

**AGENDA
CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 23, 2023**

The Agricultural Service Board meeting of Clear Hills County will be held on Monday, October 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the County Administration Office, 313 Alberta Avenue, Worsley, Alberta.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. AGENDA**
- 3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**
 - a. September 19, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.....2**
- 4. Delegation(s)**
- 5. BUSINESS ARISING**
- 6. OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Activity Report.....6**
 - b. Board Reports10**
- 7. NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Policy 6317 Biggest Vegetable Contest.....13**
 - b. ASB Honorarium & Travel/Subsistence Budget Review.....16**
 - c. Peace Region ASB Conference Resolutions17**
 - d. Events.....39**
- 8. REPORTS**
 - a. Agricultural Fieldman Report43**
- 9. INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE.....48**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WORSLEY, AB
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

PRESENT

David Janzen	Chairman
Julie Watchorn	Deputy Chair
Baldur Ruecker	Member
Ron Jensen	Member
Garry Candy	Member
Jason Ruecker	Council Representative

ABSENT

Julie Lemoine	Member
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ATTENDING

Greg Coon	Agricultural Fieldman
Natasha Gillett	Community Services Clerk
Crystal Dei	Community Services Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA

AG66-23(09/19/23)

RESOLUTION by Chairman Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda governing the September 19, 2023, Agricultural Service Board meeting, with the additions of the Annual General Meeting of V.S.I services (1980) Ltd., the Agri-Trade Equipment Expo, and the Provincial ASB Conference in Lethbridge to 7.g. Events. CARRIED.

MINUTES

Previous Meeting
Minutes

Agricultural Service Board is presented with previous meeting minutes.

AG67-23(09/19/23)

RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the June 20, 2023, Agricultural Service Board Meeting. CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

Activity Report

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

Councillor Ruecker entered the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

AG68-23(09/19/23)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the September 19, 2023, Agricultural Service Board Activity Report, as presented. CARRIED.

Board Reports

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

AG69-23(09/19/23)

RESOLUTION by Chairman Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' verbal reports of September 19, 2023, for information. CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Policy 6312-
Tradeshow Exhibitors

The Board has requested further information on insurance requirements for Tradeshow Exhibitors.

AG70-23(09/19/23)

RESOLUTION by Member Jensen that this Agricultural Service Board accepts for information Policy 6312 Tradeshow Exhibitors, insurance requirements for exhibitors, as presented. CARRIED.

Policy 6313-
Tradeshow Groceries
& Door Prizes

The Board has requested that Policy 6313- Tradeshow Groceries and Door Prizes be brought to a future ASB meeting to discuss the addition of A-mart to the business rotation.

AG71-23(09/19/23)

RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board recommends Council adopt Policy 6313 Tradeshow Groceries and Door Prizes, with the addition of A-Mart to the business rotation, as presented. CARRIED.

Tradeshow

Administration is suggesting bringing the Farmers Appreciation Banquet back to the Tradeshow with the Clear Hills County Talent Show as entertainment.

AG72-23(09/19/23)

RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommends Council hold the Tradeshow Talent Show at 4:30 p.m. in the Dave Shaw Memorial Complex, with \$5.00 per plate beef on a bun supper, kids 12 and under free. CARRIED.

Deputy Chair Watchorn recessed the meeting at 11:06 a.m.
Deputy Chair Watchorn reconvened the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

ASB Honorarium &
Travel/Subsistence
Budget Review

The Board is requested to review the honorarium and travel/subsistence budget.

AG73-23(09/19/23)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the honorarium & travel/subsistence budget for information, as presented. CARRIED.

Carnivore Damage
Prevention
Presentation

The Board is presented with information regarding the carnivore damage prevention presentation that was to be held at the Eureka River Hall in August of 2023.

AG74-23(09/19/23)

RESOLUTION by Member Jensen that this Agricultural Service Board reschedule the Carnivore Damage Prevention Presentation that was to be held at the Eureka River Hall in August of 2023, to a future date in October 2023. CARRIED.

Alberta Environment
& Protected Areas

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Presentation

The Board is presented with information regarding the Alberta Environment and Protected Areas presentation that the Board has requested be done at a future ASB meeting.

AG75-23(09/19/23)

RESOLUTION by Chairmen Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board accept the discussion for information regarding the Alberta Environment and Protected Areas presentation, as presented. CARRIED.

Events

The Board is presented with events for their consideration.

AG76-23(09/19/23)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Deputy Chair Watchorn, Member Candy, and Member Ruecker to the PCBFA Annual Cattle Marketing Evening in Rycroft, AB on September 20, 2023. CARRIED.

AG77-23(09/19/23)

RESOLUTION by Councillor Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board Members to the Peace Regional ASB Conference in Brownvale, AB on October 26, 2023. CARRIED.

AG78-23(09/19/23)

RESOLUTION by Chairmen Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board Members to the PCBFA Wintering of Cattle Seminar in Eureka River, AB on November 30, 2023. CARRIED.

AG79-23(09/19/23)

RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Chairman Janzen to the Annual General Meeting of V.S.I services (1980) Ltd in Peace River, AB on November 3, 2023, with Deputy Chair Watchorn being the alternate attendee. CARRIED.

AG80-23(09/19/23)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Member Candy, Councillor Ruecker, and Chairmen Janzen to the Agri-Trade Equipment Expo in Red Deer, AB from November 8-10, 2023. CARRIED.

Deputy Chair Watchorn recessed the meeting at 12:02 p.m.
Deputy Chair Watchorn reconvened the meeting at 12:30 a.m.

AG81-23(09/19/23)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board members to the Provincial ASB Conference in Lethbridge, AB from January 22-24, 2024. CARRIED.

REPORTS

**Agricultural Fieldman
Report**

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

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AG82-23(09/19/23)

RESOLUTION by Chairmen Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the September 19, 2023, Agricultural Fieldman's Report for information, as presented. CARRIED.

**INFORMATION &
CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board is presented with correspondence for review.

AG83-23(09/19/23)

RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the September 19, 2023, information and correspondence for information, as presented. CARRIED.

ROUND TABLE:

Members had a chance to have a round table discussion regarding topics of interest.

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Chair Watchorn adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

DATE

CHAIR

DATE

AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	October 23, 2023
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	ACTIVITY REPORT
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

- Agricultural Service Board Activity Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by.. that this Agricultural Service Board (ASB) accepts the October 23, 2023, ASB Activity Report as presented.

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

GC

AgFieldman:

GC



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for October 23, 2023 Page 1 of 1

Budget Items:

Completed Items:

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer

AF = Ag. Fieldman

CSC = Community Services Coordinator

MOTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEPT	STATUS
REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETINGS				
		February 15, 2022		
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
		January 31, 2023		
AG7-23	(01/31/23)	RESOLUTION Member Candy to table the request for additional funding for the Farm Safety Centre Program until the updated request letter is received. CARRIED.	AF	In waiting
		May 2, 2023		
AG51-23	(05/02/23)	RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board will tentatively hold the Farmers' Appreciation Event on February 17, 2024 at Menno Simons School in Cleardale. CARRIED.	AF	
AG52-23	(05/02/23)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Reeve Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board bring the honorarium and travel/subsistence budget review to future Agricultural Service Board meetings. CARRIED.	AF	Future ASB Meetings
		June 20, 2023		
AG55-23	(06/20/23)	RESOLUTION by Chairman Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board requests further information regarding insurance requirements for Policy 6312-Tradeshaw Exhibitors and bring back to a future Agricultural Service Board meeting. CARRIED.	AF	September 19, 2023 ASB Meeting
AG56-23	(06/20/23)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board table the discussion regarding Policy 6313-Tradeshaw Groceries and Door Prizes. CARRIED.	CSC	September 19, 2023 ASB Meeting
AG63-23	(06/20/23)	RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board accepts for information the Carnivore Damage Prevention Presentation, as presented. The Carnivore Damage Prevention Presentation is to be held at the Eureka River Hall, in August of 2023. CARRIED.	AF	September 19, 2023 ASB Meeting
		September 19, 2023		



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

Activity Report for October 23, 2023 Page 2 of 1

Budget Items:

Completed Items:

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer

AF = Ag. Fieldman

CSC = Community Services Coordinator

MOTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEPT	STATUS
AG71-23	(09/19/23)	RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board recommends Council adopt Policy 6313 Tradeshow Groceries and Door Prizes, with the addition of A-Mart to the business rotation, as presented. CARRIED.	CSC	September 26, 2023 Council Meeting
AG72-23	(09/19/23)	RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board recommends Council hold the Tradeshow Talent Show at 4:30 p.m. in the Dave Shaw Memorial Complex, with \$5.00 per plate beef on a bun supper, kids 12 and under free. CARRIED.	CSC	September 26, 2023 Council Meeting
AG74-23	(09/19/23)	RESOLUTION by Member Jensen that this Agricultural Service Board reschedule the Carnivore Damage Prevention Presentation that was to be held at the Eureka River Hall in August of 2023, to a future date in October 2023. CARRIED.	AF	
AG76-23	(09/19/23)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Deputy Chair Watchorn, Member Candy, and Member Ruecker to the PCBFA Annual Cattle Marketing Evening in Rycroft, AB on September 20, 2023. CARRIED.	AF	September 20, 2023
AG76-23	(09/19/23)	RESOLUTION by Councillor Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board Members to the Peace Regional ASB Conference in Brownvale, AB on October 26, 2023. CARRIED.	AF	October 26, 2023
AG76-23	(09/19/23)	RESOLUTION by Chairmen Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board Members to the PCBFA Wintering of Cattle Seminar in Eureka River, AB on November 30, 2023. CARRIED.	AF	November 30, 2023
AG76-23	(09/19/23)	RESOLUTION by Member Candy that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Chairman Janzen to the Annual General Meeting of V.S.I services (1980) Ltd in Peace River, AB on November 3, 2023, with Deputy Chair Watchorn being the alternate attendee. CARRIED.	AF	November 3, 2023
AG76-23	(09/19/23)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of Member Candy, Councillor Ruecker, and Chairmen Janzen to the Agri-	AF	November 8-10, 2023



Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

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Budget Items:

Completed Items:

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer

AF = Ag. Fieldman

CSC = Community Services Coordinator

MOTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEPT	STATUS
		Trade Equipment Expo in Red Deer, AB from November 8-10, 2023. CARRIED.		
AG76-23	(09/19/23	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board members to the Provincial ASB Conference in Lethbridge, AB from January 22-24, 2024. CARRIED.	AF	January 22-24, 2024

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	October 23, 2023
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	BOARD REPORTS
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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



BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

ATTACHMENTS:

Member Candy's report

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by.. that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' verbal and written reports of October 23, 2023, for information.

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

Cattle Marketing

September 20, 2023

Rycroft, Alberta

Ag Centre

Garry Candy

The evening started with registration and mixing. I spoke with several people including Dan from Northern Horizon Newspaper. He told me that the sale in Dawson Creek this past week had the most head in the yard ever in their sales history. Prices were high in all categories.

There was a 3 person producer panel consisting of Harold and Bev Milne and Shelby Dillman. They spoke of meeting buyers' demands and selling off the farm.

Harold and Bev:

- Tried selling purebred Gelbieh bulls by auction but if there was poor weather or other events, there would be a poor turnout and low prices
- Now they price their animals and invite people to come and view them in Dec-Jan. If they are interested in an animal, they put their assigned number on it. If any animals get more than one number, they conduct an auction.
- Bev remarked that they used to do a catalogue and had it printed at the print shop. This became quite expensive and they now do their own design and printing.

Shelby Dillman:

- Worked behind the rings for VJV in Ponoka and Rimby.
- Learned the animal behavior patterns a little better plus the quality and what buyer trends were that varied from year to year that could be color, horns, size, etc.
- Striving to meet the needs of a few buyers by providing the type of animal they want. She wants repeat customers and satisfaction with their purchase brings them back.
- Spoke about the shrink factor when hauling short or long distances and said the largest drop is in the first 25 miles. Bruising and injuries also result in losses to the producer.

Brian Perillet

- Farming background from Ducklake, Saskatchewan and has worked for CanFax among others.
- There is a high demand for beef worldwide due to increasing numbers of people with middle class incomes in other countries
 - Half of all beef consumed is ground beef

- USA has smallest herd in 60 years. USA production has peaked and is not meeting demand.
- USA is killing many heifers. Weather and feed dictates the heifer kill – can change for herd growth but not overnight
- Canadian herd is the smallest in 30 years
- Prices are expected to stay high unless a disaster happens at least for next year
- Prices are good for cow calf producers but not so good for feeders.
- New feed lots and increased numbers in Southern Alberta are feeding a lot of USA cattle, importing as many as 1500 calves per month – many of them are dairy calves
- Calves recently have been bringing 400 for 550 lb.regularly
- Canadian dollar remains 76 – 78 and US prices should stay where they are.
- Good evening of information, good crowd, well run including an excellent supper.

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	October 23, 2023
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	Policy 6317 Biggest Vegetable Contest
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with a review of the 2023 Biggest Vegetable Contest.

BACKGROUND:

Many individuals submit a cucumber. As there is no cucumber category, they are being put in with Other Squash.

ATTACHMENTS:

2023 Clear Hills County Biggest Vegetable Contest Winners
Policy 6317 Biggest Vegetable Contest

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by ... that this Agricultural Service Board accepts for information the discussion regarding Policy 6317 Biggest Vegetable Contest, as presented.

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



AgFieldman:



2023 Clear Hills County Biggest Vegetable Contest Winners		
Category	12 & Under	13 & Older
Beets	Moses Noble	Annie Zacharias
Cabbage	Arianna Rossworm	Harvey Edmunds
Carrots	Cooper Papp	Sheila Roessler
Corn	Kenzi Kamphuis	Maia Rossworm
Onions	Cooper Papp	Doug Richardson
Potatoes	Kenzi Kamphuis	Sheila Roessler
Pumpkins	Cooper Papp	Doug Richardson
Tomatoes	Olivia Stevenson	Brittany King
Turnips	Georgia-June Biglin	Doug Richardson
Zucchini	Odin Biglin	Derek Peters
Other Squash	Kenzi Kamphuis	Kyle Kamphuis
Most Unique	Jacob Wolfe	Jody Clay



Clear Hills County

Effective Date: **June 27, 2023**

Policy Number **6317**

Title: **BIGGEST VEGETABLE CONTEST**

1. POLICY STATEMENT

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

2. DEFINITIONS

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

3. RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

4. GENERAL

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

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

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

The Biggest Vegetable Contest will have two entry groups:

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

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

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

- Bear Canyon
- Cleardale
- Hines Creek
- Worsley

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

5. END OF POLICY

ADOPTED

Resolution: C639-17

AMENDED

Resolution C506-18 (10-23-18)

Resolution C552-19 (10/22/19)

Resolution C360-23 (06/27/23)

DATE

December 12, 2017

October 23, 2018

October 22, 2019

June 27, 2023

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	October 23, 2023
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	ASB HONORARIUM & TRAVEL/SUBSISTENCE BUDGET REVIEW
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board has requested to review the honorarium and travel/subsistence budget.

BACKGROUND:

The Board would like to ensure that they are staying under budget regarding honorarium and travel/subsistence.

AG52-23(05/02/23) RESOLUTION by Deputy Reeve Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board bring the honorarium and travel/subsistence budget review to future Agricultural Service Board meetings. CARRIED.

Budget Category	2023 Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent Year to Date	2023 Budgeted Amount Remaining
Honorarium	\$16,500.00	\$14,080.37	\$2,419.63
Travel /Subsistence	\$10,000.00	\$8,576.05	\$1,423.95
Membership/Conference Fees	\$4,000.00	\$670.00	\$3,330.00
Catered/Prepared Food	\$2,000.00	\$1,742.25	\$257.75

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by.. that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the honorarium & travel/subsistence budget review for information, as presented.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:



AgFieldman:



Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	October 23, 2023
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	Peace Region Agricultural Service Board Conference
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Municipal District of Peace No. 135 is hosting the Peace Region Agricultural Service Board Conference at the Brownvale Community Hall in Brownvale, AB on October 26, 2023.

BACKGROUND:

- All ASB members have been registered to attend.
- Only two appointed Agricultural Service Board members can vote on resolutions at the regional conference.

ATTACHMENTS:

2023 ASB Regional Conference Agenda
Peace Region Agricultural Service Board Conference Resolutions

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

RESOLUTION by... that this Agricultural Service Board accepts for information the discussion regarding the Peace Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference Resolutions, as presented.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:  AgFieldman: 



Peace Region Agricultural Service Board Conference

October 26, 2023

Brownvale Community Hall – Municipal District of Peace No. 135

TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER
9:00 a.m.	Registration	
9:30 a.m.	Welcome/Opening Remarks	MD of Peace ASB Chair Sandra Eastman
9:35 a.m.	ASB Program Updates	Doug Macaulay/AAI
9:50 a.m.	NWP's Agricultural Programs	Kristy Honing/NWP
10:05 a.m.	Coffee	
10:20 a.m.	Fertilizer Emissions- 4 C	Karen Skarberg
11:20 a.m.	Lessons Learned from Regional Wildfire	Todd Lynch/F&P
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	Overview of S-CAP & RALP	Giselle Ulrich/AAI SCAP
2:00 p.m.	ASB Regional Rep Update	Christi Friesen/Regional ASB Representative
2:15 p.m.	Elections of ASB Regional Reps	Doug Macaulay/AAI
2:30 p.m.	Resolution Session	Christi Friesen/Regional ASB Representative
3:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks	

RESOLUTION 1

SUPPORTING A COMPENSATION MULTIPLIER

WHEREAS predator attacks can cause significant economic losses, but not limited to, death, decrease weight gain, treatment, rehabilitation and lower conception rates;

WHEREAS predation is highly variable from producer to producer and year to year;

WHEREAS the current iteration of the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program (WPCP) poorly addresses concerns and losses outside confirmed kills and producers affected with large losses;

WHEREAS the use of a multiplier to increase compensation would go some way to compensate for unfound kills, kills without enough evidence, time and resources spent by producers locating, treating and deterring predators, injured and or dead livestock;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and Environment and Protected Areas work with the Alberta Beef Producers to adopt their proposed compensation multiplier to address direct and indirect losses from predation.

SPONSORED BY: County of Northern Lights

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Irrigation, Environment and Protected Areas

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Summary Points:

- **Predation has both direct and indirect costs.**
- **Direct costs are losses from found confirmed kills.**
- **Indirect losses can be, but not limited to decreased gain, lower conception, missing animals, wounded animals, discounts at market, stress, mental health, and increased time surveilling.**
- **The WPCP is poorly used as the burden of proof is too high and most producers do not want to put up with the hassle because most efforts prove fruitless. They seem to find every reason to deny a claim even when confirmed predator kills are in the area.**
- **Wyoming adopted a multiplier of 3.5x per confirmed kill after researchers in Wyoming determined the true adverse effect from predation, both direct and indirect, to be 18:1 and up to 24:1 in severe circumstances. A 3.5x multiplier seems to be a deal.**
- **Colorado added a 2.5x multiplier for confirmed depredation and 1.6x multiplied to address indirect costs.**
- **In 2013 the Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association Carnivore Working Group suggested a 2.5x multiplier for Alberta.**

ABP is requesting the province adopt a 1.5-2x compensation multiplier to address the extra losses inflicted by predation, such as: other missing never found animals, loss in gain, decreased conception, increased animal stress, producer mental health, financial loss, etc.

Carnivore Compensation Programs Compensation programs for losses arising from the presence and actions of large carnivores have been established in settings across North and South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. The focus of these programs range from supporting wolves in North America, to lions in Africa, to elephants in India. I prepared a global inventory of all carnivore compensation programs on which I was able to find information in English, based on a review of academic literature, official program web pages, publicly available documents (government and private), and personal communications with program managers. I identified seven compensation programs in Canada, 12 in the United States, and 21 in other jurisdictions around the world. The full inventory is included as Appendix A to this report. Here, I briefly summarize the results of my review. Compensation programs have been instituted by national governments, state and provincial governments, non-governmental conservation organizations, and community-based initiatives. These programs offer support for communities and individuals directly affected by carnivores in order to offset or reduce the impacts and costs of carnivore activity, including depredation. There are three main types of compensation programs. "Ex post schemes" reimburse livestock producers for livestock killed or injured by carnivores after the incident has occurred and has been investigated by officials associated with the program. "Performance payments" reward producers for specific conservation actions in relation to carnivore populations and habitat. Finally, "insurance-based schemes" are programs under which producers pay premiums to an insurance fund and are subsequently reimbursed from that fund when damages or losses occur (Nyhus et al., 2005). Within

these three broad categories there is substantial variation, and individual programs may be tailored to fit the unique cultural and legal contexts of the regions in which they are implemented. As a result, programs of similar type may differ in their specific guidelines or requirements. The goals of compensation programs include: shifting some of the costs of conservation from rural to urban populations; promoting good husbandry practices; reducing poaching and possibly the need for lethal control; improving attitudes and perceptions about carnivores; and increasing human tolerance of carnivore activity (Nyhus et al., 2003; Nyhus et al., 2005). Nyhus et al. (2003) describe the most effective compensation programs as being those that maintain transparency, build trust, are fair, and are timely in their verification and administration processes. Despite these goals, compensation programs have had varying success. Challenges include corruption, insufficient compensation levels, and lack of community support (Agarwala et al., 2010; Bulte and Rondeau, 2005; Nyhus et al., 2003; Nyhus et al., 2005). In some cases programs have experienced reduced husbandry activities or loss of natural wildlife habitat (e.g., when the existence of a compensation fund increases the appeal of a region for farming or ranching and leads to expansion of these activities) (Bulte and Rondeau, 2005). Delays in compensation payments, due to limited availability of field personnel to verify carnivore attacks or too few administrative staff to process claims quickly, have in some settings led to user frustration and distrust of the program and its personnel. In addition to these common challenges, the long term implementation of compensation programs have led to a sense of entitlement to receiving financial support, and the costs required may compromise the sustainability of these programs and their ability to continue regular timely payments (Dickman et al., 2011; Treves et al., 2009). Also, supporting a compensation program may reduce the amount of funding and resources available for other habitat or species conservation measures. For example, when compensation payments exceeded expectations in Wisconsin, subsequent budget cuts were made elsewhere in the government department responsible for the program (Treves et al., 2009).

Carnivore Management, Conflict, and Compensation in Alberta

The Alberta Wildlife Predator Compensation Program is a provincial initiative established in 1974 that provides economic compensation to ranchers throughout Alberta for losses arising from carnivore presence and activity (AEP, 2014a; Fish and Wildlife Division, 1991; Gunson, 1992; Lee, 2011). The program covers losses caused by wolves, grizzly bears, black bears, cougars, and eagles. While black bears, wolves, and cougars are classified as “secure” under Alberta’s Wildlife Act, eagles are classified as sensitive (both bald and golden eagles) and the province’s grizzly bear population has been listed as “at risk: threatened” since 2010 (AEP, 2011). In this section, I briefly review the management and range of wolves and grizzly bears in Alberta; the former being the carnivore species that triggered the establishment of compensation in the province, and the latter being the only species listed as threatened and covered by the program. I then discuss the history of conflict between carnivores and humans in southwestern Alberta, and describe the structure and historical reception of the Alberta Wildlife Predator Compensation Program. Wolves in Alberta have experienced two major cycles of scarcity and abundance over the past century. In the early 1900’s and again in the 1960’s, wolves were systematically exterminated in much of the province as a result of management strategies, including provincially sanctioned poisoning campaigns, anti-rabies campaigns, bounties, and being classed as fur bearing carnivores for trapping and hunting in 1964 (Alberta Wilderness Association, 2014; Fish and Wildlife Division, 1991; Gunson, 1992). Low availability of prey species also likely contributed to these two major declines in wolf populations. In the 1940s, wolf populations increased substantially, possibly due to the withdrawal of bounties and increases in the abundance of prey. Wolf populations increased again in the 1970s during a period in which wolf protection was a primary management goal (Gunson, 1992). In 1991 Alberta adopted a Wolf Management Plan that established a winter population target of 4000 wolves in the province, with ongoing control of the population through hunting and trapping, and a general authorization for landowners to kill problem wolves on or near their properties (Fish and Wildlife Division, 1991). That management plan remains in force. In addition, in recent years the provincial

government has authorized culls of large numbers of wolves in specific regions of the province under recovery strategies for woodland caribou populations (e.g., the Little Smokey population in west-central Alberta) (Alberta Wilderness Association, 2014; Hervieux et al., 2014). Historically, wolf habitat in Alberta included the grassland regions, but wolves are now largely restricted to forested areas (AEP, 2009). Grizzly bears have been extirpated from much of their historic range in Alberta as a result of widespread killing, and habitat loss from industrial and infrastructure expansion, and extensive conversion of natural habitat to agricultural land (Alberta 6 Grizzly Bear Recovery Team, 2008; Gailus, 2010). Having once occupied much of Alberta, the current range of grizzly bears is restricted to areas in or near the Rocky Mountains, foothills, and boreal forests (AEP, 2014b). Population assessments for grizzly bears are difficult and expensive to conduct due to the animal's large range and elusiveness. In 1988 the provincial grizzly bear population was estimated to be approximately 790 animals with approximately 575 bears on provincial lands and approximately 215 in parks (e.g., Banff, Waterton Lakes, and Jasper National Parks) (Kansas, 2002). In 2010, the provincial status report estimated a total of 691 bears on lands under provincial jurisdiction plus parts of Waterton Lakes, Banff, and Jasper National Parks (Festa-bianchet, 2010). In southwestern Alberta, grizzly bear habitat overlaps areas used by ranchers for livestock production. The Alberta Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan alluded to the eastward population expansion of the large carnivore into the Alberta prairies (Alberta Grizzly Bear Recovery Team, 2008). Urmson and Morehouse (2012)'s analysis of enforcement records for grizzly bears within Cardston, Pincher Creek, Blairmore, and Claresholm Fish and Wildlife Districts observed the expansion as locations of occurrence reports spread eastward over a 13 year time span (1999-2011). In 2010, the grizzly bear populations of the Livingstone and Waterton-Castle population units in southwestern Alberta (the area in which the CWG operated) were estimated to be approximately 90 and 51 bears respectively (Festa-bianchet, 2010). Since then the province initiated the Southwest Alberta Grizzly Bear Monitoring Project to provide an update on the density, abundance, and distribution of grizzly bears in southwestern Alberta ("Southwest Alberta Grizzly Bear Monitoring Project", 2011). The 2014 project update stated that sampling (e.g., hair samples from rub objects) over the three year project had identified a total of 177 individual grizzly bears through DNA analysis (Morehouse, 2014). However, until further analysis is completed this number is not meant as a population estimate ("Grizzly Bear Conservation in Alberta: 2013 Management Activities and Recovery Implementation", 2014). Carnivore conflict and livestock depredation have intensified in recent years in southwestern Alberta. Large carnivore occurrence reports based on enforcement records for the Cardston, Pincher Creek, Blairmore, and Claresholm Fish and Wildlife 7 Districts have been prepared for the years 2012, 2013, and 2014 for the Waterton Biosphere Reserve Association (WBRA) (Urmson and Morehouse, 2012). These reports classify enforcement records into sightings, incidents (e.g., carnivore caused property damage, obtained food, attempted to kill or killed livestock, etc.), and human conflict (e.g., carnivore made contact with a person or was harmed or killed by a person) (Urmson and Morehouse, 2012). In 2014, 308 occurrences involved grizzly bears, 443 involved black bears, 66 involved gray wolves, 91 involved cougar, and 16 were determined to be unfounded with no carnivore actually involved (Rettler and Morehouse, 2015). The total number of reported grizzly bear occurrences in 2014 had increased by 57% since 2013, and was higher than any of the previous 16 years (Rettler and Morehouse, 2015). Rural landowners and livestock producers occupy much of the land in the region around Waterton Lakes National Park (e.g., 60% of Bear Management Area 6/WatertonCastle unit is privately owned) (Loosen et al., 2014). While wolves and other carnivores have had a variable presence on the landscape for decades, the eastward expansion and 2010 protection of grizzly bears has intensified management issues. Rural and ranching communities still recall times when mass culling and unrestricted hunting of wolves, and widespread hunting of grizzly bears, were normal practices (Alberta Wilderness Association, 2014; Gunson, 1992; Watters et al., 2014). Transitioning into an era in which conservation of carnivores is a socially valued management objective has been challenging for many people living in this region, as rural land use and livestock practices

developed in a very different political, social, and environmental context. The Alberta Wildlife Predator Compensation Program is the responsibility of Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) (formerly Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (AESRD)), and is administered by a committee comprised of representatives from AEP, Alberta Beef Producers, Western Stockmen's Association, Alberta Department of Agriculture, and Alberta Veterinary Medical Association. The compensation program is financed by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, and is an ex post compensation scheme under which livestock producers are compensated for cattle, sheep, bison, swine, or goats injured or killed by grizzly bears, black bears, wolves, cougars, or eagles (AEP, 2014a). 8 Incidents are reported to, and must be verified by, provincial Fish and Wildlife officers in order for claimants to be reimbursed full market value. If the verifying officer suspects that a carnivore may be responsible, but is unable to make a conclusive determination, it is labelled a "probable kill" and claimants may not receive full compensation, or may be denied any compensation, depending on the circumstances. Confirmed predator kills receive average commercial value for the type and class of animal on the day it was killed with a minimum payment of \$400. Probable kills receive 50% if a confirmed kill by the same carnivore species is found within 10 km and within 90 days before or after the initial claim (Wildlife Regulation, Alta Reg 143/1997). Compensation throughout Alberta under the program has risen from a total of \$68,000 in 2001 to approximately \$274,000 in 2011 (Paterson, 2013). Payouts continue to rise as a result of increasing market prices for cattle and the frequency of depredation events, to the point that claims now exceed available funds (Paterson, 2013). The number of claims has been particularly high in southwestern Alberta. For example, the area of the Waterton-Castle population unit, which amounts to approximately 3% of the province, accounted for 37% of all compensation payments from 2000-2011 (Loosen, 2014; Morehouse and Boyce, 2011). In 2007, the Alberta government hired a consultant to review the Alberta Wildlife Predator Compensation Program and develop a series of recommendations (Lee, 2011). The review concluded that the program appeared to be meeting its fundamental objectives and purpose, but that there were ways in which it could be improved (Lyster, 2008). The Fish and Wildlife Division of AESRD accepted the recommendations in principle, but asserted that implementation was not within their jurisdiction and would be subject to budget availability (Lyster, 2008). Following Fish and Wildlife's response, the recommendations were reviewed through workshops, meetings, and interviews with AESRD Fish and Wildlife staff, Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Alberta Conservation Association, and the wildlife sub-committee of the Alberta Government Affairs Committee. One recommendation that was adopted by the wildlife sub-committee was to increase the minimum amount compensated per animal from \$300 to \$400 (Lee, 2011). 9 In 2009, the WBRA and the Chinook Area Land Users Association, with the assistance of the Miistakis Institute, conducted a survey in southwestern Alberta that examined the attitudes and perceptions of residents towards carnivores in their region and towards the Alberta Wildlife Predator Compensation Program. The survey targeted residents within 20km of Waterton Lakes National Park. The results indicated that landowners were broadly dissatisfied with the compensation program. Over 76% of respondents said that they were not satisfied with the program, and 77% indicated that it was not fair (Lee, 2011). Three key issues were identified: respondents felt that the burden of proof was too high, compensation payments were too low, and there were issues concerning relationships and trust between Fish and Wildlife officers and landowners (Lee, 2011).

Source: Carnivores and Conflict: A Community Approach to Carnivore Compensation in Southwestern Alberta by Calista Leigh Morrison B.Sc. (Hons., Biology), Acadia University, 2009

<https://www.alberta.ca/wildlife-predator-compensation-program>

<https://www.albertabeef.org/files/beef-supply-reports/Vamhs2lgZD1i6eSJQJiVQoTlssPY1lIMsFTd0CqC.pdf>

https://summit.sfu.ca/flysystem/fedora/sfu_migrate/15922/etd9396_CMorrison.pdf

RESOLUTION 2

CREATION OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION INSURANCE

WHEREAS livestock operations, especially cow calf operations, fall through the cracks on certain business risk management programs like AgriStability and Wildlife Predator Compensation Program;

WHEREAS the current business risk management programs do not address in year losses and do not protect from extraordinary losses that occur from extenuating circumstances or abnormal cost of doing business losses;

WHEREAS AFSC offers Crop Production Insurance which caps production losses, but does not provide a similar option for Livestock;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation work with AFSC and consult stakeholder groups in the livestock sector to develop a new Livestock Production Insurance Program or other suitable program.

SPONSORED BY: County of Northern Lights

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Irrigation

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete" - Buckminster Fuller

Summary Points:

- No production loss insurance exists in the livestock sector like in crops.
- AgriStability uptake has been horrible and simply does not work in sectors like cow calf operations.
- Gross margin insurance like AgriStability does not necessarily catch lost income from production losses and does not capture in year losses.
- A new program beyond AgriStability, Livestock Price Insurance, and Wildlife Predator Compensation Program is needed to capture in year production and revenue losses.
- It is our opinion, a new program mimicking the Crop Production Insurance Program from AFSC could be adapted to fit the Livestock Sector and would allow producers, who chose, to insure their production risk by paying an insurance premium.
- Crop Insurance allows a farmer to insure price and weight per acre for production loss. Why can't a rancher insure price and weight per animal for production losses as well?
- This is a complex issue and if you do not fully understand we are asking for your vote to at least have the issue presented and get people collaborating on a new tool for livestock producers.

A producer ranches a 215 cow calf operation and usually expects to market ~200 live calves come fall. This year with the neighboring fires that same producers had more pneumonia/disease issues and predation due to neighboring fires crowding predators in. In a normal year that producer loses 5-7% of the calf crop from disease, abortions, still births, other losses and maybe 1-3 calves from predators. This year the producer lost his normal 5-7%, plus battled pneumonia and other disease arising from the fires/smoke adding to another 3-5 deaths and an additional 20-30 missing/dead calves from increased predators. They may find 5-10 calves to attempt compensation under the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program with less than 50% of them being paid out confirmed or probable. They may find a few others they doctor and save. Now after weaning, feeding and shipping the total death loss on a year like this could be as high as 25% of the 2023 calf crop, much above the standard 5-10% avg.

In a normal year AgriStability **may** catch that production loss, but in 2023 projected calf prices are projected well over \$4.00/lbs for 500 weight calves vs \$2.00/lbs a year ago. In a normal year this is something to be very happy about, but because of the higher price the gross margin in 2023 will be higher than previous years, but there will be no compensation for the loss in production and the extra value the producer would have received to pay past debts, future growth and expansion is gone. That producer is out a potential \$4.00/lbs x 25% of 215 potential calves x 500 lbs April born calves weaned in October equals a potential loss of \$107,500.00 with next to zero way to insure that in year loss. That \$107,500.00 will never be accounted for, never invested for growth and never saved for the next downturn. It would be beneficial to have a way to insure this potential production revenue loss. Increased predator attacks are just one brief example of extraordinary production and revenue losses that can be felt by a livestock producer. Others include, but are not limited to, disease, adverse extreme weather, price collapse and inflation. Other scenarios will exist across other species of livestock, this is but one example.

Cow Calf producers have next to no way to insure for production losses and in year revenue losses. Livestock Production Insurance similar to Crop Production Insurance could provide that ability. Crop Production Insurance basically insures weight and price per acre for insured losses that never get to market, why can't we insure animal production for price and weight per animal that never get to market?

We know Livestock and Crops are different, but we are asking for Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation to collaborate with AFSC and other stakeholders to explore creating a simple, effective way to insure Livestock Production analogous to Crop Production to allow producers to insure, keeping that investment on their operations. If there is any question to whether or not this is necessary, on your drive home look at the difference in the level of investment in farms vs ranches across the country. We are not asking for special treatment, just the same options to insure production loss.

Another option would be to look at the Livestock Indemnity Program operated by the USDA, it provides benefits to eligible livestock owners or contract growers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by eligible loss conditions, including eligible adverse weather, eligible disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators. In addition, LIP provides assistance to eligible livestock owners that must sell livestock at a reduced price because of an injury from an eligible loss condition.

AgriStability payments usually occur 6-24 months or longer after the shortfall occurs and do little to address in year losses providing cash flow and financial support when needed, resulting in increased culling and sale of assets to meet cashflow shortfalls. Even with the changes to AgriStability re-uptake has been dismal, it is time to think of new ideas.

Why Choose AgriStability?

Whole farm protection – AgriStability protects your farm income based on all of your commodities.

Unique coverage – Your coverage is based on your own farm history.

Payments in times of financial distress – Provides assistance to producers who experience margin declines greater than 30 per cent due to production loss, adverse market conditions and increased costs.

Access to other credit options and programs – AgriStability can give you access to credit options such as the Advance Payments Program (APP), which provides cash advances through various farm commodity organizations.

Affordable coverage – AgriStability is a low-cost risk management program available to all producers.

AgriStability is designed to help producers protect their farming operations from income decline. Program participants cannot receive full AgriStability payments until the program year is complete. However, by applying for an interim advance you may receive a portion of the estimated benefit early.

Scenario 2023-2024:

<https://afsc.ca/income-stabilization/agristability/>

<https://afsc.ca/crop-insurance/>

[https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2023/FSA_LIP_LivestockIndemnityProgram Factsheet 2023.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/2023/FSA_LIP_LivestockIndemnityProgram_Factsheet_2023.pdf)

RESOLUTION 3

COMPENSATING PRODUCERS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

WHEREAS society is now placing more emphasis on the role of producers as stewards of the environment for their benefit;

WHEREAS the Federal Government has established a price metric for carbon and is considering reductions in nitrogen use that will impact producers without developing the appropriate offset or compensation system to producers performing these services;

WHEREAS Governments and the Public are demanding or restricting more ecological activities such as wetland use, species preservation, wildlife management, predator control, reduced impact/emissions, carbon sequestration, changes in management practices and others;

WHEREAS it is becoming increasingly costly for producers to shoulder the burden of every public interest at their expense without being compensated or offset fairly for the beneficial ecosystem services performed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Federal and Provincial governments develop and implement immediately a "good actor" compensation mechanism for producers performing ecosystem services beneficial for society.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Federal and Provincial governments investigate creating an exchange to trade Carbon and other ecological services for compensation at the minimum rate already determined by the Federal Government.

SPONSORED BY: County of Northern Lights

Moved BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial/Federal

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Irrigation and Agriculture and Agri-Food
Canada

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Summary Points:

- The Government of Canada has already determined a Carbon Pollution Pricing System using arbitrary numbers and metrics. They are starting to talk about Nitrogen and numerous other ecosystem issues. Possibly more to come in the future, we need a proactive system.
- Go figure the Government of Canada created a system to tax or levy its citizens and producers, but they never created the system for people who are sequestering, storing, or converting carbon to other use to be compensated fairly for their services. If the Carbon Tax is to stay the second part of the system needs to be developed. An offsetting or compensation mechanism needs to be established. Either Alberta needs to take full control of the Carbon Tax system and implement its own compensation or offset program, or they need to work with the Federal Government. We need to also be forward looking to Nitrogen and other ecosystem services.
- The Program should be simple and use the same arbitrary metrics the government used to develop its pricing matrix. The government should create standards and accepted benchmarks for producers to use to claim back compensation or offsets for their management efforts.
- Carbon started at \$50 per ton and will increase \$15 per ton to \$170 in 2030.
- Land managed appropriately has tremendous potential to sequester, store and cycle Carbon.
- Land managed appropriately can potentially sequester 1-4 t per acre of Carbon and maybe more in some circumstances.
- By 2030, if the Government is charging \$170 a ton for carbon emissions, why shouldn't someone sequestering, storing, or cycling Carbon be paid \$170 a ton? Start doing the math on per acre payments of land to store Carbon.
- We are paying carbon tax everyday directly and indirectly hidden in the price of goods and services and to boot that carbon tax is added in pre-GST. It is about time we got some of it back.
- This is another very complex issue and we are asking for support to at least get the issue moving forward so producers can be compensated for sequestering, storing and cycling carbon.

Idea 3: Measuring the value of food security and environmental preservation

1.

Is Agriculture getting prioritized properly?

2.

How do we measure its worth? What is food security and maintaining natural landscapes under agriculture worth to the province? A marketplace!

-that respects private property rights

-that encourages more urban intensity over urban sprawl

3.

What incentives are there for farmlands to be kept intact?

4.

How are we compensating for just practices?

Each cow in Western Canada ensures an average 10 acres or more of grasslands remain intact.....the habitat of over 80 animal and 300 bird species!
The cow is key unit to conservation policies!!

Ranchers are maintaining water quality, wildlife and preserving land in its native state at their expense! The province and its people are beneficiaries.
-Is this "Sustainable"? Is it fair?



Impact of Carbon Credits:

Returns per acre:				% Return on \$3500/ac farmland:					
Carbon sink per acre	Carbon return per acre			Carbon sink per acre	Carbon price per acre				
	\$10	\$50	\$170		\$10	\$50	\$170		
	1 tonne/ac	\$8	\$40		\$136	1 MT/ac	0%	1%	4%
	2 tonne/ac	\$16	\$80		\$272	2 MT/ac	0%	2%	8%
	3 tonne/ac	\$24	\$120		\$408	3 MT/ac	1%	3%	12%
	4 tonne/ac	\$32	\$160		\$544	4 MT/ac	1%	5%	16%

The c/c returns per acre that could be achieved today

Incremental cash yield per acre potential

The c/c returns per acre that could be achieved today

Incremental cash yield per acre potential

New Report Warns of Potential for \$48 Billion Loss in Farm Income if Fertilizer Reductions are Required of Growers FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 27, 2021 OTTAWA, ON., – Cutting fertilizer use to reduce on-farm emissions could cost growers nearly \$48 billion over the next eight years, says a newly released report by Meyers Norris Penny (MNP). Under Canada's A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy, the Government of Canada is envisioning a 30% absolute emissions reduction target for on-farm fertilizer use by the year 2030. Elsewhere, the European Union (EU) has proposed an absolute emissions reduction target and aims to achieve it through a 20% reduction of fertilizer use compared to 2020 levels. If Canada adopted the EU model, the potential economic impact of reduced fertilizer use would be devastating to Canadian farmers. To avoid this, any plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must be done through sustainable agricultural intensification; an approach that allows for significant reductions in agricultural emissions without risking Canada's contribution to global supply of food or economic growth within the sector. Fertilizer Canada commissioned the report by MNP, one of the largest full-service chartered professional accountancy and business advisory firms in Canada. MNP has specialized expertise regarding all aspects of agricultural business – from primary producers through to food and beverage processors. "When the Federal government announced a 30% emission reduction target for on-farm fertilizer use it did so without consulting - the provinces, the agricultural sector, or any key stakeholders - on the feasibility of such a target," said Karen Proud, President and CEO of Fertilizer Canada. "This study shows that we need to work together to find practical and pragmatic solutions for emissions reductions, without causing economic devastation to our agricultural sector." Canada's fertilizer industry has a significant role to play in mitigating climate change – that is why industry has been proactively working to reduce on-farm emissions for over a decade by implementing 4R Nutrient Stewardship. 4R Nutrient Stewardship is a science-based approach to nutrient management that involves applying the Right Source (of fertilizer) at the Right Rate, Right Time and Right Place. By utilizing 4R best management practices, farmers can optimize plant nutrient uptake, and increase yields, while achieving verifiable reductions in emissions. 4R Nutrient Stewardship is part of an overall farm management plan that can be complimented with other agronomic and conservation practices, such as

no-till farming and the use of cover crops, that also play a valuable role in supporting on-farm emissions reductions. “No one is more impacted by climate change than farmers,” said Proud. “The 4R approach has been developed over the last decade and a half in partnership with leading scientists, farm organizations and provincial governments to reduce agriculture’s environmental impact without compromising farmers’ competitiveness.” On-farm environmental goals must reflect the Canadian landscape. Fertilizer Canada is calling upon the Federal government to recognize 4R Nutrient Stewardship as the standard in nutrient management and a key component to achieving on-farm emissions reductions from fertilizer. Now is the time for the government to collaborate with industry and farmers on an approach that showcases Canada as a world leader in reducing on-farm emissions. Last week’s federal election provides an opportunity for the government to refine its approach to agricultural emissions. One of the first priorities of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister must be to work with stakeholders to develop an approach to meet environmental targets that is science-based, reflects the realities of Canadian agriculture and recognizes 4R Nutrient Stewardship as an important driver of emissions reductions. “We do not have to choose between the environment and the economy,” said Proud. “By choosing 4R Nutrient Stewardship, as the foundation to a holistic approach to on-farm emissions reductions, the agricultural sector and the government can work together to meet our environmental goals, while at the same time supporting our farmers.” -30- Fertilizer Canada represents manufacturers, wholesale and retail distributors of nitrogen, phosphate, potash and sulphur fertilizers. The fertilizer industry plays an essential role in Canada’s economy, contributing \$23 billion annually and over 76,000 jobs. As the unified voice of the Canadian fertilizer industry, Fertilizer Canada works to promote the safe, responsible, and sustainable distribution and use of fertilizer. Please visit www.fertilizercanada.ca

MEDIA CONTACT: Catherine King Vice President, Public Affairs Fertilizer Canada
 cking@fertilizercanada.ca C: (613) 818-2911

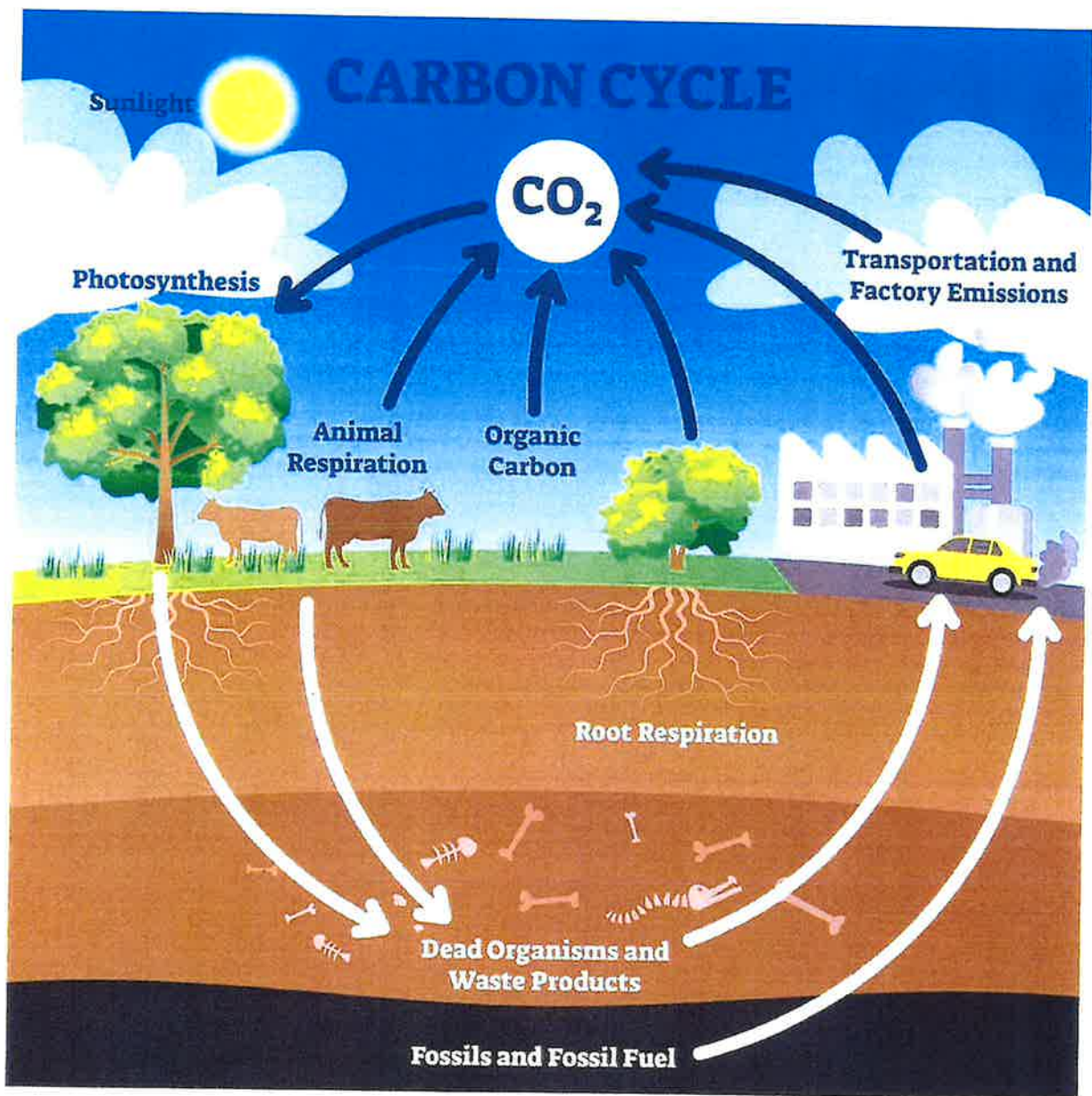
Eligibility for Sequestration Payments— New Adopters Versus All Adopters (Including “Good Actors”)

In terms of eligibility requirements, two payment options relating to the additionality of carbon sequestration dominate both policy discussions and published studies. The first option pays all farmers who practice the activities covered by the incentives regardless of how long they have been practicing the activities. Hence, if a payment were offered to encourage farmers to expand the use of—say, conservation tillage—all farmers managing with conservation tillage would be eligible for the payment. This option is referred to as the “good actor” approach because it is perceived as not penalizing farmers who undertook the desired activity before the compensation policy was available. The alternative “new adopters” option limits sequestration payments to farmers not engaged in the desired land uses and production practices at the time of the program baseline. As a result, payments only cover additional carbon sequestration relative to the preprogram baseline. Supporters of the good-actor payment criterion argue that it avoids “moral hazard,” in which farmers already engaged in desired practices revert to undesirable land uses and production practices to qualify for incentives. This rationale requires the assumption that it is not possible to avoid this situation by observing and penalizing such behavior.¹⁵ Those in favor of the new-adopter criterion argue that it does not pay farmers for having made changes in land uses or production practices that they previously concluded were economically rational; instead, it limits payments to farmers who require an additional incentive to economically rationalize the adoption of the desired uses and practices. From an incentive design perspective, the newadopters

criterion will generally be less costly— perhaps significantly so—than the good-actor criterion, particularly if the moral hazard issue can be resolved. For example, the United States has approximately 450 million acres of privately owned cropland and 352 million acres of privately owned grassland (i.e., pasture or range) (Vesterby and Krupa, 2001). In a program providing incentives to shift economically marginal cropland to permanent grasses under the new-adopter criterion, owners of any of the 450 million acres of cropland that shift into grasses would be eligible for the incentive payments. Under the good-actor criterion, not only would owners of these acres be eligible to receive payments but so, too, would owners of at least some of the 352 million acres of privately owned pasture and range that remained in those uses. The same issue could arise with providing farmers incentives to afforest cropland and pasture, or incentives to shift from conventional to conservation tillage. At present, about 420 million acres of privately owned forest land and over 100 million acres of cropland in the United States are managed with some form of conservation tillage (Vesterby and Krupa, 2001; USDA, ERS, 1998).

WHY GRASSLAND CAPITAL X MEASURES ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INSTEAD OF SOIL CARBON

Dec. 14



Grassland Capital X is a proposed conservation exchange that buys and sells ecosystem service benefits. Services such as biodiversity, water quality, and soil health are measured, quantified, verified, and then offered to buyers through a free market exchange. The exchange helps form an “environmental partnership” between landowners producing the services and buyers wishing to help the environment through the purchase of the services.

Soil Health indicators such as soil aggregate stability, bacteria to fungi ratios, soil organic matter and soil microbial respiration are measured as proxies for ecosystem services such as climate regulation, carbon storage and carbon sequestration.

To answer the question “why didn’t we just measure soil carbon?”, let’s look at the carbon cycle and the path of a carbon molecule.

It all starts with photosynthesis – the process by which plants use sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide to create oxygen and energy in the form of sugar to be stored as glucose. In simple terms, the carbon molecule in carbon dioxide now transforms to become part of long chain sugars, which in turn are broken down through cellular respiration to provide energy that plant cells use to live and grow.

The carbon molecule that started as carbon dioxide is now part of the above ground plant canopy and below ground roots. But it doesn’t end there, plant root exudates (organic and amino acids) are then used to influence the rhizosphere around the roots to inhibit harmful microbes and promote the growth of a complex variety of species and microorganism existing in the soil.

This carbon molecule can then be found in soil microbes such as bacteria, fungi, and methanotrophs that use methane as an energy source, as well as the grazing animal tissue. Methane not used by methanotrophs returns to the atmosphere where it breaks down into water and carbon dioxide, starting the whole process over again.

When a plant is stressed through grazing it does two things. 1) sacrifices root resources to regrow a new canopy, leaving carbon behind deep in the soil, and 2) makes the plant roots send out long chain carbon as sugars to attract and feed fungi. The fungi then exchange nutrients the plant roots are unable to extract from the soil in exchange for carbon sugars.

Many soil carbon experts are challenged with where and how to measure carbon. Do you measure carbon in the root soil, or do you measure the plant and root material as well? Also, which chains of carbon do you measure and where in the soil or plant material do you find the carbon chains?

When taking your soil samples, the depth of your sample is important to consider. Some will measure carbon at the surface (top 15 cm). This top 15 cm has a significant but shallow surface of active and decaying plant material and microbes that are all part of the carbon cycle. If this is your preferred method, then the time of day also becomes an important part of your measurement protocol as soil microbes respire in the morning leaving a cloud of carbon dioxide at ground level which can reach three to four times higher levels than regular atmospheric carbon dioxide. Plant leaves can soak up most of the respired CO₂.

You can also measure beyond 15cm at a soil depth where deep grass plant roots have left a pool of secure carbon. Measurements beyond 30 cm can be difficult to obtain depending on soil type and land use which significantly increases soil sampling costs.

Soil scientists, buyers, sellers, and other stakeholders agree that a standardized way to measure carbon is needed for markets to function with credibility and transparency. However, scientists that have spent decades determining methods to measure soil carbon are still not always in agreement on best methods and soil sampling protocols. Many soil carbon measurement protocols do not lend themselves to measuring a complex grassland ecosystem which provides higher soil carbon storage. The question remains- where in the carbon cycle do you measure, at what depth of soil, and at what time of day. A healthy carbon cycle is dynamic and complex.

Instead of weighing in on the best way to measure soil carbon, Grasslands Capital X advisors have recommended measuring the

ecosystem services generated from grasslands and the carbon cycle. By measuring soil health, in combination with other co-benefits of a grassland system, marketplace buyers can secure the benefits of a functioning ecosystems built on a functioning carbon cycle.

In the end, grassland managers will manage what is measured, and what we are measuring helps achieve a wholistic healthy grassland ecosystem. This wholistic approach will be a win- win- win for society, buyers, and ranchers.

Written By: Norm Ward, Governor of Western Stock Growers Association

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/pricing-pollution-how-it-will-work/putting-price-on-carbon-pollution.html#toc0>

<https://aaaf.ab.ca/documents/ist-asb-presentations/2023-asb-conference-presentations/presentations/2023/251-ryan-copithorne-asb-2023/file.html>

<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/departement/transparency/public-opinion-research-consultations/share-ideas-fertilizer-emissions-reduction-target/discussion>

<https://fertilizercanada.ca/our-focus/stewardship/emissions-reduction-initiative/>

<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rstb.2010.0143>

<https://climatechange.ucdavis.edu/climate/news/grasslands-more-reliable-carbon-sink-than-trees>

https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/47467/17114_t1909c_1.pdf?v=0

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpls.2021.636709/full>

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	October 23, 2023
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	EVENTS
File:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND:

Upcoming Events:

PCBFA Annual General Meeting & CultivateAg Annual Reception Saturday November 25, 2023 at the Holiday Inn in Grande Prairie, AB.

ATTACHMENTS:

PCBFA Annual General Meeting & CultivateAg Annual Reception Poster

Wintering Cattle in the Peace Poster

Calendars: October, November, December

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by... to .

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

pl

AgFieldman:

gc

**NOV
25th
2023**

Holiday Inn
Grande Prairie, AB

PEACE COUNTRY BEEF & FORAGE ASSOCIATION

AGM

& CultivateAg

Annual Reception

**Annual General Meeting,
3:30 PM**

Everyone Welcome
Current Members can Vote
Memberships available at the door

**CultivateAg Annual Reception,
5:30 PM**

Enjoy a Semi-Formal family-friendly evening
of networking and inspiration among
fellow producers.



Keynote Speaker

CHRISTI FRIESEN

Inspiring Resilience

Pre-Purchasing tickets is preferred

Hotel Room Block Available for Reservation until November 15, 2023

Tickets Available Online or through a PCBFA Rep

www.peacecountrybeef.ca

info@pcbfa.ca





Wintering Cattle in the Peace

Helping farmers to grow better, together.

Eureka River Hall

**November 30
2023**

Doors Open @ 4:30
Supper Provided

Tickets will be available
November 1st both
online or through a
PCBFA Representative.

Pre-Purchasing of Tickets
is preferred.



THE SEMINAR VISION

Join us for an informative evening with fellow Peace Region Cattle Producers to come together in the face of a challenging year.



PREDATION PRESENTATION

Presented By
Sergeant Daniel Downie



NUTRITION PRESENTATION

Presented by
Barry Yaremci



@ info@pcbfa.ca



peacecountrybeef.ca

OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 In Lieu of National Truth & Reconciliation Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Thanksgiving Day	10 Council	11	12	13	14
15	16 P & P	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 ASB	24 Council	25	26 Peace Region ASB Conference	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween	1	2	3	4

NOVEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3 V.S. I Annual General Meeting	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 In lieu of Remembrance Day	11 Remembrance Day
	RMA Convention					
12	13	14 Council	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 ASB	22	23	24	25 PCBFA AGM & CultivateAg Annual Reception
26	27	28 Council	29	30 PCBFA Wintering Cattle Seminar	1	2

DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Council	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 ASB	20	21	22	23
24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day (Many regions)	27	28	29	30
31	1 New Years Day	2	3	4	5	6

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	October 23, 2023
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

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

BACKGROUND / PROPOSAL:

ATTACHMENTS:

Agricultural Fieldman Report – October 23, 2023
Rental Equipment Summary

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by.. that the Agricultural Service Board accepts the October 23, 2023, Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

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

AgFieldman:

OCT 23, 2023

PEST CONTROL

• **Wolves Claimed 2023 YTD:**

Total #	Total \$
18	\$3600.00

OTHER TOPICS

1. Mowers completed a full cut on the County as well as extra cutting on the pavement from the Eureka mailboxes to Clear Praire and a full cut on the Silver Creek/Sulphur Lake roads.
2. Waterpumps have been very busy. Booked solid into mid October.
3. Weed Inspectors finished up first week of October.
4. Working on 2024 budgets. Capital items the Ag department will be asking for is 1 new mower at \$75,000.00, 2 sidearms at \$50,000.00 each and ½ mile of 4" layflat hose for the rental waterpumps at \$35,000.00.
5. 2025 capital items will be a new mower tractor at \$275,000.00, one new mower at \$75,000.00 and a pto waterpump.

January 1 - September 30, 2023

Rental Equipment	Rental Deposit	Rental Rates	Total Users	Total Days	Total	Equipment Expense
<i>Backpack Sprayer</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	1	14	\$ -	
<i>Bale Scale</i>	\$ 100.00	\$ 30.00	2	2	\$ 60.00	
<i>BBQ Trailer</i>	\$ 150.00	\$ 75.00	1	1	\$ 75.00	
<i>Chairs</i>	\$ 50.00	\$0.50/chair	8	9	\$ 398.00	
<i>Community Centre</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	4	6	\$ 300.00	
<i>Corral Panels</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	1	1	\$ 50.00	
<i>Eco-Bran Applicator</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	2	13	\$ -	
<i>Exta Hoses</i>	\$ 50.00	\$1.000/hose	0	0	\$ -	
<i>Grain Bagger</i>	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	0	0	\$ -	\$ 320.58
<i>Grain Bag Roller</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	9	11	\$ -	\$ 104.29
<i>Grain Bag Extractor</i>	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	1	2	\$ 700.00	
<i>Grain Vac</i>	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00	16	21	\$ 6,300.00	
<i>Grill</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 5.00	5	5	\$ 25.00	
<i>Land Leveller</i>	\$ 300.00	\$ 150.00	3	5	\$ 1,075.00	\$ 1,059.76
<i>Loading Chute</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	6	6	\$ 150.00	\$ 66.18
<i>Manure Spreader</i>	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00	4	10	\$ 2,096.64	\$ 507.32
<i>Mulch Applicator</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	0	0	\$ -	
<i>Post Pounder</i>	\$ 300.00	\$ 150.00	16	18	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 1,435.92
<i>Pull/Push Roller Applicator</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	
<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	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	
<i>Roller Mill</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 20.00	3	3	\$ 60.00	
<i>Rotowiper</i>	\$ 150.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	
<i>Skidmount Sprayer</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	3	9	\$ -	
<i>Smoke Signs</i>	\$ 60.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	
<i>Scare Cannon</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	1	15	\$ -	
<i>Tables</i>	\$ 50.00	\$1.00/table	10	11	\$ 209.00	
<i>Toilets</i>	\$ 100.00	\$ 40.00	4	4	\$ 120.00	\$ 11.99
<i>Truck Mount Sprayer</i>	\$ 200.00	\$ -	1	2	\$ -	
<i>Wash Station</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 10.00	4	5	\$ 20.00	
	\$100 (summer)	\$75 (summer)				
<i>Water Pumps</i>	\$1000 (winter)	\$200 (winter)	44	68	\$ 4,950.00	\$ 3,793.62
<i>Wire Roller</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	5	11	\$ 275.00	
			154	252	\$ 19,563.64	\$ 7,299.66

Revenue	\$ 19,563.64
Equipment Expense	\$ 7,299.66
Insurance	\$ 1,725.47
Chargeback	\$ 20,900.30
Profit/Loss	<u>-\$10,361.79</u>

Clear Hills County

Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Meeting Date:	October 23, 2023
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE
File No:	63-10-02

DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with correspondence for review.

BACKGROUND:

ATTACHMENTS:

2023 Forage Bale Survey Results

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RESOLUTION by.. that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of October 23, 2023, as presented.

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



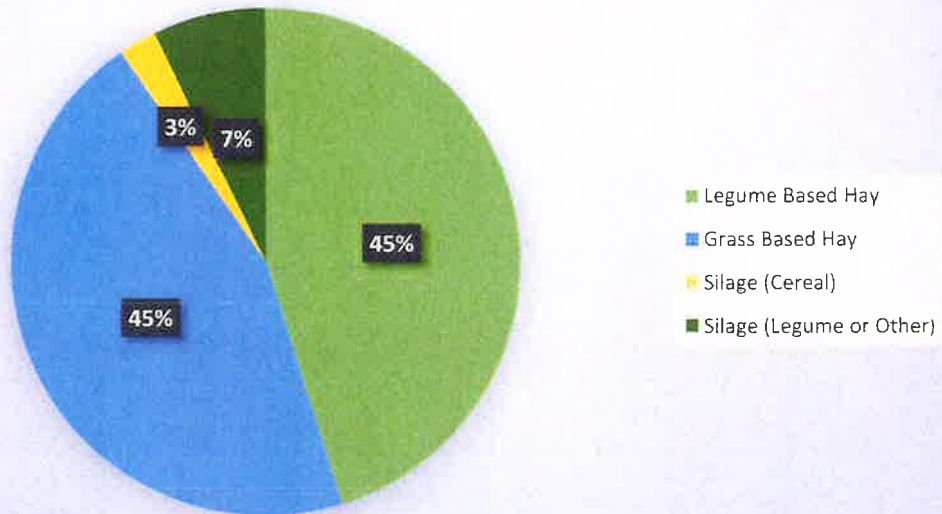
AgFieldman:



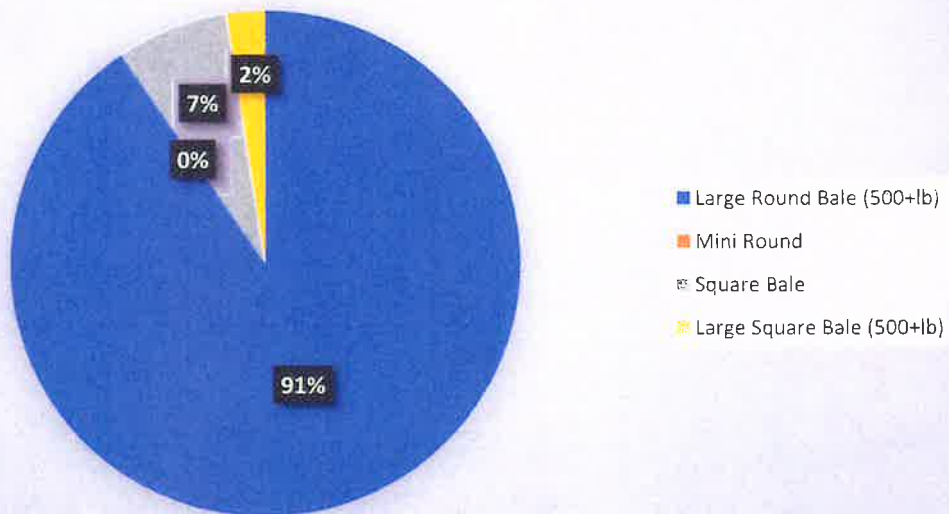
2023 Forage Bale Survey Results

Conducted by Peace Country Beef & Forage, September 2023

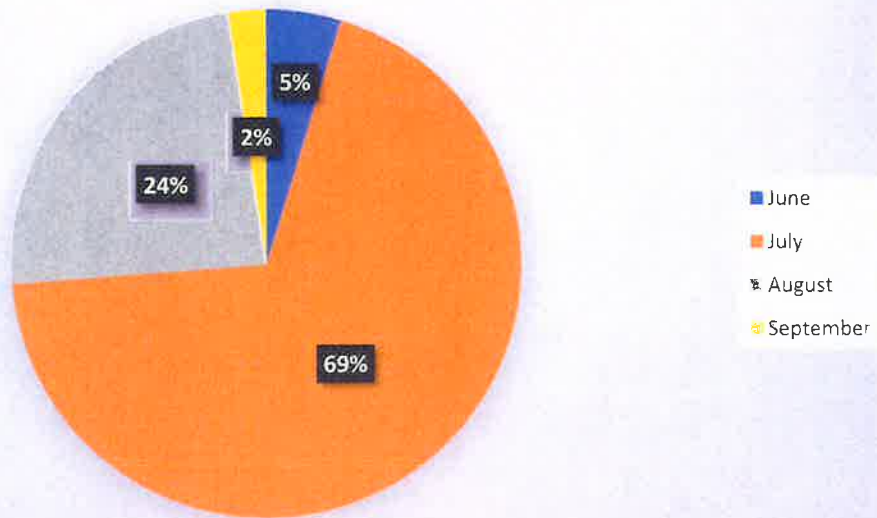
What did you bale for feed in 2023?



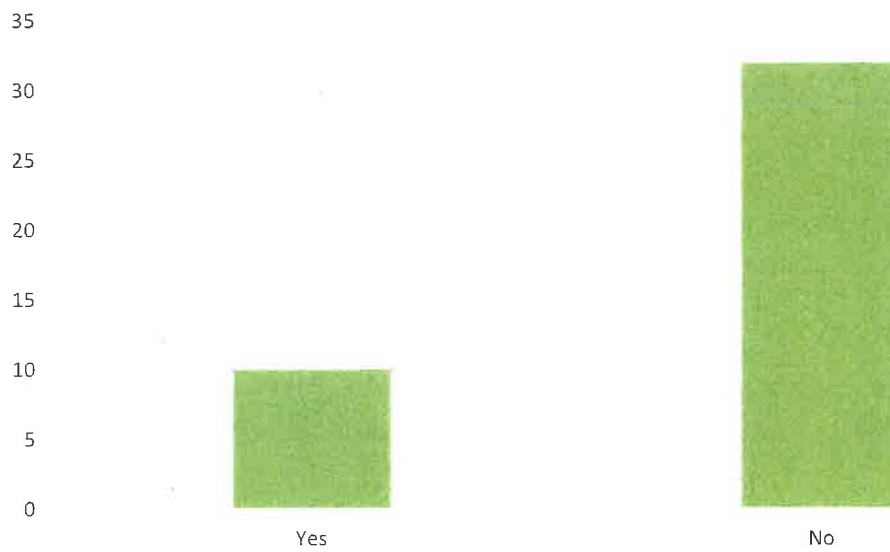
How did you bale your product?



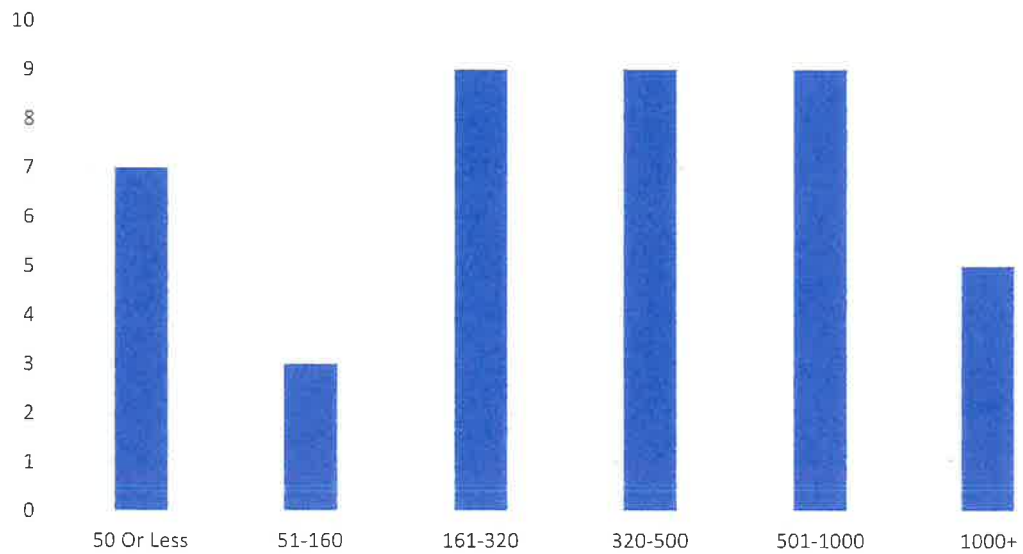
What month did you obtain your first bales?



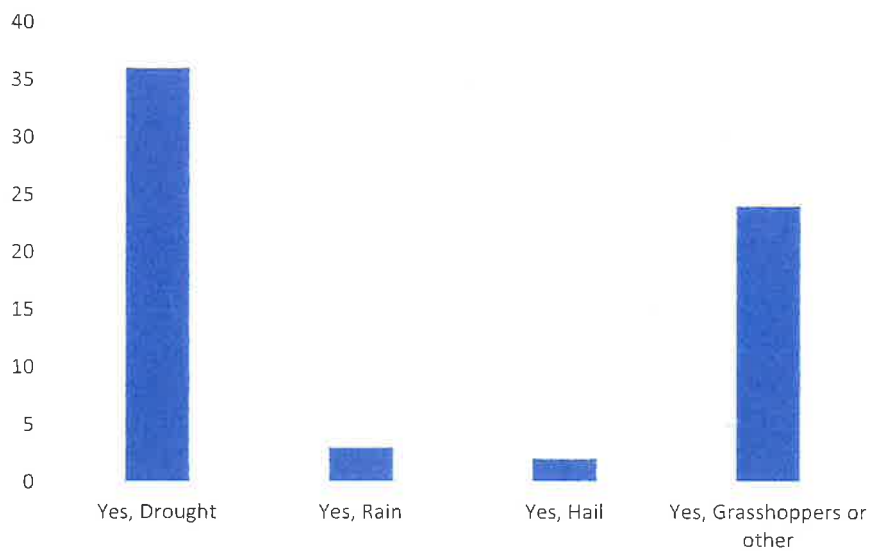
Did, or will you, get a second cut?



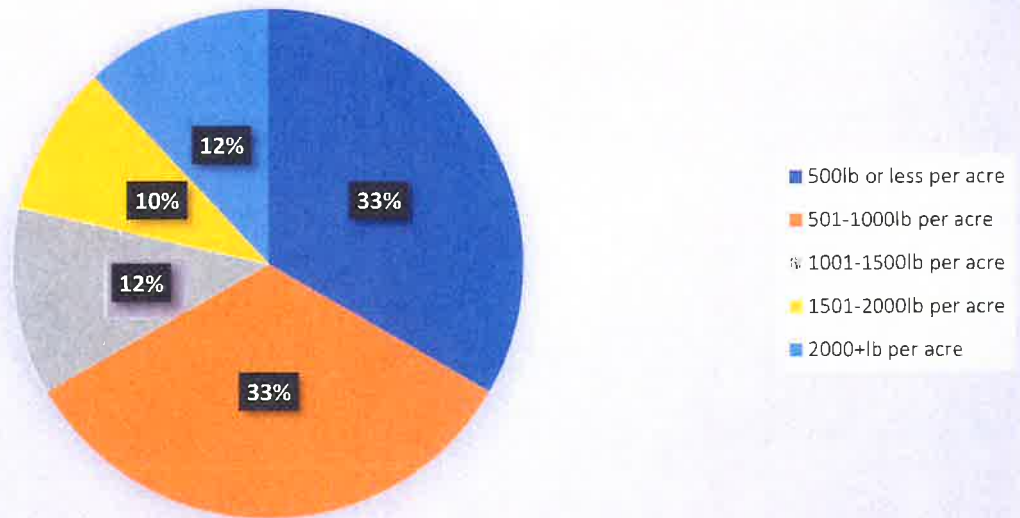
How many acres did you bale for feed in 2023?



Did you suffer from crop damage in 2023?



What was your average yield in 2023?



Thank you to all of those who participated in our survey!