

**AGENDA
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
December 11, 2017**

The Agricultural Service Board meeting of Clear Hills County will be held on Monday, November 11, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Meeting in the Council Chambers of the County Office, Worsley, Alberta.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. AGENDA
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11. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
November 6, 2017**

PRESENT

Brian Harcourt	Member
Baldur Ruecker	Member
Mackay Ross	Member
Julie Watchorn	Member
Garry Candy	Member

IN ATTENDANCE

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

IN REGRETS

David Janzen	Council Representative
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CALL TO ORDER

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

AG109 (11/06/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda governing then November 6, 2017 Organizational Meeting. CARRIED.

VOTING
PROCEDURE

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

AG110 (11/06/17)

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

ELECTION OF
CHAIR

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

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

Audrey Bjorklund, CDM, called for nominations for Chair.

Member Ross nominated Member Harcourt
Member Harcourt accepted.

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

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

AG111 (11/06/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker that nominations for Chair cease. CARRIED.

Member Harcourt was declared Chair by acclamation.

Chair Harcourt took the chair.

**ELECTION OF
DEPUTY CHAIR**

Agricultural Service Board Administration Procedure 6301-01, states that the Agricultural Service Board annually, at the first meeting following the Council Organizational Meeting, appoint a Deputy Chairperson from among all voting members for the year.

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

Chair Harcourt called for nominations for Deputy Chair.

Member Candy nominated Member Ruecker.
Member Ruecker accepted.

Chair Harcourt called for nominations for Deputy Chair a second time.

Chair Harcourt called for nominations for Deputy Chair a third and final time.

AG112 (11/06/17)

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

Member Candy was declared Deputy Chair by acclamation.

**APPOINTMENT OF
VOTING MEMBERS**

As per Agricultural Service Board Administration Procedure 6301-01, annually, at the first meeting following the Council Organizational Meeting, the Agricultural Service Board selects voting delegates for the annual Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference.

AG113 (11/06/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board appoint Chair Harcourt and Deputy Chair Ruecker as voting members and Member Watchorn as the alternate voting member for the Agricultural Service Board Provincial and Regional Conferences. CARRIED.

Signing Authorities

As per Agricultural Service Board Administration Procedure 6301-01(2.4) annually at the first meeting, following the Council Organizational Meeting, the Agricultural Service Board will appoint signing authority for grant applications.

**AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
November 6, 2017**

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AG114 (11/06/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross That this Agricultural Service Board appoint Chair Harcourt and Councillor Janzen as the Agricultural Service Board grant signing authorities for 2017/2018. CARRIED.

DATE, TIME AND
PLACE OF BOARD
MEETINGS

The Agricultural Service Board currently meets every second Monday when the meeting will be held on the first Monday of the month and there are no meetings held in April or September. The Board now will select the day of the month and the commencement time for the monthly meetings.

AG115 (11/06/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board set Agricultural Service Board meetings, effective January 1, 2018. for the third Monday of each month except May when the meeting will be held on the first Monday, and no meetings will be held in April and September. Meetings will commence at 10:00 a.m. At the call of the Chair, special meetings shall be posted 48 hours in advance. CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Harcourt adjourned the Agricultural Service Board Organizational meeting at 10:13 a.m.

CHAIR



AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

**MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Worsley, Alberta
November 6, 2017**

PRESENT

Brian Harcourt	Chair
MacKay Ross	Member
Baldur Ruecker	Deputy Chair
Julie Watchorn	Member
Garry Candy	Member

IN ATTENDANCE

Audrey Bjorklund	Community Development Manager
Sarah Hayward	Community Development Clerk
Greg Coon	Agricultural Fieldman
David Janzen	Council Representative

IN REGRET

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Harcourt called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

AGENDA

AG116(11/06/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda governing the November 6, 2017 Agricultural Service Board meeting with the following addition:

- 7c. Predation Compensation**
- 7d. Wild Boar Farm Elimination**
- 7e. Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Position**
- 7f. Aspen Die Off Management**
- 7g. Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer**
- 7h. Agri-Trade Equipment Expo November 8-11, 2017 at the Westerner Park in Red Deer, Alberta**
- 7i. International Farm Fair November 8-12, 2017 in Edmonton**
- 7j. Bovine Health Seminar Dawson Creek November 7, 2017**
- 7k. Next Level Farming Seminar on November 21, 2017 in Grande Prairie**
- 7l. Powering Your Profits seminar at the Dunvegan Motor Inn in Fairview, Alberta on November 21, 2017**

CARRIED.

AG117(11/06/17)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the October 2, 2017 Agricultural Service Board Meeting as presented. CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

Activity Report

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

AG118(11/06/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the November 6, 2017 Agricultural Service Board Activity Report as presented. CARRIED.

Policy 6310 Rental Equipment

The Board is presented with Policy 6310 Rental Equipment for review as requested.

AG119(11/06/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board table the review of Policy 6310 Rental Equipment. CARRIED.
Raster Master	The Board is presented with information on the Raster Master fence line mower for their consideration.
AG120(11/06/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information that the Raster Master fence line mower is not available in North America and discontinue researching it as a potential rental equipment item. CARRIED.
Biggest Vegetable Contest	The board is presented with a draft policy for the biggest vegetable contest for their consideration.
AG121(11/06/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council adopt the Biggest Vegetable Contest Policy with the following amendments; adding Bear Canyon to 2.4. CARRIED.
<u>NEW BUSINESS</u> Events	The Board is presented with events for their consideration.
AG122(11/06/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Chair Harcourt, Deputy Chair Ruecker and Member Candy to attend Powering Your Profits seminar on November 21, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Dunvegan Motor Inn, Fairview, Alberta CARRIED.
AG123(11/06/17)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Member Ross, Deputy Chair Ruecker and Chair Harcourt to attend the Clubroot information meeting on November 14, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Big Meadow Community Hall, Enilda, Alberta. CARRIED.
AG124(11/06/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Member Ross to attend the Western Canadian Conference in Soil Health and Grazing on December 5 to December 7, 2017 at the Radisson Hotel in Edmonton, Alberta. CARRIED.
AG125(11/06/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all members to attend the 2018 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference on January 16 to 19, 2018 at the Entrec Centre, Grande Prairie, Alberta. CARRIED.
AG126(11/06/17)	RESOLUTION by Chair Harcourt that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Member Candy to attend the

Agri-Trade Equipment Expo on November 8 to November 11, 2017 at the Westerner Park, Red Deer, Alberta. CARRIED.

Add in: Predation Compensation

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

AG127(11/06/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board recommend administration bring back further information on Predation Compensation to a future Agricultural Service Board meeting with the goal of developing a resolution for the 2018 Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference. CARRIED.

Add in: Wild Boar Farm Elimination

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

AG128(11/06/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration bring information on the status of eliminating Wild Boar Farms in Alberta to a future Agricultural Service Board meeting. CARRIED.

Add in: Assistant Agricultural Fieldman

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

AG129(11/06/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend administration draft a job description and work load analysis for the possibility of adding an Assistant Agricultural Fieldman to the County staff structure. CARRIED.

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

Add in: Aspen Die Off Management

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

AG130(11/06/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration bring back information on Aspen Die-off management. CARRIED.

Add in: Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer

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

AG131(11/06/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion about the Grimshaw Gravels Aquifer. CARRIED.

Add in: International Farm Fair

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

AG132(11/06/17)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Member Ross to

attend the International Farm Fair on November 8-12, 2017 in
Edmonton, Alberta. **CARRIED.**

Add in: Bovine Health
Seminar
AG133(11/06/17)

Member Ross requested this be added to today's agenda.
**RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural
Service Board authorize the attendance of Member Ross to
attend the Bovine Health Seminar on November 7, 2017 from
6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the George Dawson Inn, Dawson Creek,
British Columbia. CARRIED.**

Add in: Next Level
Farming Seminar

AG134(11/06/17)

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

**RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural
Service Board authorize the attendance of Member Ross to
attend the Next Level Farming Seminar on November 21, 2017
from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Pomeroy Hotel, Grande
Prairie, Alberta CARRIED.**

2018 Operating Budget

The Board is presented with the first draft of the 2018 Agricultural
Services Operating Budget.

Chair Harcourt adjourned for a break at 1:15 p.m.
Chair Harcourt reconvened at 1:19 p.m.

AG135(11/06/17)

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service
Board recommend Council approve the Agricultural Services
2018 Operating Budget as presented. CARRIED.**

REPORTS

Agricultural Fieldman
Report

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

AG136(11/06/17)

**RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural
Service Board accepts the November 6, 2017 Agricultural
Fieldman's Report for information as presented. CARRIED.**

Board Reports

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

Member Candy: Attended Tools to Build your Cow Herd on
November 1, 2017 in Rycroft, Alberta

Member Ross: Attended Tools to Build your Cow Herd on
November 1, 2017 in Rycroft, Alberta

Deputy Chair Ruecker: Attended Tools to Build your Cow Herd on
November 1, 2017 in Rycroft, Alberta

Member Watchorn: Attended Tools to Build your Cow Herd on
November 1, 2017 in Rycroft, Alberta

AG137(11/06/17)

RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the November 6, 2017 Board members' written and verbal reports for information as presented.

CARRIED.

Information &
Correspondence

The Board is presented with correspondence for review.

1. Canada Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Update - (63-10-02)

AG138(11/06/17)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board receives the Information and Correspondence as presented.

CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

CHAIR



AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

DRAFT

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 11, 2017
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	DELEGATION – Peace Country Beef & Forage Association 12:30 p.m.
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

Peace Country Beef & Forage Association (PCBFA) Manager, Liisa Vihvelin, will be in attendance at 12:30 p.m. to present a report on the 2017 Environmental Stream partnership program and present the plans for the 2018 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, Managers, Peace Country Beef and Forage Association on the 2017 Environmental Stream partnership program and 2018 programming.

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

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 11, 2017
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	ACTIVITY REPORT
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

- Agricultural Service Board Activity Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board (ASB) accepts the December 11, 2017 ASB Activity Report as presented.

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



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for, December 11, 2017 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				
June 12, 2017				
AG63	(06/12/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board invite Northern Sunrise County Agricultural Fieldman to attend a future Agricultural Service Board meeting to discuss how the Alternative Land Use Service (ALUS) program works within their municipality.	AF	Monitoring how Northern Sunrise County make out with program they started this year
September 11, 2017				
AG77	(09/11/17)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration bring back information on front end loader model tree spades as a potential replacement for the trailer style tree spade that is in the rental equipment fleet.	AF	Included in Ag Fieldman report
AG80	(09/11/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to draft a program for Rental Equipment Satellite Yards and bring to the next regular Agricultural Service Board meeting for review.	AF	Dec. 11 RFD
AG81	(09/11/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration investigate creating a library of video tutorials for operating the various equipment in the rental equipment fleet.	AF	In the works
October 2, 2017				
AG94	(10/02/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council rescind motion AG75(09/11/17) and leave Policy 6306 Club Root of Canola as is.		Done
AG96	(10/02/17)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council lower the Chemical Wipe Applicators rental charge from \$10.00 to no charge.		C612-17(11/28/17)



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for, December 11, 2017 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
AG97	(10/02/17)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council lower the Eco-Bran Applicator rental charge from \$50.00 to no charge.		C612-17(11/28/17)
AG98	(10/02/17)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council lower the Truck Mount Sprayer rental charge from \$100.00 to no charge.		C612-17(11/28/17)
AG99	(10/02/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council lower the Mulch Applicator rental charge from \$25.00 to no charge.		C612-17(11/28/17)
November 6, 2017				
AG119	(11/06/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board table the review of Policy 6310 Rental Equipment.	AF	
AG121	(11/06/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council adopt the Biggest Vegetable Contest Policy with the following amendments; adding Bear Canyon to 2.4.	CDM	In the draft Operating Budget & draft policy will be going to Dec. 12 Council Mtg.
AG127	(11/06/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board recommend administration bring back further information on Predation Compensation to a future Agricultural Service Board meeting with the goal of developing a resolution for the 2018 Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference.	AF	In the works
AG128	(11/06/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration bring information on the status of eliminating Wild Boar Farms in Alberta to a future Agricultural Service Board meeting.	AF	Dec. 11 RFD
AG129	(11/06/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend administration draft a job description and work load analysis for the possibility of adding an Assistant Agricultural Fieldman to the County staff structure.	AF/C DM	Dec. 11 RFD



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for, December 11, 2017 Page 3 of 2

Budget Items:

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer

DO= Development Officer

EA = Executive Assistant

Completed Items:

CSM = Corporate Services Manager

AF = Ag. Fieldman

CDM = Community Development Manager

MOTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEPT	STATUS
AG130	(11/06/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration bring back information on Aspen Die-off management.	AF	Dec. 11 RFD
AG135	(11/06/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council approve the Agricultural Services 2018 Operating Budget as presented.	CDM	C600-17(11/28/17)
Items in Waiting				
AG133	(12/12/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board table the discussion around the CombCut Selective Mower and bring back information once the University of Saskatchewan field trial study is complete.		2020 OR 2021
AG21	(02/13/17)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board table motion AG109(10/17/16) regarding Glyphosate Tolerant Wheat until new information is available.		
AG40	(03/13/17)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council prepare a Bylaw elevating Genetically Modified Alfalfa to prohibited noxious weed status until such time as the product is accepted by all world markets	AF	Sent to Minister
AG47	(03/13/17)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council send a letter to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry requesting the province to investigate the benefit of implementing a Land Drainage Tile Program similar to the province of Ontario's.	AF	Sent to Alberta Ag. & Forestry
AG54	(06/12/17)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board set the 2018 and future Farmers' Appreciation Banquet tickets at \$20.00 per adult, \$10.00 per youth (8 to 14 years) and children (7 years and under) free.		

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 11, 2017
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Ag Fieldman
Title:	Rental Equipment Satellite Yards
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with information regarding the Rental Equipment Satellite Yards.

BACKGROUND:

AG80(09/11/17) : RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to draft a program for Rental Equipment Satellite Yards and bring to the next regular Agricultural Service Board meeting for review.

CARRIED.

Clear Hills County has drafted programs before for rental equipment satellite yards. The last time a program was drafted, ratepayers were asked to consider having a satellite yard on their property. Once interested parties learned of the insurance requirements and liability they could be exposed to, all interested parties declined. These same issues are still a concern today, as explained by the County's insurance provider in the attached email.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nov 2 Jubilee Insurance

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board accept the discussion around rental equipment satellite yards for information and take no further action.

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

Greg Coon

To: Greg Coon
Subject: FW: Rental Equipment Satellite Yards question

From: John Hackwell [<mailto:johnh@aamdc.com>]
Sent: November-02-17 3:46 PM
To: Greg Coon
Cc: Audrey Bjorklund; Holly Neill
Subject: FW: Rental Equipment Satellite Yards question

Hi Greg,
Thanks for taking the time to speak with me this afternoon.
I'll try to summarize our conversation as best I can, but if you have any questions or want clarification on anything, just let me know.

From an insurance perspective, on the property/equipment side your coverage would be the same whether or not the equipment is stored at a County yard or at a ratepayers property. If the equipment is stolen or vandalized there would be coverage. Damage from poor maintenance, misuse, normal wear and tear, etc., would not be covered.

We do feel that there is a slightly higher chance of the equipment being stolen or vandalized away from a fenced county yard.

The use of waivers and indemnification agreements are helpful in defense of an incident, but they do not prevent an individual from commencing an action should that individual suffer an injury or damage to their property as a result of using the counties equipment. If waivers are required to be signed, renters must be advised prior to deposit or pick up that they will be required to sign a waiver. To be effective waivers must be properly administered and explained.

We feel that this practice would increase the Counties liability exposure and the following are some reasons why:

- County staff are better trained and able to explain to renters how to safely & properly operate the equipment
- County staff care more
- County staff are more knowledgeable and better able to inspect the equipment to ensure that it is in good working order when it is rented out
- Satellite Operator that is responsible for equipment may not be properly trained
- Satellite Operator may not be able to explain to renters how to properly use the equipment
- Satellite Operator may not inspect the equipment properly and a renter could be injured as result of the equipment not operating properly
- Waivers not being properly explained by Satellite Operator
- Rental agreements not completed properly by Satellite Operator

The Satellite Operator who is storing and looking after the rental of the equipment could also be named if someone is injured or their property damaged, and we feel that their liability exposure would also be increased as they are responsible to:

- Complete the rental agreement,
- Explain and get waivers signed,
- Collect damage deposit and or rent,
- Check the equipment to make sure it is in good working order when it goes out and when it comes back in,
- Explain and train renters how to use the equipment
- If the Satellite Operator receives compensation for looking after the rentals their exposure may be even greater
- Increased traffic by renters on Satellite Operator's property could lead to liability claims to Satellite Operator

Although many of our municipalities do loan and/or rent out equipment, it is not a practice we recommend and we have more concerns over satellite locations where the equipment rentals are looked after by Satellite Operators.

I hope that this is helpful, but if you have any questions please don't hesitate to call.

Regards,

John Hackwell
Risk Management Advisor
Jubilee Insurance
780-955-4078

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 11, 2017
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	Wild Boar Elimination
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The board is presented with information regarding Wild Boar Farms.

BACKGROUND:

AG128(11/06/17) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration bring information on the status of eliminating Wild Boar Farms in Alberta to a future Agricultural Service Board meeting.
CARRIED.

The Provincial Government **does not** have legislation in place to eliminate wild boar farms.

- A few municipalities have enacted bylaws to eliminate them within their jurisdictions.
- The attached containment standards are recommendations only.

The provincially funded wild boar bounty program (\$50/set of ears) will be done on March 31, 2018 or when the funding runs out.

- Clear Hills County has not had any claims under this program since 2009.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Wild Boar Minimum Containment Standards
2. Wild Boar Fact Sheet

OPTIONS:

1. Accept for information the discussion around eliminating Wild Boar Farms.
2. Accept for information and include an article in the Clear Hills County Newsletter on Wild Boar Containment Standards.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board

Initials show support - Reviewed by:

Manager:

AF:

Wild Boar - Minimum Containment Standards

 [Agri-News](#)

[This Week](#)

Minimum containment standards for farmed wild boar in Alberta were implemented in 2014. These standards help prevent wild boar from escaping and becoming established as pests. The *Agricultural Pests Act* provides the authority to administer the minimum containment standards. Wild boar producers had until October 1, 2014, to meet at least an accepted equivalency for existing fences. The accepted equivalency is being phased out, and all producers are required to meet the minimum containment standards by December 31, 2018. Also, all new fences have to meet the [minimum containment standards](#).

Agriculture and Forestry developed the minimum containment standards with the following goals in mind:

- Least amount of disruption and financial burden for producers; and
- Evidence-based and effective requirements for containing wild boar.



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For more information about the content of this document, contact [Perry Abramenko](#).

This document is maintained by [Karen Hladych](#).

This information published to the web on March 13, 2017.

Last Reviewed/Revised on March 22, 2017.

Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms

CONTAINMENT STANDARDS

Fence construction:

There will be two acceptable minimum containment standards. Wild boar producers have a choice of either building a fence that is partially buried into the ground (Standard 1) or using a double fence system (Standard 2). Both of these fencing systems require an electric fencing component.

Standard 1 Buried fence with an electric wire.		Standard 2 Double fencing system with an electric wire.	
Fence height above surface*	Minimum 1.5 metres	Outer fence height above surface*	Minimum 1.5 metres
Fence depth below surface	Minimum depth of 45 cm	Inner fence height above surface*	Minimum 1.5 metres
Fence material:	Hinge lock mesh fencing made from 12.5 gauge or heavier high tensile wire with spacing adequate to prevent escapes.	Fence material:	Hinge lock mesh fencing made from 12.5 gauge or heavier high tensile wire with spacing adequate to prevent escapes.
Fence posts:	Maximum spacing between posts is 3 metres.	Fence posts:	Maximum spacing between posts is 3 metres.
		Distance between fences	A minimum of 1.2 metres and a maximum of 5.0 metres
Electric wire:**	Made of minimum 14 gauge high tensile or stranded wire and must be 10 cm to 30 cm in distance from the inside of the fence and 10 to 30 cm above the ground.	Electric wire:**	Made of minimum 14 gauge high tensile or stranded wire and must be 10 cm to 30 cm in distance from the inside of the fence and 10 to 30 cm above the ground.
Electric output:	Minimum of 4000 volts must pass through at all points along the entire perimeter of the electric fence.	Electric output:	Minimum of 4000 volts must pass through at all points along the entire perimeter of the electric fence.

* Fence height must be such that a minimum of 1.5 metres are above the ground surface or above any other surface including snow drifts.

**If two electric wires are used then it is suggested that the wires be placed at 20 cm and 40 cm above the surface and that separate fence chargers be used for each wire.

Maintenance:

It is expected that all producers will maintain their fences in good condition at all times. This will include, but not limited to, maintaining proper tension on the fencing material, ensure that vegetation is trimmed below the electric wires, and replacing the fence posts as required.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE CONTAINMENT STANDARDS**Existing fences:**

The following exception to Containment Standards is available for those producers with existing fencing systems:

- The bottom of the existing fence must be anchored to the surface with stakes spaced no more than 1.5 metres apart and the stakes must be a minimum of one metre into the ground sloped at a 45° angle to the outside of the enclosure. This will be considered as equivalent containment to buried or double fencing.
- All other fencing requirements regarding height, fencing material, electric wire and fencer output must be met.

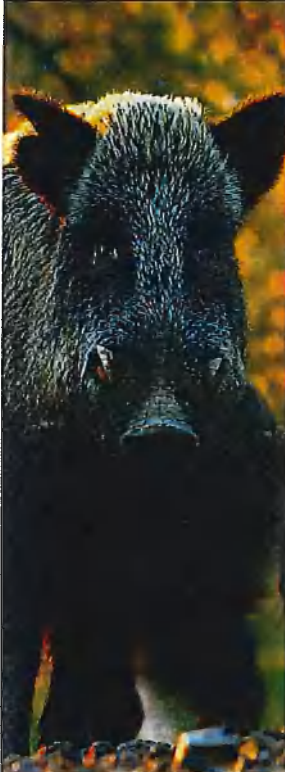
Repair or replacement of fences:

Repairs, replacement, or modifications to existing fences may require an upgrade to the existing Containment Standards. Producers will be encouraged to consult with inspectors.

All existing wild boar fencing systems will be required to conform to the Containment Standards no later than December 31, 2018. This will give producers five years in which to upgrade their existing fences to meet the existing containment standards. It is estimated that buried fences could have a life span of four to seven years depending on the type of soil and moisture conditions. A double fence could last longer with fencing material lasting up to 15 years.

Wild Boar > At Large

An invasive pest in Alberta



310-FARM (3276)
agriculture.alberta.ca/wildboar

January 2017

Why are we concerned about wild boar in Alberta?

Wild boar are farmed in Alberta as livestock. However, when they are not being raised as livestock on a farm, they are considered to be “at large” and are an invasive pest that can:

- Damage property, agricultural crops, pastures and the environment, including through rooting (digging);
- Endanger people and animals;
- Harass livestock and consume their feed, prey on young livestock and wildlife;
- Spread diseases that could be transmitted to wildlife, livestock, pets and people;
- Alter the ecosystem, including through wallowing (rolling around), that can contaminate water supplies, promote erosion, and destroy fish habitat;
- Compete with wildlife and destroy other sensitive natural habitats; and
- Consume the eggs of ground-nesting birds.

Are wild boar native to Alberta?

Wild boar are not native to Alberta. They came to the province in the 1980s and '90s as livestock. Over the years, some animals escaped, and have established several feral/wild populations.

How do they survive in the winter?

Wild boar are very adaptable. The wild boar in Alberta are typically the Eurasian type and have long dark hair and a woolly underfur that protects them from extreme cold. They build nests where they shelter during cold weather and are able to travel in deep snow to access food sources.

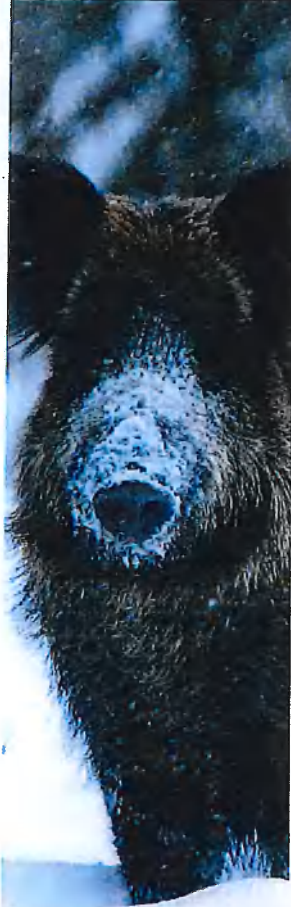
In what kind of habitat are they found?

Wild boar prefer habitats that provide forest cover for hiding and resting, as well as access to food. During the summer months they can be found close to water sources where they can wallow to stay cool.

What do they eat?

Wild boar will eat just about any organic matter. They are omnivores, which means they will eat plants, insects, and other animals. They have a “cartilaginous disc” on their snouts, which helps them to dig and root extensively in search of insects and roots. They can use their very sharp tusks for rooting, as well as protection.

Wild Boar At Large: An invasive pest in Alberta



To report wild boar at-large or for more information, please call 310-FARM (3276) toll-free in Alberta. agriculture.alberta.ca/wildboar

January 2017

What should I do if I have wild boar on my land?

If Albertans have wild boar at-large on their land, they should call 310-FARM (3276). Provincial government staff will collect the information and work with the landowner and the municipality to help find a solution.

What are signs of wild boar at-large to watch for?

Signs of boar activity include:

- Tracks in the snow or mud, or trails of groups ("sounders") of boar
- Signs of boar digging or rolling around (rooting and wallowing)
- Signs of boar eating your livestock feed
- Boar droppings



Can I hunt wild boar?

People who want to help remove pests from property are allowed to do so, and there is no licence, season, or limits for wild boar at-large. Be aware that general laws around firearms and trespassing apply and must be followed. Contact your local police or Fish and Wildlife Office for more information.

> Did you know?

Non-professional hunting of wild boar at-large can actually make it harder for organized control efforts. Boar are very smart! Hunting can make them learn quickly to avoid humans, and this can make the problems worse.

What are the regulations for wild boar in Alberta?

In 2014, Agriculture and Forestry's Wild Boar Minimum Containment Standards were enacted for farmed wild boar. These enhanced fencing requirements were put in place to help prevent boar from escaping and becoming pests at-large. When wild boar are in captivity, they are considered livestock as long as the farmer meets the fencing standards.

Wild boar at-large are a pest under provincial law, through the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation. Under the *Agricultural Pests Act*, landowners are required to control or destroy them and prevent them from becoming established on their land.

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 11, 2017
Originated By:	Audrey Bjorklund, CLGM, CDM
Title:	Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Position
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

At the November 6, 2017 ASB meeting the Board recommended administration draft a job description and work load analysis with the possibility of adding an Assistant Agricultural Fieldman to the County staff structure.

BACKGROUND:

Present situation: Administration's analysis does not support the addition of this position at this time for the following reasons:

1. There is insufficient workload to justify an additional fulltime position
 - a. A full time position was laid off at the beginning of October due to lack of year round work to keep this shop & equipment position busy.
2. The seasonal peaks in the weed and pest inspection work load are covered off by the Community Development Clerk and the Lead Weed Inspector.
3. Rental equipment peaks – the Agricultural Fieldman sometimes has to delegate to a competent and mechanically knowledgeable weed inspector or public works position.
 - a. This is a position gap that is difficult to fill, even on a part time basis, due to the lack of consistent demand for rental equipment.
4. Certified Pesticide Applicator and supervision of Assistant Applicators– there are two full time staff with this certification, the Agricultural Fieldman and the Community Development Manager, so there is supervision at all times for the seasonal staff that are trained as Authorized Assistant Applicators.
5. Succession planning – the County seeks to build capacity in staff for today and the future by cross training to fill gaps when positions are on leave, vacation, at training and meetings or vacant for a period of time. Formal training is also provided to build skill sets or knowledge to provide continuity of service for the public.

Future:

Organizing extension programming was a key element in the Assistant Agricultural Fieldmen position descriptions from other municipalities. The County currently outsources this to the Peace County Beef and Forage Association (PCBFA) in the Environment Stream Partnership with the other 5 municipalities and the additional \$12,500 the county provides for them to organize workshops and information sessions for the local farmers and ranchers. Should the provincial funding or the agreement with PCBFA be cancelled in the future this would create a large service gap that might make an Assistant Agricultural Fieldman position viable.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information that there is currently not a sufficient work load for the addition of an Assistant Agricultural Fieldman position to the County organizational structure.

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

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 11, 2017
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Ag Fieldman
Title:	Aspen Die-Off Management
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with information regarding aspen die off management.

BACKGROUND:

AG130(11/06/17) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration bring back information on Aspen Die-Off Management.

CARRIED.

Toso Bozic, Bioenergy/Agroforestry Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, presented on aspen die-back at the Peace Regional ASB Conference. Clear Hills County reached out to him for information on management of this issue. Mr. Bozic provided Clear Hills County with a summary of his presentation, which listed drought and defoliation as the main causes, and fertilizing and watering of backyard trees as good management practices. Clear Hills County will include this summary brochure in an upcoming newsletter.

Investigating the availability of printed copies of the brochures.

ATTACHMENTS:

Aspen Die-back brochure

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board accept information the aspen die-off management and include the brochure in the next newsletter OR do a bulk mail out of the brochures to County residents depending on the availability of receiving printed copies.

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



Figure 1. Aspen dieback

Figure 2. Insect-caused defoliation on an aspen stand.

Introduction

Trembling aspen is the most widespread and abundant tree species in North America. It is also the main native tree in the aspen parkland.

Trembling aspen is important ecologically and commercially. Ecologically, it provides a source of food and habitat for species of wildlife, helps to maintain biodiversity and conserves water. Commercially, it provides wood fibre, improved aesthetics for tourism and recreation, and forage for livestock.

Aspen grows over a wide geographic and climatic range compared to other tree species in Alberta and it is commonly found in the prairies. However, aspen is a water-limited species and it is considered a drought-sensitive species. Thus, prolonged, severe droughts can lead to aspen dieback (Figure 1).

Drought is one of the key factors that causes dieback. Drought affects vascular tissues that transport water and nutrients in trees. It also can affect a tree's ability to produce and store food, eventually leading to dieback. Pests and damaging agents that also cause dieback include: insect defoliators that reduce carbon uptake and food synthesis (forest tent caterpillar, large aspen tortrix, Bruce spanworm), wildlife that damage tree stems (elk, moose, bear, porcupine) and weather events that lead to thaw freeze events (Chinook winds, spring frost) also incite aspen dieback.

Factors that pre-dispose aspen trees to dieback include genetics (clones), regional climate, topography (aspect, dry sites), forest structure, and stand age. Insects and fungal pathogens are attracted to trees stressed by inciting factors such as drought. Insects, fungal pathogens, cankers, and wind-throw become factors that contribute to aspen dieback.

Distribution of Aspen Dieback

Aspen dieback is widespread in western USA and in western Canada where it occurs from stand level to a landscape level. This disorder is common across large areas of west-central Alberta. Since mid-1990s there have been reports of aspen dieback mainly in the southern fringe of aspen parkland of Alberta. Following a severe drought in 2001, an estimated 35 per cent of the aspen in this region have died. Pockets of mature aspen trees showed signs of decline and eventually either parts of trees or whole trees died. Usually, in a given area dieback is more extensive in low lying, south facing slopes, which tend to be the hottest and driest areas as well.



Figure 3. Branch dieback at the early stages of aspen dieback

How to Recognize Aspen Dieback?

Branch dieback, leading to death of aspen trees, is the main characteristic of aspen dieback (Figure 3). This may occur within a relatively short time period (few years) or it may take a long time (decade or more) depending on the site factors,

genetics and other pest damage that can contribute to aspen dieback. Within the forest stand, dieback first appears patchy with pockets of mature trees showing signs of decline and eventual tree death. As dieback continues, entire stands will appear either dead or dying. A few years following branch dieback and tree kill, the forest stand will have many snapped tree stems as decay and wind bring the dead trees down (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Aspen tree kill and stand breakup at the late stages of aspen dieback

Additional Information

For further information contact your local ESRD office or call toll free at 310-0000 or visit our website at www.esrd.alberta.ca.

References

- Brent R. Frey, Victor J. Loeffler, E. H. (Ted) Hogg, and Simon M. Landthausser. 2004. Predicting landscape patterns of aspen dieback: mechanisms and knowledge gaps. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*, 34(7): 1379-1390.
- E. H. (Ted) Hogg and Trisha Hook. 2012. Challenges in assessing drought impacts on boreal aspen and mixedwood stands in western Canada. *In Boreal Mixedwoods 2012, Ecology and Management of Multiple Values*, Edmonton, Alberta, 17-20 June, 2012.
- Michalek, M., Hogg, E.H., Hall, R.J., Arsenault, E. 2011. Massive mortality of aspen following severe drought along the southern edge of the Canadian boreal forest. *Global Change Biology*, 17: 2084-2094.

Photo Credits

- Figures 1, 2, 3 and 5. Mike Maximchuk, Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD)
- Figure 4. Mike Michalek, Canadian Forest Service Natural Resources, USA
- Figure 7 and 8. Tom Hutchison, ESRD

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What is Aspen Dieback?

Dieback is an often rapid, above ground death of aspen clonal trees that typically leads to stand break-up. Dieback has been observed in aspen throughout North America. Recently, aspen dieback has drawn more attention with its increased occurrence in western Canada and in north-eastern Ontario. With anticipated climate change aspen dieback is likely to increase.

Recently, aspen dieback has been occurring at a landscape level rather than at a stand level. Dieback is also occurring at a faster rate, killing stands in years rather than in decades.

What Causes Aspen Dieback?

The exact mechanism causing aspen dieback is not completely understood. Several factors are known to incite dieback or pre-dispose trees to dieback.



Figure 5. Late spring frost damage on aspen

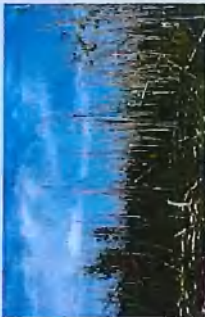


Figure 6. A damaged aspen stand



Figure 7. Discolouration along the margins of the aspen leaf affected by drought



Figure 8. Drought-affected aspen in Alberta.

Other Disorders Causing Damage Similar to Aspen Dieback

Late Spring Frost Damage

When frost occurs after new foliage has developed in late spring, most of the young, succulent new foliage dies leaving clumps of the hardened old foliage (Figure 5). This may appear like early stages of aspen dieback but the affected trees will recover.

Hail Damage

Hail damage causes mechanical injury to aspen trees resulting in branch kill. Hail damage injuries to stems are unidirectional depending on the direction of the hail storm. With aspen dieback, no mechanical injuries to tree stems are found.

Drought

Drought-affected aspen trees have leaves with discoloration along the margins (Figure 7). Drought-affected trees recover unless drought is severe or prevails for many consecutive years. Under these conditions drought can lead to aspen dieback.

Impact of Aspen Dieback

- **Biodiversity:** Aspen tree kill due to dieback, affects biodiversity by impacting wildlife communities supported by aspen stands.
- **Aesthetics and Tourism:** In the fall, aspen foliage changes colour providing colourful yellow landscapes that attract tourists. Aspen dieback makes those areas unattractive to tourists.
- **Wildlife and livestock:** Aspen dieback denies a source of food and habitat for wildlife. Livestock that feed on aspen foliage are also affected by aspen dieback.
- **Water conservation:** Aspen stands help to conserve water by providing shade to the landscape. Dieback will remove this cover exposing soil to erosion and direct sun that accelerates evaporation of moisture from soil.
- **Wood fibre:** Large-scale tree kill and dieback will affect wood fibre supply unless the dead trees are salvaged before quality of wood fibre deteriorates.

Management of Aspen Dieback

Management of aspen dieback is feasible with backyard trees. Ensure that trees are watered deep along the drip lines during drought periods and in the fall before the ground freezes. For watering, use a hose pipe with a nozzle attachment that penetrates deep into the soil. Applying fertilizer to keep the tree healthy will help it cope with drought as well as pests. Avoid causing mechanical damage that predisposes trees to pest attack.

There is no known cure for aspen dieback in natural stands although regenerated stands seem to cope with stressors better than old stands. Thus, logging and control burns encourage re-sprouting of aspen resulting in young more resilient stands.



Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 11, 2017
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	EVENTS
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with events for their consideration.

BACKGROUND:

- The Dirt on Soil, Soil Health Workshop was held on Saturday, November 28, 2017 at the Legion Hall in Grimshaw, Alberta; Chair Harcourt and Deputy Chair Ruecker attended and are requesting the Board's approval for this.
- Energy Efficiencies on your Farm Workshop was held on November 28, 2017 at the C.O.C.O. Hall in Wanham, Alberta; Member Ross attended and is requesting the Board's approval for this.
- 2018 Agronomy Update on January 9-10, 2018 at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer, Alberta.
- Cereals Innovation Symposium on January 10-11, 2018 at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer, Alberta.
- Agricultural Service Board Conference on January 16-19, 2018 will be held in Grande Prairie, Alberta.
- FarmTech will be held on January 31, 2018 to February 2, 2018 at the Edmonton Expo Centre at Northlands.
- Alberta Beef Industry Conference will be held on February 21-23, 2018 at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer, Alberta.

BUDGET/COSTS:

OPTIONS:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

- Event Cost Calendar
- Calendars (December, January, February)
- 2018 Peace Agronomy Update Agenda
- Cereals Innovation and Symposium Poster and Agenda
- FarmTech Agenda & Registration Information
- Alberta Beef Industry Conference Agenda

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That this Agricultural Service Board ...

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:

ABJ

AgFieldman:

Upcoming Events Cost estimate per day per individual

Event	Location	Dates	# of days	Registration	Kms roundtrip from Worsley	Mileage	Room	Meals	Personal Allowance	Per Diem	Total Cost per person per day
2018 Agronomy Update	Red Deer	January 9-10, 2017	2	\$155	1480	\$799.20	\$240.00		\$80.00	\$370.00	\$2,334.20
Cereals Innovation Symposium	Red Deer	January 10-11, 2017	2	\$100	1480	\$799.20	\$240.00		\$80.00	\$370.00	\$2,279.20
Agricultural Service Board Conference	Grande Prairie	January 16-19, 2018	4	\$0	374	\$201.96	\$480.00	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$740.00	\$6,361.96
FarmTech	Edmonton	January 31-February 2	3	\$450	1240	\$669.60	\$360.00	\$50.00	\$120.00	\$555.00	\$4,374.60
Alberta Beef Industry	Red Deer	February 21-23	3	\$455	1480	\$799.20	\$480.00	\$160.00	\$120.00	\$555.00	\$5,199.20

December 2017

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3	4	5 MR	6 MR	7 MR	8	9
		Western Canadian Grazing Conference				
10	11 ASB Meeting	12 Council Mtg.	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27	28	29	30
County Office Closed						

Western Canadian Grazing Conference – December 5-7, 2017 at the Radisson Hotel in Edmonton, Alberta

Legend:

- BH – Brian Harcourt
- BR – Baldur Ruecker
- MR – MacKay Ross
- GC – Garry Candy
- JW – Julie Watchorn
- DJ – David Janzen
- All – All available members

January 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 County Office Closed	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 ASB Meeting	9 Council Mtg. 2018 Agronomy Update	10 Cereals Innovation Symposium	11	12	13
14	15	16 ASB Provincial Conference	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Council Mtg.	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 FarmTech			

2018 Agronomy Update on January 9-10, 2018 at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer, Alberta

Cereals Innovation Symposium on January 10-11, 2018 at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer, Alberta

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference on January 16-19, 2018 in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

FarmTech on January 31-February 2, 2018 at the Edmonton Expo Centre at Northlands.

Legend:

- BH – Brian Harcourt
- BR – Baldur Ruecker
- MR – MacKay Ross
- GC – Garry Candy
- JW – Julie Watchorn
- DJ – David Janzen
- All – All available members

February 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
			FarmTech			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Council Mtg.	14	15	16	17
18	19 Family Day County Office Closed	20	21	22	23	24
		Alberta Beef Industry Conference				
25	26	27 Council Mtg.	28			

FarmTech – January 31st to February 2, 2018 at the Edmonton Expo Centre at Northlands
 Alberta Beef Industry – February 21st-23rd at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer, Alberta

Legend:

- BH – Brian Harcourt
- BR – Baldur Ruecker
- MR – MacKay Ross
- GC – Garry Candy
- JW – Julie Watchorn
- DJ – David Janzen
- All – All available members

Agronomy Update 2018

January 9 - 10
Sheraton Red Deer Hotel,
Red Deer, Alberta

A two-day conference for grain producers, crop advisors and industry partners to interface with leading agricultural scientists about relevant soil and crop issues

January 9

Registration: 7:45 to 8:45 a.m.

Conference begins at 8:55 a.m.

Welcome and Introduction

Crops Agronomy

Step Back from the Trees to See the Forest -
Emile deMilliano

Optimizing Inputs & Management for Top Yields -
Ross McKenzie

Long-term Rotation & Fertilization Management
Effects on Soil Properties, Crop Response to
Fertilizers & Greenhouse Gas Emissions - *Miles Dyck*

Coffee

Why You Should Grow Red Lentil & Why They Are
Not the Same as Field Pea - *Robyne Bowness Davidson*

Insect Management

Provincial Insect Update - *Scott Meers*

Grasshopper & Cabbage Seedpod Weevil Update -
Scott Meers

Lunch

Pea Leaf Weevil Update - *Meghan Vankosky*
Pesticide Re-evaluation in Canada - *Andrea Sawatzky*

Soil Nutrition

Soil N Stabilizers: the What, When & Where -
Tai Maaz

Crop Availability of Sulphur from Elemental-S
Sources - *Kent Martin*

Coffee

Soil & Water Management

Alleviating Subsoil Compaction - *Tom Jensen*
Reducing N & P Nutrient Load into Surface Water -
Trevor Deering

Industry Pesticide Label Updates

SUPPER ON YOUR OWN

January 10

Breakfast: 7:00 to 8:20 a.m.

Presentations begin at 8:30 a.m.

Weed Management

Wild Oat Herbicide Resistance: Few Active Groups
Left - *Hugh Beckie*

Tools for Weed Resistance Management - Pulse
Crop Herbicide Options - *Eric Johnson*

Dicamba on Soybeans - What's all the Fuss About? -
Tom Wolf

Coffee

Glyphosate-resistant Weeds in Western Canada -
Charles Geddes

Up & Coming Problem Weeds in Agronomic Crops -
Nicole Kimmel

Disease Management

Development of Fungicide Insensitivity in Field
Crops - *Bruce Gossen*

An Overview of Cereal Disease Issues in 2017 &
What to Watch for in 2018 - *Kelly Turkington*

Lunch

Canola Disease Update - *Keith Gabert*
Pulse Disease Update - *Syama Chatterton*
Alberta's Fusarium Head Blight Infection Risk
Assessment Tools - *Ralph Wright*
Aerobiological Surveillance of Wheat Pathogens -
Andre Laroche

Cheers! Craft Beer Update

Craft Beer Sector Update - *Bob Sutton*

'Continuing Education Units'
are available for: Certified Crop Advisors,
Pesticide Applicators & Certified Crop
Science Consultants

Cost:

\$155

\$175 after January 5, 2018

\$90 student

(Includes GST, presentations, conference
proceedings, 3 meals and coffee breaks)

Register:

Online:

<https://eservices.alberta.ca/agronomy-update-2018.html>

Or Phone: 1-800-387-6030

If GST exempt please call the registration number

Note: phone-in registration unavailable
December 23 to January 1. Online registration
still accessible.

Cancellation Policy:

1. Refunds will be issued for cancellation requests received up to and including January 5, 2018.
2. Refunds will be subject to a 10% administration fee.
3. No refunds will be issued for cancellation requests received after January 5, 2018.

Accommodation

A limited number of rooms have been set aside at the
Sheraton Red Deer Hotel

3310 - 50 Avenue (Gaetz Avenue) Red Deer, AB

Please mention "Agronomy"

Phone: 1-800-662-7197 or 403-346-2091

Email: reservations@sheratonreddeer.com



Other Accommodations:

Holiday Inn Express: 2803 - 50 Avenue
Phone: 403-343-2112

Super 8: 4217 - 50 Avenue
Phone: 403-358-7722

Red Deer Lodge: 4311 - 49 Avenue
Phone: 403-346-8841 or Toll-free 1-800-661-1657

Black Knight Inn: 2929 - 50 Avenue
Phone: 403-343-6666 or Toll-free 1-800-661-8793

Sandman Hotel: 2818 - Gaetz Avenue (50 Avenue)
Phone: 403-343-7400

This event is brought to you by:
Alberta Agriculture & Forestry

Alberta Government

Presented by



Alberta
Barley

Cereals

Innovation Symposium

Join Us

January 10 & 11, 2018

Sheraton Hotel, Red Deer, AB

Welcome Reception starts at 5:00 p.m.

Hear from some of Canada's best in cereal science and technology including our keynote speakers:



Cam Dahl, President of Cereals Canada

Cam's macro perspective on the national cereals' value chain and extensive agriculture industry experience is a welcomed addition.



Curtis Pozniak, Professor at University of Saskatchewan

Curtis's work in wheat breeding and genetics has attracted over \$40 million in funding from various sources and he has authored or co-authored over 50 scientific manuscripts in the industry, making him one not to miss this January.

Learn more and register at albertawheat.com

DESCRIPTION

Alberta Wheat Commission and Alberta Barley present the inaugural Cereal Innovation Symposium.

Hear from some of Canada's best in cereal science and technology including established wheat breeder and plant geneticist, Dr. Curtis Pozniak at Cereal Innovation Symposium this winter.

In conjunction with the provincial agronomy update, Cereal Innovation Symposium will feature the latest in agronomic tips for your favourite cereal crops.

January 11th Agenda

8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Registration and Breakfast

9:00 a.m. - 9:40 a.m. **How to Produce Marketable Malt Barley** - Kevin Sich, Supply Chain Director, Rahr Malting Canada Ltd., Alix

9:40 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. **Breeding Canada Prairie Spring Wheat Cultivars for Western Canada** – Dr. Harpinder Singh Randhawa, Research Scientist, AAFC Lethbridge

10:20 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. Break

10:40 a.m. - 11:20 a.m. **Use of Advanced Agronomic Practices in Malt Barley: Benefits and Risk to Yield and Quality** – Dr. Breanne Tidemann, AAFC Lacombe

11:20 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. **Best Management Practices to Support the Adoption of an Ultra-Early Wheat Seeding System Across Broad Acres in Western Canada** – Graham Collier, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Alberta

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Welcome to the Future: Technologies to Support Breeding of Superior Wheat Varieties** – Dr. Curtis Pozniak, Plant Geneticist and Wheat Breeder at the University of Saskatchewan

2:00 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. Break

2:20 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Nitrogen Fixation in Triticale: NIF Gene Delivery into Mitochondrial Genomes and Possibilities in Wheat** – Dr. Alicja Ziemienowicz, Research Biologist at AAFC Lethbridge

3:00 p.m. - 3:40 p.m. **Being Innovative in Breeding a 10,000-Year-Old Crop** – Dr. Yadeta Kabeta, Research Scientist at Alberta Agriculture and Forestry: FCDC Lacombe

3:40 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. **In Closing: The Future of Wheat in Alberta**, Clair Langlois, Cereal Extension Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, FCDC Lacombe



FarmTech™

Tuesday, January 31

TIME	
7:30 – 8:30 am	DuPont Breakfast Halls G/H
8:45am	Opening Ceremonies Halls G/H
9:00 am	Keynote Speaker: Our Forgotten and Hidden Walking Wounded – Lieutenant General, The Honourable Roméo Dallaire
10:15 am	Alberta Barley Special Event Hall F Cashing in on Contracts – Growing Malt Barley
11:30 am	Room 1: Managing the Generations – Tools to Talk About Tough Issues: Elaine Froese Room 2: Soil Test Levels in North America: Tom Bruulsema Room 3: Up and Coming Methods of Managing Herbicide Resistance: Breanne Tidemann/ Hugh Beckie Room 4: Perspectives on Sustainability: Jeffrey Fitzpatrick-Stilwell/ Jolene Noble Room 5: Drones – Mid-Season Precision Ag: Markus Weber Room 6: Grain Transportation in 2017: What is on the Horizon?: Steve Pratte Room 7: New Insights into the Importance of Starch Digestion in Cattle: Tim McAllister/ Ruurd Zijlstra
12:30pm	Lunch Halls G/H
1:30pm	Room 1: Popular Culture is Screwing With Our Health! : Tim Caulfield Room 2: Social Media Minefield: Lessons in Advocacy: Andrew Campbell Room 3: Updated Canola Target Density and a Look at Rising CO2 Impact: Murray Hartman Room 4: What Our Consumers Want: Industry Panel: Cam Dahl, Jim Smolik and Sean Linstead Room 5: Cover Crops for Western Canada: Kevin Elmy Room 6: Big Ideas in Small Towns: Making Rural Places Open to New Ideas: Becky McCray Room 7: Funds vs. Fundamentals: Lawrence Yakielashek
2:45 pm	Alberta Canola AGM Hall F
4:00 pm	Room 1: Weather Outlook 2017: Is "Normal" Weather Possible Any More?: Drew Lerner Room 2: Land and Corporations Do Not Die. But You Do!: Merle Good/Rob Strilchuk Room 3: Crop Diseases in 2016 and the Changing Face of Clubroot: Stephen Strelkov/Michael Harding Room 4: Why MRLs Matter: Gord Kurbis, Brian Innes, Tyler Bjornson Room 5: Canadian Pulses: Growing Demand from a Growing World: Murad Al-Katib Room 6: Leading the Way in Alberta Farm and Ranch Safety: Donna Trottier Room 7: The 7 Deadly(ish) Sins of Grain Marketing: Brian Voth
5:00 pm	Real Agriculture Networking Lounge Hall E

Wednesday, February 1

TIME	
7:30-8:30 am	FarmTech Host Breakfast
9:00 am	Keynote Speaker: Political and Policy Landscape: Andrew Coyne
10:15 am	Alberta Wheat Commission AGM Hall F
11:30 am	Room 1: Land and Corporations Do Not Die. But You Do!; Merle Good/Rob Strilchuk Room 2: Popular Culture is Screwing With Our Health!: Tim Caulfield Room 3: The Role of Genetics...Fusarium Head Blight: Brian Beres Room 4: What Our Consumers Want: Industry Panel: Cam Dahl, Jim Smolik and Sean Linstead Room 5: Canadian Pulses: Growing Demand from a Growing World: Murad Al-Katib Room 6: Big Ideas in Small Towns: Making Rural Places Open to New Ideas: Becky McCray Room 7: The 7 Deadly(ish) Sins of Grain Marketing: Brian Voth
12:30 pm	Lunch Halls G/H
1:30 pm	Booth 104: Brought to you by BASF - Crop 2016 – Challenges: Daryl Beswitherick

	Room 1: Managing the Generations...Tools to Talk About Tough Issues: Elaine Froese Room 2: When There's A Will...Farm Succession and Estate Planning Considerations: Tracy Hanson Room 3: Up and Coming Methods of Managing Herbicide Resistance: Breanne Tidemann/Hugh Beckie Room 4: Soil Test Levels in North America: Tom Bruulsema Room 5: Perspectives on Sustainability: Jeffrey Fitzpatrick-Stilwell/ Jolene Noble Room 6: Grain Transportation in 2017: What is on the Horizon?: Steve Pratte Room 7: What's Ahead for 2017 Markets?: Chuck Penner
2:45pm	Alberta Pulse Growers AGM Hall F
Keynote Speaker: 4:00 pm	Booth 104: Brought to you by Farmers Edge: The Truth about Big Data: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly: Kyle Hoyda Room 1: Weather Outlook 2017: Is "Normal: Weather Possible Any More? Room 2: Winning the Talent Wars: 8 Essential Steps to a Top-Performing Team!: Donald Cooper Room 3: What's Up with Weevils?: Meghan Vankosky/Scott Meers Room 4: The Role of Genetics...Fusarium Head Blight: Brian Beres Room 5: Why MRLs Matter Too: Gord Kurbis, Brian Innes, Tyler Bjornson Room 6: New Insights into the Importance of Starch Digestion in Cattle: Tim McAllister/ Ruurd Zijlstra Room 7: Funds vs. Fundamentals: Lawrence Yakielashek
5:15 pm	Syngenta Event Hall E
6:30 pm	Dekalb Dinner Keynote Address: Open Heart, Open Mind: Clara Hughes

Thursday, February 2

TIME	
7:30-8:30 am	Canadian Canola Growers Association Breakfast Halls G/H
9:00 am	The Future of Food: Pamela Ronald
10:15 am	Alberta Seed Growers Event Hall F: Are Cereal Hybrids in your Future?
11:30 am	Room 1: Where There's A Will...Farm Succession And Estate Planning Considerations: Tracy Hanson Room 2: Winning the Talent Wars: 8 Essential Steps to a Top-Performing Team: Donald Cooper Room 3: Updated Canola Target Density and a Look at Rising CO2 Impact: Murray Hartman Room 4: Crop Diseases in 2016 and the Changing Face of Clubroot: Stephen Strelkov/Michael Harding Room 5: Drones – Mid-Season Precision Ag: Markus Weber Room 6: Leading the Way in Alberta Farm and Ranch Safety: Donna Trotter Room 7: What's Ahead for 2017 Markets?: Chuck Penner
1:30 pm	Closing Keynote Address: The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney
3:00 pm	Room 1: Weather Outlook 2017: Is "Normal: Weather Possible Any More? : Drew Lerner Room 2: Social Media Minefield: Lessons in Advocacy: Andrew Campbell Room 3: What's Up With Weevils?: Meghan Vankosky/Scott Meers Room 4: Cover Crops for Western Alberta: Kevin Elmy

REGISTRATION INFO



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FarmTech 2018 Registration Fees (plus 5% GST)

Full Three Day Registration includes the Dekalb Dinner

on or before January 9, 2018

after January 9, 2018

\$450

If available \$590

Two Day Registration includes the Dekalb Dinner

on or before January 9, 2018

after January 9, 2018

\$370

\$480
-39-

Student Registration Does NOT include the Dekalb Dinner

Breakfast & Lunch is included with all registrations. Extra lunch tickets may be purchased for guests who wish to join delegates for lunch.

Admission to the Dekalb Dinner is included with all 3 Day and 2 Day Registrations with the exception of Student Registrations. An extra ticket to the Dekalb Dinner may be purchased by students who wish to attend the Dekalb Dinner or delegates who have a guest they wish to have join them for the Dekalb Dinner.

Individual Lunch Tickets

\$37 each

Additional Dekalb Dinner Tickets

\$75 each

Sponsors and registered delegates with questions – [click here](#)

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BEEF

Talks

Ideas Worth Sharing



15th Annual

**Alberta Beef
Industry Conference**

February 21-23, 2018
Sheraton Red Deer Hotel

Attend Alberta's Premier Beef Industry Event

Be part of the conversation this year
at the 2018 Alberta Beef Industry Conference!

Should you have any questions regarding the 2018 conference please feel free to contact us at 403-250-2509 or by email at jbrunette@cattlefeeders.ca

We look forward to seeing you in February! Register online at www.abiconference.ca



@ABBeefConf



Alberta Beef Industry
Conference

PRE CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS - February 21, 2018

Grazing Annual Forages and Swath Grazing in a Crop Rotation

Dr. Bart Lardner

Western Beef Development Center

Graeme Finn | Southern Cross Livestock

10:00am – 12:00pm

Learn how to improve soil health through using annual forage cover crops and livestock in the crop rotation. Look at the practical application of using nutrient dense annual forages for grazing. Find out how to extend fall grazing, winter grazing and summer grazing by using annual forages in a cover crop system. Dr. Bart Lardner will present research from the Western Beef Development Center on swath grazing warm and cool season annual cereals and crop residues with beef cows and calves. Graeme Finn of Southern Cross Livestock will take us through how he has implemented annual forages into his grazing program.



The Collaborative Workplace Workshop

Julie Godsave | Learning & Development
Consultant, JAG Resources Inc.

1:30pm – 3:30pm

Understanding what drives our employees to give their best each day and our leadership approach to creating conditions for them to do so is critical to a successful workplace. Through creation of a culture based on trust, mutual accountability and communication, we contribute to both individual and organizational performance whereby employees feel committed to work collaboratively with a sense of their own well-being. In this workshop participants will learn how to create a workplace culture that is truly collaborative along with some strategies to implement upon returning to their own organizations.



Taking the Lead

A Practical Approach to Farm Safety

Sherri Marthaller & Dan Trottier | AgSafe Alberta Advisors

11:00pm – 1:30pm

The AgSafe Alberta workshop will provide information to cattle producers and feedlot operators that will assist in navigating the farm safety landscape. It all starts with a few fundamental safety principles and using available resources to grow safety management systems that make sense in your operation.

An In-depth Look into Alberta's Electricity and Natural Gas Markets

3:00pm – 4:00pm

Partake in an interactive session about the Alberta electricity and natural gas markets hosted by AltaGas Ltd. AltaGas and ALPS have been supplying agricultural customers across Alberta with competitively priced energy options and customized industry-specific service. We will shed some light on the unique and ever-changing Alberta market structure, the various parties involved and how they impact your invoice. The session is only available to current ALPS members or those agricultural operations not currently involved but looking to know more about it.

Western Stock Growers Association Annual General Meeting

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association Annual General Meeting

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Evening of the "Finest" Opening Dinner

6:00pm



CONFERENCE SESSIONS February 22, 2018

Danny Hooper | Master of Ceremonies



Changing People, Changing Places

Andrew Ramlo

Executive Director, Urban Futures



8:45am

From the changing faces and consumption patterns of Canadian and export markets to issues of production and labour force, join Andrew for an insightful ride through Changing People, Changing Places and how it relates to Alberta's livestock industry.

Bull? 2018 Currency Market Outlook

Karl Schamotta | Director of Global Market,
Cambridge Global Payments

9:45am

Karl will explore how unprecedented amounts of liquidity, surging debt levels, and the lowest interest rates in five thousand years are combining to create bull markets in stocks, cryptocurrencies, real estate, and even the Canadian dollar. But is this "everything bubble" sustainable? Is it time to call bull?

Channelling Tomorrow's Consumer Panel Discussion

Moderator – Kim McConnell

Paul Rogalski | Rouge Restaurants

Tim Hofer | Pine Haven Colony

E-commerce Representative | Invited

10:45am

Panelists will discuss their different business practices, be it a high-end restaurant, vertically integrated production or the lucrative market of international e-commerce. Hear what their consumers are saying and how they are making their own impact.

VQA ~ Quality at Work

Mark Sheridan

President, Hester Creek Winery

11:45am

Mark will share his insight on the evolution of BC's wine industry and the value the Vintners Quality Alliance has brought to wine producers in British Columbia. This along with the unique landscape, allows for BC to be recognized for producing some of the best wine in the world!

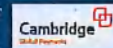


Workshops | Tradeshow | Education
Sessions | Networking | Social Functions

SCHEDULE

February 21, 2018

- 10am – 12pm Grazing Annual Forages and Swath Grazing in a Crop Rotation
- 11:30PM - 1:30pm Farm Safety Workshop
- 1:30pm – 3:30pm The Collaborative Workplace Workshop
- 3:00pm – 4:00pm An In-depth Look into Alberta's Electricity and Natural Gas Markets
- 2:00pm – 4:00pm Western Stock Growers Association AGM
- 4:00pm – 6:00pm Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association AGM
- 6:00pm Evening of the "Finest" Opening Dinner



February 22, 2018

- 8:30am Welcome
- 8:45am Changing People, Changing Places
- 9:45am Bull? 2018 Currency Market Outlook
- 10:45am Channelling Tomorrow's Consumer – Panel Discussion
- 11:45am VQA ~ Quality at Work
- 2:00pm Margin of Error: Problems with Polling in a Post Truth World
- 2:45pm Analysis of Current Global Trends
- 3:45pm Reception
- 5:30pm Taste of Alberta & Auction
Derek Edwards
- 9:30pm Billy Bob's After Party



February 23, 2018

- 8:30am 2018-19 Weather Forecast
- 10:00am CanFax Cattle Market Update
- 10:30am Changing Global Market Presents North American Opportunity
- 11:15am Trade Agreements That Matter for Canada

(Subject to change)

Margin of Error: Problems with Polling in a Post Truth World

Bruce Cameron | CMRP, Return on Insight
2:00pm

Veteran pollster Bruce Cameron highlights the challenges our democracy faces in a world where truth is relative. Using timely examples, he shows how integrating new social media metrics with established polling techniques offers a way to overcome margin of error and restore truth in politics.

Analysis of Current Global Trends
The Rt. Honourable Stephen Harper, PC
2:45pm

Canada's 22nd Prime Minister, the Rt. Honourable Stephen Harper will outline global trends and provide an in-depth geopolitical analysis of recent world events and their effects on Canadian business and economy.



February 23, 2018

2018-19 Weather Forecast

Dr. Art Douglas
Creighton University
8:30am



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

CanFax Cattle Market Update

Brian Perillat
Manager, CanFax
10:00am



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

Changing Global Market Presents North American Opportunity

Don Close | Senior Analyst Rabo Research Food & Agribusiness, Rabo AgriFinance
10:30am

US Cattle and Beef Outlook - Improved beef quality a driver in North American beef exports.
Amazon Vs. Walmart: The world's largest food fight. E-commerce groceries Vs. brick and mortar, what is the impact on cattle and beef markets?

Trade Agreements That Matter for Canada

John Weekes | Senior Business Advisor, Business & Government International Trade Issue & Policy Advisor, Bennett Jones
11:15am

John Weekes will provide a commentary on the situation with respect to Canada's trade relations with its major partners – the United States and the NAFTA negotiations, the EU and the implementation of the CETA (the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement), efforts to bring the TPP into force without the US and plans to strengthen trade relations with China and India.

Join us at the Taste of Alberta

Derek Edwards - Stand-up Comedian
5:30pm



Dinner Entertainment

Derek Edwards with his award-winning rural humor has made him the hottest comedy commodity in Canada. A regular at the Just for Laughs Festival in Montreal, Derek delivers his comedy with polished style and impeccable timing.

"Derek's the funniest man in Canada. Everyone knows that."
– Rick Mercer



Registration can be completed online at: www.abiconference.ca

BEEFTalks Ideas Worth Sharing

Company Name _____

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Email _____

Delegate's Name: _____

Company: _____

Delegate's Name: _____

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Pre-Conference Mini Sessions | February 21, 2018 Please Indicate sessions

Grazing Forages Farm Safety Workshop Collaborative workplace Electricity Sesseion (Free) _____\$25

Conference (February 22 & 23, 2018)
Early Rates End January 15th.

early _____\$455 late _____\$555

Spouse's Name: _____\$300

Young Producer's Name (Under 30 Only): _____\$250

Yes, I would like to sponsor a student or young producer at the conference. _____\$250
Your company name will be displayed on the student or young producers name tag and recognition of your contribution will be noted during the conference.

Additional Dinner Tickets Full Delegate & Spousal Registrations include all meals

Wednesday - Evening of the "Finest" _____\$85 Thursday - Taste of Alberta _____\$95 \$ _____

Are you donating an auction item? _____ Subtotal \$ _____

_____ I will bring the item with me to conference
_____ The item will be delivered to ACFA prior to February 5 GST R106692858 - 5% \$ _____

Approximate Value _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Description _____

Credit Card _____ Type (V/MC): _____ Exp: _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

FAX: 403 - 209 - 3255 | MAIL: #6, 11010 - 46 Street SE Calgary AB T2C 1G4
Refunds less \$75.00 administration fee until January 21, 2018. Fee is non-refundable after this date.
Delegate substitution is permitted at anytime.

Hotel Information

Sheraton Hotel & Conference Centre

3310 – 50 Ave, Red Deer, Alberta

FULL - Call to be placed on their cancellation list

Toll Free Reservations: 1-800-662-7197

Holiday Inn Express

2803 50th Ave, Red Deer, Alberta

Reservations 403-343-2112

Sandman Hotel

2818 Gaetz Ave, Red Deer, Alberta

Toll Free Reservations: 1-800-726-3626

Red Deer Lodge

4311 – 49 Ave, Red Deer, Alberta

Toll Free Reservations: 1-800-661-1657



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Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 11, 2017
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	2018 PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference resolutions. The conference is being held on January 16-19, 2018 in Grande Prairie Alberta.

BACKGROUND:

OPTIONS:

ATTACHMENTS:

2018 Resolutions

1. Environmental Stream Funding of the Agricultural Service Board Grant
2. Review of Agricultural Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) Crop Insurance Form
3. Organic Food Testing and Labeling
4. Proposed Federal Tax Changes
5. Weed Control on Alberta Vacant Public Lands within Green Areas
6. Appeals to the Minister under the *Weed Control Act* and *Agricultural Pests Act*
7. Requirement to Report Certain Pests to the Local Authority
8. Wildlife Predator Compensation Program Enhancement
9. Crop Insurance for Alberta Fruit Producers
10. Increasing Limits for Farm Direct Marketing of Chickens for all Farm Direct Producers
11. Farm Direct Marketing of Eggs and Products Using Eggs
- 12.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion around the 2018 Agricultural Service Board Conference resolutions being held on January 16-19, 2018 in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

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

AgFieldman:

**ENVIRONMENTAL STREAM FUNDING OF THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
GRANT**

- WHEREAS** Rural Municipalities receive grant funding from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry through the Environmental Stream of the Agricultural Service Board Grant;
- WHEREAS** the funding is used by Rural Municipalities to provide Extension and Education to Producers for Best Management Practices of Sustainable Agriculture activities at the grass roots level;
- WHEREAS** the Environmental Stream of the Agricultural Service Board Grant provides funding to Rural Municipalities for three years;
- WHEREAS** Municipalities rely on this funding to hire staff to provide Extension and Education to Producers at a Grass Roots Level but have a three to four month period when the funding is complete (December 31) and the new Grant application is confirmed (March 31) based on the Provincial Budget;
- WHEREAS** Municipalities with Extension and Education Programs would like to ensure that their programs continue to benefit Producers and that professional staff hired to manage the programs are retained;
- WHEREAS** the Municipal Government Act Section 269 states *that the Financial Year of a Municipality is the calendar year* and the Agricultural Service Board Grant Program Agreement states that the term *means the time period for the Program, being January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019* and not the Provincial Government fiscal year of April 1 until March 31;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the funding provided by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry align with the Provincial Government's fiscal year of April 1 until March 31 to ensure that Rural Municipalities are able to maintain their Extension and Education Programs while retaining professional staff.

SPONSORED BY: County of Wetaskiwin No. 10

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2010 the Agricultural Service Board Grant and the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agreement Grants were amalgamated together to become the ASB Legislative Stream and Environmental Stream of funding.

Prior to 2010 the Grant was applied for on an annual basis and Municipalities would know prior to the end of the year what funding level they were going to be receiving thus ensuring that existing staff could be retained.

In December 2010, the County of Wetaskiwin while waiting for confirmation of the 2011-2014 ASB Grant lost an employee who did not want to wait for funding approval as there was no guarantee that the program would be funded. The Municipality was burdened with hiring and training new staff.

In 2017 Municipalities applied for and were waiting to hear from Alberta Agriculture and Food and the Provincial Government to see if the Program and funding were going to continue. Every three years when the Grant funding program expires, Municipalities will need to apply and wait to hear if and when the funding is available leaving some Municipal employees in limbo while waiting to hear if their grant was successful in getting funded. The grant is based on three years of funding starting January 1 and ending December 31 of the third year.

The 2017-2019 Grant Agreement under the Interpretations a **"Calendar Year"** means January 1st to December 31st and **"Term"** means the period from the effective date to December 31st, 2019.

In 2020 Municipalities will be faced with the same issue of staff retention if funding is not known until April or May thus making it hard for Rural Municipalities to be able to maintain their Extension and Education Programs while retaining professional staff.

**REVIEW OF AGRICULTURE FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION (AFSC) CROP
INSURANCE PROGRAM**

- WHEREAS** Drought conditions in 2015 resulted in many farmers needing to harvest crops for feed, but AFSC was unable to complete adjustments in time to salvage quality feed;
- WHEREAS** 2016 and 2017 had severe weather events which prevented Alberta crop producers from being able to harvest and seed their crops;
- WHEREAS** Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) reported that 960,000 acres of cropland were snowed under and unharvested in 2016 and further excessive precipitation in spring left 618,000 acres of cropland unseeded in 2017;
- WHEREAS** Assessments of crop harvest of 2015 and 2016 demonstrated that the current AFSC Crop Insurance process of harvest inspections is not working effectively;
- WHEREAS** AFSC Crop insurance payments are not covering producer costs of production;
- WHEREAS** AFSC Crop insurance premiums are unaffordable relative to the returns available through insurance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF) and AFSC work collaboratively to review and revamp AFSC's Annual Crop Production Insurance products and processes.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that AAF and AAFSC review procedures for conducting assessments for severe weather events to expedite claims processing.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that AAF and AFSC annually review production costs and unseeded acreage benefits to align with current production costs.

SPONSORED BY: COUNTY OF VERMILION RIVER

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

CARRIED

DEFEATED

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The past two years have been challenging for Alberta crop producers. Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) recorded 960,000 acres of 2016 cropland snowed under and ultimately left unable to be harvested in Alberta. Excessive precipitation in the spring of 2017 compounded the situation in many parts of the province, leaving producers with snowed-under and now flooded crops still waiting to be threshed, and challenges in preparation for seeding the 2017 crop. AFSC reported approximately 618,000 acres of Alberta crop land was unable to be seeded in 2017 – eight times the average of the previous five years.

AFSC made adjustments to its regular procedures to deal with the hardships brought about by adverse weather conditions, including extending the recommended seeding dates for a range of crops and increasing unseeded acreage benefits for the 2017 crop year and forward. AFSC also implemented processes for desk-released claims to expedite the unseeded acreage claims, similar to the process that was used for the unharvested acres.

The unfortunate weather conditions in 2016 and 2017 emphasized a number of inadequacies in AFSC procedures and payments. While the past two years were exceptional, they demonstrate challenges in current AFSC practices that delayed timely assessment. The AFSC unseeded acreage benefit does not cover current production costs (relative to Alberta Government AgriProfit\$ 2015 Cost and Return Benchmarks for Crops and Forages). In light of these challenges, the Alberta Crop Insurance Program should be reviewed and redesigned to make it more effective.

ORGANIC FOOD TESTING AND LABELING

- Whereas:** The organic food industry food stuffs are generally sold at a significant premium to conventional food stuffs;
- Whereas:** Consumers rely on the labeling and testing of products to make their purchasing decisions and some labeling is inadequate or misleading to the consumer;
- Whereas:** Consumers, Organic Producers, and Conventional Producers are being cheated by false advertising of products and sales gimmicks;
- Whereas:** Canada Organic has established standards, certification and verification processes to ensure that products labelled with the Canada Organic product comply with current Canadian legislation for organic products and the Canada Organic Regime;
- Whereas:** Many organic products are not labelled with the Canada Organic label, therefore, there is no oversight to determine if these products meet the requirements of current Canadian legislation for organic standards;
- Whereas:** Organic Standards allowing a product to be labeled organic when the product is 95% organic, and less than 95% naming it "organic ingredients" is misleading to the consumer;
- Whereas:** Produce at Farmers Markets has been sold as organic that do not meet organic standards;
- Whereas:** The organic industry, true organic producers and conventional producers need to be protected from the misleading labeling and false organic claims;
- Whereas:** Testing by CFIA needs to be increased, available and concise to inform consumers throughout Canada as to what they are receiving when they purchase a product labeled Organic;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry advocate for clear and concise labeling and testing of products claiming organic authenticity.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That testing by CFIA is increased to assure all products sold in Canada with organic claims are relevant.

SPONSORED BY: Athabasca County

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

CARRIED

DEFEATED

STATUS

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

What products can display the Canada organic logo on the label?



Use of the [Canada organic logo](#) is voluntary and only permitted on products with 95 per cent or more organic content that have been certified according to the requirements of the Canada Organic Regime.

What is the Canada Organic Regime?

The Canada Organic Regime refers to the organic certification system outlined in the [Organic Products Regulations, 2009](#). The purpose of the Canada Organic Regime is to regulate all parties involved in the certification of agricultural organic products and to verify all applicable regulatory requirements, standards and guidance documents are being met.

Who is responsible for the Canada Organic Regime?

The CFIA oversees, monitors and enforces the requirements of the Canada Organic Regime using a third-party service delivery model that includes conformity verification bodies, certification bodies and organic operators.

- 1) CFIA
 - Sets the federal rules for the Canada Organic Regime
 - Designates and audits conformity verification bodies
 - Accredits certification bodies
 - Establishes [organic equivalency arrangements](#) with other countries
- 2) [Conformity verification bodies](#)
 - Assess applications from certification bodies and submit recommendations for accreditation of certification bodies to the CFIA
 - Monitor the accredited certification bodies

- 3) [Certification bodies](#)

- Verify that operators produce organic products in compliance with the Canadian Organic Standards
- Issue certificates for organic products as well as for the activities of packaging and labelling when meeting the Canadian Organic Standards
- 4) Operators producing organic products
 - Comply with the Canadian Organic Standards
 - Comply with any relevant Canadian legislation

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/organic-products/labelling-and-general-information/regulating-organic-products/eng/1328082717777/1328082783032>

Organic Production Systems Permitted Substances Lists

<https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/programme-program/normes-standards/internet/bio-org/documents/032-0311-2008-eng.pdf>

Justice Laws Website

Organic Products Regulations, 2009 (SOR/2009-176)

Use of the Agricultural Product Legend

23 (1) No person shall affix the logo set out in Schedule 2 to a product other than an organic product.

(2) Despite subsection (1), no person shall affix the logo set out in Schedule 2 to a multi-ingredient product whose organic content is less than 95%

Canadian General Standards Board

Labelling and Advertising Requirements

24 (1) No person shall affix a label to a product, or make an advertisement for a product, that contains the words “organic”, “organically grown”, “organically raised”, “organically produced” — or similar words, including abbreviations of, symbols for and phonetic renderings of those words — unless the product is

- **(a)** an organic product, other than an organic product that is a multi-ingredient product; or
- **(b)** a multi-ingredient product that is an organic product and that contains at least 95% organic contents.

(2) Despite subsection (1), a multi-ingredient product that is an organic product but contains less than 95% organic contents may be labelled or advertised with the words “organic ingredients” if those words

- **(a)** are immediately preceded with the percentage, rounded down to the nearest whole number, of the contents that are organic; and
- **(b)** are of the same size and prominence as the preceding words, numbers, signs or symbols that indicate the applicable percentage.

(3) Despite subsection (1), a list of ingredients on a label affixed to a multi-ingredient product that is not an organic product may indicate which of the ingredients are organic.

Other Requirements

25 No person shall affix a label containing the words referred to in subsection 24(1) or (2) to an organic product unless the label also contains

- (a)** the name of the certification body that has certified the product as organic;
- (b)** in the case of a multi-ingredient product, the organic contents identified as organic in its list of ingredients; and
- (c)** in the case of an imported product for which the agricultural product legend is used on the label, the statement “Product of” immediately preceding the name of the country of origin or the statement “Imported” in close proximity to the legend.

Established in 1934, CGSB is a charter participant in the National Standards System of Canada.



The prices below

Organic prices

CROP
Western Canada
Wheat – red spring
Wheat – feed
Wheat – durum
Barley – malt
Barley – feed
Rye – milling
Oats
Flax – brown
Peas – yellow
Peas – green
Lentils – French
Lentils – red
Lentils – green
Ontario
Wheat – soft white
Oats
Corn
Soybeans – Food
Soybeans – Feed
UNITED STATES
Corn – feed
Soybeans – feed
Wheat
Barley – feed

- All prices spot
- Lentils and mung beans
- The organic price is 10% above conventional price

Table 2	Price	Safeway	Walmart	Whole
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	Chopper			Foods
Apples (lb.)				
Regular	\$1.00	\$1.83		
Organic	\$1.20	\$2.20		
% difference	+20%	+20%		
Bananas (lb.)				
Regular	59 cents	48 cents	58 cents	79 cents
Organic	79 cents	79 cents	78 cents	99 cents
% difference	+34%	+65%	+34%	+25%
Beef (85% lean ground, lb.)				
Regular		\$5.99		\$6.99
Organic		\$8.79		\$9.99
% difference		+47%		+43%
Butter (lb.)				
Regular	\$2.99/lb.		\$3.88/lb.	\$3.79/lb.
Organic	\$7.98/lb.		\$6.48/lb.	\$4.39/lb.
% difference	+167%		+67%	+16%
Carrots (baby, lb.)				
Regular	\$1.33	\$2.19	\$1.68	
Organic	\$1.99	\$2.19	\$3.48	
% difference	+50%	0%	+107%	
Chicken, whole/cutup (lb.)				
Regular	\$1.49	\$1.99		\$2.49
Organic	\$3.49	\$2.49		\$3.49
% difference	+134%	+25%		+40%

Cream Cheese (8 oz.)				
Regular	\$1.99	\$3.29		\$3.39
Organic	\$3.69	\$3.89		\$3.39
% difference	+85%	+18%		0%
Eggs (large brown, dozen)				
Regular	\$2.49	\$4.39	\$2.68	\$2.99
Organic	\$4.99	\$4.99	\$4.68	\$3.99
% difference	100%	+14%	+75%	+33%
Honey (lb.)				
Regular	\$5.32	\$5.09		\$7.32
Organic	\$6.12	\$5.29		\$7.59
% difference	+15%	+4%		+4%
Iceberg lettuce (head)				
Regular	\$1.99	\$2.79	\$1.68	
Organic	\$3.49	\$3.29	\$2.48	
% difference	+75%	+18%	+48%	
Maple syrup (Grade A, pint)				
Regular	\$11.99	\$11.84	\$10.21	\$11.99
Organic	\$10.65	\$16.97	\$11.84	\$11.72
% difference	-11%	+43%	+6%	-2%
Milk (half gallon)				
Regular	\$2.99	\$2.69	\$2.20	\$2.39
Organic	\$3.99	\$3.49	\$3.88	\$3.99
% difference	+33%	+30%	+76%	+67%
Olive oil (extra virgin, quart)				
Regular	\$16.08	\$8.64	\$8.98	\$13.24
Organic	\$17.02	\$13.44	\$10.87	\$13.24
% difference	+6%	+56%	+21%	0%

Strawberries (lb.)				
Regular	\$2.99	\$4.39		\$4.99
Organic	\$4.99	\$7.69		\$6.99
% difference	+67%	+75%		+40%
Zucchini (lb.)				
Regular	\$1.99	72 cents	\$1.80	
Organic	\$2.99	\$1.12	\$1.98	
% difference	+50%	+56%	+10%	
Average premium for organic	+59%	+34%	+51%	+24%

Consumer Reports shopped at select grocers, comparing a market basket of conventional perishables and packaged goods with their organic counterparts.

PROPOSED FEDERAL TAX CHANGES

Whereas: On July 18, 2017, the Department of Finance Canada began consultation with Canadians on "Tax Planning Using Private Corporations";

Whereas: The "Tax Planning Using Private Corporations" consultation period was only from July 18, 2017 to October 2, 2017 which did not allow farmers an adequate opportunity to consult with financial professionals and provide informed input into the consultation;

Whereas: In October 2017, Honourable Minister Morneau announced certain changes to the initial proposal but no details of changes have been released;

Whereas: The "Tax Planning Using Private Corporations" document proposes significant changes to Lifetime Capital Gains Deduction, Income Sprinkling and other rules related to corporations and trusts that will have significant impact on family farms and other rural businesses;

Whereas: The proposed changes threaten the viability of farmers and their family farms and have potential implications for the amount of tax farmers pay and could penalize farmers for trying to keep family farms within the family by establishing farm corporations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and the Premier of Alberta advocate for the Family Farm and small businesses of Alberta to revoke the proposed tax changes in the "Tax Planning Using Private Corporations" document released by Department of Finance Canada, on July 18, 2017.

SPONSORED BY: Athabasca County

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

CARRIED

DEFEATED

STATUS

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

BACKGROUND

On July 18, 2017 the Department of Finance Canada released a document named "Tax Planning Using Private Corporations" for consultation with Canadians. The consultation period on this document was from July 18 to October 2, 2017.

This document outlined significant changes to Lifetime Capital Gains Deduction, Income Sprinkling and other rules related to corporations and trusts. The proposed changes will have significant impact on all small businesses, including farm corporations. These changes include more taxes being paid by family farms, more complex farm succession planning, and more farmers caught by complex rules.

The Honourable Minister of Finance of Canada Bill Morneau has announced changes to these proposals October 16-19, 2017 indicating they will not be moving forward with measures to limit the Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption, they will soften the proposed changes to passive income and will not move forward on measures relating to the conversion of income into capital gains. However the remaining rules and lack of transparency in the details has added increased complexity and uncertainty to farm businesses across the province.

These proposals will extend the Tax on Split Income to amounts received by related adult individuals (adult children, spouses, parents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews) commencing in 2018. These proposed rules will, however, not include amounts received by a related adult individual that are considered "reasonable" in the circumstances. If the payment to the adult family member is considered unreasonable, the unreasonable portion (referred to as a "split portion") will be taxed at the highest marginal rate. More restrictive rules apply when assessing the reasonableness of contributions made by young adults (between the ages of 18 and 24 years old). With many farms involving multiple family members the introduction of these "reasonableness tests will add significantly increased complexity and reporting for farms splitting income to family members with the possibility of double taxation in some circumstances.

Although it has been announced there will be no changes to the Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption and Conversion of Income into Capital Gains for the negative consequences to intergenerational family transfers there has been limited details provided and no mention as to whether these proposals will occur again in the future.

The final proposed change deals with passive investments held within a corporation. Until a corporation distributes an amount to a shareholder they will pay corporate tax rates on passive investments. When the amount is extracted they would pay at the individual rate. The Federal Government's view is that this deferral gives rise to an unfair tax benefit. Although a number of changes have been announced there is potential to significantly increase compliance costs for farms and undermine retirement and intergenerational transfers in the family farm.

The retention of the income splitting rules will result in uncertainty as to what the CRA auditor would find as expectable wages, dividends or capital gains realized by all family members.

The Minister of Finance did not indicate what the consultation process would be, how long it would take place and who would be involved.

The timing of the changes if not messed with the year-end of parties involved may result in unfair tax implications.

Additional information can be obtained by following the link to the Department of Finance Canada website regarding Tax Planning Using Private Corporations

<http://www.fin.gc.ca/activty/consult/tppc-pfsp-eng.asp>

WEED CONTROL ON ALBERTA VACANT PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN GREEN AREAS

- WHEREAS** Weeds cause significant changes to ecosystems resulting in economic harm to our agricultural and recreational industries;
- WHEREAS** Weeds are legislated under Alberta's *Weed Control Act* and seriously threaten the viability of lands if not properly managed;
- WHEREAS** Weeds are known to disrupt and potentially destroy natural habitats, putting wildlife habitat at risk;
- WHEREAS** While some invasive plant monitoring and control is occurring within Alberta Environment and Parks managed land, it should be extended to all lands held within ownership of the Ministry;
- WHEREAS** Alberta Environment and Parks Business Plan 2017-2020 Outcome One, commits to "work with strategic partners to conserve landscapes representative of Alberta's natural regions and ecosystems that protect biodiversity and provide habitat for common, vulnerable and endangered species"¹;
- WHEREAS** Alberta Environment and Parks Business Plan 2017-2020, Outcome Four, Key Strategies 4.14 states "Develop and implement plans and programs to anticipate and minimize impacts of catastrophic events and to protect communities, including: a framework to address invasive species in Alberta"²;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

Alberta Environment and Parks immediately implement a permanent program, with adequate allocation of staff and funds for weed control on vacant public lands within green areas as part of a comprehensive framework to address invasive species in Alberta.

SPONSORED BY: Yellowhead County

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

CARRIED

DEFEATED

STATUS

¹ Business Plan 2017-2020, Alberta Environment and Parks, Page 66 <http://finance.alberta.ca/publications/budget/budget2017/environment-and-parks.pdf>

² Business Plan 2017-2020, Alberta Environment and Parks, Page 71 <http://finance.alberta.ca/publications/budget/budget2017/environment-and-parks.pdf>

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Environment and Parks

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Issue and Impacts:

Adjacent landowners are frustrated with the weeds in the Provincial green areas because weeds are propagating into their lands causing financial burden.

Potential transfer of weeds provincially, federally and internationally:

Green areas within Alberta host a broad range of activities, increasing the probability of distribution of weeds throughout the Province. "Alberta's landscape is facing increasing and competing demands including those associated with outdoor recreation and services in Alberta's parks and on public lands. Effectively managing the impacts of outdoor recreation may also create an opportunity for expansion of recreation and tourism industries as part of an evolution to greener and more diversified economy."³

"Albertans now have new opportunities to learn about the future of conservation and recreation uses for Alberta parks and recreation areas. The Environment and Parks Ministry heard from many Albertans who camp, fish, hunt and hike with their families. They want parks, recreation areas, fish and wildlife populations and habitats protected for future generations."⁴ Alberta Environment and Parks has identified that outdoor opportunities are important to Albertans but failed to allocate sufficient resources for the management and preservation of these natural areas.

While Alberta Environment and Parks recently took steps towards the development of a framework for invasive species, this initiative does not address the lack of operational program for weed control encompassing Alberta public lands within green areas.

Provincial legislation:

Part 1.

Noxious weeds - control

2 A person shall control a noxious weed that is on land the person owns or occupies.

Prohibited noxious weeds – destroy

3 A person shall destroy a prohibited noxious weed that is on land the person owns or occupies

Spread of weeds prohibited

³ Annual Report 2016-2017. Alberta Environment and Parks. Page 16, <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2371-0977>

⁴ Annual Report 2016-2017. Alberta Environment and Parks. Page 16, <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/2371-0977>

- 4(1) Subject to the regulations, a person shall not use or move anything that, if used or moved, might spread a noxious weed or prohibited noxious weeds.

The Province is not abiding by its own legislation intended to control the spread of noxious and eradicate prohibited noxious weeds. By not controlling the vacant public land within green areas, municipalities are put in the uncomfortable position of having to issue weed notices to the Province.

The Alberta *Weed Control Act* was proclaimed in Alberta in 1907 and aims to regulate noxious weeds, prohibited noxious weeds, and weeds seeds through various control measures such as inspection and enforcement.

Other Stakeholders:

Alberta Invasive Species Council – This group of individuals and organizations work hard to educate the public on invasive species (plants, and organisms) not only in our province, but also those that can potentially be introduced in our province. This group tries very hard to stop the spread of invasive species. www.abinvasives.ca

Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen – This is a group of 155 members employed and appointed to inspect and enforce the Alberta *Weed Control Act* and/or Alberta *Agricultural Pest Act* for municipalities. www.aaaf.ab.ca

Agricultural Services Board – There are 70 municipalities that have an Agricultural Services Board (ASB) in Alberta. ASB's create plans and policies which can include proactive measures to reduce invasive populations in their jurisdictions. [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/All/rsv13511](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/All/rsv13511)

Alberta Agriculture & Forestry - The Alberta *Weed Control Act* is an act that has been around since 1907. This is an act that was created by the Alberta Government. www.agric.gov.ab.ca

Alberta Environment & Parks - The Alberta *Public Lands Act* is an act that has been around since 1931. This act was created as a land allocation tool, to support the orderly allocation, development and use of public land. www.aep.alberta.ca

Past Resolution Efforts:

2004

RESOLUTION #6 INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT

We asked: BE IT RESOLVED Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Community Development, and Alberta Environment immediately implement and integrate a permanent, comprehensive, cooperative, and adequately funded invasive plant control program on lands they manage, in consultation with Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards, with the goal of fulfilling their commitments to Albertans.

2004

RESOLUTION NO. 13-04S INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request the Government of Alberta to immediately implement and integrate a permanent, comprehensive, cooperative and adequately funded invasive plant control program on lands managed by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Community Development and Albert Environment, in consultation with the province's agricultural service boards, with the goal of fulfilling their commitment to Albertans.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This resolution was introduced by the M.D. of Pincher Creek No. 9 at the annual agricultural service board convention held in Lethbridge, and endorsed by the voting delegates. The proposed resolution seeks confirmation that a number of provincial government departments will properly deal with invasive plants on the respective public properties under their jurisdiction. There is a concern that budgeted funding for weed control did not follow lands when department jurisdiction over the lands was internally "shuffled."

2016

Resolution #1 -Proactive Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways

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 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.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**APPEALS TO THE MINISTER UNDER THE *WEED CONTROL ACT* AND
*AGRICULTURAL PESTS ACT***

- WHEREAS** Agricultural Fieldmen must be qualified persons, and Agricultural Appeal Committees are appointed by each municipality and consist of individuals with local agricultural knowledge;
- WHEREAS** Pest and Weed issues need to be dealt with in a timely manner to prevent their establishment and spread;
- WHEREAS** Considering that current technology offers near instantaneous communication, determining an appeal should be possible within a reasonable time frame;
- WHEREAS** The local appeal committee has a specific deadline of 5 days to hear and determine appeals under the *Weed Control Act* and the *Agricultural Pests Act*;
- WHEREAS** The local municipality, as well as the landowner/occupant needs to know if an appeal is to be confirmed, varied or rescinded to allow for proper control decisions regarding agronomic and environmental factors;
- WHEREAS** There are examples from around the Province where the Minister has taken from 6 months to an excess of a year to hear and determine an appeal;
- WHEREAS** The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry has no specific deadline to hear and determine appeals under the *Weed Control Act* or *Agricultural Pests Act*;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry amend the *Weed Control Act* and the *Agricultural Pests Act* and applicable Regulations to give the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry 30 days to hear and determine appeals.

Sponsored By: Saddle Hills County and Northern Sunrise County

Moved By: Simon Lavoie

Seconded By: Donald Dumont

Carried: X

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Background information:

The current appeal timelines under both the *Weed Control Act* and *Agricultural Pests Act* (and/or Regulations) are as follows:

The appellant has 10 days or the time specified on the notice (whichever is less) to launch an appeal.

The local appeal committee shall meet, hear and determine the appeal within 5 days.

The appellant has 3 days to request the Minister to review, if dissatisfied with the local appeal committee decision.

The timelines are short because time is of the essence when dealing with weed and pest issues, yet the Minister has no deadline.

Northern Sunrise County issued 2 Agricultural Pests Act Notices for *Fusarium Graminearum* on April 17, 2012. These Notices prohibited the seeding of a cereal crop for the 2012- 2015 growing seasons. They were appealed on April 27, 2012. The local appeal board heard and upheld the appeal in 5 days (May 2, 2012). The landowner appealed to the Minister within the requisite 3 days. The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, (presently Alberta Agriculture and Forestry), heard and upheld the appeal after 425 days (July 2, 2013). Had susceptible crops been seeded they would have been in contravention of the upheld notices, and destruction of the 2013 crop would have followed.

Saddle Hills County had an appeal launched on a notice of the *Weed Control Act*, the local appeal board heard and upheld the Notice in 5 working days. The Minister of Agriculture upheld the Notice in 260 days however the "Action to be completed on or before date" expired prior to receipt of the Minister's appeal decision.

REQUIREMENT TO REPORT CERTAIN PESTS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

- WHEREAS** There are examples, historically and currently where organisms designated as Pests under the *Agricultural Pests Act and Regulation* have been found by individual landowners and occupants, as well as by agronomists and private Pest Control companies which were not reported to the local authority;
- WHEREAS** It would greatly assist the local authority in being able to (per Section 6 of the *Agricultural Pests Act*) "take active measures to prevent the establishment of, or to control or destroy, pests in the municipality" if a requirement to report the pests when found existed;
- WHEREAS** There is no provision in the current *Agricultural Pests Act* requiring the reporting of pests to the local authority;
- WHEREAS** If not reporting a pest when found was listed as an offence it could be dealt with per Section 23 under "Offences and Penalties";
- WHEREAS** It would be advisable to also amend Schedule 1 Part 1 of the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation identifying the specific pests which require notification to the local authority;
- WHEREAS** Notifying the local authority of the pests Norway Rat and any other rat species derived from the *Genus Rattus*, Wild boar when at large as well as Clubroot would improve the local authority's ability to deal with these, and benefit the people, agricultural industry and enhance environmental protection of the province

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry amend the *Agricultural Pests Act* and applicable Regulations to require all persons to report any instances of Norway rat, Wild boar when at large as well as Clubroot to the local authority.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry amend the *Agricultural Pest Acts* and applicable Regulations making it an offence to not report the aforementioned specific pests to the local authority.

Sponsored By: Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130

Moved By: Donald Dumont

Seconded By: Andre Trudeau

Carried: X

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Background information:

It is believed that during the Medicine Hat/Cypress County Norway rat outbreaks some private Pest Control companies were dealing with Norway rat situations that were not reported to the local authority. The properties surrounding these situations could have been followed up and dealt with more properly by the local authority had they been aware of them soon enough.

In the 2017 outbreak in Big Lakes County, Clubroot was found by agronomists and landowners, but was not voluntarily reported to the local authority causing consternation to the local authority and area producers. Therefore, it could not be confirmed the landowner would take the appropriate steps under the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan and/or Big Lakes County Policy to prevent the spread of and control of the Pest.

Under the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry "Wild boar when at large" program, having individuals report sightings is encouraged. Being able to follow up for confirmation and eradication on these sightings is key to the success of the program, which would be aided by making the reporting of these pests a legal requirement.

Making it a requirement to have all pest sightings be reported could inundate the local authority with calls about pests which are listed under the Regulations, but are to a great extent naturalized in Alberta, including grasshoppers and Blackleg of canola. It is not our intent to have the people of Alberta as "offenders under the *Agricultural Pests Act*" because they choose not to report grasshoppers, which in outbreak years are potentially present throughout a municipality, nor do we wish to see valuable municipal time taken answering what would really be "nuisance" calls.

It should also be considered when the Act and Regulations are updated to allow the local authority to pass bylaws, a) to designate pests within the municipality and to b) designate which pests are reportable within the municipality. These bylaws should be subject to the approval of the Minister to ensure consistency and that species under the *Wildlife Act* (for instance) are not designated as pests.

In 2013, a resolution requiring the reporting of rats was passed by Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards, with the response from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development as follows:

Resolution #3

Reporting Rats

Therefore be it resolved that Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards request that Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development make it a requirement, under the Agricultural Pests Act, that individuals and especially commercial pest control companies, finding a Norway Rat, be required by law to report the presence of the pest, alive or dead, to provincial Pest Inspectors.

Further be it resolved that Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards request that Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development immediately take steps to inform pest control companies and the public that notification of the presence of rats, dead or alive, is required by law.

Response:

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

The Agricultural Pests Act is the only Act that deals with pests such as the Norway rat. This act was originally scheduled to be heard in the Legislature in 2014 but has been delayed until 2016. The review of this Act has been assigned to the Pest Management Branch of Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD). This review has included consultation with various stakeholders including the Agricultural Service Boards.

The contents of this resolution will be provided to the Pest Management Branch for consideration during the review process.

The Inspection and Investigation Branch of Regulatory Services Division, and in particular the Rat and Pest Specialist Phil Merrill, has been proactive in the operation of the Rat Control Program.

A generic response plan for municipalities outside the rat control zone has been developed after an infestation in Medicine Hat was discovered and eradicated last fall. This plan will be distributed to all Agricultural Fieldmen and Pest Control Officers in the Province as well as all urban municipalities as a draft guide for their use and implementation. Contained in this response plan is the protocol that all confirmed rat sightings and confirmed rat infestations are to be reported to ARD's Rat and Pest Specialist.

This reporting would be completed by the Pest Control Officer or the commercial pest control company involved. Compliance of this new reporting protocol will be monitored by the Rat and Pest Specialist.

In 2015 a resolution requiring the reporting of clubroot was passed at the Provincial ASB Conference with response from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development as follows:

Pest Control Act - Clubroot

Therefore be it resolved that Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards request

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

Response:

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

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

- *This would provide ARD, and industry, with the tools to monitor, and quickly respond to threats. A provision for the mandatory reporting of specified high risk pests is being considered in the APA review*

Contact: Dr. David Feindel, Director, Pest Surveillance Branch, 780-422-4911

To date no review of the *Agricultural Pests Act* and Regulation has taken place.

WILDLIFE PREDATOR COMPENSATION PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT

- WHEREAS** Predation by carnivores and birds of prey continues to be a problem for ranchers and agriculture producers;
- WHEREAS** Many Municipalities have submitted multiple resolutions in this regard for these same problems;
- WHEREAS** To maintain the credibility of the program, livestock losses must be confirmed by Fish and Wildlife Officers, as killed or injured by predators;
- WHEREAS** The protection of life and property is a priority for the provincial government, which means providing a response to reports of problem wildlife, may sometimes shift the efforts of Fish and Wildlife Officers away from the predator control mandate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Ministers of Environment and Parks, Justice and Solicitor General, and all other relevant government ministries implement an enhanced Predator Compensation Program that could utilize trained Municipal Problem Wildlife staff to assist in the confirmation of livestock loss, both livestock death and livestock injury in a timely and prompt manner.

Sponsored by: MD of Greenview

Moved by: Dale Smith

Seconded by: Allan Perkins

Carried: X

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Environment and Parks, Justice and Solicitor General, Agriculture and Forestry

Back Ground Information:

Alberta's Wildlife Predator Compensation Program provides compensation for eligible food-producing livestock (cattle, swine, goats, sheep and bison) confirmed to be killed or injured by predators (bears, wolves, cougars, and eagles). The program provides compensation at the average market value for the type and class of animal lost.

To maintain the credibility of the program, livestock losses must be confirmed as killed or injured by predators. Predators are opportunistic animals and are often found feeding on livestock carcasses that have died from other causes. Livestock producers seeking compensation for lost or injured animals are encouraged to contact Fish and Wildlife Officers as soon as possible to confirm that the animal was killed or injured by a predator. This is the point where if Fish and Wildlife Officers are not available to investigate, then the producer may not get compensation due to the delay in investigating the loss or injury of the livestock and the deterioration of evidence.

CROP INSURANCE FOR ALBERTA FRUIT PRODUCERS

- WHEREAS:** The local food movement is growing in Alberta and local producers are marketing fruit directly to consumers through u-pick operations, farmers markets and community supported agriculture;
- WHEREAS:** The Agricultural Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) does not at this time provide crop insurance for fruit production (multiple year crops in Alberta);
- WHEREAS:** Fruit production in Alberta is subject to the same climate issues as annual crops;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Agricultural Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) review its AgriInsurance Products list and consider providing crop insurance coverage for fruit producers in Alberta including saskatoons, haskap, strawberries, raspberries, sour cherries, currants and other fruit and change their AgriInsurance Products listing to include multi-year or long-term crops.

SPONSORED BY: Cypress County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____ **DEFEATED:** _____

STATUS: _____

DEPARTMENT: Agricultural Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

BACKGROUND

The complete listing of the 2017 Canada-Alberta AgriInsurance Products for Annual Crops is listed at <https://www.afsc.ca/doc.aspx?id=8067>. There is no listing for fruit (multi-year, perennial crops).

Fruit production is subject to the many of the same challenges as annual crops including hail, wind, frost, and other forces of nature.

The Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association (AFFPA) is a voluntary membership, non-profit organization representing direct market growers across the province of Alberta. Most AFFPA members market directly to consumers via u-Pick farms, farm gate sales and/or through farmers' markets, etc. AFFPA has members all across Alberta.

AFFPA is dedicated to supporting the production of farm direct marketed vegetable crops, berry and fruit crops, bedding plants, perennials, herbs, flowers, meats, poultry, eggs and other specialty items in Alberta.

Last year many of AFFPA members have suffered devastating losses to their saskatoon crops with many of them having to cancel u-pick, shipments to secondary users, loss of revenue from value added products and loss of employment. Within the AFFPA membership we have 53 members growing saskatoons. This is nearly half of our membership. There are also several other farms growing saskatoons, who are not members of AFFPA and belong to the Saskatoon Berry Council of Canada. Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association has received reports from several of its members in 2016 and some members from the Saskatoon Berry Council of Canada indicating 75 % to complete fruit losses. Two of these farms with 30-40 acres of saskatoons lost 100% of their fruit. In 2015 one of farm reported 80,000 lbs of fruit and 0 lbs for 2016.

We also have a huge number of strawberry, raspberry, haskap, currants, and sour cherry producers along with a few other fruits. This year we also had growers lose strawberry production due to hail.

The membership of AFFPA request AFSC look into providing crop insurance for fruit growers in Alberta. We hope that with crop insurance available for fruit growers, we may be able to attract more growers to fill the growing demand for local Alberta grown fruit.

INCREASING LIMITS FOR FARM DIRECT MARKETING OF CHICKENS FOR ALL FARM DIRECT PRODUCERS

WHEREAS: The local food movement is growing in Alberta and local producers are marketing directly to consumers through farmers' markets, on-farm stores, community supported agriculture programs, etc. with locally grown fruits, vegetables, and proteins;

WHEREAS: There needs to be fairness for all farm direct marketers for selling local food directly to consumers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Alberta Chicken Producers allow non-communal groups to produce, market, and consume up to 6,000 chickens in a calendar year.

SPONSORED BY: Cypress County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____ DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: _____

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Chicken Producers and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

Background

From the Alberta Chicken Producers website "Alberta Chicken Producers is a farmer-run, not-for-profit marketing board that regulates broiler chicken production in Alberta." The Directors are Alberta broiler farmers, elected by Alberta broiler farmers and administered by the Executive Director and staff. The 250 certified and licensed family farms produce over 135 million kg live weight of chicken annually, with a farm gate value of over \$205 million.

In Agdex 844-5 - Farm Directing Marketing: Know the Regulations Poultry and Poultry Products it states that "Under the Alberta Chicken Producers' Plan Regulation and the Alberta Chicken Producers Marketing Regulation, a producer is exempt from licensing and quota provisions if you do not produce more than 2,000 chickens in a calendar year and you reside on the land where the chickens are produced. "

The conditions for this exemption are

- chickens must be consumed by you and your family or
- chickens may only be sold direct to end consumers from your chicken operation or at a farmers' market.

However, communal groups are permitted as a communal group to produce, market, and consume up to 6,000 chickens in a calendar year. A communal group is listed as not fewer than 50 individuals in which the members live and work together in an agricultural enterprise. These members are not permitted to own property in their own right and the members devote their working lives to the activities of a communal group.

Farm Direct Marketing

The Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association (AFFPA) is a voluntary membership, non-profit organization representing direct market growers across the province of Alberta. Most AFFPA members market directly to consumers via U-pick farms, farm gate sales and/or through farmers' markets.

AFFPA is dedicated to supporting the production of farm direct marketed vegetable crops, berry and fruit crops, bedding plants, perennials, herbs, flowers, meats, poultry, eggs and other specialty items in Alberta.

Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association hereby requests that the Alberta Chicken Producers' Plan Regulation and the Alberta Chicken Producers Marketing Regulation change the limit of 2,000 chickens in a calendar year to 6,000 chickens for **all** farm direct marketers.

Farm direct marketers outside the communal group arrangement often have higher labour costs, may be involved in a variety of direct to consumer market channels, and would like to grow the family farm to support other family members wanting to stay in the farm direct marketing business taking advantage of local food initiatives.

FARM DIRECT MARKETING OF EGGS AND PRODUCTS USING EGGS

WHEREAS: The local food movement is growing in Alberta and local producers are marketing protein and baked goods directly to consumers through u-pick operations, farmers' markets and community supported agriculture;

WHEREAS: Uninspected eggs cannot be used to produce processed products such as pickled eggs or baked goods that will be sold at any marketing venue including farmers markets' but uninspected, whole eggs can be sold directly to consumers for their own personal use as long as it is the farmer selling their own eggs;

WHEREAS Egg Farmers of Alberta Marketing Regulation allows only the ownership of 300 hens for farm direct marketers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Egg Farmers of Alberta review its Poultry and Poultry Products Regulations to allow farm direct marketers to use their own uninspected eggs in their processed products provided these products are sold direct to the end consumer and that the farm direct marketer follow standard food safety handling procedures.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Egg Farmers of Alberta review its Poultry and Poultry Products Regulations to allow farm direct marketers to increase the ownership from 300 hens to 600 hens.

Sponsored by: Cypress County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____ Defeated: _____

Status: _____

Department: Egg Farmers of Alberta and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

Background

The sale of eggs direct to end consumers falls under the "Purchase and Sale of Eggs and Processed Egg Regulation and is a provincial regulation under the *Livestock and Livestock Products Act*.

In this regulation it states that uninspected, ungraded eggs can be sold directly to consumers for their own personal use only if

the eggs are produced on the producer's own farm

the eggs are clean, have no visible cracks and are not leaking

the eggs are kept at an ambient temperature of 7° C or less

the eggs are packed in clean containers that are conspicuously labeled with the word "UNINSPECTED" in letters that are at least 2 centimeters in height

Ungraded eggs cannot be sold, given or bartered to an intermediary who uses them as an ingredient in products that will then be sold to consumers. Graded eggs must be used to produce processed products such as pickled eggs or any baked good that will be sold at any marketing venue including farmers' markets.

Farm Direct Marketing

The Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association (AFFPA) is a voluntary membership, non-profit organization representing direct market growers across the province of Alberta. Most AFFPA members market directly to consumers via U-Pick farms, farm gate sales and/or through farmers' markets.

AFFPA is dedicated to supporting the production of farm direct market vegetable crops, berry and fruit crops, bedding plants, perennials, herbs, flowers, meats, poultry, eggs and other specialty items in Alberta.

Many of our members produce eggs for sale directly to consumers. However, under these regulations, these same farmers are not allowed to sell baked goods or pickled eggs made with these same uninspected eggs in their baked or pickled egg products sold directly to consumers. Baked goods are cooked and heated to 350 F and pickled goods are processed at a pH of 4.6, significantly decreasing food safety concerns.

AFFPA requests that the Purchase and Sale of Eggs and Processed Egg Regulation be amended to allow farm direct marketers to use their own uninspected eggs in any baked or pickled egg products that they sell direct to the consumer provided they follow standard food safety procedures.

In addition, the Egg Farmers of Alberta Plan Regulation and the Egg Farmers of Alberta Marketing Regulation specify that "no person shall possess, whether by ownership of otherwise, more than 300 hens unless that person is licensed by the Egg Farmers of Alberta marketing board.

According to Agdex 844-5 Farm Direct Marketing: Know the Regulations Poultry and Poultry Products, the Egg Farmers of Alberta have a new entrant program. "When Alberta is allocated additional national quota, lots of 1500 hens of new entrant quota are made available, the Egg Farmers of Alberta will make public notification of the program when quota is made available.

Applicants submit required information to the marketing board, and if there are too many eligible applicants for the lots available, a draw is held to determine the successful applicants.”

Many AFFPA members sell direct to consumers through farmers’ markets and through community supported agriculture (CSA) programs. With only 300 hens, a typical farm direct marketer with or without a CSA program can only produce at most 25 dozen eggs/day. This new entrant program does not guarantee that a farm direct marketer will get quota through this process. The Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association therefore request that the Egg Farmers of Alberta Plan Regulation and the Egg Farmers of Alberta Marketing Regulation increase the ownership of hens from 300 to 600 for farm direct marketers.

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 11, 2017
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	Farm and Ranch Workers Legislation
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The board is presented with Brazeau County letter to all Agricultural Service Board's regarding this concern with the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) regulations for The Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act. Brazeau County has given concerns with respect to the OHS recommendations as well as the timeline for comments.

BACKGROUND:

Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board feels that the current deadline of January 15, 2018, does not give producers enough time to review the recommendation, clearly understand the impacts and to submit their comments.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Dear Agricultural Fieldman Letter
2. Brazeau County letter to Minister
3. Clear Hills County draft letter to the Minister
4. Workplace Legislation for Farms article

OPTIONS:

1. Recommend Council approve the draft letter and send to the Minister of Labour, Christina Gray.
2. Accept for information.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council send a letter to Minister of Labour, Christina Gray, to request an extension of the comment period regarding the Occupational Health and Safety regulations for the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act until April 30, 2018.

Initials show support - Reviewed by:

Manager:

AF:



Brazeau County

7401 – Twp Rd 494, P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A-1R1
PHONE: (780) 542-7777 - FAX: (780) 542-7770
www.brazeau.ab.ca

November 2, 2017

Dear Agriculture Fieldman,

RE: Farm and Ranch Workers Legislation – Request for Extension of Comment Period to April 30, 2018, and to Hold Town Hall Meetings

Please find the attached copy of the letter written to Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and the Minister of Labour indicating our concerns with the timeline for comments on the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) recommendations with respect to The Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act.

The Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) feels that the current deadline of January 15, 2018, does not give producers enough time to review the recommendations, clearly understand the impacts, and to submit their comments.

With that in mind the following motion was made on November 1, 2017, at the ASB meeting:

152/17 Moved by S. Wheale to direct Administration to fan out letter to all ASBs in the Province and the AAAF to gather support to the letter to the Minister requesting extension of comment period.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

We, therefore, request that you distribute the attached letter to your respective ASB Chairperson. It is our hope that each ASB will convey their support of this initiative by sending the same or a similar letter to the applicable Ministers to request an extension of the comment period to April 30, 2018, and to hold town hall meetings in each region (South, Central, Northwest, Northeast, and Peace) of Alberta.

This would give farmers and ranchers opportunity to fully understand the OHS recommendations before they become entrenched into legislation.

Sincerely,

Maureen Schwab
Chairperson, Agricultural Service Board

Brazeau County ASB



Brazeau County

7401 – Twp Rd 494, P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A-1R1
PHONE: (780) 542-7777 - FAX: (780) 542-7770
www.brazeau.ab.ca

November 2, 2017

Honourable Christina Gray
Minister of Labour
Minister Responsible for Democratic Renewal
107 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister,

RE: Farm and Ranch Workers Legislation – Request for Extension of Comment Period to April 30, 2018, and to Hold Town Hall Meetings

The Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board members and County Administration have reviewed the recommendations that have recently been issued from the technical working groups with respect to the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) regulations for The Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act. We have grave concerns with respect to the OHS recommendations as well as the timeline for comments.

Producers locally and across the province are completing harvest, bringing feed in, moving cattle, weaning and marketing cows. It is our strong feeling that the timelines placed on the comment period do not allow ample time for farmers and ranchers across the province to review the recommendations, clearly understand their impacts, and to comment.

With that in mind we respectfully submit the following motion made during the November 1, 2017, Agricultural Services Board (ASB) meeting:

151/17 Moved by A. Heinrich to direct Administration to send a request letter to the applicable Ministers to extend comment cutoff date to April 30, 2018, and that the ministry hold at least two central town hall meetings in each region regarding the impacts of the OHS recommendations from the technical working groups on The Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

All members of the board feel this is a crucial issue and we are encouraging all Agricultural Service Boards across the province to support our request. We appreciate in advance your consideration

Brazeau County ASB



Brazeau County

7401 – Twp Rd 494, P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A-1R1

PHONE: (780) 542-7777 - FAX: (780) 542-7770

www.brazeau.ab.ca

of our request to extend the comment period until April 30, 2018, and to hold town hall meetings in each region (South, Central, Northwest, Northeast, and Peace) of Alberta.

Sincerely,

Maureen Schwab

Chairperson, Agricultural Service Board

MS/tl

Cc: Minister Oneil Carlier, Agriculture and Forestry
229 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6



CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

December 11, 2017

File No. 63-10-02

Honourable Christina Gray
Minister of Labour
Minister Responsible for Democratic Renewal
107 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister,

**RE: Farm and Ranch Workers Legislation – Request for Extension of Comment
Period to April 30, 2018 and to hold Town Hall Meetings**

Clear Hills County Council and Agricultural Service Board have reviewed the recommendations that have recently been issued from the technical working groups with respect to the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) regulations for The Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch and Workers Act. We have great concerns with respect to the OHS recommendations as well as the timeline for comments.

Producers locally and across the province are completing harvest, bringing feed in, moving cattle, weaning and marketing cows. It is our strong feeling that the timeliness places in the comment period do not allow ample time for farmers and ranchers across the province to review the recommendations, clearly understand their impacts, and to comment.

With that in mind we respectfully submit the following motion made during the December 11, 2017, Agricultural Service Board (ASB) meeting:

<motion>

All members of the broad feel this is a crucial issue and we are encouraging all Agricultural Service Boards across the province to support our request. We appreciate in advance your consideration of our request to extend the comment period until April 30, 2018, and to hold town hall meeting in each region (South, Central, Northwest and Peace) of Alberta.

Sincerely,

Jason Ruecker
Reeve

/sh

Cc: Minister Oneil Carlier, Agricultural and Forestry

Box 240, Worsley, Alberta T0H 3W0 Telephone 780/685-3925 Fax 780/ 685-3960 Email info@clearhillscounty.ab.ca

"Clearly an Area of Opportunity"

Workplace legislation for farms

Alberta's *Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act* passed in 2015 brings the protection and compensation of waged, non-family farm and ranch workers in line with similar protections in other sectors and other Canadian provinces.

Government consulted with the agricultural community on how best to apply workplace standards to the agricultural sector while recognizing its unique characteristics and continuing our commitment to protect the family farm way of life.

Six farm and ranch technical working groups were formed to do this work and provided recommendations to government. They included representatives from the agricultural community, labour groups and technical experts.

The *Fair and Family-friendly Workplaces Act* passed on June 5. It included changes to the *Employment Standards Code* and *Labour Relations Code* that will apply to farms and ranches. These changes considered input from the farm and ranch technical working groups, which reviewed employment standards and labour relations, as well as the public.

Most changes that affect farms and ranches will come into effect on Jan. 1, 2018, with the exception of the availability of Public Emergency Tribunals, which took effect on June 7, 2017 and changes to youth employment standards which will be proclaimed after additional engagement with stakeholders including the agricultural community.

This information sheet answers some of the frequently asked questions by members of the agricultural community regarding the new legislation.

Frequently Asked Questions

What has changed now that the bill has been passed?

The changes will make sure Albertans have similar rights and protections enjoyed by other Canadians. Alberta has some of the oldest labour laws in Canada. The *Employment Standards Code* and *Labour Relations Code* had not significantly updated in almost 30 years, leaving our province behind the rest of the country.

The *Fair and Family-friendly Workplaces Act* gives Alberta the modern, balanced workplace laws that enable businesses, including farm and ranch operations, to thrive and prosper while ensuring basic fairness for workers.

Will these new rules apply to all farms and ranches?

The *Employment Standards Code* and *Labour Relations Code* will apply only to farms and ranches with waged, non-family employees.

Workers excluded from the Codes are:

- Farm owners
- Family members of farm owners
- Non-employee relatives, friends and neighbours helping out
- Children doing chores or participating in activities such as 4-H or helping neighbours and friends
- Participating in recreational activities such as hunting on farmland

The definition of family member is: Family member, in relation to a shareholder, sole proprietor or partner, means

- The spouse or adult interdependent partner of the shareholder, sole proprietor or partner, or
- Whether by blood, marriage or adoption or by virtue of an adult interdependent relationship, a child, parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew or first cousin of the shareholder, sole proprietor or partner or of the shareholder's, sole proprietor's or partner's spouse or adult interdependent partner, and includes any other person prescribed by the regulations to be a family member.

Do these new rules apply to Occupational Health and Safety?

No, the *Fair and Family-friendly Workplaces Act* only includes rules regarding employment standards and labour relations. The technical working groups reviewing occupation health and safety have submitted their reports to government, which are currently being reviewed. Government is currently consulting with the agricultural sector to provide practical guidelines for farms and ranches. Government will continue to communicate and consult with Albertans as we move forward in this process.



Employment Standards

What are employment standards?

Employment standards legislation sets minimum standards for conditions of employment. They include hours of work, overtime, holidays, vacation, minimum wage and youth employment.

How will these new rules apply to farms and ranches?

On Jan. 1, 2018, Alberta's *Employment Standards Code* will have special rules for waged, non-family workers in the agriculture sector:

- **Hours of work and overtime** – farms and ranches are not subject to the current standards on hours of work and overtime due to the extended working hours required during periods of harvest and seeding.
- **General holiday pay** – will be based on 4.2 per cent of the previous four weeks' wages.
- **Rest periods** – employees are entitled to four days of rest for every 28 days of work. Selection of days of rest will be at the employer's discretion if the employer and employee can't agree.

Employment standards that **will** apply to waged, non-family workers include:

- **Minimum wage** (\$13.60/hour effective Oct. 1, 2017; \$15/hour Oct. 1, 2018)
- **Unpaid, job-protected leaves** after 90 days of work:
 - » maternity leave (16 weeks)
 - » parental leave (37 weeks)
 - » reservist leave (as needed)
 - » compassionate care leave (27 weeks)
 - » bereavement leave (three days)
 - » domestic violence leave (10 days)
 - » citizenship ceremony leave (half day)
 - » critical illness of a child leave (36 weeks)
 - » long-term illness and injury leave (16 weeks)
 - » personal and family responsibility leave (five days)
 - » death or disappearance of a child leave (52 week/104 weeks)

What are the rules around employing youth?

The following rules will apply only to waged, non-family employees.

*NOTE – No changes are being made immediately. Changes will come into effect only after Alberta Labour consults on the list of light work jobs and a definition for hazardous work. The light work jobs list and the hazardous work definition are expected in the fall of 2017.

- Children aged 12 and under
 - prohibited from work, except for artistic endeavors approved by permit from Employment Standards.

How will these new rules apply to greenhouses, nurseries, mushroom and sod farms?

These operations are not considered farms under the *Employment Standards Code*, so regular rules under the Code apply to them. Government has committed to consult with the industry as to whether special rules are required.

*For more information, go to www.alberta.ca and click on "Workplace legislation changes".

Labour Relations

What is the *Labour Relations Code*?

Alberta's *Labour Relations Code* sets out the standards for relationships between employers and employees in unionized workplaces. This includes joining a union, collective bargaining, rights of employers and employees, disputes, prohibited practices and various mechanisms in place to assist parties and settle disputes. The majority of the Code will apply beginning Jan. 1, 2018.

Why is the *Labour Relations Code* being applied to farms and ranches?

Workplaces have evolved since the *Labour Relations Code* was last updated in 1988. Since that time, the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that all workers must have the ability to organize, bargain collectively and take legal job action. Alberta's legislation previously did not comply with this direction, and has been modified to ensure it allows Albertans their constitutional rights, while also retaining fairness and balance. It's government's responsibility to ensure our laws are kept up to date.

How will these new rules apply to farms and ranches?

Waged, non-family employees – In order to comply with the Supreme Court of Canada ruling, waged, non-family employees will have the right to unionize and set up bargaining units with their employers. Each bargaining unit must be comprised of employees working for one employer only.

Bargaining/dispute resolution – Eligible employees who form bargaining units within existing union organizations, or who form their own unions, will be able to bargain with their employers. Government offers a number of services to aid organizations with this process, including mediators and arbitrators to assist employers and unions in resolving disputes. Strikes and lockouts will be allowed.

It is important to remember that under these rules waged, non-family employees do not have to form a union. Historically, and across the rest of Canada, rates of unionization on farms are low. These changes are only meant to ensure that as directed by the Supreme Court all waged, non-family employees, are given access to the same Charter rights that the rest of Canada's work force enjoys.

Do other provinces allow unions to be formed on farms and ranches?

Yes, only Ontario excludes agricultural workers. Agricultural workers in Ontario are covered by the *Agricultural Employees Protection Act* for labour.

How has the ability to have unions on farms and ranches affected farming in those other provinces?

There have been no recorded strikes or lockouts in the agricultural sector in other provinces.

The rate of unionization in the agricultural sector in Canada is low, at 2.6 per cent in 2016, according to the latest Statistics Canada numbers. The rate of unionization for the same year for all industries in Canada was 28.4 per cent.



A strike could damage farming operations. Do farmers and ranchers have any recourse if a strike happens?

Government understands that strikes or lockouts during critical times can become an emergency situation for the care of livestock and crops. In order to protect crops and livestock, government built in protection for farmers through Public Emergency Tribunals. Government can appoint Public Emergency Tribunals to end strikes in a timely manner that could otherwise cause damage to crops and livestock at critical times of the year, and for those operations where continuity of work is required to maintain care.

NOTE - This came into effect June 7, 2017. Public Emergency Tribunals have been used in the past to protect vulnerable Albertans, such as seniors living in continuing care, when strikes or lockouts have had the potential to put them at risk.

What are the new rules for joining a union?

If between 40 per cent and 65 per cent of employees sign cards in favour of a union, a Labour Relations Board-conducted vote will be required. If over 65 per cent sign cards, no board-conducted vote will be required. In all cases, the Board will retain the ability to conduct a vote if there any doubts to the authenticity of the support, or if the Board feels a vote is necessary.

What are the new rules for revoking unionization?

To revoke a union's certification, a minimum of 40 per cent support of employees will be required in order to hold a secret ballot. If a majority of members support decertification in the secret ballot, the union's certification will be revoked.

What is first contract arbitration?

First contract arbitration sets out rules for bargaining between newly certified bargaining units and their employers who haven't been able to establish their first collective agreement. Unresolved disputes would be sent to a neutral third party who will determine the terms of the agreement.

What are the new rules for first contract arbitration?

Employers and unions will have access to first contract arbitration to help settle difficult negotiations for a first contract. This means that if a settlement can't be reached between an employer and a newly-certified bargaining unit within 90 days, either party can request binding arbitration. Both sides will present their bargaining positions to an independent, third-party arbitrator, who will also examine similar agreements, recent trends and economic data to determine a final settlement.

Further information

Employment Standards Code – www.qp.alberta.ca

Labour Relations Code – www.qp.alberta.ca

Alberta Labour website – www.work.alberta.ca

Workplace legislation changes website - www.alberta.ca/workplace-legislation-changes.aspx

Farm and Ranch workplace legislation website – www.farmandranch.alberta.ca

Employment Standards Contact Centre

780-427-3731 (Edmonton)

1-877-427-3731 (toll-free)

Labour Relations Inquiries Contact

Jay Stewart

Director, Labour Relations Policy & Legislation

Alberta Labour

780-638-9557 | Jay.Stewart@gov.ab.ca



Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 11, 2017
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	FEBRUARY MEETING
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The board is requested to reschedule their February meeting, as the regular February meeting falls on Family Day, February 19, 2018 and the County office will be closed for Family Day.

BACKGROUND:

Potential alternate dates for February are the 5th, 12th or 26th.

ATTACHMENTS:

OPTIONS:

1. Move the February Agricultural Meeting to February 5th, 12th or 26th.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board reschedule the February Agricultural Service Board meeting to Monday, February 12, 2017 since Family Day is February 19, 2018.

Initials show support - Reviewed by:	Manager: <i>ABj</i>	AF: <i>AC</i>
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Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	December 11, 2017
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

ATTACHMENTS:

- Greg- Agricultural Fieldman Report-December 11, 2017

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that the Agricultural Service Board accepts the December 11, 2017 Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

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

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT

DEC. 11, 2017

GREG COON

PEST CONTROL

- **Wolf numbers claimed in 2017:**
Total #: 63 Total \$: \$25,200
- **Coyotes claimed 2017:**
Total#: 486 Total \$: \$14,580
- **Beaver tails claimed 2017:**
Total #: 673 Total \$: \$20,190

OTHER TOPICS

- The tree spade has been repaired by Drifter Mechanical. Checked into front end loader mounted units. All were in the \$25,000.00 to \$35,000.00 range depending on size. The problem with all manufacturers is that they don't make a universal mount for front end loaders. The other problem is that to rent it out, the County would need to purchase a trailer to haul it on, which is an additional cost above the cost of the spade itself.
- The manure spreader has been repaired by HKP. The floor chain shaft, bushings and gearbox seals were replaced.
- We are in final stages of preparation for the IST Conference. I am a member of the education committee, entertainment committee, and the sponsorship committee.
- Preparations for the ASB Conference in January are ongoing. I am on the entertainment committee and the sponsorship committee.
- The first trade show prep meeting was held in November. We have the Dave Shaw Complex booked, the trade show draping company booked, and the banquet entertainment booked as well. The next meeting will be Dec. 14th.

Rental Equipment Usage January 1, 2017 - November 30, 2017

Equipment	Rental Deposits	Rental Rates	Total Users	Total Days	Total Revenue (Year to date)
Backpack Sprayer	\$ 50.00	\$ -			
Bale Scale	\$ 100.00	\$ 30.00	4	4	\$ 120.00
Ball Hitch (2" & 2 5/16")	\$ -	\$ -			
Chairs	\$ 50.00	\$0.5/chair	8	8	\$ 292.00
Community Centre	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	10	17	\$ 850.00
Corral Panels	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	9	15	\$ 600.00
Coyote Trap		\$ -			
Eco-Bran Applicator	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	3	3	\$ 150.00
Grain Bag Roller	\$ 50.00	\$ -	11	15	\$ -
Grain Bagger	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	2	5	\$ 1,750.00
Grain Bag Extractor	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	9	12	\$ 3,325.00
Grain Vac	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00	26	30	\$ 5,900.00
Grill	\$ 50.00	\$ 5.00	5	9	\$ 25.00
Hand Held Rope Wick	\$ 50.00	\$ 10.00			
Land Leveller	\$ 260.00	\$ 130.00	6	15	\$ 1,950.00
Loading Chute	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	21	23	\$ 550.00
Manure Spreader	\$ 300.00	\$ 150.00	4	4	\$ 450.00
Mulch Applicator	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	1	1	\$ 25.00
Extra Hoses	\$ 50.00	\$ 1.00			
Post Pounder	\$ 250.00	\$ 125.00	20	29	\$ 3,576.00
Pull/Push Roller Applicator	\$ 50.00	\$ -			
Quad Mount Rope Wick	\$ 50.00	\$ -			
Quad Mounted Sprayer	\$ 50.00	\$ -	3	3	\$ -
Quad Pull Type Sprayer	\$ 50.00	\$ -	2	2	\$ -
Rock Picker	\$ 600.00	\$ 300.00	2	2	\$ 600.00
Rock Rake	\$ 600.00	\$ 300.00	1	1	\$ 300.00
Roller Mill	\$ 50.00	\$ 20.00	3	4	\$ 70.00
Rotowiper	\$ 150.00	\$ 75.00	1	1	\$ 75.00
Scare Cannon #91060254	\$ 50.00	\$ -			
Signs	\$ 60.00	\$ -	2	2	\$ -
Skid Mount Sprayer	\$ 50.00	\$ -	3	3	\$ -
Steam Tables	\$ 50.00	\$ 5.00			
Tables	\$ 50.00	\$1.00/table	7	7	\$ 73.00
Toilets	\$ 100.00	\$ 40.00	5	6	\$ 240.00
Tree Spade	\$ 300.00	\$ 50.00	6	16	\$ 550.00
Truck Mount Sprayer	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00			
Wash Station	\$ 50.00	\$ 10.00	2	3	\$ 10.00
Water Pumps	\$100.00 (Summer) \$1,000.00 (Winter)	\$75.00(Summer) \$200 (Winter)	35	63	\$ 6,350.00
Zero Till Drills	\$ 300.00	\$300.00/20 feet	6	6	\$ 1,800.00
Wire Roller	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	3	4	\$ 100.00
Post Hole Auger	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	2	2	\$ 50.00
Sickle Mower	\$ 100.00		1	1	\$ 100.00
BBQ Trailer	\$ 100.00	50	9	10	\$ 450.00
43			232	326	\$ 30,331.00

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	December 11, 2017
Originated By:	Greg Coon, 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
- Member Ross written reports
- Member Watchorn written reports
- Member Candy written reports

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by: _____ that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' written or verbal reports of December 11, 2017 for information.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:	AgFieldman:
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Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference

October 25, 2017

Dunvegan Motor Inn

Fairview, Alberta

By: Brian Harcourt

Quotes and Comments

Regrets... Doug Macaulay and David Feindel.

Toso Bozic filled in for Doug

Alberta is the only province that has ASBs.

There are over 800 people employed by AS. ASBs.

Growing Forward 2 will end Mar. 31 2018

Growing Forward 3 will begin shortly there after.

Toso gave a brief talk on Aspen tree diseases, why they are slowly dying off.

Since yr. 2000 there has been a gradual reduction of weather stations.

Fewer Stations equals less critical data especially from rural areas and the Territories.

Less rain (in some areas) and warmer temperatures.

Many insects, fire, can be good and bad.

Bad for residents and a huge cost to Countries and Provinces.

More Land being cleared and fence rows taken out causing more wind.

Old forests are good for water retention and wild life, young forests not so good.

Dave Brennan... Filled in for David Feindel..

Dave gave an update on Club Root and the AB Plant Health Lab.

Diseases, insects, weeds, and new club root pathogens.

Described the life cycle as insidious

One gram of soil can have millions of spores.

Spreads easily by people, machinery, insects, even the "jet stream",

Any that has dirt on it and can move.

There are currently 46 prohibited noxious and 29 noxious weeds

And more coming like the flowering rush usually found in moving water.

Carly Shaw..

Gave a talk on Hemp Bale Wrap..

Most people know where there is an environmental problem

With recycling of the big white grain bags.

Some bury them some burn and some are dragged out to the edge of the bush.

They can be recycled but they have to be cleaned and rolled.

A company east of Calgary will pay \$100.00 a bag, delivered.

The Hemp fiber mixture is low cost, degradable and digestible.

Carly needs capital help to get the research done, a patent,

And spread the word via trade shows and newspapers.

Mike Hittinger..

Mike spoke on the upcoming Carbon Tax,
The levy on "Greenhouse" gas emissions.

There is no carbon tax on electricity.

He suggested to go Solar, Growing Forward 2 may help.

Growing Forward 2 will end March 31, 2018.

Growing Forward 3 will begin shortly after but will be smaller.

Suggested you look into your home for more efficient
Insulation, windows, stoves, fridges, etc.

www.growingforward.alberta.ca

Government of Alberta: Growing Forward 2

www.growingforward.alberta.ca

Growing Forward 2 (GF2) GF2 provides programs and services to achieve a
Profitable, sustainable, competitive and innovative agricultural, agri-food
And agri-products

Adam Norris.. Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance..

Understanding of the Whole System is very important to all of us.

Everyone of us has an effect on the system.

Investigate Watershed Management Plan.

There many pamphlets on the Plan.

For more info..call Sherri Larsen or Harriot Konrad

Akim Omokayne.. PCBFA

Akim gave an update on the activities, trials and programs

They participated in this past summer.

Pu them on your list of things to do next summer.

Core Beck.. GP County Councillor

Corey is the Regional Rep for our area.

Also he was re-elected for that position at the meeting.

He gave us an update about the Provincial Committee and

He supervised the resolution session

VSI Annual General Meeting

November 3, 2017

Peace River, Alberta

Agenda..Passed over the agenda rather quickly, no real issues.

Fee schedule increased by 1.6%, C.O.L.

Item 12, C, Non conventional treatments, max, \$101.00;

Item 12, E, Code 25, in combo with 56,

remove 56 and replace with code 53,
time counts per head is the problem.
Item 12, F, Code 10, remove "per day" and add "24 hr" flat rate.

Directors Meeting.
Item 8, H+R Block to remain the Accountants.
Item 13, Presidents Honorarium increased to \$725.00.
Item 14, Terry Ungarian elected President.
Item 15, Managers salary increased to \$80.00 per hour.

Clubroot Session

November 14, 2017
Big Meadow Hall
Enilda, Alberta

Speaker, Michal Harding..A Ag + F..Plant Pathologist.

Clubroot is a soil borne disease of canola, mustard and other crops in the cabbage family. The disease, as the name suggests, attacks the roots first then wilting of the flower, the leaf and then the stem.
Clubroot was first found in AB. in 2003 in Sturgeon County.
The disease is caused by a microscopic, soil borne pathogen called Plasmodiophora brassicae, classified as a Protist.
These spores can survive in the soil for up to 20 years.
Now 36 counties with over 3000 fields have been infected.
In the soil, one gram may contain a billion spores.
The gram is about 1/4 deep and a water bottle cap round.
The disease reduces yield and quality, and of course the value.
The spores can move very easily, from field to field by machinery wind, water, people, animals and birds.

Greg Sekulic..Agriculture Specialist for The Peace Region.

What to do???

- Develop a plan.
- Scout your fields and make notes.
- Identify any suspect field and monitor weekly.
- Plan your field work, do the suspect field last.
- Sanitize your equipment.
- Most important use disease resistant seed.
- On leaving the suspect field sow some grasses at the gate.
- That is the place to clean your equipment.

sekulic@canolacouncil.org

Soil Health Workshop

November 28, 2017

Legion Hall In Grimshaw, Alberta

Speaker...Mike Dorion..Living Soils Solutions..

Barriers...Keeps people from information.

Like changes, fear, social pressures, disconnections.

Education, self gratification, long term results, insurance
dessert to green grass.

Soil..three parts..Biological, physical, chemicals.

Soil needs water, oxygen, food and shelter.

The forest is a great example, tilling is like an earthquake.

60% of farmers are now using a "no till" practice.

Keep the soil covered by increasing organic matter.

Good soil health equals Human health and survival of us all.

Negative effects on the soil, Fire, over tillage, chemicals, flooding,
poor soil coverage, nutrient deficiency, no cows...

Management must be measured, make notes.

Visually check you fields, texture structure, color,
porosity, warm smell and the roots systems.

H₂O infiltration is very important. soil samples should be taken
down to 18 inches then do the water test.

Three basic soil types, sand, silt, clay.

Use the glass sealer to test infiltration.

80% of whats above ground is below!

The Rhizosphere , below ground, is made up of mega microbes,
bacterias, fungi, mycorrhiza, insects of many types.

Fungi is the internet of the soil.

Nematodes eat bacterias and protozoa poop nutrients into the soil.

Organic matter is the control box of natures nutrient cycle.

Earthworms are aerators, good composters, great with
bacteria and fungi and have 5 hearts, 5-6 kinds in AB.

Insects, mites and other minute orgasms work 24/7.

Live soil is sponge like, compaction is not good.

Soil should smell good.

Alberta Canola

DMI Fairview, Alberta

November 21, 2017

Speaker..Clint Jurke, Agronomy Director, Canola Council Canada.

Clubroot in the Peace..Now what do we do???

There now 17 different pathogens in AB. lettered from A to R.

Scout your fields for plants that look withered or wilting usually in patches.

If any are found, pull up several plants to check for galls or bulging roots.

To stop spores from spreading, seed some grasses around the area of entrance to and from the field.

Also try to get as much soil off the equipment as possible then wash and bleach if you can.

To assist in stopping or at least slowing down the spread use the 1 in 4 years of growing Canola.

In the next crop spray out any volunteer canola plants.

Seed new Clubroot resistant varieties.

Merle Good..Succeeding in Succession.

Box 404,Cremona, AB, TOM 0R0, 403 637 2253.

mapgood@gmail.com

If you or your family are struggling with passing on your farm, or anything else if you don't farm give Merle a call or email him.

He knows what to do!!

Scot Meers...Insect Management Specialist...AB,Ag, and Forestry.

A Bugs Life..North of 55.

& surveys done in AB, yearly, top to bottom.

Diamond Back moth...southern AB.

Stripped flea beetle, resists sprays.

Cutworms, check the seed treatment.

Cabbage seed pod weevil...southern AB.

Canola flower midge...new, only attacks the flower.

Pea leaf weevil...the larva stage does the damage, now in the Peace.

Seed treatment the only answer so far, Bio control in the works.

Grasshoppers...usually 2 year cycle, has about 30 parasitic predators.

Early control with insecticide.

Wheat midge...lots of rain, lots of bugs.

Seed early with midge tolerant variety.

Wheat stem sawfly...southern AB.

Check your bins often, moving grain to another bin helps.

Sign up for an inspection at 310 farm.

www.agriculturealberta.ca

Mike Jubenville..Pro Farmer Canada..pfcanada.com

Crude Oil, worlds largest market, then corn then gold.

La Nina will probably give us a cooler winter.

Canola production estimates 20 mmts..million metric tonnes.

" crush pace 9 to 10 mmts.

" exports 10 to 11 mmts.

" carryover 10 to 11 mmts.

Wheat, Russia largest exporter.

World stocks rising to about 257 mmts.

Dec. 2017, price up to \$6.00, more or less.

Canada tries to average the protein content in off shore sales
by blending the higher protein with lower to end at 13%.

Peas...can't run, hide or make it stop.

Dollars...anyone's guess!!

Harcourt.

Dollars...anyone's guess!!

Cabbage seed pod weevil...southern AB.

Keeping Calves Alive, Nov 7/17 Dawson Creek BC

By: MacKay Ross

Dr. Mira Kelada DVM, The First 24 Hours (approx.).

66% of death loss (birth to weaning) occurs in the first 24 of a calves life. Also the first 24 hours have a large impact on calf health until weaning. "Calf never got going." is the most common complaint.

Calves are born with no immunities. Immunities come from colostrum, either from the Dam or from a bottle, whether commercially purchased or harvested from your own cows. If you are buying, check the "grams of IgG" literally the immunities per serving. Harvested colostrum from your own herd is best, passes on herd immunities to the calf. Do not use a milk cows colostrum, it will be too diluted.

Colostrum also has the proper energy (protein, sugar, fat) content the calf needs and vitamins such as A and E. 2L of colostrum within 4 hours (2x4) has been found as a good rule of thumb. Bottle is best, the natural suckling action will trigger the esophagus to send the colostrum to the correct stomach, tubing if required will take 2.5 L as the rumen will have to be filled first. Large calves (100lb+) will need more, and small (70lbs and less) will need less. Keep your own colostrum, frozen it lasts 12 months, plastic 710L coke bottles work great, attach rubber "teat" then simply warm in warm water bath (never micro wave colostrum) and feed. Ziploc bags or yoghurt tubs of colostrum work well for tubing.

Lack of passive immunity results in; 1.6 x more illness, 2.4 x more fatalities, and decreases ADG (Average Daily Gain).

26% of unassisted birth calves have low levels of passive immunities. But how do we find them?

Suckle reflex; put 2 (clean) fingers in calf's mouth, within 15 mins of birth, if there is a strong suckle reflex and the calf fails to nurse within 4 hours, assist by feeding 2 L colostrum (these calves would be rare, 92% nurse within 4 hours, also these are unassisted births). If the suckle reflex is weak, in an unassisted birthed calf, their chances of nursing within 4 hours is 12%. Easy pulled calves with a strong suckle will nurse at a 74% rate (probably should assist?) however with a weak suckle they only nurse at a 6% rate! Hard pulls; with strong suckle nurse 51% of the time within 4 hours, however with a weak suckle only 2% of the time!

Although the effects of a pull (easy or hard) contributes to lack of nursing, the suckle reflex is the number one indicator.

Ideal calf recovery position, is upright, legs both sides. Hung over a rail causes fluid from the stomach to drain into the throat and then be inhaled causing asphyxiation.

Calves with severe swollen heads from long/hard birth, pulled or natural can be given "Brain Juice" a steroid/non steroid anti-inflammatory mix, but only once. If the calf has a mild swollen head, give Metcam a non steroid anti-inflammatory. In both cases watch for dehydration.

Umbilical cord dipping; is not necessary in clean calving environments, if an umbilical hernia (intestines hanging outside the navel) are clean and pink, put clean plastic under and haul in for surgery, if purple and dirty, euthanize.

Scours;

Prevention starts before calving, vaccinate cows and booster annually, BCS of 3 or better, vitamin and mineral properly balanced.

Calving environment, spacious and fresh bedding or fresh paddock if grass calving.

Dr. Mike Ross DVM, Day one to after Weaning.

73% of cows exposed at breeding wean a calf, and the average weaning weight is 534lbs.

Pneumonia is the number one killer, 45-55% of feedlot deaths, 75% of calf deaths. Cattle are susceptible; environment and pathogen population are factors but so is overall calf health (refer back to passive immunity). Environmental factors include weather, dust, but stress is the most damaging; mixing, comingling, transportation, processing, change of feed and water source. Control with healthy cows (3+ BCS) and calves (good colostrum/passive immunity), vaccination program (birth and turnout), manage stress and environmental changes.

Scours; different causes at different ages, make sure you are treating appropriately. Causes are everywhere, vaccinating the cows while pregnant is the best prevention. Treatment includes oral electrolytes, probiotics and immune stimulants. [I have had previous discussions with Dr. Ross about diatomaceous earth, "If it helps, great."] Antibiotics, when given, do not treat the scours itself, they treat the septicemia diseases that result from scours. Warning, people can develop diarrhea from handling scouring calves, take precautions and clean up after.

Coccidiosis; is a protozoa not viral or bacterial, 3 weeks to 6 month old calves are most likely to show signs (black hind due to blood in manure, straining, dehydration) mature cattle shed it to the calves, but don't get sick themselves. Usually occurs after a stress, moving, weather change, weaning, hauling, and overcrowding. Research has shown a 13 week decrease in growth after infection. Rectal prolapse can be a complication resulting from coccidiosis. Prevention is key, don't overcrowd (feed lot) limit fecal matter in feed, insure fresh water, and feed ionophores such as rumensin/bovatec. Treat with sulfa drugs or charcoal. Serious concern is that Cryptosporidium can also be active in an animal at the same time which can transfer to humans. No treatment just supportive care.

Black leg; vaccination prevents this soil borne disease, usually the first symptom is a dead calf.

White muscle; selenium deficiency vitamin E is nearly equally important as it is required for selenium usage in the body. Prevent with healthy properly mineral fed cows.

Club root at Big Meadow Community Hall Nov 14/17

Micheal Harding

Club root confirmed fields have increased from 12-2744 fields between 2004-2017, including 25 fields in the Peace country.

Club root is more prolific in soils with a pH less than 7 and abundant moisture, shows up in low areas and field entrances first. Scouting is key as below ground symptoms show above ground and before economic loss.

Other host plants to control are; shepherds purse, false flax, stink weed, wild mustard and volunteer canola. Plus other cruciferous family plants.

Resistance is effective but how do we keep it from eroding?

Planting resistant canola selects for the previously non virulent club root stain. We now have 13 club root pathotypes in our testing matrix, called A-M.

Crop rotation is the only economic and agronomic tool against club root. 3 years continuous use of club root resistant canola varieties will result in all pathotypes (A-M) becoming economically detrimental. However a 4 year rotation would take a minimum of 12 years to reach the same prevalence, with new resistant varieties introduced regularly, it is possible that with a 4 year rotation that club root would never populate to the point of economic loss.

Gregg Sekulic

Other issues with Club root management.

Lime application could get pH above 7.5, which can significantly decrease spore load. Airborne spores can travel great distances, 200 km is the current maximum. Knock off soil from implements (90%) will remove most spores, work in known infected fields last each season.

Combines; Club root can be found in non cruciferous seed samples, so a wheat crop off infected land would spread spores if that seed was used on another field the next year. However the number of spores would be extremely low.

Grow club root resistant varieties of canola before clubroot is found.

What is Clear Hill's action to prevent establishment/prevalence of Clubroot? Promote resistant varieties? If we are going to enforce 4 year rotations after it is found, why not look at minimum 2 year rotations before?

Soil Health w/ Mike Dorion Grimshaw Legion

Why are we just now pursuing soil health when some of the research is 200 years old? Out of site out of mind, "It's just dirt," increased disconnection (urbanization and tractor riding), instant gratification (commercial fertilizers and 'cides provide this), social pressure (ironically from all sides; neighbours, sales reps, and consumers [cheap commodities which result in cheap food and Organic).

Why is change slow? For the above reasons but also; education (both lack of, and so much), which leads to - Analysis Paralysis (Where do I start?!?!), fear of change (ironically the only guarantee in life).

"The more scared we are of a work or calling, the more sure we can be that we have to do it."

Steven Pressfield

As we improve soil, input costs go down (both commercial or Organic) The amount of Organic Matter (OM) in the soil is key. OM is what the microbial soil lives on when the plants are dormant. Keeping green growing plants on the field as many days of the year as possible decreases microbial reliance on OM and thus increases the OM in the soil. "Soil Your Undies" is a simple test to see how active the soil is. Bury a pair of 100% cotton underwear in various areas of the farm in the spring, dig them up in the fall. The degree of decomposition indicates the microbial activity. If only the elastic waist band is left, next year dig them up a month earlier.

Tillage disturbs soil microbes and "burns" OM, so minimize at every opportunity. 59% of farm land in Canada is no till.

Read up on soil health initiatives at soilhealthinstitute.org

Apparently Banks in Australia want to know your carbon level in your land and the carbon level in the land you wish to buy?

Remember you can't manage what you don't measure. Perform a "Visual Soil Assessment" (landcareresearch.co.nz for free print out) annually on each field. 1m square in field tests, keep records, take pictures.

Ph. is an effect not a cause, simply applying calcium (lime etc.) to "fix" Ph. will not fix the problem just the symptom for a year or so. Also Calcium that is plant available is key, most commercial products are not plant available or an extremely small amount is.

5 ton of animals below ground/per acre.

80% of plant energy is underground

Mushrooms are the fruit of fungi, so if they are visible you have higher fungi population. Too much fungi will result in shrubs such as rose bush and willow etc. which will increase leaf litter and then Aspen will start to grow, finally conifers as the end of the cycle from fire/tillage/grassland to forest.

Protozoa eat bacteria then release nutrients.

Earthworms mix, lift, and aerate the soil, all seasons except winter. If subsoiling is done, make sure you put something down after; liquid lime, humates, seed deep root plants all to maintain aeration.

When a plant is exhumed, dirt on roots that look like dreadlocks indicates good soil aggregation, the more dirt stuck to the roots the better.

Legumes will only shed nitrogen/nodules when being grazed or dying.

Phosphorus fertilizer shuts down the mycorrhizal fungi, a symbiotic fungi that feeds the plant nutrients.

Are they weeds, or indicators of a soil issue?

Windbreak prep, elevate fungal count to support trees as they establish.

Compost

Compost is Organic Material to feed bacteria, fungi and other microbes

Ingredients; Green material (manure, house scraps), brown material (straw, wood chips/saw dust, leaves, dry grass clippings), water, air (piles will need either forced air or turning to aerate).

3 different methods to produce compost; Thermal (turned as needed), static (forced air from system at base of pile) or worm (vermicomposting). A thermometer is needed for thermal and static, temperature (aeration changes the temp) must be kept in the correct zone (40-60°C maximum of 65°C).

Compost has to be wet, a handful squeezed should give a couple drops running down the base of the hand.

Inoculate compost pile at the beginning with leaf mold etc. from the forest.

Top dress compost, do not incorporate.

Compost Tea is more cost effective, (brewed with a small bag of compost) can be high in bacteria or fungi depending on what is selected for, but there is no OM going on the field. Tillage lowers fungi population, spray fungi food on the soil after tilling to repopulate. To feed fungi brew with oats, bran flour, or shrimp shells.

Next Level Farming GP Nov 21

Alberta Pulse Growers update w/Mac Ross

Significant increase in pulse acres, 10% of land in 2016, 12% in 2017. Decreasing levy (check off) from 1%-0.75%.

November 1/17 India imposed a 50% tariff on Pea imports. This was caused by the high production in India over the last 2 years and the SMP. The SMP is a guaranteed price paid by the India government to their farmers for peas to maintain a price that is seen as appropriate. The 2 high yield years has resulted in a surplus stored by the government, imports (mostly from Canada) would increase India's surplus.

Fumigation is not possible due to Canadian climate, also the fumigants are illegal due to environmental issues.

Grain storage w/Curtis Starkhill

Develop your storage plan, handling and future changes, whether expansion or retirement.

Wheat yields are up 44% and canola 56% up in yield in the last 30 years, so more storage is needed. Augers and conveyers or permanent material handling? Plan for 25% more than you currently need, between land acquisition and increased yields

Spring land unload systems are industry leader, others copy.

New tech; Flex wave, inflatable bag that pushes the grain to the centre, could eliminate bin sweeps.
Top dry system, 2/3 cost of a dryer separate, but can't do canola or others that small.

Grain dryers are becoming a harvest tool, dry off combine when the weather is warm, not in November.

Air return, instead of augers, to bin after drying, dryer controlled whether batch or continuous. No need to stand there, phone apps available.

Crop choice\$ w/Neil Blue

What I can control, what I can influence, what I can't control. Prioritize.

Cropchoice\$ and Agriprofit\$ websites. CC\$ helps calculate margins probability based on your area. Change rotations and see results on this system.

Ag safe AB w/ Donna Trottier

Industry (commissions) led, disproportionate injury and fatality rates in agriculture compared to other industries.

Agsafe.ab.ca videos and e-courses

DOT technology w/Trent Meyer

SeeDotRun.com

Autonomous Agriculture; GPS guided (RTK) less labour and less labourers needed.

Is bigger better? One tractor means 100% down time when something fails. 20-30% power usage just to move the "500 hp" tractor around. DOT is a 174hp autonomous "U" shaped frame with 4 hydraulic powered wheels on semi caster pivots. Many DOT units can be controlled by one producer. An estimate of units per acres on a farm is as follows; 1 DOT=1500-3000 acres, scalable to any size farm. It would seem like a large acreage per DOT, but with no operator the machine puts in more time (estimates of

conventional tractors idle time are as high as 50% even in field operation) per hour of operation and can run all night. DOT hosts "Dumb" autonomy, the system just stops, and sends you a picture if it senses an issue.

On Farm Energy Conservation

43% increase in beef production by 2050 to meet demand. 2% increase per year.

The beef industry only produces 2.4% of Canada's total GHG production. Methane production is the concern, steps need to be taken to decrease as possible in beef production, as it is 28x the GHG as carbon.

However the beef has reduced its environmental impact; carbon emissions dropped 15% per lb, 80-85% of the cattle feed in Canada is forage which has less GHG impact than grain, 20% reduction in ammonia, water usage has decreased from 593L to 470 L/kg of boneless beef, all these gains were between 1981 and 2011.

However; eliminating all domestic animals would make our situation worse. Livestock provide protein dense food, leather, bone meal, (99% of a cow is utilized) they require crop land to be rotated resulting in biodiversity, manure could satisfy all N and P required globally plus OM (organic matter), livestock are the fastest way to grow soil and improve its function (yield). Removal of livestock would only lower GHG emission in the US by 2.8%, not nearly enough to balance the other losses.

We need to move to a circular economy, currently we are linear. We buy, grow, sell, repeat. Off farm inputs benefit us very short term, we need to take advantage of the cycles (water, nitrogen, carbon, etc.) to minimize what actually leaves our farms and therefore maximize what we earn on what does.

On farm PV and energy management w/Kale Scarff

On farm water management; water meters to evaluate usage, remote waters (decrease contamination and decrease water usage as it is cleaner).

On farm energy management; improve energy conservation (the cheapest investment is in conservation not production [solar etc.]) monitor usage (sub-meter "killawatt") LED and T8 fluorescent bulbs are extremely low electricity usage and long life (pay attention to lumens/watt for efficiency) photo-eyes, motion sensors, and dimmers. PV (solar) that is farm applicable, research nrcan.gc.ca/18366.

Reducing GHG w/Mike Hittinger

Don't waste money, 1 MT loss of NO₂ is equivalent to 298 MT of CO₂, lost money and environmental damage. When applying fertilizer follow the 4 "R"; Right source (soil test), Right rate (agronomic and economic), Right time (of the year), Right place (side banding).

Buildings can retain more heat, insulate, caulk windows, door sweeps, overhead door seals and spray foam is your best friend. First (most economical) benefit is attic (blow in insulation) provides the best ROI.

Tractor use, idle time is very expensive, estimates as high as 50% idle time. Gear up/idle down whenever possible, and watch tire pressure as a 2 psi loss can increase rolling resistance 20%. Warm up and cool down times need not be more than 3 minutes. Plan your labours to avoid back tracking.

Soil Health Workshop

By: Julie Watchorn

Living Soil Solutions Mike Dorion

A Nation that Destroys its Soil, Destroys Itself
Franklin D Roosevelt

November 18 we went to Grimshaw to listen to Mike Dorion speak on the Dirt on Soil!

People have a fear of change but you have to change to make better. You have to change the way you manage your soil whether you are a grain farmer, a cattle farmer or live in town or city.

We are stewards of the land, there are negative things we sometimes do to harm our land,

- Fire
- Tillage
- Too much chemical=salts
- Flooding (caused by hardpan)
- Lack of ground cover
- Nutrient deficiency
- No animals on the land
- Bad management decisions

There are many positive things we do also,

- Crop rotation
- Cover crops
- Fewer fertilizers
- Putting livestock on the land

- Avoiding under/over grazing
- Shelterbelts
- Beneficial insects
- Water management
- No till or less tilling

There is no such thing as instant gratification when it comes to soil; it takes time and work to build your soil. It takes

Education- share ideas with others

- Find out what others are doing

Financial- we are always looking to save money

Insurance- building up our soils to make it healthy so you don't worry about drought or floods

- You have three soil types:
Sand-it doesn't hold nutrients

Silt-holds water but can't hold nutrients as well

Clay-holds a lot of nutrients but air and water don't pass through well

Your soil needs more than N, K, and P! It needs Micro and Macro elements.

#1 Bacteria- you need good bacteria

#2 Protozoa- eats bacteria (5000-10,000 daily) then releases nutrients in the soil

-Too many are not good turns the soil anaerobic

#3 Nematodes-eat bacteria and protozoa creating plant nutrients

#4 Organic Matter- For every 1% increase in organic matter soil holds 25,000 gallons water per acre

#5 Earthworms- aerators dig in the soil

#6 all the others – Beetles, Sow bugs, Centipedes, Mites, Ants, Etc.

Pull up a plant in your field to see if soil sticks to the roots, you want Rastafarian roots or 'sticky roots'. If it's a legume look for nodules if they are pink that's great they are producing nitrogen, putting back into the soil but if they are white there is nothing there. Cut one open they may be green inside that means they were working but stopped working for some reason.

What does a Forest teach us?

Keep adding organic matter

Less compaction/ minimal disturbance

No one fertilizes a forest

Of course you have to till, plow etc. but when you do add nutrients (liquid lime) then so its one less pass you'll make

Always add organic matter back to your soil, keep adding

Do your own test plots just make 1mX1m plots.
Monitor, do your own research and Keep Records!

The Ins and Outs Composting

Composting is taking plant matter and breaking it down
using bacteria and fungi

Carbons (Browns): Dead leaves

Wood chips

Straw

Cardboard

Nitrogen (Greens): Grass

Vegetable waste

Coffee grounds

Water: Should be 50% water

Air: Have to stir or aerate

Can grab a few scoops from the bush to inoculate your
pile

Use smells, if it smells bad it probably is!

Compost Tea: Steep

Extracts

Stirred Tea

Sweet Hay Tea- Take Alfalfa hay steep in water for three
days use the liquid for foliar spray on fields and garden

The only thing using Teas you don't get the organic matter with the nutrients

Compost Animals – Lay down a 1-foot woodchip base

Put down dead's

Put 6 ft. straw/woodchips on top

www.omafra.gov.on.ca has great information on cover crop seeds and suppliers

www.soildoctor.org has good information

www.bioagrinomics.com visual soil assessment

TED.com Rob Knight

Jonathan Eisen

Tools to Build your Cow Herd

Susan Markus Ph.D. Who works for Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.

She told us about genetic testing and genomic tools for commercial cattle producers and the importance of testing DNA in your herd. A test per animal is approximately \$18.

Bulls are the ones that should be tested because they have the most impact on your herd because of the amount of cows he covers (25-30) instead of just one cow. A bull has a lasting impact on your herd for 10-25 years

Since early 2000's the Hybrid Vigour has had a steady decline due to too much of one breed in one herd

More open females 8-12% whereas 5-7% is acceptable

Average beef cow stays in your herd for 6-7 years, the higher your vigour the longer they last.

MyHerdandMe.com

Barry Yaremco

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Production Problems-

Water Quality is important! In 2017 200 cows died in a Saskatchewan grazing reserve because of high sulphur levels in the water, which in turn causes Polio in cattle
By adding a watering system {solar, nose pump, etc.} so your animals don't have to drink from a dugout they can gain upwards to 50-60 lbs. more

In 71 days steers gained 44 pounds!

Creep feeding your calves grain should be a ration of

1/3 peas

1/3 barley

1/3 oats

Or 2/3 cereals 1/3 peas

Don't have to grind grain for calves that are less than 700 lbs. because calves that weight or less chew their food.

Good rolling index when doing grain is 70% of the initial weight after you roll

Ergot is another thing to keep your eye on when feeding your cattle. Ergot poisoning can be different for each animal, hoof problems, shipping fever symptoms or death.

Watch for ergot in ditches; where it would grow in wet conditions to monitor your hay land or crops, because feeds must not contain more than one ergot seed per one pound of feed.

Fusarium- produces a pinkish/white fungal growth

Pigs-1ppm reduces feed intake

Yearling Hiefers-can handle 37 ppm

1 lb. of fat= enough energy to produce 7 lbs. milk

7 lbs. of milk= 1 lb. of calf gain

You want your heifers to be at 80% mature body weight at first calf

Stacking bales:

The best way to stack bales is individual without touching another. It takes a lot of land base to set your bales out like that. The next best is mushroom stack bottom bale on its butt the top bale laid on top.

The worst way to stack your bales is pyramid style because the moisture will ruin a lot of the outer layers of every bale.

A 1450-pound bale will have about 4 inches of spoilage or 319 pounds per bale around 22% of weight

Always ask for help from knowledgeable neighbours if you need help or just don't know... someone else might!

Having someone else looking at your herd with fresh eyes can see your over fat cows or maybe need to bump up the feed or something you see all the time but need it pointed out

www.bodyconditionscoring.ca

Vitamins For Beef Cattle in Canada

Brian Campbell DSM

Get your cattle on a good vitamin/mineral ration. It plays a huge role in your herd reproduction or herd health.

It takes little vitamins per day per cow but you have to make sure they all are having proper intake. The cost is approximately \$6-\$7 per year/head

-Vitamin D3 is needed for enough calcium absorption
-Lack of Vit. A causes night blindness and reproduction losses.

-Vit. E prevents white muscle disease and affects immunity

-Beta Carotene vital for reproduction and is used in conjunction with Vit. A and also is an antioxidant

-Vit. E is low in forages

-You can see on a black animal if they are short of copper, the hair on the front shoulders have an orange tinge

Vitamins and Minerals are very important more so with our cattle changes. In 1975, steers finished at 900 lbs., 3 years old. Now a steer finishes at 1450lbs, 18months.

Dr. Evan Lowe

Fairview Veterinarian Clinic

Dec 1 2018, there will be a worldwide mandate

Antibiotics will only be available at veterinarian clinics

There will be no purchasing drugs from UFA any more

Agri-Trade Show
Red Deer, AB.
November 8 – 11, 2017

By: Garry Candy

Billed as the largest Ag Trade show in North America – there were 475 booths both inside and in outside area at the Westerner Park. I attended November 9 and 10, spending the majority of the time at the livestock and crop input booths. Spoke with representatives about innovations in soil nutrients, chemicals, fertilizers, machinery, electronics, etc. I invited a number of them to come and speak – could be at one of our Ag Service Board meetings or in conjunction with the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association – I have underlined and provided contact info for potential speakers. Also, there are 2 items of interest for Greg regarding possibilities for County rental units.

Agri – Guardian is a company out of Albert Lea, Minnesota involved in micronutrients using a product called MicroMix. The representative, Casey Staloch, maintained that MicroMix improves disease resistance by stimulating the plants natural defences; this can result in a reduction of fusarium explained by increase formation of organic acids. He contends that MicroMix offsets the effects of glyphosate that is tying up the nutrients to the plants. Glyphosate is the main ingredient in Roundup and Roundup ready crops binds the micronutrients in the plants but they are not bioavailable, hence the use of MicroMix so the plants can use the micronutrients. According to the literature, MicroMix contains 1% potassium, 2% boron, .05% chlorine, .005% cobalt, .8% copper, 1.2% iron, 1.2% manganese, .04% molybdenum, .04% nickel and 1.2% zinc. These are apparently absorbed through the leaves, shoots and roots of the plants which require small amounts applied as a foliar spray. The mix is complexed with sugar based compounds to cause quick absorption of the micronutrients.

Dow Agro Sciences spoke about nitrogen stabilizers: N-Serve and eNtrench. The representative maintained that Nitrogen Stabilizers works by keeping the nitrogen applied stable and useable until the plant needs it. He claimed that there was a 5.8% increase in wheat yields with fall application; a reduction of greenhouse gases by 51% and a reduction in the leeching of nitrates. N-Serve is used with anhydrous and eNtrench with liquid fertilizers and manure. Nitrophin is the active ingredient and the claim is that it slows the activity of Nitrosomonas bacteria which reduces leeching. According to the literature there are 3 types of N Stabilizers: slow release (urea coated with synthetic polymer – good for planting next to the seed), urease inhibitors (only beneficial when urea is on soil surface, not with seed placed) and nitrification inhibitors (inhibits nitrosomonas bacteria which initiates the conversion from ammonium nitrogen to nitrate nitrogen and stores useable N at the root zone).

Farms.com is a website providing agricultural information, news, markets, risk management, used equipment, videos, classifieds and job opportunities in both agriculture and the food industry. They also own and operate a 2000 acre farm at Lake Erie where they grow wheat, corn and soybeans and produce energy through wind and solar installations so they have real life information to share. Farmers can sign up to receive machinery and farm newsletters and

highlights of online chat forums. For full information about their offerings, go online to www.Farms.com.

Canadian Agri-Blend Inc. Morinville, Alberta. Representative was Norman Piehl (Marketing and Operations) and would be interested in speaking at our meeting depending on the timing. This is a follow up to Barry Yamencio's take on salts (Agri Block). The claims are that Agri-Blocks; being molasses based are palatable and control intake; increase the efficiency of poor forages; are a good pasture management tool – by relocating blocks, animals will use feed equally; promote easier calving; work well in feedlot operations; are weather resistant; comes in tubs or biodegradable/edible cardboard containers; eliminate the need for extra salt and do not use animal byproducts. The formulations vary for different operations and horse blends are available. Contact information for Norm Piehl – 780-939-3800.

Tourmaline Oil Corporation Calgary, AB. A surface Landman, Cory Lindquist, was providing copies of the October issue of a magazine called The Negotiator. This is a magazine produced by the Canadian Association of Petroleum Landmen. It talks about all facets of the oil and gas industry including landowners' rights and surface right negotiations. Courses offered to landmen include surface right regulations and agreements, settlements of disputes by the AER, pipelines, (decommissioning, abandonments and reclamation from owner/operator and stakeholder perspectives), groundwater issues and impacts, types of compensation, as well as rent reviews, damage claims and back rent for surface rights. Cory has offered to have one of his staff located here in the north to address the MD board. His contact information is 403-266-5952. I feel this could be an excellent opportunity for land owners to become more knowledgeable about their rights when dealing with oil companies.

AgLeader Technology, Chatam, Ontario. This company specializes in electronic application and planting system, GPS monitoring systems as well as Agricultural computer programs to plan and manage farming operations. The president is Al Myers and the representative, Boyet Norte would be available as a speaker (or provide an alternative) to talk about their product lines. His contact information is: 519-401-2248 and website is www.agleader.com.

Bio-Cycle Solutions, Calgary, AB. The representative, Dax Sharkey, was very interesting to speak with. According to the literature: Bio-Sul Premium Plus is a recycled, sustainable nutrient source consisting of 70% elemental sulfur and 30% compost. Sulfur is essential in all crop systems and a shortage can lead to decreases in yield and protein levels. The information that intrigued me was that they are using compost made of vegetable food products and manure. They collect the refuse from dumpsters behind Walmart, grocery stores and restaurants, compost it and blend it with sulfur as the carrier. They would like to speak about their product. Contact information is 403-804-2788 and website is www.bio-cycle.ca.

Setter Manufacturing Division, Russell, MB. This company specializes in the manufacturing of sprayers, sprayer parts and GPS monitoring systems. They also have a line of grain bags using driers in the field. I spoke with Greg Setter, President, who is interested in speaking or sending a speaker to the MD meeting. Contact information is 204-773-2218. Website: www.settermfg.com.

Best Environmental Technologies, Edmonton, Alberta. I spent a great deal of time at this booth, the representatives were very interesting and had common sense information. They have conducted studies all over the world including northern Alberta. One trial was at the Ross farm at Worsely – McKay may have some comments here, also had some field trials at Whitelaw. As expected, producers want to see reduced input costs with higher yield resulting in more profit. Healthy soils with loose earth promotes aeration and percolation and have a high population of organisms that the naked eye can see and millions of microbes that you cannot. There are about 600 million micro-organisms in a teaspoon of healthy soil. Unhealthy and compacted soil will produce weak plants unable to fight disease and therefore more money is spent on fungicides and pesticides. Hard pan soils do not absorb water or retain it. Soil moisture is essential to plant health and yield. Best Environmental farming system works to rejuvenate the soil. In the last 20 years, the ability to research at the molecular level has brought insight to the relationship between microbial organisms, soil and plant health and yields. Hannah Noseworthy, the representative for Best, would like to speak and summed up their product line by saying “we wake up the nutrients in the soil”. Contact information: 709-765-8995. Website is www.bestsoilhealth.com.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. I spoke with Clare Langlois from Lacombe, AB. We had a good discussion about Fusarium (head blight). The most aggressive species causing FHB is Fusarium graminearum which is designated a pest. The Fusarium fungus infects roots and lower stem of cereal crops but head blight is caused when the fungus infects open flowers and colonizes developing kernels. The infected kernels appear pale and shrunken. Claire Langlois, Cereal Extension Specialist, manning this booth knows our country and was stationed in Dawson Creek for a while – he will send a speaker if we are interested. His contact information is 403 782 8696. Website is www.agri.gov.ab.ca.

The two following may be of interest to Greg for possible rental opportunities:

Fosters Agri Centre, dealer for Mandako Agri, had a booth with the “Heaviest built land roller on the Market”. It is the heaviest I have seen with no need for extra fill but can be if needed. Transports easily with ¾ ton truck. Jason Hopkins -contact number: 306-229-2622. Website www.mandakoagri.com This could also be a possibility for rental unit by the County.

Advanced Agri-Direct (USA) Inc. York, Nebraska. They have a Canadian plant in Leduc, Alberta. I spoke with Shaun Heldt, General Manager, regarding their Common Sense Wirewinder. This units mounts on 3 pt. hitch, hydraulic or bucket mount, unwinds and can rewind (for reuse) barbed, high tensile and soft electric fencing wire. It is distributed in Canada by Advanced Agri-Direct Inc. in Leduc, Alberta. Website: www.cancrete.com. This has possibilities for renting out by the County – price in Canadian is \$1550.00.

Additional booths I visited: Milligen Biofuels – buy damaged grains and canola, Foam Lake, SK. www.milligenbiofuels.com. The Canadian Farm and Ranch Benefits Plan – insurance for drugs, medical travel, dental, etc. Red Deer, AB. www.farmersbenefits.ca. Input Capital – marketing canola, contracts, tec. Dennis How, Regina, SK. www.inputcapital.com. Power Rich – total fertilizer – Luke Adam, Stoney Plain. www.powerrich.com. TransCanada Pipelines and Agriculture – www.clickbeforeyoudig.com. Accurate Scale Industries Ltd. – livestock scale

products. www.gccscale.com. Edmonton, AB. Canada Malting Co. Ltd. – buying malt barley. Red Deer County, Red Deer, AB. Roy Wearmouth. www.canadamalting.com. Beef Cattle Research Council – information for cow/calf feedlots, veterinarians and meat packers. www.beefresearch.ca. Alberta Pulse Growers, Nevin Rosaasen, Leduc, AB. Pioneer Seeds and Products – club root resistant canola. www.pioneer.com/canada. The Real Dirt on Farming – talks about all types of agriculture. www.realdirtionfarming.com. Good information on crops, livestock, dairy, poultry, bees and organic farming. Redmond Agriculture – salt blocks and minerals – www.redmondagriculture.com. Global Ag Risk Solutions – insurance for crops, input costs, etc. Moose Jaw, SK. www.agriskolutions.com.

This was an extensive trade show and provided mega amounts of information for the agricultural audience. Well worth attending.

Garry Candy

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	December 11, 2017
Originated By:	Greg Coon, 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:

- VSI – Letter – (63-10-40)
- VSI – Schedules – (63-10-40)
- VSI – November 3, 2017 Annual General Meeting Minutes (63-10-40)
- VSI – November 3, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (63-10-40)
- VSI – Managers Report for 2017

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of December 11, 2017 as presented.

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

V.S.I. SERVICES (1980) LTD

A nonprofit organization providing veterinary care in Alberta

BOX 137

FAIRVIEW, AB T0H 1L0

PH 780 835 5440

November 14, 2017

RECEIVED

NOV 20 2017

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

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

Dear Allan,

I am sending this letter as a follow up to the third quarter report of VSI expenditures, for your jurisdiction, that was e-mailed to yourself, Brian Harcourt, Greg Coon, and Sarah Hayward.

Following is an estimate of your current VSI account status:

		Claims	Payments	Balance
Jan. 1, 2017	\$			*<8,975>
Payments in 2017	\$		65,300	56,325
First Quarter	\$	11,970		44,355
Second Quarter	\$	16,214		28,141
Third Quarter	\$	4,376		23,765

*Taken from 2016 "Notice to Reader"

Note the above table **does not include** your share of **administration fees** or **investment income** for 2017.

Your claims for the first three quarters of 2017 are \$216 (0.7%) lower than for the same period in 2016. Last year your fourth quarter claims were \$11,280. If the 0.7% decrease in claims continues your fourth quarter expenses are projected to be approximately \$11,205. This would leave you with a surplus of approximately \$12,560 not including your net administrative costs. In 2016 your net administrative costs were 14.1% of your claims. Note: Administrative costs include G.S.T.

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

Yours sincerely

Rik Vandekerkhove, Manager

Cc: Brian Harcourt
Greg Coon
Sarah Hayward

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

SCHEDULE "A" 50/50 – Effective January 1 2017

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

Until this Tariff is amended and subject to the terms and conditions of the year 2017 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, suture materials, 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	21.50	21.50
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	16.75	16.75
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	3.00	3.00
Intravenous Injections	4	6.00	6.00
Stall Fee (calves - per day)	10	15.50	15.50
Stall Fee (older animals)	11	23.50	23.50
Oral Drug Administration	5	16.75	16.75
Subconjunctival injection	7	6.00	6.00
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	68.75	68.75
X-ray (subsequent views - each)	21	14.25	14.25
X-ray – Digital Equipment Surcharge	8	19.25	19.25

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	88.50	88.50
Claw Amputation	17	126.75	126.75
Epididymectomy	20	136.00	136.00
Eye Enucleation	16	189.25	189.25
LDA (Left Displaced Abomasum)	22	220.25	220.25
Omphalitis – Intra-abdominal debridement	35	132.25	132.25
Note: For superficial procedures with minimal debridement use code 28			
RDA (Right Displaced Abomasum)	23	245.75	245.75
Rumen Fistula	24	89.00	89.00
Sole Abscess	29	68.25	68.25
Torsions (abomasal or intestinal – calves < 200#)	14	140.00	140.00
Umbilical Hernia (eviscerated in newborn calves)	18	140.00	140.00
Urethrostomy	15	110.50	110.50
Vasectomy	19	149.25	149.25

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	252.50	252.50
Dystocia	31	114.50	114.50
Embryotomy (1 or 2 cuts)	44	171.00	171.00
Embryotomy (3 or more cuts)	45	202.00	202.00
Note: Code #1 (epidural) can be added, as appropriate, with codes 31, 44, 45 & 52.			
Scrotal Circumference Measurement	65	11.75	11.75
Note: This fee <u>only</u> applies for <u>bulls eliminated</u> from further breeding soundness evaluations.			
Semen Test (1 st bull)	60	50.50	50.50
Semen Test (2 nd to 10 th bull)	61	35.75	35.75 each
Semen Test (11 th to 20 th bull)	62	32.60	32.60 each
Semen Test (51 st bull plus)	63	29.50	29.50 each
Pregnancy Testing (per head)	6	2.55	2.55 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	59.50	59.50
- Uterine	71	113.00	113.00
-Vaginal	81	77.25	77.25
-Vaginal & Rectal	84	89.00	89.00
Uterine Torsion (manual correction)	46	124.75	124.75

D. Hourly Rates for Surgical & Professional Services

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

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

Code 12A/12B or 13A/13B claims CAN'T EXCEED 1½ hours (parts A & B combined)

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Surgery (major)	12A	44.50	44.50
Non Surgical Professional time	12B	26.75	26.75
Surgery (minor)	13A	30.00	30.00
Non Surgical Professional time	13B	26.75	26.75

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	26.75	26.75
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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.

E. Flat Rate Non-Surgical Professional Services

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Cast Application (closed reduction)	26	62.50	62.50
Cast Removal	27	29.50	29.50
Examination	50	50.50	50.50
Examination (2 nd animal)	51	34.50	34.50
Examination (re-visit)	52	34.50	34.50
I.V. Hook - up (1 st & 2 nd no monitor)	55	50.50	50.50 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	88.50	88.50
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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	33.50	33.50
Postmortem - 300 pounds or less	90	53.00	53.00
Postmortem - 300 to 800 pounds	91	57.50	57.50
Postmortem - over 800 pounds	92	86.50	86.50

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

Technovit Block - Application of	30	44.25	44.25
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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	50.50	50.50
Examination (2 nd animal)	51	34.50	34.50
Examination (re-visit)	52	34.50	34.50

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

Postmortem - 20 pounds or less	93	35.75	35.75
Postmortem - 20 to 100 pounds	94	38.25	38.25
Postmortem - over 100 pounds	95	46.75	46.75

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

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	160.25	160.25
Dystocia	33	71.25	71.25
Examination	50	50.50	50.50
Examination (2 nd animal)	51	34.50	34.50
Examination (re-visit)	52	34.50	34.50
Note: Codes 3, 4 & 5 can be claimed with codes 26, 27, 50, 51 & 52, as appropriate.			
Semen Test (1 st animal)	66	42.75	42.75
Semen Test (subsequent animals)	67	32.50	32.50
Postmortem - 20 pounds or less	96	35.75	35.75
Postmortem - 20 to 100 pounds	97	38.25	38.25
Postmortem - over 100 pounds	98	46.75	46.75
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	50.50	50.50
Prolapse - Uterine	73	73.75	73.75
Prolapse - Vaginal	83	50.50	50.50

ELK & BISON**All Services**

Note: The only services covered for elk & bison are pregnancy tests, semen tests and postmortems. Pregnancy & Semen tests can be charged at the flat rates for cattle or by the hour under code 25

Assuming that the hourly rate will only be used when the flat rate is not adequate you are asked to consider whether the extra amount is justified due to the inherent difficulty in working with these species or whether it is due to poor facilities or inadequate help. If the problem is poor facilities or poor help then the producer should assume 100% of the extra fees.

The following codes apply to postmortems for elk & bison:

SERVICE	VSI Code	50% VSI fee	50% CLIENT fee
Postmortem - Brain Removal	99	33.50	33.50
Postmortem - 300 pounds or less	90	53.00	53.00
Postmortem - 300 to 800 pounds	91	57.50	57.50
Postmortem - over 800 pounds	92	86.50	86.50

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

SCHEDULE "B"

Annexed to and forming a part of the agreement dated **effective January 1, 2017**

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
- Note: With the exception of eviscerated hernias in newborn calves**
- 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.
- x) internal fracture fixation procedures
- y) hospitalization for any **service not listed in Schedule "A"**
- z) Services under codes 12A/B & 13A/B over & above 1½ hours

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.

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

Minutes
Annual General Meeting
VSI Services (1980) Ltd
November 3, 2017

Attendees

DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>MUNICIPALITY</u>
Dale McQueen	Woodlands County #15
Dale Smith	MD of Greenview #16
George L'Heureux	Lac La Biche County #18
Ed Armagost	Saddle Hills County
Brian Harcourt	Clear Hills County #21
Terry Ungarian	County of Northern Lights #22
Walter Sarapuk	Mackenzie County #23
Mike Krywiak	MD of Bonnyville #87
Sandra Melzer	MD of Lesser Slave River #124
David Marx	Big Lakes County
Robert Brochu	MD of Smoky River #130
Audrey Gall	Northern Sunrise County #131
Phil Kolodychuk	MD of Fairview #136
Peggy Johnson	President
Tara Guglich	Mighty Peace Veterinary Clinic (Grimshaw)
Rik Vandekerkhove	VSI Manager

Note:

REGRETS

Gerald Manzulenko	Birch Hills County #19
Stan Bzowy	MD of Spirit River #133
Ken Herlinveaux	MD of Peace #135
Richard McWatt	Fairview Veterinary Clinic

OTHERS

Matt Janz	MD of Bonnyville
Evan Lowe	Fairview Veterinary Clinic
Sebastian Dutrisac	Northern Sunrise County
Sheila Kaus	Big Lakes County
Elaine Armagost	Saddle Hills County

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Peggy Johnson at 10:02 a.m.

2. Introductions

All attendees introduced themselves by name and municipality

3. Additions to Agenda

The following item was added to the agenda at the end of other business.
g) table fee under code #9

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Dale Smith that the agenda be adopted

CARRIED

5. Minutes of last AGM – November 4, 2016

No errors or omissions were reported

Moved by Dale Mc Queen that the minutes of the November 4, 2016 Annual General Meeting be approved

CARRIED

6. Business arising from the minutes

There were no items of business arising from the minutes

7. Manager's Report

Dr. Vandekerkhove gave the Manager's Report

Moved by Robert Brochu that the Manager's Report be accepted.

CARRIED

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

8. VSI Update (Round Table Discussion)

Clear Hills County

Brian Harcourt stated that they would continue with the 50/50 fee schedule for 2017 without a cap. They will also continue with no limits on the number of services that will be covered. They will also continue with their subsidy for B.S.E. Testing.

MD of Lesser Slave River #124

Sandra Melzer indicated that they would continue with a 60/40 level of support. There is an increase of the semen test limit from 7 to 8. (The limit of 200 pregnancy tests stays in place)

Lac La Biche County

George L'Heureux said that they would continue with the same 60/40 level of support.

Northern Sunrise County

Audrey Gall stated they would continue with their 50/50 level of support with no caps.

County of Northern Lights

Terry Ungarian indicated that they will stay with the same 50/50 level of support with no cap and no restrictions.

Mackenzie County

Walter Sarapuk said that they also will continue with the same 50/50 level of support without a cap or restrictions.

Big Lakes County

David Marx stated that he thought they would continue with the 50/50 level of support. He warned that with a foreseeable reduction in county revenue, and both veterinarians and ranchers doing OK, this support may be cut when budget decisions are made.

Saddle Hills County

Ed Armagost indicated that their level of support would stay the same at 50/50 with no cap.

MD of Bonnyville #87

Mike Krywiak said that would likely stay with the 50/50 support level with a 20 bull sementest restriction.

MD of Greenview #16

Dale Smith stated they would continue with the same 50/50 level without restrictions.

Woodlands County

Dale McQueen indicated they would stay with the same 50/50 support level. There is a cap per client of 20 semen tests, as well as 400 pregnancy tests.

MD of Smoky River #130

Robert Brochu said they will continue with the 50/50 level of support. There is currently a \$15,000.00 overall cap, and they will introduce a \$2,500.00 individual client cap.

MD of Fairview #136

Phil Kolodychuk stated they will continue with the 70/30 support level, but perhaps may consider a \$30,000.00 overall cap.

Not able to send a representative to the meeting the following municipalities indicated a continuation of their current level of support.

MD of Peace

Support level stays at 50/50

Birch Hills County

Support level stays at 50/50

MD of Spirit River

Support level stays at 70/30

9. Approval of New Members

The meeting was advised that the following veterinarians have applied for VSI membership:

Dr. Susan Hrycun	Bellis Veterinary Services
Dr. Melanie Koetke	Bonnyville Veterinary Clinic
Dr. Evan Lowe	Fairview Veterinary Clinic

It was moved by Terry Ungarian that Drs. Hrycun, Koetke, & Lowe be approved as V.S.I. members.

CARRIED

10. Deletions from Membership list

The meeting was advised that Drs. Robert Berger, Coby Frey, Laura-Anne Kutryk, Eric Laporte, John Pegg, Steve Radostits, Heather Stephens, Emma Vasjo & Melissa Westling did not sign a 2017 VSI contract thus are no longer eligible to be members of VSI.

Sandra Melzer moved that Drs. Berger, Frey, Kutryk, Laporte, Pegg Radostits, Stephens, Vasjo & Westling be removed from the VSI membership list.

CARRIED

Peggy Johnson reported that as of this date there are fifty-one (51) veterinary members out of the seventy-six (76) that signed a 2017 contract. We are down two (2) veterinarians from 2016 and our membership has also decreased by six (6).

11. Nomination of Veterinary Directors

Dr. Tara Guglich was nominated by Walter Sarapuk

Dr. Evan Lowe was nominated by Brian Harcourt

George Brochu moved that nominations cease.

CARRIED

It was moved by Audrey Gall that the Drs. Guglich & Lowe be recommended for appointment to the Board of Directors.

CARRIED

12. Other Business

a) Fee schedule for 2018 Over the past number of years V.S.I. has supported increasing the fee schedule in the amount recommended by the AB.VMA.

The AB.VMA Food Animal Committee hasn't met yet, so we don't have any idea what fee increase they may or may not recommend. The AB.VMA told Dr. Vandekerkhove that due to the current economic situation their fee increases will be on an item by item basis, no longer applying a general across the board increase. Their meeting will be held begin December. They are willing to share the results as soon as they are known

2018 fee schedule

Options are as follows:

1. Stay with the 2017 fee schedule for 2018 catch-up in 2019
2. Go with a 1.6% increase this year (increased cost of living found) and adjust if necessary next year
3. Hold off till the AbVMA increase is known and adapt our prices where required after consult with executive / board of directors. It would be short notice,

but if AbVMA let us know by Dec 10, contracts could probably still leave by Dec 15, 2017

4. Other options.

Discussion followed

Option 4. It was suggested during the discussion to follow any AbVMA price increases up to a 1.6% increase. Any AbVMA price increases higher than the 1.6% level would be capped at the 1.6% in our fee schedule. Where the AbVMA did not increase their prices, we would follow their actions.

Moved by Robert Brochu that we recommend option 4 to the Board of Directors.

CARRIED

b) flushing of wounds, retained Placenta's, etc. done as part of an examination

Dr. Vandekerkhove brought forward a request to have flushing of wounds, retained placentae etc. compensated under an ancillary code in those instances where it is not already compensated for (Code #28 abscesses, and codes 12,13, and 25)

While we do have codes for injections and oral administration, there is no real code to compensate for the additional time and effort involved in flushing. Also, the AbVMA does not have an additional code for it.

Do we want to add this as an ancillary code on, or have it linked to another code already in use?

Discussion followed

Moved by Mike Krywiak that item would be considered as information only and no action to follow from it.

CARRIED

c) Non-conventional treatments like adjustments, acupuncture etc.

At this time we would compensate non-conventional treatments to an extent under the examination code. There is no mechanism in place to compensate for the treatment itself. Once again there is no code for this under the AbVMA schedule.

Do we continue to compensate this under an examination - or -

Do we provide additional compensation / code for this type of examination and treatment - or -

Do we exclude it under schedule B

Discussion followed

Moved by David Marx that we recommend to the board to list this under Schedule B

CARRIED

d) Use of inhalation anesthetic for calf surgery

Currently our surgical procedures are based on local anesthetic procedures and do include all drug administration procedures. Current medicine may use inhalation anesthetic for calf procedures under flat rate inclusive Surgical Procedures. Should we allow an additional cost for inhalation anesthetic, like the digital equipment surcharge we allow for X-rays?

Discussion followed

Moved by Dale Smith that this item be considered for information only, no action to follow from it.

CARRIED

e) use of code 25 in combinations with a code 56 - 52

A code 56 (IV Hookup + 24-hour monitor) is used 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

According to our guidelines on Page 2 of the fee guide a code 25 is used in place of codes 50, 51, 52, 55, and 56 as specified in section E

Section E indicates that

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

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

Some confusion may also be created since code 52 is also a code that allows ancillary (add-on) services like code 3, 4, 5, & 7, which we exclude under the 24-hour monitoring principle

Perhaps it may be beneficial to have the code #52 replaced in this instance with a newly created code #53, and remove the code 56 from the Section E combination.

This way 24-hour linked codes are not included, which would make it easier to administrate and perhaps a bit less confusing.

Discussion followed

Walter Sarapuk moved to advise to the board to create a new code #53 to use in combination with code #56, and which would cover the next 24hr period of monitoring and professional services provided. Same fee schedule as code #52 would be applicable. Included in this advice would be the removal of code #56 from the section E requirements for services to use code #25

CARRIED

f) Code #10 in combination with code #56 - #52 (to be #53)

code #10 is a per day fee, whereas the code #56 - #52 covers a 24-hour period. It may be easier, if the two covered a similar time period.

Discussion followed

Moved by Ed Armagost to recommend to the Board of Directors to change the description of Code#10 from per day to per 24 Hrs.

CARRIED

g) Table fee under code #9

This was a last-minute addition by the manager that was not included in the additions to the agenda.

In a previous AGM meeting the decision was made to include the table fee under the code #9, where the AbVMA has this fee as an add -on. Is there an appetite to disconnect the two, or allow a table fee to be charged to the client without invoking section 6 b) of the contract?

Discussion followed

Moved by Robert Brochu to consider this item for information only, with no action to follow from it.

CARRIED

13. Adjournment

Mike Krywiak moved adjournment at 11:38 am.

**Minutes
VSI Services (1980) Ltd
Board of Directors Meeting
November 3, 2017**

DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>MUNICIPALITY</u>
Dale McQueen	Woodlands County #15
Dale Smith	MD of Greenview #16
George L'Heureux	Lac La Biche County #18
Ed Armagost	Saddle Hills County
Brian Harcourt	Clear Hills County #21
Terry Ungarian	County of Northern Lights #22
Walter Sarapuk	Mackenzie County #23
Mike Krywiak	MD of Bonnyville #87
Sandra Melzer	MD of Lesser Slave River #124
David Marx	Big Lakes County
Robert Brochu	MD of Smoky River #130
Audrey Gall	Northern Sunrise County #131
Phil Kolodychuk	MD of Fairview #136
Peggy Johnson	President
Rik Vandekerkhove	VSI Manager
REGRETS	
Gerald Manzulenko	Birch Hills County #19
Stan Bzowy	MD of Spirit River #133
Ken Herlinveaux	MD of Peace #135
Richard McWatt	Fairview Veterinary Clinic
Tara Guglich	Mighty Peace Veterinary Clinic (Grimshaw)
OTHERS	
Matt Janz	MD of Bonnyville
Evan Lowe	Fairview Veterinary Clinic
Sebastian Dutrisac	Northern Sunrise County
Sheila Kaus	Big Lakes County
Elaine Armagost	Saddle Hills County

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Peggy Johnson at 11:45 a.m.

2. Additions to the Agenda

None

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Dale Smith that the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes – Board of Directors November 4, 2016

Errors or omissions - None

It was moved by David Marx that the minutes of November 4, 2016 meeting of the Board of Directors be approved as circulated

CARRIED

5. Retiring Directors

The following directors are retiring:

Wanda Austin	Lac La Biche County #18
Ken Titford	Saddle Hills County #20
Charlie Johnson	Clear Hills County #21
David Fox	MD of Bonnyville #87
Darren Fulmore	MD of Lesser Slave River #124
George Blackhurst	Big Lakes County
Doug Dallyn	Northern Sunrise County #131
Janice Reyda	MD of Peace #135
Peggy Johnson	MD of Fairview #136
Richard McWatt	Fairview Veterinary Clinic

It was moved by Walter Sarapuk that the resignations from the Board of Directors be accepted.

CARRIED

6. Appointment of Directors

It was moved by Sandra Melzer that

George L'Heureux	Lac La Biche County
Ed Armagost	Saddle Hills County
Brian Hartcourt	Clear Hills County
Mike Krywiak	MD of Bonnyville #87
Sandra Melzer	MD of Lesser Slave River #124
David Marx	Big Lakes County
Audrey Gall	Northern Sunrise County
Ken Herlinveaux	MD of Peace #135
Phil Kolodychuk	MD of Fairview #136

be appointed as Directors for their respective Municipalities

CARRIED

Audrey Gall left the meeting at 12:00 noon.

7. Auditor's Report – 2015 Financial Statement

Copies of the 2016 Notice to Reader were passed out. Dr. Vandekerkhove gave a review. In it he pointed out that the allocation of expenses may still change after an accountant review of the basis for allocation. When asked about line item "unspecified Funds" he could not remember that this was a result of the high interest rates during the 1980s and is used to provide bridge funding to pay claims for January and February. The \$39 in that line for 2016 was due to interest paid on late payment of our GST refund by Revenue Canada.

Moved by David Marx that the 2016 Notice to Reader be accepted.

CARRIED

From the estimates it appears that this year the majority of jurisdictions are in reasonable shape, but some could end up with a modest deficit once administrative costs are included in the mix. Our overall spending this year has gone above the estimated 11.8 %, and if this trend continues money will become tighter. It was requested that the municipalities be timely in paying their 2018 requisitions.

8. Appointment of Accountant for 2017 fiscal year

Moved by David Marx that H & R Block of Fairview be appointed to prepare a "Notice to Reader" for the 2017 fiscal year

CARRIED

9. Approval to Destroy Claim Forms

Moved by Dale Smith that V.S.I. claim forms and contracts up to and including 2010 be destroyed

CARRIED

10. Requisitions for 2018

Upon the recommendation of the Manager, Dale McQueen moved that the 2018 contract estimates be based on the following:

- Actual expenditures from October 1, 2016 to September 30th,2017.
- An estimate of the administration cost and GST cost for the same time period
- An increase in accordance with the percentage increase approved by the board
- A 10% contingency

And that the 2018 **requisitions** be based on the following

- Actual expenditures from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017
- Met administrative & GST cost 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

Non-conventional treatments like adjustments, acupuncture etc.

It was moved by David Marx in accordance with discussion at the AGM that we recommend to the board to list these services under schedule B

CARRIED

Use of code 25 in combinations with a code 56 – 52

It was moved by George L'Heureux that in accordance with discussion at the AGM that the board creates a new code #53 to use in combination with code #56. This code #53 would cover the next 24hr period(s) of monitoring and professional services provided after the initial code #56. Same fee schedule as code #52 would be applicable. Included in this motion is the removal of code #56 from the section E requirements for services to use code #25

CARRIED

Code #10 in combination with code #56 - #52

In accordance with the discussion at the AGM Ed Armagost moved that the description for code #10 be changed to a per 24-hour time frame rather than per day.

CARRIED

12. Veterinary Fee Schedule Update

It was moved by Robert Brochu that the following fee recommendations from the VSI AGM be incorporated into the 2018 fee schedule:

- follow any AbVMA price increases up to a 1.6% increase.
- Any AbVMA price increases higher than the 1.6% level would be capped at the 1.6% in our fee schedule.
- Where the AbVMA did not increase their prices, we would follow their actions.

CARRIED

13. Review of President's Honorarium

Moved by Mike Krywiak that the President's Honorarium be set at \$725.00 for 2018.

CARRIED

14. Election of ExecutivePresident

George L'Heureux nominated Terry Ungarian for the position of President.

Dale McQueen moved that nominations cease

CARRIED

Terry Ungarian was declared President by acclamation.

Vice-President

Dale McQueen nominated Phil Kolodychuk for the position of Vice-president.

Mike Krywiak moved that nominations cease.

CARRIED

Phil Kolodychuk was declared Vice-president by acclamation.

Veterinary Directors

Walter Sarapuk moved that the Board accept the recommendation from the AGM that Evan Lowe & Tara Guglich be approved as Directors.

CARRIED

Executive Committee

George L'Heureux moved that Drs. Lowe & Guglich be appointed to the Executive Committee along with the President and Vice President.

CARRIED

15. Other Business

- a) Manager review. The board agreed that Dr. Vandekerkhove will continue as manager for VSI Services (1980) Limited

Brian Harcourt moved to pay the manager \$80.00 per hour for services rendered

CARRIED

- b) Signing Authorities

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

CARRIED

17. Adjournment

Peggy Johnson declared the Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Managers' Report for 2017 AGM

The following table compares the differences in services & costs for the top 10 codes for the periods Oct 1/15 to Sept 30/16 and Oct 1/16 to Sept 30/17

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

Most pregnancy testing is done in the fall thus for this service we are basically comparing 2015 with 2016.

Code	Description	15/16 Services	16/17 Services	% Change	15/16 Cost	16/17 Cost	% Change
6	Pregnancy Tests	58,598	58,401	-0.34%	144,461	148,883	3.1%
60	Semen Tests	3,481	3,738	7.38%	130,009	140,148	7.8%
41	Caesareans	245	322	31.43%	64,414	82,200	27.6%
25	Herd Health	144	152	5.56%	26,097	26,424	1.3%
50	Gen. Examinations	541	489	-9.61%	25,545	24,363	-4.6%
9	Clinic Fees	1,087	1,123	3.31%	22,037	23,162	5.1%
31	Calvings	152	143	-5.92%	17,115	16,908	-1.2%
56	Fluid Therapy-calves	147	218	48.30%	12,658	18,326	44.8%
71	Uterine Prolapse	75	97	29.33%	8,420	11,179	32.8%
81	Vaginal Prolapses	48	47	-2.08%	3,579	3,731	4.2%
	Other Services	1,473	1,389	-5.70%	64,108	71,611	11.7%
	Grand Totals	65,991	66,119	0.19%	518,443	566,935	9.4%

Between the two 12 month periods under comparison:

- Total claims were up 3.4% (5668 vs 5,482)
- Total services were up 0.2% (66,119 vs 65,991)
- Total costs were up 9.4% (518,443 vs 484,778)

Percentage changes for the first 3 quarters are as follows:

Woodlands County	down	-8.27%
M. D of Greenview	up	18%
Lac La Biche County	up	7%
Birch Hills County	up	42%
Saddle Hills County	up	20%
Clear Hills County	down	-1%
County of Northern Lights	up	9%
Mackenzie County	up	20%
M. D. of Bonnyville	up	14%
M. D. of Lesser Slave River	up	5%
M. D. of Big Lakes	up	2%
M. D. of Smoky River	up	21%
Northern Sunrise County	down	-10%
M. D. of Spirit River	down	-5%
M. D. of Peace	up	56%
M. D. of Fairview	up	49%
VSI total	up	13%

P2 Manager's Report for 2016 AGM

We were not advised in time for the AGM about what increase, if any, the Food Animal Committee (FAC) of the Alberta Veterinary Association will be recommending for 2018. Their decision will be made early December and will be item based, not general increase.

All of our Surplus funds were invested with Manulife Bank. A total of \$ \$1,961.98 in interest has been paid to the end of September.

Our cost for the tax return and the statement was higher than last year at \$1,312.50.

Veterinary claims were usually mailed on the next business day following the end of each month. A few late submissions were processed during the month following. Two cheques were late being mailed out. Quarterly reports were issued to municipalities contact persons within 5 to 6 weeks of the end of each quarter.

It has been an interesting year. I have not been able to improve on Jim's system as much as I had wanted. I have purchased a Quickbook format, and the hope is to change over to that format for the coming year. This fall quarter will be used to hopefully set it up so it is fully functional by February 2018

