

AGENDA
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
January 13, 2021

The Agricultural Service Board meeting of Clear Hills County will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, starting at 10:00 a.m. 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. December 15, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes2**
- 4. Delegation(s)**
- 5. BUSINESS ARISING**
- 6. OLD BUSINESS**
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- 9. INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE.....112**
- 10. CLOSED MEETINGS ITEMS**
- 11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, Worsley, Alberta
December 15, 2020**

PRESENT

Brian Harcourt	Chair
Baldur Ruecker	Deputy Chair Ruecker
Julie Watchorn	Member (via zoom)
David Janzen	Council Representative
Garry Candy	Member
Jason Ruecker	Council Representative (alternate)

ABSENT

Mackay Ross	Member
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ATTENDING

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA

AG125(12/15/20)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda governing the December 15, 2020 Agricultural Service Board meeting with the following addition:

7c. Add In: Proposed Federal Changes to the AgriStability Program. CARRIED.

AG126(12/15/20)

RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the November 17 Agricultural Service Board Organizational Meeting as presented. CARRIED.

AG127(12/15/20)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the November 17, 2020 Agricultural Service Board Meeting as presented. CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

Activity Report

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

AG128(12/15/20)

RESOLUTION by Chair Harcourt that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the December 15, 2020 Agricultural Service Board Activity Report 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.

AG129(12/15/20)

RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members verbal reports of December 15, 2020 for information. CARRIED.

**Date, Time and Place
Of Board Meetings**

The Board will now select the day of the month and the commencement time for the monthly meetings.

AG130(12/15/20)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board table the Date, Time and Place of Agricultural Service meeting to a future meeting when all members are in attendance. CARRIED.

Deputy Chair Ruecker entered the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

VSI Program

The Board is presented with the Veterinary Services Incorporated Program details on usage and costs as requested.

AG131(12/15/20)

RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council amend section 3.7.1 of the Veterinary Services Incorporated Policy 6311 by reducing the annual cap on the county's 50% portion of service costs from \$3,000 per membership to \$1,500 per membership. CARRIED.

AG132(12/15/20)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council increase the Veterinarian Services Incorporated (VSI) five year membership fee from \$30.00 to \$50.00. CARRIED.

AG133(12/15/20)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council amend Policy 6311 section 2.1 by replacing "in managing the health of their herd(s)." with veterinarian costs." CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

2021 Provincial Agricultural
Service Board
Conference

The Board is presented with the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference Resolutions. The Conference is being held virtually on January 18-21, 2021.

AG134(12/15/20)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the review of the resolutions that will be voted on during the 2021 Agricultural Service Board Conference that is being held virtually from January 18-21, 2021. CARRIED.

AG135(12/15/20)

RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board authorize all available members to attend the 2021 Agricultural Service Board Conference being held virtually from January 18-21, 2021. CARRIED.

Agricultural Service
Board Report to Council

The Board is provided with a draft 2019 and 2020 Annual Agricultural Service Board Report to Council for review.

AG136(12/15/20)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration make the discussed edits to the 2019 and 2020 Agricultural Service Board Report to Council

and bring the report back to the January 13, 2021 Agricultural Service Board meeting for further review. **CARRIED.**

Add In: Proposed
Federal Changes to the
AgriStability Program

The Board is presented with information regarding changes to the AgriStability Program proposed by the Federal Government to the Provincial Government.

AG137(12/15/20)

RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to draft a letter to the Provincial Agricultural Minister asking the Government of Alberta to adopt the changes to the AgriStability Program proposed by the Federal Agricultural Minister. CARRIED.

REPORTS

Agricultural Fieldman
Report

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

AG138(12/15/20)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the December 15, 2020 Agricultural Fieldman's Report for information as presented. CARRIED.

Information &
Correspondence

The Board is presented with correspondence for review.

AG139(12/15/20)

RESOLUTION by Chair Harcourt that this Agricultural Service Board receives the Information and Correspondence of December 15, 2020 as presented. CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Harcourt adjourned the meeting at 11:55 p.m.

CHAIR

AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	January 13, 2021
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 January 13, 2021 ASB Activity Report as presented.

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

AgFieldman:





Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for January 2021 Page 1 of 1

Budget Items:

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer

DO= Development Officer

EA = Executive Assistant

Completed Items:

CSM = Corporate Services Manager

AF = Ag. Fieldman

CDM = Community Development Manager

MOTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEPT	STATUS
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REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETINGS				
March 17, 2020				
AG47	(03/17/20)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board apply for funds under the Resource Management Stream and pursue partnership with M.D. Fairview, M.D. Peace, Birch Hills County, Saddle Hills County and MD of Spirit River, and entering into a contract with Peace Country Beef and Forage Association for program delivery, similar the partnership and contract that were in place when this funding was named the Environmental Stream.		Waiting on Province to announced if approved and how much
AG81	(09/15/20)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration plan to hold the 2021 Trade Show and bring back further information in December for further discussion.		Council tabled to January
November 17, 2020				
AG119	(11/17/20)	RESOLUTION by Chair Harcourt that this Agricultural Service Board reschedule the January Agricultural Service Board meeting from January 19 to January 13, 2021.		January 2021
December 15, 2020				
AG130	(12/15/20)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board table the Date, Time and Place of Agricultural Service meeting to a future meeting when all members are in attendance.		January RFD
AG131	(12/15/20)	RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council amend section 3.7.1 of the Veterinary Services Incorporated Policy 6311 by reducing the annual cap on the county's 50% portion of service costs from \$3,000 per membership to \$1,500 per membership.		Went to Council January 12, 2021
AG132	(12/15/20)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council increase the Veterinarian Services Incorporated (VSI) five year membership fee from \$30.00 to \$50.00		Went to Council January 12, 2021
AG133	(12/15/20)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council amend Policy 6311 section 2.1 by replacing "in managing the health of their herd(s)." with veterinarian costs."		Went to Council January 12, 2021
AG136	(12/15/20)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration make the discussed edits to the 2019 and 2020 Agricultural Service Board Report to Council and bring the report back to the January 13, 2021 Agricultural Service Board meeting for further review.		January RFD
AG137	(12/15/20)	RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to draft a letter to the Provincial Agricultural Minister asking the Government of Alberta to adopt the changes to the AgriStability Program proposed by the Federal Agricultural Minister.		January RFD



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for January 2021 Page 2 of 1

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				
AG11	(01/29/20)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board limit the attendance to the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference to three Agricultural Service Board Members when the Conference is being held outside the Peace Region.		January 2022

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	January 13, 2021
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:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' written or verbal reports of January 13, 2021 for information.

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

AgFieldman:



Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	January 13, 2021
Originated By:	Audrey Bjorklund Community Development Manager
Title:	DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF BOARD MEETINGS
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board will now select the day of the month and the commencement time for the monthly meetings.

BACKGROUND:

Procedure 6301-01(3.2) states that the Board will meet every second Wednesday of the month except for April and August and that Regular meetings commence at 10:00 a.m., unless an earlier start time is selected to deal with special issues.

AG29(02/18/20) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board set Agricultural Service Board meetings for 2020 on the third Tuesday of each month except May when the meetings will be held on the first Tuesday, and no meetings held in April or September. Meetings will commence at 10:00 a.m. in the Clear Hills County Council Chambers at 313 Alberta Avenue Worsley, Alberta. At the call of the Chair, special meetings shall be posted for forty-eight hours in advance. CARRIED.

The board may change the day and time of meetings by resolution if the second Wednesday and 10:00 a.m. start time are not acceptable to the members. All members must be present to change the date, time and place of the meetings.

Administration is recommending meetings be held on the third Wednesday as the third Tuesday conflicts with the Council Policies & Priorities meeting schedule. The 3rd week is also more suitable for agenda preparation, as Council meetings are held in the 2nd and 4th weeks.

OPTIONS:

1. Hold ASB meetings as needed for Agricultural Service Board business, with the preference given to the 3rd Wednesday of most months and the 1st Wednesday of May; no meetings to be held in April or September, with a start time of _____ a.m.
2. Set ASB meetings for the third Wednesday of each month except May when the meeting will be held the first Wednesday, and no meetings will be held in April and September, with a start time of _____ a.m.
3. Set ASB meetings for the third Monday of each month except May when the meeting will be held on the first Monday, and no meeting will be held in April and September at a selected time, with a start time of _____ a.m.
4. Table the date, time and place of Board meetings until all members are present.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That this Agricultural Service Board...

Initials show support - Reviewed by:

Manager:

AgFieldman:



Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	January 13, 2021
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	Letter To Minister re:Proposed Federal Changes To The AgriStability
Program	
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with a draft letter to the Agricultural Minister regarding adopting changes to the AgriStability Program proposed by the Federal Government.

BACKGROUND:

AG137(12/15/20) RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to draft a letter to the Provincial Agricultural Minister asking the Government of Alberta to adopt the changes to the AgriStability Program proposed by the Federal Agricultural Minister.

CARRIED.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Changes to AgriStability draft letter

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by that this Agricultural Service Board recommends Council sends the drafted letter to the Provincial Agricultural Minister asking the Government of Alberta to adopt the changes to the AgriStability Program proposed by the Federal Agricultural Minister.

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

AgFieldman:





CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

File No.63-02-02

January 26, 2021

Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
229 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Subject: Changes to Agristability

Honorable Minister, Devin Dreeshen,

The Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Ministers of Agriculture met last year and discussed the future of the Business Risk Management programs. AgriStability, and some changes proposed by Minister Bibeau were noted in a Western Producer article on November 27th, 2020.

In the opinion of Clear Hills County's Agricultural Service Board and Council, the proposed changes to AgriStability, including increasing the compensation rate for all farms from 70% to 80%, as well as eliminating the reference margin limit, would be very beneficial to producers.

The province of British Columbia has already adopted these changes and Clear Hills County Council would like to urge the Government of Alberta to adopt these changes as well.

Yours truly,

Amber Bean, Reeve
Clear Hills County

cc: Honourable Travis Teows, Minister of Finance, MLA Grande Prairie-Wapiti
Tracy Allard, MLA Grande Prairie
Todd Loewen, MLA Dunvegan-Central Peace – Notley
Dan Williams, MLA Peace River
Paul McLauchlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Cory Beck, Provincial ASB Chair
Peace Region Agricultural Service Boards

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 15, 2020
Originated By:	Audrey Bjorklund, CLGM, Community Development Manager
Title:	ASB Annual Report to Council
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with the amended Annual Report to Council as discussed at the December 15, 2020 Agricultural Service Board Meeting.

BACKGROUND:

AG136(12/15/20) RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration make the discussed edits to the 2019 and 2020 Agricultural Service Board Report to Council and bring the report back to the January 13, 2021 Agricultural Service Board meeting for further review.
CARRIED.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 2019 & 2020 ASB Report to Council

OPTIONS:

1. Approve the annual report as presented and
 - a. Submit the written report to Council
 - b. Request a zoom delegation with Council to present the report on _____, 2021
2. Direct administration to make the edits to the annual report as discussed and bring to the February 16, 2021 ASB meeting for further review.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board approve the annual report as presented and _____.

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

AgFieldman: 

2019 & 2020 Agricultural Service Board Report

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1. Annual Weed Inspections and Enforcement

2019 Review:

In 2019 five weed inspectors were hired. They started on May 7, 2019. Each inspector was assigned to an area of the County for inspection purposes.

In mid-June, one inspector was transferred to right-of-way spraying with the UTV sprayer, and that inspector's area was divided up and added to the other 4 inspector's areas. At the end of July, one of the inspectors broke their ankle in an accident at home. This further increased the assigned areas for the 3 remaining inspectors

The Weed Inspectors completes 711 inspections, down from 1118 in 2018.

Weed control notices were issued on 12 agricultural properties and 6 industrial properties. 7 of the 12 agricultural properties complied with their weed control notices. The County conducted enforcement spraying on the 5 non-compliant agricultural properties and 6 industrial sites, with costs billed back to the landowners.

The Weed Inspector crew's last day was September 27, 2019,

2020 Review:

Due to budget constraints the planned staffing had been reduced from 5 individuals to 4. As a result of the impacts of covid-19 three inspectors were hired for the 2020 season and they started at the end of May. Rationale for three inspectors were:

- Previously trained and experienced individuals because with the pandemic shut down it was unknown if new weed inspectors could/would get the necessary training for the 2020 year.
- Social distancing – maintaining one weed inspector per vehicle. Scheduling their visits to the shop for herbicide and syncing weed inspection tablets.

Heavy precipitation in the spring hindered inspections and caused a very late seeding season. The wet conditions also affected producers and delayed or prevented herbicide spraying. In response to this unavoidable weather related challenge that producers were facing, we took a somewhat "lighter-handed" approach to our inspection and enforcement program in 2020, with more emphasis on late fall herbicide applications and other control methods that could be used for next year.

Due to the reduced staffing level and the shortened season, the Weed Inspectors completed 319 inspections.

One weed control notice was issued on agricultural land and there were no notices issued on industrial land. The producer complied with the weed control notice and no enforcement was required.

The Weed Inspector crew's last day was October 9, 2020.

2. Annual Roadside Vegetation Control Program Review

2019 Review:

This was the first year using the UTV mounted sprayer for right-of-way spraying. This unit worked very well, especially on wider right-of-ways, as it could travel right down in the ditch, making it easier for the operator to spot weeds. It also performed exceptionally well for doing enforcement spraying on feedlots, field edges, and industrial parcels.

Scouting and spot spraying was completed on all county right of ways, using the UTV sprayer as well as the sprayers in the inspector's trucks. Good control of Canada Thistle was achieved, which was the most common weed encountered. We also had some Toadflax at the eastern end of the County and some Scentless Chamomile in the Cleardale and Royce areas.

An area for improvement is control of sow thistle. This weed tends to show up later in the season on the road shoulders and is very visible. In a lot of cases it is appearing after these right-of-ways have been scouted and sprayed once. With more resources and time, it would be possible to do a second pass to catch these late emerging weeds.

2020 Review:

Due to Covid-19 and budget concerns, almost all right of way spraying was done by the 3 weed inspectors, with the sprayers in their pickups. They did take the UTV sprayer out a few times for wider right-of-ways.

Heavy precipitation limited spraying days earlier in the season, and a great deal of wind hindered spraying later in the season.

We did our best to cover the whole County with the limited staff and poor spraying conditions. There was some good spraying weather toward the end of the season that allowed spraying until October 9, 2020.

For future seasons, recommend 2 seasonal staff to run both of the UTV mounted sprayers all season, this would be very helpful for the success of the roadside vegetation (weed) control program.

3. Annual Pest Inspections Review

2019 Bertha Army Worm Survey:

Bertha Army Worm Trap Report 2019

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
	<u>Jun 17-</u>	<u>Jun 24-</u>			<u>Jul 15-</u>	<u>Jul 22-</u>	<u>Jul 29-Aug</u>
<u>Location</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>Jul 1-7</u>	<u>Jul 8-14</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>5</u>
SW30-84-5-W6 (West of Hines Creek)	0	0	2	9	12	27	26
SE9-84-4-W6 (East of Hines Creek)	0	5	32	121	61	132	65
SE9-85-10-W6 (Cleardale)	0	0	4	7	7	9	13
SW1-87-8-W6 (Worsley)	0	0	2	8	18	26	14
NW19-86-6-W6 (Eureka)	0	9	2	23	37	63	59
NW23-83-1-W6 (Whitelaw)	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>396</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>243</u>	<u>92</u>
	0	20	128	564	351	500	269
Total For Survey							1832

The survey showed a heavier moth population, the further east in the County that we surveyed. We were still below problem thresholds.

2020 Bertha Army Worm Survey:

Bertha Army Worm Trap Report 2020

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9
	<u>Jun 14-</u>	<u>Jun 21-</u>	<u>Jun 28-Jul</u>	<u>Jul 5-</u>	<u>Jul 12-</u>	<u>Jul 19-</u>	<u>Jul 26-Aug</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Aug 9-</u>
<u>Location</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2-8</u>	<u>15</u>
SW28-83-1-W6 (Whitelaw)	1	1	8	11	21	25	30	10	2
SE15-83-3-W6 (David Thompson)	0	0	0	15	57	23	133	57	5
NE6-86-8-W6 (Worsley)	0	0	0	3	1	2	7	3	6
NE24-83-13-W6 (Bear Canyon)	1	0	5	3	11	6	11	6	3
NW4-85-5-W6 (Hines Creek)	0	2	1	0	3	23	42	52	5
SW6-87-6-W6 (Eureka)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>
	3	4	17	33	94	84	224	136	22
Total For Survey									617

The survey again showed a heavier population towards the eastern end of County, but still well below threshold limits.

2019 Grasshopper Survey:

The survey was conducted August 27th and 28th using Alberta Agriculture protocols that combine area counts in the ditches with sweep net counts. 6 areas of the County were surveyed to try and give a representative sample. Results were as follows:

Bear Canyon area count- 0 and sweep net- 0

Cleardale area count – 161 and sweep net – 18

SW Worsley area count- 72 and sweep net- 5

N Worsley area count- 78 and sweep net- 6

Eureka area count- 14 and sweep net- 2

Deer Hill area count- 102 and sweep net- 19

2020 Grasshopper Survey:

The survey was conducted August 12th using the same protocols. Results were as follows:

Cherry Point area count- 23 and sweep net- 16

Clear Prairie area count- 0 and sweep net- 0

Worsley area count- 0 and sweep net- 0

Montagneuse area count- 0 and sweep net- 0

Hines Creek area count- 0 and sweep net- 0

Whitelaw area count- 0 and sweep net- 0

2019 Blackleg of Canola survey:

25 fields were surveyed by taking 50 plants from a 400 meter cross section of each field and visually inspecting for symptoms of blackleg.

3 plants were found with mild symptoms of blackleg.

2020 Blackleg of Canola survey:

25 fields were surveyed using the same protocol.

4 plants were found with mild symptoms of blackleg.

2019 Clubroot of Canola survey:

25 fields were surveyed by taking 50 plants from a 400 meter cross section of each field and visually inspecting for symptoms of clubroot.

No signs or symptoms of clubroot were found.

2020 Clubroot of Canola survey:

25 fields were surveyed by taking 50 plants from a 400 meter cross section of each field and visually inspecting for symptoms of clubroot.

No signs or symptoms of clubroot were found.

We also did an extensive soil sample survey for clubroot in 2020. We surveyed 65 fields across the County. Each field had 40 soil samples taken from a large cross section of the field. These 40 samples were mixed together so as to give a representative sample of the whole field. This was then sent to a lab to be tested for clubroot pathogens.

We sent in samples from 65 fields and all 65 samples came back negative for clubroot.

I was called by ratepayers on 2 occasions in 2020 to inspect and test for diseases.

The first was a ratepayer concerned with deformed potato plants. A sample was sent to the Alberta Plant Health Lab and was diagnosed with having phytoplasma infection. Phytoplasmas can be carried to a plant by insects. Usually doesn't result in a noticeable impact on yield.



The second was a concern about canola plants that had started to flower and then wilted over. I had never seen this before so I sent pictures to Dr. Michael Harding from Alberta Agriculture. He diagnosed it as “withertop” which is caused by a calcium deficiency in the soil and tends to show up in wet years. This disease can cause some yield reduction, however, not a complete loss as only the first flower withers over. The rest seem to flower and produce.



4. Policy 6307 Wolf Management Incentive

Wolf Management Incentive – what is it and why does the County provide it?

Why: Wolf Management Incentive Policy 6307 contains:

1. Policy Statement

1.1 In an effort to support wolf population control within Clear Hills County, the County will implement procedures to provide 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 Caribous species.

In February 2018, the Wolf Hunt Incentive program was amended by putting stipulations on private property and grazing leases and registered traplines.

Private Property and Grazing Leases:

- Maximum of 2 wolf carcasses per month per household with a maximum of 7 wolf carcasses per calendar year for wolves harvested on private property and grazing leases.
- Eligible participants must:
 - Be a resident of the County on land owned by the resident, or immediate family, and reside in a dwelling on that property for no less than 183 days (six months).
 - Wolf must be harvested on resident's personal property or grazing lease.

Registered Trapline:

- Maximum of 15 wolf carcasses per calendar year.
- Eligible participants must:
 - Be a resident of the County on land owned by the resident, or immediate family, and reside in a dwelling on that property for no less than 183 days (six months).
 - Provide their trapline number and a map of their registered trapline within Clear Hills County.
 - Name of the participant must be on the registered trapline.

November 24, 2020 Council past motion C622-20(11-24-20):

C622-20(11-24-20) RESOLUTION by Deputy Reeve Croy to reduce the Wolf Hunt Incentive budget from \$50,000.00 to \$25,000.00 and reduce the per wolf payment from \$350.00 to \$200.00 in the 2021 Operating Budget. CARRIED.

Summary of Wolf Management Incentive:

Pest & Predation Control - Wolves

Budget: \$50,000 starting in 2021 Council decreased budget to \$25,000

Program started July 2010

Report to December 31, 2020

Year	Total #	Trappers	Land Owners	Total \$	Individuals
2020	22	3	19	7,550	17
2019	41	10	31	14,350	28
2018	41	6	35	14,350	18
2017	68			27,200	31
2016	107			42,800	37
2015	53			17,150	28
2014	58			14,150	32
2013	87			21,750	36
2012	114			48,150	31
2011	92			44,500	54
2010	46			22,750	29

5. VSI ANALYSIS REPORT

2019 & 2020 ASB Report to Council

Intent of the Program (Policy 6311)

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.*

Requisition:

2019 VSI requisition was \$62,000.

This is based on a formula based on previous year use, unused requisition carry over and an administration fee component. 2020 requisition was \$56,500. The graph further down in the document demonstrates the fluctuation of the requisition based on the formula.

2019 Service Costs: (using 2019 because there is a full year of usage data)

Membership:

- 229 valid/active VSI memberships in 2019
- 130 VSI members accessed services under the VSI program in 2019.
 - 57% of members used VSI services in 2019
 - 43% (or 99) members did not use VSI services in 2019

VSI member usage:

County's 50% portion of eligible VSI services that members used was \$51,033.65.

Average per user in 2019 was \$392.57

Breakdown by cost ranges based on 2019 services accessed

Cost Ranges	VSI members in this range	Percentage of 130 users
\$500 or less	98	75.4%
\$501 - \$1,000	21	5.3%
\$1,001 - \$1,500	5	1%
\$1,501 - \$2,000	2	.5%
\$2,001 - \$2,500	1	.3%
\$2,500 - \$3,000	0	0%
Over \$3,000	2	.5%

\$3,000 is the annual cap on the County's 50% portion of service costs per membership, VSI Policy 6311, 3.7.1. Users that exceed the cap are invoiced for the difference. 2 users were invoiced in 2019.

VSI Services accessed by %

- 87% preg testing
- 6.5% semen testing
- 2% clinic outpatient fee
- .02 - .77% all other services

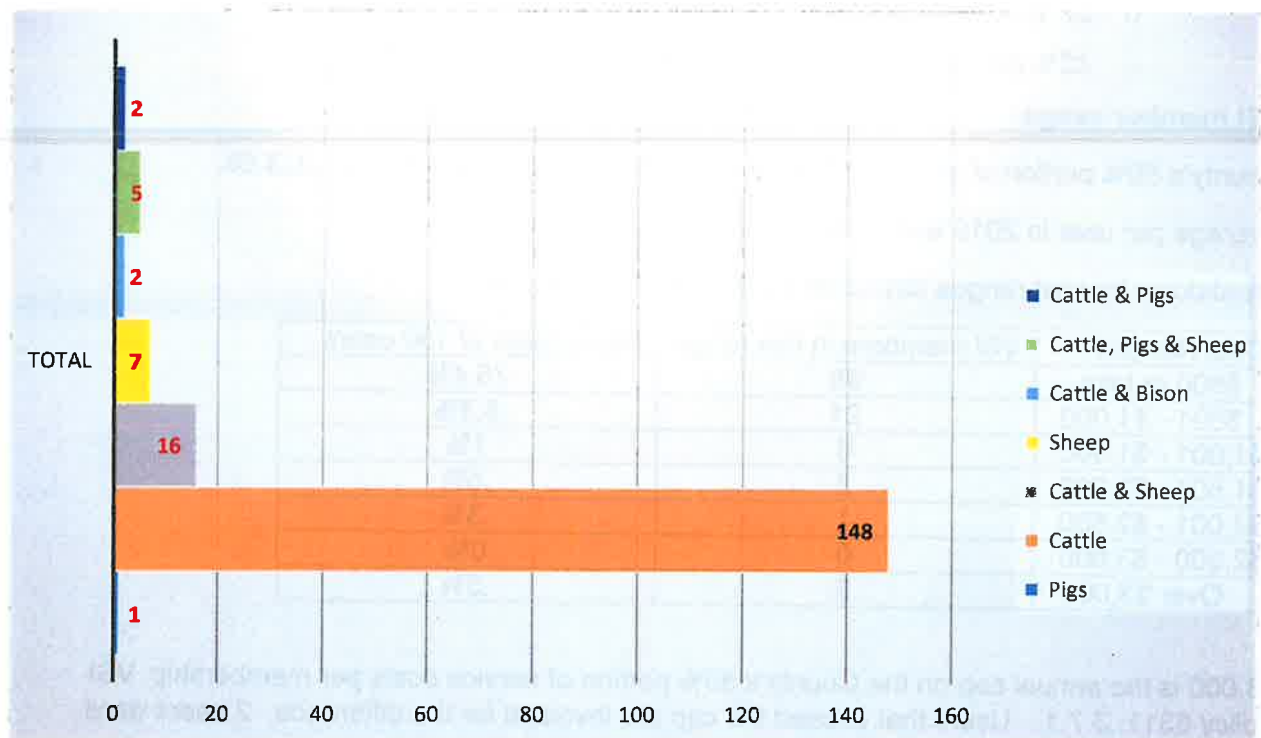
2016 Census of Agriculture for Alberta (Published April 2020)

390 Farms

#Farms	Species		# Farms	Species
50	Chickens		12	Turkeys
182	Cattle		33	Pigs
17	Sheep & Lambs		141	Horses/Ponies
5	Bison		19	Goats
3	Elk		10	Llamas & Alpacas
7	Bee Colonies		1	Other Pollinating Bees

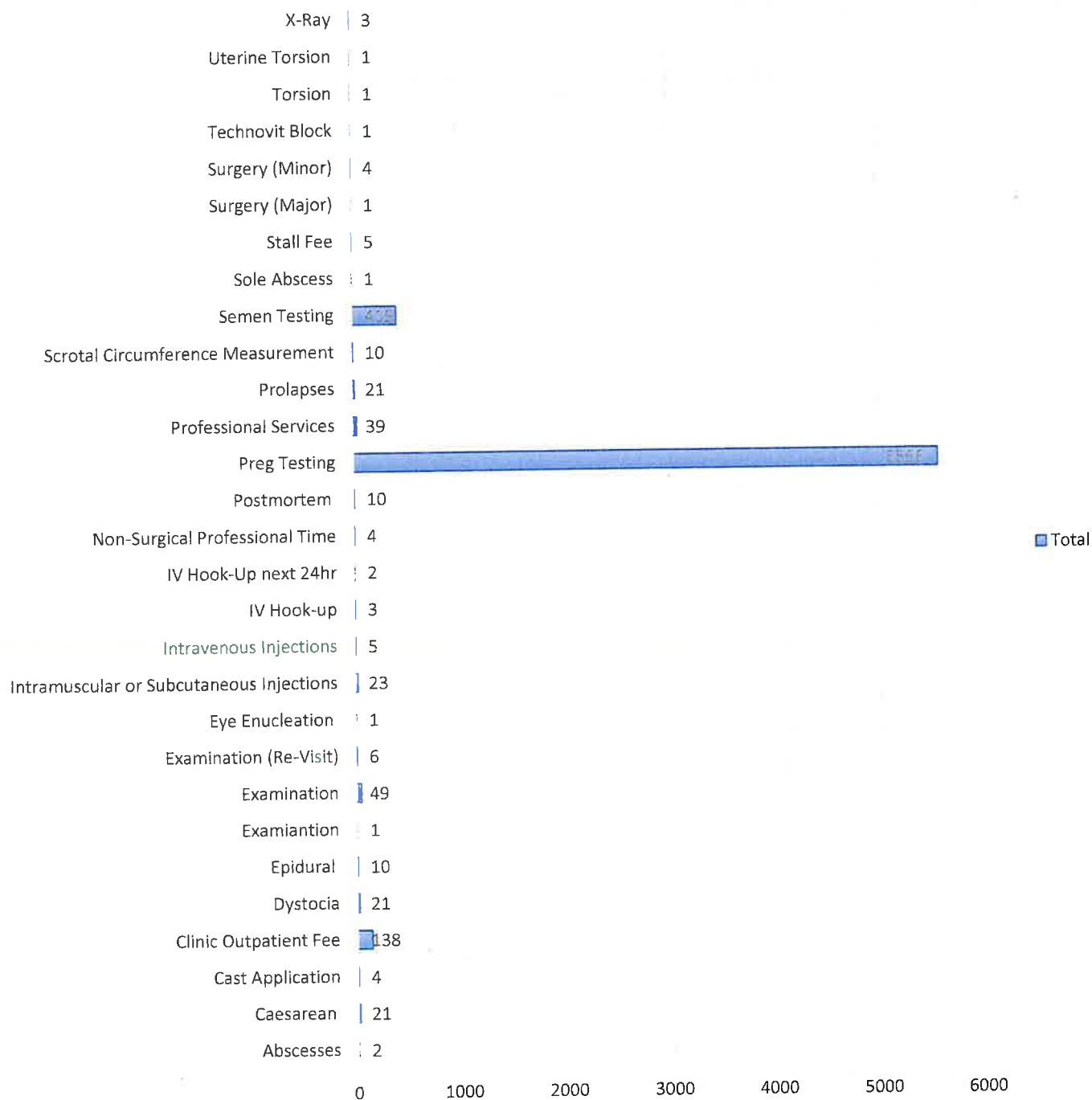
VSI membership Livestock Profile:

The graph below shows the livestock profile of Clear Hills County VSI members (This is how they identified their operation on their VSI application).



The next two graph indicates what services are used to the most under the VSI Program for 2019 and 2020.

2019 Total



Postmortem: 4 Elk/Bison, 4 Sheep/Goats, 1 Pig and 1 Cattle

Prolapses: 1 Sheep/Goat and 20 Cattle

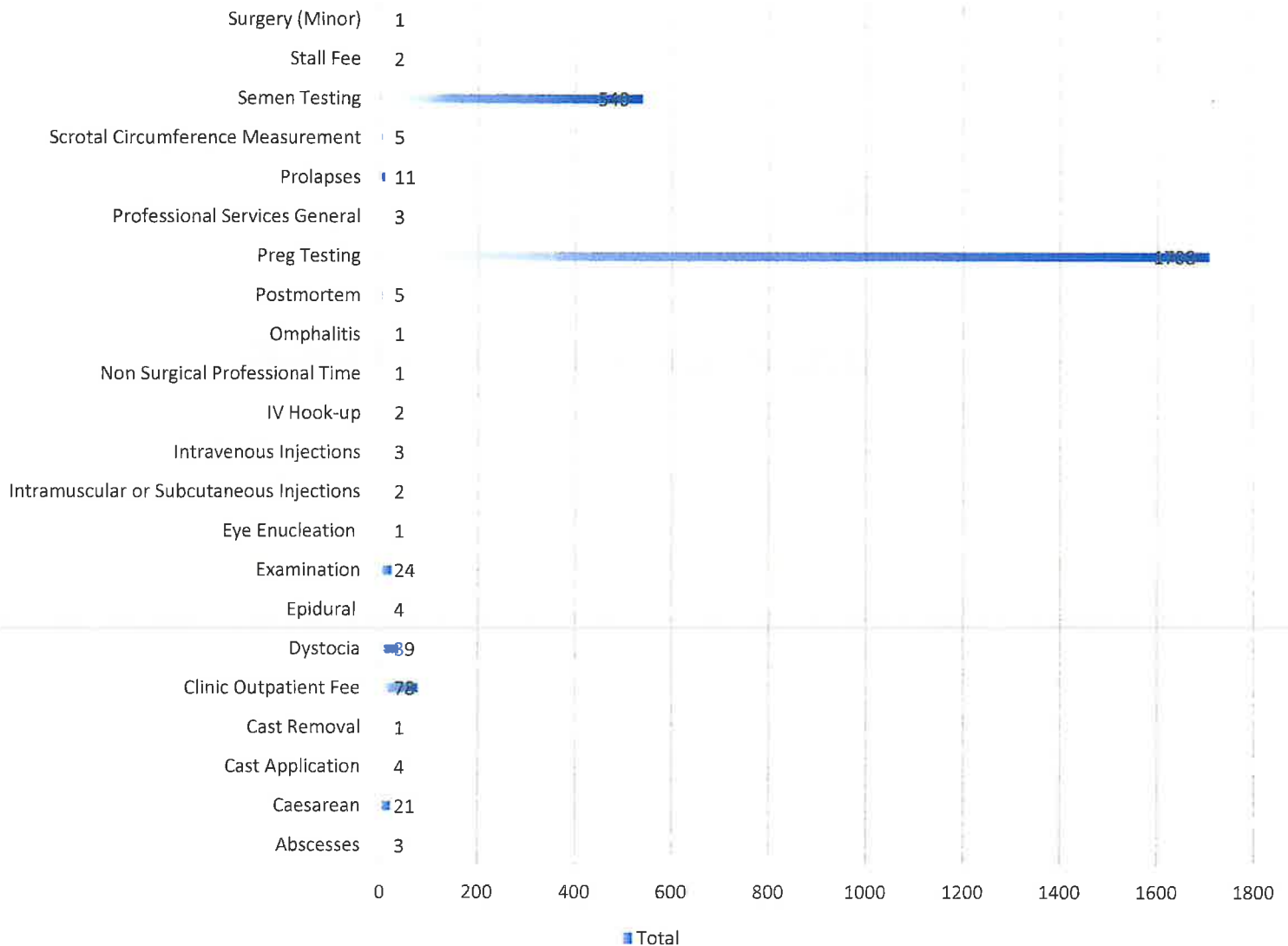
Caesarean: 2 Sheep/Goats and 19 Cattle

Dystocia: 1 Sheep/Goats and 20 Cattle

Semen Tests: 2 Sheep/Goats 417 Cattle

All remaining services were Cattle only.

2020 SERVICES COMPLETED



Postmortem: 3 Sheep/Goats & 2 Cattle

All remaining services were Cattle only.

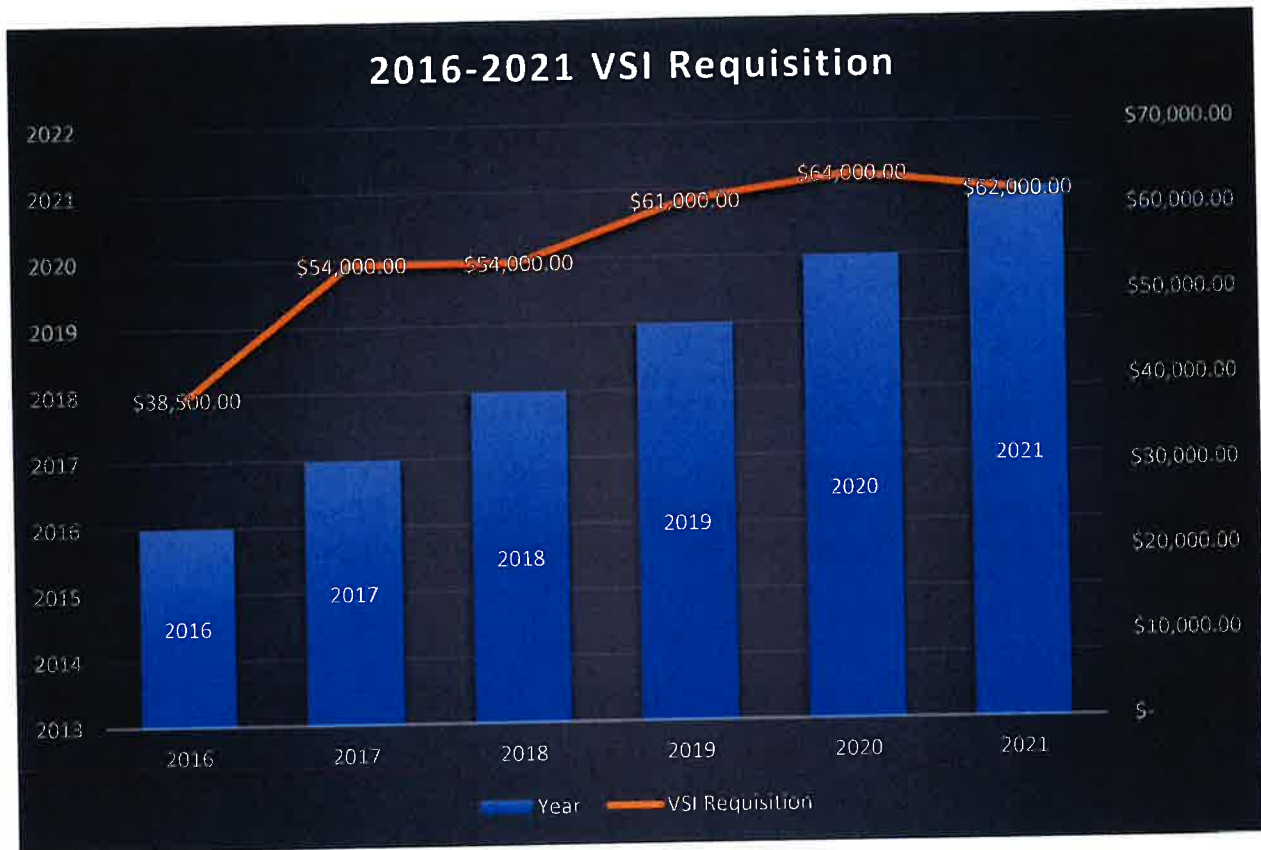
2019 Cost of Service per Livestock Group

Service	Cattle	Pigs	Sheep & Goats	Elk & Bison
Epidural	\$ 104.40			
X-Ray	\$ 144.30			
Intramuscular or Subcutaneous Injections	\$ 72.45			
Intravenous Injections	\$ 75.20			
Pregnancy Testing	\$14,519.50			
X-Ray Digital Equipment Surcharge	\$ 20.20			
Clinic Outpatient Fee	\$ 2,930.80		\$ 45.10	
Stall Fee (calves)	\$ 61.35			
Torsion	\$ 146.95			
Eye Enucleation	\$ 198.65			
Professional Services	\$ 1,927.90		\$ 50.00	
Cast Application	\$ 262.40			
Abscesses	\$ 185.70			
Sole Abscess	\$ 71.65			
Technovit Block	\$ 46.45			
Dystocia	\$ 2,035.70		\$ 74.80	
Caesarean Section	\$ 5,145.70		\$ 336.30	
Uterine Torsion	\$ 130.95			
Examination	\$ 2,053.05			
Examination (2 nd Animal)	\$ 238.60			
Examination (Re-Visit)	\$ 217.20			
I.V Hook-up Next 24 Hour	\$ 72.40			
I.V. Hook-up	\$ 278.55			
Semen Testing (1 st bull)	\$ 3,640.10			
Semen Testing (2 nd to 10 th bull)	\$ 7,983.00		\$ 44.90	
Semen Testing (11 th to 50 th bull)	\$ 4,717.20		\$ 34.10	
Scrotal Circumference Measurement	\$ 123.50			
Prolapse (Uterine, Rectal, Vaginal)	\$ 1,853.55		\$ 77.40	
Postmortems	\$ 119.70	\$ 37.50	\$ 138.25	\$ 222.60
Surgery (major)	\$ 140.10			
Non-Surgical Professional Time	140.50			
Surgery (minor)	\$ 315.00			
Total:	\$49,383.10	\$ 37.50	\$ 800.85	\$ 222.60
Grand Total:	\$51,033.65			

2020 Cost of Service per Livestock Group

Only including Quarters 1, 2 & 3

Service	Cattle	Pigs	Sheep & Goats	Elk & Bison
Epidural	\$ 71.60			
Intramuscular or Subcutaneous Injections	\$ 6.40			
Intravenous Injections	\$ 19.50			
Pregnancy Testing	\$ 4,254.55			
Clinic Outpatient Fee	\$ 1,785.75		\$ 23.20	
Stall Fee (calves)	\$ 33.40			
Eye Enucleation	\$ 204.20			
Professional Services	\$ 207.00			
Cast Application	\$ 269.80			
Cast Removal	\$ 31.80			
Abscesses	\$ 173.82			
Dystocia	\$ 1,111.95			
Omphalitis	\$ 142.70			
Caesarean Section	\$ 5,720.40			
Examination	\$ 979.50			
Examination (2 nd Animal)	\$ 173.80			
I.V. Hook-up	\$ 190.90			
Semen Testing (1 st bull)	\$ 3,751.00			
Semen Testing (2 nd to 10 th bull)	\$ 9,780.45			
Semen Testing (11 th to 50 th bull)	\$ 5,664.95			
Semen Testing (51 st bull plus)	\$ 1,299.90			
Scrotal Circumference Measurement	\$ 62.80			
Prolapse (Uterine, Rectal, Vaginal)	\$ 243.55			
Postmortems	\$ 146.45		\$ 79.80	
Surgery (minor)	\$ 32.40			
Non-Surgical Professional Time	54.50			
Total:	\$37,388.27		\$ 103.00	
Grand Total:	\$37,491.27			



The above chart is showing the VSI requisition amount the County pays to VSI Incorporated each year.

History of the VSI Program:

2015 and prior: County the following service limits:

- 3 Caesareans per producer
- 8 Semen Tests per producer
- 150 Pregnancy Tests per producer
- No cap per producer

2016 to present: All service limits were removed from Schedule A and a cap of \$3,000 per producer was added to Policy 6311. The County monitors usage and invoices members that exceed the cap.

ASB RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:

The following Resolutions were carried at the December 15, 2020 ASB meeting and will be brought to Council for consideration at the January 12, 2021 Council Meeting.

- AG131(12/15/20) RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council amend section 3.7.1 of the Veterinary Services Incorporated Policy 6311 by reducing the annual cap on the county's 50% portion of service costs from \$3,000 per membership to \$1,500 per membership. CARRIED.
- AG132(12/15/20) RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council increase the Veterinarian Services Incorporated (VSI) five year membership fee from \$30.00 to \$50.00. CARRIED.
- AG133(12/15/20) RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council amend Policy 6311 section 2.1 by replacing "in managing the health of their herd(s)." with veterinarian costs." CARRIED.

6. Annual Extension & Research Report

2019 & 2020 ASB Report to Council

Why and How does Clear Hills County provide extension & research to County agricultural producers?

Why: Agricultural Improvement Policy 6302 contains the following:

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.

How:

Peace Country Beef and Forage Association (PCBFA) has been contracted since 2011 to fulfill the extension and research responsibilities listed in the Agricultural Improvement Policy 6302, 2.1.2. and 2.1.3.

There were two funding streams to PCBFA:

1. Multi-municipal partnership with PCBFA to provide enhanced extension services to agricultural producers throughout the six municipalities. The funding for these services has been provided from the Alberta Agriculture Environmental Stream Funding and cost share contributions from each of the six partnering municipalities. The six municipalities are: Counties – Clear Hills, Birch Hills & Saddle Hills and M.D.s of Fairview, Peace and Spirit River. Clear Hills County administered this grant on behalf of the partnership, with PCBFA preparing the applications and annual reports.

The 2017-2019 the annual Environmental Stream program was \$105,000 provincial dollars with the following municipal contributions:

Clear Hills County	\$7,500	Birch Hills County	\$3,000
M.D. Fairview	\$7,500	Saddle Hills County	\$4,400
M.D. Peace	\$7,500	M.D. Spirit River	\$3,500

2019 marked the last year of the Environmental Stream Funding grant from the Province.

In 2020 the province rebranded the grant as Resource Management Funding and proposed entering into 5 year agreements (versus the previous 3 years). The partnering municipalities agreed to pursue funding and contract PCBFA for program funding and submitted an application for this grant. Due to the current economic situation in the province approval of agreements and funding for this grant have been postponed to the fourth quarter of the Provincial fiscal year (January – March 31, 2021). It is unknown at this time if this grant will be implemented or abandoned by the province.

2. Clear Hills County contribution over and above the partnership funding described above for delivery of programming in the County. The budget for this is currently \$17,500.

With the Resource Management funding being tabled by the province, and the social gathering restrictions due to COVID the 2020 programming was in jeopardy of being seriously curtailed. In spite of these challenges PCBFA had quite a successful 2020 extension services program. The reasons for their success in 2020 was two fold:

- A. PCBFA was successful in sourcing funding from the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) program, a federally funded program that was launched in Alberta in 2018.
- B. Implementing a virtual platform to host extension workshops, seminars and meetings online. The virtual delivery saved considerable dollars as one of the biggest expenses of extension are speaker travel costs. An interesting and rewarding outcome from the move to online programming was the increase in attendance and reaching participants far beyond our region. There were viewers from across Canada and around the globe, in particular Australia, which has a very similar agricultural profile to Canada.

Clear Hills County funding to PCBFA:

2019 \$25,000 (\$7,500 Env. Stream funding + \$17,500)

2020 \$17,500

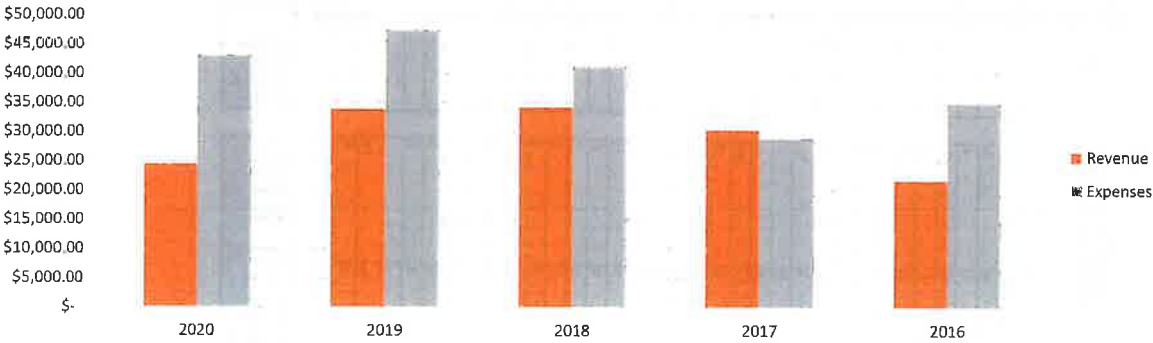
Attachments:

- PCBFA 2019 Report
- PCBFA 2020 Report

7. 2016-2020 Rental Equipment Summary

2010-2020 Rental Equipment Summary																		
Rental Equipment	Rental Deposit	Rental Rates	2020			2019			2018			2017			2016			Totals
			Total Users	Total Days	Total Revenue	Total Users	Total Days	Total Revenue	Total Users	Total Days	Total Revenue	Total Users	Total Days	Total Revenue	Total Users	Total Days	Total Revenue	
Backpack Sprayer	\$ 50.00	\$ -	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	3	3	
Bale Scale	\$ 100.00	\$ 30.00	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	4	4	4	3	3	3	14	14	
BBQ Trailer	\$ 150.00	\$ 75.00	1	2	8	8	6	6	6	9	9	10	3	3	3	27	29	
Chairs	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.50/chair	10	10	13	17	10	10	10	8	8	9	9	11	6	50	56	
Community Centre	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	5	17	14	14	16	16	16	11	11	18	5	5	6	71	71	
Corral Panels	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	0	0	5	7	5	5	6	9	9	15	3	3	4	22	32	
Coyote Trap	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Eco-Brain Applicator	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	5	5	5	
Extra Hoses	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,000/hose	0	0	4	8	4	4	12	0	0	0	2	2	2	10	22	
Grain Bagger	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	3	16	2	7	4	4	16	2	2	5	3	3	3	14	47	
Grain Bag Roller	\$ 50.00	\$ -	16	16	25	25	21	21	11	11	15	7	7	11	80	88		
Grain Bag Extractor	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	6	13	8	14	7	10	9	9	12	3	3	3	33	52		
Grain Vac	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00	15	24	40	47	35	37	26	30	25	26	25	26	141	164		
Grill	\$ 50.00	\$ 5.00	3	3	3	5	7	5	18	5	9	3	3	11	21	48		
Hand Held Rope Wick	\$ 50.00	\$ -	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	3	3	3	
Land Leveler	\$ 300.00	\$ 150.00	6	12	4	7	6	6	6	6	15	3	3	25	45	45		
Loading Chute	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	9	10	8	8	9	9	6	21	23	17	65	65	64	21	50	
Manure Spreader	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00	5	10	2	7	8	8	21	4	4	8	2	2	3	3	3	
Mulch Applicator	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	92	112		
Post Pounder	\$ 300.00	\$ 150.00	13	17	28	31	17	19	20	29	14	16	16	16	92	112		
Pull/Push Roller Applicator	\$ 50.00	\$ -	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	4	
Quad Mount Rope Wick	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Quad Mounted Sprayer	\$ 50.00	\$ -	3	3	4	3	5	3	3	3	3	5	5	18	19	16	16	
Quad Pull Type Sprayer	\$ 50.00	\$ -	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	4	4	16	23	23	23	
Roller Mill	\$ 50.00	\$ 20.00	2	4	5	6	6	6	9	2	2	2	2	6	7	6	6	
Rotawiper	\$ 150.00	\$ -	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	3	3	15	15	
Skidmount Sprayer	\$ 50.00	\$ -	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	10	10	10	10	
Smoke Signs	\$ 60.00	\$ -	0	0	5	5	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	
Steam Tables	\$ 50.00	\$ 5.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tables	\$ 50.00	\$ 1.00/table	10	11	14	15	10	11	11	7	7	5	5	46	49	46	46	
Toilets	\$ 100.00	\$ 40.00	4	4	2	4	3	3	3	5	6	1	1	15	20	15	15	
Truck Mount Sprayer	\$ 200.00	\$ -	5	5	3	3	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	13	13	13	13	
Wash Station	\$ 50.00	\$ 10.00	3	3	1	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	11	16	11	11	
Water Pumps	\$100 (summer) \$1000 (winter)	\$75 (summer) \$200 (winter)	13	32	26	48	24	53	35	63	26	44	124	240	124	124	240	
Wine Roller	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	2	2	4	8	5	8	3	4	6	9	20	31	20	20	31	
			150	230	246	320	221	308	214	297	162	217	993	1372	993	993	1372	
Revenue	\$ 24,475.15	Revenue	\$ 33,953.50	Revenue	\$ 34,281.00	Revenue	\$ 30,381.00	Revenue	\$ 21,729.50									
Expenses	\$ 43,037.83	Expenses	\$ 47,425.57	Expenses	\$ 41,239.74	Expenses	\$ 28,872.66	Expenses	\$ 34,944.59									
Loss	\$ (18,562.68)	Loss	\$ (13,472.07)	Loss	\$ (6,958.74)	Profit	\$ 1,508.34	Loss	\$ (13,215.09)									
Revenue	\$ 144,820.15	Revenue	\$ 195,520.39	Revenue	\$ (50,700.24)													
Expenses	\$ 144,820.15	Expenses	\$ 195,520.39	Expenses	\$ (50,700.24)													
Loss	\$ (50,700.24)	Loss	\$ (50,700.24)	Loss	\$ (50,700.24)													

2016-2020 Rental Equipment Summary



Year	Revenue		Expenses	
2020	\$	24,475.15	\$	43,037.83
2019	\$	33,953.50	\$	47,425.57
2018	\$	34,281.00	\$	41,239.74
2017	\$	30,381.00	\$	28,872.66
2016	\$	21,729.50	\$	34,944.59

8. Five Year BSE Testing Incentive Program Summary

2019 & 2020 ASB Report to Council

BSE Testing Incentive – what is it and why does the County provide it?

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (en-CEF-A-LOP-a-thee), also called **BSE** or “mad cow disease,” is a disease that affects the brain of cattle and **humans**. Most scientists believe that it is caused by an abnormal protein in brain tissue, called a prion (PRY-on), that **can** cause fatal disease when eaten.

Canada may be at the risk of losing its status as a controlled BSE risk country if tested numbers do not meet 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.

Providing a municipal BSE testing incentive, is intended to 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.

In late 2015 ASB recommended Council implement a BSE testing compensation in the amount of \$125.00 per animal.

AG111 (11/02/15) RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board notify VSI that Clear Hills County supports the recommendation to implement BSE testing compensation in the amount of \$125.00 per animal; and further that the municipalities be responsible for releasing the funds directly to the producers within their municipalities. CARRIED.

Clear Hills County Council adopted Policy 6314-Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Testing Incentive Program January 26, 2016.

Council established the compensation amount at \$125.00, and it remains at this rate.

The County pays VSI members that have been identified as having animals tested for BSE.

Only the Veterinary Clinics have access to the result of the BSE test and they inform the livestock producer of the results.

Summary of BSE tests by Clear Hills County VSI Members since start of incentive program:

2016	20
2017	25
2018	16
2019	24

2020 – no tests todate, anticipate this is due to no vets available to make the required site visits to farms to perform the tests.

9. Outcome Report on ASB Recommendations to Council

2019 & 2020 ASB Report to Council

2020

Resolution		Outcome
AG22(01/29/20)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council send a letter to the Minister of Agriculture stressing the importance of the Agricultural Service Board Grant to our municipality's agricultural service programs, and to advocate for the continuance of funding from the Agricultural Service Board grant. CARRIED.	Letter sent Province: 27% reduction of Legislative Stream No decision yet on Resource Management Stream
AG38(02/18/20)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council increase the BSE Testing Incentive for 2020 by \$1,500 and budget \$4,500 for the 2021 operating budget. CARRIED.	Approved
AG49(03/17/20)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council send a letter to the Minister of Agriculture in strong support of Fusarium Graminearum remaining a Pest under the Agricultural Pests Act. CARRIED.	Letter sent Province: Removed F.G. from Act
AG74(09/15/20)	RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council replace the Grain Bag Extractor with a simpler unit. CARRIED.	Approved – 2021 budget
AG75(09/15/20)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council remove the conveyor from the Grain Bagger rental. CARRIED.	Approved – done
AG76(09/15/20)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council liquidate the following items due to low usage and high cost: Tree Spade, Rock Picker, Rock Rake and Sickle Mower. CARRIED.	Approved – 2021 disposal list
AG77(09/15/20)	RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council increase the rental rates of the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Pounder: \$125.00 to \$150.00 • BBQ Trailer: \$50.00 to \$75.00 CARRIED.	Approved – new Fees bylaw adopted Oct 13, 2020

AG78(09/15/20)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council amend Policy 6310 by amending Clause 2.1. by removing not available to rent through other rental agents within the County's boundaries. CARRIED.	Approved – Policy Amended Oct 13, 2020
AG89(10/20/20)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council increase the rental rates on the following items: 1. Land Leveler from \$130 to \$150 2. Manure Spreader from \$150 to \$200. CARRIED.	Approved – new Fees bylaw adopted Nov 24, 2020
AG97(10/20/20)	RESOLUTION by Member Ross that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council approve the Agricultural Service Board 2021 Operating Budget as presented. CARRIED.	Council approved interim 2021 draft budget Nov 24, 2020
AG98(10/20/20)	RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council include \$30,000 in the 2021 Multi-year Capital Plan for the replacement Grain Bag Extractor (purchase of a new Grain Bag Extractor minus the trade in value of the current extractor) and fund the purchase from the Agricultural Services Reserve. CARRIED.	Approved Nov 24, 2020 \$55,000 in 2021 Capital Plan & \$25,000 in Revenue side of 2021 Operating Budget
AG99(10/20/20)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council move the \$25,000 for a replacement rental unit water pump from 2021 to 2025 in the Multi Year Capital Plan. CARRIED.	Approved Nov 24, 2020
AG114(11/17/20)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council adopt the Fusarium Graminearum Bylaw as presented. CARRIED.	Approved – bylaw adopted Nov 24, 2020
AG120(11/17/20)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council reduce the 2021 Wolf Hunt Incentive budget from \$50,000 to \$40,000. CARRIED.	Nov 24 – reduced budget to \$25K and payment to \$200 ea.
AG131(12/15/20)	RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council amend section 3.7.1 of the Veterinary Services Incorporated Policy 6311 by reducing the annual cap on the county's 50% portion of service costs from \$3,000 per membership to \$1,500 per membership. CARRIED.	January 12, 2021 Council meeting for consideration

AG132(12/15/20)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council increase the Veterinarian Services Incorporated (VSI) five year membership fee from \$30.00 to \$50.00. CARRIED.	January 12, 2021 Council meeting for consideration
AG133(12/15/20)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council amend Policy 6311 section 2.1 by replacing "in managing the health of their herd(s)." with veterinarian costs." CARRIED.	January 12, 2021 Council meeting for consideration

2019

Resolution		Outcome
AG118(08/20/19)	RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service recommend Council approve the following amendment to Policy 6310 Rental Equipment: Adding 3.7 County will consider rental of equipment to other municipalities on a case by case basis. CARRIED.	Approved - Policy amended Sept 10, 2019
AG138(09/17/19)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board Recommend Council include \$10,000.00 from the Rate Stabilization Reserve to cover the costs of the Agricultural Service Board honorariums, travel and subsistence for the remainder of 2019. CARRIED.	ASB bylaw amended with event attendance limits and Travel & Expense Policy amended with time limits for submitting expense claims. ASB Motion AG11 (01/29/20) limiting to 3 members when Prov Conf is not in Peace Region
AG144(09/17/19)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council move the \$25,000 for a replacement PTO water pump from 2020 to 2021 in the Multi-year Capital Plan. CARRIED.	Approved
AG145(09/17/19)	RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council include \$32,000.00 in the 2020 Capital Budget for a second side by side, trailer and sprayer. CARRIED.	Approved, purchases completed in 2020.
AG146(09/17/19)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council include \$9,000.00 for two tablets and associated software and licensing costs for GIS tracking and mapping of vegetation	Approved. Tablets purchased, installation postponed due to

	control herbicide applications on road right-of-ways in the 2020 Operating Budget. CARRIED.	COVID, \$2,730 being accrued to 2021.
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.	Policy Amended October 22, 2019
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.	Approved
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.	Sold at auction \$23,000.

10. ASB Policy Review Report

2019 & 2020 ASB Report to Council

The Agricultural Board is tasked with reviewing Agricultural Services policy documents at least once annual and making policy amendment or implementation recommendation to Council as needed. Following is a report on the policy reviews and recommendations the Board has made in the past two years.

2020

Resolution		Outcome
AG78(09/15/20)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council amend Policy 6310 by amending Clause 2.1. by removing not available to rent through other rental agents within the County's boundaries. CARRIED.	Council adopted amended policy C430-20(09-22-20)
AG88(10/20/20)	RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to draft a Bylaw for the purpose of allowing Clear Hills County to enter private property to scout for Fusarium Graminearum and provide information and awareness to producers. CARRIED.	Board presented with draft Bylaw November 17, 2020.
AG114(11/17/20)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council adopt the Fusarium Graminearum Bylaw as presented. CARRIED.	Council adopted Bylaw 261-20 Nov 17, 2020 C618-20(11-24-20) to C621-21(11-24-20)
AG121(11/17/20)	RESOLUTION by Chair Harcourt that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to bring the Veterinary Services Incorporated Program agreement with Schedules of Service, analysis of services used and Policy 6311 to the next Agricultural Service Board meeting for further consideration. CARRIED.	December 15, 2020 ASB meeting
AG122(11/17/20)	RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the review of the following policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 6312 Trade Show Exhibitors 	Council accepted the ASB Meeting Minutes for information as part of the Council Information C625-20(11-24-20)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 6313 Trade Show Groceries and Doorprizes • Policy 6314 Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Testing Incentive Program • Policy 6316 Surface Discharge of Collected Surface Run-on/Runoff Waters • Policy 6317 Biggest Vegetable Contest <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>	
AG131(12/15/20)	<p>RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council amend section 3.7.1 of the Veterinary Services Incorporated Policy 6311 by reducing the annual cap on the county's 50% portion of service costs from \$3,000 per membership to \$1,500 per membership.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>	January 12, 2021 Council meeting for consideration
AG133(12/15/20)	<p>RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council amend Policy 6311 section 2.1 by replacing "in managing the health of their herd(s)." with veterinarian costs." CARRIED.</p>	January 12, 2021 Council meeting for consideration

2019

Resolution		Outcome
AG112(06/19/19)	<p>RESOLUTION by Councillor Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration to draft amendments Policy 6310 to allow conditional rental of rental equipment to other municipalities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>	Draft Policy presented to Board August 20, 2019
AG118(08/20/19)	<p>RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service recommend Council approve the following amendment to Policy 6310 Rental Equipment: Adding 3.7 County will consider rental of equipment to other municipalities on a case by case basis.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>	Council adopted amended Policy C433-19(09-10-19)
AG179(11/19/19)	<p>RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board accept the review of the following Policies, as presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	Council received ASB Meeting Minutes for information as part of CDM Report C604-19(11-26-19)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 6314 Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Testing Incentive Program • Policy 6317 Biggest Vegetable Contest <p>CARRIED.</p>	
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11. Outcome Report on Provincial and Regional ASB Conferences

Update on Previous Years' Resolutions

2019 Resolutions

Resolution Number	Resolution Name	Grade
1-19	<p>Loss of 2% Liquid Strychnine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Resolution Ask</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health Canada/PMRA leave 2% LS permanently available to farmers for control of RGS ● <i>Follow Up</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ discussed with Agriculture Minister who expressed support to maintain registration ○ Agriculture Minister requested that letter be sent to PMRA with concerns for alternate products – letter dated Dec 19, 2019 cc Minister Dreesen ● <i>Update</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March 4, 2020, Re-Evaluation Decision by PMRA is published https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/decisions-updates/reevaluation-decision/2020/strychnine.html ○ The Committee's letter was included in PMRA's Re-evaluation Decision, however as stated in the final decision our letter had no effect on the decision. ○ A reversal of the decision requires significant scientific evidence to show that there is little risk to non-target species, particularly species at risk. ● <i>Recommendations</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advocate for research into adapting or improving alternative RGS control methods, or further scientific evaluation of methods to use 2% liquid strychnine in a way that is safe for non-target species. ○ Tracer products be included with Strychnine ○ Producers using Strychnine be trained 	Accept in Principle
2-19	<p>Wildlife Predator Compensation Program Enhancement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Resolution Ask</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement using smartphone technology to provide photographic/video evidence for confirmation of livestock injury and death in a timely and prompt manner ● <i>Follow Up 2020</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committee is connecting with the Predator 	<p>Incomplete</p> <p>Changed to Accept in Principle</p>

	Compensation Program working group	
3-19	<p>Deadstock Removal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Resolution Ask</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Province compensate producers 50% of deadstock pick up fees ● <i>Follow Up 2020</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continuing to monitor what other provinces are doing to find a recommendation for the minister 	Unsatisfactory
4-19	<p>Carbon Credits for Permanent Pasture and Forested Lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Resolution Ask</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development of process to allow farmers to access carbon credits under permanent cover (pasture, perennial forage crops, forested) ● <i>Follow Up 2020</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waiting to see how to engage with the Ministry of Environment consultations on carbon credits ● <i>Recommendation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep tabs on the Carbon offset market and continue to advocate for perennial cover carbon off sets. <p>The Canadian Forage and Grassland Association (CFIA) partnered with a carbon offset company called Climate Action Reserve out of California to develop a Canadian Grassland Protocol. The Protocol Version 1 was announced in October 2019, and is available through their website http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/protocols/canada-grassland/</p> <p>This is a “conversion avoidance” protocol that pays to producers who can convert grassland into cropland but choose not to. Eligibility and process are available through the Climate Action Reserve website.</p> <p>CFGa media release can be viewed here: https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Media-Release--CFGa-leads-First-Ever-Canadian-Grassland-Offset-Protocol-for-Producers.html?soid=1104692932142&aid=BUBfaGjEokk</p>	Accept in Principle
5-19	<p>Multi-Stakeholder Committee to Work at Reducing the Use of Fresh Water by the Oil and Gas Industry in Alberta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Resolution Ask</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Govt of Alberta sets up a multi-stakeholder committee to work at reducing the use of fresh water by the oil and gas industry in Alberta 	Incomplete

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Follow Up 2020</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ referred the committee to 'Directive for Water Licensing of Hydraulic Fracturing Projects – Area of Use Approach' found at the following link : https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/ef2df211-1091-4470-9b42-defe6529a862/resource/abce01b3-2011-494c-bc50-a42774d49995/download/directivehydraulicfracturing-feb16-2018.pdf 	
6-19	STEP Program Agricultural Eligibility	Accept the Response
E1-19	<p>Access to Agriculture Specific Mental Health Resources</p> <p>https://www.farms.com/mental-health-and-suicide-prevention-resources/</p> <p>https://www.farms.com/mental-health-and-suicide-prevention-resources/alberta.aspx</p>	Unsatisfactory
E2-19	<p>No Royalties on Farm Saved Seed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Resolution Ask</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AAFC/CFIA abandon the proposal to implement royalties on farm saved seed ● <i>Resolution Response</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CFIA is still doing consultation ● <i>Follow Up 2020</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Winter of 2020 is when the federal government decision on which royalty option will be pursued is expected. ○ Engaging commodity groups to gather further information 	Accept in Principle

The Provincial ASB Committee has assigned the following grades to the 2020 resolution responses received from government and non-government organizations based on the grading received from the participating ASBs.

Resolution Number	Resolution Grade	Grade	Updated
1-20	Ropin' the Web	Accept the Response	
2-20	Weed and Pest Surveillance and Monitoring Technology Grant	Incomplete	
3-20	Clubroot Pathotype Testing	Unsatisfactory	<i>Accept in Principal</i>
4-20	Education Campaign for Cleanliness of Equipment for Industry Sectors	Unsatisfactory	
5-20	AFSC Assist in Preventing the Spread of Regulated Crop Pests	Unsatisfactory	
6-20	Beehive Depredation	Accept in Principle	
7-20	Agricultural Related Lease Dispositions	Accept in Principle	
8-20	Emergency Livestock Removal	Accept in Principle	
9-20	Mandatory Agriculture Education in the Classroom	Unsatisfactory	
10-20	Reinstate a Shelterbelt Program	Accept in Principle	
11-20	Compensation to Producers on Denied Land Access to Hunters	Defeated	
12-20	Proposed Amendments to Part XV of the Federal <i>Health of Animals Regulations</i>	Accept in Principle	
13-20	Canadian Product and Canadian Made	Incomplete	
E1-20	Review of Business Risk Management Programs	Unsatisfactory	
E2-20	Initiate Agri-Recovery Framework	Unsatisfactory	
E3-20	Agri-Invest and Agri-Stability Changes	Unsatisfactory	

12. Alberta Agriculture Field Visit

On August 20, 2019, Doug Macaulay from Alberta Agriculture met with the Agricultural Fieldman and the Ag Service Board and audited Clear Hills County's ASB Program to ensure that ASB grant dollars are being used appropriately.

There were a few minor errors in the report that Doug was asked to correct for the final report. To date the County has not received the edited final report.

Attached is the draft report.

Clear Hills County

Field Visit

August 20, 2019



Figure 1. Field Inspection in Clear Hills County

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INTRODUCTION

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Program conducts field visits annually to ensure that ASB Grant dollars are being used appropriately to support the objectives of the ASB Grant Program. Information gathered from field visits is used to assist other ASBs in the development and delivery of programs related to the ASB Grant and to provide evidence to the Office of the Auditor General that ASB Grant dollars are being used effectively and efficiently to support programs related to the ASB Act and environmental extension and awareness.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) visited 14 municipalities in 2019 for the field visit program. Five municipalities from the South, three from Central, two from Northwest, two from Northeast, and two from the Peace region were chosen to receive a field visit in 2019.

South	Central	Northwest	Northeast	Peace
Acadia	Camrose	Westlock	Lamont	Clear Hills
Cypress	Ponoka	Woodlands	Two Hills	Northern Lights
Forty Mile	Wetaskiwin			
Special Area 2				
Special Area 3				

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Doug Macaulay, Agricultural Service Board Program Manager met with the Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman for the Clear Hills County on August 20, 2019 to review programs and projects implemented under the various Acts the ASB is delegated to enforce.

The Clear Hills County received funding under the Legislative and Environmental Funding Streams of the ASB Grant. They were able to demonstrate that they had programs related to each of these funding streams indicating effective use of ASB Grant dollars to support activities related to the administration of legislative requirements under the *Agricultural Service Board Act* and enhanced environmental awareness.

FIELD OFFICE & TOUR SITES:

- Met with Greg Coon, the Agricultural Fieldman and his colleagues.
- Met with ASB in the morning and discussed the purpose of field visits, provided a program update and answered questions. Also toured the shop with ASB to learn about program.
- After meeting, met with Greg in the office to discuss programming and go through checklist questions. We discussed programming, weed notices and other material pertinent to ASB programming. The following highlights the details of our discussion related to Agricultural Service Board operations and programming:
 - The ASB formally meets 4 time a year, with additional meetings added as needed. Reports are made at each ASB meeting. The board is composed of the following members: Brian

Harcourt (Chair), Baldur Ruecker (Deputy Chair), Mackay Ross, Garry Candy, Julie Watchorn, and David Janzen.

- The ASB reviews their business plan annually. It was last reviewed at the October 2018 meeting.
- There are policies and procedures and committees in place for the *Agricultural Pests Act* (APA), *Weed Control Act* (WCA), *Soil Conservation Act* (SCA) and the *Agricultural Service Board Act*. Some examples of policies include Clubroot Policy.
The appeal board members for the WCA and the APA are Jason Ruecker, Miron Croy, and three members from MD of Peace as per inter-municipal agreement.
- The ASB has inspectors appointed for the *Agricultural Pests Act* (5), *Weed Control Act* (5) and *Soil Conservation Act* (1).
- A Form 7 is held by the fieldman.
- For WCA & APA responses are proactive. On average, there are over 1118 prohibited & noxious weed and 50 pest inspections conducted annually. All inspectors have the appropriate identification.
- The enforcement of the WCA starts with an inspection of the location and if weeds found contact landowner/renter. Talk to them about a plan for the issue then issue a notification letter. If no action taken a notice is hand delivered. If no action after 7 days county does control and invoices landowner. About 2 week process.
- For the APA they go straight to notice, then follow process above. For example, the Clubroot Policy outlines process.
- Weeds are controlled using a spot spray program that covers approximately 100% of 1738 kms of municipal road each year.
- For other pest programs, the ASB supports surveys on Clubroot, *Fusarium graminearum*, and other prohibited and noxious weeds to comply with the ACTs and also partners with Agriculture and Forestry staff to conduct other survey work whenever possible
- There are no seed cleaning plants in county.
- Education and awareness is done through a variety of means that includes: Hines Creek Trade Show, Website, Facebook, Peace Country Beef and Forage, Annual BBQ (350 attend), monthly newsletter - one weed per month highlighted.
- For the *Animal Health Act* the ASB does not have an emergency plan to deal with an incident but they do plan to work closely with our Chief Provincial Vet if there is anything to report
- Other unique programs the ASB supports include: Fence line Spray Program, BSE Testing, Wolf Bounty, Big Veggie Contest and the Hines Creek Trade show.
- The Peace Country Beef and Forage Association who receives funding through the county handle the environmental programming.

- Field Office tour:
 - Confirmed form 7 certification
 - Chemical and pest storage facilities
 - Rental equipment including tree digger, grain bagger, manure spreader.
 - Spray equipment including ATV sprayer, truck sprayer and mapping and tracking systems.
 - Saw example of inspector identification
- Field Tour
 - Stop 1 Thistle infestation in field recently sprayed by farmer
 - Stop 2 Roadside spot spraying of Canada Thistle
 - Stop 3 Himalayan Balsam control site
 - Stop 4 Weed infested crop issue
 - Stop 5 Recent toadflax discovery
 - Stop 6 Toadflax spray site

OBSERVATIONS:

- The partnership between Greg, the ASB and staff is strong and the new ASB is engaged and supportive of programming
- Greg and his team have a very proactive and effective pest surveillance program. It is impressive to see that they are effectively able to manage and survey the entire county weed issues annually even during such a wet year as 2019.
- Found the idea of videos outlining how to use the rental equipment is fantastic. Not only is this innovative it is a very unique approach that I have not observed in any other county so far. Great idea!
- Overall after visit found that the scope of the work that the ASB delivers meets the requirements of the ASB Grant Program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Recommend considering adding review dates or scheduling annual meeting to review ASB policies, especially those that either haven't been looked at recently or those that are actively used;
- Recommend updating the Agriculture Service Board section of the website. The links for the agenda, minutes and board reports as well as equipment rentals have either dead links or go to another location on the website;
- Recommend building more awareness about county specific weeds and in other programming on website as well as Facebook, site and other social media channels that county is using. A good resource are the weed factsheets located on the Alberta Invasive Species Council website or Pest Factsheets/Videos available of the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Website.
 Alberta Invasive Species Council: <https://abinvasives.ca/>
 Alberta Agriculture and Forestry: <https://www.alberta.ca/weeds-pests-and-integrated-pest-management.aspx>;

- Recommend having a link to factsheets of Agricultural Pests on Pest Control webpage for Blackleg, *Fusarium* and Clubroot. Some web links to consider on the Agriculture and Forestry Website are as follows:
 Blackleg- <https://www.alberta.ca/blackleg-of-canola-pest.aspx>
 Clubroot - <https://www.alberta.ca/clubroot-disease-of-canola-and-mustard.aspx>
 Clubroot Management Plan - <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-clubroot-management-plan.aspx>
Fusarium - <https://www.alberta.ca/about-fusarium-head-blight.aspx>
Fusarium Management Plan - <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-fusarium-graminearum-management-plan.aspx>;
- Recommend maintaining a level of familiarity with the *Animal Health Act* and exploring the development of programming for emergency carcass disposal. It may be worth having someone from AF come and speak to the ASB about this Act and emergency planning. *For general information on Agricultural Emergency Planning contact Brad Andres at 780 638-3204 or brad.andres@gov.ab.ca;
- Consider looking at the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) funding for municipal funding. There is a wide range of programs that may be of interest to the ASB. Programming ranges from Risk Mitigation, Emergency Preparedness, and Public Agriculture Literacy to Youth Agriculture Education. This program supports a wide range of projects that may align with municipal programs (<https://cap.alberta.ca>); and
- Recommend building more awareness about weeds and agricultural pests on website, on Facebook Page and through other means. A good resource are the weed factsheets located on the Alberta Invasive Species website or Pest Factsheets/Videos available of the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Website.
<https://abinvasives.ca/>
<https://www.alberta.ca/weeds-pests-and-integrated-pest-management.aspx>.

Appendix 1.

Agricultural Pests Act Programs



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:

Policy No. 6306

Title: CLUBROOT OF CANOLA POLICY

Effective Date: April 12, 2016

Page 2

- 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(05/10/08)

Date: June 10, 2008

AMENDED

Resolution C165(02/22/11)

Date: February 22, 2011

Resolution C192-16(4/12/16)

Date: April 12, 2016

Figure 2. Clubroot of Canola Policy.



Figure 3. Pesticide Storage and material.

Alberta Government

Permit for Coyote and Skunk Control On Another Person's Land

Permit Holder:

Name: Greg Coon Title: Ag Fieldman
Employer: Clear Hills County
Address: Box 240
Town: Worsley Prov: AB PC: T0H3W0

The permit holder named above has been trained in the use, storage, and handling of:

☒ devices and poisonous material for coyote control
☒ devices and poisonous material for skunk control

The permit holder is authorized to conduct the following:


Use, store, and handle the following devices and poisonous material:

☒ Compound 1080
☒ Livestock Protection Collars - Compound 1080
☒ Sodium Cyanide Cartridges and M-44s
☒ Neck Snare

☒ Issue the above to an owner or occupier of land who holds a Form 8 permit referred to below and train that owner or occupier to use, handle, and store them.
☒ Remove or alter a written warning issued by the Department concerning their use or storage.
☒ Shoot coyotes and/or destroy their dens
☒ Shoot skunks and/or destroy their dens
☒ Issue Form 8 permits under the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation.

The rules and methods for using, storing, and handling the devices and poisonous materials are set out in the applicable provisions of:

- The Agricultural Pests Act and the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation (Alberta)
- The Pest Control Products Act (Canada)
- The policies of Alberta's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.


Bruce Hamblin
Manager, Inspection Services

Dated this: December 03, 2018
Expires: December 31, 2022

License #: 6205 Form 7

Figure 4. Up to date Form 7.


Weed Control Act Programs



Figure 5. Spray Truck.



Figure 6. ATV Sprayer


CLEAR HILLS COUNTY


File No. 63-60-02
July 11, 2019
Lyle Barm
Box 57
Cleardale, AB
T0H 3Y0

Subject: Weed Notice – BW-19-04-10-WSM, NW-28-04-10-WSM, SW-22-04-0-WSM, NE-17-04-10-WSM

It has come to our attention through field inspections that there have been invasive weeds identified on land under your management/ownership. These plants are a significant cause for concern due to their competitive characteristics. Invasive weeds affect many different areas of agriculture and the environment. These invasive plants compete for moisture, nutrients and land base and crowd out agricultural crops or native vegetation.

This letter is to inform you of the weeds identified and to let you know that it is the landowner's and occupant's responsibility under the Alberta Weed Control Act to control or eradicate weeds on their own property. Please find attached the weed inspection report(s) and fact sheet(s) for the relevant plant(s). Not all weeds are the same, and not all weeds are controlled in the same manner. For more information please contact me during regular office hours from 9am to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. You can reach me at the County office 780-285-3225 or on my cell at 780-772-1770.

Please ensure that these invasive plants have been controlled as per the attached Inspector's report(s). A re-inspection of this land description will be completed shortly after the compliance date. If the weed plant infestation is self found and control actions are not apparent, the County will take measures to control the weeds at the expense of the landowner, as per the Alberta Weed Control Act.

Yours truly,

Greg Coon
Agriculture Fieldman
CC: Audrey Hunsund, COM
Alan Hove, CAO

Enclosure: Inspection report(s), Weed Profile(s), Inspector's Notice(s),
Box 240, Worsley, Alberta T0H 3M0 Telephone 780-285-3225 Fax 780-655-3568 Email info@clearhills.ab.ca
"Clearly an Area of Opportunity."

(Reprinted from the Weed Control Act)

**Violation
Weed Control**

Notorious weeds - control
2 A person shall control a notorious weed that is on land the person owns or occupies.
Prohibited notorious weeds - destroy
3 A person shall destroy a prohibited notorious weed that is on land the person owns or occupies.

Compliance with notice
17(1) A person given a notice under this Part in accordance with section 24 shall, subject to the right to appeal an inspector's notice or a local authority's notice, comply with the notice.

Part 3
Appeal of Inspector's Notice, Local Authority's Notice or Debt Recovery Notice

Application
10 This Part sets out the requirements that apply to an appeal of an inspector's notice, local authority's notice or debt recovery notice under section 19(2) of the Act.

Delivery of notice
11(1) The appellant shall provide notice of the appeal to the chief administrative officer of the municipality in which the land subject to the notice is located.
(2) The notice of appeal must be delivered personally or sent by certified or registered mail within the time specified in the notice for doing the thing required by the notice or 10 days, whichever is less.

Notice requirements
12 The notice of appeal must be in writing and include
(a) the name and address of the appellant,
(b) a copy of the notice in respect of which the appeal is being taken,
(c) the legal description of the land affected,
(d) the grounds for appeal, and
(e) a \$500 appeal fee.

Determination of appeal
13(1) The appeal panel shall hear and determine the appeal within 6 days of receipt of the notice of appeal by the chief administrative officer.
(2) The appeal panel may confirm, rescind or vary the notice.
(3) The chief administrative officer shall send a copy of the decision together with the written reasons, if any, to the appellant by certified or registered mail.

Appeal review request
14 A request to review a decision of the appeal panel under section 20 of the Act must be made to the Minister within 3 days of the appellant receiving the appeal decision.

Refund of fee
15(1) If the appellant is successful in an appeal or review, the \$500 appeal fee will be refunded to the appellant.
(2) If the appellant is successful in an appeal or review, the \$500 appeal fee may be refunded in whole or in part at the sole discretion of the appeal panel or the Minister, as the case may be.

Government of Alberta **Local Authority's Notice**

To: Lyle Barm
Address: Box 57 Cleardale, AB T0H 3Y0

You are hereby directed to:

☐ Destroy the prohibited notorious weeds

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

☒ Control the notorious weeds

1. Woolly Burdock
2. _____
3. _____

Which are infesting the property:

☐ Municipally known as: _____

☒ Or as described as:

Lot	Block	Plan
NW	55	54

Location on property (approximate)

The weeds will be considered destroyed/controlled if:
Sprayed with a herbicide registered for the control of Woolly Burdock

Action is to be completed on or before: Jul 18, 2019

If this notice is not complied with, action will be taken in accordance with the Weed Control Act.

Inspector: Greg Coon Municipality: Clear Hills County
Date: Jul 11, 2019 Address: Box 240 Worsley, AB
File No.: 63-60-02 T0H 3M0

PRD3 06/16/2010

Government of Alberta **Local Authority's Notice**

To: Clear Peace Ranching Ltd.
Address: Box 57 Cleardale, AB T0H 3Y0

You are hereby directed to:

☐ Destroy the prohibited notorious weeds

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

☒ Control the notorious weeds

1. Woolly Burdock
2. _____
3. _____

Which are infesting the property:

☐ Municipally known as: _____

☒ Or as described as:

Lot	Block	Plan
NW	19	54

Location on property (approximate)

The weeds will be considered destroyed/controlled if:
Sprayed with a herbicide registered for the control of Woolly Burdock

Action is to be completed on or before: Jul 18, 2019

If this notice is not complied with, action will be taken in accordance with the Weed Control Act.

Inspector: Greg Coon Municipality: Clear Hills County
Date: Jul 11, 2019 Address: Box 240 Worsley, AB
File No.: 63-60-02 T0H 3M0

PRD3 06/16/2010

Figure 7. Example of Weed Notice

Clear Hills County
Box 240, Weyburn, Alberta T01 3W0 Phone (780) 885-3925
Report ID: NW_28_84_10_6

WEED INSPECTION REPORT

Land Description: NW 28-84-10-6
The Owner been contacted? Yes
Report prepared by: greg
Has the Occupant been contacted? Yes

Owner Name: BARRITT, LYLE & K. JUDY	Occupant's Name:
Address: C/O MANN, BARRITT, JUDY	Address:
City: ALMA	City:
Province: AB	Province:
Postal Code: T0C 0B0	Postal Code:
Telephone Number:	Telephone Number:

Location of Weeds:

lot: block: plan: 1/3

WEED INSPECTION REPORT
Report ID: NW_28_84_10_6

Inspected by: Cindy
Date of Entry: Jun 7, 2019 8:02 AM
Time of Exit: Jun 7, 2019 8:04 AM

Weed Type:	burdock, woolly (Rudous)
Location:	Yard
Growth Stage:	Flowering
Abundance:	Few Plants

Comments:
Lyle has a few burdock throughout couple corals. Lyle said hee gonna talk to Greg about spray.
Next action to be taken: Re-inspect on Jun 21, 2019

Picture 1:
Date Picture Taken: 2019-06-07 08:05:11
Location: NW-28-84-10-6

Description: None

2/3

Figure 9. Example of Weed Notice cont.



Figure 8. GIS Weed Tracking



Figure 10. Weed Inspector ID.

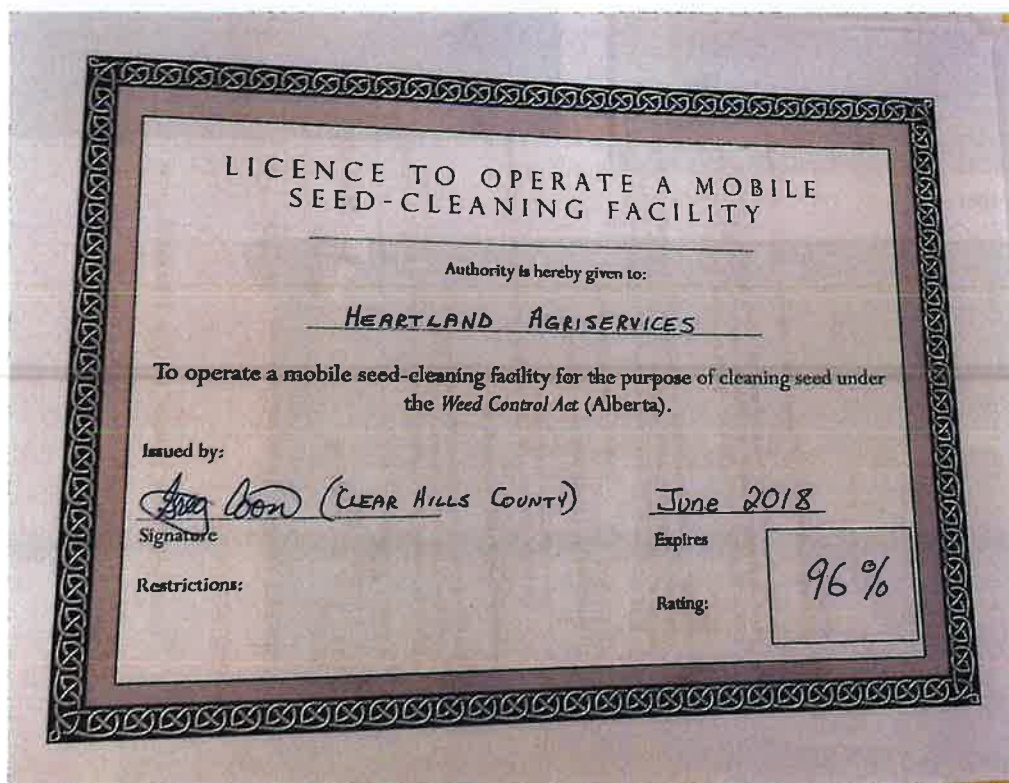


Figure 11. Seed Cleaning Licence.



Figure 12. Weed Survey Tracking Map.



Figure 13. Canada Thistle Spray Control.



Figure 14. Toadflax Inspection.



Figure 15. Himalayan Balsam Control Site Inspection.



Figure 16. Invasive Weed Management on Private Land in Response to Notice.



Figure 17. Toadflax Control Site.

Other Programs



Figure 18. Rental equipment

Extension & Ratepayer Communication



Figure 19. County Newsletter

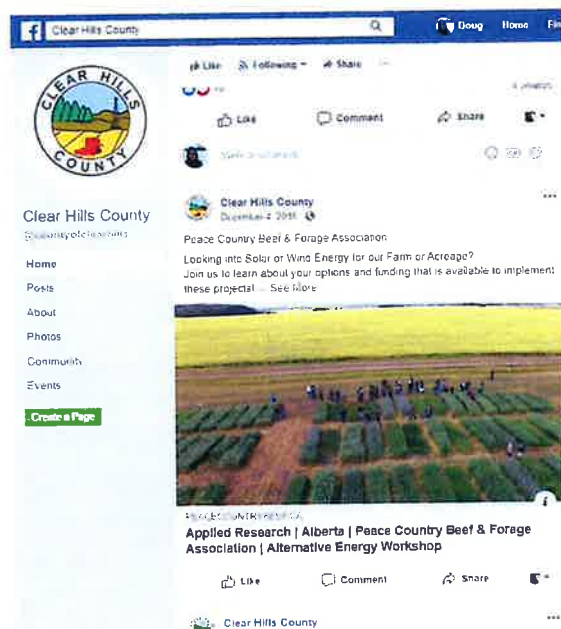


Figure 20. Facebook Awareness of Solar Wind Workshop.

Appendix 1. Field Visit Checklist

General Field Visit Questions & Things to See

Municipality Name: Clear Hills County

Date of visit: August 20, 2019

Legislated Duties and Requirements

1. → Did you report on your activities to your council? → YES → →

a. → Date that report was given to council February 12th, 2019

2. → a. How often do you review your business plan? → Annually →

b. When was the last time you reviewed your business plan? October 2018

3. → How often do you review your bylaws and policies? Annually, do not have review dates on policies. Recommend considering adding review dates or scheduling them.

4. → Do you have policies and bylaws in place for administering the:

a. → ASB Act → → → → → YES

b. → Agricultural Pests Act → → → → YES, Clubroot, Fusarium and Black Leg

c. → Animal Health Act → → → → YES, VSI & BSE policies

d. → Soil Conservation Act → → → → YES surface discharge policy

e. → Weed Control Act → → → → YES

5. → Has the municipality appointed appeal committees for the:

a. → Agricultural Pests Act → → → → YES → →

b. → Soil Conservation Act → → → → Not sure, recommend they review appeal process in SCA.

c. → Weed Control Act → → → → YES → →

6. → Who are the members of your appeal committees?

Jason Ruecker, Miron Croy, and three members from MD of Peace as per inter-municipal agreement.

7. → Inspection programs:

a. → Do you have inspectors appointed by council under the:

i. → Agricultural Pests Act → → → → YES → → ¶

¶

Inspectors appointed: 5 ¶

¶

Of Form 7 holders for distribution of toxicants/coyote predation investigation: 1 ¶

* Be sure to take photo or get a copy of Form 7 as evidence for report. ¶

¶

Weed Control Act → → → → → YES → → → ¶

¶

Inspectors appointed: 5 ¶

¶

Soil Conservation Act → → → → YES → → → ¶

¶

Inspectors appointed: 1 ¶

¶

b. → Are your inspection programs complaint-driven or proactive? → proactive ¶

¶

c. → Approximately how many inspections are completed each year for each of these Acts? ¶

(These numbers are also present in report) ¶

WCA-1118 → → → APA: 50 ¶

¶

SCA-0 → → → → AHA-0 (optional) ¶

¶

d. → Do your inspectors have appropriate identification issued to them for the Acts they are designated to enforce? ¶

¶

YES → → → → ¶

* Be sure to take photo or get a copy of one of the inspectors ID cards for report. ¶

8. → Enforcement ¶

a. What is your procedure for enforcing the Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pests Act and Soil Conservation Act? ¶

→ WCA: Inspect location and if weeds found contact landowner /- renter. Talk to them about a plan for the issue then issue a notification letter. If no action taken a notice is hand delivered. If no action after 7 days county does control and invoices landowner. About 2 week process. ¶

→ APA: Straight to notice, then follow process above. Policy outlines process. ¶

b. What is your procedure for issuing a notice for each of the three Acts? ¶

See above. ¶

¶

*Ask to see any notices that may have had to be issued, how enforcement procedures are tracked, examples of letters used for enforcement. If possible, get a copy for the report. ¶

¶

9.→ Control Programs ¶

a.→ What is your program for controlling regulated weed and pest species on municipal land? ¶

→ Inspectors monitor and inspect all ROWs. ¶

b.→ How many miles/kilometres of roadside do you typically do weed control on in a year? 1738 km ¶

¶

c.→ Is your program a blanket spraying, spot spraying or both? Spot spraying ¶

Explain system: ¶

All issues are dealt with. Mowing of roadways also done. Organic producers have no spray agreements. ¶

¶

10.→ Education and Awareness ¶

a.→ What kind of education and awareness programs do you have in place for educating your producers about the various Acts you are responsible to enforce? ¶

Examples: Hines Creek Trade Show, Website, Facebook, Peace Country Beef and Forage, Annual BBQ (350 attend), monthly newsletter---one weed per month highlighted. ¶

¶

11.→ Are you prepared to assist in the event of an animal emergency under the Animal Health Act? ¶

YES → → ¶

a.→ Are you prepared to report on a reportable or notifiable disease designated under the Animal Health Act? ¶

No → → ¶

Not 100% sure on this. Recommend reviewing AHA with ASB. ¶

b.→ Can you provide an example of how you would be prepared to assist under the Animal Health Act? ¶

No, haven't had any issues. ¶

¶

c.→ Have you developed a program for emergency carcass disposal? ¶

→ → NO ¶

d.→ What other programs do you have for your producers related to the Animal Health Act? ¶
VSI and BSE testing programs ¶

¶

.....Page Break..... ¶

12. Unique Initiatives/Programs¶

a. → Do you have any examples of programs that you have for your producers that you would like to tell us about?¶

Yes, Fenceline program, BSE testing, Wolf bounty (25 in 2019), Big Veggie Contest¶

b. → Do you have any special programs for controlling pests/weeds to highlight for us?¶

Fenceline program, no spray program, grant for farmers to attend training policy 60302¶

c. → Are there any initiatives that are unique to your municipality that you would like to highlight for us?¶

See above¶

¶

13. Environmental Programs (complete only if they receive Environmental Stream Funding)¶

Check one: → → ¶

¶

_____ Basic → → X Enhanced or → → _____ No ES Funding¶

¶

¶

a. → What environmental initiatives are you engaged in.¶

PCBFA—contract, see their report for details, have field days¶

¶

*Get copies of anything related to these programs for your records such as newsletters, event¶

..... Page Break¶

Office & Field Tour Item Checklist (* document with photo or copy):¶

- ✓→ Dated fieldmen activity report that was provided to council or ASB.¶
- ✓→ Example policy, procedure, or bylaw for administration of the Acts. These may also be on website.¶
- ✓→ Inspector identification* -¶
- ✓→ Form 7 certification (is it current?) *¶
- ✓→ Examples of inspection program¶
 - i.e. AIMS program showing # inspections completed to date, forms that have been filled out tracking inspections¶
- ✓→ Pest notification letters, Weed Notices, etc. ¶
- ✓→ Field Visit to see a Completed Roadside Spraying Area* ¶
- ✓→ Shop Tour to see that pesticides are stored safely and appropriately*¶
- ✓→ Rental equipment yard — types of equipment available to producers*¶
- ✓→ Copies of Newsletters*, examples of things that municipality has done for education/awareness¶
- ✓→ Actual projects implemented using funding from the Environmental Funding Stream*¶

¶

¶

¶

¶

¶

¶

¶

Signature: → Doug Macaulay¶

¶

¶

¶

¶

Date Field Visit Completed: August 20, 2019¶

13. Challenges, Impacts & Solutions

2019 & 2020 ASB Report to Council

Challenges, Impacts & Solutions

1. Taxation Funding reductions impacting the County:

a. Provincial Assessment Model Changes

Impact: \$1.5 million reduction in tax revenue for Clear hills County.

b. Unpaid taxes due to down turn in economy

Impact: \$9 million cumulative loss in uncollected oil field related taxes to date, this loss continues to grow.

2. Provincial funding reductions impacting the County:

a. Legislative Stream ASB Grant reduced by 27%

Impact: \$44,472 less revenue (from \$168,379 to \$123,907)

b. Resource Management Stream this grant stream won't be decided until 4th quarter (Jan-March 2021) of Provincial budget cycle.

Impact: Uncertain future of County and cost share funded extension & research (\$25,000 annually)

3. Continued COVID 19 social gathering and social distancing restrictions

Impact: Reduced seasonal crew (training & social distancing)

Potential cancellation of 2021 Tradeshow

Solutions: Reduce expenditures (budget) to cover the 1.5 million loss

Identify additional revenue sources (excluding increasing taxes)

Options:

- **Reducing or eliminating non-legislated programs & services**
 - An example of this was the 2020 review of the Rental Equipment fleet & recommended disposals and rate increases.
- **Reviewing program delivery**
 - An example of this is the transfer of the roadside mowing program from Public Works to Ag. Services. This reduces roadside vegetation control costs as there will be one supervisor for all seasonal mowing and weed/pest inspectors. It is anticipated that program delivery will also be more efficient with one supervisor.

- **VSI – reduce services & dollars committed to the program**
 - Note - BSE requires VSI membership = \$4,500
- **Further reduce or eliminate Wolf Bounty (reduced from \$50,000 in 2020 to \$25,000 in 2021)**
- **Discontinue the Tradeshow**
 - \$34,000 rev - \$84,000 exp = \$50,000
- **Reduce Tradeshow costs by eliminating components**
 - ie banquet \$3,000 rev - \$9,000 exp = \$6,000
- **Increase booth rental rates – currently \$14,000**
- **Discontinue funding extension & research = \$25,000**
- **Maintain reduced seasonal crew once pandemic restrictions are lifted. = \$30,000**
- **Encourage groups to continue virtual conferences and workshops due to significant cost savings in honorariums, travel & subsistence. = \$60,000**
- **Set an Ag. Services Reserve cap and contribute to reserves only as needed to return to the cap.**
- **Reduce annual contribution to Ag. Services Reserve.**
 - currently \$12,500 annually, reserve is at 221,369)

14. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

2019 & 2020 ASB Report to Council

In conclusion the Agricultural Service Board thank Council for the opportunity to present the 2019 and 2020 Annual Reports.

The downturn in the economy, reduced taxation and unpaid taxes weigh on the Boards mind as well and the Board members continually seek ways to improve efficiencies and reduce costs.

The Board thanks Council for supporting the recommendations that they have made in the past and will continue to make in the future.

In consideration of the continuing pandemic and economic situations the Board is recommending the following items for the 2021 tax year:

1. 2021 no contribution to Ag Services Reserve.

Next Steps: Establish an Agricultural Services Reserve cap of \$ _____ and contribute to the reserve when needed to return to the cap.

2. Cancel the 2021 Tradeshow.

Next Steps: As part of the 2022 budget deliberations determine if:

- a. Tradeshow should be cancelled permanently or modified
- b. Modifications could include
 - i. increased booth rentals
 - ii. eliminating components ie) Banquet

3. Maintain the 3 seasonal weed & pest inspection positions for 2021.

Next Steps: Once the pandemic situation is resolved increase the number of seasonal weed & pest inspectors to achieve spot spraying for weeds on all municipal roadways and return to previous field inspections levels that cannot be attained with the reduced staffing level.

4. Encourage Committees and Boards that Council is partnered with to continue virtual conferences, meetings and workshops when practical and viable to continue the significant cost savings in travel and related expenses.

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	January 13, 2021
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	2021 PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference resolutions. The conference is being held virtually on January 18-21, 2021.

BACKGROUND:

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution 1-21 Weed Issues on Oil and Gas Sites in Rural Alberta
- Resolution 2-21 Pesticide Container Collection Program
- Resolution 3-21 An Effective Solution for Control of Richardson Ground Squirrels in Alberta
- Resolution 4-21 Registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine
- Resolution 5-21 Fusarium Testing After Cleaning
- Resolution 6-21 Agricultural Research Association Check Off Position
- Resolution 7-21 Delegation of ASB's and AAAF to Agricultural Associations and Commodity Groups
- Resolution 8-21 Reinstating Provincial Agricultural Department Staff
- Resolution 9-21 Protect Farmers Rights to use Farm Saved Seed
- Resolution 10-21 Federal Fuel Charge

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by that this Agricultural Service Board accept for information the discussion around the 2021 Agricultural Service Board Conference resolutions being held virtually on January 18-21, 2021.

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

AgFieldman:



RESOLUTION 1-21
WEED ISSUES ON OIL AND GAS SITES IN RURAL ALBERTA

WHEREAS: the Province of Alberta has experienced an extended period of economic challenge in the oil and gas industry. This has resulted in many resource companies becoming insolvent, forced into receivership, or ultimately claiming bankruptcy;

WHEREAS: there are over 1,000 oil and gas wells in the M.D. of Taber where regular lease maintenance is not being carried out as per the terms of private surface lease agreements. These include wells transferred to the Orphan Wells Association (OWA), companies in receivership or in bankruptcy proceedings, or companies currently still operating and producing product;

WHEREAS: there are no legislated timelines for oil and gas companies to reclaim inactive wells. This has resulted in 90,000 inactive wells in Alberta;

WHEREAS: the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has been reluctant to suspend well licenses or limit access to these sites for companies that are in non-compliance of their surface leases terms. These terms could include issues such as weed control, contamination issues, fence maintenance, non-payment of surface rentals, and/or non-payment of municipal taxes;

WHEREAS: the agricultural community in Alberta have been left to deal with the liabilities of countless oil and gas wells that have been abandoned by bankrupt companies or companies that are unwilling or financially unable to maintain their sites;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
BOARDS REQUEST**

that Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy and the Alberta Energy Regulator, who are responsible for energy development, to put in place appropriate legislation and standards to protect landowners from undue hardship as a result of oil and gas company neglect of oil and gas site maintenance issues, namely weed control.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Taber
MOVED BY: _____
SECONDED BY: _____
CARRIED: _____
DEFEATED: _____
STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Alberta Environment and Parks
Alberta Energy
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The ongoing depressed oil and natural gas prices has dramatically affected the industry, the provincial Government, and the residents of Alberta. One of the unforeseen consequences to the landowners of the

M.D. of Taber has been the effects of unaddressed weed issues stemming from oil and gas lease sites.

Several struggling oil and gas companies have opted to forego weed control measures on their lease sites on both private and provincial crown lands within the municipality. This includes companies whose assets have been assigned to the Orphan Well Association, companies in receivership or bankruptcy proceedings, and companies that continue to operate and are choosing not to address their weed control obligations through their surface lease agreements with landowners.

This unfortunate symptom of an industry in peril has resulted in economic implications to cooperating landowners. In many cases, these neglected leases have resulted in weeds moving off the lease onto neighboring lands causing reduced crop yields and having landowners incur the cost, inconvenience, and liability of managing these weed issues themselves.

Efforts by M.D. of Taber landowners to contact operators of these facilities has proven to be frustrating. Commonly, a contact person cannot be found. If they are successful in contacting the company, many times the issues go unresolved.

The plant of primary concern is the Kochia weed (*Kochia scoparia*). This now common, non-native plant grows in wide range of soil types, is drought tolerant, and is becoming increasingly resistant to traditional herbicide treatments. This plant is of great concern to producers of annual cereal crops as it can substantially reduce crop yields and seed cleaning costs in affected fields. Kochia is not listed in the Alberta Weed Control Regulation, therefore municipalities are limited in their ability to address this issue through legislative processes.

Attempts at contacting the Orphan Well Association, the Alberta Energy Regulator, and the Alberta Surface Rights Board have not been successful in attenuating this situation.

RESOLUTION 2-21
PESTICIDE CONTAINER COLLECTION PROGRAM

WHEREAS: Since 1989, Alberta's municipalities have been involved with the collection of empty pesticide containers and have done so with only one time funding from Alberta Environment & Parks to establish permanent collection sites within their municipalities, which many of these sites are in need of repair;

WHEREAS: Municipal governments in cooperation with transfer station and landfill operators manage the day to day maintenance and supervision of the sites and cover the costs associated with the transfer of containers from temporary depots to permanent sites without any funding from Alberta Environment and Parks;

WHEREAS: The highest rinse rate compliance on pesticide containers are in the provinces that are currently running the program through the Agricultural Retail Industry as a result of their zero tolerance policy and container rejection if they do not meet the requirements due to their constant supervision;

WHEREAS: Collection programs are poised to become increasingly expensive and labor intensive with the addition of bale & silage wrap, Ag-film, twine and grain bag collection programs;

WHEREAS: Alberta and Manitoba are the only provinces in Canada that utilize municipalities to deliver the pesticide collection program within their province while the remaining provinces place this responsibility and cost on agricultural retail facilities who market and sell pesticide products;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Environment and Parks develop, with CleanFARMS, an empty pesticide container program that places the responsibility of collecting pesticide containers in Alberta with the Agricultural Retail/Dealer and removes the responsibility from the municipalities.

SPONSORED BY: Vulcan County
MOVED BY:
SECONDED BY:
CARRIED:
DEFEATED:
STATUS: Provincial
DEPARTMENT: Alberta Environment & Parks

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Empty Pesticide Container Recycling Program is an industry led voluntary extended producer responsibility program delivered by CleanFARMS. The program operates to collect, clean and recycle empty commercial class pesticide containers (less than 23 litres) from farmers and other pesticide users. Upon collection, the containers are shredded, cleaned and recycled into various value added plastic products.

CleanFARMS is a non-profit industry stewardship organization that funds this program through a levy collected from its pesticide manufacturer members on each container sold into the marketplace.

There are approximately 1200 collection sites throughout Canada (British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island) that utilize Agricultural Retail Facilities while two provinces (Alberta and Manitoba) rely upon municipal collection facilities.

Most Alberta municipalities have been involved with the Pesticide container collection program since its inception and established permanent collection facilities with one-time funding from Alberta Environment. Municipalities have not received any funding to maintain or operate these collection facilities since 1989, while the Agricultural Retail Industry in the other provinces have handled this responsibility.

Vulcan County operates one main collection site and 4 satellite sites to increase access for pesticide container disposal. Due to the size of Vulcan County if we closed our 4 satellite sites we risk the increase of pesticide containers not being returned to our main collection facility in Vulcan. Our main site and our 4 temporary sites are over 30 years old and in need of repair, over the years we have put considerable time and money to ensure that they are operated properly at the expense of the municipality while the Agricultural Retail Industry in the other provinces handle this responsibility.

According to CleanFARMS, Alberta has an empty pesticide container rinse rate of 90% as opposed to Saskatchewan's 95%. Ontario and East have the best rinse rate at 99+%. The higher rinse rate in Ontario and the East is attributed to a zero tolerance for un-rinsed containers. The containers are rejected if they do not meet the requirements. A retail-based collection system would be able to provide consistent supervision and would increase the rinse-rate of empty herbicide containers.

Alberta should move towards a dealer collection program, it would provide CleanFARMS the opportunity to develop a system similar to the one that exists in Ontario and East. They would be able to implement a program with zero tolerance for un-rinsed containers.

RESOLUTION 3-21
AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION FOR CONTROL OF RICHARDSON GROUND
SQUIRRELS IN ALBERTA

WHEREAS: Strychnine will no longer be available for Richardson Ground Squirrel Control as of March 4, 2023;

WHEREAS: There is no efficacious, cost effective and environmentally friendly alternative to strychnine;

WHEREAS: Richardson Ground Squirrels can multiply quickly and can be very destructive to both annual and perennial crops and cause livestock injuries;

WHEREAS: It appears little research has recently been carried out on alternate, effective control measures;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

the Pest Management Regulatory Agency have Strychnine registration extended until an effective and safe alternative control be found and/or Alberta Agriculture and Forestry make significant funding available for research into a sustainable, long term solution for control of Richardson ground squirrels.

SPONSORED BY: Flagstaff County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Federal, Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Producers had access to strychnine up until 1993. After that they were restricted to using a pre-treated grain bait. Due to severe drought in 2001 and very significant damage to annual crops and pastures, access was again granted to producers to 2% strychnine solution. The PMRA, the registering body for pesticides in Canada, has reviewed the registration for 2% strychnine solution and decided not to renew the registration. Repeated research has shown there is a high level of non-target species being negatively affected from scavenging of dead squirrels and unintended poisoning. However, there is little, recent research available on alternative methods to control Richardson Ground Squirrel populations.

Richardson ground squirrels continue to be a problem to both graziers and annual crop farmers. There does not appear to be any recent research conducted into a more effective, targeted control method and this motion looks to address this issue.

RESOLUTION 4-21
REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE

WHEREAS: Under the authority of the *Pest Control Product Act* and based on the evaluation of currently available scientific information, Health Canada has stated that products containing strychnine for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels do not meet the current standards for environmental protection and, therefore, have been cancelled;

WHEREAS: Studies conducted by the PMRA and the province of Alberta indicated that risks associated with label-approved use to non-target species was low;

WHEREAS: Richardson's Ground Squirrels are considered agricultural pests due to the substantial damage they cause to crops, livestock, and equipment which can result in economic losses for farmers;

WHEREAS: Training in the safe use of pesticides can be provided to agricultural producers in Alberta by participating in the Farmer Pesticide Certificate program;

WHEREAS: To help maintain a level of Richardson ground squirrel infestation below economic threshold;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Provincial Minister of Agriculture and Forestry lobby with all other Provincial Ministries of Agriculture to encourage Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency to reinstate 2% Liquid Strychnine on the market available on a temporary basis to agricultural producers to utilize on their farms for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry create and maintain a system that provides producers participating in the Farmer Pesticide Certificate program the opportunity to purchase and use Strychnine safely.

SPONSORED BY: Stettler County No. 6

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial & Federal

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Pest Management Regulatory Agency

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Health Canada and the PMRA have reviewed the label and use of 2% Liquid Strychnine. According to the review conclusion the recommendation is to remove the use of 2% Liquid Strychnine for use on ground squirrels. Richardson Ground Squirrels continue to pose a significant threat to agricultural production and strychnine has been used to reduce the impacts of severe infestations.

Strychnine being a single feed bait is efficient and effective and allows producers to treat small area and large area infestations when other parts of their integrated pest management practices have failed. Using multi-feed baits can be ineffective due to the fact that there are too many other options for Richardson's Ground Squirrels to eat. Using shooting and trapping methods can be time consuming especially during peak times of production (seeding, spraying, irrigating, calving, branding, etc.).

2% Liquid Strychnine is an essential tool in any agricultural producers integrated pest management toolbox as a consistent, effective tool in controlling Richardson's Ground Squirrel infestations.

**RESOLUTION 5-21
FUSARIUM TESTING AFTER CLEANING**

WHEREAS: Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) is a fungal disease of cereal crops that affect kernel development, affecting yield and quality;

WHEREAS: FHB was added as a declared pest to Alberta's Agricultural Pest Act in 1999;

WHEREAS: The *Fusarium graminearum* Management Plan was released in 2002, hoping to limit the spread of the disease and lessen the economic impact;

WHEREAS: FHB was removed from the Act in early 2020 after many years of discussion to allow tolerance in crops, at which time seed cleaning plants required testing of the lot prior to cleaning;

WHEREAS: Currently some seed cleaning plants still require testing for FHB prior to cleaning in order to avoid transferring to other seed lots;

WHEREAS: The initial sample might not be representative of the seed lot due to improper sampling procedures;

WHEREAS: Seed can be sold as "Certified Fusarium Free", but still have a high concentration of the disease present due to improper sampling resulting in false negative test results;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada revise the labeling requirements to include "Fusarium Free" seed, in that the sample is taken at the seed plant after it is cleaned by the seed plant operator in order to ensure the quality of the certified seed, and test results, same as the germination test, will have to be provided to the buyer.

SPONSORED BY: County of Barrhead

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

CARRIED:

DEFEATED:

STATUS: Federal

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As FHB has been taken off the *Agricultural Pest Act*, there are now no regulations regarding the sale of infected seed or the introduction of the disease into a new field. In areas of the province where the local producers want to keep it out, they depend on buying Certified Fusarium Free seed. As seed treatments can offer some control, the disease will still be present in an area where it was not present before and can then be easily dispersed by the wind to neighbouring properties.

There is nothing stopping a producer from submitting a grain sample for FHB testing from a source that is known to be clean, but then bringing grain to the seed plant from a different field, knowing that it is infected. After cleaning, the certified grain will be labelled as “Fusarium Free”, which is inaccurate. Producers who’ve bought this seed have been extremely frustrated to find that their crop had the disease, but it was sold to them as being “Fusarium Free”.

Although different regions of the province have different levels of acceptance of FHB, buyers of seed must be aware of what they are buying and not be misled by false/inaccurate labeling. As seed plants are already doing germination testing before and after cleaning anyway, it would be easy to add the FHB test as a value-added service. By changing to a post-cleaning FHB test, we can have confidence in the quality of the certified seed being bought and sold.

Taken from Alberta Seed Growers website (www.seedalberta.ca)

What is Certified Seed?

Certified seed is seed that has followed very strict protocols and has been rigorously tested, as per Canadian seed system regulations, to ensure it retains its varietal and genetic benefits, purity and quality.

Any seed that is labelled “certified” has been:

- Purchased as pedigreed seed from a plant breeder or seed distributor with identifiable traits or characteristics
- Planted with equipment that has been meticulously cleaned between crop types and varieties, on a field with documented crop history
- Managed with proper separation distances to similar crop types
- Rogued by hand to remove volunteer weeds and genetic off-types
- Inspected by a third-party, in the field
- Harvested by equipment that has been meticulously cleaned between crop types and varieties
- Tested to uphold quality standards
- Verified by a CSGA-certified authority (where it came from, who grew it and how it was grown)

- Assigned a traceable seed certificate or blue tag

Certified seed premiums

Certified seed takes great effort to produce. Each step listed above requires additional time and resources, which in turn adds expense to the process. Producing certified seed may also require a royalty to be paid to the plant breeder of the seed. This is why certified seed comes at a premium cost.

Alberta farmers are investing in certified seed, despite the higher cost, because they realize the economic and agronomic benefits it provides them in the long run. Certified seed can also benefit the entire value chain, by creating higher quality (identity preserved) products that end users are willing to pay for.

RESOLUTION 6-21
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION CHECK OFF OPTION

- WHEREAS** Producers must pay mandatory checkoff's on various agricultural products;
- WHEREAS** Producers have no voluntary option to chose where they send these checkoff dollars;
- WHEREAS** This process seems to violate freedom of choice and would be an excellent candidate for red tape reduction;
- WHEREAS** Agricultural Research Associations have conducted variety trials and provided proof of concept for farming practices for decades, efforts that are often unsung, and face a funding crunch under the changes to Agricultural Research funding in the Province of Alberta;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
BOARDS REQUEST**

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council create the option for producers to allocate check-off dollars directly to their local Applied Research Association or various approved Agricultural Research and Development Organizations or Agricultural Service Board.

SPONSORED BY: MD of Peace No. 135

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry; Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council, Alberta Wheat Commission, Alberta Barley Commission, Alberta Canola Producer Council, Alberta Pulse Growers, Alberta Seed Processors Association, Alberta Seed Growers Association, Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Pork Producers, Alberta Milk, Alberta Chicken Producers, Potato Growers of Alberta and other appropriate bodies.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Under the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, check-off dollars are mandatory for every producer marketing their products in Alberta. The receiving facility must then remit these funds to the appropriate commission. If a producer wants their funds back, they must remit for reimbursement in two narrow windows in January and August.

The sustainable funding of Agricultural Research Associations, which have been providing proof of concept and regional variety trial work for decades, is in doubt. With recent changes to the funding of Agricultural Research within Alberta and discussions from the current interim chair of RDAR indicating the potential for Alberta tax dollars funding out-of-province research, the Province of Alberta should allow producers to direct check-off dollars to these valuable organizations, should they so choose.

Alberta's new vision for ag research

Published: August 13, 2020

Opinion- Western Producer

At the core of the plan is the creation of Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR), a non-profit, producer-led company that will operate at arm's length from the government of Alberta. This new organization will determine and fund industry-wide research priorities to enhance producers' competitive advantage.

Alberta is embarking on a bold new direction in agriculture research where the spending priorities will be set by producers who grow the crops and raise the livestock. It's a model like none other you will find anywhere in Canada.

On March 30, Agriculture and Forestry Minister Devin Dreeshen announced a new vision for provincial agriculture research following a series of consultations with farmers, ranchers and other stakeholders throughout the province. The process revealed that producers, in collaboration with other partners, including scientists, educational institutions and private industry, are better positioned than government officials to determine research priorities.

At the core of the plan is the creation of Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR), a non-profit, producer-led company that will operate at arm's length from the government of Alberta. This new organization will determine and fund industry-wide research priorities to enhance producers' competitive advantage.

I am proud to chair the interim board of directors of RDAR, which is currently in its formative stages. Our board consists of a broad cross-section of respected individuals from livestock and crops boards and commissions, applied research associations, farm organizations, academia and individual producers.

Our goal is to incorporate the new company by the fall of 2020 and we have been extremely busy, holding eight board meetings since April 1. At our meeting in Red Deer on July 6 the board adopted two founding principles:

Mandate: To support results-driven research priorities and programs that will increase competitiveness and profitability of the Alberta agriculture industry.

Vision: Alberta's agriculture and food sectors achieve their full potential through producer-led, strategic investments in research and innovation.

RDAR will be entrusted with investing \$37 million per year in agriculture research funding. We are currently being funded through a \$2 million Canadian Agricultural Partnership grant administered by the Alberta Barley Commission until the new company is incorporated.

Our initial goals reflect a collective commitment to providing maximum benefit to producers and leveraging opportunities with public, private and producer funders.

One of our first priorities has been to consult early and often with the key players in agriculture research in Alberta — and some beyond our borders.

Working with our interim management team led by chief executive officer Gerald Hauer and consultants with deep experience in the sector, we have hosted 10 separate webinars with more than 250 participants to gauge the views of our partners on issues such as: the core focus areas of our funding, how far up the value chain we should invest, our philosophy on investing beyond our borders and the makeup of the permanent board and advisory committee, to name a few.

Change can be intimidating, but it's also an opportunity for a new beginning. The RDAR board has embraced that challenge and we look forward to the startup of the new company.

David Chalack is interim board chair of RDAR, a veterinarian from the Calgary-Cochrane area and a Canadian Agriculture Hall of Famer. Chalack has held numerous chair positions including the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency, and is the former president and chair of the Calgary Stampede. He has also developed international experience in his roles at Alta Genetics Inc.

RESOLUTION 7-21
DELEGATION OF ASB'S AND AAAF TO AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS AND
COMMODITY GROUPS

WHEREAS: Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations have been more vocal regarding provincial agricultural issues;

WHEREAS: Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations have been increasingly discussing municipal/provincial policies and legislation;

WHEREAS: Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations have a lack of legislative and municipal/provincial government experts on their board;

WHEREAS: Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations have made legislative and policy recommendations that negatively impacted the agricultural industry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations listed below be contacted and requested to have an Agricultural Service Board (ASB) representative chosen by the ASB Provincial Committee and a technical advisor chosen by the AAAF to be present as a delegation during policy and legislative discussions at their Board/Director meetings and/or Annual General Meetings & Special Meetings.

Sponsored by: Northern Sunrise County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: Provincial

Department: Alberta Wheat Commission, Alberta Barley Commission, Alberta Canola Producer Council, Alberta Pulse Growers, Alberta Seed Processors Association, Alberta Seed Growers Association, Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Pork Producers, Alberta Milk, Alberta Chicken Producers, Potato Growers of Alberta

Background information

Discussions during the Fusarium Action Committee, the Alberta Clubroot Management Committee, as well as the Fusarium Ministerial Roundtable recent meetings these last few years, a consistent pattern emerged of the lack of awareness of the provincial legislation and municipal policies as indicated in the *Agricultural Service Board Act* Section 2.

Agricultural service board duties

2 The duties of an agricultural service board are

- (a) to act as an advisory body and to assist the council and the Minister, in matters of mutual concern,
- (b) to advise on and to help organize and direct weed and pest control and soil and water conservation programs,
- (c) to assist in the control of animal disease under the Animal Health Act,
- (d) to promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer, and
- (e) to promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality.

The lack of awareness is the cause of major strife, misunderstanding, missed opportunities, and unexplored options.

RESOLUTION 8-21
REINSTATING PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT STAFF

WHEREAS: The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is responsible for supporting environmentally sustainable resource management practices;

WHEREAS: Staffing levels in the Agriculture and Forestry department have been reduced significantly;

WHEREAS: Municipal staff have been required to provide assistance to agricultural producers and acreage owners;

WHEREAS: Agriculture and Forestry staff members having years of experience represent institutional experience that cannot be replaced;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry reinstates funding for extension staff that will assist agricultural, apicultural, and horticultural producers throughout Alberta.

SPONSORED BY: Stettler County No. 6

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

CARRIED:

DEFEATED:

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In October of 2019, the provincial budget showed 51 positions would be eliminated, which ultimately occurred in December. The 2020 provincial budget released in February detailed plans for an additional 277 job cuts, which would be 40% of all government reductions this year. Many of these staff members have years of experience with the province, and represent many years of institutional experience that cannot be replaced.

Several of these many cuts were positions based in the Ag-Info Centre, a trusted resource for producers around the province. The staff members whose positions were eliminated provided unbiased information based on years of research, much of which was performed by provincial researchers. While industry representatives are available to producers to provide information on livestock and grain production methods, the private sector may lead to more biased information being relied upon. If so, this will increase costs for producers that once relied on an impartial source like the Ag-Info Centre.

Municipal staff members have also begun assisting agricultural producers more at the same time that municipalities around the province have seen dramatic reductions in revenue. Rather than refer to documents that were once available on Ropin' the Web, municipal staff must now refer to a small amount of industry representatives when the information cannot be found.

**RESOLUTION 9-21
PROTECT FARMERS RIGHTS TO USE FARM SAVED SEED**

WHEREAS: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) conducted consultations on implementing a system to collect royalties on farm saved seed in 2018/19;

WHEREAS: Paying royalties on farm saved seed will increase the price of seed and decrease profit margins for farmers;

WHEREAS: Royalties on farm saved seed could limit seed choices for farmers as seed companies move to deregister old varieties, which could mean farmers would be forced to pay royalties and to grow only newer varieties;

WHEREAS: AAFC and CFIA have not outlined details on how much a royalty would be, how it would be collected or how royalties would be dispersed;

WHEREAS: The Canadian Plant Technology Agency launched a pilot project in spring 2020 to test value use agreements whereby farmers would be required to pay royalties on farm saved seed;

WHEREAS: A royalty system has potential to decrease farmers' ability to make sound agronomic decisions and operate profitably;

WHEREAS: Other options to fund crop variety research are available, including increased investment of grain commission check-off funds in variety research;

~~**WHEREAS:** Options other than royalty systems to increase investment in crop variety development are required in order to maintain Canada's competitive advantage in the global market;~~

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada abandon the proposal to implement the adoption of End Point Royalties or farm saved seed "trailing royalty contracts" and pursue investment options for globally competitive crop variety development that have direct and tangible on farm benefits.

SPONSORED BY: Parkland County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Federal

DEPARTMENT: Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Background

In 2018, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada conducted a series of consultations on proposals for royalty collection models for cereal grains. The royalty collection models are one mechanism to fund cereal grain variety development. Historically, the majority of cereal grain variety development was conducted by public institutions with public funds. However, public cereal variety research and development has decreased over time.

In order for Canada to remain competitive in the international cereal grain market, new variety research is required. With the reduction in public funding for this research, new funding models for variety development are required.

The new seed royalty proposal brought forward by the federal government will require farmers to pay additional seed royalties on farm saved seed. Previously farm saved seed could be kept, cleaned, conditioned, and grown by farmers for years without having to pay royalties back to seed companies or the original plant breeders.

The new seed royalty proposals are end point royalties or trailing royalties otherwise known as the Seed Variety Use Agreement (SVUA). End point royalties will mandate that farmers pay seed royalties on Plant Breeders' Rights protected varieties at the time the crop is sold, while trailing royalties or the SVUA will have Canadian producers paying an annual fee that grants them the permission to grow their own farm saved seed each year. It is unclear how royalties would be collected if a farmer sells seed to a neighbor.

The intended use of these new royalties is to fund plant breeding and research by private industry. Similar royalty schemes have been implemented in Australia and France.

The royalty amount and method they are paid are still unknown, however, pilot projects on royalty collection are being conducted by the seed industry.

The proposed changes to the current seed royalty regulations being brought forward will have a negative financial impact on Canadian farmers.

The change to seed royalties will essentially take away "Farmers Privilege," which was the term used for farmers to freely grow farm saved seed. Government will argue that farmers are still entitled to the "Farmers Privilege," although now it is a privilege that must be paid for.

RESOLUTION 10-21 FEDERAL FUEL CHARGE

WHEREAS the Federal Fuel Charge (Carbon Tax) mandated under the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* came into effect in Alberta on January 1, 2020;

WHEREAS the Federal Fuel Charge amount varies by fuel product offering and the Federal Government has announced targeting relief for certain sectors and individuals including farmers;

WHEREAS the *Climate Leadership Implementation Act* effective January 1, 2017 states “that every recipient shall pay a carbon levy on purchases of natural gas and propane”;

WHEREAS as purchasers, farmers cannot pass the additional costs on to consumers or international markets as the international markets set the price for agricultural products and that a producer trying to increase their price to compensate would not be able to sell their product and recover the additional costs;

WHEREAS certain categories of customers are exempt from paying the Federal Fuel Charge, including:

- Farmers for gasoline, light fuel oil (diesel);
- Fishers for gasoline, light fuel oil (diesel);
- Registered Distributors;
- Registered Air Carriers;
- Registered Rail Carriers;
- Registered Road Carriers;
- Remote Power Plant Operators that generate Electricity for remote Communities for light fuel oil; and
- A partial exemption at eighty per cent (80 %) for propane supplied to Greenhouse operators;

WHEREAS propane and natural gas used by many farming operations in their agricultural production is not included in the list of eligible exemptions;

WHEREAS under the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* eligible farming machinery means property that is primarily used for the purpose of farming and that is a “farm truck or tractor”, a vehicle not licensed to be operated on a public road, an industrial machine, or a stationary or portable engine, or prescribed activity;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks, and Alberta Energy jointly lobby the Government of Canada alongside Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) to provide an exemption for all consumption of propane and natural gas for all recognized agricultural production, including, but not limited to grain farming, greenhouse, and other similar practices.

SPONSORED BY: County of Wetaskiwin No. 10

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks, and
Alberta Energy

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Additional costs will be borne by farmers due to the Farm Fuel Charge as farmers are unable to pass the additional costs on the consumers or international markets as those prices are set by international markets. Without this exemption, farmers will have an increase in costs to produce their products yet will not be able to recover those costs.

Attached Documents

1. Copy of the Backgrounder Targeted Relief for Farmers and Fishers, and Residents of Rural and Remote Communities
2. Fuel Charge Exemption Certificate for Farmers

Government
of CanadaGouvernement
du Canada

Department of Finance Canada

Canada

Backgrounder: Targeted Relief for Farmers and Fishers, and Residents of Rural and Remote Communities

Background

The Government of Canada has a plan to build a cleaner environment and a stronger economy for today and tomorrow. A key part of this plan, the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act* (GGPPA), which was enacted on June 21, 2018, establishes a federal Canada-wide standard for reducing carbon pollution. The federal standard gives provinces and territories the flexibility to choose a system that meets this standard and works best for them.

Provinces or territories that meet this standard with their own carbon pollution pricing systems will continue to reduce carbon pollution using their own systems.

For all other provinces and territories, beginning in 2019, the federal "backstop" carbon pollution pricing system will apply to ensure that all jurisdictions in Canada meet the federal standard.

The federal carbon pollution pricing backstop system is composed of two components:

- A charge on fossil fuels ("fuel charge"), which will be administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) starting in April 2019; and
- An output-based pricing system (OBPS), which will be administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) starting in January 2019.

The purpose of the GGPPA is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by ensuring that carbon pollution pricing applies broadly throughout Canada.

At the same time, the Government recognizes that particular groups or sectors require targeted relief from the fuel charge – in particular because of the small number of alternative options they may have in the face of carbon pollution pricing.

Relief for Farmers

The GGPPA will provide farmers with relief from the fuel charge for fuels used in tractors, trucks and other farm machinery. The relief is provided upfront through the use of exemption certificates, when certain conditions are met. Specifically, the GGPPA provides that a registered distributor can generally deliver, without the fuel charge applying, gasoline or light fuel oil (e.g., diesel) to a farmer at a farm, if the fuel is for use exclusively in the operation of eligible farming machinery and all or substantially all of the fuel is for use in the course of eligible farming activities. Farmers do not need to be registered for the purposes of this relief.

Under the GGPPA, eligible farming machinery means property that is primarily used for the purposes of farming and that is a farm truck or tractor, a vehicle not licensed to be operated on a public road, or an industrial machine or stationary or portable engine.

The GGPPA also includes diversion rules to ensure that the fuel charge applies if gasoline or light fuel oil is used in a manner contrary to the intended relief.

Relief for Fishers

The GGPPA also provides relief of the fuel charge for gasoline and light fuel oil (e.g., diesel) that is generally delivered to a fisher, if the fuel is for use exclusively in an eligible fishing vessel and all or substantially all of the fuel is for use in the course of eligible fishing activities. The relief is provided upfront through the use of exemption certificates, when certain conditions are met, one of them being that the province or territory subject to the fuel charge (i.e., "listed") be prescribed for the purpose of the relief. Fishers do not need to be registered for the purposes of this relief.

The GGPPA also includes diversion rules to ensure that the fuel charge applies if gasoline or light fuel oil is used in a manner contrary to the intended relief.

There are currently no listed provinces that are prescribed. It is proposed that all listed provinces and territories for the purpose of the fuel charge be prescribed for the purpose of the relief.

It is proposed that this relief apply as of April 2019, for the purpose of the fuel charge.

Providing Additional, Targeted Relief Under the GGPPA

In addition to the relief from the fuel charge that is already provided under the GGPPA, the Government is proposing that additional, targeted relief be provided to certain groups or sectors, including:

- Residents of rural and small communities;
- Users of aviation fuels in the territories;
- Greenhouse operators;
- Power plants that generate electricity for remote communities; and
- Indigenous Peoples.

The following sections provide further details on proposed relief measures.

Supplement for Residents of Rural and Small Communities

For provinces that have not taken adequate action to meet the federal standard for pricing carbon pollution — Ontario, New Brunswick, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan — the Government proposes to provide a supplementary amount to the baseline Climate Action Incentive payments for residents of rural and small communities, in recognition of their increased energy needs and reduced access to alternative transportation options. This supplement would increase the amount that people living in these provinces would receive by 10 per cent. For more information, see the accompanying backgrounders regarding return of direct proceeds to the respective provinces.

Users of Aviation Fuels in the Territories

Generally, the fuel charge under the GGPPA applies to aviation gasoline and aviation turbo fuel that is used in intra-jurisdictional flights (i.e., between two points in the same province or territory), but not in inter-jurisdictional flights (e.g., between two different Canadian provinces or territories, or international flights).

As part of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, the federal government committed to work with the territories to address their unique circumstances, including the high cost of living, challenges with food security and emerging territorial economies.

Consequently, the federal government is proposing to apply the fuel charge at a rate of \$0 per litre to aviation gasoline and aviation turbo fuel for listed territories (Yukon and Nunavut), as noted in the backgrounder entitled Fuel Charge Rates in Listed Provinces and Territories. This will also be in keeping with the treatment of aviation fuels under the proposed carbon pollution pricing system of the Northwest Territories. This ensures that, while carbon pollution pricing applies broadly in Canada, it also reflects the high-reliance on air transportation in the territories.

Air carriers in the listed territories will continue to be subject to the GGPPA (e.g., reporting and filing requirements), as required, but ultimately the fuel charge will not be paid on any flights in the territories.

The proposed rate of \$0 per litre will be effective as of July 2019 (the implementation date of the fuel charge in the listed territories) and will apply for all years.

Greenhouse Operators

Partial relief of the fuel charge (i.e., 80 per cent) is proposed to apply to natural gas and propane that is exclusively for use in the operation of a commercial greenhouse for growing any plants, including vegetables, fruits, bedding plants, cut flowers, ornamental plants, tree seedlings and medicinal plants. It is also proposed that, in order for relief to be available, all or substantially all of the greenhouse building must be used for the growing of plants.

The relief is proposed to be provided upfront through the use of exemption certificates, similar to other exemption certificates under the GGPPA, such that only 20 per cent of the fuel charge applies to natural gas and propane that is delivered by a registered distributor to an eligible greenhouse operator if the fuel is exclusively for use in the heating of, or for the production of carbon dioxide for use in the operation of, a commercial greenhouse.

- An eligible greenhouse operator is proposed to be a person that carries on a greenhouse operation with a reasonable expectation of profit.

It is also proposed that diversion rules be included, in line with existing provisions of the GGPPA, to ensure that the fuel charge applies if natural gas or propane is used in a manner contrary to the intended relief.

This relief is proposed to generally apply as of April 2019 in all listed provinces and as of July 2019 in all listed territories, for the purpose of the fuel charge.

Power Plant Operators that Generate Electricity for Remote Communities

Full relief of the fuel charge is proposed to apply to light fuel oil (e.g., diesel) that is used exclusively to generate electricity for remote communities.

The relief is proposed to be provided upfront through the use of exemption certificates, similar to other exemption certificates under the GGPPA, such that the fuel charge does not apply to light fuel oil that is delivered by a registered distributor to a person that operates a remote power plant if that fuel is exclusively for use in the generation of electricity for distribution to the general public in remote communities.

- A remote community will be defined to mean a geographic area that is neither serviced by an electrical distribution network that is under the jurisdiction of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation nor a natural gas distribution system.

It is also proposed that diversion rules be included, in line with existing provisions of the GGPPA, to ensure that the fuel charge applies if light fuel oil is used in a manner contrary to the intended relief.

This relief is proposed to generally apply as of April 2019 in all listed provinces and as of July 2019 in all listed territories, for the purpose of the fuel charge.

Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous peoples could benefit from a number of the proposed relief measures announced by the Government – the supplement for residents of rural and small communities, the fuel charge relief for aviation fuels in the territories, the fuel charge relief for diesel-fired generation of electricity for remote communities, the fuel charge relief for greenhouse operators, and other targeted support for affected sectors. More information is found in the backgrounder entitled [Climate Action and Indigenous Peoples](#).

Have Your Say

Canadians are invited to provide comments on the proposed relief for greenhouse operators and power plant operators that generate electricity for remote communities.

Please send your comments to fin.tarification-pollution-pricing.fin@canada.ca by November 23, 2018. Written correspondence related to these consultations can also be mailed to:

Carbon Pollution Pricing
Department of Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G5



Fuel Charge Exemption Certificate for Farmers

under section 36 of the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act, and the Fuel Charge Regulations

If you are a **farmer** within the meaning of the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (the Act) and you carry out eligible farming activities (as defined below), give this exemption certificate to the registered distributor that delivers the fuel in accordance with this Act.

If a farmer receives delivery of gasoline or light fuel oil (diesel fuel) using its exemption certificate, whether the fuel was delivered at the farm or delivered at a cardlock facility that is registered as a distributor, but uses that fuel type for non-eligible farming activities, the farmer must self-assess the fuel charge based on the quantity of the fuel type that is used for purposes other than those eligible for farmers under the Act and its regulations, using Form B401, Fuel Charge Return for Non-registrants, and the related schedule.

Eligible farming activity means either of the following:

- the operation of eligible farming machinery on a farm for the purposes of farming
- the operation of eligible farming machinery for the purposes of going from a location at a farm to another location at a farm

Eligible farming machinery means property that is primarily used for the purposes of farming and that is a farm truck or a tractor.

1. Business information

Legal name:

Business number:

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2. Farmer

☐ Tick the box to declare that you are a farmer carrying out eligible farming activities, within the meaning of the Act.

3. Type of fuel

Tick the box(es) corresponding to the fuel type by listed province covered by this exemption certificate.

Type of fuel by listed province							
	Alberta	Manitoba	New Brunswick	Nunavut	Ontario	Saskatchewan	Yukon
Gasoline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Light fuel oil (for example, diesel fuel)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	January 13, 2021
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	Results Driven Agricultural Research Funding
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with information regarding funding prioritization being done by the new Results Driven Agricultural Research board (RDAR).

BACKGROUND:

In March of 2020, the Government of Alberta created the Results Driven Agricultural Research (RDAR) board to put ag research into the hands of producers. To date the board has allocated over 40% of the annual funding to university's and colleges and to hiring employees. So far, no money has been allocated to Agricultural Research Associations, such as Peace Country Beef and Forage, NPARRA, and SARDA. Further to this, RDAR is looking at funding out of province research projects.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Big Lakes County letter
- Birch Hills County letter
- Saddle Hills County letter

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by that this Agricultural Service Board direct administration draft a letter to the Provincial Agricultural Minister stressing the importance of our local Agricultural Research Associations (ARAs) and to urge the Government of Alberta to give prioritized consideration to these ARAs for funding ahead of out of province initiatives.

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

AgFieldman:





BIG LAKES COUNTY

5305-56 Street Box 239, High Prairie, AB T0G 1E0
T / (780) 523-5955 F / (780) 523-4227

November 23, 2020

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
229 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Honorable Minister Devin Dreesen,

RE: Results Driven Agricultural Research

On March 30th, Results Driven Agricultural Research (RDAR) was announced as the arms-length board initiative that would put agricultural research into the hands of agricultural producers. To date, announcements of funding for the University's of Lethbridge, Calgary, Alberta as well as Olds and Lethbridge College account for an estimated \$14.36 million annual commitment. This along with the hiring of 11 employees and board governance expenses committed over 40% of RDARs annual funding before a call for research proposals was initiated. Of more concern, the policy papers reviewed by the RDAR advisory committee and the subsequent survey of committee members revealed the following:

Policy Paper #5: Should RDAR fund out of province research, if it provides a benefit to Alberta producers and helps leverage funding? 3% of participants felt RDAR should not fund out of province research. 97% felt RDAR should fund out of province research that will benefit Alberta. Participants were therefore extremely supportive of funding out of province research.

Big Lakes County recommends that RDAR prioritize funding our Agricultural Research Associations over funding out-of-province research. As a municipality within Alberta, we want to see tax dollars staying in Alberta and do not see funding out-of-province projects as the right strategy for Albertan producer-led research. We already have a made in Alberta solution for proof-of-researched-concept with extension and knowledge transfer in the existing provincial ARAs network. Please note, RDARs funding includes the provincial funding previously allocated to our ARAs.

The geographic breadth of the provincial ARA network strengthens our producers by providing region specific practical application of research derived improvements. They provide sober, unbiased analysis of the newest and purportedly best inputs and cultivars, potential new rotation options, equipment, and practice refinements with no quota to meet nor product to promote. The diversity of the province is enough that work from one ARA will not necessarily apply to all our farmers needs. Applied research taking place outside Alberta is likely to have less value and should not diminish the funding available to our own applied research apparatus.

We ask that the ARAs of Alberta be given prioritized consideration for their request of programming and extension funding over out-of-province initiatives. Our ARAs are already hard-pressed to continue operations with recent funding cuts and grant eliminations. While we understand that these are trying economic times, cutting the legs out from under our producers by essentially defunding their ARAs will not help the situation.

Respectfully,

Doug Meneice, Chair, Agricultural Advisory Committee
Big Lakes County

cc: MLA Lesser Slave Lake, Pat Rehn
Dr. David Chalack, Interim Chair, Results Driven Agricultural Research
Paul McLaughlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Corey Beck, Provincial ASB Chair

GO BIGLAKESCOUNTRY.CA



December 16th, 2020

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
229 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Ave
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Re: Results Driven Agricultural Research

Honourable Devin Dreesen,

The Birch Hills County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) recently met to review the letter from the Big Lakes County Agricultural Advisory Committee. Our ASB fully agrees with the comments made in the letter and wish to reiterate the importance of the Agricultural Research Associations (ARA's).

ARA's require stable funding that will allow them to conduct research that helps propel Alberta into ever more advanced agricultural practices. This is what we believed RDAR would provide. We ask that ARA's be given prioritized funding consideration.

Agriculture is a pillar of Alberta's economy. Continued investment in research and development will help to diversify the sector, enable farmers to capture 21st century opportunities and provide meaningful employment.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to a continued positive working relationship with you and Ministry staff.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mel Duvall", followed by a long horizontal line.

Mel Duvall, Chair
Agricultural Service Board

Cc: Honourable Tracy Allard, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Honourable Travis Toews, Minister of Finance
Todd Loewen, MLA Central Peace – Notley
Dr. David Chalack, Interim Chair, Results Driven Agricultural research
Paul Mclauchlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Cory Beck, Provincial ASB Chair
Peace Region A.S.B Chairmen

December 18, 2020

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
229 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Honorable Minister Devin Dreesen,

RE: Results Driven Agricultural Research (RDAR)

Saddle Hills County's Agricultural Service Board reviewed the letters sent to your office from Big Lakes County Agricultural Advisory Committee and the M.D of Smoky River.

Our Agricultural Service Board agrees with both letters and wish to reiterate the importance of provincial and regional Agricultural Research Associations (ARA's) to agricultural production, producers and the Gross Domestic Product of the province. Particularly in the Peace Region, many municipalities support the ARA's through financial funding, in-kind donations and collaboration in the important work they do on behalf of our agricultural producers. The important work ARA's do throughout the province is ongoing and includes area specific research, emergent issues and collaboration between ARA's.

ARA's do receive funding from industry and other entities for specific research projects but is not guaranteed. At this time, future funding received from rural municipalities is uncertain due to cutbacks and taxation issues. ARA's require stable funding that allows them to conduct unbiased research and extension for all Alberta producers.

We were at the impression that RDAR would aid ARA's, but this has not come to fruition. We ask the Ministry for assurance that this will be remedied.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Dolen".

Candace Dolen
Agricultural Service Board Chair

Cc: Todd Loewen, MLA Central Peace-Notley
Dr David Chalack, Interim Chair, Results Driven Agricultural Research
Paul McLauchlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta



Corey Beck, Provincial ASB Chair
Peace Region Agricultural Service Boards

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	January 13, 2021
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-January 13, 2021
 - Rental Equipment Usage

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that the Agricultural Service Board accepts the January 13, 2021 Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: _____

Manager:

AgFieldman:



JAN 13, 2021

PEST CONTROL

• **Wolves Claimed 2020 Total:**

Total #	Total \$
22	\$7550.00

• **Wolves Claimed 2021 YTD:**

Total #	Total \$
1	\$200.00

OTHER TOPICS

1. Electric sprayer control has been installed on the Bobcat UTV. MRF will be up this winter to install GIS spray mapping systems on both UTVs.
2. Will be going through all trailers lighting systems this winter.
3. Both waterpump trailers had new tires and wheel bearings installed.
4. Started taking orders for shelterbelt seedlings in December. Deadline for ordering is March 19.
5. Started looking at mower parts inventory and what will be needed for the 2021 season.

January 1 - December 31, 2020

Rental Equipment	Rental Deposit	Rental Rates	Total Users	Total Days	Total
Backpack Sprayer	\$ 50.00	\$ -	1	1	\$ -
Bale Scale	\$ 100.00	\$ 30.00	3	3	\$ 60.00
BBQ Trailer	\$ 150.00	\$ 75.00	1	2	\$ 100.00
Chairs	\$ 50.00	\$0.50/chair	10	10	\$ 216.00
Community Centre	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	5	17	\$ 850.00
Corral Panels	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	0	0	\$ -
Eco-Bran Applicator	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -
Exta Hoses	\$ 50.00	\$1.000/hose	0	0	\$ -
Grain Bagger	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	3	16	\$ 5,600.00
Grain Bag Roller	\$ 50.00	\$ -	17	17	\$ -
Grain Bag Extractor	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	6	13	\$ 4,550.00
Grain Vac	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00	15	24	\$ 4,312.15
Grill	\$ 50.00	\$ 5.00	3	3	\$ 10.00
Hand Held Rope Wick	\$ 50.00	\$ -	1	1	\$ -
Land Leveller	\$ 300.00	\$ 150.00	6	12	\$ 1,560.00
Loading Chute	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	9	10	\$ 225.00
Manure Spreader	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00	5	10	\$ 1,425.00
Mulch Applicator	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	0	0	\$ -
Post Pounder	\$ 300.00	\$ 150.00	13	17	\$ 2,250.00
Pull/Push Roller Applicator	\$ 50.00	\$ -	2	2	\$ -
Quad Mount Rope Wick	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -
Quad Mounted Sprayer	\$ 50.00	\$ -	3	3	\$ -
Quad Pull Type Sprayer	\$ 50.00	\$ -	4	4	\$ -
Roller Mill	\$ 50.00	\$ 20.00	3	7	\$ 200.00
Rotowiper	\$ 150.00	\$ -	1	1	\$ -
Skidmount Sprayer	\$ 50.00	\$ -	4	4	\$ -
Smoke Signs	\$ 60.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -
Steam Tables	\$ 50.00	\$ 5.00	0	0	\$ -
Tables	\$ 50.00	\$1.00/table	10	11	\$ 97.00
Toilets	\$ 100.00	\$ 40.00	4	4	\$ 160.00
Truck Mount Sprayer	\$ 200.00	\$ -	5	5	\$ -
Wash Station	\$ 50.00	\$ 10.00	3	3	\$ 30.00
Water Pumps	\$100 (summer) \$1000 (winter)	\$75 (summer) \$200 (winter)	13	32	\$ 2,900.00
Wire Roller	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	2	2	\$ 50.00
			152	234	\$ 24,595.15

Revenue	\$ 24,595.15
Expenses	\$ 44,682.08
loss	\$ (20,086.93)

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	January 13, 2021
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:

- CleanFarms – Media Release – (63-10-02)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by _____ that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of January 13, 2021 as presented.

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

AgFieldman:





Cleanfarms Predicting 2020 a Successful Year for Collecting Ag Waste for Recycling and Safe Disposal



By Barry Friesen, Executive Director, Cleanfarms

(December 23, 2020) - As the final days of 2020 wind down, we can look forward to the new year with optimism that we will wrestle COVID-19 into submission. However, we cannot let 2020 go into the history books with only the COVID story to mark it. We can celebrate memorable achievements, too.

For one thing, at Cleanfarms, we celebrated our 10th anniversary. In the decade since 2010, we've gone from operating two programs to collect empty pesticide jugs and obsolete pesticides to operating five permanent programs to capture small pesticide and fertilizer containers and grain bags for recycling; recover non-deposit drums and totes; and collect seed and fertilizer bags in eastern Canada and unwanted and old pesticides and farm animal health medications nationally for safe disposal.

In addition, we have been operating pilot programs in Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta to point the way to recover more ag plastic waste for products like used twine, grain bags and silage wrap. Giving farmers opportunities to recycle plastic waste not only ensures that it stays out of the environment but also reinvests the raw materials and energy into a circular economy, creates green jobs, inspires innovation in agricultural packaging and contributes to greater sustainability in agriculture.

2020's COVID challenges did create a delay in getting our container collection programs underway in many areas of Canada to ensure we minimized the spread of the virus; however, once social distancing protocols

were properly in place, all collections began. Despite the delay, we are optimistic that farmers may have set a new record for returning small pesticide and fertilizer containers (23 litres and under) for recycling.

Final results will be calculated in the new year, but it appears that farmers were eager to return more empty containers than ever before, helping Cleanfarms get past the 65% return rate we've been holding at over the past few years. In 2019, farmers brought back nearly 5.5 million containers so we have a big number to top. Similar positive results may be true for the return of non-deposit pesticide and fertilizer drums and totes, too.

It looks like grain bag recycling across the Prairies enjoyed a stellar year, as well. Through its Saskatchewan office, Cleanfarms has been running the government-regulated grain bag recycling program in the province since 2018. In 2019, Saskatchewan farmers recycled 2,256 tonnes of used plastic grain bags, a 44 per cent increase in volume over 2018. So far in 2020, we know SK farmers have recycled just over 2,700 tonnes, a 20% increase over last year!

And it keeps getting better.

The unwanted pesticide and old livestock and equine medications program is another success story. Preliminary results show that this program, which collected materials in British Columbia's Vancouver Island and Fraser Valley, Southern Saskatchewan, Quebec and Prince Edward Island, enjoyed excellent participation from farmers.

What's ahead for 2021?

I've been in the business of resource recovery and waste management for more than 25 years and this year feel more optimistic than ever about the innovation, new developments and opportunities for plastics used for packaging and one-way products. The degree of effort that ag industry stewards of plastic packaging have been putting toward finding solutions to contribute to the sustainability of plastics is phenomenal. In the agricultural sector, the 70 plus member companies of Cleanfarms want to ensure that the products they market are safe, reliable and meet product standards, both for the products and for the packaging.

Farmers want the assurance that when they use these products, options are available to manage the packaging or the used product at end-of-life, too.

Cleanfarms members are at work now figuring out how to transition packaging to more sustainable options. Fewer jugs, more totes and reusable containers, greater use of post consumer recycled materials will be part of the strategy. Many of these circular economy improvements won't be obvious. Farmers won't see the changes, but they'll be there. What they will

see is more opportunities to recycle, expanding their ability to leave their land as good or better than they got it.

*Barry Friesen is the executive director of Cleanfarms and has led the organization since its creation in 2010. **Cleanfarms** is an agricultural industry stewardship organization that contributes to a healthier environment and a sustainable future by recovering and recycling agricultural and related industry plastics, packaging and products. It is funded by its members in the crop protection, seed, fertilizer, animal health medication and grain bag industries. It has offices in Lethbridge, Alberta; Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan; Etobicoke, Ontario; and St-Bruno, Quebec.*

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**Contact: Barbara McConnell, Cleanfarms Media, 416-452-2373,
bmccconnell@cleanfarms.ca**

