

**AGENDA**  
**CLEAR HILLS COUNTY**  
**AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING**  
**August 20, 2019**

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The Agricultural Service Board meeting of Clear Hills County will be held on Wednesday, August 20, 2019 at 10:00 a.m., meeting in the Council Chambers of the County Administration Office, 313 Alberta Avenue, Worsley, Alberta.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. AGENDA**
- 3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**
  - a. June 19, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes.....2**
- 4. Delegation(s)**
  - a. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry – Doug Macaulay 10:30 a.m.....7**
- 5. BUSINESS ARISING**
- 6. OLD BUSINESS**
  - a. Activity Report.....9**
  - b. Policy 6310 Rental Equipment .....12**
  - c. Grain Storage.....15**
  - d. Board Reports .....36**
- 7. NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. Events.....44**
  - b. Federal Health of Animals Regulations .....53**
- 8. REPORTS**
  - a. Agricultural Fieldman Report .....61**
- 9. INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE.....64**
- 10. CONFIDENTIAL**
- 11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Worsley, Alberta  
June 19, 2019**

PRESENT

|                |                        |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Brian Harcourt | Chair                  |
| MacKay Ross    | Member                 |
| Baldur Ruecker | Deputy Chair           |
| Julie Watchorn | Ruecker<br>Member      |
| David Janzen   | Council Representative |
| Garry Candy    | Member                 |

ATTENDING

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

ABSENT

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Harcourt called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

**AG88(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda governing the June 19, 2019 Agricultural Service Board meeting with the following additions:**  
**7a. Events – Level 2 Grazing School with Jim Gerrish – sold out**  
**Prairie Cereals Summit**  
**Ag in Motion**  
**Grazing School with Dr. Allen Williams**  
**7e. Equipment Rental outside of the County CARRIED.**

**AG89(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the May 7, 2019 Agricultural Service Board Meeting as presented. CARRIED.**

OLD BUSINESS

Activity Report

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

**AG90(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the July 19, 2019 Agricultural Service Board Activity Report as presented. CARRIED.**

Trade Show

The Agricultural Service Board is presented with the 2019 Tradeshow Revenue and Expense Analysis for review.

**AG91(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to amend Trade Show cost-recovery target from 70% to 55%, in response to the ongoing reduction in business sponsorship due to the continued downturn in the economy. CARRIED.**

Farmer Exemption for  
Class 1 Driver  
Training

The Board is presented with a draft letter to Alberta Transportation lobbying for farmers and farm workers be exempt from the Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) Class 1 training.

**AG92(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board approve the draft letter to Alberta Transportation lobbying for farmers and farm workers be exempt from the Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) Class 1 training. CARRIED.**

Portable Solar Waterer

The Board requested administration to bring back further from Northern Sunrise County on their Portable Solar Waterer.

**AG93(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion around Northern Sunrise County's Portable Solar Waterer rental unit. CARRIED.**

Deputy Chair Ruecker entered the meeting 10:34 a.m.

Beaver Relocation

The Board requested administration to bring back further information in the relocation of live beaver legislation.

**AG94(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information that relocation of live beavers is allowed, and that a permit is required to live trap on crown land. CARRIED.**

Veterinary Services  
Incorporated

The Board requested administration bring back further information from Northern Sunrise County regarding their request for support to have beekeepers added to the list of eligible producers under the Veterinary Services Incorporated (VSI).

**AG95(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board to not support Northern Sunrise County's request to add beekeepers to the list of eligible producers under the Veterinary Services Incorporated (VSI). CARRIED.**

Agricultural Service  
Board Program  
Review Update

The Board is presented with an update from the Agricultural Service Board Program Review Steering Committee.

**AG96(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the update from the Agricultural Service Board Program Review Steering Committee. CARRIED.**

Board Reports

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

**AG97(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the June 19, 2019 Board members' written and verbal reports for information as presented.  
CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS

Events

The Board is presented with events for their consideration.

**AG98(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Chair Harcourt, Member Candy and Deputy Chair Ruecker who attended Soil Health Field Day on June 11, 2019 at the NPARA Research Farm near Manning, Alberta.  
CARRIED.**

**AG99(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board authorize all available members to attend the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association Field Day at the Research Farm on August 1, 2019 near Fairview, Alberta.  
CARRIED.**

**AG100(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board authorize Member Candy and Chair Harcourt to attend Wheat Stalks workshop being held on August 8, 2019 in Teepee Creek, Alberta.  
CARRIED.**

**AG101(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board authorize all available members to attend the Earthworms workshop on July 9, 2019 at the NPARA Research Farm near Manning, Alberta.  
CARRIED.**

**AG102(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board authorize Member Candy, Councillor Janzen and Member Ross to attend the 2019 Canadian Beef industry Conference being held on August 13-15, 2019 at the BMO Centre at Stampede Park in Calgary, Alberta.  
CARRIED.**

**AG103(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board authorize all available members to attend NPARA Harvest Tour being held on August 14, 2019 at the Research Farm near Manning, Alberta.  
CARRIED.**

Member Ross requested Prairie Cereals Summit be added to Events.

**AG104(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board table the Prairie Cereals Summit on December 11-12, 2019 at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel in Banff, Alberta to the next Agricultural Service Board meeting.  
CARRIED.**

Member Candy requested Ag in Motion be added to Events.

AG105(06/19/19)

**RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Member Candy to attend Ag in Motion on July 16-18, 2019 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.**

**CARRIED.**

Member Candy requested Grazing School with Dr. Allen Williams be added to Events.

AG106(06/19/19)

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Member Candy to attend Grazing School with Dr. Allen Williams on July 22-23, 2019 at the Lac Cardinal Hall and Grounds.**

**CARRIED.**

Agricultural Service Board Grant Annual Report

The Board is presented with the annual Agricultural Service Board Grant report that is filed with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

AG107(06/19/19)

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the annual Agricultural Service Board Grant report that is filed with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.**

**CARRIED.**

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

The Board is presented with information from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry in regards to the appeal process under the *Weed Control Act*.

AG108(06/19/19)

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the amendments to the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry *Weed Control Act* Appeal Process.**

**CARRIED.**

Ag Plastics Recycling Update

The Board is presented with information regarding Cleanfarms being selected as the program operator for ag plastics collection and recycling.

AG109(06/19/19)

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service request administration bring back information the total cost per bushel for grain bag storage compared to conventional storage, including capital and operating costs and the benefits and drawbacks of using grain bags for storage.**

**CARRIED.**

AG110(06/19/19)

**RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information that Cleanfarms will be the program operator for the three year ag plastics collection and recycling pilot project.**

**CARRIED.**

Add in:  
Equipment Rental  
Outside of

County

The Board is presented with a request from the Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130 to rent the County's 30' wick applicator.

**AG111(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board allow Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130 a one-time rental of the rotowiper 30 foot wick applicator. CARRIED.**

**AG112(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to draft amendments Policy 6310 to allow conditional rental of rental equipment to other municipalities. CARRIED.**

Chair Harcourt recessed for lunch at 12:07 p.m.  
Chair Harcourt reconvened the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

REPORTS

Agricultural Fieldman  
Report

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

**AG113(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the June 19, 2019 Agricultural Fieldman's Report for information as presented. CARRIED.**

Information &  
Correspondence

The Board is presented with correspondence for review.  
1. Clearwater County Agricultural Service Board - Letter (63-10-02)

**AG114(06/19/19)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board receives the Information and Correspondence as presented. CARRIED.**

ADJOURNMENT

Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:53 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

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

# Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Meeting:       | <b>Agricultural Service Board</b>  |
| Meeting Date:  | August 20, 2019  |
| Originated By: | Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman   |
| Title:         | <b>DELEGATION – Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Team Visit 10:30 a.m.</b> |
| File:          | 63-10-02   |

## DESCRIPTION:

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Agricultural Service Board Program manager, Doug Macaulay, will be in attendance at 10:30 a.m. for a team site visit with the Agricultural Service Board.

## BACKGROUND:

## ATTACHMENTS:

- Letter from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

## OPTIONS:

## RECOMMENDED MOTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agriculture Service Board accept for information the delegation from Doug Macaulay, manager of Agricultural Service Board Program with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

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

March 7, 2019

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

RECEIVED  
MAR 14 2019  
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

Dear Mr. Harcourt:

The Agricultural Service Board Program Team is planning 15 field visits across Alberta this year and are planning to visit your municipality. The purpose of our visit is to strengthen our relationships with ASBs and to fulfill recommendations made by the Office of the Auditor General. This is a unique opportunity for the ASB to highlight programs, accomplishments and meet with ASB Program staff.

We would like to schedule a date to meet with your ASB between late May and late September. We know that this is a busy time of year for ASB programs but the objective of our visit is to see the results of your programs as we get the best sense of the success of your programs when they are actively ongoing.

A field visit is a full day process starting with a short meeting (approx. one hour) with your ASB members followed by an office and field tour with your Agricultural Fieldman. The primary focus of the field visit is to tour the municipality to see examples of programs implemented under the Legislative and Environmental Funding Streams of the ASB Grant Program. The field visit focuses on the outcomes and deliverables of your Strategic Plan and we may request to see outcomes of particular programs as part of the field visit. We have included a "Frequently Asked Questions" document with this letter that provides a general overview of the field visit process.

Please arrange a time for us to come visit with your ASB. If you have any questions regarding the field visit please contact Alan Efetha at 403-381-5852 or [alan.efetha@gov.ab.ca](mailto:alan.efetha@gov.ab.ca). Once you have chosen the date that will work best for your field visit please contact Pam Retzloff, ASB Program Coordinator at [pam.retzloff@gov.ab.ca](mailto:pam.retzloff@gov.ab.ca) or phone (780) 427-4213 as she will be coordinating the dates for the 15 field visits being done this year.

We are looking forward to the opportunity to come and visit with you this summer.

Sincerely,



Doug Macaulay, Manager  
Agricultural Service Board Program

Enclosure

cc: Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman  
Allan Rowe, CAO



# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

|                |                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Meeting:       | Agricultural Service Board       |
| Meeting Date:  | August 20, 2019                  |
| Originated By: | Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman |
| Title:         | <b>ACTIVITY REPORT</b>           |
| File:          | 63-10-02                         |

### DESCRIPTION:

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

### BACKGROUND:

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

### ATTACHMENTS:

- Agricultural Service Board Activity Report

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board (ASB) accepts the August 20, 2019 ASB Activity Report as presented.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: 9 Manager: *AB* AgFieldman: *GC*



## Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

### Activity Report for August 20, 2019 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 |            |   |    |   |
|---|------------|---|----|---|
| <b>October 15, 2018</b>                     |            |   |    |   |
| AG93  | (10/15/18) | RESOLUTION by Chair Harcourt that this Agricultural Service Board approach the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association to investigate planning a No-Till Conference for northern Alberta for the winter of 2019-2020.   | AF |   |
| AG110                                       | (10/15/18) | RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board approach Peace Country Beef and Forage Association to host a conference or workshop on economic field rotations and organic farming alternatives within Clear Hills County.  | AF |   |
| <b>February 20, 2019</b>                    |            |   |    |   |
| AG30  | (02/20/19) | RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to bring back costs and information on developing an Alternative Land Use Service Program.   |    | In the works – Developing Business Plan   |
| AG32  | (02/20/19) | RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to approach the Peace Country Beef and Forage about holding a Gate to Plate Marketing workshop in Clear Hills County to assist producers in direct marketing their produce and other farm products.                      |    |   |
| <b>March 18, 2019</b>                       |            |   |    |   |
| AG59  | (03/18/19) | RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to research costs associated with planning a tour to the Chinook Applied Research Association (CARA) Soil Sampling Lab in Oyen, Alberta.   | AF | In the works – reached out again Aug 8/19 |
| AG85  | (05/07/19) | RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board request adding the following agenda item be added to the next Veterinary Services Incorporated (VSI) Annual General Meeting: Including mileage for veterinary herd health visit costs in the Agreement Schedule "A" (services payable by VSI). |    |   |
| <b>June 19, 2019</b>                        |            |   |    |   |
| AG91  | (06/19/19) | RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to  |    | Complete                                  |



## Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

### Activity Report for August 20, 2019 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                             |
|-------------------------|------------|--|------|------------------------------------|
|                         |            | amend Trade Show cost-recovery target from 70% to 55%, in response to the ongoing reduction in business sponsorship due to the continued downturn in the economy.  |      |                                    |
| AG104                   | (06/19/19) | RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board table the Prairie Cereals Summit on December 11-12, 2019 at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel in Banff, Alberta to the next Agricultural Service Board meeting.  |      | August 20<br>RFD                   |
| AG109                   | (06/19/19) | RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service request administration bring back information the total cost per bushel for grain bag storage compared to conventional storage, including capital and operating costs and the benefits and drawbacks of using grain bags for storage. |      | August 20<br>RFD                   |
| AG112                   | (06/19/19) | RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to draft amendments Policy 6310 to allow conditional rental of rental equipment to other municipalities.  |      | August 20<br>RFD                   |
| <b>Items in Waiting</b> |            |  |      |                                    |
| 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<br>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.   |      | As of Nov 9<br>2018 no new<br>info |

# Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

|                |                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Meeting:       | Agricultural Service Board          |
| Meeting Date:  | August 20, 2019                     |
| Originated By: | Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman    |
| Title:         | <b>Policy 6310 Rental Equipment</b> |
| File:          | 63-10-10                            |

## DESCRIPTION:

The Board requested administration to draft amendments to Policy 6310 Rental Equipment to allow conditional rental of equipment to other municipalities.

## BACKGROUND:

AG112(06/19/19) RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to draft amendments Policy 6310 to allow conditional rental of rental equipment to other municipalities. CARRIED.

## OPTIONS:

1. Recommend Council approve the amendment to Policy 6310 Rental Equipment
2. Accept for information (no further action taken).

## ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft – Policy 6310 Rental Equipment

## RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board...

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:



AgFieldman:





# Clear Hills County

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Effective Date: <b>September 11, 2018</b> | Policy Number<br><b>6310</b> |
| Title: <b>RENTAL EQUIPMENT POLICY</b>     |                              |

## 1. Policy Statement:

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

## 2. Purpose:

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

## 3. Responsibilities

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

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

**4. Reference to Legislation**

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

**5. End of Policy**

ADOPTED:

Resolution C170(02/22/10)

Date: February 22, 2011

Resolution C422-18 (09/11/18)

Date; September 18, 2018

# Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

|                |                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Meeting:       | Agricultural Service Board       |
| Meeting Date:  | August 20, 2019                  |
| Originated By: | Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman |
| Title:         | <b>Grain Storage</b>             |
| File:          | 63-10-02                         |

## DESCRIPTION:

The Board requested administration bring back costs associated with grain bag storage compared to conventional storage, including capital and operating costs and the benefits and drawbacks of using grain bags for storage.

## BACKGROUND:

AG109(06/19/19) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service request administration bring back information the total cost per bushel for grain bag storage compared to conventional storage, including capital and operating costs and the benefits and drawbacks of using grain bags for storage.  
CARRIED.

## OPTIONS:

1. Accept for information (no further action).

## ATTACHMENTS:

- Grain Storage Considerations – Alberta Agriculture and Forestry report

## RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion around grain storage options.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:

*ABJ*

AgFieldman:

*GC*

## **Grain Storage Considerations**

**Alberta Agriculture and Forestry  
Economics and Competitiveness Branch  
Competitiveness and Market Analysis Section  
August, 2014  
Updated May, 2018**

**Contact:**  
**Ryan Furtas**  
**780-422-7095**  
**[ryan.furtas@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ryan.furtas@gov.ab.ca)**



## Executive Summary

On farm grain, storage is essential for most Alberta cropping operations. Grain storage became a concern in 2013 due to record crop yields and transportation issues. Grain bin prices have increased from \$2.50/bushel in 2004 to nearly \$5.00/bushel in 2018. This is due to the increase in steel, concrete and labour prices and demand. With the increase in cost and the need to add more storage, producers have been looking at alternative grain storage options.

Statistics Canada farm survey found that as of March of 2017, Alberta had nearly 27 million tonnes of permanent on-farm storage capacity with less than 10 per cent of on farm grain being held in temporary storage.

Grain storage is important for grain marketing, in most cases grain prices are seasonally the lowest at harvest. Storing grain over a short-term, following harvest can improve returns and provide product at times when deliveries have slowed.

It is important for producers to consider their entire operation when deciding on what system to invest in. Some things they need to consider are the size of the operation, distance the land is from the storage area, age of the operator and if the land is rented or owned. These factors will assist in the decision making process for which storage system to invest in.

Permanent storage provides piece of mind that grain is protected from weather and wildlife damage. These facilities include steel grain bins, sheds and farmer owned elevators. Temporary systems are excellent for short-term storage and include grain bags, grain rings with tarps, bunkers, open piles and rentals. The most commonly used systems in Alberta are grain bins and grain baggers. When comparing bins to bags, grain bins are more economical when storing smaller volumes of grain.

When storing larger volumes of product on an annual basis, grain bags become more competitive. In the example provided in this report, 70,000 bushels were needed to be stored per year before bags were more economical than bins. Even when grain bags are more economical, they can be more prone to damage and increased possibility for grain spoilage. Bags also lack aeration options and the waste plastic can be difficult to dispose of. To make a fair comparison of each system, factors such as lifespan, the cost of the system, depreciation, salvage value, repairs and maintenance, interest and spoilage need to be calculated.

Grain storage considerations are expensive decisions for farms to make. Deciding on which storage option to select can be complicated and dependent on the needs of the individual operation. With some planning and research, the right storage option can be selected for the operation.

## Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 1.0 Introduction: .....                              | 1  |
| 2.0 History: .....                                   | 1  |
| 3.0 Grain Storage Today: .....                       | 2  |
| 4.0 Importance of Grain Storage for Marketing .....  | 3  |
| 5.0 Grain Storage Decisions .....                    | 3  |
| 5.1 Permanent Storage .....                          | 4  |
| 5.2 Temporary Storage .....                          | 7  |
| 6.0 Costs and Features of Common Grain storage ..... | 11 |
| 7.0 Set up and Location.....                         | 12 |
| 8.0 Price Comparison Example .....                   | 12 |
| 9.0 Conclusion.....                                  | 16 |
| 10.0 References .....                                | 17 |

## Figures

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Figure 1. Alberta Crop Production and Crop Stocks.....   | 1  |
| Figure 2. Alberta Grain Bin Prices .....   | 2  |
| Figure 3. Permanent and Temporary Storage in Canada as of March, 2014.....                       | 3  |
| Figure 4. Advantages and Disadvantages of Permanent Storage Systems.....                         | 4  |
| Figure 5. Steel Grain Bins (Corrugated and Smooth Walled).....                                   | 4  |
| Figure 6. Grain Storage Sheds.....   | 6  |
| Figure 7. Farmer Owned Grain Elevators for Storage.....  | 6  |
| Figure 8. Advantages and Disadvantage of Temporary Storage Systems.....                          | 7  |
| Figure 9. Grain Bagging and Extracting Operation.....  | 8  |
| Figure 10. Grain Ring and Tarp System (Steel and Wood).....                                      | 9  |
| Figure 11. Grain Bunker .....  | 10 |
| Figure 12. Open Pile of Wheat.....   | 10 |
| Figure 13. Grain Storage Options.....  | 11 |
| Figure 14. Storage Options Estimated Price Comparison Example (Based on above assumptions) ..... | 14 |
| Figure 15. Grain Bagger Cost Curve .....   | 15 |

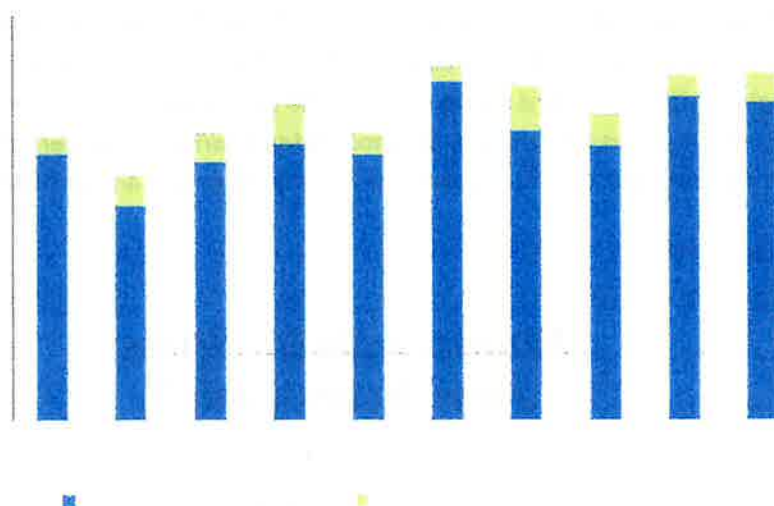
## 1.0 Introduction:

Grain storage is essential to any grain operation in Alberta. Since commercial grain handling systems in western Canada cannot store the entire grain crop. Grain storage is used as part of a grain marketing strategy. Grain prices tend to be the lowest at harvest and it makes sense for it to be stored until prices rise later in the year. The choices available for storing grain are abundant.

The 2013 crop year, experienced record production as seen in Figure 1. Rail transportation backlogs also occurred due to weather and competition for rail resources. This led to increased interest in on farm storage. Storage options are either permanent or temporary. Producers are also looking at storing on farm fertilizer, which has increased the need for added and diversified storage.

This paper will identify options for grain storage and the associated costs and benefits.

Figure 1. Alberta Crop Production and Crop Stocks as of July 31, all figures in '000



Source: Statistics Canada

## 2.0 History:

As grain production in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was developing in Western Canada the need for grain storage was essential. The iconic grain elevator began to dot the countryside. Alberta's first grain elevator was built in 1895. As there was very little on farm storage and farmers relied on grain elevators to store and hold their grain until it was shipped by rail. In 1934, the highest number of elevators were recorded. Alberta had 1,781 elevators and Western Canada had 5,758 elevators. In the 1940's and 50's additional temporary and permanent storage was built in or near existing elevators. The minimal on farm storage producers did have, were wooden buildings that were susceptible to rodents and weather damage. In 1926, Western Steel Products Limited (now known as West Steel) designed the first corrugated steel weatherproof granary, which began to dot the western Canadian prairies.

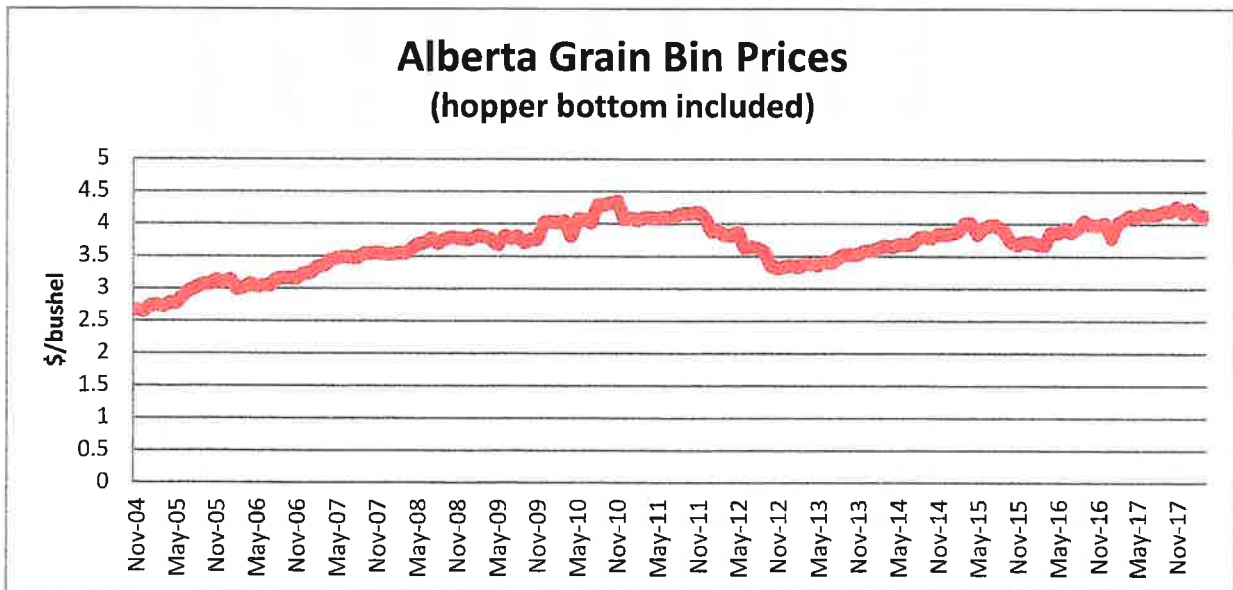
In the late 1950's the consolidation of delivery points started to occur and larger wood elevator facilities were built. In the 1990's grain companies concentrated on building large concrete silos that were designed as high capacity, high throughput terminals. The larger elevators serviced larger areas and more farmers. The availability of commercial elevator storage became limited. Many wooden elevators were sold to producers for personal storage, adapted for bulk fertilizer storage, torn down or turned into a museum.

By 2017, there were only 352 operational country elevators in Western Canada and 79 in Alberta. Despite the reduction in elevator numbers these elevators become increasingly more efficient. As of 2012, the average western Canadian elevator turnover rate was six turns a year, in 1999 it was less than five turns. As grain elevator storage became more limited, farms were getting larger, yields were increasing and on farm storage facilities were deteriorating. Farms needed to invest in more efficient on farm grain storage.

### 3.0 Grain Storage Today:

Grain bin prices have been climbing over the last 10 years. Figure 2 shows that prices have increased from \$2.50 a bushel in 2004 to over \$4.00 a bushel in 2011. Prices have decreased in 2012 but have been trending higher in late 2017, bins values matched the 2011 prices. Steel (both corrugated or smooth walled) grain bin prices are driven by demand and steel prices. Producers are looking at other permanent and temporary alternatives to grain bins for reasons of cost and portability.

Figure 2. Alberta Grain Bin Prices



Source: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Competitiveness and Market Analysis Section

According to Statistics Canada March 2017 survey, Alberta has approximately 27 million metric tonnes of permanent on farm storage capacity and approximately 9% of the total grain was in temporary on

farm storage (Figure 3). This shows that producers are using both temporary and permanent storage options on their farm.

Figure 3. Permanent and Temporary Storage in Canada as of March, 2017

| March 2017 Farm Survey – Supplementary Questions on Grain Storage |  |                   |  |
|---|--|-------------------|--|
| Province  | Q1<br>Permanent On-farm Storage Capacity |                   | Q1<br>Percentage of Total Grain in On-Farm Temporary Storage (%) |
|   | Bushels                                  | Metric Tonnes     | %  |
| Quebec  | 196 000 000                              | 5 330 000         | 1.9  |
| Ontario   | 345 000 000                              | 9 380 000         | 5.9  |
| Manitoba  | 477 000 000                              | 12 970 000        | 2.8  |
| Saskatchewan  | 1 313 000 000                            | 35 750 000        | 7.7  |
| Alberta   | 984 000 000                              | 26 770 000        | 8.6  |
| <b>Canada</b>   | <b>3 314 000 000</b>                     | <b>90 200 000</b> | <b>6.7</b>   |

Source: Statistics Canada, Grain Storage Capacity, March, 2017

#### 4.0 Importance of Grain Storage for Marketing

Generally in years of normal production, prices are seasonally lowest at harvest. This is due to a large supply of newly harvested crop putting pressure on the grain handling system. Grain, oilseed and pulse users require crop over the whole year. Storing grain over a short-term following harvest (three to four months) can improve returns and provide product at times when deliveries are slow.

The longer grain is held, the more expensive storage becomes. Only in the event that there is a general price rise throughout the crop year does long-term storage pay. Deciding on a storage option depends on the financial situation of the farm. Things to consider are the cost of the buildings, maintenance of the system, the opportunity costs of receiving sales proceeds from the crop, using the money to pay debt or invest, storage payments offered by the grain handling company and the impact of the changing basis levels on cash prices. Farm storage is used as a marketing tool and can increase farmers' net returns, however if stored too long or sold at the wrong time storage can be costly.

#### 5.0 Grain Storage Decisions

Making the decision of what system to invest in begins with assessing the needs of the entire operation. Factors to consider are:

- Size of operation and storage needed
- Distance of land from storage area
- Type(s) of commodity being stored
- Is land rented or owned
- Age of operator and succession plans
- Current cash flow and/or loan needs
- Labour availability during the year
- New build or expansion
- Cost
- Lifespan
- Average yields for the operation
- Grain conditions while storing
- Ability to monitor storage bins
- Accessibility of the storage site

- Equipment needs
- Options needed (aeration, handling system, monitors, sweeps, etc.)
- Length of storage
- Resale value
- Pest and wildlife concerns

The decision to use either permanent or temporary storage is unique to each individual's situation. Generally permanent storage is preferred to maintain grain quality and for the ease of use. That said some temporary systems are becoming popular due to their flexibility.

### 5.1 Permanent Storage

Includes any affixed structures not easily moveable such as steel bins, sheds/quonsets and farmer owned elevators

Figure 4. Advantages and Disadvantages of Permanent Storage Systems

| Advantages  | Disadvantages   |
|---|---|
| Provides peace of mind that grain will be "safe" (aeration, limited contamination, moisture barrier and reduced pest and wildlife damage) | Costly to setup and takes time to build (proper foundations are needed)                   |
| Investment for future resale  | Permanent and more costly for grain transportation if land is not close to the structures |
| Ease of handling  | Maintenance is required   |
| Facilities can be used for other uses (i.e. smooth walled bins for fertilizer storage, sheds for equipment)                               | Structures need to be cleaned before using  |

### Steel Bins

Figure 5. Steel Grain Bins (Corrugated and Smooth Walled)



Source: <http://www.brockmfg.com/uploads/photos/600/hoppersblue.jpg>;  
<http://www.flaman.com/agriculture//image.php?width=475&image=http://www.flaman.com/agriculture/images/products/GrainMax2.jpg>

There are two main types of steel bins, corrugated steel and smooth walled steel. Smooth walled bins have a higher upfront cost than corrugated. They can be used for both fertilizer and grain storage and have minimal assembly costs. Smooth walled bins come with hopper bottoms and are quick and easy to install. Corrugated bins are more economical and come in larger capacities than smooth walled. Corrugated bins can be placed on a hopper bottom or on a flat bottom concrete base. Either corrugated or smooth walled bins allow for aeration and permanent handling options.

Brands, sizes and additional options can be purchased for either corrugated or smooth walled bins. Prices are dependent on the bin size and options. Larger bins normally have a lower investment per bushel, but lack long-term flexibility. Grain quality is more difficult to manage in a larger bin. With smaller bins, one can reduce the risk of jeopardizing a large volume of crop if a storage issue occurs.

Maintenance for grain bins is minimal. They should be cleaned when empty, inspected for insects and repairs made when needed. Some things to look for are corrosion, loose bolts, foundation cracks and seals. Any mechanical equipment should have the dust removed regularly and electrical equipment should be inspected for damage. If using smooth walled bins for both fertilizer and grain, the bin should be pressure washed on the inside after fertilizer use, to remove the dust. With proper maintenance, there will be minimal wear and tear and an increase in the lifespan of the bin.

Grain operations would look at investing in steel bins if:

- They owned the majority of the land farmed
- Land was located close to the bin system(s)
- Existing bin and auger system that is easy to add onto
- Reliant on aeration to maintain quality
- There is a need to closely monitor grain for quality
- The operation has plans to be in business for a long time
- A need for long term grain storage (over 8-12 months)
- Storing high quality crops (malt barley, milling wheat, durum, canola, human consumption pulses)
- Use of storage as an investment
- Want peace of mind that grain is relatively safe from pests, wildlife, weather and theft
- There is a need for flexibility to store fertilizer or seed is important

## Sheds

Figure 6. Grain Storage Sheds



Source: <http://www.ahrens.com.au/files/1681.jpg>; <http://asicoverbuildings.com/sites/default/files/Comm8.jpg>

Sheds are another option for grain storage, they can be made of either steel or fabric. Concrete floors are beneficial for moisture barrier and cleanup. If there is no concrete floor a moisture barrier should be laid down. Sheds hold less grain than expected as they can only withstand minimal weights on the sidewalls. Grain packages can be purchased for sheds that will reinforce or tie together the walls allowing for a higher load capacity. For fabric buildings, concrete sidewalls need to be poured to allow grain to pile against them. Adequate aeration is difficult to achieve in a shed and roof vents are required to allow for ventilation. Fabric buildings are more economical than steel sheds, but have a shorter lifespan. An operation would choose a shed to store grain if storage is infrequent and the shed can be used for other purposes when not storing grain.

## Farmer Owned Elevators

Figure 7. Farmer Owned Grain Elevators for Storage



Source: [http://farm8.staticflickr.com/7445/11826188014\\_eb69701c27.jpg](http://farm8.staticflickr.com/7445/11826188014_eb69701c27.jpg)

In the 1990's grain companies consolidated grain terminals and built large high throughput concrete facilities. Small wooden grain elevators were torn down or sold. In some cases, a producer might purchase a wooden elevator for grain storage. This system works if the land being farmed is within close range of the elevator. Additionally, grain elevators require a tremendous amount of maintenance and



upkeep as many of the facilities are quite old. The opportunity to purchase an existing wood elevator is limited.

## 5.2 Temporary Storage

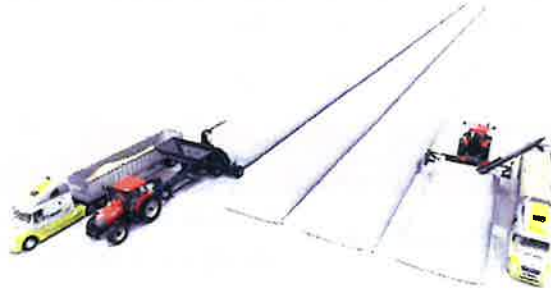
Includes any system that holds grain on a temporary basis or has a limited life span. These include grain bags, plywood or steel bin rings with tarps, piles and bunkers.

Figure 8. Advantages and Disadvantage of Temporary Storage Systems

| Advantages   | Disadvantages  |
|--|--|
| Readily available in times of excess production    | Reduced ability to provide moisture and heat management (aeration) |
| Usually have minimal investment                    | Creates waste – wasted grain and materials waste                   |
| Portable (can be placed in the location of choice) | Limited resale value   |
|  | Risk of pest, wildlife, moisture and contamination damage          |
|  | Challenging loading and unloading                                  |
|  | Short storage period (6-8 months)                                  |

## Grain Bagging Systems

Figure 9. Grain Bagging and Extracting Operation



Source: <http://www.loftness.com/GrainLogix/>

Grain bagging systems are a newer technology. The system puts grain into a tightly sealed plastic bag. For it to work you need a bagger, extractor, and bag. Bagging systems keep grain airtight from moisture and pests. Bags are good short-term storage options but if stored for too long damage to the bag can occur and spoilage can result. Bagging systems allow for in the field storage, eliminating trucking during harvest. In some situations, high moisture grain can be stored in grain bags with minimal heating and rot damage. Grain bags are at a high risk of having puncture holes from wildlife, mechanical damage (snowmobiles) or trees. Due to this risk, bags should be monitored for damage and repaired regularly to reduce grain spoilage. Some options to reduce bag breakdown include using a thicker poly bag or installing reusable bag covers. Bags usually hold approximately 10,000 bushels so small volumes of grain do not work well for this system.

Bags should be placed in a well-drained area away from trees or other potential sources of damage. The surface needs to be level and smooth with no stones or sharp objects. Picking an area that is accessible in the winter also needs to be considered.

Grain baggers and extractors require yearly and seasonal maintenance. The bagger and extractor have hydraulics, moving parts, augers and tires; regular inspection and greasing of all the parts should be done. With wear and tear on baggers and extractors, parts may break and need to be replaced. Equipment in good working order will capture a good resale value but as the equipment ages and new technology comes on the market equipment can become obsolete.

Disposing of the plastic once the grain has been removed can be an issue. Few municipalities have recycling programs in place and if so, require the plastic be clean and rolled. Some extractors have built in rollers but others do not. Rolling the plastic is time consuming and difficult to roll tightly. For municipalities that do not have recycling programs they may not accept plastic or charge a tipping fee. Burning plastic is not recommended as it is hazardous for human health and the environment.

Grain operations would look at using a bagging system if:

- The operation has a large amount of rented or leased land with no other storage options
- There is a need for short term storage
- The operator plans to exit the business in the near future (equipment is easier to sell than physical bins)
- Limited available trucking during harvest
- The operation has land located a long distance away from grain bin storage sites
- Storing low quality crops (feed wheat and barley, sample canola)
- Grain is dry and does not need to be dried or aerated or can be stored at higher moisture
- Recycling options are available for the plastic
- Large volume storage is needed

### Grain Ring and Tarp

Figure 10. Grain Ring and Tarp System (Steel and Wood)



Source: <http://www.willwood.ca/>

Grain rings and tarps come with either wood rings or steel rings. This system is useful for temporary storage, but not recommended for longer storage periods. Pest, wildlife and moisture damage are the biggest concern when storing grain in this system. By keeping the grain contained in the rings and using a tarp, grain quality can be maintained much better than open piling. To keep the rings and tarps in good condition they need to be dismantled and stored when not in use. If using steel rings, the tarps usually need to be replaced well before the ring wears out. Wood rings are much more economical, but have a shorter lifespan than steel. Aeration holes and in-load out-load ports can be installed into the ring as an option.

## Bunkers

Figure 11. Grain Bunker



Source: <http://bartlett.net.au/wp-content/gallery/grain-bunker/grain-bunker-covers-4.jpg>

A bunker system can be designed with many different materials such as bales, wood, cement, steel and earth. They have some of the same challenges as grain rings and tarps. These systems are for temporary storage and are susceptible to wildlife, insect and moisture damage. Large amounts of grain can be stored in a bunker and most bunkers can be tarped.

## Open Piles

Figure 12. Open Pile of Wheat



Source: [http://farm4.staticflickr.com/3682/9369533955\\_c9255f9848.jpg](http://farm4.staticflickr.com/3682/9369533955_c9255f9848.jpg)

If grain needs to be stored for an extremely short period of time, uncovered open piles are a low to no cost solution. This system is not recommended for longer-term storage as it has no protection from moisture, wildlife and pests. There is a greater chance for grain to spoil and to have contaminants such as animal feces and soil tag. Most grain that would be stored on the ground would be used for feed, as human consumption grain would lose quality very quickly by being stored on the ground.

## Rental

Having rented or leased land can make grain storage complicated. If the lease is temporary, adding permanent storage may not make sense. Bin space may be rented from a neighbour, landowner or local retired farmer. Having a rental agreement in place and clearly marking the rented bins as to the variety

and owner of the grain. This will alleviate any confusion as to who owns the grain. Equipment such as grain extractors can be rented for grain bagging systems as opposed to investing in the equipment.

## 6.0 Costs and Features of Common Grain storage

Figure 13 shows the most common permanent and temporary storage options with average costs, size ranges, lifespan, maintenance and options.

Figure 13. Grain Storage Options

|  | Grain ring & tarp |                 | Corrugate d hopper      | Corrugate d flat bottom   | Smoot h walled hopper   | Grain Bagging System   |                 |       |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|-----------------|-------|
|  | Wood              | Steel           |                         |                           |                         | Bagger   | Extracto r      | Bag   |
| <b>Cost/bushel or machine \$ (approx.)</b> | 0.18 – 0.50       | 0.22 - 0.8      | 2.75 - 3.85             | 1.40 – 3.30               | 3.85 – 4.95             | 30,000 - 60,000  | 40,000 – 50,000 | 0.08  |
| <b>Set up costs</b>                        | Labor             | Labor           | Gravel base 1.00 – 2.00 | Concrete base 2.00 – 3.00 | Gravel base 1.00 – 2.00 | Minimal labor  |                 |       |
| <b>Common Size Range (bushels)</b>         | 1,500 – 12,000    | 3,500 – 120,000 | 1,500 – 9,500           | 1,500 – 55,000            | 1,000 – 6,000           | Bag holds approximately 10,000 bushels, number of bags are unlimited |                 |       |
| <b>Lifespan (years)</b>                    | 5                 | 20              | 40+                     | 40+                       | 40+                     | 15-20  |                 |       |
| <b>Maintenanc e</b>                        | High              | High            | Low                     | Low                       | Low                     | Mediu m  | Mediu m         | Hig h |
| <b>Resale value</b>                        | Low               | Low             | High                    | Medium                    | High                    | Mediu m  | Mediu m         |       |

|                |                             |   |                                  |
|----------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>Options</b> | Out-load and aeration ports | Aeration, handling systems, monitors, canola floors, bin sweeps | Bag covers, bag rollers, sealers |
|----------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|

## 7.0 Set up and Location

For a grain handling system to be effective, thought and attention should be given to the set-up and location. Some things to consider when designing a grain handling system are:

- Trucks ability to maneuver for loading and unloading
- Size of trucks and handling equipment
- Distance from field to storage
- Auger movement and positioning
- Drying and aeration needs
- Accessibility to storage all year round
- Potential damage risks (trees, wind etc.)
- Ease of monitoring
- Theft risk and security

Every growing season is different and it is hard to anticipate the exact storage needs for the farm operation. Investing in grain handling and storage facilities require careful consideration of both current and future storage capacity needs. Looking at future plans for the entire farm will assist in your storage decision.

## 8.0 Price Comparison Example

The decision as to what system or combination of systems to use can be overwhelming. Taking the time to pencil out all factors can assist in making a sound investment decision.

Along with the purchase price, other factors such as setup costs, site prep, labour and type of physical storage system needs to be considered for the total project cost.

Depreciation is an important aspect when determining costs. Depreciation is generally considered to be the result of aging, wear and tear, and obsolescence. It represents a decrease in the potential economic benefits that can be generated by the capital asset. This is very important in determining which system is the best for an operation.

Repairs and maintenance are also key to the decision, since some storage systems are relatively maintenance free while others require a lot more upkeep. Even if the option chosen has the most economical purchase price, it may have the highest maintenance and repair costs.

Financing interest is also important to consider. If the investment in a storage system has a high upfront cost and money needs to be borrowed, a substantial amount of cash can be lost to interest. The high

cost of interest on a system may not make sense for some operations. As well, the lost opportunity of using that money for an alternative investment needs to be considered.

Certain storage systems are more prone to spoil grain, while others, if managed properly, will provide relatively unspoiled product. Expected loss should be calculated into the total cost of the system.

Figure 14 is a comparison of five different storage options, based on the following assumptions.

- This example assumes the operation needs to add 25,000 bushels of storage.
- The grain bin and ring and tarp held a capacity of 25,000 bushels while grain baggers have unlimited storage capacity by adding more bags.
  - The bins are five, 5000-bushel steel bins with corrugated hoppers, corrugated flat bottom and smooth walled bins with hoppers either on a gravel or concrete base.
- Insurance, energy, labor and tractor requirements were equal for all storage options.
- Augers are already an asset on the farm and require no additional investment.
- Aeration systems have not been installed for any of the options.
- The years' of use was calculated using an estimated life expectancy. Grain bins can expect a 30-40 year life span with proper maintenance.
- Depreciation was calculated using Canadian Revenue Agency classes of depreciable property.

Since this is an example to analyze costs, it is best to calculate for each individual farm and situation.

Figure 14. Storage Options Estimated Price Comparison Example (Based on above assumptions)

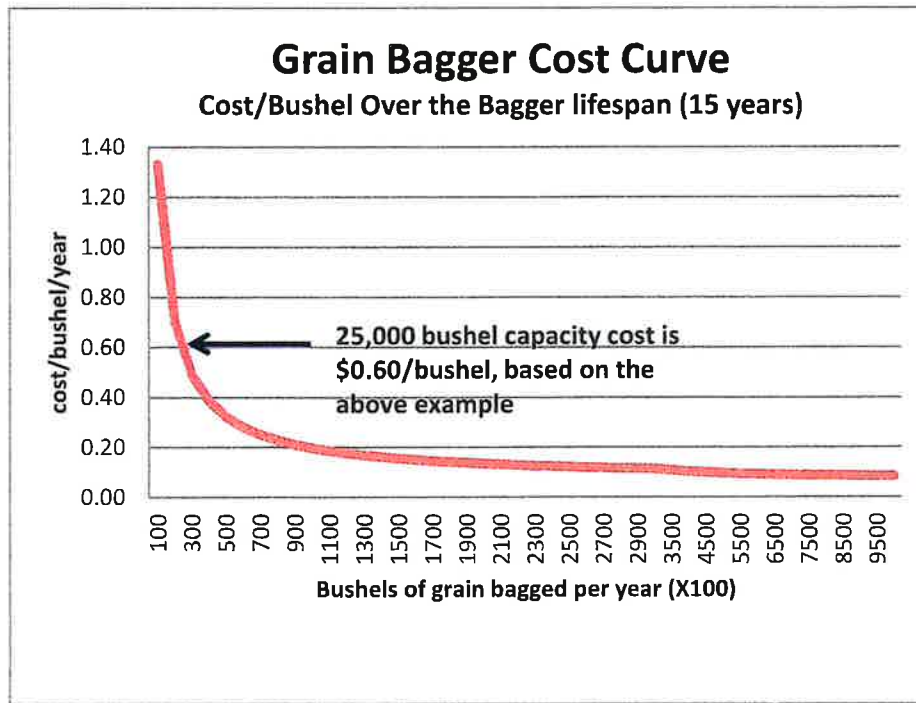
|  | Grain ring and tarp     | Corrugated                 | Corrugated              | Smooth Wall               | Grain bagging system  |                        |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Base type</b>   | soil                    | hopper on gravel           | flat bottom on concrete | hopper bottom on concrete | N/A                   |                        |
| <b>Size (25,000 bushels)</b>   | 1 ring @ 25,000 bushels | 5 bins @ 5,000 bushels/bin |                         |                           | 25,000 bushels bagged |                        |
| <b>Years of use</b>  | 10                      | 25                         | 25                      | 25                        | 15                    |                        |
| <b>Cost/bushel (includes equipment, site prep and set up)</b>            | \$0.44                  | \$3.70                     | \$4.10                  | \$5.70                    | \$95,000              | Bagger & Extractor     |
|  |                         |                            |                         |                           | \$0.08                | cost of bag/bushel     |
| <b>Storage cost of purchase including, base, site prep and set-up</b>    | \$11,000                | \$92,500                   | \$102,500               | \$142,500                 | \$95,000              | Bagger & Extractor     |
|  |                         |                            |                         |                           | \$2,000               | cost of bags/year      |
| <b>Depreciation</b>  | 10%                     | 10%                        | 4%                      | 4%                        | 20%                   | For bagger & extractor |
|  | \$6,320                 | \$85,490                   | \$64,790                | \$90,074                  | \$91,240              |                        |
| <b>Salvage value</b>   | 5%                      | 40%                        | 30%                     | 60%                       | 10%                   |                        |
|  | \$1,100                 | \$37,000                   | \$30,750                | \$85,500                  | \$9,500               |                        |
| <b>Repairs and maintenance (tarp/ring 10%, bins 2%, equipment 5%)</b>    | \$1,100                 | \$1,850                    | \$2,050                 | \$2,850                   | \$4,750               |                        |
| <b>Interest on investment (loan rate 5% at 60 months)</b>                | \$1,455                 | \$12,235                   | \$13,558                | \$18,849                  | \$12,566              |                        |
| <b>Spoilage 0.5% @ \$5/bushel</b>  | \$6,250                 | \$0                        | \$0                     | \$0                       | \$9,375               |                        |
| <b>Total investment cost over life span to store 25,000 bushels/year</b> | \$25,025                | \$155,075                  | \$152,147               | \$168,773                 | \$189,024             | Bagger & extractor     |
|  |                         |                            |                         |                           | \$30,000              | Bags                   |
|  |                         |                            |                         |                           | \$219,024             |                        |
| <b>Total annual cost for 25,000 bushels of storage</b>                   | \$2,563                 | \$6,203                    | \$6,085                 | \$6,750                   | \$14,501              |                        |
| <b>Cost/bushel/year</b>  | \$0.10                  | \$0.25                     | \$0.24                  | \$0.27                    | \$0.58                |                        |



This example shows that grain rings and tarps are the most economical solution for grain storage. Unfortunately, this system can only be used on a temporary basis as there is a high risk for pest, wildlife and moisture damage and loss. As well, these systems require more maintenance along with assembly and disassembly every year. This increases the workload for the operation. Grain bins are the second most economical option. The smooth walled hopper on concrete is slightly more expensive corrugated bottom or corrugated hopper bins. This is due to the higher initial investment and extra interest.

The grain bagging system is the highest cost for adding 25,000 bushels of storage. This was due to the high investment cost for the bagger and extractor along with high spoilage, depreciation, and low salvage values. Since grain bagging systems have unlimited storage capacity, the cost per bushel over the lifespan of the asset decreases the more bushels being stored. Grain bagging systems become competitive when more than 70,000 bushels of product are stored per year as shown in Figure 15.

Figure 15. Grain Bagger Cost Curve



When accounting for depreciation, spoilage, interest, repairs and maintenance, an operation can evaluate the entire cost of the storage options under consideration. The cost comparison is only one factor when deciding which storage option works best for an operation. Other considerations include the farm's future plans, existing systems and labor availability.

## **9.0 Conclusion**

Grain storage has evolved over the last 150 years, most producers rely on on-farm storage for marketing grain. The most popular permanent storage options are steel grain bins and the most popular temporary storage are grain bags. There are downfalls to grain bags and to make the system economical a large volume of product needs to be stored each year. There are other economical grain storage options besides bins or bags, but the risk for damage by wildlife and spoilage are high.

Deciding on which system to use is dependent on each farm's circumstances. The needs and future plans of each farm need to be analyzed and considered before deciding the best grain storage option.

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# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Meeting:       | <b>Agricultural Service Board Meeting</b> |
| Meeting Date:  | August 20, 2019                           |
| Originated By: | Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman          |
| Title:         | <b>BOARD REPORTS</b>                      |
| File No:       | 63-10-02                                  |

### DESCRIPTION:

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

### BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

### ATTACHMENTS:

- Member Candy report
- Member Watchorn report
- Chair Harcourt report

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' written or verbal reports of August 20, 2019 for information.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: 36 Manager: *ABj* AgFieldman: *GC*

Soil Health  
Manning Research Farm  
July 9, 2019

Garry Candy

Odette Menard - Soil Scientist; Louis Robert – Soil Structure Engineer.

Both speakers are from Quebec and have conducted meetings approximately 120 times (primarily in Quebec); Louis said the soil in Quebec is like cement and that the soil in Manning was beautiful by comparison.

Odette started the morning by saying the goal is to get the soil to do a better job and to do that you need a standard to measure from and compare to. She compared soil health to human health saying you must have a diagnosis to take medication and with soil you have to have a diagnosis in order to prescribe a series of treatment – done by checking lab results and physical properties.

Soil compaction will not allow water in – underground water will grease and helps break up the soil. They stressed through the day to test the soil yourself as well on a constant basis. They set up rainfall drainage tests to judge the aggregates.

For good soil health you must have:

- Ground cover
- Living roots
- Aggregation

Don't rely on soil sampling but rather on soil structure to improve yields to reduce erosion and pollution.

They had dug a hole with a backhoe about 3 feet deep and 15 feet long and 4 feet wide. We could then see the zones and recognize them by colour and structure. Aggregate stability should be tested in each layer, structured ability is measured in percentage of water that goes through the soil compared to what won't.

To test fields, use a pure cotton cloth, bury and leave in the ground for 8 weeks. At that time, compare according to a chart as to how much cloth should be left – do this in the same locations yearly.

Health soil could have a carbon to nitrogen ration of 10:1. If the soil has a greenish color on top, it means that the ratio is less than 10:1. With a lot of straw residue it will be about 4:1 and needs to be brought down. Warms will break that residue down, different size worms eat and bread down the residual leaving carbon and nitrogen. Carbon from the sun is the sugar and the plant moves it to the soil – plant roots demand this like zinc and more from the soil and returns

carbon. Hence cover crops. Buy cover crop seed individually, not in mixes – check a lot of plants for compatibility with conditions, soil and temperatures, then blend your own mix.

Worms eat on top of the soil so they take food from the top into the soil. Small worms stay in the top 2 -3 inches of soil while larger worms live in deeper tunnels, they poop on the surface and drag food down. Where you find large worms, there will be 25-30 small ones. They breathe through their skin so on rainy days they have to get up to where they can get air. They have no teeth so they use the soil to grind their food much like a gizzard does. Bacteria in the worms produce glomalin (mycorrhizal fungi). Big worms lay 8-12 eggs, small ones lay up to 100. Big worms winter below the frost line while small worms go dormant.

They spoke about compaction a great deal and showed where they had dug the pit; one end was under a pathway used by farm vehicles and definitely showed visible compaction.

3.5 tons per wheel total will keep the compaction above 12 inches. A comparison between tractor tires and tractor tracks showed worse sub soil compaction and the track rollers shatter and pulverize the ground.

People attending who used tracked equipment were not impressed. Bigger tires change surface compaction but don't change sub soil compaction. Surface compaction is the depth of tillage. Again not making friends, she said a grain cart has no place in any field because of the tremendously high subsoil compaction.

Good soil has 50% porosity (25 air and 25 water). Subsoil compaction cannot be repaired, subsoiling can help but you have to identify the zone or depth of the problem. They showed us the layers of compaction and made note that where water would leak into the pit was where the compaction starts.

Once the depth is established, you need to subsoil 4" below the bottom of the zone using flat nosed shanks and tips, do it in dry conditions as the last field operation of the year.

This was a good information day. They also mentioned using clovers as cover crops by interseeding or broadcasting crimson clover into barley crops or between rows on row crop plantings.

Ag in Motion  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
July 16 – 18, 2019

Garry Candy

This is the third year that this event has been held at Lengham, Saskatchewan on 640 acres and organized by Glacier Farm Media. The event had machinery displays, short seminars, demonstrations, crop plots and much more. This year over 30,000 people attended.

All demonstrations were done in a professional manner, i.e. livestock equipment demos with live cattle were held each day but each of the seven manufacturers told the audience they did not want to talk business with them until they had seen all the different types of systems in operation. This was very fair and was the way that all equipment and demonstrations were handled.

The show highlighted the rapidly changing technologies available and in use by farmers. They announced their site as becoming the "Discovery Farm" with 380 acres to be used for in field trials. This year they had some soybean plots that had been seeded with an air seeder compared to a row planter. This is to test yields as well as more open spaces to plant cover crops in between the rows to build carbon and other soil nutrients. These results and also the fertilizer and chemical applications will be published this fall. They also seeded canola with a row crop planter to test yields there and to give the cover crop the space required. Row widths with an air seeder are usually 9 inches while with the row crop planters used, they are trying 5 – 22 inches and up to 28 or 30. Being familiar with row cropping I am very interested in seeing these results.

As far as machinery displays at the show, if you could think of it, it was there. If you could dream it, it was there. Including fully automated DOT tractor – no driver required and designed to pull several implements – all GPS controlled – in future could be possible to control several of these units simultaneously. The DOT tractor was designed by a Saskatchewan inventor and attracted sizeable numbers at each demonstration.

Stuart Chutter – gave a talk about using sheep and goats as vegetation control animals. He raises or rents animals and together with dogs they graze the animals on government and private lands that are hard to get to with machinery and to avoid tilling. He showed slides of ski hills, land under large power lines, parks, etc. they call it targeted grazing. Half of Stuart's income is derived from this operation. He said the sheep and goats will take out leafy spurge which is a large problem in Saskatchewan and in land where cows won't even walk through because of irritation. I asked about predator loss and he said they had none and that they pen the animals at night with electric wire.

Victoria Nameth – from the University of Saskatchewan talked about noxious weeds or invasive plant control – tillage, chemical and grazing. Saskatchewan has funding available up to 45,000 for some projects. The university is creating weed maps and charts and an "I" map for invasive species.

Jared Epp – a dog trainer for herding dogs gave demonstrations twice daily and talked about dog behavior and some of the training techniques. He demonstrated the commands and how to control the dogs. These dogs worked the sheep in a fairly large pen (about 100 yards by 50 yards) in front of huge crowds of people with a loud speaker without distraction.

He will train dogs for people and he also sells dogs. The city of Red Deer are using sheep and goats in their parks and river lands and in the paper they said the sheep and goats are trained to eat only the invasive plants which is highly doubtful and neither of these speakers mentioned this (I think it was simply a statement to appeal to the public).

Demonstrations of all sorts of things were ongoing: fencing equipment, pounders, wrappers, power staplers, as well as hand held small engine pounders which I think would be an ideal rental unit for the county. I have requested more information on them and will pass that along when I get it. there was also a game wire rollout machine that attaches to forks on buckets – may also be of interest as a rental unit.

As well as equipment demonstrations there were lots of short talks about commodity markets, sales volumes, etc. I attended a number of them that mainly reinforced that China and the USA as influencers are the largest concern with markets.

I saw a machine that I could not identify or even guess as to what it was and its uses. I was able to get a limited amount of information from the person and have requested more. Essentially it is a sewage lagoon cleaner with pumps, is four wheel drive, has tank mixers and drives into the lagoon and then floats. The idea is that it stirs and blends the lagoon and can also pump it out to trucks.

I spoke with Gord MacLoed (mayor of Fairview) because of the smell that comes from their lagoon. He has asked for more information – possible a number of towns could get together to purchase or lease one if it seems that it could take care of the smell. I believe it is also used to blend and load liquid fertilization for land. More info to come.

I asked a fellow familiar with New York what New York was like. His answer was that whatever you have heard or read about it is likely right. I think this is the answer I would give about Ag in Motion, whatever you may think or dream regarding agriculture; it is there.



## WheatStalk-One Day of Peace and Wheat

August 8, 2019

Lyons Production Services Events Center

Tepee Creek, Ab [Grande Prairie County]

By: Julie Watchorn

Very wet and cold ... this tour was an outside tour. The bus picked us up from the Event Center and took us out to the PCBFA and SARDA Applied Research trial site. The plots were beautiful well maintained!

SARDA had SARVT pea and SARVT wheat plots

PCBFA had annual crop mixtures; alternative cereals and legumes for forage production. They also had perennial forage plots which most are doing well.

Alberta Barley had fungicide treatment and inter-cropping plots and a seed treatment demo

Alberta Pulse Growers had plots where they had Inter-cropping, Lupines, and without the use of seed treatment

SARVT Pea Variety Highlights-

CDC Amarillo: Yellow pea

- High yielding

- Medium maturity, good resistance to disease

- One of the best lodging resistance ratings in western Canada

CDC Limerick: Green Pea

- Good resistance to seed coat breakage, seed coat dimpling and green colour bleaching

- High protein concentration

SARVT Wheat Variety Highlights-

AC Settler: Very high grain yield

- High grain protein

- Strong straw

- Good sprouting resistance

CDC Upmost VB: One of the highest yielding CWRS varieties

- Strong straw, easy to thrash

- Good resistance to lodging and sprouting

- Wheat midge tolerant

There were many stations to visit

There was an Insect Friends and Foe station- showing good and bad insects and what to watch for

Western Winter Wheat Initiative station- showing the yields and right varieties for your area

Farm Cash station- Cash advances for 50 major commodities including major crops, livestock and honey

\$100,000 interest free and \$900,000 at a low interest rate

AgSafe station- agricultural safety

CARA Soil Health Lab- Dr. Yamily Zavala

They had a large hole dug showing biological activity, root Mycorrhizal, Active bacteria and Fungi

Compaction, texture and bulk density

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

403-664-3777

Oyen, AB

@CARAresearch

Alberta Canola station seeding rate calculator, cleaver control and seed placed phosphorus demos

Sponsors were

PCBFA

SARDA

Alberta Canola

Alberta Barley

Alberta Wheat

Alberta Pulse Growers

## Brian Harcourt Written Report

Speaker.. Dr. Allen R Williams..PDL..SC..USA...Pt 1.

Quotes and comments.

Allen and his son Chris have cattle operations in many countries.

Problems and conditions are much the same world over.

After weaning their calves they are totally grass fed "NO' feed lots!

Cattle are biological tools! Even pigs won't root if they have enough grass.

Chickens will also do good on grass with a little grain.

Wild game will leave the birds alone with enough grass.

They also do organic gardening, 80 different vegetables  
no bare ground, 3 different vegies per row.

They also have a Meat + Poultry Co. separate from the many cattle ops.

They have their own processing plant which makes all the difference.

Sells to restaurants, hotels, cafes and individuals.

Sells by taste, with farm day tours, BBQs and all day picnics, shows people everything.

The BBQ..people soon understand why he does things this way.

His Resources--Herd Impact..www,understandingag.com

grassfedexchange.com pastureproject.org

keep god Records. Google these people, Wendell Berry, Masanobu

Fukuska, Norman Wirzba..Soil is a marvel and a mystery.

Current issues..Marine Life threat-plastics..also dolphins sea turtles ans crabs.

Excess rain -a big problem, washing away nutrients sprays and soil due to flooding.

Contributors..poor infiltration, overgrazing, dust storms, H2O overground.

# of animals, amount of time = pounds per acre.

Mycorrhiza Fungi is farmer's best friend!

They pick up nutrients in the area to feed plants and increase plant roots

up to 1000 times and extends the reach of the roots.

Helps preserve and supply H2O in droudht times.

# Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

|                |                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Meeting:       | Agricultural Service Board       |
| Meeting Date:  | August 20, 2019                  |
| Originated By: | Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman |
| Title:         | <b>EVENTS</b>                    |
| File:          | 63-10-02                         |

## DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with events for their consideration.

## BACKGROUND:

- Farm Freedom and Safety Act meeting on August 22, 2019 at the Grande Prairie Regional College in Fairview, Alberta.
- Peace Country Beef and Forage Association – Cattle Marketing Outlook Evening on August 23, 2019 at the Rycroft Ag Society Hall starting at 5:00 p.m.
- The Board tabled the Prairie Cereals Summit being held on December 11-12, 2019 at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel in Banff, Alberta.

## OPTIONS:

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

## ATTACHMENTS:

- Event Costs
- Farm Freedom and Safety Act meeting information
- Cattle Marketing Outlook Evening Poster
- Prairie Cereals Summit information (Agenda is still TBA)
- Calendars (August/September/October)

## RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board....

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:

*ABJ*

AgFieldman:

*GC*

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 |
|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------|--------------|----------------------------|------------|----------|----------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Farm Freedom and Safety Act      | GPRC Fairview    | August 22, 2019      | 1         | 0            | 170                        | \$98.60    | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$0.00             | \$192.84 | \$291.44                      |
| Cattle Marketing Outlook Evening | Rycroft, Alberta | August 23, 2019      | 1         | \$40         | 240                        | \$139.20   | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$0.00             | \$192.84 | \$372.04                      |
| Prairie Cereals Summit           | Banff            | December 11-12, 2019 | 3         | \$280.00     | 1882                       | \$1,016.28 | \$399.00 | \$150.00 | \$80.00            | \$192.84 | \$3,761.80                    |
|                                  |                  |                      |           |              |                            |            |          |          |                    |          | \$4,425.28                    |



Alberta Agriculture and Forestry AlbertaAg • Jul 9

Starting today, Albertans can fill in an online survey to help shape the farm workplace legislation.

#AbAg #CdnAg

Find out more and have your say: <https://www.alberta.ca/farm-safety-engagement.aspx>



Greetings,

Todd Loewen, MLA and Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, the Honourable Devin Dreesen invite you to attend a community conversation about the proposed Farm Freedom and Safety Act.

Our government has initiated comprehensive consultations as we move forward with the proposed Farm Freedom and Safety Act and we want to hear from you. This will be an opportunity for you to learn more about the legislation, provide your feedback for consideration and gather information about next steps.

This consultation will inform changes needed for employment standards, workers' compensation, occupational health and safety, and labour relations laws that apply on farms and ranches.

**Location:** GPRC- Fairview, RM144

**Date:** August 22, 2019

**Time:** 3-5pm



THE FALL RUN IS APPROACHING

.....

# CATTLE MARKET OUTLOOK EVENING

with Market Update & Forecast from  
Special Guest Speaker Brian Perillat of Canfax

.....

Friday, August 23rd  
Rycroft Ag Society Hall  
5pm Registration

\$40/Member, \$70/Member Pair  
\$50/Non-Member, \$90/Member Pair  
Supper Provided

For more Information or to Register:

[peacecountrybeef.ca](http://peacecountrybeef.ca) | [info@pcbfa.ca](mailto:info@pcbfa.ca) | 780-835-6799 ext. 3

# PRAIRIE CEREALS SUMMIT



## Description

Join Alberta Barley and the Alberta Wheat Commission as they host the 2nd annual Prairie Cereals Summit in the picturesque Banff Springs Hotel.

This industry favourite, begins with Alberta Barley's 28th Annual General Meeting the afternoon of Wednesday, December 11 and then followed by the signature pub tour in downtown Banff that evening. On December 12th, a full agenda of leading experts and industry speakers present on all things wheat and barley.

It will be an exciting event filled with engaging speakers, networking opportunities, delicious food and of course, beer - all taking place in beautiful Banff, the heart of the Canadian Rockies.

*We look forward to seeing you there!*

For more information please contact:

Megan Evans

[mevans@albertawheatbarley.com](mailto:mevans@albertawheatbarley.com)

403 219 7911



## Prairie Cereals Summit

### Details

**Date:** Dec 11 - 12, 2019

**Time:** 1:00 pm - 10:00 pm

**Venue:** Fairmont Banff Springs, Banff, AB

<https://www.fairmont.com/banff-springs/>

**Organizer:** Alberta Barley and Alberta Wheat Commission

**E:** [mevans@albertawheatbarley.com](mailto:mevans@albertawheatbarley.com)

[www.albertabarley.com](http://www.albertabarley.com)

Join Alberta Barley and the Alberta Wheat Commission as they host the 2nd annual Prairie Cereals Summit in the picturesque Banff Springs Hotel.

This industry favourite, begins with Alberta Barley's 28th Annual General Meeting the afternoon of Wednesday, December 11 and then followed by the signature pub tour in downtown Banff that evening. On December 12th, a full agenda of leading experts and industry speakers present on all things wheat and barley.

It will be an exciting event filled with engaging speakers, networking opportunities, delicious food and of course, beer – all taking place in beautiful Banff, the heart of the Canadian Rockies.

Don't wait, purchase your tickets [HERE!](#)

#### **Prairie Cereals Summit - December 11, 2019 Agenda**

1:00 p.m. - Alberta Barley Directors and Delegates Policy Discussion - Shannon Sereda, Tom Steve and Jason Lenz (Ivor Petrak Room)

3:00 p.m. - Alberta Barley Annual General Meeting

7:00 p.m. - ATB Pub Tour

#### **December 12, 2019 Agenda**

TBD

[Purchase your tickets today!](#)

# August 2019

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue.  | Wed.                         | Thu.  | Fri.                         | Sat. |
|------|------|---|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|------|
|      |      |   |                              | 1   | 2                            | 3    |
|      |      |   |                              | PCBFA Field Day<br>at the Research<br>Farm<br>ALL |                              |      |
| 4    | 5    | 6   | 7                            | 8   | 9                            | 10   |
|      |      |   |                              |   |                              |      |
| 11   | 12   | 13  | 14                           | 15  | 16                           | 17   |
|      |      | 2019 Canadian<br>Beef Industry<br>Conference<br>GC<br>Council | NPARA Harvest<br>Tour<br>ALL |   |                              |      |
| 18   | 19   | 20  | 21                           | 22  | 23                           | 24   |
|      |      | ASB   |                              | Farm Freedom<br>and Safety Act<br>meeting         | Cattle Marketing<br>Workshop |      |
| 25   | 26   | 27  | 28                           | 29  |                              |      |

August 1<sup>st</sup> – PCBFA Field Day at the Research farm near Fairview, Alberta.

August 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> – 2019 Canadian Beef Industry Conference at the BMO Centre at Stampede Park in Calgary, Alberta

August 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> – AgSmart Growing Profits with Data at Olds College in Olds, Alberta.

August 14<sup>th</sup> – NPARA Harvest Tour near Manning, Alberta.

August 22<sup>nd</sup> – Farm Freedom and Safety Act meeting at GPRC in Fairview, Alberta

August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Cattle Marketing Workshop at the Rycroft Ag Society Hall

**Legend:**

BH – Brian Harcourt

BR – Baldur Ruecker

MR – MacKay Ross

GC – Garry Candy

JW – Julie Watchorn

DJ – David Janzen

All – All available members

# September 2019

| Sun. | Mon.  | Tue.          | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|------|---|---------------|------|------|------|------|
| 1    | 2<br>Labour Day<br><br>County Office Closed | 3             | 4    | 5    | 6    | 7    |
| 8    | 9   | 10<br>Council | 11   | 12   | 13   | 14   |
| 15   | 16  | 17            | 18   | 19   | 20   | 21   |
| 22   | 23  | 24<br>Council | 25   | 26   | 27   | 28   |
| 29   | 30  |               |      |      |      |      |

No Agricultural Service Board meetings are held in September.

|                             |
|-----------------------------|
| <b>Legend:</b>              |
| BH – Brian Harcourt         |
| BR – Baldur Ruecker         |
| MR – MacKay Ross            |
| GC – Garry Candy            |
| JW – Julie Watchorn         |
| DJ – David Janzen           |
| All – All available members |

# October 2019

| Sun. | Mon.  | Tue.              | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|------|---|-------------------|------|------|------|------|
|      |   | 1                 | 2    | 3    | 4    | 5    |
| 6    | 7   | 8<br>Council      | 9    | 10   | 11   | 12   |
| 13   | 14<br>Thanksgiving<br><br>County office<br>Closed | 15<br>ASB Meeting | 16   | 17   | 18   | 19   |
| 20   | 21  | 22<br>Council     | 23   | 24   | 25   | 26   |
| 27   | 28  | 29                | 30   | 31   |      |      |

October 15<sup>th</sup> – Agricultural Service Board meeting 10:00 a.m.

|                             |
|-----------------------------|
| <b>Legend:</b>              |
| BH – Brian Harcourt         |
| BR – Baldur Ruecker         |
| MR – MacKay Ross            |
| GC – Garry Candy            |
| JW – Julie Watchorn         |
| DJ – David Janzen           |
| All – All available members |

# Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Meeting:       | Agricultural Service Board                   |
| Meeting Date:  | August 20, 2019                              |
| Originated By: | Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman             |
| Title:         | <b>Federal Health of Animals Regulations</b> |
| File:          | 63-10-02                                     |

## DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with a letter from Municipal District of Pincher Creek regarding proposed amendments to Part XV of the federal *Health of Animals Regulations*.

## BACKGROUND:

Municipal District of Pincher Creek Agricultural Service Board is expressing serious concerns regarding the most recent proposed amendments to the federal *Health of Animals Regulations*. Their Agricultural Service Board believes these proposed amendments are impractical and will place a significant and in many cases unachievable burden on farm livestock producers in Canada.

## OPTIONS:

1. Direct administration to draft a letter to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency expressing concerns regarding the most recent proposed amendments to the federal *Health of Animal Regulations*.
2. Accept for information (no further action taken).

## ATTACHMENTS:

- Municipal District of Pincher Creek letter
- Livestock Identification and Traceability Program (TRACE) newsletter

## RECOMMENDED ACTION:

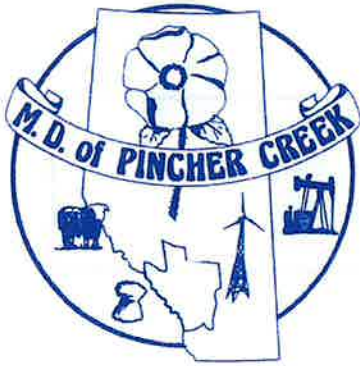
RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board...

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:

*GC*

AgFieldman:

*GC*



P.O. BOX 279  
PINCHER CREEK, ALBERTA  
T0K 1W0  
phone 403-627-3130 • fax 403-627-5070  
email: info@mdpincercreek.ab.ca  
www.mdpincercreek.ab.ca

July 22, 2019

Dr. Jaspinder Komal, Chief Veterinary Officer  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
1400 Merivale Road  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0Y9

RE: Proposed amendments to Part XV of the federal *Health of Animals Regulations*

Dear Dr. Komal:

The Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Pincher Creek would like to express some serious concerns regarding the most recent proposed amendments to the federal *Health of Animals Regulations*. Certain of the proposed amendments as we understand them, are impractical and will place a significant and in many cases unachievable burden on farm livestock producers in Canada.

We see the provision of individual animal data proposed for movement of domestic animals to and from a farm to be particularly problematic. The “data requirements” (as identified by the Livestock Identification and Traceability Program (TRACE) – Regulatory Update No. 5), are rather exhaustive and include a number of details that are not generally kept by many operators. Additionally, where livestock are transferred between two farm operations or received from a livestock auction, individual identification is commonly not available or provided to the purchaser. Even where provided or available, the same operators in many cases simply do not have access to readers or facilities at each location that would allow them to get the data at time of entry. Lastly, premise identification numbers are not readily shared amongst landowners and the proposed 7-day reporting period is seriously taxing.

A multitude of common circumstances exist which increase the impracticality of the identified reporting requirements. In instances where livestock are delivered to a particular location, and those originate from a variety of sites and the location is “shared” by more than one producer, the proposed reporting requirements are particularly unreasonable. This situation is relatively

common based on current buying practices and the prevalence of shared grazing arrangements, pasture rentals, grazing co-operatives, etc. .

Being that long range, high frequency tags and consequent readers are not currently readily available, reading and recording tag numbers of pastured cattle presents a substantial challenge. Before individual animal identification and reporting can reasonably be imposed throughout the system, we encourage the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to provide a significant level of support to improve tag and tag reader technology and availability. This development is critical prior to amending reporting requirements as proposed.

We support practical and effective improvements to traceability of livestock throughout the Country. Producers have commonly branded and ear-tagged their stock for decades as a practical way to achieve that. While new and more universal measures may be necessary and can no doubt be made, it is imperative that the circumstances and capacity of average producers be recognized and taken into account at all stages. We hope that the comments made within this letter will be considered prior to finalizing the regulation amendments. We encourage the CFIA to continue to disseminate information in a transparent way to ensure all stakeholders have adequate opportunity to be informed and provide comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Lawson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Lawson, Chair – Agricultural Service Board  
MD of Pincher Creek

CC: Alberta Agricultural Service Boards;  
Alberta Beef Producers;  
Canadian Cattlemen's Association;  
Canadian Cattle Identification Association



# Livestock Identification and Traceability Program (TRACE) – Regulatory Update. N° 5 June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

## Topic: Reporting Animal Movements

The objective of the TRACE Newsletter is to provide an overview of progress on proposed amendments to Part XV of the federal *Health of Animals Regulations* (hereafter referred to the "Regulations") that pertains to livestock identification and traceability. This fifth edition focuses on one of the key elements of the regulatory proposal: reporting animal movements.

### Why are amendments to the *Health of Animals Regulations* being proposed?

The CFIA is proposing amendments to the *Health of Animals Regulations* to strengthen Canada's livestock traceability system. The proposed federal traceability regulations would require, amongst other things, reporting the animal movement to a responsible administrator for a location where, for example an animal has been received or slaughtered.

### Why is reporting animal movements important?

A traceability system with information on an animal's movements from one point to another throughout the supply chain will make it easier to control the spread of disease and minimize the impact on the industry. The proposed amendments are expected to strengthen Canada's ability in responding quickly to health threats and other emergencies.

### What information related to the movement of animals and carcasses is important in managing health issues?

The information needed to manage health issues and that would be required to be reported are referred to the "data requirements"; these requirements are described in the table below.

| Data requirements  | Rationale for making this information available   |
|--|---|
| Identification number on an approved indicator applied to the animal or carcass      | Movement information associated with the identity of a specific animal or group of animals allows confirmation of which animals have been slaughtered, imported or exported or may have been impacted with a health issue;                    |
| Identification number of the premises (site) of departure and of destination         | Provides a geographical representation of a health issue and enables identifying where the disease may have spread;   |
| Date and time at which animals were loaded and unloaded from a vehicle               | Enables time-stamping in conjunction with animal contact information which could be used to determine the sequence at which vehicles were used and consequently improve accuracy of which sites may have been impacted by a disease outbreak; |
| License plate number or other identification of the vehicle's non-motorized trailer. | Despite cleaning and disinfection measures, vehicles may serve as a disease vector. Knowing their usage serves assessing where the disease may have spread.   |

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants to enhance the health and well-being of Canadians, the environment and economy.

Livestock traceability is the ability to follow an animal or group of animals during all stages of its life. There are three main pillars to livestock traceability systems:

- Identification of livestock with an approved indicator;
- Identification of premises where livestock are kept, assembled or disposed of; and,
- Reporting events related to livestock such as movement of animals from one premises to another.

The goal of the livestock traceability system is to provide timely, accurate and relevant information to reduce the impacts of a disease outbreak, food safety issue or natural disasters originating from and/or affecting livestock.

The Livestock Identification and Traceability Program (TRACE) has been administered jointly by CFIA and industry since 2001. The program is regulated and enforced under Part XV of the *Health of Animals Regulations*, made under the authority of the *Health of Animals Act*.





## Definitions

**Animals** means a bison, cattle, caprine, cervid, pig or sheep

**Caprine (Goat)** means an animal, other than an embryo or fertilized egg, of the genus *Capra*.

**Cervid (deer, elk)** means an animal, other than an embryo or fertilized egg, of the family *Cervidae*.

**Community pasture** means a pasture that is managed by or leased from the Government of Canada, a provincial government or a municipality, or owned by, managed by or leased from a community pasture association, a grazing association or a grazing cooperative, and where animals from more than one operator of a farm are assembled and commingled.

**Domestic** means within Canada

**Farm** means land, and all buildings and other structures on that land, that is used under one management for breeding or raising animals, but does not include an artificial insemination unit.

**Reporting** means providing set information to a responsible administrator (i.e. Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, Canadian Pork Council or Agri-Traçabilité Québec)

**Ruminant** means a bison, cattle, caprine, cervid or sheep

## What would be the proposed requirements specific to animal movement? (Data requirements outlined above)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Domestic movement of animals within a farm                               | The movement of ruminants would not be required to be reported<br><br>The current movement reporting requirements for pigs would remain unchanged.  |
| Domestic movement of animals to a farm                                   | The operator of the farm would report the receipt of ruminants, with the exception of cervids, at their site, namely the <b>data requirements</b> , within seven days of receiving the animals.<br><br>The current movement reporting requirements for pigs would remain unchanged.   |
| Domestic movement of animals from a farm                                 | The operator of the farm would report the departure of cervids from their site, namely the <b>data requirements</b> , within seven days of the departure of the cervids.<br><br>The current movement reporting requirements for pigs would remain unchanged.  |
| Domestic movement of animals to a fair, an exhibition hall, or a feedlot | The operator of the fair, exhibition hall or feedlot would report the receipt of animals at their site, namely the <b>data requirements</b> , within seven days of receiving the animals.   |
| Domestic movement of animals to an auction market or an assembly yard    | The operator of the auction market or assembly yard would report the receipt of animals at their site within seven days of receiving the animals, namely the <b>data requirements</b> with the exception that instead of reporting the identification number of an approved indicator applied to the animal or carcass, the operator would report the quantity of animals received and their species.   |
| Domestic movement of animals to a community pasture                      | The operator of any site from where animals are moved (with or without being loaded into a vehicle) to a community pasture would report the departure of animals from their site within seven days of the animals' departure, namely the following information: the premises identification numbers of the departure site and of the community pasture; the date the animals departed from the departure site; the species of animals transported or moved and the number of animals of each species; and the licence plate number of the conveyance (if applicable).<br><br>The operator of the community pasture would be exempt from reporting movement information. |
| Domestic movement of animals to an abattoir                              | The operator of an abattoir would report the slaughter of animals at their site, namely the <b>data requirements</b> , within seven days of slaughtering the animals.   |



### Definitions

**Animals** means a bison, cattle, caprine, cervid, pig or sheep

**Caprine (goat)** means an animal, other than an embryo or fertilized egg, of the genus *Capra*.

**Cervid (deer, elk)** means an animal, other than an embryo or fertilized egg, of the family *Cervidae*.

**Community pasture** means a pasture that is managed by or leased from the Government of Canada, a provincial government or a municipality, or owned by, managed by or leased from a community pasture association, a grazing association or a grazing cooperative, and where animals from more than one operator of a farm are assembled and commingled.

**Domestic** means within Canada

**Farm** means land, and all buildings and other structures on that land, that is used under one management for breeding or raising animals, but does not include an artificial insemination unit.

**Reporting** means providing set information to a responsible administrator (i.e. Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, Canadian Pork Council or Agri-Traçabilité Québec)

**Ruminant** means a bison, cattle, goat, cervid or sheep

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <p>Moreover, the operator would be required to report the departure of live animals from the site, namely the <b>data requirements</b>, within seven days of the departure.</p> <p>These requirements would apply to all abattoirs (federal, provincial or municipal inspection, mobile abattoirs)</p>   |
| Domestic movement of carcasses to a rendering plant or deadstock collection centre | <p>The operator of rendering plant or deadstock collection centre would report the receipt of carcasses at their site, namely the <b>data requirements</b>, within seven days of disposing the carcasses.</p> <p>The current movement reporting requirements for pig carcasses would remain.</p>   |
| Import, export of animals  | <p>Importers and exporters would report the import or export of animals, namely the <b>data requirements</b>, within seven days of importing or exporting the animals. However, instead of reporting the premises identification number of a foreign location where animals were imported from or exported to, the importer or exporter would report the country and sub-division of that country (e.g. State of the United States) from where the animals were imported or exported. Date and time of loading in a vehicle at a location outside Canada would not be required to be reported.</p> |

### Supporting compliance for proposed requirements

Operators will not be required to use an electronic reader in order to report the identification number of an approved indicator;

Building on current provincial and federal requirements, carriers would be required to provide information to the operator of the destination on the source of animals;

Operators of a farm, a feedlot, or an agricultural fair who choose to use an electronic reader favourably reviewed by the [Canadian Cattle Identification Agency](#) to read the identification number of an approved indicator will be required to report the identification number of indicators read on the first pass, but not those not read.

### When can I comment on the proposed regulations?

Following the publication of the proposed regulations in Part I of the Canada Gazette ([www.gazette.gc.ca](http://www.gazette.gc.ca)), stakeholders will have 75 days to review and provide comment. The CFIA will review and consider all comments received prior to finalizing the regulation amendments and publishing them in Part II of the Canada Gazette.



The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants to enhance the health and well-being of Canadians, the environment and economy.

Livestock traceability is the ability to follow an animal (or group of animals) during all stages of its life. There are three main pillars to livestock traceability systems:

- Identification of livestock with an approved indicator;
- Identification of premises where livestock are kept, assembled or disposed of; and,
- Reporting events related to livestock such as movement of animals from one premises to another.

The goal of the livestock traceability system is to provide timely, accurate and relevant information to reduce the impacts of a disease outbreak, food safety issue or natural disasters originating from and/or affecting livestock.

The Livestock Identification and Traceability Program (TRACE) has been administered jointly by CFIA and industry since 2001. The program is regulated and enforced under Part XV of the *Health of Animals Regulations*, made under the authority of the *Health of Animals Act*.

## Livestock Identification and Traceability Program (TRACE) – Regulatory Update. N° 6 July 1, 2019

### Topic: Information accompanying animals

The objective of the TRACE Newsletter is to provide an overview of progress on proposed amendments to Part XV of the Federal *Health of Animals Regulations* (herein after referred to as the "Regulations") that pertains to livestock identification and traceability. This sixth edition focuses on one of the key elements of the regulatory proposal: information accompanying animals.

#### Why are amendments to the *Health of Animals Regulations* being proposed?

The CFIA is proposing amendments to the *Regulations* to strengthen Canada's livestock traceability system. Under the proposed amendments certain information will be required to accompany a load of animals and/or animal carcasses being transported.

#### Why is it important to require information accompanying animals?

Under the proposed regulations, when ruminants are moved from a departure site to a destination site, the operator of the destination site would be required to report, among other things, the premises identification number of the departure site and the date and time at which the animals were loaded in the vehicle at the departure site. The main objective for information accompanying animals is to support the operator of the destination site being compliant with this requirement.

Secondly, a record of an animal's movements from one point to another throughout the supply chain would support compliance for the proposed requirement of animal movements being reported to Responsible Administrators (as described in [Regulatory Update No.5](#)). The recording of this information also supports accurate and timely disease investigations.

#### What information related to the movement of animals and carcasses would be required to accompany them?

For each load of animals transported from one departure site to a destination site, the transporters of the animals would be required to provide the following information to the operators of the destination site:

- 1) the premises identification number of the departure site and of the destination site
- 2) the date and time the animals or carcasses were loaded at the departure site
- 3) the quantity and species of animals loaded, and
- 4) the licence plate (or other identification) of the conveyance.

There is no required template and the information could be provided in an electronic or paper format. The information would need to be in a form that can be read without delay by any inspector and the operator of the destination site.



## Definitions

**Animals** means a bison, cattle, caprine, cervid, pig or sheep

**Carcass** means a dead animal

**Conveyance** means any vehicle used for the transportation of animals or carcasses.

**Farm** means land, and all buildings and other structures on that land, that is used under one management for breeding or raising animals, but does not include an artificial insemination unit.

**Ruminant** means a bison, cattle, caprine, cervid or sheep

**Transporter** means any person involved in the transportation of animals or carcasses

### Provincial requirements for information accompanying animals

#### British Columbia (cattle and bison)

(<http://www.ownershipid.ca/livestock-manifest-form-and-instructions>)

#### Alberta (<http://www.lis-alberta.com/>)

- Alberta Livestock manifest  
1-866-509-2088 or [e-manifest](#)  
(<https://www.emanifests.com/security/Login.aspx>)

- Alberta [Swine manifest](#)  
(<http://www.albertapork.com/>)

- Cervid Farming System:  
Dial 310-0000, then enter 780-422-1472

#### Saskatchewan (<http://lssc.ca/>)

(306) 546-5086

#### Manitoba

(<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/livestock-manifest.html>)

People that are required to ensure the information accompanies an animal or carcass, will also need to retain a copy of the document containing the information for two years.

### There are already similar requirements in some provinces

British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba currently have provincial requirements for information to accompany animals. These existing provincial requirements would continue to be valid and complement the Federal proposal. In fact, the proposed Federal requirements not only align with the existing provincial requirements and documentation requirements, but also with the existing requirement for information to accompany pigs or pig carcasses under Part XV of the *Health of Animals Regulations*; and, with Part XII of the *Health of Animals Regulations* respecting the humane transportation of live animals.

### When would this information not be required to accompany animals?

The proposed requirement would not apply to:

- Animals and carcasses of animals transported for import and export (import permits and export certificates already apply)
- Ruminants and their carcasses transported within a farm (as their movements would not be required to be reported)
- Pigs or pig carcasses that are transported between contiguous parts of a farm (an exemption is already in place)

### Supporting compliance for proposed requirements

The use of a livestock manifest is required by the four Western provincial governments. However, to support transporters with compliance in provinces that do not currently require any movement documentation, a movement document template will be made available on the CFIA website.

### When can I comment on the proposed regulations?

Following the publication of the proposed regulations in Part I of the [Canada Gazette](#), stakeholders will have 75 days to provide comment. CFIA will review and consider all comments received prior to finalizing the regulatory amendments and publishing them in Part II of the *Canada Gazette*.

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Meeting:       | <b>Agricultural Service Board Meeting</b> |
| Meeting Date:  | August 20, 2019                           |
| Originated By: | Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman          |
| Title:         | <b>AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT</b>       |
| File No:       | 63-10-02                                  |

### DESCRIPTION:

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

### BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

### ATTACHMENTS:

- Greg- Agricultural Fieldman Report-August 20, 2019

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Agricultural Service Board accepts the August 20, 2019 Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

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

AUG. 20, 2019

PEST CONTROL

• **Wolves Claimed 2019 YTD:**

| Total # | Total \$  |
|---------|-----------|
| 25      | \$8750.00 |

OTHER TOPICS

- Modifications to water pump trailers to include a hose reel holder mounted permanently on each trailer are complete.
- Parts costs for the zero till drill from the wheel coming off came to \$2321.00. The parts are here and will be installed when time permits.
- Bertha Armyworm survey was completed in July and reported to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.
- The Peace region field school was held in Falher on July 31st. All inspectors attended.
- Gearing up for Clubroot and blackleg surveys.
- ROW spraying is 90% complete.

January 1 - August 12, 2019

| Rental Equipment                   | Rental Deposit                    | Rental Rates                    | Total Users | Total Days | Total               |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|
| <i>Backpack Sprayer</i>            | \$ 50.00                          | \$ -                            | 0           | 0          | \$ -                |
| <i>Bale Scale</i>                  | \$ 100.00                         | \$ 30.00                        | 1           | 1          | \$ 30.00            |
| <i>BBQ Trailer</i>                 | \$ 100.00                         | \$ 50.00                        | 7           | 7          | \$ 300.00           |
| <i>Chairs</i>                      | \$ 50.00                          | \$0.50/chair                    | 7           | 11         | \$ 592.00           |
| <i>Community Centre</i>            | \$ 50.00                          | \$ 50.00                        | 5           | 5          | \$ 250.00           |
| <i>Corral Panels</i>               | \$ 50.00                          | \$ 50.00                        | 0           | 0          | \$ -                |
| <i>Eco-Bran Applicator</i>         | \$ 50.00                          | \$ -                            | 1           | 1          | \$ 50.00            |
| <i>Exta Hoses</i>                  | \$ 50.00                          | \$1.000/hose                    | 3           | 4          | \$ 27.00            |
| <i>Grain Bagger</i>                | \$ 350.00                         | \$ 350.00                       | 0           | 0          | \$ -                |
| <i>Grain Bag Roller</i>            | \$ 50.00                          | \$ -                            | 19          | 19         | \$ -                |
| <i>Grain Bag Extractor</i>         | \$ 350.00                         | \$ 350.00                       | 6           | 10         | \$ 3,150.00         |
| <i>Grain Vac</i>                   | \$ 400.00                         | \$ 200.00                       | 30          | 37         | \$ 5,800.00         |
| <i>Grill</i>                       | \$ 50.00                          | \$ 5.00                         | 3           | 5          | \$ 20.00            |
| <i>Hand Held Rope Wick</i>         | \$ 50.00                          | \$ -                            | 0           | 0          | \$ -                |
| <i>Land Leveller</i>               | \$ 260.00                         | \$ 130.00                       | 3           | 4          | \$ 520.00           |
| <i>Loading Chute</i>               | \$ 50.00                          | \$ 25.00                        | 4           | 4          | \$ 100.00           |
| <i>Manure Spreader</i>             | \$ 300.00                         | \$ 150.00                       | 1           | 1          | \$ 150.00           |
| <i>Mulch Applicator</i>            | \$ 50.00                          | \$ 25.00                        | 1           | 1          | \$ 12.50            |
| <i>Post Hole Auger</i>             | \$ 50.00                          | \$ 25.00                        | 0           | 0          | \$ -                |
| <i>Post Pounder</i>                | \$ 250.00                         | \$ 125.00                       | 14          | 15         | \$ 1,687.50         |
| <i>Pull/Push Roller Applicator</i> | \$ 50.00                          | \$ -                            | 2           | 2          | \$ -                |
| <i>Quad Mount Rope Wick</i>        | \$ 50.00                          | \$ -                            | 0           | 0          | \$ -                |
| <i>Quad Mounted Sprayer</i>        | \$ 50.00                          | \$ -                            | 2           | 2          | \$ -                |
| <i>Quad Pull Type Sprayer</i>      | \$ 50.00                          | \$ -                            | 2           | 2          | \$ -                |
| <i>Rock Picker</i>                 | \$ 600.00                         | \$ 300.00                       | 4           | 9          | \$ 2,250.00         |
| <i>Rock Rake</i>                   | \$ 600.00                         | \$ 300.00                       | 2           | 6          | \$ 1,800.00         |
| <i>Roller Mill</i>                 | \$ 50.00                          | \$ 20.00                        | 3           | 3          | \$ 60.00            |
| <i>Rotowiper</i>                   | \$ 150.00                         | \$ -                            | 1           | 1          | \$ -                |
| <i>Sickle Mower</i>                | \$ 100.00                         | \$ 50.00                        | 0           | 0          | \$ -                |
| <i>Skidmount Sprayer</i>           | \$ 50.00                          | \$ -                            | 2           | 2          | \$ -                |
| <i>Smoke Signs</i>                 | \$ 60.00                          | \$ -                            | 2           | 2          | \$ -                |
| <i>Steam Tables</i>                | \$ 50.00                          | \$ 5.00                         | 0           | 0          | \$ -                |
| <i>Tables</i>                      | \$ 50.00                          | \$1.00/table                    | 10          | 11         | \$ 189.00           |
| <i>Toilets</i>                     | \$ 100.00                         | \$ 40.00                        | 1           | 1          | \$ 40.00            |
| <i>Tree Spade</i>                  | \$ 300.00                         | \$ 50.00                        | 7           | 13         | \$ 575.00           |
| <i>Truck Mount Sprayer</i>         | \$ 200.00                         | \$ -                            | 3           | 3          | \$ -                |
| <i>Wash Station</i>                | \$ 50.00                          | \$ 10.00                        | 0           | 0          | \$ -                |
| <i>Water Pumps</i>                 | \$100 (summer)<br>\$1000 (winter) | \$75 (summer)<br>\$200 (winter) | 9           | 23         | \$ 2,075.00         |
| <i>Wire Roller</i>                 | \$ 50.00                          | \$ 25.00                        | 4           | 8          | \$ 200.00           |
| <i>Zero Till Drills</i>            | \$ 300.00                         | \$ 150.00                       | 3           | 7          | \$ 1,050.00         |
|                                    |                                   |                                 | <b>162</b>  | <b>220</b> | <b>\$ 20,928.00</b> |

|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| Revenue  | \$ 21,595.15 |
| Expenses | \$ 21,021.33 |
| Profit   | \$ 573.82    |

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Meeting:       | <b>Agricultural Service Board Meeting</b> |
| Meeting Date:  | August 20, 2019                           |
| Originated By: | Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman          |
| Title:         | <b>INFORMATION &amp; CORRESPONDENCE</b>   |
| File No:       | 63-10-02                                  |

### DESCRIPTION:

The board is presented with correspondence for review.

### BACKGROUND:

Attached are documents for the Board's information:

### ATTACHMENTS:

- Environmental Stewardship News – Article – (63-10-02)
- The Pest Insider – Newsletter – (63-10-02)
- County of Minburn No. 27 – Ropin the Web Concerns letter – (63-10-02)
- Ventenata – Article – (63-10-02)
- V.S.I. Services (1980) Ltd. – Letter – (63-10-40)

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of August 20, 2019 as presented.

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



# Environmental Stewardship News

- Highlighting information, projects & resources from the Environmental Stewardship Branch (ESB)

## Environmental Stewardship on Alberta.ca

You might be wondering where information for environmental stewardship is located on [www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca). Organization will continue through the summer to bring all environmental stewardship topics, resources and information into one area at <https://www.alberta.ca/agriculture-environmental-stewardship.aspx>.

The link is currently active but please be aware items will be added and moved around the next few months as sorting and rewriting of pages occur. For general website questions, please contact [aginfocentre@gov.ab.ca](mailto:aginfocentre@gov.ab.ca) or if you are looking for specific environmental stewardship items, you can contact [Laura Thygesen](#).

Tips for finding resources on Alberta.ca:

- [www.agriculture.alberta.ca](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca) is now the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry ministry page. Be sure to keep scrolling to view various items listed:
  - Agriculture section has the majority of the past topics, including agriculture environmental stewardship, that were on the previous website
  - Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP) for program information
  - Alberta Climate Information Service (ACIS) for your weather needs
  - Agri-News and Call of the Land are available under “[News for Producers](#)”
  - Calendar of Events
  - Staff Directory
- Currently tools and calculators can currently be found at <http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app21/ldcalc>
- Open Government (<https://open.alberta.ca/publications>) has free publications and factsheets from all ministries. Select Agriculture before your search to minimize items that will appear.
- Open Data (<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset>) has datasets and publications from all ministries. Again, select Agriculture to assist you with your search.
- Mobile applications (apps) such as ManureTracker and Call of the Land are located at [https://open.alberta.ca/blog/?page\\_id=115](https://open.alberta.ca/blog/?page_id=115)

## Phosphorous Filters for Improved Water Quality in Alberta

Surface water run-off can absorb and carry with it phosphorus (P) from soil, fertilizer, manure or plant material that it contacts as it flows across the landscape. This run-off can then enter streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, dugouts, and other water bodies, where it can negatively impact water quality by promoting the growth of algae and aquatic plants. Dissolved phosphorus (DP) is more impactful to receiving waterbodies than particulate P because it is immediately available to aquatic life.

Most beneficial management practices (BMP) address particulate phosphorus. These BMPs tend to focus on removing suspended particles through either filtering or slowing the flow of surface run-off, which encourages these particles to settle-out of the run-off. Other BMP options manage the transport of P by capturing and holding or by redirecting contaminated run-off water away from surface water surfaces. However, there are no BMP options generally applicable in Alberta for the treatment or removal of DP from surface run-off.

Researchers at the Oklahoma State University (OSU) developed and tested a phosphorus filter system proven effective for the removal of dissolved phosphorus from surface run-off water in a variety of agricultural and recreational applications. The filter media used are industrial by-products, such as fly ash, steel slag, acid mine drainage treatment residuals, drinking water treatment residuals, which would have otherwise been destined for landfill. The filter media needs to contain oxides of iron, aluminum, magnesium and/or calcium that allow for the chemical binding or sorption of the DP, thereby removing the DP from the run-off water.

In 2015, an Alberta project initiated a search to identify potential local industrial by-products to use as a filter media and secondly, to assess the applicability of P filter technology under Alberta's climatic conditions. In partnership with Warner County and a participating landowner, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry staff installed a filter on a tributary of the Raymond Ridge Reservoir in the spring of 2017. The filter was designed to remove up to 50% of DP for up to five years. The filter material used a manufactured iron oxide product, which provides a high number of DP binding sites. Since installation, the filter has performed exceptionally. Results suggest that while the filter was more effective at removing dissolved inorganic phosphorus, it also removed dissolved organic and particulate phosphorus.

To date, the filter removed 88% of total phosphorus, 92% of dissolved phosphorus and 94% of phosphate from the filtered water. With two seasons of winter testing, it appears that the P filters can be relatively robust against freezing when the filter is insulated with straw and/or snow cover and has a continuous flow of water. Monitoring will continue to assess the cumulative phosphorus removal over the design life of the filter. Evaluation of material continues for a highly reactive local waste by-product. Additional work, taking into consideration key learnings from this initial filter assessment, will assess additional filter media options and applications.

For more information about the P filter and additional related work, contact [Lynda Miedema](#), Nutrient Management Specialist.

## #ABAgChat on Twitter

Coming soon to the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry ([@AlbertaAg](#)) Twitter page is the return of Alberta Agriculture's Chat (#ABAgChat). Watch for the announcement and tune in on Tuesdays from 10 am – 11 am for a weekly agricultural topic (summer and long weekends will cause schedule to vary).

New to #ABAgChat will be various topics from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, including more topics from Environmental Stewardship. Past topics included livestock, pastures, crops, business management and even roller-compacted concrete (RCC).

If you are unfamiliar with Twitter or not sure how to participate, you can follow a topic such as #ABAgChat by simply searching – even on google! If you would like to share (also known as a retweet) information or ask questions, make sure to sign into Twitter before Tuesday at 10 am. Topics or themes will have advanced tweets leading up to that Tuesday on [@AlbertaAg](#). See you online!

## Track Your Manure Applications with ManureTracker

The ManureTracker app helps with managing manure record keeping, tracking applications and transfers plus so much more! [Trevor Wallace](#), Nutrient Management Specialist, shares with [Agri-News](#) insider details and useful features of the app.

To download [ManureTracker](#) for your apple or android phones, [click here](#) or visit [www.manuretracker.ca](http://www.manuretracker.ca) for more information.

## CCFI New Public Opinion Research

Canadian Centre of Food Integrity (CCFI) recently released the new public opinion insights on [www.foodintegrity.ca](http://www.foodintegrity.ca). The rising cost of food is still the top concern for Canadians along with other hot button issues about food. Check out [www.foodintegrity.ca](http://www.foodintegrity.ca) for the “New Public Opinion Research Online on Food & Farming” report.

## Ag Plastics Recycling Pilot Project

In March, ES News highlighted the Alberta Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program. The Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG) through Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) selected Cleanfarms as the program operator for this three-year pilot program to collect agricultural grain bags and twine for recycling.

So what is happening since then? Cleanfarms hired Farmshift to contact crop and livestock producers this summer for a short online agricultural plastic survey. Cleanfarms will also engage with interested groups to determine the site locations for material collection. The goal is to collect material by early fall. Interested sites can register at <https://cleanfarms.ca/alberta-ag-plastic-recycle-it-program/>. Cleanfarms staff will contact you about the site selection process.

## Coming Events and Topics of Interest

### [The Alberta Range Stewardship Course, Buffalo – July 30-31, 2019](#)

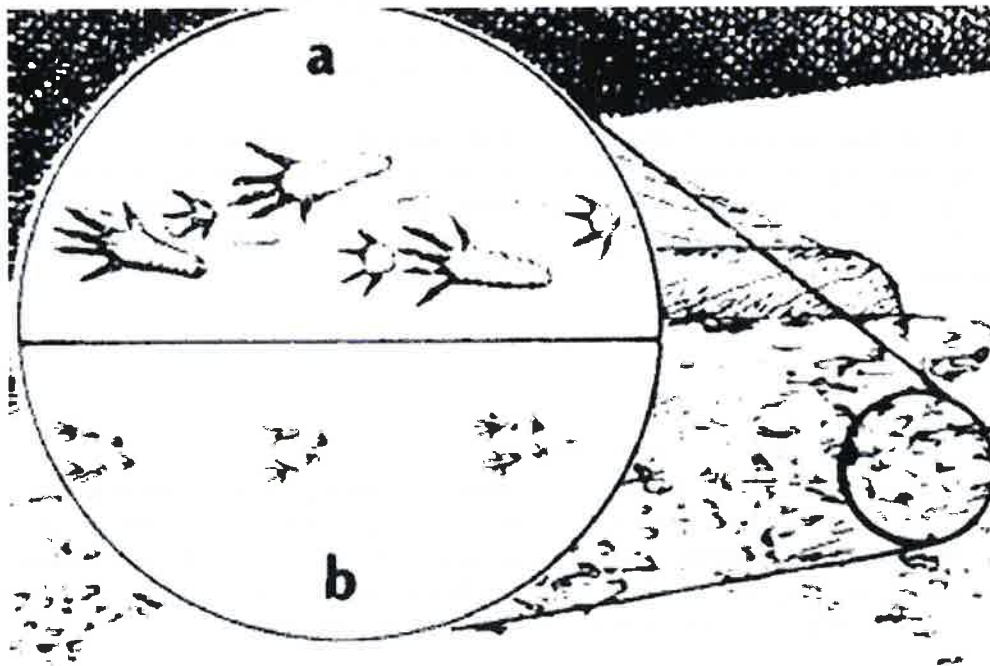
- This rancher-focused course will emphasize the key principles of range management, stewardship and why it matters. There will be learning from fellow ranchers for managing short-term challenges for long-term stewardship and economic sustainability. Field sessions will offer hands on learning including water infiltration, litter retention, stocking rates with links with range health and economics, plant identification and record keeping and tools to support management. Poster attached in the email.



# THE PEST INSIDER

July 2019

## How to determine rat tracks from mouse tracks



Compare Rat track and mouse tracks in the dirt

Rat and mouse tracks are similar and careful scrutiny is required to differentiate the two. Note a rat's front paw print is behind and inside of each larger hind paw print. This makes a slightly swaggered walking gait. Mice tracks have their front paw track sets behind each hind paw track set indicating more of a hopping movement in its walking gait. The different size factor is apparent. Rat tracks being much larger showing prominent heel pads. Rat hind tracks are three cm. long, front track about one cm.

*"We do not need to burn down the house to kill the rats." Herbert Hoover*

### In This Issue

- Rat Track Identification
- Wild Boar Project Update
- MinkPolice
- Keeping Alberta Rat Free for 70 years
- RGS Trail
- Alberta Rat Update

## Wild Boar Project Update

The Wild Boar At-Large Eradication Pilot Project will continue for one more year and focus in Woodlands and Lac Ste. Anne counties. We are testing corral trap systems that use a remotely deployed gate activated with cell phones. When a camera senses movement, it sends an alert to our phones. Through an app, we can see what the camera is seeing in real life and decide when to drop the gate. So far, 50 wild boar have been captured at our test sites.

The pilot project also includes surveillance and documenting information received from the public. We encourage anyone who has seen wild boar at-large or has had damage-caused by wild boar to call 310-FARM (3276) or contact your Agricultural Fieldman. By having a better understanding of the issue's scope, Agriculture and Forestry will be better prepared to recommend a province wide program and determine what that program should entail.

Please call Perry Abramenko, Assistant Provincial Pest Specialist at 403-627-1177 for more information concerning the Wild Boar At-Large Eradication Project.



## A New Type of Police—MinkPolice



A new device called "MinkPolice" designed to monitor trap activity of skunk, rat, or any nuisance animal trap. It sends a signal when the trap is closed or activated. It is about one quarter the size of a cigarette package and there is a free app that receives the signal. This device can save pest control operators hours of time checking on traps and making their control efforts much more efficient. Immediate notification of pests caught in live traps can be received to lessen the time a pest is caught unattended in a trap. Transmitter batteries (at two transmits per day) last one year. Minkpolice basically transmits movement but no picture. Could be handy when trail cam maintenance and cost are too prohibitive. PCO's might benefit from these in some circumstances. Find out more at MinkPolice's site.

# Keeping Alberta rat free for 70 years

We have a real Alberta advantage because of our location

Written by: **Jeff Cummings**, APS Communications

Alberta has kept its rat-free status for seven decades and the lead of the province's rat control program plans to keep it that way.

"This program is based on the fact that we don't have rats now and we don't want rats — we've managed to keep them out as much as we can after all of these years," said **Phil Merrill**, a provincial rat and pest specialist at Agriculture and Forestry's Regional Veterinary Laboratory in Lethbridge.

Phil has been a part of the program for 40 years — a program that started back in 1950.

## Putting Alberta on the map

Since then, the program has helped put Alberta on the map as international journalists continue to explore how Alberta has maintained its rat-free status for 70 years, [including the BBC](#). Some of that success can be credited to Alberta's geography, said Phil. Rats can't run across the Alberta border from British Columbia because the squeaky rodents can't survive in the mountains. The pests also can't survive in the harsh, cold north and they generally can't run across the Montana border to the south since the U.S. state is so sparsely populated.

"Montana is basically as rat free as we are," said Phil who adds that rats can only survive in the Prairies where there is stored food, garbage, and shelter.

"We do have a real Alberta advantage because of our location," said Phil, "but in this part of the world, a rat is a real parasite and if we can keep them from accessing our food and shelter, they die. They can't survive out in the wild."

The rest of the success can be credited to the team involved in keeping Alberta clear of rats, said Phil, including all of the province's pest control officers and agriculture fieldsmen. Phil also manages the 24-hour phone line at 310-RATS where Albertans call in their tips about a rat.

## Catching a rat that craves gluten-free bread

His team will listen to each voicemail to confirm if a sighting is legit, but 95 per cent of the calls are simply a case of mistaken identity. Many callers will misidentify a muskrat or a pocket gopher as a rat, but that's OK, says Phil.

"People are doing their part to keep Alberta rat free," said Phil.

If the call is legit, the team will investigate and that happens about a couple times a month. In one case, the team were called to a rural bakery north of Calgary. According to Phil, the business imported some ingredients, but when staff opened the box a rat jumped out and darted into the bakery.

"It was eating bread and it wouldn't take their bait," said Phil. "We fought that rodent for a couple of months. It would only eat gluten-free bread and we had traps out, bait out, but the rat wanted gluten-free bread. It was hard to catch."

For Phil, there's never been a dull day, he says. He admits he loves talking about his job.

"I just help to make sure everybody is doing their part," said Phil who loves teaching people about how to properly identify a rat. "I am making sure that we are all keeping rats out of Alberta."



A rat awareness poster from the 1950s.

## Wheatland Richardson Ground Squirrel Trial May 2019

We ran a Richardson Ground Squirrel (RGS) bait trail near Rockyford this spring to gain further information on RGS baiting. Ramik Green was tested against the oat bait Ramex in bait stations and Ramik Green was additionally used with bait stations and down the hole baiting in two additional plots. A plot with strychnine was also run. Our site didn't have as large a population of RGS as we hoped for and the vegetation in the pastures was fairly high which competed with our baits. Results were not definitive. Some of the things we learned and reinforced were as follows:

Strychnine seems to continue to perform well in reduction of RGS activity.

Ramik Green pellets were preferred over oat groats.

Bait stations require a period of time before RGS use them to feed. Our bait stations were used tires with plywood on top and may not be as effective as tunnel (pipe) bait stations.

Bait placed down the hole is often pushed outside the hole the following day by RGS.

Young RGS were not active or seen at the start of the trial but appeared later which affected our population reduction estimates.

### Suggestions deduced:

RGS control needs to start well before May.

Ramik Green is a palatable bait for RGS.

If using bait stations plan for a period of time before active RGS feeding occurs.



## Alberta Rat Update June 2019

The first half of the year has produced an average amount of confirmed single rat reports but a slightly above average amount of infestations in the Rat Control Zone (RCZ). Six single confirmed rat reports were received within the Province at various locations and five infestations were eradicated in the RCZ this spring. Although the number of infestations in the RCZ is fairly high, it is not a result of increased pressure of rats migrating in from Saskatchewan, but more of a challenge of cleaning up infestations that arrive and find a home. We had a small infestation in Sibbald last fall under a bin that initiated three of the infestations this spring. From this bin rats found a producers dump and with the help of the producer the dump was burned and about fifty rats were shot and destroyed. However, not all the rats were eradicated at this site and several were seen scattering in the grass before they could be shot. From this infestation last fall we have had three infestations this spring within three miles of the original infestation. Persistent hard work from our Pest Control Officers in the RCZ continue to ensure that every rat is eradicated even if it takes a few months.

### Contacts:

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### OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE AND UTILITY SERVICES

June 28, 2019

Honourable Devin Dreeshen  
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry  
Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry  
229 Legislature Building  
10800 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

#### **RE: Ropin the Web Concerns**

The County of Minburn No. 27 Agricultural Service Board would like to express our support of an earlier letter sent to you from Clearwater County on behalf of Agricultural Producers who have lost access to the Ropin the Web. The previous department website was a one stop shop for Agricultural extension information.

A number of producers have expressed their feelings that they miss Ropin the Web dearly. The variety of information that was available regarding Agriculture in Alberta was valuable and appreciated.

The County of Minburn Agricultural Service Board is in full support of the reinstatement of Ropin the Web and the return to timely extension information to assist producers.

Sincerely,

Eric Anderson  
County of Minburn No. 27  
Agricultural Service Board Chairman

*c: Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks  
Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville  
Garth Rowswell, MLA Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright  
Agricultural Services Board of Alberta  
RMA  
County of Minburn No. 27 Council*



# Ventenata

*Ventenata dubia* (Leers) Coss.

## Concern

Ventenata, also known as North African wiregrass or North Africa grass, has not yet been reported in Alberta, but is well established and spreading in Montana, Idaho and Washington. It is also known to be present in British Columbia. This introduced grass is unpalatable to livestock and wildlife, presumably due to its high silica content (2.7 per cent), reduces forage yield, promotes the accumulation of litter and leads to increased wildfire risk. It can also promote soil erosion due to its shallow and short-lived root system. It can colonize native grasslands as well as improved pastures and hay land. In Washington and Idaho, it has been found to be especially invasive in timothy hay fields. Contaminated timothy hay may be subject to export restrictions.

## Description

Ventenata (*Ventenata dubia*), is a winter annual grass that can typically grow to a height of 15-46 cm. The leaves are without hair and located mostly on the lower half of the stem. On seedlings the leaves are narrow and folded lengthwise. They also have an unusually long ligule of up to eight mm in length. The stem is characterized by three to four exposed reddish-black nodes. The open 15 to 20 cm pyramid shaped panicles emerge in late May. The panicles have two to five 1.5 to 7 cm branches, each bearing one to five spikelets on 2 to 18 mm pedicels. The spikelets measure 9 to 15 mm and have two to three florets. The lower floret is usually staminate with a short two to four mm straight awn, whereas the upper florets are bisexual and have 10 to 16 mm long bent and twisted awns. The fertile upper florets shatter more readily than the basal florets, therefore florets with bent awns may not always be present.

## Similar Species

Ventenata can be confused with both downy brome and Japanese brome. However, it can be distinguished in all stages. In the seedling stage, the

### Key Identifiers:

- Long membranous ligules
- Bent awns
- Reddish-black nodules along the stem
- Openly branched panicles

leaves of downy brome and Japanese brome are more twisted and more hairy than those of ventenata. At maturity, the awns of ventenata are bent and twisted, unlike the straight awns of downy brome and Japanese brome. The panicles of downy brome and

Japanese brome droop, whereas in ventenata, they are open and erect. Downy brome transforms into a reddish-purple colour upon maturity, whereas ventenata remains tawny brown or green.

## Biology

Flowering takes place from May to August with mature seed being produced about six weeks later. Water stress can shorten the period of maturation and plant senescence. Upon maturity the florets containing the seed break off and fall to the ground where many are buried thanks to the twisting action of the awns. The seed remain dormant for some time until exposed to fall temperatures above 10 C. The optimal germination temperature is between 18 and 29 C. Cold temperatures will induce dormancy. Observations in the northwestern US have shown that it will germinate about two weeks later than downy brome. Most of the seed produced will germinate within one year, but a few (0.1 per cent) may remain viable for up to two years. Seedling establishment is best when there is adequate soil

moisture and a thick layer of litter. However, it is also very competitive on bare dry soil. Susceptible habitats include roadsides, rights of way, construction sites, overgrazed pastures and similar disturbed locations.

## Distribution in Canada

Although Canada manages ventenata very well, there have been a few cases reported in the western and eastern provinces. The majority of ventenata is found in the United States, mainly Idaho and Washington, which is why it is becoming more of a concern for Alberta.

## Management Options

Currently there are no herbicides registered in Canada to control ventenata. Management should aim at reducing seed production and limiting seedling recruitment. Such options include mowing plants to prevent seed set (mow prior to maturity) and grazing practices that promote healthy pastures. In cultivated fields, rotating to crops that offer pre-seed, pre-emergence, or in-crop selective grass weed control will be most effective.



Figure 3. Spikelets are 9 to 15 mm long, and have two to three florets with 10 to 16 mm long bent awns on the upper florets.

## Acknowledgements

All photos are by Matt Lavin from Bozeman, Montana, USA - *Ventenata dubia*  
Uploaded by Jacopo Werther, CC BY-SA 2.0, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic license



Figure 1. *Ventenata* infestation in a native grassland. Photo by Matt Lavin.



Figure 2. Open panicles with diffuse appearance.



Figure 4. Panicles with two to five branches on lower nodes, and one to five spikelets per branch

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August 4, 2019

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

**RECEIVED****AUG 09 2019****CLEAR HILLS COUNTY**

Dear Allan,

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

Following is an estimate of your current VSI account status:

| Jan. 1, 2019     | Claims    | Payments  | Balance    |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
|                  |           |           | \$ (1,985) |
| Payments in 2019 |           | \$ 64,500 | \$ 62,515  |
| First Quarter    | \$ 10,577 |           | \$ 51,938  |
| Second Quarter   | \$ 21,729 |           | \$ 30,210  |

Administrative fees and investment income have not been calculated or included for the first six months of 2019.

Overall for VSI there is a 1.2% decrease in total claims for the second quarter of 2019 compared to 2018. Total costs have decreased \$ 2,968 over the same time period.

Seven (7) of the sixteen (16) VSI jurisdictions had an increase in their second quarter costs. Increases ranged from 9.2 to 49.8 % of 2018 second quarter costs. Decreases in the other nine (9) jurisdictions ranged from 0.3 % to 39.9 % of 2018 second quarter costs.

For the year VSI cost increased by 3.2% or \$11,828. Five (5) jurisdictions have increases between 1.2 and 72.1% for the year, nine (9) have decreases between 0.5 and 34.4%

Your 2019 second quarter claims are \$ 2,764 (14.6%) higher than they were in 2018. For the year you are \$153 (0.5%) under last year's pace.

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

Yours sincerely

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 Rik Vandekerkhove, Manager

cc Greg Coon  
 Sarah Hayward

