

AGENDA
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
August 8, 2016

The Agricultural Service Board meeting of Clear Hills County will be held on Monday, August 8, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the County Office, Worsley, Alberta.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **AGENDA**
3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - a. July 11, 2016..... 2
4. **Delegation(s)**
5. **BUSINESS ARISING**
6. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Activity Report 6
 - b. October Meeting 10
 - c. Land Roller..... 11
 - d. Heavy Duty Disc..... 12
 - e. Invasive Weed Management Letters 15
 - f. BioMulcher 19
7. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Rental Equipment Capital Plan..... 22
8. **REPORTS**
 - a. Agricultural Fieldman Report 25
 - b. Board Reports..... 27
9. **INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE 29**
10. **CONFIDENTIAL**
11. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Worsley, Alberta
July 11, 2016**

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Sarah Hayward	Community Development Clerk
Aaron Zylstra	Agricultural Fieldman
Al Fletcher	Agricultural Fieldman

IN REGRET

Stan Logan	Member
Audrey Bjorklund	Community Development Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Harcourt called the meeting to order at 10:12 am.

AGENDA

AG71(07/11/16)

**RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda governing the July 11, 2016 Agricultural Service Board meeting with the following additions:
7 b. Biomulcher
7 c. Canadian Beef Industry Conference
7 d. Seven Generations Workshop** **CARRIED.**

AG72(07/11/16)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the June 13, 2016 Agricultural Service Board Meeting as presented. **CARRIED.**

OLD BUSINESS

Activity Report

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

AG73(07/11/16)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the July 11, 2016 Agricultural Service Board Activity Report as presented. **CARRIED.**

Glyphosate Tolerant
Wheat Resolution

Administration is seeking direction in development of the resolution to ban glyphosate tolerant wheat in Canada. The Board is presented with the information on the previous resolutions.

AG74(07/11/16)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board bring back information on the health and trade impacts of Glyphosate Tolerant Wheat to a future Agricultural Service Board meeting. **CARRIED.**

Regional Voting
Members Resolution

The Board is presented with a draft resolution recommending a maximum of two votes per Agricultural Service Board at the Regional Conference.

AG75(07/11/16)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board submit the following resolution to the Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference:

WHEREAS weather related road conditions, location, timing, other obligations and budgetary constraints results in varying attendance levels from Agricultural Service Boards to the Regional Conference, and

WHEREAS the goal of the Regional Conference is to pass resolutions of concern to the majority of the region, and

WHEREAS allowing all Agricultural Board members present to have a vote can inadvertently result in motions passing that are not of concern to the entire region; and

WHEREAS limiting the number of voting members to a maximum of two would allow equity of representation across the Region, and reinforce that the resolutions being passed are of concern to the majority of the Peace Region Agricultural Service Boards.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT PEACE REGION AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that the Peace Regional Rules of Procedure be amended to a maximum of two voting members per Agricultural Service Board. CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS
Weed Enforcement
Rates

The Board is presented with recommended weed enforcement rates; to ensure that weed enforcement cost recovery is consistently applied administration is recommending that these rates be included in the County Schedule of Fees & Charges Bylaw.

AG76(07/11/16)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to draft a letter to Alberta and British Columbia Peace Region municipalities recommending that they control the weeds under the Weed Control Act Regulations to stop the spread into other municipalities. CARRIED.

AG77(07/11/16)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration draft a resolution for the Regional Conference recommending that municipalities control the weeds under the Weed Control Act Regulations to stop the spread into other municipalities. CARRIED.

AG78(07/11/16)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board recommend the following weed enforcement rates be included in the Schedule of Fees & Charges Bylaw. CARRIED.
Biomulcher	Member Ross requested this be added to today's agenda.
AG79(07/11/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to bring back further information on the cost of a biomulcher including the cost of a trailer to transport it on. CARRIED.
	Chair Harcourt adjourned for lunch at 11:42 a.m. Chair Harcourt reconvened at 12:14 p.m.
Canadian Beef Industry Conference	Chair Harcourt requested this be added to today's agenda.
Seven Generations Workshop	Chair Harcourt requested this be added to today's agenda.
AG80(07/11/16)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board approve the attendance of Member Candy to the Seven Generations workshop seminar on June 20, 2016 in Grande Prairie, Alberta. CARRIED.
AG81(07/11/16)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion around the Canadian Beef and Industry Conference. CARRIED.
<u>REPORTS</u> Agricultural Fieldman Report	At this time the Agricultural Fieldmen will have an opportunity to present their reports.
AG82(07/11/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the July 11, 2016 Agricultural Fieldmen reports for information. CARRIED.
Board Reports	At this time the Board members will have an opportunity to present their reports. Member Ross: Attended Soil Health Workshop in Rycroft, Alberta. Deputy Chair Ruecker: Attended Nitrogen Fixation Workshop in Manning, Alberta and Soil Health Workshop in Rycroft, Alberta.
AG83(07/11/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' written or verbal reports of July 11, 2016 for information. CARRIED.
AG84(07/11/16)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all available Board members to attend Day at the Research Farm on July 20, 2016 in Fairview, Alberta. CARRIED.

AG85(07/11/16)

RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all available Board members to attend Pasture Walk Series with Kelly Siforyk and Karin Lindquist on July 27, 2016 at the Grimshaw Legion in Grimshaw, Alberta. CARRIED.

INFORMATION &
CORRESPONDENCE

The Board is presented with correspondence to review.

1. Bill 6 Consultations & Technical Working Groups – (63-02-02)
2. Grassroots Article – (63-02-02)
3. Peace Country Beef and Forage Association – Day at the Research Farm – (63-02-02)
4. Peace Country Beef and Forage Association – Pasture Walk – (63-02-02)
5. Alberta Farm Animal Care – Article – (63-02-02)

AG86)07/11/16)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board receives the Information & Correspondence of July 11, 2016 as presented. CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Harcourt adjourned the meeting at 1:00 P.M.

CHAIR

AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	August 8, 2016
Originated By:	Al Fletcher, 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 August 8, 2016 ASB Activity Report as presented.

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



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for August 8, 2016 Page 1 of 2

Budget Items:

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer

DO = Development Officer

EA = Executive Assistant

Completed Items:

CSM = Corporate Services Manager

AF = Ag. Fieldman

CDM = Community Development Manager

MOTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEPT	STATUS
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REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETINGS				
March 18, 2016				
AG48	(03/18/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to arrange an Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) joint meeting with M.D. of Fairview No. 136 and M.D. of Peace No. 135 in October 2016.	AF	
AG50	(03/18/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agriculture Service Board direct administration bring back information on 30 to 40 foot land roller to a future Agricultural Service Board meeting.	AF	Aug 8 RFD
AG51	(03/18/16)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agriculture Service Board direct administration bring back information on a 14-16 foot breaking disc to a future Agricultural Service Board meeting.	AF	Aug 8 RFD
June 13, 2016				
AG60	(06/13/16)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board requires all Agricultural Service Board members to attend the Clear Hills County Agricultural Trade Show and Farmers' Appreciation Banquet.	AF	
AG62	(06/13/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board draft the 2017 Operating Budget items based on the 2016 programs and levels of service.	AF	October RFD
AG74	(07/11/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board bring back information on the health and trade impacts of Glyphosate Tolerant Wheat to a future Agricultural Service Board meeting.		In the works
AG75	(07/11/16)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board submit the following resolution to the Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference: WHEREAS weather related road conditions, location, timing, other obligations and budgetary constraints results in varying attendance levels from Agricultural Service Boards to the Regional Conference, and		Will be sent when call for resolutions is made for the Regional Conference agenda prep.



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for August 8, 2016 Page 2 of 2

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

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

MOTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEPT	STATUS
		<p>WHEREAS the goal of the Regional Conference is to pass resolutions of concern to the majority of the region, and</p> <p>WHEREAS allowing all Agricultural Board members present to have a vote can inadvertently result in motions passing that are not of concern to the entire region; and</p> <p>WHEREAS limiting the number of voting members to a maximum of two would allow equity of representation across the Region, and reinforce that the resolutions being passed are of concern to the majority of the Peace Region Agricultural Service Boards.</p> <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT PEACE REGION AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that the Peace Regional Rules of Procedure be amended to a maximum of two voting members per Agricultural Service Board.</p>		
AG76	(07/11/16)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to draft a letter to Alberta and British Columbia Peace Region municipalities recommending that they control the weeds under the Weed Control Act Regulations to stop the spread into other municipalities.		Aug 8 RFD
AG77	07/11/16)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration draft a resolution for the Regional Conference recommending that municipalities control the weeds under the Weed Control Act Regulations to stop the spread into other municipalities.		
AG78	(07/11/16)	<p>RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board recommend the following weed enforcement rates be included in the Schedule of Fees & Charges Bylaw:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed Pickers: \$40.00 • Supervisor: \$75.00 • Truck/UTV: Hour or day rate, whichever is lower, as per current ARHCA Equipment Rental Rates Guide. 		Council – Aug 16, 2016



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for August 8, 2016 Page 3 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
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration Fee: 15% Travel to and from site will be calculated same as above. 		
AG79	(07/11/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to bring back further information on the cost of a biomulcher including the cost of a trailer to transport it on.		Preliminary Info in August 8 RFD
AG80	(07/11/16)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board approve the attendance of Member Candy to the Seven Generations workshop seminar on June 20, 2016 in Grande Prairie, Alberta.		
AG84	(07/11/16)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all available Board members to attend Day at the Research Farm on July 20, 2016 in Fairview, Alberta.		
AG85	(07/11/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all available Board members to attend Pasture Walk Series with Kelly Siforyk and Karin Lindquist on July 27, 2016 at the Grimshaw Legion in Grimshaw, Alberta.		

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	August 8, 2016
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	OCTOBER MEETING
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The board is requested to reschedule their October meeting, as the regular meeting schedule of the second Monday of the month falls on Thanksgiving Day, October 10, 2016.

BACKGROUND:

ATTACHMENTS:

OPTIONS:

1. Move the October Agricultural Meeting to Monday, October 3, 2016.
2. Move the October Agricultural Meeting to Monday, October 17, 2016.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board reschedule the October Agricultural Service Board meeting to Monday, October 3, 2016 because Thanksgiving Day is October 10, 2016.

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board reschedule the October Agricultural Service Board meeting to Monday, October 17, 2016 2016 Thanksgiving Day is October 10, 2016.

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

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	August 8, 2016
Originated By:	Al Fletcher, Ag Fieldman
Title:	Land Roller
File No:	63-10-10

DESCRIPTION:

The Board directed cost and availability of 50 foot land roller be researched for consideration as rental equipment. The Board is requested to provide further direction on the type of land roller being proposed.

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

AG50(03/18/16) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agriculture Service Board direct administration bring back information on 30 to 40 foot land roller to a future Agricultural Service Board meeting. **CARRIED.**

The Board has been provided with a copy of the Rental Equipment Policy in today's agenda and it is attached to the Heavy Duty Disc RFD to assist in determining if this item is in compliance with the policy. If not, why would it be beneficial to add to the rental equipment fleet, and should the policy be amended?

Makes and models:

- Mandako – 3 Section: 50 foot, 13.4 foot transport width. Hydraulic wheels Aprox 130hp needed . Cost \$48,500
- Degelman – 3 section 51 foot, 14 foot transport width. Hydraulic wheels. 150hp needed. Cost \$48,750.
- Rite Way – 3 section: 52 foot, 11.6 foot transport width. Hydraulic wheels, Aprox 130 hp needed for the 52 foot. Cost \$46,900.

Availability: Flaman has three 50 foot land rollers that they rent. Rent is by the acre. v

OPTIONS:

- Accept for information
- Recommend including \$_____ in Year_____ of the Multi-year capital plan
- Recommend amendment to the Rental Equipment Policy 6310

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION byto

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

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	August 8, 2016
Originated By:	Al Fletcher, Ag Fieldman
Title:	Heavy Duty Disc
File No:	63-10-10

DESCRIPTION:

The Board directed cost and availability of a 14-16 foot HD Disc be researched for consideration as rental equipment. The Board is requested to provide further direction on the make and model being proposed.

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

AG51(03/18/16) RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agriculture Service Board direct administration bring back information on a 14-16 foot breaking disc to a future Agricultural Service Board meeting. CARRIED.

The Board is also provided with the Rental Equipment Policy to determine if this item is in compliance with the policy. If not, why would it be beneficial to add to the rental equipment fleet, and should the policy be amended?

Makes and models:

- Kello-bilt 225 Series single 16 foot offset, \$29,790. 175 HP needed.
- Kello-bilt 225 series single 14 foot offset, \$28,360. 175 HP needed
- Kello-bilt 325 Series single 14 foot offset, \$38,270. 200 HP needed
- Kello-bilt 325-3328 wide frame single offset, \$41,455. 200+HP
- Frontier Tillage (John deer) DH5216 series, 16 foot offset Waiting on price quote.

Availabiity – Flaman, Prairie Coast and RME do not provide breaking disks to rent!

OPTIONS:

- Accept for information
- Recommend including \$_____ in Year_____ of the Multi-year capital plan
- Recommend amendment to the Rental Equipment Policy 6310

ATTACHMENTS:

- Rental Equipment Policy 6310

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION byto

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: <i>Abj</i> AgFieldman:
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Clear Hills County

Effective Date: February 22, 2011	Policy Number 6310
Title: RENTAL EQUIPMENT POLICY	

1. Policy Statement:

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

2. Purpose:

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

3. Responsibilities

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

the rental rate of that equipment.

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

4. Reference to Legislation

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

5. End of Policy

ADOPTED:

Resolution C170(02/22/10)

Date: February 22, 2011

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	August 8, 2016
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	Invasive Weed Management Letters
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with three draft letters as requested at the July 11, 2016 meeting, one to the City of Grande Prairie, City of Dawson Creek, and the other to the municipalities in the Peace Region

BACKGROUND:

Clarification from the Board is requested: The motion refers to all municipalities in the Alberta B. C Peace Region, so that would be Prince George North in B.C. and Greenview north in Alberta. The discussion around the letters was specific to the three municipalities above, so should the motion be reworded, or is a more generic multi-municipality letter appropriate?

AG76(07/11/16) RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to draft a letter to Alberta and British Columbia Peace Region municipalities recommending that they control the weeds under the Weed Control Act Regulations to stop the spread into other municipalities. CARRIED.

An additional option is to request Council present the Boards concerns about weed spread from B.C. and other municipalities at the next Interprovincial/Intermunicipal Committee meeting. This is a meeting of the municipalities in Alberta and B.C. that share the provincial border, and is intended to address matters of concern.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft letters

OPTIONS:

1. Recommend to Council that the letters be sent as presented/amended
2. Not proceed with the letters.
3. Recommend that Council include interprovincial weed concerns on the next Interprovincial/Intermunicipal Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board request Council include interprovincial and intermunicipal weed spread concerns at the next Interprovincial/Intermunicipal Committee meeting.

Initials show support - Reviewed by:	Manager:	AF:
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15



CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

File No. 63-10-02

July 11, 2016

[Name]

City of Dawson Creek.

[Title]

[Address]

[City, Province] [Postal Code]

Subject: Invasive Weed Management

Dear [Sir/Madam],

Invasive weeds are becoming increasingly prevalent with the increase of traffic, equipment and movement of people.

Clear Hills County desires to minimize the introduction of new and existing invasive weed species within its borders, but this must be done in cooperation with surrounding municipalities.

In an effort to minimize the impact of invasive plants on our agriculture producers and local environment, Clear Hills County is requesting that the City of Dawson Creek control invasive weeds as listed in the *British Columbia Weed Control Act, Weed Control Regulations*, giving particular attention to Scentless Chamomile and Ox-eye Daisy. Scentless Chamomile has been recognized within the borders of the City of Dawson Creek and in the Prairie Coast Equipment Dealership in Dawson Creek.

Equipment dealerships are of particular concern as the equipment potentially carrying weed seeds can be transported a long distance from the equipment sale yard.

Thank you in advance for diligent consideration in this matter.

Yours truly,

Jason Ruecker
Deputy Reeve, Clear Hills County

[Initials]



CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

File No. 63-10-02

July 11, 2016

[Name]

[Title]

[Address]

[City, Province] [Postal Code]

Peace River Regional District

Subject: Invasive Weed Management

Dear [Sir/Madam],

Invasive weeds are becoming increasingly prevalent with the increase of traffic, equipment and movement of people.

Clear Hills County desires to minimize the introduction of new and existing invasive weed species within its borders, but this must be done in cooperation with surrounding municipalities.

Clear Hills County is requesting that the Peace River Regional District control invasive weeds as listed in the *British Columbia Weed Control Act, Weed Control Regulations*, giving particular attention to Scentless Chamomile and Ox-eye Daisy. Scentless Chamomile has been recognized along the highways in the _____ area and in the Prairie Coast Equipment Dealership in Dawson Creek.

Thank you in advance for diligent consideration in this matter.

Yours truly,

Jason Ruecker
Deputy Reeve, Clear Hills County

[Initials]

cc: Peace Region Agriculture Service Boards

Attachment or Enclosure (if applicable)



CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

File No. 63-10-02

July 11, 2016

[Name]

City of Grande Prairie.

[Title]

[Address]

[City, Province] [Postal Code]

Subject: Invasive Weed Management

Dear [Sir/Madam],

Invasive weeds are becoming increasingly prevalent with the increase of traffic, equipment and movement of people.

Clear Hills County desires to minimize the introduction of new and existing invasive weed species within its borders, but this must be done in cooperation with surrounding municipalities.

In an effort to minimize the impact of invasive plants on our agriculture producers and local environment, Clear Hills County is requesting that the City of Grande Prairie control invasive weeds as listed in the *Alberta Weed Control Act, Weed Control Regulations*, giving particular attention to Scentless Chamomile and Ox-eye Daisy. Scentless Chamomile has been recognized within the borders of the City of Grande Prairie, particularly in industrial lots that house equipment for construction, oilfield and agriculture.

Equipment is of particular concern as the equipment potentially carrying weed seeds can be transported a long distance from the equipment yard.

Thank you in advance for diligent consideration in this matter.

Yours truly,

Jason Ruecker
Deputy Reeve, Clear Hills County

[Initials]

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	August 8, 2016
Originated By:	Al Fletcher, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	BIOMULCHER
File:	63-10-10

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with some preliminary information on cost estimates to set up a portable biomulcher for large animal carcass disposal.

BACKGROUND:

AG79(07/11/16)RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to bring back further information on the cost of a biomulcher including the cost of a trailer to transport it on. **CARRIED.**

BioMulcher specifications: 8000 lbs 13.5 feet high

Requires power source: 100 amp (power source available or provide generator)

Trailer: Minimum dual, if generator (depending on size & weight) possibly a tri-axle.

Truck size: Minimum 2 tonne

Road regulation: Over 12 feet high so would require transportation permit each time it is moved.

Loading: Bio Mulcher is top loaded so a portable ramp to get loader high enough to insert large animal carcasses, or set up on low boy with rig ramp.

Further information needs to be gathered on the approval process, if any, to operate a portable large animal composter as well as the conditions and limitations around how the composted material can be used, as set out in the following regulations and guidelines:

Alberta Government Large Animal Mortality Composting guidelines
Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation
Code of Practice for Compost Facilities

BUDGET/COSTS:

BioMulcher: \$60,000 +

Generator: \$10,000 +

Hauling: Trailer: \$15,000 - \$20,000 + Ramp \$unknown at this time
Lowboy with rig ramp \$ unknown at this time

ATTACHMENTS:

Bio Mulcher brochure

OPTIONS:

1. Accept for information and take no further
2. Table to a future meeting for information on approval and operating conditions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: AF:
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**AWARD
WINNING
DESIGN[®]**

*Previously Awarded the top new
invention at Regina's Western
Canada Farm Progress Show*



**Rapid Mortality
Composting System**

INTRODUCTION & SPECS

BioMulcher Organic Waste Composter

The BioMulcher Organic Waste Composter crushes bones by mechanically breaking down and aggressively mixing the mortalities with an available carbon source such as straw, corn stocks, sawdust or wood chips. By doing this, the composting process is shortened substantially and the leachate present in compost piles is managed in-vessel, reducing environmental impact, as well as controlling odor and pests such as flies and scavengers.

- The BioMulcher Organic Waste Composter outperforms any other system of composting mortalities in harsh weather and cold.
- The BioMulcher is the only system that disintegrates the bones of mortalities.
- Reduces pathogen and weed seed levels by heating to 120 - 160 degrees F.
- In 3-4 days your BioMulcher Organic Waste Composter renders a fully stable and easy to manage compost product.
- Steel vessel enhances biosecurity and prevents pests, odors, flies, as well as pathogen spread from farm to farm.

STAGE 1



Combine mortalities with carbon (straw) at a

STAGE 2



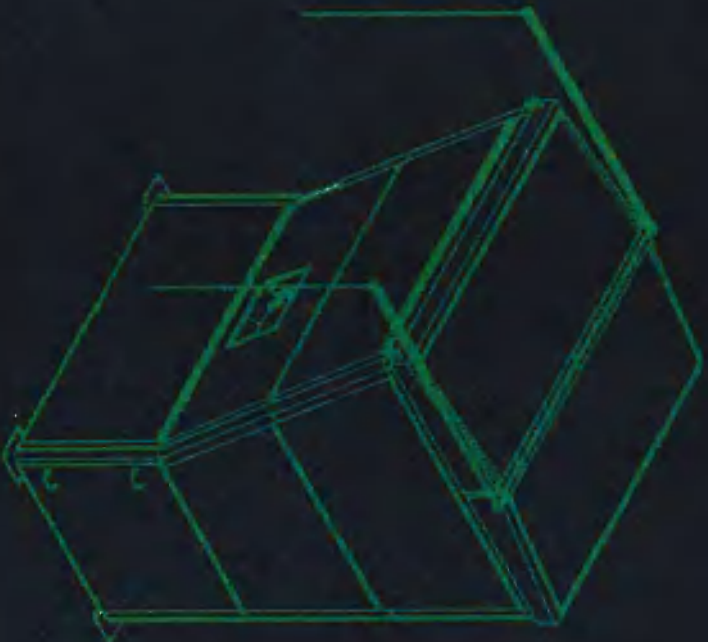
Product is Stabilized, Pest Free, and

BIOSECURITY MADE EASY

Composting has become the environmental solution of choice to deal with on-site mortalities of livestock and organic waste. The BioMulcher Organic Waste Composter was created to make the composting process easy for producers, environmentally friendly, and completely reduce the risk of biohazards on the farm.

The BioMulcher addresses the intensive process of dealing with livestock mortalities. The BioMulcher completely contains mortality and composts it in three to four days with no leftover bones, ready to apply or store for future use. We've taken care of the process, so you can enjoy the benefits.

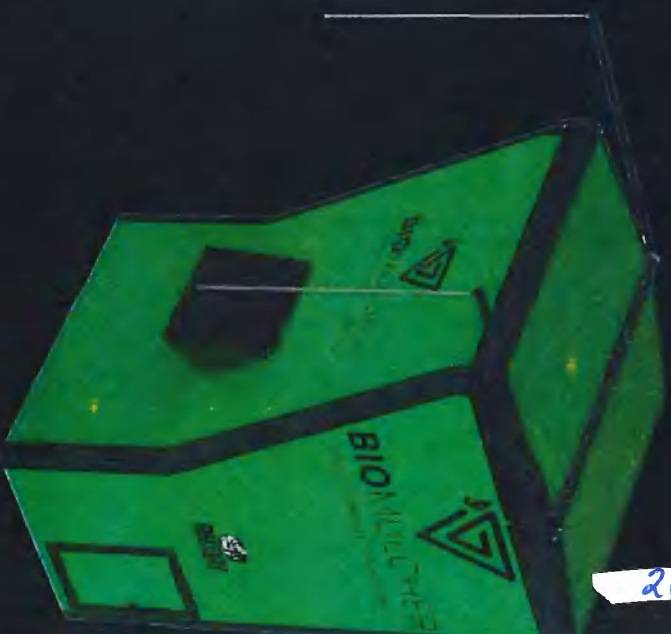
The BioMulcher
is an Exclusive
Patented Product.



BIO MULCHER

Organic Waste Composter

BIOSECURITY MADE EASY



DUTCH INDUSTRIES

300 Portico Drive P.O. Box 568
Pilot Butte, SK S0G 3Z0
Toll Free: 800-663-8824
Phone: 306-781-4820
Email: sales@dutchind.com

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	August 8, 2016
Originated By:	Audrey Bjorklund, Community Development Manager
Title:	Rental Equipment Capital Plan
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with information on the Rental Equipment and Capital Plan.

BACKGROUND:

Currently the Multi-Year Capital Plan includes the following items.

2018 – Portable incinerator for weeds \$60,000

Following up on the use of a rental unit in 2015 the Board recommended the purchase be moved out a couple more years, so that future costs of renting/outsourcing the disposal could be tracked, and then addressed again.

2020 – PTO Water pump \$25,000

The PTO water pumps the County maintains as rental items have been in service since the 80's. The units require little maintenance, and this item was included as end of life will eventually arrive for one or both of the current units.

BUDGET/COSTS:

Annually \$30,000 are allocated to the Service Board for rental equipment purchases. Unused funds are allocated to the Rental Equipment (Agricultural Services) Reserve

Currently the Reserve is at \$151,154.50

ATTACHMENTS:

- Rental Equipment Annual Summary 2013-2015
- Rental Equipment list with rates

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Resolution by..... that this Agricultural Service Board receive for information the review of the Rental Equipment and units included in the Multi-Year Capital Plan.

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

AgFieldman:



Rental Equipment Annual Summary

Equipment	2013			2014			2015		
	Total Users	Total Days	Total Revenue	Total Users	Total Days	Total Revenue	Total Users	Total Days	Total Revenue
Backpack Sprayer	0	0	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	-	-	\$ -
Bale Scale	3	3	\$ 90.00	4	4	\$ 90.00	12	12	\$ 360.00
Bale Tester	0	0	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	2	2	\$ 20.00
Ball Hitch (2" & 2 5/16")	0	0	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	-	-	\$ -
Livestock Ultrasound	0	0	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	1	-	\$ -
Chairs	9	11	\$ 27.00	10	13	\$ 250.50	7	9	\$ 459.50
Community Centre	10	22	\$ 300.00	10	15	\$ 150.00	7	17	\$ 850.00
Corral Panels	14	21	\$ 1,000.00	6	9	\$ 400.00	9	10	\$ 500.00
Coyote Trap				1	7	\$ -	1	-	\$ -
Eco-Bran Applicator	2	2	\$ 100.00	0	0	\$ -	2	2	\$ 100.00
Grain Bag Roller				1	1	\$ -	12	14	\$ -
Grain Bagger				3	6	\$ 2,100.00	-	-	\$ -
Grain Bag Extractor				2	5	\$ 1,600.00	3	5	\$ 1,750.00
Grain Vac				1	2	\$ 700.00	25	29	\$ 5,600.00
Grass Seeders-Hand Held	1	1	\$ 5.00	0	0	\$ -	-	-	\$ -
Grass Seeders-Quad Mount	0	0	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	1	1	\$ 5.00
Grill	5	3	\$ 15.00	8	12	\$ 50.00	10	16	\$ 80.00
Hand Held Rope Wick	1	1	\$ 10.00	0	0	\$ -	-	-	\$ -
Land Leveller	11	27	\$ 3,510.00	11	24	\$ 3,120.00	6	12	\$ 1,560.00
Loading Chute	10	10	\$ 275.00	12	13	\$ 325.00	17	17	\$ 425.00
Manure Spreader	5	17	\$ 2,550.00	2	11	\$ 1,650.00	7	20	\$ 3,000.00
Mulch Applicator	1	0	\$ -	1	1	\$ 25.00	-	-	\$ -
Extra Hoses	3	12	\$ 287.00	2	15	\$ 213.00	2	3	\$ 2.00
Post Pounder				11	17	\$ 2,125.00	25	37	\$ 4,625.00
Pull/Push Roller Applicator	6	6	\$ 50.00	0	0	\$ -	-	-	\$ -
Quad Mount Rope Wick	0	0	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	-	-	\$ -
Quad Mounted Sprayer	8	30	\$ -	4	4	\$ -	3	3	\$ -
Quad Pull Type Sprayer	6	8	\$ -	8	29	\$ -	1	1	\$ -
RFID Tag Reader	0	0	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	-	-	\$ -
Rock Picker				1	2.5	\$ 750.00	1	2	\$ 600.00
Rock Rake				1	2.5	\$ 750.00	2	10	\$ 3,000.00
Roller Mill				2	2	\$ 40.00	1	1	\$ 20.00
Rotowiper	2	2	\$ 150.00	1	1	\$ 75.00	1	4	\$ 300.00
Scare Cannon #91060254	0	0	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	-	-	\$ -
Signs	1	4	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	6	-	\$ -
Skid Mount Sprayer	3	4	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	1	1	\$ -
Steam Tables	0	0	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	-	-	\$ -
Tables				8	8	\$ 131.00	9	13	\$ 75.00
Toilets	8	13	\$ 240.00	5	8	\$ 280.00	6	11	\$ 550.00
Tree Spade	10	16	\$ 1,950.00	7	12	\$ 1,800.00	6	8	\$ 1,200.00
Truck Mount Sprayer	1	1	\$ -	2	2	\$ 200.00	-	-	\$ -
Wash Station	4	8	\$ 40.00	2	4	\$ 10.00	7	8	\$ 80.00
Water Pumps	21	34	\$ 5,850.00	32	54	\$ 7,625.00	42	81	\$ 9,200.00
Zero Till Drills	4	5	\$ 1,500.00	2	6	\$ 1,800.00	3	3	\$ 900.00
Totals rental(by month)	149	261	\$ 17,949.00	160	290	\$ 26,259.50	235	349	\$ 35,261.50

Clear Hills County Rental Equipment

EQUIPMENT	DEPOSIT	AG RATE	COMMERCIAL RATE	COMMUNITY RATE
BBQ (NEW)	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	No Charge 2 days
Chem Wipe Applicators-				
Quad Mount (rope wick)	\$50.00	\$10.00	\$25.00	No Charge 2 days
Hand Held (rope wick)	\$50.00	\$10.00	\$25.00	No Charge 2 Days
Push/Pull Roller Applicator	\$50.00	\$10.00	\$25.00	No Charge 2 Days
Rotowiper (3)	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$150.00	No Charge 2 days
Community Centre	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	No Charge 2 days
Corral Panels	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	No Charge 2 days
Eco Bran Applicator	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	No Charge 2 days
Extra Hose	\$50.00 (if rented by itself)	\$1.00	\$5.00	\$1.00
Grain Bag Extractor	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$700.00	No charge 2 days
Grain Bag Roller	\$50.00	No charge	No Charge	No Charge 2 days
Grain Bagger & truck unloader.	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$700.00	No Charge 2 days
Grain Vac	\$400.00	\$200.00	\$400.00	No Charge 2 days
Grills	\$50.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	No Charge 2 days
Land Leveller	\$260.00	\$130.00	\$130.00	No Charge 2 days
Loading Chute	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	No Charge 2 days
Manure Spreader	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$300.00	No Charge 2 days
Mulch Applicator	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	No Charge
Post Hole Auger	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	No Charge 2 days
Post Pounder	\$250.00	\$125.00	\$250.00	No charge 2 days
Rock Picker	\$600.00	\$300.00	\$600.00	No Charge 2 Days
Rock Rake	\$600.00	\$300.00	\$600.00	No Charge 2 Days
Roller Mill	\$50.00	\$20.00	\$40.00	No Charge 2 Days
Scales				
Bale Spear	\$100.00	\$30.00	\$150.00	No Charge 2 days
Scare Cannon	\$50.00	No Charge	\$50.00	No Charge
"SMOKE" Signs	\$60.00	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge
Sprayers				
Backpack	\$50.00	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge
Quad Mounted	\$50.00	No Charge	\$50.00	No Charge 2 days
Quad Pull Type	\$50.00	No Charge	\$50.00	No Charge 2 days
Skidmount (3)	\$50.00	No Charge	\$50.00	No Charge 2 days
Truck Mount	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	No Charge 2 days
Sickle Mower	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	No Charge 2 days
Stage	\$50.00	No Charge	No Charge	No Charge
Steam Table	\$50.00	\$5.00	\$25.00	No Charge 2 days
Tables & Chairs	\$50.00	\$1.00/table & \$.50/Chair	\$1.00/table & \$.50/Chair	No Charge 2 days
Toilets	\$100.00	\$40.00	\$100.00	No Charge 2 days
Tree Spade	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$300.00	No Charge 2 days
Wash Station	\$50.00	\$10.00	\$25.00	No Charge 2 days
Water Pump				
Summer (April - Sept)	\$100.00	\$75.00	\$300.00	No Charge 2 days
Winter (Oct - March)	\$1,000.00	\$200.00	\$500.00	No Charge 2 days
Wire Roller	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	No Charge 2 days
Zero Till Drill	\$300.00	\$300/20 feet	\$600/20 feet	No Charge 2 days

updated August 3, 2016

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	August 8, 2016
Originated By:	Al Fletcher, 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

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that the Agricultural Service Board accepts the August 8, 2016 Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

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

Clear Hills County Agricultural Fieldman Report

July 11 13 2016

Al Fletcher

Pest Control to June 1

- Wolves -
- Coyotes -
- Beaver -

Rental Program

- Sickle Mower ready to rent out.
- Developing rental parts inventory.
- Wire roller, good feedback.

Weed Program

- Working on pesticide applicators course.
- Reviewing 2015 weed inspections
- Some 2016 weed notices were issued.
- 3 wood bins built.
- Seasonal staff inspecting and spraying.
- 2 staff in the Chin area inspecting.

Other Topics

- Staff rebuilding picnic tables. (rain days)
-

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	August 8, 2016
Originated By:	Al Fletcher, 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:

- Chair Harcourt written report

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' written or verbal reports of August 8, 2016 for information.

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

Brian Harcourt

From: star harcourt <erharc@hotmail.com>
Sent: July-31-16 3:06 PM
To: Audrey Bjorklund
Subject: Field Day Fairview Research Farm

There was a good turnout even with the rain.

The farm features about 100 plots of various wheats, barleys, corns, all these mixed with a cocktail of alfalfas, grasses, turnips, kale, forage brassica, etc. I strongly recommend anyone in the cattle business to visit the farm, have a little spare time, look the plots over and take pictures and notes.

Harcourt.

From: star harcourt <erharc@hotmail.com>
Sent: July-31-16 3:49 PM
To: Audrey Bjorklund
Subject: Pasture Walk...PCBFA the Host.

Seminar held at the Legion Hall in Grimshaw.
Walk held at Farron Steffen's farm.

Guest speakers..Kelly Sidoryk...Lloydminster AB,
and Karin Lindquist...AF, Edmonton.

Kelly spoke on cocktail grazing to improve the for the future.
She recommends a sanfoin (AC Mountain View) be added to the alfalfa brome mix to help mitigate bloat. 40% grass, 40%alfalfa, 20% sanfoin.
2nd and 3rd years the plant produces seed an the grazing animals punches them into the ground.
Seeds grow better in soils of Ph of +6.
fungi (sugars) supply the plants with a food source.
Grazing should not be more than 50% of the stand.

Karin spoke on Holistic Management.
Whole farm/ranch management.
You should never be so busy that you don't have time to think of what you are doing.
Why...How...What...Work smarter not harder.
Does your action address the root cause of any problem you may have?
Do you have link?
There is a worthwhile course on Holistic Management available, call 310 farm.

Harcourt.

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	August 8, 2016
Originated By:	Al Fletcher, 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:

- Dave Bannow – Organic Conference written report (63-10-20)
- Alberta Agriculture & Forestry - ASB 2016 grant notification letter (63-10-02)
- VSI Services (1980) Ltd – Second Quarter report letter (63-10-40)
- Forage Facts – PCBFA – July 2016, Volume 12, Issue 138 (63-10-20)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of August 8, 2016 as presented.

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

RECEIVED

JUN 27 2016

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

Organic Confans in Olds Feb 25 2016

This confans was a vary good confans to attend.

The contacts for the grain buyers
The information from the speakers is so important to any one that would like to get in to organics

The grain buyers for the demand of the grains like OAT Barly wheat and Flax and the prices of all the grains even Hemp.

The speaker that talked about the ways to controle weeds. Like harrowing just after the grain is up.

To Silage the crop if it has bad weeds like thisell that has 19% proteen and stik weed that has 17% proteen. That makes good Silage for your Livestock

Talking to people that has the same intrests that you do. To make better Food for your animals and for the people that see the valou of organic Food

David Bannow

July 11, 2016

Mr. Brian Harcourt, ASB Chair
Clear Hills County
Box 240
Worsley, AB T0H 3W0

Dear Mr. Harcourt:

I am pleased to advise you that your Agricultural Service Board (ASB) has been approved for an allocation of \$225,359.46 for the 2016 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 2016 grant year.

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

Sincerely,



Doug Macaulay, ASB Program Manager
Agricultural Service Board Program

cc: Al Fletcher, Agricultural Fieldman
Allan Rowe, CAO

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

July 26, 2016

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

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2016

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

Dear Allan

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

Following is an estimate of your current VSI account status:

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

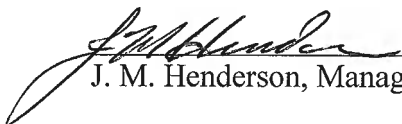
Note: The above table **does not include** your share of **administration fees** or **investment income** for the first six months of 2016.

Your claims for the first half of 2016 are \$8,660 (42.6%) higher than for the same period in 2015. Your claims for the last half of 2015 came to \$11,817. If the 42.6% increase continues for the rest of the year your claims for the rest of 2016 will be approximately \$16,851 resulting in a deficit of approximately \$5,700 not including administrative costs.

It appears that only about \$1,300 of your increased costs are due to removing the limits on the number of semen tests that would be covered. As anticipated you will likely have to add to your V.S.I. contributions for 2016.

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

Yours sincerely


J. M. Henderson, Manager

cc Aaron Zylstra
Sarah Hayward

Forage Facts

RECEIVED

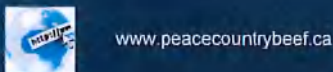
JUL 19 2016

Published by the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association

July 2016, Volume 12, Issue 138



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What's the Brix on that Pasture??

By: *Kaitlin McLachlan*

Do you have a refractometer in your toolbox in your truck? Maybe you need one! It is a neat tool that we can use to measure the sugar levels in plants and forages.

Refractometers have been used for years in the food and processing industry for quality control purposes, and now there are nice, small hand-held models that we can take to the field with us! All we need is the refractometer and a garlic press like what you'd use in your kitchen!

The sampling process is quite simple! You simply pick or trim some plants that you would like to test, roll them into a ball in your hands for a few seconds and pop it in the garlic press. These handheld models work by placing some juice from the test plant onto the glass prism at the end of the unit. Once the plastic cover is flipped over the juice and compresses the juices, you can look through the looking glass and measure the sugar content of the forage. In the picture in the middle of the page, we see a sample of a handheld refractometer as well as a sample of the reading that we can obtain from the tool. Each scale on the refractometer relates to one gram of sugar per 100 grams of liquid.

So what is a "good" Brix measurement? How can we incorporate it into our grass

and feed management?

Using Brix measurements in management decisions actually started with beef producers in the States a few years ago. Brix is the measure of the total dissolved solids in a liquid. Most of these dissolved solids extracted from growing plants is carbohydrates in the form of sucrose sugar. The rest is simple sugars such as glucose and fructose, as well as minerals.

If you were at our Grass Fed Beef Workshop with Dr. Anibal Prodomingo and Clayton Robins back in February, you would have heard about the importance of sugar content in forages and how it

relates to gain. The basic principle is that plant sugars provide energy. Therefore, the higher the Brix reading, the higher the sugar content, and should indicate a higher nutritional value in the plant.

From findings in the US, Brix levels of alfalfa are typically at an average of 8, with a reading of 22 being considered excellent. In cereals, 18 is considered excellent

while 10 is a good average. Regardless of the plant species, the highest energy levels will always be in the lower stems and leaves of the plant. In alfalfa, the absolute highest brix levels come from the juice of the blossoms.

Another observation, that we learned from Nicole Masters at our workshop in June, is that plants with a Brix level of 12 or greater have improved resistance to disease and insect pressure! Nicole also related that healthy plants with high Brix measurements are a result of healthy soil.



A refractometer and the Brix reading scale. Photo via: highbrixgardens.com



The PCBFA Crew wishes you a safe and trouble-free haying season!

If you have any questions about feed quality or would like to send some hay out for feed sampling, please feel free to give us a shout in the Fairview or High Prairie Offices!

If you are interested in learning more on how soil health relates to plant health and higher Brix readings, keep your eyes open for another workshop with Nicole Masters later on this year!

Dr Anibal Pordomingo has done some work relating Brix and forage quality in his studies in Argentina. He has found that the best ration for finishing cattle on grass is when soluble carbohydrates — sugars — and crude protein are balanced with protein between 14-18% and sugars being at least 15%. He has also found that young, vegetative plants tend to be too high in protein and too low in energy to provide good gains in a grass finishing



Past Summer Student Taylor Iwasiuk taking Brix Readings

program. As plants approach the flowering stage, they are in the peak of their sugar production. So with this information, we can start to make informed management decisions based on the sugar content in our forages.

Research by the USDA Agriculture Research Service out of Idaho has found that sugar levels in growing plants are at their peak around 6pm in the evening before sunset, and at their lowest first thing in the morning. This is because the plant has been photosynthesizing all day, and has made itself a lot of sugars. Overnight, these sugars will flow down to the roots into the plant's reserves.

At Utah State University, researchers experimented with feeding two groups of dairy cows rations of 40% alfalfa hay—one cut early in the morning, and one cut in the early evening. The cows that were on the ration cut later in the day consumed 6 pounds

more per day of the ration and produced 7.5 pounds more milk than the group on the morning cut hay. This increase in animal performance can be related back to the increased sugar content in the plants at the time of day the hay was cut. These are exciting results as we can also use Brix readings for not only making pasture rotation decisions, but also harvest decisions!

I'm sold! Where do I get my refractometer?

At PCBFA, we have a hand-held refractometer in our Fairview Office if you would like to have a look at it or have one of our staff show you how it works. If you are really sold on it, you can find them online. They typically start out at \$120 and can be found at www.reed instruments.ca/portable-refractometers.

Digital refractometers are also on the market. They are more pricy, starting at around \$550 and can be found online at www.coleparmer.ca/Category/Digital-Handheld-Refractometers.

Refractometers can also be found on Amazon.

When purchasing a refractometer, since there are many kinds of models that measure a variety of different dissolved solids, ensure that you are purchasing a Brix refractometer. For testing forages, also ensure that you are getting a refractometer that has a scale that can measure up to 30%. This is a good scale to measure a variety of forages accurately.

If you have any questions regarding refractometers or would like to try one out, please give us a call in the Fairview Office!

Happy Brix-ing!

Thank-You to the PCBFA Board of Directors

Jordan Barnfield
Thomas Claydon
Conrad Dolen
Nancy VanHerK
Preston Basnett
Faron Steffen
John Prinse
Stan Logan
Gary Gurtler
Joyleen Beamish

Have Project or Workshop Ideas?

We are always looking for ideas!
Give us a call!

PCBFA Member Perks

- Two Free Feed Tests/Year
- Ration Balancing Assistance
- Growing Forward 2 Assistance
- Environmental Farm Plans
- Scale & Tag Reader available for member use
- Soil & Livestock Water Quality Testing

Thank-You to our Municipal Partners

MD of Fairview
MD of Peace
Clear Hills County
Saddle Hills County
MD of Spirit River
Birch Hills County
MD of Greenview
Big Lakes County
County of Grande Prairie

Erosion and the Importance of a Healthy Riparian Area



By: Jen Allen

Although a couple months ago it seemed the Peace Country was in for another dry season, Mother Nature has graced us with a lot of precipitation! With that being said, it is important to remember that during all weather conditions, whether it be dry or wet, there are precautions and proper management practices to take in order to optimize the benefits of our current abundant water supply.

When it comes to wet conditions, significant effects to keep under your radar are runoff and erosion, where both are fuelled by rainfall and snowfall. When soil erosion from water occurs, sediments and nutrients from fields, such as manure, are carried by the runoff causing pollution to water sources (streams, rivers, lakes, and dugouts), or leaching into groundwater sources. Such added nutrients from the runoff lead to the growth of undesirable aquatic plants and algae blooms in the water (such as blue-green algae), and also causes oxygen depletion. Water pollution can be harmful to livestock, fish, wildlife, as well as humans. The vegetation along the banks of streams, rivers, lakes or dugouts, known as riparian areas, are essential for filtering these unwanted nutrients and sediments before they reach a water source. Therefore, it is important to properly manage your current riparian areas, or implement one into your system.

There are many benefits to maintaining a healthy riparian area, including: they act as a buffer system for both floods and droughts (conserve water), filter nutrients and trap sediments before they reach downstream, reduce erosion and stabilize shorelines through plant root systems, and creating an abundance of vigorous forage, shelter, and water for livestock and both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. Deep-rooted vegetation including trees (willows and poplars), shrubs and grasses make up a good riparian area. Leaving plant cover or crop residue in your field also helps securing soils from erosive power prior to reaching the riparian area.

Another significant practice to reduce erosion and runoff as a cattle producer is proper range management, such as rotational grazing, and planning for periods of rest on the landscape to assist in restoring and maintaining a healthy riparian area. According to Cows and Fish, these are the top four things to consider in proper range management: "balance animal needs with available forage supply, distribute livestock evenly, avoid or minimize grazing the area during fragile or vulnerable periods, and provide effective rest during the growing season." Runoff can also be managed by constructing pathways using the landscape's topography, such as a berm, ditch or constructed wetland, in order to control the direction and/or speed of runoff and reduce nutrient and sediment levels (see Figure 1).

If you have slumped shorelines, an absence in abundance of vegetation and wildlife, or murky looking water with sediment buildup, then the health of your riparian area is probably lacking. In order to improve or manage your riparian area, it is first ideal to observe and evaluate the current condition of it, then make improvements where needed and continue to long-term monitor. Protecting your soils with vegetation cover, such as a riparian area, assists in ensuring the sustainability of your farm, water sources, and the overall environment. (Alberta Agriculture & Forestry, Cows and Fish)



Figure 1: Managing Surface Water Pathways
(via: BMPs Environmental Manual for Alberta Farmsteads)

Be sure to check out PCBFA's Whole Farm Water Planning events in August! If you have any other questions regarding riparian areas, feel free to give us a call at the Fairview office!

Director's Corner with Jordan Barnfield

Hello my name is Jordan Barnfield. I run a mixed livestock farm in the Badheart north east of Teepee Creek. I am proud to say that I am a Director on the Board of the PCBFA. This is my 3rd year of being a part of this great Board and it has been a very rewarding experience for me. We are very blessed to have a great group of both Staff and Directors that are all very passionate producers from all around the Peace Country.

It has been great to see the PCBFA grow the last few years. People seem to really be getting involved and getting active in the beef and forage industry. There has been great attendance by producers at our events and field days the last while. PCBFA has brought in and hosted some great speakers the last few years that sure bring a lot of knowledge to us as producers. These events, speakers and just meeting and learning so much from all of the local producers that attend PCBFA events has really helped me grow my farm in the direction that I want to see it go. Taking the Don Campbell Holistic Management course, going to the soil conference in Edmonton last fall, and seeing speakers like Christine Jones, Nicole Masters, Gabe Brown and so many more has turned me into, as Monika our Manager would say, "a Soil Nerd".

There is so much to learn in the beef and forage industry and it has been fun doing this as a Board Member these last few years. I am looking forward to all the events that our great Staff has in store for us this next year. I have enjoyed being a part of some of the planning and I have learned a lot from our management sessions with David Irvine. Our great Staff and the great group of producers on the Board makes it very fun and easy to be a Director for the PCBFA. I hope to see and meet a lot more new and old producers at our events and field days to come this next year. I hope everyone has a great summer. Happy haying and enjoy all of this great rain and grass. It is a great year for building soil health.



Upcoming Events

Field Day of the Research Farm Wed, July 20th
Registration at 10am
MD of Fairview Research Farm
2 miles west, 1 mile north of Fairview

Pasture Walk Series July 26th—28th
Registration at 10am each day
July 26th—Fourth Creek Hall
July 27th—Grimshaw Legion
July 28th—Valleyview

Whole Farm Water Planning with Jessie Lemieux August 3rd & 4th
Aug 3rd— Saddle Hills County
Aug 4th—Hines Creek

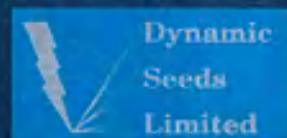
~~**Soil Health Workshop with Jay Fuhrer** Thursday, August 18th
Manning
Details TBA~~

Peace Beef Cattle Day December 7th
DMI in Fairview

PCBFA Study Tour to Denver! Jan 10-17, 2017
Visit our website for booking forms & itinerary!
Twin: \$2989/Person
Single: \$3526/Person

For more information or to register for any of these great events, please call Kaitlin or Jen at 780-835-6799.

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Contact Us

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

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

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

Jen Allen
Agri-Environmental Coordinator
Fairview, AB
780-835-6799
780-772-0277