

AGENDA
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
July 13, 2015

The Agricultural Services Board meeting of Clear Hills County will be held on Monday, July 13, 2015 in the Council Chambers of the County Office, Worsley, Alberta.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **AGENDA**
3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 May 4, 2015..... 2
4. **BUSINESS ARISING**
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
 a. **Activity Report..... 5**
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
 a. **2015 Provincial Conference Resolutions Responses 8**
 b. **Agriculture Service Board Chair Meeting..... 109**
 c. **Multi-Year Capital Plan..... 125**
 d. **Events..... 126**
7. **REPORTS**
 a. **Board Reports..... 129**
 b. **Agricultural Fieldman Report 130**
9. **INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE 135**
10. **CONFIDENTIAL**
11. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
May 4, 2015**

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Aaron Zylstra	Agricultural Fieldman
Audrey Bjorklund	Community Development Manager
Sarah Hayward	Community Development Clerk
Randy Perkins	Alberta Agriculture

IN REGRET

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Harcourt called the meeting to order at 10:11 am.

AGENDA

AG37 (05/04/15)

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda governing the May 4, 2015 Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting with the following add-ins:
6d. Agricultural Growth Act Becomes Law CARRIED.**

MINUTES

AG38 (05/04/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the March 9, 2015 Agricultural Service Board Meeting as presented. CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

AG39 (05/04/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board (ASB) accepts the May 4, 2015 ASB Activity Report as presented. CARRIED.

Peace Country Beef
& Forage Association

The Board had requested the benefits of all Agricultural Service Board members having a Peace Country Beef and Forage Association membership be researched.

AG40 (05/04/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information that a municipal membership is sufficient for board members to have access to information and workshops through the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association. CARRIED.

Trade Show 2015

The Clear Hills County Agricultural Trade Show has past and the board is asked to evaluate its success.

AG41 (05/04/15)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion regarding

the review of Clear Hills County 21st Annual Agricultural Trade Show that was held on April 11, 2015. **CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS

Pest Inspector
Appointments

Pest Control inspectors are required to be appointed as per Section 10 of the Agricultural Pests Act.

AG42 (05/04/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board appoint Kelsey Lund, Cindy Campbell **and** Shawnee Bettenson-Desfosses **and Nicole Konrad** as Pest Inspectors for Clear Hills County for 2015 as per Section 10 of the Agricultural Pests Act. **CARRIED.**

Weed Inspector
Appointments

Weed Control inspectors are required to be appointed as per Section 7 of the Weed Control Act.

AG43 (05/04/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board appoint Kelsey Lund, Cindy Campbell **and** Shawnee Bettenson-Desfosses **and Nicole Konrad** as Weed Inspectors for Clear Hills County for 2015 as per Section 7 of the Weed Control Act. **CARRIED.**

Alberta Farm Animal
Care

The Board is presented with a membership opportunity with Alberta Farm Animal Care.

AG44 (05/04/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board purchase a membership of \$500 with the Alberta Farm Animal Care organization. **CARRIED.**

Agricultural Growth Act
Becomes Law

Chair Harcourt requested the article *Agricultural Growth Act Becomes Law* from the *Alberta Farm Express*, be added to today's agenda.

AG45 (05/04/15)

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

REPORTS

Community Development
Manager Report

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

AG46 (05/04/15)

RESOLUTION by Councilor Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Community Development Manager's report to May 4, 2015 as presented. **CARRIED.**

Board Reports

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

AG47 (05/04/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Logan that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' written or verbal reports of May 4, 2015 for information. CARRIED.

Agricultural
Fieldman's Report

The Agricultural Fieldman had the opportunity to present his report.

AG48 (05/04/15)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board investigate upgrading the roller mill motor to maintain the 110 volts and increase the size to 3HP or larger. CARRIED.

AG49 (05/04/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Logan that the Agricultural Service Board accepts the May 4, 2015 Agricultural Fieldman report for information. CARRIED.

INFORMATION &
CORRESPONDENCE

The following information and correspondence was provided to the Board:

1. V.S.I Services (1980) Ltd. – Letter – (63-10-40)
2. Peace Country Beef and Forage Association – Newsletter – (63-02-02)
3. Beef Cattle Conference – Registration Package – (63-02-02)

AG50 (05/04/15)

RESOLUTION by Councilor Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all available Agricultural Service Board Members to attend the Soil Carbon Coalition Field Day With Peter Donovan at Maverick Livestock Farm in the Eureka River area on June 15, 2015. CARRIED.

AG51 (05/04/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Member Logan or alternate Member Davis to attend the Beef Cattle Conference at the Deerfoot Inn and Casino in Calgary Alberta June 17-19, 2015. CARRIED.

AG52 (05/04/15)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information and correspondence of May 4, 2015 as presented. CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Harcourt adjourned the Agricultural Service Board meeting at 11:37 a.m.

CHAIRPERSON

AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	July 13, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	ACTIVITY REPORT
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:



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

ATTACHMENTS:

- Agricultural Service Board Activity Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:  AgFieldman: 



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for July 13, 2015 Page 1 of 2

Budget Items:

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer

DO= Development Officer

EA = Executive Assistant

Completed Items:

CSM = Corporate Services Manager

AF = Ag. Fieldman

CDM = Community Development Manager

MOTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEPT	STATUS
REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETINGS				
November 10, 2014				
AG154	(11/10/14)	RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agriculture Board recommend to Council to control Foxtail Barley on County roadsides.	AF	Developing inventory of infestation, options and cost estimates for 2016 budget
January 12, 2015				
AG05	(01/12/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board To arrange for two composting demonstration sites for large animal composting.	AF	In the works
March 9, 2015				
AG25	(03/09/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct an implementation plan for the recommended actions contained in the Agricultural Service Board Program Manager's Clear Hills County Field Visit report of July 3, 2014 be prepared for review at the next meeting.	AF	In the works
AG31	(03/09/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that the Agricultural Service Board invite a representative of Alternative Land Use Services to provide a presentation on setting up a similar program and invite MD of Peace, MD of Fairview and Peace County Beef and Forage Association to attend and book the David Thompson Hall.	AF	End of April or June mtg.
May 4, 2015				
AG44	(05/04/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board purchase a membership of \$500 with the Alberta Farm Animal Care organization.	AF	Done
AG45	(05/04/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Davis that this Agricultural Service Board prepare a letter for the next Agricultural Service Board meeting to the Provincial and Federal Agricultural Ministers concerning the Agricultural Growth Act and concern over potential seed check off dollars and retaining farmers' rights to use their own seed.	AF	In the works
AG48	(05/04/15)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board investigate upgrading the roller mill motor to maintain the 110 volts and increase the size to 3HP or larger.	AF	In the works AF report



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for July 13, 2015 Page 2 of 2

Budget Items:

Completed Items:

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer

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MOTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEPT	STATUS
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AG51	(05/04/15)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Member Logan or alternate Member Davis to attend the Beef Cattle Conference at the Deerfoot Inn and Casino in Calgary Alberta June 17-19, 2015.	AF	Done

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	July 13, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	2015 Provincial Conference Resolutions Responses
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

There are 15 resolutions from the 2015 ASB provincial conference. The grading card will be submitted to the ASB Provincial Committee.



ATTACHMENTS:

- 2015 ASB resolutions responses
- Resolutions responses grading form

OPTIONS:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That this Agricultural Service Board submits the 2015 Agricultural Service Board Resolutions Grading Form as discussed to the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee.

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



Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8

February 20th, 2015

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
The Honorable Verlyn Olson
228 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
Canada T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Verlyn Olson:

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution that received support from delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held in January 2015. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee would appreciate your response to **Resolution # 1, Adapt Crop Insurance to Protect Clubroot Tolerant Varieties**. Your response is requested by April 15, 2015 and can be submitted directly to:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary, ASB Provincial Committee
3602- 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8
tkeller@athabascacounty.com

The ASB Provincial Committee will compile your responses and distribute them to the ASB membership.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gordeyko
Chair, ASB Provincial Committee

Enclosure

Cc: Brad Klak, President and Managing Director, Alberta Financial Services Corporation

Resolution 1

ADAPT CROP INSURANCE TO PROTECT CLUBROOT TOLERANT VARIETIES

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

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

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

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

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

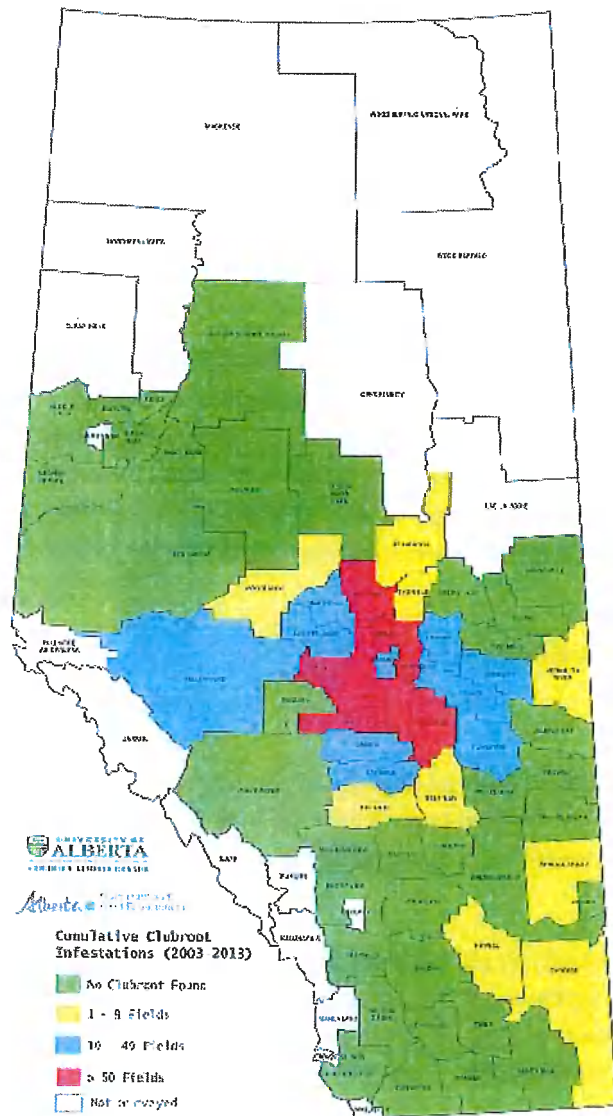


Figure 1. Alberta Clubroot Map: Cumulative clubroot infestations as of December 2013. Map courtesy of S.E. Strelkov, University of Alberta and M. Hartman, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.

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

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

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

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

Powers of Minister

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

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



Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8

February 20th, 2015

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
The Honorable Verlyn Olson
228 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
Canada T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Verlyn Olson:

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution that received support from delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held in January 2015. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee would appreciate your response to **Emergent Resolution #1, Fusarium Graminearum Management Plan**. Your response is requested by April 15, 2015 and can be submitted directly to:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary, ASB Provincial Committee
3602- 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8
tkeller@athabascacounty.com

The ASB Provincial Committee will compile your responses and distribute them to the ASB membership.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gordeyko
Chair, ASB Provincial Committee

Enclosure

Emergent Resolution #1

FUSARIUM GRAMINEARUM MANAGEMENT PLAN

- WHEREAS:** Fusarium graminearum produces deoxynivalenol (DON) that reduces the marketability and end-use potential of *cereal grains, especially wheat (including durum) and barley*;
- WHEREAS:** Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada guidelines for acceptable feed are 1 ppm of DON for swine, dairy cattle, cow/calf operations and horses, and 5 ppm for finishing beef cattle, sheep and poultry;
- WHEREAS:** Lightweight, shriveled, fusarium-damaged kernels (FDK) may contain high concentrations of DON levels as high as 30 parts per million (ppm) in wheat and barley;
- WHEREAS:** The Fusarium Action Committee recommends amending the current Management Plan to establish "Commonly Found" and "Not Commonly Found" areas within the province;
- WHEREAS:** The creation of a "Commonly Found" Area could create a dumping ground for infected commodities and a decreased value of commodities produced and sold in that specific area;
- WHEREAS:** The recommendation from the Fusarium Action Committee is to adopt a Management Plan that would increase the allowable amount of FG to be used in the Commonly Found areas;
- WHEREAS:** An increased tolerance levels in the Management Plan without specific protocols and resources to protect the unaffected regions will only accelerate the spread of FG;
- WHEREAS:** An increased pressure from industry to downgrade FG to a nuisance or remove it from the Agricultural Pest Act.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development maintain the current tolerance level in the Fusarium Graminearum Management Plan with no detectable amount allowed.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development keep Fusarium Graminearum on the Agricultural Pest Act as a Pest.

Back ground information

On November 10th, 2014 the Fusarium Action Committee (FAC) made a motion to have the draft plan go to the Pest Surveillance Branch for review and further recommendation to the minister. Peace Regional ASB Conferences was held on October 24th, 2014 eliminating the ability for a resolution to be brought forth regionally.

Losses due to Fusarium Head Blight caused by Fusarium graminearum (FG) in Canada have ranged from \$50 million to \$300 million annually since the early 1990s. Direct and secondary economic losses due to FHB for all crops in the Northern Great Plains and central USA were estimated to be \$2.7 billion from 1998 to 2000 alone. FG causes problems in two ways: first it reduces yield and grade by producing Fusarium-damaged kernels (FDK), and secondly it can have a significant negative effect on the quality of grain intended for the feed, malting, milling, biofuel (ethanol), and brewing industries. FG produces fungal toxins (mycotoxins), such as deoxynivalenol (DON or vomitoxin), that are poisonous to livestock and humans above certain threshold levels. Furthermore, infected commodities create poor quality malt and flour, and reduce alcohol yields during fermentation. In bread making, DON changes colour in flour and the bread does not rise normally. The baking process does not destroy DON and therefore remains in our food supply. The presence of compounds associated with DON will also affect the production of beer. The compounds affect the taste of beer and may cause gushing or excess foaming. Most malting companies now have a zero tolerance for DON and test for it before purchasing grain stocks.

“We're dealing with one of the most insidious plant diseases in Canada, a double-barreled problem that hits the grain industry with a one-two punch of yield and quality losses in the field, and contaminates grain with mycotoxins that render it unfit for both human food and livestock feed.” - Dr. Gordon Dorrell - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

AAMD&C Resolutions

2013 Resolution 5-13F

DEFEATED

Agricultural Pests Act - Fusarium Graminearum

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to proceed with the immediate review and opening of the Agricultural Pests Act and not wait until 2016; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Alberta amend section 2(1) of the Agricultural Pests Act to include the following categories of pests: Prohibited Pest, Pest; and Nuisance;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED Fusarium graminearum be defined as a nuisance under the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation of the Agriculture Pests Act; and add the ability to elevate and or de-elevate a pest/nuisance within a municipality.

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Resolutions

2006 Emergent Resolution #E1 **CARRIED**

Fusarium Graminearum

Be it resolved: That Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards request that Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development consider as a recommendation during the review of the current Fusarium Graminearum Management Plan, a zero percent tolerance level of Fusarium Graminearum in cereal seed samples.

2004 Emergent Resolution #1 **CARRIED**

Mandatory Fusarium Graminearum testing at Alberta seed cleaning plants

Be it resolved: Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development amend the current Fusarium Graminearum Management Plan to include mandatory testing of all cereal grain prior to entering any co-op, private or mobile seed cleaning plant.

2003 Resolution #18 F **CARRIED**

Fusarium Graminearum Test Funding

Be It Resolved: That Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development reinstate a provincially funded Fusarium graminearum testing program that rebates the producer's costs at a rate of \$25.00 per test to a maximum of \$200.00 per farm operation.

Resolution #19 **CARRIED**

Special Pest Control Program - Fusarium

Be It Resolved: That the Government in the Province of Alberta provide \$1,000,000.00 per year over the next 5 years to be distributed through the Agricultural Service Board Grant as a Special Pest Control Program to help local authorities prevent the spread of Fusarium in Alberta.

2002 Resolution #19 **CARRIED**

Fusarium head blight (f. graminearum)

Be it resolved - That all grain imported into Alberta be tested and certified Fusarium graminearum free prior to entry; and that all seed grain grown in (or offered for sale in) Alberta be tested and certified Fusarium graminearum free.

2000 Resolution #6 **CARRIED**

Fusarium (graminearum) awareness and monitoring

Be it resolved - That Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development implement a comprehensive awareness and monitoring program to prevent the spread of Fusarium (Graminearum).



Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8

February 20th, 2015

Brad Klak
President and Managing Director
Alberta Financial Services Corporation
5718 - 56th Avenue
Lacombe, AB
T4L 1B1

Dear Brad Klak:

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Enclosure

Cc: Verlyn Olson, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

Resolution 1

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

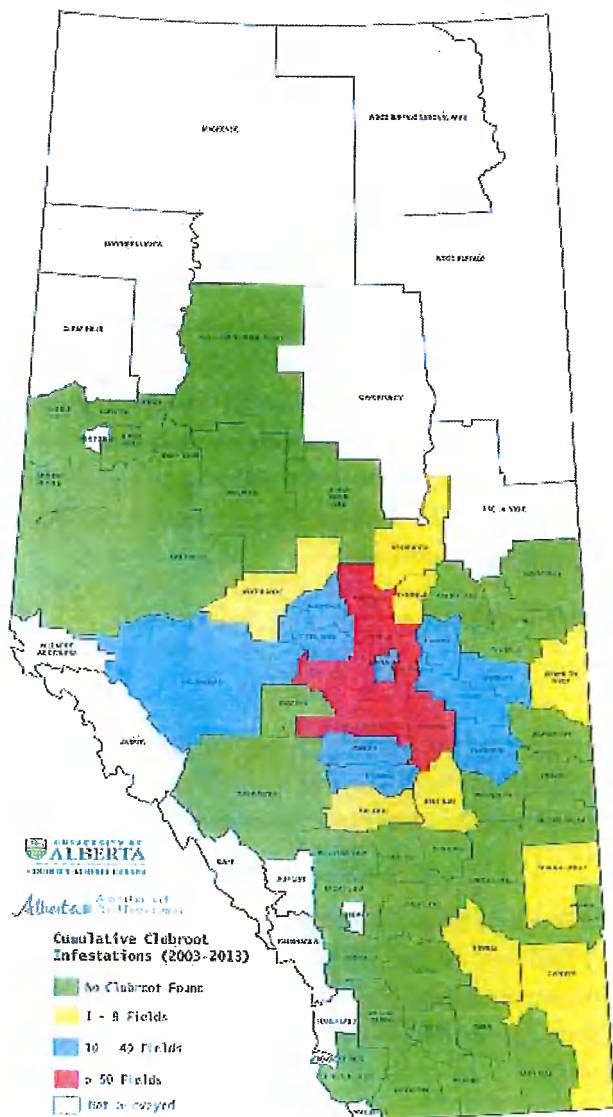


Figure 1. Alberta Clubroot Map: Cumulative clubroot infestations as of December 2013. Map courtesy of S.E. Strelkov, University of Alberta and M. Hartman, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.

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

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

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

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

Powers of Minister

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

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



Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8

February 20th, 2015

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
The Honorable Verlyn Olson
228 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
Canada T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Verlyn Olson:

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution that received support from delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held in January 2015. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee would appreciate your response to **Resolution #2, Pest Control Act - Clubroot**. Your response is requested by April 15, 2015 and can be submitted directly to:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary, ASB Provincial Committee
3602- 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8
tkeller@athabascacounty.com

The ASB Provincial Committee will compile your responses and distribute them to the ASB membership.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gordeyko
Chair, ASB Provincial Committee

Enclosure

Resolution 2
PEST CONTROL ACT – CLUBROOT

- WHEREAS:** Clubroot is becoming more prevalent throughout the Province of Alberta;
- WHEREAS:** Municipalities have been working diligently to limit the spread of clubroot through their inspection and enforcement programs;
- WHEREAS:** Municipalities are being hampered in their efforts to limit the spread of clubroot because instances of clubroot are not being reported;
- WHEREAS:** The *Agricultural Pest Act* does not require industry, agri-retailers, crop insurance adjusters or producers to notify the municipality or Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development when clubroot is found;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – PEST CONTROL ACT – CLUBROOT

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

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

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



Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8

February 20th, 2015

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
The Honorable Verlyn Olson
228 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
Canada T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Verlyn Olson:

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution that received support from delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held in January 2015. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee would appreciate your response to **Resolution #3, Standardized Clubroot Inspection Procedure**. Your response is requested by April 15, 2015 and can be submitted directly to:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary, ASB Provincial Committee
3602- 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8
tkeller@athabascacounty.com

The ASB Provincial Committee will compile your responses and distribute them to the ASB membership.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gordeyko
Chair, ASB Provincial Committee

Enclosure

Resolution 3
STANDARDIZED CLUBROOT INSPECTION PROCEDURE

WHEREAS: The canola industry contributes \$19.3 billion to the Canadian economy each year;

WHEREAS: Clubroot poses an extremely serious threat to Alberta's Canola Industry;

WHEREAS: Clubroot is a declared pest under the *Agricultural Pests Act*, Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation;

WHEREAS: A new clubroot pathotype has been confirmed in Alberta, to which current genetic resistance is ineffective against;

WHEREAS: Early detection of the new pathotype can promote more vigilant quarantine measures for the prevention of the spread of clubroot.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- \$12,000 for lab testing (150 samples sent for testing at \$80/test)
- \$24,645 for one seasonal Inspector (salary and benefits)
- \$5,000 for mileage or vehicle rental for Inspector use
- \$1,900 for miscellaneous supplies

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

REFERENCES

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

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

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

ATTACHMENTS

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

Good Afternoon,

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

WHAT WE KNOW

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

- Pathotype 5x has been confirmed on only one field in the Edmonton area to date.

ACTION TAKEN TO DATE

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

NEXT STEPS

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

HOW CAN MUNICIPALITIES HELP WITH THIS RESPONSE?

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

WHAT YOU MAY BE HEARING OUT THERE?

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

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

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

A: The farmer is allowed to conduct farming operations. The notice outlines cleaning requirements for all equipment leaving the field and the farmer is complying with these requirements. Access is restricted to the farmer, his employees, the agricultural fieldman and

ARD/U of A research staff. ARD and U of A staff must follow certain protocols to enter and exit the field. Anyone else wishing access to the field must first be vetted by ARD and the agricultural fieldman 72 hours before access is granted to the field. Access has already been denied in some instances because of the risk it represented for spreading the pest.

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

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

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

If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

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

PH: 780.644.4432
Cell: 780.909.5798



Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8

February 20th, 2015

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
The Honorable Verlyn Olson
228 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
Canada T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Verlyn Olson:

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution that received support from delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held in January 2015. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee would appreciate your response to **Resolution #4, Additional funding for municipalities dealing with Prohibited Noxious Weeds that come from outside the Province of Alberta**. Your response is requested by April 15, 2015 and can be submitted directly to:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary, ASB Provincial Committee
3602- 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8
tkeller@athabascacounty.com

The ASB Provincial Committee will compile your responses and distribute them to the ASB membership.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gordeyko
Chair, ASB Provincial Committee

Enclosure

Resolution 4
**ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR MUNICIPALITIES DEALING WITH PROHIBITED
NOXIOUS WEEDS THAT COME FROM OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA**

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

BACKGROUND

Alberta/Montana Border

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

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

Dollars spent by Cardston County controlling Spotted Knapweed

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

Alberta/British Columbia Border

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

British Columbia, and a total length within Alberta of 326 km (BC Highway, 2013). CP Rail, a major rail link to the west coast, moves freight both east and west through the Crowsnest Pass, directly affecting the movement of invasive species. Freight and rail movement averages approximately 6 trains in a 24 hour period (B. Hnatiuk, personally observed).

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

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

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

References

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A few facts about Spotted Knapweed:

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

estimates from 1996, knapweeds cost Montana \$42 million per year in direct and indirect costs. By 1991 the weed had been recorded in every Montana County. Spotted Knapweed is the most widespread knapweed in the state, infesting from two to five million acres. (MSU Document 2011)



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



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



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



Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8

February 20th, 2015

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
The Honorable Verlyn Olson
228 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
Canada T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Verlyn Olson:

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution that received support from delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held in January 2015. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee would appreciate your response to **Resolution #5, Maintaining Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) as a Noxious Weed under the *Alberta Weed Control Act and Regulation***. Your response is requested by April 15, 2015 and can be submitted directly to:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary, ASB Provincial Committee
3602- 48th Avenue, Athabasca Alberta T9S 1M8
tkeller@athabascacounty.com

The ASB Provincial Committee will compile your responses and distribute them to the ASB membership.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gordeyko
Chair, ASB Provincial Committee

Enclosure

Resolution 5

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

Background information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

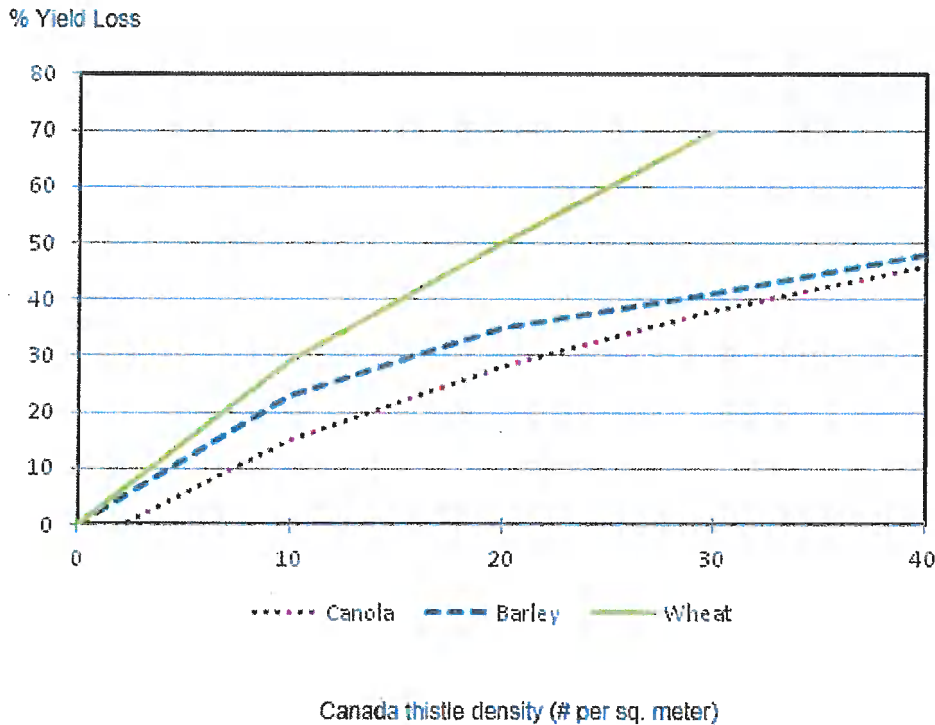


Figure 1. Estimated yield losses of canola, barley and wheat caused by Canada thistle. (Kimmel, 2013)

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

References:

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

Alberta Weed Control Act and Regulation



Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8

February 20th 2015

Gerald Rhodes, Executive Director
AAMDC
2510 Sparrow Drive
Nisku, AB T9E 8N5

Dear Gerald Rhodes:

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution that received support from delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held in January 2015. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee would appreciate your response to **Resolution #6, Legal Opinion on the jurisdiction of the *Weed Control Act on CN Rail***. Your response is requested by April 15, 2015 and can be submitted directly to:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary, ASB Provincial Committee
3602- 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8
tkeller@athabascacounty.com

The ASB Provincial Committee will compile your responses and distribute them to the ASB membership.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gordeyko
Chair, ASB Provincial Committee

Enclosure

Resolution 6

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

Background information:

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

Resolution response from AARD and CN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CN Railways Weed control

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

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

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

Sponsored by: Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

CN Railways Weed Control

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

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

Response:

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

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

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

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

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

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

Further response from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

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

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

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

CN

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

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

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

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

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

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



Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8

February 20th, 2015

Minister of Transportation
The Honorable Wayne Drysdale
Government Members
Legislative Branch
324 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Wayne Drysdale:

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution that received support from delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held in January 2015. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee would appreciate your response to **Resolution #7, Prevention of the introduction of Zebra and Quagga Mussels into Alberta water bodies**. Your response is requested by April 15, 2015 and can be submitted directly to:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary, ASB Provincial Committee
3602- 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8
tkeller@athabascacounty.com

The ASB Provincial Committee will compile your responses and distribute them to the ASB membership.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gordeyko
Chair, ASB Provincial Committee

Enclosure

Cc: Kyle Fawcett, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resources Development

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

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

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT

ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

Background

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

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

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

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

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



Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8

February 20th, 2015

Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

The Honourable Kyle Fawcett,
Legislature Office
420 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Kyle Fawcett:

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution that received support from delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held in January 2015. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee would appreciate your response to **Resolution #7, Prevention of the Introduction of Zebra and Quagga Mussels into Alberta Water Bodies**. Your response is requested by April 15, 2015 and can be submitted directly to:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary, ASB Provincial Committee
3602- 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8
tkeller@athabascacounty.com

The ASB Provincial Committee will compile your responses and distribute them to the ASB membership.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gordeyko
Chair, ASB Provincial Committee

Enclosure

Cc: Wayne Drysdale, Minister of Transportation

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

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

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

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

Background

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

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

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

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

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



Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8

February 20th 2015

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
The Honorable Verlyn Olson
228 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
Canada T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Verlyn Olson:

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution that received support from delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held in January 2015. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee would appreciate your response to **Resolution #8, Monitoring Ergot levels in livestock feeds**. Your response is requested by April 15, 2015 and can be submitted directly to:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary, ASB Provincial Committee
3602- 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8
tkeller@athabascacounty.com

The ASB Provincial Committee will compile your responses and distribute them to the ASB membership.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gordeyko
Chair, ASB Provincial Committee

Enclosure

Resolution 8
MONITOR ERGOT LEVELS IN LIVESTOCK FEEDS

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

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

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

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

Background

Myths & Facts: Ergot in Screenings Myth Fact

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

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

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

Feed industry standard operating procedures or GMPs catches contamination

Hot spots exist within each load of screenings:

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

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

Grain industry would not ship deleterious products into the food chain

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

Feed intake is not affected by ergot

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

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

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

(Merck Veterinary Manual)

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

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

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

Importance of Ergot Research in Saskatchewan August 19, 2013

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

Principle Investigator: Dr. J. Singh

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

Industry Perspective – Co-op Feeds:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

References:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Disclaimer and Limitation of Liability

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

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

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

(Customer Signature)

(Co-operative Retailing System
Representative Signature)

(Printed Name)

(Printed Name)

(Date)

(Title)

(Date)



Feed Identification

Research Proposal March 15, 2013

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

References:

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

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



Ergot Poisoning in Cattle

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

Beef Extension Veterinarian Veterinary Toxicologist

Clinical Signs

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





Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8

February 20th, 2015

Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

The Honorable Kyle Fawcett,
Legislature Office
420 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Kyle Fawcett:

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution that received support from delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held in January 2015. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee would appreciate your response to **Resolution #9, Elk Quota Hunt**. Your response is requested by April 15, 2015 and can be submitted directly to:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary, ASB Provincial Committee
3602- 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8
tkeller@athabascacounty.com

The ASB Provincial Committee will compile your responses and distribute them to the ASB membership.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gordeyko
Chair, ASB Provincial Committee

Enclosure

Resolution 9
ELK QUOTA HUNT

WHEREAS: Many Eastern Slopes and Peace Region Municipalities are having difficulties with problem elk populations;

WHEREAS: Many Peace Region Municipalities have submitted many resolutions in this regard for these same problems;

WHEREAS: Minimal and modest increases have been made to Eastern Slopes and Peace Region Wild Life Management Units (WMU's) harvest limits;

WHEREAS: These increases in tag allocations have not resulted in alleviating or mitigating economic losses sustained by producers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

Background Elk Quota Hunt Resolution:

Peace Region Wildlife Non-Waterfowl Damage

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

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

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

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

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

Suggested measures:

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

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



Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8

February 20th, 2015

Minister of Justice and Solicitor General

The Honourable Jonathan Denis
403 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Jonathan Denis:

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution that received support from delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held in January 2015. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee would appreciate your response to **Resolution #10, Alberta Fish and Wildlife Office Availability**. Your response is requested by April 15, 2015 and can be submitted directly to:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary, ASB Provincial Committee
3602- 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8
tkeller@athabascacounty.com

The ASB Provincial Committee will compile your responses and distribute them to the ASB membership.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gordeyko
Chair, ASB Provincial Committee

Enclosure

Resolution 10
ALBERTA FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICER AVILABILITY

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

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

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

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

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

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

Problem wildlife always takes precedence over enforcement.

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

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

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

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

Community engagement is gone.

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

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



ALBERTA
JUSTICE AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Acadia*

Feb 20 2015
Alberta

AR 12352

March 19, 2015

Mr. Patrick Gordeyko
Chairman
Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary
3602 - 48 Avenue
Athabasca, AB T9S 1M8

Dear Mr. Gordeyko:

Thank you for your March 3, 2015 letter regarding Alberta Agriculture Service Board Resolution #10 – Alberta Fish and Wildlife Officer Availability. I appreciate the opportunity to provide the following information.

The Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch was moved to Justice and Solicitor General in 2011. Since that time, the number of fish and wildlife officers has remained the same at 144 positions and 30 new officers have been hired to fill vacancies. Another competition is currently underway to fill the remaining vacancies. Over the past year, fish and wildlife officers have been deployed to Vegreville, Camrose, Ponoka, Red Deer and Wetaskiwin districts. There are currently 12 officers working in the Red Deer unit.

Protection of life and property is a priority for the government, which means providing a response to reports of problem wildlife may sometimes shift the efforts of fish and wildlife officers away from their law enforcement mandate. This has been identified as an issue and has prompted discussions between this department and Environment and Sustainable Resource Development to identify efficiencies and create new strategies to ensure law enforcement effort is not diminished.

The Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch understands that community and stakeholder engagement is key to delivering a successful enforcement program and is grateful for the support demonstrated by your organization.

.../2



Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8

February 20th, 2015

Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

The Honourable Kyle Fawcett,
Legislature Office
420 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Kyle Fawcett:

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution that received support from delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held in January 2015. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee would appreciate your response to **Resolution #11, Wildlife Predator Compensation for Domestic Equine loss**. Your response is requested by April 15, 2015 and can be submitted directly to:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary, ASB Provincial Committee
3602- 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8
tkeller@athabascacounty.com

The ASB Provincial Committee will compile your responses and distribute them to the ASB membership.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gordeyko
Chair, ASB Provincial Committee

Enclosure

Resolution 11

WILDLIFE PREDATOR COMPENSATION FOR DOMESTIC EQUINE LOSS

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

Background Information

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

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

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

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

Agricultural Operation Practices Act of Alberta

Definitions

1 In this Act,

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

Stray Animals Act of Alberta

Definitions

1 In this Act,

(c) “livestock” means livestock as defined in the regulations;

Stray Animals Regulation of Alberta

Definition

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

(2) In the Act, “livestock” means

(a) alpacas,

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

Livestock Identification and Commerce Act of Alberta

Definitions

1 In this Act,

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

Animal Health Act of Alberta

Definitions

1 In this Act

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

Wildlife Act of Alberta

Wildlife Regulations

Interpretation of sections 13 to 16

11 In sections 13 to 16,

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

Shot livestock compensation

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



Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8

February 20th, 2015

Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

The Honourable Kyle Fawcett,
Legislature Office
420 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Kyle Fawcett:

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution that received support from delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held in January 2015. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee would appreciate your response to **Resolution #12, Agriculture Plastics Recycling**. Your response is requested by April 15, 2015 and can be submitted directly to:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary, ASB Provincial Committee
3602- 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8
tkeller@athabascacounty.com

The ASB Provincial Committee will compile your responses and distribute them to the ASB membership.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gordeyko
Chair, ASB Provincial Committee

Enclosure

Cc: Bob Barss, Chairman, Alberta Recycling Management Authority

Resolution 12
AGRICULTURE PLASTICS RECYCLING

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

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

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

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

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



Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8

February 20th 2015

Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

The Honourable Kyle Fawcett,
Legislature Office
420 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Kyle Fawcett:

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution that received support from delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held in January 2015. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee would appreciate your response to **Resolution #14, Management of Farm and Agricultural Leases**. Your response is requested by April 15, 2015 and can be submitted directly to:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary, ASB Provincial Committee
3602- 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8
tkeller@athabascacounty.com

The ASB Provincial Committee will compile your responses and distribute them to the ASB membership.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gordeyko
Chair, ASB Provincial Committee

Enclosure

Cc: Verlyn Olson, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Resolution 14
MANAGEMENT OF FARM AND AGRICULTURAL LEASES

WHEREAS: Currently the department of Public Lands, under the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Resource development (ESRD), manage the use and operation of farm development leases and agricultural leases;

WHEREAS: Alberta Agriculture would be better adapted to manage the lease land as their expertise in agricultural production would give stronger representation as to the needs of producers;

WHEREAS: The current policies and practices utilized by the ESRD do not account for the unique nature of agriculture, and frequency in which the market changes, thus effecting the financial abilities of producers to operate;

WHEREAS: More direct control from the Ministry of Agriculture would allow the policies and procedures adapted in a more timely manner minimizing the negative effects on producers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

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

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



Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8

February 20th, 2015

Minister of Municipal Affairs
The Honourable Diana McQueen
204 Legislature Building
10800 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Diana McQueen;

Enclosed is a copy of a resolution that received support from delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held in January 2015. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee would appreciate your response to **Resolution #15, Farm Property Assessment**. Your response is requested by April 15, 2015 and can be submitted directly to:

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary, ASB Provincial Committee
3602- 48th Avenue, Athabasca, Alberta T9S 1M8
tkeller@athabascacounty.com

The ASB Provincial Committee will compile your responses and distribute them to the ASB membership.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gordeyko
Chair, ASB Provincial Committee

Enclosure

Resolution 15
FARM PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

Background

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

33. Farm Property:

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

34. Farm Property: Assessment of Farm Land:

Should farm land continue to be assessed at agriculture use value?

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

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

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

Update the amount of the assessment exemption on farm residences.

Assess farm land at market value.

35. Farm Property: Assessment of Farm Land Intended for

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

36. Farm Property: Assessment of Farm Buildings and Intensive Livestock Operations:

Should farm buildings, including those in urban areas, and those that are used for intensive livestock operations, continue to receive significant reductions in assessment?

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

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

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

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

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

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

May 22, 2015

RECEIVED
MAY 29 2015

ATHABASCA COUNTY

Mr. Patrick Gordeyko
Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary, ASB Committee
3602 – 48th Avenue
Athabasca, AB T9S 1M8

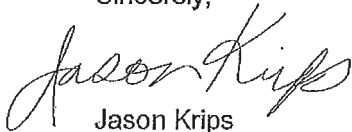
Dear Mr. Gordeyko:

Thank you for your recent correspondence to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and for sharing the resolutions that received support from delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference, held in January 2015.

On behalf of the Ministry, I am pleased to enclose our responses to the Resolutions you forwarded. Please also note the specific contact information for each, should you have any questions related to the individual responses.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Jason Krips
Deputy Minister

Enclosure

Resolution 14: That Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) transfer Management of Farm Development leases and agricultural leases to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD).

- There is currently nothing in the *Public Lands Act* (PLA) or *Public Lands Administration Regulation* (PLAR) that refers specifically to an “agricultural lease” or “farm lease.”
- ESRD legislation allows for seven types of public land dispositions intended for agriculture. Two specific disposition types issued for the cultivation of public land include Farm Development Leases (FDLs) and Cultivation Permits (CUPs), addressed by Section 85-90 of the PLAR.
- Section 41 of the PLA outlines that disposition land does not come with a warranty or condition of quality for a particular purpose. Section 63 outlines duties of the disposition holder, which include necessary weed management by the lessee and the continued use of land in a manner that promotes conservation, and Section 77 indicates that the lessee must work within the terms and conditions prescribed on the lease. Fencing and livestock containment requirements are described within PLAR, Sections 27, and 53(3).
- As of April 2014, over 7,600 public land dispositions covering close to 8.8 million acres of public land were issued for agricultural purposes. Of this, there were only 816 FDLs and CUPs dispositions (i.e. approximately 11 per cent) covering an area of close to 112,000 acres, which is less than two percent of the total public land under some form of agricultural disposition (i.e. cultivation and grazing).
 - Of the 816 FDLs and CUPs, 643 are FDLs covering 104,000 acres.
 - The remaining disposition types are intended for livestock grazing, and include Forest Grazing Licenses, Grazing Leases, Grazing Permits, Provincial Grazing Reserves, or Protected Notations allowing for grazing.
- The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan contains specific strategies aimed at minimizing the conversion of native grasslands on public land to other uses, such as cultivation-based agriculture. This will likely further decrease the number of FDLs and CUPs issued by ESRD in the future. It is anticipated that similar language will appear in other regional plans.
- Returning either partial (FDLs and CUPs) or all of the administration of Alberta’s public land management back to ARD would require significant changes to current government structure, which is not being considered at this time.
- Contact: Jason Cathcart, Land Use, Policy, Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs, 780-427-3432

Emerging Resolution 1: That Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) consider as a recommendation during the review of the current *Fusarium graminearum* Management Plan, a zero percent tolerance level of *Fusarium graminearum* (Fg) in cereal seed samples.

- Fg is a declared pest under the Regulation of the *Agricultural Pests Act* (APA).
 - Fg is well-established in the southern region of Alberta, but found in trace, or low levels, in most other areas of the province.
- Alberta has a *Fusarium* Action Committee (FAC), which advises the Minister on matters pertaining to Fg.
- A science-based review of the *Fusarium* Management Plan (FMP) was recommended by the FAC. The review was completed in 2013, and presented to the FAC in 2014.

Resolution 5: *That Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) continue to regulate Canada thistle as a noxious weed on the Weed Control Act (WCA).*

- Part 1 (2) of the WCA states that a person shall control a noxious weed that is on land the person owns or occupies.
- The Alberta Weed Regulatory Advisory Committee (AWRAC) recommended that Canada thistle be added as a noxious weed on the Regulation.
 - The AWRAC makes recommendations to the Pest Surveillance Branch of ARD on the risk associated with various existing, new, and emerging weeds, and makes a recommendation as to the addition, upgrade or downgrade of risk, or the removal of weed species from the Regulation of the WCA.
 - The AWRAC is represented by members from federal, provincial, and municipal governments; cities; universities; industry; and other interested groups, such as the Alberta Invasive Species Council.
 - The original risk assessment identified Canada thistle as a highly invasive weed, having a significant negative economic impact. Since then, Canada thistle no longer meets the AWRAC's criteria to be considered a noxious weed.
 - While the AWRAC has informally discussed the removal of Canada thistle from the Regulation, due to its pervasive nature, neither the AWRAC nor ARD is proposing its removal from the Regulations at this time.
- Further discussion with the AWRAC and a more detailed risk assessment of Canada thistle has to be done before it will be considered for removal from the Regulation.
- Contact: Dr. David Feindel, Director, Pest Surveillance Branch, 780-422-4911

Resolution 8: *That regulations be put into place by Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) to monitor the use and movement of ergot into livestock feeds until research can determine acceptable levels. That ARD better inform all those involved in feeding, shipping, and processing of feed containing ergot of the toxicity, symptoms, and devastating consequences of feeding ergot toxic feeds.*

- While the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has not established maximum tolerable levels of ergot in animal feeds, they have established guideline levels.
 - ARD does not have regulatory jurisdiction to unilaterally establish regulatory limits for ergot, or to regulate the use and movement of animal feeds containing ergot, which has no established maximum tolerable levels.
 - Regulatory jurisdiction surrounding the manufacturing, sale, and importation of safe, effective, and properly-labelled feeds falls under the federal *Feeds Act* and *Regulations* administered by the CFIA.
- ARD will publish information on the hazards of the use of ergot-contaminated animal feed on the ARD website www.agric.gov.ab.ca.
 - ARD will collaborate with industry organizations to determine the most effective methods for communicating this hazard to producers.
- Contact: Dr. Joe Kendall, Veterinary Toxicologist, Animal Health Branch, 780-427-8389

Resolution 3: *That Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) encourage Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards (ASB) to adopt a standardized clubroot inspection procedure by reimbursing ASBs for each field of canola field surveyed for clubroot using the standard protocol in the amount of \$50 per field inspected, to a maximum of \$20,000 for each municipality through the use of a new grant.*

- Municipalities have used the Clubroot Management Plan (CMP) as a guide to develop their clubroot policies; however, municipalities are inconsistent in their approach in dealing with clubroot.
- In 2014, ARD, along with the University of Alberta (U of A), industry, and municipal inspectors, surveyed more than 6,000 fields, of which roughly 10 per cent were surveyed intensively.
 - A standardized clubroot inspection procedure, developed by the U of A and modified to meet ARD's needs, was circulated to all ASBs who participated in the survey.
 - In 2016, ARD will again provide the standardized clubroot procedure to all ASBs participating in the clubroot survey.
- The ASB grant program provides roughly \$11.5 million annually to support legislative activities, which include surveys.
 - ASBs will prioritize their needs, in alignment with regulatory obligations, and after consultation with ARD's ASB Grant Manager.
 - ASBs are encouraged to designate ASB grant money to cover the cost of the clubroot survey.
- Contact: Dr. David Feindel, Director, Pest Surveillance Branch, 780-422-4911

Resolution 4: *That Agriculture and Rural Development supply additional funding up to \$75,000 per year for each municipality with an Agricultural Service Board (ASB) that is affected by the constant flow of prohibited noxious weeds coming into their municipality from outside the Province of Alberta.*

- Weeds are legislated under the *Alberta Weed Control Act (WCA)* and the associated Regulation. The WCA lists weeds as either noxious or prohibited noxious:
 - "A person shall destroy a prohibited noxious weed on land that the person owns or occupies" (Section 2).
 - "A person shall not move anything in the province if it may spread a noxious or prohibited noxious weed" [Section 4(1)].
- Because of their highly invasive characteristics, prohibited noxious weeds are at a high risk of causing serious problems in Alberta, as already observed in other provinces and/or neighbouring states.
- The purpose of having prohibited noxious weeds listed on the Regulation is to facilitate a rapid response, and to allow for eradication before the weed becomes firmly established. Prohibited noxious weeds that are listed on the Regulation can become widespread in the province, and at that point eradication becomes difficult and is often not feasible.
- The ASB grant program provides \$11.5 million annually to support regulatory activities, which includes the removal of prohibited noxious weeds.
 - ASBs set priorities when dealing with inspections.
 - Municipalities can seek additional funding from sources outside of ARD, such as the Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund.
- ARD has been collaborating with Cardston County in exploring the possibility of an intensified survey and control program to eradicate the prohibited noxious weed, spotted knapweed. Heavy infestations occur within the County, some in sensitive areas like water course ways. ARD is supporting the County in developing protocols for their eradication program efforts.
- Contact: Dr. David Feindel, Director, Pest Surveillance Branch, 780-422-4911

Agriculture Service Board Resolutions – January 2015

Agriculture and Rural Development Response

Resolution 1: *That Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) enter into an agreement with Agricultural Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) to decline insurance on canola acres if canola is grown back to back in a rotation, and that AFSC put an insurance premium on canola acres under their program if canola has been planted in contradiction to the Province's Clubroot Management Plan, which recommends canola be grown in rotation no more than once every four years.*

- AFSC uses individual coverage and surcharges/discounts to premiums to reflect an individual's risk management practices.
- AFSC does not always have historical records on where crops have been grown; therefore, it would be difficult for AFSC to enforce a policy which required longer rotations between canola crops.
- Contact: Chris Dyck, Sr. Manager, Research and Corporate Data Management, AFSC
- In 2007, clubroot was added as a pest under the Regulation of the *Agricultural Pests Act* (APA).
 - Under the APA, the landowner or occupant of the land needs to take measures to prevent the establishment of a pest, and control or destroy a pest on that land.
- ARD, in consultation with the Clubroot Management Committee, has developed a Clubroot Management Plan (CMP) which outlines the best management practices (BMPs) for controlling this disease. The CMP recommends a minimum of three years between canola crops in order to prevent the buildup of spores in the soil.
- To enforce crop rotations under the APA, pest inspectors would need to issue a notice to the landowner or occupant of the land.
 - Except under specific conditions, this would be difficult to enforce on a larger scale.
- The CMP has been communicated to canola growers, and ARD specialists attend grower and professional workshops, and update canola growers on BMPs for controlling clubroot.
- ARD Communications, in conjunction with industry, has developed public messaging on following BMPs for controlling clubroot.
- Contact: Dr. David Feindel, Director, Pest Surveillance Branch, 780-422-4911

Resolution 2: *That Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) review the Agricultural Pests Act (APA) and require mandatory notification of land location to the municipality where clubroot is found.*

- Clubroot is established in more than 30 municipalities throughout Alberta. Clubroot is less of an issue in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
 - Canola growers in clubroot infested regions of the province currently use clubroot tolerant canola varieties.
- In 2013, a field north of Edmonton was identified where clubroot resistance in all current commercial clubroot resistant canola varieties, was overcome. This new virulent pathotype is referred to as "5x."
 - In 2014, an additional 15 fields were identified where resistance to clubroot was overcome. Whether the pathotype is "5x," or not has yet to be determined, but this does significantly raise the threat to several regions in Alberta where canola is a major crop.
 - ARD is monitoring this new pathotype and is closely working with the Universities of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Guelph, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and industry partners toward developing new technologies to counter the development of this and other new virulent clubroot pathotypes.
- One of the issues identified in the APA, and highlighted by the threat posed by the new virulent clubroot pathotype(s), is the need for mandatory reporting of high impact pests.
 - This would provide ARD, and industry, with the tools to monitor, and quickly respond to threats. A provision for the mandatory reporting of specified high risk pests is being considered in the APA review.
- Contact: Dr. David Feindel, Director, Pest Surveillance Branch, 780-422-4911

- On November 10, 2014, the FAC met and voted to revise the FMP.
 - The revision would include the concept of Commonly Found (CF) and Not Commonly Found (NCF) areas.
 - This would mean that municipalities designated as CF, having Fg above pre-determined threshold levels (>20 per cent incidence of Fg over a three year period), would have a revised allowable maximum level of Fg incidence on seed for sowing. This maximum allowable level of Fg would be five per cent incidence. The seed would also have to be treated with a seed treatment fungicide registered for use on Fg spp.
 - The Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs) and the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC), voted to retain the zero tolerance policy. Industry voted for the recommended change.
- ARD is currently reviewing the FAC recommendations to the FMP. The FMP is being revised, incorporating the proposed changes, and will be sent back to the FAC for final comments by the end of March 2015.
- Contact: Dr. David Feindel, Director, Pest Surveillance Branch, 780-422-4911

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ATHABASCA COUNTY

April 8, 2015

Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
c/o Trent Keller, Secretary, ASB Provincial Committee
3602 – 48th Avenue,
Athabasca, AB T9S 1M8

Reference: Clubroot Protection

Dear Mr. Gordeyko:

Thank you for forwarding Resolution #1 from the 2015 Agriculture Service Board Provincial Conference entitled, *Adapt Crop Insurance to Protect Clubroot Tolerant Varieties*.

While AFSC recognizes the negative impact of clubroot on yields and supports initiatives to limit the spread of this disease, we do not feel our Production Insurance Programs are the right tool to incent producers to adopt management practices like four year rotations on canola. There are two key reasons for this approach:

1. AFSC has systems in place to individualize both premium and coverage offered to producers based on their yield history and loss experience. These systems ensure that producers who use management practices that result in lower yields receive lower coverage, as well those with high claim rates receive a surcharge on their premium. We feel this system does an effective job of recognizing both progressive and questionable management practices.
2. AFSC is not in a position to consistently enforce the use of specified crop rotations. Firstly, for producers insuring for the first time we do not know the cropping history of the land prior to it being insured, and secondly growers are not obligated to insure all their cropped acres which again makes it difficult to know if specific crop rotations are being followed.

AFSC has however implemented protocols for our adjusters which were developed to ensure we do not spread this disease from farm to farm. These protocols include things like: the use of plastic booties in clubroot areas, washing quads and trucks and encouraging the producer to take the adjuster to fields in the producers own vehicle.

Again, thank you for forwarding this resolution to me and I trust you understand the reasons for our position on this matter.

Sincerely,

AGRICULTURE FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION



Brad Klak
President and Managing Director

H:\Brad Klak\LETTERS\2015\008.doc

c: Honourable Verlyn Olson, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development



Partners in Advocacy & Business

March 31, 2015

Mr. Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee
3602- 48th Avenue
Athabasca, AB T9S 1M8

Dear Mr. Gordeyko:

RE: AAMDC response to ASBPC Resolution #6: Legal opinion on the jurisdiction of the *Weed Control Act* on CN Rail

This letter is to inform you that the membership of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) has endorsed AAMDC Resolution 3-15S: Legal Opinion on the Jurisdiction of the *Weed Control Act* on All Railways.

As you are aware, a resolution was passed at the January 2015 Agriculture Service Board conference calling for the AAMDC to solicit a legal opinion on whether the *Weed Control Act* has jurisdiction on CN Rail property. In order to undertake action on this matter, the AAMDC required the support of its membership and a similar resolution was submitted by an AAMDC member for discussion at the AAMDC Spring 2015 Convention. The resolution was debated by members and eventually passed with amendments. The amendment broadened the request for a legal opinion beyond CN Rail to include all railways operating in the province. As such, the AAMDC will not be obtaining a legal opinion solely focused on CN Rail and will instead pursue a legal opinion as directed in the AAMDC endorsed resolution. A copy of this resolution has been attached for your reference.

When received, the AAMDC will share this legal opinion with member municipalities as well as the Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Al Kemmere
President

Enclosure

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ATHABASCA COUNTY

Print this page

Resolutions Database



RESOLUTIONS DATABASE

Resolution ID	3-15S
Year	2015
Convention	Spring
Title	Legal Opinion on the Jurisdiction of the Weed Control Act on All Railways
Vote Required	Simple Majority
Category	AAMDC
Type	Requires Endorsement
Majority Needed	Simple
Current Status	Sent To Government
Vote Results	Carried as Amended
Sponsor List	MD of Smoky River
District	4 - Northern

Preamble

WHEREAS the resolution "Legal opinion on the jurisdiction of the Weed Control Act on CN Rail" (attached, in member background) was carried at the October 24, 2014 Peace Region Agriculture Service Board Conference requesting that action be taken by the Alberta Association of Municipal District and Counties (AAMDC); and

WHEREAS during the debate on the resolution, the point was made that the AAMDC would require support from the member municipalities to take the requested action, and the support would be best garnered by resolution at the AAMDC Spring Convention; and

WHEREAS CN Rail has expressed the opinion that the Weed Control Act of Alberta (WCA) has no jurisdiction on their property; and

WHEREAS a legal opinion on this question was received by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, however it is unable to be shared due to

attorney/client privilege; and

WHEREAS CN Rail operates in over 50% of the AAMDC member municipalities and the question of jurisdiction impacts whether municipalities can legally enforce the WCA and recoup weed control costs, as well as if appointed inspectors could be charged with trespassing; and

WHEREAS CP Rail, unlike CN, has made no claims regarding the jurisdiction of the WCA on their properties;

Operative Clause

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties obtain a legal opinion on the jurisdiction of the Weed Control Act of Alberta for all railways, and that the opinion be shared with all of its member municipalities.

Member Background

This situation started in the summer of 2013, when the MD of Smoky River's Agricultural Fieldman was informed via e-mail, by a CN staff member in charge of the vegetation program for the province that "CN Rail is federally regulated and the Weed Control Act of Alberta does not have jurisdiction on CN property", and further stated that: "It is considered trespassing if there is entry onto CN property without the proper CN documentation and permissions." Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (AARD) staff attempted to meet with CN Rail staff to discuss weed control issues on CN property, however CN declined to meet.

A resolution requesting AARD to obtain legal opinion on the jurisdiction issue was carried at the January 2014 Provincial ASB Conference, and though AARD did receive the legal opinion, it cannot be shared due to attorney/client privilege.

This is an issue which impacts the majority of Alberta's rural municipalities, and having each one request a legal opinion is wasteful, and may be perilous if contradicting legal opinions are received. It is necessary to prove the municipalities' legal jurisdiction so that if our inspectors are accosted by CN Police, they will have proof of their legal right to be on the property and could offer the potential argument that the CN Police are in contravention of WCA Section 11, which states it is an offence to obstruct or delay an inspector. It is necessary to protect the members of the AAMDC from a potential costly legal battle to prove their right to enforce the WCA and to recoup weed control costs.

Supporting Information Included:

"Legal opinion on the jurisdiction of the Weed Control Act on CN Rail"
 resolution carried at the October 24, 2014 Peace Region A.S.B. Conference
 CN Railways Weed control resolution, passed at the Provincial ASB
 Conference January, 2014
 Resolution response from AARD and CN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Emergent Resolution No. 1 – Peace Region A.S.B. Conference

Legal opinion on the jurisdiction of the Weed Control Act on CN Rail

Whereas: At the 2014 Provincial A.S.B. Conference, a resolution was passed asking in the Therefore Be It Resolved that; Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development work with Alberta Justice, Canadian National Railways and Alberta's Municipalities to confirm that CN Rail is bound by the Weed Control Act of Alberta, and

Whereas: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development have received legal opinion on the matter from Alberta Justice, but have stated in letters from Deputy Minister Jason Krips that the opinion is confidential under the client relationship that is created, and

Whereas: Deputy Minister Krips encourages municipal authorities who require clarification to seek their own legal advice on issues relating to the Alberta Weed Control Act (WCA), and

Whereas: In a letter from the M.D. of Smoky River to Deputy Minister Krips, we opined that "Having each affected

municipality request their own legal opinion in such a matter would be a criminal waste of money, in addition to potentially creating more issues if some legal opinion was positive (we have jurisdiction) and others were negative." Our opinions regarding having individual municipalities requesting legal opinion in this matter have not changed, and

Whereas: In the responses and correspondence received from CN rail regarding the resolution, there is no indication that CN's stance vis a vis being bound by the Weed Control Act has changed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST THAT the Association of Alberta Municipal District's and Counties (AAMD&C) obtain a legal opinion on the jurisdiction of the Weed Control Act of Alberta on CN Rail property, and that the opinion be shared with all of its member municipalities.

Sponsored by: Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated:

Status: AAMD&C Board of Directors

Resolution No. 1 – Provincial A.S.B. Conference January 2014

CN Railways Weed control

Whereas: Canadian National Railways is a large private company which owns land in the province of Alberta. Ongoing issues with CN's weed control programs exist in the province, and

Whereas: Over the course of the summer season 2013, CN staff stated that 'CN Rail is Federally Regulated and the Weed

Control Act of Alberta does not have jurisdiction on CN property', and further stated that: 'It is considered trespassing if there is entry onto CN property without the proper CN documentation and permissions.', and

Whereas: In past responses to Resolutions requesting Railways in Alberta to control the noxious weeds on their properties, CN has stated they wish to work with municipal inspectors and accepted their responsibility under the Weed Control Act, and

Whereas: CN requires an onerous and involved work permit application, contractor training course and insist on a minimum 24 hours notice just to allow entry onto property, which during the busy weed season, when a 5 minute walk onto a Right-of-way may be needed to confirm a plant's identity, is ludicrous, and

Whereas: The Railway Safety Act states: "No person shall, without lawful excuse, enter on land on which a line work is situated", and

Whereas: The CN Guidelines Regarding Access to Workplace lists Types of Access, Requirements and Documentations ie for Contractors, Visitors and "Regulators in line of duty (for example: Transport Canada, Transportation Safety board, Human Resources Development of Canada (HDRC), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), National Transportation Safety Board (NTSC)" whose requirements for access are simply - 'Must present Inspector/Investigator ID card' and 'Must be given Safety Briefing where applicable' Documentation required is 'Regulatory ID card'.

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

AND FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S

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

Sponsored by: Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated:

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Resolution #1

CN Railways Weed Control

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

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

Response:

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

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

Railways often have right-of-way weed inspection/enforcement issues that obstruct appointed municipal inspectors in the efforts to enforce the Weed Control Act (WCA). While railway right-of-ways in Alberta are covered under the WCA, the railways also have issues that need to be considered for WCA enforcement in areas that may present safety concerns for railways. For

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

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

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

Further response from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

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

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

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

CN

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

Spraying for weeds on the railway is carried out for safety reasons. The elimination of weeds greatly reduces tripping hazards where CN personnel and contractors are working, and also limits the potential for drainage problems and damage to the track infrastructure caused by invasive or fast-growing weeds. Furthermore, effective weed control also limits the future

need for brush cutting in order to protect sightlines along our corridors. CN's weed control program helps us operate a safe and efficient railway.

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

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

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

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

Additional Member Background: [Link 1](#)

Additional Member Background: [Link 2](#)

AAMDC Background

The AAMDC has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

Government Response

Development

Federal Ministries and Bodies

Ministries

Agriculture and Rural Development none

Provincial Boards

and Organizations

Active/Expired

Active



62999

ALBERTA
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary - Klein

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ATHABASCA COUNTY

APR 02 2015

Mr. Patrick Gordeyko, Chair
c/o Mr. Trent Keller, Secretary
Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48 Avenue
Athabasca AB T9S 1M8

Dear Mr. ~~Gordeyko~~ Patrick

Thank you for forwarding the resolutions supported by delegates at the provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held in January 2015.

Environment and Sustainable Resource Development staff reviewed the resolutions and, as requested, specific responses to each resolution have been provided in the attached document. I appreciate the opportunity to submit our department's feedback on these important matters.

Sincerely,

Kyle Fawcett
Minister

Attachment

AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE

2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #7. Prevention of the Introduction of Zebra and Quagga Mussels into Alberta Water Bodies

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development direct Alberta Transportation to have all border crossings into Alberta have a water craft inspection station where it is mandatory for all water craft to stop and be inspected for the presence of all aquatic invasive species.

RESPONSE: Bill 13 *Fisheries (Alberta) Amendment Act*, passed in the legislature on March 19, 2015. Once it receives Royal Assent (is proclaimed into law), watercraft inspections will become mandatory. Inspection stations will be located at commercial vehicle weigh stations throughout the province, as well as main points of entry to prevent invasive mussels from entering Alberta's waters.

RESOLUTION #9, Elk Quota Hunt

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development implement an Elk Quota Hunt, based upon the principles of the former Chronic Wasting Disease Quota Hunt and/or other ways the ministry can develop to alleviate this problem.

RESPONSE: Environment and Sustainable Resource Development is implementing new elk hunting seasons in wildlife management units 162 and 163 in southeastern Alberta. These additional seasons will occur in areas where there are currently low elk numbers in order to maintain low populations and reduce range expansion.

Our department is increasing the number of antlerless elk hunting seasons for Canadian Forces Base Suffield and creating new hunting seasons for antlered elk. These seasons are in support of lowering elk populations in and around the base in response to landowner concerns. We are also implementing late-season antlerless elk hunting seasons in wildlife management units 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308 and 310 in southwestern Alberta. These seasons will extend into January and are being implemented in response to landowner concerns over agricultural depredation.

Department staff conducted elk population surveys in many wildlife management units throughout the province, including the Peace River area. Updated population estimates will be used to make changes to the number of issued hunting permits for the upcoming 2015 hunting season.

In addition, Environment and Sustainable Resource Development is amending the procedure for landowners to provide greater flexibility in obtaining antlerless elk landowner licences. Landowners who are unsuccessful in either the antlerless or antlered elk special licence draws will be allowed to apply for an antlerless elk landowner licence.

RESOLUTION #11, Wildlife Predator Compensation for Domestic Equine Loss

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development fully recognize domestic equines, including horses and donkeys, as livestock under the Alberta Wildlife Regulation, Section 11 (b).

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources Development allow owners of domestic equines, including horses and donkeys, to be eligible for compensation when a loss is caused by predation of wolves, bears, cougars and eagles.

RESPONSE: Alberta's Wildlife Predator Compensation Program provides compensation for food-producing livestock such as cattle, pigs, goats, sheep, and bison that have been killed or injured by predators such as bears, wolves, cougars, and eagles. The program is intended to provide coverage for food-producing animals at the average market value for the type and class of animal lost.

A committee of representatives from Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation, and Agriculture and Rural Development recently reviewed the program. During this review, horses were considered but not included for compensation because Alberta does not have a significant horse meat market. Horses that have been attacked by predators are usually being raised for personal use or as working stock, not as meat.

RESOLUTION #12, Agriculture Plastics Recycling

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development together with the Alberta Recycling Management Authority implement a stewardship program that will provide funding and add value to both collection and recycling of Agricultural Plastics in the Province of Alberta.

RESPONSE: Currently a regulated recycling program for agricultural plastics is not being considered. Environment and Sustainable Resource Development and Agriculture and Rural Development are developing an education program for agricultural producers and municipalities, which will include information on the environmental impacts of burning agricultural plastics and current options for the disposal of agricultural plastics.

In order for the Alberta Recycling Management Authority to implement a stewardship program for agricultural plastics, a regulation would be required to designate agricultural plastics under the authority.

A stewardship program for agricultural plastics would also likely require environmental fees; that is agricultural plastic manufacturers would be required to pay environmental fees into a recycling program. The manufacturers and retailers would likely pass those fees on to agricultural producers. Recycling regulations for all designated materials, except beverage containers, list activities covered by environmental fees charged on designated materials. The activities are specific to the recycling and management of the designated material. Environmental fees collected on one designated material cannot be used to pay for management of a different material.

Other jurisdictions, such as Saskatchewan, are looking at options to address the waste management of agricultural plastics. The Government of Alberta will stay informed of these developments to determine if those options could be applied in Alberta.

RESOLUTION #14, Management of Farm and Agricultural Leases

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development transfer Management of Farm Development leases and Agricultural leases to the Ministry of Agriculture

RESPONSE: The Government of Alberta is not considering transferring responsibility for agricultural public land at this time.

Public land, whether used for agriculture, timber, industry, recreation, or conservation, is managed by Environment and Sustainable Resource Development under the *Public Lands Act*. Public land management focuses on establishing and sustaining an optimum balance of use, conservation, and development of resources, in harmony with the values and needs of Albertans. This stewardship responsibility requires public land managers to ensure that the quantity and quality of public land resources are maintained or enhanced.

One of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development's core responsibilities is the effective management of agricultural uses on Alberta's public lands. The majority of agricultural use on public land is grazing. Leasing of public land for cultivation (farm development leases), occurs on only about 70,000 acres.

Environment and Sustainable Resource Development has professional agrologists with training and experience in rangeland management. Department staff work collaboratively with agricultural disposition holders to find adaptive and practical strategies that meet the Government of Alberta's goals for sustainable management of public land and resources. This management task holds a significant responsibility which the department shares with ranchers and farmers, as well as all public land users.

Rent is reviewed every five years and the lessee has the advantage of having the rental rate set for a five-year period while giving the government, and Albertans, the ability to get fair value for leasing the land. Our department is aware that there are some administrative challenges and concerns regarding farm development leases, which are issued to allow annual cropping for a 10-year term. The department is currently reviewing its rental rate policies and your input is being taken into consideration.



ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Minister

AR78470

March 24, 2015

Mr. Patrick Gordeyko
Chair, Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee
3602 - 48 Avenue
Athabasca AB T9S 1M8
tkeller@athabascacounty.com

Dear Mr. Gordeyko,

Thank you for your letter of March 3, 2015 regarding the Agricultural Service Board's resolution on farm property assessment and the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* Review.

Agricultural use value is prescribed by the *MGA* to prepare property assessments on farmland in Alberta, while some assessment reductions are applied to farm residences and buildings. The Government of Alberta is committed to supporting Alberta's farmers and recognizes the importance of the farmland assessment model in encouraging investment in Alberta's agricultural sector.

The Government of Alberta is pleased to receive and consider the Agricultural Service Board's resolution as it continues to review the *MGA*.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Diana McQueen
Minister

2015 ASB Resolutions
Grading for Report Card

Grade Definitions:

Accept the Response

A response that has been accepted is one that addresses the resolution as presented or meets the expectations of the Provincial ASB Committee.

Accept in Principle

A response that has been accepted in principle is one that addresses the resolution in part or contains information, which indicates further action is being considered.

Incomplete

A response that is graded as incomplete is one that has not provided enough information or does not completely address the resolution. Follow up is required to solicit the information required for the Provincial ASB Committee to make an informed decision on how to proceed.

Unsatisfactory

A response that is graded as unsatisfactory is one that does not address the resolution as presented or does not meet the expectations of the Provincial ASB Committee.

				Please put the number 1 in the column that best represents how you feel the response should be graded.				
Region	Municipality	Resolution No.	Resolution	Accept the Response	Accept in Principle	Incomplete	Unsatisfactory	Comments
		1-15	Adapt Crop Insurance to Protect Clubroot Tolerant Varieties					
		2-15	Pest Control Act - Clubroot					
		3-15	Standardized Clubroot Inspection Procedures					
		4-15	Additional Funding for Municipalities Dealing with Prohibited Noxious Weeds that Come from Outside the Province the Alberta					
		5-15	Maintaining Canada Thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>) as a Noxious Weed Under the Alberta <i>Weed Control Act</i> and <i>Regulation</i>					
		6-15	Legal Opinion on the Jurisdiction of the <i>Weed Control Act</i> on CN Rail					
		7-15	Prevention of the Introduction of Zebra and Quagga Mussels into Alberta Water Bodies					
		8-15	Monitor Ergot Levels in Livestock Feeds					
		9-15	Elk Quota Hunt					
		10-15	Alberta Fish and Wildlife Officer Availability					
		11-15	Wildlife Predator Compensation for Domestic Equine Loss					
		12-15	Agriculture Plastics Recycling					
		13-15	Pesticide Container Collection Program					
		14-15	Management of Farm and Agricultural Leases					
		15-15	Farm Property Assessment					
		16-15	Preventing Licensing of Tolerant Wheat					
		ER 1-15	<i>Fusarium graminearum</i> Management Plan					

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	July 13, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD CHAIR MEETING
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:


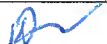
The Peace Region Agricultural Service Board Chairs met at the Agricultural Service Board conference in January to discuss topics relevant to the region as a whole.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Minutes from the January 20th, 2015 Peace Region Agriculture Service Board Chair meeting
2. Peace Region Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda
3. Guideline 1.1 Terms of Reference
4. Guideline 2.1 Clubroot of Canola
5. Guideline 2.2 Fusarium Graminearum
6. Guideline 2.3 Virulent Blackleg of Canola

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

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

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:  AgFieldman: 

	Minutes of the first Peace Region A.S.B. Chairmen meeting held at the Fantasyland Hotel, 7:30 pm January 20 th , 2015
	Meeting was called to order by Peace Region A.S.B. Provincial Committee representative Corey Beck. In attendance were representatives from most of the Peace Region A.S.B.'s :
	Saddle Hills County; Ken Titford and Elaine Armagost, Agricultural Fieldman Mackenzie County; Joe Peters and Grant Smith, Agricultural Fieldman Clear Hills County; Brian Harcourt County of Grande Prairie; Corey Beck and Sonja Raven Agricultural Fieldman M.D. of Greenview; Bill Smith and Quentin Bochar, Agricultural Fieldman M.D. of Fairview; Bev Wieben M.D. of Peace; Veronica Bliska M.D. of Smoky River; Robert Brochu and Normand Boulet, Agricultural Fieldman M.D. of Spirit River; Tony Van Rootselaar and Kelly Hudson, CAO/Acting Fieldman Birch Hills County; Ken Hansen Northern Lights County; Cheryl Anderson Northern Sunrise County; Doug Dallyn Maureen Vadnais, A.S.B. Program Coordinator AARD
Recording Secretary	Introductions were made round table, a volunteer to take minutes was requested, Normand Boulet Agricultural Fieldman with the M.D. of Smoky River agreed to take minutes at the meeting.
Agenda motion 2015-01-01	Doug Dallyn from Northern Sunrise County moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Cheryl Anderson from Northern Lights County. <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
	This being the first ever meeting of the group, there were no minutes from past meetings to review.
	A discussion surrounding who should chair this committee took place, Veronica Bliska supported having Corey Beck the Peace Region Provincial A.S.B. Committee representative act as chair, consensus was that Mr. Beck should be Chairman.
	Maureen Vadnais explained how the other three Regional A.S.B. Committee's operate, and the constructive work they have accomplished including the review and recommending responses to the Resolution Grading as well as vetting of Resolutions through the Committee.
Terms Of	The Terms Of Reference (TOR) for the NE Region's ASB Chair Committee was

Reference	<p>reviewed and discussed with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals attending are paid expenses by their own municipality, lunch and hosting rotates through each municipality alphabetically • AARD can provide teleconference assistance if meeting in person is not necessary or possible • One meeting a year is minimum (to discuss Resolution Responses) and other meetings for Regional issues may be held as needed • Meetings to coincide with the Peace Region AAAF could be attempted to save travel costs, however having both meetings last approx. the same amount of time would be an issue
TOR Motion 2015-01-02	<p>Doug Dallyn moved to adapt the Terms Of Reference from the NE Region for our use, to be done by Corey Beck, Sebastien Dutrisac and Sonja Raven.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
Regional Representative Report	<p>Peace Region A.S.B. Provincial Committee representative Corey Beck reported on a meeting which had taken place that day with AARD Minister Olson and ESRD Minister Fawcett, highlights were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESRD appeared to appreciate the opportunity to discuss the issues which are jointly AG/ESRD. Minister Fawcett was open to meeting annually with the Provincial Committee • The WCA/CN Jurisdiction issue was discussed and it was thought the legal opinion should be available to ASB's • The issue of invasive species on waterways and other ESRD properties may be improved through a closer working relationship • The Alberta Game Management Assoc. is interested in having ASBs represented on their Predator Compensation working group
New Business	<p>a) & b) For the upcoming resolutions sessions, in particular the NSC sponsored Fusarium emergent resolution it was hoped the Boards of the Peace would be supportive and ready to speak to the issue</p>
	<p>b) Discussion took place on the possibility of developing regional policies to ensure consistency on certain issues ie. Cleaning of equipment to prevent clubroot entry into the region, or minimum requirements for fusarium inspections</p>
Information Dissemination	<p>An updated contact list of all Peace Region Chairmen is needed. It was noted that the TOR could include a requirement to update the list at each Regional Conference.</p>
Next Meeting	<p>The next meeting would be held to discuss the resolutions response grading. Possible dates were brought forward, following the Provincial ASB Summer Tour was considered the best choice.</p>
Nest Meeting Motion 2015-01-03	<p>Veronica Bliska of M.D. of Peace moved that the next meeting take place Friday July 17th following breakfast at the Provincial ASB Summer Tour.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>

Motion to Adjourn 2015-01-04	Ken Hansen of Birch Hills County moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm. CARRIED
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Peace Region ASB Meeting
July 17th, 2015 10:00 am or 1pm.
Entrec Center
AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Appointment of a recording secretary
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes
6. Business Arising from Minutes
 - a. Terms of Reference
7. Regional Representative Report – Corey Beck
8. Old Business
9. New Business
 - a. Resolution Response Grading
 - b. Regional Guidelines
 - c. Location for the 2018 ASB Conference
 - d.
10. Next meeting –
11. Adjournment



GUIDELINE 1.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Committee: Peace Regional ASB

Date Approved:

Rescinds:

PRASB Res. No:

1. Regional Committee Structure (amendments to Regional Committee Structure can be made at Regional ASB Conferences)
 - a. Shall consist of:
 1. One representative, typically the chair, from each Agricultural Service Board (voting)
 2. Regional Agricultural Fieldmen of their respective Boards (non-voting)
 3. The ASB Coordinator representing ARD- (non-voting) if requested
 4. Recording Secretary- the Recording Secretary appointed by the hosting municipality at each annual Regional ASB Conference
 - b. Regional Agricultural Service Board Committee representatives must currently sit as Agricultural Service Board members.
 - c. One Regional Committee Chair and one Vice-Chair shall be elected annually at each Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference and shall act as the Peace Regional Representative and alternate respectively at the Provincial ASB committee.
 - d. Individual ASB Regional Committee Representative expenses to be paid by individual Boards.
 - e. All Regional Committee meeting expenses will be covered by the host municipality with an attempt to circulate the host municipality throughout the Region on a rotating basis.
2. Regional Committee Responsibilities

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

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

Peace Regional Chair

Peace Regional Vice-Chair

Director of Peace Region AAAF



GUIDELINE 2.1 CLUBROOT OF CANOLA

Department: Crop Diseases

Date Approved:

Rescinds:

PRASB Res. No:

OBJECTIVE:

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

PURPOSE:

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

DEFINITIONS:

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

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

AUTHORITY:

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

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

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

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

GUIDELINES:

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

AWARENESS:

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

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

ENFORCEMENT:

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

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

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

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

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

Peace Regional Chair

Peace Regional Vice-Chair

Director of Peace Region AAAF



GUIDELINE 2.2 FUSARIUM GRAMINEARUM

Department: Crop Diseases

Date Approved:

Rescinds:

PRASB Res. No:

OBJECTIVE:

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

PURPOSE:

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

DEFINITIONS:

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

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

AUTHORITY:

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

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

GUIDELINES:

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

AWARENESS:

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

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

ENFORCEMENT:

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

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

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

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

Peace Regional Chair

Peace Regional Vice-Chair

Director of Peace Region AAAF



GUIDELINE 2.3 VIRULENT BLACKLEG OF CANOLA

Department: Crop Diseases

Date Approved:

Rescinds:

PRASB Res. No:

OBJECTIVE:

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

PURPOSE:

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

DEFINITIONS:

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

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

AUTHORITY:

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

- enter onto land and inspect for pests; and may

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

GUIDELINES:

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

AWARENESS:

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

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

ENFORCEMENT:

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

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

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

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

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

Peace Regional Chair

Peace Regional Vice-Chair

Director of Peace Region AAAF

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	July 13, 2015
Originated By:	Audrey Bjorklund, Community Development Manager
Title:	Multi-Year Capital Plan
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

The total cost to purchase the Lay Flat Hose for the water pumps was \$20,865.60 and the total cost to date to purchase the Porta Potties and trailer is \$6,657.00.

**Current ASB Multi Year Capital Plan to 2021
Annual budget allocation: \$70,000**

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

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Resolution by..... that this Agricultural Service Board recommend researching any items to bring to the August Agricultural Service Board meeting.

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

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	July 13, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	EVENTS
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

There are two local extension events being held by the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association.

BACKGROUND:

The Building Soil – Creating Land (Part2) field day with Dr. Christine Jones will be held on July 28, 2015 at the Rycroft Ag. Society Hall or July 29, 2015 at the Manning Legion Hall.

Plot Tours will be held on August 5, 2015 at the Fairview Research Farm starting at 8:00 a.m.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Building Soil – Creating Land (Part 2) Poster
2. Plot Tours poster

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of... to attend Building Soil – Creating Land (Part 2) with Dr. Christine Jones on July 28, 2015 at the Rycroft Ag. Society Hall.

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of... to attend Plot Tour at the Fairview Research Farm on August 5, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:	<i>AS</i> AgFieldman:	<i>AS</i>
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Building Soil—Creating Land (Part 2!)

A Field Day with Dr. Christine Jones

July 28, 2015

July 29, 2015

Rycroft Ag Society Hall

Manning Legion Hall

Contact Stacy or Kaitlin

Contact NPARA

780-835-6799

nora@npara.ca or 780-836-3354

Peace Country Beef & Forage Association · North Peace Applied Research Association

We will start off each day with a presentation on soil health basics and then will visit field sites where Christine will assess rooting depth, forage/pasture condition and soil microbes.

AGENDA:

Morning—Presentation

Afternoon—Field Site Visit

10am-4pm both days

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

\$30/ non-member & \$50/ farm pair

Meals are Included!

Registration is Appreciated by July 22

Come Prepared for All Weather



2015
International
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2 Miles West
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Fairview
on Range
Road 35



Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	July 13, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	BOARD REPORTS
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' written or verbal reports of July 13, 2015 for information.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:  AgFieldman: 

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	July 13, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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



BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

ATTACHMENTS:

- Report
- Rental Equipment Usage summary

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that the Agricultural Service Board accepts the July 13, 2015 Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

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

Clear Hills County Agricultural Fieldman Report

July 10, 2015

Aaron Zylstra

Pest Control

- 22 wolves, \$5,500 from January
- 2 producers required poison for coyote control
- 530 beaver tails were collected, \$15,900 since January
 - Total for last year – 188 beaver tails (\$5,460)

Rental Program

- I contacted Wild Electric about using a 3Hp electric motor on the roller mill and Clint said that a 34 amp breaker would be needed and the plug and wiring would need to be changed to accommodate the larger motor.
- I've have not had any successful applicants for the Agricultural Operations Assistant. The position has been advertised for 4 weeks in the newspaper.
- Parts for the portal toilets trailer are here. I'm waiting on the welder to modify the trailer, then we can mount the toilets on the trailer and plumb them in.
- Rental equipment summary for 2014, and 2015 are attached. Total operating expenses for 2014 was \$25,368. Year-end revenue was \$26,369.50. An additional \$9,443 was expensed for the setup of the grain bag roller trailer, purchase of the roller mill, purchase of a skid sprayer and new plastic tables. Amortized expenses were \$8,597. So, maintenance costs overall equipment were recovered in 2014. Capital costs were not recovered.
- I have not made much progress with the development of the sickle mower/bagger.
-

Weed Program

- There is a technical issue with the weed inspection program so I am not able to create any summary information for this meeting. They should be resolved for the next meeting.
- The weed inspectors are following up with weed issues from last season, contacting landowners and distributing weed information.
- There have been no new problem sites yet this season.
- We have begun roadside spraying and will continue through the remainder of the summer.

Other Topics

- ALUS program – I did not receive much interest from the MD of Fairview nor the MD of Peace in regards to the ALUS program. So I will make arrangements to connect with them and setup the meeting regarding ALUS when things slow down in the fall.
-

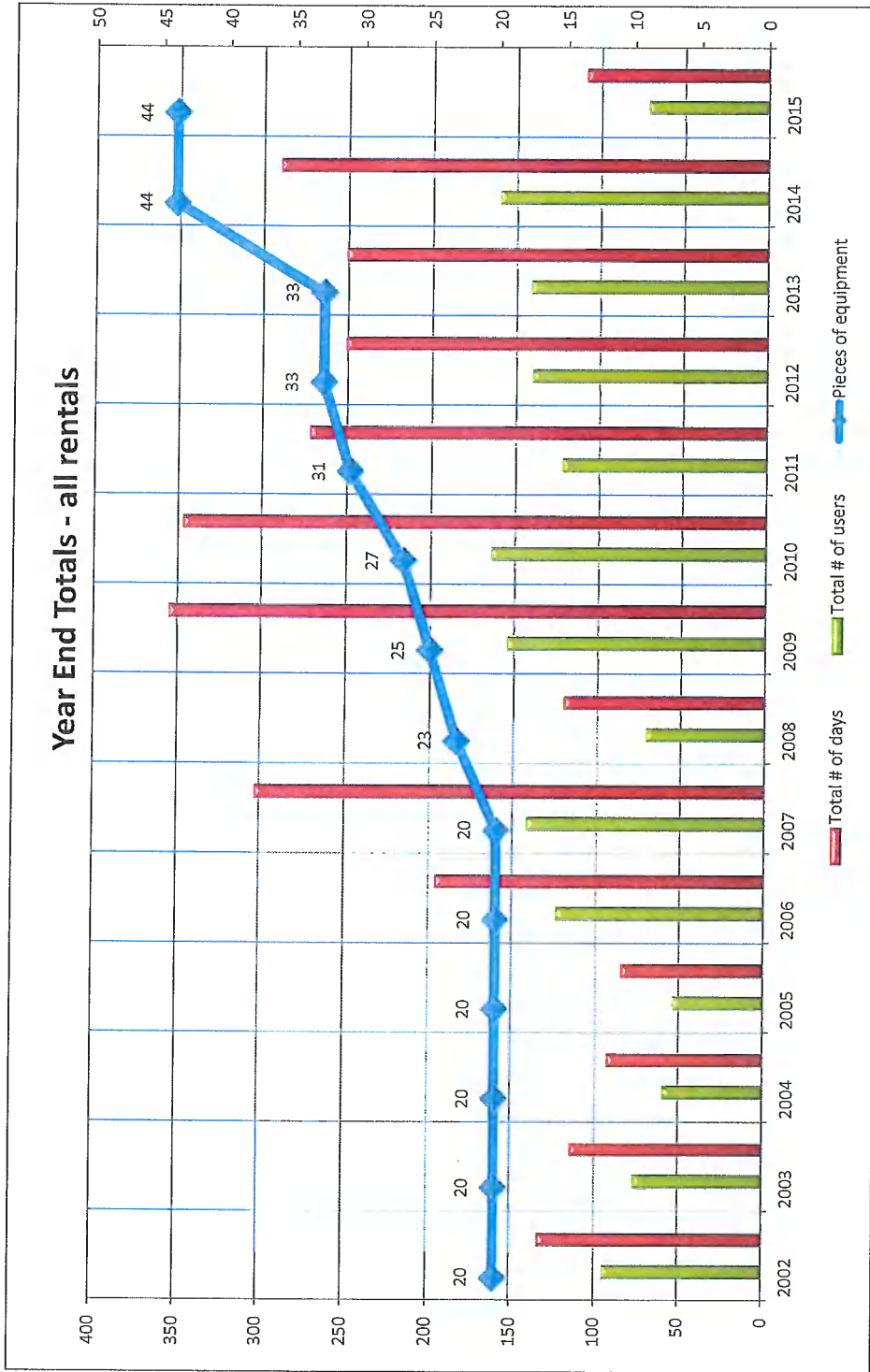
Rental Equipment Usage 2015

Equipment	January			February			March			April			May			June			Totals		
	# of Users	# of Days	\$ Made	# of Users	# of Days	\$ Made	# of Users	# of Days	\$ Made	# of Users	# of Days	\$ Made	# of Users	# of Days	\$ Made	# of Users	# of Days	\$ Made	# of Users	# of Days	\$ Made
Backpack Sprayer																					
Bale Scale																					
Bale Tether																					
Bail Hitch (2" & 2 5/16")																					
Livestock Ultrasound																					
Chairs																					
Community Centre	1	2	\$100.00	1	1	\$50.00															
Corral Panels	1	1	\$50.00																		
Coyote Trap																					
Eco-Bran Applicator																					
Grain Bag Roller																					
Grain Bagger																					
Grain Bag Extractor	1	1	\$350.00																		
Grain Vac	2	2	\$400.00	1	1	\$200.00	1	1	\$200.00	3	3	\$600.00	4	4	\$800.00	4	7	\$1,400.00	15	18	\$3,600.00
Grass Seeders-Hand Held																					
Grass Seeders-Quad Mount																					
Grill				1	2	\$10.00															
Hand Held Rope Wick																					
Land Leveller																					
Livestock Scale																					
Loading Chute	1	1	\$25.00																		
Manure Spreader																					
Mulch Applicator																					
Extra Hoses																					
Post Pounder																					
Push/Pull Roller Applicator																					
Quad Mount Rope Wick																					
Quad Mounted Sprayer																					
Quad Pull Type Sprayer																					
RFID Tag Reader																					
Rock Picker																					
Rock Ridge																					
Roller Mill																					
Rotowiper																					
Score Cannon #91060254																					
Signs																					
Slaid Mount Sprayer																					
Steam Tables																					
Tables																					
Toilets																					
Tree Spade																					
Truck Mount Sprayer																					
Wash Station																					
Water Pumps	1	1	\$200.00	1	2	\$400.00															
Zero Till Drills																					
Totals rental(by month)	7	8	#####	5	7	\$685.00	4	4	\$360.00	10	19	\$1,725.00	24	42	\$4,399.50	22	29	\$5,562.00	72	109	\$11,856.50

2014 Rental Summary

Equipment	Totals		
	# of Users	# of Days	\$ Made
Backpack Sprayer	-	-	\$ -
Bale Carrier	1	1	\$ 150.00
Bale Scale	4	4	\$ 90.00
Bale Tester	-	-	\$ -
Bell Hitch (2" & 2 5/16")	-	-	\$ -
Livestock Ultrasound	-	-	\$ -
Chairs	10	13	\$ 250.50
Community Centre	10	15	\$ 150.00
Community Tables/Chairs	12	14	\$ -
Corral Panels	6	9	\$ 400.00
Coyote Trap	1	7	\$ -
Eco-Bran Applicator	-	-	\$ -
Grain Bag Roller	1	1	\$ -
Grain Bagger	3	6	\$ 2,100.00
Grain Bag Extractor	2	5	\$ 1,600.00
Grain Vac	1	2	\$ 700.00
Grass Seeders-Hand Held	-	-	\$ -
Grass Seeders-Quad Mount	-	-	\$ -
Grill	8	12	\$ 50.00
Hand Held Rope Wick	-	-	\$ -
Land Leveller	11	24	\$ 3,120.00
Livestock Scale	2	2	\$ -
Loading Chute	12	13	\$ 325.00
Manure Spreader	2	11	\$ 1,650.00
Mulch Applicator	1	1	\$ 25.00
Extra Hoses	2	15	\$ 213.00
Post Pounder	11	17	\$ 2,125.00
Pull/Push Roller Applicator	-	-	\$ -
Quad Mount Rope Wick	-	-	\$ -
Quad Mounted Sprayer	4	4	\$ -
Quad Pull Type Sprayer	8	28	\$ -
RFID Tag Reader	-	-	\$ -
Rock Picker	1	2.5	\$ 750.00
Rock Rake	1	2.5	\$ 750.00
Roller Mill	2	2	\$ -
Rotowiper	1	1	\$ 75.00
Scare Cannon #91060254	-	-	\$ -
Signs	-	-	\$ -
Skid Mount Sprayer	-	-	\$ -
Steam Tables	-	-	\$ -
Tables	8	8	\$ 131.00
Toilets	5	8	\$ 280.00
Tree Spade	7	12	\$ 1,800.00
Truck Mount Sprayer	2	2	\$ 200.00
Wash Station	2	4	\$ 10.00
Water Pumps	32	54	\$ 7,625.00
Zero Till Drills	2	6	\$ 1,800.00
Totals rental(by month)	175	307	\$ 26,369.50

Rental Equipment Use Summary(Dec - 2014)



Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	July 13, 2015
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE
File No:	63-02-02

DESCRIPTION:

The board is presented with correspondence for review.

BACKGROUND:



Attached are documents for the Board's information:

ATTACHMENTS:

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of July 13, 2015 as presented.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:  AgFieldman: 

ASB correspondence

V.S.I. SERVICES (1980) LTD

A nonprofit organization providing veterinary care in Alberta

BOX 202

FAIRVIEW, AB T0H 1L0

PH 780 835 4531

June 4, 2015

RECEIVED

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

JUN - 8 2015
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

Dear Allan

I am sending this letter to advise you that based on claims for the first four months of 2015 your V.S.I. program will cost more than what was originally estimated when your requisition was prepared. The current high value of cattle has resulted in an increased demand for veterinary services. 15 of 16 jurisdictions with a V.S.I. program have seen claims increase from 3.75% to 78.44%.

For your jurisdiction, total claims to the end of April, were \$11,543 this year compared to \$9,632 for the same period last year, an increase of 19.71%. Last year your cost of claims, for the period May 1 to December 31, was \$16,438. If the increased demand remains the same your cost of claims, for the rest of 2015, will be approximately \$19,678.

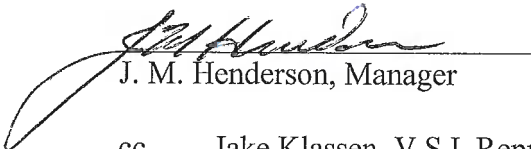
Given your current account balance of \$20,963 this will leave a surplus of approximately \$1,285 not including administrative costs. Last year your net administrative costs were \$3,088.

At this time I would consider the above cost estimates to be a worst case scenario. Based on the differences between spring and fall veterinary services I doubt that the same increased demand for services will persist throughout the year. Nonetheless we should be ready for the possibility that the increased demand will hold for the rest of the year. Should this happen there will be a need for a supplementary requisition at least for jurisdictions with the greatest increase in demand.

I will continue to monitor the situation and provide Aaron Zylstra & Sarah Hayward with a report of claims costs at the end of June and July. Once we get through the calving season we should have a much clearer vision of where we might end up.

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

Yours sincerely


J. M. Henderson, Manager

cc Jake Klassen, V.S.I. Representative
Aaron Zylstra
Sarah Hayward

Summer Technician—Introducing Carly Shaw!

I was born and raised on a farm near Fairview Alberta. I spent my childhood growing up around animals which mainly consisted of cattle and horses. From a young age I began to help my dad with chores around the farm and the older I became the more responsibility I was granted. For the past six summers I have worked on the farm with my dad which has included anything from chasing cows to driving equipment during farming season.

Growing up in Fairview I was involved in various 4-H's for 8 years and completed the Green Certificate "Cow Calf". Currently I have just completed my first year of university education at the University of Calgary in which I am taking a Bachelor of Commerce. After the completion of my first year of university I am unsure of the direction I wish to take my career so I am looking forward to the diversity of work and experiences I will encounter at PCBFA hopefully helping me choose a career path.

I am very excited to start my summer position here at PCBFA as it will allow me to observe farming from a different perspective than I have previously been exposed to. I am looking forward to expanding my knowledge and experiencing the important components of farming which I have yet to uncover.



We have been busy seeding plots for the last couple of weeks at sites in Fairview, Valleyview, & Rycroft, with a few more yet to be done. Here are some action shots of what we've been up to!



Insects in Forages, Perennials & Annual Crops

By Stacy Pritchard

Grazing season has already begun, seeding for 2015 is wrapping up and now its time to think about getting the best out of both annual and perennial crops. Pests can quickly destroy a promising crop and have detrimental effects on both yield and quality. So its time to talk insects. There are several harmful as well as a variety of beneficial insects to cover, so lets get started. First we'll talk about the good guys. The beneficial insects that either control harmful pests or that help pollinate or spread seed.

Ladybugs

Ladybugs are actually lady beetles. Ladybugs go through several growth stages including larva, pupa and finally adults. In order to grow and develop, the larvae eat constantly and are master aphid hunters. The larvae look like little black and yellow/orange alligators and consume aphids by sucking out all of the fluid from their bodies.



Photo: texashighplainsinsects.net



Photo: www.ars.usda.gov

Bees

When it comes to alfalfa, the alfalfa leafcutter bee is the preferred pollinator, and actually the alfalfa leafcutter bee industry was responsible for saving the alfalfa seed industry in the 1940's and 50's. During the 1940's and 50's, the acreage base for alfalfa seed was expanding so rapidly that the wild population of pollinators could not keep up. The leafcutter bee industry is still quite strong, however, recent problems with disease are causing challenges to the industry. Interestingly, honey bees are not great pollinators for alfalfa, as they can become stuck in the flowers, so they learn to harvest the nectar without tripping the flower, and therefore don't pollinate the alfalfa. However, there is interest in developing alfalfa varieties that are more honey bee friendly. The wild population of bees are quite effective pollinators of alfalfa when fields are small and there is appropriate habitat surrounding fields. Honey bees may not be effective pollinators of alfalfa, but they can increase the yield of canola crops. Wild bees can also have positive effects on canola yields when there is suitable habitat in the area. One of the struggles bees have with canola is the danger of pesticides being used on harmful insects. So it is

important to keep beneficial insects in mind when we choose to apply pesticides.

You can't discuss beneficial insects without also talking about insect pests.

Aphid

There are many different types of aphids, each with their own preferred species, but for the most part they all have similar feeding behaviours. The Pea Aphid (*Acrythosiphon pisum*) affects both alfalfa and pulse crops. In alfalfa, they can cover stems and leaves, and feed on the sap from young leaves. This causes these leaves to wilt, and if enough leaves are affected because of high infestations it can result in decreased yield, stunted plant growth and potentially plant death. Aphids excrete honeydew onto plants, and if the honeydew is excessive, it can interrupt harvest, and may even grow a black fungus that decreases the palatability of the alfalfa.



Photo: www.wired.co.uk

Field peas are also primary hosts of the pea aphid. The majority of aphids are female and reproduce without mating. A female can produce 50-150 young during her lifetime, and there may be 7-15 generations throughout the course of a single year. Aphids feed on peas during flowering and early pod. Their feeding can result in the abortion of flowers, or in decrease seed formation leading to decreased yields. As mentioned earlier, ladybugs are beneficial insects when it comes to aphids and can provide some biological control.

Alfalfa Weevil

This insect isn't quite as well known, but can still inflict damage on our alfalfa crops. Alfalfa Weevils start damaging plants early in spring when the larvae hatch and begin feeding on leaves. The damage is round holes in alfalfa leaves and begins as small holes, and as feeding progresses, leaves become very ragged until only skeletons of the leaves and veins remain. From a distance, weevil damage starts out by discolouring the field, and developing a whitish appearance, similar to a crop hit by frost. As far as damage goes, the larval stage of the alfalfa weevil is the most harmful, and most occurs on the first cut of alfalfa, and in northern climates like the Peace, often only a single generation is seen annually, with eggs hatching in May and feeding through June, laying eggs for the next generation in the stems of the plant in late June and Early July.



Photo: www.extension.iastate.edu

Find us online!

www.peacecountrybeef.ca



@pcbfa

@pcbfa_crops



www.facebook.com/peacecountrybeef

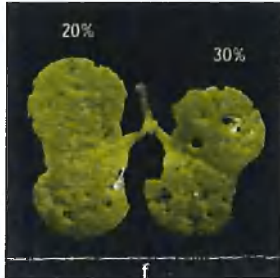
Grasshoppers

Grasshoppers affect both annual crops as well as rangeland and forages. Drier areas are more susceptible to grasshopper problems, but there can be infestations throughout the province. The majority of grasshopper damage is to cereal grains, but other crops are also affected. It's no wonder there is damage when a single grasshopper can eat between 30 and 100mg of plant material each day. In cereal crops, the damage is typically limited to the headlands, but grasshoppers can infest entire fields. The damage to a crop definitely depends on the type, stage and health of plant, in addition to the volume of grasshoppers present. There are several species of grasshopper that are particularly common in Alberta and the prairies including: the Migratory Grasshopper (*Melanoplus sanguinipes*), Packard grasshopper (*M. packardii*), and the Two-striped grasshopper (*M. bivittatus*). The Two-striped grasshopper is particularly widespread across Alberta.



Two Striped Grasshopper.
Photo: www.insectsofalberta.com

Insects in Oilseed Crops



Flea Beetle Damage
Photo: www.realagriculture.com

There are a host of insects that are primarily found in oilseed crops like canola. These include Cutworms, Flea Beetles, Diamondback Moths and Bertha Armyworms. Cutworms (redbacked and pale western) are scouted for pre and post-emergence, up until the 4 leaf stage, when the plants are big enough that damage will not kill them. In younger plants (cotyledon-2 leaf), cutworms chew through stems and leave them lying on the ground; this effectively kills the plant. Cutworms especially like south-facing slopes and are usually found just below the soil surface during the day. Damage looks like random patches of missing plants, or plants with the leaves sheared off. Cutworms don't stick to rows and can destroy large areas of canola crops very quickly if not monitored. Flea Beetles are also insects of concern during emergence and up to the 4 leaf stage. Flea beetles eat through leaves, leaving holes in leaves and cotyledons, where the holes reduce the photosynthesizing area of the leaf and can lead to plant

death. Damage is estimated by the percentage (%) of damage to the leaf (**See picture for examples**). Bertha Armyworms and Diamondback Moths are both insects that affect canola during the flowering and podding stages. The Diamondback Moth larvae chew part-way through leaves, leaving a "windowed" appearance, while Berthas chew straight through leaves and leave a "shotgun hole" appearance. Both Berthas and Diamondbacks should be scouted for throughout the field, checking several different areas and counting the numbers found to determine if our fields have reached the economic threshold for spraying. Berthas can be monitored with pheromone traps in June and July, and can determine the presence of adults, but not the larvae levels in a given field.



Bertha Armyworms.
Photo: www.gov.mb.ca



Diamondback Moth larvae
Photo: www.canolawatch.org

Wheat Midge



Photo: www.ag.ndsu.edu

In recent years there have been extreme populations of Wheat Midge in the Peace Region, however, according to the Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network, the risk is drastically reduced for 2015. However, one must be cautiously optimistic as the forecasts for the Peace have not been altogether accurate over the years. One of the big factors impacting wheat midge populations is their overwintering conditions and specifically temperature will impact the survival of the midge. Weather conditions will also impact hatching of midge as well as the damage midge can produce. Wheat midge damage is a combination of timing of midge maturity and wheat emergence. When these both align, damage can be increased. Female midge lay eggs after wheat heads emerge, up until flowering, and plants are most vulnerable between half emerged from the boot to half flowering. Females lay eggs on the wheat kernels, and once the larvae hatch, they feed on the kernels and cause them to shrivel or to abort entirely. This can lead to decreased yield and quality of the wheat crop.

Economic Thresholds

Economic Threshold are how we determine if the pest insect pressure is high enough to necessitate chemical control. These numbers are determined based on insects/unit area, whether that is m³, sweeps with a sweep net, or per plant. It is important to be aware of which unit we are using before determining whether we have reached the economic threshold in a crop for a given insect. For example, wheat midge has two thresholds, one to maintain grade (1 adult midge per 8 to 10 wheat heads) and one to maintain yield only (1 adult midge per 4-5 wheat heads) (from www.westernforum.org). Beneficial insects must also be accounted for when determining whether insecticides are appropriate for specific situations.

In conclusion, there are both pest, and beneficial insects that can drastically impact our forage and annual crops. Knowing what to look for in terms of damage, staging and threshold can help us make wise decisions when it comes to controlling the pest insects.

For more information please visit:

The Western Forum on Pest Management (www.westernforum.org) has a wealth of information on pest insects, including the 2015 Forecast and Risk Maps for Insect Pests of Prairie Field Crops.

<http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Alfalfa-Veevil>

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex6463](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex6463)

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r1200111.html?printpage>

<http://www.alfalfa.org/pdf/AlfalfaAnalyst.pdf>

Contact us for:

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

Upcoming Events!

**Thanks
to our
Sponsors!**



Best



A proud
member of



Field Day with Peter Donovan Soil Carbon Coalition

Join us to learn about the Soil Carbon Coalition, Carbon Sequestration and the relationship between carbon, water and soil!

June 15, 2015

Registration at 9am at the Eureka River Hall
Hands-on demo at Maverick Livestock

Controlled Traffic Farming Workshop

Join us, with Peter Gamache for a day of learning about the benefits of CTF and how you can get started!

June 29, 2015

Hillsboro Farms—Cleardale, AB
10am Registration

Stockmanship with Curt Pate
Curt will discuss and demonstrate gathering, handling, treating and sorting cattle.

June 16—Eglesham Ag Society

June 17—Beaverlodge Ag Society

10am-3pm each day

Registration is appreciated before June 8, 2015

Building Soil—Creating Land Part 2! Dr. Christine Jones

Join us for a Field Day this summer to learn more from this renowned soil scientist!

July 28, 2015

Location: Rycroft Ag Society Hall
More Details to Come!

How to Have More Grass, More Profit & a Better Quality of Life with Don Campbell

Don Campbell is a rancher from Meadow Lake, SK. His tour with PCBFA in 2014 was a great success so he will be back in 3 locations!

June 23—High Prairie (Tim McGrath's)

June 24—Brownvale Little Hall

June 25 in Grovedale Community hall

10am-4pm each day

PCBFA Field Day

We want to show off our plots!

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

August 5th

MD of Fairview Research Farm

More Details to Come!

Other Upcoming Events!

PCBFA Field Day in Valleyview—August 6th

On-Farm Water Management Workshops: August 18 & 19 near High Prairie & Nampa

The Foothills Forage & Grazing Association has organized a trip to Gabe Brown's Ranch and the Menoken Farm in North Dakota this August 16 to 20, 2015

Stay tuned for more information on these great events!

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

Monika Benoit
Manager
High Prairie, AB
780-523-4033
780-536-7373

Akim Omokanye
Research Coordinator
Fairview, AB
780-835-6799
780-835-1112

Stacy Pritchard
Extension & ASB Coordinator
Fairview, AB
780-835-6799
780-772-0277

Kaitlin McLachlan
Crop Program Coordinator
Fairview, AB
780-835-6799
780-523-0443



June 26, 2015

RECEIVED
JUL 06 2015

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

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

Dear Mr. Logan:

I am pleased to advise you that your Agricultural Service Board (ASB) has been approved for an allocation of \$225,359.46 for the 2015 grant year. This amount includes \$168,359.46 for the Legislative Funding Stream and \$57,000.00 for the Environmental Funding Stream. This amount is the entire amount for the 2015 grant year and will be directly deposited to your municipal account shortly.

Please contact the ASB Program office directly if you have any questions regarding the grant allocation at (780) 427-4213.

Sincerely,



Doug Macaulay, Acting Program Manager
Agricultural Service Board Program

cc: Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Allan Rowe, CAO

