

**AGENDA  
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING  
December 20, 2022**

---

The Agricultural Service Board meeting of Clear Hills County will be held on Thursday, December 20, 2022, at 10:30 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. October 20, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes .....2**
- 4. Delegation(s)**
- 5. BUSINESS ARISING**
- 6. OLD BUSINESS**
  - a. Activity Report.....6**
  - b. Board Reports .....8**
- 7. NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. Provincial ASB Conference .....14**
  - b. Provincial ASB Conference .....15**
  - c. Provincial ASB Resolutions .....20**
  - d. Grain Bagger ROI .....76**
  - e. Events.....78**
- 8. REPORTS**
  - a. Agricultural Fieldman Report.....84**
- 9. INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE.....90**
- 10. CLOSED MEETINGS ITEMS**
- 11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WORSLEY, AB  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2022**

**PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT**

**ATTENDING**

Greg Coon	Agricultural Fieldman
Audrey Bjorklund	Community Development Manager
Bonnie Morgan	Executive Assistant
Natasha Gillett	Community Services Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Harcourt called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**AGENDA**

**AG41-22(10/20/22)**

**RESOLUTION by Deputy Reeve Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda governing the October 20, 2022, Agricultural Service Board meeting, as presented.**  
**CARRIED.**

**MINUTES**

Previous Meeting  
Minutes

Agricultural Service Board is presented with previous meeting minutes.

**AG42-22(10/20/22)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the June 23, 2022, Agricultural Service Board Meeting, as presented.**  
**CARRIED.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Activity Report

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

**AG43-22(10/20/22)**

**RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the October 20, 2022 Agricultural Service Board Activity Report, as presented.**  
**CARRIED.**

Councillor Ruecker entered the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Board Reports

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

**AG44-22(10/20/22)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' verbal and written reports of October 20, 2022, for information.**  
**CARRIED.**

**AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2022**

**Page 2 of 4**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Farmers Appreciation  
Banquet

The Board is requested to consider making the Farmer's Appreciation Banquet that is held on Trade Show Day a separate event and possibly rebranding it as a "Farmers and Small Business Appreciation Gala".

**AG45-22(10/20/22)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Jensen to recommend Council hosting a separate event for Farmer Appreciation in place of the Farmers Appreciation Banquet that has been held the same day as the Tradeshow. ASB is recommending a February date for this event and possibly rebranding as the Farmers and Small Business Appreciation Gala. CARRIED.**

VSI Program

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

**AG46-22(10/20/22)**

**RESOLUTION by Deputy Reeve Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board authorize ASB Chairman Harcourt to attend the Veterinary Services Incorporated Annual General meeting being held on November 4, 2022 via zoom or in person at the Peace Valley Inn in Peace River, Alberta. CARRIED.**

VSI Farm Unit  
Discussion

The Board is requested to discuss a question posed by a producer regarding a definition in our VSI policy 6311.

**AG47-22(10/20/22)**

**RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Watchorn to table the discussion of the definition of a farm unit in the VSI policy 6311 until a future Agricultural Service Board meeting. CARRIED.**

Chairman Harcourt recessed the meeting at 11:07 a.m.  
Chairman Harcourt reconvened the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

**DELEGATION:**

Delegation – PCBFA

Peace Country Beef & Forage Association (PCBFA) Executive Director, Liisa Jeffry, will be in attendance along with her associates at 11:00 a.m. to present a report on the 2022 Resource Management partnership program and present plans for the 2023 program and funding request. Updates on PCBFA programs, funding and direction will also be presented.

**AG48-22(10/20/22)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board accept the information for the delegation from Liisa Jeffrey, Executive Director, Peace Country Beef and Forage Association on their 2022 program. CARRIED.**

Chairman Harcourt recessed the meeting at 12:13 p.m.  
Chairman Harcourt reconvened the meeting at 12:47 p.m.

**AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2022**

**Page 3 of 4**

**AG49-22(10/20/22)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council include a one time increase to the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association funding in the amount of \$2,500.00 for programs outside the Resource Management partnership 5 year agreement, with the condition that a minimum of three extension events be held within Clear Hills County boundaries in 2023; the funds to be included in the 2023 operating budget. CARRIED.**

2023 Budget  
Preparation

The Board is requested to have a discussion regarding the 2023 Budget, which will be prepared soon. The draft Agricultural Services Board budget will be brought to the November meeting for recommendation to Council.

**AG50-22(10/20/22)**

**RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Watchorn to prepare a 2023 draft Agriculture Services budget with no changes to programs and services. CARRIED.**

Multi Year Capital  
Plan

The Board is requested to have a discussion regarding the 2023 Budget, which will be prepared soon. The draft Agricultural Services Board budget will be brought to the November meeting for recommendation to Council.

**AG51-22(10/20/22)**

**RESOLUTION by Deputy Reeve Janzen accept the review of the Multi-Year Capital Plan for information. CARRIED.**

Regional Agricultural  
Service Board  
Conference

County of Grande Prairie is hosting the Peace Region Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference at the Clarkson Hall in Evergreen Park on October 28, 2022.

**AG52-22(10/20/22)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all members and alternate member Councillor Ruecker to attend the Peace Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference on October 28, 2022 at the Clarkson Hall in Evergreen Park, Grande Prairie. CARRIED.**

Deputy Reeve Janzen left the meeting at 1:28 p.m.

**EVENTS**

The Board is presented with events for their consideration.

**AG53-22(10/20/22)**

**RESOLUTION by Councillor Ruecker to approve the attendance of Ruecker, Watchorn, Harcourt, Jensen to the Beef Cattle Mineral and Nutrition Management Workshop, November 8<sup>th</sup> in Grimshaw, Alberta. CARRIED.**

**AG54-22(10/20/22)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker to approve the attendance of Chairman Harcourt, Member Jensen and Member Ruecker to the**

**AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2022**

**Page 4 of 4**

**Farm Transition Workshop, November 18<sup>th</sup> in Peace River,  
Alberta. CARRIED.**

REPORTS

Agricultural Fieldman  
Report

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

**AG55-22(10/20/22)**

**RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Watchorn that this Agricultural  
Service Board accepts the October 20, 2022, Agricultural  
Fieldman's Report for information, as presented. CARRIED.**

INFORMATION &  
CORRESPONDENCE

The Board is presented with correspondence for review.

**AG56-22(10/20/22)**

**RESOLUTION by Chairman Harcourt that this Agricultural  
Service Board receives the information & correspondence of  
October 20, 2022, as presented. CARRIED.**

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Harcourt adjourned the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

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

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 20, 2022
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>ACTIVITY REPORT</b>
File:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

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

### BACKGROUND:



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

### ATTACHMENTS:

- Agricultural Service Board Activity Report

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board (ASB) accepts the December 20, 2022, ASB Activity Report as presented.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:  AgFieldman: 



## Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

### Activity Report for December 20, 2022 Page 1 of 1

Budget Items: ☐

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer

CSC = Community Services Coordinator

EA = Executive Assistant

Completed Items: ☐

CSM = Corporate Services Manager

AF = Ag. Fieldman

CDM = Community Development Manager

MOTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEPT	STATUS
--------	------	-------------	------	--------

REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETINGS				
		<b>February 15, 2022</b>		
AG11-22	(02/15/22)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Reeve Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board recommends Council approves a conditional grant of up to \$500.00 at \$3.50 per student to the Farm Safety Centre for providing the Farm Safety Smarts Program to students within Clear Hills County boundaries. CARRIED.	CDM & AF	In budget, Centre has confirmed planning to present in all local schools in 2022
		<b>October 20, 2022</b>		
AG45-22	(10/20/22)	RESOLUTION by Member Jensen to recommend Council hosting a separate event for Farmer Appreciation in place of the Farmers Appreciation Banquet that has been held the same day as the Tradeshow. ASB is recommending a February date for this event and possibly rebranding as the Farmers and Small Business Appreciation Gala. CARRIED.	CSC	
AG47-22	(10/20/22)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Watchorn to table the discussion of the definition of a farm unit in the VSI policy 6311 until a future Agricultural Service Board meeting. CARRIED.	AF	
AG49-22	(10/20/22)	RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board recommend Council include a one time increase to the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association funding in the amount of \$2,500.00 for programs outside the Resource Management partnership 5 year agreement, with the condition that a minimum of three extension events be held within Clear Hills County boundaries in 2023; the funds to be included in the 2023 operating budget. CARRIED.	AF	

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board Meeting</b>
Meeting Date:	December 20, 2022
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>BOARD REPORTS</b>
File No:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

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

### BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

### ATTACHMENTS:

Chair Harcourt's Board Report  
Vice Chair Watchorn's Board Report

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' verbal and written reports of December 20, 2022, for information.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:



AgFieldman:





## Board Reports Brian Harcourt

### **Nov. 8th, Nutrien and Minerals..Grimshaw..Spkr, John Mckinnan.**

quotes and comments..

Chose the right minerals,,many choices.

Cattle needs change summer winter and fall.

Calcium levels important..milk fever =less milk,

low (Ca) in bones, poor reproduction.

Calculate your daily needs Over time

Phosphorus (P) Low P equals delayed estrous.

Legumes are a good source of P.

Cereal grains and green feed, get them tested.

Potassium (K), and Magnesium (Mg) both essential

but not usually a problem in Western Canada.

Vitamins and trace minerals, get your feed tested

you need the correct amounts.

Victor Sagaon spoke about implantes.

Emails

[john.mckinnan@zoetis.com](mailto:john.mckinnan@zoetis.com)

[victor.sagaon@zoetis.com](mailto:victor.sagaon@zoetis.com)

### **Nov 18, 2022..Farm Transition..Spkr..Elaine Fraese**

Theme.. "All About You"

Transfer of ownership.

Is your will up to date?

Who is the manager?

Farm business must remain successful!!

Money is for "Good Debt"..

Who has power of attorney?

Your attorney and accountant must get along!!!

Uncles and cousins are difficult in wills.

Off farm income is a choice.

All family people are different.

How much money do you need to live??

Income stream should be for 30 years.

You may need key person insurance.

Decide with the best advice at the time because things change with time,,what can you afford?

Work with a "Pro",and get a quote.

You choose your time to get things done

Have clear expectation when it needs to happen.

What does your family need to know when you travel.

Conflicts--Intent--Action--Effects.

Some one has to be the "Driver"..

Get it Done!! Do you even have a "Will"..

## **Peace Regional ASB Conference 2022 Evergreen Park Grande Prairie, AB**

County of GP ASB Chair Bob Chrenek gave welcoming remarks.

Doug Macaulay – Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation

(As of Oct 21/22 changed from Ab Ag & Forestry)

Gave us a run down on the Alberta Ag and Irrigation structure

Minister- Honourable Nate Horner

Deputy Minister- Jason Hale

It trickles down through Ag departments and we get to Doug Macaulay, Acting Director

Plant and Bee Health Policy Section

Ag. Service Board Unit

We have a new Provincial Plant Health Officer

*Krista deMilliano* She has over 10 years in Agriculture industry mainly in crop health

And is still involved in the family farm north of Lamont, AB

Still have a Wild boar Bounty across Alberta

Wild Boar Control program in partnership with Alberta Pork

Alberta Pork contracted wild boar specialist

Alberta Invasive Species Council- Squeal on Pigs

Alberta Environment & Parks, K9 trained for detection

New website: [www.alberta.ca/wild-boar.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/wild-boar.aspx)

Report a boar at [af.wildboar@gov.ab.ca](mailto:af.wildboar@gov.ab.ca)

Peace Country is wild boar free

Alberta is still Rat free also!

Still promoting the

- Environmental Farm Plan

-CAP program (Canadian Agricultural Partnership), which ends March 2023

changing to S-CAP (Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership)

Weed Act review-

75 weeds

Final review decision made by Minister

Livestock Guardian Dogs-Louise Liebenberg (B.Sc.)

2021-2022 Alberta Wildlife Compensation Stats

(Avg. Payout Per incident \$1214.17)

Bear/Blk Bear: 43 claims

Cougar: 31 claims

Eagle: 3 claims

Grizzly Bears: 115 claims

Wolves: 114 claims

Total compensation- \$354,727

To help keep predators at bay keeping LGD's are a good idea

#1- they keep herd safe

#2- allow farther grazing because they feel safer

#3-herds are calmer

#4- very effective

#5- cheap labour ;) works for food!

#6- can be used to guard several types of livestock      most common are cattle, sheep and chickens

There are issues with anything, dogs aren't foolproof

- Inexperience of owners
- Lack of good information
- Poor breeding
- Behavioural issues
- Mentoring
- Not an instant solution/ will take 18-22 months

Values

- Reduce predation
- Economic asset
- Peace of mind over your herd

But there are things everyone must know starting out

17% of dogs fail

No 'one size fits all'

Need to change your mindset

Don't attract predators with dead piles

Protect weak animals

Night corralling

Dancing Man! Works great to deter

Change up routine

Human activity

Use technology -GPS dogs

- GPS sheep collars

Research training

Bond dog to herd and teach fence is boundary to keep home

For more Info on LGD's

CanOvis project

[www.ipra-landry.com](http://www.ipra-landry.com)

Elk Damage is also creating big dollars in loss with feed and crop damage

If you have Elk issues you may get help with

Fish & Wildlife

AFSC

You can also use Dogs, fencing, bangers

Swath grazing is a big problem because there is no compensation

Mushroom stack your feed bales then surround them with straw bales

Fence your feed yard  
Get good dogs  
Haul all your bales off the field before the elk move in  
Your trails in the snow bring them right to you

Email [info@grazerie.com](mailto:info@grazerie.com)  
Website [www.grazerie.com](http://www.grazerie.com)  
Blog <http://predator-friendly-ranching.blogspot.ca/>  
Phone 1-780-536-6654

Environmental Farm Plan Devon Lloyd  
Started in 2003  
Gov't ran 2009  
Brings Education and awareness- reducing environmental risks  
Free voluntary whole farm self-assessment  
10-year renewal  
Environmental risk is a potential for environmental damage  
[www.albertaefp.com](http://www.albertaefp.com)  
OFCAF  
\$200 million On-Farm Climate Action fund is an initiative to help farmers tackle  
climate change  
-nitrogen management  
-cover cropping  
rotational grazing practices

Devon Lloyd  
EFP Program Manager  
587-200-2552 ext2000  
[devon@area.ab.ca](mailto:devon@area.ab.ca)

Sonja Shank  
EFP& ARECA Program Coordinator  
587-200-2552 ext2001  
[Sonja@areca.cb.ca](mailto:Sonja@areca.cb.ca)

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

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board</b>
Meeting Date:	December 20, 2022
Originated By:	Council
Title:	<b>Farmer Appreciation Event Update</b>
File:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with information regarding the February 25, 2023 Farmers Appreciation Event for their review.

**C658-22(12-13-22) RESOLUTION by Councillor Stevenson to proceed with the planning for the 2023 Farmer Appreciation Event on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at the David Thompson Hall. CARRIED.**

<b><i>Tickets</i></b>	Individual Tickets for event	Ticket \$20 per ticket Children under 16 - \$10 Children under 5 - Free	
<b><i>Location</i></b>	David Thompson Hall	Location available – need to book	
<b><i>Date</i></b>	Saturday, February 25, 2023	Date available – need to book	
<b><i>Cocktail Hour</i></b>	5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm bar will be run by the David Thompson Agricultural Society</li> <li>• Back up plan if not available (fundraiser group)</li> </ul>	
<b><i>Supper</i></b>	6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Proceed to tender/quotes for caterer (1 meat)	
<b><i>Farm Family Award</i></b>	7:00 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.	Change farm family deadline to February 3, 2023.	
<b><i>Door prizes</i></b>	7:20 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	\$1000.00 budget	
<b><i>Guest speakers</i></b>	7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.	Peace Country Forage, one more speaker, possible dancers for entertainment	

**RESOLUTION by.....** to accept for information the February 25, 2023 Farmers Appreciation Event.

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

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board</b>
Meeting Date:	December 20, 2022
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference</b>
File:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

Peace Region Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman are hosting the 2023 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference at the Tara Centre in Grande Prairie, Alberta January 17-19, 2023.

### BACKGROUND:



### ATTACHMENTS:

- 2023 Provincial ASB Conference Agenda

### OPTIONS:

### RECOMMENDED MOTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all members to attend the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference January 17-19, 2023 at the Tara Centre in Grande Prairie.

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



**THE ASSOCIATION OF  
ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN**

# **2023 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference**



**The Future is Northern**  
**January 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Hosted by: Peace Region Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman**

Grande Prairie, Alberta  
Tara Event Centre





## THE ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN

Agricultural Service Board Conference  
**TARA Event Centre**  
Tuesday January 17, 2023

Time	Event	Speaker
4:00 pm – 10:00 pm	<b>Registration for 2022 Provincial ASB Conference Opens</b>	<i>Christi Friesen, Peace Region PASB Representative- Welcome Sebastien Dutrisac – Chair, PCASB</i>
6:00pm – 10:00pm	<b>Welcome Gala</b>	Meet and Greet with Ministers, MPs and MLAs



# THE ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN

Agricultural Service Board Conference  
TARA Event Centre  
Wednesday January 18, 2023

Time	Event	Speaker
7:00 – 8:30am	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	
8:45am – 9:00am	<b>Welcome &amp; General Housekeeping</b> <b>National Anthem</b> <b>AAAF President</b> <b>PCASB Chair</b>	<i>Krista Zuzak, MC</i> <i>Dawn Fortin, Woodlands County</i> <i>Aaron Van Beers, Leduc County</i> <i>Sebastien Dutrisac, Two Hills County</i>
9:00am – 10:00 am	<b>The Future is Northern</b>	<i>John Knapp – Consultant</i>
10:00am – 10:15am	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
10:15 am – 10:45 am	<b>Provincial ASB Program Update</b>	<i>Doug Macaulay, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation; ASB Program Manager</i>
10:45am – 12:00am	<b>Resolution Session</b>	
12:00pm – 1:00pm	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
1:00pm – 2:00pm	<b>Alberta's Future Hydrogen Economy</b>	<i>Matthew Klippenstein- Executive Director, Hydrogen BC</i>
2:00pm – 2:15pm	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
2:15pm – 3:15pm	<b>Canadian Agriculture in the Indo-Pacific:</b> <b>Balancing the US and China</b>	<i>Carlo Dade- Canada West Foundation Director of Trade, Investment and Trade Infrastructure Centre</i>
3:15pm – 3:30pm	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
3:30pm – 4:30pm	<b>Cattle Value Chain:</b> <b>Problems and Resolutions</b>	<i>Ryan Copithorne – Cows in Control</i>



# THE ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL FIELDMEN

Agricultural Service Board Conference  
TARA Event Centre  
Thursday January 19, 2023

Time	Event	Speaker
7:00am – 8:30am	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	
8:30am – 9:30am	<b>The Importance of Market Access for Canadian Crops</b>	<i>Krista Zuzak – Director, Crop Protection and Production Cereals Canada</i>
9:30am – 10:30am	<b>Black Swans: Flight, Fight or Fright and Future of Canadian Agriculture</b>	<i>Don Buckingham – Agriculture Food and Regulation (AFR) Consulting</i>
10:30am – 10:45am	<b>BREAK</b>	
10:45am – 12:00pm	<b>Resolution Session</b>	
12:00pm – 1:00pm	<b>LUNCH</b>	
1:00pm – 2:00pm	<b>State of the Agricultural Carbon Markets</b>	<i>Graham Gilchrist – CEO, Biological Carbon Canada</i>
2:00pm – 2:15 pm	<b>BREAK</b>	
2:15pm – 3:00pm	<b>Celebrating the Diversity of Agriculture</b>	<i>Greg Peterson – Peterson Bros. Farms</i>
3:00pm - 4:00pm	<b>Resolution Session</b>	
4:00pm – 6:00pm	<b>Preparation for the Banquet</b>	
6:00pm – 7:00pm	<b>Cocktails</b>	
7:00pm	<b>Banquet</b> <i>Entertainment – QDM</i>	

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 20, 2022
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>2022 Provincial ASB Resolutions</b>
File:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

The Board is provided with the resolutions that will be coming to the floor at the 2023 Provincial ASB conference for review.

### BACKGROUND:

Each year, ASBs from around the province submit resolutions from their regions to be brought forward to the provincial conference for debate and then lobbying when passed.

### ATTACHMENTS:

- 2023 Provincial ASB Resolutions

### OPTIONS:

1. Discuss to decide which way the Board wants to vote on each resolution
2. Accept for information

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board

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



**AgFieldman:**



**RESOLUTION 1-23**  
**CREATION OF A MID-LEVEL ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL**  
**ASSOCIATION (ABVMA) PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION**

**WHEREAS** the scope of practice for Alberta veterinary professionals is governed by the ABVMA, which is governed by the Veterinary Profession Act, (RSA 200, Ch. V-2); and

**WHEREAS** the lack of veterinary professionals has a direct impact on the sustainability and profitability of livestock producers; and

**WHEREAS** medical doctor shortages led to the growth of the Nurse Practitioner designation in human medicine; and

**WHEREAS** addressing the current rural veterinary shortage will take a number of years to have an impact, but the livestock industry needs assistance now; and

**WHEREAS** there are veterinary services that could be performed by a mid-level veterinary professional, alleviating some pressure on Doctors of Veterinary Medicine.

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

The Alberta Minister of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development work with the ABVMA to create a Mid- Level Veterinary Professional designation within the Veterinary Profession Act to address the rural veterinary shortage and provide mid-level supportive care to Alberta livestock producers, including but not limited to:

1. Pregnancy Checking
2. Vaccination
3. Semen Testing
4. Blood draws
5. Injections
6. Catheterization
7. Wellness checks
8. Renewing prescriptions
9. Establishing required relationship for producers to purchase prescribed medicines.

**SPONSORED BY:** Municipal District of Greenview #16

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

It is well established that the lack of veterinarians is a worldwide issue. Many in the profession state they are burned out and some have left the profession. While Canadian schools annually graduate approximately 380 veterinary doctors, this barely keeps pace with current levels of retirement and attrition. It is estimated that Alberta alone is short 850 veterinarians, and veterinary technicians are in short supply as well.

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta advanced a resolution in February, 2022 to the Government of Alberta that requested increased funding for the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. This request was granted by the Provincial Government in an announcement on May 10, 2022. The increase in funding will take the total seats available for prospective students from 50 to 100. While a positive first step, this will address the issue in five years but the problem is now.

Registered Veterinary Technicians are paid low salaries, after two years of schooling, a Registered Veterinary Technician will receive an average of \$21.47 per hour. Minimum wage is currently \$15 per hour for individuals over 18 years of age in Alberta. The average length of a registered veterinary technician's career is 5-7 years.

Providing a mid-level veterinary professional designation may retain more registered veterinary technicians in the field as it would allow for advancement, improve financial compensation and alleviate some of the staffing challenges currently being experienced in veterinary practices in Alberta.

**RESOLUTION 2-23  
RURAL VETERINARY STUDENTS**

**WHEREAS** rural Alberta is experiencing a significant shortage of rural based veterinary medical professionals; which has now reached a crisis level, and

**WHEREAS** there are five veterinary schools in Canada, students may only attend school in the region where they live. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary currently accepts fifty (50) students into the program each year, while it is expanding to one hundred (100) students in 2024 the current program selection process is not resulting in enough graduates to sustain rural veterinary practices; and

**WHEREAS** it has been shown that students originating from rural areas and/or having significant interest in and have experience with rural veterinary practice and the rural lifestyle are far more likely to locate and be successful in rural veterinary practice; and

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

That the Government of Alberta aid the crisis of rural veterinary shortage by directing the University of Calgary to adjust admissions to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine for students from rural areas applying by providing credit for rural acuity and prioritize accepting students who intend to specialize in large animal practice and return to work in rural areas following completion of their program.

**SPONSORED BY:** Saddle Hills County and Mountain View County

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Advanced Education  
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Definitions:

- ABVMA – Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

- GOA – Government of Alberta
- GPA – Grade Point Average
- MCAT- Medical College Admissions Test
- MMI – Multiple Mini Interview
- RMA – Rural Municipalities of Alberta
- UCVM – University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

There is a crisis level global shortage of veterinarians and veterinary technologists, affecting Alberta. It is estimated that there are currently at minimum 864 veterinary professional vacancies in Alberta (377 veterinarians and 487 veterinary technologists). The job vacancy rates for veterinarians (16.7%) far exceeds the provincial average of 2.6% for all professions. The April 2021 ABVMA/ABVTA Veterinary Professional Workforce Study projected that due to increasing expansion demand (demand for service increases due to pet ownership, increased disposable income and increasing livestock numbers) and due to replacement demand, the shortage of professionals will increase more than 3.5 times by 2040. Using current trends, in 18 years, the shortage of veterinary professionals is estimated to be more than 3371 people (1331 veterinarians and 2407 technologists).

While the labour shortage is an issue throughout Alberta, rural practices are particularly impacted due partly to recruitment and admissions challenges. Further, rural communities are impacted acutely in the current environment and face restricted economic growth post-COVID without targeted and immediate actions to address the shortages. Attraction and retention of rural based veterinary medical professionals has not been keeping pace with increasing demand.

UCVM is one of five veterinary schools in Canada and was the last Canadian veterinarian program to begin operations. It was developed to meet Alberta's need for highly skilled veterinary graduates to support rural Alberta, production animal and equine industries, animal and human health research, and public health. In the 15 years since inception, UCVM has become one of the top 40 veterinary schools in the world. In 1999, RMA passed resolution 3-99F "Establishment of a School of Veterinary Medicine in Alberta."

Established in 2005, UCVM commenced with a class of 30 students which was augmented by the transfer of the 20 funded Alberta students at Saskatchewan's Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM). In 2017, Alberta's government reduced funding for the 20 WCVM seats and transferred the funding to UCVM. These 50 seats for veterinary education of Alberta students have remained unchanged despite shifting demand pressures. The RMA passed resolution 16-01F that urged "the Government of Alberta to provide additional funding to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in order to ensure future accreditation and to provide sufficient veterinary graduates to meet Alberta's needs." Today, UCVM needs RMA's support to expand its capacity and to adapt its programming.

Currently, UCVM selects 50 Alberta students per year to enter the four-year veterinary medicine program. In August 2021, there were 5.4 qualified applicants for every



educational seat at UCVM. Alberta students are demanding veterinary education be available at home rather than pursuing their education and career in other jurisdictions.

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary currently only accepts 50 students into the program each year, and with extremely steep entrance requirements. Individuals wishing to be admitted into the program currently must have completed a Medical College of Admission Test (MCAT) and scored a minimum of 495, taken 10 required post-secondary level courses, and have a minimum combined grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 before being eligible to be considered for the veterinary program.<sup>1</sup> If an individual happens to meet these standards, they will then be invited for an interview where they are questioned and asked to write an on-site essay. The process that determines how the ranking order of which applicants will be offered admission after their interview and essay is based 70% on their interview score and 30% on an essay they are also required to submit.<sup>2</sup>

The long-standing shortage of rural veterinary practitioners in Alberta is well known. It has been shown that the likelihood of someone entering and succeeding in rural veterinary practice is much higher if they have significant knowledge and experience with rural practice and the rural lifestyle. Rural students across the province can also be at a disadvantage academically if they aim to be admitted into vet college. Rural schools often have less students, and this can influence course offerings. Although high school course availability is sometimes limited, rural students often have plenty of experience and relevant knowledge relating to the handling and care of livestock. These experiences should play a larger role in the decision that the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine makes when deciding whether or not to admit a student to their programs. By identifying “rural acuity”, as a benefit, within the interview process, it would recognize those with knowledge of and experience with the rural lifestyle. In essence taking the approach of the “grow your own vet” model to increase the likelihood that veterinary students will go back to their home community after graduation. In the 2020/2021 admissions cycle to the University of Calgary, eight (8) of fifty-one (51) successful applicants stated that their primary area of interest is equine, and no applicants expressed interest in large animal practice.<sup>3</sup>

In 2020, there were 1832 registered veterinarians in Alberta working in 554 veterinary practices, employing over 6600 full time equivalent employees. The total output of Alberta veterinary practices was estimated to be \$2.021 billion. This does not include the contributions made by veterinarians to Alberta’s agriculture sector, which contributed \$9.68 billion in GDP and employed 69,800 Albertans. As such, access to local veterinary services for farmers and livestock producers is essential for the sustainability of the primary agriculture industry as well as Alberta’s overall economy.

---

<sup>1</sup> University of Calgary website, 2022. <https://vet.ucalgary.ca/future-students/dvm-students-undergraduate-program/admission-requirements>

<sup>2</sup> University of Calgary website, 2022. <https://vet.ucalgary.ca/future-students/dvm-students-undergraduate-program/admission-process>

<sup>3</sup> UCVM Admissions – Review of the 2020/2021 Cycle.

[https://vet.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/Admissions%20Review%202020-2021%20Cycle%20\(1\).pdf](https://vet.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/Admissions%20Review%202020-2021%20Cycle%20(1).pdf)

Further, sustainability and growth of our rural communities is dependent on access to veterinary services both today and in the foreseeable future.

There have been multiple resolutions brought forward through the Rural Municipalities of Alberta to seek resolution to the issue of rural veterinarian shortages:

Resolution 3-22S

## **Attraction and Retention of Veterinarians to Rural Veterinary Practice**

Date:

March 15, 2022

Expiry Date:

April 1, 2025

Active Status:

Active

Sponsors:

Mountain View County

District:

2 - Central

Year:

2022

Convention:

Spring

Category:

Community Services

Status:

Incomplete Information

Vote Results:

Carried as Amended

Preamble:

WHEREAS over the past 30 years increasing demand in Alberta for rural based veterinary

medical professionals (veterinarians and veterinary technologists) combined with most veterinary students choosing urban centered careers has created a labour shortage that has reached a crisis level; and

WHEREAS veterinary medicine is critical to rural Alberta's economy, rural community sustainability and quality of life via its contributions to agriculture, food safety, and animal health and welfare; and

WHEREAS rural veterinary practices are located outside of major urban centers and provide services to four common domestic species (Bovine, Equine, Canine and Feline); and

WHEREAS students choosing to locate and remain in rural veterinary practice are more likely to be those originating from and living in rural Alberta and/or having significant interest in and experience with rural veterinary practice and the rural lifestyle; and

WHEREAS there are not enough training spaces in Alberta veterinary medicine and animal health technology programs (including at the University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine Faculty) for Alberta students choosing a career in rural veterinary medicine; and

WHEREAS in 2020, veterinary medicine in Alberta generated 10,211 full time employees who contributed over \$206 million in federal, provincial and municipal taxes; and

WHEREAS rural municipalities have a considerable role in attracting and retaining a local and regional workforce including veterinary medical professionals;

Operative Clause:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) supports attraction and retention actions to reduce veterinary professional shortages, especially in rural Alberta; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA urge the Government of Alberta to improve veterinary education opportunities and officially support the development of new programs at the University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine Faculty (UCVM) through actions that include:

1. Development of a rural practitioner stream;
2. Participation of RMA in UCVM programs of outreach to rural municipalities to encourage and support successful rural student admission to UCVM;
3. Development of an online veterinary support program to help support veterinarians in practice, increasing retention of veterinary professionals;
4. Development of a stackable clinical certificate program allowing for certification of foreign trained veterinarians and providing a structured process for career diversification and/or re-entry into the work force after career break; and
5. Participation of RMA in a committee pursuing recruitment of foreign veterinarians from high quality universities to help ensure "a good fit" in rural communities; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA work with UCVM to expand the UCVM admissions committee and provide, on an ongoing basis, a selected number of committee members who are located in, and familiar, with rural Alberta needs; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the RMA examine and implement best practices to conduct outreach to recruit veterinary students and retain veterinary professionals who will work and reside in rural Alberta.

Member Background:

Definitions:

ABVMA – Alberta Veterinary Medical Association

GOA – Government of Alberta

GPA – Grade Point Average

MCAT- Medical College Admissions Test

MMI – Multiple Mini Interview

RMA – Rural Municipalities of Alberta

UCVM – University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

There is a crisis level global shortage of veterinarians and veterinary technologists, affecting Alberta. It is estimated that there are currently at minimum 864 veterinary professional vacancies in Alberta (377 veterinarians and 487 veterinary technologists). The job vacancy rates for veterinarians (16.7%) and veterinary technologists (18.8%) far exceeds the provincial average of 2.6% for all professions. The April 2021 ABVMA/ABVTA Veterinary Professional Workforce Study projected that due to increasing expansion demand (demand for service increases due to pet ownership, increased disposable income and increasing livestock numbers) and due to replacement demand, the shortage of professionals will increase more than 3.5 times by 2040. Using current trends, in 18 years, the shortage of veterinary professionals is estimated to be more than 3371 people (1331 veterinarians and 2407 technologists).

While the labour shortage is an issue throughout Alberta, rural practices are particularly impacted due partly to recruitment and admissions challenges. Further, rural communities are impacted acutely in the current environment and face restricted economic growth post-COVID without targeted and immediate actions to address the shortages. Attraction and retention of rural based veterinary medical professionals has not been keeping pace with increasing demand.

UCVM is one of five veterinary schools in Canada and was the last Canadian veterinarian program to begin operations. It was developed to meet Alberta's need for highly skilled veterinary graduates to support rural Alberta, production animal and equine industries, animal and human health research, and public health. In the 15 years since inception, UCVM has become one of the top 40 veterinary schools in the world. In 1999, RMA passed resolution 3-99F "Establishment of a School of Veterinary Medicine in Alberta."

Established in 2005, UCVM commenced with a class of 30 students which was augmented by the transfer of the 20 funded Alberta students at Saskatchewan's Western College of Veterinary

Medicine (WCVN). In 2017, Alberta's government reduced funding for the 20 WCVN seats and transferred the funding to UCVN. These 50 seats for veterinary education of Alberta students have remained unchanged despite shifting demand pressures. The RMA passed resolution 16-01F that urged "the Government of Alberta to provide additional funding to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in order to ensure future accreditation and to provide sufficient veterinary graduates to meet Alberta's needs." Today, UCVN needs RMA's support to expand its capacity and to adapt its programming.

Currently, UCVN selects 50 Alberta students per year to enter the four-year veterinary medicine program. In August 2021, there were 5.4 qualified applicants for every educational seat at UCVN. Alberta students are demanding veterinary education be available at home rather than pursuing their education and career in other jurisdictions.

Starting with the incoming class for 2022, all applicants must write the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). A pre-determined minimum MCAT score is required to advance to the interview stage of the application process. This minimum score is to ensure that successful applicants can handle the academic requirements of the curriculum. Applicants who successfully meet the pre-determined MCAT score then enter an interview process that involves multiple mini interview (MMI) scenarios. The MMI is designed to gauge a successful applicant's knowledge of a career in veterinary medicine and their likelihood to succeed in such a career. It would be advantageous for RMA to establish a strong relationship with UCVN which would provide opportunity for RMA to be part of the recruitment, selection and retention of UCVN graduates.

The long-standing shortage of rural veterinary practitioners in Alberta is well known. It has been shown that the likelihood of someone entering and succeeding in rural veterinary practice is much higher if they have significant knowledge and experience with rural practice and the rural lifestyle. A UCVN partnership with RMA will assist in identifying suitable candidates for the DVM program. Members of these communities are in the ideal position to judge "best fit". The "grow your own vet" model will increase the likelihood that veterinary students will go back to their home community after graduation.

In 2020, there were 1832 registered veterinarians in Alberta and 1852 registered veterinary technologists, working in 554 veterinary practices, employing over 6600 full time equivalent employees. The total output of Alberta veterinary practices was estimated to be \$2.021 billion. This does not include the contributions made by veterinarians to Alberta's agriculture sector, which contributed \$9.68 billion in GDP and employed 69,800 Albertans. As such, access to local veterinary services for farmers and livestock producers is essential for the sustainability of the primary agriculture industry as well as Alberta's overall economy. Further, sustainability and growth of our rural communities is dependent on access to veterinary services both today and in the foreseeable future.

#### *Supporting Documentation*

- Letter of support from [AB Milk Support Letter](#)

- Letter of support from [AB Beef Support Letter](#)

#### RMA Background:

RMA has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

#### Government Response:

##### Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development

Thank you for your March 30, 2022, email regarding RMA Resolution 3-22S: Attraction and Retention of Veterinarians to Rural Veterinary Practice. The Government of Alberta recognizes the importance of the veterinary profession to the health of the province and recognizes the veterinary workforce shortage is a pressing issue. We will continue to work collaboratively with stakeholders to address it.

As you are aware, the issue of attracting and retaining veterinary professionals in rural areas, as with other health professions, is a complex and multifaceted problem with no simple solutions. University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) and other schools have been extensively studying the admissions process so more graduates enter and remain in rural veterinary practice. The faculty's most recent approach, which was implemented just this past year, requires a minimum academic performance. Following that requirement, the majority of ranking is based on a comprehensive file review of the applicants. The department remains engaged through the participation of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian in the UCVM Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

With respect to the need to increase training spaces for veterinary professionals, I am pleased to say that through the Alberta at Work initiative, Budget 2022 provided \$59 million in capital investment over three years to expand UCVM infrastructure. This initiative will also enable targeted expansion in enrollment for veterinarians and veterinary technologists at the UCVM and technical colleges in Alberta. In addition, a three-year grant was provided to the UCVM in 2021 for veterinary diagnostics to support livestock producers in Alberta and enhance training opportunities for students from those submissions.

The Ministry of Labour and Immigration will also provide support to the Alberta Veterinary Medicine Association. This will include identifying potential Labour Market Partnership grant projects that support veterinary attraction and retention initiatives, promotion of occupation and opportunities, exploring international labour pools and labour mobility matters. The Ministry of Labour and Immigration will also support sector employers with the guidance and resources they need for attraction, recruitment and retention activities.

#### Development:

The Government response indicates several initiatives that support the intent of the resolution. The new admissions process is of interest, as it appears to focus on elements outside of

academic achievement. RMA will monitor how this process is impacting rural veterinarian availability.

The \$59 million capital investment is welcomed by RMA, and will certainly increase the capacity of UCVM to train more veterinarians. Additionally, the work of the Ministry of Labour and Immigration to support the Alberta Veterinary Medicine Association is a positive step, and RMA will monitor how this initiative progresses.

The Government response provides new information on their support for UCVM, however, as RMA has not yet received a response from UCVM, this resolution is assigned a status of Incomplete Information. RMA will monitor for Government updates, and update this resolution once a response from UCVM is received.

**Provincial Ministries:**

Agriculture and Forestry,  
Economic Development and Trade

**Resolution 16-01F**

**Western College of Veterinary Medicine**

**Date:**

January 1, 2001

**Expiry Date:**

December 1, 2004

**Active Status:**

Expired

**Year:**

2001

**Convention:**

Fall

**Status:**

Archived

**Vote Results:**

Carried

**Preamble:**

WHEREAS the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon has been given a four-year

extension on its accreditation;AND

WHEREAS further accreditation is at risk unless the veterinary college is upgraded;AND

WHEREAS the number of veterinary graduates is currently insufficient to meet the needs of western Canada;AND

WHEREAS insufficient graduate veterinarians are locating in rural Alberta;

#### **Operative Clause:**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to provide additional funding to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in order to ensure future accreditation and to provide sufficient veterinary graduates to meet Alberta's needs.

#### **Member Background:**

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine is jointly funded by the four western provinces. It just received a four-year qualified accreditation extension. Concerns for the facility include overcrowding and insufficient capital investment. At the August 10, 2001 AAMDC Northern District Meeting, a presentation was made by Dr. Kevin Breker. Dr. Breker outlined the crisis in the lack of sufficient veterinarians in the Peace Country through moves south and retirements. Other incentives may be required in order to attract and keep qualified veterinarians in rural Alberta. For example, the Municipal District of Big Lakes has agreed to bursary funding for aspiring veterinarians with a condition of returning to that part of Alberta. This issue is urgent and needs to be addressed by the Government of Alberta.

#### **RMA Background:**

Resolution 3-99F, endorsed by delegates to the 1999 Fall Convention, calls on the Government of Alberta to examine the feasibility of establishing a veterinary school in Alberta.

#### **Provincial Ministries:**

Agriculture and Rural Development

### **Resolution 3-99F**

## **Establishment of a School of Veterinary Medicine in Alberta**

Date:

January 1, 1999



**Expiry Date:**

December 1, 2002

**Active Status:**

Expired

**Year:**

1999

**Convention:**

Fall

**Status:**

Archived

**Vote Results:**

Carried

**Preamble:**

WHEREAS the Alberta livestock industry and livestock numbers have grown significantly, and will continue to do so under Albertas economic trend to expand the production and feeding of livestock; AND WHEREAS this trend has necessitated increased need for larger animal and livestock veterinary services in rural areas; AND

WHEREAS the Western Canada School of Veterinary Medicine accepts and graduates only 70 veterinary students annually;AND

WHEREAS employment opportunities for graduating Veterinary students consistently exceed the number of available students, allowing them to choose their place of employment;AND

WHEREAS it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract and retain veterinarians to rural mixed practices in Alberta;

**Operative Clause:**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties urge the Government of Alberta to initiate a study to investigate the feasibility of federal and interprovincial funding and establishment of a School of Veterinary Medicine in Alberta.

**Member Background:**

There is no program offered in Alberta for veterinarian studies. Currently, through an interprovincial agreement with Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia, Alberta shares

the costs of instruction of students enrolled in studies at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) in Saskatchewan. Albertas share of the 1998-99 instructional costs totaled \$1,760,599. This support does not cover students individual needs. This is a 4-year program. Annual operating costs are \$9 million, with a tuition fee of \$5,000/year. Provincial student quotas are: B.C. 15 Alberta 20 Saskatchewan 20 Manitoba 12 Yukon/NWT 2 Aboriginal 2 The quotas were set when the first interprovincial agreement on the WCVN was penned and reflected the known manpower need for each of the western Canadian provinces at the time. Saskatchewan receives federal government support money for this program (dollar figure unavailable). With a program of this nature in Alberta, we should also be able to access federal funding. Albertas livestock statistics are: Cattle: 41% of Canadian herd 67% of Canadian fed cattle 5th largest cattle feeding area in North America 4% increase from 1994-1998 Hogs: 15% of Canadian herd 6% increase from 1994-1998 Recent employment opportunities consistently exceed the number of graduates available; they can pick and choose their employment in a buyer's market. Further, there is no way of determining what stream of practice a graduate will go into (i.e. small animal, mixed, equine, etc.) as they all graduate from the same program.

#### Provincial Ministries:

#### Agriculture and Rural Development

<sup>[1]</sup> University of Calgary website, 2022. <https://vet.ucalgary.ca/future-students/dvm-students-undergraduate-program/admission-requirements>

<sup>[2]</sup> University of Calgary website, 2022. <https://vet.ucalgary.ca/future-students/dvm-students-undergraduate-program/admission-process>

<sup>[3]</sup> UCVM Admissions – Review of the 2020/2021 Cycle.

[https://vet.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/Admissions%20Review%202020-2021%20Cycle%20\(1\).pdf](https://vet.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/Admissions%20Review%202020-2021%20Cycle%20(1).pdf)

**RESOLUTION 3-23**  
**APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS FUNDING**

**WHEREAS** the Alberta Provincial Government outsourced the agriculture research and extension services within the province and Applied Research Associations (ARA) have taken on a larger role without sources of funding to sustain these operations; and

**WHEREAS** Applied Research Associations have been historically funded by the Alberta Government and changes in their funding structure threatens the longevity of their operations; and

**WHEREAS** the current proposed funding from the organization Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) is project based and does not adequately meet the needs for regional extension and knowledge transfer; and

**WHEREAS** local research and knowledge transfer funding is not dependable as it is not provided long-term; and

**WHEREAS** the services provided by ARAs are especially important when considering the increasing social and political pressure for innovation to improve the sustainability of Canadian agriculture; and

**WHEREAS** Applied Research Associations are an integral source of unbiased regional research and extension services pertinent to local producers and Agricultural Service Boards (ASB).

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

That the Ministry of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation provide sustainable operational funding to Applied Research Associations to maintain local, unbiased research and extension services that keep Alberta agriculture innovative and competitive.

**SPONSORED BY:** Northern Sunrise County

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Federal and Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

There are 12 Applied Research Association (ARA) groups across the province that conduct applied research and extension services that are key in developing Alberta agriculture. The ARAs are driven by a desire to empower agricultural innovation by openly sharing ideas supported by sound science and practical wisdom. These associations directly serve the research and outreach needs within their regions, which is essential in helping producers access relevant agricultural research solutions to become more competitive globally. With this expertise, these associations are also pivotal responders to agricultural disasters and are champions of innovative and useful adaptations. They are able to connect stakeholders at a regional, provincial, and national level to collaborate and learn through unbiased applied research.

The areas of expertise of the ARAs range throughout the agriculture industry – some associations focus on the crop sector, while others focus on the forage and livestock sectors, and some cover the entire spectrum. Each association has a focus dictated by the needs of the regional agricultural producers and local resources available.

Many individuals are employed by Alberta's Regional Associations, including 41 full-time employees (9 PhDs, 12 Professional Agrologists, 11 Masters Researchers, 5 Certified Crop Advisors, 2 Agrologists in Training, and 2 Agrology Technologists in Training) and 28 seasonal summer students. ARAs also own, rent, or lease over 1600 acres of land for agricultural innovation research throughout the province.

## **CURRENT CHALLENGES FOR ARAs**

In 2020 the Alberta Provincial Government reduced spending and activity on agriculture research and extension to facilitate producer and industry-led research. This means that ARAs have increased their research and extension efforts to compensate for the gaps created by the government's reduced role in this sector. Yet, since 2000, annual government funding for the Applied Research Associations remained stagnant at \$2M - \$2.5M annually, first from the Agriculture Opportunities Fund (AOF), and then from the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) program. The failure to compensate the Applied Research Associations for their increased research and extension work puts these groups at serious risk of failure. Private funding and grants to cover operational costs for these faculties are extremely difficult to find. The ARAs have found ways to persevere by accessing alternative revenue sources, donations, and fundraising, however, with increased competition for dollars and less funds to go around, this is no longer sustainable. Many Associations operate with outdated, unreliable equipment in constant need of repair. One Association must find alternative work arrangements when it rains due to holes in the office roof.

In 2021, 33% of the ARAs ran at a deficit and another 25% ran at slightly better than break even. Some of the ARAs have managed to leverage revenue with contributions from external resources, however this is dependent on the prosperity of their regions and sectors. The struggles of some ARAs to build capital directly threatens the longevity of these operations. If these research organizations are lost to bankruptcy, it may be directly reflected through the loss of innovation and therefore competitiveness in the region of the

lost ARA. Additionally, the public good of the ARAs through extension events provides immeasurable value in terms of public trust in agriculture which positively impacts producer economics, and producer uptake of technologies to improve innovation and reduce environmental impact. The loss of groups like ARAs would be detrimental to the Alberta agriculture industry.

## **PROVINCIAL FUNDING INITIATIVES**

The CAP program is a five-year, \$3 billion federal-provincial-territorial investment in the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector that began in April 2018. In Alberta, the CAP program is a federal-provincial investment of \$406 million in strategic programs and initiatives for the agricultural sector. Alberta's Applied Research Associations have received some operational funding through this program for the past 4 years, as a replacement to the previous Agriculture Opportunities Fund (AOF; dating back to 2000) however, as stated earlier, these funds are insufficient for these organizations.

Currently an arms-length organization called RDAR (Results Driven Agriculture Research) allocates funding from the Alberta Provincial Government to research projects, with the aim of allowing farmers to collaborate with others involved in research to determine research priorities. This organization was established following the Provincial Government's step back from direct research and extension work in 2020. RDAR replaces previous research models including the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency (ALMA) and the Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund (ACIDF). A portion of the funding for RDAR comes from the Canadian Agricultural Partnership and federal- provincial investment.

RDAR is heavily focused on research projects, and the demand for their research funds is extremely high – they do not have adequate funds to cover all phases of the innovation cycle across all sectors and regions. Program or operational funding is also challenging to fit within RDAR's purpose. Additionally, ARAs deliver other outcomes (such as rural economic development, and rural mental health services) that align with the Alberta Ministry's Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development (AFRED) priorities, but not RDAR's.

ARAs have received some project funding through RDAR, however, this funding is for the direct project costs and does not adequately cover the overhead costs, let alone fund the non-research-specific public good projects performed by these research facilities. A more comprehensive and sustainable funding program is needed to preserve these facilities.

## **NEW FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS**

The CAP program that is primarily responsible for the overhead funding of Alberta's Applied Research Associations, is coming to term in March of 2023. However, an additional \$2.5 million has been allocated through RDAR to extend funding to March 2024, but this does not provide long-term security for the ARAs. A new funding system is required after the expiry of the CAP program to ensure that ARAs can remain operational. Alberta needs a program that allows for ARAs to continue to provide services and research that is vital for the competitiveness of the Alberta agriculture industry.

**RESOLUTION 4-23**  
**GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION**

- WHEREAS** population assessments completed in 2014 and 2018 of Alberta's Grizzly Bear in Bear Management Area (BMA) 3, 4, and 5 revealed that population and density has increased in all three BMAs since the 2006-2008 estimates were completed; and
- WHEREAS** population assessment of BMA 7 in 2018 provided population and density figures for the first time, but the research institute performing the assessment warned the results should be interpreted with caution due to low precision of the data collected; and
- WHEREAS** population assessment of BMA 2 was completed in 2008 and revealed a density of 18.1 grizzly per 1000 km<sup>2</sup>, the highest density in Alberta; and
- WHEREAS** programming exists in BMA 5 to mitigate the impacts of Grizzly Bear populations on agricultural production, there are few programs to mitigate impacts elsewhere in the province; and
- WHEREAS** rendering of deadstock is a difficult option, with rendering trucks not servicing north of Highway 16; and
- WHEREAS** there has been an increase of reported grizzly sightings in BMA 2 along with the associated impact on cattle, bees and grain storage.

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

The Minister of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas to have BMA 2 population and density of Grizzly Bears assessed and develop a suite of programs for Agricultural Producers, like those available to agricultural producers in BMA 5, including a Provincial Grizzly Impact Mitigation Plan.

**SPONSORED BY:** Municipal District of Greenview #16

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The grizzly bear population estimate study in 2018 of Bear Management Area 4 indicated a 6% annual rate of increase and an increase in density from 4.39 grizzly per 1000 km<sup>2</sup> in 2005 to 9.64 grizzly per 1000 km<sup>2</sup>.

The grizzly bear population estimate study completed in 2015 of Bear Management Area 3 indicated a 7% annual rate of increase and an increase in density of the population from 4.79 grizzly per 1000km<sup>2</sup> in 2004 to 8.42 grizzly per 1000 km<sup>2</sup>. Population estimates on Bear Management Areas (BMA) Bear Management Areas (BMA) 2 and 7. BMA 7, Swan Hills, population survey conducted by Foothills Research Institute in 2018 suggested an estimate of 62 grizzly bears in BMA 7 be used for management purposes until a study with higher precision could be performed. The grizzly population density in BMA 7 is estimated at 12.6 bears per 1,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

BMA 2, Grande Cache, was last surveyed in 2008, with no further surveys announced. The 2008 survey revealed an estimated population of 271 grizzly bears. The density of grizzlies stood at 18.11 bears per 1,000 km<sup>2</sup>. This density was most concentrated in the Wilmore/Kakwa areas.

With the range of an adult male grizzly bear being 1800 km<sup>2</sup>, the proximity of ranches in the BMA 2 increases the potential for conflicts. As populations appear to have rebounded in other BMAs, it would be prudent if the Alberta Government updated grizzly population estimates for BMA 2 and reassess with increased precision in BMA 7. With increased reports from residents of grizzly bears, the development of a Provincial Grizzly Mitigation Plan needs to be prioritized to address the safety of rural residents and inform agricultural producers as to what they can do to protect their livelihoods, potentially reducing wildlife conflicts.

**RESOLUTION 5-23  
LANDOWNER SPECIAL LICENSE**

- WHEREAS** wildlife ungulate populations, specifically elk, continue to cause significant damage to agricultural commodities; and
- WHEREAS** current tag allocations and hunting quotas have not alleviated or mitigated economic losses for producers; and
- WHEREAS** landowners must currently apply and be unsuccessful in the draw for regular season before applying for a Landowner Special License; and
- WHEREAS** the Landowner Special License is only valid for a single season; and
- WHEREAS** the ungulate issue is an ongoing agricultural problem as evidenced by previous resolutions regarding the management of elk at both the ASB Conference as well as RMA.

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

That Alberta Environment and Protected Areas restructure the criteria for Landowner Special Licenses to allow for landowners to receive tags without having to previously be unsuccessful in a regular draw.

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

That Alberta Environment and Protected Areas allow Landowner Special Licenses to be valid for the entirety of the season in all Wildlife Management Units (WMU's) in which the applicant has deeded land.

**SPONSORED BY:** Saddle Hills County

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Environment and Protected Areas



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ungulate populations continue to negatively impact agricultural producers. According to the Minister of Environment and Parks, ungulate population management requires multiple areas of interest, and providing increasingly more hunting licenses may not be the best option. The number of hunters on the landscape is already at a threshold where to add anymore would risk increasing conflicts.

In 2021, according to the Hunter Harvest Report by AEP, the estimated hunter success was 25% in WMU 358 and 36% in WMU 359. The estimated total elk harvested in WMUs 358 and 359 in 2021 was 383 and 613, respectively.

Past resolutions on the issue of ungulate management date back to 1999, from both the ASB Conference and RMA.

### Resolution 4-15S

## Landowner Special Licence for Elk

---

Date:

February 23, 2015

Expiry Date:

April 1, 2018

Active Status:

Expired

Sponsors:

Mountain View County

District:

2 - Central

Year:

2015

Convention:

Spring

Category:

Environment

**Status:**

Archived

**Vote Results:**

Carried

**Preamble:**

WHEREAS Alberta ungulate populations, primarily elk, are increasing rapidly due to current wildlife management policies; and

WHEREAS the increased elk population is responsible for damage to hay land, pasture, forages and other crops primarily located in agricultural areas; and

WHEREAS the introduction of an Antlerless Elk Season in many of the Wildlife Management Units (WMU), was to control elk populations; and

WHEREAS landowners are currently required to apply in the regular draw process if they wish to obtain an Antlerless Elk Licence; and

WHEREAS if the landowner is unsuccessful in the draw, they may apply for a Landowner Special Licence which requires ownership of a minimum of 160 acres and is only valid for the single season applied for; and

WHEREAS first parcel out subdivisions restrict the landowner's ability to obtain a Landowner Special Licence;

**Operative Clause:**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties request that Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) amend the Landowner Special Licence criteria to remove the requirement to enter in the draw process and that landowners of agricultural property with less than 160 acres qualify for the special licence; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that ESRD permit Landowner Special Licences to be used in any declared season within that Wildlife Management Unit.

**Member Background:**

Non-migrating herds of elk are becoming established in Alberta's agricultural areas. These local populations are destroying both standing and stockpiled forages intended for use as cattle feed. The damage is compounded by the fact that the elk trample and defecate on unconsumed forage rendering it unpalatable.

Limited effective control measures are available for producers dealing with the dilemma of these non-native herds. Amending hunting regulations in Agricultural zones will reduce the number of non- native elk, while having no effect on elk populations in their traditional habitat.

Environment and Sustainable Resource Development is responsible for preventing and mitigating ungulate damage by providing producers with deterrent, intercept feed, temporary fencing, and in chronic cases, permanent fencing materials. While these techniques are effective for small areas such as stored feed areas, this approach does not work over large areas.

It is assumed that the introduction of an Antlerless Elk Season in many of the Wildlife Management Units (WMU), was to control increasing elk populations. Presently, landowners are required to apply in the draw process if they wish to obtain an Antlerless Elk Licence. If they are unsuccessful in the draw, they may apply as a person named on title on a parcel of 160 acres or more. They may then be eligible for a Landowner Special Licence. This licence is only useable on the titled land and during the season applied for. With multiple hunting seasons available in many WMU's, the Landowner Special Licence should be valid during any identified season.

With increasing growth and development pressures in Alberta it is common for 160 acre quarter sections to be subdivided with a first parcel out. First parcel out subdivisions typically only remove 5-10 acres from the Agricultural quarter. The remaining parcel (150 acres plus) is typically utilized for agricultural purposes in the production of crop or forage. These landowners would no longer qualify to apply for a Landowners Special Licence on the 150 acre parcel which could be directly affected by depredation by elk.

As the licences are only valid on one parcel of titled land, landowners would not be inclined to apply if elk were not an issue on their land. However, as elk herd movement is unpredictable landowners who did not apply for the regular draw often experience elk depredation. It is suggested that the requirement for landowners to apply for the draw be removed, and allow landowners more flexibility to apply for the special licence when it is needed. In the main elk WMU's the Antlerless Elk Special Licence is only valid in one of the specified seasons, however there are 2-5 seasons depending on the WMU. If the object of the draw is to reduce the elk population it would make sense that measures should be in place to provide every opportunity for success. From reviewing the 2013 harvest estimates (see reference link) it is clear that success rates can be quite low, and current regulations may not be achieving the desired level of elk population management in Agricultural areas.

#### References:

[www.albertaregulations.ca/pdfs/hunt-draws/Landowner-Special-Licence.pdf](http://www.albertaregulations.ca/pdfs/hunt-draws/Landowner-Special-Licence.pdf)

[www.mywildalberta.com/Hunting/documents/ElkHunterHarvest-2013.pdf](http://www.mywildalberta.com/Hunting/documents/ElkHunterHarvest-2013.pdf)

#### RMA Background:

The AAMDC has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

#### Government Response:

Environment and Parks: Environment and Parks will be developing a new game allocation policy through a collaborative process with the Alberta Game Management Advisory

Group, of which the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties is a member. Objectives for landowner licenses will be discussed through this process. Environment and Parks values the perspective of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties in informing this program as it goes forward.

Currently, Environment and Parks is changing some requirements related to the landowner special licenses. For 2015/16, individuals who apply for either antlered or antlerless elk special licenses and are unsuccessful can now apply for antlerless elk landowner licenses where they are eligible.

Development:

Although the response indicates a willingness to address the issue of landowner special licenses through a new game allocation policy, at this point there has been no policy change to address the resolution request. As such, this resolution has been deemed Intent Not Met, and will be revisited as the collaborative process for developing a new game allocation policy takes place.

### Resolution 9-15: Elk Quota Hunt

**WHEREAS:** Many Eastern Slopes and Peace Region Municipalities are having difficulties with problem elk populations;

**WHEREAS:** Many Peace Region Municipalities have submitted many resolutions in this regard for these same problems;

**WHEREAS:** Minimal and modest increases have been made to Eastern Slopes and Peace Region Wild Life Management Units (WMU's) harvest limits;

**WHEREAS:** These increases in tag allocations have not resulted in alleviating or mitigating economic losses sustained by producers;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST** that the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resources implement an Elk Quota Hunt, based upon the principles of the former Chronic Wasting Disease Quota Hunt and/or other ways the ministry can develop to alleviate this problem.

**Status:** Provincial

Response

#### Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

Environment and Sustainable Resource Development is implementing new elk hunting seasons in wildlife management units 162 and 163 in southeastern Alberta. These

additional seasons will occur in areas where there are currently low elk numbers in order to maintain low populations and reduce range expansion.

Our department is increasing the number of antlerless elk hunting seasons for Canadian Forces Base Suffield and creating new hunting seasons for antlered elk. These seasons are in support of lowering elk populations in and around the base in response to landowner concerns. We are also implementing late-season antlerless elk hunting seasons in wildlife management units 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 308 and 310 in southwestern Alberta. These seasons will extend into January and are being implemented in response to landowner concerns over agricultural depredation.

Department staff conducted elk population surveys in many wildlife management units throughout the province, including the Peace River area. Updated population estimates will be used to make changes to the number of issued hunting permits for the upcoming 2015 hunting season.

In addition, Environment and Sustainable Resource Development is amending the procedure for landowners to provide greater flexibility in obtaining antlerless elk landowner licences. Landowners who are unsuccessful in either the antlerless or antlered elk special licence draws will be allowed to apply for an antlerless elk landowner licence.

## Resolution 12-20F

# Expansion of Elk Hunting for Management in Agriculture Production Areas

---

Date:

November 1, 2020

Expiry Date:

December 1, 2023

Active Status:

Active

Sponsors:

Leduc County

District:

3 - Pembina River

Year:

2020

**Convention:**

Fall

**Category:**

Environment

**Status:**

Intent Not Met

**Vote Results:**

Carried

**Preamble:**

WHEREAS Alberta's elk populations are increasing rapidly due to current wildlife management policies; and

WHEREAS increased elk populations within primarily agricultural areas has impacted agricultural producers through damage to hay land, pasture, silage crops and other crops; and

WHEREAS the introduction of an antlerless elk season in many of Alberta's wildlife management units was intended to assist in elk population control;

**Operative Clause:**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) request that the Government of Alberta increase the number of antlerless elk draw seasons to a minimum of two per wildlife management unit (WMU) located within agricultural areas; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that RMA request that the Government of Alberta increase the number of antlerless elk tags allocated within WMUs that are located within agricultural areas to compensate for poor hunter harvest success.

**Member Background:**

Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 334 is comprised of portions of Leduc County, Brazeau County, and Yellowhead County. The eastern portion of this WMU is primarily agricultural land with a high proportion of livestock operations, who rely on hay land and silage crops (such as corn) to provide winter feed for their cattle herds. Over the past three years, several herds of non-migrating elk have become established within WMU 334. Sightings of at least two separate herds of eighty elk and two herds of forty are common within the area. These elk have been damaging both standing and stockpiled forages that are intended for cattle feed.

Elk in the area have become especially damaging to corn crops that are intended as winter grazing for the cattle. While there are techniques for preventing and mitigating ungulate damage, such as deterrent, intercept feed and permanent fencing, these techniques are typically not effective/economical when dealing with large areas, such as entire fields.

The introduction of an antlerless elk season is believed to assist in the control of elk populations by removing female elk from the population. Tags are allocated within each WMU based on population numbers. This allocation assumes that with a 100% success rate of harvest, population numbers will be manageable. However, based on Alberta Environment and Parks' (AEP) Hunter Harvest Report, hunter success rates for elk only exceeded 50% in one WMU, and was only 11% in specifically for WMU 334.

AEP has confirmed that there has not been a specific survey for elk conducted within WMU 334, and the last aerial survey that was flown for other ungulate species was in January 2016. However, AEP had allocated 20 antlerless tags for WMU 334 in 2019 and 20 in 2020. According to the 2019 Hunter Harvest Report in 2019, five female elk and two young elk were harvested within the WMU, a success rate of 35%. Although this is a higher success rate than is recorded on the estimated resident harvest for elk, it is not a high enough success rate to ensure populations are managed.

By increasing the number of antlerless hunting seasons within WMUs where agriculture is a significant operation, the season in which elk can be hunted within these WMU's can be extended, and it is believed that the hunter harvest success rate can be increased. By increasing the number of antlerless tags available in these unit areas, elk populations will be more accurately managed even with a less than ideal hunter harvest rate.

Past resolutions have been endorsed by members of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta specifically related to elk population control, although there are no active resolutions currently.

#### References:

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/hunter-harvest-report-elk-estimated-resident-harvest-for-elk>

<https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/2-15s-elk-quota-hunt/>

<https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/4-15s-landowner-special-licence-for-elk/>

RMA Background:

RMA has no active resolutions directly related to this issue.

#### Government Response:

##### Alberta Environment and Parks

I appreciated hearing from RMA members regarding elk depredation specific to Wildlife Management Unit 334. To mitigate elk depredation in Alberta's agricultural areas, Environment and Parks employs several management strategies, including adding extra seasons, extending antlerless seasons and changing landowner licence eligibility. While

these strategies reduce depredation, they can also contribute to concerns related to hunter density, which can impact hunting access and limit harvest success.

I encourage the RMA to have concerned members track depredation events and provide details to their local fish and wildlife office (contact information is available at [www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca) by searching for “fish and wildlife contacts”), as this information can be used to assist the department in managing elk.

I have asked Environment and Parks staff to review the current landowner special licence process to ensure it is efficient and relevant to minimizing depredation issues. The department will also be evaluating the antlerless elk special licence as part of its annual process for recommending changes to hunting rules, and will adjust the number to better address concerns over agricultural conflict. Department staff indicate that an increase in antlerless elk tags and split seasons will not necessarily account for limited hunter success. Hunters’ ability to access lands containing the elk herds remains a key factor in determining the effectiveness of hunting as an elk-management tool. To assist on this front, I encourage RMA’s members to facilitate elk hunter access to private and leased public lands. This would have a substantial impact on harvest success.

#### Alberta Municipal Affairs

Alberta’s disaster recovery programs (DRPs) are intended to be financial assistance programs of last resort in response to widespread disasters or emergencies. The intent is that applicants first use insurance and other sources of assistance prior to accessing DRP assistance. Documentation is required from applicants to ensure that assistance is paid only for eligible uninsurable costs.

To enable DRP applicants to recover more quickly, the 2020 Disaster Assistance Guidelines (DAGs) include shortened program timelines to expedite the closure of DRPs, from five years in previous guidelines to three years. Applicants may request an extension if they experience project delays or are unable to submit the required documentation within the three-year timeline.

The Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) may provide a local authority applicant with an advance payment of up to 50 per cent of the eligible amount of requested assistance, if requested in writing by the community upon establishment of a DRP. Any subsequent requests for rolling advances must be supported by paid invoices from the applicant. For communities to receive an expedited final DRP payment, it is essential that they have completed their recovery projects and submitted all required records as indicated in the DAGs. Delays or discrepancies in project completion or the submission of requested documents result in final payment delays to the applicant.

The Disaster Assistance Guidelines ensure fair and transparent administration of DRPs and outline documentation requirements for applicants. The guidelines closely align with the federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAAs) to maximize federal reimbursement and minimize the financial burden on Alberta taxpayers. Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada may provide cost-recovery funding for DRPs based on a progressive formula under the DFAAs.



In order to receive federal reimbursement, the province must pass a strict federal audit for each program and meet all documentation requirements. AEMA is looking for opportunities to reduce red tape for individuals and communities under the DRP. As part of these efforts, AEMA is advocating for changes to the DFAA guidelines that would reduce administrative burdens under the program.

Development:

RMA appreciates the Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) response outlining the several management strategies currently employed to mitigate elk depredation in agricultural areas. AEP's response has indicated that the department will be evaluating the antlerless elk special licence as part of its annual process for recommending changes to hunting rules and will adjust the number to better address concerns over agricultural conflict.

RMA assigns this resolution a status of Intent Not Met and will update the status of the resolution if there are any changes to elk hunting management from the annual evaluation. Provincial Ministries:

Environment and Parks

**RESOLUTION 6-23  
ENFORCEMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT  
ALBERTA WATER ACT**

**WHEREAS** some landowners are in contravention to the Alberta Environment Water Act; diverting, pumping, blocking water ways, unapproved creek crossings; and

**WHEREAS** the contravention is affecting adjacent landowners and municipal infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS** complainants are referred to the Alberta Environment 24/7 Complaint Hotline; and

**WHEREAS** the affected landowners/complainants do not receive a response, an investigation or a follow up, due to a lack of staff and funding.

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

That Alberta Environment and Protected Areas provide adequate resources to support the Alberta Water Act, to ensure these contraventions are being dealt with.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of Two Hills

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**Purpose of Act 2**

The purpose of this Act is to support and promote the conservation and management of water, including the wise allocation and use of water, while recognizing (a) the need to manage and conserve water resources to sustain our environment and to ensure a healthy environment and high quality of life in the present and the future; (b) the need for Alberta's economic growth and prosperity; (c) the need for an integrated approach and comprehensive, flexible administration and management systems based on sound planning, regulatory actions and market forces; (d) the shared responsibility of all residents of Alberta for the conservation and wise use of water and their role in providing

advice with respect to water management planning and decision-making; (e) the importance of working co-operatively with the governments of other jurisdictions with respect to trans-boundary water management; (f) the important role of comprehensive and responsive action in administering this Act.

**Water Act: Part 3 Right to Divert and Priority of Rights Division 1 Right to Divert Water Existing diversion rights 18(1)**

Every authority or licence other than a temporary authority, agreement, permit, interim licence, updated and reissued interim licence and supplementary interim licence, granted under a predecessor Act that on January 1, 1999 authorizes the diversion of water, is a deemed licence that has a priority number that corresponds to the priority number of the original authority or licence. (2) A person who holds a deemed licence under this section may continue to exercise the right to divert water in accordance with (a) the priority number of the deemed licence, and (b) the terms and conditions of the deemed licence and this Act, and if a term or condition of the deemed licence is inconsistent with this Act, that term or condition prevails over this Act.

**Water Act: Application 37(1)**

A person who applies for an approval must (a) make an application to the Director in a form and manner satisfactory to the Director, (b) submit the information, including but not limited to plans and specifications, required by the Director, (c) pay the required fees, and (d) provide notice of the application in accordance with Part 8. (2) The Director may require an applicant to submit any additional information including but not limited to plans and specifications the Director considers necessary within any time period required by the Director. (3) The Director may deem an application for an approval to be an application for a licence. (4) If an applicant for an approval does not own the land in fee simple or the undertaking to which the approval is to be appurtenant, if required by the Director, the applicant must submit the written consent of the owner of the land or of the undertaking as part of the application for the approval.

**Licence required 49(1) Subject to subsection (2)**

no person shall (a) commence or continue a diversion of water for any purpose, or (b) operate a works, except pursuant to a licence unless it is otherwise authorized by this Act. (2) A person who commences or continues the diversion of water or operates a works (a) for household purposes in accordance with section 21, (b) pursuant to a registration, (c) pursuant to an approval, (d) that is designated or is part of a class of diversions or works that is designated in the regulations as exempt from the requirement for a licence, or (e) that is in an area of the Province that is designated in the regulations as an area where a licence is not required for that diversion or operation of works or that class of diversions or operation of works, is not required to hold a licence for that diversion of water or operation of works.

**Issuance of licences, preliminary certificates 51 (2)**

On application by the Government in accordance with this Act, the Director may issue a licence to the Government but to no other person, or may refuse to issue a licence, for

(a) the diversion of water, (b) the operation of a works, or (c) providing or maintaining a rate of flow of water or water level requirements.

#### **Removal of works and obstructions 95**

The Director or any person authorized in writing by the Director may, at any reasonable time, enter on any land and remove or otherwise render ineffective (a) a works constructed without an approval, (b) a works not constructed in accordance with an approval, (c) a works referred to in an approval or licence that has expired or has been cancelled, or (d) a natural or other obstruction, including but not limited to an obstruction formed by soil, debris, ice or vegetation, or beaver dam, if, in the opinion of the Director, the obstruction or dam causes the diversion of water or interferes with the flow of any water, if, in the opinion of the Director, there is an interference with the rights of a household user, licensee or traditional agriculture user, or with private or public property, as a result of the works, obstruction or dam.

#### **Offences 142 (2)**

A person who knowingly (a) provides false or misleading information, data, records, reports or documents pursuant to a requirement under this Act to provide them; (b) fails to provide information, data, records, reports or documents as required under this Act; (c) contravenes a water management order; (d) contravenes an enforcement order; (e) commences or continues a diversion of water for any purpose, or operates a works for the diversion of water except under a licence or as otherwise authorized by this Act; (f) commences or continues an activity except under an approval or as otherwise authorized by this Act; is guilty of an offence.

#### **Penalties 143(1)**

A person who is guilty of an offence under section 142(2) is liable (a) in the case of an individual, to a fine of not more than \$100 000 or to imprisonment for a period of not more than 2 years, or to both fine and imprisonment, or (b) in the case of a corporation, to a fine of not more than \$1 000 000.

**RESOLUTION 7-23**  
**CAMPAIGN TO RAISE AWARENESS ON THE DISPARITY BETWEEN CONSUMER**  
**PRICING AND PRODUCER REVENUE**

- WHEREAS** prices for consumer products such as fuel and groceries have increased significantly in the last four years; and
- WHEREAS** agricultural inputs necessary for the production of crops have increased in cost between 150% and 200%; and
- WHEREAS** the costs of diesel fuel necessary for agricultural production as well as transportation and logistics for the movement of consumer goods have risen significantly and is a cost that is transferred on to the consumer; and
- WHEREAS** the cost of groceries for Canadians has risen 10.8 per cent in the past year, according to Statistics Canada; and
- WHEREAS** there is a lack of awareness over how much commodity prices actually affect the costs of consumer products relative to all costs associated with food products at the grocery shelf.

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

That Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation develop a communication plan to promote awareness for Albertans regarding the disparity between the prices that agricultural producers receive for their products and the prices consumers pay.

**SPONSORED BY:** Leduc County  
**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**STATUS:** Provincial  
**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The rising costs of items such as groceries and fuel have become a significant concern for consumers in Alberta and across Canada over the past few years. Rising inflation costs in recent months have resulted in a 10.8 per cent increase in the cost of groceries for Albertans. Global situations such as the world's recovery from COVID, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and herbicide production issues have also had an effect on commodity pricing and the cost of associated consumer goods.

In the last four years (Jan. 2018 through Feb. 2022), the average price of selected foods in Canada has risen 114 per cent ([Statistics Canada](#)). In the same time frame, regular gasoline costs increased by 130 per cent. Although fuel costs have declined somewhat in the past month, prices are still relatively high.

Producers are also affected by the costs of inputs. Not only do producers have to pay the higher costs as other consumers for groceries and fuel, but fertilizer, herbicide purchases, new equipment, and even parts for equipment have either been in short supply and have risen considerably in price. Based on farm input cost information collected by the provincial government ([Government of Alberta](#)), fertilizer increases from 2021 to 2022 were between 150 per cent and 200 per cent, depending on the product. Herbicides such as glyphosate increased by 150% and saw significant supply issues throughout the summer season.

Although producers could expect to see higher prices for their crops in the fall, the costs to produce them have increased more significantly, especially fuel and crop inputs. This will effect producer margins in times of average yields. If producers are fortunate enough to collect higher than average yields, they may be able to benefit from a stronger commodity price.

The price increase that producers receive for their commodities in relation to the cost increase that consumers bear for the finished product in the store are usually not equal. The Canadian Dairy Commission pricing increase of 2.5 per cent on the regulated farm price of milk took effect on September 1, 2022. Although the in-store cost of milk is still fluctuating, the per cent increase is more than the increase received by the producer. Processor costs have increased by more than 12 per cent since August 2021, adversely affecting the cost of milk.

Raising public awareness regarding pricing disparities could be done at multiple levels, but a coordinated effort would be beneficial to ensure consistency in messaging. A centralized communications plan would provide a consistent message across the province to provide information to all Albertans. The Government of Alberta would be particularly suited to develop a centralized communication plan that could used by all stakeholders in the agricultural industry to provide a unified message to the public regarding the current situation within agriculture. A communications plan that develops and supports a consistent message will help to strengthen public trust in the agricultural industry.

## References

Statistics Canada <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=1810000201>

Alberta Government <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/0704-917x>

Dairy Processors Association of Canada <https://www.dpac-atlc.ca/statement-regarding-canadian-dairy-commission-announcement-on-september-1-2022-pricing-adjustment/>

**RESOLUTION 8-23**  
**CONSIDERATION OF MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL**  
**POLICIES FOR LARGE SCALE SOLAR AND RELATED ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS**  
**ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

**WHEREAS** the *Municipal Government Act* requires that Municipal Development Plans include policies for the protection of agricultural operations and that a land use bylaw may regulate and control the use and development of land and buildings to protect agricultural land; and

**WHEREAS** the *Weed Control Act* requires municipalities to inspect compliance under this Act; and

**WHEREAS** the *Soil Conservation Act* requires landowners to prevent soil loss or deterioration from taking place; and

**WHEREAS** the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan 2014-2024 aims to promote and remove barrier to new investments in renewable energy; and

**WHEREAS** Federal and Provincial policies are impeding collaboration, innovation, and diversification by adding regulations to large scale energy developments without consideration of the local environmental conditions and of local municipal policies and bylaws to uphold existing Acts, Regulations, and regional plans.

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

That when Federal and Provincial governments approve large scale energy developments that they consider local environmental conditions and the policies that the local municipality has in place on the development through their permitting process.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of Warner No. 5

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Federal and Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
Canada Energy Regulator

**Alberta Energy**  
**Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation**  
**Alberta Environment & Protected Areas**  
**Alberta Energy Regulator**  
**Alberta Utilities Commission**

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Recently in the County of Warner, these issues of stripping topsoil, wind erosion, soil degradation, lack of cover and invasive weeds were highlighted when a large-scale solar development was approved by our local planning committee with conditions regarding soil and weed control in place. These conditions included a specific grass seed mix, and a combination of chemical treatment and mowing schedule to control the known weeds in the area. When the approvals came back from the Federal government, they said that the developer was not allowed to spray chemicals and altered the grass seed mixture. With the Federal government approvals for stripping topsoil, we have experienced wind erosion, soil degradation and invasive weed issues, due to the lack of ground cover. If the conditions of our approval were upheld these issues would have been minimized.

We are asking the Federal and Provincial governments to consult with municipalities on how to minimize impacts on the environment and that they work with the municipal policies and follow their permitting process.

### **Relevant legislation**

Several acts inform the purpose of municipalities, first and foremost the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA). It states the purpose of municipalities as including “to foster the well-being of the environment,” and “to provide services, facilities or other situations that, in the opinion of council, are necessary or desirable for all or a part of the municipality.” In addition, the role of an Agricultural Service Board (ASB) according to the *Agricultural Service Board Act* (ASB Act) is “to advise on and to help organize and direct weed and pest control and soil and water conservation programs” and “to promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality.” Specifically, under the *Weed Control Act* (WCA) “a local authority shall appoint inspectors to enforce and monitor compliance with this Act within the municipality” and under the *Soil Conservation Act* (SCA) “every landholder shall ... take appropriate measures ... to prevent soil loss or deterioration from taking place.” As in many rural municipalities around the province, the County of Warner has a policy appointing the Agricultural Fieldman to act as a municipal inspector under the WCA, SCA, and *Agricultural Pests Act* to fulfill the purpose and duties as assigned to us through the Acts.

To uphold the WCA the Ag Fieldmen work closely with landowners to develop a customized weed control program. The exact program design depends on the ecological factors in the area, which the Ag Fieldman is familiar with, such as the variety of weeds (including noxious and prohibited noxious weeds), weather patterns, and geology. This is particularly significant for prohibited noxious weeds as limited control options may be available, and further spread has the potential to cause significant crop yield losses and



become an established invasive species in natural and riparian areas. Understanding the local ecological factors also weighs heavily in upholding the SCA, which has a long history in Alberta with the aim to provide a framework for encouraging sound soil conservation practices, to preserve Alberta's agricultural land base, and to ensure the long-term productivity of the farming sector. The ASBs and their Ag Fieldmen of rural Alberta have over the years worked hard to gain knowledge, improve practices, and uphold the regulations to provide this protection. This protection and compliance with legislation should be the goal of all levels of government, which should be attained with more awareness and cooperation rather than disregarding work already done.

One of the objectives of renewable energy according to the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan 2014-2024 (SSRP) is that "value-added opportunities that enhance the sustainability of Alberta's industries and communities are created". The SSRP strategies include to "ensure policies are in place to promote and remove barrier to new investments in renewable energy." In addition, the Canada Energy Regulator regulates pipelines, energy development and trade, while ensuring the confidence of Canadians, safety, and environmental sustainability. This often makes it more difficult for local jurisdictions to work with companies by interfering with local policies and strategies despite holding the same aims of supporting the sustainability of upcoming energy industries. Through the roles taken by municipalities and ASBs, the municipalities have been close stewards of the local land and understand how to ensure environmental sustainability in the area. However, the lines of power and responsibility between the three levels of government often blur and appear to overlap, and one level of government ends up re-doing work already done by other levels. Relevant to the WCA and SCA is how regulation of the environment has been found to come under the federal government's jurisdiction pursuant to peace, order, and good government (POGG).

Environmental regulation of higher levels of government is triggered by large scale developments through the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) at both the provincial and federal level. EIA is a process to predict the impact of projects on the environment before they are carried out. In Alberta, projects may trigger a provincial or federal EIA depending on what matters the project will touch on. The current EIA process in Alberta is based on the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, with processes set out in the Environmental Assessment Regulation and activities that trigger an EIA set out in the Mandatory and Exempted Activities Regulation. In addition to the provincial EIA, the current federal EIA process is based on the 2012 *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). Pursuant to this Act, the federal government developed a regulation to designate physical activities that automatically trigger a federal EIA. These clauses are highly important to municipalities, as numerous municipal projects may contain one or more of these impacts. For example, projects such as dams have the potential to trigger both a provincial and federal EIA, leading to a long and resource intensive process before the project can be completed, which is detrimental to investment. This causes the revisitation, and sometimes disregard of conditions municipalities have previously placed during the permitting processes of large-scale developments, and so dismisses the local knowledge of necessary weed and soil control programs.

## **RMA Background:**

### **Resolution 5-18S**

#### **Provincial Government Consultation and Communication Protocol with Municipalities**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) appeal to the Government of Alberta to establish and maintain a uniform consultation and communication protocol with municipal elected officials which is applicable to all provincial bodies;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that through this consultation and communication protocol, the Government of Alberta recognizes and acknowledges the legislated significance of municipal elected officials, and that the Government of Alberta engage municipalities openly and transparently to provide input and feedback on the consultation and communication protocol from inception through to implementation.

link <https://rmaalberta.com/resolutions/5-18s-provincial-government-consultation-and-communication-protocol-with-municipalities/>

### **Resolution 6-22S**

#### **Responsiveness of Service Delivery by Quasi-independent Agencies in Alberta**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta request that the Government of Alberta review the continued use of unelected, quasi-independent agencies for the administration and delivery of essential public services, with the results of the review published for public examination.

### **Resolution 7-20F**

#### **Amendments to Municipal Government Act of Service Delivery by Quasi-independent Agencies in Alberta**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta urge the Government of Alberta to amend Section 619 of the *Municipal Government Act* to clearly state that the Natural Resources Conservation Board, the Energy Resources

Conservation Board, the Alberta Energy Regulator, the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board or the Alberta Utilities Commission must consider municipal statutory land use planning related to the protection of productive agricultural lands when making decisions on licenses, permits, approvals and other authorizations under their jurisdiction. link <https://rmaalberta.com/resolutions/7-20f-amendments-to-municipal-government-act-section-619/>

**RESOLUTION 9-23**  
**SYNTHETIC FERTILIZER EMISSIONS**

**WHEREAS** the federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change is seeking to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with synthetic fertilizer by 30% below 2020 levels by 2030; and

**WHEREAS** the federal government has set a goal for 2025 to achieve \$75 billion in agricultural exports; and

**WHEREAS** instituting a reduction of synthetic fertilizer emissions will inevitably place a cap on synthetic fertilizer use and limit crop production for Canadian farmers; and

**WHEREAS** limiting crop yield by limiting fertilizer usage will inevitably reduce production and food security; and

**WHEREAS** regional research and development is necessary to eliminate the uncertainty resulting from incomplete data for measuring fertilizer emission levels in different crop types, geographical regions, and growing conditions; and

**WHEREAS** the 4R Climate-Smart Protocol is designed to promote sustainable use of fertilizer in crop production and can reduce GHG emissions by focusing on the “4 Rs” of fertilizer application: Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time, and Right Place; and

**WHEREAS** the 4R Climate-Smart Protocol optimizes plant nutrient uptake, increases yield, maximizes profitability, and minimizes nitrous oxide emissions.

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

That the Federal Government of Canada adopt the 4R Climate- Smart Protocol approach developed by The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) of Fertilizer Canada and provide sustainable funding into research and development regarding fertilizer use efficiency.

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

That the federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change suspend the 30% synthetic fertilizer emission reduction targets until the proper tools to measure emissions for producers are available.

**SPONSORED BY:** Northern Sunrise County  
**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**STATUS:** Federal  
**DEPARTMENT:** Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Environment and Climate Change Canada

**Preface:**

Sustainable high-yielding agricultural production is essential for Canada to remain economically competitive in the world market, especially with increasing demands for food, feed, and biofuel products, both domestic and abroad. To achieve production demands, the use of fertilizer is essential to produce increasingly high crop yields.

The Federal Government has set a goal to grow agricultural exports to \$75 billion by 2025, yet they are inevitably stifling this target by indirectly capping synthetic fertilizer use with their emission target to reduce GHG emissions associated with fertilizer by 30% below 2020 levels by 2030. Canadian agricultural producers currently utilize fertilizer efficiently and even marginal reductions in fertilizer use will hinder crop production, threatening the well-being of Canadians, as well as the global food supply. This restriction on fertilizer may result in soil nutrients being underapplied, which would threaten agricultural sustainability by reducing soil fertility and soil nutrient reserves.

Greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide are generated from fertilizer use. A reported 60% increase in direct emissions associated with synthetic nitrogen fertilizer since 2005 highlights the need for more research on fertilizer use, the development of higher efficiency products, and a stewardship program that focuses on targeted application. These environmental concerns will not be effectively stifled by restricting fertilizer use to meet the goals proposed in the Government of Canada's 2020 Strengthened Climate Plan. Instead, as a more agronomically viable approach to meet the fertilizer emission target, we propose an increase in funding for regional research and development for innovative technologies that can improve both the monitoring and use of synthetic crop fertilizer products. In addition, stewardship of fertilizer use needs to be improved by implementing Fertilizer Canada's 4R Nutrient Stewardship approach. This approach is science-based and involves applying the Right Source of fertilizer at the Right Rate, Right Time, and in the Right Place. The use of the 4R Nutrient Stewardship optimizes plant nutrient uptake, increases yield, and maximizes profitability, while also minimizing nitrous oxide emissions.

The development of more efficient fertilizer products or application methods, paired with more accurate monitoring techniques and environmentally conscious targeted fertilizer application programs, will allow Canada to meet the fertilizer emission target without hindering crop production, sustainability, and the economy.

#### **4R Nutrient Stewardship**

The 4R Nutrient Stewardship approach is a concept developed through a long history of cooperation between the fertilizer industry and the scientific community. Since at least 1988, application of the right nutrient source or product at the right rate, right time and in the right place has been closely associated with agricultural sustainability. It has been developed, modified, and built upon since then, and likely has roots from the 1988 Thorup and Stewart research paper. At this point the 4Rs include:

- **Right source** matches the fertilizer type to crop needs. This encompasses the use of synthetic versus organic fertilizers, as well as fertilizers with different nutrient compositions and different formats (liquid, granular, seed-banded, slow release, manure, etc.) and products that include additives such as nitrification and urease inhibitors;
- **Right rate** matches the amount of fertilizer to crop needs. This entails only applying what can be taken up by the crop over the course of the growing season. This recommendation can include precision application technologies (including those that address in-field variability), and the use of soil tests to make nutrient management decisions accounting for existing soil nutrient levels;
- **Right time** means nutrients are available when crops need them. This could include practices such as split application (applying at seeding as well as later at critical crop growth stages) or avoiding applying fertilizer in the fall when there is a higher risk of loss through spring runoff and volatilization;
- **Right place** means nutrients are placed where crops can use them. This recommendation includes practices such as banding, whereby the fertilizer is applied in concentrated strips; side dressing, whereby fertilizers are placed in a row adjacent to the crop, or seed-placed, where fertilizers are placed in the same furrow as the seed. This includes practices such as broadcasting where possible, whereby nutrients are spread on the surface of the soil (or growing crop) and which can lead to inefficiencies and losses to the broader environment.

#### **Importance of Implementing These Strategies:**

##### *4R Nutrient Stewardship:*

While adoption of at least some 4R practices exists in most regions across the country, to maximize emissions reductions, more widespread adoption at higher performance levels is necessary. Despite high levels of awareness, surveys indicate that only around 25% of farmers have worked with a 4R designated or certified Agronomist, and that less than 10% of farmers indicated that they have a formal 4R plan of any kind in place

(Fertilizer Canada Fertilizer Use Survey, 2019). Existing data from Fertilizer Canada and the 4R Research Network indicate that the implementation of a 4R program can reduce fertilizer related emissions while maintaining and/or improving crop yields. They further suggest that the widespread adoption of 4R in Western Canada could reduce emissions by 2 to 3 megatonnes – or 50 to 75% of the Government's emission reduction target. The 4R Nutrient Stewardship procedure reduces GHG emissions more than the practice of replacing synthetic fertilizer with manures, compost, or digestate, which has only seen to reduce emissions by 10-20%.

There is widespread recognition that the principles underlying the 4R practices can reduce emissions from N fertilizer. However, more training and resources, for both producers and production advisors are needed to improve the adoption of this strategy to ensure that it is properly implemented.

#### Research and Development:

It is important to note that fertilizer uptake and efficiency varies across the country as the emissions reduction potential is impacted by agronomic and biophysical factors (soil type, soil humidity, climate). There is no single universally applicable path for reducing emissions from fertilizer. The 4R Nutrient Stewardship strategy allows for an environmentally conscious tailored approach. However, there remains a high degree of uncertainty and complexity resulting from incomplete scientific data on how exactly different environments, crops, and conditions affect fertilizer activity. This information is vital for the efficacy of the 4R approach. Data will need to be more comprehensively developed as part of ongoing and future research and development efforts to meet the emissions reduction target. To achieve this, more funding is needed to power this research in many regions across the nation. It is crucial that many different climactic conditions, regions, and crop types are evaluated through this research to better inform fertilizer application decision making in all areas of Canada. To improve uptake of this information, this research should be published in a publicly accessible format.

Additionally, the development of more precise and higher functioning fertilizer products is necessary to reduce the emissions from synthetic fertilizer. For instance, the precision of fertilizer rates could be improved by manufacturers introducing a maximum guarantee for nitrogen content in synthetic fertilizer, in conjunction with the current minimum guarantee, to produce a range of nitrogen. This introduction of the maximum guarantee would prevent the over-application of nitrogen fertilizer since the highest guaranteed nitrogen content is listed. The introduction of this labelling would better inform the Right Rate component of 4R Nutrient Stewardship. Innovation around fertilizer production including the use of green ammonia to reduce life-cycle emissions would help with creating cleaner fertilizer sources which would reinforce the Right Source component of the 4R strategy. Research into more precise equipment and machinery to apply fertilizer would help the 4R strategy by improving the Right Place aspect of the technique. Research into more rapid fertilizer application technology would help with the Right Time aspect of the 4Rs and avoid the need for fall fertilizer applications which are primarily done to save time during the spring but have more environmental risks such as runoff and denitrification.

The implementation of these strategies will ensure the maintenance of the agricultural sector's competitiveness in the country, as well as Canada's reputation as a top producer and exporter of quality crops.

### **Supporting Information:**

#### Modifying Monitoring Techniques:

Stakeholders from Fertilizer Canada's 2019 Survey were concerned that the current National Inventory Report (NIR) methodology may not fully account for emission reductions achieved as part of the target. This is due in part to the current methodology's approach to measurement of emissions, and challenges with obtaining and measuring data at the individual farm level. While improvements in NIR reporting on nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) are underway and expected to be implemented in time for publication in 2022, these improvements do not yet capture on-farm activity related to fertilizer application practices due to a lack of data at this scale. Additional Federal funding into ongoing research to address will help to ease the concerns of these stakeholders.

#### Sulvaris Agricultural Technology

Innovative technologies will be key to improving fertilizer usage. Investments into this type of research are imperative for creating more environmentally friendly fertilizers. In July of 2022, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, showed a quintessential example of this type of investment when she announced an investment of up to \$1,685,858 for Sulvaris, a crop input research company in Calgary, Alberta. This funding will aid to further develop new technology to produce high-efficiency fertilizers made with organic carbon. Their carbon control technology converts various forms of organic waste into high-efficiency fertilizers that are rich in nutrients and soil-building carbon. These products are economical to use in large-scale agriculture, as well as for lawn and plants in commercial and home use. These fertilizers improve on conventional chemical fertilizers by releasing nutrients more slowly. This gives plants the ability to absorb the nutrients as they need them to develop and grow. The more efficient uptake means less unabsorbed nutrients are left in the soil, reducing the risk of them releasing harmful GHG or contaminating waterways.

#### Food Shortage Concerns

Imposing an indirect cap upon the amount of fertilizer applied to Canadian fields will stifle the ability of our nation to continue to produce and export high quality crops that are crucial for feeding the world. The conflict in Ukraine, a major agricultural producer, has created even more demand for Canadian agricultural products, both as exports and contributions to the World Food Bank. Even before the war in February 2022, many countries around the world were struggling to get access to adequate food supplies

following the economic downturn triggered by Covid-19. Between 720 and 811 million people went hungry in 2020, and this number is expected to go up in 2022 spiking around the world. While post-pandemic global demand, extreme weather, tightening food stocks, high energy prices, supply chain bottlenecks, and export restrictions and taxes have been straining the food market for two years, the recent convergence of all these factors following Russia's invasion is unprecedented and has sent food prices into an undetermined inflation rate. This situation, where many hands are pursuing very scarce and expensive food resources, could incite civil conflict – as witnessed during the Arab spring, an event partly a reaction to high cereal prices. The president of the World Bank, David Malpass, stated that “countries should make concerted efforts to increase the supply of energy and fertilizer, help farmers increase plantings and crop yields, and remove policies that block exports and imports, divert food to biofuel, or encourage unnecessary storage.” The fertilizer section of the Federal Government's Strengthened Climate Plan will directly interfere with the ability of Canada to follow this directive and hinder the ability of the world to recover from these recent global catastrophes.

Fertilizer is needed to feed the growing global population, which is predicted to grow to 10 billion by 2025, according to the United Nations. Up until this threat to production, synthetic nitrogen fertilizer has played a key role in enhancing global food production and keeping half of the world's population adequately fed. Fertilizer Canada estimates that without fertilizer, food production would be cut in half. This further demonstrates how the limit on fertilizer use will be detrimental for the well-being of many people.

#### **Current Government Fertilizer Stewardship Resources:**

Federal and provincial governments already have several programs available to support producers in adopting more efficient nutrient management practices. For example:

- Under the Agriculture Climate Solutions On-Farm Climate Action Fund, the federal government has made \$200 million available to support adoption of beneficial management practices on-farm, including a focus on nutrient management;
- Under the Agriculture Climate Solutions Living Labs Program, a national network of living laboratories is being established to support demonstration and knowledge transfer regarding beneficial practices that are tailored to regional realities; and
- Under the Canadian Agriculture Partnership, federal and provincial governments invest in key priorities, including supporting provincial programs to offer access to Environmental Farm Plans and financial support to adopt new beneficial management practices



**Additional Resources:**

Further background for this resolution can be referenced in the following discussion paper and news release, posted on the Government of Canada website, under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, on May 10, 2022, and July 4, 2022, respectively.

May 10, 2022 Discussion Document: <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/about-our-department/transparency-and-corporate-reporting/public-opinion-research-and-consultations/share-ideas-fertilizer-emissions-reduction-target/discussion-document-reducing-emissions-arising-application-fertilizer-canadas-agriculture-sector>

July 4, 2022 News Release: <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/07/government-of-canada-invests-over-16-million-in-new-technology-for-high-efficiency-fertilizers.html>

**RESOLUTION 10-23**  
**ORGANIC PRODUCTION CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND**  
**PROVINCIALY REGULATED WEEDS**

**WHEREAS** organic producers must achieve organic certification through the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and no other regulatory body; and

**WHEREAS** the CFIA establishes the Canadian Organic Standards and procedures for certification and maintenance of organic status; and

**WHEREAS** the provinces may enact legislation to control or destroy invasive species of concern; and

**WHEREAS** all producers, regardless of production method must comply with provincial invasive species legislation; and

**WHEREAS** the current organic management standards do not explicitly state that organic producers must be in compliance with provincial regulations regarding invasive species; and

**WHEREAS** an explicit standard for certification and maintenance of organic status regarding compliance with provincially mandated invasive species legislation would reinforce the need to effectively address regulated weeds.

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

That Canada Food Inspection Agency add a requirement to the Canadian Organic Standards that requires the organic grower be compliant with any provincial legislation regarding invasive species in order to achieve and maintain organic certification.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of Grande Prairie

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Federal

**DEPARTMENT:** Canadian Food Inspection Agency  
Agriculture and Agri Food Canada  
Minister of Health Canada

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Many municipalities in our province experience challenges with regulated weed control on certified organic lands. While it is important to be mindful that organic systems represent an alternative production system for producers to consider incorporating into their operations, the intent is not to remove the obligation that all agricultural producers have for sound environmental stewardship, including effective management of invasive species. The significant gap between organic regulations and the requirement to be compliant with provincial regulations is evident. To address this gap, we are proposing an addition to the Organic Standards as set out by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Organic certification is obtained through the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The Canada Organic Regime requires mandatory certification to the Canadian Organic Standards for organic products.

According to the Organic Production Systems - General principles and management standards, "Organic production is a holistic system designed to optimize the productivity and fitness of diverse communities within the agro-ecosystem, including soil organisms, plants, livestock and people."

CFIA delegates the authority for certification to specific certifying bodies that determine whether organic applicants meet CFIA's criteria for registration as a producer.

Certifying bodies also inspect for compliance with organic standards from time to time, for organic producers to maintain their organic certification. None of the standards specifically require addressing regulated weeds as governed by Provincial Acts. This is a concerning gap.

Active Certifying bodies in Alberta:

AOPA- Alberta Organic Producers  
Association CSI - Centre for Systems  
Integration ECOCERT  
Pro-Cert Organic Systems  
ICS - International Certification  
Services OCIA International Canada  
PACS Certified Organic - Pacific Agricultural Certification  
Society QAI - Quality Assurance International

According to the Standard, organic products referenced within are derived from a production system that provides control of pests including insects, weeds and disease through enhancement of biodiversity, recycling of plant

and animal residues, crop selection and rotation, water management, tillage and cultivation. Application of commercial herbicides is not permitted. Only substances listed in CAN/CGSB-32.311 - Organic Production Systems - Permitted Substances List may be used in organic production. In order to be compliant with the Standards, the producer must have an Organic Plan outlining the details of transition, production, preparation and management practices. This plan is updated annually to address changes to the plan, problems encountered in carrying out the plan and measures to overcome the problems.

Section 5.6 of the Standard states:

5.6.1 Practices to control pests, including insects, diseases and weeds, shall focus on organic management practices that enhance crop health and reduce losses due to weeds, disease, insects and other pests. Management practices include cultural practices (for example, crop rotations, establishment of a balanced ecosystem, and use of resistant varieties), mechanical techniques (for example, sanitation measures, cultivation, trapping, mulching and grazing) and physical techniques (for example, flaming against weeds and the use of heat against diseases).

5.6.2 When organic management practices alone cannot prevent or control crop pests, including insects, diseases and weeds, a biological or botanical substance, or other substance listed in Table 4.2 or CAN/CGSB-32.311 may be used. Conditions that led to the use of substances shall be documented in the organic plan.

As can be seen, there is no specific direction or requirement to be compliant with Provincial Legislation. This can lead to the misunderstanding that the federal standards are the only ones that an organic producer needs to be in compliance with.

It is important to note that according to the CFIA, invasive species management costs the agricultural industry in Canada 2.2 billion dollars each year, in lost production, lower quality, and increased costs of weed control and harvesting. These costs do not capture the costs of reduced habitat and sustenance available for native species, be they plant, insect or animal, nor does it capture the costs of reduced property values due to invasive species, or increased costs for non-agricultural entities such as municipalities or individuals for weed control.

The *Alberta Weed Control Act* (WCA) enables the Minister's authority to declare noxious or prohibited noxious weeds. The WCA states that prohibited noxious weeds must be destroyed and noxious weeds must be controlled. The WCA directs all landowners to comply with control or eradication of noxious and/or prohibited noxious weeds. It is enabling legislation that allows municipalities to enforce the WCA.

There are other provinces in Canada that have legislated weed control, it is not just Alberta specific. Given that organic producers are federally regulated, and the various provincial Weed Control Acts are provincially regulated, there can be a misconception that organic producers are exempt from following provincial legislation. The standards for compliance with provincial legislation must be country-wide and stated explicitly.

We are requesting that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency add a requirement to the Canadian Organic Standards that requires the organic grower be compliant with the *Alberta Weed Control Act* and the Alberta Provincial Regulation in order to achieve and maintain organic certification to alleviate this confusion.

**RESOLUTION 11-23  
LOSS 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 cancelled the product; and

**WHEREAS** Alberta producers have used Strychnine to effectively control Richardson's Ground Squirrels for decades; and

**WHEREAS** in an integrated pest management plan there is a need for options of control like 2% liquid Strychnine dependent on different circumstances (time of year, area of land infected, infestation levels, pest being controlled, etc.).

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

That Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency make 2% Liquid Strychnine available to agricultural producers to utilize on their farms for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels through an emergency registration for the 2023 season.

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

That Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation petition and study avenues to convince Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency to leave 2% Liquid Strychnine on the market on a permanent basis to agricultural producers to utilize on their farms for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of St. Paul No. 19

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Federal and Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Health Canada

Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada have reviewed the label and use of 2% Liquid Strychnine and have chosen to cancel the use of Strychnine for the control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels (RGS). The last date that agriculture producers can legally use the product is on March 4, 2023. They have not been able to purchase the product since March 4, 2022.

Agricultural Service Boards (ASB's) have long brought forward resolutions concerning Strychnine and this should underline its importance to agricultural producers in Alberta. It is an effective tool to control RGS because it is a single feed bait and this allows producers to efficiently treat large infestations and help prevent small infestations from becoming large ones. Other options for gopher control is with the use of multi-feed baits such as Rozol and Ramik Green . However, these baits can be unproductive because they can take from 7 to 10 days to be effective. As such, other methods of control can be very time consuming during demanding times of production (seeding, calving, etc.).

Strychnine has been used in Alberta for decades and has been effective in gopher control with little impact on the wildlife population. For effective gopher control, 2% Liquid Strychnine is an essential tool in any agricultural producers integrated pest management plan and should be available for use.

**RESOLUTION 12-23**  
**REVIEW OF THE LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS TRIBUNAL (LPRT)**

- WHEREAS:** agricultural producers in rural Alberta remain some of the most skilled individuals at growing, harvesting, and producing high quality food products for Canadian, as well as international consumers; and
- WHEREAS:** the oil and gas industry and the agricultural production industry are both very important parts of the Alberta economy; and
- WHEREAS:** the oil and gas industry and the agricultural production industry both benefit from an environment of mutual cooperation when the surface of privately owned lands are being utilized for the purpose of extracting natural resources; and
- WHEREAS:** the Surface Rights Act and related legislation outlines considerations for landowner compensation through surface leases for these expropriation-like activities; and
- WHEREAS:** a level of knowledge of relevant modern agricultural practices including agricultural law, science, agronomy, valuation and business experience is imperative to surface rights deliberations; and
- WHEREAS:** the LPRT has in recent years seen a steady and significant increase in the number and type of applications received, indicating a consistent trend of year over year increases in the number of disputes between landowners and oil and gas companies; and
- WHEREAS:** the LPRT is the appointed body that is mandated to provide Albertans with access to independent, fair and timely quasi-judicial and alternative dispute resolution processes.

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

That Municipal Affairs establish a task force comprised of Agricultural Service Board Members, agricultural producers, experts in agricultural science, agronomy and business, as well as representatives from the oil and gas industry associations, to conduct a full review into the function and mandate of the Surface Rights components of the LPRT as directed by related legislation, with a focus on matters of, or related to:

- Contractual negotiations being fully paid by energy operators,
- Implementation of mandatory mediation prior to LPRT application,
- Improved timeliness of applications, and
- Clarity of terms used in the Surface Rights Act.



**SPONSORED BY:** Wheatland County  
**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**STATUS:** Provincial  
**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Municipal Affairs

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The oil and gas industry in Alberta has successfully expanded over past decades by the granting of leases by the Government of Alberta and the subsequent negotiations of lease terms between landowners and oil and gas companies to access resources on private lands. This relationship deprives the landowner of the ability or the right to end the lease and have the area reclaimed and returned to its original use. The landowner is obliged, over decades, to remain in the lease arrangement with oil and gas companies. An overriding principle of the development of oil and gas leases on privately owned land was that the landowner, being subject to a loss of their land use, is not to experience financial loss due to the oil and gas development on their land.

Historically, landowners and oil and gas companies have engaged in negotiations to develop lease terms and to renew leases that were acceptable to both parties. In Wheatland County, since 2019, landowners have expressed concerns of a breakdown in negotiations and relationships between certain oil and gas companies and landowners. As a result, trust and respect between these landowners and the oil and gas operators functioning on their land appears to be becoming increasingly strained. This has resulted in undue stress and anxiety to landowners, particularly when facing a threat of substantial financial loss due to obligatory and complex lease renegotiations with oil and gas companies. Landowners are often required to retain subject matter experts, at their own cost, to ensure they understand both their legal rights and the fair market value of their leased land. These costs are rising, as some operators are choosing high level representation, which usually is out of reach for landowners.

The negotiation for compensation to landowners should be approached based on the various considerations outlined in Section 25 of the Surface Rights Act. The present day state of the oil and gas market should not be included as a consideration when determining or negotiating compensation amounts to landowners. Landowners are also subject to variable risks to their business, such as weather, drought, insect infestations, resistant weed strains, and food commodity prices, all of which persist regardless of economic fluctuations of the oil and gas sector.

Compensation has been eroded over time by the fact that leases do not include an inflation adjustment; this was left to be factored into the 5-year compensation review. Past negotiations had resulted in increases in compensation to account for this cost-of-living

adjustment; however, the practice seems to have been abandoned by some companies. In addition, landowners are at risk of being affected adversely by liability costs.

Some landowners have reported that their requests for the legislated 5-year compensation review have been ignored and, in some instances, they have reported that they are unable to contact operators after receiving notifications of upcoming reviews. In such situations, landowners often find themselves needing to spend significant time away from their primary business to navigate the complex process of lease renegotiations, and, in some cases, arbitration, tribunal hearings, and court appeals. For many landowners, the process of lease renegotiating can be highly stressful, and even unmanageable, where oil and gas companies may have access to in-house subject matter experts, including legal counsel who negotiate land leases on a regular basis.

The primary mandate of the LPRT is to resolve disputes that may arise in relation to oil and gas leases established on private lands. The Government of Alberta, in the Municipal Affairs 2021-2022 Annual Report, noted that “when the rights of citizens are impacted by government decisions or where there is conflict between the competing interests of individuals, industry, or municipalities, the Land and Property Rights Tribunal provides Albertans with fair, timely, and well-reasoned decisions on a variety of different matters including...compensation disputes involving surface rights and expropriation.” (June 2022. p.15.)

Furthermore, this report states that “the overriding consideration and the true measure of the success of the tribunal is that parties who appear before it feel that, win or lose, they have been treated fairly,” with a key objective of the tribunal “to [strengthen] the rights of landowners and operators to fair and timely decisions on surface rights matters.” (June 2022. p. 15.)

In 2021, the tribunal received 7,446 surface rights applications, an increase of 41 per cent from 2020; conducted 6,591 hearings, both written and virtual, an increase of 19 per cent from 2020; and issued 6,555 decisions and/or orders, up 19 per cent from 2020.

In 2021, the tribunal received 487 applications for a rate review under Section 27 of the Surface Rights Act, 300 of which were filed by operators. This compares to 345 applications received in 2020 and 256 in 2019.

Another area that has seen a substantial increase in applications are requests for reconsideration under Section 29 of the Surface Rights Act, where the tribunal is asked to effectively reconsider its own decisions. In 2021, there were 149 such applications filed, which represented a large increase from 2020 and 2019 when 22 and 26 applications were received respectively.

Landowners are often at a severe disadvantage in comparison to oil and gas companies, both financially and in legal experience. The primary business of landowners is not in the legal realm, but many landowners are required to negotiate, in a quasi-judicial process, with corporate entities with far more access to financial and legal resources. When landowners

are facing the risk of having to undergo a tribunal hearing process, and when landowners recognize a financial and legal resource disadvantage, this situation can make the landowner susceptible to succumbing to the pressures of signing lease agreements with compensation amounts that are far below what is warranted.

The financial risk for landowners at a tribunal hearing can be large and unpredictable. They can significantly outweigh the value of their individual lease compensation. A landowner is extremely disadvantaged if there is a risk that their costs for engaging legal or other expertise to participate in the quasi-judicial process may not be recoverable.

Alberta relies on both its local agriculture and oil and gas industry, and both have developed world-class reputations. Concerted efforts toward maintaining and enhancing positive, collaborative relationships between these two industries is important work in support of strong economic development, and the enhancement of overall quality of life within the province.

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	December 20, 2022
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>GRAIN BAGGER ROI</b>
File:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with information regarding the revenue and expense for the rental equipment grain bagger (Unit 31-64-29).

### BACKGROUND:

### COSTS:

### ATTACHMENTS:

- Rental Equipment Return on Investment Report

### OPTIONS:

1. Accept for information.
2. Increase rental rate to cover cost of unit.
3. Recommend disposal of rental equipment grain bagger (Unit 31-64-29).

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Initials show support - Reviewed by: **Ag Fieldman:**

Manager:

**Rental Equipment Return on Investment Report for Grain Bagger Unit 31-64-29**  
 prepared for December 13, 2022 ASB meeting

\* ROI (Return on Investment) formula -(( total cost/net profit)/years)

Focus: Rental fleet units with original cost in excess of \$10,000

Data represents lifetime of unit to October 31, 2022

Data includes all costs - capital and maintenance

TCA = Tangible Capital Asset

Net Loss	
Net Revenue	

Grain Bagger	Purchase Price	Rental Rate	Rented	Days	Revenue	Expenses	Depreciation
Unit 31-64-29	\$40,900	\$ 350.00	2014-2019	14	37 \$ 12,950.00	\$ 1,153.24	
April, 2014	\$	\$ 350.00	2020	3	16 \$ 5,600.00	\$ 810.31	
Dunvegan Fab & Welding Ltd.	\$	\$ 350.00	2021	2	13 \$ 4,550.00	\$ 2,040.87	\$ 11,312.00
	\$	\$ 350.00	YTD 2022	1	7 \$ 2,450.00	\$	\$ 431.00
				73	\$ 25,550.00	\$ 4,004.42	\$ 11,743.00

TCA current value Dec 31, 2021 \$ 21,813.33

Average days used per year 8.1

Summary:	Cost to date	\$56,647.42	per day used	\$ 775.99
	Revenue to date	\$ 25,550.00	per day used	\$ 350.00
	Profit/Loss	<del>-\$ 31,097.42</del>	per day used	<del>-\$425.99</del>
	average Rol			-7%

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	December 20, 2022
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>EVENTS</b>
File:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with a list of upcoming agricultural related events for their information.

### BACKGROUND:

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Provincial ASB Conference – January 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> 2023 Tara Center Grande Prairie

#### **Future:**

- Peace Agronomy Update – January 30, 2023 Dunvegan Motor Inn Fairview
- Below Ground Soil Health & Wealth – February 8, 2023 Rycroft Ag Society Hall

### ATTACHMENTS:

- Peace Agronomy Update poster
- Below Ground poster
- Calendars: December 2022, January 2023, February 2023

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by... to .

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



**AgFieldman:**



# PEACE AGRONOMY UPDATE

Join us for a full day in-person event held on Jan. 30th at the Dunvegan Motor Inn (Fairview).

Coffee & registration start at 7am. Cost: 25\$ for ARA\* members, 35\$ for non-ARA members. Register via EventBrite link, or call your local ARA. Lunch included.

## Agenda

7:30 am - 8:00 am: Registration

8:00 am - 9:00 am: NPARA 2022 Research Findings

9:00 am- 10:00 am: SARDA 2022 Research Findings

10:00 am - 11:00 pm: PCBFA 2022 Research Findings

11:00 am- 12:00 pm: MARA 2022 Research Findings

12:00 pm - 1:00pm: Lunch

1:00 pm- 2:00 pm: Jennifer Otani (AAFC Beaverlodge)

- Pest Management Update

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm: Dr. Bharat Shrestha (AAFC Beaverlodge)

- Soil Health and Living Labs Update

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Neil Blue (Alberta Ag)

- Grain Market Update



\*ARA: Applied research associations in the Peace Region (MARA, SARDA, NPARA, and PCBFA)





PEACE REGION  
LIVING LAB

SAVE THE DATE

# Below Ground

SOIL HEALTH & WEALTH

FEB 8, 2023 in Rycroft, AB



Fourth Sister Farm



Peace River Forage Association  
of British Columbia



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada



## DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Council	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 ASB	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27 Office Closed in lieu of Christmas day	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed	31

# JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 New Year's Day	2 Office Closed	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Council	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Provincial ASB Conference	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Council	25	26	27	28
29	30 Peace Agronomy Update	31				4

# FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Below Ground Soil Health & Wealth	9	10	11
12	13	14 Council Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19	20 Family Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board Meeting</b>
Meeting Date:	December 20, 2022
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT</b>
File No:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

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



### BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

### ATTACHMENTS:

Agricultural Fieldman Report – December 20, 2022  
Rental Equipment Summary  
Insect Survey Report  
Spray Area Map

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Agricultural Service Board accepts the December 20, 2022, Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:  AgFieldman: 

DECEMBER 20, 2022

## PEST CONTROL

### • Wolves Claimed 2022 YTD:

Total #	Total \$	AB Fish and Wildlife reports 6 confirmed livestock wolf kills in Clear Hills County YTD
25	\$5000.00	

## OTHER TOPICS

1. Mowers finished up October 28<sup>th</sup>. A full cut was completed on the whole county other than Bear Canyon. Mowing the Sulphur Lake Road was completed as well.
2. Audrey and I attended the In-Service Training Conference for ag fieldmen Dec 5-9 There were 8 pesticide applicator credits available. Many excellent educational sessions.
3. The new windshield was installed in the one mower tractor.
4. Weed inspectors completed 2118 inspections, issued 4 weed notices and performed 2 enforcements.
5. Spray crews completed spot spraying of right of ways in the County. The Spray map is attached.
6. All new brake lines and a master cylinder were put on the grain bagger.
7. Resealed 2 cylinders on the post pounder.
8. Had a new shaft built for one of the water pumps.

## January 1 - November 30, 2022

Rental Equipment	Rental Deposit	Rental Rates	Total Users	Total Days	Total	Equipment Expense
<i>Backpack Sprayer</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	
<i>Bale Scale</i>	\$ 100.00	\$ 30.00	4	4	\$ 120.00	
<i>BBQ Trailer</i>	\$ 150.00	\$ 75.00	3	3	\$ 150.00	
<i>Chairs</i>	\$ 50.00	\$0.50/chair	11	15	\$ 650.50	
<i>Community Centre</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	5	9	\$ 350.00	
<i>Corral Panels</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	3	4	\$ 200.00	
<i>Eco-Bran Applicator</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	
<i>Exta Hoses</i>	\$ 50.00	\$1.000/hose	1	1	\$ 10.00	
<i>Grain Bagger</i>	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	2	12	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 1,188.79
<i>Grain Bag Roller</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	13	20	\$ -	\$ 400.49
<i>Grain Bag Extractor</i>	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	7	11	\$ 3,850.00	\$ 2.50
<i>Grain Vac</i>	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00	19	23	\$ 5,850.63	\$ 4,809.92
<i>Grill</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 5.00	7	11	\$ 55.00	
<i>Land Leveller</i>	\$ 300.00	\$ 150.00	13	31	\$ 4,650.00	
<i>Loading Chute</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	6	6	\$ 150.00	
<i>Manure Spreader</i>	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00	5	11	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 350.25
<i>Mulch Applicator</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	0	0	\$ -	
<i>Post Pounder</i>	\$ 300.00	\$ 150.00	8	9	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,493.70
<i>Pull/Push Roller Applicator</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	1	2	\$ -	
<i>Quad Mount Rope Wick</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	
<i>Quad Mounted Sprayer</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	
<i>Quad Pull Type Sprayer</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	1	3	\$ -	
<i>Roller Mill</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 20.00	4	5	\$ 40.00	
<i>Rotowiper</i>	\$ 150.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	
<i>Skidmount Sprayer</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	2	5	\$ -	
<i>Smoke Signs</i>	\$ 60.00	\$ -	2	19	\$ -	
<i>Scare Cannon</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	4	44	\$ -	
<i>Tables</i>	\$ 50.00	\$1.00/table	10	14	\$ 257.00	
<i>Toilets</i>	\$ 100.00	\$ 40.00	8	12	\$ 440.00	\$ 351.95
<i>Truck Mount Sprayer</i>	\$ 200.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	
<i>Wash Station</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 10.00	1	4	\$ 40.00	
	\$100 (summer)	\$75 (summer)				
<i>Water Pumps</i>	\$1000 (winter)	\$200 (winter)	28	32	\$ 3,775.00	\$ 7,384.36
<i>Wire Roller</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	3	5	\$ 125.00	
			171	315	\$ 28,463.13	\$ 15,981.96

Revenue	\$ 28,463.13
Equipment Expense	\$ 15,981.96
Insurance	\$ 1,977.51
Chargeback	\$ 30,669.86
Loss	\$ (20,166.20)



# INSECT SURVEY RESULTS – 2022 – CLEAR HILLS

## 2022 Summary

No wheat midge in the fields I sampled in September. If you are hearing of midge issues, it is because I did not sample the right fields. We always need to be on the lookout for this one.

I did find some pea leaf weevil feeding in one field, but that could have been from a sweet clover weevil. We did find higher notching damage than what has been present in the Peace previously. This was north of Valleyview and at High Prairie. We will be surveying around those fields in 2023 to confirm. Pea leaf weevil in the Peace has popped up in one municipality one year, then disappeared the next.

Greg, thank you for all your help with monitoring for BAW so faithfully, and for doing the grasshopper survey. Means a lot to me!

## BERTHA ARMYWORM (BAW)

Bertha armyworm is very cyclical. In order to catch outbreaks and help producers minimize losses it is necessary to maintain a good monitoring system using pheromone traps. The number of moths caught in the traps informs us of the risk of damaging populations with a 3 to 5 week lead time. These numbers are generated from a single pheromone trap in individual fields to reduce impact on native pollinators.

Bertha armyworm populations are normally kept in check by such factors as weather and natural enemies. Potential damage may be more or less severe than suggested by the moth count data depending on weather and crop conditions and localized population dynamics. Research has clearly shown that very few fields are ever affected in an area with moth catches less than 300. Even at higher moth counts field scouting is critical for pest management decisions because experience has shown that field to field and even within field variations can be very large.

LLD	TRAP AVERAGE
NE-10-84-4-W6	174
NE-23-83-1-W6	60
NE-6-87-8-W6	102

All traps were managed by County

LLD	TRAP AVERAGE
NW-18-86-6-W6	88
SW-23-84-12-W6	98
SW-3-83-6-W6	109

## PEA LEAF WEEVIL (PLW)

Experience has shown us that high numbers of pea leaf weevil adults in fall will likely mean significant infestation levels in the following spring. The timing and intensity of spring damage is strongly related to the onset of warm conditions (>20oC) for more than a few days in April or May. The earlier the weevils arrive in fields the higher yield loss potential. Extended cool weather delays weevil movement into the field. Yield impact is lower if the crop advances past the 6 node stage before the weevils arrive. The numbers represented here are generated from assessing feeding damage on 10 plants in 5 locations in a field.

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION					AVERAGE NODE STAGE	TOTAL NOTCHES	AVERAGE NOTCHES/PLANT
w	12	86	8	6	4.40	2.00	0.04
ne	10	86	6	6	4.00	0.00	0.00
nw	35	83	5	6	4.00	0.00	0.00
sw	31	83	3	6	5.02	0.00	0.00

Sampling done by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Plant and Bee Health Surveillance Section staff.

## WHEAT MIDGE (WM)

Wheat midge is an insect that increases in numbers in wet years. Numbers can vary drastically from field to field and we try to sample wheat adjacent to the previous years' wheat in order to pick up populations if they are present. There is no definitive way to know exactly the risk in any given field so field scouting when the wheat comes into head is critical. The numbers shown here give a general trend of midge populations. Individual fields will have a different risk.



These numbers are generated by taking soil samples from wheat fields after harvest using a standardized soil probe.

The risk level as shown on our maps is as follows:

- 0 midge will be displayed as light grey (No infestation)
- 2 or less midge will be shown as dark grey (<600/m<sup>2</sup>)
- 3 to 5 will be shown as yellow (600 to 1200/ m<sup>2</sup>)
- 6 to 8 will be shown as orange (1200 to 1800/ m<sup>2</sup>)
- 9 or more will be shown as red. (>1800/ m<sup>2</sup>)

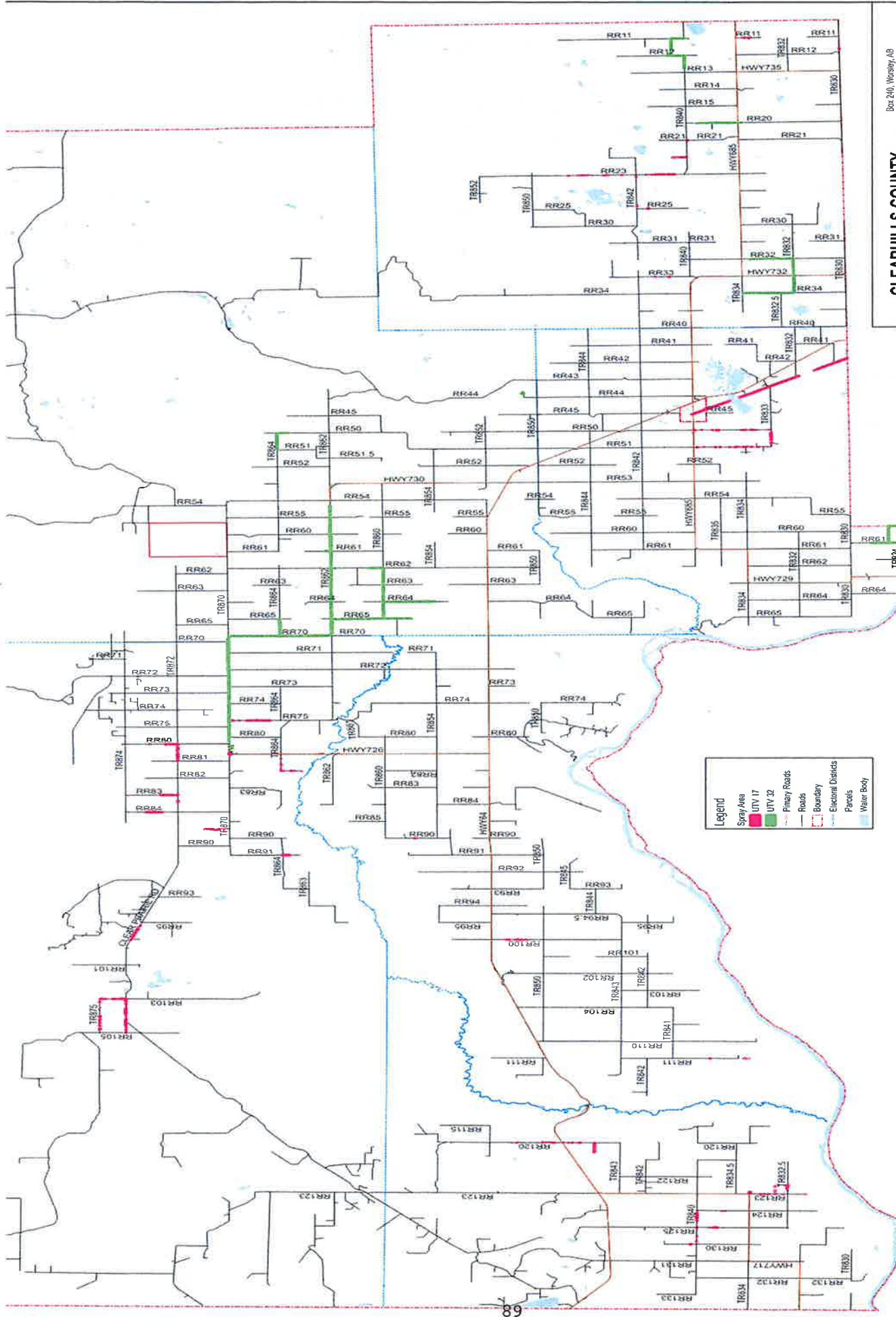
LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION	TOTAL MIDGE	VIABLE	PARASITOID
s-16-84-5-W6	0	0	0
nw-8-85-9-W6	0	0	0
sw-31-84-11-W6	0	0	0
nw-19-83-12-W6	0	0	0

Sampling done by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Plant and Bee Health Surveillance Section staff.

#### WHEN DOING FIELD VISITS WE:

- never drive into the field
- sanitize our equipment between fields with bleach solution
- sanitize our footwear between fields with bleach solution or wear boot covers





Doc 240, Worsley, AB  
 T01.3W0  
 Phone: (780) 8632925  
 Email: info@clearhillscounty.ca

# **CLEAR HILLS COUNTY SPRAY AREA MAP**

Projection: UTM Zone 11 NAD 83

Date: December 9, 2022

- Legend**
- Spray Area
  - UTV 17
  - UTV 32
  - Primary Roads
  - Roads
  - Boundary
  - Election Districts
  - Parcels
  - Water Body



# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board Meeting</b>
Meeting Date:	December 20, 2022
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>INFORMATION &amp; CORRESPONDENCE</b>
File No:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

The board is presented with correspondence for review.

### BACKGROUND:

Attached are documents for the Board's information:

### ATTACHMENTS:

Alberta Agrisystems Living Lab poster

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by \_\_\_\_\_ that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of December 20, 2022 as presented.

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

**AgFieldman:**





# ARE YOU?

A BEEF, FORAGE, OR CROP PRODUCER?

WANTING TO OBTAIN DATA ON THE BENEFITS AND COSTS OF PRACTICE CHANGE?

INTERESTED IN VALIDATING HOW CERTAIN ON-FARM PRACTICES MAY IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY, PROFITABILITY OR THE ENVIRONMENT?

The AALL, led by Alberta Beef Producers is looking for beef, forage, and cropping producers interested in partnering with researchers to implement or adapt Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) on their operations and measure the productivity, profitability, and sustainability impacts.

THIS IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR PRODUCERS TO BE "HANDS-ON" AT EVERY STEP OF THE PROCESS - FROM DESIGN THROUGH TO IMPLEMENTATION.

You'll have access to expertise and mentorship, but you decide:

- **WHAT** practice(s) will be implemented
- **WHERE** it will be implemented
- **HOW** it should be implemented
- **SCALE** of implementation and provide
- **FEEDBACK** throughout

#### AALL PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE:

- Personalized cost of production reports.
- Technical information such as soil mapping, forage yields, crop rotation recommendations.
- Compensation annually for providing their time and expertise for surveys, workshops, and interviews.
- Personalized facilitation and peer group mentoring



#### Cropping Systems & Rotations

Integrating crop and livestock systems, zero/reduced tillage, inter/cover/poly cropping, pulse/legumes in rotation, residue management, etc.

#### Land Use Changes

Marginal land to forages, pasture rejuvenation, wetland restoration, buffer strips, silvopasture, etc.

#### Livestock Feeding & Grazing Management

Feed additives, diet formulation, precision feeding, stocking rates, grazing system types, etc.

#### Nutrient Management

4R stewardship, manure management, nitrification inhibitors, high efficiency or variable rate fertilizers

#### Optimizing Carbon Storage

Determining where it can be most beneficial to attempt to store carbon on a landscape (e.g., eroded knolls)



For more information or to sign up contact Jodi at [lpeace@albertabeef.org](mailto:lpeace@albertabeef.org) or 403-809-3773

