considerations	Having the proposed Regulations coming into force on the registration date would make it more difficult for small businesses to comply.		The 12-month delay in the coming into force of the proposed Regulations would provide small businesses with time to make the required changes.	

**Notes:**

The analysis covered a 10-year period (2017–2026), using a 7% discount rate, with a constant 2012 dollar. Numbers may not add up due to rounding. Costs have been estimated using the standard cost model. A detailed calculation is available upon request.

The flexible option is recommended, where the requirements would come into force 12 months following registration. The total cost savings for all small businesses as a result of the flexible option provided by the CFIA versus immediate coming into force is estimated to have an annualized value of \$87,290, equating to \$71 per small business.

**Consultation**

The CFIA has consulted with stakeholders on this initiative, in both broad and targeted consultations, starting with informal consultations in the early 2000s, a Web consultation in 2006, and one-on-one meetings with industry stakeholders from 2006 to 2016. Taken together, a broad cross-section of Canadians has been consulted, including representatives from each of the affected industry groups, veterinarians, animal welfare advocates, federal and provincial governments, researchers, and the general public.

Most stakeholders agree that regulatory amendments are needed, and support the need for them. Opinions, however, are polarized. For example, with respect to the changes to feed, water, and rest periods, animal welfare groups believe that the proposed maximum periods without access to feed and water are too long, and the rest periods too short, which would in turn impact the animal’s well-being. In order to address the concerns raised by animal welfare groups, the CFIA is proposing to include an outcome-based requirement in addition to the proposed reduced maximum intervals without feed, water and rest. This outcome-based requirement will ensure that animals’ needs are met at all times to prevent the animals from suffering from dehydration, nutritional metabolic abnormalities or exhaustion, irrespective of the proposed durations. Conversely, some industry representatives believe that the proposed maximum durations are too short and would impact the profitability of their businesses.

Examples of concerns that were raised and taken into account by the CFIA in preparing the proposed regulatory amendments include feed, water, and rest provisions for spent laying hens. Spent laying hens, meaning egg-laying chickens that have passed their peak in the production cycle, are an economical source of lean protein for use in poultry products like chicken soup and chicken nuggets. Due to their fragility, spent laying hens are particularly vulnerable to injury during transport. (see footnote 21) Some members of the poultry industry have expressed concerns regarding the reduced transport times proposed in the amendments, indicating that it is impractical to provide feed and water to the birds while in transportation. In cases where the shipments of spent hens would exceed the proposed maximum times without access to feed, water, and rest, the industry would not be able to ship those birds. This would have direct impacts on the profitability of those processors, who lose an economical source of lean protein, and indirect impacts on the profitability of producers, who would have to pay to have the hens humanely killed and either composted on-site or transported to be rendered.

The CFIA met with poultry industry representatives to discuss compliance options for reducing the economic impact of the proposed maximum times. In response to stakeholder concerns, and taking into consideration available scientific evidence, (see footnote 22) the CFIA proposed that the maximum interval for spent laying hens be revised to 24 hours from the originally proposed 12 hours. Data provided by poultry industry representatives indicate that the majority of spent laying hen shipments are already compliant with this interval, and the CFIA believes that changes to management practices of abattoir and loading operations can be made to accommodate the majority of those that currently do not. For example, time spent in lairage could be reduced at the abattoir, or feed withdrawal times at the time of loading could be reduced on the farm. Moreover, the maximum interval of 24 hours is aligned with current U.S. practices. While the United States do not formally regulate poultry transport, rigorous industry practices that establish requirements for feed, water and rest are in place. Approximately 95%, or 276 million, of all laying hens in the United States are raised by members of the United Egg Producers (UEP). UEP producers are audited by the United States Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service, together with a third-party certification and auditing group. The UEP certification standard includes a maximum interval of 24 hours for feed and water. As a result, the proposed regulatory amendments would not be more restrictive than current U.S. practices.

**Regulatory cooperation**

Protecting animal welfare in Canada is a shared responsibility between federal, provincial, and territorial governments; producers; transporters; processors; retailers; and many other stakeholders. The CFIA enforces Part XII of the HAR with the assistance of the Canada Border Services Agency. Provincial police, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other peace officers may also be called to provide assistance. The *Criminal Code* can also be applied in situations where animal abuse occurs. The CFIA regulates the welfare of animals during transport under the HAR, as well as the welfare of animals in federally registered slaughter establishments under the *Meat Inspection Regulations, 1990*.

Canadian provinces and territories have the primary responsibility for protecting the welfare of animals, including farm animals, by enforcing provincial and territorial acts and regulations that pertain to animal welfare. All provinces and territories have legislation regarding animal welfare. Some provinces and territories have recently strengthened their animal welfare regulatory frameworks, including Quebec in 2015, Nova Scotia in 2013, Newfoundland and Labrador in 2012, and Ontario in 2009. Provincial, territorial and federal regulations are mutually supportive in protecting the welfare of animals.

The proposed amendments would more closely align Canada’s requirements with the OIE animal welfare standards respecting animals transported by land, sea, and air. In May 2005, the OIE International Committee adopted five animal welfare standards for the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the Code), which included the humane transport of animals by land, sea, and air.

Table 2 presents an overview of how the proposed amendments to the HAR relate to Chapter 7 of the Code, pertaining to animal welfare standards during transportation ([http://www.ole.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmlfile=titre\\_1.7.htm](http://www.ole.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmlfile=titre_1.7.htm)).

**Table 2**

Proposed HAR amendment	Relevant Terrestrial Animal Health Code article
Knowledge, skills, and training	7.3.2: Animal behaviour 7.3.4: Competence
Overcrowding and space requirements	7.3.5.6: Space allowance
Assessment of risk factors	7.3.3: Responsibilities
Contingency planning	7.3.5: Planning the journey
Feed, water, and rest requirements	7.3.5.3: Nature and duration of the journey 7.3.5.7: Rest, water and feed

Based on a comparative review conducted by the CFIA, the proposals respecting feed, water, and rest would align Canada’s regulatory requirements more closely with those of New Zealand, Australia, the United States, and the EU. Table 3 compares the respective regulatory requirements of Canada with each of these countries.

**Table 3:** Comparison between the requirements of Canada with New Zealand, Australia, the United States, and the European Union

	Species	New Zealand	Australia	United States	European Union	Canada (Current)
<b>Ruminants</b>	Cattle, sheep, goats, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult cattle, sheep, goats: no more than 12 hours without water and 24 hours without food.</li> <li>Lactating cows: no more than 8 hours without water.</li> <li>Calves: no more than 12 hours of transport from pick up of first calf.</li> </ul> <p>Clauses stipulate that individual circumstances (ability to cope, age, previous transport experience) may warrant a shorter time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calves less than 5 days old: no more than 6 hours of transport.</li> <li>Calves 5 –30 days old: no more than 12 hours of transport.</li> <li>Cattle 1 to 6 months old: access to water every 24 hours.</li> <li>Cattle older than 6 months old (not pregnant nor lactating): access to water, feed and rest every 48 hours.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All: no more than 28 hours of transport, then unloaded for feed, water and rest but can be extended to 36 hours with permission by phone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no more than 8 hours of transport but can be extended if vehicles are designed to provide water at all times, are insulated, and have special partitions and mechanical ventilation.</li> </ul> <p>Journeys greater than 100 km: ban on transporting very young animals (i.e. calves less than 10 days old and lambs less than 1 week old).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cattle, sheep, goats and other ruminants: no more than 48 hours without feed, water and rest but can be increased to 52 hours without feed, water and rest if the animals reach their final destination within 52 hours.</li> <li>Calves: no more than 18 hours without feed and water.</li> </ul>
<b>Monogastrics</b>	Pigs, birds, equines, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adult pigs: no more than 8 hours without water and 24 hours without food.</li> <li>Birds: no more than 12 hours of transport.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pigs: feed and water every 24 hours.</li> <li>Piglets: no more than 12 hours without feed and water.</li> <li>Poultry: no more than 24 hours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercially transported slaughter and feeder horses: no more than 28 hours of transport then unloaded for feed, water and rest.</li> </ul> <p>NOTE: There is no regulatory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no more than 8 hours of transport but can be extended if vehicles are designed to provide water at all times, are insulated, and have</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equines, swine or other monogastric animals: no more than 36 hours without feed, water and rest.</li> <li>Chicks: no more than 72 hours of transport</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chicks: must reach the destination within 72 hours after hatching.</li> </ul> <p>Clauses stipulate that individual circumstances (ability to cope, age, previous transport experience) may warrant a shorter time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chicks: no more than 72 hours without water from time of hatching if provided with hydrating material in transport container.</li> </ul>	<p>provision for poultry in the United States. However, the United Egg Producers clearly indicate that "catching and transport must be planned so that feed is withdrawn no more than 24 hours prior to slaughter and that water must not be withdrawn prior to catching."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birds and rabbits: no more than 12 hours of transport.</li> </ul> <p>Journeys greater than 100 km: ban on transporting very young animals (i.e. pigs less than 3 weeks old).</p>	after hatching.
<b>Rest time after maximum feed and water time</b>		8 hours	12–36 hours, species and condition dependent.	5 hours	24 hours	5 hours

### Rationale

There is clear scientific evidence that shows that improved animal welfare results in improved animal health and, indirectly, contributes to reducing food safety risks. Stress factors and poor welfare can lead to increased susceptibility to disease among animals, and animals experiencing stress that negatively impacts animal welfare may shed more pathogenic organisms. [\(see footnote 23\)](#) Animals can be transported more effectively and with lower risk to welfare if

- the preparation of the animals before transport is adequate for the intended transport;
- fitness for transport of the animals is assessed before loading;
- contingency plans are in place to deal with unforeseen circumstances which may impact the welfare of the animals;
- animals are handled appropriately at all times using well-designed and maintained equipment;
- animals are managed and handled by competent handlers;
- the transportation is planned to ensure prompt delivery of the animals, and undertaken to ensure appropriate timing of arrival with consideration of situations that may affect the welfare of the animals; and
- consideration is given to feed, water, and rest requirements; provision of adequate shelter; and protection from, or treatment of, injury.

Many animal welfare problems — such as stress, lameness, infectious disease, and a lack of physical and thermal comfort — translate into economic losses. The proposed amendments establish minimum handling and transportation conditions, which would contribute to reducing transport losses, improving marketability and product quality, and improving food safety. Furthermore, a robust regulatory framework also contributes to a level playing field between regulated parties, insofar as no financial advantage can be gained by a business employing suboptimal animal welfare practices, particularly when low-value animals such as spent laying hens are transported. These amendments would respond to the requests made by many regulated parties already in compliance with the proposed humane transportation requirements.

While the industry generally demonstrates good compliance with the present regulatory requirements, new science-based information that provides greater insights into animals' needs is available. This information makes it possible to amend the HAR to reduce burden, in some cases, while promoting improved animal welfare during transportation. Improved clarity in the HAR would also likely result in improved regulatory compliance as the regulated parties' understanding of what is expected of them would improve. As a result of clearer expectations and requirements, the CFIA's ability to enforce the requirements for those who are non-compliant would be improved and more consistent.

On the whole, the proposed amendments would achieve the objective of an outcome-based regulatory framework that provides flexibility and clear, science-based expectations, which in turn would lead to improved animal welfare and a reduced risk of animal suffering during transportation.

Canada exports animals and meat products to many countries around the world every year, and is a member of the OIE. Animal welfare was first identified as a priority by the OIE in its 2002 Strategic Plan. The proposed amendments would bring Canadian requirements in line with those of trading partners and with the OIE animal welfare standards. Healthy animals and high quality meat products, resulting from improved animal welfare during transportation, can strengthen Canadian international trade status and facilitate market access. As a result, the proposed amendments would achieve the objective of better aligning Canada's requirements with those of other jurisdictions, including trading partners and the OIE.

The proposed regulatory amendments are generally consistent with current, accepted industry practices. Despite this, a large number of animals suffer and die during transportation every year in Canada due to stakeholders with non-compliant business practices. The proposed regulatory amendments are therefore needed to prohibit practices by some businesses that are deemed unacceptable by the CFIA, by animal welfare groups, or by other livestock producers.

Public attention to the welfare of farm animals has been increasing for the past half century in the industrialized countries and worldwide, especially during the past decade. This has resulted from cultural changes that have caused animals to be more valued, from economic pressures that have required producers to limit production costs, and from the practical recognition that attention to animal welfare often leads to improved animal health and productivity. A result of these and other developments is an increasing expectation, both domestically and internationally, that animals will be raised, transported, and slaughtered humanely, and that suppliers will be able to demonstrate adherence to appropriate animal welfare standards. [\(see footnote 24\)](#) As a result, the proposed amendments would achieve the objective of satisfying these expectations.

To provide the industry with time to adjust to the amended Regulations, the CFIA is proposing a delayed coming into force as part of implementation. The Regulations would come into force on the first anniversary of the day on which they are published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part II.

To enforce the proposed Regulations, the CFIA would continue its monitoring activities and would enforce animal transportation requirements by observing the transportation of animals at strategic locations, including, but not limited to, federally and provincially registered abattoirs, assembly yards, airports, border crossings, randomized roadside inspections, and auction markets. The CFIA would continue conducting inspections of conveyance operators' records.

The CFIA has the mandate and a program in place to enforce the requirements of Part XII of the HAR, and operational resources are committed to enforce them. The CFIA has developed a specialized training module for inspection staff designated to monitor compliance with the animal transportation regulations. With this training, inspection staff would be well qualified to enforce the proposed Regulations.

A proactive communications plan is in place to inform stakeholders of the proposed HAR and the associated implications. The CFIA would provide information and interpretive guidance to those involved in the transportation of animals, would investigate suspected non-compliance in accordance with the CFIA national enforcement policy, and apply appropriate enforcement actions when non-compliance is confirmed. The interpretive guidance document will be available on the CFIA's Internet site.

There is little tolerance for situations where non-compliance results in an animal being injured, suffering, or dying during transportation. In instances where non-compliance is determined, appropriate enforcement action is pursued.

Non-compliance to most provisions of Part XII of the HAR would continue to be subject to the administrative monetary penalties regime, namely Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the *Agriculture and Agri-Food Administrative Monetary Penalties Regulations*. As a result, violations of these HAR provisions may result in a warning or a penalty. The maximum penalty for a violation is set out in the *Agriculture and Agri-Food Administrative Monetary Penalties Act*. Should the amendments to Part XII be approved, consequential amendments to Part 1 of Schedule 1 would be required to align the violations with the amended HAR. Stakeholders were informed of the need for consequential amendments in March 2016.

The Act provides that contraventions of the HAR are punishable in the case of a summary conviction by a fine of up to \$50,000, by imprisonment for up to six months, or both, and in the case of an indictable offence by a fine of up to \$250,000, by imprisonment for up to two years, or both.

Section 51 of the Act allows the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food to order compensation for the market value of animals ordered to be destroyed. In the instance where animals would be ordered to be destroyed by the CFIA to prevent further suffering, if they were transported in contravention of the HAR, compensation pursuant to section 51 of the Act would not be awarded.

The proposed amendments would operate under existing complaint and appeal mechanisms. The CFIA uses an incremental process to manage complaints and appeals, which range from discussions with the CFIA employee to the submission of a formal complaint to the CFIA Complaints and Appeals Office.

## Contact

Please direct all questions and enquiries to

Dr. Cornelius F. Kiley  
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Animal Welfare, Biosecurity and Assurance Programs Section  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
59 Camelot Drive  
3rd Floor West, Room 231  
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K1A 0Y9  
Telephone: 613-773-7028  
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Email: animaltransportanimaux@inspection.gc.ca

## Small Business Lens Checklist

1. Name of the sponsoring regulatory organization:

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

2. Title of the regulatory proposal:

Regulations Amending the Health of Animals Regulations

3. Is the checklist submitted with a RIAS for the *Canada Gazette*, Part I or Part II?

*Canada Gazette*, Part I  *Canada Gazette*, Part II

### A. Small business regulatory design

I	Communication and transparency	Yes	No	N/A
1.	Are the proposed Regulations or requirements easily understandable in everyday language?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Is there a clear connection between the requirements and the purpose (or intent) of the proposed Regulations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Will there be an implementation plan that includes communications and compliance promotion activities, that informs small business of a regulatory change and guides them	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	on how to comply with it (e.g. information sessions, sample assessments, toolkits, Web sites)?			
4.	If new forms, reports or processes are introduced, are they consistent in appearance and format with other relevant government forms, reports or processes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No new forms, reports or processes would be introduced as a result of the regulatory proposal.				
<b>II</b>	<b>Simplification and streamlining</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>
1.	Will streamlined processes be put in place (e.g. through BizPaL, Canada Border Services Agency single window) to collect information from small businesses where possible?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No information in respect of the humane transportation of animals would be collected from regulated parties.				
2.	Have opportunities to align with other obligations imposed on business by federal, provincial, municipal or international or multinational regulatory bodies been assessed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Has the impact of the proposed Regulations on international or interprovincial trade been assessed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	If the data or information, other than personal information, required to comply with the proposed Regulations is already collected by another department or jurisdiction, will this information be obtained from that department or jurisdiction instead of requesting the same information from small businesses or other stakeholders? (The collection, retention, use, disclosure and disposal of personal information are all subject to the requirements of the <i>Privacy Act</i> . Any questions with respect to compliance with the <i>Privacy Act</i> should be referred to the department's or agency's ATIP office or legal services unit.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No data or information would be required.				
5.	Will forms be pre-populated with information or data already available to the department to reduce the time and cost necessary to complete them? (Example: When a business completes an online application for a licence, upon entering an identifier or a name, the system pre-populates the application with the applicant's personal particulars such as contact information, date, etc. when that information is already available to the department.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Regulated parties would not be required to submit forms or complete online applications with respect to this regulatory proposal.				
6.	Will electronic reporting and data collection be used, including electronic validation and confirmation of receipt of reports where appropriate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regulated parties are free to choose any method for data collection. However, no reporting of the data collected would be required. The data would need to be accessible at the time of inspection, as required.				
7.	Will reporting, if required by the proposed Regulations, be aligned with generally used business processes or international standards if possible?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reporting would not be required by the proposed Regulations.				
8.	If additional forms are required, can they be streamlined with existing forms that must be completed for other government information requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No additional forms would be required by the proposed Regulations.				
<b>III</b>	<b>Implementation, compliance and service standards</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>
1.	Has consideration been given to small businesses in remote areas, with special consideration to those that do not have access to high-speed (broadband) Internet?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	If regulatory authorizations (e.g. licences, permits or certifications) are introduced, will service standards addressing timeliness of decision making be developed that are inclusive of complaints about poor service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Transport of Animals

### Interpretation

**136 (1)** The following definitions apply in this Part.

**commercial carrier** means

- (a) the owner of a motor vehicle who is engaged in the business of transporting animals by land for financial benefit;
- (b) the owner of an aircraft who is engaged in the business of transporting animals by air for financial benefit;
- (c) the owner of a vessel who is engaged in the business of transporting animals by water for financial benefit; or
- (d) a railway company. (*transporteur commercial*)

**compromised**, in respect of an animal, means an animal that

- (a) is bloated;
- (b) has laboured breathing;
- (c) has acute frostbite;
- (d) is totally blind in one or both eyes;
- (e) has not fully healed after an operation, including dehorning or castration;
- (f) is slightly lame in one or more limbs with slightly imperfect locomotion;
- (g) has difficulty climbing a ramp or rising;
- (h) is in heavy lactation;
- (i) has an unhealed or acutely injured penis;
- (j) has a rectal or vaginal prolapse;
- (k) has its mobility limited by a device applied to its body, with the exception of hobbles that are applied to aid in treatment of an injury;
- (l) is a wet bird; or
- (m) has an impaired capacity to withstand transportation because of infirmity, illness, injury, fatigue or any other condition intrinsic to the animal, other than a condition set out in any of paragraphs (a) to (l). (*fragilisé*)

**confine** means to hold an animal

- (a) in a container before it is placed in a conveyance for the purpose of transportation;
- (b) in a conveyance or container during transportation; or
- (c) in a container after the container is removed from a conveyance after transportation. (*confiner*)

**container** means a structure that is moveable, that has sides and a bottom and may have a cover and that is used to confine an animal, and includes a cargo container and a crate. (*caisse*)

**humanely kill** means to kill as rapidly as possible with the least possible suffering, fear and anxiety. (*tuer sans cruauté*)

**humanely stun** means to render irreversibly unconscious as rapidly as possible with the least possible suffering, fear and anxiety. (*assommer sans cruauté*)

**safe water** means potable water, or water that does not pose a risk to the health of the animal drinking it and, in the case of an animal that is being loaded or transported to be slaughtered and prepared as food for human consumption, that does not pose a risk of contamination of that food. (*eau salubre*)

**unfit**, in respect of an animal, means an animal that

- (a) is non-ambulatory;
- (b) has a fractured limb or pelvis;
- (c) has any other fracture that impedes its movement or causes suffering;
- (d) is lame in one or more limbs to the extent that it is reluctant to walk and exhibits halted movements;
- (e) is lame to the extent that it cannot bear any weight on one limb;
- (f) has sustained an injury and is hobbled to aid in treatment;
- (g) is in shock or is dying;
- (h) has a prolapsed uterus;
- (i) has a severe open wound or a severe laceration;
- (j) is extremely thin;
- (k) is dehydrated;
- (l) is hypothermic or hyperthermic;
- (m) has a nervous system disorder or is showing signs of one;
- (n) has a fever;
- (o) has a hernia that
  - (i) impedes its movement, including when a hind limb of the animal touches the hernia as the animal is walking,
  - (ii) causes the animal to exhibit signs of pain on palpation,
  - (iii) touches the ground when the animal is standing in its natural position, or
  - (iv) has an open wound, ulceration or obvious infection;
- (p) is in the last ten percent of its gestation period or has given birth during the preceding 48 hours;
- (q) is a porcine that is trembling, has difficulty breathing and has discoloured skin; or
- (r) cannot be transported without suffering because of infirmity, illness, injury, fatigue or any other condition intrinsic to the animal other than those set out in any of paragraphs (a) to (q). (*inapte*)

The regulatory proposal would not require regulatory authorizations. Regulated parties are able to register complaints or appeals with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Office of Complaints and Appeals.

3.	Is there a clearly identified contact point or help desk for small businesses and other stakeholders?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**B. Regulatory flexibility analysis and reverse onus**

IV	Regulatory flexibility analysis	Yes	No	N/A
1.	Does the RIAS identify at least one flexible option that has lower compliance or administrative costs for small businesses in the small business lens section?  Examples of flexible options to minimize costs are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longer time periods to comply with the requirements, longer transition periods or temporary exemptions;</li> <li>• Performance-based standards;</li> <li>• Partial or complete exemptions from compliance, especially for firms that have good track records (legal advice should be sought when considering such an option);</li> <li>• Reduced compliance costs;</li> <li>• Reduced fees or other charges or penalties;</li> <li>• Use of market incentives;</li> <li>• A range of options to comply with requirements, including lower-cost options;</li> <li>• Simplified and less frequent reporting obligations and inspections; and</li> <li>• Licences granted on a permanent basis or renewed less frequently.</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Does the RIAS include, as part of the Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Statement, quantified and monetized compliance and administrative costs for small businesses associated with the initial option assessed, as well as the flexible, lower-cost option?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Does the RIAS include, as part of the Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Statement, a consideration of the risks associated with the flexible option? (Minimizing administrative or compliance costs for small business cannot be at the expense of greater health, security or safety or create environmental risks for Canadians.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Does the RIAS include a summary of feedback provided by small business during consultations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
V	Reverse onus	Yes	No	N/A
1.	If the recommended option is not the lower-cost option for small business in terms of administrative or compliance costs, is a reasonable justification provided in the RIAS?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The recommended option for this regulatory proposal is the lower-cost option for small business.				

**PROPOSED REGULATORY TEXT**

Notice is given that the Governor in Council, pursuant to subsection 64(1) (see footnote a) of the *Health of Animals Act* (see footnote b), proposes to make the annexed *Regulations Amending the Health of Animals Regulations*.

Interested persons may make representations concerning the proposed Regulations within 75 days after the date of publication of this notice. All such representations must cite the *Canada Gazette*, Part I, and the date of publication of this notice, and be addressed to Dr. Cornelius F. Kiley, National Manager, Animal Welfare, Biosecurity and Assurance Programs Section, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, 59 Camelot Drive, 3rd Floor East, Room 231, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0Y9 (tel.: 613-773-7028; fax: 613-773-7567; email: animaltransportanimaux@inspection.gc.ca).

By submitting representations, interested persons consent to having their representations posted on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's website.

Ottawa, November 24, 2016

Jurica Čapkun  
Assistant Clerk of the Privy Council

**Regulations Amending the Health of Animals Regulations**

**Amendments**

**1** The definition *transporteur maritime* in section 2 of the French version of the *Health of Animals Regulations* (see footnote 25) is replaced by the following:

*transporteur maritime* Propriétaire ou exploitant d'un navire qui se livre au transport des animaux par voie maritime. (*sea carrier*)

**2** Part XII of the Regulations is replaced by the following:

**PART XII**

**(2)** For the application of this Part, loading begins when an animal is handled, moved or caught for the purpose of placing it in a conveyance or container and

**(a)** in the case of an animal that is transported in a conveyance, unloading begins when the animal is handled or moved for the purpose of removing it from the conveyance and ends when the animal is removed from the conveyance or from any ramp, gangway, chute, box or other apparatus that was used for unloading; and

**(b)** in the case of an animal that is transported in a container, regardless of whether the container is placed in a conveyance, unloading begins when the container is handled or moved for the purpose of removing the animal from the container and ends when the animal is removed from the container.

**(3)** An animal is considered unfit for the purposes of this Part if it is both compromised and unfit.

#### Import

**136.1** No person shall import an animal unless the animal is transported in accordance with this Part.

#### Export

**136.2** No person shall export an animal unless that person has reasonable grounds to believe that the animal will be transported in accordance with this Part.

#### Knowledge and Skills

**137** Every person who loads, transports or unloads animals, or causes them to be loaded, transported or unloaded, shall have the necessary knowledge and skills to conduct those activities in compliance with this Part.

#### Training

**138 (1)** Every commercial carrier shall train, or ensure that training is received by, its employees and agents or mandataries who take part directly in the loading, transportation or unloading of animals or who take part in decision making or advising the person operating the conveyance in respect of the loading, transportation or unloading of animals, so that they have the necessary knowledge and skills to conduct those activities in compliance with this Part.

**(2)** The training must cover the following subjects in respect of the species of animals being transported:

**(a)** animal behaviour;

**(b)** animal handling, restraint, loading densities and transportation methods;

**(c)** the contingency plans referred to in section 139; and

**(d)** the risk factors set out in section 140.

**(3)** Training of an employee or an agent or mandatory is not required if the commercial carrier verifies that the person already has the necessary knowledge and skills.

#### Contingency Plans

**139 (1)** Every person who transports an animal, or causes one to be transported, shall have a contingency plan that establishes effective measures that are to be taken in the case where

**(a)** unforeseen delays or other circumstances could result in the animal's suffering, injury or death; or

**(b)** the animal becomes compromised or unfit during transport.

**(2)** Every person who transports an animal, or causes one to be transported, shall ensure that their employees and agents or mandataries who take part directly in the loading, transportation or unloading of animals or who take part in decision making or advising the person operating the conveyance in respect of the loading, transportation or unloading of animals are informed of all applicable contingency plans.

#### Assessment of Risk Factors Related to Transport

**140** Every person who intends to load or transport an animal in — or unload an animal from — a conveyance or container, or to cause one to be so loaded, transported or unloaded, shall, before loading, transporting or unloading the animal, assess its capacity to withstand the loading, transportation and unloading taking into account the prohibitions set out in, and the obligations imposed by, this Part as well as any other factors that could reasonably be viewed as having an impact on the animal's capacity to withstand the loading, transportation and unloading, including

**(a)** the current condition of the animal;

**(b)** any pre-existing disease, injury or condition of the animal;

**(c)** the loading density and the compatibility of the animals to be transported taking into consideration the nature, species, temperament, gender, weight and age of the animals;

**(d)** animal handling and restraint methods;

**(e)** the duration of the transport and confinement in the conveyance or container;

**(f)** the foreseeable delays during transport and at destination;

**(g)** the foreseeable weather conditions during transport;

**(h)** the foreseeable conditions that may be encountered during transport that could result in sharp inclines and declines, vibration and shifting of the container or swaying of the conveyance;

**(i)** the type and condition of the conveyance, container and equipment; and

**(j)** the possible breakdown of the conveyance, container or equipment.

#### Transport of Unfit Animals

**141 (1)** Subject to subsections (2) to (4), no person shall load or transport an animal that is unfit, or cause one to be loaded or transported, in a conveyance or container.

**(2)** An unfit animal may, on a veterinarian's advice, be loaded and transported directly for diagnosis, care or treatment at a place other than a slaughter establishment, auction market or assembly yard, if the measures that are necessary to minimize the animal's suffering during loading, transportation and unloading are taken.

**(3)** If an animal becomes unfit during transport while on board a conveyance or in a container, no person shall continue to transport the animal or cause it to continue to be transported unless, without delay,

**(a)** reasonable measures are taken to minimize the animal's suffering and it is transported directly to the nearest place where it can

**(i)** receive care or treatment on a veterinarian's advice, or

**(ii)** be humanely stunned or humanely killed; or

**(b)** the animal is humanely killed on board the conveyance or, if the animal is in a container, in the container.

**(4)** If an animal becomes unfit during transport while on board a vessel, the vessel master or a veterinarian shall, without delay, take reasonable measures to minimize the animal's suffering and

**(a)** provide care and treatment to the animal or cause care and treatment to be provided to the animal by a person referred to in subsection 157(1); or

**(b)** cause the animal to be humanely killed by the person referred to in paragraph 155(b).

**(5)** No person shall unload an animal, or cause one to be unloaded, if it is unfit as described in any of paragraphs (a) to (h) and (q) of the definition *unfit* in subsection 136(1), unless

**(a)** the animal is being unloaded for diagnosis or care or treatment on a veterinarian's advice;

**(b)** in the case of a small animal that can be easily and manually lifted out of the container in which it is being transported, it is removed without delay from the container and humanely killed; or

**(c)** the animal is humanely stunned.

**(6)** A veterinary inspector may, if they have reasonable grounds to believe that an animal is being or has been loaded, transported or unloaded in contravention of any of subsections (1) to (5), order that the animal

**(a)** be humanely killed; or

**(b)** be transported directly to the nearest place to receive care or treatment or to be humanely killed.

#### Transport of Compromised Animals

**142 (1)** Subject to subsections (2) to (5), no person shall load or transport a compromised animal, or cause one to be loaded or transported, in a conveyance or container unless

**(a)** the animal is segregated;

**(b)** the animal is loaded last and unloaded first;

**(c)** the measures that are necessary to prevent the animal's suffering, injury or death during loading, transportation and unloading are taken; and

**(d)** the animal is transported directly to the nearest place, other than an auction market or assembly yard, to receive care or treatment or to be humanely killed.

**(2)** Paragraphs (1)(a) and (b) do not apply to poultry or rabbits.

**(3)** A compromised animal may be loaded and transported unsegregated in a conveyance or container with one other animal with which it is familiar, if to do so is unlikely to cause either animal suffering, injury or death.

**(4)** If an animal becomes compromised during transport on board a conveyance or in a container, no person shall continue to transport the animal or cause it to continue to be transported unless, without delay,

**(a)** reasonable measures are taken to minimize the animal's suffering; and

**(b)** it is transported directly to the nearest place to receive care or treatment or to be humanely killed.

**(5)** If an animal becomes compromised during transport on board a vessel, the vessel master or a veterinarian shall, without delay, take reasonable measures to minimize the animal's suffering and

**(a)** provide care and treatment to the animal or cause care and treatment to be provided to the animal by a person referred to in subsection 157(1); or

**(b)** cause the animal to be humanely killed by the person referred to in paragraph 155(b).

**(6)** An inspector may, if they have reasonable grounds to believe that a compromised animal is being or has been loaded or transported in contravention of any of subsections (1) to (5), order that the animal be transported directly to the nearest place to receive care or treatment or to be humanely killed.

#### Transport of Livestock, Camelids or Cervids of Eight Days of Age or Less

**142.1 (1)** No person shall load or transport livestock, camelids or cervids of eight days of age or less, or cause one to be loaded or transported, in a conveyance or container unless

**(a)** the animal is loaded last and unloaded first;

**(b)** the measures that are necessary to prevent the animal's suffering, injury or death during loading, transportation and unloading are taken;

**(c)** the animal is transported in less than 12 hours directly to a final destination other than an auction market or assembly yard and stops are made only to embark other livestock, camelids or cervids of eight days of age or less; and

**(d)** subject to subsection (2), the animal is segregated from animals that are not livestock, camelids or cervids of eight days of age or less.

**(2)** Livestock, camelids or cervids of eight days of age or less may be loaded and transported in a conveyance or container with their dam if to do so is unlikely to cause either animal suffering, injury or death.

## Transport of Lactating Dairy Animals

**143 (1)** No person shall load or transport a dairy animal in heavy lactation, or cause one to be loaded or transported, without its suckling offspring unless the animal is fully milked at intervals not exceeding 12 hours.

**(2)** No person shall load or transport a dairy animal in heavy lactation, or cause one to be loaded or transported, without its suckling offspring unless they determine when the animal was last fully milked.

**(3)** For the purposes of subsection (1), an interval ends and the next interval begins each time the animal is fully milked.

## Animal Handling

**144 (1)** No person shall, during the confinement, loading, transportation or unloading of an animal,

**(a)** beat the animal;

**(b)** prod, whip or use any driving device on the animal in a manner that is likely to cause the animal's suffering, injury or death;

**(c)** prod, whip or use any driving device on the animal if it does not have a clear path to move;

**(d)** apply an electric prod to sensitive areas of the animal including the belly and the anal, genital and facial regions of the animal, or to any region of the animal if it is three months of age or less or is a horse, goat or sheep;

**(e)** drag the animal;

**(f)** lift the animal by its fleece, fur, feathers or ears;

**(g)** lift the animal by its tail; or

**(h)** handle the animal in any other way that is likely to result in the animal's suffering, injury or death.

**(2)** Paragraph (1)(g) does not apply in respect of mice or other small rodents, or in respect of animals of other species that are commonly handled by their tails, if the handling does not cause the animal's suffering or injury and is consistent with generally accepted practices.

**(3)** No person shall, when an animal is in a container,

**(a)** drop, kick or throw the container; or

**(b)** handle the container in any manner that is likely to cause the animal's suffering, injury or death.

**145 (1)** No person shall load or unload an animal, or cause one to be loaded or unloaded, using a ramp, gangway, chute, box or other apparatus unless it

**(a)** can bear the weight to which it is subjected without collapsing, twisting, breaking or bending;

**(b)** has side rails of sufficient strength and height to prevent the animal from falling off;

**(c)** has a secure surface that prevents the animal from tripping, slipping, falling or sustaining an injury;

**(d)** is placed so that there is no unprotected gap through which the animal could trip, slip, fall or escape or that could cause the animal's suffering or injury;

**(e)** has steps of a height and design that are suitable for the species to prevent the animal from suffering or injury; and

**(f)** is constructed, maintained and used in a manner that prevents the animal from suffering or injury.

**(2)** No person shall load or unload livestock or cervids — or cause them to be loaded or unloaded — using a ramp, gangway, chute, box or other apparatus that has a slope of

**(a)** more than 35° from horizontal in the case of a cervid, goat or sheep;

**(b)** more than 30° from horizontal in the case of a bovine or horse; and

**(c)** more than 25° from horizontal in the case of a porcine.

## Weather Protection and Ventilation

**146** No person shall confine, load, transport or unload an animal, or cause one to be confined, loaded, transported or unloaded, in a conveyance or container if the animal is likely to suffer, sustain injury or die by being exposed to meteorological or environmental conditions, humidity or inadequate ventilation.

## Overcrowding and Space Requirements

**147 (1)** No person shall confine, load or transport an animal, or cause one to be confined, loaded or transported, in a conveyance or container that is overcrowded.

**(2)** For the purposes of subsection (1), overcrowding occurs when, due to the loading density or the size of the conveyance or container,

**(a)** the animal cannot maintain its preferred position or adjust its body position in order to protect itself from injuries or avoid being crushed or trampled;

**(b)** the animal is likely to develop a pathological condition such as hyperthermia, hypothermia or frostbite; or

**(c)** the animal is likely to suffer, sustain an injury or die.

**(3)** No person shall transport an animal by air, or cause one to be transported by air, except in accordance with the floor space standards described as stocking density guidelines for the species that are set out in the *Live Animals Regulations*, 42nd edition, published by the International Air Transport Association, as amended from time to time.

**148 (1)** No person shall confine, load or transport an animal, or cause one to be confined, loaded or transported, in a conveyance or container unless

**(a)** in the case of livestock, cervids, canines, felines and ratites, the animal is able to stand at all times within the conveyance or container with all feet on the floor, with head elevated, with sufficient headroom to permit a full range of head movement and without any part of its body coming into contact with a deck, roof or top of the conveyance or cover of the container;

**(b)** in the case of chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, quail and pigeons, the animal is able to maintain a squatting or sitting position without coming into contact with the cover of the container; and



(c) in the case of all other species, the animal is able to maintain its preferred position with sufficient headroom to permit a full range of head movement.

(2) No person shall transport an equine, or cause one to be transported, by land in a conveyance with more than one deck.

#### Segregation

**149 (1)** No person shall confine, load or transport, or cause to be confined, loaded or transported, in the same conveyance or container, animals that are incompatible with one another unless they are segregated.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), an animal is incompatible with another animal if, by reason of its nature, species, temperament, gender, weight or age, it is likely to cause injury, suffering or death to the other animal.

#### Conveyances and Containers

**150 (1)** No person shall confine, load or transport an animal, or cause one to be confined, loaded or transported, in a conveyance or container that

- (a) is unsuitable for the species being transported;
- (b) is not constructed, equipped, maintained or used in a manner that prevents injury to the animal or the animal's escape;
- (c) does not provide a secure surface to prevent the animal from tripping, slipping, falling or sustaining an injury;
- (d) is likely to collapse;
- (e) has exposed bolt heads, angles or other projections that are likely to cause the animal's suffering, injury or death;
- (f) contains objects that are not secured;
- (g) has insecure fittings;
- (h) cannot be cleaned;
- (i) in the case of the transport or confinement of livestock, cervids, camelids or ratites, has a floor that is not strewn with sand, straw, wood shavings or other bedding material sufficient to absorb, and prevent the pooling or escape of, water, urine and liquid manure; and
- (j) in the case where a conveyance is used for the confinement of animals for feeding, water and rest, the conveyance is constructed or maintained in a manner that does not permit the animals to be fed, watered and rested in accordance with section 159.2 without being removed from it.

(2) No person shall confine, load or transport an animal in — or unload an animal from — a conveyance or container, or cause one to be so confined, loaded, transported or unloaded, if the animal is exposed, or is likely to be exposed to any thing, including exhaust from the conveyance, that is toxic or noxious or that is likely to cause the animal's suffering, injury or death.

(3) No person shall transport an animal by air, or cause an animal to be transported by air, unless it is transported in a container that meets the design and construction requirements for the species that are set out in the *Live Animals Regulations*, 42nd edition, published by the International Air Transport Association, as amended from time to time.

**151 (1)** No person shall confine or transport an animal, or cause one to be confined or transported, in a container unless

- (a) the animal is visible from outside the container, or at least two of the container's outer sides have a readily visible sign or symbol indicating the presence within of a live animal and a readily visible sign or symbol indicating the upright position of the container; and
- (b) the container is constructed and maintained so that
  - (i) the animal may be fed and watered in compliance with this Part without being removed from it,
  - (ii) except in the case of poultry and rabbits transported by land, the escape of any urine or manure from it is prevented, and
  - (iii) in the case of an animal being transported by land, other than poultry and rabbits, its floor can be cleaned and strewn with fresh bedding material in compliance with this Part.

(2) No person shall use a container for the transportation of an animal unless the container is secured to the conveyance in a manner that prevents it from being displaced during transportation.

#### Vessels

**152** Every sea carrier shall provide passageways to permit the feeding, watering and care of livestock and poultry on the vessel.

**153** Every sea carrier shall provide an enclosed area or pen to accommodate livestock and poultry on the vessel that are injured or become ill, compromised or unfit.

**154** Every sea carrier shall have lighting equipment — including emergency lighting — that is sufficient to permit the feeding, watering and caring for the livestock and poultry on the vessel, and the necessary portable lighting equipment to enable clinical examination of the livestock and poultry.

**155** Every sea carrier shall

- (a) provide humane killing devices that are in good working order and are an appropriate type for the species, age and weight of the livestock and poultry on the vessel; and
- (b) ensure that there is a person who is trained to use the humane killing devices.

**156** Every sea carrier shall have a sufficient quantity and type of supplies on the vessel, including medication, to treat the livestock and poultry on the vessel having regard to such factors as the species of the livestock or poultry and the duration of the transport.

**157 (1)** Every sea carrier shall have an appropriate number of trained persons on the vessel to provide for the livestock's and poultry's health and welfare and daily care, including feeding, watering and waste removal.

(2) If the vessel's journey is expected to exceed six hours, the sea carrier or vessel master shall, at least 24 hours before the departure, provide a veterinary inspector with the following information:

- (a) the planned date and time of departure and arrival at the destination;

- (b) the name of the person who will be in charge of caring for the livestock and poultry; and
- (c) the arrangements for communication between the sea carrier or vessel master and the shipper that allow the person who is in charge of caring for the livestock and poultry to obtain veterinary advice as required during transport.

**158** No person shall transport livestock or poultry, or cause them to be transported, on a vessel close enough to the engine casing or any boiler room casing to cause the livestock's or poultry's suffering, injury or death unless the casing is covered and insulated to prevent that suffering, injury or death.

#### Feed, Water and Rest

**159** No person shall confine, load or transport an animal, or cause one to be confined, loaded or transported, unless the person determines when it was last fed, watered and rested.

**159.1 (1)** No person shall confine or transport an animal, or cause one to be confined or transported, in a conveyance or container unless the animal

(a) is provided with

- (i) safe water in amounts and at intervals that are sufficient to prevent the animal from becoming dehydrated, and
- (ii) feed of an appropriate type for the species and in amounts and at intervals that are sufficient to prevent nutritional metabolic abnormality; and

(b) is rested in accordance with the animal's needs and at intervals that are sufficient to prevent the animal from suffering due to fatigue.

(2) The intervals without feed, safe water and rest shall not exceed the following:

- (a) 12 hours for ruminants that are too young to be fed exclusively on hay and grain, for any compromised animal and for livestock, a camelid or a cervid of eight days of age or less;
- (b) 24 hours for broiler chickens, spent laying hens and rabbits;
- (c) 28 hours for equine and porcine;
- (d) 72 hours from the time of hatching for birds; and
- (e) 36 hours for any other animal.

(3) In the event that more than one of the periods in subsection (2) applies, the shortest interval governs.

(4) For the purposes of this section, an interval ends and the next interval begins,

- (a) in the case of water, when the animal has taken sufficient safe water to prevent dehydration;
- (b) in the case of feed, when the animal has taken sufficient feed to prevent nutritional metabolic abnormalities; and
- (c) in the case of rest, when the animal has rested for at least eight hours.

**159.2 (1)** Every person feeding, watering and resting animals shall, at that time, provide

- (a) sufficient space to allow the animals to lie down without lying on top of each other;
- (b) equipment designed for feeding and watering the animals;
- (c) well-drained and clean floors that provide a secure surface to prevent the animals from tripping, slipping, falling or sustaining an injury;
- (d) sufficient straw or other bedding to protect the animals from suffering or injury;
- (e) sufficient straw or other bedding to keep the animals clean and dry;
- (f) protection from meteorological or environmental conditions or humidity in order to prevent suffering, injury or death; and
- (g) adequate ventilation to prevent suffering, injury or death.

(2) Animals being transported in a conveyance on land may be fed, watered and rested in the conveyance if it is stopped and the requirements of subsection (1) are met.

(3) Every sea carrier shall, before departure, have on the vessel

- (a) a sufficient amount of feed and safe water for each animal to be transported, having regard to the expected duration of the transport, to prevent each animal from suffering, dehydration, nutritional metabolic abnormality and death; and
- (b) an additional one-day supply of feed and safe water for every period of four days or less of the expected duration of the transport.

(4) The sea carrier shall

- (a) have storage on the vessel for the feed and safe water in a place and in a manner that will prevent them from posing a risk to the animal's health and from otherwise becoming unsuitable for animal consumption; and
- (b) have dispensing systems for the feed and safe water on the vessel.

#### Transfer of Responsibility

**159.3 (1)** No person who transports an animal shall leave the animal at a slaughter establishment, auction market, assembly yard or feedlot unless

- (a) the consignee or their representative is physically present on the animal's arrival, accepts responsibility for the animal's care and records the acceptance in writing; and
- (b) the person who transports the animal provides the consignee or their representative with information on when the animal was last fed, watered and rested.

(2) The person who accepts responsibility for the animal's care shall, without delay, take the measures that are necessary to prevent its suffering, injury or death.

#### Records

**159.4 (1)** Every commercial carrier shall, for each shipment of animals, make a record in writing at the time of loading that includes the following information:

- (a) the name and address of the shipper, consignee and person operating the conveyance in which the animals are transported;
- (b) the identifying number or registration number of the conveyance;
- (c) the number of square metres or square feet of floor area available to the animals in the conveyance or, if the animals are in a container, in the container;
- (d) the date on which and place where that the conveyance or container was last cleaned and disinfected;
- (e) the date on which, time when and place where the animals came into the carrier's custody;
- (f) the number, description and gross weight of the animals;
- (g) the date on which and time when the animals were last fed, watered and rested prior to loading and, in the case of animals in heavy lactation, when they were last fully milked prior to loading; and
- (h) if the animals are to be transported to a slaughter establishment, an auction market, an assembly yard or a feedlot, its name and address.

**(2)** Every commercial carrier shall add the following information to the record as it becomes available:

- (a) the date on which, time when and place where the animals are fed, watered and rested while in the carrier's custody; and
- (b) the date on which, time when and place where the animals are unloaded at the destination and the name of the person who accepted responsibility for their care.

**(3)** The owner of the animals shall, at the time of loading, give to the commercial carrier that is to transport the animals a signed declaration that states the date on which, time when and place where the animals were last fed, watered and rested and if lactating, fully milked.

**(4)** The person operating the conveyance shall, with each shipment of animals being transported, keep on board the original or a copy of the record and the declaration.

### Coming Into Force

**3 These Regulations come into force on the first anniversary of the day on which they are published in the *Canada Gazette, Part II*.**

[49-1-o]

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#### Footnote \*

From time of hatching

#### Footnote 14

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[Footnote 25](#)

C.R.C., c. 296; SOR/91-525, s. 2

[Footnote a](#)

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[Footnote b](#)

S.C. 1990, c. 21

Date modified: 2016-12-03



# THE PEST INSIDER

October 2016

## SFU Rat Research

Simon Fraser University has developed a three-pronged approach to rat control. Scientists have developed a rat pheromone (chemical attractant), a rat pup vocalization, and a special rat food bait that not only attracts rats but also induces them to feed. By combining the effective food bait with the rats' sex pheromone and rat pup vocalizations, researchers expect to overcome the rats' averseness to traps. The combined rat attractant tools are expected to increase rat trap rate by tenfold and eliminate poison bait stations. The message is: here is some great food, it is safe because I hear "live" happy rats, and can smell the males' sex pheromone.

The brown rat, Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), is the second most successful mammal on the planet, next to humans. As an invasive species, it may lose some of its dominance as we research better rat-control tools and improve our standard of living, thus decreasing rat habitat and food.

*"Rodents can come across as being quite vacant in the personality stakes"-  
Julian Clary*

## SFU Rat Trap Protocol



## In This Issue

- SFU Rat Research
- Choosing Rat Bait
- Ontario Rabies Control
- Halifax Rat Problem
- Rat Display in Medicine Hat
- Rat Update
- Events



Just One or More??

## Choosing Rat Bait Wisely

Generally the newer, single-feeding, more effective rat baits have a longer biological half-life, and although they work better in killing rats, they are harsher on the environment. To be an effective, single-feeding bait, they must take a long time to be expelled from the victim's body. This slow break down in an organism allows the toxins to build up in the environment.

Use a multiple-feeding, shorter biological half-life bait where possible and appropriate.

A rat infestation that is accepting bait will be eradicated just as effectively with a multiple-feeding anticoagulant as with a harsher single-feeding bait. The advantage of a multiple-feeding bait is there will be less of a chance of toxins building up in non-targets, making it more environmentally friendly.

When baiting a single rat sighting, the rat likely will not have made a home which requires a single-feeding anticoagulant. The rat may move on before a second feeding and escape your control. Since not much bait is set out in single rat sightings, there is a low risk of bait buildup in the environment.

The key is to know your toxicants, and know the rat situation before setting out baits.



## Ontario Wildlife Officials Resort to the Air

A helicopter seen flying randomly over Ontario's country side may be a part of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry bait-drop program to vaccinate raccoons, skunks, foxes, and coyotes for rabies. A recent outbreak of rabies in wildlife has triggered the use of rabies vaccine put into small baits that smell like marshmallow and are air dropped into surrounding wildlife areas. Animals eating these baits will vaccinate themselves against rabies thus stopping the spread of the disease. This has been a proven method to control rabies in localized wildlife areas. Aerial bait drop is quite expensive but a great way to preserve our wildlife, and it is money well spent in the long run. The ministry responsible for wildlife rabies research and management programs in Ontario said that the bait-drop program is one of the most successful rabies-control programs in North America. The baits are about the size of a loonie and light green in colour.



## Halifax Fighting a Disgusting Rat Infestation

Rats have been seen actually coming out in the daytime and eating with the pigeons in parks in Halifax. A walk through Grafton Park at dusk will demonstrate Halifax's concerns with rats. In the park, you can see rats on a daily basis scurrying around under trees and garbage cans picking up food. Rats are even setting off security alarms inside the library after closing hours. An unseasonably warm winter is reported as the cause, but leftover food and garbage cans left out might contribute as well. Pest control companies and the municipality have put out traps to combat the problem.



City Parks are Equal Parts Sanctuary and Feeding Ground for Rats



## Rat Display Spends Summer in Medicine Hat

The provincial rat display spent most of the summer at the Nature Centre at Police Point Park in Medicine Hat. The park interpreter set up an additional display of native rats to offset the valuable and often misidentified rodents in the province against the invasive Norway and Roof rats.

In September, classes from local schools attended the display to learn more about Alberta's rat-control program and about the native valuable rats in the area.



## RAT UPDATE FROM PHIL MERRILL

The past summer has been fairly quiet on the rat front. We have yet to encounter a rat infestation this year. However, we have had a greater amount of confirmed single roof rat reports coming in from our neighbors to the west.

Most of the rat sighting notifications are coming in via the 310-RATS number. We have been receiving about 80 reports a month on the hot line and almost two per month have been confirmed rat sightings. I believe the increase in number of confirmed rat sightings per month has been as a result of our 310-RATS number, which means most of the rat sightings now get reported. There still has to be a number of rats coming into the Province that perish without being seen, or seen and not reported.

It appears the Medicine Hat Landfill infestation and the Bon Accord Sturgeon infestation are no longer an issue. We have not had a sighting in well over a year for Bon Accord, and over two years for the Medicine Hat landfill. Once rats get established in an infestation, it is a long time until the last rat can be eradicated. No wonder jurisdictions who have established rat populations have such a hard time controlling them.

During the Fort McMurray fire, we had two groups of rats turned into the Edmonton SPCA from evacuated Fort McMurray residents. We believe both groups to be African Soft Furred rats. The first bunch were confirmed via pictures and the second group were only identified by description. Physical evidence of pictures could not be located, and the owners picked up the rats before we could positively identify the rodents.

Thanks goes out to all our Ag. Fieldmen and Municipal PCOs for investigating all the 310-RATS calls and reports.

### EVENTS

October 12-13, 2016, the Provincial Form 7 training occurred in Whitecourt, Alberta at the Whitecourt Convention Center. Another Form 7 training is scheduled sometime during December 5-8, 2016 during IST of the AAAF. Call Phil Merrill for further information.

A PCO Training Course for rats is scheduled at 10:30 am on November 22, 2016 in Ryley, Alberta at the Legion Hall for any PCO that would like to attend. The afternoon will be set aside for the RCZ PCO meeting and update.



## CONTACTS

**310-RATS**  
**310-7287**

**310-FARM**  
**310-3276**

### Bruce Hamblin

Manager  
Inspection Services

Work: 403-507-4063  
Cell: 403-586-4919  
Email: [bruce.hamblin@gov.ab.ca](mailto:bruce.hamblin@gov.ab.ca)

### Phil Merrill

Provincial Rat and Pest  
Specialist  
Work: 403-381-5856  
Cell: 403-308-0960  
Email: [phil.merrill@gov.ab.ca](mailto:phil.merrill@gov.ab.ca)

## OF NOTE

A pest-control company in Flagstaff Arizona, SenesTech, has developed a pink cocktail mix that sterilizes rats. It is most effective on male rats but also sterilizes females. The liquid bait is in a palatable formulation that rats are supposed to prefer over hard, dry food. Its main drawback is that a rat has to consume large quantities of bait every day for a period of time. The product, called ContraPest, is EPA registered in the U.S but not yet registered in Canada. Cities overrun with rats may have a solution to their rat problem that they can use to lower the population of rats without poisons. Keep your eye on this one folks!



**To:** Duncan; Lloyd Giebelhaus; Maureen Vadnais; Pat Gordeyko; Soren Odegard; Steve Wikkerink  
**Subject:** Bovine Tuberculosis Investigation Update  
**Attachments:** Bovine TB Nov 2016 WebPDF (5).pdf

Good Morning,

As you are aware Bovine Tuberculosis was confirmed in a cow from southeast Alberta. Here are some general key messages that can be shared with your ASB and producers in your region. See also the attached factsheet that discusses financial support that is available for cattle producers affected by bovine TB.

- The CFIA is leading the investigation, and information about bovine tuberculosis and the most up-to-date information about the investigation is available on the CFIA website at [www.inspection.gc.ca/tb](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/tb). Additional questions about the investigation are best directed to the CFIA.
- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry continues to work closely with the CFIA and provide any assistance that is required.
- The investigation process and protocols underway are in place to protect the health of Canadian livestock and maintain market access.
- We continue to monitor the situation closely to ensure the appropriate measures are taken.

**If you have questions about this disease you can contact Dr. Keith Lehman, the Chief Provincial Veterinarian, at (780) 427-6406 or [keith.lehman@gov.ab.ca](mailto:keith.lehman@gov.ab.ca).**

Doug Macaulay  
ASB Program Manager  
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry  
6547 Sparrow Drive  
Leduc, Alberta T9E 7C7  
Phone: (780) 980-4878  
Cell: (780) 717-2315  
Email: [doug.macaulay@gov.ab.ca](mailto:doug.macaulay@gov.ab.ca)

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## Financial support available for cattle producers affected by bovine TB

Bovine tuberculosis (TB) was detected in a cow that originated in southern Alberta. For producers affected by the CFIA investigation and quarantines, there is an existing suite of financial programs that may provide support.

For more information about any of the program options below, visit Agriculture Financial Services Corporation's (AFSC's) Medicine Hat or Brooks branch offices, or call the AFSC Client Contact Centre at 1-877-899-2372.

### The Advance Payment Program

The Advance Payment Program (APP) helps producers with cash flow by enabling the ability to receive a loan of up to 50 per cent of the market value for each animal. The first \$100,000 issued through the APP is interest-free. After receiving the advance payment, affected producers will have up to 24 months to repay the full loan. To be eligible for the APP, producers must be enrolled in either the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program (WLPIP), AgriStability, or AgriInsurance. CFIA quarantines will not affect program eligibility.

- For more information about the APP, visit [AFSC.ca](http://AFSC.ca)
- To view the APP rates, visit [feederassoc.com](http://feederassoc.com) > [Western Cash Advance Program Inc.](#)

### The Feeder Associations Loan Guarantee Program

The Feeder Association Loan Guarantee Program is administered by the Feeder Associations of Alberta Limited. It provides loans to producers who are members of the Feeder Association of Alberta Limited. CFIA quarantines will not affect program eligibility.

- For full program details, visit [feederassoc.com](http://feederassoc.com) > [Feeder Loan Guarantee Program](#)

### AgriStability Interim Payments

Through AgriStability, producers can apply for an interim payment before the final program year information is available. An interim payment is an advance on your final 2016 AgriStability benefit, which is based on an estimate of your program year and reference margins.

To apply for a 2016 interim payment, you need to:

- have already enrolled in AgriStability for the 2016 program year, and
- have paid your fee by the deadline shown on your enrolment notice.

## Compensation for animals ordered destroyed

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) may compensate owners for animals and things ordered destroyed during disease-response situations. Compensation is based on market value, up to the maximum amounts established by the regulations, less any carcass value paid by an abattoir.

- For more details on the compensation process, please see [Animal Health Compensation: What to expect when an animal is ordered destroyed](#) on the CFIA website.

## AgriRecovery

After a natural disaster, AgriRecovery helps producers recover extraordinary costs beyond what is available through other financial assistance programs. The Alberta government has begun the longer-term analysis of whether future AgriRecovery assistance may be available to producers affected by bovine TB.

## Flexible options for your AFSC loans

Depending on your circumstance, AFSC may be able to provide customized options for your AFSC loan payments. Please contact your local AFSC branch office or the Client Contact Centre to learn what may be available to you.

## Contact information

***For information on any of the programs listed here, including AgriStability interim payments and loan payment options, contact AFSC:***

AFSC Client Contact Centre: 1.877.899.2372

Email: [Info@AFSC.ca](mailto:Info@AFSC.ca)

### ***Medicine Hat Branch Office***

111 - 7 Strachan Bay SE

Medicine Hat AB

T1B 4Y2

Phone: 403-488-4509

Fax: 403-488-4516

### ***Brooks Branch Office***

Provincial Building 220 - 4th Avenue W

Brooks AB

T1R 0G1

Ph: 403-362-1262

Fax: 403-362-8078

### ***Advance Payments Program (Western Cash Advance Program Inc.) and Feeder Associations Loan Guarantee Program***

Website: [www.feederassoc.com](http://www.feederassoc.com)

Phone: 1-844-333-3377 or 780-674-2622

Fax: 1-888-840-8107

Mail Address: Box 4638, Barrhead, Alberta T7N 1A5

Office Location: 5031 50th Street, Barrhead, Alberta

**SCRATCH & SNIFF**

**manure**



*Guess the species  
behind the feces!*



**FARM & FOOD**  
*Care*

**FOR MORE INFO ON FECES MANAGEMENT  
ATTEND MANURE MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2017**



# MANURE MANAGEMENT UPDATE 2017

## TOPICS

Public Trust Research-Farm & Food Care  
Industry Sustainability Initiatives  
AF and AAFC Research Updates  
Growing Forward 3

CCA credits available

Agenda and registration information available  
on Ropin' the Web ([www.agric.gov.ab.ca](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca))

Registration through the  
Ag-Info Centre at 1-800-387-6030

**JANUARY 16TH, 2017 LETHBRIDGE LODGE HOTEL**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Lynda Miedema 1-403-329-1212 ext. 222

**ORGANIZED BY:**  
Alberta Agriculture & Forestry and  
Lethbridge County

*Alberta*  
Government

**Minutes of the Peace Region A.S.B. Conference  
Resolutions Session  
held at the  
Dixonville Community Hall, Dixonville, AB  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Present:**

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	MACAULAY, Doug	ASB Program Coordinator
	PETERSON, Raelyn	Grass Specialist
	BRENNAN, David	Pest Surveillance
	FEINDEL, David	Pest Surveillance
	STENBRAATAN, Elaine	New Venture
BIRCH HILLS COUNTY	CARBONE, Terry	ASB Chair
	LANGLOIS, Kathrin	ASB Member
	DORAN, Marvin	ASB Member
	MACAULEY, Jack	ASB Member
	OUELLET, Amanda	Ag Fieldman
	GIES, Amelia	Asst. Ag Fieldman
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY	HARCOURT, Brian	Chair
	ROSS, MacKay	Member
	CANDY, Garry	Member
	RUECKER, Baldur	Deputy Chair
	JOHNSON, Charlie	Councillor
	WATCHORN, Julie	Member
	COON, Greg	Ag Fieldman
	ZYLSTRA, Aaron	Ag Fieldman
COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE	BECK, Corey	Councillor
	SUTHERLAND, Ross	Deputy Reeve
	MARSHALL, Bob	Councillor
	HENRY, Jill	REO
	ROSVOLD, Karen	Councillor
	BEESTON, Daryl	Councillor
COUNTY OF NORTHERN LIGHT	GAUGLER, Blake	Ag Fieldman

	YASINKSI, Brenda LOOGMAN, Arie ANDERSON, Cheryl REESE, Brent HALABISKY, Linda	Councillor Councillor Reeve Councillor Councillor
MACKENZIE COUNTY	KNELSEN, Josh DYCK, Ernie BATT, Terry SMITH, Grant DOERKSEN, David JORGENSEN, Eric NEUFELD, Bill	ASB Chair Member Member Ag Fieldman Member Council Rep Reeve
MD OF BIG LAKES	MENEICE, Doug NICHOLS, Duane ALLAN, Suzanne	ASB Chair ASB Vice Chair Director Community Services
MD OF FAIRVIEW #136	MCLACHLAN, Allan MOSKALYK, Kent SAWCHUK, Fred	Member Member Ag Fieldman
MD OF GREENVIEW	WOHLGEMUTH, Warren BOCHAR, Quentin ALLEN, Sean	Member Ag Fieldman Ag Supervisor
MD OF PEACE #135	REYDA, Janice KEILLOR, Rick IQBAL, Nasar LEGER, George EASTMAN, Sandra	Member Member Ag Fieldman Member Member
MD OF SMOKY RIVER #130	JOHNSON, Raoul DUMONT, Donald TRUDEAU, Andre BOULET, Normand	Member V. Chairman Member Ag Fieldman
MD OF SPIRIT RIVER #133	MERCIER, Yves WALLIN, Larry GARROW, Elaine	Member Member Member

NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY	DALLYN, Doug	Councillor
	DUTRISAC, Sebastien	Ag Fieldman
	KUBISH, Michael	Member
	THOMAS, Peter	Member
	DE KLERK, Angela	Admin Asst. Ag
	KOLEBABA, Carolyn	Deputy Reeve
SADDLE HILLS COUNTY	WHITE, Jennifer	Coordinator of Rural Development
	ARMAGOST, Elaine	Mgr. Rural Svs.
	Steffen, Shayne	Asst. CAO
	TITFORD, Ken	Member
	MOEN, John	Member

Corey Beck, the Chairman of the Regional Resolutions Committee and the Peace Region A.S.B Committee Representative from County of Grande Prairie opened the session at 2:59 pm and informed the delegates he was elected last year, for a 2 year term; commenting the wording in the rules and procedures needed to be changed from annual to biennial, at the provincial committee.

Linda Halabisky from County of Northern Lights moved Blake Gaugler as secretary for the resolution committee, Bob Marshall from County of Grande Prairie seconded.

**CARRIED**

Corey updated the delegates on the past year's activities of the Provincial A.S.B. Committee, highlights were:

- Education was needed to increase awareness of the acts, commenting it was a long, costly process
- That the Environment and Parks Minister is very hands on with working on the committee
- Responses to the report card grading of past resolutions is not satisfactory
- Hoping with the new NDP government would be more proactive with AG plastic products
  - Not enough money in recycling to warrant its cause
- Most resolutions submitted tend to ask for an increase in spending
  - Looking for no cost alternatives
- Review of Bill 6 working groups
  - Each working group focuses on a specific part
  - Group 3 (Corey's group):
    - Group 3 focuses OH&S regulation



- Identifying how and what in the OH&S is applicable to farms
- The wording in the OH&S is fairly vague which leads to some grey area when interpreting how it is applicable and the implications
- Groups will send recommendation forward to a stakeholder group
- Groups consist of farmers and local representatives
- Working on classing farm employees, family, part time and any exemptions
- Stressed the importance of hazard assessment for future farming operations
- Not much collaboration between groups so far

The minutes of the November 5<sup>th</sup> Peace Region A.S.B. Conference and Resolutions session were reviewed.

Carolyn Kolebaba from Northern Sunrise County moved to accept minutes as read and Mackay Ross from Clear Hills County seconded.

**CARRIED**

Corey Beck reviewed the Regional A.S.B. Rules of Procedure noting that:

Floor motion to have late resolutions qualify as either 125 copies or an electronic copy visible by all attendees for review, see section 3 in proposed changes to rules of procedures, moved by Donald Dumont from M.D. of Smoky River. Carolyn Kolebaba proposed friendly amendment to add as a separate statement in the rules and procedures as 3c. The question was called, no one was opposed.

**CARRIED**

Floor motion to have only 2 voting delegates at the Peace Region A.S.B Regional Resolution Conference, see 5.a.2 in the proposed changes to rules of procedures, this motion was moved by Mackay Ross from Clear Hills County. The question was called, there was only one was opposed.

**CARRIED**

Doug Dallyn from Northern Sunrise County moved to adopt the Rules of Procedure as presented, Seconded by Mackay Ross from Clear Hills County.

**CARRIED**

Daryl Beeston from County of Grande Prairie moved to accept the order of the Resolutions as presented, seconded by Doug Dallyn from Northern Sunrise County.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution No. 1 – ENSURING COMPETITION FOR SEED AND CROP PROTECTION PRODUCTS** by M.D. of Smoky River

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST THAT** Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada work

cooperatively to ensure a merger between Bayer and Monsanto is either prevented, or allowed only in a manner which assures competition of agricultural seeds and crop protection products remains.

Moved by Donald Dumont from M.D. of Smoky River, seconded by Andre Trudeau from M.D. of Smoky River.

Secunder Andre Trudeau waived, no one spoke in opposition so the question was called.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution No. 2 – AGRI-FOOD EDUCATION IN THE CLASSROOM by Northern Sunrise County**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST** that Alberta Education and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry increase the amount of time spent in the school curriculum to discuss food and agriculture.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST** that Alberta Education and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry create a panel of Agricultural and Nutrition experts to create the curriculum that will be taught in Alberta classrooms.

Moved by Doug Dallyn from Northern Sunrise County and seconded by Carolyn Kolebaba from Northern Sunrise County.

Brent Reese from County of Northern Lights asked for clarification on nutrition curriculum. Doug Dallyn confirmed that the nutrition aspect is asked to be included in the curriculum.

No one spoke in opposition so the question was called.

**CARRIED**

Linda Halabisky moved adjournment of the Resolutions session at 3:41 pm.

**CARRIED**



Deputy Minister  
2nd Floor, Twin Atria Building  
4999 - 98 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3  
Canada  
Telephone 780-427-6912  
Fax 780-422-6515  
www.transportation.alberta.ca

October 13, 2016

AR69126

Mr. Trent Keller  
President  
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen  
Athabasca County  
3602 - 48th Avenue  
Athabasca, AB T9S 1M8

**RECEIVED**

OCT 17 2016

**ATHABASCA COUNTY**

Dear Mr. Keller:

Thank you for your September 22, 2016 letter regarding vegetation management. I appreciate the time you took to write.

The Government of Alberta values its relationship with the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen. I am confident we share in the desire to collaborate on the best way forward to manage weed growth in the provincial highway rights-of-way.

Alberta Transportation completes vegetation control within the provincial highway rights-of-way for several reasons such as ensuring the roadway sightlines for drivers are not impeded by vegetation growth; provide clear views of the right-of-way to assist drivers in avoiding animal collisions; to fulfill Alberta Transportation's obligations under the *Weed Control Act* to control noxious and prohibited weeds; and for aesthetic purposes.

Alberta Transportation is expanding the amount of mowing done and a full cut of the provincial highway rights-of-way has been initiated. The amount of mowing is increasing daily; however, in some areas the additional mowing may not have been started due to lack of equipment and/or personnel as a result of the lateness in the season. The department recognizes that while the additional mowing will increase safety along provincial highways by providing better roadway sightlines for drivers and clearer views of the highway rights-of-way to assist drivers in avoiding animal collisions, there is a potential to spread mature seeds.

.../2

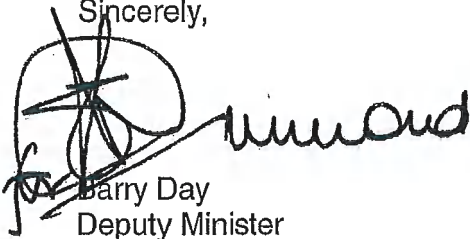
We evaluated and considered all possible risks, including the spread of noxious and prohibited weeds, blocking sight lines at intersections and curves, the risk of wildlife collisions, and wildfires.

On September 9, 2016, representatives from the ministries of Alberta Transportation and Agriculture and Forestry met with members of the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen to assist in helping plan for future management of weeds within the provincial highway rights-of-way. Unfortunately, representatives of the Agricultural Services Board were unable to attend the meeting.

As discussed at the meeting, the implementation of a three-year control plan that ensures budgets are in place to rotate control through key areas within a region would be a valuable step forward on highway weed control with cost saving benefits. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has committed to supporting Alberta Transportation with personnel this winter to assist with meetings and weed control plan development. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry is also willing to help facilitate communication between Alberta Transportation and regional municipal land managers, so that weed control is improved. Recommendations made at the meeting are under consideration by Alberta Transportation.

Your willingness and continued support of a proactive vegetation management plan across Alberta is proof of your commitment to keep invasive species in check in Alberta. I look forward to building on our established working relationship and our ongoing collaboration in matters related to Alberta Transportation.

Sincerely,



Barry Day  
Deputy Minister

cc: Andre Corbould  
Deputy Minister, Environment and Parks  
Bev Yee  
Deputy Minister, Agriculture and Forestry

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Upcoming Events in Centerfold!
- Highlights from the Western Canadian Conference on Soil Health

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

<b>PCBFA</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Agriculture Schooling in Alberta</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>GF2's Environmental Programs</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>WCCSH Highlights!</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Event Pullout</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Calving Tips</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Tips for Hauling Cattle</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Managing Nutrients &amp; Pesticides</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Livestock Carcass Disposal Options</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>On-Farm Food Safety &amp; Verified Beef Production</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Sponsors</b>	<b>24</b>

# FORAGE COUNTRY

WINTER 2016

## The Classroom Agriculture Program is Looking for Volunteers!

*Submitted by Classroom Agriculture Program*

When asked “where does food come from?”, too many kids say the grocery store. The Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP) is trying to change that. CAP has been around since 1985; during that 30 years, more than 600,000 grade four students have participated in the program. These students have learned where their food really comes from and why agriculture is important to Alberta.



The Vision of CAP is: “To provide students with quality, comprehensive agriculture learning experiences that lead to a greater understanding of and support for the agriculture industry in Alberta.” We do this through a volunteer base of about 300 people who work in the agriculture industry. Our volunteers are the real strength of CAP. A class may have presentations from a veterinarian, someone who works on a chicken farm, someone who owns a grain farm, works in a soil lab, or runs a country grain elevator. As you can see the variety of professions in agriculture is large and varied. In addition to the volunteer presentation each student also receives an “Activity Booklet”. The booklet is full of puzzles and games. Each of our commodity members has a page in the booklet. Our members are Alberta Barley, Alberta Beef, Alberta Canola, Alberta Chicken, Alberta Institute of Agrologists, Alberta Irrigation Projects, Alberta Milk, Alberta Pork, Alberta Pulse Growers, Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, Alberta Wheat, Eastern Irrigation District, and the Egg Farmers of Alberta, and our partner is Agriculture For Life.



CAP is endorsed by the Minister of Education and the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. This year, we are honoured to be chosen as the winner for the 2015 Friends of Education Award, given out by the Alberta School Boards Association.

PCBFA is proud to be involved with the administration of the Classroom Agriculture Program in the Peace Region! If you would like to become a part of CAP, either as a volunteer, member, or partner, or if you

would like more information, please contact Don George, General Manager of CAP by phone at 587-877-2544 or email [don.george@classroomagriculture.com](mailto:don.george@classroomagriculture.com) or Kaitlin McLachlan with PCBFA at 780-835-6799 or email [kmclachlan@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:kmclachlan@gprc.ab.ca).



# Peace Country Beef & Forage Association

## Local Information for Peace Country Producers

### Board of Directors

Peter Tindall

Randi Kuriga

Preston Basnett

Thomas Claydon

John Prinse

Jordan Barnfield

Conrad Dolen

Nancy Van Herk

Gary These

Stan Logan

### Staff

Monika Benoit, Manager

Akim Omokanye, Research  
Coordinator

Kaitlin McLachlan, Extension  
Coordinator

### Locations

GPRC Fairview Campus,  
Trades Instructional Building,

Room 229

780-835-6799

High Prairie Provincial  
Building

ARD/AFSC Office

780-523-4033

Having worked in the Peace Country for many years, we have established ourselves as an innovative association, willing to work with local businesses, educational facilities, other research groups and always with the producers from across the Peace Region.

Our programs vary from environmental concerns to finding the newest technology and helping producers implement it on their operations.

Our board is made up of producers from across the Peace Region, who actively voice questions, ideas and concerns to address the needs of farmers and ranchers of the Peace.

### Vision

The Peace Country Beef & Forage Association is a producer group with the goal to be a hub of innovative, relevant and local beef, forage and crop information for Peace Country producers.

### Mission

A Peace Country producer's first stop for optimizing beef, forage and crop production to maximize profitability with innovative and credible information.

**If you have any questions, comments or feedback about our current extension events or any of our projects, please do not hesitate to give us a call at either PCBFA office.**

**Your input matters to us!**

We are beginning a new 3 year cycle of funding and with your help we have identified several areas in which we will be focusing our research and extension efforts.

- Forages and Livestock Program: *Optimizing Production and Profitability of Livestock and Forage Production in the Peace Country.*
- Environment Program: *Facilitating the Role of Agricultural Producers as Stewards of the Land.*
- Annual and Special Crops Program: *Long Term Profitability of Crop Production through Land Rejuvenation & Sustainability.*

These programs will all work together to improve production and profitability on all operations in the Peace Country with a focus on soil health and restorative, sustainable farming practices.



"For the last time, Junior, stop blowing milk bubbles! ... You're giving me gas!"

## Wetlands are not Wastelands

*By Cows & Fish*

Wetlands are essentially lands that are wet. They are low lying areas where enough water collects to support water-loving plants, like cattail, rushes, sedges and willow. Wetlands also have perpetually wet soils because they are either saturated with water year-round or covered with water at least some time during the growing season of most years. Sloughs, ponds, potholes, bogs and muskeg areas are all types of wetlands. Wetlands include the area covered by water and the adjacent area of lush water-loving plants called the riparian area.



Wetlands vary in shape, size and permanence. A temporary wetland may have water only after snowmelt or a heavy rain. Whereas a semi-permanent wetland will hold water through most years, but may dry out after several years of drought. And a permanent wetland will have water present year round.

Wetlands are not wastelands. They are the connection in the watershed we often cannot see, linking groundwater, surface water in other wetlands, lakes and streams, soil moisture and weather patterns. Wetlands are so closely linked with other parts of the water cycle that drainage can have significant local effects such as lowering the water table, reducing local precipitation and creating greater temperature extremes.

There are many benefits to leaving wetlands and their surrounding riparian areas intact. Some are subtle, such as increased local soil moisture, reduced flooding, more stable stream flow, improved crop production and better water quality. Other benefits are more obvious such as supplying shelter, forage and water for livestock, habitat for wildlife and fish.



In drought some wetlands completely dry up, sometimes for several years in a row. However, even a dry wetland provides many of the same benefits listed above. Seeding a seasonal wetland while it is dry is a risky venture. There is increased danger of frost in the low area and a very high likelihood of flooding once wetter conditions return. Wetland substrates are usually quite impervious, and may be saline, which results in low crop productivity. Several studies have shown that the costs of draining and cropping wetlands are often higher than the crop returns.


What can you do to manage your wetlands on your farm or ranch? Consider leaving your wetlands intact including the natural extent of the riparian vegetation and an additional buffer of extra vegetation where possible. Not only will this trap more snow in winter, increasing soil moisture and recharging groundwater supplies, but this buffer will also filter out nutrients found in runoff from your pastures or cropped fields, improving water quality in your watershed. Manage grazing in wetlands to prevent over-use and trampling by livestock, and to avoid manure build-up.

Cows and Fish helps landowners and their communities to assess their wetlands and other riparian areas as well as develop management strategies to help conserve these valuable resources. For more information on wetlands contact Cows and Fish at 403-381-5538 or view their website at [www.cowsandfish.org](http://www.cowsandfish.org).

**Find us online!**

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

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## Headed to School this Fall? Think Ag!

*By Carly Shaw*

Did you know that one in eight Canadian jobs are tied to the agriculture sector? This relates to some 2.1 million jobs and a 6.7% contribution to Canada's GDP in 2013!

Did you know that one job in agriculture generates four to seven more Canadian jobs? Also—did you know that there are 3 jobs waiting for every agriculture grad in Canada?

Not only are many people employed by the agriculture industry but there is still a large demand for workers, including those who have had Post-Secondary education, by 2022 there will be an estimated 74,000 job opportunities in Canadian agriculture alone. So whether you have a child who is nearing the end of their high school career or you are thinking of going back to school yourself, know that there is high demand for your skills and that there are many schooling options for you throughout Canada! Some of the best agriculture programs in Canada are offered right here in Alberta!

The University of Alberta offers degrees in:

- Sustainable Agriculture Systems
- Agriculture and Resource Economics
- Agricultural Business Management
- Agricultural Food and Nutritional Science
- Animal Science & Animal Health
- Crop science



The University of Lethbridge offers degrees in:

- Agricultural Studies
- Agriculture Biotechnology

University of  
Lethbridge



Lakeland College in Vermilion offers diplomas in:

- Agribusiness
- Animal Science
- Crop Technology
- Western Ranch and Cow Horse
- Animal Health Technology
- Lakeland also is host to a Student Managed Farm, with purebred & commercial cattle, a working dairy, sheep, and a large grain operation.



Lethbridge College offers diplomas in:

- Plant and Soil Science
- Animal Science
- Agricultural and Heavy Equipment Technician Certificate
- Agriculture Equipment Technician Apprenticeship



Olds College offers:

- Agriculture Management
- Bachelor of Applied Science: Agribusiness
- Agriculture and Heavy Equipment Program
- Agronomy Certificate
- Rural Finance and Entrepreneurship Certificate



Grande Prairie Regional College offers a diploma in:

- Animal Health Technology





Each program varies from 1-4 years, with some programs even being offered online. If you are not interested in attending school in Alberta there are many more options, one of which is the University of Saskatchewan, a school with a variety of agricultural programs. It offers programs such as: Agribusiness, Agriculture Biology, Agricultural Economics, Agronomy, Animal Science, Horticulture Science, Prairie Horticulture Certificate, Rangeland Resources, and Soil Science.

For more information on these programs or for information about what other provinces offer check out <http://bit.ly/1OJj78f>, or go directly to the schools website. <http://beefcareers.weebly.com/careers.html> lays out many of the career paths you can choose related to agriculture. Some of the careers that post-secondary schooling can lead to and their yearly average salaries in Alberta are an:

- Agrologist \$81,051.00
- Soil scientist \$98,399.00
- Heavy duty equipment mechanics \$77,665.00
- Agricultural Engineer \$103,915.00
- Biological technician \$55,614.00
- Landscape Architectural Technologist \$49,630.00
- Mechanical Engineering Technologist \$77,835.00
- Purchasing agent \$77,753.00
- Marketing manager \$92,734.00

The above information was found on [occinfo.alis.alberta.ca](http://occinfo.alis.alberta.ca). Whichever path it is you decide to choose, know that the agriculture industry offers many rewarding opportunities to those who have a passion for it.

**Find your future in agriculture**

**Considering your career path?**  
Consider a career in ag. There are more opportunities, and more things you can do, than you might realize.

**2.1 million**  
Ag employs over 2.1 million Canadians.

From 2011-2020 it's projected that 38% of jobs in the Canadian ag industry will be unfilled, creating opportunities in a variety of fields.

**1 in 8** Canadian jobs are in ag and agri-food.

In 2013, there were more than 56,000 career opportunities available in the ag industry in North America.

**56,000** career opportunities

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- ✓ rewarding
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**Agriculture**  
more than ever

**BY 2022, THERE WILL BE AN ESTIMATED 74,000 JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN CANADIAN AGRICULTURE.**

**Canada's opportunity:**  
world food demand is set to grow **60% by 2050**

Source: CropLife Canada

## Growing Forward 2 Environmental Programs

By Stacy Pritchard

Environment-related Growing Forward 2 programs are still open and accepting applications! All of these programs are in great funding positions and are encouraging producers to apply! As always, GF2 funding is first come, first served, so getting your applications in sooner rather than later will ensure that your project gets funded.

GF2 is in the third fiscal year of the 5 year programing, and it is expected that the funding available could be a little tighter next year as the programs are winding down. So right now is a great time to take a look at your operations and see where you could benefit from one of these programs, sitting down and filling out an application.

Lets take a closer look into some of these programs and how Peace Country producers can take advantage of the funding available to them.

### On-Farm Stewardship Program

Of all the programs relevant to livestock producers, the On-Farm Stewardship Program is likely the broadest and aims to improve the on-farm impact on water quality in five categories. In order to be eligible for funding from the On-Farm Stewardship Program, producers must complete an Environmental Farm Plan. PCBFA would be happy to help you get an EFP started for your operation. Depending on the activity, 30%, 50% or 70% of the costs can be covered. Each activity has its own set maximum funding, but in total, producers can receive a maximum of \$50,000 from this GF2 Program.

#### Grazing Management:

This program includes several activities, the first being Riparian Area Fencing & Management. This program will assist producers with 70% of the costs of fencing riparian areas and riparian area management practices. The eligible expenses in this category include permanent fencing supplies, the purchase and planting of approved trees & shrubs for riparian area management as well as labour and equipment.

The most popular activity we assist producers with applications for is the Year Round/Summer Watering Systems. This activity will assist producers with 50% of the cost of installation of remote watering systems or eliminating direct access to water bodies and sources. Eligible areas for funding under this program include portable watering systems, year-round watering systems, pumping systems, power sources (solar, windmills), and pipelines used to distribute water. Recently there has also been the addition of an alert monitor for remote watering systems used to monitor systems without having to physically make trips out to

the pasture. For more information on this new addition check out the January Forage Facts or visit [www.growingforward.alberta.ca](http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca)

The 2 other activities under this program are Wetland Restoration and Shelterbelt Establishment. Both activities provide funding for approved species for either the establishment of a shelterbelt (50%) or a wetland restoration (70%). Other expenses eligible for funding include fencing off your new shelterbelt, as well as the mulch to get it established, and earthwork related to restoring your wetland.



#### Manure Management

The Manure Management category will assist with 50% of the costs of earthworks, materials, supplies, labour and equipment required to develop improved manure storage facilities. It will provide assistance with the installation and upgrades to runoff control systems outside of livestock pens. This program will also cover 50% of the costs to relocating a livestock facility or wintering site and dismantling an existing on if it poses a risk to the watersheds.

#### Crop Input Management

Under this category, the purchase of sprayer cones, sectional control operation systems for sprayers and seeding equipment, and pulse modulating sprayer systems are eligible expenses. The cost share on this program is 50%.

### Agricultural Waste Management

This category assists producers with 50% of the costs associated with double-walled storage tanks for used oil, and 70% of the costs for a roller for used grain bags.

### Innovative Stewardship Solutions

This category allows producers the opportunity to design and submit a unique project they believe will improve water quality on their operation. Each project will be assessed on an individual basis by a technical review panel.

### **On-Farm Water Management Program**

A program that closely complements the On-Farm Stewardship Program is the On-Farm Water Management Program. Producers who have completed a Long-term Water Management Plan are then eligible for 1/3 of costs related to their on-farm water supply and management up to \$5,000 for standard incentive projects and 50% to an unspecified maximum for special incentive projects. Standard incentive projects include construction of wells, dugouts, spring developments, dams, water pipelines, and off-site watering systems. There are size requirements for new or expanded water sources. Special incentive projects include well decommissioning, well pit conversions, purchasing water meter and water well depth measurement equipment and connecting to multi-user water supply pipelines.



### **On-Farm Energy Management**

This program assists producers with the investments that improve energy efficiency on their farm. This program will cover 35% of the costs on most projects to a maximum of \$50,000 per farm. Some of the eligible expenses include high-efficiency equipment from the program's Funding List, retrofit projects that improve the operation's energy usage per unit of production, and installation of submeters to monitor on-farm electricity and/or natural gas usage; the program will cover 100% of the cost for the applicant's first 3 submeters. More project ideas can be found on the GF2 page for the On-Farm Energy Management Program.

### **Confined Feeding Operation Stewardship**

This GF2 Program aims to help the industry in three key areas: 1) Less agricultural impact on water quality; 2) Improved business outcomes for livestock producers and commercial manure applicators and; 3) Improved market opportunities. The program is open to both CFOs and to commercial manure applicators and provides assistance with projects relating to the 3 key outcomes at 50% for most project categories, 30% for some and 70% for others to a maximum of \$100,000 per CFO and \$70,00 to commercial manure applicators.

Growing Forward 2 

*Alberta*  
Government

Canada 

#### Programs Accepting Applications

- \* Agri Processing Automation and Efficiency - Livestock
- \* Agri Processing Product and Market Development - Livestock
- \* Agriculture Watershed Enhancement
- \* Animal Health Biosecurity Delivery Agent
- \* Business Management Skills Development
- \* Business Opportunity
- \* Confined Feeding Operation Stewardship
- \* Food Safety Systems Delivery Agent
- \* Food Safety Systems Processor
- \* Irrigation Efficiency
- \* Livestock Welfare Processor
- \* On-Farm Energy Management
- \* On-Farm Stewardship
- \* On-Farm Water Management
- \* Regional Water Supply
- \* Traceability Pilot
- \* Traceability Technology Adoption
- \* Traceability Training

#### Programs Not Currently Accepting Applications

- \* Agri Processing Automation and Efficiency - Crop
- \* Agri Processing Product and Market Development - Crop
- \* Animal Health Biosecurity Producer
- \* Food Safety Systems Producer
- \* Livestock Welfare Delivery Agent
- \* Livestock Welfare Producer

Growing Forward 2 Programs are continuously updated and changes are made to the programs. All information on GF2 programs can be found at [www.growingforward.alberta.ca](http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca)

The best way to stay up to date on all things GF2 is to subscribe to the programs that you are interested in. The subscribe function can be found on the right side of the GF2 home screen.

PCBFA staff would be happy to help with your GF2 applications, so give us a call!

## Soil Health Conference Highlights

By Stacy Pritchard & Monika Benoit



2015 was the International Year of the Soils, and to wrap up a year of soil health awareness and great events across the province, the Western Canada Conference on Soil Health was hosted in Edmonton Dec 8-10, 2015. We had a great turnout for this conference, selling out registration before the early deadline for a total of 400 registrants representing producers, industry and the scientific community.

We started the conference hearing from Dr. Yamily Zavala of the Chinook Applied Research Association, where she took us through the basics of soil health. She connected all of the components of soil health and showed us all how intricate the interactions between the physical, biological and chemical properties of soil are. One of the key messages was about the importance of mycorrhizal fungi, a topic that continued throughout the two days.

Following Dr. Zavala, Dr. Harold van Es of Cornell University in New York, brought us information on soil health assessment; what we should be measuring and how we can use the data we collect to build better soils. He talked about how soil health is the capacity of the soil to function and how when we improve our soil health we are investing in our land. One of his key messages was to start thinking beyond the traditional soil test and looking at soil holistic management with a soil health assessment. He also shared a great video on the Soil Health Institute that's worth checking out: <https://vimeo.com/147375088>

One of the highlights of the conference was Gabe Brown's presentation: Healthy Soils, Healthy Farms, Healthy Communities. I'm likely not alone in saying that I wish it had been longer! Gabe's experiences over the last 20 years have been influential in bringing about a change in thinking regarding how we view soil health and what is possible without the use of synthetic fertilizers. "The potential profitability of any farming or ranching operation is directly dependent on two things: the amount of carbon on one's operation and the ability of the owner to understand how soil functions." He spoke about the 5 principles of soil health that he has learned in the last 20 years, since 4 failed crops in a row drove him to looking at agriculture and soil in a new way. Those 5 principles are:

1. Least amount of mechanical disturbance possible
2. Armor on the soil surface at all times
3. Diversity drives soil health
4. Living plants in the soil as long as possible

### Animal integration

These 5 principles along with holistic management have allowed the Brown Ranch to reach the highly productive state that it is in today!

Next up for speakers was Dr. Jill Clapperton who talked about how "Healthy Plants Grow in Healthy Soil." She spoke about soil structure being very important for optimal root growth as well as being important for the predator-prey lifecycles in soil and nutrient cycling. She spoke a lot on how crucial the predator-prey cycle is critical to soil health due to the biological processes performed by both predator and prey. It is this biological activity that transforms and mineralizes the organic nutrients into the inorganic nutrients that plants and soil microbes use to grow and thrive. By modifying the soil environment with tillage, crop rotations and grazing we influence the ability of the soil to perform these essential activities (some modifications hinder and some enhance). So what's the bottom line then? The amount and quality of the soil organic matter are key, and we have the tools and the knowledge to manage soil health now, and in the future.

Dr. Allen Williams was able to speak to us twice over the two day conference. With the unique perspective of being both a scientist and a rancher, he was able to discuss management practices on his own operation as well as some of the 3,500 farmers and ranchers he has consulted with over the years. In his first presentation he discussed the use of soil microbial research as a replacement for chemical fertilizer. In his second presentation he walked us through how to effectively graze for soil health, discussing methods and management practices he has seen, used and recommended over the years, particularly Adaptive Grazing Management. Adaptive Grazing Management utilizes multi-paddock grazing strategies instead of continuous grazing. This strategy using multiple paddocks allows for grazing at high stock densities and has many benefits including vegetation and animal performance, as well as increasing soil health in the parameter of: soil aggregate stability, water infiltration rate and water holding capacity. This practice can also improve the fungi:bacteria ratio in the soil. Dr. Williams was a great addition to the conference bringing expertise and experience to Alberta from Mississippi!

The banquet speaker featured Nuffield Scholar, Blake Vince. Blake is a 5<sup>th</sup> generation farmer from Merlin, Ontario. During his presentation he took us through his journey as a farm kid learning the ropes and getting involved in no-till farming in a time when everyone else was still tilling, to trying a 5 species cover crop in 2012, and being selected as a

Nuffield Scholar in 2013. He told us about his Nuffield Journey across the globe to learn more about soil health, cover crops and how to farm without tillage. He met a number of influential people on his journey and learned a great deal about multi-species cover cropping around the world. Many of the message he shared with us had already been mentioned earlier in the day, or would be discussed on Thursday, but being able to see the impact cover crops and soil health is making around the world was inspiring!

Day 2 started off with Neil Dennis, a producer from southeastern Saskatchewan. Neil practices intensive grazing and has regenerated his land over the past 30 years to greatly increase his carrying capacity. Neil took over managing his family farm, which has been in the Dennis family for 115 years, and after struggling along for several years, Neil and his wife took a Holistic Management course, and have been managing their land differently ever since. Neil says that the wealth of a farm is directly dependent upon the health of the land. He has rejuvenated his once poor producing land using high stock density and proper recovery time. Neil gave an inspiring presentation showing how his land has changed with a focus on the health of his soil and some beautiful photos of his grass and cattle. Neil is headed up to the Peace Country for the PCBFA AGM on February 26<sup>th</sup> in Fairview. He will be spending a good portion of his presentation expanding on his talk from the conference, with a focus on some of his inventions and practices that make his job of moving stock regularly easy and time efficient!

One of the highlights of Day 2 had to be Dr. Odette Menard, whose area of expertise is earthworms! We learned about the various types of earthworms, a few different species (Did you know there are 14 species of earthworms in Alberta?!?). We also learned that 1 ton of earthworms can make 2/3 inch of manure yearly. Dr. Menard took us through the relationship between soil health and earthworms. She talked about how the original reason we started plowing was for water management, weed control and fertility boosting, but those reasons are 150 years old, and yet we are still using them. She told us that the basis for healthy soil is to “cover and feed the soil”, going on to explain that we need to cover and feed the soil all the time by rethinking/redesigning rotations, and to cover and feed the soil properly by reducing or eliminating tillage. In terms of covering the soil – “brown is bad, gold is good and green is great.” And who can forget the videos Dr. Menard showed us. First of an earthworm pulling a whole corn leaf into its tunnel, and second, a video of earthworms mating!

The Conference wrapped up with a producer panel, each telling their story of “How & Why I Improved the Health of My Soil”. The panel consisted of 5 producers from across the province, including our own PCBFA member, Bill Hanson, who ranches with his family south of Valleyview. Bill talked about how they always makes decisions with the health of the soil at the forefront. They have implemented things like bale grazing and rotational grazing and have seen great improvement on their land over the 19 years they have been there. Besides improved grass production, they have also seen things such as a greater diversity of perennial species in their pastures, which they have never seeded. We heard from Ed Lang, of Walter Farms, a mixed operation that has been making management changes to improve their soil. They have been experimenting with cocktail cover crops, and have been very impressed with the results so far. Kelsey Beasley, who ranches with her husband in East Central Alberta gave us an energetic presentation, detailing how they are managing their land for long-term sustainability. Kelsey has a biology degree and had a very interesting perspective on looking after the biology in the soil. The Beasleys are currently running sheep on their operation, which they find to be great for having their young kids help out with. Ben Stewart of Prairie Land and Cattle Company near Hardisty gave a fascinating talk on the large operation that he is a part of. Ben is originally from New Zealand, and came to Canada years ago with a knowledge of intensive grazing practices and systems. He shared some of his knowledge on how he has adapted these systems for their ranch. Kevin Elmy was representing Saskatchewan on our panel, and gave us a very enlightening presentation on how his family manages their land for improved soil health. The Elmys run a grain operation and have adopted non-traditional agronomics, such as winter cereals in their rotation, millet and corn for grazing by their neighbor’s cows, soybeans and cover cropping. The Elmys practice holistic grain farming and have been successfully working with their neighbors to get the benefit of livestock on their land. The producer panel gave the audience a great opportunity to ask questions of producers who have been trying management techniques and systems designed with soil health in mind right in our own backyards. It was a very engaging conversation and a great way to wrap up an encouraging and enlightening conference!

2015, the International Year of Soils may be over, but PCBFA and other ARECA groups across Alberta will be continuing to hold extension events and we’re constantly working on applied research projects around this topic, so stay tuned! Keep this website, [www.albertasoilhealth.ca](http://www.albertasoilhealth.ca) handy, and watch for updates from PCBFA!



[albertasoilhealth.ca](http://albertasoilhealth.ca)



The PCBFA Board of Directors and Staff meet once every 2 months to go over the happenings with PCBFA. We will be electing 3 new board members at our Annual General Meeting February 26th at the Dunvegan Motor Inn in Fairview. For more information on becoming a board member, please give us a shout in Fairview at 780-835-6799 ext 2 or High Prairie at 780-523-4033!

### Environmental Farm Plans on Alberta Operations

Many Alberta producers are wondering if they need a current Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). The EFP is meant to be reviewed and upgraded regularly for each operation. It's simple to do. The program is coordinated by the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) and EFP technicians are available across the province. A completed EFP is required for the On-Farm Stewardship categories of the Growing Forward 2 program. Stewardship is being tied to business opportunities and it is good to be prepared. There are many other reasons to complete an EFP too, including having a hard copy record of the environmental status of your operation, becoming more aware for the rules and regulations concerning the environmental impacts on farms including protecting water resources and air quality. EFPs can also contribute to the environmental sustainability of crop and livestock operations. Updating your EFP shows your commitment to being good stewards of the land and your commitment to meeting consumer expectations and food safety. By establishing that food is produced in an environmentally sustainable way in Alberta, also positions Alberta to be competitive in world markets.

Producers can use an online workbook. This workbook carries data entered to all areas of the plan where it is needed, provides quick access to information sources, ensures each section is complete prior to moving to the next and allows the EFP technician to see what is completed, answer questions and assist with finishing the plan.

To get started contact the ARECA office at 780-612-9712 or [info@albertaefp.com](mailto:info@albertaefp.com). You will then be matched to an available EFP

### Why Develop an EFP

- ◆ Improve farm health and safety
- ◆ To protect water resources, air quality.
- ◆ To preserve soil and biodiversity
- ◆ Building acceptance of the operation among neighbours and the public
- ◆ Increasing personal satisfaction and knowledge
- ◆ Adding value to the farm property
- ◆ Agricultural sustainability
- ◆ To reduce farm inputs and decrease storage time of herbicides, insecticides, fertilizers and fuel
- ◆ To demonstrate to the public, governments, regulators, lenders and/or investors that you are managing your environmental risks
- ◆ To increase your understanding of your legal requirements related to environmental issues.
- ◆ To identify what you are already doing well and pinpoint where improvements could be made.



### Peace Region EFP Technicians

Monika Benoit, PCBFA  
780-523-4033  
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780-835-6799  
Sabrina Westra, MARA  
780-927-3776

Nora Paulovich, NPARA  
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Sheleen Gerbig, SARDA  
780-837-2900 ext 3  
Jill Henry, County of GP  
780-567-5585 ext 104



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# Upcoming P

Event	Date & Time	Location
Tactical Farming Conference	February 10-11th	Deerfoot Inn & Casino. Calgary
Working Well Workshop	February 11th	High Prairie AgriPlex
Cocktail Cover Crop Selection Workshop	February 23rd	Rycroft Ag Society Hall
PCBFA Annual General Meeting	February 26th	Fairview Dunvegan Motor Inn
Solar Workshop	March 10th	High Prairie AgriPlex
Anne Wasko Beef Market Outlook at Peace Country Classic	March 11th	Grande Prairie Evergreen Park
Peace Country Beef School	March 15th	Grimshaw Venue TBA
Succession Planning Workshop with Merle Good	March 30th	Debolt Venue TBA
Young Farmer Inspirational Event	April 2016	Grande Prairie Venue TBA
Study Tour to Denver Colorado for National Western Stock Show!	January 2017	



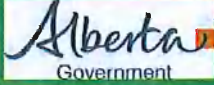
Up to Date Information can be Found on our Website!

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



# CBFA Events



Cost	Contact	In Collaboration With
See website for details	<a href="http://www.tacticalfarming.ca">www.tacticalfarming.ca</a>	BRRG, NPARA, LARA, PCBFA, Farming Smarter & MARA
Free	Kaitlin with PCBFA @ 780-835-6799	
\$15/Member, \$20/Non-Member	Kaitlin with PCBFA @ 780-835-6799	
\$55/Person \$75/Farm Unit	Kaitlin with PCBFA @780-835-6799	
TBA	Kaitlin with PCBFA @780-835-6799	
Free	Kaitlin with PCBFA @ 780-835-6799	
TBA	Kaitlin with PCBFA @ 780-835-6799	 A federal-provincial-territorial initiative
TBA	Kaitlin with PCBFA @ 780-835-6799	
TBA	Kaitlin with PCBFA @ 780-835-6799	
TBA	Kaitlin with PCBFA @ 780-835-6799	


**To Register or for More Information on any of  
our Events Please Call Kaitlin at  
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## It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

By Kaitlin McLachlan

PAGE 15

It is the most wonderful time of the year! That's right, calves are starting to hit the ground in the Peace Country! Whether you are in the midst of the calving madness or you have a few months to go before the fun begins, it's good to have some things in the back of your mind as we gear up for the calving madness!

Sometimes, when we get in the midst of calving, some things can start to fall by the way-side. We've had it happen on our farm – a spring storm rolls in, dumps a bunch of snow, cows (of course) have their babies in a snow bank or a puddle, then those calves then wind up getting sick. It is a vicious cycle that I'm sure most producers have dealt with – after all, we can't control the weather! We can however prevent other calves from getting sick with diseases such as scours, coccidiosis, and other nasty calving time illnesses that typically come on with the weather.

### Prepare your facilities

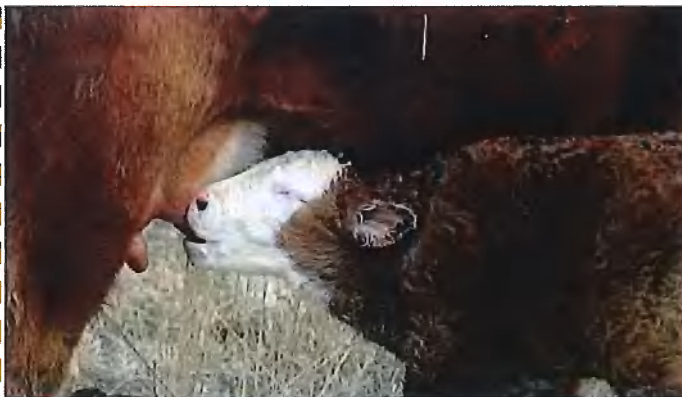
The best way that we can help to prevent the spreading of calving time diseases is to start clean and stay clean! Make sure that your calving area is clean and dry, with close proximity to shelter. Mud and snow are ideal conditions for common pathogens to multiply. Make sure to address any physical hazards such as nails sticking out of plank fences, loose wire or balls of twine. We all know how clumsy and curious calves can be, and we don't want them hurting themselves on preventable hazards. It is also a good idea to make sure that you have everything on hand that you may need. Items like disposable sleeves and gloves, calving jack,



OB chains, disinfectant, tube feeder, towels, sulfa drugs, jugs for water, pails for milk, tags, notebooks, and tattoo equipment are all invaluable in the midst of calving season when a trip to town is not always warranted.

### Vaccinate your cows

There are several diseases that can be vaccinated for before the calves even hit the ground. By utilizing pre-calving vaccinations on your cows, the anti-body in the vaccine becomes available to the calf through the cow's colostrum. If administered properly, this extra immunity boost in the calf's first hours can help mitigate the calf's risk of contracting diseases such as scours. Have a chat with your veterinarian about what pre-calving vaccinations are right for your herd.



### Colostrum

Colostrum is critical to the survival of a new born calf. A calf should be receiving between 1.5-2 litres of colostrum within the first 6 hours of its life. Colostrum contains a plethora of beneficial antibodies and bacteria that give the baby calf's immune system a boost! Calves out of first calf heifers are especially important to watch. Heifers typically produce less, and lower quality colostrum than mature cows. So it is very important to ensure heifer calves get up and get that first drink! If calves are unable to drink within the first 3 hours of their life, it is time to step in. They may need help getting

a drink, or if the cow doesn't have enough, colostrum off of other cows or replacer can be used.

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*Continued from page 15...*

### Controlling the “Bad Bugs”

Viruses such as *E. coli*, coccidia, cryptosporidia, and other nasty critters love damp conditions. The “perfect storm” for these viruses is a damp, crowded environment. Many of the pathogens that cause diseases like scours actually live in the cow’s gut and get spread whenever she lifts her tail. Then once a calf becomes sick, they start shedding billions of infectious particles themselves. In these kind of conditions, a ‘bad bug’ population explosion is imminent. If you are calving in a pen or a barn, it is important to try and keep those areas as dry as possible. Whether it’s busting out a fresh straw bale or moving animals to a drier pen after a heavy snow or a rain event, keeping a dry environment slows down the spread of harmful viruses significantly. Simple indicators like cow’s udders being clean and dry can indicate a favourable environment for preventing disease.

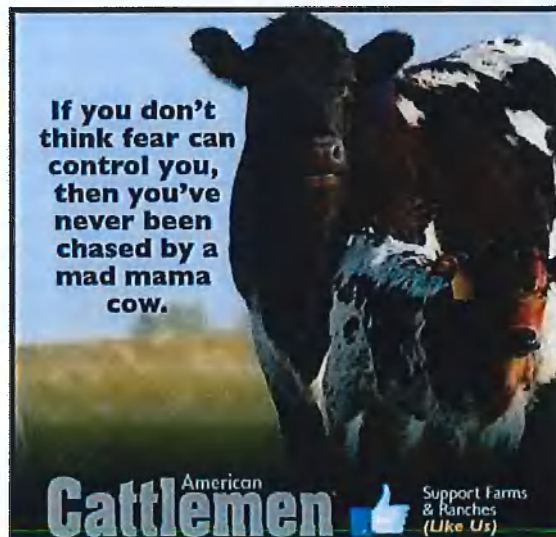


If you are having issues with calves getting sick with scours or coccidiosis, the next step is to separate the healthy and sick animals. This can sometimes be impossible due to facility restraints, but by getting the healthy calves out of the environment, you can be saving them from sickness and saving yourself some sleep! It is also important to ensure that we are not making calves sick with our own actions. Basic sanitation rules need to apply when dealing with sick calves – similar to dealing with sick kids. When helping out a child who is sick with the flu, you wash your hands before shaking hands with someone. Same should apply to the calving pen. In the spring when we’re calving, I have 2 sets of coveralls, one set for day-to-day use and one set I only wear when dealing with sick calves. Things like this help to mitigate the

spread of sickness in the calf herd. If you only have one set of coveralls, ensure that you are finished handling the healthy calves before tackling the sick ones and throw them in the wash right after. Never handle sick calves first! Also make sure that any equipment used in treating a sick calf is washed and disinfected between treatments. Separating equipment like tube feeders for healthy newborn calves and sick calves is also recommended.

Although we cannot control the weather or what comes out whenever a cow lifts her tail, we can control other variables. Learning how to best use the tools that we have available can make all the difference come calving time.

If you would like to learn more about mitigating sickness in your calves this spring, make sure to have a chat with your local veterinarian!

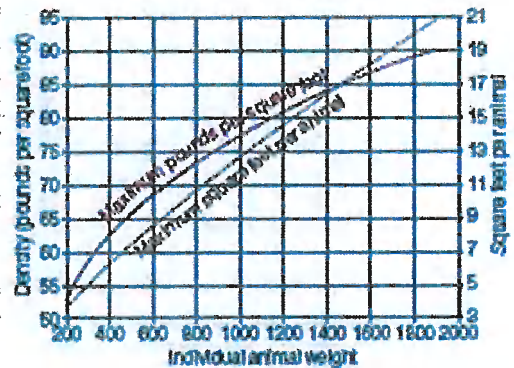


## Tips for Hauling Cattle

Compiled by Carly Shaw

When hauling livestock it is important to remember that there are many rules and considerations to keep in mind for the safety of your cattle, yourself and your hauler. Below are some of the transportation guidelines which can be found on Alberta Agriculture & Forestry's website.

- Shippers are to ensure that cattle to be shipped are suitable to undergo transport. The transporter should accept only healthy animals for transport or risk prosecution.
- If the shipper pressures a driver into accepting an infirm animal, the driver should try to contact a regulatory inspector for advice. If the driver must take the animal it should be recorded on the manifest that the animal was loaded under protest and the liability is transferred back to the shipper, or whoever caused the infirm animal to be loaded.
- Market ready animals, especially older cows, bruise easily when they are handled roughly. When slaughtered, costly bruises must be trimmed from the carcass and disposed of. This animal is referred to as a dark cutter and is discounted significantly so drivers and shippers need to be aware of how their actions affect the final product.
- Stock prods should be used with discretion only on haired portions of the animal and never on the face. Prodding an animal that is either already moving or has no room to advance is unproductive. Whips, sorting sticks and canes must not be misused as they can cause bruising or injury.
- According to the Health of Animals Act, livestock must be able to stand in their natural position without their head coming in contact with a deck or roof. To the left is a chart that recommends loading densities in trailers by considering animal density, individual animal weight and square feet per animal. However weight restrictions, class of animal, distance to be travelled, weather, road bans, cattle comfort and special needs also need to be taken into consideration.
- If transportation is going to take longer than 52 hours, the cattle must be unloaded at the 48 hour mark for feed, water and a rest for a minimum of 5 hours.
- The unit must keep rolling during hot weather to ensure proper ventilation for the cattle and in cold weather bedding, such as shavings, should be used.



Despite taking all these precautions accidents can happen. So it is important to have a plan in place for emergency situations. The first thing to do in an emergency is call 911 and check to see if any humans are in need of medical assistance before checking the state of the animal. If the animal is safe where it is, supply it with food and water, giving you time to plan a rescue strategy. When planning a rescue strategy you need to decide if it is a self-rescue, where the animal is able to rescue itself with some assistance, or a technical situation, in which the animal is unable to rescue itself and go from there. Always remember to make your safety a top priority in these situations so greater tragedy can be averted. The above information and so much more about handling emergencies can be found on [afac.ab.ca](http://afac.ab.ca) or their Facebook page Alberta Farm Care and keep a lookout for an emergency workshop put on by AFAC in your area.

Credit to Melissa Moggy & Alberta Farm Animal Care along with [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/beef11990](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/beef11990) for the wonderful information.

## Keep Your 'P' Out of the River! As well as Your N, K, S & 2, 4-D!

By Kaitlin McLachlan

T-3 months until we see John Deeres and Seed Hawks roaring across fields here in the Peace Country! With all your seed and fertilizer pre-booked or already delivered, time to think about strategy in the field.

With commodity prices the way they are, you may be wondering how you can save some costs this year. Well time to bust out Alberta Agriculture's *Environmental Manual for Crop Producers in Alberta!*

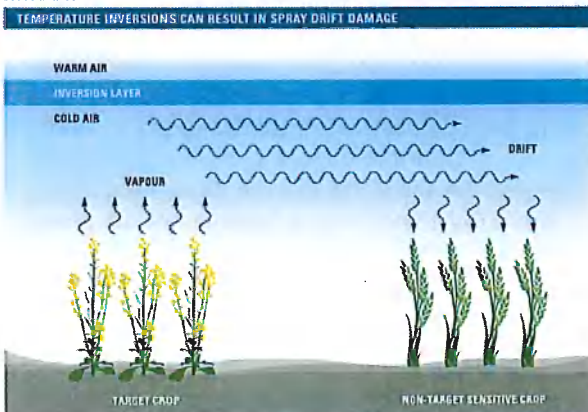
When putting down fertilizer, we want to ensure that we are getting the most bang for our buck! That means reducing the chances of losing the nutrient that we put down to things such as gas-off and run-off. Things to consider to prevent fertilizer nutrient loss:

- **Application Rate** – Set your yield goal and get your soil tested. Based on the recommendations given from your soil tests, you can match your nutrient needs based on your yield goal. However, make sure not to over apply! For example, the safe limit for side banding nitrogen with canola is 100-125lbs. After that, nitrogen toxicity effects the seedling and you become more susceptible to nitrogen loss.
- **Application Timing** - The most bang-for-your-buck comes from fertilizing in the spring when the crop goes in. This ensures the fertilizer being put down is there when the seed needs it.
- **Application Method** – Experiments done by Alberta Agriculture have proven that when broadcasting fertilizer, we actually loose more to run-off than we get benefit. Therefore, it is best to place fertilized in the seed row or side band. When placing in the seed row, use caution and ensure the rates aren't high enough to cause damage to the seedling.
- **Nutrient Form** – The chemical or physical properties of various commercial fertilizers affect how the nutrient is released – ie: urea vs slow release nitrogen. Make sure to apply fertilizers according to recommendations.
- **Buffer Zones** – By avoiding applying fertilizer in the wet areas around streams and wetlands, we won't be losing nutrient to the leaching process. According to the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* under Alberta Agriculture, a buffer zone between where we are applying nutrients and a water body needs to be 30m wide.



Example of a buffer zone around a stream. Photo via: [bwsr.state.mn.us](http://bwsr.state.mn.us)

By ensuring that we are doing our best to decrease nutrient loss, we can save ourselves some money by using everything we put in the ground.



Adapted from: Figure 14 in Ozkan, H. Erdal. 2000. *Reducing Spray Drift*. Bulletin 816-00. The Ohio State University Extension Bulletin.

Once the crop is up, it's time to pull the sprayer out of the shed. We all know how pricy herbicides and pesticides can be, so it's important not to waste!

Did you know that you actually have a legal responsibility to make sure that when you're spraying that it does not drift off your land? And your neighbour can sue for spray drift damage? So let's ensure we all do our best to reduce spray drift! Some ways to reduce drift include: slower travel speed, lower booms, use of spray shrouds, increased droplet size, avoiding temperature inversion (illustrated to the left), and use the AOPA's buffer zone regulations when spraying property lines. If using a custom sprayer, ensure that they have their Applicator's Licence.

So we've covered how to keep your chemical from blowing away, now let's make sure it doesn't wash away either! Depending on which pesticide you are using, the risk of runoff varies. Below is a chart outlining the run off potential of some common chemicals. So how can we ensure we don't lose chemical to run off? Leaving wide buffer zones around water bodies including; streams, rivers, wells, dugouts and sloughs that at least meet AOPA's 30m regulation. If there is rain in the forecast, don't spray. Not only will you not get a good kill, but it will wash away!

LOSS POTENTIALS OF SOME COMMON AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS		
PESTICIDE	RUNOFF POTENTIAL*	LEACHING POTENTIAL
Barvel	Small	Large
Basagran	Small	Medium
2,4-D Amine	Medium	Medium
Lexone, Sencor	Medium	Large
Linuron	Large	Medium
Poast	Small	Small
Roundup	Large	Small
Treflan	Large	Small
Counter	Medium	Small
Dyfonate	Large	Medium
Bayleton	Medium	Medium
Tilt	Medium	Medium

\* Runoff potential: potential for transport of pesticide in runoff water.

Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. 1992. *Best Management Practices: Field Crop Production*. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Aside from the physical application, there are other factors that can affect a chemical's ability to reach water. Spills when mixing in the sprayer should be cleaned up as soon as they happen. Pesticides are very soluble and can move through the soil much like water. Also when filling your sprayer, ensure that there is a check valve on the line you are using to fill as backflow from the sprayer tank to your water source is also possible. Backflow can have serious consequences on your personal water supply. Soil texture, slope of the land, and other factors also affect the runoff potential of chemical. Below is another chart that takes in some more factors to consider when using pesticides near water.

FACTORS AFFECTING PESTICIDE TRANSPORT TO WATER		
CHEMICAL FACTORS	Solubility	Soluble pesticides will move easily with water and are more likely to leach through soil.
	Binding to soil particles	Some chemicals adhere very tightly to soil particles and are not subject to loss by dissolving into water, but can be carried to water bodies through erosion of soil particles.
	Rate of breakdown (half life)	A persistent chemical, because it is around longer, is more likely to be transported than one that breaks down quickly.
	Rate of application	A chemical with a low application rate is less likely to move away from the target.
	Timing of application	Chemicals applied in the fall or early spring have a greater chance of loss.
SOIL FACTORS	Texture	Sandy soils, which allow greater water movement and bind less tightly to chemicals, are subject to more losses.
	Slope	Steep slopes that are erosion prone are more likely to lose pesticides that are attached to soil particles.
	Depth to water table	Shallow water tables are more easily contaminated. In the spring and fall when water tables are high, chemicals are more likely to move downward and contaminate the groundwater.
APPLICATION FACTORS	Weather following spraying	Heavy rain within a few days of spraying can move significant proportions of the applied chemicals.
	Operator care	Excessive rates, uncalibrated sprayers, careless handling, spraying too close to streams or lakes, or spraying when it is too windy can all increase losses.

Adapted from: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. 1992. *Best Management Practices: Field Crop Production*. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. p. 36.

## Properly Disposing of Livestock Carcasses

By Carly Shaw

When an animal dies it is often thought that it is okay to just dispose of it in the bush, but that may not always be the case. There are many rules, regulations and considerations to remember when disposing of an animal carcass. The book *Livestock Morality Management* put together by the Alberta government says some environmental considerations for improper disposal include:

- **Odour** – decomposition of organic matter, particularly the anaerobic (lacking oxygen) breakdown of proteins by bacteria, will produce a foul odour.
- **Scavengers** – ravens, magpies, coyotes, etc. and insects can transmit disease and are a nuisance.
- **Pathogens** – disease-causing spores may still be viable.
- **Excess Nutrients** – concentrated source of nitrogen.
- **Nuisance** – visible carcasses and bones fuel social issues and can puncture tires.



Depending on the reason of death there are five ways of disposal; (1) natural disposal, (2) livestock burial, (3) composting, (4) Incineration, (5) Rendering.



### Natural Disposal

AB.VMA warns in their book *Biosecurity in Practice* that natural disposal is only acceptable when the following conditions are met: disposed on property owned or leased by the owner of the animal, the animal was not euthanized with drugs or a chemical substance, total weight of animal does not exceed 1000kg per site, a distance of at least 500m between disposal sites, disposal site is at least 500m from wells or other domestic water intakes, 25m from the edge of a coulee, major cut or embankment, must be 400m from livestock facilities, residences, road allowance, provincial park, recreation area, natural area, wilderness area or forest recreation area.

### Livestock Burial

Livestock burial has both advantages and disadvantages, advantages being: inexpensive, biosecure and convenient. While disadvantages include: difficult/impossible in the winter, can cause ground pollution and pits must be 1m above seasonal high water table according to the AB.VMA. For more information on the exact regulations to follow when making a burial pit check out page 22 of the online manual created by AB.VMA at the following website: [www.abvma.ca](http://www.abvma.ca) under manuals



PCBFA has a copy of AB.VMA's *Biosecurity in Practice* if you would like to learn more about Biosecurity on your farm.

### Composting

Composting is a controlled process in which bacteria, fungi and other organisms break down organic material. For composting to occur there must be aerobic conditions, proper temperature, moisture, pH, proper carbon to nitrogen ration and maintaining at least a temperature of 55°C for at least 3 consecutive days. Some advantages of composting mentioned in *Livestock Morality Management* are: it is biosecure, can use year round, relatively inexpensive, environmentally sound, product can be sold or used, it is the best recommended method to handle catastrophic losses, and the heat given off in the composting process kills most pathogens, weed seeds, and insect larva. The disadvantages include; labour intensive, requires an impervious pad between the compost and the soil surface, bin disposal requires rot resistant walls and a cover to repel rain, takes time to develop the technique, and it requires a carbon source. The restrictions that must be followed can be found in the above mentioned website.

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**Incineration**

Incineration must be done with correct equipment which does include a burn pile or barrel. You must use a double chamber incinerator which reaches temperatures of 850°C and provide oxygen to complete the burning process, reducing particulate and gas emissions (*Livestock Morality Management*). If you do not have access to an incinerator, this process may not be the best option for you.

**Rendering**

This process involves transporting or having carcasses picked up for a fee and transported to a disposal plant. The disposal plant then process the carcasses into feed ingredients like bone meal, meat meal or liquid fat to be used for various products. Costs for this process continue to increase and the logistics of collecting small volumes of carcasses on a frequent basis prevents this method from being widely accepted (*Livestock Morality Management*). Some advantages are that the carcass is removed from the farm and the rendering process destroys most diseases. Disadvantages to the rendering process include the risk of pathogenic transmission during pickup, and the increasing costs of the process.

Whichever way you decide to dispose of your carcasses make sure that you are following all of the rules and regulations in order to keep a biosecurity hazard off of your farm and a worry out of your mind!



**2016**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
 DUNVEGAN MOTOR INN, FAIRVIEW  
 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>

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4:30PM REGISTRATION  
 5:00PM BUSINESS MEETING  
 6:00PM SUPPER  
 GUEST SPEAKER: NEIL DENNIS

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\$55/Person, or \$75/Farm Unit  
 \*Includes 2016 PCBFA Membership\*

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Please RSVP to Kaitlin at 780-835-6799

A block of rooms has been held at the Dunvegan Motor Inn & Suites  
 Please call 780-835-5100 to book a room

The purpose of the On-Farm Food Safety program “is to help producers invest in equipment and tracking systems to improve On-Farm Food Safety (OFFS) practices, enhancing producers’ business competitiveness and food safety performance (GF2 website).”

To be eligible under this Program, applicants must have completed the On-Farm Food Safety (OFFS) training for the species they produce. For beef producers, the OFFS training is offered through Alberta Verified Beef Production (VBP) as of the date of application. There are two ways in which you can complete VBP’s training program, either online at [www.albertaverifiedbeef.com](http://www.albertaverifiedbeef.com) or watch for an in-person workshop being put on by PCBFA. In a nutshell, this training addresses the some of the main concerns when it comes to On-Farm Food Safety. If your operations has livestock other than beef, there are species appropriate training required for every species, and these are available on the GF2 website: <http://growingforward.alberta.ca>.



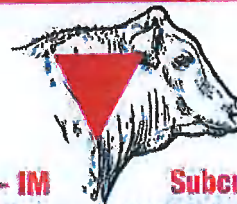
Example of an eligible squeeze chute with a neck extender under GF2’s On-Farm Food Safety Systems Program. Photo via: [morandindustries.com](http://morandindustries.com)

Some common on-farm food safety practices can include group health treatment records, ensuring proper insertion of needles so they don’t break, injecting needles in the proper areas and weighing cattle to ensure the proper dosage is being administered so as to not leave antibiotic residue. These are the types of activities that are eligible for funding. Under this program, successful applicants can receive reimbursement of 70% of eligible activities which include cattle squeeze chutes equipped with a neck extender, individual animal weigh systems, medical treatment software or herd management software that allows for tracking of medical treatments, and electronic animal thermometers. Maximum payment under the program is \$5,000 and you must complete your activities within the government fiscal year in which you apply (between April 1 and February 28). A complete list of all of the eligible equipment for cattle, including squeezes, medical treatment software or herd management software and scale systems can be found at on the Growing Forward 2 Website, under the FAQs on the On-Farm Food Safety Systems program.

Monitoring group health treatment records are an important aspect of food safety. Tracking this information allows you to consider the treatment dates and the withdrawal periods on medications to ensure that residues do not enter the food chain. Another important practice to implement during vaccinations is preventing broken needles. You can do this by; making sure that the animal is securely restrained with proper equipment like neck extenders on the chute, using only sharp, straight, detectable needles that are the appropriate size and length for the injection being given and changing needles every 10 animals or every time when dealing with a sick animal.



**INJECTION TECHNIQUES FOR BEEF CATTLE**

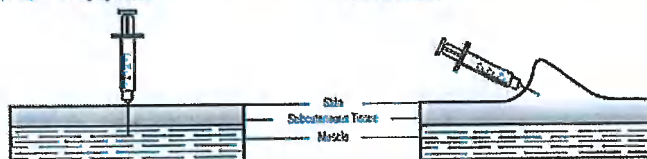


**Intramuscular - IM**

All intramuscular injections should be given in the neck muscle behind the base of the ear and ahead of the shoulder point. Use a 1-1 1/2" - 1 1/2" gauge needle.

**Subcutaneous - SC**

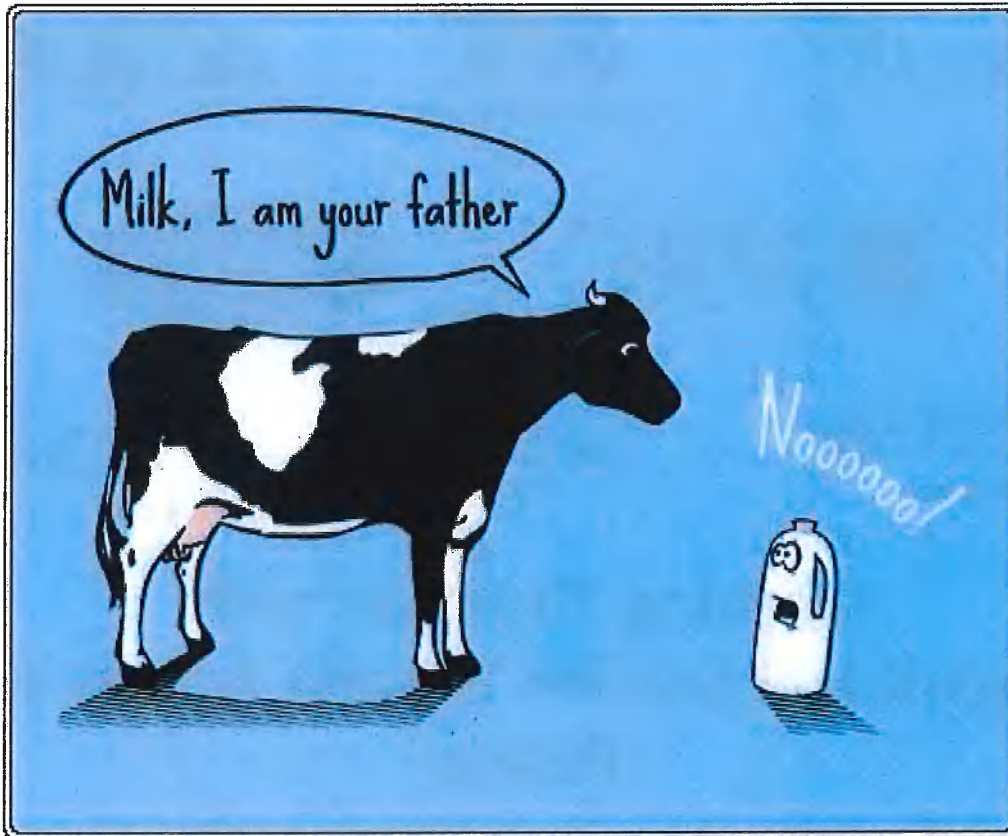
To minimize carcass damage, insert needle into loose, tented skin of neck in front of shoulder (preferred injection method). Use a 1 inch 16-18 gauge needle.



Remember to keep watch for the opening of the On-Farm Food Safety Program during spring and get your training done early in order to be proactive and ready to apply for equipment under this program! We expect this program to reopen after April 1st, 2016, so stay tuned for more updates and if you wish to subscribe to GF2 updates please visit the Growing Forward 2 website. And as always, if you would like assistance in filling out any Growing Forward paperwork, please feel free to give us a call or drop by the office!



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Even the cows are getting into Star Wars!

***Check Out Our Website For More Details on Our Projects,  
Events and Past Publications:  
[www.peacecountrybeef.ca](http://www.peacecountrybeef.ca)***



For more information about any of our field tours, workshops or project sites please call either Peace Country Beef and Forage Association Office, Fairview 780-835-6799 or High Prairie 780-523-4033

# Thank you to all our Funding Agencies



## Working Together with Agricultural Service Boards Across the Peace

