

**AGENDA
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
October 17, 2016**

The Agricultural Service Board meeting of Clear Hills County will be held on Monday, October 17, 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. August 8, 2016 2
4. Delegation(s)
 - a. Peace Country Beef & Forage Association 11:15 a.m..... 6
5. BUSINESS ARISING
6. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Activity Report 7
 - b. 2017 Operating Budget 10
 - c. Glyphosate Tolerant Wheat 23
 - d. Municipal Weed Control..... 32
7. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference..... 34
 - b. Events 104
 - c. VSI Program 105
8. REPORTS
 - a. Community Development Manager Report 141
 - b. Board Reports..... 142
9. INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE 146
10. CONFIDENTIAL
11. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Worsley, Alberta
August 8, 2016**

PRESENT

Brian Harcourt	Chair
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
Audrey Bjorklund	Community Development Manager

IN REGRET

Garry Candy	Member
Stan Logan	Member

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA

AG87(08/08/16)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda governing the August 8, 2016 Agricultural Service Board meeting with the following additions:
7 b. Weed Enforcement Procedure CARRIED.

AG88(08/08/16)

RESOLUTION by Councilor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the July 11, 2016 Agricultural Service Board Meeting as presented. CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

Activity Report

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

AG89(08/08/16)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the August 8, 2016 Agricultural Service Board Activity Report as presented. CARRIED.

October Meeting

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.

AG90(08/08/16)

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

Land Roller

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.
AG91(08/08/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the cost and availability of 50 foot land rollers. CARRIED.
Heavy Duty Disc	The Board directed cost and availability of a 14-16 foot Heavy Duty Disc be researched for consideration as rental equipment. The Board is requested to provide further direction on the make and model being proposed.
AG92(08/08/16)	RESOLUTION by Councilor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion around a 16 foot Heavy Duty Disc. CARRIED.
Invasive Weed Management Letters	The Board is presented with three draft letters as requested at the July 11, 2016 meeting, one to the City of Grande Prairie, one to the City of Dawson Creek, and one to the municipalities in the Peace Region.
AG93(08/08/16)	RESOLUTION by Councilor Johnson to rescind Resolutions AG76(07/11/16) and AG77(07/11/16). CARRIED.
AG94(08/08/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board request Council include interprovincial and intermunicipal weed spread concerns at the next Interprovincial/Intermunicipal Committee meeting. CARRIED.
AG95(08/08/16)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board draft a letter to the Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Forestry in regards to Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds becoming increasingly prevalent with the increase of traffic, equipment and movement of people. CARRIED.
AG96(08/08/16)	RESOLUTION by Councilor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board request the concern over the spread of Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds between municipalities be included in the Regional Agricultural Service Board conference agenda on November 9, 2016 in Dixonville, Alberta. CARRIED.
BioMulcher	The Board is presented with some preliminary information on cost estimates to set up a portable biomulcher for large animal carcass disposal.
AG97(08/08/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the cost estimates to set up a portable biomulcher for large animal carcass disposal. CARRIED.
<u>NEW BUSINESS</u> Rental Equipment	

Capital Plan	The Board is presented with information on the Rental Equipment and Capital Plan.
AG98(08/08/16)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board receive for information the review of the Rental Equipment and units included in the Multi-Year Capital Plan. CARRIED.
Weed Enforcement Procedure	This item was added to today's agenda by Member Ross.
AG99(08/08/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion around Weed Enforcement Procedure. CARRIED.
<u>REPORTS</u> Agricultural Fieldman Report	At this time the Agricultural Fieldmen will have an opportunity to present their reports.
AG100(08/08/16)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the August 8, 2016 Agricultural Fieldmen reports for information. CARRIED.
	Chair Harcourt recessed for lunch at 11:43 a.m. Chair Harcourt reconvened at 12:17 p.m.
Board Reports	At this time the Board members will have an opportunity to present their reports. Chair Harcourt: Attended Pasture Walk on July 27, 2016 at the Legion Hall in Grimshaw, Alberta and Whole Farm Water Planning with Jesse Lemieux on August 4, 2016 in Hines Creek, Alberta. Deputy Chair Ruecker: Attended Pasture Walk on July 27, 2016 at the Legion Hall in Grimshaw, Alberta, Day at the Research Farm in Fairview, Alberta on July 20, 2016 and Whole Farm Water Planning with Jesse Lemieux on August 4, 2016 in Hines Creek, Alberta. Member Ross: Whole Farm Water Planning with Jesse Lemieux on August 4, 2016 in Hines Creek, Alberta and Day at the Research Farm in Fairview, Alberta on July 20, 2016.
AG101(08/08/16)	RESOLUTION by Councilor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' written or verbal reports of August 8, 2016 for information. CARRIED.
AG102(08/08/16)	RESOLUTION by Councilor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all available members to attend Soil Health Workshop on August 18, 2016 at the NPARA Research Farm in Manning, Alberta. CARRIED.

INFORMATION &
CORRESPONDENCE

The Board is presented with correspondence to review.

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

AG103(08/08/16)

RESOLUTION by Councilor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board receives the Information & Correspondence of August 8, 2016 as presented. CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Harcourt adjourned the meeting at 12:41 P.M.

CHAIR

AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	October 17, 2016
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	DELEGATION – Peace Country Beef & Forage Association 11:15 a.m.
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

Peace Country Beef & Forage Association (PCBFA) Managers, Liisa Vihvelin and Monika Beniot, will be in attendance at 11:15 a.m. to present a report on the 2016 Environmental Stream partnership program and present the plans for the 2017 program along with a funding request. Also presented will be the updates on the PCBFA programs, funding and direction.

BACKGROUND:

BUDGET/COSTS:

ATTACHMENTS:

OPTIONS:

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agriculture Service Board accept for information the delegation from Liisa Vihvelin Monika Benoit, Managers, Peace Country Beef and Forage Association on the 2016 Environmental Stream partnership program and 2017 programming.

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

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	October 17, 2016
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 October 17, 2016 ASB Activity Report as presented.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:  AgFieldman: 



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for October 17, 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
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	Tentatively November 3, 2016.
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 17 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.		October 17 RFD
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		Resolutions was emailed for inclusion at the Regional Conference on November 9, 2016 in Dixonville, Alberta.



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for October 17, 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
		REQUEST that the Peace Regional Rules of Procedure be amended to a maximum of two voting members per Agricultural Service Board.		
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: <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. • Administration Fee: 15% • Travel to and from site will be calculated same as above. 		Included in Bylaw 209-16 Schedule of Fees & Charges
August 8, 2016				
AG94	(08/08/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board request Council include interprovincial and intermunicipal weed spread concerns at the next Interprovincial/Intermunicipal Committee meeting.	AF	Council so moved C463-16(08/17/16)
AG95	(08/08/16)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board draft a letter to the Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Forestry in regards to Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds becoming increasingly prevalent with the increase of traffic, equipment and movement of people.	AF	October RFD mtg.
AG94	(08/08/16)	RESOLUTION by Councilor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board request the concern over the spread of Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds between municipalities be included in the Regional Agricultural Service Board conference agenda on November 9, 2016 in Dixonville, Alberta.	AF	The organizer is having difficulties finding a speaker. There is no format for just having a discussion. ASB can bring up the matter with other delegates at breaks.

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	October 17, 2016
Originated By:	Audrey Bjorklund, CLGM, Community Development Manager
Title:	2017 OPERATING BUDGET
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

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.
CARRIED.

ATTACHMENTS.

- 2017 Draft Operating Budget summary (1 page)
- 2017 Draft Operating Budget detail (9 pages)
- 2017 Budget Prep Notes (2 pages)

OPTIONS:

1. Recommend to Council the Agricultural Service Board 2017 Operating Budget as presented.
2. Recommend to Council with the following additions/deletions/changes....

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

RESOLUTION by that this Agricultural Service Board....

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: *ABj* AgFieldman: *[Signature]*

Clear Hills County
2017 Draft Operating Budget

FUNCTION	2014	2015	2016		2017
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
	12/31/14	12/31/15	6/30/16		
Ag Svc - General	270,115	76,010	133,197	307,632	158,035
Ag Svc - Improvement - General	30,719	14,816	44,461	38,658	39,154
Ag Svc - Improvement - Rental Equipment	45,512	17,938	15,515	72,088	33,100
Ag Svc - Improvement - Public	16,872	12,173	869	14,232	13,832
Ag Svc - Improvement - Tradeshow	75,691	69,871	74,520	74,415	81,545
Ag Svc - Improvement - V.S.I.	33,100	31,800	45,275	43,900	46,900
Ag Svc - Improvement - Demos	636	759	-	-	-
Ag Svc - Improvement	202,530	147,357	180,640	243,293	214,531
Ag Svc - A.E.S.A.	64,500	64,500	64,500	67,500	67,500
Ag Svc - Control - Crop Disease	175	80	80	175	175
Ag Svc - Control - Livestock Predation	15,000	5,250	40,610	31,700	60,600
Ag Svc - Control - Beaver	5,640	17,340	6,570	7,500	10,000
Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation	18,688	18,459	8,435	58,814	43,825
Ag Svc - Control - Weed Inspection	43,237	16,076	34,254	113,974	103,260
Ag Svc - Control	82,740	57,205	89,949	212,163	217,860
Agricultural Services	619,886	345,072	468,287	830,588	657,926

Clear Hills County
2017 Draft Operating Budget

Expenditure Account	2014		2015		2016		2017 Budget	2017 Notes:
	Actual 12/31/14	Actual 12/31/15	Actual 6/30/16	Budget	Actual	Budget		
FUNCTION								
Ag Svc - ASB - Wages	101,222	39,754	77,460	132,774	135,000			
Ag Svc - ASB - Employer Contributions	66,299	-15,063	10,782	47,776				
Ag Svc - ASB - Training & Education	745	0	592	3,100	3,100			AF coursesx2x800+IST\$250x2+CDC 1 course x\$1000 based on 165.60/month
Ag Svc - ASB - Fees for Service	1,544	662	0	2,000	2,000			
Salaries, Wages, and Benefits	169,809	25,353	88,834	185,650	140,100			
Ag Svc - ASB - Travel & Subsistence	14,183	5,957	9,468	11,000	11,000			ISTx1wkx2, ASB 1wkx2+courses
Ag Svc - ASB - Membership & Conference Fees	2,147	805	625	1,700	1,700			250X2aaaf, 450X2asb conf, AISC 100,+additional
Ag Svc - ASB - Freight & Postage	15	0	5					
Ag Svc - ASB - Internet	240	120	116	240	240			
Ag Svc - ASB - Telephone	3,995	1,933	2,219	3,500	3,900			based on 2016 YTD
Ag Svc - ASB - Hospitality	0	0	0	0	0			
Ag Svc - ASB - Advertising & Promotion	0	127	425		425			
Ag Svc - ASB - Printing & Binding	0	0	140					
Ag Svc - ASB - Subscriptions & Publications	624	0	0	24	24			grain news
Ag Svc - ASB - Municipal Membership Fees	0	0	0					
Ag Svc - ASB - Municipal Membership Fees	0	0	0					
Buildings - Office & Shop (25%)								
Ag Svc - ASB - Other Contracted Services	2,833	0	0					
Ag Svc - ASB - Building Chargeback	57,228	35,686	26,946	67,955				CSM to complete
Ag Svc - ASB - Vehicle Chargebacks	7,454	2,579	2,070	14,541				CSM to complete
Ag Svc - ASB - Mapping chargebacks	702	747	0	850				CSM to complete
Ag Svc - ASB - Communications Chargeback	2,164	2,157	1,712	2,163				CSM to complete
Ag Svc - ASB - Vehicle Rental	418	0	0					
Ag Svc - ASB - Insurance	109	546	546		546			based on 2015 & 2016 YTD
Ag Svc - ASB - Other Miscellaneous Services	33	0	28	50	50			driver abstracts for seasonal employees
Contracted & General Services	92,145	50,657	44,299	102,610	17,885			
Ag Svc - ASB - Stationery Supplies	77	0	40	50	50			
Ag Svc - ASB - Consumable & Bulk Foods	0	0	24					
Ag Svc - ASB - Other General Goods & Supplies	0	0	0					
Ag Svc - ASB - Tires, Batteries and Accessories	0	0	0					
Ag Svc - ASB - Consumable Tools	0	0	0					
Materials, Goods & Utilities	77	-	64	50	50			
Ag Svc - ASB - Grants To Individuals & NGOs	0	0	0					
Ag Svc - AESA - General - Grants	0	0	0					
Ag Svc - ASB - To Capital Programs	0	0	0					
Ag Svc - Transfer to Reserve	0	0	0					
Ag Svc - Transfer to Reserve	0	0	0					
Ag Svc - ASB - Amor Exp - Buildings	0	0	0					CSM to complete

Clear Hills County
2017 Draft Operating Budget

Account	FUNCTION	2014			2015			2016			2017			2017 Notes:
		Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance	Budget	Variance		
2-63-02-02-792	Ag Svc - ASB - Amort Exp - Buildings	123,114	123,114	0	63,016	63,016	0	19,322	19,322	0	19,322	19,322	0	CSM to complete
2-63-02-02-793	Ag Svc - ASB - Amort Exp - Mach & Equip	558	558	0	2,262	2,262	0	88	88	0	88	88	0	CSM to complete
2-63-02-02-795	Ag Svc - ASB - Amort Exp - Vehicles	7,526	7,526	0	2,262	2,262	0	594	594	0	594	594	0	CSM to complete
	Amortization Expense	8,084	8,084	0	10,910	10,910	0	1,277	1,277	0	1,277	1,277	0	CSM to complete
	Transfer Payments	8,084	8,084	0	10,910	10,910	0	1,277	1,277	0	1,277	1,277	0	CSM to complete
2-63-02-02-814	Ag Svc - ASB - Charges, Penalties & Other Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Financial Services & Other Charges	270,115	270,115	0	76,010	76,010	0	133,197	133,197	0	158,035	158,035	0	
	Ag Svc - General	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-02-11*	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Wages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-02-13*	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Employer Contributions	439	439	0	154	154	0	484	484	0	154	154	0	
2-63-10-02-159	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Other Fees for Service	12,937	12,937	0	5,368	5,368	0	11,815	11,815	0	14,904	14,904	0	ASB 90 days (5 mbrs)(165,60x10mgs+5days ASB conf+3other conf)
2-63-10-02-211	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Travel & Subsistence	12,510	12,510	0	3,950	3,950	0	14,105	14,105	0	8,000	8,000	0	ASB conf, other conf, flights and/or mileage
2-63-10-02-214	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Membership & Conference Fee	2,342	2,342	0	3,034	3,034	0	6,977	6,977	0	3,500	3,500	0	ASB Conference Farm Tech workshops seminars, etc.
2-63-10-02-215	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Freight & Postage	0	0	0	109	109	0	135	135	0	-	-	0	
2-63-10-02-216	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Internet	60	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-02-219	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Hospitality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-02-221	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Advertising & Promotion	0	0	0	0	0	0	86	86	0	-	-	0	
2-63-10-02-222	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Printing & Binding	118	118	0	53	53	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	
2-63-10-02-223	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Subscriptions & Publications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	
2-63-10-02-224	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Municipal Membership Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	
2-63-10-02-232	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Legal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	
2-63-10-02-511	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Stationery Supplies	123	123	0	0	0	0	90	90	0	100	100	0	Day timers for ASB
2-63-10-02-515	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - CATERED OR PREPARED FOODS	964	964	0	635	635	0	690	690	0	1,150	1,150	0	10 meetings @ \$150 per meal
2-63-10-02-517	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Safety Supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	
2-63-10-02-519	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Other General Goods & Supplies	-132	-132	0	913	913	0	479	479	0	500	500	0	shelterbelt trees (cost recovered from purchasers)
2-63-10-02-521	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Gas, Oil, Lubricants, Antifreeze	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	
2-63-10-02-523	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Equipment, Machine and Vehicle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	
2-63-10-02-524	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Consumable Tools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	
2-63-10-02-771	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Grants	500	500	0	600	600	0	9,600	9,600	0	11,000	11,000	0	4H Club Sale \$600, vet bursary 10,000 Farm Womens conference \$300+100 other Note 2017 last year for vet bursary!
2-63-10-02-793	Ag Svc - Improvement - General - Amortization - Machinery & Eq	859	859	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	CSM to complete
2-63-10-10-11*	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Wages	30,719	30,719	0	14,816	14,816	0	44,461	44,461	0	39,154	39,154	0	Rental Equipment position 8 mths AG112(09/08/14) (IF 1 yr ad \$16K)
2-63-10-10-13*	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Employer Contributions	10,331	10,331	0	8,556	8,556	0	280	280	0	28,000	28,000	0	Rental Equipment position
2-63-10-10-215	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Freight & Postage	2,216	2,216	0	2,262	2,262	0	88	88	0	5,000	5,000	0	
2-63-10-10-221	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Advertising & Promotion	617	617	0	194	194	0	594	594	0	-	-	0	
2-63-10-10-222	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Printing & Binding	847	847	0	376	376	0	127	127	0	-	-	0	
		0	0	0	585	585	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	

Clear Hills County
2017 Draft Operating Budget

Expenditure Account	FUNCTION	2014		2015		2016		2017		2017 Notes:
		Actual 12/31/14	Actual 12/31/15	Actual 6/30/16	Budget	Budget	Budget			
2-63-10-10-239	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Other Professional Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-10-242	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Building Chargeback Chargeback	0	0	0	0	0	0	93	0	CSM to complete
2-63-10-10-243	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Equipment Chargeback	11,510	5,587	7,821	20,589	20,589	20,589	0	0	CSM to complete
2-63-10-10-253	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Equipment R&M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-10-271	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Licenses & Permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	0	
2-63-10-10-274	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Insurance	7	37	267	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-10-511	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Stationary Supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-10-513	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Janitorial Supplies	0	0	46	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-10-519	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Other General Goods & Supplies	3,480	0	6,243	4,100	4,100	4,100	0	100	
2-63-10-10-521	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Gas, Oil & Lubricants	23	0	49	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-10-522	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Tires, Batteries and Accessories	0	243	0	0	0	0	300	0	
2-63-10-10-523	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Equipment, Machine and Vehicle	7,669	86	0	6,200	6,200	6,200	0	0	
2-63-10-10-524	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Consumable Tools	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-10-529	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Other Equipment, Machines and	213	0	0	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0	
2-63-10-10-771	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-10-771	Ag Svc - Improv - Rental Equip - Amor Exp - Mach & Equip	8,597	0	0	6,542	6,542	6,542	0	0	CSM to complete
2-63-10-10-793	Ag Svc - Improvement - Rental Equipment	45,512	17,938	15,515	72,088	72,088	72,088	33,100	33,100	
2-63-10-20-11*	Ag Svc - Improvement - Public - Wages	456	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-20-13*	Ag Svc - Improvement - Public - Employer Contributions	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-20-211	Ag Svc - Improvement - Public - Travel & Subsistence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-20-214	Ag Svc - Improvement - Public - Membership & Conference Fees	227	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-20-215	Ag Svc - Improvement - Public - Freight & Postage	318	0	0	50	50	50	0	0	
2-63-10-20-219	Ag Svc - Improvement - Public - Hospitality	0	0	0	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0	1200 bussing & weiner roast - fish release +\$100 for 1 extension event
2-63-10-20-221	Ag Svc - Improvement - Public - Advertising & Promotion	850	500	0	850	850	850	150	150	Farm Safety Poster prizes
2-63-10-20-223	Ag Svc - Improvement - Public - Subscriptions & Publications	5,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-20-224	Ag Svc - Improvement - Public - Municipal Membership	0	260	767	0	0	0	0	500	Alberta Farm Animal Care Membership (FSU4K disbanded)
2-63-10-20-229	Ag Svc - Improvement - Public - Other Information Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-20-235	Ag Svc - Improvement - Public - Consultants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-20-239	Ag Svc - Improvement - Public - Other Professional Services	1,142	938	0	272	272	272	0	882	Farm Safety Alberta based on previous year #'s 125588
2-63-10-20-262	Ag Svc - Improvement - Public - Building Rental	5,000	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	10,000	PCBFA extension projects outside Env Stream Program
2-63-10-20-355	Ag Svc - Improvement - Public - Bulk Foods	217	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-20-514	Ag Svc - Improvement - Public - Awareness Group	5	0	102	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	1,000	Farm Family Award sign & plaque
2-63-10-20-519	Ag Svc - Improvement - Public - Other General Goods & Supplies	3,123	475	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2-63-10-20-532	Ag Svc - Improvement - Public - Awareness Group	16,872	12,173	869	14,232	14,232	14,232	13,832	13,832	
2-63-10-30-11*	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Wages	12,326	13,671	18,842	14,000	14,000	14,000	20,000	20,000	
2-63-10-30-13*	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Employer Contributions	1,993	3,715	4,395	1,120	1,120	1,120	4,400	4,400	
2-63-10-30-148	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Training & Education	390	0	0	200	200	200	200	200	Food Safe Training

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Expenditure Account	FUNCTION	2014			2015			2016			2017		2017 Notes:
		Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance	Budget		
2-63-10-30-159	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Other Fees for Service	12/31/14	0	0	12/31/15	300	0	6/30/16	420	300	10,000		
2-63-10-30-211	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Travel & Subsistence	0	450	0	1,175	750	1,691	1,691	1,691	300	1,700	Farm Safety Barn Assistance (PCBEA) Rooms & travel costs for entertainment & meals paid by staff	
2-63-10-30-215	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Freight & Postage	0	0	0	1,592	1,500	1,274	1,274	1,500	1,500	1,500	may get a portion back from Alberta Tourism grant	
2-63-10-30-217	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Telephone	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	-		
2-63-10-30-219	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Hospitality	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	-		
2-63-10-30-221	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Advertising & Promotion	14,410	0	14,410	14,379	14,500	9,275	9,275	14,500	10,000	10,000	reduced due to cutback in Alberta Tourism funding	
2-63-10-30-223	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Subscriptions & Publications	0	0	0	39	-	0	0	0	-	-		
2-63-10-30-239	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Other Professional Services	26,147	0	26,147	23,725	24,000	21,475	21,475	24,000	24,000	24,000	entertainer/helpinghands/draping/bouncers/wagorides/clown/sound equip rent	
2-63-10-30-245	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Vehicle Chargebacks	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	-	CSM to complete	
2-63-10-30-253	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	-		
2-63-10-30-255	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	-		
2-63-10-30-262	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Building Rental	8,230	0	8,230	0	5,200	5,250	5,250	5,200	5,250	5,250	1 week rent for entire facility based on 2016 actual	
2-63-10-30-263	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Equipment & Furniture Rent	0	0	0	0	260	260	260	260	-	-		
2-63-10-30-271	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Licenses & Permits	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	-		
2-63-10-30-272	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Damage Claims	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	-		
2-63-10-30-279	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Other Miscellaneous Services	44	0	44	0	50	0	0	0	50	20	replenish "tub-of-stuff"	
2-63-10-30-511	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Stationery Supplies	19	0	19	12	20	0	0	0	20	20	Helping Hands T-shirts	
2-63-10-30-512	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Clothing & Footwear	572	0	572	0	600	0	0	600	350	350	sweeping compound, etc.	
2-63-10-30-513	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Janitorial Supplies	126	0	126	45	50	11	11	50	50	50	breakfast & donuts based on 2016 actual	
2-63-10-30-514	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Consumable & Bulk Foods	1,595	0	1,595	1,759	1,800	1,995	1,995	1,800	2,000	2,000	banquet 225x\$25 + meals for 20 staff & helping hands \$500	
2-63-10-30-515	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Catered or Prepared Foods	4,959	0	4,959	5,332	6,125	4,429	4,429	6,125	6,125	6,125	ornamentals from Ruby's (she donates some) door prizes, ribbons, etc.	
2-63-10-30-517	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Safety Supplies	0	0	0	421	-	0	0	0	-	-		
2-63-10-30-519	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - General Supplies	2,462	0	2,462	2,809	3,000	4,464	4,464	3,000	4,500	4,500	ornamentals from Ruby's (she donates some) door prizes, ribbons, etc.	
2-63-10-30-521	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Fuel	0	0	0	85	-	0	0	0	-	-		
2-63-10-30-523	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Equipment, Machines & Vehicle Par	155	0	155	0	130	0	0	130	200	200	paint, etc.	
2-63-10-30-524	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Consumable Tools	38	0	38	177	0	0	0	0	200	200	update tradeshow signage	
2-63-10-30-529	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Other Construction & Maint Mater	0	0	0	450	500	617	617	500	500	500	booth refunds	
2-63-10-30-538	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Signage	1,274	0	1,274	0	-	0	0	-	-	-	CSM to complete	
2-63-10-30-539	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Other Constr & Maintenance Mater	0	0	0	0	500	0	0	500	500	500	booth refunds	
2-63-10-30-560	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Exhibitors	500	0	500	188	-	0	0	-	-	-	CSM to complete	
2-63-10-30-795	Ag Svc - Improv - Tradeshow - Amort Exp - Vehicles	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	-	-	-		
2-63-10-40-215	Ag Svc - Improvement - V.S.I. - Freight & Postage	75,691	0	75,691	69,871	74,415	74,520	74,520	74,415	81,545	81,545		
2-63-10-40-224	Ag Svc - Improvement - V.S.I. - Municipal Membership	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	-	-	-		
2-63-10-40-239	Ag Svc - Improvement - V.S.I. - Other Professional Services	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	-	-	-		
2-63-10-40-335	Ag Svc - Improvement - V.S.I. - Other Municipal agencies	33,100	0	33,100	31,800	43,900	43,900	43,900	43,900	43,900	43,900		
2-63-10-40-771	Ag Svc - Improvement - V.S.I. - Grants	0	0	0	0	-	1,375	1,375	-	3,000	3,000	BSE Testing \$125 each Policy 6314 new 2016	

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Expenditure Account	FUNCTION	2014		2015		2016		2017 Budget	2017 Notes:
		Actual 12/31/14	Actual 12/31/15	Actual 6/30/16	Budget	Budget			
	Ag Svc - Improvement - V.S.I.	33,100	31,800	45,275	43,900	46,900			
2-63-10-50-112	Ag Svc - Improvement - Demos - Seasonal	592	0	0	0	0			
2-63-10-50-132	Ag Svc - Improvement - Demos - C.P.P.	28	0	0	0	0			
2-63-10-50-133	Ag Svc - Improvement - Demos - E.I.	16	0	0	0	0			
2-63-10-50-211	Ag Svc - Improvement - Demos - Travel & Subsistence	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-10-50-215	Ag Svc - Improvement - Demos - Freight & Postage	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-10-50-219	Ag Svc - Improvement - Demos - Hospitality	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-10-50-221	Ag Svc - Improvement - Demos - Advertising & Promotion	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-10-50-235	Ag Svc - Improvement - Demos - Consultants	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-10-50-239	Ag Svc - Improvement - Demos - Other Professional Services	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-10-50-262	Ag Svc - Improvement - Demos - Building Rental	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-10-50-263	Ag Svc - Improvement - Demos - Equipment & Furniture Rental	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-10-50-511	Ag Svc - Improvement - Demos - Stationery Supplies	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-10-50-517	Ag Svc - Improvement - Demos - Safety Supplies	0	759	0	0	0			
2-63-10-50-524	Ag Svc - Improvement - Demos - Consumable Tools	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-10-50-532	Ag Svc - Improvement - Demos - Grounds	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-10-50-771	Ag Svc - Improvement - Demos - Grants	0	0	0	0	0			
	Ag Svc - Improvement - Demos	636	759	-	-	-			
	Ag Svc - Improvement	202,530	147,357	180,640	243,293	214,531			
2-63-20-02-11*	Ag Svc - A.E.S.A. - Wages	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-20-02-13*	Ag Svc - A.E.S.A. - Employer Contributions	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-20-02-159	Ag Svc - A.E.S.A. - Other Fees for Service	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-20-02-211	Ag Svc - A.E.S.A. - Travel & Subsistence	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-20-02-215	Ag Svc - A.E.S.A. - Freight & Postage	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-20-02-219	Ag Svc - A.E.S.A. - Hospitality	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-20-02-351	Ag Svc - A.E.S.A. - Other local governments	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-20-02-355	Ag Svc - A.E.S.A. - Other municipal agencies	64,500	64,500	64,500	67,500	67,500		2017-2020 pending Provincial approval for new grant cycle	
2-63-20-02-771	Ag Svc - A.E.S.A. - Grants	0	0	0	0	0			
	Ag Svc - A.E.S.A.	64,500	64,500	64,500	67,500	67,500			
2-63-30-10-11*	Ag Svc - Control - Crop Disease - Wages	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-30-10-13*	Ag Svc - Control - Crop Disease - Employer Contributions	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-30-10-215	Ag Svc - Control - Crop Disease - Freight & Postage	0	0	0	0	0			
2-63-30-10-239	Ag Svc - Control - Crop Disease - Other Professional Services	0	0	80	175	175		fusarium testing	
2-63-30-10-279	Ag Svc - Control - Crop Disease - Other Misc. Services	0	80	0	0	0			
2-63-30-10-519	Ag Svc - Control - Crop Disease - Other General Supplies	175	0	0	0	0			

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Account	FUNCTION	2014			2015			2016			2017		2017 Notes:
		Actual 12/31/14	Budget	Variance	Actual 12/31/15	Budget	Variance	Actual 6/30/16	Budget	Variance	Budget	Budget	
2-63-30-10-524	Ag Svc - Control - Crop Disease - Consumable Tools	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-10-531	Ag Svc - Control - Crop Disease - Chemicals & Salt	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-20-11*	Ag Svc - Control - Crop Disease	175	175	0	80	175	80	175	175	0	-		
2-63-30-20-13*	Ag Svc - Control - Livestock Predation - Wages	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-20-148	Ag Svc - Control - Livestock Predation - Employer Contributions	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	500	500	-		
2-63-30-20-211	Ag Svc - Control - Livestock Predation - Training & Education	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	1,200	1,200	600	new AF Form 7 training (no fee for course, only room & some meals)	
2-63-30-20-221	Ag Svc - Control - Livestock Predation - Advertising & Promotion	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-20-232	Ag Svc - Control - Livestock Predation - Legal	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-20-239	Ag Svc - Control - Livestock Predation - Other Professional Service	15,000	30,000	15,000	5,250	30,000	40,610	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	Wolf Policy 6307 + Coyote Policy 6308 based on 2016 YTD	
2-63-30-20-511	Ag Svc - Control - Livestock Predation - Stationery Supplies	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-20-519	Ag Svc - Control - Livestock Predation - Other General Goods & S	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-20-529	Ag Svc - Control - Livestock Predation - Other Equip, Veh & Mach	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-30-11*	Ag Svc - Control - Livestock Predation	15,000	31,700	15,000	5,250	31,700	40,610	60,600	60,600	60,600	60,600		
2-63-30-30-13*	Ag Svc - Control - Beaver - Wages	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-30-13*	Ag Svc - Control - Beaver - Employer Contributions	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-30-219	Ag Svc - Control - Beaver - Hospitality	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-30-239	Ag Svc - Control - Beaver - Other Professional Services	5,640	7,500	5,640	17,340	7,500	6,570	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	Beaver Control Policy 3234 based on 2016 YTD	
2-63-30-30-251	Ag Svc - Control - Beaver - Repair/Maint Infrastructure	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-30-279	Ag Svc - Control - Beaver - Other Miscellaneous Services	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-30-519	Ag Svc - Control - Beaver - Other General Goods & Supplies	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-30-537	Ag Svc - Control - Beaver - Culverts	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-30-539	Ag Svc - Control - Beaver - Other Construction and Maintenance	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-40-11*	Ag Svc - Control - Beaver	5,640	7,500	5,640	17,340	7,500	6,570	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000		
2-63-30-40-13*	Ag Svc - Pest Control - Insect Control - Wages	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-40-13*	Ag Svc - Pest Control - Insect Control - Employer Contributions	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-40-214	Ag Svc - Pest Control - Insect Control - Conference fee	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-30-40-531	Ag Svc - Pest Control - Insect Control - Chemicals & Salt	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-40-02-11*	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Wages	348	9,600	348	0	9,600	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-40-02-13*	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Employer Contributions	26	1,075	26	0	1,075	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-40-02-148	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Training & Education	60	214	60	0	214	0	250	250	250	250	authorized assistant training	
2-63-40-02-211	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Travel & Subistence	0	100	0	0	100	0	210	210	210	210		
2-63-40-02-214	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Individual Memberships	0	-	0	500	-	700	-	825	825	825	Weed & Spray Crew workshops	
2-63-40-02-215	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Freight & Postage	0	-	0	47	-	90	-	90	90	90	freight on course materials	
2-63-40-02-217	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Telephone	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-		
2-63-40-02-221	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Advertising & Promotion	0	-	0	521	-	0	-	500	500	500	employment ads	
2-63-40-02-223	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Subscriptions & Publica	0	300	0	0	300	0	300	300	300	300	weed and pest inspection books & course manuals	

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Expenditure Account	FUNCTION	2014		2015		2016		2017		2017 Notes:
		Actual 12/31/14	Actual 12/31/15	Actual 6/30/16	Budget	Actual 6/30/16	Budget	Budget		
2-63-40-02-239	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Other Professional Serv	400	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	10,000		
2-63-40-02-243	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Equipment Chargeback	2,855	1,289	184	3,889	184	3,889	3,889		incinerate weeds & contract spraying entire r-o-w some roads \$40/mile CSM to complete
2-63-40-02-263	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Equipment & Furniture R	0	0	0	2,000	0	2,000	2,000		
2-63-40-02-512	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Clothing and Footwear	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-02-515	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Catered & Prepared Foc	0	0	76	0	76	0	0		
2-63-40-02-517	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Safety Supplies	0	0	1,224	250	1,224	250	1,500		replenish PPE, hand cleaner, etc.
2-63-40-02-518	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Furniture, ADP & Comm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-02-519	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Other General Goods &	0	0	150	0	150	0	150		
2-63-40-02-523	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Equip, Mach & Veh Part	530	410	2,880	0	2,880	0	0		
2-63-40-02-524	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Consumable Tools	0	145	0	1,000	0	1,000	0		
2-63-40-02-529	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Other Supplies	1,367	74	488	30,000	488	30,000	30,000		\$70-\$100 per hectare sprayed
2-63-40-02-531	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Chemicals and Salts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-02-541	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-02-762	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-02-764	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - To Operating Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-02-814	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General - Charges, Penalties and	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-10-11*	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - General	5,586	2,987	8,429	58,814	8,429	58,814	43,825		
2-63-40-10-11*	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Brush - Wages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-10-13*	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Brush - Employer Contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-10-243	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Brush - Equipment Chargebacks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		CSM to complete
2-63-40-10-523	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Brush - Equipment, Machine & Vel	14	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-10-531	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Brush - Chemicals and Salts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-10-539	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Brush - Other Construction and Ma	417	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-30-11*	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Brush	431	-	-	-	-	-	-		
2-63-40-30-11*	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Shoulder - Wages	6,847	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-30-13*	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Shoulder - Employer Contributions	507	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-30-215	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Shoulder - Freight & Postage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-30-217	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Shoulder - Telephone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-30-239	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Shoulder - Other Professional Ser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-30-243	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Shoulder - Equipment Chargeback	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		CSM to complete
2-63-40-30-517	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Shoulder - Safety supplies	528	1,967	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-30-519	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Shoulder - Other General Goods &	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-30-523	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Shoulder - Equipment, Machine ar	0	1,840	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-30-524	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Shoulder - Consumable Tools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2-63-40-30-531	Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Shoulder - Chemicals & Salts	4,788	11,666	6	0	6	0	0		
Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation - Shoulder		12,671	15,472	6	0	6	0	0		
Ag Svc - Control - Vegetation		18,688	18,459	8,435	58,814	8,435	58,814	43,825		

Clear Hills County
2017 Draft Operating Budget

Account	FUNCTION	2014			2015			2016			2017			2017 Notes:
		Actual 12/31/14	Budget	Variance	Actual 12/31/15	Budget	Variance	Actual 6/30/16	Budget	Variance	Budget	Budget		
2-63-50-02-11*	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Wages	148			390		2,335		43,921		43,921		budget here, code to actual	
2-63-50-02-13*	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Employer Contributions	11			29		242		5,074		5,074			
2-63-50-02-148	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Training & Education	0			1,380		1,985		1,500		2,000		H2S & First Aid Training & other as available	
2-63-50-02-211	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Travel & Subsistence	111			0		0		115		115			
2-63-50-02-214	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Individual Memberships	500			0		0		500		-		budgeted under Veg - General instead	
2-63-50-02-215	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Freight & Postage	45			79		45		250		50			
2-63-50-02-216	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Internet	0			0		0		-		-			
2-63-50-02-217	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Telephone	2,000			2,008		1,693		3,000		3,200		passed on 2016 YTD	
2-63-50-02-219	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Hospitality	0			0		0		-		-			
2-63-50-02-221	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Advertising & Promotion	424			127		110		250		-		budgeted under Veg Control General	
2-63-50-02-223	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Subscriptions & Publication	165			0		160		-		-			
2-63-50-02-239	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Other Professional Serv	7,094			348		600		11,000		-			
2-63-50-02-245	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Vehicle Changeback	-68			0		0		9,864		-		CSM to complete	
2-63-50-02-265	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Vehicle Rental	0			0		0		-		-			
2-63-50-02-274	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Insurance	0			0		0		-		-			
2-63-50-02-511	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Stationery Supplies	0			0		0		-		-			
2-63-50-02-514	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Consumable & Bulk Food	0			0		0		-		-			
2-63-50-02-515	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Catered & Prepared Food	72			0		379		-		-			
2-63-50-02-517	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Safety Supplies	0			469		229		-		-			
2-63-50-02-519	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Other General Goods &	150			1,640		0		4,000		4,000		1 Weed Inspector tablet (for 6th WI)	
2-63-50-02-522	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Gas, Oil, Lubricants, Ant	0			0		0		-		-			
2-63-50-02-524	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Tires, Batteries & Access	357			0		138		-		-			
2-63-50-02-529	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Consumable Tools	22			102		0		-		-			
2-63-50-02-531	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Other Equipment, Machi	23			3,399		3,812		-		5,000		skid mount + replace hose reels & hose on 4-5 units	
2-63-50-02-762	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Chemicals & salt	5,538			0		0		-		-			
2-63-50-02-795	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - To Capital Programs	0			0		0		-		-			
	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - General - Amort Exp - Vehicles	0			0		0		-		-		CSM to complete	
2-63-50-20-11*	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - White Zone - Wages	16,593			10,070		11,843		79,474		63,360			
2-63-50-20-13*	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - White Zone - Employer Contributio	24,363			5,558		16,982		-		-		budgeted General, coded Actual	
2-63-50-20-211	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - White Zone - Travel & Subsisten	1,809			448		1,470		-		-		budgeted General, coded Actual	
2-63-50-20-217	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - White Zone - Telephone	0			0		0		-		-			
2-63-50-20-239	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - White Zone - Other Contracted Se	0			0		0		-		-			
2-63-50-20-517	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - White Zone - Safety Supplies	0			0		0		-		-			
2-63-50-20-519	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - White Zone - Other General Good	0			0		0		-		-			
2-63-50-20-523	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - White Zone - Equipment, Machine	0			0		0		-		-			

Clear Hills County
2017 Draft Operating Budget

Expenditure Account	FUNCTION	2014		2015		2016		2017		2017 Notes:
		Actual 12/31/14	Actual 12/31/15	Actual 12/31/15	Actual 6/30/16	Budget	Actual 6/30/16	Budget	Budget	
2-63-50-20-524	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - White Zone - Consumable Tools	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	
2-63-50-20-529	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - White Zone - Other Equip, Machin	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	
2-63-50-20-531	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - White Zone - Chemicals and Salts	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	
2-63-50-30-11*	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - White Zone	26,172	6,006	18,422	18,422	-	-	-	-	
2-63-50-30-13*	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - Green Zone - Wages	441	0	2,418	2,418	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	2 Greenzone Inspectors
2-63-50-30-211	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - Green Zone - Travel & Substanc	32	0	247	247	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	
2-63-50-30-239	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - Green Zone - Other Professional S	0	0	998	998	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	Chinchaga inspections 1 overnight per week 12 weeks x 300
2-63-50-30-263	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - Green Zone - Equipment & Furnitu	0	0	0	0	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	\$75000Spray km 40-100 w Tordon 101 SC & T \$40/m, \$2500 Ortho for g
2-63-50-30-265	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - Green Zone - Vehicle Rental	0	0	0	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
2-63-50-30-514	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - Green Zone - Consumable & Bulk	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	
2-63-50-30-515	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - Green Zone - Catered or Prepared	0	0	325	325	-	-	-	-	1,000 meals when in Chinchaga area
2-63-50-30-517	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - Green Zone - Safety Supplies	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	
2-63-50-30-521	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - Green Zone - Gas, Oil, Lubricants	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	
2-63-50-30-524	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - Green Zone - Consumable Tools	473	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	
	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Insp - Green Zone	43,237	16,076	34,254	34,254	34,500	34,500	34,500	39,900	
	Ag Svc - Control - Weed Inspection	82,740	57,205	89,949	89,949	113,974	113,974	103,260	103,260	
	Ag Svc - Control	619,886	345,072	468,287	468,287	830,588	830,588	657,926	657,926	
	Agricultural Services									

2017 Agricultural Services Budget Prep Notes

Prepared October 12, 2016
For October 17, 2016 ASB Meeting

Revenue:

- 1-63-10-00-840 ASB Grant Agreement \$228,000 Legislative stream funding \$168,000+Basic Env. Stream Funding agreement \$60,000 (basing 2017 on 2016 actuals as at time of draft budget prep 2017-2019 was not finalized and approved by province yet).
- 1-63-10-00-560 Rental Equipment Revenue \$17,000 (based on YTD 2016 \$)
- Urban Weed Control agreement with VoHC (cost recovery) \$3,000
- 1-63-10-30-411 to 860 Tradeshow \$37,000: \$725 Breakfast +3,000 banquet+14,750 exhibitors+18,400 sponsorship (based on 2016 actuals)
- Weed Control Enforcement \$5,000 (cost recovery)
- VSI membership \$1,300 – new & renewals (based on YTD 2016\$)

Expenses: 2017 Ag. Operating

Training – staff

CDC 1 courses - \$1000 each

AF 2 courses \$800 each

- 63-10-02-771 Veterinary Bursary \$10,000 C350-12(06/12/12) \$10,000 annually to 34d or 4th year and licensed vets who agree to work in the North Peace animal Hospital in Fairview and provide large animal vet services for 5 years (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)
- 63-10-10 Rental Equipment position – laborer Carrying over from 2015, still seeking to fill in 2016
 - \$28,000+ \$5000 9 months (Could increase an additional \$16K+ contributions if made year round)
 - (March 1 – October 31) 8 hrs/day x 18-22 per hour (WI-Equip Op range)
 - Day to day inspection, walk through with renters, greasing, minor repairs, lining up major repairs
 - Compound & shop day to day cleanup & routine maintenance
 - Pruning/mowing around office building in summer
 - Help with facilities maintenance
 - Tradeshow
 - Sprayer loading ramp/roofs over piles/Shelving for parts/rental equipment shed...
 - Other costs – vehicle available for use if needed to run for parts, etc. during work day (would not be assigned a unit.
- 63-10-20-239 Farm Safety Centre – annual requisition is based on number of children who received in-class farm safety presentations during the previous school year *Oct 12 email 353 x 3.50 = 1235.50*
- 63-10-30-239 Tradeshow_ \$24,000 Clown 450 Banquet entertainment 3000 TS direct 13,600 Helping Hands – 4H 750 HC Grads 500 Worsley G11 300 Security (HCVFD) 500 Parking supervision (WVFD) 500 Wagon rides \$1500 Farm Safety supervision 150 Non-payroll helping hands (3) \$750 Senior Boys unload/reload \$1000 Soundman/DJ 1000
- 63-10-40-355 \$43,900 - VSI increase in fees 12.5% higher 2016 and on.
- 63-10-40-771 \$3,000 – BSE Testing Policy 6314 \$125/animal. 2017 based on 2016 YTD prorated
- 2-63-30-30-239: \$10,000 Beaver Control Policy 3234 based on 2016 YTD prorated

- 2-63-40-02-239 \$10,000 – Incinerate weed bags tipping fees \$400 + time of employee to haul weeds to Clairmont landfill., balance contract spraying r-o-w on some roads
- 2-63-50-02-519 \$4,000 – 1 tablet for 6th Weed Inspector
- 2-63-50-02-529 \$5,000 – 1 new skid mount + replace hose reels & hose on 4-5 units
- 2-63-50-30-***\$ 32,000 Green Zone Weed Inspection 2 Green Zone inspectors + 2 units+ subsistence + courses+ (tablets, software) and data plans. See item above
- 2-63-50-30-239 \$10,000 - \$7500 spray km 40-100 on Chin road w Tordon 101 – Scentless, Toadflax and lots of sweet clover + \$2500 ortho as needed as well as any MRF program improvements specific to greenzone activities
- **Capital - \$30,000** to Reserve (reduced from \$70,000 C404-15(08/18/15) Below the line item, so doesn't show up in expenses.

Current Capital Plan – New PTO Water Pump 2020 \$25,000.

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	October 17, 2016
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	Glyphosate Tolerant Wheat
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

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.

OPTIONS:

ATTACHMENTS:

- Health and Trade Impacts of Introducing GM HT Wheat.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion around the health and trade impacts of Glyphosate Tolerant Wheat.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:

ABj

AgFieldman:

AC

Health and Trade Impacts of Introducing GM HT Wheat

There is not a lot of research completed on this topic, as the potential crop is relatively new. Comparisons can be made from other crops in Canada, such as GM HT canola, soybean and maize.

Excerpt from: *GM crops: global socio-economic and environmental impacts 1996-2013*
Graham Brookes & Peter Barfoot
PG Economics Ltd, UK

3.5.1 Canada

Canada was the first country to commercially use GM HT canola in 1996. Since then the area planted to varieties containing GM HT traits has increased significantly, and in 2013 was 95% of the total crop (7.44 million ha of GM HT crop).

The farm level impact of using GM HT canola in Canada since 1996 is summarised in Table 20. The key features are as follows:

- The primary impact in the early years of adoption was increased yields of almost 11% (eg, in 2002 this yield increase was equivalent to an increase in total Canadian canola production of nearly 7%). In addition, a small additional price premia was achieved from crushers through supplying cleaner crops (lower levels of weed impurities). With the development of hybrid varieties using conventional technology, the yield advantage of GM HT canola relative to conventional alternatives⁴⁴ has been eroded. As a result, our analysis has applied the yield advantage of +10.7%, associated with the GM HT technology in its early years of adoption (source: Canola Council study of 2001), to 2003. From 2004 the yield gain has been based on differences between average annual variety trial results for 'Clearfield' (conventional herbicide tolerant varieties) and biotech alternatives (see notes to table for details). The biotech alternatives have also been differentiated into glyphosate tolerant and glufosinate tolerant. The quality premia associated with cleaner crops (see above) has not been included in the analysis from 2004;
- Cost of production (excluding the cost of the technology) has fallen, mainly through reduced expenditure on herbicides and some savings in fuel and labour. These savings have annually been between about \$25/ha and \$43/ha. The cost of the technology to 2003 was, however, marginally higher than these savings resulting in a net increase in costs of \$3/ha to \$5/ha. On the basis of comparing GM HT canola with 'Clearfield' HT canola (from 2004), there has been a net cost saving of about \$14/ha and \$32/ha;
- The overall impact on profitability (inclusive of yield improvements and higher quality) has been an increase of between \$22/ha and \$48/ha, up to 2003. On the basis of comparing GM HT canola with 'Clearfield' HT canola (from 2004), the net increase in profitability has been between \$23/ha and \$74/ha;
- The annual total national farm income benefit from using the technology has risen from \$6 million in 1996 to \$546 million in 2013. The cumulative farm income benefit over the 1996-2013 period (in nominal terms) was \$3.91 billion;
- In added value terms, the increase in farm income in 2013 has been equivalent to an annual increase in production of 6.3%.

⁴⁴ The main one of which is 'Clearfield' conventionally derived herbicide tolerant varieties. Also hybrid canola now accounts for the majority of plantings (including some GM hybrids) with the hybrid vigour delivered by conventional breeding techniques (even in the GM HT (to glyphosate) varieties)

Table 20: Farm level income impact of using GM HT canola in Canada 1996-2013 Year

	Cost savings (\$/ha)	Cost savings inclusive of cost of technology (\$/ha)	Net cost saving/increase in gross margins (\$/ha)	Increase in farm income at a national level (\$ millions)	Increase in national farm income as % of farm level value of national production
1996	28.59	-4.13	45.11	6.23	0.4
1997	28.08	-4.05	37.11	21.69	1.17
1998	26.21	-3.78	36.93	70.18	3.43
1999	26.32	-3.79	30.63	90.33	5.09
2000	26.32	-3.79	22.42	59.91	5.08
2001	25.15	-1.62	23.10	53.34	5.69
2002	24.84	-3.59	29.63	61.86	6.17
2003	28.04	-4.05	41.42	132.08	6.69
2004	21.42	+4.44	19.09	70.72	4.48
2005	23.11	+4.50	32.90	148.12	6.56
2006	34.02	+16.93	50.71	233.13	8.09
2007	35.44	+17.46	66.39	341.44	7.54
2008	40.59	+22.45	69.82	389.94	6.86
2009	33.29	+13.52	55.40	321.42	6.95
2010	40.94	+22.78	78.46	475.34	6.70
2011	51.65	+32.76	65.81	457.24	5.55
2012	47.52	+28.80	55.84	445.85	5.84
2013	24.55	+5.78	73.34	546.01	6.30

3.12 Trade flows and related issues

a) Share of global exports

Looking at the extent to which the leading GM producing countries are traders (exporters) of these crops and key derivatives (Table 36 and Table 37) show the following:

- *Soybeans:* in 2013/14, 40% of global production was exported and 95% of this trade came from countries which grow GM HT soybeans. As there has been some development of a market for certified conventional soybeans and derivatives (mostly in the EU, Japan and South Korea), this has necessitated some segregation of (certified) non GM /conventional exports from supplies that may contain GM origin material, or sourcing from countries where GM HT soybeans are not grown. Based on estimates of the size of the certified non GM/conventional soy markets in the EU and SE Asia (the main markets)⁶⁶, between 3% and 4% of global trade in soybeans is probably required to be certified as conventional. A similar pattern occurs in soymeal, where 87% of globally traded meal probably contains GM material;
- *Maize:* 13% of global production was internationally traded in 2013/14⁶⁷. Within the leading exporting nations, the GM maize growers of the US, Argentina, Brazil, South Africa and Canada are important players (% of global trade). As there has been some limited development of a distinct market which requires certified conventional maize (mostly in the EU, Japan and South Korea), this has necessitated some segregation of exports into GM versus certified conventional supplies. The likely share of global trade accounted for by GM maize exports is about 70%;
- *Cotton:* in 2013/14, 34% of global production was traded internationally. Of the leading exporting nations, the GM cotton growing countries of the US, Australia, India, Pakistan, Brazil and Burkina Faso are prominent exporters accounting for 70% of global trade. Given that the market for certified

conventional cotton is very small, virtually all of this share of global cotton trade from GM cotton growing countries is probably not subject to any form of segregation and hence may contain GM derived material⁶⁶. In terms of cottonseed meal the GM share of global trade is 45%;

- *Canola*: 21% of global canola production in 2013/14 was exported, with Canada being the main global trading country. The share of global canola exports accounted for by the three GM HT canola producing countries (Canada, the US and Australia) was 83% in 2013/14. As there has been only a very small development of a market for certified conventional canola globally (the EU, the main market where certified conventional products are required, has been largely self sufficient in canola and does not currently grow GM canola), non segregated GM exports probably account for 82% of global trade. For canola/rapemeal, the GM share of global trade is about 60%.

⁶⁶Brookes (2008b) and updated from industry sources and own research

⁶⁷Maize is an important subsistence crop in many parts of the world and hence the majority of production is consumed within the country of production

⁶⁸We consider this to be a reasonable assumption; we are not aware of any significant development of a certified conventional versus biotech cotton market and hence there is little evidence of any active segregation of exports

Table 36: Share of global crop trade accounted for GM production 2013/14 (million tonnes)

	Soybeans	Maize	Cotton	Canola
Global production	283.7	987.7	26.2	71.1
Global trade (exports)	112.8	129.6	8.9	15.1
Share of global trade from GM producers	107.4 (95.2%)	90.3 (69.7%)	6.2 (70%)	12.5 (83%)
Estimated size of market requiring certified conventional (in countries that have import requirements)	3.0-4.0	7.5	Negligible	0.1
Estimated share of global trade that may contain GM (ie, not required to be segregated)	108.8-109.8	82.8-122.1	6.2	12.4-12.5
Share of global trade that may be GM	96.4% to 97.3%	64%-94%	70%	82% to 83%

Canadian Grain Commission
Canadian Grain Exports from Licensed facilities - Crop Years
'000 metric tonnes

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Wheat	10,607	14,024	11,851	14,061	13,924	12,217	13,340	14,270	17,323	17,682
Canola	5,309	5,466	5,594	7,842	7,245	7,032	8,580	7,165	8,628	8,898
Amber Durum	4,226	4,432	3,129	3,590	3,776	3,367	3,569	4,244	4,825	4,606
Soybeans	832	1,029	1,009	1,236	1,197	2,035	1,964	2,551	2,406	2,424
Peas	1,999	1,493	1,636	1,876	1,585	2,461	1,606	1,939	1,848	2,211
Barley	2,228	1,177	2,942	1,505	1,328	1,287	1,181	1,250	1,407	1,444
Oat	1,126	1,552	1,965	1,510	852	1,013	1,196	1,026	1,009	1,022
Lentil	62	4	-	34	53	219	189	232	440	514
Flax	441	580	545	530	618	327	257	332	381	451
Corn	164	193	577	146	33	1,264	74	605	1,760	271
Canaryseed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47
Rye	69	124	92	29	91	134	100	90	64	32
Mustard Seed	26	14	17	12	15	4	4	2	10	23
Mixed Grain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Beans	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	10	13
Chick Peas	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	2	5	6
Sunflower	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Triticale	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	2	2
Faba bean	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	1	1
Pea Beans	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	27,088	30,087	29,356	32,371	30,716	31,368	32,063	33,711	40,118	39,671

An abstract I found revolved around the potential use of glyphosate as an inhibitor to progressing breast cancer. The study is small (10 cancer cell lines), and apparently lack adequate controls, but the results showed inhibition to cancer growth cells.

Glyphosate and AMPA inhibit cancer cell growth through inhibiting intracellular glycine synthesis.

Li Q1, Lambrechts MJ, Zhang Q, Liu S, Ge D, Yin R, Xi M, You Z.

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Departments of Structural and Cellular Biology and Orthopaedic Surgery, Tulane Cancer Center and Louisiana Cancer Research Consortium, Tulane University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA 70112, USA.

Abstract:

Glycine is a nonessential amino acid that is reversibly converted from serine intracellularly by serine hydroxymethyltransferase. Glyphosate and its degradation product, aminomethylphosphonic acid (AMPA), are analogs to glycine, thus they may inhibit serine hydroxymethyltransferase to decrease intracellular glycine synthesis. In this study, we found that glyphosate and AMPA inhibited cell growth in eight human cancer cell lines but not in two immortalized human normal prostatic epithelial cell lines. AMPA arrested C4-2B and PC-3 cancer cells in the G1/G0 phase and inhibited entry into the S phase of the cell cycle. AMPA also promoted apoptosis in C4-2B and PC-3 cancer cell lines. AMPA upregulated p53 and p21 protein levels as well as procaspase 9 protein levels in C4-2B cells, whereas it downregulated cyclin D3 protein levels. AMPA also activated caspase 3 and induced cleavage of poly (adenosine diphosphate [ADP]-ribose) polymerase. This study provides the first evidence that glyphosate and AMPA can inhibit proliferation and promote apoptosis of cancer cells but not normal cells, suggesting that they have potentials to be developed into a new anticancer therapy.

Drug Des Devel Ther. 2013 Jul 24;7:635-43. doi: 10.2147/DDDT.S49197. eCollection 2013

Glyphosate, pathways to modern diseases II: Celiac sprue and gluten intolerance

Anthony SAMSEL Independent Scientist and Consultant, Deerfield, NH 03037, USA

Stephanie SENEFF Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, MIT, Cambridge, MA, USA

http://nhrighttoknowgmo.org/BreakingNews/Glyphosate_II_Samsel-Seneff.pdf

Genetic Literacy Project has a rebuttal to the above review paper by A. Samsel and S. Seneff.

<https://www.geneticliteracyproject.org/2015/11/13/10-studies-proving-gmos-are-harmful-not-if-science-matters/>

The Celiac Disease Foundation, published an article on December 3, 2013, refuting claims made the Institute for Responsible Technology (IRT).

"The report, published last week by the Institute for Responsible Technology (IRT), was "speculative," Celiac Disease Foundation CEO Marilyn Geller told FoodNavigator-USA."

<https://celiac.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/2013-12-04.pdf>

The **Australian government** issued a report in September 2016 regarding concerns, claims and research about glyphosate. Pages 16 – 18 in the report is the response to claims about some health effects related to glyphosate (<http://apvma.gov.au/sites/default/files/publication/20701-glyphosate-regulatory-position-report-final.pdf>).

Regulatory position: consideration of the evidence for a formal reconsideration of glyphosate

Response to claims that glyphosate is responsible for causing birth defects In June 2011, Earth Open Source (EOS) published a document titled 'Roundup and birth defects: is the public being kept in the dark?' In this document, EOS questioned the safety of glyphosate and products that contain it. The claims made by EOS were:

- exposure to concentrations of glyphosate lower than those commonly used in agriculture and the home garden have been linked to developmental malformations affecting the skull, face, brain and spinal cord in frog and chicken embryos
- a range of developmental malformations, as well as endocrine disruption and reproductive toxicity have been observed in humans and experimental animals following exposure to glyphosate
- a variety of in vitro test systems have demonstrated that glyphosate can induce damage to DNA and genetic material in laboratory animals and humans
- glyphosate exposure has been linked to cancer of the testis in rats, skin cancer in mice and blood system cancers in humans
- glyphosate exposure has been linked to neurotoxicity and the development of Parkinson's disease in humans.

The APVMA commissioned an expert review of that document, which was published in July 2013, to address the concerns raised in the EOS article. In doing so, the APVMA evaluated both the published studies cited in the EOS document and other more recent publications and archived toxicology studies of glyphosate, compared the EU reviews of glyphosate with reviews prepared by other regulators, assessed the scientific merit of the claims made by EOS and the research upon which those claims were based and considered whether there were implications for the registration of products containing glyphosate in Australia. The full review of the EOS document can be found on the APVMA archive website. A number of conclusions were made in the review of the EOS document. These included:

- 18 • The available data do not indicate that glyphosate products registered for use in Australia and used according to label instructions present any unacceptable risks to human health, the environment or trade.
- The weight- and strength-of-evidence demonstrate that glyphosate is not genotoxic, carcinogenic or neurotoxic.
- Developmental malformations caused by glyphosate in toad and chicken embryos are not predictive of a developmental hazard to humans because of the routes of administration used. Some studies have reported fetal skeletal abnormalities, toxicity to the male reproductive tract during puberty and interference with the maturation of the male reproductive organs during puberty; however, these studies were affected by flawed design, methodology and/or reporting and the claimed effects on puberty are inconsistent.
- Glyphosate is extremely unlikely to

cause reproductive or developmental toxicity in humans under normal conditions of exposure. • At present, there is no scientific justification for classifying glyphosate as an endocrine disrupter. • Effects on hormonal regulation and cellular toxicity observed in vitro may have been confounded by surfactants present in formulated products. • Most studies utilising formulated products containing glyphosate have not identified which chemical constituent was responsible for causing the reported effects, or characterised their mode of action. • The toxicological studies cited by EOS do not demonstrate a need to revise the current Australian Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) of 0.3 mg/kg bw/day for glyphosate. • New information that emerges from the United States (US) and Canadian reviews of glyphosate will be considered by the APVMA.

From the **National Toxicology Program**, a US Department of Health and Human Services

Report on Carcinogens (RoC) Evaluations Since 1996 (Starting with the 8th RoC)

Information, such as background documents and review committee reports, is available for substances evaluated for the RoC starting with the 8th RoC. The list includes substances that are listed in the RoC, reviewed but not listed, and removed (delisted) from the RoC. Glyphosate is not listed in the documents or reports.

<http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/pubhealth/roc/listings/index.html>

Laureates Letter Supporting Precision Agriculture (GMOs)

June 29th 2016



To the Leaders of Greenpeace, the United Nations and Governments around the world

The United Nations Food & Agriculture Program has noted that global production of food, feed and fiber will need approximately to double by 2050 to meet the demands of a growing global population. Organizations opposed to modern plant breeding, with Greenpeace at their lead, have repeatedly denied these facts and opposed biotechnological innovations in agriculture. They have misrepresented their risks, benefits, and impacts, and supported the criminal destruction of approved field trials and research projects.

We urge Greenpeace and its supporters to re-examine the experience of farmers and consumers worldwide with crops and foods improved through biotechnology, recognize the findings of authoritative scientific bodies and regulatory agencies, and abandon their campaign against "GMOs" in general and Golden Rice in particular.

Scientific and regulatory agencies around the world have repeatedly and consistently found crops and foods improved through biotechnology to be as safe as, if not safer than those derived from any other method of production. There has never been a single confirmed case of a negative health outcome for humans or animals from their consumption. Their environmental impacts have been shown repeatedly to be less damaging to the environment, and a boon to global biodiversity.

Greenpeace has spearheaded opposition to Golden Rice, which has the potential to reduce or eliminate much of the death and disease caused by a vitamin A deficiency (VAD), which has the greatest impact on the poorest people in Africa and Southeast Asia.

The World Health Organization estimates that 250 million people, suffer from VAD, including 40 percent of the children under five in the developing world. Based on UNICEF statistics, a total of one to two million preventable deaths occur annually as a result of VAD, because it compromises the immune system, putting babies and children at great risk. VAD itself is the leading cause of childhood blindness globally affecting 250,000 - 500,000 children each year. Half die within 12

months of losing their eyesight.

WE CALL UPON GREENPEACE to cease and desist in its campaign against Golden Rice specifically, and crops and foods improved through biotechnology in general;

WE CALL UPON GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD to reject Greenpeace's campaign against Golden Rice specifically, and crops and foods improved through biotechnology in general; and to do everything in their power to oppose Greenpeace's actions and accelerate the access of farmers to all the tools of modern biology, especially seeds improved through biotechnology. Opposition based on emotion and dogma contradicted by data must be stopped.

How many poor people in the world must die before we consider this a "**crime against humanity**"?

Sincerely,

Follow the link below to see the complete list of signatures attached to this letter.

http://supportprecisionagriculture.org/nobel-laureate-gmo-letter_rjr.html

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	October 17, 2016
Originated By:	Audrey Bjorklund, Community Development Manager
Title:	Municipal Weed Control
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

AG95(08/08/16)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board draft a letter to the Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Forestry in regards to Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds becoming increasingly prevalent with the increase of traffic, equipment and movement of people. CARRIED.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft Letter

OPTIONS:

1. Recommend Council send the letter
2. Recommend Council send the letter with the following additions/deletions/changes....

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

RESOLUTION by that this Agricultural Service Board....

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

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	October 17, 2016
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

- Resolutions were due by October 12, 2016.
- Registration deadline for the conference is October 19, 2016.
- All ASB members are eligible to vote at the Regional Conference (*section 5.a*) of the *Rules of Procedure*)

BUDGET/COSTS:

\$50 registration per person included in 2016 Agricultural Service Board budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

- County of Northern Lights invitation letter *Page 35*
- Peace Region Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference Agenda *Page 36*
- Peace Region Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference minutes from November 5, 2015 *Page 37*
- Peace Region Regional Agricultural Service Board Resolutions Rules of Procedure *Page 41*
- Clear Hills County Resolution: Two Voting Members *Page 47*
- 2016 Report Card on the Resolutions Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee *Page 48*

OPTIONS:

- Authorize attendance of all ASB members
- Authorize attendance of Members _____.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

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

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



CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

Honorable Oneil Carlier
Office of the Minister
Agriculture and Forestry
229 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

File No. 63-10-02

Insert Date here

Subject: Municipal Weed Control

Dear Honorable Oneil Carlier,

Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds are becoming more prevalent with the increased movement of traffic, equipment and 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 and the Government of Alberta.

In an effort to minimize the impact of invasive weeds, as designated in the *Alberta Weed Control Regulations*, Clear Hills County is requesting that the Province of Alberta appoint provincial weed inspectors to enforce the *Alberta Weed Control Act*, in urban municipalities. Specific areas of concern are industrial lots for oil field equipment, agricultural equipment and road construction equipment. Other problematic areas are undeveloped lots, equipment dealerships, and auction markets. These specific sites pose a significantly high risk to the spread of Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds between municipalities. Clear Hills County has had several situations where Noxious weeds were introduced into areas of the County that were previously free of these Noxious weeds.

Thank you in advance for your diligent consideration in this matter.

Yours truly,

Reeve, Clear Hills County

AZ/

cc: The Honorable Rachel Notley Premier of Alberta
The Honourable Joe Ceci, Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board
The Honorable Margaret McCuaig-Boyd, MLA Dunvegan-Central Peace - Notley
Peace River Region Agriculture Service Boards
Trent Keller, President, Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen

August 4, 2016

Peace Region Councilors, A.S.B. Members, AAFF Members and AAF Key Contacts

The County of Northern Lights is pleased to be hosting the 2016 Peace Region A.S.B. Conference in Dixonville, AB November 9th, 2016.

Please accept this letter as your invitation to attend, and please pass the invitation and information on to the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact for your A.S.B.

Attached you will find:

- A registration form; deadline for Registrations is October 19th, 2016 (however for planning purposes earlier registrations would be greatly appreciated)
- DRAFT Agenda for the November 5th Conference
- The Regional Resolution Rules of Procedure – last updated Jan. 21st, 2015
- Minutes from the November 5th, 2015 Regional Conference hosted by the M.D. of Smokey River

According to the Rules of Procedure, Resolutions for the Regional Conference are to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Regional Resolutions Committee four weeks prior to the Conference. October 13th is therefore the deadline for Resolutions to be submitted. Resolutions which are presented after October 13th will be considered as “Late Resolutions” and must be submitted to the Regional Conference with sufficient copies for all voting delegates and attendants.

The County of Northern Lights looks forward to being your gracious hosts in Dixonville, AB Nov. 9th, 2016. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns in this matter.

Sincerely,

Blake Gaugler, BSC
Secretary, Regional Resolutions Committee
Agricultural Fieldman, County of Northern Lights
780-836-3348 cell 780-836-0927 fax 780-83-3348
gauglerb@countyofnorthernlights.com

Peace Region Agricultural Service Board Conference

November 9th, 2016

Dixonville Community Hall, AB

Proposed time	Event	Potential speakers
9:30 – 9:50am	Registration	
9:50 – 10:0 am	Opening remarks	Northern Lights Chairwoman
10:00 – 11:00 am	GM Technology and Its Influence	Dr. Ravindra Chibbar University of Saskatchewan
11:00 to 11:15 am	Coffee break	Sponsored by: 4B Ventures
11:15 – 12 noon	A.S.B. program and Acts update	Doug Macaulay, David Feindel
12 noon	Lunch	
1:00 to 1:30 pm	NPARA Update	Tom Fromme and Nora Paulovich
1:30 to 2:30 pm	New Venture Specialist and Growing Forward Update	Elaine Stenbraaten
2:30 to 3:00 pm	Coffee break	Sponsored by: Venture Parts and Homesteader Building Supplies
3:00 to 4:30 pm	Resolution session 1. Election of ASB Regional Rep 2. Updates from ASB Provincial Committee 3. Review Rules of Procedure 4. Call for amendments to Rules 5. Motion to accept Emergent resolutions (if any) 6. Motion to accept order of resolutions Resolutions session	Doug Macaulay, AARD Corey Beck, 2016 Regional ASB Representative
4:30 pm	Invitation to 2017 Regional ASB Conference	A.S.B. Chairman, MD of Fairview
4:35 pm	7. Adjournment	Northern Lights Chairwoman

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Minutes of the Peace Region A.S.B. Conference
Resolutions Session
held at the
Guy Community Hall, Guy AB
November 5th, 2015

Doug Macaulay, Acting Manager A.S.B. Program with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry opened the session at 2:38 pm and asked for nominations for the 2015/2016 Peace Region A.S.B. Committee representative.

Corey Beck from the County of Grande Prairie was nominated by Peter Harris from the County of Grande Prairie.

Doug Macaulay asked three times for further nominations.

Carolyn Kolebaba of Northern Sunrise County moved that nominations cease.

Corey was acclaimed as the Peace Region representative and assumed the Chair.

Corey requested nominations for the Alternate Peace Region A.S.B. Committee representative, Eric Jorgensen from Mackenzie County nominated Doug Dallyn from Northern Sunrise County.

Corey asked three times for further nominations.

Dale Smith from the M.D. of Greenview moved that nominations cease.

Doug Dallyn was acclaimed as the Alternate representative to the Provincial A.S.B. Committee for the Peace Region.

Corey updated the delegates on the past year's activities of the Provincial A.S.B. Committee, highlights were:

- The change in government made it difficult to make progress on several issues
- The Alberta Beef Producers were working with the Provincial A.S.B. Committee on the predator/wildlife issues
- The Provincial A.S.B. Committee were working with the Alberta Game Management Advisory Group to have a representative on their Committee
- Alberta Agriculture's Maureen Vadnais and Pam Retzloff have been invaluable to the Provincial A.S.B. Committee but the Department has limited their involvement in the hopes to keep AAF staff more at "arm's length" to the Committee
 - This has placed more of a burden on the AAAF 1st V.P. as Secretary to the committee
 - The Committee has asked AAF for money to fund Administrative/Executive assistance

The minutes of the October 24th Peace Region A.S.B. Conference and Resolutions session were reviewed. Noted corrections were to the spelling of the names "Kuriga, Soucy" and the title of Maureen Vadnais as "Manager A.S.B. Program". Doug Dallyn moved that the minutes be adopted as amended, seconded by Cheryl Anderson County of Northern Lights. CARRIED

Corey reviewed the Regional A.S.B. Rules of Procedure noting that the amendment requested in the Resolution passed by the Peace Region Boards in 2014 had passed at Provincial and was now in effect. The previous regional representative would lead the Resolution session with the new representative taking over following the session to allow for continuity. Corey asked if there were any questions or amendments required to the rules. No questions or amendments were heard.

Ted Matthews from Big Lakes County moved to adopt the Rules of Procedure as presented, Seconded by Cheryl Bogdanek from Birch Hills County. CARRIED

A late resolution was presented to the delegates with the required 125 copies per the Rules of Procedure.

Doug Dallyn moved to accept the "Agricultural Opportunity Fund for Agricultural Research and Forage Associations" as a Late Resolution, seconded by Mackay Ross of Clear Hills County. CARRIED

Roland Cailliau from the M.D. of Greenview moved to accept the order of the Resolutions as presented, seconded by Brian Harcourt of Clear Hills County. CARRIED

Resolution No. 1 – Compensation for Coyote Depredation sponsored by County of Northern Lights.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

Moved by Brent Reese from County of Northern Lights, seconded by Carolyn Kolebaba.

Brent commented that this resolution is needed as many producers are now reporting that coyotes are the main predator attacking their livestock.

Secunder Carolyn waived, no one spoke in opposition so the question was called.

CARRIED

Resolution No. 2 Hay Insurance Program sponsored by Northern Sunrise County

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

Moved by Doug Dallyn and seconded by Carolyn Kolebaba.

No one spoke in opposition so the question was called.

CARRIED

Resolution No. 3 Climate Stations sponsored by Northern Sunrise County

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

Moved by Kristy Belzile of Northern Sunrise County, seconded by Eric Jorgensen.

Comment was made by the mover that the resolution was required due to the current weather stations being too few and far between to provide accurate data.

No one spoke in opposition so the question was called.

CARRIED

Late Resolution - Agricultural Opportunity Fund for Agricultural Research and Forage Associations sponsored by the M.D. of Greenview

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

Moved by Roland Cailliau and seconded by Doug Dallyn.

Comments by mover Roland Cailliau were that the decision to increase funding was a good decision, however it was revoked and that research is key to the Agricultural industry, it is crucial to producers.

No one spoke in opposition so the question was called.

CARRIED

Doug Dallyn moved adjournment of the Resolutions session at 3:04 pm.

CARRIED

Regional A.S.B. Conference Resolutions Rules of Procedure

1. Regional Resolutions Committee

a. Shall consist of:

1. A representative or alternate elected at the Regional Conference to sit on the Provincial ASB Committee and to act as the Chairman of the Regional Resolutions Committee.
2. The Agricultural Fieldman or their designate who must be a AAAF member from the hosting Agricultural Service Board as Secretary.
3. The Regional Director of the Agricultural Fieldmen's Association
4. An Agricultural Service Board member from the hosting Board selected by that Board.
5. The ASB Grant Program Manager representing Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) or their designate.

b. The representative and alternate elected at the Regional Conference to sit on the Provincial ASB Committee, shall be an elected or appointed member of an ASB in that region.

c. Election of the representative and alternate shall take place at the beginning of the Resolution session at each annual ASB Regional Conference, term of office to be two years. The representative (or alternate) shall assume the chair immediately following the conclusion of the resolutions session.

2. Responsibilities of Regional Resolutions Committee Members

a. The Chairman shall:

1. Chair Regional Resolutions Committee meetings
2. Chair the presentation of resolutions at the Regional Conference
3. Attend all Provincial ASB Committee meetings
4. Assist in presenting resolutions at the Provincial Conference

b. The Secretary shall:

1. Advise Agricultural Service Boards that resolutions must be forwarded four weeks prior to the Regional Conference.
2. In conjunction with the Regional Resolutions Committee, review, seek clarification if necessary, compile and distribute resolutions to Agricultural Service Boards in the Region, at least one week prior to the Regional Conference.

3. Record proceedings of Regional Resolutions Committee meetings and the presentation and voting on resolutions at the Regional Conference.
4. Forward all approved resolutions to the Provincial ASB Committee Secretary.

c. All other members shall:

1. Assist with presentation of resolutions at the Regional Conference.

d. All costs incurred by the members of the committee for attending meetings will be reimbursed by each individual member's employer.

3. Resolutions

a. Resolutions shall be submitted in an approved format and shall follow the procedures for selecting, preparing and drafting resolutions as set out in Appendix "A" attached to this document.

b. Resolutions, regional or provincial in scope, and having been passed by a majority at a local Agricultural Service Board meeting shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Regional Resolutions Committee four weeks prior to the Regional Conference. Late resolutions must be submitted to the Regional Conference with sufficient copies for all voting delegates and attendants (approx. 125) and accepted by a simple majority of the assembly.

4. Procedures

a. Resolutions submitted to the Regional Conference shall be handled in numerical order assigned by the Chairman unless 3/5 of the voting delegates on the floor agree to accept a resolution out of numerical order.

b. Each resolution must have a Mover and a Seconder.

c. Only the "Therefore Be It Resolved" section will be read

d. The Chairman shall call on the Mover and Seconder to speak to the resolution and then immediately call for anyone else wishing to speak in opposition

1. If there is no one to speak in opposition, the question shall be called.
2. If there are speakers in opposition, the chairman shall at his discretion call for anyone other than the Mover or Seconder to speak to the resolution before the debate is closed

e. Anyone wishing to amend a resolution must then speak in opposition to the resolution as written, or anyone wishing clarification must speak up. All amendments must have a Mover and Seconder.

f. Only one amendment will be accepted at a time and only one amendment to the amendment will be accepted on any resolution

g. The Chairman has discretion to request a written amendment

h. The Mover and Seconder are allowed five minutes in total to speak to the resolution or amendment. The Seconder may waive his right to speak and the Mover would be allowed the full five minutes.

i. The Mover and Seconder have the right to close the debate and a maximum of two minutes each will be allowed for this.

j. All other speakers, for or against the resolution, are allowed a maximum of two minutes.

5. Voting and Speaking

a. Voting members of Agricultural Service Boards/Agricultural Committees shall be recognized voters on any resolution.

1. In the South Region, each ASB shall select two voting delegates to the Regional Conference who shall display the voting credentials and be recognized voters on any resolution. (October 1997)

b. An Agricultural Service Board member may have any person speak to a resolution by their request.

c. All resolutions are passed or defeated by simple majority

6. Procedures for Approved Regulations

a. Secretaries of the Regional Resolutions Committee shall:

1. Submit Regional Resolutions to the appropriate agencies as soon as possible following the Regional Conference.
2. Regional Resolutions shall also be submitted to the Provincial ASB Committee for information.
3. Submit Provincial Resolutions to the Provincial ASB Committee Secretary by December 1st following the Regional Conference.

7. Amendments to Regional Rules of Procedures

a. An amendment to Regional Rules of Procedure may be initiated by simple motion from:

1. The Provincial ASB Committee
2. Any voting delegate at the Provincial ASB Conference
3. The Regional Resolutions Committee if the proposed amendment were to affect only that Region, subject to ratification by the Provincial ASB Committee
4. Any voting delegate at a Regional Conference if the proposed amendment were to affect only that Region, subject to ratification by the Provincial ASB Committee.

b. Amendments must be accepted by a simple majority of all voting delegates at the Provincial ASB Conference.

c. Amendments that are carried will take effect at the next Regional Conference.

Appendix "A" - AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS

REGIONAL PROCEDURES FOR SELECTING, PREPARING AND WRITING RESOLUTIONS

1. Well in advance of the regional conference, discuss as a board the concerns of your farmers. Determine the factors affecting their economic well-being as well as those limiting their capability to maintain or improve agricultural production.

2. Make a list of concerns and rate each as to its level of importance.

3. Divide your concerns into the following categories:

a. Local concerns

1. Concerns which are local in nature.
2. Your board has the authority and capability to deal with these concerns. If local or provincial finances are available you may wish to initiate programs or projects or policy to satisfy these concerns.

b. Regional Concerns

3. Concerns which are regional in nature.
4. You have the authority and capability to deal with these concerns but wish to request the support (cooperative action) of bordering agricultural service boards, government departments or other agencies. Note: These concerns may be taken to the regional conference with a request for action at the regional level eg. You may be concerned about scentless chamomile, its movement and spread in hay, crop seed in the region, etc. You would like the support of all boards in the region as well as government agencies in slowing down spread and in working towards common objectives. If such a resolution was passed at the regional conference, your regional resolutions committee would forward the request for support to all boards in the region plus the appropriate government agency.

c. Provincial Concerns

5. Concerns which are provincial in nature.
6. In order to deal with these concerns at the local level, you require a change in provincial policy. Note: When writing your resolutions make certain you do not ask the province to do something that you already have authority at the local level to do. Because most concerns will ultimately need to be dealt with locally, ask for a change in provincial policy that would enable you as a board to take

the necessary action. Resolutions that are provincial in scope, if passed by the regional conference, could be forwarded to the provincial conference for action.

4. Conduct some research on your regional and provincial concerns to:

a. Ensure that these concerns were not submitted as resolutions previously and that action has already been taken regionally or provincially.

b. Check with those agencies that you expect to respond to your concern (resolution). Determine if they are aware of the need and whether any action is being considered.

c. Obtain sufficient background information to be able to write and defend your resolution.

5. Write your resolutions with sufficient "whereas" statements to ensure that those reading the resolution will be able to understand your request.

a. All "whereas" statements should relate specifically to your request.

b. Resolutions need to be presented with only one "Therefore Be It Resolved" statement.

1. If other closely related requests are required in the resolution, it may be appropriate to add no more than two 'Further Therefore Be It Resolved' statements.

2. If you wish to make an additional request for action, it is appropriate to write another resolution.

6. Each resolution submitted for consideration must be accompanied by background information consisting of the history of the issue and potential impacts for the sponsoring municipality and the province-wide impacts for municipalities.

7. The resolution shall be presented in the approved format as indicated on the following page.

REGIONAL RESOLUTIONS FORMAT

TITLE

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

SPONSORED BY:

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

CARRIED

DEFEATED

STATUS

DEPARTMENT

Background information

Background information should include the history of the issue, potential impacts for the sponsoring municipality and the province-wide impacts for municipalities.

Last revised January 21, 2015

Resolution No.

Maximum two voting members per Agricultural Service Board

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.

- SPONSORED BY:** Clear Hills County
- MOVED BY:** _____
- SECONDED BY:** _____
- CARRIED:** _____
- DEFEATED:** _____
- STATUS:** _____
- DEPARTMENT:** _____

Background information:

Clear Hills County Agricultural Service Board believes that certain obligations and budgetary constraints can affect levels of attendance at the Peace Region Agricultural Service Board conferences. The goal of the Regional Conference is to pass resolutions of concern to the majority of the region. By having two votes per Agricultural Services Board it would allow fairness across the Region and resolutions being passed are from the majority the region.



2016 Report Card on the Resolutions

Provincial Agricultural Service
Board Committee

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INTRODUCTION

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee is pleased to provide ASB members and staff with the Report Card on Government and Non-Government Responses to the 2016 Provincial ASB Resolutions. This document includes the *Whereas* and *Therefore Be It Resolved* sections from each of the resolutions passed at the 2016 Provincial ASB Conference, the associated responses and the grade for each response as assigned by the Committee. Comments from the Committee are included with the grade assigned.

There are four response grades that can be assigned to a resolution response: Accept the Response; Accept in Principle, Incomplete and Unsatisfactory. The grade assigned relates to the quality of the response to the resolution. A definition of what each grade means is included as part of the Report Card. This report also summarizes actions undertaken by the Provincial ASB Committee and provides updates associated with resolution issues.

Please note that the grades assigned by the Committee are intended to provide further direction on future activities or follow up with respondents. If you would like to comment on the assigned grade or follow up activities, please contact your Provincial ASB Committee Representative.

Regional Representatives	Alternates
Patrick Gordeyko, Chair, Northeast Region	David Melenka
Lloyd Giebelhaus, Vice Chair, Northwest Region	Darrell Hollands
Corey Beck, Peace Region	Doug Dallyn
Jim Duncan, Central Region	Phillip Massier
Steve Wikkerink, South Representative	Garry Lentz
Other Representatives	
Soren Odegard, AAMDC	
Elden Kozak, Secretary, 1 st VP AAAF	
Trent Keller, President AAAF	
Doug Macaulay, Manager, ASB Program, AF	
Pam Retzloff, Recording Secretary, ASB Program Coordinator, AF	
Maureen Vadnais, Executive Assistant	

DEFINITION OF TERMS

The Provincial Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Committee has chosen four indicators with which to grade resolution responses offered by government and non-government organizations.

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 that 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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Grading given by the Provincial ASB Committee to government and non-government organization responses to resolutions passed at the 2016 Provincial ASB Conference.

Resolution Number	Title	Status	Page
1-16	Proactive Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways	Unsatisfactory	1
2-16	Reinstate Provincial Funding for the Canada and Alberta Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Surveillance Program	Unsatisfactory	4
3-16	Agricultural Plastics Recycling	Accept in Principle	6
4-16	Agricultural Opportunity Fund for Agricultural Research and Forage Associations	Accept the Response	9
5-16	Climate Stations	Accept in Principle	11
6-16	Compensation for Coyote Depredation	Accept in Principle	18
7-16	Hay Insurance Program	DEFEATED	20
8-16	Species at Risk Act (SARA)	Accept in Principle	22
E1-16	Bill 6: Enhanced Protection of Farm and Ranch Workers	Accept in Principle	25

2016 ACTIVITIES

The Committee met four times in 2016. The Committee was able to meet twice with the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry (AF) in 2016 and used these opportunities to start developing a strong relationship with the new Minister and government. They had a good discussion with the Minister in September about the resolutions and other issues affecting ASBs. The outcome of this discussion is included in the comments for the resolutions.

The Committee also met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs last March to discuss the review of the *Municipal Government Act*. The Committee appreciated the opportunity to provide some input into this review and made the Minister aware of resolutions brought forward by ASBs regarding the review of the Act.

The Committee has been frustrated that they were not able to meet with the Minister of Environment and Parks in 2016. The Committee had started to develop a good working relationship with Environment and Parks under the previous government and is disappointed that they have not had an opportunity to meet and work with the new Minister. The Committee is continuing to seek a meeting with the Minister and is hopeful they will be able to start working together more closely in 2017.

The Committee worked closely with AF in 2016 to establish a new position on the Committee to lessen its' dependence on AF staff and make it more autonomous. The Committee felt this was best served through an Executive Assistant to help them with administrative work, the resolution process and policy analysis as the Committee's role has grown and become more complex. AF has generously provided a grant for the next three years to assist the Committee with this position and Maureen Vadnais was hired in August to fill this role. The Committee appreciates the support of AF in this endeavour and will continue to work closely with AF to look for solutions to issues in the agricultural industry.

The Committee and AAMDC Executive have agreed to meet annually to ensure that they are working together to advocate on issues related to the agriculture industry. The two groups are committed to working closely to discuss common issues and resolutions, exchanging information and aligning lobby efforts to be more effective when representing their members.

2016 RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 1-16

Proactive Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways

- WHEREAS:** The Government of Alberta's strategy to realize savings over the next 3 years by reducing the summer maintenance budget by \$27.8 million in 2015 alone is showing signs that the right-of-ways of Alberta's highways cannot be sustained at that level;
- WHEREAS:** Invasive plants cause significant changes to ecosystems that result in economic harm to our agricultural and recreational sectors. Highway corridors facilitate the spread not just locally, but internationally as well that impacts our neighbor's;
- WHEREAS:** Provincially, reductions were made that specifically state only 1 shoulder cut per year, no full width mowing, on all highways as well as no scheduled weed spraying, only reactive spot spraying after receiving a weed notice from a municipality;
- WHEREAS:** The most cost-effective strategy against invasive species is preventing them from establishing rather than relying on a municipality to hopefully identify an infestation and react by issuing a notice. Allowing other undesirable plants growing increases the risk to human health (poisonous plants) and public safety as well by reduced visibility along the shoulders of the road when wildlife are crossing or grazing;
- WHEREAS:** Alberta Transportation in the past had the option of signing Service Agreements with each municipality to do invasive plant control, but that option is no longer available in some districts due to some of the highway maintenance contracts;
- WHEREAS:** With 31,000 kilometers of highway in the province the land base in which it is responsible for weed control within its right-of-way's is regulated by the Weed Control Act which requires attention and sufficient funds to be able to abide by its own legislation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

Alberta Transportation gives the option in all districts of the province to enter into Service Agreements with municipalities for weed control as the prime contractor, but if highway maintenance contracts do not allow for that then the Government of Alberta reopen those contracts to allow municipalities to become prime contractors.

Status: Provincial

Response

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

- Agriculture and Forestry staff have discussed this issue with staff in Alberta Transportation, and Transportation is currently aware of their responsibilities under the *Weed Control Act* and *Agricultural Pests Act*. As the owner/occupant of the right of ways along provincial highways, the Crown is bound by these Acts.
- Municipalities have full authority to give notices in order to ensure compliance with the Acts, even if issued to the Crown. Transportation was advised that reactive measures (such as requiring a weed notice every time weed control work was necessary) would be more expensive and time consuming for both the municipalities and Transportation.
- Transportation has informed our staff that no information was provided to contractors that requested they cut their vegetation management program as part of the budget reduction. It appears this was a decision that the contractors are making on their own, possibly as a way to cut back costs. Transportation staff have indicated they may be able to free up additional funding for contractors to use for their vegetation management programs.
- Transportation was referred to the Pest Surveillance Branch if they required any additional help with the legislation.

Alberta Transportation

Maintaining safety on our province's highways is a top priority and I appreciate the committee's concerns about the adverse impact of reduced chemical vegetation control along the provincial network. Alberta Transportation is committed to working with cross-ministry officials, municipalities, the Agricultural Service Board and the field personnel to control the spread of noxious weeds.

The decision to reduce mowing and weed spraying along provincial highways for summer 2016 was not made lightly. We evaluated and considered all possible risks, including the spread of noxious and prohibited weeds, blocking sight lines at

intersections and curves, the risk of wildlife collisions, and wildfires. Scheduled mowing is limited to a single shoulder cut, and vegetation control is restricted to spraying or hand picking individual patches of noxious weeds, as required by the *Weed Control Act*. Funding for spot spraying of weeds was not affected; however, funding for scheduled area spraying was eliminated.

Provincial ASB Committee Grade: Unsatisfactory

Provincial ASB Committee Comments:

This response was graded as "Unsatisfactory" as it did not address the "Further Therefore Be It Resolved" presented in this resolution. The Committee felt that the responses to this resolution were contradictory and is seeking further clarification from Transportation about instructions given to contractors and funding for vegetation management along provincial highways, in addition to seeking a full response to the resolution. The Committee has requested a meeting with Transportation to discuss this resolution and to reinforce to Transportation the effectiveness and cost efficiencies that could be achieved with a pro-active vegetation management program.

Resolution 2-16
REINSTATE PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR THE CANADA AND ALBERTA
BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) SURVEILLANCE
PROGRAM

WHEREAS: Since 2007, Canada has been recognized by the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) as a controlled BSE risk country

WHEREAS: Canada may be at risk of losing its status as a controlled BSE risk country due to tested numbers not meeting the 30,000 animal annual requirement set by OIE

WHEREAS: If Canada does not meet these requirements, we may fall into the negligible BSE risk category where OIE and trading partners may close borders to Canadian cattle. International perception on the change in risk status may negatively impact our sound beef export market

WHEREAS: By reinstating Provincial funding, it will encourage more producers to participate in the BSE program realizing our target

WHEREAS: On September 15, 2011 the province decided to discontinue the \$150 incentive given to producers to allow sampling their animals and for maintaining control of the carcass pending test results

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

Status: Provincial

Response

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

- Agriculture and Forestry shares this concern regarding the progressive decline in BSE samples submitted to the Canada/Alberta BSE Surveillance Program (CABSESP), and any possible international repercussions.
- We have explored a number of options to improve the BSE surveillance numbers in the province.

- As of 2012, the Department called for a broader and more inclusive approach on BSE surveillance by creating a Western Canadian BSE Surveillance group, which later became part of the national CanSurvBSE.
 - The objective of this group is to gather different stakeholders, such as cattle industry representatives, veterinary organizations, and provincial and federal governments, in order to propose solutions to improve BSE surveillance in Canada
 - Based on the feedback we received from stakeholders, changes have been made to the CABSESP'S terms and conditions during the past four years in an effort to eliminate restrictions in eligibility criteria to allow more animals to be tested.
- There have also been extensive education and awareness campaigns to highlight these changes and the importance of surveillance. Most recently, we contracted several private veterinarians to work with us in promoting the program and the importance of producer participation to preserve our markets
- Going forward, the Ministry is continuing to examine options to improve BSE surveillance numbers
- We cannot overstate the importance of a collaborative approach and producer identification and submission of eligible samples. This program is a joint program between industry and government that helps to ensure maintenance and expansion of market access and ultimately, the profitability of the industry.

Provincial ASB Committee Grade: Unsatisfactory

Provincial ASB Committee Comments:

This response was graded as Unsatisfactory because it did not answer the resolution as written. The Committee is concerned that we may lose our status as a controlled risk country for BSE due to the lack of testing and discussed several options with the Minister to address this problem. Some of the options discussed included requesting the OIE to lower the minimum number of animals tested, to base the number of animals tested on a percentage of the current cow herd and to assist packing plants with developing separate lines to allow them to test animals at slaughter. The Minister acknowledged that the cattle market had changed since the initial discovery of BSE in Alberta but indicated there was no additional funding to put towards BSE testing. He said he would bring forward the option of decreasing the number of animals required for testing to the appropriate agencies.

The Committee feels that decreasing the number of animals required for testing is a viable option because the number of animals in Canada has significantly decreased

since it reached its' peak in 2005. In 2005, there were approximately 6.7 million cattle in Alberta. The most recent information from Statistics Canada's July 1, 2016 estimate shows 5.37 million cattle for Alberta, which is an approximately 20% decrease in the overall cow herd numbers for Alberta since 2005.

This data represents bulls, milk cows, dairy heifers, beef cows, beef heifers, slaughter heifers, calves and steers. More detailed information is included in the Appendix.

Resolution 3-16 AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS RECYCLING

- WHEREAS:** 56% of farms in Alberta use one or more types of agricultural plastics (baler twine, net wrap, silage plastic, grain bags, bale bags/tubes);
- WHEREAS:** The disposal and/or recycling of agricultural plastics is not consistent across the province;
- WHEREAS:** Agricultural plastics are either burned on farm or sent to the landfill;
- WHEREAS:** Agricultural plastics users are concerned with how they deal with agricultural plastics and feel it is important to be able to recycle agricultural plastics;
- WHEREAS:** The Government of Saskatchewan, in partnership with a number of stakeholders, has been running a successful pilot program for managing the recycling of agricultural plastics;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

Status: Provincial

Response

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

- Agriculture and Forestry is aware of the agricultural plastics recycling pilot program in Saskatchewan.
 - The Saskatchewan Agricultural Stewardship Council, which is made up of representatives from the agricultural industry and formed under the CleanFARMS umbrella, has been tasked to develop and implement a permanent agricultural plastics program for the province. This organization, as well as Simply Agriculture Solutions, is working with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment to develop waste management regulations and implementation of an overall program plan

- CleanFARMS presented a draft regulation to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment in July 2013. This regulation is still with the Minister, and no real progress on a regulation has been made
- Agriculture and Forestry was working with Environment and Parks to scope and develop options to address the issue in Alberta, beginning with the development of an education program (including a fact sheet) around the harmful effects of burning. However, based on further feedback from producers and other Alberta stakeholders, it was concluded that an education piece alone was not going to solve the issue
- AF contributed to a waste characterization study that was completed by CleanFARMS. The results of the study suggest that agricultural plastic waste is less than one per cent of the total annual waste being sent to landfills in Alberta
- In the interim, we continue to gather information about agricultural plastics, including a study on markets for agricultural plastics.
- Agriculture and Forestry staff have been asked by the Alberta Recycling Management Authority to sit on a committee to develop policy options for agricultural plastic recycling. The first meeting was on December 10, 2015 and consists of members from Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, Alberta Recycling Management Authority, CleanFARMS and Recycling Council of Alberta.

Alberta Environment and Parks

Environment and Parks recognizes that the management of waste agricultural plastics continues to be an important issue to Alberta stakeholders. We encourage all agricultural producers and stakeholders using agricultural plastics to responsibly manage the material at end-of-life, including recycling where facilities exist.

My department is focused on a number of priority waste issues at this time, including regulatory amendments and further consultation for existing programs. We also recognize that we need further information about what a regulated option for managing agricultural material at end-of life in Alberta would look like, including determining stakeholders, the best policy tool for managing a program, the costs of a program and who would pay.

Staff understands that the work in Saskatchewan is a pilot program and the development of regulations in that province are ongoing; we will continue to monitor the progress of this work. However, at this time, our department is not considering a regulated program based on the Saskatchewan model.

We invite agricultural producers and stakeholders to share any information with department staff regarding the management of agricultural waste material at end-of-life to help inform future policy on the issue.

Provincial ASB Committee Grade: Accept in Principle

Provincial ASB Committee Comments:

The Committee discussed this resolution with the Minister in conjunction with resolution 12-15. The Committee is frustrated that there has been little progress made since 2006 when the first resolutions were brought forward through ASBs and AAMDC. The Committee continues to work with the Agricultural Plastics Committee that is comprised of members from AF, Environment and Parks, AAMDC and other organizations to push for solutions for recycling of agricultural plastics.

The Committee has included the most recent study conducted by AF on this issue in the Appendix. The 2015 Market-Based Solutions for Used Agricultural Plastics study surveyed municipalities to try to understand the current practices used for disposal of agricultural plastics with the goal of using the survey results to make progress towards solutions for recycling of agricultural plastics.

Resolution 4-16
**AGRICULTURAL OPPORTUNITY FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
AND FORAGE ASSOCIATIONS**

- WHEREAS:** The continuing staffing decline in both provincial and federal government employees has resulted in the Agricultural Research and Forage Associations becoming the primary source of unbiased information for agricultural producers throughout the Province;
- WHEREAS:** Many Research and Forage Associations lack adequate staff to assist with important government initiatives such as pest monitoring without jeopardizing research integrity;
- WHEREAS:** Many of the Agricultural Research and Forage Associations are unable to enact long term research and demonstration programs or develop a capital asset replacement strategy at the current levels of funding provided by the Province;
- WHEREAS:** Many Research and Forage Associations expend a large portion of staff resources seeking funding vs performing program operations;
- WHEREAS:** In March 2014, Agriculture Minister Verlyn Olson announced that the Agricultural Opportunity Fund grant amount had been increased by \$2.5 million and Research and Forage Associations could proceed with program expansion;
- WHEREAS:** In January 2015 the \$2.5 million increase in funding was suddenly revoked.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

Status: Provincial

Response

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

- The Agricultural Opportunity Fund (AOF) is proud to support eight Applied Research Associations (ARAs) and four Forage Associations (FAs) throughout the Province of Alberta. These organizations, including the Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta, are located throughout the province, and virtually all producers in Alberta can access any one of these organizations
- Since 2002, support for this program from Agriculture and Forestry has been consistent and reliable at \$1.95 million (\$1.5 million from AOF and an additional \$450,000 from our Environmental Stewardship Division)
- We have also provided several one-time grants to assist these organizations to support their manpower capacity, capital requirements, and extension programming since 2002. Total support has amounted to an additional \$5 million
- Agriculture and Forestry is unable to reinstate the 2014 funding levels for the AOF.

Provincial ASB Committee Grade: Accept the Response

Provincial ASB Committee Comments:

The Committee felt that the response answered the question posed in the resolution but still feels that there is a need for increased funding to support ARAs and FAs. The Committee discussed this resolution with the Minister and tried to impress on him the impact these organization have on their local communities and the need for increased funding. The Minister replied that increasing funding is not a current financial reality but they were working to maintain the current levels of funding.

Resolution 5-16

CLIMATE STATIONS

WHEREAS: Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) crop insurance and farm income disaster assistance is based on the data collected from the nearest approved weather station;

WHEREAS: The locations of the weather stations that Agro Climatic Information Service (ACIS) collects data from are not consistently located geographically or reflecting microclimate areas;

WHEREAS: Producers are dealing with microclimates that AFSC insurance programs do not have accurate information on;

WHEREAS: Producers are situated too far from a weather station for the data to be precise when dealing with AFSC crop insurance and farm income disaster assistance;

WHEREAS: The adjusters doing the investigation are not left with the final say on the relevancy of the data of the nearest weather station.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

Status: Provincial

Response

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

- Since 2007, Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) and Agriculture and Forestry have installed over 120 new weather stations throughout the agricultural areas. This is a historic accomplishment, as no other government agency in the country has ever installed as many new all season, meteorological stations that meet national standards. Alberta's meteorological network is the most dense, complete and sophisticated in Canada. Data is all available publicly through our website and is used for a wide variety of purposes
- We recognize that there are several areas that still need a local weather stations. We will continue to add to the network as resources are available
- AFSC has four area-based insurance programs that utilize the meteorological data provided by the Engineering and Climate Services Branch of Agriculture and Forestry. The programs include:
 - Pasture: Moisture Deficiency Insurance (MDI) Program provides coverage on pasture. Losses are paid when accumulated precipitation at a selected weather station(s) in a given year falls below the normal expected precipitation for that weather station according to a payment schedule determined by AFSC.
 - Hay: Moisture Deficiency Endorsement (MDE) provides additional top-up coverage to clients insuring hay. Losses are paid when accumulated precipitation at a selected weather station(s) in a given year falls below the normal expected precipitation for that weather station according to a payment schedule determined by AFSC.
 - Silage Greenfeed: Lack of Moisture (LOM) Insurance Program provides coverage on annually seeded crops that are intended for livestock feed and not grain production. Losses are paid when accumulated precipitation at a selected weather station(s) in a given year falls below the normal expected precipitation for that weather station according to a payment schedule determined by AFSC.
 - Corn Heat Units (CHU): Insurance is an area based program which provides protection against a lack of heat on irrigated corn. There are 13 weather stations in the irrigation district that clients are allowed to purchase CHU insurance on.

- There are approximately 394 weather stations in the province from which Agriculture and Forestry collects meteorological information during the growing season
- In 2016, for the MDI, MDE and LOM programs, AFSC uses data from an insurable network of 245 stations. AFSC's goal when the programs were introduced in the early 2000s was to have all insurable land no more than 20 km from an insurable weather stations
- The breakdown of the number of stations by owner is as follows:

Operator	Number of Stations	Insured Stations
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	6	5
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry	169	167
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development	53	4
Environment and Parks	92	29
Environment Canada	51	31
Fire Observer Network	7	7
NAV Canada	16	2

- In program literature, AFSC clearly states that the four area-based insurance programs may not reflect the actual production, and conditions on insured fields may not reflect conditions at the selected weather stations. Thus, clients know when they sign up that the payments will be based on the independent third party weather information from the insurable weather stations, and will not be based on assessments from the AFSC's inspectors. As such, it is impractical to have the inspector provide an opinion, as they are not involved in the final calculation
- Many provincial and federally-run meteorological stations report hourly, and some specified un-insured stations could be used for insurance; however, these are typically in higher elevations, or areas that do not reflect local agricultural areas. In addition, some stations are not year-round measuring stations, and are therefore not ideal for insurance purposes.
- Across the province there are approximately 150 other "manned" stations that report daily or twice daily information. Some of this data is difficult for quality control, and is often not timely. As such, they are not considered as viable candidates for insurance purposes.

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation

Thank you for forwarding a copy of the **ASB Resolution #5 – Climate Stations**. As the resolution points out, Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) utilizes meteorological information from weather stations to provide insurance coverage on. The resolution contains two separate issues.

I) INCREASE THE NUMBER OF WEATHER STATIONS

Currently there are four area based programs that use this data. The programs include:

Pasture - Moisture Deficiency Insurance (MDI) Program provides coverage on pasture. Losses are paid when accumulated precipitation at a selected weather station(s) in a given year falls below the normal expected precipitation for that weather station according to a payment schedule determined by AFSC.

Hay - Moisture Deficiency Endorsement (MDE) provides additional top-up coverage to clients insuring hay. Losses are paid when accumulated precipitation at a selected weather station(s) in a given year falls below the normal expected precipitation for that weather station according to a payment schedule determined by AFSC.

Silage Greenfeed - Lack of Moisture (LOM) Insurance Program provides coverage on annually seeded crops that are intended for livestock feed and not grain production. Losses are paid when accumulated precipitation at a selected weather station(s) in a given year falls below the normal expected precipitation for that weather station according to a payment schedule determined by AFSC.

Corn Heat Units (CHU) Insurance is an area based program which provides protection against a lack of heat on irrigated corn. There are 13 weather stations in the irrigation district that clients are allowed to purchase CHU insurance on.

AFSC does not own or operate any of the weather stations. We rely on the existing networks in the province of Alberta. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) collect meteorological information from over 390 weather stations from 6 different providers. The locations and owners of the weather stations have been provided in Appendix 1.

AFSC has developed a long-term partnership with AF to continually expand the insurable network to use all the suitable stations. As a result of this partnership, the number of insured stations has increased from 53 stations when the MDI program was piloted in 2002 to the 245 insurable stations that are available in 2016. The breakdown of the number of insurable stations by owner is summarized in the following table:

Owner	Insured Stations
Agriculture and Forestry (Ag)	167
Environment and Parks	33
Environment Canada	31
Agriculture Forestry (Fire)	7
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	5
NAV Canada	2

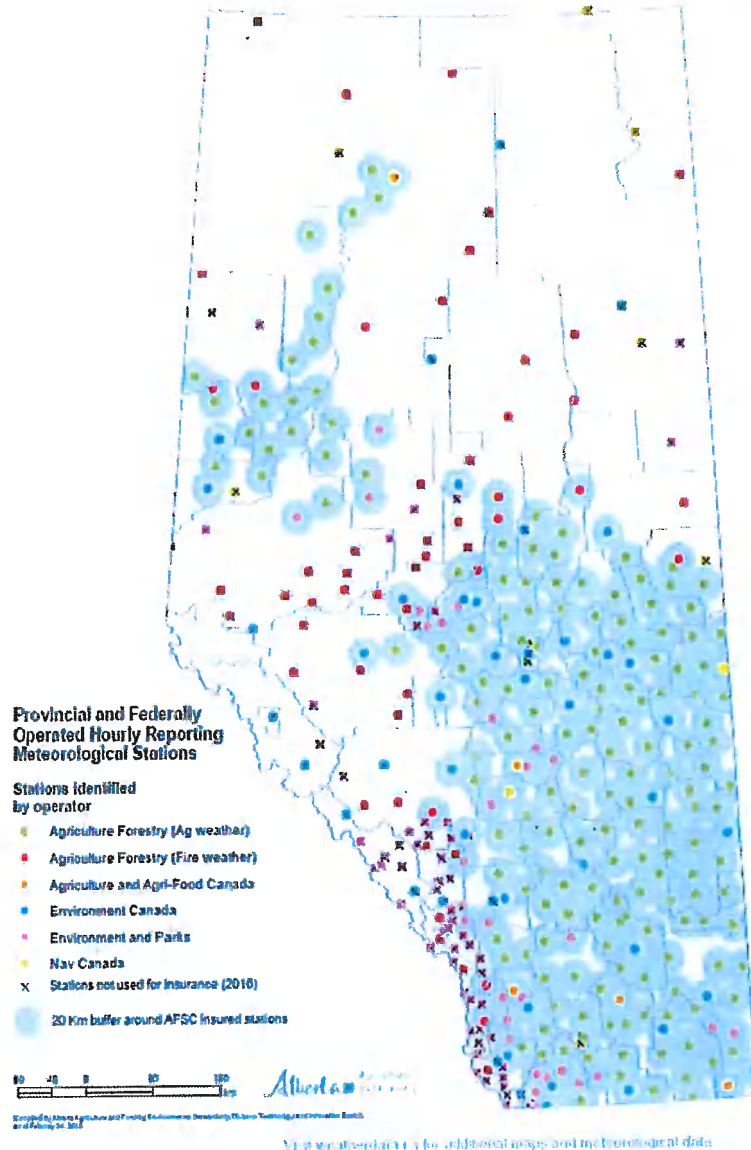
AFSC will continue to monitor our partner's networks and will add suitable stations as new stations are installed and/or upgraded. For example, AF has installed 4 new weather stations in the northern Peace and has plans for an additional 5 stations to be installed in the area in the next two years. As these stations come on-line they will be included in the network.

II) USE ADJUSTERS OPINIONS TO MODIFY DATA

In the annual program literature for the area based programs it is clearly spelled out to clients that the program payments may not reflect the actual production and conditions on insured fields. So clients know when they purchase the insurance the payments will be based on the independent third party weather information from the insurable weather stations and will not be based on assessments from the AFSC's inspectors.

This reduces the program administrative costs and also has the added benefit of offering a program that is based on third party data that is not subject to manipulation by AFSC or by the clients. Involving the inspectors in the process will add a level of subjectivity to the process which could add to additional questions as to how payments are arrived at. The administrative costs would also increase disproportionately to the relative benefit that would be seen. Therefore it is impractical to have the inspector provide an opinion because they are not involved.

APPENDIX 1: Meteorological Stations



Provincial ASB Committee Grade: Accept in Principle

Provincial ASB Committee Comments:

The Committee recognizes that there are still data collection gaps, especially in the northern areas of the province, that impact the payment producers receive. The Committee requested the Minister to provide more detailed information regarding the number of new stations and where the new stations were installed.

Resolution 6-16
COMPENSATION FOR COYOTE DEPREDATION

- WHEREAS:** Coyotes are currently regulated under the Alberta Agricultural Pest Act and Alberta is the only province in Canada to not include coyotes as part of the predatory compensation program;
- WHEREAS:** Wildlife predator compensation is paid for livestock depredation by wolves, grizzly bears, black bears, cougars and eagles;
- WHEREAS:** Coyotes also cause considerable damage to livestock resulting in 65% of Alberta's beef producers having an economic impact from coyote damage;
- WHEREAS:** Adding coyotes to the Alberta Wildlife Regulation would allow producers to claim compensation for livestock depredation caused by this species.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

Status: Provincial

Response

Alberta Environment and Parks

The designation of coyotes under the *Agricultural Pest Act*, in conjunction with liberal harvest regulations outlined in the *Wildlife Act*, provide many tools to agricultural producers in addressing coyote problems they may face.

The Wildlife Predator Compensation Program strives to balance the loss of livestock with funding from hunting licence fees. Because coyotes are not an important big game species, the addition of coyotes as an eligible species for compensation would not be an appropriate use of hunting licence fees.

Environment and Parks acknowledges the financial cost to agricultural producers due to coyote predation on their property. However, there are currently no plans to consider compensation changes at this time.

Provincial ASB Committee Grade: Accept in Principle

Provincial ASB Committee Comments:

The Committee felt that the response from Environment and Parks addressed the resolution as written but that there is still more work that needs to be done to resolve this issue. The Committee understands that there would be a significant stress on the current program without additional new funding and that new funding is not a current financial reality for the province, but coyotes continue to be a problem in certain areas of the province and there is a need for compensation to producers for livestock losses due to coyote predation. The Committee will continue to work with Environment and Parks through some of the working groups they sit on to ensure that this issue remains a high priority to address.

Resolution 7-16
HAY INSURANCE PROGRAM

DEFEATED AT THE 2016 PROVINCIAL ASB CONFERENCE

- WHEREAS:** Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) crop insurance and farm income disaster assistance is based on the annual yields by crop type;
- WHEREAS:** Currently, there is no adjustment for hay quality;
- WHEREAS:** Moisture Deficiency Insurance (MDI) is an area-based program which provides coverage on pasture using precipitation information from weather stations and spring soil moisture estimates to reflect moisture conditions across the province;
- WHEREAS:** Feed barley is used as the proxy crop for hay to determine the Variable Price Benefit (VPB) trigger;
- WHEREAS:** The Fall Market Price of feed barley reported for the Edmonton Region must increase by at least 10 per cent above the production insurance spring price for barley, for the VPB to trigger;
- WHEREAS:** The indemnities are paid using the increased price up to a maximum increase of 50 per cent, and producers are absorbing additional costs over 50%;
- WHEREAS:** Producers are left absorbing the cost of feed supplements when it comes to poor hay and pasture quality as well as the trucking cost when it comes to purchasing hay during the droughts and other agricultural disasters.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

Resolution 8-16

SPECIES AT RISK ACT (SARA)

WHEREAS: The federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) and the designated independent committee for habitat protection legislation will have long lasting negative economic impact on agriculture, industry, rural development, and land use in Alberta and is of great concern to rural municipalities and elected officials;

WHEREAS: Agriculture, industry, species at risk and rural development can co-exist;

WHEREAS: Rural municipalities are firm supporters of the goals of the Species at Risk Act;

WHEREAS: All municipalities, industry and agricultural producers are affected by the above, leading to a shift in the social and economic balance between urban and municipalities in the Province.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

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

Status: Provincial

Response

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

- If a round-table discussion were recommended by the Government of Canada, as suggested in the Resolution, department staff would be willing to participate
- We agree with the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee that agriculture and species-at-risk can co-exist on the landscape. The Department

also agrees that protection of biodiversity, species-at-risk and species-at-risk habitat are extremely significant.

Alberta Environment and Parks

Environment and Parks agrees with Agricultural Service Board that agriculture, industry, and rural development can co-exist with species at risk, if effective stewardship and conservation measures are implemented.

Continuing collaboration with landowners, lessees, municipalities, industry, other stakeholders and the federal government is essential to achieving recovery of species at risk in Alberta, and providing certainty to affected stakeholders.

My department believes challenges related to species at risk conservation can be best addressed through provincial regulatory and policy approaches, federal policy development and improved inter-jurisdictional cooperation and stewardship.

From time to time, legislation is amended. If invited, Environment and Parks would be pleased to provide its input to any federal process for the development of legislative amendments to the *Species at Risk Act*.

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Thank you for your letter of February 10, 2016, and enclosure, requesting my response to Resolution No. 8: Species at Risk Act (SARA), which was passed by delegates at the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference in January.

I share the view that SARA should be implemented in a manner that seeks a balanced and co-operative approach to species conservation and recovery. As species are listed, recovery strategies and management plans are developed, and as critical habitat is identified for endangered and threatened species, consultation with landowners and others that might be directly affected is undertaken to the extent possible.

I encourage the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee to fully explore the Species at Risk Public Registry at www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca. This website is designed to help Canadians better understand Canada's approach to protecting and recovering species at risk, learn about what is being done to help them, and get involved in decision making and recovery activities.

There are many examples where landowners and agricultural producers are contributing to the protection and recovery of species at risk in this country. For example, the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk has, for many years, supported voluntary stewardship of organizations and individuals in Canada to take meaningful actions for the protection and recovery of species at risk, including those found in agricultural landscapes.

Provincial ASB Committee Grade: Accept in Principle

Provincial ASB Committee Comments:

The Committee is currently working towards initiating a round table discussion with AAMDC, AAAF, AF, Environment and Parks and Environment and Climate Change Canada. The Committee is planning to meet with AAMDC and AAAF this fall to discuss this resolution and determine a course of action to address this resolution.

Emergent Resolution E1-16

BILL 6: ENHANCED PROTECTION OF FARM AND RANCH WORKERS

- WHEREAS:** Safety is a top priority in the farming and ranching industry;
- WHEREAS:** There is no consultation on Bill 6 prior to it being announced;
- WHEREAS:** Some agricultural operations currently offer better insurance than WCB, but have been told that they are not allowed to use that insurance as an alternative;
- WHEREAS:** There was overwhelming opposition to Bill 6 from the agricultural community;
- WHEREAS:** The government forced Bill 6 through the legislature in spite of opposition from those that were most affected by the Bill;
- WHEREAS:** Future consultation is scheduled to start in May, which is the busiest time of year for most farmers and ranchers and their employees;
- WHEREAS:** The Bill creates an unfair situation where some agricultural operations are subject to the legislation while others are not;
- WHEREAS:** Local ASB's represent the grass roots agricultural community in all 70 rural municipalities in the province;
- WHEREAS:** The government was not able to offer any clear explanation on how Bill 6 would impact the agricultural community; economy and cultural mosaic;
- WHEREAS:** Bill 6 will have a negative impact on the "grow local food movement";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That, since the Government of Alberta has refused to rescind Bill 6: Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers in spite of overwhelming opposition. It is imperative that local Agricultural Service Boards, the Alberta Association of Municipal District and Counties, the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee, the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen, and any and all commissions, boards, associations, and producer or grower groups related to agriculture should be directly involved in any and

all consultations regarding the writing of regulations surrounding any and all legislation amended by Bill 6 Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers.

Status: Provincial

Response

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

- The next phase of farm and ranch consultation with the agriculture sector begins this spring. This process will include establishing working groups of stakeholders and experts that will make recommendations on how employment standards, occupational health and safety, and labour relations requirements should be applied
- These technical working groups will provide an opportunity for a broad and diverse range of voices from the farming and ranching sector to ensure their way of life is preserved, while at the same time ensuring paid workers come home safely at the end of each day
- Producers who are members of agricultural organizations and groups can also provide their input and feedback through their organization
- Nominations to become a member of these working groups closed on February 26, 2016
- Once we are ready to select members from the nominations received, we plan to get started right away. We plan to have the initial working group meetings in March before taking a break during the busy spring season to allow farmers and ranchers time to get their work done. The working group meetings will resume in June-July 2016.
- For more information on farm and ranch legislation and for the latest updates, visit www.farmandranch.alberta.ca

Alberta Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour

No response was received from Minister Gray at Alberta Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour.

Provincial ASB Committee Grade: Accept in Principle

Provincial ASB Committee Comments

The Committee decided to not seek a response from Alberta Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour as the members of the working groups had already been decided on. Corey Beck, Peace Representative, was selected to sit on one of the six technical working

groups to represent ASBs. The Committee was disappointed that a member from the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) was not selected to participate and discussed this with the Minister on September 6th, 2016. The Committee requested that ASBs and AAAF members be consulted on the Code after it is re-written and circulated for review.

UPDATE OF PREVIOUS YEARS' RESOLUTIONS

Section 3(10) of the Provincial Rules of Procedure states that follow up on resolutions from the previous two years will be reported on in the annual Report Card on the Resolutions. Only those resolutions with grades of "Accept in Principle", "Incomplete" or "Unsatisfactory" are included in this report card. Resolutions from previous years may be included here that are related to a particular issue that the Committee is working on.

A listing of all resolutions with grading can be found on the provincial ASB program website at: www.agriculture.alberta.ca/asb

Agricultural Pests Act Review

Related Resolutions

- 1-12: Alberta Rat Control Program
- 6-12: Requiring Seed Cleaning Plants to Test for Fusarium
- E1-12: *Agricultural Pests Act Review*
- 2-13: Inclusion of all Invasive Hawkweed Species as Prohibited Noxious Under the *Alberta Weed Control Act and Regulation*
- 2-15: Pest Control Act – Clubroot
- 3-15: Standardized Clubroot Inspection Procedure
- 5-15: Maintaining Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) as a Noxious Weed under the *Alberta Weed Control Act and Regulation*
- E1-15: *Fusarium graminearum* Management Plan

The Committee included these resolutions in their discussion with the Minister about the review of the *Agricultural Pests Act*. The Committee was told that ASBs have seen the initial policy document and that Agriculture and Forestry (AF) is currently finishing the policy document and developing a consultation plan. AF expected that consultation would begin in the next six months and the legislation is expected to go to the legislature in the spring or fall of 2018. The Committee will continue to advocate for these resolutions to be considered as part of the consultation process.

Funding for ASBs

Related Resolutions:

- 3-15: Standardized Clubroot Inspection Procedure
- 4-15: Additional Funding for Municipalities Dealing with Prohibited Noxious Weeds that come from Outside the Province of Alberta

The Committee discussed funding issues with the Minister on September 6, 2016 and highlighted that municipalities are currently paying the majority of expenses related to ASB programs. The Committee requested a review of current funding levels.

The Committee is aware that there is now funding available through Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund (ACIDF) Crop Pest Response Fund. This is a fund to provide support for determining the presence and distribution of new or novel pests, to develop a control strategy and implement an eradication or control plan. This is currently a pilot project aimed to support municipalities and other agencies involved in enforcement of the *Agricultural Pests Act* and *Weed Control Act* and currently has a budget of \$500,000. This fund started accepting applications in June 2016 and is currently accepting new applications.

Information about the Crop Pest Response Fund is included in the Appendix.

Resolution 1-15: Adapt Crop Insurance to Protect Clubroot Tolerant Varieties

The Committee recommends maintaining the response to this resolution as "Unsatisfactory". The Committee will continue to remind the Minister that there is capacity to use other agencies to assist with enforcement issues related to pests under the current *Agricultural Pests Act*.

Resolution 8-15: Monitor Ergot Levels in Livestock Feeds

The Committee requested additional information from Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Agriculture and Forestry (AF) on this issue. CFIA responded with additional information and this information is included in the Appendix. AF developed posters with information related to ergot in 2014 but information regarding livestock toxicity was not included on these posters.

Resolution 9-15: Elk Quota Hunt

The 2016 Alberta Hunting Draws booklet lists several new special licence hunting seasons that were created in the province. Antlered and antlerless Elk hunting seasons were created in WMUs 128, 142, 156, 158, 160 and 210 and additional Antlerless Elk special licence hunting seasons were created in WMUs 505, 507, 508 and 510.

Landowner Special Licences were also made available for landowners, or eligible designates, who were unsuccessful in the special licence draws for antlerless elk special licence, with exclusion in certain WMUs.

Statistics for the 2015 elk hunt are included in the Appendix.

Resolution 10-15: Alberta Fish and Wildlife Officer Availability

Related Resolution:

- Resolution 2-14: Wildlife Damage Compensation Program

The Committee requested additional information from Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch regarding which offices had been closed, where new staff had been deployed and if any offices had been re-opened. Miles Davis, Superintendent, with Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch provided the following information to the request:

The Information you requested from the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch is as follows.

New officer hire dates and locations (47):

2016 - Edmonton

2015 – Edson, Grande Cache, Grande Prairie, Lac La Biche, Calgary x2, Slave Lake, Barrhead, Peace River, Cochrane, Fairview, Pincher Creek

2014 – Peace River, Brooks, Grande Prairie, Ft. McMurray, High Prairie, Lac La Biche, Smoky Lake, Lethbridge, Wetaskiwin

2013 – Spruce Grove, Olds/Sundre, High Prairie, Grande Prairie, Cochrane, Ft. McMurray, Whitecourt, Hinton, Calgary, Edmonton, Athabasca

2012 – Bonnyville, Red Deer, Edson, Edmonton, Peace River, Fairview, Slave Lake, Valleyview, Barrhead, Fox Creek, Cold Lake, Ft. McMurray, Lac La Biche, Wetaskiwin.

It should be noted that these locations are for initial postings. Staff may transfer or promote after their initial posting. Most postings are filled due to attrition and staffing priorities. Officer positions have not increased (no net increase).

Office Closure

Since 2012, Coronation is the only office to close. The district was split between Hanna, Oyen, Steffler and Provost. Travel times to respond to the Coronation area have increased slightly; however, that location was a low priority to fill based on effective utilization of officer staff.

Resolution 12-15: Agriculture Plastics Recycling

Related Resolution:

- Resolution 3-16: Agricultural Plastics Recycling

This resolution was discussed with the Minister in conjunction with resolution 3-16.

Resolution 14-15: Management of Farm and Agricultural Leases

The Committee has not had an opportunity to discuss this issue with the Minister of Environment and Parks. The Committee is currently seeking a meeting with the Minister of Environment and Parks to discuss several resolutions related to this Ministry.

Resolution 15-15: Farm Property Assessments

The Committee has been following the review of the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* and current indicators are that the legislation will remain the same and farm properties will continue to receive an assessment exemption on farm residences. The Committee will continue to follow the review of the MGA and provide input as required.

Resolution E1-14: Licencing of Glyphosate Tolerant Wheat in Canada

There are currently no glyphosate tolerant wheat varieties grown commercially in North America but there have recently been reports of escapes of some of these varieties from research trials in the United States. The Committee will continue to follow this issue and advocate that glyphosate tolerant wheat varieties not be licensed in Canada due to concerns expressed by ASBs regarding market access if these varieties are allowed to be grown in Canada.

2016 EXPIRING RESOLUTIONS

The Provincial Rules of Procedure state under Section 3(10) that the ASB Provincial Committee will advocate for resolutions for a period of five years. Any expiring resolutions that an ASB wishes to remain active must be brought forward for approval at the next ASB Provincial Conference.

The following resolutions will expire in 2016:

Resolution Number	Resolution Name	Grade
1-12	Alberta Rat Control Program	Accept in Principle
2-12	Promoting Alberta's Rat Free Status	Accept the Response
3-12	Richardson Ground Squirrel Control	Accept the Response
4-12	Wild Boar Eradication Initiative	Incomplete
6-12	Requiring Seed Cleaning Plants to test for Fusarium	Accept in Principle
7-12	Herbicide Selection for Noxious Weed Control on Acreages	Accept in Principle
8-12	2011 Provincial Enforcement of the Weed Act	Unsatisfactory
9-12	Requiring labelling of flower seed mixes with all species present	Unsatisfactory
10-12	Request for ARD to take a more forceful approach to the selling of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds at greenhouses and plant retailers	Unsatisfactory
11-12	Cessation of potable water use by oil and gas industry	Accept the Response
13-12	Liability on Sustainable Resource Development lease lands	Incomplete
15-12	Recycling program for agricultural plastics	Accept the Response
16-12	Funding for ARECA Member groups	Accept the Response
17-12	AFSC Seeding Intention Dates	Regional
18-12	Special Areas water supply project	Regional
E1-12	Agricultural Pest Act Review	Accept in Principle
E2-12	Compound 1080 review by Pest Management Regulatory Agency	Accept in Principle

Updates on Expiring Resolutions

Resolution 7-12: Herbicide Selection for Noxious Weed Control on Acreages

Five municipalities are currently participating in a pilot project to determine if acreage owners will be allowed increased herbicide selection. Alberta Environment and Parks will be reviewing this program and determine if it will be offered province wide.

Resolution E2-12: Compound 1080 review by Pest Management Regulatory Agency

The ASB Provincial Committee recommends that the grade for resolution E2-12 be changed to "Accept the Response" as the review for Compound 1080 has been completed and continued registration of the product was granted provided labels were amended to reduce environmental exposure.

Information on the review and re-evaluation decision may be found at: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/_decisions/rvd2014-03/index-eng.php

APPENDIX

Alberta's Cow Herd: Statistics

Table 48: Cattle and Calves on Alberta Farms, July 1, 1960-2005

Year	1960 herd									Total		Alberta as a % of Canada
	Bulls	Milk Cows	Dairy Heifers	Beef Cows	(1) Beef Heifers	Slaughter Heifers	Calves	Stoers	Alberta	Canada		
1960	550	2300	370	2370	2600	-	4070	2000	9,000	11,307.0	23.0	
1961	570	2300	390	2300	2710	-	4130	2000	9,000	11,300.0	23.1	
1962	570	2320	370	2300	2700	-	4230	2000	9,000	11,307.0	23.0	
1963	510	2300	370	2400	2800	-	4300	2000	9,000	11,260.0	23.0	
1964	510	2300	310	1,900	2800	-	1,910	4000	9,500	11,691.0	23.0	
1965	490	2340	350	1,900	2810	-	1,970	4100	9,670	11,200.0	23.2	
1966	510	2430	310	1,900	2800	-	1,900	2310	9,400	10,800.0	23.7	
1967	500	2440	300	1,910	2800	-	1,900	2300	9,300	10,807.0	23.7	
1968	520	2300	340	1,900	2800	-	1,910	2300	9,340	10,407.0	23.0	
1969	510	2300	300	1,900	2800	-	1,900	2300	9,200	10,200.0	23.0	
1970	500	2270	280	1,910	2800	-	1,970	2200	9,000	10,000.0	23.0	
1971	520	2300	280	1,900	2800	-	1,970	2300	9,200	10,200.0	23.0	
1972	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	-	1,970	2300	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1973	500	2300	280	1,900	2800	-	1,970	2300	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1974	570	2300	280	1,900	2800	-	1,970	2300	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1975	570	2300	280	1,900	2800	-	1,970	2300	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1976	500	2300	310	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2700	9,000	10,000.0	23.0	
1977	570	2300	300	1,900	2800	300	1,910	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1978	520	2300	310	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.7	23.0	
1979	500	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1980	500	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1981	500	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1982	500	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1983	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1984	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1985	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1986	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1987	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1988	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1989	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1990	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1991	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1992	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1993	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1994	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1995	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1996	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1997	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1998	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
1999	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
2000	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
2001	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
2002	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
2003	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
2004	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	
2005	510	2300	280	1,900	2800	300	1,900	2800	9,000	10,200.0	23.0	

Note: Cattle statistics prior to 1975 are as of June 1.
 (1) Composite heifers for beef herd replacement. Prior to 1970, included slaughter heifers.
 Source: Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada

Source: agriculture.alberta.ca

July 1, 2016 Cattle Inventory
 Statistics Canada

Alberta

**Cattle inventories, by province
 (Alberta)**

	As of January 1, 2016	As of July 1, 2016
	thousand head	
Alta.		
Cattle	4,915.00	5,370.00
Bulls	90	88.7
Milk cows	77.9	82.5
Beef cows	1,564.80	1,499.30
Dairy heifers	39.5	37.3
Beef heifers	795.3	1,009.50
Beef heifers for breeding	224.8	257.7
Beef heifers for market	570.5	751.8
Steers	656	923.6
Calves	1,691.50	1,729.10
Notes:		
- Bull: An uncastrated male bovine		
- Heifer: Female cow that has never borne young		
- Steer: A castrated male bovine		
Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM, table 003-0032 and Catalogue no. 23-012-X (free).		
Last modified: 2016-08-18.		

Agri-Food Statistics Update



Issue No: LS16-2

Collected from a variety of sources, the Statistics and Data Development Section monitors statistical indicators of agri-food activity for Alberta. The Agri-Food Statistics Update is designed to provide users with commentary on current issues, trends and new developments related to agriculture and the food and beverage processing industries. Up-to-date statistics are supplemented with informative charts and diagrams. To gauge Alberta's performance, comparative data and information are often available for Canada and the provinces.

The estimates present potential marketings (i.e. supply which could become available), based on the size of the breeding herd and imports. Such information is useful to producers and others when making decisions relating to marketings, pricing, future production, as well as in estimating farm income and farm expenses.

The process involves verifying commodity supply and disposition variables to arrive at ending stocks. The supply variables are opening stocks, births and imports (interprovincial/international), while the disposition variables include deaths and condemnations, marketings, and exports (interprovincial/international). Administrative data are used where available, supplemented with some estimates where data are not timely or available. Hence, the inventory estimates are subject to revision. Given this limitation, users are advised to exercise some caution when using the estimates.

Please visit the following website for a complete listing of Agri-Food Statistics Update releases:

<http://www150.sask.ca/ab.ca/260601/infocentre/infocentre.nsf/all/0645270>

Note to Users: The contents of this document may not be used or reproduced without properly accrediting Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Economics and Competitiveness Branch, Statistics and Data Development Section.



July 1, 2016 Livestock Inventory Estimates Alberta/Canada

On August 18, Statistics Canada released the July 1, 2016 inventory estimates for cattle, pigs, and sheep on farms in Alberta and other Canadian provinces.

Key Messages

Cattle and Calves Inventories

- Cattle and calves on Alberta's farms totalled 5.4 million head, up 1.0 per cent from July 1, 2015.
- The increase in inventory was mainly due to a rise in all cattle classes with the exception of beef cows and steers.
- The decline in beef cow numbers was largely due to high cow slaughter levels during the first half of 2016, compared to the same period in 2015.

Pig Inventories

- Alberta's total pig herd on farms was estimated at 1.5 million head, up 1.3 per cent from July 1, 2015.
- The major factor impacting pig inventories was the strong consumer demand for pork.

Sheep and Lamb Inventories

- The size of the provincial flock on farms in Alberta was 185,000 head, down 5.1 per cent from a year earlier.
- Strong slaughter lamb and sheep prices continue to encourage marketings.

Other Comparisons

- Nationally, cattle and calf, and pig inventories grew, while sheep and lamb inventories decreased.
- Alberta continues to rank first in the nation in cattle and calf inventories; third in sheep and lamb inventories; and fourth in pig inventories.

August 19, 2016

(Please turn over)

Selected Livestock on Alberta Farms, as of July 1, 2016

Agri-Food Statistics
Update: LS16-2

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change P (vs 2012)	% of Stock	% of Change
	(in thousands)							
Total cattle and calves	5,488,000	5,235,000	5,453,000	5,234,000	5,270,000	1.0	62.4	-0.3
Bulls, 1 year plus	81,700	81,500	81,200	80,700	80,700	0.0	40.2	20.0
Beef Cows	3,505,000	3,400,000	3,579,000	3,509,000	3,498,000	-0.6	40.2	24.3
Milk Cows	80,000	80,000	79,900	81,900	80,500	0.4	36.6	0.0
Heifers: dairy replacement	40,500	40,100	39,800	39,000	37,000	-0.4	35.8	0.5
Heifers: beef replacement	242,000	251,000	252,100	248,100	257,000	0.8	46.2	40.2
Heifers: slaughter	736,000	776,000	704,000	714,000	750,000	0.8	70.2	0.2
Steers, 1 year plus	308,000	311,500	305,500	309,500	321,000	-0.7	72.2	54.3
Calves, under 1 year	1,758,000	1,771,000	1,740,000	1,880,000	1,790,000	2.5	30.6	-0.5
Total Pigs	1,281,000	1,440,000	1,474,000	1,483,000	1,418,000	1.3	16.0	13.3
Breeding Stock	240,200	240,300	242,400	242,800	241,000	0.3	34.3	11.4
Boars, 6 months plus	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	2.3	39.0	18.0
Sows & bred gilts	236,200	236,300	238,400	238,800	237,000	0.2	34.8	11.2
All Other Pigs	1,040,800	1,200,000	1,231,600	1,240,200	1,177,000	1.4	36.0	11.0
Under 23 kg	481,500	488,300	483,000	491,500	501,000	2.5	34.1	28.8
23 - 53 kg	326,000	324,400	347,400	347,800	353,000	1.0	35.4	23.0
54 - 80 kg	194,500	200,000	202,000	204,400	202,000	0.2	39.4	13.1
Over 81 kg	238,800	287,300	298,200	310,500	292,500	-0.8	37.8	11.0
Total Sheep and Lambs	202,000	204,000	204,000	183,000	183,000	-5.1	12.4	-17.0
Ewes	5,300	5,300	4,900	4,600	4,300	-6.5	41.2	17.2
Rams	95,000	91,400	80,200	81,400	80,700	-4.1	41.0	10.0
Replacement lambs	14,000	15,300	14,200	14,000	14,000	-7.1	39.8	14.0
Market lambs	88,700	90,000	90,700	87,000	88,000	-0.7	41.0	20.0

Alberta's Cattle and Calf Inventory Increased 1.0 per cent

As of July 1, 2016, cattle and calves on Alberta farms totalled 5.4 million head, up 1.0 per cent from July 1, 2015. This marks the first year-over-year increase following two consecutive years of decline. The increase in inventory was mainly due to a rise in all cattle classes with the exception of beef cows and steers. Alberta cattle prices trended downwards in the first half of 2016 from the peak levels observed in 2015. However, prices remain well above the five-year average.

Alberta's total beef breeding herd, comprising cows and heifers remained flat at 1.8 million head. Total beef cows numbers fell marginally by 0.6 per cent to 1.5 million head, while beef heifers for replacement were up 3.9 per cent to 257,700 head. The small decline for beef cow numbers was due to higher cow slaughter levels during the first half of 2016, compared to the same period in 2015.

Bulls remained flat at 88,700 head, while steers decreased 1.7 per cent to 321,000 head. Parting gains were heifers for slaughter which increased 3.8 per cent to 751,000 head, and calves which rose 2.5 per cent to 1.7 million head. The provincial dairy herd, comprising of milk cows and dairy replacement heifers increased 1.4 per cent to 119,800 head, compared to July 1, 2015.

Alberta's Pig Inventory grew 1.3 per cent

Alberta's total pig herd estimated at 1.5 million head, was up 1.3 per cent from July 1, 2015. Inventories increased for all classes of animals with the exception of market hogs in the "Over 81 kilograms" class. The major factor impacting pig inventories was the strong consumer demand for pork.

The total market hog inventories grew 1.4 per cent to 1.4 million head. Hogs in the "Under 23 kilograms" class rose 2.5 per cent to 503,000 head, while hogs in the "23 to 53 kilogram" class increased 3.8 per cent to 357,000 head. Similarly, hogs in the "54 to 80 kilogram" class were up 5.2 per cent to 320,200 head, while hogs in the "Over 81 kilogram" class fell 5.8 per cent to 292,500 head.

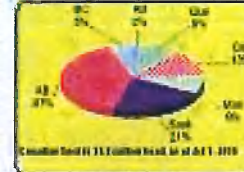
The estimated breeding inventory, comprising boars, sows and bred gilts, was up 0.3 per cent from July 1, 2015 to 241,300 head. Sows and bred gilts marginally increased 0.2 per cent to 136,900 head, while boars increased 2.3 per cent to 4,100 head.

Alberta's Sheep and Lamb Inventory declined 5.1 per cent

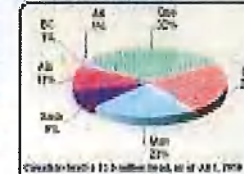
As of July 1, 2016, the size of the provincial sheep and lamb flock on farms was 185,000 head, down 5.1 per cent from a year earlier. The drop in inventory was mainly due to a decline in all classes of animals. Strong slaughter lamb and sheep prices continue to encourage marketings.

Ewes, at 85,700 head, were 4.1 per cent below July 1, 2015. Replacement lambs declined 7.1 per cent to 14,000 head, and market lambs decreased 5.7 per cent to 88,000 head. The total number of rams fell 6.5 per cent to 4,300 head.

Percentage of Canadian Cattle and Calf Inventory



Percentage of Canadian Pig Inventory



Percentage of Canadian Sheep and Lamb Inventory

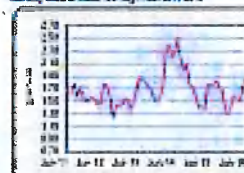


Monthly Alberta Slaughter Live Pigs, 2011-2016



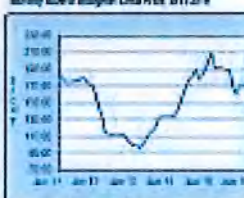
Source: Census

Monthly Alberta Sows (60 kg) Pigs, 2011-2016



Source: AR

Monthly Alberta Slaughter Lamb Prices, 2011-2016



Source: Slaughter Operating Areas (SAO)

Source: Statistics Canada; Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF)

* - Preliminary and may be subject to revision

** - Revised

Prepared by: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Economics and Competitiveness Branch, Statistics and Data Development Section
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August 19, 2016

Source: agriculture.alberta.ca

Agricultural Plastics Recycling

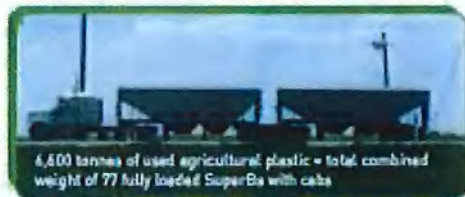


Highlights from 2015 Market-Based Solutions for Used Agricultural Plastics: Survey of Municipalities

A challenging issue

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

Several Alberta studies and surveys have looked into this issue. For example, a 2013 report entitled *Alberta Agricultural Waste Characterization Study: Final Report* estimated that between 8,600 and 14,000 tonnes of agricultural plastic waste are generated in Alberta every year. The report *Agricultural Plastics Recycling: Agricultural Producers Survey, Final Report* detailed the results of a 2012 survey of 660 agricultural producers in Alberta. It found that producers dealt with used plastics in various ways such as burning them, sending them to a landfill, sending them for recycling, burying them on-farm, and reusing them. The surveyed producers said they used burning as a means of dealing with various used plastics including: baling twine (52% of respondents), silage pit or pile covers (42%), bale wrap (27%), grain bags or tubes (20%), and silage bags or tubes (15%).



4,600 tonnes of used agricultural plastic = total combined weight of 77 fully loaded SuperBAs with cabs

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

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

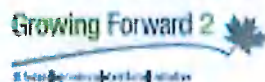
For proper disposal, agricultural plastics should be either buried in a landfill or diverted from the waste stream into a market. Examples of possible markets include recycling into other plastic products, conversion into fuel, and conversion into electricity. However, the 2012 producer survey results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

About the 2015 survey

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

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

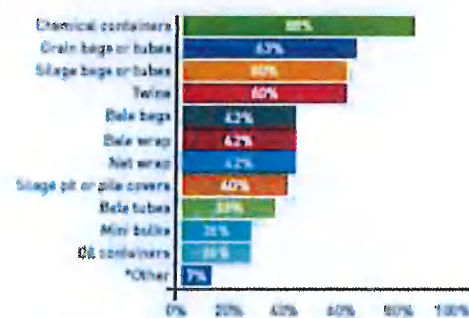
Agricultural fieldmen from 81 out of Alberta's 89 municipalities participated in the survey. The survey was conducted by phone, which allowed AF to provide greater context to the results.



Highlights of 2015 municipalities survey results

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

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



*Other: Antibiotic jugs, hay tarps

*Chemical containers accepted through CleanFARMS recycling program

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

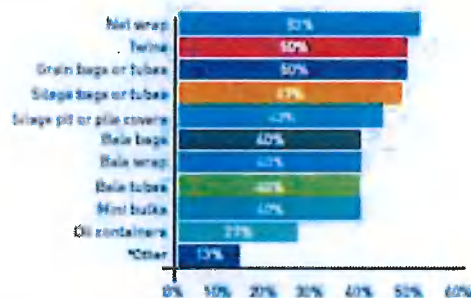


These results suggest that, for at least some producers, the distance to a landfill/transfer station was not an insurmountable barrier to taking their used plastics for proper disposal.



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

Figure 2. Used Agricultural Plastics Not Accepted at Municipal Waste Site (n=57)



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

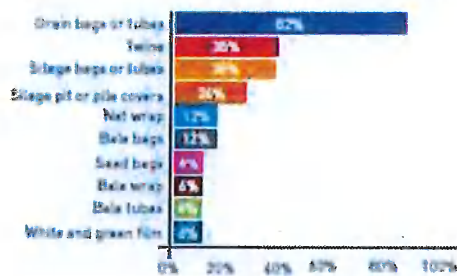
Some municipalities accessed markets for used agricultural plastics: In this survey, "markets" are businesses that obtain used agricultural plastics for purposes such as recycling or energy production opportunities.

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

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

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

Figure 3 Used Agricultural Plastics Entering Market by Type (n=19)



*Circular containers were noted through the Clean2BURN recycling program.

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

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

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

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

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



Most municipalities that were sending used agricultural plastics to a market did not have a formal written agreement with a company: Of the respondents who said their municipality was sending agricultural plastics for recycling, most (53%) said their municipality did not have an established agreement with the recycling company. Nineteen percent had verbal agreements, and 12% had written agreements. Not having a formal agreement can be risky for payment or delivery logistics.

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

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

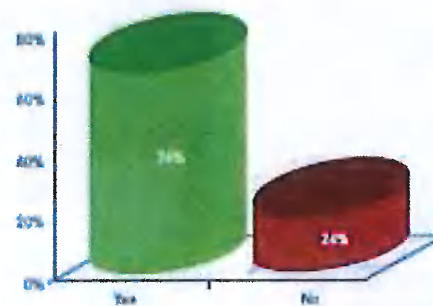
Municipalities faced significant barriers when attempting to access markets for used agricultural plastics: Respondents were asked several questions regarding barriers to accessing markets for used agricultural plastics. Table 1 lists examples of the identified barriers.

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

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

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

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



Crop Pest Response Fund

http://www.acidf.ca/index.htm_files/CropPestResponseBrochure.pdf

Crop Pest Response Fund Objectives

This Program provides financial support to approved projects to:

Establish the presence and geographic distribution of new or novel plant pests,

Assist in the costs to develop a control strategy

Support the implementation of an eradication plan or a control plan.

The Crop Pest Response Fund is specifically to protect crops and yields in those situations where additional or incremental response is warranted. This is targeted at regulated pests or new invasive pests establishing or expanding in Alberta.

What Support is Available?

The program is designed to assist response efforts. These can include:

- Cost of surveys to establish distribution
- Costs to develop or test mitigation strategies
- Costs of implementing eradication or control
- Reasonable extension costs as part of response

There are many possibilities. More information on eligible activities is available on the website. Application requests are expected to be less than \$500,000.

A Definition

Pest: a weed, disease, or insect identified as noxious, prohibited or economically threatening affecting an agricultural or commercial horticulture crop.

Overview

The Crop Pest Response Fund is a pilot program to support rapid response to crop-related pest and disease threats within Alberta. This makes funds available to address or minimize production risks. Approved projects will be relevant to administration of the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act, the Alberta Weed Control Act, and associated regulations.

Applications will be accepted starting June 2016, until available funding is depleted.

Grants approved must be spent before December 31, 2017.

To Apply or for Information:

Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund Ltd
Agriculture Building
5050-50 St
Lacombe, AB, Canada, T4L 1W3

e-mail: info@acidf.ca
phone: 403-782-8034

web: www.acidf.ca/croppest

Crop Pest Response Fund

Improving production security through pest and disease control and prevention.



So much to do... So little time. What can you do under this program?

Get The Big Picture

Identify the presence and geographic distribution of new or emerging pests affecting crop production or commercial horticulture.

Formulate an Effective Plan of Action

A pro-active plan is better than a rushed reaction. Build a plan that includes people, resources needed, and timing of actions.

Eradicate and Control

A plan is of no value without action! Eradication and control both need to be adapted to the situation. This is about the right step at the right time.

What Can't We Do?

The program does not support non-crop pests. This is a pilot program with limited scope.



Who Can Apply?

The program is aimed at municipalities, institutions, governments and other agencies supporting the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act, and the Alberta Weed Control Act. This includes:

- ✓ Provincial or Local Authority as defined in the Alberta Municipal Government Act
- ✓ Not-For-Profit agriculture-based organization registered under a federal or provincial act
- ✓ Band as defined in the Indian Act
- ✓ Métis Settlement
- ✓ Provincial or Federal educational institutions

What is the Process?

Applications are on the website at:

www.acidf.ca/croppest

Applications will be reviewed by an expert review committee, who in turn make recommendations to the ACIDF Board. All applications will be subject to technical review. Applications will be judged for clearly defined deliverables, value for cost, likelihood of success, and sound project design. Projects will be evaluated based on benefit to Alberta, even if some work happens outside the province.

Ergot Awareness

Resources from AAFC and CFIA

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/feeds/regulatory-guidance/rg-8/eng/1347383943203/1347384015909?chap=1>

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/feeds/regulatory-guidance/rg-8/eng/1347383943203/1347384015909?chap=0>

<http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/ergot-low-levels-cause-big-problems-bergen/>

[http://www1.foragebeef.ca/\\$foragebeef/frgebeef.nsf/all/frg4868](http://www1.foragebeef.ca/$foragebeef/frgebeef.nsf/all/frg4868)

<http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/ergot-of-cereal-grasses>

<https://www.grainscanada.gc.ca/fact-fait/ergot-eng.htm>

<https://www.grainscanada.gc.ca/oggg-gocg/ggg-gcg-eng.htm>

http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/swine/facts/info_ergot.htm

http://www.bfr.bund.de/en/frequently_asked_questions_on_ergot_alkaloids_in_cereal_products-189083.html

<http://adlib.everysite.co.uk/adlib/defra/content.aspx?doc=100057&id=100058>

<https://www.grainscanada.gc.ca/oggg-gocg/04/oggg-gocg-4e-eng.htm>

Resources from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

The Impact of Ergot Toxicity on Sheep and Lambs 2015

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sg16048](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sg16048)

Pest Control in Fall Rye

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex4462](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex4462)

Big Game Harvest Estimates 2015 - Elk

Hunting, Hunter Harvest

WMU: Wildlife Management Unit

WMU	Male	Female	Young	Total	Est Hunter Success (%)
102	17	39	2	57	65%
104	1	6	0	8	12%
108	19	18	0	37	65%
118	3	0	0	3	13%
119	3	0	0	3	14%
124/144/142/130	27	130	24	261	75%
131	10	3	0	14	11%
131/132	22	9	3	33	33%
132	3	0	0	3	4%
162	14	0	0	14	22%
162/163/164/165	34	23	0	58	47%
164	3	0	0	3	23%
165	7	0	0	7	10%
200	14	0	0	14	16%
200/202/203/232/234	33	58	23	176	25%
202	3	0	0	3	4%
204	3	0	0	3	23%
204/228/230	0	0	0	0	0%
205/222/226/244/245	9	3	0	14	20%
208	10	0	0	10	18%
208/220	12	6	0	18	28%
212	21	103	16	140	13%
214	21	0	0	21	10%
214/314	0	99	6	105	42%
216	33	0	0	33	13%
216/310	0	26	0	26	38%
220	0	3	0	3	4%
221	7	0	0	7	9%
221/322	0	0	0	0	0%
224	21	4	3	28	11%
232	17	0	0	17	17%
234	17	0	3	21	13%
236	3	0	0	3	3%
236/238/236/300	7	26	0	33	33%

WMU	Male	Female	Young	Total	Est Hunter Success (%)
240/242	4	9	0	13	37%
242	10	0	0	10	16%
246	3	0	0	3	7%
252	3	0	0	3	9%
252/254/252/260	5	9	9	21	28%
254	0	3	0	3	9%
300A	16	23	6	48	23%
300B	28	37	0	63	34%
302	80	130	22	232	33%
303	3	3	0	6	10%
304	103	132	9	243	17%
309	101	181	7	290	20%
306	24	32	6	61	18%
308	84	21	0	103	12%
310	84	40	0	124	22%
312	185	132	21	339	23%
314	49	24	0	73	8%
316	0	0	0	0	0%
318	7	7	0	14	3%
320	33	3	0	38	7%
322	10	0	0	10	8%
324	3	7	0	10	4%
326	3	0	0	3	1%
328	14	0	0	14	3%
330	0	3	0	3	1%
332	24	26	8	61	7%
334	17	10	0	28	10%
336	21	19	5	45	9%
337	10	31	0	42	11%
338	17	7	3	28	4%
339	7	0	0	7	1%
340	17	3	3	23	6%
342	7	5	0	12	3%
344	43	19	0	64	10%
346	39	83	0	144	13%
347	7	0	0	7	3%
348	39	74	0	109	14%
349	24	0	0	24	10%
350	3	0	0	3	2%
351	3	0	0	3	3%
352	21	10	0	31	10%

WMU	Male	Female	Young	Total	Est Hunter Success (%)
353	24	18	11	54	7%
354	21	3	0	24	7%
355	7	3	3	13	8%
356	66	37	0	123	13%
357	196	457	76	729	28%
358	178	289	48	495	29%
359	210	187	39	436	28%
360	94	186	19	299	29%
400	63	0	0	63	7%
402	38	3	0	41	4%
404	11	9	0	21	13%
406	14	3	0	19	8%
408	3	3	0	5	7%
410	7	0	3	10	4%
412	0	0	0	0	0%
414	0	0	0	0	0%
416	0	0	0	0	0%
418	4	0	0	4	33%
420	0	0	0	0	0%
426	3	0	0	3	3%
428	0	0	0	0	0%
429	7	0	0	7	4%
430	0	0	0	0	0%
432	0	0	0	0	0%
434	0	0	0	0	0%
436	0	0	0	0	0%
437	0	0	0	0	0%
438	7	4	4	14	9%
439	0	0	0	0	0%
440	17	0	0	17	15%
441	0	1	0	1	2%
442	3	0	0	3	8%
444	14	2	0	16	16%
443	0	0	0	0	0%
446	0	0	0	0	0%
500	0	0	0	0	0%
504	10	0	0	10	14%
503	3	3	0	6	6%
506	10	0	0	10	6%
507	14	41	3	60	14%
508	0	4	0	4	3%

WMU	Male	Female	Young	Total	Est Hunter Success (%)
309	12	26	0	38	21%
310	38	41	0	80	11%
311	0	27	0	27	15%
312	21	4	0	25	30%
321	173	380	46	601	33%
322	136	209	23	369	32%
323	94	121	24	239	31%
324	0	0	0	0	0%
325	0	0	0	0	0%
326	66	96	0	162	19%
327	70	76	4	150	19%
328	0	0	0	0	0%
333	14	0	0	14	15%
337	0	0	0	0	0%
344	0	0	0	0	0%
732	312	304	112	528	36%
936	38	3	3	44	23%

	Male	Female	Young	Total
Estimated Total	3,631	4,495	601	8,734

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	October 17, 2016
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	EVENTS
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with events for their consideration.

BACKGROUND:

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

Will be brought back to a future meeting for attendance approval:

- Winter Watering Systems Tour on January 21, 2017 in Saddle Hills County, details to be announced.
- Holistic Management Course January 26-28, 2017 and February 2-4, 2017 in Rycroft, Alberta.
- 2017 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference on January 24-27, 2017 at the Westin Conference Centre in Edmonton, Alberta. Registration and agenda details to be announced.

OPTIONS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That this Agricultural Service Board ...

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

ABj

AgFieldman:

[Signature]

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	October 17, 2016
Originated By:	Audrey Bjorklund, Community Development Manager
Title:	VSI PROGRAM
File:	63-10-40

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

The next annual general meeting is November 4, 2016 at the Peace River Legion. Councillor Johnson, as Council rep, is the designated County representative that attends the VSI meetings.

ATTACHMENTS:

- VSI agreement *Page 106*
- Annual General Meeting letter *Page 115*
- November 4, 2016 Annual General Meeting Agenda *Page 116*
- November 6, 2015 Annual General Meeting minutes *Page 118*
- VSI Financial Statements for 2015 *Page 135*

OPTIONS:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board...

Initials show support - Reviewed by:	Manager: <i>abj</i>	AF: <i>af</i>
--------------------------------------	---------------------	---------------

This agreement made effective January 1, 2016 between:

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

-and-

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

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

Whereas:

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

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

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

...2

2. Subject to the terms of this agreement, V.S.I. agrees to pay FIFTY (50%) percent of the fees of the Veterinarian for the performance of those services set forth in Schedule A for Clear Hills County annexed hereto and forming a part of this agreement. Payment of the Jurisdiction's share of these veterinary services, on behalf of an Approved Producer, shall constitute the V.S.I. Program.

3. V.S.I. will only pay 50% of the fees of the Veterinarians whose fees shall be rendered in accordance with Schedule A provided however that V.S.I. will not pay:
 - (i) any fee or charge for any service not specifically set forth in Schedule A;

 - (ii) any fee or charge in excess of 50% of the fee or charge prescribed by V.S.I. in Schedule A;

 - (iii) for any service specifically listed in Schedule B attached;

 - (iv) for any veterinary service for animal species raised, or grown, for the production of food for human consumption other than those specifically identified in Schedule A;

 - (v) for the travelling charges of a Veterinarian; and

 - (vi) for any additional fee, or charge, rendered for the provision of veterinary services performed at any time other than the normal office hours of the Veterinarian.

4. The Jurisdiction acknowledges that to implement and maintain the V.S.I. Program, V.S.I. will enter into contracts with one or more Veterinarians, which will require V.S.I. to pay a portion of the fee of those Veterinarians in accordance with Schedule A. The Jurisdiction agrees to provide V.S.I. with the funds necessary to implement, administer and carry out the V.S.I. Program until this agreement is terminated. The Jurisdiction agrees to advance the sum of **THIRTY EIGHT THOUSAND AND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$38,500.00)** to establish the V.S.I. Program in Clear Hills County for the period January 1 to December 31, 2016.

5. The parties acknowledge and agree that the funds of the Jurisdiction shall only be used for implementing administering and carrying out the V.S.I. Program for Clear Hills County. The Jurisdiction further acknowledges and agrees that neither V.S.I. nor any of its members, directors, officers, or employees, are trustees of the funds of the Jurisdiction and that V.S.I. is not under any duty or liability to provide veterinary services to the full extent of the funds provided by the Jurisdiction.

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

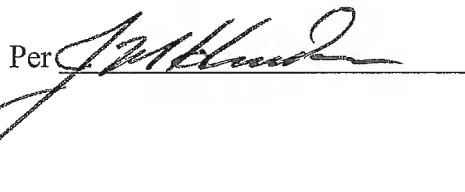
V.S.I. Services (1980) Ltd.
Box 202
Fairview, AB T0H 1L0

and

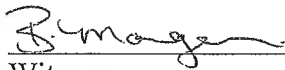
Clear Hills County
Box 240
Worsley, AB T0H 3W0


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

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

Per 

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of:


Witness


Clear Hills County
Reeve, Jake Klassen

Agreed Dec 8/16

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

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

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

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

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

CATTLE

A. Ancillary (add-on) Services

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

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

B. Flat Rate Inclusive Surgical Procedures

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

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

C. Flat Rate Obstetrical and Reproductive Services

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

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Caesarean Section	41	248.00	248.00
Dystocia	31	112.50	112.50
Embryotomy (1 or 2 cuts)	44	168.00	168.00
Embryotomy (3 or more cuts)	45	198.50	198.50
Note: Code #1 (epidural) can be added, as appropriate, with codes 31, 44, 45 & 52.			
Scrotal Circumference Measurement	65	11.50	11.50
Note: This fee <u>only</u> applies for <u>bulls eliminated</u> from further breeding soundness evaluations.			
Semen Test (1 st bull)	60	49.50	49.50
Semen Test (2 nd to 10 th bull)	61	35.00	35.00 each
Semen Test (11 th to 50 th bull)	62	32.00	32.00 each
Semen Test (51 st bull plus)	63	29.00	29.00 each
Pregnancy Testing (per head)	6	2.50	2.50 each
Note: A higher fee can be charged for the first animal as per the AB.VMA fee schedule but VSI will only pay the VSI rate for the first animal.			
Prolapses			
-Rectal	74	58.50	58.50
- Uterine	71	111.00	111.00
-Vaginal	81	76.00	76.00
-Vaginal & Rectal	84	87.50	87.50
Uterine Torsion (manual correction)	46	122.50	122.50

D. Hourly Rates for Surgical & Professional Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

E. Flat Rate Non-Surgical Professional Services

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

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

I.V. Hook - up + 24 hour monitor	56	87.00	87.00
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Note: Only for calves up to two months old. It includes the exam and professional services for the first 24 hours. Code 52 should be used to cover professional services in subsequent 24 hour periods.

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

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

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

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

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

PIGS**All Services**

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHEEP & GOATS

All Services

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

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

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

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

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

SCHEDULE "B"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

V.S.I. SERVICES (1980) LTD

A nonprofit organization providing veterinary care in Alberta

BOX 202

FAIRVIEW, AB T0H 1L0

September 27, 2016

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

RECEIVED

SEP 30 2016

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

Dear Allan

The **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of V.S.I. Services (1980) Ltd. will be held on **Friday November 4, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Peace River Legion – 10103 – 101 St.**
Peace River.

The following documents are enclosed:

1. Agendas for the AGM and Board of Directors meetings
2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM
3. Minutes of the 2015 Board of Directors meeting
4. Financial Statement for 2015

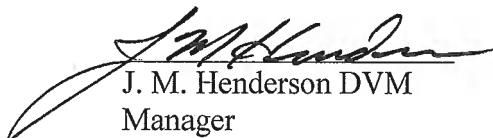
These documents have also been sent to your V.S.I. Representative Mr. Charlie Johnson. Please ensure that Charlie has received his information package for this meeting and that he is aware about the level of support that your jurisdiction is willing provide in 2017.

Once again a recommendation will be made to base the 2017 VSI fee schedule on the rates suggested by the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association. Generally they make their recommendation in accordance with the "Cost of Living Index".

I thank you for your support of VSI in the past and look forward to continuation of the VSI program in your jurisdiction in 2017.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Thank you

Thank you


J. M. Henderson DVM
Manager

Encl.

cc Aaron Zylstra
Sarah Hayward

AGENDA
V.S.I. MEMBERS MEETING
Friday November 4, 2016
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
10103-101 ST.
PEACE RIVER
10:00 A.M.

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Additions to the Agenda
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Minutes of the November 6, 2015 meeting
6. Business Arising from the Minutes
7. Manager's Report
8. VSI Update (Round Table Discussion)
9. Approval of New Members
10. Deletions from Membership list
11. Nominations for Veterinary Directors
12. Other Business
 - a) Guidelines for dealing with contraventions of section 7 of the V.S.I.-Veterinarian contract re different fees for V.S.I. vs non-V.S.I. clients
 - b) Does code 2 (first x-ray) include a component for interpretation/diagnosis?
 - c) Should an upper limit be established for major or minor surgeries under codes 12 & 13?
 - d) Is there a need for a new code for splint applications?
 - e) Should there be code for intra-articular injections?
 - f) Code 9 (out-patient fee) & single of code 6 (pregnancy test) claim
 - g) Review of 2017 fee schedule
 - h) Items from the floor
13. Adjournment

AGENDA
V.S.I. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Friday November 4, 2016
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
10103-101 ST.
PEACE RIVER

Immediately following the V.S.I. Members Meeting

Note: VSI members and other invited guests can participate in this meeting but only the Directors have a vote.

1. Call to Order
2. Additions to the Agenda
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Minutes of the November 6, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting
5. Retiring Directors
6. Appointment of Directors for 2017
7. Review of 2015 Financial Statements
8. Appointment of Accountant for the 2016 Fiscal Year
9. Approval to destroy V.S.I. claim forms and contracts up to and including 2009.
10. Requisitions for 2017
11. Items brought forward from the AGM
12. Veterinary Fee Schedule for 2017
13. Review of President's Honorarium
14. Election of Executive
15. Other Business
 - a) Appointment of Manager for 2017
 - b) Other
16. Adjournment

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

ATTENDEES

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

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

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

OTHERS

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

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

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

REGRETS

Darren Fulmore MD of Lesser Slave River #124

1. Call to Order

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

2. Introductions

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

P2 Annual General Meeting - November 6, 2015

3. Additions to Agenda

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

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

4. Approval of the Agenda

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

CARRIED

5. Minutes of last AGM – November 28, 2014

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

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

CARRIED

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

No business from the minutes was brought forth.

7. Manager's Report

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

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

CARRIED

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

P3 Annual General Meeting - November 6, 2015

8. VSI Update (Round Table Discussion)

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

County of Northern Lights

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

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

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

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

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

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

M. D. of Peace #135

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

Saddle Hills County

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

M. D. of Smoky River #130

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

Mackenzie County

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

M. D. of Spirit River #133

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

V.S.I. Update (cont)

Clear Hills County

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

M. D. of Greenview #16

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

Northern Sunrise County

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

Birch Hills County

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

Woodlands County

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

M. D. of Bonnyville #87

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

M. D. of Big Lakes #125

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

Lac La Biche County

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

P5 Annual General Meeting - November 6, 2015

Round Table Discussion (cont.)

M. D. of Fairview #136

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

M. D. of Lesser Slave River #124

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

9. Approval of New Members

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

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

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

CARRIED

10. Deletions from Membership list

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

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

CARRIED

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

11. Nomination of Veterinary Directors

Dr. Richard McWatt was nominated by Terry Ungarian

Dr. Tara Guglich was nominated by Stan Bzowy

P6 Annual General Meeting - November 6, 2015

Nomination of Veterinary Directors (cont.)

Dr. Kevin Breker moved that nominations cease.

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

CARRIED

12. Other Business

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

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

A summary of key points for compensation is as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12(b) Policy on internal fixation of fractures

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

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

CARRIED

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

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

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

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

The main problems appear to be:

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

Possible methods to address these issues include"

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

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

Flat Rate Codes

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

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

CARRIED

1/10 Hour Gradients & Non-Surgical Time

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

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

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

CARRIED

Suboptimal Skills

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

CARRIED

12(e) Concurrent Code 31 & 71 Claims

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

Two extremes were expressed:

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

P9 Annual General Meeting - November 6, 2015

Concurrent Code 31 & 71 Claims (cont.)

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

The compromise position is as follows:

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

CARRIED

12(f) X-rays for broken legs

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

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

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

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

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

CARRIED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Following discussion of these matters:

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

CARRIED

12(h) 2016 Fee Schedule

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

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

13. Adjournment

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

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

Minutes
VSI Services (1980) Ltd
Board of Directors Meeting
November 6, 2015

ATTENDEES

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

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

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

OTHERS

Mr. Shayne Steffan, Assistant CAO & Acting Manager of Rural Development – Saddle Hills
Dr. Claudia Metz – Veterinary Practitioner, V.S.I. Member – Sunset House

REGRETS

Darren Fulmore MD of Lesser Slave River #124

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Peggy Johnson at 12:02 p.m

2. Additions to the Agenda

Peggy Johnson asked for the following changes & additions

Change item 15(a) Appointment of Manager for 2016 to item 16.

Add item 15(a) Signing Authorities

Add item 15(b) Error in Section 10(a) of V.S.I./Veterinarian contract

Add item 15(c) Letter from Northern Sunrise County

Add item 15(d) V.S.I./Jurisdiction contract change proposal

P2 VSI Board of Directors Meeting November 6, 2015

3. Approval of the Agenda

Walter Sarapuk moved that the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes – Board of Directors November 28, 2014

Dale McQueen moved that the minutes of November 28, 2014 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved as circulated

CARRIED

5. Retiring Directors

Dale Smith that the resignations of Leslie Urness, Jake Klassen, John W Driedger, Yves Mercier and Orwell Bettenson from the Board of Directors be accepted.

CARRIED

6. Appointment of Directors

Walter Sarapuk moved that Dale Smith, Charlie Johnson, Walter Sarapuk, Stan Bzowy and Sandra Eastman be appointed as Directors for the M. D. of Greenview #16, Clear Hills County, Mackenzie County, M. D. of Spirit River #133 and the M. D. of Peace #135 respectively

CARRIED

7. Auditor's Report – 2014 Financial Statement

Copies of the 2014 Notice to Reader were passed out. Dr. Henderson gave a review. He was asked about the line item "Unspecified Funds" on page 8. The meeting was advised that this sum of \$107,479 had been generated during the 1980s when interest rates were high. This sum of money provides bridge funding to pay claims for January and February and allows us to send out requisitions in February after all claims for the preceding year have been received.

Dale McQueen moved that the 2014 Notice to Reader be accepted.

CARRIED

After the 2014 Notice to Reader was approved Dr. Henderson passed out estimates of where everyone would be at as of December 31, 2015.

It was pointed out that the balances for the M. D. of Greenview and Saddle Hills County should be increased by \$10,000 each as supplementary requisition payments were received. Walter Sarapuk stated that Mackenzie County had approved an additional payment of \$10,000.

P3 VSI Board of Directors Meeting November 6, 2015

8. Appointment of Accountant for 2015 Fiscal Year

The meeting was advised that Lancaster Monner & Company presented what were considered to be exorbitant fees relating to the preparation of tax returns for the CRA. Even though they agreed to cancel the fees trust was lost and a recommendation was put forward that we should change accountants for 2015.

Dale Smith moved that H & R Block of Fairview be appointed to prepare a “**Notice to Reader**” for the 2015 fiscal year

CARRIED

9. Approval to Destroy Claim Forms

Dale Smith moved that V.S.I. claim forms and contracts up to and including 2008 be destroyed

CARRIED

10. Contract Amounts & Requisitions for 2016

Upon the recommendation of the Manager, Dale Smith moved that the 2016 **contract estimates** be based on the following:

- actual expenditures from October 1 of 2014 to September 30th of 2015
- an estimation of administration & GST costs for the same time period
- an increase in accordance with the percentage increase approved by the Board
- a 10% contingency

and that the 2016 **requisitions** be based on the following:

- actual expenditures from January 1 of 2015 to December 31, 2015
- net administration & GST costs for the same time period
- an increase in accordance with the percentage increase approved by the Board
- a 10% contingency

CARRIED

11. Items from the AGM

Based on recommendations from the AGM the following motions were made.

Stan Bzowy moved that the Board formally ratify the motion made during the AGM that V.S.I. will continue to honor claims for predator attacks providing the veterinarian shows the full fee for all services provided along with a clear statement of the V.S.I. discount(s). Further the Manager is hereby directed to let veterinarians know about this policy when the 2016 contracts are sent out.

CARRIED

P4 VSI Board of Directors Meeting November 6, 2015

Items from the AGM (cont.)

Sandra Eastman moved that the recommendation of placing internal fixation of fractures on schedule B be ratified.

CARRIED

Items Relating to the Fee Schedule

David Fox moved that the following items recommended from the AGM be incorporated into the 2016 fee schedule.

- a) Expressing codes 12, 13 & 25 as amount paid for 1/4 of an hour
- b) Developing non-surgical professional time codes for use with codes 12 & 13
- c) New flat rate codes for
 - Gastric & intestinal torsions
 - Eviscerated umbilical hernias
 - Intra-abdominal debridement of navel infections
- d) Approval of inserting a statement for expectation of a reasonable degree of competence for code 12 & 13 claims
- e) 50% reduction of code 71 when concurrent with a code 31 claim
- f) Insertion of a statement asking discretion in claiming x-rays that are of no value for diagnostic or treatment purposes

CARRIED

12. Veterinary Fee Schedule Update

Walter Sarapuk moved and Dale McQueen seconded a motion that the attached fee recommendations from the VSI AGM be approved.

CARRIED

13. Review of President's Honorarium

Peggy Johnson asked Jim Henderson to assume the chair for this item of business and also for the next item (election of President)

Charlie Johnson moved that the President's Honorarium be set at \$675.00 for 2015.

CARRIED

**14. Election of Executive
President**

Charlie Johnson nominated Peggy Johnson for the position of President.

Dale Smith moved that nominations cease.

CARRIED

Peggy Johnson was declared President by acclamation.

P5 VSI Board of Directors Meeting November 6, 2015

Election of Executive (cont.)

Peggy Johnson resumed as chairman

Vice-President

Dale Smith nominated Doug Dallyn for the position of Vice-president.

Stan Bzowy moved that nominations cease.

CARRIED

Doug Dallyn was declared Vice-president by acclamation.

Veterinary Directors

Walter Sarapuk moved that the Board accept the recommendation from the AGM that Drs. Richard McWatt & Tara Guglich be approved as Directors.

CARRIED

Executive Committee

Dale McQueen moved that Drs. McWatt & Guglich be appointed to the Executive Committee along with the President and Vice President.

CARRIED

15. Other Business

a) Signing Authorities

Robert Brochu moved that any two of the President, Vice-President or Manager be given signing Authority on the VSI bank account.

CARRIED

b) Error in Section 10 (h) of V.S.I./Veterinarian contract

Jim Henderson reported that section 10(h) of the V.S.I./Veterinarian Contract currently reads "All claims will contain the following: An itemized listing of drugs used and/or dispensed including drug names, *quantities used and the amount used* or alternatively billed as a "Single Line Item" when authorized by the V.S.I. Manager. It was pointed out that it should read "*quantities used and amount charged*"

Lawrence Andruchiw moved that the phrase "amount used" be changed to "amount charged"

CARRIED

P6 VSI Board of Directors Meeting November 6, 2015

c) B.S.E. Proposal from Northern Sunrise County

There was consensus that this topic had been suitably addressed during the AGM.

d) V.S.I./Jurisdiction Contract Change Proposal

Jim Henderson brought forward the following proposal for change to section 1(i) of the V.S.I./Jurisdiction contract submitted by Mr. Dave Berry, Assistant Manager of Agricultural Services for the Municipal District of Greenview #16.

Currently section 1(i) reads as follows:

“Approved Producer normally means resident of the Jurisdiction determined from time to time to be eligible to receive veterinary services pursuant to the V.S.I. program.

Following a discussion with Dr. Henderson Mr. Berry agreed that the following wording would be brought forward

“Approved Producer” Producer normally means resident of the Jurisdiction any individual, group of individuals or corporate entity determined from time to time, by the Jurisdiction, to be eligible to receive veterinary services pursuant to the V.S.I. Program.

Dale Smith moved that the above amendment be made to the V.S.I./Jurisdiction contract and that a full contract be submitted for approval in 2016 with an invitation for jurisdictions to review the contract and come forward with any other recommended amendments for the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

CARRIED

16. Appointment of Manager for 2016

Jim Henderson was asked to leave the room while this item was discussed.

Wanda Austin moved that JMCH Consulting Ltd. of Fairview be contracted to manage the affairs of VSI services at a rate of \$90.00 per hour which includes computer support services. Jim Henderson will still be named as the manager for purposes of correspondence.

CARRIED

Robert Brochu moved that a maximum of \$5,000 be approved to be used to train a successor as Manager and further that a succession plan be developed.

CARRIED

17. Adjournment

Peggy Johnson declared the Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Unaudited - See Notice to Reader)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015



H&R BLOCK

Seney Holdings Ltd.
PO Box 228
Fairview, AB
T0H 1L0
Tel 780-835-2929
Fax 780-835-3776

NOTICE TO READER

On the basis of information provided by management, I have compiled the balance sheet of V.S.I. Services (1980) Ltd. As at December 31, 2015, and the statements of financial position and operations and net assets for the year then ended.

I have not performed an audit or a review engagement in respect of these financial statements and accordingly, I express no assurance thereon.

Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Seney Holdings Ltd.
o/a H&R Block

Sue Madden
Controller

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

BALANCE SHEET
(Unaudited - See Notice to Reader)

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2015

ASSETS		2015	2014
Current			
	Bank	144	-
	Investments	147,875	209,256
	Accounts Receivable	<u>13,508</u>	<u>4,797</u>
		<u>161,527</u>	<u>214,053</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET EQUITY			
Current			
	Bank overdraft	-	56,602
	Claims payable	<u>46,215</u>	<u>40,973</u>
		46,215	97,575
Unrestricted Net Assets		<u>115,312</u>	<u>116,478</u>
		<u>161,527</u>	<u>214,053</u>

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

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND NET ASSETS (Unaudited - See Notice to Reader)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

	2015	2014
GRANTS	554,825	425,900
CLAIMS	<u>505,385</u>	<u>426,067</u>
	<u>49,440</u>	<u>(167)</u>
EXPENSES		
GST Expense	13,516	11,764
Interest & bank charges	240	239
Management fees	34,191	29,359
Office	1,188	838
Professional fees	2,945	2,233
Telephone	300	300
Travel	919	906
	<u>53,299</u>	<u>45,639</u>
EARNINGS (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS	<u>(3,859)</u>	<u>(45,806)</u>
(DEDUCT) ADD OTHER ITEMS		
Accounting adjustment*	(129)	
Interest income	<u>2,822</u>	<u>4,005</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(1,166)	(41,801)
NET ASSETS, Beginning of year	<u>116,478</u>	<u>158,279</u>
NET ASSETS, End of year	<u><u>115,312</u></u>	<u><u>116,478</u></u>

*minor differences for GST and claims corrections

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited - See Notice to Reader)

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

1 **INCORPORATION AND MEMBERSHIP**

V.S.I. Services (1980) Ltd. Was incorporated under the laws of the Province of Alberta. No shares have been issued and membership is determined by a majority of the current directors. Directors are appointed from each participating local authority, and includes two participating veterinarians and one non-voting member of the A.V.M.A. and the Secretary-Manager.

2 **INCOME TAXES**

A corporation created under Canadian provincial legislation is a taxable private corporation under the Income Tax Act. Provided that substantially all of the corporation's gross revenue other than interest is derived from dealings with members, Canada Revenue Agency is prepared to regard members' excess contributions as amounts required for the operations and not as income of the corporation or its members.

V.S.I. Services (1980) Ltd.

Schedule of Allocation of Net Earnings

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015
(Unaudited - See Notice to Reader)

<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Grant Received</u>	<u>Claims Paid</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Interest Earned</u>	<u>Authority Net</u>
Woodlands County	22,000	18,085	2,078	101	1,938
M.D. of Greenview #16	95,200	77,729	7,917	434	9,988
Lac La Biche County	32,025	27,322 *	2,251	149	2,601
Birch Hills County	12,200	15,657	1,367	87	(4,737)
Saddle Hills County	39,100	38,168	3,230	214	(2,084)
Clear Hills County	31,800	32,122	4,339	180	(4,481)
County of Northern Lights	44,800	37,868	3,995	211	3,148
Mackenzie County	35,400	29,537	4,234	166	1,795
M.D. of Bonneyville #87	94,700	88,422	9,688	493	(2,917)
M.D. of Lesser Slave River #124	2,400	7,035	664	39	(5,260)
M.D. of Big Lakes #125	53,200	45,215	4,991	254	3,248
M.D. of Smoky River #130	19,100	14,685	1,261	82	3,236
Northern Sunrise County	21,000	22,681	1,989	127	(3,543)
M.D. of Spirit River #133	7,500	9,215	718	51	(2,382)
M.D. of Peace #135	21,300	17,634	1,945	99	1,820
M.D. of Fairview #136	23,100	24,010	2,632	135	(3,407)
Unallocated	-	-	-	-	(129)
	<u>554,825</u>	<u>505,385</u>	<u>53,299</u>	<u>2,822</u>	<u>(1,166)</u>

* Note - Claims to Lac La Biche County were ^{over SM} short by \$686 in 2014
An adjustment for the 2014 ^{over change SM} shortfall in 2015 resulted in net claim payouts of \$26,636 in 2015

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

Schedule of Individual Members' Equity

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015
(Unaudited - See Notice to Reader)

<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>VSI #</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>January 1, 2015</u>	<u>Net Income (Loss)</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>December 31, 2015</u>
Woodlands County	15	2,213	1,938	4,151
M.D. of Greenview #16	16	(4,749)	9,988	5,239
Lac La Biche County	18	1,283	2,601	3,884
Birch Hills County	19	2,220	(4,737)	(2,517)
Saddle Hills County	20	7,574	(2,084)	5,490
Clear Hills County	21	741	(4,481)	(3,740)
County of Northern Lights	22	(1,390)	3,148	1,758
Mackenzie County	23	(645)	1,795	1,150
M.D. of Bonneyville #87	87	(3,347)	(2,917)	(6,264)
M.D. of Leser Slave River #124	124	6,480	(5,260)	1,220
M.D. of Big Lakes #125	125	(4,823)	3,248	(1,575)
M.D. of Smoky River #130	130	(2,289)	3,236	947
Northern Sunrise County	131	3,611	(3,543)	68
M.D. of Spirit River #133	133	2,452	(2,382)	70
M.D. of Peace #135	135	462	1,820	2,282
M.D. of Fairview #136	136	(794)	(3,407)	(4,201)
Unspecified		107,479	(129)	107,350
		<u>116,478</u>	<u>(1,166)</u>	<u>115,312</u>

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	October 17, 2016
Originated By:	Audrey Bjorklund, CLGM, Community Development Manager
Title:	CDM REPORT
File:	63-02-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

Pest & Predation Control

	Year	Total #	Total \$
Beaver: to October 12 2016, Budget \$20,000 Policy 3234 Started in May	2016	217	6,600
	2015	658	19,740
	2014	188	5,460
Coyotes: to October 12, 2016 Budget \$10,000 Policy 6315	2016	257	7,710
Wolves: to October 12, 2016 Budget: \$50,000 Policy 6307 \$250 to \$400 C492-15(10/13/15) Add \$20K C235-16(04/26/16) Started in July	2016	92	36,800
	2015	53	17,150
	2014	58	14,150
	2013	78	19,500
	2012	118	49,550
	2011	93	44,750
2010	46	22,750	

2017 IST & 2018 Provincial ASB Conference

Attended the PRAAAF (Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen) meeting in Manning on September 29, 2016. The Region will be hosting the 2017 In-Service Training for the AAAF and the 2018 Provincial ASB Conference. Both will be held in Grande Prairie.

Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS)

A meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 3, 2016 in Fairview, Alberta, pending ALUS representative's attendance.

ATTACHMENTS:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ to accept the Community Development Manager's report to October 17, 2016 as presented.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: _____ Manager: *ABJ* CAO: _____ *AC*

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	October 17, 2016
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:

- Chair Harcourt written reports (3)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

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

Audrey Bjorklund

From: star harcourt <erharc@hotmail.com>
Sent: September-25-16 4:19 PM
To: Audrey Bjorklund
Subject: Soil Health...Jay Fuhrer...USDA..NPAPA...North Star..AB

First, Jay recommended a book by Aldo Leopold, From Treating Symptoms to Building Soil.

Soil makeup...45% sand, clay, 25%water, 25% air, 5% bio.

The plant..Carbon is drawn up into the leaf, Oxygen is exuded out of the leaf also water vapor.

All nutrients drawn up by the root system.

SOM...soil organic matter most important for water infiltration.

Crop or forage residue must be incorporated into the soil by bugs, animals,or cultivation.

Bugs and animals are preferred.

Jay had three experiments to show us.

First...He had two large pickle jars filled with water, and two lumps of soil.

One lump was of hard clay, second was squeezed together tightly but you could it was much better soil.

He had two screens made with slots in the bottom and the the edges folded to fit over the jar tops.

Both lumps were placed into the jars, almost immediately the hard clay lump began to fall apart in the water.

Both lumps just sat in the screen, no water movement.

After about one hour the clay lump was at the bottom of the jar, the good soil lump was still a lump.

Very little of the good soil fell away.

Second...He two cylinder open at both end and 8 inches diameter.

One had dark good looking soil, the other had rugged looking clay with little root system.

Next he took a USDA wedge type tamper and packed down around the edges to help the water infiltrate down the center.

He then added the same amount of water at the same time to both cylinders.

The clay soil took much longer to flow through.

Third...He had three bread trays with holes drilled in the bottoms and a drip edge at one end.

The trays were tipped forward at one end.

One had a grain crop, one had a forage crop and the other very little growth.

Each tray had a catch tray beneath to catch any drip through.

Equal amounts of water was added to the trays.

The tray with little growth overflowed almost immediately.

The grain tray overflowed a little but water soaked in fairly good.

The forage took first place again.

We then went out to their plots, numerous plots.

If any residents have the time it will be well worth your time to stop in, the staff there will gladly show you around.

Audrey Bjorklund

From: star harcourt <erharc@hotmail.com>
Sent: October-05-16 8:38 PM
To: Audrey Bjorklund
Subject: County of GP Fourth Annual Agriculture Farms Tour

GP AG Field Man Sonja Raven, Tour Guide.

August 24/16.

Tour started at the County Ag Services Bldg, West on 100 Ave Clairmont.

We were all treated to a fine breakfast pancakes, eggs and sausages and coffee.

Off we went to the first farm just north of Sexsmith, the Anderson farm, established 1912.

Jordon and his wife and family own and operate the farm now.

He gave us the history of how his Great-grand parents got here from Minnesota and landed in Sexsmith.

He had a combine, sprayer and a tractor on display, all three totaled over one million dollars.

They farm over 2500 acres, some rented most owned.

Average price for a quarter of reasonable quality soil is \$500k.

All the land has remained in the family and they have a son...who know???

Next stop...Jarín and Amber Carter of "J Lazy A Ranch".

Jarín bought his first heifer when he was only 12 years old and wanted to be a cattleman ever since.

They have pure bred black and red angus and simmental angus cross for commercial sales.

After a fine coffee break supplied by Nan Thiesson "Home Bounty Foods".

Next stop... The Kenny Farm. Their home is the old NAR station bldg from Wembley.

Their yard was fascinating to look around, old-old farm and household items equipment among the trees on the driveway to their home.

We were then treated to a meal second to none, all the foods were local grown not store bought.

Next stop...The Grande Prairie Co. Richmond Ave. We were given a grand tour of the facility.

They offered a glass of brew at \$7.50 a glass.

Back to the Ag Services bldg and home. Just after 5pm Good trip.

Harcourt.

From: Audrey Bjorklund <Audrey@clearhillscounty.ab.ca>
Sent: September 28, 2016 2:14 PM
To: Brian Harcourt (erharc@hotmail.com); MacKay Ross (muckslotus@yahoo.com); Garry Candy (gbcandy@outlook.com); Baldur Ruecker
Cc: Charlie Johnson
Subject: ASB New Member at Large - Julie Watchorn

Good Afternoon:

Council has appointed Julie Watchorn as the new member-at-large on the Agricultural Service Board.

Julie's home number is 780-685-3035 and her cell is 780-835-0550.

Regards,

Brian Harcourt Report

From: star harcourt <erharc@hotmail.com>
Sent: October-09-16 1:19 PM
To: Audrey Bjorklund
Subject: Re...Canfax Cattle Market Update..Teepee Creek..AB. Sept 19 2016.

Speaker..Brian Perillat, Calgary.

Broiler meat far more than any other, did not give numbers.
Pork meat has increased a bit.
Beef on a flat line, no appreciable increase or decrease.
Cattle \$ peaked Nov. 2014, today's \$ same as 2011.
Cattle numbers should increase for the next two years.
US exports to Canada on the increase and their cattle numbers expanding.
Meat usage per person...Poultry #1..Pork #2..Beef about 25% of the total.
Some farmers keeping a few heifers but most are going to market.
Slaughter up about 5% year to date. Average carcass weight over 900 lbs.
Exports to US way down from 2014/15. Our \$ is not low enough yet.
US buyers will be very patient for the foreseeable future.
Slaughter #s over 60,000 head below capacity.
US corn crop getting bigger every for the last four years. Gross margin good .
Our herds are the smallest since 1992.
Cattle market future prices available on the CME (Chicago Mercantile Exchange).

Harcourt.

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	October 17, 2016
Originated By:	Aaron Zylstra, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The board is presented with correspondence for review.

BACKGROUND:

Attached are documents for the Board's information:

ATTACHMENTS:

- Alberta Invasive Species Council – The Invader 2016 (Volume 3) – (63-10-02)
- SARDA – Article – (63-10-02)
- Back Forty – Newsletter – (63-10-02)
- Country Guide Article – (63-10-02)
- 2017 Provincial Agriculture Service Board Summer Tour – Invitation – (63-10-02)
- County of St. Paul No, 19 – Letter – (63-10-02)
- Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman – Letter – (63-10-02)
- Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130 - Letter – (63-10-02)
- Peace Country Beef and Forage Association – September Newsletter – (63-10-02)
- Peace Country Beef and Forage Association – October Newsletter – (63-10-02)
- Alberta Crop Report – Article – (63-10-02)
- Alberta Farm Animal Care – Article – (63-10-02)
- Alberta Farm Animal Care – Article – (63-10-02)
- Alberta Farm Animal Care – Newsletter (63-10-02)
- Rental Equipment Usage Summary – (63-10-10)
- Parks and Environment responses to Provincial Agricultural Service Board Resolutions – (63-10-02)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of October 17, 2016 as presented.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager: *AZ* AgFieldman: *[Signature]*



THE INVADER 2016 (volume 3)

The fall is here, leaves are turning and dropping. It is time to look ahead to the winter conference season.

Check out these upcoming events;

Event Spotlight

AISC Annual
Conference & AGM
March 23, 2017
March 23rd, 2017
in Lacombe
Alberta ...
[Read More >](#)

AISC News

The Himalayan
Balsam eradication
program at Pigeon
Lake – a success
story
March 31, 2016
The Himalayan
Balsam eradication
program at Pigeon
Lake – a success
story This is a very
positive
achievement. REA
D THE WHOLE
STORY...
[Read More >](#)



SAVE THE DATE

AISC Annual Conference & AGM

Thursday, March 23rd, 2017

Lacombe Memorial Centre

Lacombe, Alberta

Species Highlight

Hawkweed,
yellowdevil*



Save the Date!

The Canadian Council on Invasive Species

PRESENTS

3rd National Invasive Alien Species Forum

Join leaders from across Canada to improve coordination and information sharing on invasive species prevention and management across Canada.

Participants from all levels of government, Aboriginal organizations, businesses, professionals, academia and non-profits are all invited to discuss and identify shared approaches to stop the introduction and spread of invasive species to Canada's landscapes.

Presentations • Workshops • Exhibitors

Sheraton Ottawa Hotel | Ottawa, Ontario

February 28, March 1 & 2, 2017

The Canadian Council on Invasive Species is a nationally registered organization focused on building partnerships and joint action to reduce the spread of invasive species.

www.canadainvasives.ca

Partnership with the Government of Canada

Environment and Climate Change Canada / Environnement et Changement climatique Canada

Calling for volunteers !!! AISC Casino on November 12 & 13

Organization for the upcoming fundraising casino for the AISC Nov 12 and 13, at Cowboys Casino in Calgary, is underway. While many volunteer positions for this event have been filled, there are still key volunteers positions that are vacant. If you are available to help out, please let us know by email at info@abinvasives.ca

Funds from this casino are critical for AISC to continue to run initiatives that stop the introduction and spread of invasives species.

From our experience fundraising casinos can be a lot of fun, so we encourage you to participate. For those who are coming from out of town, please note that the council can assist with covering travel costs (gas, accommodation and food). Note: All volunteers must be at least eighteen years of age. **Food will be provided during all shifts**, and volunteers are expected to refrain from gambling or consuming alcohol while on duty. You will meet some great people and have some FUN too!

AISC is looking for a new Executive Director, someone to lead the fight against invasive species!

Is that a role you are interested in? Or do you know someone that might be?

Check out the **POSTING**

The deadline for submitting a resume is October 31st, 2016.

Attacking Common Tansy in the MD of Greenview

Want to know who was involved? Want to find out how many garbage bags full of invasive plants were gathered? Check out the full **STORY**

AISC Fact Sheet Survey

AISC is collecting feedback on the Fact Sheets we have available on the website. Please click on **LINK** and complete a short 5 minute survey. Thanks in advance for taking the time to provide feedback!

SARDA and PCBFA research published in the Journal of Agricultural Sciences.

[View this email in your browser](#)



SARDA and PCBFA Research published in the *Journal of Agricultural Sciences*

Having papers published in Scientific Journals are an indication of the quality of the research that SARDA does. The paper, "Spring Triticale Varieties Forage Yield, Nutrients Composition and Suitability for Beef Cattle Production" will be published in the Journal of Agricultural Sciences, September 15, 2016. Prior to being published papers are submitted and reviewed by peers for content and quality. Only a few are accepted for publication.

Spring Triticale Varieties Forage Yield, Nutrients Composition and Suitability for Beef Cattle Production

Kabal S. Gill¹ & Akim T. Omokanye²

¹ Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association (SARDA), Falher, Alberta, Canada

² Peace Country Beef & Forage Association, Animal Science Building, Grande Prairie Regional College, Fairview, Alberta, Canada

Correspondence: Kabal S. Gill, Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association (SARDA), 701 Main Street, Box 90, Falher, Alberta T0H 1M0, Canada. Tel:

1-780-837-2900. E-mail: research@sarda.ca

Received: July 12, 2016 Accepted: August 16, 2016 Online Published: September 15,

doi:10.5539/jas.v8n10p1

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5539/jas.v8n10p1>

Abstract

The objective was to explore the potentials of five spring triticale (xTriticosecale Wittmack) varieties (AC

Ultima, Bunker, Companion, Pronghorn, Taza and Tyndal) for integration into beef cattle feeding systems in the north western Alberta, Canada. This was carried out over four growing seasons (2009 to 2012) at different sites, using RCBD in each year. The crop was cut at late milk stage to determine the silage (SY), dry matter (DMY) and protein (CPY) yields, and nutrition quality. The mean DMY was similar ($P > 0.05$) for all varieties, ranging from 8.14 to 8.53 t ha⁻¹. The forage DM was higher ($P < 0.05$) in 2009 and 2012 growing seasons (8.91 and 9.40 t ha⁻¹, respectively) and lower in 2010 growing season (5.93 t ha⁻¹) than in 2011 (8.33 t ha⁻¹). The forage nutritive values revealed that tested varieties have potentials in terms of protein (7.72-8.32%) and some macro (particularly Ca & K) and micro (especially Fe & Mn) mineral elements and energy contents (62.1-64.1% TDN, 1.51-1.57 Mcal kg⁻¹ ME) for pregnant cows that are in the second and third trimester stages. Levels of relative feed value (RFV) was high (110-121) and more than the minimum suggested RFV for mature beef cattle. But levels of P, Mg, Na, S, Cu and Zn were insufficient to meet the suggested amounts needed by a dry gestating cow. The growing seasons appeared to have significant ($P < 0.05$) effects on most of the measured parameters. The implications of these findings on uses of triticale forage in ruminant nutrition and the need for more studies are discussed.

Keywords: triticale (xTriticosecale Wittmack), varieties, forage yield, nutritional value, beef cattle, Alberta, Canada

Visit www.sarda.ca to view the complete paper.



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SARDA Plots 2016
Dion East

Photo by Victor Gauthier

SARDA

Back Forty

Mission: To facilitate the transfer of unbiased ideas and information between research institutions, industry, and agricultural producers.

PRE-HARVEST ISSUE AUGUST 2016

IN THIS ISSUE



Mean hail simulator machine and crop recovery using foliar fungicides and nutrient blends

SARDA has been involved in a very exciting provincial project that is looking at the effects of hail on canola, peas and wheat. Replicated small plot trials are located near Donnelly, Vegreville and Lethbridge. 2016 is the first year of three year trials.

The study is lead by Ken

Making Hail!

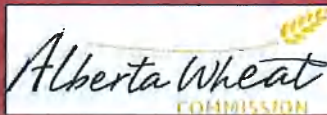
Kabal S. Gill, Phd. & Shelleen Gerbig, P.Ag.

Coles (Farming Smarter). Other team members include Jamie Puchinger and Mike Gretzinger (Farming Smarter), Vance Yaremko and Kabal S. Gill (SARDA), Ralph Lange and Rodney Werezuk (Alberta Inovates Technology Futures (AITF)). Small plot trials are being done near Donnelly (SARDA), Vegreville (AITF) and Lethbridge (Farming Smarter). AFSC crop adjusters assess the different levels of

Continued on page 2

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This publication made possible in part by:



Continued from page 1

damage as per the AFSC guidelines.

What could be more exciting? A hail machine was fabricated by Farming Smarter and a local fabricator in 2015. This led to numerous discussions, trials and modifications. Finally two more machines were made for AITF and SARDA. In addition, the researchers get to beat up the crops, test several different treatments that may help with the crop recovery and observe their work.

The objectives of the study are to:

1. Develop a hail simulator machine to mimic hail events.
2. Determine the response of canola, peas and wheat to different levels simulated hail damage.
3. Determine the response of canola, peas and wheat to simulated hail damage at different growth stages.
4. Determine the potential



Hail Simulator mounted on SARDA's spider sprayer.



Hail Simulator machine in action.



Simulated 67 % hail damage on wheat at tillering stage

benefits of foliar fungicide applications on peas and wheat, which are said to improve crop growth, harvestability and yield after hail damage.

5. Determine the potential benefits of foliar nutrient applications on peas and wheat, which are said to improve crop growth, harvestability and yield after hail damage.

Treatments on wheat and peas include 3 levels of hail damage (0%, 33% and 67%) at three different growth stages (4-6 node, 50% flowering and 50% podded on peas; and tillering, heading and flowering on wheat). Foliar fungicide applications or foliar nutrient applications treatments were applied to test if they will improve crop recovery.

Treatments on canola include 5 levels of damage (0%, 25%, 50%, 75% and 100%) on five different growth stages (3 leaf, first flower visible, 7 days, 14 days and 21 days after first flower visible). Data is collected on plant heights before and



Simulated 100 % hail damage on canola at the 3-5 leaf stage

after hail damage, biomass, yield and grade of crops for each of the treatments in each crop.

AFSC crop adjusters assist in determining the levels of hail

damage and assessed the likely yield losses for the different simulated hail events. These assessed losses will be compared to the actual yield losses “ground truthing” after harvest.

Funding for the project is being provided in part by Alberta Pulse Growers (AGP), Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC) and AFSC. For SARDA’s site, additional funding is being supplemented by the municipalities of Greenview, Smoky River, Big Lakes County, and Northern Sunrise County.



Simulated 67% damage on peas at 4-6 node growth stage

The information gathered from the three years and three locations in the province will help AFSC refine their assessment process and provide science to back their policies.

More Information

SARDA
780-837-2900
www.sarda.ca



CLICK HERE

www.sarda.ca



Controlling Foxtail Barley

Excerpts from Making a Difference, NSDU Extension Service and 2013 ND Weed Control guide.

Foxtail barley is a perennial bunchgrass that has become ubiquitous where reduced tillage or no-till is practiced. Foxtail barley is a native of North America and is commonly found in wet areas. It can germinate, fall or spring. Fall-germinating plants resume growth early in the spring and have a competitive advantage over spring-seeded crops if not controlled. Foxtail barley seeds are primarily spread by wind but can attach to birds or animals for more distant distribution. Foxtail barley significantly reduces crop yields if left

uncontrolled.

Foxtail barley stands, 1-2 feet tall and forms a pale green, bushy spike. The leaves are soft to the touch due to very short, and dense hairs. These hairs give the plant a bluish-green or grayish-green appearance.

Foxtail barley is easily controlled with tillage because it has a shallow fibrous root

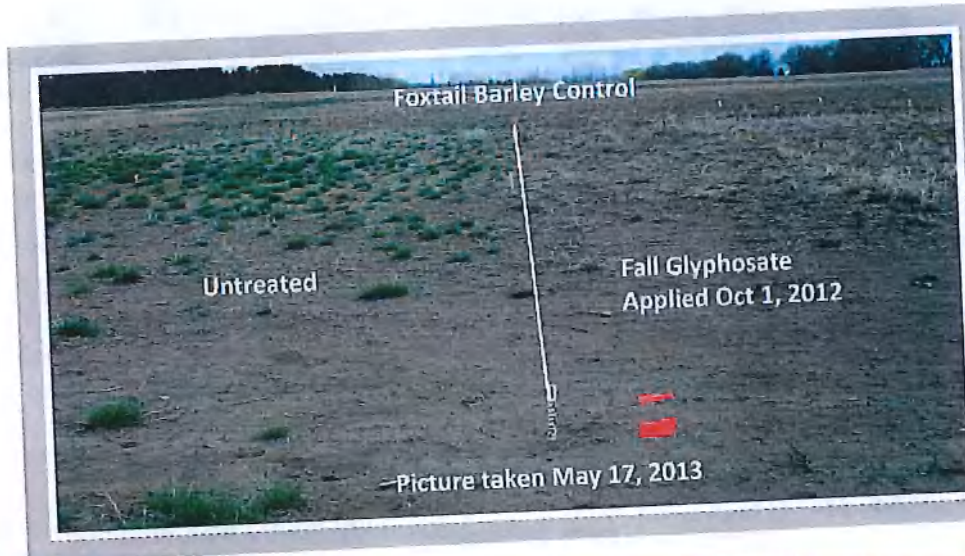


Headed foxtail barley

system and does not spread by rootstocks or rhizomes like some other perennial weedy grasses. Using tillage to control foxtail barley, causes growers to lose the benefits of no-till

production. In wheat, Group 1 herbicides do not control foxtail barley and Glyphosate tends to provide only suppression of larger plants.

North Central Research Extension Center (NCREC) personnel



www.pulse.ab.ca

conducted studies 2012-2014 to identify effective control methods for foxtail barley. Studies were conducted using fall- and spring-applied herbicides. In wheat, fall- and spring-applied glyphosate followed by Olympus or Rimfire Max applied in-crop generally provided excellent foxtail barley control (85-99%). In comparison, glyphosate spring-applied alone provided only 35-68%

foxtail barley control. In broadleaf crops, fall- and spring-applied glyphosate followed by either Assure II or Select generally provided excellent control. The fall glyphosate application tends to be the most important application given that foxtail barley is a perennial grass.

This NCREC research led to new recommendations for controlling foxtail barley.

These recommendations stress crop rotation, fall- and spring-applied glyphosate, use of Group 2 herbicides in wheat and Group 1 herbicides (Select or Assure II) in broadleaf crops.

More Information

Dr. Brian Jenks
North Central Research
Extension Center
Phone: 701-857-7677
E-mail: brian.jenks@ndsu.edu



Alberta Environmental Farm Plan

<http://www.albertaefp.com/start-an-efp>

Starting the EFP Process

Start the registration process by sending us an email at register@albertaEFP.com.

Have questions? Contact us at inquiries@albertaefp.com or go to producers' groups (SARDA, PCBFA) for more information.

Important things to know:

- * Completing an EFP costs you nothing.
- * All of your information is confidential.
- * There are many benefits in completing an EFP.

We will connect you to an EFP Technician who will set up your account and let you know when it's ready.

You will then receive an email from AlbertaEFP.com with a link to start the workbook.

Contact your technician if you need help along the way. (There is no deadline for completing an EFP; however it is easier and more efficient to do it within a short time period.)

When your EFP is finished and your Action Plan developed, submit it to your technician for review. If it

needs more work, he or she will offer advice.

Once your EFP is approved, you will receive a Letter of Completion.

Implement your EFP Action Plan on your own time and as money permits. You can ask your technician for help or use our online resources.

More Information

To Register
register@albertaEFP.com
Questions?
inquiries@albertaefp.com

AFSC NEWSLETTER

For more information about AFSC's programs and services please contact us.

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IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| August 15, 2016 | Annual Crop Insurance
Last day to file Report of Grain in Storage prior to harvest |
| September 1, 2016 | Bee Overwintering Insurance
Last day to file Report of bee Overwintering Hives and Hive Yard Location |
| September 30, 2016 | AgriStability
2015 Supplementary Forms can be submitted anytime up to September 30th (without penalty). |

MAKING PAYMENTS

You can choose to make payments at your local Branch Office and financial institution or through internet and telephone banking. For internet and telephone banking, your subscription number is required.

CARRYOVER GRAIN

It's your responsibility to ensure carryover grain from newly-insured production is identifiable. You are required to advise your Branch Office prior to storing new grain on top of old grain. Remember to mark the level of carryover on the outside of the bin in which the new grain is stored. AFSC must be able to identify your current-year's production from past production. If it is unidentifiable, both carryover and current production will be prorated.



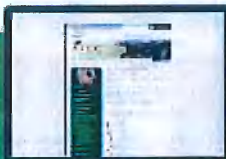
REMINDERS

- A 2% discount is available if you purchase Straight Hail Insurance online. Contact AFSC for an authorization key if you have not used this service in the past.
- Reporting Hail - hail claims need to be reported within five working days of the storm that caused the damage. Download the Client Reported Hail Claim Information form on AFSC.ca, and fax, email or drop it off at your Branch Office.
- Deferrals - If you're planning ahead for the 2016 tax year, consider the ability to defer indemnities to the 2017 tax year. There is no option to defer payment once an indemnity cheque is issued to you.

DESTROYING A CROP? Remember to inform your local Branch Office!



If you plan to harvest damaged acres or put a crop to a use other than combining (including silage, greenfeed, livestock grazing or plowing down), remember to notify AFSC five days in advance of any action. Failure to do so will negatively impact your insurance.



Useful tools and helpful information about Hail Insurance on AFSC.ca

- Straight Hail Insurance
- Resources
- Straight Hail Premium Calculator
- Straight Hail Insurance Rate Map 2016
- Client Reported Hail Claim Information form



“Good things come in Trees” Tour

By Normand Boulet, CCA



On Tuesday July 12th the Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association (SARDA) and the M.D. of Smoky River held a tree tour with special guests Toso Bozic, Woodlot Extension Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Pieter van Der Schoot a Director with the Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society (AWES) as well as a Director of the Alberta Mycological Society. The tour was attended by about 20 area residents, all of whom were keen to learn about different tree and shrub species, diseases, proper pruning techniques, proper establishment and the benefits of trees and shrubs. Toso and Pieter both shared their extensive knowledge with the group at the 5 stops of the tour. Of interest was a newly

application which was done by SARDA in conjunction with the landowner just over 20 years ago (the first plastic mulch application done in the area), and the establishment and health of these spruce was amazing. Even 20 years later the mulch was still in place, now covered by organic matter (soil and decaying needles) and still providing some weed suppression and moisture retention. Our next 3 stops were at yard sites. Garth and Tamara Rondeau’s yard showcased 100 year old and newly established trees and shrubs. Toso demonstrated proper pruning techniques for disease, tree “direction training” and aesthetic reasons. Following the stop at the Rondeaus’ we visited Denis and Colleen Cloutier’s yard and saw what amazing results can

established spruce shelterbelt which could definitely have benefited from a plastic mulch application as was seen on our 2nd stop. That 2nd stop showcased a mulch

be accomplished in a matter of 7 or 8 years, learning about wood chip mulch placement, how to choose potted trees when purchasing, and planting techniques – as well as pruning different species for flower vs fruit production. At the Bremont Shelterbelt, an Alberta Heritage Tree site, Marc Bremont gave the group a quick history of the site establishment and we discussed differentiating the various tree species there as well as succession of established natural tree stands which were approaching the end of their life cycle.

After the last stop the group returned to its starting point at the Falher Campground shelter and were treated to a BBQ lunch prepared by SARDA staff, presentations on establishing a field shelterbelt, pruning, biomass projects for power and heating, and even the Carbon Levy program, part of the Alberta Climate Leadership Plan. Throughout the day the speakers fielded questions and held informal discussion on an incredible number of topics. This was the first tree tour in the M.D. and it certainly seemed that the people in attendance enjoyed it. The amount of information gleaned from it was definitely overwhelming!



Bale Handling Safely

From the July 18, 2016 Issue of Agri-News



Baling season is once again in full swing. Many producers equate baling with hot summer days and a rush to beat the weather. While getting the hay baled and off the field is a top priority, doing the job safely should take precedence.

“To increase the safety of baling procedures while ensuring the job gets done, look for hazards related to baler operation, handling, transporting and stacking,” says Kenda Lubeck, farm safety coordinator with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. “Once you identify

hazards, make the necessary changes to ensure the safety of all workers.”

The following are some of the hazards.

Handling:

- Ensure no children play near hay balers, carriers and stackers.
- Properly train operators handling tractors, front-end loaders or forklifts.
- Tractors with cabs, FOPS (falling object protective structure) or four-poster ROPS (roll-over protective structure) are highly

recommended. Two-poster tractor ROPS offer no operator protection from bales falling back off of forks or bale-loading frames.

- Ensure bale-loading attachments on tractors and forklifts are secure and well fitted.
- Carry bales as low to the ground as possible.
- Ensure sufficient counterbalance on tractor or forklift vehicle.
- Hydraulic control valve should be specific to the front-end loader attachment.

Baler operation:

- Ensure baler is properly connected to the tractor.
- Make certain adequate safety guards are fitted.
- Nobody should ever be allowed to ride on the baler.
- Prevent others from getting too close to the baler.
- Watch for and clear any build-up of loose, combustible material in the baler.
- Ensure an updated fire extinguisher is fitted to the machine.
- Stop engine, disengage PTO and apply fly wheel brake (on square balers) prior to making adjustments or repairs.
- Extra care and attention should be made when reversing or turning the machine.
- Work during the day when there is adequate lighting.

Stacking:

- Consider fall-arrest protection for people

working at heights.

- Land stack on even ground.
- Stacks should be clear of overhead powerlines.
- Stacked round bales should be adequately chocked and the borders posted.
- Watch for damaged bales at base of stack.
- Stack bales tightly and at a stable height.
- Do not stack bales higher than safe operating height of farm tractor or forklift.
- Never allow children to play on stacked bales.
- Do not handle more bales than is safe for the loader.

Transporting:

- Make sure vehicle controls are fitted specifically for the attachment in use.
- Carry heavy loads of bales with a sturdy trailer.
- Make sure stack and load heights do not exceed the lifting capabilities of the bale handling equipment.
- Ensure proper restraining

frames on the back and front of trailer.

- Use fitted hooks so ropes can be used to secure load.
- Watch for overhead powerlines on or near roads.
- Avoid rough terrain that can cause bales to become unstable. Travel at safe speeds at all times.
- People should never ride on loaded hay trailers. This is highly dangerous.

“After making this list, check each hazard that has been spotted to assess how likely this hazard is to injure someone, and how severe that injury would be,” says Lubeck. “After this hazard assessment, take the list of hay baling and stacking hazards and number them in order of priority, so that those most likely to cause injury or harm can be addressed first.”

More Information

Kenda Lubeck
780-538-5606

Build a Legacy!

Give a gift that benefits the Agricultural Community by providing a piece of land or funds to assist with the purchase of land. SARDA is a producer directed, not for profit organization whose Vision is to own an advanced agriculture resource center of excellence. Build your legacy. Call Vance at 780-837-2900. Tax deductible benefits available.



Top 22 Benefits of Trees

www.treepeople.org

Here are 22 of the best reasons to plant and care for trees or defend a tree's standing:

1. Trees combat climate change

Excess carbon dioxide (CO₂) caused by many factors is a building up in our atmosphere and contributing to climate change. Trees absorb CO₂, removing and storing the carbon while releasing the oxygen back into the air. In one year, an acre of mature trees absorbs the amount of CO₂ produced when you drive your car 26,000 miles

2. Trees clean the air

Trees absorb odors and pollutant gases (nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone) and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.

3. Trees provide oxygen

In one year an acre of mature trees can provide enough oxygen for 18 people.

4. Trees cool the streets and the city

Average temperatures in Los Angeles have risen 6°F

in the last 50 years as tree coverage has declined and the number of heat-absorbing roads and buildings has increased.

Trees cool the city by up to 10° F, by shading our homes and streets, breaking up urban "heat islands" and releasing water vapor into the air through their leaves.

5. Trees conserve energy

Three trees placed strategically around a single-family home can cut summer air conditioning needs by up to 50 percent. By reducing the energy demand for cooling our houses, we reduce carbon dioxide and other pollution emissions from power plants.

6. Trees save water

Shade from trees slows water evaporation from thirsty lawns. Most newly planted trees need only fifteen gallons of water a week. As trees transpire, they increase atmospheric moisture.

7. Trees help prevent water pollution

Trees reduce runoff by breaking rainfall thus allowing the water to flow down the trunk and into the earth below the tree. This prevents stormwater from carrying pollutants to the ocean. When mulched, trees act like a

sponge that filters this water naturally and uses it to recharge groundwater supplies.

8. Trees help prevent soil erosion

On hillsides or stream slopes, trees slow runoff and hold soil in place

9. Trees shield children from ultra-violet rays

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. Trees reduce UV-B exposure by about 50 percent, thus providing protection to children on school campuses and playgrounds - where children spend hours outdoors.

10. Trees provide food

An apple tree can yield up to 15-20 bushels of fruit per year and can be planted on the tiniest urban lot. Aside from fruit for humans, trees provide food for birds and wildlife.

11. Trees heal

Studies have shown that patients with views of trees out their windows heal faster and with less complications. Children with ADHD show fewer symptoms when they have access to nature.

Exposure to trees and nature aids concentration by reducing mental fatigue.

12. Trees reduce violence

Neighborhoods and homes that are barren have shown to have a greater incidence of violence in and out of the home than their greener counterparts. Trees and landscaping help to reduce the level of fear.

13. Trees mark the seasons

Is it winter, spring, summer or fall? Look at the trees.

14. Trees create economic opportunities

Fruit harvested from community orchards can be sold, thus providing income. Small business opportunities in green waste management and landscaping arise when cities value mulching and its water-saving qualities. Vocational training for youth interested in green jobs is also a great way to develop economic opportunities from trees.

15. Trees are teachers and playmates

Whether as houses for children or creative and spiritual inspiration for adults, trees have provided the space for human retreat throughout the ages.

16. Trees bring diverse groups of people together

Tree plantings provide an opportunity for community involvement and empowerment that improves the quality of life in our neighborhoods. All cultures, ages, and genders have an important role to play at a tree planting or tree care event.

17. Trees add unity

Trees as landmarks can give a neighborhood a new identity and encourage civic pride.

18. Trees provide a canopy and habitat for wildlife

Sycamore and oak are among the many urban species that provide excellent urban homes for birds, bees, possums and squirrels.

19. Trees block things

Trees can mask concrete walls or parking lots, and unsightly views. They muffle sound from nearby streets and freeways, and create an eye-soothing canopy of green. Trees absorb dust and wind and reduce glare.

20. Trees provide wood

In suburban and rural areas, trees can be selectively harvested for fuel and craft wood.

21. Trees increase property values

The beauty of a well-planted

property and its surrounding street and neighborhood can raise property values by as much as 15 percent.

22. Trees increase business traffic

Studies show that the more trees and landscaping a business district has, the more business will flow in. A tree-lined street will also slow traffic – enough to allow the drivers to look at the store fronts instead of whizzing by.

Many municipalities promote planting of trees and shelterbelts through reduced prices for trees, help in applying for programs to help with the establishment of shelterbelts and expertise in choosing the right trees for the different locations. In addition, AF have access to experts to deal with disease, insect pests and proper maintenance. For more information please contact your local AF.

More Information

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Sonja Raven, AF

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SARDA requires pre-registration for ALL SARDA events.



Alberta Barley

Event Name	Location
   Soil Field School	NPARA Research Farm, - 1/2 mile North Star
 Morning Coffee Tour	NPARA Research Farm, - 1/2 mile North Star
 Grainy Days	County of Grande Prairie, Claim
 Cover Crop and Pasture Tour	Various County locations
 Agri-Trade	Westerner Park, Red Deer
 Canola Growers Meeting	Dunvegan Inn, Fairview Guy Community Hall, Guy Five Mile Hall, Grande Prairie
 Hemp Growing	Regional Recreation Complex, Fa
 2017 Study Tour National Western Stock Show	Denver, Colorado
 Farm Tech 2017	Expo Centre, Northlands, Edmon

Crossword Fun

- Down**
- 1 impartial
 - 3 replicated trials
 - 6 surroundings

- Across**
- 2 the economics of farming practices
 - 4 Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association
 - 5 the science of farming
 - 7 another word for sustainable, feasible, and practical





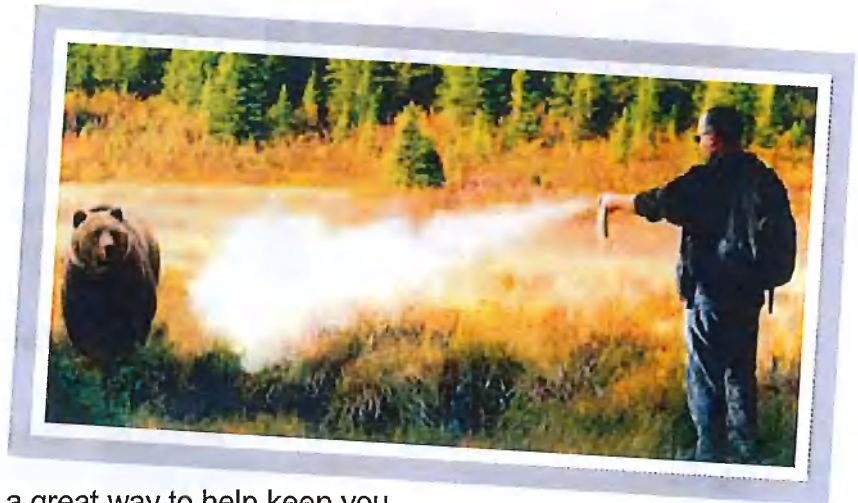
From mid-July through August bears can be found using different habitats in search of food. This includes digging for roots in shrubby or alpine habitats, eating insects in forests and bogs, and looking for berries in mixed and open forest habitats (Munro et al., 2006). Bears are therefore moving around a lot, and can be so preoccupied with finding food they don't immediately notice people or can come into work sites, farms, communities and homes—particularly if possible food sources are improperly stored or garbage is left out.

Therefore, it is important to Be BearSmart—clean up and store food attractants properly so you don't contribute to bear problems. It is also important to stay safe in bear country,



especially since people are out enjoying summer, berry picking, camping, hiking, biking, and more. Carrying bear spray, accessible on your person, is

Be BearSmart!



a great way to help keep you safe in bear country!

What is bear spray? Bear spray normally contains three items: varying concentrations of capsaicin—the active chemical found in chili peppers—an oil base, and propellant. A typical 225 gram can has 5-6 one second bursts, with a shelf life of up to 3 years.

How does it work? The effective range of bear spray is typically 3—5 meters. When the cloud of spray come into contact with the bear it causes irritation to the eyes, nose and mouth. The sound and sight of the spray coming out of the can may also help deter the bear. The immediate effect of spray is to deter the bear, whether it is approaching you or

standing there.

Tips for Avoiding Bear Encounters at Home, Work and Recreating:

- Keep your BBQ clean—bears will smell food residues left behind and come investigate!
- Securely store pet food indoors or in bear-proof containers. Same goes for garbage, recycling, or dead livestock!
- Clean up fruiting trees and shrubs, and don't put out bird seed.

DID YOU KNOW?

Simple changes in your behaviour can reduce human-bear encounters and prevent potentially dangerous situations.



• Have a safety plan for kids playing outdoors—they should know what to do if they see a bear! Practice a “bear safety drills.”

• Keep your dog on leash—dogs can trigger unwanted and negative encounters with bears.

• Remember: bears are curious, intelligent animals—once they learn about a new food source, even if left there unintentionally, they will return.

See our Bear Spray video on the Environment and Parks YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgE9o4xX1WI>

Most bear encounters can be prevented. It’s up to us to decide how we will keep ourselves safe, and keep wild bears from becoming habituated, problem bears. For more information visit: <http://aep.alberta.ca/recreation-public-use/alberta-bear-smart/default.aspx>

More Information

Visit <http://aep.alberta.ca/recreation-public-use/alberta-bear-smart/default.aspx>



SwathTiming and Straight Cutting

Excerpts from Canola Watch—July 27, 2016, August 26, 2015, August 6, 2015, August 7, 2014

Some of the earliest canola fields could be ready to swath in two weeks or less.

Swathing hastens crop drying rates, ensures uniform ripening, and reduces the possibility of seed losses from wind and hail. After the crop dries to uniform seed moisture content of 8 to 10% moisture (usually five to 10 days after swathing), it may be ready for harvesting if sufficient curing has also taken place to reduce the

percentage of green seed to acceptable levels.

The advantages of swathing canola are:

- earlier harvest (eight to 10 days) and more uniform seed maturity - this is particularly important in fields where maturity is uneven
- earlier harvest to avoid fall



Seeds in this pod would be counted as colour changed.

Continued on page 16

Continued from page 15

frost and accelerate dry down, especially in short season areas

- earlier harvest to allow for double cropping or fall seeding of subsequent crops (e.g. winter wheat)
- more flexibility for time of harvest with a large acreage since canola typically retains its quality in the swath better than other crops (e.g. cereals), making the timing of harvest less critical
- reduced shatter losses during the harvest operation - especially in crops infected with *Alternaria*
- swathing can be done around the clock (unlike direct combining) which assists with the harvesting of large acreages
- cutting weeds allows a cleaner and drier sample that will reduce the risk of heating in storage and reduce the number of weed seeds that reach maturity

One alternative to swathing canola is to straight combine the crop. The advantages of straight combining are:

- Reduced manpower, fuel use and equipment requirement
- May increase seed size and yield
- May increase oil content
- Potential green seed reduction

Carefully assess each canola field to determine the suitability for swathing versus direct combining. In western Canada, *B. napus* canola is generally swathed because it tends to not ripen evenly and may sustain pod split and pod drop, and shattering losses if direct combined. *B. napus* can be direct combined with or without a desiccant or pod sealant.

Swathing is the standard harvest approach for most canola producers. Some conditions which make swathing the preferred method include:

- Immature crop with imminent frost

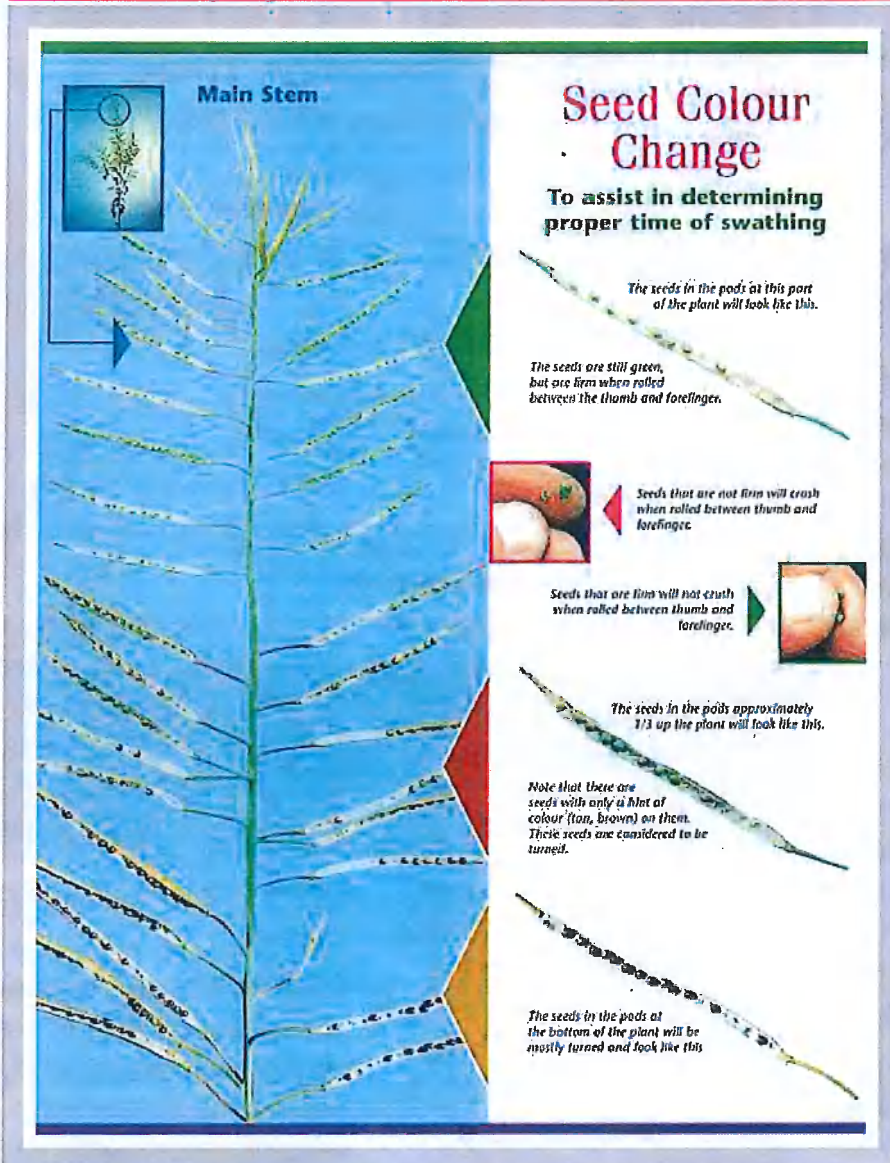
- Uneven crop maturity
- Problems with green weed undergrowth or crop re-growth
- Reduced effects of *alternaria* black spot
- Reduced risk of shattering losses

The CCC advises growers to assess each canola crop carefully before choosing straight cutting, based on four factors.

1. **Crop canopy** – The crop should be well knitted and slightly lodged to reduce potential seed loss through pod shelling and drop. If a large proportion of the plants appear to move independently in the wind, they will be at higher risk for shattering loss as the plants senesce and dry down. The plant stand should be thick (hard to walk through). Pod integrity can be affected by frost, drought and insect damage. A uniform crop with minimal green weed growth is also a huge advantage when straight cutting.
2. **Disease** – The crop should be relatively free from



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much longer in a standing crop, and as such, late maturing crops are poor candidates for straight cutting. They will be much more vulnerable to yield loss, and to downgrading from frost damage when standing.

Additional considerations include:

- Short, severely lodged, or excessively branched canopies may be candidates as well, because if swathed there would be minimal stubble left to anchor the swaths from moving with wind. In this situation growers should consider the potential for wind damage to the swath relative to shattering risk if left standing.

• Appropriate combine equipment with experienced operations and settings.

- Varieties with increased shattering tolerance and lodging resistance.
- In western Canada, *B. rapa* varieties may be direct combined because they mature earlier and resist shattering.

blackleg, fusarium wilt, sclerotinia and alternaria, as these diseases can result in premature ripening, causing the crop to be prone to pod shatter.

3. **Hail-** Crops affected by hail are poor candidates for straight cutting because the physical damage reduces pod integrity and they normally see greater disease

infection. If late season hail is common in a certain area, growers should keep in mind that hail will typically cause more damage to a standing crop than a swathed crop.

4. **Frost risk** – Canola seed is at significant risk for fall frost damage until seed moisture drops below 20%. This moisture drop will take

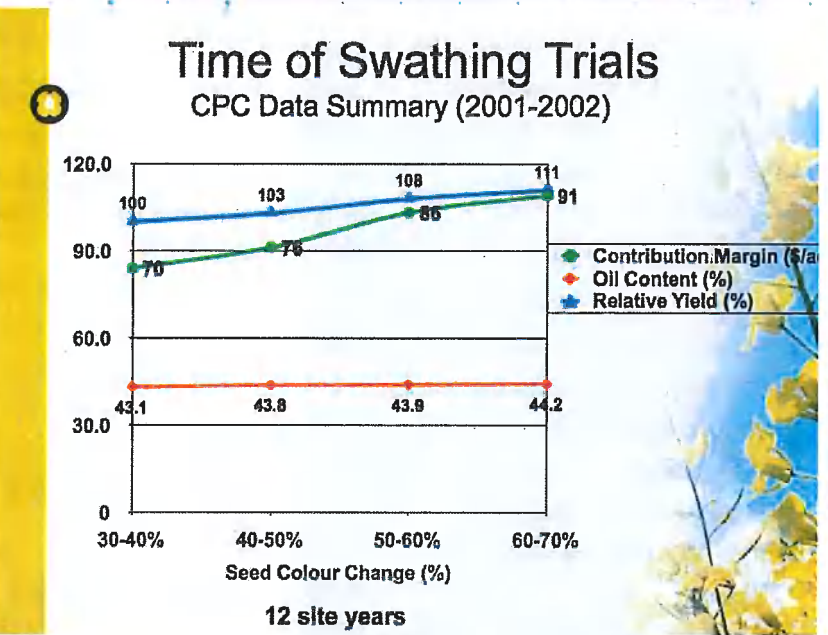
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Now that you have assessed each field as to whether you will swath or direct combine, and swathing is your choice, it is time to assess when to swath. Swathing at 60% seed colour change (SCC) on the main stem will mean higher yield and quality than swathing at 30% seed colour change on the main stem. SCC is considered any amount of yellow or brown on the seed.

Waiting allows more seeds on side branches to fill out and the average seed size for the whole plant is larger. With fewer plants per square foot than, say, a decade ago, more yield comes from these side branches than ever before.

To assess SCC, start in an area of the field that best



Summary results pooled for both 3 and 5 lb/ac seeding rates at all locations based on similar trends observed. Straight cut treatments at 10 of 12 locations produced relative yield of 107% vs 30-40% SCC.

represents the stand, stage and yield potential of the crop. Pull a plant and isolate the main raceme, which is typically the longest branch with the most pods — representing the greatest percentage of yield. Take pods from the bottom,

middle and top of the main raceme.

For 60% SCC, seeds from pods at bottom third of the main raceme will be totally brown to purplish brown, seeds from the middle third will be starting to turn, and

Do you Receive the Back Forty?



Rural Farm mailboxes in the MD's of Smoky River and Greenview, the County of Grande Prairie, Big Lakes County and Northern Sunrise County, all receive complementary issues of the Back Forty Newsletter. Request your mailbox be classified as Farm by talking to your local Post Mistress to ensure you receive your copy.

seed from the top are green but firm and will roll between your thumb and forefinger without mushing. Check five plants in this area, then repeat in another couple of places in the field.

While checking, look at plants that are ripening prematurely. Disease is the likely reason. Identify the disease so management steps can be taken to reduce disease severity in future canola crops.

Cut Later for Higher yields

Some of the earliest pods may shell out with later

swathing, but improved size and maturity for seeds in later pods makes up for this. Early shelling may also be a bonus if pods are shelling because they're diseased and contain peppery seed that won't amount to anything. One approach is to start swathing when the first crop reaches 50% SCC, and then swath canola crops until shattering starts and leave the rest for straight combining.

How quick does canola dry down? Under warm to hot and windy conditions, moisture loss can be as high as 2-3% per day. Later in September, more

typical dry down would be 1-1.5% per day. A rough guide is that a 10% increase in seed colour change occurs with about 5% moisture loss. So the period from 30% seed colour change to 50% seed colour change, for example, would need a 10% drop in moisture. This may take 10 days in cool weather and only 3 days in hot windy weather.

Check out the following video on how to determine when to swath.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rZxQfn_FMY

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Alberta

Salvaging Hail Damaged Crops

From the July 25, 2016 Issue of Agri-News



Storm damage to crops can result in problems with nitrate accumulations, especially if the crops were heavily fertilized

or manured in the spring to optimize yield.

“Over the past few weeks in Alberta to say the weather has been volatile would be an understatement,” says Andrea Hanson, beef extension specialist, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Airdrie. “With volatile weather comes storm damage and, for some producers, this means salvaging crops for feed.”

Hanson cautions producers to use care as salvaged crops may have high levels of nitrates that are toxic to ruminants and emphasizes the importance of testing salvaged feed to establish quality and nitrate levels prior to feeding.

“Sometimes producers want to wait to see if the crop will recover before salvaging it for feed. That’s when the balancing act starts. The nitrate levels in those damaged crops that were heavily fertilized or manured to optimize yield will have the highest accumulations. It takes about four to five days after the damage for the nitrates to build to the highest levels. If the

plants start to recover, the nitrate levels will return to a lower level about two weeks after the damage, depending on their growth rate. The true balancing

act starts when the leaves start to brown off and the plants begin to deteriorate, losing leaf material and yield.

Unless a perennial hay crop is fertilized at high rates, the risk of accumulating nitrate is much lower than in annual crops, she says. “Alfalfa is a plant that only takes up as much nitrogen as it requires on a daily basis. The excess is stored in the nodules. Nitrate accumulation in alfalfa is extremely rare.”

Nitrates accumulate in plants when the plant is stressed. Drought, hail and frost are all stressors that can cause nitrate toxicity. Photosynthesis is disrupted because of the damage to the plant but the roots of the plant are undamaged. As long as the roots are still alive, they continue to push nitrogen to the leaves. With damaged leaves, photosynthesis is disrupted, and the nitrogen (in the form of nitrates) accumulates.

“If a producer does decide to salvage the crop, it’s essential that the nitrate levels are known before any of the feed is used,”

says Hanson. “Getting a feed test done is cheap compared to losing an animal to something that can be managed. Once the plant has been cut, the nitrate level is fixed and a feed test can be taken. Be sure to check out Foragebeef.ca for useful information on how to properly sample feed for testing.

Hanson also stresses the importance of finding out from the feed testing laboratory what type of nitrate test was carried out as the limits are different depending on how the nitrate level is reported. “AF’s factsheet Nitrate Poisoning and Feeding Nitrate Feeds to Livestock is a good reference that has the conversion chart for different reporting systems. Often the laboratory will provide the recommendations based on the level outcome.”

“Feeds containing nitrates can be fed depending on the levels of nitrates and the other feed stuffs available,” adds Hanson. “A strategy for feeding high nitrate feed is needed well before creating a feeding plan to reduce the risk of nitrate poisoning.”

More Information

AF Factsheet
[Nitrate Poisoning and Feeding Nitrate Feeds to Livestock](#)



Harvest Losses

Excerpts from PAMI presentation , Don't Set it and Forget it! And the Silent Thief Presentation by Jim Bessel

Harvest season is almost on us and I would guess that by the time this newsletter is delivered, farmers will be starting to harvest peas. It has been a difficult season , with excessive rain, bugs, disease and weeds cutting into a producers profit margin. It would be sad to lose excessive amounts of crop out the back end of the combine.

Western Canadian producers face a number of challenges which add to the stress level of farming:

- A short harvest window
- Weather challenges
- Varieties of crops and conditions
- Inexperienced combine operators
- Experienced operators (usually the owners) are busy managing the operations
- Shortage of farm labour
- Crop variability

There are also several misconceptions about harvesting that equipment dealers may be willing to encourage:

- Mph = capacity
- More power = more capacity
- Keeping the machine full (driving faster) = less loss
- The losses can't be that bad



- If I can't find much on the ground, the losses are ok
- I can go the same speed with a wider header
- The same settings for one crop will be fine for the entire season
- The same settings for one crop will be fine for the entire day
- May loss monitor tells me my loss
- heat)
- Cutting—swathing or straight cutting
- Combine loss—feeder, separator, grain tank, elevators, shoe seals
- Combine processing—feeding, threshing separating, and cleaning

Producers do not have control over nature but they do have some control over equipment maintenance, settings, timing and harvest management.

So what can combine losses cost? Producers leave 2-3 bushels per acre in the field, which is at least 20 times the seeding rate. In fact, a three year study in Western Canada determined that producers lose 3-5 bu per acre and losses have been recorded at 5-15 bu/ ac. Sources of losses include:

- Nature—shatter (ripening, wind, rain, hail, wildlife,

Since 1990, combine horsepower has more than doubled and while there has been significant material handling improvements, maximum throughput may be greater than the capacity of the processing and cleaning systems in some conditions. Modern spreaders and

Example 1:

1 bu/ac loss @ \$10/bu = **\$10/ ac** loss

Harvesting

20 ac/hr X \$10/ac = **\$200/hr** LOSS

One Combine

160 ac @ 20 ac/hr = 8 hrs to harvest

\$200/hr X 8 hrs = **\$1600** LOSS on 160 ac

Two Combines—slower**Time Value**

160 ac @ 15 ac/hr with 2 combines = 5.3 hr

Saved ~3 hr @ \$200/hr = \$600 (\$300/combine)

\$100/hr savings X 5 hrs X 2 combines

\$ 1000 SAVINGS per 160 ac

Crop Value

Save 1bu/ac on 160 ac = 160 bu @ \$10/bu

\$1600 SAVINGS

The combined value for 2 machines moving slower equates to \$2600 per 160 acres

choppers hide the losses. Producers are using wider headers, not reducing speeds and dealing with greatly increased crop yields which can lead to increased harvest losses. There is also an assumption that if the combine can send the crop through, the grain will end up in the tank. This is not the case.

So how do I reduce harvest losses? The first step is to quantify the loss. The [August, 2015](#) issue of the Back Forty newsletter included an article on how to quantify combine

losses. Adjust combine one settings one at a time to minimize loss, reduce breakage and have a clean sample. As conditions change from early in the day to later, know that the operator must adjust the combine speed accordingly. Field conditions will

also change from day to day, field to field, and crop to crop. It is important to check and recheck combine losses and settings. Technology can help. Monitors will register losses or changes in losses but they are only accurate if they are calibrated. Experienced operators will watch how the crop is feeding, how the monitors are fluctuating, how the sample looks and adjust speed accordingly.

1 bu/ac loss is achievable and 2 bu/ac loss is reasonable. If producers can reduce harvest losses from the combine by 2 bu/ac, quick math says you could be putting an additional \$3,200 per quarter in your pocket when the crop is valued at \$10/bu.

Happy Harvest!**Example 2:**

Assume a travel speed of 4mph

If yield increases by 20% (50 to 60 bu/ac)

**Harvest speed should now be 3.2 mph
(20% decrease)**

Change a 30' header to a 36' = 20% increase

**Harvest speed should now be 2.5 mph
(20% decrease)**

If you still travel at 4 mph, this is 60% over the target feed rate!

Losses could increase by 5 times!



County of Grande Prairie Corner

By Sonja Raven, Agricultural Fieldman



Sonja Raven,
Agricultural
Fieldman

Good day from the County of Grande Prairie! As I drive around the County, I have been so impressed by the incredible crops we are seeing. Even the east side of the County has been getting rain this year! However, given that harvest looks to be a bit earlier than usual, it would be nice to turn the taps off for a bit!

Along with fantastic crops comes phenomenal weed growth! Inspectors have been busy all over the county informing people about their weed issues. Of course, we often inform folks who know quite well they have weeds, and they are often not happy to see us, as they are either in the process of dealing with their weeds, or really don't want to. For the top producers out there, please bear with us informing you of the weeds you know you have – many of my inspectors are students not raised on the farm, and they are just doing their job. A simple call back to tell them of your plans will close the file and you won't hear from them again. I will have to issue weed notices to those landowners we are not

able to contact.

Our annual Ag Tour is coming up on August 25th, and this year we are focusing on the wonders of barley – from grain to beer! It promises to be another great tour, starting with a hearty breakfast, and ending with a tour of our new local brewery! Spots on the bus are limited, so please call the office at 780-532-9727 to register. Registration closes August 19th.

Mowing is going very well this year, in spite of losing some days to the weather. I anticipate we will have the majority of the county finished first cut by the end of August. We have some excellent operators, and they are doing their best to get things done quickly, and well.

Vegetation management has been a challenge this year with all the rain as well. However, we are addressing many of the parcels that the county owns, in an effort to practice what we preach. Our roadside weed control is well underway. We will be shifting the focus to controlling Canada thistle, as we have addressed the majority of the areas with early-

season plants such as toadflax, mayweed, and ox eye daisy. Control of tansy will be ongoing, as we are seeing a real boom in growth this year.

“No Spray Program” participants are reminded that controlling weeds and brush in the ditch under the agreement, is your responsibility. We are inspecting this year, and have been forced to cancel 2 agreements for non-compliance. If you are advised you have noxious weeds in your ditch, you must control them within 5 days. If you fail to do so, OR they regrow and are found again, you will be removed from the program, and your signs pulled. You will receive a letter explaining what has happened, as well as a copy of your cancelled agreement. We definitely prefer not to have to remove people from this valuable program, so please remember to check your ditch and keep it clean.

Wishing everyone a successful harvest, and the good weather that goes with it!

PRESENTATION HEMP GROWING

Northwest Region of Alberta

The Conseil de développement économique de l'Alberta (CDÉA), in collaboration with its partners, Smoky River Regional Economic Development and Smoky Applied Research And Demonstration Association, would like to invite you to the Hemp Growing Presentation in the Northwest Region.

Mr. Jan Slaski (Presenter)

From Alberta Innovates Technology Futures

FALHER

December 9th, 2016

10:30 am - 2:30 pm

Falher Regional Recreation Complex

32 Central Avenue NW

Falher, AB

RSVP NOW

Diane Chiasson
diane.chiasson@lecdea.ca
780.837.6630

Suzanne Prévost
suzanne.prevost@lecdea.ca
780.573.4516



SARDA

Box 90

Falher, AB

T0H 1M0

Phone: 780-837-2900

Fax: 780-837-8223

Email: admin@sarda.ca

www.sarda.ca



Audrey Bjorklund

From: Norm Boulet <asb@mdsmokyriver.com>
Sent: September-09-16 8:17 AM
To: amandao@birchhillscounty.com; ameliag@birchhillscounty.com;
sdutrisac@northern sunrise.net; Aaron Zylstra; Audrey Bjorklund; Blake Glauger; Edward Zielinski; fred@mdfairview.ab.ca; 'Grant Smith (E-mail)'; 'Jill Henry'; Kaly B; Kim Robson; Kristin King; Marny Kenney; Nasar Iqbal; 'Quentin Bochar'; 'Robert Sallis'; Sean Allen; Shayne Steffen; 'Sonja Raven'; Stephanie Soucy; Suzanne Allan (2); Tracelle Hinze; 'Wayne Wright'
Subject: Country Guide article

I thought this was a very interesting read. Here's the link in case you want to follow or forward it, and keeping tabs on the comments section should prove interesting.

http://www.country-guide.ca/2016/09/07/environmental-activists-are-on-the-attack-their-target-glyphosate/49484/?utm_source=FBC+Publications&utm_campaign=0978a04c38-Country+Guide+daily+enews+west+Sep+09%2C+2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2da8244677-0978a04c38-88099273

The target is glyphosate

It's time to worry. The real goal of today's anti-GMO movement is to kill the weed killer at the core of modern agriculture

By Gerald Pilger *Columnist*

Published: September 7, 2016

As farmers, we have a question to ask ourselves. Are we getting played? Are we getting taken in, just like an audience at a magic show that gets fooled into watching the distraction instead of what's really happening? Is agriculture reacting to the GMO debate when we should be focusing on protecting glyphosate?

These are questions we need to ask urgently. Here's why.

Earlier this summer, I received four very disturbing emails from the online activist network Avaaz.

If you haven't heard of Avaaz, do yourself a favour and go to its website today. The prestigious *Guardian* newspaper now says Avaaz (whose name means "voice" in several European languages) is the world's most powerful online network of environmental activists.

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In just five years, Avaaz has amassed a membership of almost 44 million people, and it is still growing, with thousands of dedicated volunteers overseen by core teams on six continents.

These emails didn't pull any punches. They outright told Avaaz members to push for a ban on glyphosate.

We mustn't take this lightly. The Avaaz website shows that of all their global issues, their third-highest priority is to "Break Monsanto's Grip — investigate, expose, and take on the corporate capture of our food and agriculture regulatory systems to ensure our health and the environment are put before profits."

If you think third isn't so bad, take a look at the company it keeps. The survey found 53.55 per cent of Avaaz members consider glyphosate a priority, only behind "Save the Seas" at 54.91 per cent, and the 53.74 per cent scored for "Drive the Paris Climate Agreement Home."

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Nor is there any question that the pressure Avaaz is putting on governments to ban glyphosate is having an effect. In June, when the European Union decided against renewing glyphosate's licence for another 15-year term, as normally happens with pesticide license renewals, but instead only granted an 18-month "emergency exemption" for further scientific study of the 40-year-old herbicide, Ricken Patel, Avaaz executive director wrote to his members to claim credit: "Now, after over two million of us ran 20 campaigns; with millions of signatures, messages, phone calls, stunts, advocacy meetings and media stories... the future of the 'Monsanto model' is actually in question!!"

But here's the clincher, with a quote from Pavel Poc, vice-chair of the EU Parliament's environment committee: "Avaaz is indisputably the driving force of the fight for glyphosate discontinuance."

The risk in perspective

Aside from its distrust of Monsanto, it seems Avaaz opposes glyphosate because of its supposed toxicity.

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From a farmer's perspective, there is no question that there is a degree of toxicity to glyphosate. It is a herbicide after all. However, multiple studies by many reputable institutions rate glyphosate as only slightly toxic. The LD50 of glyphosate is 5,600 mg/kg. For comparison, the LD50 of baking soda is 4,220, and table salt is 3,000, both falling in the moderate toxicity range. Copper sulfate, a chemical used by organic growers as a fungicide, is rated as very toxic with a LD50 of just 300. And vitamin D is actually rated as extremely toxic with an LD50 of just 10 mg/kg. Yet people still purchase and ingest vitamin D supplements.

The toxicity concerns about glyphosate spiked last year when the International Agency for Research on Cancer designated glyphosate as a 2A carcinogen (i.e. probably carcinogenic to humans). IARC is the only global body to give glyphosate this rating. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers glyphosate to be non-carcinogenic in humans. Even the European Food Safety Agency decided that glyphosate is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic hazard to humans.

It is interesting to note what else is found in IARC's group 2A, including high-temperature frying, red meat, very hot beverages, and indoor emissions from combustion of wood (fireplaces).

IARC rates shift work too as probably carcinogenic.

This contrasts to Group 1 substances which IARC defines as carcinogenic. This list includes asbestos, estrogen therapy, ethanol (alcoholic beverages), solar radiation, diesel engine exhaust, smoking tobacco, and second-hand tobacco smoke.

The point is that lots of products in modern society can potentially cause cancer. It is not simply exposure to a product; it is the amount of exposure or dose which causes the problem. It is unjustified to ban glyphosate based on just three studies that have suggested there may be a link between this herbicide and cancer when hundreds of studies have found no link.

If prevention of cancer is the prime motivation, there are substances that have a much higher, proven risk and which should be banned long before glyphosate. Yet society knowingly accepts the risks of activities like smoking and drinking alcohol without calling for a ban on these practices.

"Atrocity against nature"

What disturbs me most about the Avaaz emails are the inflammatory statements that can be extremely misleading. For example in his June 13, 2016 email, Patel wrote: "Glyphosate kills *everything* except Monsanto's genetically engineered crops, transforming our planet into ecological wastelands where nothing can live but one GM crop. It's apocalyptic."

In the June 9 email Patel states: "We can also use the next 18 months to focus scrutiny on the global environmental impact of the Monsanto model, which is turning the surface of our planet into strange, toxic 'biodeserts' where only one genetically modified Monsanto crop can grow."

Then, on June 21, I received an email from Alice Jay, Avaaz campaign director, in which she said: "Our planet is one tremendously fragile, interdependent ecosystem, and Monsanto's wasteland agriculture is taking a wrecking ball to it." To rally her troops, she then added, "We are the front lines of our people's response to this atrocity against nature, and our future."

For anyone not familiar with agriculture, statements such as these make glyphosate sound like the most toxic substance known to man. Descriptions that say it kills everything, creates ecological wastelands and toxic biodeserts... are all factually incorrect yet seem credible to a gullible public.

Statements like these do nothing to inform people about glyphosate or GM crops but are simply used to mobilize an uninformed public. Reading the emails I am not even sure if the authors are more against GM crops, glyphosate, or Monsanto. A reader likely comes away equating all three as the same thing.

Worse yet, the emails ignore all of the benefits of glyphosate. They do not tell the readers how this herbicide has enabled farmers to reduce the use of much more toxic pesticides. They do not explain that glyphosate enables farmers to adopt conservation and zero tillage — reducing soil erosion and soil degradation. They do not mention how glyphosate facilitates continuous cropping thereby increasing CO2 sequestration, or how it has paved the way for

massive reductions in fuel used by farmers, thereby slowing climate change. They do not mention that even organic farmers use this herbicide.

Nor do they tell their members that a ban on glyphosate would likely reduce global food stocks and result in higher food prices.

Avaaz battle plan

On June 21, Avaaz outlined its strategy for killing glyphosate. In its own words, it lists five needs for which it was soliciting funds:

- Fund the independent science that is desperately needed to counter the industry-funded studies.
- Build pressure on key countries and politicians to stand strong on glyphosate.
- Articulate the clear, sustainable alternatives to glyphosate-type herbicides (this is key to winning over farmers and politicians).
- Mobilize rapidly for every committee, every council meeting, every backroom bureaucratic process where the EU tries to get out of making a clear decision.
- Start taking this fight global. The U.S., Canada, Brazil and a slew of other countries could decide soon whether they also ban glyphosate.

Every one of these steps should alarm Canadian farmers.

I really wanted more information on each of these points. I especially wanted to know what would be Avaaz's position if an independent study they funded found glyphosate to be safe and beneficial. I wanted to know what would make their independent study more credible than independent studies which have already been completed and have found glyphosate to be a relatively safe pesticide. Would they reverse their position? It does not appear so, given the other four steps on their list.

I also wanted to know what are the "clear, sustainable alternatives to glyphosate-type herbicides" that they feel will win over farmers. If these alternatives are so good, why not just publicize them, so farmers could flock to them.

So I tried multiple times over 25 days to contact Avaaz by both email and telephone. Finally I had a call returned by someone who could only speak limited English but agreed to reply to emailed questions. I emailed my questions but I never received the promised reply.

As a writer I am extremely frustrated by an organization that provides multiple media contacts but then does not reply to media queries.

As a farmer I am angered by an organization that blatantly distorts the facts and intentionally misleads the public into thinking farmers are using products which endanger not only the environment but also the consumers of the food we grow.

Farmers are continually told we need to connect with consumers. We are told to explain to the public what we do and why we do it, and we are told to demonstrate that we are producing safe, nutritious and healthy food.

I agree there is a real benefit to these one-on-one conversations between farmers and consumers. However, individual farmers cannot refute the attacks that groups like Avaaz are waging on modern agriculture.

Individual farmers cannot reach the millions of consumers Avaaz does in a single email blast.

Even worse, there is nothing individual farmers can say or do to change the mindset of Avaaz members who have been continually bombarded with propaganda that links glyphosate to "toxic biodeserts."

Governments, industry, and farm organizations must hold Avaaz accountable for what it is saying. Agriculture needs to demand Avaaz provide proof of such statements as "...where only one genetically modified Monsanto crop can grow."

We also need to showcase farmers (including organic farmers) who have never planted a Monsanto GM crop but who use glyphosate on their farms without the "apocalyptic" effects that Avaaz claims glyphosate leads to!

Scientists too must stand up and defend their work against such anti-science propaganda. On June 20, 2016, a total of 107 Nobel laureates signed a letter supporting GMOs. ([The letter](#) and information about GMOs can be found on the group's website at supportprecisionagriculture.org.)

Hopefully, the stand this brave group is taking against the mob of the misinformed will encourage governments and agriculture to collectively stand up for the science that is necessary to feed the growing world population!

Normand Boulet, CCA
Agricultural Fieldman
M.D. of Smoky River

Audrey Bjorklund

To: Audrey Bjorklund
Subject: FW: 2017 ASB Tour Save-the-Date

2017 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour



SAVE - THE - DATE JULY 11 – 14, 2017

Mountain View County and Red Deer County have teamed up to bring to you the 2017 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour. We are busy putting together plans to create a jam-packed tour showcasing the latest and greatest of agriculture in Central Alberta.



Mountain View
COUNTY

Red Deer County



The theme for the tour is ***Growing Tomorrow's Agriculture***. We plan on showing our local producers in action and their contributions to the future of agriculture. Embodying our theme, **Olds College** has been selected as the base for the tour week and will be hosting registration, check-in, optional tours and all of the evening festivities.

The 2017 ASB Summer Tour team is in the process of building the website and finalizing tour stops for the Delegate Tour, Partner Tour and the Youth Tour. At this time, we are sending you an initial invitation to ensure you have ample time to SAVE-THE-DATES. Future notices will be circulated with registration and tour options.

GENERAL ITINERARY

Monday, July 10 th	Accommodations: available for those arriving early, no formal activities.
Tuesday, July 11 th	Optional activities golf, river rafting, Olds College Centre for Innovation, brewery tour Registration: Centennial Village. Evening: Welcoming Reception and social
Wednesday, July 12 th	Delegate Tours and Partner Tours in both MVC and RDC Youth tour in Red Deer County Evening: BBQ Mixer, Tradeshow, Farmer's Market, College tours
Thursday, July 13 th	Delegate Tours and Partner Tours in both MVC and RDC Youth tour in Mountain View County Evening: Banquet
Friday, July 14 th	Stampede Breakfast and departure

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Some of you may be anxious to book your rooms for the tour. Here are the options we have set up in and around Olds, Alberta:

1. Olds College offers a few options that allow you to stay right at the College where the action is:
To book the Olds College accommodations call College Conference Services at **403.556.8330**
 - A. **Olds College Centennial Village**
\$70/night with linens for 1 person (2016 prices)
\$80/night with linens for 2 people
 - B. College Courts – townhouse style units with 4 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms
\$50/night with linens for one bedroom (one person)
\$200/night with linens for 4 bedrooms (4 people)
 - C. Camping at Olds College – parking lot DD - \$25/night with power (no water or sewer)

For inquiries about the Olds College accommodations call 403.556.8330 or email conferenceservices@oldscollege.ca

2. **Pomeroy Inn & Suites @ Olds College** - 4601, 46th Avenue, Olds Alberta 403.556.8815
\$129 - \$179 + tax per night depending on room type
3. **Best Western in Olds** - 4520, 46th Street, Olds Alberta 403.556.5900
\$139.49 + tax per night
4. **Ramada Olds** - 500 – 6700, 46th Street, Olds Alberta 403.507.8349
\$134.99 + tax per night
5. **Circle 5 Motel** - 4513, 52 Avenue, Olds Alberta
\$107.00 + tax per night
6. **O. R. Hedges Campground** – 5013, 54th Street, Olds Alberta
Begin taking reservations on May 1st, 2017. They book up very quickly.

As more details are seeded and growing, we will send updates, share further information and place all of this information on the 2017 ASB Summer Tour website. If you have inquiries about the tour please contact our Tour Coordinator, Donna Trottier at 403.348.9321 or email Donna at donna.trottier@tatonga.ca.



County of St. Paul No. 19

August 16th, 2016

Honourable Brian Mason
Minister of Transportation and Minister of Infrastructure
Room 320 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Honourable Minister,

The County of St. Paul No. 19 wishes to express its deep and abiding concerns regarding the Government of Alberta's lack of weed control efforts to mitigate and minimize the spread of noxious weeds and prohibited noxious weeds on Alberta highways. The County understands that the Government has made this policy decision in an effort to reduce expenditures, but we believe that the most cost-effective strategy to combat invasive species is preventing them from establishing in the first instance. There are several reasons why the County feels that this policy is not serving the public interest.

First and foremost, this current policy poses significant public safety risks. The lack of weed control greatly decreases visibility on our highways. Some weeds adjacent to highways in the County of St. Paul are more than four feet high and encroaching within rights-of-way, which makes it increasingly difficult to observe hazardous wildlife, and has the potential to cause an increase in motor vehicles accidents and injuries.

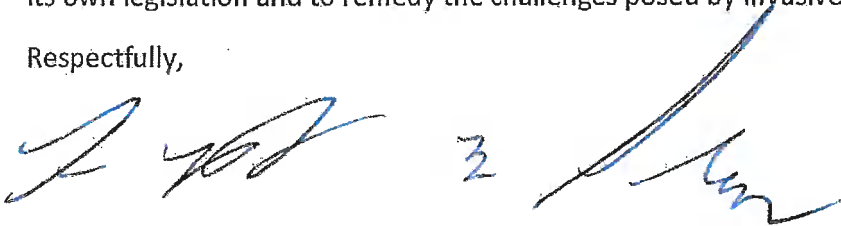
As well, the lack of weed control allows the weeds to grow and spread thereby invading the natural diversity and balance of our ecological communities. These changes threaten the survival of many plants and animals as the weeds compete for space, nutrients, and sunlight. From an economic perspective, weeds cause challenges for agricultural producers in close proximity to these highways. These weeds present a legitimate threat to farmers and producers, which should not be discounted under any circumstances.

It is also noteworthy that the Government of Alberta's lack of weed control measures has provoked some municipalities to identify problem areas and issue weed notices to Alberta Transportation so these weeds are controlled. In some cases, municipalities have carried out weed control activities themselves. This diminishes municipal time, energy, and resources and directs attention away from the maintenance of our own municipal roadways.

The County firmly believes that this is a poor precedent to establish and that the Government of Alberta should lead by example when it comes to complying with provincial law. Municipalities, landowners, and other actors remain responsible for abiding by the *Weed Control Act* and its related regulations while the Government of Alberta willfully neglects the rules. This current policy is inequitable and demands careful consideration from the Government of Alberta.

In the past, Alberta Transportation has had a proactive vegetation management program using mowing and spraying to combat the spread of invasive weeds. These programs were very successful in mitigating and minimizing the presence and effects of weeds on Alberta highways. The County of St. Paul strongly encourages the Government of Alberta to restore funding to Alberta Transportation for summer vegetation management programs along provincial highways. It is imperative that there are sufficient funds for Alberta Transportation to abide by its own legislation and to remedy the challenges posed by invasive weeds.

Respectfully,



Frank Sloan, Chairman
County of St. Paul No. 19 Agricultural Service Board

C.C. The Honourable Rachel Notley, Premier of Alberta

C.C. The Honourable Joe Ceci, Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board

C.C. Mr. David Hanson, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills

C.C. Trent Keller, President of the Association of Albertan Agricultural Fieldmen



September 22, 2016

Mr. Paul Bury
Operations Manager
Stony Plain District
Alberta Transportation
4709 – 44 Avenue
Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1N4

Dear Paul:

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and discuss the current issues relating to Alberta Transportation's budget and vegetation control along provincial highways.

The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) take the Alberta *Weed Control Act* very seriously as we are mandated to enforce this Act by the province. We are obligated to bring these issues to your attention and if needed, continue with any action necessary to ensure that weed control along provincial highways is being dealt with, the same as any landowner in the province is held to under the *Alberta Weed Control Act*.

A suggestion that was brought up during our discussions held on September 9th relates to the obvious lack of communication between Alberta Transportation and other government agencies. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry is a main player in the control of Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds as well as vegetation management within the province. They are a perfect resource for your department to access provincial inspectors with the ability to work with you and other organizations such as the AAAF, Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties (AAMD&C), the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee, and Agricultural Service Boards. The goal would be to develop a plan that would be an effective weed control strategy for the entire province. The recent initiative by the Department of Transportation to release the mowers on provincial highways may be a positive move from an aesthetic and wildlife safety perspective however; it will also result in the spread of mature weed seed and potentially increase the cost of weed control substantially for years to come. Implementing a three year plan that would include herbicide application and mowing in a timely manner would realize cost savings and effective weed control in the long run.

Communication with Alberta Transportation employees, regarding vegetation management action varies throughout the province. Current communications with these representatives can vary from a letter, phone call or email resulting in action, to the issuance of a weed notice and in some areas of the province, enforcement of weed notices to accomplish vegetation control. It would be beneficial to have this process streamlined and a plan implemented to accomplish proactive vegetation management and communication between all parties involved. Although



this may not please everyone, a plan can be explained and defended. Procrastination and ad hoc actions or programs only create questions and questionable impressions. The Government of Alberta has many neighbours adjacent to their highways and should set an example when it comes to weed control as defined in their own Act.

Concerns with regard to Alberta Transportation's contractors and the quality of work, also needs to be visited. It has been questioned as to what the actual cost of weed control is vs. administration fees or indirect billing. It was also discussed that some municipalities may be willing to take on extra work; others may not have resources to do so. In some cases a group of municipalities may be willing to take on large areas of highways to accomplish timely vegetation control.

Vegetation control should be a priority to Alberta Transportation. The travelling public is at risk due to the lack of visibility along provincial highways. The agricultural sector has incurred increased control costs through the spread of weeds infesting their farmland. There is an increased cost of vegetation control burdening your neighbour. In our position, this is not acceptable. All municipalities have programs in place to remedy these issues. The public should see that the Government of Alberta is not only a willing participant in vegetation control and management but a leader in this area.

We are more than willing to facilitate any working group to arrive at a proactive vegetation management plan for the Province of Alberta.

Regards,

Trent Keller
AAAF President
Athabasca County
3602 48th Ave
Athabasca, Alberta T9S1M8

cc: Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen
cc: Mark Svenson, Provincial Transportation Environmental Coordinator, Alberta
Transportation
cc: Bret Kennedy, Senior Science and Innovation Officer, AF
cc: Doug Macauley, ASB Program Manager, AF
cc: Nicole Kimmel, Weed Specialist, AF
cc: David Feindel, Director, Pest Surveillance Section, AF
cc: Gayah Sieusahai, Pest Regulatory Officer, AF



Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130

P.O. Box 210 FALHER, ALBERTA T0H 1M0

Phone: (780) 837-2221

Fax: (780) 837-2453

September 19, 2016

Honourable Brian Mason
Minister of Transportation and Minister of Infrastructure
Room 320 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Ave
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Honourable Minister:

M.D. of Smoky River Council discussed the County of St. Paul letter of August 16th, 2016 at our Council meeting today. Council wishes to support the concerns expressed by the County of St. Paul. Council highly recommends the Government of Alberta revisit their priorities and lack of attention being given to weed control efforts on our provincial highways. All transportation corridors have the potential to be significant areas for noxious and prohibited noxious weeds to be introduced, grow and spread to our agricultural lands. Industrial and recreational travelers both may spread weeds from afar, and as a landowner the responsibility to control these weeds falls to the Government of Alberta.

Section 2 of the Weed Control Act states: “A person must control a noxious weed that is on the land the person owns or occupies.” In the definitions “control” means to “inhibit the growth or spread, or to destroy”. Section 31 states: “The Crown is bound by this Act.” The Act does not state or imply that the Government is exempt, nor that the Government only need comply with the Act when requested to do so by an inspector. The Act is clear, a landowner has a responsibility to control noxious weeds and destroy prohibited noxious weeds on land under their control.

In the same manner that Government of Alberta personnel must abide by the Traffic Safety Act in the interest of public safety, and to set a proper example, the Government needs to abide by the Weed Control Act in the interest of preventing invasive plants from spreading from their properties onto private lands, where they can negatively impact our agricultural producers, as well as our environment.

Feel free to contact me or the M.D. of Smoky River Agricultural Fieldman Normand Boulet, CCA at 780-837-0043 asb@mdsmokyriver.com for more information or with any questions.

Respectfully,



Robert Brochu, Reeve and A.S.B. Chairman
780-837-0522
rbrochu@mdsmokyriver.com

cc The Honourable Rachel Notley, Premier of Alberta
 The Honourable Joe Ceci, Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board
 The Honourable Marg McCuaig-Boyd, MLA for Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley
 Pat Gordeyko, Chair of the Provincial A.S.B. Committee
 Trent Keller, President of the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen

Forage Facts

Published by the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association

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ONLY 4 STOMACHS

Reminder:

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To Till or Not to Till?

By: *Kaitlin McLachlan*

Recently, we have been very fortunate to play host to many great soil health experts: Jay Fuhrer, Nicole Masters, Dr. Yamily Zavala, and countless more who spoke at the Soil Health Conference in Edmonton this past December. With encouragement from our board and great enthusiasm from membership, we are pleased to have soil health as one of our main focuses moving forward.

This year, the very dry, then very wet weather has posed some unique challenges. We have been getting calls about various weed issues in old pasture and hay stands as well as compaction issues due to travelling on the wet ground trying to get hay off. Traditionally, when dealing with worn-out pastures and hay stands, we pull out the trusty plow and fly at it. 'Renovating' a field is a costly and time consuming process. Furthermore, tilling a field may actually intensify weed and compaction issues!

From our past soil health workshops, we have heard time and time again to leave the tillage equipment parked. But why? Tillage has been a go-to solution for years.

One of the main reasons that we are being advised to mitigate tillage is because it causes soil compaction. Soil compaction occurs when soil particles are pressed together, reducing pore spaces between them. This reduction in pore spaces makes fewer channels for water and air to get through the soil. The lack of large pore spaces means that water is not able to move through the soil



Photo via: shutterstock.com

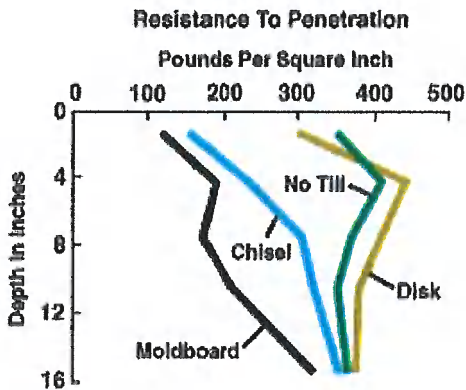
properly. Instead, soils become saturated and excess water will sit on top or run-off. Due to the compression of soil particles, we are also changing the structure of our soil. Compaction makes the ground hard and instead of nice, granular aggregates, the soil aggregates turn to hard lumps. This makes it extremely difficult for plant roots to venture deep into the soil to seek water and nutrients.

There are three main causes of soil compaction: wheel traffic, minimal crop rotation, and tillage. Tillage is unique in that it can be responsible for both surface and subsoil compaction.

Surface compaction is primarily caused by wheel traffic, however, tillage is also a major secondary cause. Tillage studies conducted in clay soils in Wisconsin involved a 10 year corn tillage study. They found that discing the field every spring led to the highest compaction readings of the options tested. A hardpan at the 4 inch depth was hard enough to be impenetrable to plant roots.

Subsoil compaction, as illustrated in

the above graph, can be attributed more to deep tillage practices. Subsoiling is also noted as a major contributor to



Soil compaction due to disk, moldboard plow, chisel plow and no-till equipment. Photo via: extension.umn.edu

subsoil compaction. But why should we be concerned about soil compaction over 10 inches below the surface? Subsoil compaction shows up especially in wet years. Saturated soils facing subsoil compaction will not drain due to the lack of deep pore spaces. Saturated soils could result in an anaerobic root environment, causing root rot and limited nutrient uptake.

Simply put, compaction can affect:

- Water availability to roots
- Nitrogen and Potassium uptake
- Plant growth and yield

There are theories that we do not have compaction here in the Peace due to the freeze-thaw cycles. However, studies have shown that after nine years of cropping and annual freezing and thawing, there was no removal of compacted soil at the bottom of a plow furrow (Voorhees, 1983). This evidence, paired with the larger equipment that we run now, compaction is indeed an issue.

During our past soil health workshops with Nicole Masters and Jay Fuhrer, we learned that weeds can be seen as symptoms of soil issues. Some are nutrient related, but many are related to compaction. By alleviating compaction issues we can also alleviate some of our weed issues.

So what can we do? Reducing the amount of tillage and wheel traffic we are imposing on the land can help to decrease compaction. Also, studies have shown that practices such as rotational and mob grazing can help to boost grass production. Proper grazing can not only boost above ground production, but also root production. Over time, root action will eventually break up soil compaction.

Certain plant species have root systems that can help to decrease the effects of compaction. Tillage radishes are noted for their deep reaching, strong roots that are capable of growing through compacted soils and creating pore spaces. Tillage radishes are a short season annual and grow best when planted late in the summer.

Cocktail cover crops are also a potential solution for adding carbon to the soil and loosening up hard soil layers. Choose a variety of species with a variety of tap roots and fibrous root which helps to break up hard soil aggregates.

For many of PCBFA's research projects, we have been measuring the attributes of the soils the projects are on, including compaction and water infiltration. Watch for data in our annual report, which will be coming out at our AGM in February. We still have a lot to learn, but we are starting to understand more about our Peace Country soils!

Thank-You to the PCBFA Board of Directors

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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

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MD of Spirit River
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MD of Greenview
Big Lakes County
County of Grande Prairie

New Growing Forward 2 Program: Accelerating Agricultural Innovation



By: Jen Allen

Since some great projects were arising that were beneficial to the Alberta agriculture industry, but were not eligible under any other current Growing Forward 2 (GF2) programs, GF2 decided to establish a new program called the "Accelerating Agricultural Innovation Program." The purpose of the Accelerating Agricultural Innovation Program is to encourage investment in the demonstration, commercialization and adoption of innovative products, practices and processes that have the likelihood to provide sector wide Impact on the agriculture, agri-food and/or agri-product sectors.

There are two separate program streams available under the Accelerating Agricultural Innovation Program: Stream A: Collaborating Innovation and Stream B: Implementing Innovation.

The Collaborating Innovation Stream is aimed towards Agricultural Groups who are registered under the Societies Act, Industry Organizations, Producer Groups, and other non-profit entities operating within Alberta. This Stream will help such non-profit organizations with the "capital and non-capital costs for advancing the Sector-Wide Impact of agriculture innovation and collaboration through proof-of-concept and commercialization" of new products, processes or business practices in Alberta^(GF2, 2016). Depending on the activity, eligible applicants could receive funding to cover capital costs up to 70%, and non-capital costs up to 90%.

The Implementing Innovation Stream is geared more towards Primary Producers, Agri-Processors (including Food Processors, Bio Industrial Processors, and Agri-Based Product Processors), and other for-profit legal organizations working within Alberta. Through this Stream, for-profit organizations can receive funding for capital and non-capital expenses of "becoming Early Adopters of new technologies or practices that have the potential for Sector-Wide impact as well as supporting the demonstration or adaptation of sector-impacting technical innovations within their operations" ^(GF2, 2016). Depending of the activity, eligible applicants may receive funding for capital costs up to 60%, and non-capital costs up to 80%.

Depending on the Program Stream (A or B) and the type

of project pursued, applicants are eligible to receive up to \$1,000,000 in project funding.

To apply for this program funding, applicants must submit a Letter of Intent by October 5, 2016 at 12:00 PM that includes a filled out Application Form, and a copy of a completed business case or feasibility study for the project. All projects must also be completed by February 1, 2018. Applications will be reviewed using a competitive system, so it is important to double check to make sure all requirements on the program application form are completed properly, as incomplete applications will be rejected and not assessed. ^(GF2, GoA)

PCBFA would be happy to assist you in completing any GF2 Applications, just give us a call!

Director's Corner with John Prinse

Hi everyone, my name is John Prinse. My farm is located in the High Prairie area, where we have rich, black soil on my land with being so close to the lake. Here I run a cow/calf and backgrounding operation. I have been involved with the PCBFA for a while now and have been on the Board of Directors for the past 2 years. I have tremendously enjoyed being a Director and being a part of the PCBFA community. Since being involved with PCBFA, I have learned a lot and have been able to take what I have learned and apply it to my own farm. I have fenced off my riparian areas, where I am seeing positive results in revegetation. I have also implemented a paddock grazing system into my operation, where I run 30 paddocks total. I have started to see the benefits that paddock grazing provides, such as healthier soil and soil carbon, healthier grass, and healthier cows. The cows are always eager to get through that gate into the next paddock and get on the fresh grass, which eliminates over grazing. I also have solar watering systems out at the paddocks. From information provided by PCBFA I have also learned to nicely divide my risks in feed. I have diversified my feed options and introduced alternatives to hay by using corn and swath grazing and cocktail cover crops. PCBFA puts on great events and workshops where we are able to get good information and has helped me broaden my horizons. I am glad to be on the Board with friendly group of people and staff members.



Upcoming Events

Watering Systems Tour

Looking to install a new watering system or to enhance your current one?

Join us to learn about innovative watering systems!



Date: Friday Sept. 9th, 2016

Time: 9:30am registration

Meet at: High Prairie Ag Society

Cost: Free

Lunch & refreshments will be provided

Tour will include visiting project sites with unique watering challenges

With special guest speaker:

Marvin Jackson of Sundog Solar!

Beaver Workshops

Date: Mid-October

Location: One each in the East Peace & West Peace

Stay Tuned for More Details!

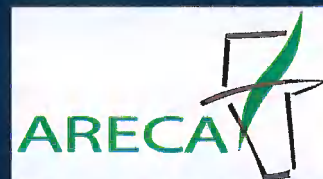
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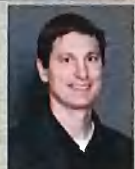
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Cattle Market Outlook Evening with Brian Perillat of Canfax



As the Manager and Senior Analyst at Canfax, Brian ensures Canfax maintains accurate and relevant market information, as well as provides and oversees market analysis provided for its members and the industry. Canfax maintains its independence as a third party source of unbiased market information.

Date: Monday, September 19th

Time: 5:30pm Registration, 6pm Start

Where: Teepee Creek Hall

Cost: \$10/Member

\$20/Non-Member

Supper Provided

For more Information or to Register for any of these great events, Call the Fairview office at 780-835-6799 or email Jen at jallen@gprc.ab.ca or Kaitlin at kmclachlan@gprc.ab.ca

Contact Us

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Forage Facts

Published by the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association

October 2016. Volume 12, Issue 141



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Stay up-to-date with all PCBFA's activities!

A Warm Welcome to a New PCBFA Staff Member!

By: *Monika Benoit & Liisa Vihvelin*

A note from Monika: Fall 2016 will bring some changes to the PCBFA Staff Team. I will be leaving PCBFA in November to start a new adventure. My husband, Mike and I are expecting our first baby and I will be going on maternity leave.

We have been working on hiring a new manager over the past few months, and we are very pleased to have hired Liisa Vihvelin.

Liisa started with the Association on September 26th, and will be working out of the Fairview office. Be sure to give her a call or stop by for a chat and get to know her!

Now, let's get to know a little more about Liisa...

"I was born and raised in southern New Brunswick. I grew up with horses, and worked at a zoo for many years. I have always loved animals, farms, and anything to do with the outdoors. I fell in love with agriculture while attending the



Veterinary Technology program at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, and immediately transferred into their agriculture degree program. In 2010, I obtained my Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, with a

major in Animal Science and a minor in Ag Business. After graduation, I began working in accounting, and taking accounting courses to further my education.

I have spent the past six years working in accounting and managerial roles in automotive, heavy truck, and farm equipment dealerships, as well as completed the majority of the CPA PREP program. I have recently relocated to Grande Prairie, and I am extremely excited to be joining the PCBFA and becoming actively involved in agriculture in Alberta! I look forward to getting to know all of our members and becoming familiar with your operations."



A PCBFA Farewell...

On September 23rd, PCBFA said farewell to our Extension Coordinator, Kaitlin McLachlan. PCBFA wishes her well in her future endeavors! *If you were dealing with Kaitlin previously or have any questions regarding PCBFA's extension activities, please direct your inquiries to Jen Allen.*

By: Kaitlin McLachlan

Winter is upon us, and that means we'll soon be starting up the tractor or turning cattle out into fall and winter grazing. That also means that we have been receiving plenty of feed samples and returning the results to you! Now that you have the feed results, what does it all mean?

When reading your feed test, look at the "Dry Matter" values, these values have the moisture of the feed factored out, so you can compare feed types, from silage to hay to grain. A good target dry matter intake (DMI) is around 2.5% - 2.7% of a cow's body weight.

The most important numbers to look at on your feed test are the "Crude Protein –CP" and "Total Digestible Nutrients –TDN". These values will tell you the protein and energy level of your feed, respectively. Below is a handy table breaking out the needs of a pregnant cow at different points in the winter. Sticking close to these numbers for a pregnant cow should get you through the winter.

Beef Ration Rules of Thumb		
Animal Type	Energy (TDN)	Protein (CP)
Cow— Mid gestation	55%	7%
Cow—Late Gestation	60%	9%
Cow—Lactating	65%	11%

If you are backgrounding calves, CP and TDN needs as well as DMI change as calves are still growing. Dry matter intake for growing calves should be in the 2.5-3% of body weight. TDN values are also fluid depending on your target daily gain, as calves utilize energy to grow. The chart below outlines approximate CP and TDN needs of feeder calves.



Feeder Calf Rules of Thumb	
Calf Weight	Crude Protein (CP)
550-800lbs	14%
800-1050lbs	12%
1050lbs-Finish	10%
Target Daily Gain	Energy (TDN)
1.5 lbs/day	63-66%
2 lbs/day	66-71%
2.5 lbs/day	73-78%
3 lbs/day	78-83%

Another important aspect of your feed test is the Calcium to Phosphorus Ratio (C:P) and minerals like magnesium (Mg) and potassium (K) are also worth looking at. Your Ca:P ratio should be between 2:1 and 7:1. Ca:P and other mineral requirements can be addressed by using commercial mineral or with feed blends. For mature cows, it is recommended that they receive 0.1 lbs/day of supplement before calving and about 0.15 lbs/day post-partum. Feeder calves require around 0.1 lbs/day on average.

In general, a good rule of thumb to remember is for every degree drop below -20°C, a cow's energy requirements increase by 2%. Monitoring Body Condition during the winter

Continued on Page 3

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Interpreting Your Feed Test Results



months is very important, as with decreasing temperatures, and advancing pregnancy, the energy in the feed we provide can easily be used up by the cow to keep herself warm and by the growing calf. This can result in thin cows who may not cycle as quickly after calving because she is putting energy towards building condition instead of reproduction.

For more information on feed testing and developing a winter feeding program, contact us here at PCBFA and we would be happy to help you. Agri-Facts: Beef Ration Rules of Thumb from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry is another good resource for producers and the source used for this article.

Reminder: Get your Feed Samples in for Testing!



With a PCBFA membership, you are eligible for 2 free feed samples a year! Get your samples in at a PCBFA office today!

Director's Corner *with Nancy VanHerk*

Our farm is located on Hwy 730 northwest of Hines Creek. We purchased 8 quarters in 1981 as a grain farm, slowly converting to cattle; building a barn, hay shed, corrals and many miles of fences. We began with 40 head of Hereford heifers but now have a mixture of Angus, Simmental and Charolais. Over the years we have expanded our farm as older neighbors retired and sold out. We grow all our own hay, purchase grain from neighbors and have enough pasture for our herd. Our cattle have access to water year-round and spend winter in a sheltered field with abundant straw bedding, feasting on hay and rolled grain, provided daily. Our children think we are overly concerned with the well being and care of our cows: the cows seem to trump family they say! We calve in April and May confining the cows close to the barn and checking them 24/7 to ensure calving difficulties are dealt with promptly.

In 2013, when cattle prices tanked with BSE, I began marketing our beef directly to consumers. We have many loyal customers who simply cannot return to buying ground beef at the supermarket. In addition to being a helpmate to my husband, Pieter, mother to 6 grown children and "Baba" to 11 grandkids, I am also treasurer at our church, sat on the Ag Service Board for 9 years and presently am a member of the Hines Creek and District Rec Board.

This is my second year on the PCBFA Board, and I am enjoying my time serving on this board. Learning about production practices and having the ability to direct the focus of our organization is an honor. Expanding our focus from beef and forages to include crop production has increased the work load on our staff but makes our organization more beneficial to all farmers in the Peace. I'd like to encourage members to consider putting their name forward to serve on our board, the time commitment is minimal and the benefits are great!

Coming Soon: Temporary Part-Time Hours for High Prairie Office

Due to staff changes at PCBFA, the High Prairie Office will temporarily have posted part-time hours starting in November. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience, but we'll still be offering services out of this office. An update will be given in our November newsletter so stay tuned!



Upcoming Events

Beavers in Our Landscape	October 11th 6:00pm registration	County of GP Community Services Bldg., Clairmont
Beavers in Our Landscape	October 12th 10:00am registration	High Prairie Agriplex
Young Agrarians Potluck & Social	October 21st	Webster Hall (North of Sexsmith)
Alberta Young Farmers & Ranchers Lead the Farm	November 5th	Grande Prairie Corn Maze
Dugout Workshop	November 24th 12:30pm registration	Grimshaw Legion
Peace Beef Cattle Day	November 30th	Fairview
Ration Balancing Workshops	November 2016	Details TBA
GF2 & EFP Workshops	Fall 2016 Details TBA	Clear Hills County Big Lakes County
Farm Transition	December 1st & February 16th	Grande Prairie Details TBA
Agronomy Update	January 2017 Details TBA	DMI in Fairview
Winter Watering Systems Tour	January 21st	Saddle Hills County Details TBA
Holistic Management Course	Jan 26-28 & Feb 2-4	Rycroft

For more Information or to register for any of these great events, please call the Fairview office at 780-835-6799 or email Jen at jallen@gprc.ab.ca

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Monika Benoit Manager (Outgoing) High Prairie, AB 780-523-4033 780-536-7373	Liisa Vihvelin Manager (Incoming) Fairview, AB 780-835-6799 780-523-0443	Akim Omokanye Research Coordinator Fairview, AB 780-835-6799 780-835-1112	Jen Allen Agri-Environmental Coordinator Fairview, AB 780-835-6799 780-772-0277

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of October 4, 2016

Producers were able to take full advantage of a few days of good weather last week to push the provincial harvest percentage up to 69% complete before wet weather again enveloped the province (See Table #1). Producers in the Peace region saw the first significant snowfall of the season with 15 cm covering much of the region.

Yield estimates improved in 3 of the 5 regions which resulted in the provincial yield index rising 1 point to 114.0 (See Table #2). The provincial index has improved with every report from its initial value of 109.2 on July 26. Yields this year are approximately 25 – 30% above 2015 yields. Spring wheat yield estimates improved in all regions to 53.6 bushels per acre from 52.3 bushels on September 20. Yields for durum, barley, oats and canola were unchanged while dry pea yields dropped slightly to 44.2 bushels from 44.6 bushels per acre.

Crop quality is starting to decline due to the extended harvest season. Hard red spring wheat quality has dropped to 77% reported in the top 2 grades from 81% two weeks ago. The 5 year average is 78% with the 10 year at 76%. Barley quality has dropped to 87% grading 1 CW or better from 89% with the 5 year average at 84% and the 10 year at 81%. Canola quality at 87% grading 1-Canada is currently well ahead of its 5 year and 10 year averages of 81% and 79% respectively. 74% of the dry pea crop is currently graded in top 2 grades in line with 5 and 10 year historical values.

Table 1: Regional Harvest Progress as of October 4, 2016

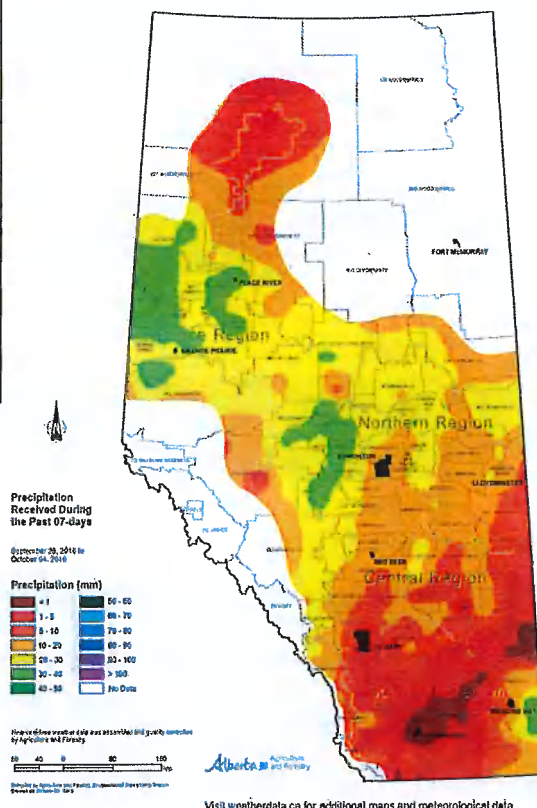
	% Harvested					Average
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	
Spr. Wheat	89.2%	60.1%	65.8%	59.3%	68.3%	70.5%
Dur. Wheat	87.1%	60.6%	---	---	---	83.3%
Barley	92.9%	57.3%	61.2%	52.1%	62.7%	68.7%
Oats	83.5%	33.4%	47.3%	37.9%	62.0%	47.0%
W. Wheat	100%	95.0%	100%	---	---	99.5%
Canola	78.1%	54.5%	55.5%	45.4%	76.0%	61.8%
Dry Peas	100%	96.6%	99.2%	98.5%	90.8%	97.7%
Mustard	87.5%	48.3%	---	---	---	75.5%
Dry Beans	97.0%	---	---	---	---	97.0%
Potatoes	88.0%	66.7%	90.0%	83.3%	---	86.4%
Region Ave.	87.9%	58.9%	61.9%	52.1%	73.3%	69.0%
Last Week	80.6%	37.9%	44.7%	31.8%	37.8%	49.6%
5 Year Ave.	96.3%	82.0%	79.4%	66.8%	76.3%	83.3%

Source: AFI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates (Major Crops) as of October 4, 2016

	Estimated Yield (bushel/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spr. Wheat	46.8	53.8	58.8	66.6	46.5	53.6
Dur. Wheat	46.7	47.8	---	---	---	46.9
Barley	66.5	74.1	79.6	83.0	58.1	72.9
Oats	72.0	79.6	88.5	95.0	70.8	83.9
Canola	42.9	45.9	44.9	47.6	34.8	43.2
Dry Peas	41.3	47.8	45.8	47.3	45.2	44.2
Yield Index	107.1	115.5	120.7	116.0	114.3	114.0
Sept 20/16	106.1	112.7	120.8	116.7	112.3	113.1
2015 Yld Ind	82.0	90.8	85.7	86.0	94.4	86.9

Source: AFI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen, staff of AFSC and the Alberta Ag-Info Centre for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program.

The precipitation map is compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Environmental Stewardship Branch, Engineering and Climate Services Section.



A federal-provincial-territorial initiative



REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS:

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

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

- Harvest of cereal and oilseeds is nearly complete in most areas leaving mostly specialty crops to finish up.
- 11% of canola crop remains standing indicating it will likely be straight cut.
- Main sugar beet harvest is underway with 19% harvested.
- Yield index improved again this week to 107.1. Yield improvements noted for spring wheat, oats, winter wheat and dry peas. Only durum reported a small decline.
- Crop condition rating of fall seeded crops declined 1 point to 87% rated good or excellent
- 83% of HRS wheat and 75% of durum falling in top 2 grades for quality. Only 80% of canola grading 1-Canada

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

- Harvest has progressed to 59% complete. Stopped by rain last weekend.
- Over 20% of crops remain standing. Some acres for straight cutting but likely many acres remain standing due to reluctance of producers to lay crop on the wet ground with no extended dry weather in the forecast.
- Significant improvement in the yield index over last report. Yield estimates improved for spring wheat, durum, oats and canola. Yield declines reported for barley, winter wheat and dry peas.
- Crop condition rating for fall seeded crops declined to 68% rated good or excellent from 70% last week.
- 70% of the hard red spring wheat is rated in top 2 grades for quality with 9% rated Canada Feed. Very low assessment of 69% of the canola currently grading 1-Canada though still early with only 50% of crop harvested.

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

- Couple of good harvest days early in the week was shut down by rain on the weekend with amounts to 25 mm.
- Standing water an issue in low areas.
- Yield index was little changed as improvements in spring wheat, barley, oats and winter wheat were offset by yield declines in canola and dry peas.
- 78% of hard red spring wheat grading in top 2 grades. 94% of canola grading 1-Canada. Less than 60% of dry pea crop grading for food usage in the top 2 grades.
- Hay quality disappointing with 44% of 1st and 2nd cut crops each grading poor or fair.

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

- Harvest improved 20 points to 52% complete before being shut down by rain on the weekend.
- Over 22% of all crops remain standing but spring wheat, barley and oats averaging 35% standing.
- Yield index declined by nearly 1 point for the region as small reductions to yield were noted for all crops except spring wheat which was unchanged.
- 89% of hard red spring wheat currently grading in top 2 grades. 99% of canola grading 1-Canada. Only 56% of dry peas are grading food quality in top 2 grades.
- Almost 70% of the 1st cut hay crop and 56% of the 2nd cut crop is rated as poor to fair for quality.

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

- Very good harvest progress achieved this week to 73% complete before being shut down by heavy rains and snow late into the week and on the weekend.
- 30% of the spring wheat, barley and oats remain standing and will be seriously impacted by the 5 inches of snow which was received in many areas of the region.
- Yield index rose 2 points to 114.3 based upon yield improvements of approximately 1 bu/acre to the two largest crops in the region namely spring wheat and canola. Barley, oats and dry peas saw small yield declines.
- 15% of the hard red spring wheat is expected to grade Canada Feed with only 63% grading in the top 2 grades. 93% of the canola is grading 1-Canada. Only 45% of the dry peas are grading food quality in the top 2 grades.
- 60% of the hay crop is expected to grade as poor or fair for quality.

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
Actuarial, Analytics & Forecasting Unit
Lacombe, Alberta
October 7, 2016

James Wright, Risk Analyst
E-mail: james.wright@afsc.ca
Phone: 403-782-8336

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

Sarah Hayward

From: Aaron Zylstra
Sent: September-30-16 9:47 AM
To: Sarah Hayward
Subject: FW: Alberta Farm Animal Care Quarterly Achievements Report

Also include – as correspondence – in the ASB agenda. Make sure you include the fall report, by clicking the link in the email.

Thanks

Aaron Zylstra
Clear Hills County Ag. Fieldman

From: Angela Greter [mailto:angela@afac.ab.ca]
Sent: September-29-16 9:03 AM
To: Aaron Zylstra
Subject: Alberta Farm Animal Care Quarterly Achievements Report



Alberta Farm Animal Care Quarterly Achievements Report

September 29, 2016

Dear AFAC Members,

I hope your summer was as wonderful as ours! As we enter the Fall season, things seem to get busier and busier. I hope you will take a moment, though, to check out all the great things we have been up to this past quarter. Please click [here](#) to view the report.

We continue to work hard on behalf of our members - raising awareness of animal care and agriculture in Alberta, creating resources for producers and consumers, carrying out projects on animal care, and connecting with stakeholders.

If you are an organization with multiple stakeholders (an industry organization, commodity group, etc.), please feel free to share this with your members so that


they know and understand the work that their membership contribution supports and can continue to find value in investing in Alberta Farm Animal Care!

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or other feedback, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Angela Greter
Executive Director

Alberta Farm Animal Care | afac@afac.ab.ca | PO Box 5201, #5-112 Centre Street
High River, AB T1V 1M4

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Alberta Farm Animal Care Quarterly Achievement Reports

September 2016

Member Exclusive

We hope you all had a wonderful summer season! Here's a peek at what we were up to from July through September.

Emergency Livestock Handling Equipment Trailers:

- New trailer info cards have been created. They are available on the AFAC website and as hard copies (contact the office if you want some)

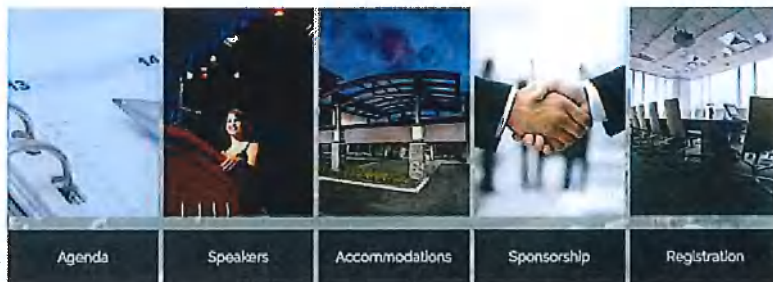


ALERT Line:

- Statistics from June-August 2016:
 - o 13 cases total, 11 separate info calls (these do not result in case calls or farm visits)
 - o Animals supported: horses = 65, cattle = 4, chickens = 300, assorted animals = 10
 - o Of the 13 cases: 4 were unfounded, 4 were severe enough to be passed to the AB.SPCA

Livestock Care Conference:

- You can now register for next year's event! The 2017 conference information is available at: <http://www.afac.ab.ca/2017>. We have a fantastic line-up for 2017 and we hope you can all make it!



Communications Corner:



- Our new website is up and running! If you haven't checked it out yet, please do. It is a work in progress, as is every website. We continue to add new content and are focusing on providing helpful, honest, and useful information to both producers and the public.
- Following the creation of our new children's activity book, we decided that we needed a resource for older kids and adults. We created an informative, fun magazine called "The Barn Door". This can be found at our booths and online on our website. If you want any hard copies, please contact us!

Out and About:

- The Alberta Farm Animal Care Executive met with Minister Carlier, Deputy Minister Yee, and Assistant Deputy Minister Curran in July. This was a great opportunity to bring forward concerns we had as well as to engage with the Agriculture and Forestry Executive to determine how we can continue to help them fulfill their mandate.



- You may have seen us a few times this summer! We participated in the Calgary Stampede, Medicine Hat Stampede, and Open Farm Days. We had a great time interacting with the public at these events and teaching them about animal care.

- We've kicked off our post-secondary presentations this year, starting with the AHT students at the Fairview Campus of Grande Prairie Regional College and followed by presentations to the AHT students and agriculture students at Olds College.



- In late September we participated in the first Ag 101 hosted by Agriculture for Life. This gave us the opportunity to interactively engage with 328 high school students at James Fowler High School in Calgary. Our activity focused on the 5 freedoms and animal care across the livestock industry.

Industry Support and Participation/Facilitation/Workshops:

- Videos continue to be developed and rolled out, including new "Heart of a Farmer" stories and "Fast Facts" videos. We were able to support the Calgary Stampede with our "farrowing crate" video during the negativity (from some, thankfully not all patrons) surrounding the display this year. Our antibiotic use/resistance video has also been useful for both public and industry! Our newest video featured Animal Rights vs. Animal Welfare and the Five Freedoms – in just over 1 minute!

Click the image to the right to watch it! -->



- Applications for the emergency slaughter and religious slaughter projects (mentioned in the June update) are under review and will pass to Agriculture & Forestry following the ALMA transition.

- A painful procedures workshop will be a part of the 2017 Livestock Care Conference.

- We had the opportunity to attend the Net Zero layer barn grand opening – what a fascinating endeavor that is!

- In collaboration with Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Milk, and Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association, we have created cheque stuffers on "Should This Animal be Loaded?". These will be distributed to all of auction markets belonging to the Alberta Auction Market Association and then distributed to their customers.

Projects:

- The Cattle Benchmarking Project is progressing well. Data collection will be completed in March 2017.
- Our Poultry Handling and Transportation project had a bit of a hiccup – the Ontario manual that we were modifying is now being made into a national document. However, the project team decided to proceed with the Alberta manual as it contains extra pieces, including a section on emergency response in the province. Training sessions will take place in early 2017.
- The Biosecurity Awareness for Small Flocks/Urban Hens project has started as of September! The manual creation is underway and will stress the importance of proper animal care, food safety, and biosecurity protocols

The Alberta Farm Animal Care Family:

- We would like to welcome our new members: Two Hills County, Wheatland County, Chinook Ranches Ltd., DeStress Nutritional Technologies, Primrose Farms, and supporter members Mona Ivan and Brent Bushell
- Please help us to grow our family and our support! We have a number of member advertisements coming in the next few weeks. If you know of anyone who should be part of the conversation on animal care in Alberta, please let us know!
- The Alberta Farm Animal Care Board of Directors and staff worked hard this summer on creating a new and improved strategic plan for the organization. The focus of the new plan is on clarifying the work we do and our role in the livestock industry. The new plan will be distributed to our members after the Board has officially approved it.



Advisory Council:

- The next Council meeting will be November 4, 2016! The topic is livestock and poultry transportation.



National Farm Animal Care Council:

- NFACC was fairly quiet over the summer – the next Board meeting is scheduled for December 2016
- Code of Practice status:
 - o The Code of Practice for Layers 60-day public comment period has ended
 - o The Codes of Practice for Veal Cattle, Bison, and Rabbits are underway and should be open for public comment in Fall 2016/Winter 2017

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FAX: 403-653-3035
🌐 www.afac.ab.ca

📍 Alberta Farm Animal Care
🐔 @AltFarmAnimal

Sarah Hayward

From: Aaron Zylstra
Sent: October-11-16 12:19 PM
To: Sarah Hayward
Subject: ASB correspondence - Register for the November AFAC Advisory Council Meeting

Aaron Zylstra
Clear Hills County Ag. Fieldman

From: Angela Greter [mailto:angela@afac.ab.ca]
Sent: October-07-16 9:02 AM
To: Aaron Zylstra
Subject: Register for the November AFAC Advisory Council Meeting



Alberta Farm Animal Care Advisory Council

October 7, 2016

Dear AFAC Members,

We are gearing up for our November Advisory Council meeting and we want to see you there! The topic of the meeting is "Transportation and Animal Welfare". The draft agenda is available and may be viewed by clicking [here](#).

The meeting will take place on **November 4** at the **Red Deer Provincial Building (Room 206, 4920 - 51 Street)**. If you are able to attend, please click [here](#) to register. It is important that we have accurate numbers to ensure that we have sufficient catering.


I hope that you will lend your voice to the discussion and take the opportunity to connect and network with your colleagues across the agriculture sector!


If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or other feedback, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Best wishes,

Angela Greter
Executive Director

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Sarah Hayward

From: Aaron Zylstra
Sent: August-30-16 2:19 PM
To: Sarah Hayward
Subject: FW: Alberta Farm Animal Care August E-Newsletter

For ASB correspondence

Aaron Zylstra
Clear Hills County Ag. Fieldman

From: Alberta Farm Animal Care [mailto:afac@afac.ab.ca]
Sent: August-30-16 9:03 AM
To: Aaron Zylstra
Subject: Alberta Farm Animal Care August E-Newsletter



Alberta Farm Animal Care E-Newsletter

August 2016

Welcome to the 12th edition of the Alberta Farm Animal Care e-newsletter.
We're excited to tell you what we've been up to over the last couple of months!

The AFAC Team





SAVE THE DATE

Ag 101

- Calgary, AB
- September 27, 2016

Swine Technology Workshop

- Red Deer, AB
- October 19, 2016
- Click [here](#) for more info

AFAC Advisory Council meeting

- Red Deer, AB
- November 4, 2016

FarmFair

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

Livestock Care Conference

- March 21 and 22, 2017

Volunteers Needed!!!

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

If this seems like something you or someone you know is interested in please email Kristen Hall at kristen@afac.ab.ca

If you are a post-secondary student in Alberta, we have 6 paid internships available this year as a Livestock Care Educator!

Check out the link below:

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

Member Survey

We sent out a survey to all of our contacts on August 3 to get a better idea of what people (members and soon-to-be members) thought of our organization and the direction that we are heading. We were so excited to learn that the vast majority of the survey participants are happy with our programs and want us to continue in the direction that we are headed! That being said, we do believe in continuous improvement and we did also have some great suggestions that can help AFAC to be even better than before!

We have already started to implement some of those suggestions, starting with this e-newsletter!

Did you miss out on the survey? It's not too late to take it!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XXCGMLC>



ALERT Stats

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the ALERT Line was moved into the AFAC Office early in May of 2016. It has been a busy summer too!

LIVESTOCK CARE
ALERT
Help Line & Resource Team
To report livestock care concerns
CALL
1-800-506-2273

afac.ab.ca Supported by Alberta's Livestock Industry 

In the survey results mentioned above, we had a lot of great suggestions for new things to start doing. Multiple people mentioned that they would like to see the ALERT Line stats more than once a year (usually included in our annual report). Luckily, we're good listeners!

The numbers below are representative of the number of animals that were involved in all of the cases combined. A case can either be "founded" (there was a problem that we could help with) or "unfounded" (there was no problem upon further investigation).



Out and About



Stampede 2016

This year's Calgary Stampede was great, as usual! We had so many amazing volunteers take time out of their busy schedules to come and help out at our booth and we couldn't have made it through the fantastic 10 days without them.

Through rain or shine, there was an enthusiastic crowd ready to learn about livestock welfare. We received a lot of



Open Farm Days

On what felt like the hottest day of the summer, we were lucky enough to be able to participate in Open Farm Days at Trail's End Beef just south of Nanton. Because of the beautiful weather, we had a booth outside where we not only talked to a lot of great people, but our representative, Kristen Hall, also increased her freckle count by 15% give or take.

interesting questions about AFAC, the rodeo, and general farming practices. We also traded stories with some international farmers from all across the world! The Calgary Stampede is a unique opportunity to bring together so many different people around a common theme and we always find we get as much from it as we put in!

Our "Stampede Special" membership offer stirred up some interest and we'd like to welcome Chinook Ranch Ltd, our newest member, to the AFAC group!

It was also great to see so many familiar faces there representing the industry and we hope to see them again next year. Thanks to those who stopped by and said hello and a big thanks again to our amazing volunteers!

We weren't really sure what to expect because the last time we had participated in Open Farm Days it was raining and not very busy. This time though, we spoke to a ton of different people who all seemed to have fantastic questions OR that were just excited to learn that an organization like AFAC existed.

The people that attended had the opportunity to learn more about cattle, horses and chickens and everything else that goes into having those animals on your farm. There was lots of beef for sale (samples too!) as well as honey that comes from bees that reside on the farm! Some people even had the rare opportunity to watch us wrestle with our pull-up banners that had decided not to listen and continuously blew over. One of the children told Kristen that that was because "pull up banners don't have ears" which then made more sense!

All we can hope is that the attendees got as much out of it as we did! Thanks to Trail's End Beef for having us!



Looking for LCC Sponsorship

We don't know how this is happening already, but somehow the 2017 Livestock Care Conference is just a hop, skip and a jump away! We have a fantastic line up of speakers and some interesting topics and activities. Click [here](#) to see the draft agenda!

We are so thankful for our conference sponsors from all of the previous years, and we are in the process of trying to secure funds again for this year. If you are looking for a place to show your support for the advancement of livestock welfare within Alberta, this is one way to do that!

If this sounds like something you would like to be involved with, check out our [sponsorship package](#) for more information on the benefits that you receive as a conference sponsor!



Canadian Livestock Transport

The Canadian Livestock Transport Certification Program is a comprehensive training course and support service for those involved in the livestock transportation industry.

It was started by Alberta Farm Animal Care in 2007 and although the torch was passed off to the Canadian Animal Health Coalition in 2013, we still 100% support and recommend this program!

For more information check out their website at:
<http://livestocktransport.ca>



Facebook Contest!

Don't forget to head over to our [Facebook page](#) and enter in this week's 'Five Freedoms' contest for your chance to win an AFAC beer glass!

*"Contest #3: Freedom from Pain, Injury and Disease (by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment)
 Post a picture in the comments of you making sure that your animals are free from pain, injury and disease!
 Contest ends September 4, 2016!"*

WHY ARE LAYING HENS KEPT IN CAGES?



AFAC videos

Check out our latest '[Fast Facts](#)' video about why egg farmers use cages!

Become a Member!

Are 'ewe' feeling left out? You can 'bee' part of the 'farm'ily too!



Show your commitment to

Livestock Care

by becoming a member of

ALBERTA FARM ANIMAL CARE

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Membership Levels
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Rental Equipment Usage January 1, 2016 - October 12, 2016

Equipment	Rental Rates	Total Users	Total Days	Total Revenue
Backpack Sprayer	\$ -	1	1	\$ -
Bale Scale	\$ 30.00	2	2	\$ 60.00
Bale Tester	\$ 10.00			
Ball Hitch (2" & 2 5/16")	\$ -			
Livestock Ultrasound	\$ 25.00			
Chairs	\$0.5/chair	6	8	\$ 191.50
Community Centre	\$ 50.00	2	2	\$ 100.00
Corral Panels	\$ 50.00	3	4	\$ 175.00
Coyote Trap	\$ -			
Eco-Bran Applicator	\$ 50.00	1	1	\$ 50.00
Grain Bag Roller	\$ -	4	8	\$ -
Grain Bagger	\$ 350.00	2	2	\$ 700.00
Grain Bag Extractor	\$ 350.00	1	1	\$ 350.00
Grain Vac	\$ 200.00	23	24	\$ 4,800.00
Grass Seeders-Hand Held	\$ 5.00			
Grass Seeders-Quad Mount	\$ 5.00			
Grill	\$ 5.00	3	11	\$ 55.00
Hand Held Rope Wick	\$ 10.00	2	2	\$ 20.00
Land Leveller	\$ 130.00	2	2	\$ 260.00
Loading Chute	\$ 25.00	12	13	\$ 325.00
Manure Spreader	\$ 150.00			
Mulch Applicator	\$ 25.00			
Extra Hoses	\$ 1.00	2	2	\$ 67.50
Post Pounder	\$ 125.00	14	16	\$ 2,000.00
Pull/Push Roller Applicator	\$ -			
Quad Mount Rope Wick	\$ -			
Quad Mounted Sprayer	\$ -	5	5	\$ -
Quad Pull Type Sprayer	\$ -	4	4	\$ -
RFID Tag Reader	\$ -			
Rock Picker	\$ 300.00	2	2	\$ 600.00
Rock Rake	\$ 300.00	2	2	\$ 600.00
Roller Mill	\$ 20.00	1	2	\$ 40.00
Rotowiper	\$ 75.00	2	3	\$ 150.00
Scare Cannon #91060254	\$ -			
Signs	\$ -	1		
Skid Mount Sprayer	\$ -	2	2	\$ -
Steam Tables	\$ 5.00			
Tables	\$1.00/table	5	5	\$ 111.00
Toilets	\$ 40.00	1	3	\$ 120.00
Tree Spade	\$ 150.00	7	8	\$ 1,200.00
Truck Mount Sprayer	\$ 100.00			
Wash Station	\$ 10.00	3	5	\$ 40.00
Water Pumps	\$75.00(Summer) \$200 (Winter)	19	37	\$ 3,150.00
Zero Till Drills	\$300.00/20 feet	5	6	\$ 1,800.00
Wire Roller		5	7	\$ 175.00
Post Hole Auger		2	2	\$ 50.00
Sickle Mower				
BBQ Trailer		3	3	\$ 150.00
48		149	195	\$ 17,340.00

Rental Equipment Usage
October 12, 2016

	Totals		
	# of Users ³⁵	# of Days ³⁶	\$ Made ³⁷
Backpack Sprayer	1	1	\$ -
Bale Scale	2	2	\$ 60.00
Bale Tester	-	-	\$ -
Ball Hitch (2" & 2 5/16")	-	-	\$ -
Livestock Ultrasound	-	-	\$ -
Chairs	6	8	\$ 191.50
Community Centre	2	2	\$ 100.00
Corral Panels	3	4	\$ 175.00
Coyote Trap	-	-	\$ -
Eco-Bran Applicator	1	1	\$ 50.00
Grain Bag Roller	4	8	\$ -
Grain Bagger	2	2	\$ 700.00
Grain Bag Extractor	1	1	\$ 350.00
Grain Vac	23	24	\$ 4,800.00
Grass Seeders-Hand Held	-	-	\$ -
Grass Seeders-Quad Mount	-	-	\$ -
Grill	3	11	\$ 55.00
Hand Held Rope Wick	2	2	\$ 20.00
Land Leveller	2	2	\$ 260.00
Loading Chute	12	13	\$ 325.00
Manure Spreader	-	-	\$ -
Mulch Applicator	-	-	\$ -
Extra Hoses	2	2	\$ 67.50
Post Pounder	14	16	\$ 2,000.00
Pull/Push Roller Applicator	-	-	\$ -
Quad Mount Rope Wick	-	-	\$ -
Quad Mounted Sprayer	5	5	\$ -
Quad Pull Type Sprayer	4	4	\$ -
RFID Tag Reader	-	-	\$ -
Rock Picker	2	2	\$ 600.00
Rock Rake	1	2	\$ 600.00
Roller Mill	1	2	\$ 40.00
Rotowiper	2	3	\$ 150.00
Scare Cannon #91060254	-	-	\$ -
Signs	1	-	\$ -
Skid Mount Sprayer	2	2	\$ -
Steam Tables	-	-	\$ -
Tables	5	5	\$ 111.00
Toilets	1	3	\$ 120.00
Tree Spade	7	8	\$ 1,200.00
Truck Mount Sprayer	-	-	\$ -
Wash Station	3	5	\$ 40.00
Water Pumps	19	37	\$ 3,150.00
Zero Till Drills	5	6	\$ 1,800.00
Wire Roller	5	7	\$ 175.00
Post Hole Auger	2	2	\$ 50.00
Sickle Mower	-	-	\$ -
BBQ Trailer	3	3	\$ 150.00
Totals rental(by month)	148	195	\$ 17,340.00



77896

ALBERTA
ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

*Office of the Minister
Minister Responsible for the Climate Change Office
MLA, Lethbridge-West*

SEP 28 2016

Mr. Patrick Gordeyko, Chair
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
c/o Elden Kozak, Secretary
PO Box 490
Two Hills AB T0B 4K0
ekozak@thcounty.com

Dear Mr. Gordeyko:

Thank you for your letter regarding input on the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee's resolutions on Agriculture Plastics Recycling, Compensation for Coyote Depredation and the *Species at Risk Act*. I appreciate receiving these resolutions for my department's review.

Resolution No. 3: Agriculture Plastics Recycling

Environment and Parks recognizes that the management of waste agricultural plastics continues to be an important issue to Alberta stakeholders. We encourage all agricultural producers and stakeholders using agricultural plastics to responsibly manage the material at end-of-life, including recycling where facilities exist.

My department is focused on a number of priority waste issues at this time, including regulatory amendments and further consultation for existing programs. We also recognize that we need further information about what a regulated option for managing agricultural material at end-of life in Alberta would look like, including determining stakeholders, the best policy tool for managing a program, the costs of a program and who would pay.

Staff understands that the work in Saskatchewan is a pilot program and the development of regulations in that province are ongoing; we will continue to monitor the progress of this work. However, at this time, our department is not considering a regulated program based on the Saskatchewan model.

We invite agricultural producers and stakeholders to share any information with department staff regarding the management of agricultural waste material at end-of-life to help inform future policy on the issue.

Resolution No. 6: Compensation for Coyote Depredation

The designation of coyotes under the *Agricultural Pest Act*, in conjunction with liberal harvest regulations outlined in the *Wildlife Act*, provide many tools to agricultural producers in addressing coyote problems they may face.

The Wildlife Predator Compensation Program strives to balance the loss of livestock with funding from hunting licence fees. Because coyotes are not an important big game species, the addition of coyotes as an eligible species for compensation would not be an appropriate use of hunting licence fees.

Environment and Parks acknowledges the financial cost to agricultural producers due to coyote predation on their property. However, there are currently no plans to consider compensation changes at this time.

Resolution No. 8: Species at Risk Act

Environment and Parks agrees with Agricultural Service Board that agriculture, industry, and rural development can co-exist with species at risk, if effective stewardship and conservation measures are implemented.

Continuing collaboration with landowners, lessees, municipalities, industry, other stakeholders and the federal government is essential to achieving recovery of species at risk in Alberta, and providing certainty to affected stakeholders.

My department believes challenges related to species at risk conservation can be best addressed through provincial regulatory and policy approaches, federal policy development and improved inter-jurisdictional cooperation and stewardship.

From time to time, legislation is amended. If invited, Environment and Parks would be pleased to provide its input to any federal process for the development of legislative amendments to the *Species at Risk Act*.

Sincerely,



Shannon Phillips
Minister

