

AGENDA
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
November 19, 2019

The Agricultural Service Board meeting of Clear Hills County will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, immediately following the Organizational 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. October 15, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes2**
- 4. Delegation(s)**
 - a. Alberta Fish and Wildlife 11:00 a.m.5**
- 5. BUSINESS ARISING**
- 6. OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Activity Report.....6**
 - b. Board Reports9**
- 7. NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Events.....17**
 - b. January 2020 Agricultural Service Board Meeting30**
 - c. Agricultural Service Board Policy Review31**
- 8. REPORTS**
 - a. Agricultural Fieldman Report.....67**
 - b. Community Development Manager's Report.....68**
- 9. INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE.....70**
- 10. CONFIDENTIAL**
- 11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Worsley, Alberta
October 15, 2019**

PRESENT

Brian Harcourt	Chair
Baldur Ruecker	Deputy Chair
Julie Watchorn	Member
David Janzen	Council Representative
MacKay Ross	Member

ATTENDING

Allan Rowe	Chief Administrative Officer
Sarah Hayward	Community Development Clerk
Greg Coon	Agricultural Fieldman

ABSENT

Garry Candy	Member
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CALL TO ORDER

Chair Harcourt called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

AGENDA
AG149(10/15/19)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda governing the October 15, 2019 Agricultural Service Board meeting as presented. CARRIED.

AG150(10/15/19)

RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the September 17, 2019 Agricultural Service Board Meeting as presented. CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS
Activity Report

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

AG151(10/15/19)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the October 15, 2019 Agricultural Service Board Activity Report as presented. CARRIED.

Biggest Vegetable Contest

The Board is presented with feedback and results from the 2nd Annual Biggest Vegetable Contest.

AG152(10/15/19)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council amend Policy 6317 with adding cabbage as a category, remove David Thompson Hall weigh station, eliminate Friday evening weigh station and hold weigh ins at the County office on Thursday 3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and have business hours only on Friday at the County office. CARRIED.

2019 Operating Budget

The Board is presented with the first draft of the 2020 Agricultural Services Operating Budget.

AG153(10/15/19)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council approve the Agricultural Service Board 2020 Operating Budget as presented. 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.

AG154(10/15/19)

RESOLUTION by Chair Harcourt that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the October 15, 2019 Board members' written and verbal reports for information as presented. CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Events

The Board is presented with events for their consideration.

AG155(10/15/19)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board authorize Member Watchorn, Deputy Chair Ruecker, and Chair Harcourt to attend the Get Dirt on Soil Health Workshop being held on Thursday, November 14, 2019 at the Rycroft Ag Society Hall. CARRIED.

VSI Program

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

AG156(10/15/19)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service authorize Councillor Janzen or Chair Harcourt to attend the Veterinary Services Incorporated Annual General meeting being held on November 8, 2019 at the Peace River Legion. CARRIED.

Zero Till Drill

The Board is presented with costs for repairing the Zero Till Drill.

AG157(10/15/19)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council dispose of the Zero Till Drill as is due to low usage and high repair costs. CARRIED.

REPORTS

Community Development
Manager's Report

At this time the Community Development Manager will have the opportunity to report on matter of importance to the Board.

Member Ross entered the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

AG158(10/15/19)

RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the October 15, 2019 Community Development Manager's Report for information as presented. CARRIED.

Agricultural Fieldman Report

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

AG159(10/15/19)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the October 15, 2019 Agricultural Fieldman's Report for information as presented. CARRIED.

Information & Correspondence

The Board is presented with correspondence for review.

1. DON Toxicity in Corn – Article – (63-10-02)
2. Report Card on Resolutions – Provincial ASB Committee – (63-10-02)
3. PREDA Northwest Alberta Agricultural Commodities – Report – (63-10-02)

AG160(10/15/19)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration invite Fish and Wildlife to a future Agricultural Service Board meeting as a delegation regarding wildlife predation. CARRIED.

AG161(10/15/19)

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

Chair Harcourt recessed the meeting at 11:16 a.m.
Chair Harcourt reconvened the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

DELEGATION

Peace Country Beef And Forage Association 1:00 p.m.

Peace Country Beef and Forage Association (PCBFA) Manager, Liisa Jeffery, will be attendance at 1:00 p.m. to present a report on the 2019 Environmental Stream Partnership program and present the plans for the 2020 program along with a funding request. Also presented will be updates on the PCBFA programs, funding and direction.

AG162(10/15/19)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the delegation from Liisa Jeffery, Manager, Peace Country Beef and Forage Association on the 2019 Environmental Stream Partnership program and 2020 programming. CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Harcourt adjourned the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

CHAIR

4
AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	November 19, 2019
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	DELEGATION – Alberta Fish And Wildlife 11:00 a.m.
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

Alberta Fish and Wildlife Officer, Dan Downie will be in attendance at 11:00 a.m. to present an update on livestock predation in Clear Hills County and general information on the program.

BACKGROUND:

AG160(10/15/19) RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration invite Fish and Wildlife to a future Agricultural Service Board meeting as a delegation regarding wildlife predation. **CARRIED.**

ATTACHMENTS:

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agriculture Service Board accept for information the delegation from, Fish and Wildlife Officer, Dan Downie, on livestock predation within Clear Hills County.

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

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	November 19, 2019
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	ACTIVITY REPORT
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

- Agricultural Service Board Activity Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board (ASB) accepts the November 19, 2019 ASB Activity Report as presented.

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



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for November 19, 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				
October 15, 2018				
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	PCBFA Delegation October 15/19
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	PCBFA Delegation October 15/19
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.	AF	PCBFA Delegation October 15/19
October 15, 2019				
AG152	(10/15/19)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council amend Policy 6317 with adding cabbage as a category, remove David Thompson Hall weigh station, eliminate Friday evening weigh station and hold weigh ins at the County office on Thursday 3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and have business hours only on Friday at the County office.	CDM	Approved. C552-19 (10-22-19)
AG153	(10/15/19)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council approve the Agricultural Service Board 2020 Operating Budget as presented.	CDM	
AG157	(10/15/19)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council dispose of the Zero Till Drill as is due to low usage and high repair costs.	CDM	Approved. C556-19(10-22-19) disposing by auction in spring of 2020
AG160	(10/15/19)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration invite Fish and Wildlife to a future Agricultural Service Board meeting as a delegation regarding wildlife predation.	AF	Delegation Nov. 19/19



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for November 19, 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
Items in Waiting				
AG133	(12/12/16)	RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board table the discussion around the CombCut Selective Mower and bring back information once the University of Saskatchewan field trial study is complete.		2020 OR 2021
AG21	(02/13/17)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board table motion AG109(10/17/16) regarding Glyphosate Tolerant Wheat until new information is available.		As of Nov 9 2018 no new info

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	November 19, 2019
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	BOARD REPORTS
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

ATTACHMENTS:

- Member Watchorn

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' written or verbal reports of November 19, 2019 for information.

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

2019 Regional ASB Conference

St. Isidore, AB

Oct 28 2019

By: Julie Watchorn

It has been 55 years since the Agricultural Boards have been in existence. The first board was brought together in 1964!

We need to tell our story to everyone more in the public on what we do and our purpose.

ENSURE CONFIDENCE IN AGRICULTURAL CROPS AND HONEY!

There are reports and maps on the Alberta Government website on insects and diseases

Canola- Surveyed 385 fields

- -Clubroot
- -Sclerotinia
- -Blackleg

Avg. 1% in each field

Peas- Surveyed 100 fields

- Root Rot
- Blight
- Ascochyta (blight)

Avg. 1% in each field

Potato/Sugar beet/Onion & Garlic

5 fields of each surveyed
Samantha Muirhead-Tech. Apiculture
Research

Provincial Apiculturist

Alberta's Honeybee Industry in 2019

- Over 311,000 colonies
- Represent 40% of Canadian colonies
- 1874 registered beekeepers
- 50,000 move to BC to overwinter
- 70,000 move to southern Alberta for canola
pollination

To date the inspection team has carried out
75 inspections

- 30 for interprovincial movement
- 14 for surveillance
- 20 for disease issues
- 6 sales
- 7 resistance tests

Inspection findings:

Nosema highest ever

European foulbrood highest ever

Parasitic mite syndrome & deformed wing
virus

The provincial Apiculturist

Administers the Bee Act

Bee Regulations

Regulates the Queen bee imports and equipment from other provinces

Inspects bees before they move from BC

(winter) to AB (summer) or the US even

ALWAYS look for inspection reports when buying bees

National Lab in Beaverlodge

Fun Fact: Bees do not poop all winter!

Bee Maid honey is a good brand to buy from the store

Honey producers are trying to fight the imports of honey that is so called Canadian honey but it's an Asian product mixed off with very little real honey...

Recommendations for the Management of Honey Bee Pests

Email: bee@gov.ab.ca

Call toll free in Alberta 310-0000

Bee Health App can be downloaded in your App Store on smartphones

Emergency Services

Brad Andres- Director of Emergency Management Alta Ag and Forestry

Emergency planning for livestock

Chuck egg Fire-900, 000 acres

Battle Complex-145, 000 acres

Does your community have a plan? What is practical or realistic??

The priority for the allocation and deployment of firefighting resources is as follows

#1 Always highest priority Human life

#2 Communities

#3 Watersheds and sensitive soils

#4 natural resources

#5 Infrastructure (which has a major impact on public safety and local economy)

Issues raised:

What do farmers do with their livestock?

Once evacuated there was no system for re-entry to feed and water livestock

Who should producers even talk to during these events to get answers or support?

Components of Community Planning

Risk Identified

Risk/Hazard close

Community Response

Middle of Response

After Event/Recovery

Tools available

- Forest Area Management teams are willing to sit down with communities
- Template for 'Re-entry in Evacuation Zone' procedure
- Mass Carcass Disposal planning guide
- Livestock Response Trailer Program
- Premise ID data

Brad.Anders@gov.ab.ca

780-638-3204

Canola Council

Gregory Sekulic- Agronomist

60 million total seeded acres 2012-2017

7 crops

420 varieties

Canola

24 million seeded acres

72 varieties

Diversity of natural enemies in the Prairies is very high

Nearly 400 identified ground beetles

Over 800 spiders

Over 1400 parasitoid wasps

Nearly 400 species of bees

Root maggot predator-parasitoid

Eats 23 eggs or 2.6 larvae on avg. per day

Or 1200 eggs and 128 larvae in their lifetime

-Preserve fence rows and road allowances, in the weed free state.

-Maintain existing, or plant new shelter belts.

-Square off field edges to eliminate implement overlap.

-Plant grass strips in waterways or water runs within the field to help with erosion.

-Plant the loading zone at the compacted field entrance.

There is a beetle that eat weed seeds (amera)

Smooth brome drives down club root spores than planting nothing at all.

Eight out of 13 counties sell 50,000 shelterbelt trees per year

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	October 15, 2019
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	EVENTS
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with events for their consideration.

BACKGROUND:

- Extended Grazing and Watering Tour being held on November 23, 2019 in RM AC144, Grande Prairie Regional College in Fairview, Alberta.
- Winter Watering Systems Tour on November 28, 2019 at the Jousard Community Hall.
- Livestock Health Workshop on November 29, 2019 at the Blueberry Hall.
- 2020 Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference being held on January 21-24, 2020 at the Fairmont Banff Springs.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Cost estimate per event
- Extended Grazing and Watering Tour poster
- Winter Watering Systems Tour poster
- Livestock Health Workshop
- 2020 Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference agenda
- November/December/January calendars

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion around Agricultural Service Board events.

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
Extended Grazing & Wintering Tour	GPRC Fairview Campus	November-23-19	1	\$ 15.00	170	\$98.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$192.84	\$306.44
Winter Watering Systems Tour	Joussard Community Hall	November 28, 2019	1	\$ 15.00	642	\$372.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$192.84	\$580.20
Livestock Health Workshop	Blueberry Hall	November 29, 2019	1	\$0.00	336	\$181.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$192.84	\$374.28
2020 ASB Provincial Conference	Fairmont Banff Springs	January 21-24, 2020	4	\$840.00	Flights	\$550.00	\$633.00	\$60.00	\$120.00	\$771.36	\$2,974.36
\$4,235.28											



EXTENDED GRAZING & WATERING TOUR

Touring Corn, Cocktail Cover Crops &
Livestock Watering Solutions

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD
RM AC 144, GPRC FAIRVIEW CAMPUS
11:00 AM REGISTRATION
11:30 AM EVENT START

\$15/Member, \$25/Member Pair
\$20/Non-Member, \$30/Non-Member Pair
Lunch & Farm Tour Included

**For More
Information or to
Register:**
peacecountrybeef.ca
info@pcbfa.ca
780-835-6799 ext. 3

Brought to you By:





WINTER WATERING SYSTEMS TOUR

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH 2019
JOUSSARD COMMUNITY HALL
11:00 AM REGISTRATION
11:30 AM PRESENTATION START**

**\$15/MEMBER, \$25/MEMBER PAIR
\$20/NON-MEMBER, \$30/NON-MEMBER PAIR
LUNCH INCLUDED**

For More Information or to Register:
peacecountrybeef.ca
info@pcbfa.ca
780-835-6799 ext. 3

Brought to you By:



Livestock



Health Workshop

November 29, 2019—Blueberry Hall

Time: 5:30 pm—8:30 pm



Speakers:

Dr. Carmen Schneider (Dawson Creek Veterinary Clinic) — Herd Health and Vaccines

Dr. Dayna Goldsmith (University of Calgary) — Wildlife Diseases and Livestock

Peace Country Beef and Forage Association — Nutritional Rule of Thumb

The event is free but registration is required; supper provided!

To Register please contact Saddle Hills County: (780) 864 - 3760 or
ag@saddlehills.ab.ca or PCBFA: (780) 835 - 6799 or info@pcbfa.ca



ASB 2020

"AGRICULTURE, INNOVATION & PIONEERS" CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

Central Region AAF



ASB

**Tuesday,
January 21**

4:00 PM - 9:00 PM • **REGISTRATION**

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM • **WINE & CHEESE**

TRADESHOW

• **WELCOMING REMARKS**

7:00 PM - 7:15 PM • **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY- TBD**

7:15 PM - 7:30 PM • **MAYOR - TOWN OF BANFF**

7:30 PM - 7:45 PM • **CHAIR - PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD COMMITTEE**

7:45 PM - 8:00 PM • **PRESIDENT - RURAL MUNICIPALITIES OF ALBERTA**

8:00 - 8:15 PM • **PRESIDENT - ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN**



@AAAFfieldmen



AAAF Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen



<https://agriculturalserviceboards.com/>

2020

"AGRICULTURE, INNOVATION & PIONEERS" CELEBRATING 75 YEARS



Wednesday, January 22

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM • **BREAKFAST**

8:00 AM – 8:05 AM • **GREETINGS** - MASTER OF CEREMONIES, DIANNE FINSTAD
O' CANADA

8:05 AM – 8:45 AM • **HISTORY OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS** - BRENT HOYLAND

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM • **EVERYTHING IS ABOUT TO CHANGE**

DOUG GRIFFITHS, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF 13 WAYS INC.

9:45 AM – 10:15 AM • **BREAK / TRADESHOW**

10:15 AM – 11:00AM • **AUTONOMOUS AGRICULTURE (DOT)**

CORY BEAUJOT, MANAGER OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SEEDMASTER MFG INC & DOT TECHNOLOGY CORP.

11:00 AM – 11:45 AM • **'HANDS FREE HECTARE' 'HANDS FREE FARM'**

JONATHAN C E GILL, MECHTRONICS RESEARCHER, HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY

11:45 AM – 1:15 PM • **LUNCH / TRADESHOW**

1:15 PM – 2:45 PM • **PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD UPDATE**

RESOLUTION SESSION

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM • **BREAK / TRADESHOW**

3:15 PM – 4:00 PM • **SOCIAL MEDIA FOR FARMERS**

NICK SAIK, CEO, KNOW IDEAS MEDIA



@AAAFieldmen



AAAF Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen



<https://agriculturalserviceboards.com/>

**Thursday,
January 23**

ASB

-
- 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM** • **BREAKFAST**
-
- 8:00 AM - 8:05 AM** • **GREETINGS** - MASTER OF CEREMONIES, DIANNE FINSTAD
-
- 8:05 AM - 9:00 AM** • **ANIMALS WE EAT: ESSENTIAL ON THE FARM AND PLATE**
NICOLETTE HAHN NIMAN, WRITER, RANCHER, LAWYER
-
- 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM** • **EMERGING TOPIC**
-
- 9:30 AM - 10:00** • **BREAK**
-
- 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM** • **PRAIRIE PROUD - IT'S TIME TO GET LOUD AND PROUD ABOUT ALBERTA'S BEST!**
GRAHAM SHERMAN, OWNER, TOOL SHED BREWING COMPANY
DAVID FARRAN, FOUNDER & PRESIDENT, EAU CLAIRE DISTILLERY
-
- 11:30 AM - 11:45 AM** • **ASB UPDATES: 2018-19 ASB REVIEW, 2020-22 ASB GRANT PROGRAM**
DOUG MACAULAY, MANAGER, AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD
-
- 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM** • **LUNCH**
-
- 1:00 PM - 1:15 PM** • **FARMING FOR THE FUTURE** - EMMETT SAWYER
-
- 1:15 PM - 2:00 PM** • **AGRICULTURAL RISK MONITORING AND REPORTING IN ALBERTA**
DANIEL ITENFISU, SOIL WATER, CROP & ATMOSPHERE RELATION SPECIALIST
-
- 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM** • **PLANT BASED PROTEIN INDUSTRY** - DAVID DZISIAK, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, BOTANECO INC.
-
- 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM** • **BREAK**
-
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM** • **AGRICULTURE: HANG ON FOR A WILD RIDE**
KEVIN HURSH, PRESIDENT, HURSH CONSULTING & COMMUNICATIONS
-
- 5:30 PM - 6:15 PM** • **COCKTAILS & GROUP PHOTOS FOR INTERESTED ASB'S & PHOTOBOOTH + CARICATURIST**
-
- 6:15 PM - 6:30 PM** • **EVENING WELCOME** - PREMIER JASON KENNEY - TBD
-
- 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM** • **SUPPER**
-
- 8:00 PM - 8:15 PM** • **AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS** - AAAF PRESIDENT
-
- 8:15 PM - 8:30 PM** • **2021 PROVINCIAL ASB SUMMER TOUR** - BRAZEAU COUNTY
-
- 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM** • **ENTERTAINMENT**



2020

"AGRICULTURE, INNOVATION & PIONEERS" CELEBRATING 75 YEARS



Friday, January 24

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM 🌟 **BREAKFAST**

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM 🌟 **AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS RECYCLING GROUP UPDATE**

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM 🌟 **MINISTERS FORUM - MASTER OF CEREMONIES, BRENT HOYLAND**



@AAAFldmen



AAAF Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen



<https://agriculturalserviceboards.com/>

November 2019

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Remembrance Day County office Closed	12	13	14 Get Dirt on Soil Health BH, BR, JW	15	16
17	18	19 ASB Organizational Meeting & Regular ASB mtg	20	21	22	23 Extended Grazing and Watering Tour
24	25	26 Council meeting	27	28 Wintering Watering Systems Tour	29 Livestock Health Workshop	30

November 14th – Get Dirt on Soil Health at the Rycroft Ag Society Hall

November 23rd – Extended Grazing and Watering Tour in Room AC 144, GPRC Fairview Campus

November 28th – Winter Watering Systems Tour at the Jousard Community Hall

November 29th – Livestock Health Workshop at the Blueberry Hall

Legend:

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

December 2019

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Council Mtg.	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 ASB Mtg.	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Merry Christmas!	26 Boxing Day	27	28
29	30	31				

Legend:

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

January 2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 Happy New Years	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Council Mtg.	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 2020 ASB Provincial Coference	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Council Mtg.	29	30		

January 21 – 24th – 2020 ASB Provincial Conference being held at the Banff Fairmont.

- Legend:**
- 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:	November 19, 2019
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	January 2020 ASB Meeting
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The January Agricultural Service Board meeting date conflicts with the Provincial ASB Conference, and the board is requested to select a different meeting date.

BACKGROUND:

- Provincial ASB Conference is January 21-24, 2020 in Banff, Alberta.
- Regularly scheduled ASB meeting is January 21, 2020.
- January Council Meetings are Tuesday January 14 and 28.

OPTIONS:

- a. Not hold a January ASB meeting
- b. Reschedule to one of the available dates on the January calendar below:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
13	X	15	16	17
X	X	X	X	X
28	29	30	31	Feb 1

*next regularly scheduled ASB meeting is Tuesday, February 18, 2020

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board reschedule the January Agricultural Service Board to January ___, 2020.

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

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	November 19, 2019
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	Agricultural Services Policy Review
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with the Agricultural Services Policies for review.

BACKGROUND:

ATTACHMENTS:

- Policy 6302 Agricultural Improvement Policy
- Policy 6303 Pest Control
- Policy 6304 Roadside Vegetation Control
- Policy 6306 Clubroot of Canola
- Policy 6307 Wolf Management Incentive
- Policy 6309 Property Line Spray Program
- Policy 6310 Rental Equipment Policy
- Policy 6311 VSI Program
- Policy 6314 Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Testing Incentive Program
- Policy 6317 Biggest Vegetable Contest

OPTIONS:

1. Accept for information the annual review of the following Agricultural Service Board Policies:
2. Recommend to Council the following amendments to Policy_____.
 - a. And then accept for info the annual review of any not amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:

ABj

AgFieldman:

GC



Clear Hills County

Effective Date: May 10, 2016	Policy Number 6302
Title: AGRICULTURE IMPROVEMENT POLICY	

1. Policy Statement

- 1.1. Clear Hills County will actively encourage the adoption of innovative, appropriate technologies and practices that may be of economic benefit to County agricultural producers.

2. Responsibilities

- 2.1. Agricultural Services under direction of the Agricultural Service Board will encourage agricultural producers to adopt innovative and appropriate technologies and practices by:
 - 2.1.1. purchasing and offering rental equipment,
 - 2.1.2. establishing demonstration plots,
 - 2.1.3. hosting or organizing seminars, informational meetings, and tour days,
 - 2.1.4. organizing an Agricultural Trade Show,
 - 2.1.5. supporting Veterinarian Services Incorporated (VSI), and
 - 2.1.6. offering innovative and informative programs and services.
- 2.2. Agriculture Producers operating in the County may be eligible to receive reimbursement for costs associated with attending out-of-County events, workshops, seminars, or conferences providing information and education related to the business of agriculture, based on the following criteria:
 - 2.2.1. Annually Council may include funds in the budget for this program.
 - 2.2.2. Producers must apply to the Board prior to attending the event, including a description of the event, cost of registration, projected costs for accommodations for the duration of the event and the list of meals that are not included as part of the event fees.
 - 2.2.3. Eligible expenses: Accommodations for the duration of the event, Meals not provided by the event, and registration fees.

2.2.4. Ineligible expenses: Travel costs and out of pocket expenses

2.2.5. Receipts are required for reimbursement of accommodations and registration fees. Meals not provided at the event will be reimbursed at the rates set out in the current Policy 1127 - Travel and Expense

2.2.6. The Board will evaluate applications and approvals will be on a first come first approved basis until the annual budget has been allocated.

- Event limit: A maximum of two approvals per producer or farm unit per year.

2.2.7. Reimbursement will not be released until the Producer(s) provides a written and verbal report to the board at a regular Agricultural Service Board meeting following the event. The report regarding the event must include the knowledge, skills or benefits received from attending the event.

- Time Limit: To be eligible for reimbursement the report must be made to the board at one of the next two regularly scheduled meetings following the event.

3. End of Policy

ADOPTED
Resolution C192-03

DATE:
March 25, 2003

AMENDED
Resolution C460-03
Resolution C876-03
Resolution C461(06/26/07
Resolution C164(02/22/11)
Resolution C190-13(04/12/16)
Resolution C285-16(05/10/16)

DATE:
June 24, 2003
November 25, 2003
June 26, 2007
February 22, 2011
April 12, 2016
May 10, 2016

APPLICATION - Agricultural Event Reimbursement

Clear Hills County encourages the adoption of innovative, appropriate technologies and practices that may be of economic benefit to County agricultural producers. The County may provide reimbursement to agricultural producers operating in the County for costs associated with attending eligible out-of-County events, such as workshops, seminars, or conferences that provide information and education related to the agriculture industry.

Interested Producers should apply in writing to the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) prior to attending the event. If approved, reimbursement will only be given after the Producer's written and verbal reports have been presented to the Board at a regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting. The Board has the discretion to determine the maximum amount of reimbursement for eligible expenses per approved application. Applications will be accepted throughout the year and be dealt with on a first come, first approved basis as the annual budget allows. Approvals will be to a maximum of two per year per producer or farm unit.

Eligible Expenses:

1. Accommodations for the duration of the event
2. Meals that are not included as part of the event fees
3. Cost of registration

Ineligible Expenses: Travel costs and out of pocket expenses.

Name of Agricultural Event: _____

Attach event information page or agenda, or describe the event _____

Dates: _____ **Location:** _____

Cost of Registration: _____

Estimated cost of accommodations to attend the event: _____

List meals that are not included as part of the event registration or fees:

Breakfasts _____ **Lunches** _____ **Dinners/Suppers** _____

NOTE: Receipts are required for reimbursement of accommodations and registration fees. Meals not provided at the event will be reimbursed at the rates set out in the current Policy 1127-Travel and Expense.

Approved applicants will be provided with an Expense Claim which must be completed and returned to the County with the necessary receipts attached for reimbursement to be processed, this will be held until the written and verbal report have been made to the ASB; the report must be made at one of the next two regularly scheduled meetings following the event.

FOR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD USE:

ASB Members authorized to attend this event _____

Concurrent sessions? YES NO How many concurrent sessions? _____

Remaining Budget:\$ _____



Clear Hills County

Effective Date: February 22, 2011

Policy Number **6303**

Title: **PEST CONTROL POLICY**

1. Definitions:

- 1.1. Pest - pest or nuisance as defined in the Agricultural Pest Act, Pest and Nuisance Control Regulations

2. Purpose:

- 2.1. To manage currently established pest populations and reduce widespread infestations and damage.
- 2.2. To prevent establishment of pests that are not currently established within the county.

3. Policy Statement

- 3.1. Clear Hills County recognizes the need to assist agricultural producers with managing pest populations and preventing introduction of foreign pests that negatively affect livestock production and/or crop production.

4. Responsibilities

4.1. Education

- 4.1.1. Agricultural Services will make available educational materials and information for agricultural producers regarding animal husbandry, livestock pest and disease management and crop pest and disease management.
- 4.1.2. Agricultural Services will make available resources and tools for managing pest populations and for preventing establishment and spread of introduced pests.
- 4.1.3. Agricultural Services will provide awareness and education to the general public regarding identification of agricultural pests, expected response of public, and potential impact of pest outbreaks.

4.2. Monitoring

- 4.2.1. Inspectors, or designates, may conduct surveys as requested by Alberta Agriculture.

- 4.2.2. Administration may inform the public of the general results of any surveys conducted by county inspectors or designates.
- 4.2.3. Inspectors may conduct other surveys as determined by the Agricultural Service Board.
- 4.2.4. Clear Hills County may contract pest surveys to third party agencies.

4.3. Inspectors

- 4.3.1. Inspectors will be trained in pest identification, management techniques, and control measures.
- 4.3.2. Appointed inspectors will hold valid Form 7s for the use of Compound 1080 tablets and/or Sodium Cyanide M-44 Control Devices.
- 4.3.3. Inspectors will investigate all pest related complaints.
- 4.3.4. Inspectors will not issue control material or devices if such measures will endanger public safety, domestic animals or wildlife (as defined in the Wildlife Act).
- 4.3.5. Inspectors may issue Compound 1080 tablets or set Sodium Cyanide M-44 devices for coyote control to stop coyote harassment of domestic livestock.

4.4. Public Property

- 4.4.1. Clear Hills County will control nuisances on public land only if the Agricultural Fieldman determines that;
 - 4.4.1.1. the population of the nuisance organism or disease meets or exceeds economic thresholds and,
 - 4.4.1.2. the nuisance organism is a threat to agricultural production of adjacent agricultural producers and,
 - 4.4.1.3. affected producers will also control those nuisances on their adjacent land in the affected area.

5. Reference to Legislation

- 5.1. Agricultural Pests Act
- 5.2. Pest and Nuisance Control Regulations of Alberta
- 5.3. Weed Control Act

5.4. Animal Health Act

6. End of Policy

ADOPTED

Resolution #C192-03

Date: March 25, 2003

AMENDED

Resolution #C462-03

Date: June 24, 2003

Resolution #C876-03

Date: November 25, 2003

Resolution #C461(06/26/07

Date: June 26, 2007

Resolution #C166(02/22/11)

Date: February 22, 2011



Clear Hills County

Effective Date: August 17, 2016	Policy Number 6304
Title: ROADSIDE VEGETATION CONTROL	

1. Policy Statement

- 1.1. Clear Hills County strives to maintain roadsides that have a high level of visibility, support adequate drainage, prevent weeds from spreading and are aesthetically acceptable.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. Roadside- that portion of the road allowance that extends from the edge of the driving surface to the adjacent property line.

3. Purpose

- 3.1. To provide direction to administration for the control of roadside vegetation in an environmentally safe, publicly acceptable and cost effective manner.

4. Responsibilities

4.1. Brushing

4.2. Public Works Manager will:

- 4.2.1. Provide council with an annual project plan to remove all brush from County roadsides.
- 4.2.2. Contract and/or operate equipment for clearing and mulching of trees and brush;
- 4.2.3. Provide follow up inspections to insure roads and roadsides are clear of brushing debris, stumps and mounds;
- 4.2.4. Obtain any necessary warranty work from contractors following the inspection of the completed job;
- 4.2.5. Seed suitable pasture seed mix, as required, to prevent erosion and weed competition;
- 4.2.6. Notify in writing landowners with property adjacent to the roadsides included in the annual brushing program plan prior to work commencing.

- 4.3. The County will provide a *Brushing Request* agreement (form B) to landowners, whereby:

- 4.3.1. The landowner agrees to allow the municipality to enter their land to brush outwards into the road ditches.
- 4.3.2. When landowners are requesting private land brushing or have brushed approximately 5 meters beyond the right of way and the brushing extends onto private land adjacent to road ditches, the vegetation will be controlled by spraying or mowing to control regrowth of brush and included as part of the agreement.
- 4.3.3. The County will be responsible for all surveying costs and staking of the work area which extends approximately 5 meters beyond the right of way.

4.4. Do Not Brush Backslope program

- 4.4.1. The Do Not Brush Backslope program is available for persons who want to retain the trees and brush on the backslope of the road allowance in front of their residence.
- 4.4.2. Landowners must request in writing for the County Brushing Program to leave the trees and brush on the backslope of the road allowance in front of their residence.

4.5. Spraying

- 4.5.1. The program will focus on brush control to prevent regrowth and vegetation as listed in the Weed Control Act of Alberta and/or plants designated by County by-law and are the same as the Agricultural Service Board expects the public to control.
- 4.5.2. Spraying will not occur adjacent to yard sites or known herbicide sensitive vegetation such as gardens or shelterbelts or within the legislated setback from water bodies and water sources.
- 4.5.3. Agricultural Services staff will:
- 4.5.4. Contract for and or apply herbicide to kill brush regrowth in the year following the brushing program.
- 4.5.5. Contractor for and or apply herbicide to Noxious & Prohibited Noxious weeds to prevent weed spread & weed seed propagation;
 - 4.5.5.1. Select herbicide based on the following criteria:
 - 4.5.5.2. Registered for use in Alberta
 - 4.5.5.3. Registered for control of the target vegetation
 - 4.5.5.4. Cost effectiveness

4.5.5.5. Suitability for site, application conditions and will not increase environmental foot print.

4.6. Do Not Spray Program:

- 4.6.1. The Do Not Spray program is available for persons who do not want the roadside adjacent to their property sprayed.
- 4.6.2. Landowners must complete and sign a Roadside Spraying form stating that they do not wish to have the road allowance adjacent to specific land locations sprayed,
- 4.6.3. Landowners accept full responsibility for weed and brush control within the stated road allowance.
- 4.6.4. Failure to control the weeds and brush in the current growing season will result in the County controlling the weeds and brush in accordance with this policy.

4.7. Mowing

4.7.1. Public Works Manager will:

- 4.7.1.1 Provide council with an annual project plan to mow County owned roadside ditches.
- 4.7.1.2 Contract and/or operate equipment to mow County owned roadside ditches.

4.7.2. Mowing operations will rotate throughout the County on an annual basis, as per the project plan approved by council, to ensure all roads are maintained as efficiently as possible.

4.7.3. Administration will prioritize the mowing of roads as follows:

- 4.7.3.1. Market Roads: first priority; annually mow to outside edge of road right-of-way (fence line to fence line).
- 4.7.3.2. Local roads: second priority; annually mow to outside edge of mowable road right-of-way (property line to property line).
- 4.7.3.3. All other roads: last priority: annually mow to outside edge of mowable road right-of-way (property line to property line) as needed for brush between 4 and 6 feet in height adjacent to road.

4.8. Mowing for Community Organizations

4.8.1. Clear Hills County offers to mow outfields and large grassed-in areas that are beyond the reasonable scope of riding and push lawn mowers for community not-for-profit organizations within the County, once annually in conjunction with the roadside mowing program.

4.8.1.1. Organizations requesting this service are required to sign a waiver annually protecting Clear Hills County, see attachment Schedule A.

4.8.1.2. Mowing of outfields and large grassed in areas that are beyond the reasonable scope of riding and push lawn mowers shall be completed subject to the conditions set out in Schedule A. In the event that the Public Works Manager or his representative determines that the area requested is too hazardous or difficult to mow the Organization will be notified that the area cannot be mowed.

4.9. Alternative Weed Control Methods

4.9.1. In Environmentally sensitive areas due to soil structure, native species sensitivity or where legislated setback from water bodies and water sources prevent the application of herbicides, mowing or brushing, Agricultural Services staff will implement alternative weed control methods such as hand picking or use of biological controls.

5. Fencing

5.1. Replacement fences will be constructed to the standard currently in place as per Fencing Policy 3206.

6. Reference to Legislation

6.1. Weed Control Act

7. Related Policies

7.1 Property Line Spraying Policy 6309

7.2 Policy 3206 Fencing

7.3 Current Bylaw - Schedule of Fees - Purchase of goods and services

8. End of Policy

ADOPTED: Resolution C262 (03/29/11)

AMENDED: Resolution C408 (05/10/11)

AMENDED: Resolution C262 (03/29/11)

AMENDED: Resolution C445 (07/23/13)

AMENDED: Resolution C190-14 (03/25/14)

AMENDED: Resolution C231-15 (04/28/15)

AMENDED: Resolution C466-16 (08/17/16)

Form B - Policy 6304

PROPERTY BRUSHING REQUEST

Clear Hills County

I/We, the undersigned, hereby authorize the staff or agents of Clear Hills County to enter the listed locations on their land for brush control along the road allowance boundary and into my private land.

I/We understand:

- the County will attempt to keep brushing machinery no further than 5 meters (16.5 feet) onto private land.
- The County will continually control regrowth by means of spray and/or mechanical methods.

I/We agree:

- to authorize Clear Hills County Staff to carry out vegetation control by means of mowing or spraying up to 5 meters (16.5 feet) beyond the right of way.
- that this agreement remain in effect for 1 year from date of signing, or until cancelled, in writing, by the undersigned or by the County,
- to notify the County of changes to ownership or occupancy of the lands listed on this agreement,
- to identify areas in writing where I do not wish to have brushing take place,
- to hold indemnify and hold harmless the County, their agents and employees, from any claims, demands, actions and costs that may arise as a result of an act of omission in regards to this request,

PLEASE PROVIDE A MAP OR LIST LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTIONS TO INCLUDE IN THIS AGREEMENT ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Landowner/manager (Please Print): _____ Signature: _____

County Representative (Please Print): _____ Signature: _____

I/We agree that brushing/spraying will encroach on to my private property. By signing this document I am giving County staff or contractor's authorization to proceed with the requested brushing on the listed legal land location.

List legal land descriptions, owned or occupied, where the Brushing Request is to take effect:

Form B - Policy 6304

PROPERTY BRUSHING REQUEST

Clear Hills County

Use area below for diagram (if necessary):

Comments or Concerns:

ROADSIDE SPRAYING

**Attention
Clear Hills County
Residents/Ratepayers**

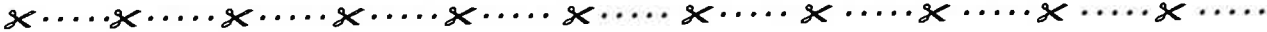
The Agricultural Service Board of Clear Hills County will be carrying out a roadside spraying program for weed & brush control during the months of May through September. The spraying will be conducted by Agricultural Service Board staff and/or by private contractor hired by the Agricultural Service Board.

Spraying will not occur adjacent to yard sites, or known herbicide sensitive vegetation (i.e. gardens, shelterbelts) or within the legislated setbacks from water bodies and water sources.

Persons who do not want their roadside sprayed adjacent to their property must complete and sign the attached form below, and return it to the County Office in Worsley **by June 21, 2019**. No telephone requests will be accepted.

Upon requesting no spraying, the landowner shall be responsible for weed and brush control within the road allowance adjacent to his or her property for the year as signed. In addition, upon the completed form being received by the office, signs will be mailed and those persons will be responsible for posting them where roadside spraying is not wanted.

This request is for one year duration only.



To: Clear Hills County
Box 240
WORSLEY, Alberta
T0H 3W0

- ✓ I do not wish the road allowance adjacent to my property(ies), as described below, sprayed during the 2019 season,
- ✓ I accept the full responsibility of weed and brush control within the road allowance for the 2019 season, and all costs associated with the control, if control is warranted by Clear Hills County.

Name _____
 Address _____

 Telephone _____

Land Location(s): Qtr. _____ Sec. _____ TWP _____ Range _____ W6M

(Landowner/Renter) _____ Signature: _____
 Witness _____ Signature: _____



Clear Hills County

Effective Date: April 12, 2016	Policy Number 6306
Title: CLUBROOT OF CANOLA POLICY	

1. Policy Statement

- 1.1. Clear Hills County will implement procedures to reduce the possibility of introduction, limit the spread, and minimize yield losses of Clubroot in Canola in the County.

2. Responsibilities

- 2.1. Agricultural Services staff will conduct a minimum of 25 field inspections, as per Clubroot in Canola Procedure 6306-01, for Clubroot on Canola grown in the County. Fields will be selected according to the following criteria:
 - 2.1.1. Fields surrounding an infected field; or fields associated with an infected field through equipment, geography, ownership, etc.
 - 2.1.2. Canola fields displaying symptoms similar to those infected with Clubroot
 - 2.1.3. Fields with a short or no crop rotation. (ie. canola on canola)
 - 2.1.4. Random fields throughout the County for adequate surveying coverage.
- 2.2. Agricultural Services staff will educate producers, general public and other industry about Clubroot of Canola, through newsletters, publications, workshops and one-on-one communications.
- 2.3. Any Canola crops displaying symptoms of Clubroot infection will be sampled and samples will be sent to a credible laboratory for confirming or denying the presence of Clubroot.
- 2.4. Agricultural Service Board will work cooperatively with neighboring municipalities and primary producers.

3. Enforcement

- 3.1. Upon confirmation of a Clubroot infected Canola field in the County:
 - 3.1.1. The landowner and registered occupant will be notified in writing with a legal notice in accordance with the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act.
 - 3.1.2. All landowners and registered occupants within a 5 mile radius of the field where Clubroot was confirmed, will be sent written notice that Clubroot was confirmed within 5 miles of their property. Additional information including the *Alberta Clubroot Management Plan*, Clubroot of Canola Policy 6306, Clubroot identification information, equipment cleaning procedures and information on minimizing the spread of Clubroot.
 - 3.1.3. A County wide public notice will be issued, informing the general public, contractors, stakeholders, industry and all County landowners that Clubroot of Canola has been confirmed in the County. This will be posted in the County newsletter and the local newspaper.
- 3.2. A Notice given for Clubroot will require for the infected field:

- 3.2.1. That no canola crop or any host crop shall be grown in that field for a minimum of 3 years, beginning with the year following the discovery of Clubroot infection in that field. In the 4th year a Clubroot resistant canola variety may be grown.
- 3.2.2. That all volunteer host plants (cultivars or weeds) must be destroyed to prevent more than 3 weeks growth.
- 3.2.3. That straw, chaff, feed, dirt, and debris must not be removed from the field for 4 years following the year of detecting Clubroot in the field.
- 3.2.4. That access areas to the infected field be seeded and maintained with non-susceptible grasses (for cleaning equipment).
- 3.2.5. That all equipment leaving that field must be cleaned by removing all dirt, plant material, and debris.
- 3.3. Infected fields will be monitored for compliance for 4 years following the issuance of the Notice.
- 3.4. Crops growing in non-compliance will be destroyed at the landowner's expense.
- 3.5. Should enforcement be required, additional administrative fees will be charged at 15% of the cost of enforcement.
4. **Guidelines**
 - 4.1. Alberta Clubroot Management Plan
 - 4.2. Peace Regional Clubroot Guideline 2.1
5. **Reference to Legislation**
 - 5.1. Agricultural Pests Act
 - 5.2. Pest and Nuisance Control Regulations of Alberta
 - 5.3. Clear Hills County Pest Control Policy (6303)
6. **End of Policy**

ADOPTED

Resolution C344(06/10/08)

Date: June 10, 2008

AMENDED

Resolution C165(02/22/11)

Date: February 22, 2011

Resolution C192-16(4/12/16)

Date: April 12, 2016



Clear Hills County

Effective Date: February 27, 2018	Policy Number 6307
Title: WOLF MANAGEMENT INCENTIVE POLICY	

1. Policy Statement

1.1. In an effort to support wolf population control within Clear Hills County, the County will implement procedures to provide for a wolf management incentive program for the purpose of promoting wolf management in the municipality. Through this program Participants will receive a monetary reward for the carcass of a wolf harvested lawfully within the Municipality, assisting in the protection of residents' livestock and the protection of the Boreal Caribou species.

2. Definitions:

- 2.1. Immediate Family - means the participant's spouse or adult interdependent partner, the participant's children, the parents of the participant and the parents of the participant's spouse or adult interdependent partner;
- 2.2. Household – immediate family members that reside in the same dwelling with the Participant.

3. General

- 3.1. Council may annually during budget deliberations, establish a budget for the Wolf Management Incentive program.
- 3.2. By resolution of Council the Wolf Hunt Management Incentive program will be activated and deactivated.
- 3.3. Clear Hills County shall pay three hundred and fifty dollars (\$350.00) per eligible wolf (adult and non-adult) taken within the boundaries of Clear Hills in accordance with the listed conditions:

4. Private property and Grazing Leases

- 4.1 A maximum of two wolf carcasses per month per household may be verified for payment to a qualified Participant, with a maximum of seven wolf carcasses per calendar year for wolves harvested on private property and grazing leases within the boundaries of Clear Hills County.
- 4.2 Eligible Participants will:
 - 4.2.1 Be a resident of Clear Hills County on land owned by the resident, or their immediate family and reside in a dwelling on that property for no less than 183 days (six months)

-
- 4.2.2 Provide a list of immediate family that reside in the same dwelling "household" that may participate in this wolf management incentive program.
 - 4.2.3 Provide business name, if different than participant's name that land or grazing leases may be registered under.
 - 4.2.4 Provide a list of private property owned and grazing leases held in the participant's name or business name within the boundaries of Clear Hills County.
 - 4.2.5 Eligible Participants requesting incentive payment shall be registered in advance with Clear Hills County and have entered into a hold-blameless agreement, attached as Appendix A .
 - 4.2.6 For verification and authorization of payment the carcass, with pelt intact, from each eligible wolf harvested must be presented at the County office to a designated representative of the County.
 - 4.2.7 When presenting the carcass Participants must produce the land location where the wolf was harvested.
 - 4.2.8 Wolf carcasses will not be accepted from third parties.
 - 4.2.9 Any carcass received by a designated representative of the County will be marked.
 - 4.2.10 The Participant will handle the carcass so the designated County representative can confirm there are no markings similar to what other jurisdictions or the County use to identify carcasses presented for payment under a wolf management incentive program.
 - 4.2.11 The Participant will make the identification mark on the carcass as directed.
 - 4.2.12 Any carcass that has been previously marked will be rejected.
 - 4.2.13 Participants will be responsible for disposal of all parts of the wolf carcasses using recognized carcass disposal methods. Note: The County recommends disposal to a trapper to reduce waste of fur or other salvageable parts.
 - 4.2.14 Participants participating in the Wolf Hunt Incentive program shall follow all Federal and Provincial Regulations and Legislation, including but not limited to the Wildlife Act, Alberta Hunting Regulations, Firearms Act, Petty Trespass Act.
 - 4.2.15 Participants shall be removed from the list of qualified registrants if found to have not adhered to the policy as set by the Council, and shall not be eligible to receive benefit from this program; this includes, but is not limited to bringing in carcasses that were previously marked or

attempting to receive payment for wolves taken either from locations within the county not included in this policy or from outside the County.

5. Registered Trapline Trappers

5.1 A maximum of fifteen wolf carcasses per calendar year, be verified for payment for wolves harvested on a qualifying registered trap line within the boundaries of Clear Hills County. Further, while eligible registered trappers may participate in the Private Property and Grazing Lease portion of this policy, the maximum of fifteen wolf carcasses per calendar year remains at fifteen.

Eligible Participants will:

- 5.2.1 Be a resident of Clear Hills County on land owned by the resident, or their immediate family and reside in a dwelling on that property for no less than 183 days (six months).
- 5.2.2 Provide their trapline number and a map of their registered trapline within Clear Hills County.
- 5.2.3 Provide the names of any trap line partners that may participate in this wolf hunt incentive program.
- 5.2.4 Eligible trappers requesting incentive payment shall be registered in advance with Clear Hills County and have entered into a hold-blameless agreement, attached as Appendix B.
- 5.2.5 For verification and authorization of payment the carcass, with pelt intact, from each eligible wolf harvested must be presented at the County office to a designated representative of the County.
- 5.2.6 When presenting the carcass Participants must produce the approximate land location where the wolf was harvested on the trapline.
- 5.2.7 Wolf carcasses will not be accepted from third parties.
- 5.2.8 Any carcass received by a designated representative of the County will be marked.
- 5.2.9 The Participant will handle the carcass so the designated County representative can confirm there are no markings similar to what other jurisdictions or the County use to identify carcasses presented for payment under a hunting incentive program.
- 5.2.10 The Participant will make the identification mark on the carcass as directed.
- 5.2.11 Any carcass that has been previously marked will be rejected.
- 5.2.12 Participants will be responsible for disposal of all parts of the wolf carcasses using recognized carcass disposal methods.

5.2.13 Participants participating in the Wolf Hunt Incentive program shall follow all Federal and Provincial Regulations and Legislation, including but not limited to the Wildlife Act, Alberta Hunting Regulations, Firearms Act, Petty Trespass Act.

5.2.14 Participants shall be removed from the list of qualified registrants if found to have not adhered to the policy as set by the Council, and shall not be eligible to receive benefit from this program; this includes, but is not limited to bringing in carcasses that were previously marked or attempting to receive payment for wolves taken either from locations within the county not included in this policy or from outside the County.

3. End of Policy

ADOPTED:

Resolution C494(06/22/10) Date: June 22, 2010

AMENDED:

Resolution C167(02/22/11) Date: February 22, 2011

AMENDED:

Resolution C147-12(03/13/12) Date: March 13, 2012

AMENDED:

Resolution C776-12(11/27/12) Date: November 27, 2012

AMENDED:

Resolution C195-13(03/26/13) Date: March 26, 2013

AMENDED:

Resolution C492-15(10/13/15) Date: October 13, 2015

AMENDED:

Resolution C52-16(01/26/16) Date: January 26, 2016

AMENDED:

Resolution C113-18 (02-27-18)) Date: February 27, 2018



Appendix A (Policy 6307)
Contract of Participation
Private Property and Grazing Leases
Wolf Management Incentive Program
Between Participants and Clear Hills County

In an effort to support wolf population control efforts and to further the public interest in regards to predatory wildlife and the protection of residents livestock and the protection of the Boreal Caribou species, the Clear Hills County ("Municipality") has approved a wolf management incentive program ("Program") for the purpose of promoting wolf hunting within the Municipality. Through this program, wolf hunters ("Participants") will receive a monetary reward ("Reward") for the carcass, with pelt intact, of a wolf hunted lawfully within the Municipality.

The terms and conditions of participation in the Program are as follows;

1. **STATUTORY ADHERENCE:** While participating in the Program, the Participant will, at all times, abide by all statutes, regulations, and bylaws enacted by the federal, provincial, and municipal governments, and the Participant agrees not to violate any statutory or regulatory provision in any way. The relevant statutes include but are not limited to: the *Firearms Act*, the *Petty Trespass Act*, the *Wildlife Act*, and the *Wildlife Regulations*. Any Participant who fails to strictly adhere all relevant laws will forfeit any right to a Reward under the Program.
2. **INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS:** The Participant will indemnify the Municipality, its officers, representatives, agents and employees, against and hold them harmless from and against any and all liability for any and all claims, costs, damages and expenses or liability arising on account of injury or death to persons or damage or destruction to property resulting from or arising out of or in any way connected to the Program or participation in the Program.
3. **PRECONDITIONS OF REWARD:** In order to obtain the Reward, the carcass of a lawfully hunted wolf must be presented to a designated representative of the Municipality. Any carcass received by a representative of the Municipality will be marked, and any carcass that has been previously marked by in accordance with this program or similar to other municipal jurisdictions wolf management programs will be rejected. To qualify for the Reward, a wolf must be lawfully hunted on private property owned by the Participant or a grazing lease land operated by the Participant within the boundaries of the Municipality. Any person who has not agreed to be bound by the terms and conditions of this Contract of Participation ("Contract") will be considered ineligible to receive the Reward. The Participant must state the location where each wolf was harvested.
4. **REWARD:** If and only if the representative of the Municipality is satisfied that the Participant has complied with the terms and conditions of this Contract, the Reward will be paid by the Municipality to the Participant. The Reward will be paid by the Municipality to a successful Participant at the rate set by Council for each wolf (adult and non-adult) carcass presented.

Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Appendix A (Policy 6307) – Page 2

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Email: _____

Land Location of Residence: _____

Rural Address or Street Address: _____

Have you lived at this location for a minimum of 183 days (six months)? _____

Are you also participating in this program as a registered trapline trapper? If yes complete Appendix B

Names of Immediate Family Members residing with Applicant (that may participate in this program)

Land Locations of private property owned and grazing leases held by Applicant in personal name or business name)

I the undersigned agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of this Contract of Participation and Clear Hills County Wolf Management Incentive Policy 6307.

SIGNED this _____ day of _____, _____.

Participant (print): _____ (sign): _____

Witness: (print): _____ (sign): _____

Municipal Officer (print): _____ (sign): _____



**Appendix B (Policy 6307)
Contract of Participation
Registered Trap line Trappers
Wolf Hunt Management Incentive Program
Between Participants and Clear Hills County**

In an effort to support wolf population control efforts and to further the public interest in regards to predatory wildlife and the protection of residents livestock and the protection of the Boreal Caribou species, the Clear Hills County ("Municipality") has approved a wolf management incentive program ("Program") for the purpose of promoting wolf hunting within the Municipality. Through this program, wolf hunters ("Participants") will receive a monetary reward ("Reward") for the carcass, with pelt intact, of a wolf hunted lawfully within the Municipality.

The terms and conditions of participation in the Program are as follows;

5. **STATUTORY ADHERENCE:** While participating in the Program, the Participant will, at all times, abide by all statutes, regulations, and bylaws enacted by the federal, provincial, and municipal governments, and the Participant agrees not to violate any statutory or regulatory provision in any way. The relevant statutes include but are not limited to: the *Firearms Act*, the *Petty Trespass Act*, the *Wildlife Act*, and the *Wildlife Regulations*. Any Participant who fails to strictly adhere all relevant laws will forfeit any right to a Reward under the Program.
6. **INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS:** The Participant will indemnify the Municipality, its officers, representatives, agents and employees, against and hold them harmless from and against any and all liability for any and all claims, costs, damages and expenses or liability arising on account of injury or death to persons or damage or destruction to property resulting from or arising out of or in any way connected to the Program or participation in the Program.
7. **PRECONDITIONS OF REWARD:** In order to obtain the Reward, the carcass of a lawfully hunted wolf must be presented to a designated representative of the Municipality. Any carcass received by a representative of the Municipality will be marked, and any carcass that has been previously marked by in accordance with this program or similar to other municipal jurisdictions wolf management programs will be rejected. To qualify for the Reward, a wolf must be lawfully harvested on the Participants registered trap line within the boundaries of the Municipality. Any person who has not agreed to be bound by the terms and conditions of this Contract of Participation ("Contract") will be considered ineligible to receive the Reward. The Participant must state the location where each wolf was harvested.
8. **REWARD:** If and only if the representative of the Municipality is satisfied that the Participant has complied with the terms and conditions of this Contract, the Reward will be paid by the Municipality to the Participant. The Reward will be paid by the Municipality to a successful Participant at the rate set by Council for each wolf (adult and non-adult) carcass presented.

Name: _____

Registered Trap line Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Appendix B (Policy 6307) – Page 2

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Email: _____

Land Location of Residence: _____

Rural Address or Street Address: _____

Have you lived at this location for a minimum of 183 days (six months)? _____

Are you also participating in the Private Property/Grazing Lease portion of this program? If yes complete Appendix A

Names of trap line partners that may participate in this program: _____

Map of trap line attached: _____

I the undersigned agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of this Contract of Participation and Clear Hills County Wolf Management Incentive Policy 6307.

SIGNED this _____ day of _____, _____.

Participant (print): _____ (sign): _____

Witness: (print): _____ (sign): _____

Municipal Officer (print): _____ (sign): _____



Clear Hills County

Effective Date: February 22, 2011	Policy Number 6309
Title: PROPERTY LINE SPRAY PROGRAM	

1. Policy Statement:

- 1.1. Clear Hills County recognizes the need to have better management of weeds and brush in road right-of-way ditches that cannot be effectively controlled from the roadway, that are adjacent to private land and whereby vegetation control methods may cause crop or tree damage on private land.

2. Purpose:

- 2.1. To provide complete control of Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds and brush along right-of-ways adjacent to private land.

3. Responsibilities

- 3.1. Agricultural Services will provide a *Property Line Spray Request* agreement (form A) to landowners, whereby:
 - 3.1.1. The landowner agrees to:
 - 3.1.1.1. allow the municipality to spray herbicide onto their land that is adjacent to a road ditch;
 - 3.1.1.2. allow the municipality to enter their land to spray herbicides outwards into the road ditches, if necessary;
 - 3.1.1.3. allow the municipality to spray brush up to 1.5 meters in height when adjacent to a road ditch.
- 3.2. Spray crew will extend spray width by approximately 2 meters onto private land adjacent to road ditches, as needed.
- 3.3. Spray crew will utilize the spray truck and/or ATV at the appropriate time of the season, either from the roadside, in the ditch or from the field for effective weed control and minimal crop damage.
- 3.4. Agricultural Services will make available information for land managers regarding the property line spray program.
- 3.5. Inspectors/employees will be trained in property line spraying and safety precautions.

4. Related Legislation

- 4.1. Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act
- 4.2. Weed Control Act

4.3. Pest Control Products Act

5. End of Policy

ADOPTED
Resolution C169(02/22/11)

Date: February 22, 2011



Clear Hills County

Effective Date: September 10, 2019	Policy Number 6310
Title: RENTAL EQUIPMENT POLICY	

1. Policy Statement:

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

2. Purpose:

2.1. To supply equipment for rent that 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 staff 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

Resolution C433-19 (09/10/19)

Date: September 10, 2019



Clear Hills County

Effective Date: January 12, 2016	Policy Number 6311
Title: Veterinary Service Incorporated (1980) Ltd. Program (VSI)	

1. Policy Statement:

- 1.1. Clear Hills County recognizes the value of aiding in the development of livestock expansion with a long term goal of livestock producer and veterinarian service sustainability.

2. Purpose:

- 2.1. To provide assistance to County livestock producers in managing the health of their herd(s).
- 2.2. To retain local large animal veterinarians through the Veterinary Services Incorporated (VSI) program.
- 2.3. To establish guidelines for Clear Hills County's involvement in the VSI program.

3. Responsibilities

- 3.1. Council will allocate an annual VSI budget in accordance with the VSI agreement.
- 3.2. The Agricultural Service Board will recommend to Council amendments to the VSI program and level of service as necessary.
- 3.3. The Agricultural Service Board will recommend to Council the membership fee for participation in the program and this fee may from time to time be reviewed and amended.
 - 3.3.1. The membership fee will be included in the County Schedule of Fees Bylaw.
 - 3.3.2. Memberships will be valid for five years from the time of membership renewal or entry into the program.
- 3.4. Eligible participants must be a resident in Clear Hills County for three consecutive months or a landowner in Clear Hills County with livestock.
- 3.5. Participants in the VSI program will:

3.5.1. be limited to one membership per farm unit;

3.5.2. sign and complete an application form and enter into a Clear Hills County Veterinarian Services Incorporated (1980) Letter of Understanding and Agreement. Attached as Schedule A.

3.6. VSI Services will:

3.6.1. Provide a schedule of fees for eligible veterinarian services on an annual basis;

3.6.2. Provide quarterly summaries of program users and claims.

3.7. Service Limitations:

3.7.1. Effective January 12, 2016 there will be an annual cap on the county's 50% portion of service costs at \$3,000.00 (three thousand dollars) per membership as per Council resolution C28-16(10/12/16)

3.7.2. Administration will invoice any users who exceed any service limitations in the amount of the County's contribution to the service that has been exceeded.

4. End of Policy

ADOPTED:

Resolution C438 (05/24/11)

Resolution C404-17 (08/22/17)



Clear Hills County

Effective Date: January 26, 2016	Policy Number 6314
Title: Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Testing Incentive Program	

1. Policy Statement:

Clear Hills County recognizes the value of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) testing. Canada may be at the risk of losing its status as a controlled BSE risk country due to tested numbers not meeting the 30,000 animal annual requirements.

In September of 2011 the province discontinued the \$150.00 per animal incentive given to producers for sampling their animals and maintaining control of the carcass pending BSE test results.

By providing a municipal BSE testing incentive, it will encourage producers to participate in the BSE testing program and assist in realizing the target of keeping the Country's status as a controlled BSE risk country.

2. Purpose:

2.1. To establish guidelines for Clear Hills County's BSE Testing Incentive Program.

3. General:

3.1. Council may annually during budget deliberations, establish a budget for the BSE Testing Incentive Program.

3.2. By resolution of Council the BSE Testing Incentive Program will be activated and deactivated.

3.3. Council will establish the amount of compensation per animal to be paid as an incentive payment for eligible beef cattle that have been BSE tested.

4. Responsibilities

4.1. Only beef cattle are eligible for BSE testing and incentive payments.

4.2. The Agricultural Service Board will be provided with an annual report on the number of users of the BSE testing incentive program and recommend to Council amendments to the BSE testing incentive program as necessary.

4.3. Eligible participants must be Veterinary Services (1980) Ltd. (VSI) members and a resident in Clear Hills County for three consecutive months or a landowner in Clear Hills County with livestock.

4.4. V.S.I. Services will provide a list of Clear Hills County VSI members that had animals tested for BSE in the quarterly reports.

4.5. Clear Hills County will pay VSI members that have been identified as having animals tested for BSE.

4.6. Only Veterinary Clinics will have access to the results of the BSE tests.

5. End of Policy

ADOPTED:
C55-16(01/26/16)

DATE:
January 26, 2016



Clear Hills County

Effective Date: **October 22, 2019**

Policy Number **6317**

Title: **BIGGEST VEGETABLE CONTEST**

1. POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1. Clear Hills County Agricultural Service Board will host an annual Biggest Vegetable Contest.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. Vegetable: A plant or part of a plant used as food.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 3.1. Council will include funds in the Operating Budget for cash prizes for this contest.

4. GENERAL

- 4.1. Eligible contestants will live in Clear Hills County or the Village of Hines Creek.

- 4.2. The Contest will have the following vegetable categories:

Beets	Carrots	Corn
Onions	Potatoes	Pumpkins
Tomatoes	Turnip	Zucchini
Other Squash	Most Unique	Cabbage

The Biggest Vegetable Contest will have two entry groups:

- Adults: 13 and over
- Kids: 12 and under

- 4.3. Prizes will be \$50.00 (fifty dollars) for first place in each of the eleven vegetable categories for each entry group (Adults & Kids)

- 4.4. The Biggest Vegetable Contest will be held annually and weighing stations will be set up at each of the following locations over a one week period in September. Photos will be taken of each contestant and/or their entries.

- Bear Canyon
- Cleardale
- Hines Creek
- Worsley

- 4.7. Winners will be announced at the end of the contest, and the pictures of winners and/or their winning entry will be published in the November County newsletter and the following April at the Agricultural Trade Show.

5. END OF POLICY

ADOPTED Resolution: C639-17

December 12, 2017

AMENDED Resolution C506-18 (10-23-18)

October 23, 2018

AMENDED Resolution C552-19 (10/22/19)

October 22, 2019

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	November 19, 2019
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

ATTACHMENTS:

- Greg- Agricultural Fieldman Report-November 19, 2019

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that the Agricultural Service Board accepts the November 19, 2019 Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

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

Nov. 19, 2019

PEST CONTROL

• **Wolves Claimed 2019 YTD:**

Total #	Total \$
37	\$12950.00

OTHER TOPICS

- Attended PRAAAF meeting in Debolt on Nov. 6th.
- CAP funding for clubroot soil sampling was not approved.
- I have been elected as the Peace Region AAAF Director. It is a 2 year term.
- The PRAAAF is asking all Peace region ASBs to advocate to their MLA regarding keeping fusarium on the Pest Act.
- There was much discussion around the new provincial budget and how it could affect the ASB grant. ASBs are encouraged to advocate to their MLA regarding keeping agricultural funding and resources in place.
- I prepared some notes and figures regarding the ASB grant for our Council, as they had a meeting scheduled at the RMA conference with the Minister of Agriculture, Devin Dreeshen.
- The grain vac had to have the auger bearings replaced.
- The grain bagger went out to 2 producers this season.
- The grain bag roller is in need of a new hydraulic valve bank.
- The floor chain on the manure spreader broke and was repaired by the renter.

January 1 - November 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	3	3	\$ 90.00
<i>BBQ Trailer</i>	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00	8	8	\$ 300.00
<i>Chairs</i>	\$ 50.00	\$0.50/chair	11	15	\$ 852.00
<i>Community Centre</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	7	7	\$ 350.00
<i>Corral Panels</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	4	6	\$ 300.00
<i>Eco-Bran Applicator</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	1	1	\$ 50.00
<i>Exta Hoses</i>	\$ 50.00	\$1.000/hose	4	8	\$ 87.00
<i>Grain Bagger</i>	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	2	7	\$ 2,450.00
<i>Grain Bag Roller</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	22	22	\$ -
<i>Grain Bag Extractor</i>	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	7	11	\$ 3,500.00
<i>Grain Vac</i>	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00	36	44	\$ 7,100.00
<i>Grill</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 5.00	5	7	\$ 35.00
<i>Hand Held Rope Wick</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -
<i>Land Leveller</i>	\$ 260.00	\$ 130.00	4	7	\$ 910.00
<i>Loading Chute</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	6	6	\$ 150.00
<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	25	28	\$ 3,137.50
<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	\$ -	4	5	\$ -
<i>Quad Pull Type Sprayer</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	3	3	\$ -
<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	4	5	\$ 60.00
<i>Rotowiper</i>	\$ 150.00	\$ -	2	2	\$ -
<i>Sickle Mower</i>	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00	0	0	\$ -
<i>Skidmount Sprayer</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	4	4	\$ -
<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	13	14	\$ 228.00
<i>Toilets</i>	\$ 100.00	\$ 40.00	2	4	\$ 40.00
<i>Tree Spade</i>	\$ 300.00	\$ 50.00	8	14	\$ 575.00
<i>Truck Mount Sprayer</i>	\$ 200.00	\$ -	3	3	\$ -
<i>Wash Station</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 10.00	1	3	\$ -
<i>Water Pumps</i>	\$100 (summer) \$1000 (winter)	\$75 (summer) \$200 (winter)	26	48	\$ 5,162.50
<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
			234	321	\$ 30,839.50

Revenue	\$ 30,839.50
Expenses	\$ 61,651.80
Loss	\$ (30,812.30)

Clear Hills County Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	November 19, 2019
Originated By:	Audrey Bjorklund, Community Development Manager
Title:	Community Development Manager's Report
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

At this time the Community Development Manager will have the opportunity to report on matter of importance to the Board.

BACKGROUND:

1. **Provincial Budget Update:**

As of November 12, 2019 there has been no word on ASB grant funding for 2020 onward from the Provincial Government.

Attached for the Board's information is a breakdown of the 2020 draft budget by category and by legislated and non-legislated services the County provides.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Ag Services 2020 Draft Budget – Legislated and non-legislated

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board to accept for information the Community Development Manager's report to November 19, 2019.

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

Agricultural Services
2020 Draft Operating Budget
Legislated and non-legislated

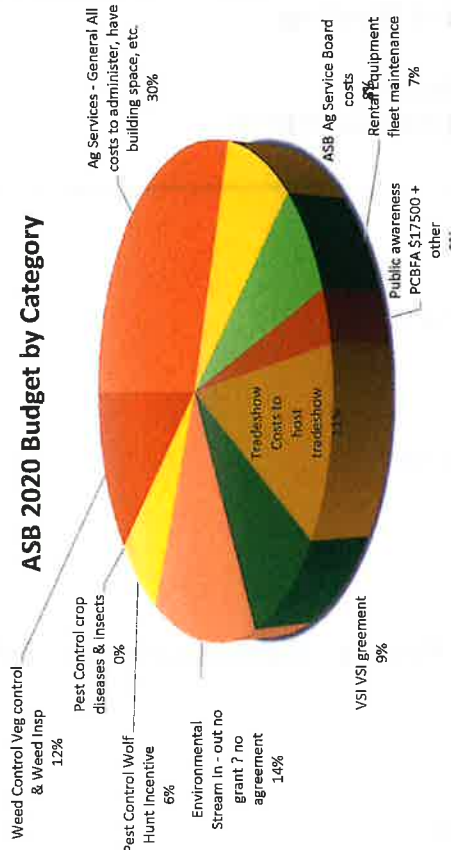
Revenue	21%
Previous ASB Grant	13%
Environmental Stream (6 muni partnership)	66%
General Revenue	100%
Expenses	
Ag Services - General ASB	30%
Rental Equipment	8%
Public awareness	7%
Tradeshaw	3%
VSI	11%
Environmental Stream	9%
Pest Control	14%
Pest Control	6%
Weed Control	0%
	12%
	100%

Proportionate to	30%
All costs to administer, have building space, etc.	8%
Ag Service Board costs	7%
fleet maintenance	3%
PCBFA \$17500 + other	11%
Costs to host tradeshow	9%
VSI greement	14%
In - out no grant ? no agreement	6%
Wolf Hunt Incentive	0%
crop diseases & insects	12%
Weed control & Weed Insp	100%

Legislated	50%
Ag Services General ASB	50%
Pest Control - disease & insects	
Weed Control	

Non-Legislated	50%
Rental Equipment	
Public Awareness	
Tradeshaw	
VSI	
Environmental Stream	
Pest Control-wolves	

ASB 2020 Budget by Category



Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	November 19, 2019
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The board is presented with correspondence for review.

BACKGROUND:

Attached are documents for the Board's information:

ATTACHMENTS:

- VSI Services – Letter – (63-10-40)
- Agricultural Service Board Grant Program Review – Summary Report – (63-10-02)
- Clubroot of Alberta – Map – (63-10-02)
- Alberta Ag-Plastic – Article – (63-10-02)
- The Pest Insider – Newsletter – (63-10-02)
- Alberta Crop Report – Report – (63-10-02)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of November 19, 2019 as presented.

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

V.S.I. SERVICES (1980) LTD

A nonprofit organization providing veterinary care in Alberta

BOX 137

FAIRVIEW AB T0H 1L0

PH 780 835 5440

vsiservices16@gmail.com

October 31, 2019

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

RECEIVED
 NOV 05 2019

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 and 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
Third Quarter	\$ 5,373		\$ 24,836

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

Overall there is a 6.15% increase in total claims for the third quarter of 2019 compared to 2018. Total costs have increased \$3,334 over the same period. For the year we are above last year, with a difference of 3.57% or increase of \$16,161. (Including the amount of \$7,789 waiting appeal decision, the final increase will be 5.40% or \$23,951)

Four (4) of the sixteen (16) VSI jurisdictions had a decrease in their third quarter costs. Decreases ranged from 3.8% to 60.9% of 2018 third quarter costs. Increases, in the other eight (8) jurisdictions ranged from 1.2% to 105.4% of 2018 third quarter costs.

For the year six (6) jurisdictions saw a decrease in cost ranging from 1.1% to 28.9%. Ten (10) saw an increase ranging from 2.4% to 68.2%

Your 2019 third quarter claims are \$ 1,131 (26.6%) higher than they were in 2018. For the year you are \$978 (2.7%) over 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

 Rik Vandekerkhove, Manager

cc Greg Coon
 Sarah Hayward



**Agricultural Service Board
Grant Program Review**

**Ag-Fieldmen & ASB Member
Engagement**

SUMMARY REPORT

Prepared for the Steering Committee

Cindy Bishop, Engagement Consultant-Facilitator

May 2019



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3) Quantifiable Success – ‘Telling Our Story’, Advocating/Communicating Impact	
4) Enhancing the Resolution Process	
5) Strengthening the AF ↔ ASB Working Relationship – Key Contact Program, Communications	
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Introduction and Background

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Grant Program Review was initiated by the Provincial ASB Committee and endorsed by the Deputy Minister of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) in 2017. A Steering Committee was formed with representation from the Provincial ASB Committee, the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen and AF's Agricultural Service Board Unit, Livestock and Crops Division, and Agriculture Stewardship Division. The Steering Committee was tasked to oversee the Program Review and report to the Minister.

The Agricultural Service Board Unit in AF took on the project leadership and contracted a Consultant-Facilitator to skillfully lead all facets of the engagement process design, delivery, and reporting. The planning, stakeholder engagement, and follow-up phases of the ASB Grant Program Review extended from the summer of 2018 to the spring of 2019.

The time was ripe for a thorough assessment of the current ASB Grant Program – Legislative Grant Stream. The last comprehensive Agricultural Service Board Review was conducted in 2005. The focus at that time was the level of funding and program updates to meet expanding needs of agriculture producers and municipalities. In 2012, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development did a "check-in" with ASBs. This was one year after the new ASB Grant Program was implemented. This review centred on program efficiencies and consolidation of the environmental funding stream in the ASB Grant Program the along with the legislative stream.

It should be noted that ASB Grant Program funding and Environmental Grant Stream is out of scope for the 2018/19 ASB Grant Program Review. This Program Review centered on grant-funded activities, programs, and services. There was no intent to assess specific ASB or municipal agricultural programs and extension activities beyond what AF assists with.

Purpose

From a Ministry perspective, engagement with stakeholders will verify previously identified issues, identify new issues, and identify potential options that could be used to improve the overall effectiveness and impact of the ASB Grant Program. In addition to supporting continuous improvement, output from the Review will help shape the renewed Program Terms and Conditions.

Objectives

The constructive review of the ASB Grant Program focused on five key focus areas:

- i. Program impact – Achieving the ASB Grant Program purpose
- ii. Program efficiency and effectiveness – Measuring and communicating success in municipalities, the province
- iii. ASB Grant Program administration – Spotlight on the resolution process, program/service elements
- iv. Strengthening the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and ASB working relationship
- v. ASB Grant Program innovation – Responding to change and preparing for the future

Productive, meaningful stakeholder engagement was the cornerstone for the 2018/19 ASB Grant Program Review. Diligent engagement of Agricultural Fieldmen and ASB members from 69 municipalities in Alberta was carried out with these expectations in mind:

- Stakeholders are informed during the program review process and have a clear understanding of its purpose, objectives and timelines.
- Stakeholders are engaged both provincially and regionally so they have the opportunity to provide input into the program review.
- Stakeholders are supportive of the ASB Program Review.

Target Stakeholder Engagement – Agricultural Fieldmen and ASB Members

Agricultural Fieldmen

In November 2018, Ag-Fieldmen were surveyed online to tap their on-the ground work and practical knowledge of the Program strengths and limitations. The survey scheduled timeframe was November 13 - 30 with the survey closing on December 5, 2018. The response rate was an exceptional 81.2%. 56 individuals/69 invitees completed the survey. People were clearly vested.

Agricultural Service Boards

Five *Face-to-Face ASB Member Sessions* were held in February 2019. The purpose of these Sessions was to exchange information, share perspectives, and tap the collective wisdom of ASB members in each of the five regions, and consider Province-wide interests. The engagement process respected the ASB Members' unique responsibility for strategic, forward thinking and oversight of local ASBs. Target registration numbers for all five sessions were met. Total participation: N=105. 86% of ASB Municipalities (59/69) had representation at the Sessions. Participation ranged from 17-24: Lethbridge (24), Barrhead (20), Lacombe (22), St. Paul (17), Peace River (22). Facilitated table discussions included 4 - 5 participants each with ample opportunity to engage.

While stakeholder engagement was tailored to draw on the unique viewpoints and role of each target audience, there was overlap in the line of inquiry. Common focus topics for Ag-Fieldmen and ASB Members included:

- ASB Program Impact – Perceived value and using outcome measures to advocate/communicate ASB Program success
- Program Innovation – New or improved ASB Grant Program funded elements
- Enhancing the Resolution Process – Perceived value, understanding the process, improvements
- Strengthening the AF and ASB Working Relationship – Key Contact Program, communication (information exchange), leveraging the AF ↔ Ag-Fieldmen/ASB connection
- “Open Floor” – Opportunity to provide additional comments on survey or agenda topics as well as issues and concerns beyond the scope of the ASB Grant Program Review

Ag-Fieldmen Survey Emphasis:

- Identifying appropriate measures of success for the ASB Program – Indicators and outcome (impact) measures
- ASB Program/Service Priorities – Categories of expenses, existing and prospective
- ASB Grant Application and Annual Reporting Process

ASB Member Face-to-Face Sessions Emphasis:

- The ASB profile and socio-economic impact of ASB programs, services, and activities (presentation)
- Environmental Scanning – Future trends, projections, critical issues expected to influence the ASB Program
- Provincial ASB Committee – Perceived usefulness in advocating on Resolutions
- “Keep in Mind” advice as the ASB Grant Program evolves
- Ideas for how ASB Member participants best inform their respective Boards of the Program Review
- Session evaluation
- “Overview Report” – Session highlights report distributed to participating ASBs

Stakeholder Engagement Design and Delivery Process

Ag-Fieldmen Survey

The Consultant-Facilitator designed the survey with clear objectives and input from the Project Team and Steering Committee. The line of questioning was vetted through the Steering Committee. Further refinements were made to the survey with feedback from Pre-testers. Three Ag-Fieldmen and the Executive Assistant - Provincial ASB Committee, were asked for their constructive feedback on what it's like for the target audience to receive and experience completing the survey. Guiding questions helped to enhance the feedback process.

The aim of having specific, focused survey questions presented in an engaging flow was achieved. The line of inquiry started with the end in mind – desired ASB Grant Program impact, moving to Ag-Fieldmen/ASB centric questions, then AF Program Administration related questions. Context and probes/prompts helped participants

better understand the intent of the questions. Most questions elicited qualitative responses. All questions were aligned with Program Review objectives

The Opinio online survey tool was used to deliver the survey and track participant responses. An AF staff member with Opinio system expertise worked with the Project Team to format the questions, administer the survey, and capture results. To encourage participation, two customized Opinio-generated reminders were sent to Ag-Fieldmen while the survey was open. Another bid to strengthen the response rate was made in a post-closure last call reminder. The 81.2% response rate is a strong measure of engagement success.

ASB Member Face-to-Face Sessions (5 Regions)

The Participant Agenda and Process Agenda for the ASB Member sessions were prepared by the Consultant-Facilitator with Project Team input. Ag-Fieldmen survey results helped to inform and strengthen agenda development. A mock Session was held to better prepare for and strengthen the process outcomes. Support materials served to enlighten and enhance ASB Member dialogue. These included: "Backgrounder" reference, Participant Workbook (small + large group dialogue questions), "Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards" factsheet, and a "Return on Investment" Session evaluation. Facilitator-Recorders were recruited and trained to support active, productive small group dialogue at each Session.

For the ASB Member Face-to-Face Sessions, particular attention was paid to laying the foundation and setting the stage for productive dialogue. The ASB Grant Program Review purpose, objectives, and project phases were outlined. At the request of the Steering Committee, the Chair presented an overview of ASB Program history and mandate linked to legislation. A pivotal message from the Steering Committee summarized the value of the ASB Program Review:

"It is good practice to evaluate programming and conduct program reviews from time to time. They help us be informed and creative; to be better able to pre-plan and prepare for the future. They are a good way for us to pause and take stock of our mutual roles and responsibilities tied to the Program."

Developing a mindset for positive and forward-thinking dialogue came through the well-received presentation on the socio-economic impact of the ASB Program and facilitated environmental scanning with participants.

ASB Members were actively engaged throughout the facilitated small and large group dialogue. As with the Ag-Fieldmen Survey, assessing the ASB Grant Program impact launched the line of inquiry. ASB Grant Program elements and program innovation, "Telling Our Story" – advocating/communicating measurable outcomes, enhancing the resolution process, and strengthening the AF and ASB working relationship, followed. Context and probes/prompts were used with many questions. The Sessions wrapped up with a large group "Idea Exchange". Volunteer presenters at each table selected Session dialogue highlights to share with the room at large. This allowed participants to hear a sampling of what resonated most with them.

Participant "Return on Investment" evaluations were exceptionally positive. Satisfaction with all five sessions was high, often exceeding participants' expectations.

On March 15, 2019 a one-page "ASB Member Face-to-Face Session Overview Report" was sent to participating ASBs.

Engagement best practices were employed at every opportunity in both the Ag-Fieldmen Survey and the ASB Member Face-to Face Sessions. The engagement was robust and highly interactive. Communication about the process was timely, transparent, and comprehensive. Stakeholder feedback was sought throughout both the planning and delivery phases of engagement. A strong process evolved with diligent attention to stakeholder interests.

Data Analysis Approach

Obtaining both quantitative and qualitative data enriched the findings. The vast majority of questions in the Program Review were qualitative in nature. The intent was to avoid leading questions and to gain better understanding of the focus area context, issues and concerns from the respondents' standpoint.

Agricultural Fieldmen Survey

The Opinio online survey tool generated comprehensive reports with results compiled by Region and for the entire Province. Charts and frequency tables reflected much of the quantitative data. Qualitative data was captured in listings of free text (open ended) comments entered by respondents.

The Consultant-Facilitator reviewed and synthesized the Provincial 56-page compilation of survey results into a 8-page report for the Steering Committee: *"Snapshot Preliminary Province-Wide Results – Highlights & Insights."*

ASB Member Face-to-Face Sessions

The questions asked of the ASB Members were virtually all open-ended which garnered qualitative data. Facilitator-Recorder notes from table dialogues in each Session were compiled, reviewed, and summarized to facilitate data analysis and comparison. The *"Preview Report – Preliminary Result: Face-to-Face Session Highlights & Insights"* was presented to the Steering Committee as a precursor to this Summary Report.

As with the Ag-Fieldmen Survey, participants frequently cited issues or suggestions that fell within the environmental stream. Though Environmental Stream Program concerns are out of scope for the 2018/19 ASB Grant Program Review, related data has been maintained and shared with the Environmental Programming Unit.

Guideposts for Data Analysis

A comprehensive analysis of all stakeholder engagement data was done in the last phase of the ASB Grant Program Review. A consistent approach to extracting key information included paying careful attention to:

- Common themes/groupings of similar ideas by the 5 key focus areas – Provincially and regionally
- Regional differences or trends
- Unique/novel stand-alone ideas (Termed "Outliers/Insights" in the ASB Member Summaries; noted in the Ag-Fieldmen Survey Steering Committee reports.)
- What is clearly working well? What is not working, i.e. problem areas or concerns with the ASB Grant Program? Areas for improvement?
- Practical, feasible actions that could be part of revised *Program Terms & Conditions* and/or inform the ASB Grant Program staff, Provincial ASB Committee
- Stakeholder perceptions of the ASB Program impact, linking to measures, accountability, and advocacy
- Stakeholders views on Albertans' interests in ASB Program outcomes

The two Steering Committee interim reports prepared by the Consultant-Facilitator complement the strategic, high level data analysis presented in this Summary Report. These documents and the raw data are critical references for drafting Recommendations to the Minister, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and for updating ASB Grant Program Terms of Conditions.

Provincial Results & Insights – Agricultural Fieldmen

1) ASB Grant Program – Impact, (Fieldmen – Municipality – Province)

Primary Benefits or Positive Impact of the Program

- Many comments were made about what would happen without the financial support of the ASB Grant Program, especially in smaller municipalities having a lower tax (revenue) base. *“Without financial support we would not be in existence... our municipal contribution (\$) to Alberta’s Agriculture and Environment Sector would end.”* The Program was deemed vital to hiring staff and fulfilling the Ag-Fieldmen role and duties; essential to ASB existence.
- Respondents valued the power of the Program and legislation in giving their work authority, justification, credibility, and earning the trust of their ASB. The Program provides oversight, helps to align goals, direct priorities, and ensures a consistent focus. Grant Program dollars are leveraged in the municipalities to achieve more than what would otherwise be possible. Leveraging (80% municipality : 20% grant) relieves the burden on municipalities.
- *“The benefits and impacts are second to none and it’s an amazing program being run.”* Tangible outcomes that surfaced in this section: *“Cost savings to producers”*; *“keep weed and pest populations under control so they do not adversely and economically impact ag producers”*; *“Province considers these issues as important and worth managing”*.
- It was thought that Albertans’ most value Agricultural land stewardship (90% of respondents) and disease and pest management (90%), followed by ag land productivity (61%) and awareness of agriculture’s contribution to the economy (53%).

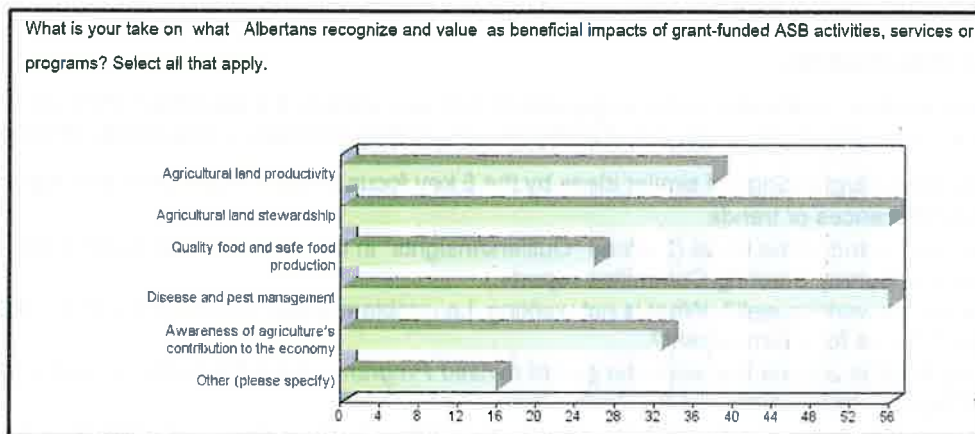


Figure 1 - Number of Responses by Topic

2) ASB Story – Measuring and Communicating Success

What to Measure, Track and Report on to Demonstrate the Collective Impact of the Program

- It was evident that identifying meaningful quantifiable outcome (impact) measures is a challenge. Individual ASB Program activity measures (indicators/input measures) were typically emphasized over province-wide standards/measures.
- Many Ag-Fieldmen view demonstrating collective impact *“almost impossible to quantify in a meaningful, consistent manner and this will make comparing success from municipality to municipality or cumulatively in the province extremely difficult.”*
- The importance of measuring stakeholder and public engagement was recognized. Respondents were unsure of appropriate measures for each. One respondent viewed stakeholder collaboration and partnering as having the greatest impact.
- There was considerable interest in developing practical tools, technologies, and consistent approaches to tracking, measuring, and reporting on success, i.e. lending evidence or credibility to telling their story.
- AF was asked to provide a model for desired metrics and core deliverables well in advance to ensure tracking and reporting of the most relevant information to the Ministry. Ag-Fieldmen appreciate that this will help the Ministry tell its story.

3) ASB Resolutions Process – Informing Policies, Practices and Legislation

Most Crucial Activities in the Resolution Process, Perceived Value

- Drafting resolutions with direction from my ASB topped out the responses (76.8%). Preparing speaking notes for Board members (17.9%) surfaced as the least frequent response.
- 75% (of 56 respondents) view the process as useful. Reasons cited include: *“Well written resolutions that request specific outcomes help raise issue awareness by the Provincial and Federal Governments”*. The resolution process keeps rural issues relevant and brings rural issues to the attention of decision-makers. The process contributes to having the Province accountable to Albertans; theoretically it should give ag producers a voice in government policy decision-making. Representing opinions of a wide range of producers is an important part of the process.
- The process is seen to have improved. *“We are making strong strides towards taking what was a weak resolution process and strengthening it. The Provincial ASB Committee’s commitment to following up on resolutions, lobbying and advocating is vital to this continued mission.”*
- Respondents indicated that the Resolution Process was not useful for a variety of reasons. The dominant theme was concerns with timely responses, i.e. months and years, and tangible results, i.e. visible changes to regulation and programming. *“An annual resolution session is not timely enough to address many agricultural issues.”* Some viewed government agencies as providing *“subpar”*, ineffective responses to grassroots information; not leading to any meaningful change. The investment of time and effort is not worth it.
- Though there is an agreement that all ag-related issues go solely to the Provincial ASB Committee, some respondents perceived that there is overlap in resolutions being brought forward to both the Provincial ASB Committee and RMA (Rural Municipalities of Alberta). This is seen to lessen the weight or validity of the (Provincial) ASB.

4) ASB Grant Program Administration – Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Details in the Opinio-generated reports will definitely inform both the Recommendations and the upcoming renewal of the ASB Grant Program Terms and Conditions.

Expense Categories

The visual that follows summarizes what Ag-Fieldmen view as their top-5 priorities from select categories of expenses currently funded by the ASB Grant Program.

Select your top 5 priorities for your ASB, based on their importance to fulfilling your mandate and achieving your desired results. Rank these from 1 to 5 (with 1 being the top priority).

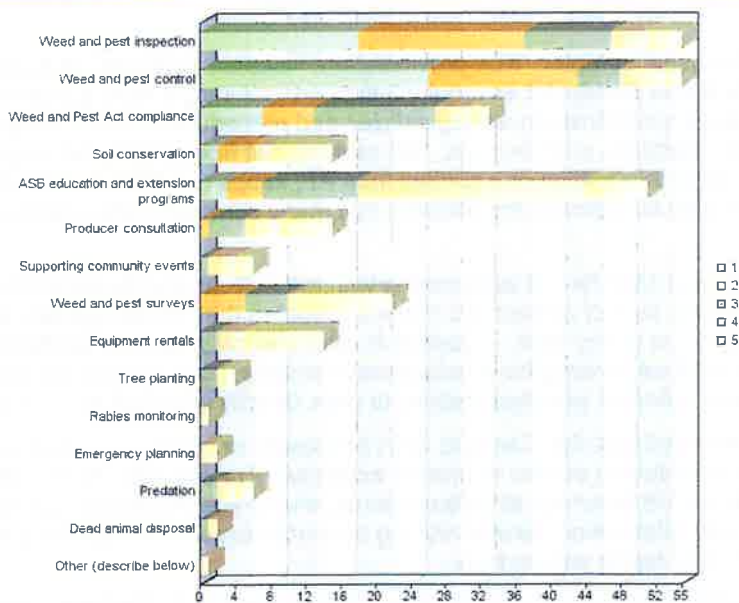


Figure 2 - Number of Ranked Responses

- The prevailing view is that all expense categories are important and should be maintained to support flexibility and diversity in municipalities as they fulfill legislated responsibilities. *“On a whole” with each ASB facing their own individual concerns, it would be inadvisable to remove any of the current eligible expenses; should look at increasing (expense categories).”*

Comments under “Other” were clearly tied to regional concerns, e.g. rabies, tree planting, construction of a multi-purpose agricultural facility, support growth of local food industry, VSI Program, emergency planning.

- Responding to growth in technology and urban/acreage owner education emerged as new categories to be covered by the ASB Grant Program.
- Legislation not keeping pace with the evolving role (position) of Ag-Fieldmen was referenced in the question pertaining to expense categories that may be no longer relevant. It is an interesting sidebar.
- Funding levels were excluded from the line of inquiry (out-of-scope). Where respondents were able to provide open comments, there were fewer asks for funding than expected. When mentioned, access to specialist/expert resources were requested alongside requests for more dollars.

Application Process

- 73% of respondents rated the process as relatively easy or very easy; 5% rated as very difficult. Generally, it was viewed as streamlined, straight forward, and practical.
- Discontent related to the time to complete the application, submission timing, i.e. during the busy April to October months, and the application not being printer-friendly.

Annual Reporting

- The annual reporting process was rated as relatively easy or very easy (82%); <1% rated the reporting process as very difficult.
- 96% of the 54 people who responded indicated online reporting is advantageous. Benefits of online reporting: It is much simpler and quicker, clarifies the type of info required, is easier to submit responses, and it allows for year to year consistency.
- On the downside, respondents raised concerns with printing and ‘save documents’ technical glitches. *“Not much room for customization for unique program areas”*, i.e. online reporting of diverse or unique programing, was another concern that was raised.

5) AF Support – Key Contact Program

- 75% of the 56 survey respondents participate in the Key Contact Program (KCP).
- The KCP was seen to be most helpful: *“The key contact is an important link between our ASB and the government.” “Our key contact has been an incredible resource for us.” “It might be good to have an AF (KC) contact mentor-type arrangement for brand new Fieldmen.” “...Keep it a priority for the province as we appreciate it.”*

Key Contact (KC) ‘Positives’ Sampler: KCs provide/share valuable (relevant, up to date, specific) information from a technical standpoint as required; support and insight from a provincial view; take questions back; answers questions concerning policies and procedures; have first-hand knowledge, able to share of other boards’ practices, solutions, etc.; act as a conduit from ASB to AF and reverse; great resource when looking for information or a contact from AF; keeps our ASB current with AF programing changes; brings forth area concerns to the Ministry; has many contacts in the extension world/for particular areas.

- A number of reasons were cited for not participating with the KCP and/or dissatisfaction with the KC: Perceived as too far away; lack of contact in 2.5 years indicates they do not feel any need to work with us; KC does not reach out to us in any form...; useless in returning calls; no staff available; still don’t know who our KC is; see no benefit/use; already have established contacts, go-to specialists, advisors, information sources. Effectiveness is limited with their inability to work directly with ASB staff on projects.
- Respondents acknowledged that Key Contacts can’t be experts in every area. Suggested improvements to the KCP centered on broadening access to diverse expertise. For example, have multiple KCs specializing in different areas attend ASB meetings at different times; encourage neighbouring Key Contacts to give alternative/supplemental information; have a rotating provincial expert coming in to the ASBs; continue to share knowledge, monthly topics among KCs.

Other KCP Suggestions: Individuals should have an interest, want to be the liaison between the province and the municipality; provide concise info; offer something of value; be allowed to attend Regional and

Provincial conferences to keep up to date, ASB meetings (more regularly), municipal functions; be directly involved in projects or at the ASB table; establish clear duties, expectations + limitations, *"we haven't known how best to utilize their role"*; make them mandatory (increase ASB connection to the Provincial government).

- More access to Key Contacts is needed in the Peace Region. There is definite interest in this region.

6) Communication Between AF and Ag-Fieldmen / ASBs

- Comments about the communication were favourable as a rule. The *"single point of contact"* (Agriculture Service Board Unit/ASB Grant Program office) was much appreciated. Respondents *"like that the information comes from one source..."* Relevant, consistent information is offered.
- Ag-Fieldmen are looking to more directly engage the Minister and MLAs, i.e. the political level. It was suggested that the Minister should address Provincial ASB Conferences.
- *"The continual improvement of communication between AF, the AAAF, and ASB's is essential."*
- Suggested Improvements: Monthly or quarterly e-newsletter; info sessions/Q & As with the ASB Grant Program Manager and the Fieldmen; attend more ASB/Regional/Partnership meetings; continue discussions and training of municipal and provincial staff to comprehend mutual expectations; better manage/schedule number of emails during the growing season
- ASB website is useful; needs to be updated... information refreshed.
- It was noted that amalgamation of ASB with Municipal Councils leaves insufficient time for ag issues.

7) Innovation – Responding to Change, Preparing for the Future

- Though less than expected, there was still several mentions of funding increases to: Keep pace with inflation; offset increased costs and AF/legislation stream program requests; assist ASBs with legal costs relating to legislative areas of responsibility.
- Requests for human resources revolved around accessing AF staff to help directly in the field e.g. provincial inspectors, or to assist with ASB projects.
- Among the more novel suggestions for ASB Grant funding were:
 - Opportunity and innovation elements that create market access, spur diversification, and increase long term sustainability, e.g. local/regional food initiatives, local food production/processing programming, *"funding incentives for value-added initiatives which promote rural sustainability"*.
 - Tracking/measuring/reporting technology, e.g. ag inspection, ag education event tracking software; shared data platforms; provincial survey apps.
 - Merit-based grant incentive for ASBs that are doing bold, new or improved programs.
 - Ag safe work practices.

8) "Open Floor" – Additional Comments, Program Review and Beyond

As requested by the Steering Committee an opportunity was provided for stakeholders to comment on issues, questions, or comments in addition to or beyond what was asked in the survey or discussed in each session. (Based on the "Open Floor" comments for both Ag-Fieldmen and ASB Members.)

- There were a great variety of topics under "Open Floor" (a.k.a. 'Parking Lot'). Many points reinforced previously answered survey questions. For example:
 - ☛ *"... Need to work to recognize the economic driver that agriculture still is in this province..."*
 - ASB Program and Legislative Acts review are far overdue. Many 'historical' requirements are no longer relevant or realistic.
 - Consider building and implementing tracking and reporting software.
 - Need one (consistent) legal opinion for issues across all the municipalities.
 - Seeking a rapid response from staff and the Minister to Weed and Pest Act appeals.
 - Strengthen/improve advocacy to stakeholders, i.e. impact the ASBs have on our agricultural sector.

Provincial Results & Insights – ASB Members

1) Positioning ASBs to Succeed – Future Thinking (Environmental Scanning)

Environmental scanning is an integral part of adapting to change and positioning an organization or program to survive and thrive into the future. Participation in an environmental scanning exercise helped ASB Members to develop a mindset for strategic, forward thinking. The aim was to depart from day-to-day concerns and look 3 - 5 plus years into the future at factors – trends, issues, opportunities, expected to influence ASB programs, activities, and services.

The Ministry will also benefit from having a rich source of stakeholder-generated projections, trends and issues. This environmental scan reflects the diverse backgrounds and insights of ASB Grant Program stakeholders.

Small groups of ASB Members explored a broad range of factors under “STEEP” headings with cross-over expected. Participants were asked to think about what concerns them most. The dialogue was distilled to their top three critical issues, including some implications. A compilation of the most concerning factors follows.

Social/Demographic Factors

- The urban population shift (focus), coupled with their lack of understanding of the industry, compromises informed policy choices regarding agriculture. Urban issues may take more priority with regard to legislative changes.
- Urban sprawl, acreage ownership, and lack of public knowledge of food production and other agricultural concerns, pose challenges to ASB Program compliance. Misinformed people neglect or are reluctant to follow legislation-based, regulated agricultural practices. “ASBs might need to adapt their services to also include acreage owners.”
- Social media, famous personality spokespersons, and advertising perpetuate disconcerting misinformation about agriculture practices, food production and processing, food quality.
- There is increased consumer/market place demand for food produced in humane/environmentally sound manner. ASBs could partner with corporations in promoting the ag industry.
- Social license – the ability to farm, has implications for accessing funding to support agricultural activities.
- The need for agricultural advocacy and ag education surfaced repeatedly. “We need to pro-actively tell our story.” Education from elementary school through to university and beyond, is increasingly important, i.e. the benefits of farming and the rural life, acceptability of agriculture and agricultural practices. To message the positive, true facts about agriculture ASBs and the Industry should get together with one, unified voice.
- Disappearance of the family farm/small farms has a detrimental social impact on rural communities, e.g. smaller or no schools, declining population, inability for young people to stay on the farm or in the community.
- The loss of the agricultural land base and legislation for zoning agriculture, are concerns. “Work with planning departments and agriculture to get on the same page.”
- Social/demographic concerns permeated all other environmental scanning categories.

Technological Factors

- There needs to be judicious use of social media technology for telling the ag story, i.e. Agriculture industry is viable and valuable.
- Proper access to and use of technology is paramount, e.g. education for producers on available technologies to support sustainability, traceability, pest surveillance, field chemical application, monitoring infrastructure; systems to ensure credibility and security including access across the production chain; rules to enforce appropriate use, i.e. planes, drones; use and affordability of surveillance/tracking technology, drones in particular.
- More broad-band, internet coverage to eliminate dead zones in communication.
- Open source code relates to universal parts and the right to repair for farm equipment.
- Information/data sharing through integrated, accessible database systems offers many benefits.
Outlier/Insight: “Can ASBs utilize some of the data that’s being generated on farms (data on equipment use, product application, application timing, etc. are all being generated and can be sold or passed on to Industry?”
- Need a government and ASB website that provides disease map data to producers (like insect maps).
- There are opportunities for ASB Program app development. ASBs can use an app for communication with producers and ratepayers; ASB Members, e.g. weed issues, no-spray zones, tracking soil disruption, Council notices/meeting reminders, alerts for seasonal ag practices (watch out for equipment).
- Better, safer food production and processing technology will be coming out.

- ASBs should keep up with tech advancement; be better equipped for programs they're responsible for. Keep ASB staff safe with technologies for working alone or at a distance, e.g. dash cams, autonomous vehicles, info-sourcing apps; social media to track people/information; hazard analysis and best management practices.

Economic/Financial Factors

- Increasing costs of inputs/operating (including the cost of compliance, equipment) will affect the next generation wanting to earn a living from agriculture. *"Return of young people to farming is critical for the future."* Inflated land values and farm debt impedes succession planning, i.e. the transition from established older farmers to young farmers. It is *"becoming difficult for the established farm to support the next generation."*
- ASBs can support young farmers, i.e. *"Act as advocates for farmers to encourage banking and lending institutes to support young farmers."*, offer workshops on banking language and other financial hands-on skills. *"Outlier/Insight"*: Resolution to develop a program similar to the US 'Buy land from the government' example wherein the young farmers pay over the ownership lifetime of the land.
- While larger farm operations are taking precedence over the small family farm, small farm businesses are increasing, e.g. more tree nurseries, speciality crops/livestock, greenhouses.
- Revenue generating options and multi-level government support are needed to attract investment, value-adding (processing/manufacturing) and diversification in rural communities. *"ASBs can work with adjacent counties to maximize relevant growth opportunities."*
- Cost to ASBs associated with transferring credible information on agricultural practices to acreage owners, urban populations. ASBs are dependent on external funding sources to operate; difficult without societal financial support for agriculture.
- Taxation: Increase taxation of agriculture to compensate for the gap in MSI (Municipality Sustainability Initiative) funding. The assessment of land is outdated with the diversion of ag land to other use, i.e. taxes for agriculture are low and the low tax assessment does not reflect the real tax on land. Corporate farming impacts tax revenue.
- Carbon tax: Deemed a significant cost to producers. Need to lobby (advocate) to government on how the Carbon tax adversely affects their bottom line. Pursue advocacy to the government on the 'Carbon Tax on the Grasslands' resolution. Create awareness that *"grass and not just cows are in the carbon sink"*.
- Impact of future trade agreements, e.g. Potential for China to ban canola imports; traceability compliance.
- Market access is impacted by the federal Seed Royalty Review. ASBs should have a say in the de-listing of varieties.

Environmental

- *"Environment is the area that is growing the most. ASBs will be more environmental as time goes on."*
- Climate change: Impacting crop diversification (opportunities), water access and quality, drought, irrigation (moving north), new invasive plants and diseases. ASBs have an advocacy and education role: Promoting crops with better water use efficiency; working with industry groups, research associations, and producers to encourage this. *"Producers are looking to ASBs for water rights."* Community irrigation projects have financial implications for ASBs.
- There is public mistrust about the agriculture and environmental record. Urban people lack knowledge about agriculture's interest in the environment. At the same time, the public trusts farmers more than big corporations and government.
- Loss of good agricultural land to non-productive land types. Increasing land costs have more farmers breaking the land.
- Access to fresh water: *"Why are we using fresh water for oil and gas fracking?"*
- Acreage owners don't fully appreciate or adhere to environmental best practices or regulations, e.g. spraying, removing beaver dams or trees from ditches. More subdivisions bring environmental concerns and challenges with compliance. *"How do you enforce these things (legislation, regulations, practices) from an ASB perspective?"*
- Legislation and regulations: Risk that ASBs will no longer be able to use certain tools/methods, e.g. chemical spraying for weed/pest control along roads or waterways; implications for weed free versus "dirty" seeds, invasive species, movement of weeds/pests. There are significant costs associated with mandatory programs, e.g. Environmental Farm Plan, Environmental Stewardship Program. Though this relates to market access; producers view the cost as leading to "pricing ourselves out of the world market."
- Legislation is environmentally weak; need *"more teeth in legislation"*. There are not enough early adopters. ASBs need to foster change through education, practice change incentives, having ASBs promote known grant/funding programs for the environment.

- Abandoned oil reclamation sites (regional concern) could be a big ASB concern, i.e. better enforcement of private sector responsibility to maintain and reclaim the land, manage weeds.
- A cooperative approach is needed when ASBs are working with the oil and gas sector; relationships matter.
- Agriculture awareness, education and advocacy are crucial. *"In schools, we need to change the conversion from Ag = bad for the environment"*. Use social media; reach non-ag urban audiences by different means; provide PR (public relations) training to staff. Fund education for concerns that are provincial in scope. ASBs
- ASB education on agriculture carbon capture is needed. *"Carbon capture, pricing proposals, opportunity for to capitalize on this. How can we sustain and afford this?"*
- Straw from hemp/marijuana grown organically are technically not weeds falling under the Pest Act. In a similar vein, regulating organic is a challenge and policy needs to change, i.e. covers this under the Act.
- Politics, the environment, and social license are very closely tied. *"Do not want to see Ag go the way of oil and gas sectors". "Pushback against chemical use versus legislation become political."* ASBs can partner to get a better, more diverse message out encouraging that the whole story of agriculture be told to school children, teachers, municipalities, producers, the urban population. *"(Answer) the why questions, so people understand the reasons behind agricultural practices/production... Think out of the box to showcase new technology, crop and management practices."*
- Disconnect, misalignment, between government Ministries, i.e. Environment, Transportation, Agriculture and Forestry are not on the same page. *"Alberta Environment does not back the ASBs when it comes to decisions."; "We feel unsupported."*

Political Factors

- Once again, "telling the agriculture story", educating on and advocating for agriculture, dominated the dialogue. The urban/acreage-owner population influx to rural Alberta coupled with this demographic segment's increased decision-making authority and influence on politics, is concerning. Education is seen as the way to avoid having urban government making ag/rural decisions. Be proactive versus reactive.
- The growing gap between agriculture and government decision-makers/funders/the public could result in reduced ASB funding/support from AF and other government ministries. Maintain or improve ASB funding models by advocating to and building strong working relationships with government leaders and all political parties. ASBs need to increase their advocacy activities to politicians, AF decision makers, and the public to increase their profile, and to show their impact on economic and environmental sustainability.
- Legislation overload is taxing on producers, i.e. fulfilling legislative duties is a big-time investment for little or unknown financial benefit. Advocate to simplify legislation to enable more efficient processes (i.e. appeal process) for ASBs; encourage alternative approaches for compliance other than legislation.
- Need for regulatory-streamlining with a consistent approach and full integration, i.e. flexibility in policy development (regional vs. province-wide impact policy); mitigate contracting policies, update and coordinate policies. Risk management must be part of policy development.
- Policy development and implementation: Crucial to increase education/advocacy on policies. Be more educated about policy development both inward and outward. Share experiences with policy issues among various counties.
- No advocacy for grain shipments. With the railway *"we don't have a voice and it doesn't seem to matter"*. Interest in shipping oil seems to take precedence over shipping grain.
- Municipalities are challenged to get and keep ASB members; more members at large are needed to address challenges.
- Add an innovation funding category to the ASB Program – wide scope, flexible, e.g. ASB delegates attending international conferences to research and understand market opportunities. (This is a cross-over point, i.e. surfaced in "political" dialogue but relates more to Program Innovation.)

2) Program Innovation

ASB Members tend to have general familiarity with ASB Grant Program funded programs, services, and activities. Given their role and responsibilities, Ag-Fieldmen have a more in-depth understanding of how the Program operates, including eligible categories of expenses. To ground this audience in ASB Grant Program focus areas (elements), participants were asked to discuss priorities and what works well. Highlighting what is was intended to be a stepping stone to what could be, i.e. program innovation.

As was often the case in the ASB Grant Program Review, municipal ASB program elements surfaced that were beyond what AF funds. Still, it is worth noting what participants believe works well in supporting relevant legislation and their notion of ASB Program/Service Priority Areas, in their area or in the Province.

Grant-funded ASB Program/Service Focus Areas (Elements) That Work Well – Carry Forward

Responses Aligning with ASB Grant Program Categories of Expenses ▪ Bullets – Sampling of Existing and Potential Elements, Comments	Occurrences (Table Dialogue)
<p>(Note: Some terms/elements were not differentiated, e.g. weed/pest control, surveys, inspection.)</p> <p>Weed and pest control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pest surveillance; river rat program; decreased funding a concern when this is important to market access ▪ Spraying; acreage owner sprayer program ▪ Event where ratepayers get canisters of premixed herbicide to spray for specific weed ▪ Chemical access ▪ Clubroot and fusarium testing, work with seed plants (zero tolerance) 	<p>35</p>
<p>ASB education and extension programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In school – farming, farm safety, Farm Safe and Farm Smart (working with LARA) ▪ Farm vehicle inspection days with Peace Officers ▪ Green Certificate Program as a Model ▪ Target small land holders, acreage owners ▪ Focus on extension to farmers has dropped, may/should change ▪ For staff, public, professional development, e.g. pesticide applicator, Ag Safe Alberta, water/soil management, proper spraying 	<p>27</p>
<p>Weed and pest inspection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clubroot and Fusarium 	<p>16</p>
	<p>9</p>
<p>Equipment rentals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Equipment funding – rentals to farmers, acreage owners; access to tech equipment ▪ Land rollers, cattle fencing, squeezes, pest traps, hay testers, air seeders, post pounders... 	<p>9</p>
<p>Weed and pest surveys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clubroot ▪ Crop surveillance is necessary 	<p>8</p>
<p>Soil conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understanding impacts, soil health, northern migration 	<p>8</p>
<p>Rabies monitoring (animal health)</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>Producer consultation</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Dead animal disposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cost, a deterrent for producers 	<p>2</p>
<p>Tree planting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shelterbelt program; ASBs as a broker for trees on a cost recovery basis 	<p>2</p>
<p>Predation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduction; bounty for wolves, coyotes, beaver and mole tails ▪ Predator control isn't just moving them into other counties 	<p>1</p>
<p>Supporting community events</p>	<p>1</p>

Other Elements/Comments Relating to Program Priorities:

- Advocacy (links to education and extension)
- ASB participation
- AF Support
- VSI - Veterinary Services Incorporated (3)
- Support 4H, ARA's (3), upgrading seed-cleaning plants
- Ditch vegetation clearing; huge concerns working with other GOA Agencies and CNR
- Continue to cover Acts in place; more funding is needed
- May need to legislate Board structure to ensure ag people are involved
- Regional policy (2)
- Farm safety, including farm safety insurance (3)
- Climate change
- Economic development

Environmental-centric elements (out-of-scope for this Program Review):

- Environmental Farm Plan, environmental stewardship, water wells/monitoring, water quality, water source monitoring, conservation and environmental programs

Summary of Top-5 ASB Program/Service Priority Focus Areas

Key Words or Themes - Results	Occurrences
▪ Weed and pest control (incl. surveys, surveillance, inspection, testing, monitoring, predator control, road side spraying, Clubroot, Fusarium)	29
▪ Education/Extension/ (teaching, schools, workshops)	9
▪ Equipment rentals	4
▪ Weed and Pest Act compliance/enforcement	3
▪ Economic development	2
<p>Wording / themes that follow were identified just once (1) in the consensus summaries for all tables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocate and advise (public perception and social license) ▪ Coyote reduction programs ▪ Ditch vegetation ▪ Animal welfare ▪ VSI (Veterinary Services Incorporated) ▪ Chemical access ▪ Innovative technology (not directly funded) ▪ Farm safety (not directly funded) 	
<p>Environmental stream (out of scope):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wetlands and soil conservation, soil/water source monitoring and conservation programs, EFP's, environmental stewardship and compliance (15 occurrences) 	

Program Innovation – Bold, New or Improved ASB Grant Program Elements

Table Dialogue Highlights:

- Centre of Excellence for Ag-Fieldmen Expertise
 - Chief Ag-Fieldmen to function like Chief Provincial Vet
 - One window contact for all ASB staff and Members; one spot to share all ideas and data information
 - Provide ideas for innovation in agriculture, sharing among ASBs
- “Telling Our Story”: Agriculture Advocacy Training and Support
 - Increase ASB Profile, Communicate Impact of Economic and Environmental Sustainability
 - ☛ Requires appropriate advocacy training, planning and delivery
 - Links to education and extension, public relations – proactively respond to public perceptions
 - Message socio-economic impact of ASB programming (Need research to capture and report tangible outcomes – benefits, impact, of the ASB Program; components funded by AF.)
 - Social license; “Renewable Agriculture”; rural lifestyle; regulation compliance and rationale
 - Target audiences: Urban populations, acreage owners (small holdings), new entrants, teachers, elementary through to university students, politicians, AF decision-makers, media
 - Use social media effectively, i.e. expand reach, ensure credible accurate information
 - Partner with Industry (commodity groups), 4H, Ag Societies, Classroom Ag Program, and other ASBs
- Economic Diversification and Investment Attraction → Market Access, Economic/Rural Sustainability
 - Rural entrepreneurship
 - Local pasture to plate projects; local value-added; niche markets; travel bursaries for educational travel
- Local Food Production/Processing
 - Value-added incentives
 - Promote sustainability and local processing or manufacturing; hemp, fibre, oats industries (ties to crop diversification and rotation)
- Support Next Generation Transition to Farming
 - Young farmers’ tuition fees; farm plans; technology; financial management, marketing, banking savvy; ASB mentorship and extension, land acquisition
- Farm Safety
 - Support farm safety education in the schools; target youth on acreages who have little farm safety “smarts”
 - Collaborate with industry and existing farm safety programs
- Technology Use / Development
 - Drones for monitoring, surveillance, inspections, mapping
 - GPS tracking for disease/pest/weed mapping, chemical application; ASB staff (personal safety)
 - Apps: ASB Member and Rate Payer communication/information exchange; monitoring and surveillance, record-keeping; report generation
- Merit-based Grant Incentive for Innovative ASBs / ASB Program Innovation Expense Category
 - Incent ASBs delivering bold, new, or improved programs and services; engaging in innovative activities, e.g. waste energy for ag production, vertical farming, innovative producer practices/skills, ASB delegates attending international conferences to research and understand market opportunities
 - Cover expenses for innovative technology needed to implement ASB legislation-related activities, e.g. drones, automation, app development, mapping, equipment for efficiency, testing technology
- Database Information Management → Better Sharing, ASB Collaboration
 - Deeper, longer-term tracking and reporting; improve access; use of apps
 - Asset information management; explore selling data information to industry (i.e. research purposes)

(Note: Some elements are outside the current Program mandate or may already be in place.)

ASB Grant Program Improvements – AF Support

Suggestions:

- Funding – Increases to keep pace with inflation, offset increases and costs and AF program requests; more access to AF staff to help direct in the field; one-off capital funding every 3 years
- ASB input to municipal development planning
- Misalignment between GOA Ministries working with ASBs – need consistency, mutual support, better ways to talk to decision-makers
- Adapt to changes in agriculture, e.g. extension re: hemp, pulse crops
- Inventory small (and large) scale producers/farm types
- Exemption of CN and AB Parks from weed control – advocating that ASBs do work and send them bill
- Encourage coordinated sharing of priority programs/services with other municipalities, i.e. leveraging
- More discretionary funding for ASBs to do applied research
- Extension, collaboration with oil and gas, ATCO, etc. – address disconnect in ag practices standards between counties and utility companies
- Tech transfer to horticulture, a potentially growing area

(Note: It is recognized that the above suggestions do not necessarily relate to the mandate of the Grant Program. Other areas in the Ministry may be able to respond to some of the expressed concerns. More details and ideas can be found in the five “Session Summary” documents. Environmental stream-orientated content has been captured separately.)

Program Impact

There was considerable interest in this topic, especially around the ASB Program economic impact or value proposition in ASB programming. The socio-economic contributions shared in the “ASB Profile – Appreciating Our Impact” presentation (and “Backgrounder” reference) were very well received and spurred lively table discussion in all sessions.

Primary Benefits or Positive Impact – Municipality

Participants did not always differentiate between the impact or benefits of their municipality’s ASB Program and the specific impact of the ASB Grant Program. Some feedback is based on matters outside the mandate of AF’s legislative stream Grant Program. To help Members think about outcomes linked to the AF Program, it was useful to probe what would happen in the absence of the ASB Grant Program.

“You don’t know the true benefit of the program until the program or service is gone.”

Many beneficial programs, services, and activities – existing or potential, were identified. Where dialogue centered on the ends over the means to the end, the following emerged:

- Enforcement of the Acts / Regulatory Arm
 - Ensures viability of the agriculture industry; need a “watchdog”, rules and policies for enforcement
- Weed and Pest Control Management – Control, Inspection
 - Helps with land productivity (crop yields), lowering costs for individual producers; better for the environment
 - Contributes to road safety, i.e. “School Divisions praise the increased safety aspect of clearing sight lines.”
 - Pride in being rat free
- Education and Extension
 - Critical to informing producers and their adoption of sustainable, productive farming practices
 - Enables primary producers to make money in a sustainable manner
 - Promotion of rangeland management practices keeps invasive species at bay, beautifies the landscape
- Agriculture Awareness / Profile
 - Supports social licence; branding of ASB (with consistent message)

- The missing link that could have additional impact is for ASB programs to fund education of the public (Albertans). *“Can use various outreach methods to invite urbanites (public and city councillors) to rural (areas) to be educated on safe healthy, and sustainable local food production systems...”*
- Soil Conservation
 - Reduces erosion of productive soils
- Equipment Rental
 - Reduces cost of production

Other Benefits:

- Subsidized vet services (VSI) helps to attract expertise
- Promotion and use of local products
- Employing people within the municipality helps the local economy
- Better collaboration and partnership among municipalities

Primary Benefits or Positive Impact – Albertans

The importance of responding to Albertans' interests was clear. Albertans were seen as a key stakeholder.

Participants were asked to describe what Albertans recognize and value, whether or not they are familiar with ASBs and the programs/services they provide. Responses did not consistently link what Albertans value to ASB grant-funded programs, services or activities.

More concrete benefits or impacts viewed as important to Albertans included:

- Inexpensive, safe, and good quality food; *“Trust that our food is safe”* with our high level of standards
- Locally produced/sourced food; humanely raised
- Land productivity, conservation and protection of the environment – soil, water, air, habitats, through good land stewardship; economic impact of protecting land productivity
- Market protection (access) with respect to livestock and crops practices and environmental protection
- Soil reclamation, rural and urban value reclamation
- Safety and aesthetics gained through roadside mowing program; public protected from wildlife issues
- Urban agriculture, hobby and backyard farms
- How farmer (farming) practices support carbon sequestration
- *“Renewable Agriculture”*; communication of best practices and promotion of agriculture awareness and concerns
- ☛ *“Telling our story”* is critical – Key messages:
 - “Albertans value the good product that agriculture provides and high quality of it. We need to show Albertans how ASB programs work to maintain things that affect export value and food safety.”*
 - “Sustainable agriculture is key for the health of our land. We are stewards of the land.”*

3) Quantifiable Success

Tracking, Measuring, Reporting → Collective ASB Program Impact

(Note: This line of questioning was not aimed at identifying measures. Rather, what would demonstrate progress, results and/or impact.)

Discussion around *what to measure*, tended to centre on activity reporting despite awareness of the importance of demonstrating and communicating impact, i.e. ultimate results or outcomes. As was evident with the Ag-Fieldmen survey, identifying appropriate high level (strategic, province-wide) outcome measures for the ASB Program is a challenge whether real or perceived.

Responses to *“What to measure?”* were not always directly linked to ASB Grant Program funded activities/ programs, e.g. beautification of rural landscapes attracts tourists; advocating for agriculture and rural development; number of new businesses and employment (unless correlated to ASB grant-funded programming); agricultural income (as a portion of provincial GDP); number of mental health issues topics; farmers' markets (choice of products, organic versus conventional).

Examples of Measures Generated by ASB Members:

Input measures or measures of resources ASBs invest in their Program: Collaboration, i.e. reporting how you work with the county/projects; Financial leveraging, i.e. % of the ASB Grant dollars to ASB municipal expenditures (e.g. 20% ASB and 80% local municipality); # AF surveys ASBs participated in (diseases, pests, weeds, etc.), # students hired for the weed control program; funding/budgeting for weed inspections.

Output measures or what the ASB produces - tangible products, reports, activities, etc. that are quantifiable. Outputs may be *indicators* of progress in achieving ultimate Program results/outcomes: # of school visits/programs; # of acres sprayed; # education/extension programs/events; # of weed notices issued; # km mowed or sprayed.

Outcome measures relate to impact, ultimate results, what is different. *Indicators* of outcomes are frequently used to convey impact though they are not as robust as outcome measures. Ag-Fieldmen identified: Land area on which weeds have been inspected and controlled; # farms practicing the best management practices BMPs; # of new non-traditional agricultural business, i.e. increased inventory of agricultural business, e.g. greenhouses, marijuana, tree nurseries, local bakeries, etc.

The strongest outcome measures that ASB members identified may be:

- Weed/pest control → Increased productivity/yield, market access; quality, secure, and safe food production.
- Predator control → Reduction in death/injury to people and animals, building damages.
- Clear roadways, i.e. mowed, cleaned of brush → Prevent animal/car collisions, good visibility is a safety factor.
- ASB Program youth employment → Community support; keeps kids interested in agriculture, perhaps as a career.

- A broad collection of suggested measures are captured in the Session "Workbook Summaries". Program evaluation expertise is needed to distill what measures are most meaningful for communicating success in terms of outputs and outcomes. It would be prudent to keep in mind "less is more."

Viable Prospects for the ASB Grant Program:

- i. Conduct an **Economic Impact Assessment** at both the regional and Provincial levels as a means for communicating credible, informative Program impacts. Related comment: Need to make results relatable, e.g. how many loaves of bread could have been made from wheat grown in the county, how many steaks, how many liters of canola oil.
- ii. ASB Grant Program could create a 'one-pager' to quantify what ASBs do, i.e. suggest appropriate measures to ASBs well in advance to allow for tracking and reporting through the Program year.

(Note: Measures applicable to the environmental stream were identified, i.e. around water quality, Environmental Farm Plans, conservation and protection of the environment, ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services), Stewardship of the environment incl. chemical use. These will be shared with the environmental stream program personnel.)

Telling Our Story – Advocating / Communicating Impact (Outcome Measures)

The need to "tell our story" was very popular, clearly resonated with participants especially targeted at:

- Albertans at large, especially urbanites. Participants recognize the importance of responding to Albertans' interests. Albertans were seen as a key stakeholder.
- Youth in both urban and rural schools; elementary through to University. There was a keen interest in having the ASB Program (agriculture) story incorporated into the Alberta school curriculum; connect with youth by many different means.

There was a good deal of discussion about the need to build awareness of food and agriculture as a way to combat misinformation in the media, especially in social media.

Suggested Key Message / Advocacy Topics:

- We need to tell the whole story of agricultural production, i.e. 'Farm to Plate', using factual and scientific information
- Things that interest the general population, such as the economy, GDP, exports, agriculture's efforts toward reducing the carbon footprint, food production
- Land stewardship – technology, BMPs being used, what and why

- What ASBs are doing; cost savings arising from ASB programming; supporting rural Alberta

Insights surfaced around the importance of particular types of ASB “telling our story” activities, e.g. Farm tours – open farm days that connect people to what they eat to the land where food is grown. Can’t be scared to be transparent, open up our farms to the general public. Balance the risks and rewards of education.

4) Enhancing the Resolution Process

After the first session in Lethbridge, it was apparent that many ASB Members do not fully understand the resolution process in particular, where incomplete, unsatisfactory and/or defeated resolutions go; how long the resolutions brought forward at the Provincial ASB Conference are “kept alive” (on record). A more thorough review of the Resolution Process as a preface to table dialogue, coupled with timely clarification to questions asked of the Session Chair, helped to diffuse any animosity or misunderstandings in the remaining four sessions.

Usefulness, What Makes it Effective

The vast majority of participants viewed the Resolution Process in a positive light. A great variety of points were raised on what makes the process effective. Typical points are represented below.

- Strengthens the focus and work of ASBs.
- Allows for collaboration among municipalities with “power in numbers”
 - Provides credibility while building collaboration and consensus
- Fosters communication
 - Forces regional ASB communication at least once a year
 - Collective voice to advocate for each other
 - Encourages conversations among and between ASBs and AF
- Showcases issues and concerns
 - Allows awareness, learning, and sharing of both common and unique issues from all parts of the province; raises relevant issues to the provincial level and starts the discussion, i.e. awareness gets people talking → province-wide effect
 - Provincial ASB Conference informs Chairs and government about what is going on in the province
- Puts pressure on Ministers/government/NGO’s to make policy or operational changes
- Confidence is gained in moving resolutions from the local to regional and provincial level
 - “Minister knows that everyone has viewed the resolutions.”
 - Democratic process (not a consensus view), useful and important
 - Chosen by an elected official; peer reviewed; any ASB/county can put forward and support resolutions
 - A repetitive ask makes it work
 - “Multiple levels of vetting mean less issues emerge and wording can be changed to be more effective.”
 - The ‘Report Card’ is a huge benefit, shows good and bad and ensures that the Minister sees the resolution.”
- Feedback loop with the Provincial ASB Committee, and Report Card; honesty in feedback, can provide direct input from the regions; opportunity for a “next shot” with a change in wording or angle

Dissatisfaction with the resolution process can be summarized in the following quotes:

“The Ag Minister views the ASBs as providing a service for him, not so much as a voice for agriculture, which is inappropriate. Resolutions from the ASB show the inefficiency of trying to act as a political body rather than a Service Board.”

“Currently the process is not useful. There are concerns that the ‘expert’ that the resolution is handed to may not currently have a good idea of what is happening on the ground. It appears that very few actions are created as a percentage of the number of resolutions that are put forward.”

Other Areas of Concern:

- Concerned with the 23% “Accept the Response” standing from the “ASB Resolutions from 2007 to 2018

- (total of 135)" pie chart visual in the "Backgrounder" Session support document, i.e. "feels like a failure"
- Red tape gets in the way, the process is not timely; "Report Card" is not timely enough
- Seen as a letter writing campaign, no real sense that the issue is actually being taken seriously
- Regionalized resolutions are not helping the whole province
- Poor quality resolutions – Where the focus is narrow, resolutions are poorly written or not well thought out, e.g. asks for money without providing solutions; many resolutions are reactive and at times resolutions are irrelevant to the legislated duties of ASBs
- Difficulty in voting for resolutions with a regional focus, e.g. a resolution made by the Peace may die by the South (drought, Fusarium) based on ideologies
- More engagement sessions like this one would be useful

Provincial ASB Committee – Usefulness in Advocating for Resolutions

Some ASB Member feedback related more to the resolution process rather than the structure or advocacy function of the Provincial ASB Committee. This and other content better addressed by AF, has been appropriately redirected.

It was evident that a number of ASB Members are not familiar with the role and responsibilities of this body.

Positively Speaking:

Positive comments reflected the usefulness of the Committee in speaking collectively for the province reporting back on resolutions, addressing and bringing forward issues to the government. The Committee is seen as an improvement compared to the past.

Other positive viewpoints:

- One, unified voice for all of Alberta in bringing forward issues to government and the Minister
- Members are knowledgeable, able to speak for the ASBs
- It's good that there is a Committee to centralize resolutions
- Enables meeting with other Ministers and agencies relating to the resolution

Areas of Concern:

- Limitations in having the resolutions acted upon at the Ministerial level
- The Provincial ASB Committee should do more work advocating ASBs to the Minister, MLAs, the Deputy Minister, other government, and the public; advocate at all political levels
- *"The Committee does not report back to the grassroots in a timely manner."*; provide more regular updates on the status and outcomes of the resolutions including the AF Minister's response (can be verbal +/- written)
- Lack of clarity around what happens with defeated resolutions, i.e. kept for 3 - 5 years; need better tracking of resolutions
- Committee membership, i.e. continuity with turnover, qualified people with knowledge and expertise to deal with resolutions
- *"The usefulness of the Provincial ASB Committee is limited. It would be more useful if the Committee was open to hearing advocacy from a person or party who is well versed in the issue in the resolution."*
- View that the *"Resolution is a tool, not the end result"*
- Significant interest in reporting on outcomes – end result, impact, what's different; emerged as a major area for improvement
- Limitations of the Committee role – *"ASBs are using this Committee to try and play a political role but they are not a political body. ASBs were created by government... This (Provincial ASB) Committee is government (ASB) sending resolution up to government."*
- The Provincial ASB Committee is not as credible as the Rural Municipalities Association (RMA)
- The Committee grades resolutions and communicates with AF but does not do enough advocating for these resolutions to result in policy change or legislation.
- *"Lots of pressure on regional rep to communicate back to the local level."*

Suggested Improvements to the Resolution Process

ASB members had a vast array of ideas for improving the resolution process. Central themes follow.

- *Educate, Inform ASB Members (prevalent theme)*
 - Educate ASB members, especially new Members, about the process

- Respond to: *"Is there a 'Terms of Reference' for Regional representatives?"*
- Communicate how the Provincial ASB Committee advocates the Resolutions to the Minister and how successful this process is
- *Resolution Prioritization, Weighting, Assessment*
 - Resolutions that currently have equal weighting should be prioritized by the Provincial ASB Committee before going forward to the Provincial ASB Conference
 - Limiting resolutions based on prioritization as well as the number of proponents may increase the chances of success and avoid diluting good resolutions. *"Better priorities prevent erosion of the messages"; "If we only get 1 hour with the Minister then use the time to talk about the most important ones."*
 - Consider a rating system to help set priorities
 - Municipalities that wrote the resolution should present it at the conference/to government
 - Enable interactive texting in the resolution process at the Provincial ASB Conference
 - Distribute resolutions to ASB members in advance to allow time to review/digest, ask questions prior to discussion.
 - The review process could be strengthened by referencing source data, adding credibility to resolutions; credibility of a resolution can build with multiple letters of support on the same concern
- *Resolution Quality*
 - Resolutions need to be proactive in nature, original and relevant to or reflect the work and interests of ASBs in the province.
 - *"Lot more 'clout' if it benefits the entire province rather than just one small region."*
 - Avoid redundant resolutions, bringing resolutions forward at different conferences, e.g. ASB, RMA
 - Strengthen drafting with background expertise, improved writing; wording is critical
 - Provide training in writing resolutions
 - Dissect resolutions into resolution-based / financially-based / Information purposes
 - Put standards for resolution in writing, i.e. positives versus negatives
 - Provincial ASB Committee should screen resolutions in advance – scope, clarity; make sure their interpretation of the issue matches that of the proponent's, i.e. essence is not "lost in translation"
 - Gain support from partners and Industry, collaborate in writing resolutions; *"Make sure to work with other groups that have the same special interests and have experience with the topics..."*
- *Evaluating and Communicating Impact*
 - Evaluate the impact of accepted resolutions 3 - 5 years out, i.e. policy change (positive or negative), concern addressed
- *Communication / Reporting Back (prevalent theme)*
 - Need for more clear and timely information explaining the standing of the resolution; provide follow-up analysis with the municipality to clarify and explain the rationale; would like to see AF provincial staff discuss outcomes with the municipalities
 - Put status of the Resolution on the website; notify people when resolutions expire
 - Improve Provincial ASB Committee communication, i.e. tracking, outcomes, feedback, updates
 - Simplify the Report Card presentation; question if it is necessary to include the defeated category (what does it mean?)
 - Enable, encourage municipalities to share their resolutions with each other, i.e. know what each other is putting forth; more communication between municipalities/regions → better collaborative approach
- *Ministerial, Senior Government, Political Interaction (prevalent theme)*
 - The notion of having AF ADMs, DM, +/- the Minister, and MLAs attend the presentation of Resolutions at the Provincial ASB Conference was cited in a number of table discussions; *"(They) need to listen and acknowledge what they've heard."*
 - Does the Minister know the % of ASBs that voted on a particular resolution? This could add weight, credibility
 - Government ministries including AF, Environment, Transportation and other related departments, should have ag advisors, a team that governs/works together

- The Provincial ASB Committee needs to quickly advocate for the change at multi-government levels, including informing rural and urban MLAs of the issue at hand
- More time with the DM and the Minister is needed
- Ensure that the Minister has knowledgeable support staff, is well briefed on issues and aware of ASBs ahead of time
- Create a "postcard" for MLAs, i.e. ASB role, how resolutions are developed
- *Process Modifications for Efficiency and Effectiveness*
 - Both the review process and the time to achieve real outcomes (change), is seen as too slow; shorten response times, especially with time-sensitive issues; expediate the process and turnaround time, i.e. more targeted responses to Regions or Industry
 - Reducing the number of resolutions to a maxim of 5/year, or narrowing who's involved in the Review process to the Provincial ASB Committee with the DM/ADM or only the Minister, surfaced as ideas for speeding up the process
 - Have a multiple-tiered resolution process, with a core set of resolutions that deal with ASBs role, i.e. main business, and a second tier for issues, policies and stakeholder awareness
 - For local/regional resolutions, fan out the government response to resolutions to local ASB Chairs asking for feedback before they are finalized; *"Regional Rep needs to collect feedback from ALL local ASBs."*
 - *"The municipality that wrote the motion should be the presenter of the resolution with letters of support from each municipality in favour to show the size of the group wanting the change."*
 - Moderate questions texted in before-hand or during discussions
 - Involve Hutterites, commodity groups
 - Allow important emerging issues to go to government more than once a year, i.e. fall, winter, spring
 - Currently policies are provincial; recognize uniqueness in the province; appreciate issues across the province
 - Enable the Provincial ASB Committee to generate resolutions without all municipalities voting
 - Analyze cost/benefits of the resolution including who will pay if the resolution is passed
 - *Voting,*
 - Like the use of clicker technology for voting, i.e. a lot quicker
 - Question whether it's fair to give Boards just two votes at the ASB conference; RMA allows all to vote
 - More feedback, e.g. quarterly updates
 - Perhaps abstain from voting or restrict voting by those not affected

Other Ideas:

- The purpose of the resolutions beyond input to policy development, was a point of clarification that appeared to catch the attention of many, i.e. Resolutions to *inform* relevant agencies and the AF Minister and/or other agencies about issues/concerns that ASBs view as important
- Perhaps forgo one speaker session at the Provincial conference and set up a kind of tradeshow with the various presenters
- How do we know what is being put forth at other levels, commissions?

5) Strengthening the AF ↔ ASB Working Relationships

Key Contact Program

Providing a more thorough review of the Program as a preface to the table discussion was crucial. A number of participants had little familiarity with or understanding of the Program. In more than one instance, ASB members did not initially recognize an AF staff person who had been interacting with their ASB as being a Key Contact.

Participant comments were generally very complimentary when there was knowledge of or participation with the KCP. Most Members reported that the Key Contacts are great resources for AF information with an *"incredible amount of knowledge on government workings that impact ASBs"*. Key Contacts were seen to be very responsive to Member questions. Having a Key Contact that serves more than one county was considered an advantage in terms of sharing insights and opportunities.

"The Key Contact Program is one part of the ASB Program that is really good."

"(The Key Contact) stimulates your brain with new ideas and initiatives."

Ag Fieldmen appear to be a gate-keeper (strong influence) for Key Contact involvement/program participation, i.e. the primary and sometimes a sole point of contact. Chairs want to receive more direct communication about the KCP, i.e. in addition to the Ag-Fieldmen.

There is a great range of Key Contact involvement with ASBs between municipalities, and across the Province. It's working very well in some areas; less so or not at all in others. Potential benefits of the KCP to ASB Members are hindered by irregular or infrequent ASB meetings and KC attendance, lack of understanding of the KC role.

Practical Improvements to the Key Contact Program:

Many good insights and ideas for improving the KCP came up. Details can be found in the "Workbook Summaries" for each Region. Here is a sampling:

- Reconfirm the role of Key Contacts and the Key Contract Program to better understand the value, i.e. opportunities to interact and support ASBs; (re)introduce the Key Contact/Key Contact Program every year after changes in Council
- Enable access to rotating specialists
- Develop a contact list of AF Key Contacts with areas of expertise (menu of knowledge/strength areas) and send to Ag-Fieldmen, ASB Chairs, and ASB Members; KC can be guests at meetings where their subject matter expertise is needed
- Push to have AF representation at meetings; have ASBs invite KCs to their meetings, in-person is important
- Use distance collaboration technology on occasion, e.g. tele/video-conferencing, conference calls, skype
- KCs should have consistent reporting, a uniform message to share with all ASBs; KCs can send a quarterly report to highlight what is new and beneficial to ASBs
- KCs need to be familiar with ASB issues, bring forward AF programs/services/information, Ministry updates
- Determine ways to transfer information from ASBs back to AF
- Change the ASB Program fiscal year to Jan. 1 - Dec. 31st (versus April 1 - March 31)
- Keep ASBs that do not have KCs in the information loop
- Inform KCs of the resolutions that are coming – they can be a conduit

Concerns:

It should be noted that AF turnover or change present a challenge to accessing expertise. Succession planning is a concern.

It is understood that the Peace Region is disconnected from the Program and AF staff. The Peace feels forgotten; don't feel they are being heard.

Strengthening Communication / Exchange of Communication: AF ↔ ASBs

Generally speaking, communication and the flow of information is good though room for improvement was evident. Many references to this topic have been previously described. Distinct suggestions raised in this focus area follow.

Suggestions for Improving Communication:

- Trust, transparency, open and timely communication are critical
- *"Ministry to reduce time it takes to get a response on ASB issues – resolutions..."*
- Both sides are obligated to bring new information forward
- Open two-way communication
- AF language should be clear, not bureaucratic or 'legaleze'
- Funnel information in emails to the Ag-Fieldmen down to the ASB Members
- Communicate information on any bills/policies that are in the headlights, e.g. Bill 6
- Develop an inventory of subject matter expertise and working groups; *"Exchange information and turn it into knowledge."*
- Facilitate an "exchange program" to strengthen communication between regions and where connections between ASBS are not strong

In regards to communication modes or tools, consider:

- A social media presence, i.e. highlight what ASBs are doing, provincial issues/happenings
- Quarterly newsletter
- Timely emails (continue)

- In-person AF attendance at meetings

Outlier/Insight:

- *“We need backing and advice from government when it comes to interpreting legislation.”*

AF ↔ ASB Contributions to Leveraging the Connection

Trust, commitment, and frequent or regular 2-way communication were cited as essential to leveraging the AF ↔ ASB connection.

Points Raised:

- ASBs want to partner with AF and not just advocate to (through) AF; ASBs have the ability to be a sounding board, inform policy actions and project reception to what the Ministry is considering or providing information on
- Show value in the relationship in order to build the relationship; foster mutual appreciation with get togethers to exchange information on what we're each doing, e.g. informal networking meetings, tour AF facilities (CDC-North), invite AF to county events
- Explore the idea of a Provincial “Centre of Excellence” for addressing emerging ideas (See the ‘Program Innovation’ section in this report.)
- Concerned that Ag Ministry has been shrinking (cutting) for decades
- Though not an intended focus of this dialogue, funding was discussed.
 - Current funding is maintaining the status quo (programs)
 - ASB funding is maxed out, i.e. as costs increase ASBs are picking and choosing programs to support
 - ASBs need to do an “Annual Report” to justify funding that highlights the impact in their communities

6) Keep in Mind

The following is a sampling of advice that ASB Members gave in response to: *“Offer one piece of advice or a tip to those in AF who touch the ASB Grant Program (design, deliver, decide) → As the Program evolves or changes over time, keep in mind...”*

- *“Remember, we are partners in regulatory legislation.”*
- Keep the program flexible; *“can’t do cookie cutter”*; *“need to address diverse regional issues not just common issues”*
- Government – KISS (Keep it simple) the Program
- We have to tell our stories, be better advocates → ASB Program impact on the industry and on our communities
- We have common diverse problems within the Regions
- Maintain or increase Program funding, i.e. *“Stable adequate funding is crucial. It needs to be predictable to handle new or emerging issues and make future programs (are) possible.”*
- *“Communication is key to success”. “In times of change, communicate, communicate, communicate.”*
- Have understanding, compassion on both sides for actions that need to be taken

(Note: Additional details are in the full compilation stored in the SharePoint folder.)

7) “Open Floor” – Additional Comments, Program Review and Beyond

The following points were hand-written by participants (in their words). There were a great variety of topics and many points reinforced ASB member dialogue. Input is grouped by region for comparison purposes.

Lethbridge

- Environment: Need more flexibility to grant \$ - soil conservation = environ protection
- Grant: Flexibility + education should be primary use of grant funding
- Priorities: 1) Funding – reliable + consistent, 2) Education – Tell our story, 3) Communication – Honest, Respectful, 2-way
- Transboundary tours, at least once a year in each region
- # Environmental Farm Plans done in county [Seeking data? Other?]

Barrhead

- Ag Plastics program
- Need for a standard set of terms for regulatory instruments or policy and consistent application of these terms
- Need a repository of current policies that are in place
- Environmental Stewardship Program → Becoming more mandatory; cost \$
- When is Alberta Agriculture/AB Government going to show the AB public about our agricultural industry in the Province and how important it is to the economy!?
- Weed control must be better coordinated between counties and include Alberta Transportation
- See more self-promotion of Ag; have credible representatives speak to Global Markets, e.g. China, etc.; send the people that know best.
- Request to send out notes back to Council

Lacombe

- Farmer carbon credits for grass + trees → pasture being destroyed, → carbon sequestration, → annual crops
- For Dale Crapko: Watershed Protection and Riparian Protection, *** OHV's on public land ripping up meadows + crossing streams, spread weeds + destroy grasslands.
- Work with SSRR (South Saskatchewan Regional Plan) + State of Watershed plans from Watershed stewardship groups to communicate with various government departments on the need to protect our watersheds from OHV and recreational damage + industrial impacts.
- Supporting watershed groups and water stewardship especially in headwater systems where rangeland/grazing is important for headwater stewardship. Wetland stewardship – water quality services.
- Strategic planning re: care of Public lands, weed control + erosion; land management, legislation and legislative enforcement should be more stable with dedicated funds for public lands and not tied to political party + their agenda.
- Strychnine? What is happening?
- Manned cleaning sites at Lakes to control invasive species such as Zebra Mussels or extra funding to ASBs to monitor [pest control].
- Class 1 drivers' license. Transportation says it doesn't affect AG (agriculture). It will be a disaster for seasonal employees.
- Some issues overlap with Environment and Parks – water quality, water stewardship, recreation on Green Zone Lands/Public Lands – perhaps we need a Key Contact in Environment and Parks.
- Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) should create a Farm Safety Worker Insurance (that farmers can buy into for their seasonal workers or permanent workers.
- Was there a problem with cattle meds being sold through e.g. Peavey Mart, UFA, etc.? Why the change – to Vets?
- For new ASB members, I would like the opportunity to take the ASB Program and Legislation Course that the Ag Fieldmen get to take

St. Paul

- What medium do we use for educating people, especially urban, e.g. Facebook?
- Environmental Timeliness – Responses to issues are too late for the concerns of ASB; “water, spraying, etc.”
- Wetland Policy – Need clarity to how this Policy affects municipalities in the day-to-day operations.

Peace River

- Idea: To entice more young farmers to become engaged, would ASB be interested in developing a separate group designed for young farmers... that would be similar to Saskatchewan's YAP – Young Ag-involved Producers w/APAS (Agriculture Producer Association of Saskatchewan)?
- ARA's – Is there a way to provide more sustainable funding for them? How do we make competition for available research more friendly?
- Rural Development – Has faded away as a focus. To move forward with technology Ag is going to need 5G reliable to take advantage. This is a rural Economic Development issue.
- Bison affected by TB are getting close to our herds – How do we entice politicians to address this issue, i.e. “UNESCO” sites protected herd etc. What about the farmers?
- Overarching → Economic study for capturing benefit → and providing coordinated feedback.

ASB Grant Program Review Engagement – “Stand Out’s”

- The points that follow are by no means a comprehensive or definitive response to what surfaced in the Program Review. What follows is simply what stood out to the Consultant-Facilitator and the Project Team (Core Group).

Program Impact – Achieving the ASB Grant Program Purpose

- From the standpoint of ASB Grant Program mandate and operations, stakeholder feedback indicates that the Program functions well. As expected, there are opportunities to improve the Program in select areas.
- It is challenging to assess Program impact in the absence of defined, quantifiable success indicators or outcome measures, i.e. strategic level. Program evaluation experience is needed to identify appropriate impact/outcome measures for the Province (and potentially for ASBs).
- Longer-term economic impact assessment of the ASB Program would go a long way to demonstrate credibility and viability.

“Telling Our Story”,

- There was considerable interest in this topic, especially around the ASB Program *economic impact*, the *value proposition* in ASB programming. Credible data, relevant measures are important in telling the story.
- Communication, advocacy, and education were seen as essential to getting the story out to Albertans – rural and urban population, youth of all ages.

ASB Grant Program – Moving Forward,

- It is important the Program remains flexible, accommodates both provincial and distinct local or regional concerns.
- A variety of bold, emerging or new ideas came forward for ASB Grant Program funding.

Strengthening AF ↔ ASB Working Relationship,

- Many practical ideas were raised for how to better understand or utilize the Key Contact Program. There is concern about a dwindling AF presence in rural Alberta, i.e. succession plans for AF staff including Key Contacts.
- Communication and the working relationship are generally good and hinge on trust and 2-way communication.

Ag-Fieldmen and ASB Member Common Concerns,

- The data analysis revealed common thinking between the two target audiences, most notably around outcome and operational measures, “telling our story”, desire for flexibility in the Program (accommodate regional differences), support for the Key Contact Program, concern with timeliness in the resolution process, and the need to better identify, track and communicate results/outcomes of the resolution process, i.e. changes to programming, practices, legislation, policy.
- Government of Alberta Ministries and other agencies that have a role with the ASB-governed legislation and compliance need to better integrate, align requirements and support of ASBs and municipalities.

Resolution Process,

- ASB Members want to more fully understand how the resolution process works and the outcomes – change in policy, operations, practices. A number of practical ideas surfaced for streamlining or improving the resolution process.
- The purpose of resolutions beyond input to policy development caught the attention of ASB members, i.e. Resolutions *inform* the AF and other relevant agencies about issues/concerns that ASBs view as important.
- Both stakeholder groups are concerned with the timeliness of the resolution process, especially around reporting back standings and outcomes. Striving for high quality and prioritized resolutions is a concern.

Regional Differences,

- *South*
 - Invasive species (e.g. Knapweed) are a big concern.

- *Central*
 - Concerned about two-way communication between AF and ASBs.
 - Had ideas around Ag-Fieldmen “resource officers”, farm safety insurance packages, and Sustainable Certified Farms.
 - The spread of Clubroot is an issue.
- *Northwest*
 - Concerned with government downloading, the loss of AF extension services (District Agriculturists and District Home Economists, other local and regional Specialists).
 - Introduced the concept of a “Centre of Excellence for Agriculture”. Region with the most concerns about urban sprawl and the loss of agricultural land.
 - Raised points on a Resolution banking system (i.e. inventory), ASB economic impacts, Seed Cleaning Plant upgrades, and mounting weed issues on abandoned oil field reclamation sites.
- *Peace*
 - More access to Key Contacts. Feel isolated and disconnected.
 - Concerned about the effects of the global market on the region.

(Note: Opinion-generated survey results with all the qualitative and quantitative details – province-wide and by Region, are stored in the ASB Grant Program Review (2019) SharePoint folder.)

“We Have Common Diverse Problems within the Regions”,

- ASB Members appreciated the opportunity to mix with other ASBs in their region, hear and understand both common and distinct issues. Ag-Fieldmen expressed the same view.

Feedback & Evaluation – Indicators of Engagement Success

- ✓ Target response rates for both the Ag-Fieldmen Survey and the ASB Member participation in the Face-to-Face Sessions were met: 81.2% survey response rate; minimum of 20 ASB Member participants registered. Total participation in the Face-to-Face Sessions: N = 105.
- ✓ Overview Report to ASB Member Face-to-Face Session participants and continuous communication with the target stakeholders through the duration of the Grant Program Review, supported awareness of the process and a feedback loop.
- ✓ **“Return on Investment for This Session”** evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. For example:
 - “I was glad to be included in this process and to be able to be heard and have input to the direction of the ASB.”*
 - “(I) appreciated the process and the ability to hear from board members on what’s good and what could be better.”*
 - “All worked very well – a wealth of information.”*
 - “Such sessions should be mandated every 5 years minimum.”*

Participants frequently expressed their appreciation for mixing ASB representation through the day and with different topics. They were very pleased with the opportunity to hear the concerns and interests of other municipalities in their region, both common ground and unique perspectives. There was obvious comfort in the realization that many ASBs share the same concerns.

A number of verbal ‘hallway comments’ were overheard indicating that the Face-to-Face Sessions were far better than participants expected.

(Based on a compilation of ASB Member “Return on Investment” session evaluations.)
- ✓ The Steering Committee has a comprehensive Summary Report to verify past and emerging issues, inform and guide development of Recommendations to the Minister.

Acknowledgments – ASB Grant Program Review Contributions

The ASB Grant Program Review engagement process was a robust and illuminating. The collaborative efforts of a multidisciplinary band of people should be acknowledged.

Steering Committee

Marcia Hewitt-Fisher, Dale Chrapko, Doug Macaulay – Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Corey Beck (Provincial ASB Committee), Sebastian Dutrisac (Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen - AAAF)

Provided strategic guidance on the ASB Grant Program Review, constructive feedback on stakeholder engagement planning and delivery, and feedback and approval of the Survey and Face-to-Face Session questions. Steering Committee presence as an observer, participant, or facilitator at the Face-to-Face Sessions was well received.

Project Team – Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Doug Macaulay (Project Lead), Alan Efetha, Toso Bozic – Core Group

Provided project guidance, constructive review and feedback on the engagement focus (content) and process, input to support materials and communication to stakeholders, and input and feedback on project reports. Recruited Facilitator-Recorders. Chaired, presented and/or facilitated at the ASB Member Face-to-Face Sessions.

Pam Retzloff – Coordinated ASB Development Unit communication with ASB Grant Program Review stakeholders. Cherril Guennewig and Judy Lee – Contributed to project initiation, planning and execution. Managed logistics for the Face-to-Face sessions. Prepared ASB Member Dialogue Session note compilations of Facilitator-Recorder notes.

Kellie Jackson – Collaborated on data analysis and reporting and provided insights to strategic evaluation of the ASB Grant Program. Assisted with editing the "Summary Report". Facilitator-Recorder at Lethbridge.

Project Support

Lois Hameister – Lent Opinio Survey expertise to the Ag-Fieldmen question development and survey design. Responsible for loading, monitoring and online report generation. Provided guidance on survey communication with the target audiences, and results interpretation.

Pre-testers – Ag-Fieldmen Survey

Sebastian Dutrisac, Dawn Fortin, Norm Boulet, and Maureen Vadnais – Completed the survey in advance of the scheduled launch. Provided real time completion estimates, comments, and suggested improvements,

Facilitator-Recorders – ASB Member Face-to-Face Sessions

Kellie Jackson, Toso Bozic, Alan Efetha, Jan Warren, Troy Ormann, Cody Metheral, Tanya Warren, Mike Hittinger, Krista Zuzak, Marcia Hewitt-Fischer, Scott McKie, Shelly Ann Dodgson, Elaine Stenbraaten, Joel Bokenfohr

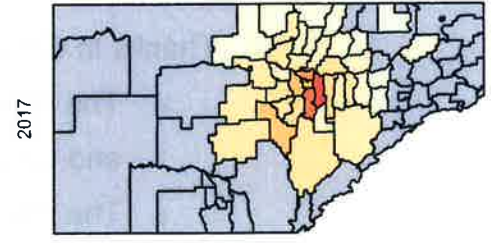
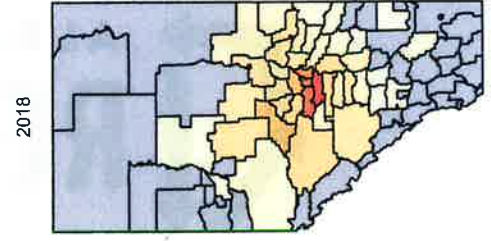
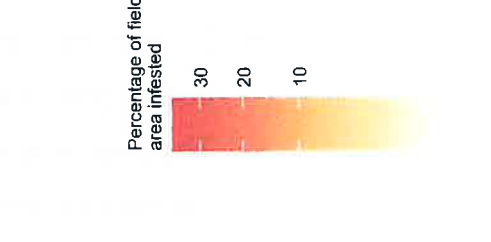
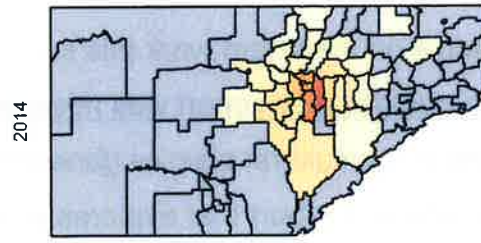
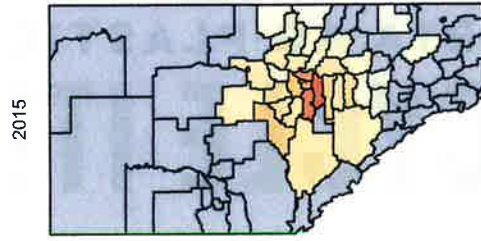
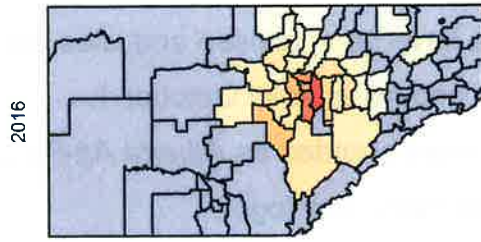
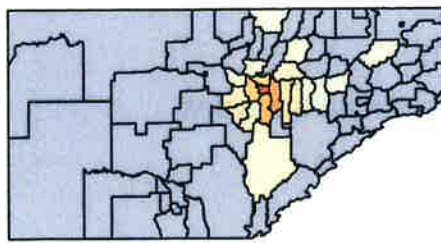
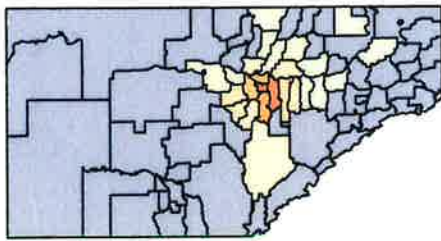
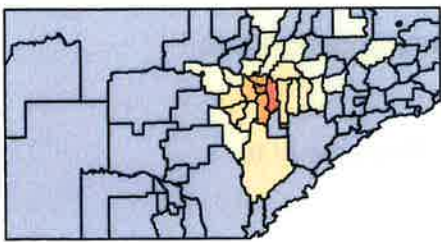
Volunteer Facilitator-Recorders from Across the Ministry and Project Team members contributed to a productive highly rated process by effectively guiding and capturing group dialogue. They participated in Session orientations, briefings and debriefings. Their feedback enabled continuous improvement as the Sessions progressed.

Engagement Consultant-Facilitator

Cindy Bishop – Lead: Engagement process design and delivery, Survey and Face-to-Face Session question development, Facilitator-Recorder orientations and coordination, Session facilitation. Guided project management. Developed Process Agendas and Participant Agendas with accompanying stakeholder communication. Drafted key messages for the Steering Committee. Wrote and presented stakeholder engagement interim reports to the Steering Committee. Coordinated data management and analysis. Prepared the "ASB Member Face-to-Face Session Overview Report". Drafted and presented this "Summary Report" for review and approval by the Steering Committee – a pivotal reference to inform drafting of Recommendations to the Minister.



Percentage of field area infested by clubroot in Alberta by county



October 30, 2019

APRG Fall Newsletter

We hope that you are winning the harvest race. We have a few program updates!

Progress

- 20 collection sites have been chosen and sites are coming onboard to collect grain bags and twine as of October 1.
- The pilot program was branded as *Alberta Ag-Plastic: Recycle it!* to create a consistent name and logo.



- Thanks to Cleanfarms on their hard work this summer:
 - The final [characterization report was released](#) outlining the types and volumes of agricultural plastics generated on farms.
 - The market analysis report that explores where there are recycling markets for plastics and how they need to be processed is [now available](#).
 - The producer survey is complete, and a [summary is available](#). We surveyed 428 crop and livestock producers in July and August 2019.

2019 Pilot Collection Sites

Cleanfarms has named the 20 collection sites for year one of the program. Visit the Cleanfarms' [website](#) to view the sites currently taking grain bags and twine and find the site closest to you as well as the instructions for how to prepare your grain bags and twine.



Organization	Location
Beaver Municipal Solutions	Ryley/Beaver County
Big Country Waste Management Commission	Hanna

Cardston County	Cardston
County of Barrhead	Barrhead
West Dried Meat Lake Regional Landfill	Ferintosh
County of Grande Prairie	Clairmont
County of Paintearth No.18	Coronation
County of Vermilion River	Vermilion
Drumheller & District Solid Waste Management Assn.	Town of Drumheller
Foothills Regional Services Commission	High River
Lacombe County	Lacombe
Lethbridge Regional Waste Mgmt Services Commission	Iron Springs
Mackenzie Regional Waste Management Commission	High Level
Mountain View County Ag Shop	Mountain View County
Municipal District of Bonnyville	Bonnyville
North Peace Regional Landfill	Fairview
Municipal District of Taber	MD of Taber
Rocky View County	Irricana
Wheatland County	Strathmore
Wildwood, Parkcourt and Peers Transfer Sites	Yellowhead County

Last update: October 29, 2019

For more information:

Tammy Shields

306-341-4460

shieldst@cleanfarms.ca

Continued outreach

The APRG feels it is important to keep engaging with our stakeholders including the government. The committee executive will meet with the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Honourable Devin Dreeshen on November 1 to update him on the program and we want to make our goal clear of the need for a transition to a full-time program as well as the APRG's focus on the management of other materials such as netwrap, silage plastic and bale wrap.

As always, thank you for your continued support and interest and reach out with questions at any time,

APRG Committee



THE PEST INSIDER

October 2019

Alberta's Pest Control Officers

As a pest control officer in Alberta, there are a few things we suggest you have and know. For most of you, this is merely a reminder and refresher of our training courses offered periodically.

1. You should have a knowledge of how and why Alberta has been able to maintain a rat-free status for over 68 years.

A. We started our rat program in 1950 before rats had a chance to get established in the province. Without a population of rats in the [province](#) we only have to eradicate rats as they migrate or hitch a ride into Alberta from other jurisdictions.

B. Overland migration (rats traveling from one building, farm or food stack several miles to another) is possible only from the east. Remember, rats cannot live in Alberta's environment without human food or garbage and human shelter.

- I. Our north is too cold for rats to live and prosper.
- II. West is too mountainous for rats; they perish without human food and shelter.
- III. The south is too sparsely populated with people; terrain is either mountains open prairie with not enough continuous human food and shelter.
- IV. Our Eastern border has the famous **Rat Control Zone** where professional pest control specialists check every building, farm, feed stack, bin, and residence that has any possible rat habitant in the first 29 km's west from the Saskatchewan border. When rat activity is found, rat control is implemented.

C. Inside the Province of Alberta [The Agricultural Pest Act](#) requires every county, city, town, or municipality to name a pest control officer (PCO), who must respond to any rat reports or sighting. These PCOs take action to eradicate a confirmed rat sighting. A PCO can ask for assistance with the rat control when needed. Most often these confirmed rat reports are single rats that are displaced, lost, hungry and succumb to control measures quite easily or are killed by a dog, cat or bus. It is the PCO's responsibility to inspect the site for rat activity to ensure there is not more than one rat and the reported rat is eradicated.

2. Alberta has a 24 –hour hotline to report a rat sighting, **310-RATS**. Reported rat sightings are followed up with a PCO inspection when warranted. About two rat sightings a month are confirmed Norway or Roof rats. We get about three to four rat infestations a year, mostly in the Rat Control Zone.

3. "Rat-free" means we have no permanent breeding population of rats in Alberta. At any point in time, Alberta may not be rat-free until we eradicate the reported rats. Then we are rat-free until the next confirmed rat sighting.

4. County, municipal, city, or town PCO'S should have or be ready to purchase necessary Rat Control Equipment as listed below.

1. Rat snap trap	\$5	Suggest a trapper T-Rex
2. Rat bait station	\$20	A Tier 1 bait box (locked, pet proof, outdoor rated)
3. Rat bait anticoagulant	\$5	Single feeding bait suggested

"Today coming to work, I saw one of those, only in New York scenes, it was a rat who, had passed out, after choking on a pretzel" – D. Letterman

In This Issue

- Alberta's Pest Control Officers
- Northern Pocket Gopher
- Alberta Rat Update
- Wild Boar Update
- New Ekomille Rat

For \$30, you can have the necessary equipment to handle most rat sightings.

Some PCO's who live close to a hardware store that handles rat control supplies may prefer not to have the material in their offices or warehouses and purchase supplies when needed, especially if you average one complaint every five years or so. It should be noted that it is the **property owners' responsibility to control rats on their own property**. However, many may not know where to get the proper rat control supplies or how to properly use them. Often the rat is not on their property but in the city or alleyway. For Alberta to most efficiently remain rat-free, assisting property owners with rat control is a good idea.



We are extremely grateful for the many dedicated and excellent PCO's. Alberta couldn't remain rat free without you!! **Thanks!**

Northern Pocket Gopher

Large mounds of fresh earth in forage, pastures, crops, lawns and gardens are an annoyance to landowners but become a real pest problem for hay producers. Many Albertans have never seen one of these small gophers responsible for the mounds of dirt as these rodents seldom come above ground. These dirt pile culprits are usually misidentified as moles. We don't have any species of moles in Alberta, so tunneling, dirt piles, and mounds in fields and yards are a result of a Northern Pocket gopher invasion.

The Northern pocket gopher should not be confused with our better known "gopher," the Richardson's Ground Squirrel (RGS). The pocket gopher gets its name from cheek pouches or pockets that are used for carrying food and nesting materials. They rarely come above ground in the day

light but will occasionally venture out at night to forage close to their hole, and some will fall prey to predators. House cats and owls often prey on the pocket gopher as well as coyotes, foxes and weasels. House cats are notorious for bringing home a pocket gopher, which is then identified by a landowner as a rat. Since both pocket gophers and rats are seldom seen by residents of Alberta they often are misidentified.

The main features that distinguish the pocket gopher from a rat are its shorter tail and large clawed front feet. Pocket gophers are approximately 15 cm in length with a short, lightly furred tail. They are usually brownish-grey in color and have soft fine fur. The front paws have large claws that are used for excavating dirt. They have large incisor teeth and lips that can close behind the teeth to keep dirt out of its mouth while digging.

Often when a pocket gopher carcass shows up at a residence, it is mistaken for a Norway rat and reported to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's (AF) 310-RATS line. AF staff respond to many such calls in the spring, summer and fall when pocket gophers venture above ground. Unlike the RGS, pocket gophers don't hibernate and stay active all winter. Dirt casing under snow banks are a result of pocket gopher winter activity.



Trapping

Trapping is a safe, effective method to control pocket gophers in your yard or in small fields. Large areas of infestation are too time-consuming to control pocket gophers with traps. Several types and brands of pocket gopher traps are available.

To set traps:

Locate the main tunnel with a probe. The dimple in a mound is the entrance to the tunnel. Use a shovel or garden trowel to open the tunnel wide enough to set a trap; set trap as per the directions given.

Prevent light from entering the burrow by covering the opening around the trap with soil, sod or cardboard. Fine soil can be sifted around the edges to ensure a light-tight seal. If too much light enters, the pocket gopher may plug the burrow with soil, filling the traps and making them ineffective. Leave the air hole open at the back of the trap.

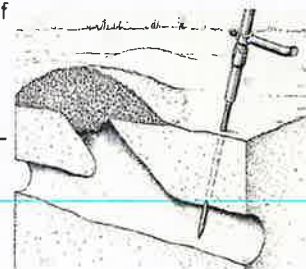
Check traps often and reset them when necessary. If a pocket gopher is not caught within three days, reset the traps in a different location.



Dimple in mound

Probing for Burrows

Successful trapping depends on accurately locating the pocket gopher's main burrow. To locate the burrow, you need to use a probe. Probes are commercially available or can be constructed from a pipe and metal rod. An enlarged tip that is wider than the shaft of the probe is an important design feature that increases the ease of locating burrows. Locate areas of recent activity where fresh mounds with dark, moist soil exists. Fresh mounds that are visible above ground are the plugged openings of lateral tunnels. The main burrow can be found by probing about 25 cm's (10 inches) from the plugged side of the mound (i.e., dimple side of mound). It is usually located 15 to 30 cm's (6 to 12 inches) deep. When the probe penetrates the burrow, there will be a sudden, noticeable drop of about five cm's (2 inches). You may have to probe repeatedly to locate the main burrow.



Poisoning

There are several poisons registered for controlling the Northern Pocket Gopher. Rozol and Ground Force are anticoagulants, Rodent Pellets are a Zinc Phosphide product, and SARM has a RTU strychnine registered for pocket gopher control. Limited success has been found with these poisons mostly due to palatability. Pocket gophers eat roots and limited amounts of forage around their hole and don't eat cereal grains or extruded pellets very readily. Consequently finding a supplier handling pocket gopher poisons for sale in Alberta is difficult. Poisons are administered by a hand probe or through a burrow builder machine pulled by a tractor. Since control has been so poor in the past; these devices are not readily available here in Alberta.

The trapping and probing section was courtesy of Strathcona County

Alberta Rat and Pest Update

This past summer was relatively slow with confirmed rat reports. We had one live roof rat picked up at a residence in Calgary in July and two roof rats confirmed in Medicine Hat in September. All reports turned out to be single rat imports and were disposed of quickly. This quarter we had our first rat infestation within the province since the Bon Accord infestation in 2015. A Paper recycling plant in Calgary had a small infestation this summer that was quite elusive to eradicate. Paper recycling plants are difficult to determine and find rat activity in the mounds of loose paper and baled paper in a large warehouse. Since truck loads of paper brought in from everywhere including other provinces has some pizza, hamburger, and fast food leftovers scattered throughout it is hard to identify the food source and place suitable baits for rats. Once the nest site was located the roof rats readily took our soft pac baits, especially with a smear of peanut butter on the pac. We also resorted to water baits to ensure the eradication. We are not positive on the number of rats destroyed but at least 6 rat carcasses were eliminated. We suspect there were more rats destroyed, but not discovered in the maze of paper. Rat activity at the site has now ceased. Baits will be maintained indefinitely as paper recycling plants that accept paper from out of province are a risk for reintroduction of a dispersing rat.



Agriculture and Forestry is having two urban **rat control seminars** this fall to help PCO's identify and handle rat complaints in their jurisdictions. Recently we had a situation where the City and the County PCO's were not equipped to handle a rat report. We want to train up all our staff to be ready when the call comes. It is understandable that PCO's who don't get a call one year to the next can be caught off guard in rat control. On **Oct. 24** at 10:00 AM in the Provincial building in Airdrie (97 East Lake Ramp NE) and on **Nov. 13** at 10:00 AM at the Vegreville Ag. Society (4753 45 Ave) we will have a 2 hour training in rat control with updates on our wild **108** program. There is no cost and all PCO's are invited, we just ask you to send us an email to phil.merrill@gov.ab.ca if you plan on attending.

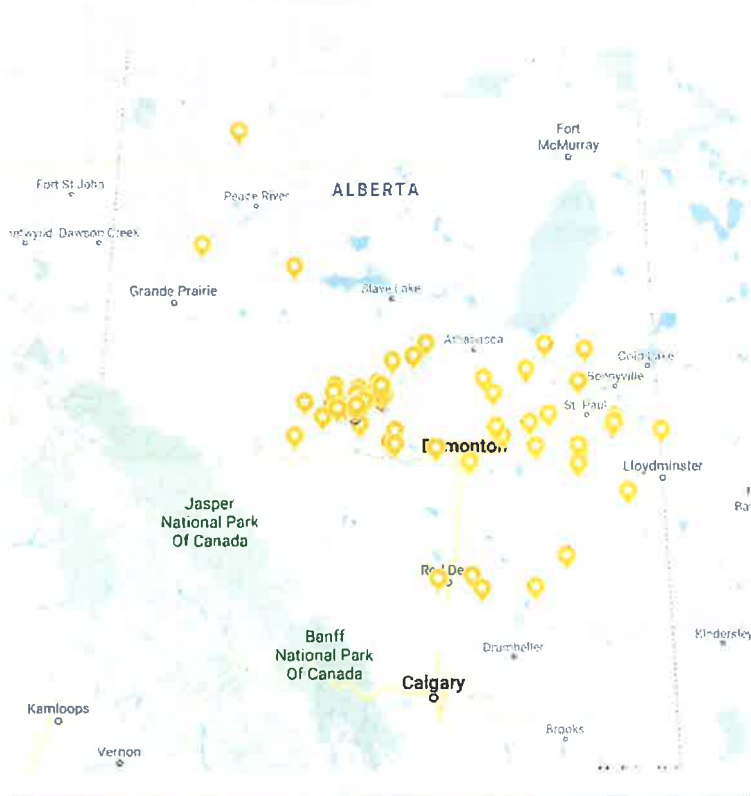
Wild Boar Update

Agriculture and Forestry's Wild Boar Eradication project has teamed up with the Environment and Parks Conservation K9 Unit. Three detection dogs have been trained to locate wild boar scat. Recent field trials have shown that this is a very effective means to survey an area for the presence of wild boar. The dogs will be particularly valuable when doing post-eradication monitoring to help maintain an area to be free of wild boar.

Environment and Parks biologists are also evaluating the use of eDNA as another tool to detect wild boar presence. Water samples are taken in areas suspected of wild boar infestation. The water samples can then be analyzed to detect different species that came in contact with that particular water body. In this case the analysis targets wild boar DNA. This technique has proven valuable in other jurisdictions and will further complement our ability to monitor areas for wild boar infestation.

We are mapping each wild boar occurrence to get a better idea of the extent and scope of wild boar infestations in the province. Please advise your producers that they can call 310-FARM to make a wild boar report or get more information concerning wild boar in Alberta.

Please continue to send reports of wild boar at-large conflicts or sightings to the Wild Boar At-Large Eradication Project lead, Perry Abramenko at 403-627-1177 or email at perry.abramenko@gov.ab.ca.



Map of Reported Wild Boar Sightings in Alberta



New York City's new Ekomille rat trap: A humane and safe rat control solution

New York City is employing the new rat control trap "Ekomille" to try to reduce rat populations in their city. The trap uses no poisons or harmful substances. Rats are attracted to the smell of natural food, then a sensitive mechanism drops the rat into a reservoir of vinegar or alcohol. The trap can be set to allow the rats to feed and get used to eating in the trap before the trip mechanism is activated. Up to 80 rats can be captured before the trap has to be reset. Rats die humanely in a pickle solution.

Ecologically friendly and safe, Ekomille was developed as an organic pest control device from South Africa. Rat Trap Incorporated sell these traps for about \$400 each.

NYC seems to be the never ending jurisdiction that continually fights the rat with limited success. They have been famous for their rat population and even though it was reported there were more rats in NYC than people, the population of rats being estimated at no more than three million would mean rats are outnumbered three to one. The city famous for the pizza thief rat has decided to try a pilot project with the Ekomille rat trap in the Bronx. If it works out they intend to expand the use throughout the city.

NYC has tried many different attacks on the rat. Last year, the Pest Insider reported NYC's pilot project of Dry Ice being placed down rat burrows as a rat control measure to eradicate rat populations. This has been met with limited success. NYC was considering turning loose hundreds of feral cats to reduce rat numbers. With the help of video trail cameras in the City of Chicago, very few encounters were seen between rats and cats. And after reams of video footage only one cat was ever seen killing a rat. Most cats avoided encounters with the rat, as a viscous rat appears to not be easy prey for a house cat. The only reduction in populations when feral cats are released were found in song birds.

Several years back SenesTech sold NYC an expensive trial of a city-wide scale of rodent contraception. Our October 2016 Pest Insider has information on ContraPest, the pink liquid for sterilizing rats sold by the Arizona company SenesTech. Again success has been limited in reducing NYC's rat populations with contraceptives.

NYC has also tried to get rid of rats by using Mint-X rodent-repelling trash bags. This multi-million dollar venture would have been better spent in improving the handling of domestic garbage quicker and more efficiently rather than trying to protect garbage with plastic.

Each year the number of rat reports in NYC seem to soar with a 38 per cent [increase in sightings since 2014](#). New York's attempts to curb the complaints seems to do nothing more than spur a healthy industry of rat [entrepreneurs](#). Let's hope this Ekomille trap is a rat-control success.



ECOMILLE the Eco friendly humane and safe rat trap

Contact Us

310-RATS (7287)

OR

310-FARM (3276)

Phil Merrill

Provincial Rat and Pest Specialist

Work: 403-381-5856

Cell: 403-308-0960

Email: phil.merrill@gov.ab.ca

Perry Abramenko

Assistant Rat and Pest Specialist

Work: 403-627-1177

Cell: 403-330-8441

Email:

perry.abramenko@gov.ab.ca



Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of November 5, 2019

Following a cooler than normal growing season, September brought several wet spells, interspersed by two major dry spells, each lasting less than two weeks. In October, wet spells occurred more frequently, with the northern half of the province blanketed with a few cloudy days. Over the past month, all areas in the province experienced below normal temperatures (See Map on the next page), which, when coupled with precipitation, made harvest operations difficult. In many areas, the recent snowfall with more still in the forecast, is most likely to bring harvest to a complete halt for the season. Some planted acres will be abandoned, while those with yield potential will likely remain unharvested until spring.

Provincially, about 89 per cent of crops have been harvested in Alberta, compared to 95 per cent at this time in 2018 and 76 per cent in 2016 (See Table 1). Both 2016 and 2018 crop years had record long harvest seasons. Despite the challenging season so far in 2019, harvest progress is still ahead of 2016 for all regions, with the exception of the Peace Region which is behind. Currently, about 11 per cent of all crops across the province remain unharvested, with five per cent in swath and six per cent standing.

Table 1: Estimates of Crop Harvest Progress as of November 5, 2019

	Per cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	97.0%	92.4%	90.5%	95.5%	61.6%	89.5%
Durum Wheat	99.1%	99.3%	---	---	---	99.1%
Winter Wheat	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	---	---	100.0%
Barley*	98.3%	94.7%	92.8%	93.7%	54.9%	93.0%
Oats*	96.8%	91.9%	82.6%	93.6%	62.3%	84.8%
Fall Rye	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	---	---	100.0%
Triticale	100.0%	99.8%	---	---	---	99.8%
Canola*	94.7%	89.1%	81.6%	91.5%	60.1%	82.7%
Dry Peas*	100.0%	96.1%	99.1%	99.5%	88.2%	96.8%
Lentils	100.0%	100.0%	---	---	---	100.0%
Chickpeas	99.9%	100.0%	---	---	---	99.9%
Flax	92.9%	70.4%	98.0%	---	---	87.7%
Potatoes	88.7%	100.0%	---	98.0%	---	89.8%
All Crops, November 5, 2019	97.2%	92.3%	87.1%	93.0%	63.4%	88.9%
Major Crops (*), November 5, 2019	97.0%	92.0%	87.3%	93.7%	63.7%	88.0%
Major Crops (*), October 29, 2019	95.1%	86.7%	78.8%	72.9%	59.1%	80.9%
All Crops, October 30, 2018	95.5%	95.9%	96.1%	87.2%	94.2%	94.7%
All Crops, November 1, 2016	96.3%	70.0%	67.9%	55.2%	79.3%	76.0%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional grading is greatly variable across the province, as crop quality over the season has been impacted by hail damage, severe frost and harvest date in different regions. Provincially, about 74 per cent of hard red spring wheat and 83 per cent of durum wheat are graded in the top two grades. About 34 per cent of barley is eligible for malt and 47 per cent graded as No. 1 feed. For oats, about 56 per cent is graded in the top two grades. Almost 78 per cent of canola is graded as No. 1, with another 14 per cent as No. 2. For dry peas, about 21 per cent is graded as No. 1, 52 per cent as No. 2, 19 per cent as No. 3 and eight per cent as feed.

Similarly, yields have been variable across the province, due to dry conditions in the southern parts of the province and wet conditions in other parts. Final estimates of dryland yield indices suggest that yields are on par with the 5-year averages, while they are estimated six per cent above the 10-year averages (See Table 2). The provincial average yields



Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen, staff of AFSC and the Alberta Ag-Info Centre for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program.



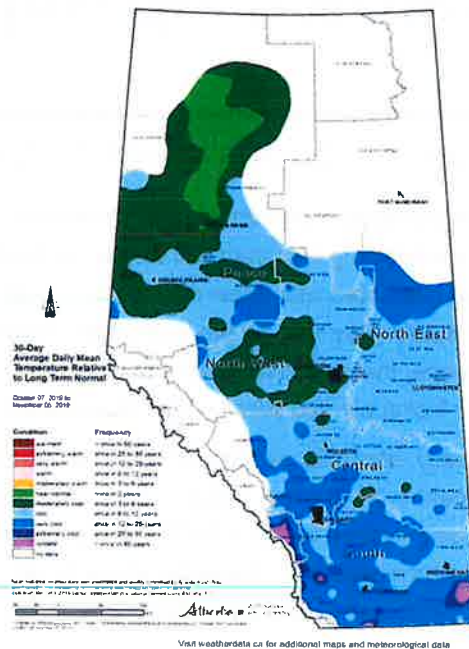
The climate map is compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Environmental Stewardship Branch, Engineering and Climate Services Section.

for potatoes on dryland and irrigated fields are estimated at 13.9 and 17.8 tons per acre, respectively. Yields for irrigated dry beans and sugar beets are reported at 2,650 pounds per acre and 28.6 tonnes per acre, respectively.

Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates as of November 5, 2019

	Estimated Yield (bushel/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	35.1	58.8	57.2	55.5	50.3	51.8
Durum Wheat	24.9	28.9	---	---	---	25.5
Barley	44.6	85.3	82.5	66.0	59.7	69.4
Canola	32.2	47.4	44.1	39.3	38.1	41.1
Dry Peas	28.0	45.1	41.0	32.9	44.7	37.3
5-year Yield Index	82.1%	110.6%	110.5%	87.4%	105.3%	100.4%
10-year Yield Index	81.8%	118.1%	120.1%	93.8%	110.1%	106.0%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Regional Assessments:

Region One: Southern (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Minimal harvest progress (two per cent of major crops) was made over the last week, due to snow flurries, rain and cool weather. There have been reports of rejected potatoes and sugar beets by processors, due to frost damage in early October. Some damaged potatoes and sugar beets acres will likely be abandoned.
- Regionally, 97 per cent of crops are in the bin, compared to 96 per cent in both 2016 and 2018. Currently, about two per cent of crops are in swath and another one per cent standing.
- About two per cent of oats and canola, one per cent of spring wheat, 11 per cent of potatoes and 44 per cent of sugar beets are still standing, with another two per cent of oats and spring wheat and three per cent of canola in swath.
- Crop quality for malt barley, the top two grades of spring wheat, durum wheat, oats and dry peas are all above their provincial 5-year averages, while barley No. 1 feed and canola No. 1 are below. About 92 per cent of canola is in the top two grades. This is on par with the provincial 5-year average, with 68 per cent graded as No. 1.

Region Two: Central (Rimbey, Airdrie, Coronation, Oyen)

- Snow and unfavorable conditions prevented producers from completing harvest in the region. Over the past week, producers were only able to combine an additional five per cent of their major crops. With too much snow in fields and frozen ground conditions in most parts of the region, it is likely that harvest has been wrapped up for the year. Any unharvested fields will mainly be swath grazed.
- About 92 per cent of crops are in the bin, compared to 96 per cent in 2018 and 70 per cent in 2016 at this time. Almost five per cent of crops are in swath and another three per cent standing.
- Nearly four per cent of dry peas and three per cent of spring wheat, barley, oats and canola are still standing. Also, five per cent of spring wheat and oats, three per cent of barley and eight per cent of canola are in swath.
- Quality is above the provincial 5-year averages for all harvested crops. The only exceptions are barley No. 1 feed and the top two grades of canola, which are below.

Region Three: North East (Smoky Lake, Vermilion, Camrose, Provost)

- Cool and damp weather made harvest difficult to complete. Even so, harvest progress for major crops advanced nine per cent from a week ago. The majority of grains were harvested as tough and needed to be dried.

- About 87 per cent of crops are in the bin, compared to 96 per cent in 2018 and 68 per cent in 2016 at this time. Almost 10 per cent of crops are in swath and three per cent standing.
- Almost four per cent of spring wheat, two per cent of barley, oats and canola and one per cent of dry peas are standing. Also, six per cent of spring wheat and barley, 15 per cent of oats and 16 per cent of canola are in swath.
- Crop quality for the top two grades of spring wheat and oats are in line with the provincial 5-year averages, with only 20 per cent of spring wheat and 17 per cent of oats graded as No. 1. Only 13 per cent of barley is eligible for malt, with 71 per cent graded as No. 1 feed. For canola, 96 per cent has been graded in the top two grades, which is above the provincial 5-year average. Quality for the top two grades of dry peas are markedly below the provincial 5-year average, with only two per cent graded as No. 1, 45 per cent as No. 2, 35 per cent as No. 3 and 18 per cent feed.

Region Four: North West (Barrhead, Edmonton, Leduc, Drayton Valley, Athabasca)

- Producers in this region benefited from relatively good harvest conditions over the past week and were able to significantly advance harvest by an additional 20 per cent. However, cold weather and snowfall have halted harvest and more snow in the forecast, may suggest an end to the 2019 harvest season.
- With almost 93 per cent of crops in the bin, harvest progress in the region is ahead of both 2016 (55 per cent) and 2018 (87 per cent) at this time. Almost four per cent of crops are in swath and three per cent standing.
- About three per cent of spring wheat and barley, four per cent of oats and one per cent of canola are standing. Also, one per cent of spring wheat, three per cent of barley, two per cent of oats and seven per cent of canola have been swathed.
- Quality for all crops are below their provincial 5-year averages, with the exception for canola No. 1, which is slightly above average. About 92 per cent of canola is graded in the top two grades, with 82 per cent graded as No. 1. About 68 per cent of spring wheat is graded as No. 2 or better, with 11 per cent graded as No. 1. Only seven per cent of barley is eligible for malt and 31 per cent graded as No. 1 feed. For oats, 19 per cent is graded in the top two grades. None of the harvested dry peas in this region graded as No.1, while 18 per cent graded as No. 2, 57 per cent as No. 3 and 25 per cent as feed.

Region Five: Peace River (Fairview, Falher, Grande Prairie, Valleyview)

- Producers in some counties were able to combine an additional four per cent of crops over the past week, as cold weather, rain and snow in other counties halted harvest.
- With only 63 per cent of crops in the bin, harvest progress in the region is behind both 2016 (79 per cent) and 2018 (94 per cent) at this time. Almost 14 per cent of crops are in swath and 23 per cent standing.
- In this region, 38 per cent of spring wheat, 44 per cent of barley, 35 per cent oats, 13 per cent of canola and 12 per cent of dry peas are still standing, while one per cent of spring wheat and barley, three per cent of oats and 27 per cent of canola are in swath.
- Quality for harvested barley No. 1 feed is above the provincial 5-year average, with 20 per cent of barley eligible for malt and in line with the average. About 33 per cent of harvested spring wheat is graded as No. 1, and 20 per cent as No. 2, which are below the provincial 5-year averages. Quality for harvested canola is also below the provincial 5-year average, with 73 per cent graded as No. 1 and 15 per cent as No. 2. None of the harvested dry peas in this region graded as No.1, while 85 per cent graded as No. 2, 10 per cent as No. 3 and five per cent as feed.

Contacts

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Economics and Competitiveness Branch
Statistics and Data Development Section
November 8, 2019

Ashan Shoosharian
Crop Statistician
Phone: 780-422-2887
Email: ashan.shoosharian@gov.ab.ca

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