

Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting A G E N D A

for Tuesday, December 12th, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. to be held virtually:

Telus Business Connect Video Meeting link:

<https://video.businessconnect.telus.com/join/111139504>

Meeting ID: 111139504

and/or physically in County Council Chambers, 4612 McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake.

1. Meeting:

- 1.1 Call to Order.
- 1.2 Election of Agricultural Service Board Chairperson.
- 1.3 Election of Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chairperson.

2. Agenda:

Acceptance of Agenda:
as presented or
subject to additions or deletions.

3. Minutes:

- 3.1 Adopt minutes of **October 13th, 2023** – Agricultural Service Board Meeting. ©
Recommendation: Motion to Adopt.

4. Request for Decision:

- 4.1 Lakeland Agricultural Research Association 2024 Contract. ©
- 4.2 Policy Statement 62-12-03 Clubroot. ©
- 4.3 Policy Statement 62-10-08 Agricultural Service Board Business Plan. ©

5. Issues for Information:

- 5.1 ASB Chairman's Report. ©

6. Correspondence:

- 6.1 Letter received from Tyler Airth, Agricultural Service Board Chair, Big Lakes County received October 16th, 2023 RE: Support for University of Calgary Faculty Veterinary Medicine Programs. ©
Recommendation: File for Information.

- 6.2 Letter received from Tyler Airth, Agricultural Service Board Chair, Big Lakes County received October 16th, 2023, RE: Maintaining the Integrity of our Pesticide Regulatory System. ©

Recommendation: File for Information.

- 6.3 Letter received from Shawn Rodgers, Agricultural Service Board Chairman, Warner County, received October 16th, 2023, RE: Appreciation for the Increase of Funding for Agricultural Service Boards. ©

Recommendation: Acknowledge Receipt.

- 6.4 Letter received from Joe Blakeman, Reeve, Lac Ste Anne County, received November 8th, 2023, RE: AgriRecovery Program for Livestock Producers. ©

Recommendation: File for Information.

- 6.5 Letter received from Jered Serben, Reeve, Smoky Lake County, dated November 6th, 2023, RE: AgriRecovery Program for Livestock Producers. ©

Recommendation: Acknowledge Receipt for awareness.

- 6.6 Letter received from Megan Evans, Executive Director, Alberta Invasive Species Council, received November 23rd, 2023, RE: Sponsorship. ©

Recommendation: Boards Recommendation.

- 6.7 Provincial ASB Resolution Session Agenda Package, received from ASB Provincial Committee, December 1st, 2023. ©

Recommendation: Boards Decision.

- 6.8 Insect Survey Results-2023-Smoky Lake, received from Shelley Barkley, Insect Technologist, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, December 4th, 2023. ©

Recommendation: File for Information.

- 6.9 Letter received from Glenn Belozor, ASB Chair, Leduc County, received December 11th, 2023, RE: 2023 AgriRecovery Program for livestock and Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance (CADLA) Program. ©

Recommendation: File for Information

7. Delegation(s):

- 7.1 Alyssa Krawchuk, Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association @
9:15am

8. Executive Session:

9. Date and time of Next Meeting(s):

Adjournment



Minutes of Smoky Lake County's **Agricultural Service Board Organizational and Regular Meeting** held on Friday, **October 13, 2023**, at 9:02 A.M. held in Smoky Lake County Council Chambers and virtually online through Electronic Communication Technology.

The meeting was called to Order by the County's Interim Chief Administrative Officer, Lydia Cielin, in the presence of the following persons:

		<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Friday Oct. 13, 2023</u>
Committee Member	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
Committee Member	Jered Serben	Present in Chambers
Alt. Committee Member	Dominique Cere	Absent
Alt. Committee Member	Lorne Halisky	Absent
Producer-at-Large Member	Tori Ponich	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Curtis Boychuk	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Tamara Flondra	Present in Chambers
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Kurt Melnyk	Present in Chambers
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Brett Rurka	Present in Chambers
County Interim CAO	Lydia Cielin	Present in Chambers
Ag. Fieldman	Carleigh Danyluk	Present in Chambers
Assistant Ag. Fieldman	Amanda Kihn	Present in Chambers
County Executive Services/R.S.	Patti Priest	Present Virtually

No Members of the Media were Present.

No Members of the Public were Present.

1. Election of Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson:

Chairperson

The Interim Chief Administrative Officer called a first (1) time for nominations for Chairperson of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board.

ASB001-23: Ponich

That Councillor Dan Gawalko be nominated as the Chairperson of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board.

The Interim Chief Administrative Officer called a second (2) time for nominations for Chairperson.

The Interim Chief Administrative Officer called a third (3) time for nominations for Chairperson.

HEARING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS.

The Interim Chief Administrative Officer declared nominations for the Chairperson of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, ceased.

Mr. Dan Gawalko was declared elected by acclamation by the Chief Administrative Officer as the Chairperson of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, for the ensuing year and assumed the Chair.

Vice-Chairperson

As per Bylaw No. 1441-23: Agricultural Service Board, Section 5.2, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson must be a Member of Council from Smoky Lake County, and Mr. Jered Serben was declared elected by acclamation by the Chairperson as the Vice-Chairperson of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board for the ensuing year.

2. Agenda:

ASB002-23: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Friday, October 13, 2023, be adopted as amended:

Addition:

1. Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference, January 22-24, 2024, in Lethbridge, Alberta.

Carried Unanimously.

3. Minutes:

ASB003-23: Serben That the Minutes of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on February 21, 2023, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

4. Request for Decision:

Nil.

5. Issue for Information:

Orientation Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board

Carleigh Danyluk, Agricultural Fieldman, conducted round table introductions, provided housekeeping, emergency exit, and muster point information.

Each respective Agricultural Service Board Producer-at-Large executed an Oath of Office and Confidentiality Agreement, as per Policy Statement No. 62-19-04: Agricultural Service Board Producer-at-Large: Terms of Reference.

The Agricultural Fieldman also provided an overview of protocol was provided in respect to Bylaw No. 1441-23: Agricultural Service Board and Policy Statement No. 62-19-04: Agricultural Service Board Producer-at-Large: Terms of Reference, Schedule "B" Oath of Confidentiality Agreement, Schedule "C" Producer-at-Large Expense Claim.

5. Correspondence:

Northeast Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference

ASB004-23: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Members and relevant Administration who can attend – attend, the Northeast Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference, scheduled for October 20, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., to be held at Métis Crossing.

Carried.

Brazeau County – Expectations to Strengthen the Alberta Weed Control Act

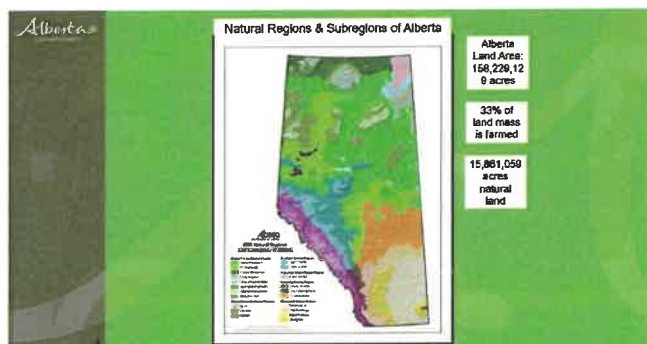
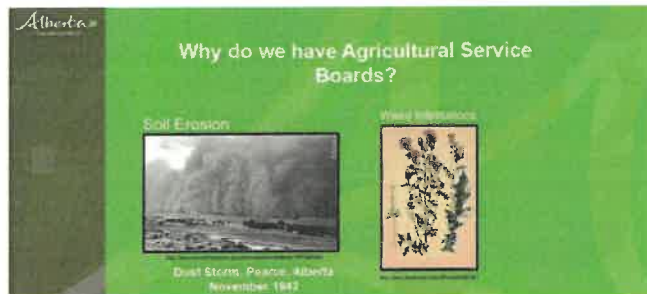
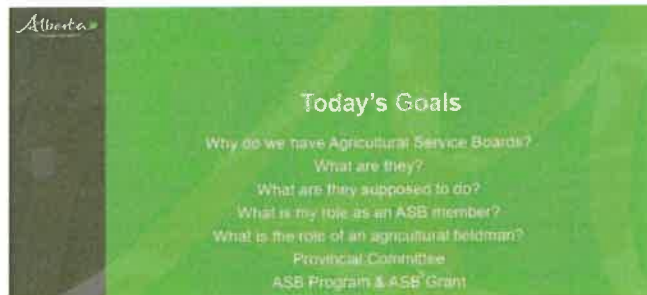
ASB005-23: Flondra That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge receipt of the letter received from Liz Seutter-Rosell, Agricultural Service Board Chairperson, Brazeau County, dated September 12, 2023 in respect to Expectations to Strengthen the Alberta Weed Control Act; and write a letter to the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, supporting same.

Carried.

7. Delegation:

Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation's Agricultural Service Board Program Orientation

Present before the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board from 10:08 a.m. to 11:23 a.m., was Doug Macaulay, Agricultural Service Board Program Manager, Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation, to provide the following presentation including but not limit to the follow slides:



Formation of ASBs

Be it resolved that this conference endorse and recommend the establishment of ASBs in all municipal districts, such boards to be similar to personnel and objectives as the one established in the M.D. of Cernich No. 220 and now in operation and that legislation as may be considered necessary be enacted by the Legislature to authorize the formation of such boards and to designate their powers

Source: 1914-15


1945 ASB

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD ACT

Revised Statutes of Alberta 1945
Chapter A-10
Enacted 1945

"Father" of the ASB Program

William (Bill) Lobley



- Principal Supervisor
- Helped to enact the ASB Act
- Organized and developed the program
- Established the Norway Hill program

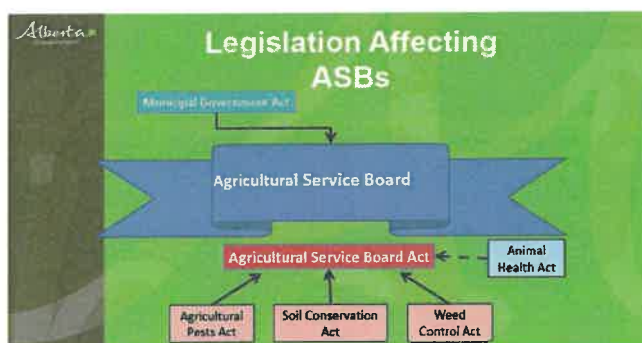
What is an Agricultural Service Board?





Agricultural Service Board Members (L-R)

What are the roles and responsibilities of ASBs?



- Legislated Duties under the ASB Act
- Roles and Responsibilities
- ASB Members
- Agricultural Fieldman



Legislated Duties of ASBs




Advise on Council & Monitor (Sec 24)





Advise on weed and pest control & soil and water conservation programs (Sec 25)


Legislated Duties of ASBs



Assist in control of Animal Diseases (Sec 26)



Promote sustainable agriculture to improve the economic viability of producers (Sec 26)




Policy Development (Sec 26)

Advisory Committees

Advisory to ASB & to council
May be established permanently or on an "as needed" basis
May have more than one advisory committee



Municipal Responsibilities




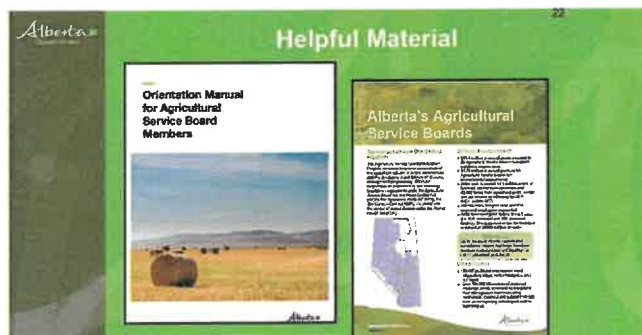


Appoint inspectors
Make bylaws
Control pests/weeds on municipal lands
Extension

Other Roles of ASB include...

Policy Administration
Agricultural Programming





What is an Agricultural Fieldman?

Full time employee
Qualified person
Legislated duties:


- Implement agricultural policies & programs
- Manage agricultural resources of the municipality

Designated officer
Inspector




Fieldman Responsibilities

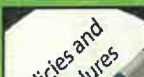
- Designated Officer
 - Agricultural Pest Act
 - Soil Conservation Act
 - Weed Control Act
- Authorized Person
 - Animal Health Act
- Manage agricultural resources
- Implement policy




What Does an Ag Fieldman Do?




Administration



Implement Policy & Programs



Regulatory



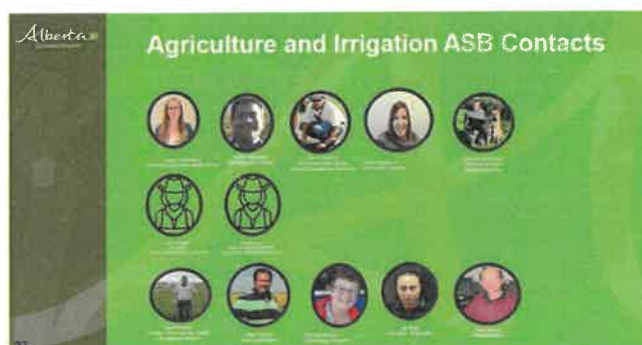
Conservation & Lightfoot

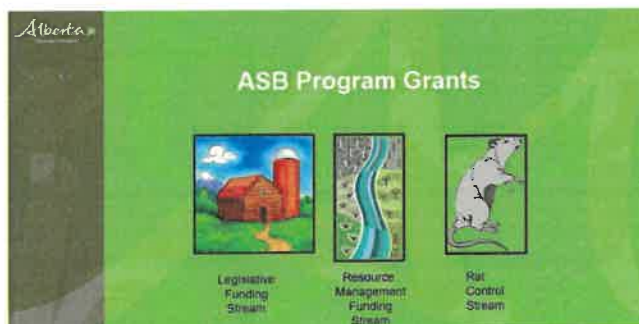
Position	Members	Alternates	Representation
Region Rep	Sebastian Dostisac [Chair]	Cliff Woodside	Northwest Region
Region Rep	Chris Friesen	Robert Cheneak	Peace Region
Region Rep	Monica Bochenbach	John Van Driessen	South Region
Region Rep	Brenda Knight [Vice-Chair]	Kathy Rooydiders	Central Region
Region Rep	Walter Prungsiebes	Rita Buhariet	Northwest Region
Secretary	Stephen Stevens		AAAF
Executive Assistant	Linda Hunt		ASBPC
RMA Rep	Jason Schneider		RMAA
AAAF President	Aaron Van Beers		AAAF
AMP Program Manager	Doug Macaulay		ABI
Recording Secretary	Anita Ash		AGI

Alberta Health Services

Role of Provincial Committee

- Provide advice and information to the Board of Directors
- Advise the Provincial Committee on behalf of the Board of Directors
- Represent views of all AHS in non-voting role
- Represent nursing
- Provide the link of development capacity of AHS
- Assist and support in all forms of provincial and regional AHS Meetings
- Provide the link of development capacity of AHS
- Provide the link of development capacity of AHS

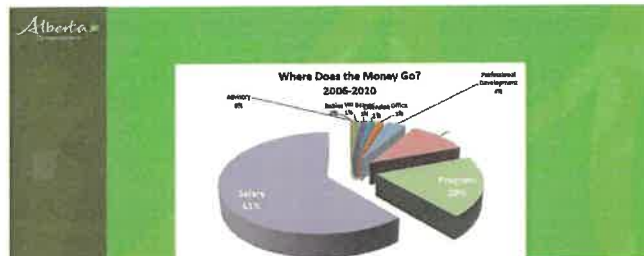




Alberta

What should we use ASB Grant Money for?

- Labour
 - Salary, wages, benefits, professional development
- Operating Expenses
 - Vehicles, equipment
- Materials & Supplies
- Office Operations
- Contracted Services



Alberta

ASB Grant Eligibility & Application

1. Must be a municipality with an established ASB

2. Must have an agricultural heritage association

3. Application postmarked before due date

Alberta

Focus of Programming

Wildflower Field Day

Agricultural Heritage Day

Scenic View Photo Day

Animal Health Day

Education & Training

Alberta

Eligible Activities

Honey, Mosquito Control Program

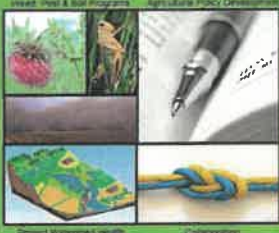
Water Conservation

Other Activities as Requested by the Minister

Alberta

Agreement

ASB Grant Program Outcomes



Insect, Plant & Soil Programs Agriculture Policy Development

Product/Registered Health Collaboration

Field Visits



Appeal Committees

	Weed Control Act	Agricultural Pest Act	Soil Conservation Act
Requirements	Independent Appeal Committee Members	Members appointed at Start of Year	See SCA (sec 14 a, c & d)

Program Reviews



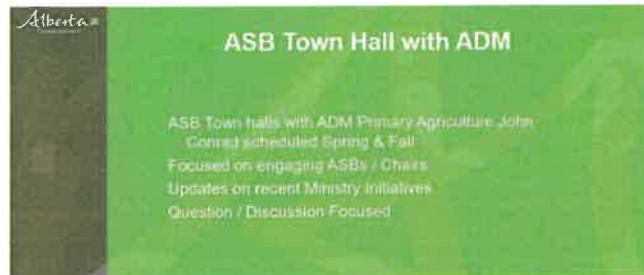
Regional Liaison Program

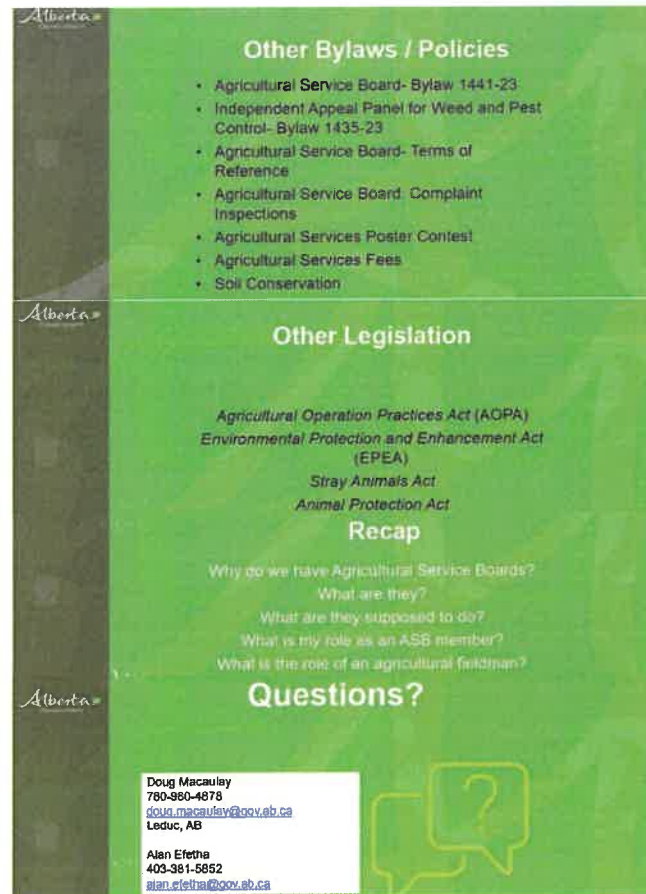
ASB Regional Liaison Program

- Replaces former Key Contact Program
- Goal is to provide updates to Agricultural Fieldmen to share with ASBs and their colleagues on AF programming & initiatives
- To address regional issues and concerns brought forward
- To attend Region's Regional Conference and the ASB Provincial Conference when possible
- Spring and Fall ADM Town Halls hosted by the ASB Provincial Committee

Regional Liaison Team

REGION	LIAISON	ALTERNATE
PEACE	Gayah Sieusahai	Dan Benson
NORTHWEST	Trevor Wallace	Shawn Elgert
NORTHEAST	Dillis Peltier	Hannah McKenzie
CENTRAL	Kellie Jackson	
SOUTH	Alan Efetha	Joe Harrington





6. Correspondence:

Report Card on the Resolutions 2023

ASB006-23: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge receipt of the information received from Linda Hunt, Executive Assistant, Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee, dated September 21, 2023, in respect to the Year-2023 Report Card on the Resolutions, as follows:

#	Resolution	Grade
1-23	Creation of a mid-level Alberta veterinary medical association (ABVMA) professional designation	Accept in Principle
2-23	Rural veterinary students	Accept in Principle
3-23	Applied research associations funding	Accept in Principle
4-23	Grizzly bear population impact on agricultural production	Incomplete
5-23	Landowner special license	Accept in Principle
6-23	Enforcement of water management Alberta water act	Incomplete
7-23	Campaign to raise awareness on the disparity between consumer pricing and producer revenue	DEFEATED
8-23	Consideration of municipal environmental and agricultural policies for large scale solar and related energy developments on agricultural lands	Incomplete
9-23	Synthetic fertilizer emissions	Incomplete
10-23	Organic production certification standards and provincially regulated weeds	Incomplete
11-23	Loss of 2% liquid strychnine	Accept the Response
12-23	Review of the land and property rights tribunal (LPRT)	Incomplete
E1-23	Stable regional agricultural extension funding	Incomplete
E2-23	Stable funding for farm mental health	Incomplete
E3-23	Supporting a vibrant cervid industry in Alberta	Incomplete

Carried.

7. Delegation:

Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation's Agricultural Service Board Program Orientation

ASB007-23: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge receipt of the Orientation provided in respect to Agricultural Service Board Program, by the October 13, 2023, Delegation: Doug Macaulay, Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation's Agricultural Service Board Program Manager.

Carried.

6. Correspondence:

Agricultural Service Board Position Statement

ASB008-23: Boychuk That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge receipt of the email from Linda Hunt, Executive Assistant, Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee, dated September 25, 2023, including the document titled: "Agricultural Service Board Position Statement" in respect to Agricultural Extension.

Carried.

Addition to the Agenda:

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference in Lethbridge

ASB009-23: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Members and relevant administration who can attend – attend the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference, scheduled for January 22-24, 2024, in Lethbridge, Alberta.

Carried.

8. Executive Session:

No Executive Session.

9. Date and time of Next Meeting(s):

Next Meeting

ASB010-23: Flondra The next Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting be scheduled for **Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.**, to be held virtually, through Electronic Communication Technology as per Bylaw 1376-20 and/or physically in County Council Chambers.

Carried.

Meeting Recessed

Meeting recessed for Lunch, time 11:46 a.m.

Meeting Reconvened

The meeting reconvened on a call to order by Chairperson at 12:35 p.m. in the presence of all Board Members, County Interim Chief Administrative Officer, County Executive Services Clerk, and Delegation: Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA).

7. Delegation:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

Virtually present before the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board from 12:35 p.m. to 12:58 p.m., was Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), to provide a verbal report of LARA activities, including but not limited to the following points:

- Have been partnering for 9-years with Smoky Lake County.
- LARA is a non-profit agricultural research association serving Northeastern Alberta since 199, born from a collaboration of local producers who saw the need for regional agricultural research and extension, LARA works to support sustainable agriculture in the Lakeland.

- LARA serves the municipal districts of Bonnyville, County of St. Paul, Smoky Lake County, and Lac La Biche County.
- Our mandate is to conduct innovative and unbiased research, give demonstrations, offer programs, and provide resources to local farmers.
- LARA currently has 3 full-time and 2 part-time employees.
- If Smoky Lake County increased funding LARA could provide:
 - free feed testing
 - more extension events
 - bigger extension events
- Upcoming Events include:
 - November 16, 2023 Working Well Workshop
 - December 1, 2023 Finding Fairness in Farm Transition with Elaine Froese, in Smoky Lake.
 - Drone Certification Course coming up in Ashmont soon.

Jered Serben, Committee Member, left the meeting, time 12:45 p.m.

Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), virtually left the meeting, time 12:59 p.m.

7. Correspondence:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) – Letter

ASB011-23: Boychuk That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board **acknowledge receipt** of the letter received from Alyssa Krawchuk, Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association, dated August 23, 2023, requesting consideration to increase the municipal funding contribution from Smoky Lake County, in the amount of over \$55,000.00 towards LARA's Year-2024 operating budget.

Carried.

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) - Delegation

ASB012-23: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board **acknowledge receipt** of the presentation from the October 13, 2023, Delegation: Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA).

Carried.

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) – Funding Request

ASB013-23: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board **defer** further discussion in respect making a recommendation to Smoky Lake County Council to either: fund, not fund, increase, or decrease, the municipal contribution towards the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Year-2024 operating budget; to allow time to determine the value of LARA services to Smoky Lake County, through Board conducted consultation with fellow producers, and through a 'request for feedback' advertisement on the County's social media and Grapevine.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

ASB014-23: Boychuk That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting of October 13, 2023, be adjourned, time 1:33 p.m.

Carried.

CHAIRPERSON

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Agenda Item: # 4.1

Topic: Lakeland Agricultural Research Association Partnership

Presented By: Agricultural Department

Recommendation:

Boards Recommendation to be determined based on survey results, and information collected by board members speaking to members of the public.

Background:

For the last 9 years Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board has partnered with the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) to provide unbiased environmental and extension programming to Smoky Lake County's agricultural community. Smoky Lake County has contributed \$55,000.00 of ASB operational funds to LARA annually, since 2015.

November 6, 2014 Smoky Lake County first entered into a contract with LARA.

- That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board partner with Lakeland Applied Research Association to provide environmental and extension programming for Smoky Lake County residents and increase the 2015 ASB budget by \$55,000; and the Environmental Streamline Program grant funding of \$25,000.00 remain in-house. **Motion #112-14**

Budget amount has remained the same for LARA since the initial contract.

- December 16, 2019 That Smoky Lake County not enter into a contract with the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) for the Year-2020 Extension Programming, as Smoky Lake County has provided a municipal contribution in the amount of \$55,000.00 each year from Year-2015 to Year-2019, and LARA is not willing to accept Smoky Lake County's reduced Year-2020 municipal contribution offer as per the November 6, 2019 Council Motion #1221-19 in the amount of \$25,000.00 towards the LARA program. **Motion # 294-19**

Following the December 16, 2019 meeting LARA had sent out a newsletter to producers in Smoky Lake County notifying them that Smoky Lake County would no longer be contributing to LARA.

February 24, 2020, 20 Members of the Public entered Council Chambers to attend the meeting and express their concerns about LARA no longer being funded by Smoky Lake County.

February 24, 2020

- That Smoky Lake County Council's December 16, 2019 Motion # 294-19: "That Smoky Lake County not enter into a contract with the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) for the Year-2020 Extension



Request for Decision (RFD)

Programming, as Smoky Lake County has provided a municipal contribution in the amount of \$55,000.00 each year from Year-2015 to Year-2019, and LARA is not willing to accept Smoky Lake County's reduced Year-2020 municipal contribution offer as per the November 6, 2019 Council Motion #1221-19 in the amount of \$25,000.00 towards the LARA program.", BE RESCINDED; and, approve to provide Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) funds for Year-2020 in the amount of \$55,000.00, and proceed to execute a contract with the LARA for the Year-2020 Agricultural Extension Programming. **Motion # 576-20**

Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board requested a decrease in funding

- December 14, 2021 That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Chairperson attend the next Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) board meeting in February 2022, for the purpose of requesting a 25% reduction to the Year-2022 County funding contribution in the amount of \$55,000.00 to the amount of \$41,250.00 towards LARA's extension programming services and research with emphasis on cattle production. **Motion #109-21**
- December 14, 2022 Council Meeting **Motion # 202-22** That Smoky Lake County Council **defer** consideration of executing the agreement with the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association for the 2023 year for continued extension programming at a cost of \$55,000, to the January 26, 2023 County Council Meeting.

Agricultural Fieldman was directed to reach out to LARA to inquire about different levels of funding for Smoky Lake County.

- January 26th, 2023 That Smoky Lake County Council **defer** the Operational Funding Agreement with Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), effective January 1, 2023 and expiring on December 31, 2023, with an Extension Programming funding contribution in the amount of \$55,000.00 to LARA for Year-2023 for the continuation of receiving unbiased environmental and extension programming for the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Community. **Motion #315-23**

Council wanted to see the results of the LARA Programming Survey that was conducted by LARA during this timeframe before deciding. This survey was not Smoky Lake County specific; it had been put out to the Public, so the results were not entirely relevant.

- February 14th, 2023 That Smoky Lake County execute an agreement with Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) for Year-2023 and provide funds in the amount of \$55,000.00 to LARA, for the provision of enhanced extension programming to Smoky Lake County producers to meet the County's obligations under the Resource Management Stream of the Provincial Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Grant. **Motion #381-23**



Request for Decision (RFD)

- Smoky Lake County partnered with LARA for the 2022 year with the following outcomes:
 - 44 research trials that composed 1914 research plots – 5 research trials at the Smoky Lake Plot consisting of 247 plots and 1 hemp demonstration.
 - 210 producers attended 28 extension events.
 - 6 Environmental Farm Plans
 - 18 Producers assisted with CAP grant projects.
- In 2023 LARA was amendable to provide an extension-based program for \$30,000. This extension-based program would have no trials within the County but would continue to offer mail-outs of newsletters and other information materials. They would offer at minimum one in person event within the county and continue to support producers one-on-one through phone calls, emails etc. Smoky Lake County would no longer have board representation. Council chose to fund the full amount of \$55,000 for the 2023 year.
Motion #380-23

PROPOSAL:

- Factors to consider if Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board doesn't enter into an agreement with LARA.
 - How will we provide extension to our producers? Due to our ASB Grant Agreement with the Province extension still needs to be provided.
 - LARA gives us a bale probe for producers to pick up and use for free.
 - LARA provides unbiased research and advice to producers.
 - With the loss of many Alberta Agriculture experts there are limited free resources to refer producers with questions to. The expertise provided by LARA is valuable to our residents.
 - Individual producers can pay to be LARA members for \$200.

Benefits:

Smoky Lake County will still meet our obligations under the Resource Management Stream of the ASB Provincial Grant.

Our producers will still have access to unbiased research and advice.

Disadvantages:

Alternatives:

Host events in-house.

No events

Quarterly newsletter

Host events on an as needed/ as 'hot topics' arise.

Financial Implications:



Request for Decision (RFD)

If Smoky Lake County continues to partner with LARA there are no budget implications. If Smoky Lake County decided to switch their level of service being provided to them by LARA there will be budget implications. If Smoky Lake County decides to terminate their partnership with LARA there will be budget implications.

Legislation:

Smoky Lake County has an obligation under the Resource Management Stream on the ASB Provincial Grant to provide producers with a form of extension.

Intergovernmental:

Collaborate regionally with Lac La Biche County, MD of Bonnyville and the County of St. Paul through LARA

Strategic Alignment:

Education

Enclosure(s):

LARA Survey Results

LARA Funding Options

LARA 2023 Summary

LARA 2024 Contract

Signature of the CAO: _____

Q1



Customize

Save as ▼

Do you know what Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) is?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

▼ Yes

▼ No

Total Respondents: 25

RESPONSES

96.00%

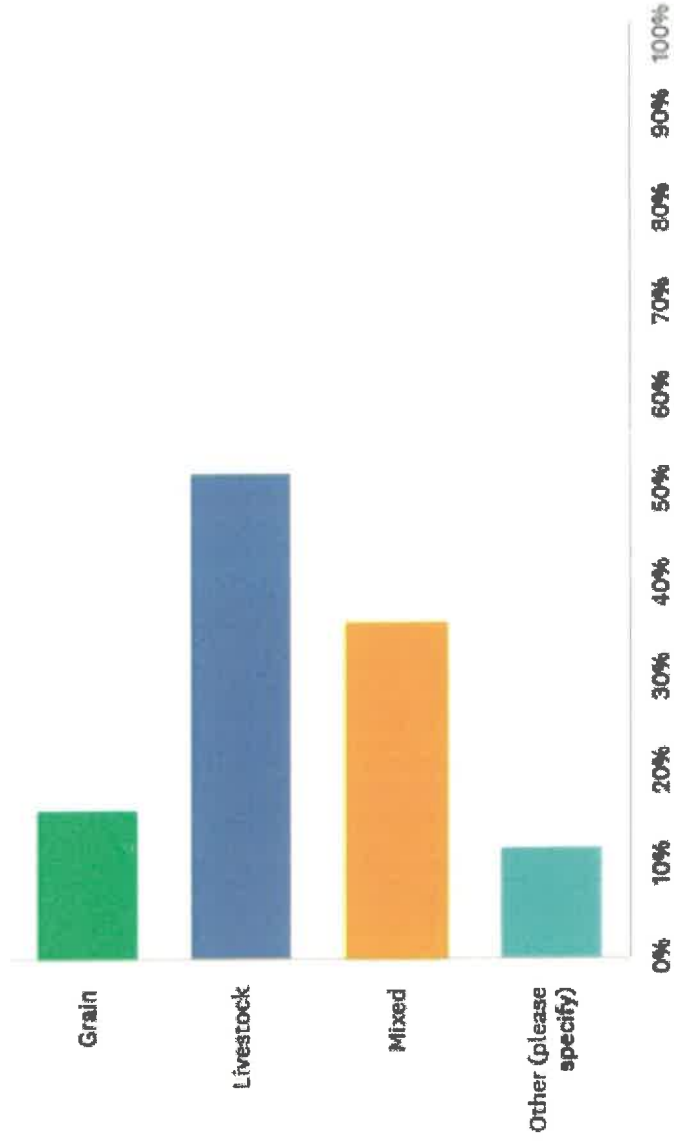
4.00%

24

1

What kind of producer are you?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Grain	16.00%4
▼ Livestock	52.00%13
▼ Mixed	36.00%9
▼ Other (please specify)	12.00%3
Total Respondents: 25	

Q3

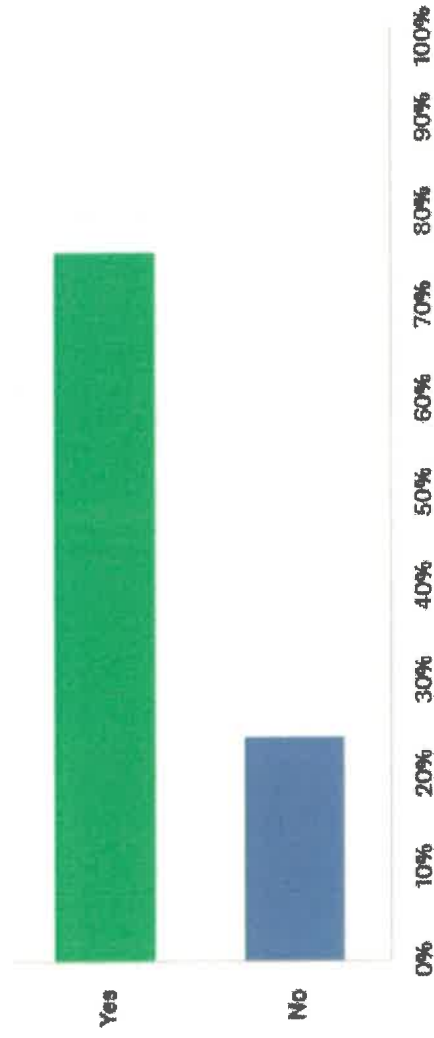


Customize

Save as ▼

Do you receive LARA's newsletter?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

▼ Yes

19

▼ No

6

Total Respondents: 25

What Services of LARA's do you use? Please list:

Attend workshops, us employees to help with government programs, got assistance with EFP

None

Have had no luck understanding the programs or getting help

None

Website, webinars, in person classes/courses

I use the meetings when they are something I am interested in

Hay testing

Sometimes feed tests, environmental farm planning

Feed testing, help with grants, information sessions

Hay analysis

Feed testing, attend quite a few if there seminars during the years. The Girls are a wealth of knowledge and are always there to help out have also received a few grants with Lara

I go to workshops and read info online. The workshops are my favourite.

Feed samples an the data they collect from crop trials to help make decisions on what varities to seed. An have taken advantage of numerous grants through Lara. Take part in meetings they hold for producers.

Adise on livestock

None

Workshops at most

1-online webinar, 2- feed testing, 3- in person questions

Online webinars and other in person sessions

Webinar

Help me complete EFP about 5 years ago

Speakers, feed testing

None

Sessions, feed testing, grants

None

What do you want to see from LARA?

Same as they have been doing, unfortunately they are short staffed and could be assisting with more programs etc.

More informational updates about currently information

Clarity

Opportunities for learning/demonstration

More seminars closer to home

More risk management tools and follow-ups with agriculture managers with grants and future planning

Some feed testing covered, the way it was before

Better service! Back to 2 two free analysis

Keep up the great work

More workshops 😊

They do a good job of having both grain and cattle related meetings and trials

They do a great job

Grain and oilseed workshops

More crop workshops..they barely have anything! Seems mostly cattle oriented

More work shops to do with regenerative farming

More workshops for livestock

Online resources

Nothing really

Continue with research & programs, and extension great information provided on our local area

More research classes

Webinars

Sign on highway



Box 7068, Bonnyville, AB T9N 2H4
Tel. (780) 826-7260 Fax. (780) 826-7099

November 29, 2023

Smoky Lake County Agricultural Services Board
4612 – McDougall Drive, PO Box 310
Smoky Lake, Alberta
T0A 3C0

RE: Funding Levels for Lakeland Agricultural Research Association

To Whom It May Concern,

Upon request from Smoky Lake County Agriculture Services Board (ASB), please see below an outline of services provided at different funding levels as approved by the LARA board of directors.

Full membership: \$55,000

- Small-plot research trial site(s) within the County
- Field-scale demonstrations and/or research trials within the County
- Field day(s) at research sites
- LARA newsletters (Verdant Element and Grow With Us) sent to all registered farm mailboxes in the County.
- Extension services, including: age verification, forage testing, on-farm calls, one-on-one consultations, assistance with granting programs such as OFCAF and SCAP/RALP and more.
- Demonstration equipment including off-site watering systems, forage probes, razer grazer available for producers to borrow.
- Access to LARA WRRP program (pending).
- Minimum of 4 in-person events (including field days) within the County.

Extension-only membership: \$30,000

- Extension services, including: age verification, forage testing, on-farm calls, one-on-one consultations, assistance with granting programs such as OFCAF and SCAP/RALP and more.
- LARA newsletters (Verdant Element and Grow With Us) sent to all registered farm mailboxes in the County.
- Demonstration equipment including off-site watering systems, forage probes, razer grazer for producers to borrow.
- Access to LARA WRRP program (pending).

- Minimum of 1 in-person event within the County.

Please note that a full membership with LARA allows partnering municipalities to have two council members (one rep and one alternate) and two active producers sit on the LARA board of directors. With an extension-only membership, Smoky Lake County would no longer be able to have LARA board representation. The County is still able to attend meetings, but will not have a voting member or have producer reps on the board.

If you require more details, we are happy to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alyssa Krawchuk".

Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director
Lakeland Agricultural Research Association

Carleigh Danyluk

Addition to 4.1

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 10:05 AM
To: Carleigh Danyluk
Subject: Fwd: LARA input

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hey Carleigh,

I was sent two emails from local producers regarding LARA feedback. I am not sure what is the best way to present this at the meeting tomorrow. I do not know if you want to just print them off and give everyone a copy or if you want me to just read them out. Let me know, thanks. The two emails are below.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [redacted]
Date: Sat, 9 Dec 2023 at 20:41
Subject: LARA input
To: [redacted]

Good day

Just a few points we would like to share with you regarding LARA .

Some of the opportunities provided through LARA have been invaluable.
We took the Holistic Management Course a few years ago and we still have valuable connections from that course.

We recently heard from Elaine Froese regarding succession which was also very helpful and informative.

We have been to several speakers facilitated through LARA. The focus on in mental health in farming is also excellent.

We would attend more of the information sessions - eg- the "funding opportunities "
However, as beef producers - having this start at 9am is simply not possible since we are feeding at that time. Please consider having these types of sessions start in the afternoon.
We would definitely attend more if the timing was reconsidered.

We appreciate how current LARA is with all their newsletters, and their advocacy for ag producers. It's an important tool to elevating the profile of agriculture.
We look forward to future events hosted by LARA.

Thanks

H

I talked to my dad and he is in support of LARA - he has gone to some
Of their plot trials over the years and used the feed testing probe .

I find their newsletter informative .

We have not accessed the assistance with Environmental Farm plans but have talked about it . The farm transition workshop we just attended was something we thought was a good opportunity and resource to have brought in locally to our region .

Overall as a farm family we think it is important to have a local resource that promotes agriculture and research in our area as farming practices continue to evolve. Hopefully we will use their resources more in the near future , like podcasts and access more in person events . I do admit sometimes I don't even know what they are offering as not using their social media platforms to track current events but now I am more aware will try to access their information pages more regularly .

Hope this helps a bit

Take care

LAKELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

MISSION

LARA conducts innovative, unbiased applied agricultural research and extension throughout the Lakeland in support of sustainable agriculture



VISION

To be a leader in applied research and extension in Alberta



FIELD RESEARCH TRIALS

LARA conducts applied field scale research trials with local producers. Past trials have included soil health benchmarking, the long-term impact of four winter grazing strategies on soil health and sod seeding

DEMONSTRATIONS

Past demonstrations have included industrial hemp varieties, cover crop blends affects on soil health, rejuvenating pastures with legumes

SMALL PLOT RESEARCH TRIALS

LARA annually conducts over 40 research trials (over 2200 plots). Past projects have included:

- Regional Variety Trials (cereals and pulses)
- Regional Silage Trials (cereals and pulses)
- Top Dressing Nitrogen in Spring Cereals (impacts on yield and protein)
- Regional Assessment of ESN on the Productivity and Grain Quality of Spring Wheat and Barley in Northeastern Alberta
- Evaluation of Varying Seed Size and Seeding Rates on Canola Productivity and Yield
- Impact of the Application of Two Liming Products on Soil pH and the Long-Term Impact on Alberta Crop Yields
- Drought Resiliency in Grain and Forage
- Ultra Early Versus Regular Winter Cereals for Forage as a Drought Management Strategy

EXTENSION SERVICES:



Age Verification, Forage Testing, On-Farm Calls, One-on-One Consultations, Annual Report, Workshops, Field Days, Webinars, Assistance with Granting Programs including OFCAF and SCAP/RALP and more...

EXTENSION PLATFORMS:

Newsletters: Grow With Us and The Verdant Element, Email list, Website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LARA's YouTube channel



EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

- 1 summer off-site watering system*
- 1 winter off-site watering system*
- 3 forage probes
- 1 Razer Grazer*



*\$500.00 refundable damage deposit required.



COMING IN 2024

LARA will be offering two free feed tests to local producers (PID number is required).



LARA WWRP Program (pending) funds project including riparian fencing, offsite watering systems and water course crossings



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Agenda Item: # 4.2

Topic: Clubroot Policy Statement 62-12

Presented By: Agricultural Department

Recommendation:

Board's Recommendation.

Background:

Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board amended Policy Statement # 62-12 Clubroot in 2019. The amendments were to include a more thorough sampling method, as well as a Clubroot Management Agreement. These changes were made to allow us to work with producers on their Clubroot issues rather than having to issue a notice.

In addition to completing our own sampling we contribute to Dr. Strelkov's research by giving them our internal information from our positive samples. We are also fortunate to have Victor Manolii a Plant Pathology Technician from the University of Alberta join us periodically to carry out clubroot samples for his research, which is in conjunction with Dr. Strelkov's. (see attachment #1). We also do Clubroot and Blackleg samples for Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation that gets sent to their research facility in Brooks to be used in their research.

This policy has not been reviewed since 2019.

Benefits:

The current method of sampling allows us to work with producers by entering into an agreement with them rather than enforcing a notice via the *Agricultural Pest Act*. The current sample size of 100 fields allows us to sample at random a wide range of locations across the County.

Disadvantages:

Alternatives:

N/A

Financial Implications:

N/A

Legislation:

Agricultural Pest Act.

Intergovernmental:

N/A

Strategic Alignment:

N/A

Enclosure(s):

Policy Statement 62-12: Clubroot

RDAR Clubroot Funding

Correspondence with Canola Council of Canada

Signature of the CAO: _____

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



Title: Clubroot		Policy No.: 12-03
Section: 62	Code: P-S	Page No.: 1 of 9 E

Legislation Reference:	Alberta Provincial Statutes
------------------------	-----------------------------

Purpose:	To recognize that Clubroot is a serious problem and Smoky Lake County supports the agricultural community to help minimize the spread of Clubroot which is a pest under the <i>Agricultural Pest Act</i> .
----------	--

Policy Statement and Guidelines:

1. DEFINITION:

- 1.1 "Clubroot" is a disease of canola, mustard and other crops in the cabbage family (*Cruciferae*), caused by a parasite of plants (*Plasmodiophora brassicae*) that lives in the soil and characterized by knobby or club-shaped swellings on the roots and premature wilting, yellowing, and stunted growth of aboveground parts.

2. BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 Clubroot can spread through spores in the soil or in cruciferous plant material containing galls such as Canola, Mustard, Flixweed, Sherperd's purse, Stinkweed. Resting spores are extremely long lived, surviving in soil for up to 20 years; and are most likely to spread via contaminated soil carried from field to field by equipment. Tillage equipment represents the greatest risk of spreading the disease as soil is frequently carried on shovels and discs from field to field.

3. OBJECTIVE:

- 3.1 To minimize the spread and build-up of Clubroot in canola fields through education and awareness.
- 3.2 To prevent economic loss by employing a Clubroot Management Agreement between agricultural producers who have confirmed Clubroot fields within Smoky Lake County.

4. STATEMENT:

- 4.1 The Agricultural Service Board, under the authority of the *Agricultural Pest Act*, will undertake the following measures to assist in the minimization of Clubroot in canola.
- 4.1.1 Perform random testing of susceptible crops and confirm suspected infestations through laboratory testing (PCR).

Title: Clubroot		Policy No.: 12-03
Section: 62	Code: P-S	Page No.: 2 of 9

E

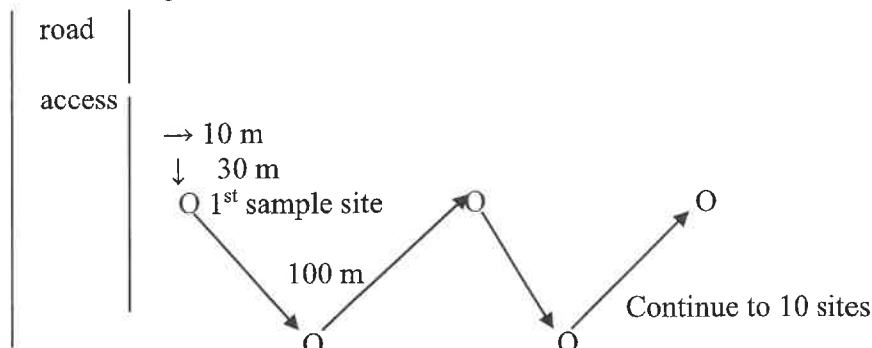
Policy Statement and Guidelines:

- 4.1.2 Advertise Public Awareness of County's random testing program.
- 4.1.3 Implement a Clubroot Management Agreement with agricultural producers based on the Canola Council of Canada Clubroot management recommendations and research.

5. SURVEY PROCEDURE:

- 5.1 Clubroot disease development is favored by wet and acidic soil conditions and is mainly spread by movement of soil and infected plant material, as well as run-off water carrying soil.
- 5.2 Symptoms: The spores infect the roots of susceptible hosts, causing the formation of club-shaped galls or swellings that restrict the uptake of water and nutrients by the plant. Above-ground symptoms include yellowing, stunting, premature, ripening and wilting of plants.
- 5.3 Equipment and Materials needed: Clipboard, record sheets, hand towel, garden shears, Ziploc bags, 5% bleach solution, Plastic tray or pail, disposable boot covers, GPS Unit.
- 5.4 Clubroot field inspections will be conducted randomly by the appointed agricultural pest inspectors.
- 5.5 Agricultural Services Department Clubroot survey methods, reporting form and calculation of disease incidence will follow standard protocols as recommended by the Alberta Clubroot Management, *as per Schedule "A": Clubroot Survey Form*. The standard survey method is as follows: Scout for Clubroot by visually inspecting canola/mustard/cole crop roots for galls. As symptoms may take 6-8 weeks to develop, they are most detectable later in the summer (late July or August). Do not drive into field or access, but park on the road whenever possible.

- 5.5.1 Put on new disposable boot covers. Survey the field in a "W" pattern, sampling 10 plants at each of 10 equally spaced sites along the arms of the W. Begin 30 m to the right of the field access. 10 m from field edge and allow 100 m between sampling points.



Title: Clubroot		Policy No.: 12-03
Section: 62	Code: P-S	Page No.: 3 of 9 <i>E</i>

Policy Statement and Guidelines:

5.5.2 At each sample site, dig up roots from 10 plants and shake off excess soil. Examine roots for presence of galls. Record sample site location and findings on Clubroot survey form. Fields where infection is found or suspected, collect 5 – 10 root specimens, by cutting off stems and placing roots in a Ziploc bag labeled with field location and date surveyed. Retain sample for submission to lab for conformation.

5.5.3 Prior to leaving potentially infested field, discard disposable boot covers into garbage bag and incinerate later. Disinfect sampling tools with bleach solution.

6. NOTIFICATION PROCESS:

6.1 When land is verified positive for Clubroot, the landowner will be **notified in writing**, *as per **Schedule "B": Notification To Landowner Of Clubroot*** if an agricultural producer is found not adhering to their Clubroot Management Agreement, a legal notice in accordance with the Province of Alberta *Agricultural Pest Act*, *as per **Schedule "C": Legal Notice To Control Pests*** may be issued. Agricultural producers will be required to complete ***Schedule "D" Clubroot Management Agreement*** and have it signed and returned within 60 days.

6.2 If a host crop is sown on land that has Clubroot and a notice has been issued on this property restricting the growth of host crops, the host crop shall be destroyed.

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	June 11, 2009	# 556-10 - Page # 8996
Amended	November 6, 2014	# 118-14 - Page #11462
Amended	February 19, 2019	# 388-19 - Page #13475



SCHEDULE "A"

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD CLUBROOT SURVEY FORM

Surveyor name: _____

Municipality: Smoky Lake CountyField location: (Legal Property): _____

Section
Quarter
Township
range
Median

Name of producer farming that field: _____

Date surveyed: _____

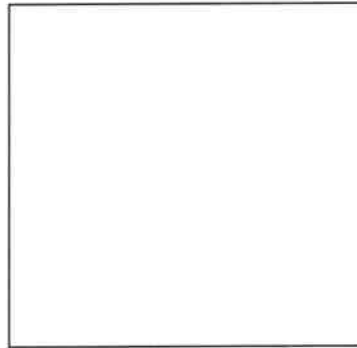
Crop Cultivar: _____

Previous crops: _____

 _____**Article 1. Survey results**

Strictly according to protocol (sample 10 plants at each of 10 sites using W pattern).

Clubroot Found

Yes ☐No ☐

of positive sites / 10: _____

Lab Test Confirmation: _____

Additional Comments: _____

 _____*Draw map of field and landmarks with sampling points*

Inspector _____

Date: _____

SCHEDULE "B"

NOTIFICATION TO LANDOWNER OF CLUBROOT

Date:

Dear Agricultural Producer,

RE: Random Clubroot Survey Results

During Smoky Lake County's annual Clubroot surveying program, we have identified Clubroot on the **Legal Land Description**. Please note Clubroot is a serious disease affecting canola, if the disease is not managed properly it will continue to spread and overtime severely decrease yield in future canola crops. Smoky Lake County holds the right to issue a Clubroot Notice restricting the growth of canola, but we much prefer to work with producers first. Attached to this letter is a Clubroot Management Plan of Alberta, along with the 20/20 seed lab report confirming the presence of Clubroot, and a Clubroot Management Agreement that **MUST** be returned to Smoky Lake County's Office within **60 days** of this letter being issued. This Clubroot Management Agreement must be reviewed and signed off by a Certified Crop Advisor and/or Agrologists. A list of these professionals in your area are attached.

Please understand we want to work with agricultural producers first and foremost, as we are here to provide support to the Agricultural Community as a whole. Please notify any renter or lease holders of this property if you are not currently farming the property yourself.

If you have any questions with any of the attached information or forms please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Fieldman

SCHEDULE "D"

Clubroot Management Agreement



This Clubroot Management Agreement is for developing a proactive management plan with the help of a Certified Crop Advisors to reduce or keep spore levels low and to minimize yield loss due to Clubroot. For each section below, please fill out all required information for all management strategies. The strategies listed as **-Required** are minimum requirements that must be included. Additional strategies can be included where ever feasible and possible. For in depth information on Clubroot management strategies, please refer to the Alberta Clubroot Management Plan or your professional advisor.

Agricultural Producer Information

Date: _____

Landowner or Lease Holder Name: _____

Certified Crop Advisor _____

Field location: (Legal Property): _____

Section	Quarter	Township	Range	Median

Field location: (Legal Property): _____

Part 1: Crop Rotation

Crop Rotation has proven to lower spore loads in the soil with a minimum of a three year rotation. Longer rotations are encouraged in fields with high disease severity.

Indicate which crop rotation interval will be followed:

- ☐ Three-year rotation (two year break) -- Required
- ☐ Four-year rotation (three year break)
- ☐ Perennial forage crop for more than two years
- ☐ Other- please indicate _____

Part 2: Variety Selection

Select all strategies that will be used:

- ☐ Only Clubroot-resistant varieties in Clubroot confirmed fields will be grown – **Required**
- ☐ Use of Clubroot-resistant varieties in all canola fields
- ☐ Rotating Clubroot varieties with multi-genetics varieties
- ☐ Seeding Canola earlier

Part 3: Weed Management

Select all weed management strategies that will be used:

- ☐ Control of volunteer crops including: Canola, Camelina, Mustard or other Clubroot susceptible hosts – **Required**
- ☐ Control of cruciferous weeds throughout all rotations – **Required**
- ☐ Rotating herbicide programs within Canola varieties ex. Liberty, Roundup, Clearfield

Part 4: Small Clubroot Patch Management

- ☐ Hand pulling and safely disposing of all Clubroot-infected plants
- ☐ Liming of soil in Clubroot-infected patches to increase pH 7.3
- ☐ Soil testing to monitor Clubroot spore levels
- ☐ Seeding known Clubroot patches last

Part 5: Reducing Soil Movement

Please indicate all the ways that soil movement will be minimized:

- ☐ Seed grass in the field entry way to reduce spore or as an area for cleaning equipment
- ☐ Create separate entrance and exits away from existing field entrances
- ☐ Remove large clumps of soil from equipment
- ☐ Wash and sanitize with bleach when possible
- ☐ Visit Clubroot infected fields last
- ☐ Require others (industry) to implement a biosecurity protocol
- ☐ Use of soil conservation practices, such as zero till or minimum tillage- **Required**
- ☐ Minimize traffic in fields, especially during wet conditions
- ☐ Discourage recreational vehicles from crossing land with signage, fencing and gates

Part 6: Disclosure of Clubroot Infestation and Biosecurity

- ☐ Notification of all occupants, renter and easement holders who have access to land-**Required**
- ☐ Notification and disclosure to contracted services and or other parties accessing the land- **Required**
- ☐ Disclosure that Clubroot is present to when the land is sold or rented to other parties

Part 7: Clubroot Scouting and Monitoring

- ☐ Continued monitoring of spore levels in soil and scouting for visible symptoms on plants in fields that have confirmed clubroot
- ☐ Continued scouting in other fields rented or owned

Part 8: Declaration

I declare that I have answered the above to the best of my ability and will adhere to the required clubroot management strategies, as a minimum, to keep Clubroot spore levels low.

Landowner/Renters Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Certified Crop Advisor: _____ **Date:** _____

Agricultural Fieldman Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please return this agreement to the Smoky Lake County office within 60 days of receiving your Clubroot notification letter. For further information regarding this matter please contact the Agricultural Services Department at (780) 656-3730.

Physical Address: 4612 McDougall Drive
Smoky Lake, AB

Mailing Address: Box 310
Smoky Lake, AB
T0A 3C0



[Home](#) / [News & Updates](#) / RDAR Announces \$833,000 Investment for Canola Clubroot Research

NEWS & UPDATES

RDAR ANNOUNCES \$833,000 INVESTMENT FOR CANOLA CLUBROOT RESEARCH

2023-08-04



Clubroot (*Plasmodiophora brassicae*) is a critical disease in canola that threatens a crop that contributed \$12.9 billion (2022) in exports to Canada's economy [AB \$4 billion]. By infecting the plant's root, clubroot disrupts water and nutrient uptake, resulting in stunted growth, reduced seed quality, and significant yield losses of up to 50%.

RDAR, the Alberta Canola Producers Commission, and the Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission (SaskCanola) awarded \$1.25 million to Dr. Stephen Strelkov, Professor of Plant Pathology at the University of Alberta, to lead an expert team in:

- Breeding resistance into new crop varieties.
- Developing new ways to control the pathogen.
- Identifying clubroot resistance genes.

As part of this comprehensive five-year project (2023 – 2028), Dr. Strelkov's team will contribute to the sustainable long-term control of clubroot and improved resistance stewardship, helping producers manage and reduce clubroot spores contaminating their fields. It is important to note that clubroot not only affects field productivity but also land value since buyers and renters perceive the clubroot-infested land to be less desirable.

"Clubroot is a constant threat to Alberta's canola growers, and we are glad to see so many organizations come together to fund this project. It will look at multiple ways to reduce its impact and stem its spread across the prairies, and I look forward to the wide-ranging benefits for the sector."

RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

"Clubroot remains a significant risk to canola production in the prairies. This research initiative has the potential to enhance the strength and lifespan of clubroot-resistant traits by presenting canola breeders with new genes and tools. The ultimate goal is to provide more comprehensive resistance options for canola varieties to protect Alberta farm income."

Clinton Dobson, RDAR Executive Director, Research

Current methods for managing clubroot include an "integrated approach" that includes crop rotation, soil supplements, and sanitizing machinery. Combining these methods and strategies with newly developed resistant canola varieties can give canola producers an added layer of protection for clubroot control.

"We are very grateful for the support for this project. This funding will make an important contribution to the sustainable long-term management of clubroot of canola."

Lead Investigator Dr. Stephen Strelkov

Learn more about this project [here](#).

Industry Quotes:

"Alberta Canola is looking forward to working with Dr. Strelkov and his team: Dr. Hwang, and Dr. Fredua-Agyeman, while partnering with RDAR and SaskCanola, to better understand the gene function of clubroot resistance. Clubroot continues to be a major threat to canola production across the prairies. This project can potentially increase the durability and longevity of clubroot resistant genetics by providing novel tools and genes – ultimately, enabling a more robust resistance package in canola varieties to farmers."

Alan Hampton, Alberta Canola Research Chair

"SaskCanola is pleased to partner with RDAR and Alberta Canola to fund this important canola research project. The results of this clubroot resistance genetics project will continue to expand our knowledge and industry adoption of novel resistance in new varieties, which is key to ensuring that growing canola continues to be a sustainable crop for Saskatchewan farmers."

Codie Nagy, SaskCanola Research Chair

About RDAR

RDAR's mandate is to target strategic investments in producer-led, results-driven agriculture research to power the competitiveness, profitability, productivity, and sustainability of Agriculture in Alberta. As a not-for-profit corporation, RDAR's funding comes from the Government of Alberta, and the Governments of Canada and Alberta through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership Program.

About Alberta Canola

The mission of Alberta Canola is to support the long-term success of canola farmers in Alberta through research, extension, consumer engagement, and advocacy.

About SaskCanola

Our vision is growing producer prosperity. Our mission is to provide value to canola producers through research, advocacy, and market development.

RDAR Media Inquiries:

Janada Hawthorne

Communications Lead

RDAR | Results Driven Agriculture Research

780-903-2734

janada.hawthorne@rdar.ca

Amanda Kihn

Subject: FW: 2020 Clubroot Survey Data Request
Attachments: ClubrootSurveyForm(1).xlsx

From
Sent: November 6, 2023 3:18 PM
Tc
Subject: Re: 2023 Clubroot Survey Data Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Amanda,

I hope all is well with you.



Two things:

First: how many NEW positive clubroot infested fields were found in your municipality in 2023?

The second request comes from one of our postdoctoral fellows (Dr. Yoann Aigu), who is working on a project that aims to predict the spreading of clubroot. In order to complete his work, he needs data from counties/MDs.

Please see Yoann's message to you along with the Excel File attached below. We understand that it will take some time to fill out the requested spreadsheets, but we would appreciate your help. If he is successful, this could be beneficial for all of us.

Thank you so much in advance for your help and assistance. Also, please respond to these 2 requests separately.

Sincerely,
Victor

PS: Yoann's message:

"To facilitate the compilation of the data generated by the clubroot survey that you perform every year, we decided to standardize the data recording. We included a form that you can fill following the instruction included into the readme sheet.

All the specific location of the clubroot infested field will remain private. None of the maps that we are generated using these data allows to specifically identify the infested fields.

In addition to the clubroot spread maps, we are also working on a mathematical model to predict the areas where the clubroot is susceptible to spread next year. To quantify the robustness of this model, we need more detail about your previous clubroot surveys, including the number of fields surveyed per year (Field survey sheet). We know that clubroot survey is time consuming and because of that it is impossible to survey all the canola fields. However, all the information that you can share with us will greatly improve our capacity to predict the future of that spread."

Carleigh Danyluk

From: Carleigh Danyluk
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 11:19 AM
To: Carleigh Danyluk
Subject: RE: Clubroot Management Recommendations

From: Carleigh Danyluk
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 11:14 AM
To: Carleigh Danyluk <cdanyluk@smokylakecounty.ab.ca>
Subject: Re: Clubroot Management Recommendations

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Carleigh,

I don't see any changes needed to your document. I've attached a slide with our current CCC messaging on clubroot if you ever wanted to reference it. It's also available on www.clubroot.ca

Please feel free to reach out anytime with any clubroot questions I can help with.

Thanks!

Marissa

From: Carleigh Danyluk <cdanyluk@smokylakecounty.ab.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 8:21 AM
To:
Subject: RE: Clubroot Management Recommendations

Morning Marissa,

Nice to meet you as well! Thank you so much I really appreciate it.

I have attached a copy for you to have a look at. 😊

Talk soon,



Carleigh Danyluk
Agricultural Fieldman
p:780-656-3730 or toll free 1-888-656-3730
c:780-650-5409
4612 - McDougall Drive, PO Box 310
Smoky Lake, Alberta, T0A 3C0

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Studies show that trees live longer when they are not cut down. Please do not print this email unless you really need to.

From:

Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 8:14 AM

To: Carleigh Danyluk <cdanyluk@smokylakecounty.ab.ca>

Subject: Re: Clubroot Management Recommendations

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Carleigh,

Nice to meet you! As Jason mentioned, I am the clubroot lead on our team. I'd be happy to review your agreement if you'd like.

Thanks!

Marissa

From: Carleigh Danyluk <cdanyluk@smokylakecounty.ab.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 5:33 PM

To:

Cc:

Subject: Re: Clubroot Management Recommendations

Thanks Jason, I appreciate it.

Carleigh

On Nov. 28, 2023 4:28 p.m.,

> wrote:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Carleigh

thanks for reaching out I will copy my colleague Marissa Robitaille-Balog on this email, she is the Clubroot lead on our team and would be the best one to help out with this question



If you no longer want to receive emails, please let me know and I will remove you from my contacts list.

Subject: Clubroot Management Recommendations

Good afternoon, Jason,

I hope it's ok that I reach out to you on this inquiry. I am currently working on our internal Clubroot policy and its been 5 years since we have looked at this policy. We initially created our Clubroot Management Agreement based on the Canola Councils recommendations at the time (2019). I was just wondering if you, or a member of your team are able to have a look at our agreement and give any recommendations based on current research you may have. If you are unable to assist me with this, if you could please point me in the right direction to who I could speak with that would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,



4612 - McDougall Drive, PO Box 310
Smoky Lake, Alberta, T0A 3C0

Located on Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis Nation

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Studies show that trees live longer when they are not cut down. Please do not print this email unless you really need to.

CCC Clubroot Key Messaging

- Keep it **LOW**
 - Scout frequently - diligent scouting and plant pulling to catch early infestation especially in high traffic or moisture prone areas
 - Crop rotation - maintain a minimum two-year break between canola crops (1 in 3 -year rotation)
 - Grow CR - grow CR varieties on every acre as part of an IPM strategy
 - Control weeds - control host brassicae weeds to minimize gall formation and spore release
- Keep it **LOCAL**
 - Reduce tillage - to reduce spread of soil and pathogen within and between fields
 - Biosecurity- prevent introduction and spread of spores by using proper sanitation practices
 - Utilize patch management in small areas with clubroot symptoms
- **PATCH MANAGEMENT**
 - Stake out infested areas to avoid traffic/disturbance of soil through patched area.
 - Control host weeds within patch
 - Apply lime until soil reaches pH of 7.2
 - Seed grass to minimize soil movement. Can break up grass and crop area again once spore loads have lowered based on annual soil testing. Length of time dependent on level of infestation.



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Agenda Item: # 4.3

Topic: Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2024

Presented By: Agricultural Department

Recommendation:

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommend that Smoky Lake County Council amend *Policy Statement 62-10-07 Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2024* to include changes made to *Policy Statement 62-28-06 Mowing Program* and the fulltime Animal Control Technician position.

Background:

Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board established the Agricultural Service Board Business Plan in 2010 to track duties carried out as part of the agreement with Alberta Agriculture to ensure compliance with all the duties related to the *Weed Control Act*, *Soil Conservation Act*, *Agricultural Pest Act* and *Agricultural Service Board Act*.

Smoky Lake Agricultural Service Board has used the Business Plan as a way of tracking changes and improvements to the ASB Program and ensuring compliance with duties laid out by Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Irrigation.

Benefits:

Provides ASB Staff with guidance and ensures compliance.

Disadvantages:

N/A

Alternatives:

N/A

Financial Implications:

N/A

Legislation:

Smoky Lake County has an obligation to carry out duties related to the *Weed Control Act*, *Soil Conservation Act*, *Agricultural Pest Act* and *Agricultural Service Board Act*. This Business Plan is a way of tracking those responsibilities in one location, and keeping us up to date as things change over the years.

Intergovernmental:

N/A

Strategic Alignment:

N/A

Enclosure(s):

ASB Business Plan Policy Statement 62-10-08

Signature of the CAO: _____



Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2024

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**Business
Plan****Executive Summary**

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board is in the business of providing its agricultural producers with agricultural programming to enhance the environment, farm income and quality of life. This is achieved through Vegetation Management, Agricultural Extension, Problem Wildlife, Pest Control, programming and monitoring as well as, government lobbying. The Agricultural Service Board is also responsible for enforcement of Provincial Legislation such as the *Weed Control Act*, *Agricultural Pest Act*, *Agricultural Service Board Act*, *Soil Conservation Act*, and the *Animal Health Act*.

VISION STATEMENT:

To encourage sustainable agriculture, environmental integrity and improved quality of life in Smoky Lake County.

MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide services, policies and education for Agricultural families, businesses and the public to enhance the environment, farm income and quality of life.

VALUES:

Integrity: The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board will conduct business in an ethical manner respecting the environment, public and applicable legislation.

Commitment to Service: The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board will strive to provide the best service possible to its ratepayers conducting operations in an efficient and cost effective manner.




Progressive: The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board will take a proactive and innovative approach in its programming examining new technologies and protocol while accepting and implementing relevant public input.



1.



Vegetation Management Program

Goal: To implement an integrated vegetation management program on municipal right-of-ways for the purpose of reducing noxious weeds and ensuring sightlines are clear for the motoring public.

Strategies	Action	Measures
Identify problem noxious weeds within the municipal right of way	-Key emphasis will be on Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weed species analyzing both environmental and economic threats.	-All roads inspected for noxious weeds at least once during the growing season.
Roadside Spraying 	-1/2 of all county roads will be sprayed receive a herbicide application following the rotation guidelines set out in <i>Policy Statement 62-15 "Vegetation Management Plan"</i> and <i>Policy Statement 62-23 "Tansy Reduction Program"</i> . Brush Spraying will be completed during the regular roadside spraying rotation in coordination with Public Works brushing program.	-Number of miles that receive a herbicide application. -Amount of herbicide applied for brush control.
Spot Spraying 	-Spot spraying will be completed in the other two zone in which regular roadside spraying is being completed. Noxious weeds and brush will be targeted. -Custom spraying of private lands will occur if time and budget allows and priority is put on landowners struggling to control prohibited noxious weeds.	-Number of locations spot sprayed. -Amount of herbicide applied during spot spraying. -Number of landowners who receive help eliminating their Prohibited noxious weeds by the ASB Department.
Roadside Mowing 	-Roadside mowing will be conducted as stated in <i>Policy Statement 62M-02 "Mowing Program"</i> . Roadsides will first receive a single shoulder pass. A second seasonal pass will be completed to the property line, where possible, ensuing passes are only done if deemed efficient to eliminate extra freewheeling and passes are 5 feet or more. -Lake roads leading to resorts, Victoria Trail and Township Road 610 will be mowed before the July and August long weekends.	-1 'shoulder' pass and a second seasonal pass of roadside mowing to the property line for weed and brush control is to be completed by November 1st of each year. -Miles of road mowed. -Iron Horse Trail mowed once a year. -Amount of additional mowing completed for community events. -Amount of additional mowing completed on other municipal properties.





2. Weed Control Act Duties

Goal: To control the spread and prevent the establishment of invasive species on privately owned land through responsible communication with landowners, occupants, industry stakeholders and members of the general public as set out in the Weed Control Act of Alberta.

Strategies	Action	Measures
Weed Inspection Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Weed Inspection are conducted on private land during the growing season annually. -Letters are sent to landowners who are in non-compliance with the Weed Control Act of Alberta, as specified in <i>Policy Statement 62-14 "Weed Inspection and Weed Notice"</i>. -Weed Notices are issued to landowners who do not comply with recommendation letters. -Enforcement actions are completed by the Agricultural Services Department for landowners who are non-compliant with a weed notice that has been issued. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of inspections completed. -Number of letters sent to landowners/renters. -Number of weed notices issued. -Number of Weed enforcements completed.
Noxious Weed Education and Awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Provide weed identification for landowners on farm or samples brought in for identification. -Promote weed awareness at our annual Smoky Lake County Farmer Appreciation Event. -Produce and circulate information on invasive species through our website, local newspapers and social media. -Weed Wanted posters hung annually at the Town, Villages & Hamlets including all the water stations and lake lot bulletin boards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of landowners assisted annually. -Number of events hosted. -Number of articles circulated. -Number of brochures and weed wanted posters-given out/posted.




3. Environmental Stewardship and Extension

Goal: To provide Environmental Farm Plans to producers and work in partnership with Lakeland Agricultural Research Association to deliver collaborative environmental stewardship initiatives and unbiased research that results in sustainable growth of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Community.

Strategies	Action	Measures
Environmental Farm Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Assist local producers with completion of Environmental Farm Plans. -Provide air photographs for fields and farmyards and soils information. Provide water well information from the Alberta Water Wells Database. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of Environmental Farm plans assisted with. -Increased adoption of beneficial management practices by producers.
Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Assist local producers with information about new agricultural programs and grants. -Stay current with program updates and changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of producers assisted.
Lakeland Agricultural Research Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ensure Smoky Lake County received programs as promised by LARA. -Ensure crop plot trials are complete in Smoky Lake County. -LARA to give updates throughout the year by attending ASB meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of events hosted by LARA in our County. -Field Day hosted for local producers at the Smoky Lake County Plots. -Number of unbiased research plots within Smoky Lake County. -How many updates were received. -Attendance of Smoky Lake County Farmers & Ranchers Appreciation Event.
Classroom Agriculture Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Deliver the Classroom Agriculture Program to Grade 4 students at schools that register for the program within Smoky Lake County. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of Classroom Agriculture Program presentations delivered.






4. Problem Wildlife Program

Goal: To co-operate and execute an Integrated Problem Wildlife Management Program.

Strategies	Action	Measures
Beavers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Beaver Tail Bounty for \$15.00 per tail from pre-approved locations as specified in <i>Policy Statement 62-07 "Beaver Management"</i>. -Beaver Dam Removal may occur to mitigate flooding which causes damage to municipal infrastructure. Dam removal will be conducted as per Policy Statement 62-21 "Beaver Control- Fee for Removal with Explosives". -Obtain required easements from landowners and all provincial and federal permissions needed. -Maintain Certified Blasters License with the Province of Alberta. -Trapping and removing problem beavers and muskrats. -Install/ maintain pond levelers and other Flow Devices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of Beaver tails brought in. -Number of dams removed affecting municipal infrastructure. -Amount of revenue generated completing private land blasting. -Damage Control Licenses issued by Alberta Environment. -Trapping of County owned property at Lakes. -Renew every 5 years as required. -Number of beavers and muskrats removed. -Number of pond levelers installed/maintained. -Number of flooded roads.
Coyotes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Maintain Form 7 License to ensure Smoky Lake County can provide 1080 toxicant to agricultural producers as per <i>Policy Statement 62-03 "Coyote Control"</i>. - Coyote control booklets available for agricultural producers to help better manage coyote predation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of tablets given out annually.
Richardson Ground Squirrel (Gopher) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -2% Liquid Strychnine registration has been cancelled. -Recommend alternatives to producers. -Recommend local trappers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of producers assisted.

4.







Problem Wildlife Continued

Strategies	Action	Measures
Wild Boar 	<p>-Participate annually in the Wild Boar Ear Bounty with Alberta Agriculture (if eligible).</p> <p>-Promote the Alberta Invasive Species Council "Squeal on Pigs" Campaign for awareness and reporting wild boar sightings.</p>	<p>-Number of wild boar ears brought in.</p> <p>-Posts on County Website and Social Media shares.</p>
Waterfowl Damage Control 	<p>-Scare Cannons are available for rent as per <i>Policy Statement 62-26 "Scare Cannon Rental"</i>.</p> <p>-Suggest alternative control measures to mitigate crop damage cause by waterfowl during fall migration.</p>	<p>-Number of rentals that occur.</p> <p>-number of producers that engage in alternative control measure.</p>
Alternative Control Methods 	<p>-Agricultural Fieldmen will continue to look into alternative control methods for all pest species.</p> <p>-Promote and notify producers of alternative control measures when they come in.</p>	<p>-Attend In Service Training to hear from other Ag Fieldman from across the province.</p> <p>-Attend demonstrations with government research groups.</p>
Northern Pocket Gopher (Mole) 	<p>-Mole tail bounty for \$1.00 per tail can be brought in as per <i>Policy Statement 62-02 "Bounty for Pocket Gopher Tails"</i>.</p>	<p>-Number of mole tails brought in for bounty.</p>
Stray Dog Pickup 	<p>-Respond to ratepayer reports of loose dogs within Smoky Lake County.</p>	<p>-Number of stray dogs picked up and transported to an approved animal shelter; or if possible, reunite them with owners.</p>

5. Agricultural Pest Act Duties

Goal: To provide Smoky Lake County agricultural producers with responsible pest management strategies, pest monitoring and enforcement of declared agricultural pests as deemed by the Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta.

Crop Surveying

Strategies	Action	Measures
Swede Midge of Canola 	-Swede Midge is monitored on behalf of Agri-food Canada. It is an 8-week program where sticky pads are changed weekly.	-Continue to monitor for new and invading pest that threaten our agriculture industry.
Grasshoppers 	-Townships are surveyed annually and data is sent to Alberta Agriculture for forecasting. The county ditch and field are sampled at each location.	-Number of fields surveyed. -Number of outbreaks that occur.
Bertha Army Worms 	- 3 Fields across the county are monitored starting in June until August. The traps are set out in the fields to collect the moths that lay the eggs.	-Number of moths counted annually. -Number of outbreaks that are forecasted.
Wheat Midge 	- Wheat Midge in high numbers can cause yield loss, wheat crops are monitored around the end of June as wheat heads are emerging up until anthesis (Flowering).	-Samples collected annually and sent to Alberta Agriculture when required.
Blackleg of Canola 	- Canola fields are sampled annually for Blackleg severity. Samples are provided to the Crop Diversification Centre for research purposes. Blackleg can cause significant yield loss and harm international exporting.	-Number of fields sampled annually.
Clubroot 	- Random canola fields are surveyed after the crop has been swathed. We look for visual symptoms and if we find galls the plant sample is sent to the lab for DNA confirmation.	-Number of Canola fields sampled annually. -Number of Clubroot Management Agreements sent to producers annually as per <i>Policy Statement 62-12 "Clubroot"</i> . -Number of Pest Notices given annually.

6. Soil Conservation Act Duties

Goal: Protect the quality and integrity of agricultural soils in Smoky Lake County.

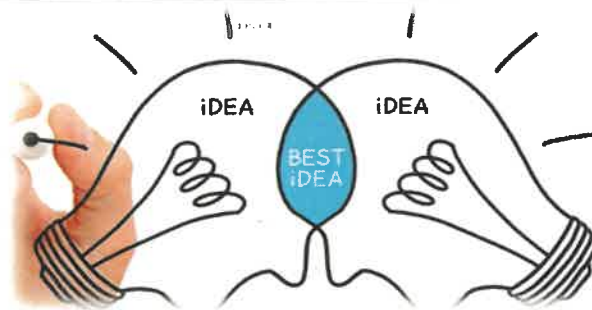
Strategies	Action	Measures
Soil Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Agricultural Fieldman are deemed as inspectors and can issue notices under this Act. -Document and photograph any non-compliance with the Soil Conservation Act. -Promote soil health workshops and site demonstrations. -Monitor soil conditions and respond to an area of concern that needs to be assessed following an event that could impact soil/water sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Number of Soil Conservation Notice issued. -Number of Soil Conservation Letters issued. -Number of workshops. -Number of areas assessed for soil condition concerns.



7. Intergovernmental Collaboration

Goal: Conduct intergovernmental collaboration with all levels of governments.

Strategies	Action	Measures
Collaborate with multiple levels and forms of government	-Agricultural Service Board to participate in drafting and passing resolutions at Regional and Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conferences annually.	-Attend annual conferences and participate by discussion and voting on various agricultural issues.
Protect the interests of Smoky Lake County Agricultural Community	-Every effort will be made to convey agricultural concerns from the agricultural community to relevant government agencies via face-to-face interactions, letter writing or any other available means.	-Number of letters sent to MLA's, PM's or other government members.
Animal Health Act	Liaison with the Chief Provincial Veterinarian, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and local Veterinarians, when necessary, on any livestock emergencies. Livestock emergencies include cattle liner accidents on the highway. If a positive case or outbreak as stated in the <i>Animal Health Act</i> is confirmed within Smoky Lake County boundaries, ASB staff will act in accordance with the directives of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian (CPV). Work with our Fire Protective Service Department in case of livestock emergency on the highways. These duties would include helping them source rendering truck, trailers or calling a local vet.	-Number of investigations asked to assist on. -Number of highway livestock emergencies assisted with.



Dan Gawalko ASB Chair report

December 2023

October 4 attended the ASB regional resolution review committee held virtually with our Ag Fieldman Carleigh, reviewed 3 resolutions, agriculture in the classroom, Alberta transportation vegetation management, bee package imports and control of Varroa mites, these will be brought forward to the NE regional conference on October 20th in Smoky Lake county

October 13 attended the ASB meeting with Jared Serben and 3 new producer reps and 2 alternates from the county, we did an orientation on the ASB bylaws and policy, Doug Macaulay ASB program manager gave the board a very good orientation and presentation on ASB boards in Alberta, discussed the report card on the resolutions 2023 from Linda Hunt executive assistant of ASB provincial committee, Alyssa Krawchuk gave an update on LARA and how they are moving forward in 2024 with new staff coming onboard in January and also the upcoming extension events, next ASB meeting December 12, 9:00 am.

October 16 attended the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association LARA meeting, the small plot sprayer has arrived total price was 31,800 with shipping, Alyssa is the new agriculture director on the LICA board, will be selling the old 2006 Chev truck and will start looking to purchase a better cond. used truck, no FarmRITE report at this time, executive director report was given by Alyssa, finished combining faba beans on oct 10, majority of the RVT trials had a passing mark, met with Lakeland college to start collaborating on some projects will meet again in January, met with MLA Scott Cyr he would like to have the Ag Minister and other MLA's come out to see what LARA is doing and raise awareness of agriculture in NE Alberta, had a meeting with living labs and attended several ASB meetings in the region, Dustin is now

certified to do EVP's, LFA report heifers came out of the pasture Oct 1, dugouts are full, working with Lakeland college on increasing utilization on brush pastures and GPS ear tags, starting January 2024 2 free feed tests for member producers till the feed test budget runs out of funds, went over the clubroot policy, March 6 will be the AGM in Glendon or Goodridge, other upcoming events November 13-14 drone training clinic, November 16 working well webinar, November 28 strategic weed management seminar, November 30 young farmers appreciation night, December 1 Finding fairness in farm transitions with Elaine Froese, next meeting November 20 @ 10:00 am.

October 20 attended and chaired the 2023 Northeast Regional Agricultural service board conference at Metis Crossing with all of the new ASB board in attendance Jared Serben councillor, producer reps Curtis Boychuk, Tamara Flondra, and Tori Ponich, along with our Ag fieldman Carleigh and Assistant fieldman Amanda, Reeve Lorne Halisky councillor Dominique Cere, our interim CAO Lydia Cielin and our legislative clerk Patti Priest who was also our recording secretary, I welcomed MLA's Scott Cyr from Bonnyville – Cold Lake and Garth Rowswell from Vermilion- Lloydminster- Wainwright, Doug Macaulay Director of crop assurance program section gave a program update followed by Momna Farzand a cropping agrologist who talked about LARA and the research and extension programs they do in NE Alberta, Maureen Vadias-Sloan from AFCS gave an update on insurance programs available to producers in Alberta, Don Christenson gave a very interesting presentation on diversifying your agriculture operation, Cole Ambrock talked about effectiveness of agritourism and raising awareness of primary ag production for millennial urbanites and Linda Hunt talked about AgKnow Alberta farm mental health network and the programs they offer to producers, we did a resolution session and

concluded with the MD. Of Provost inviting us to attend the 2024 NE Regional ASB Conference in their municipality next year.

November 6 wrote a letter of support for the AgriRecovery program as producers in Smoky Lake county were not eligible for the program sent to the Minister of Agriculture RJ Sigurdson and AFCS office in St.Paul.

November 20 attended the LARA meeting in Ashmont talked about replacing the truck options on leasing or buying were discussed, in 2024 LARA will be giving 2 free feed tests for producers per provided PID number, we will be purchasing another feed sample probe no chair or Farmrite reports at this time, Momna gave a cropping report and Alyssa presented the finances and the proposed 2024 budget she also gave the executive director report she attended the LICA Oct 19 board meeting, the living labs organizing workshop, working on policies and Canada summer job applications, she will be purchasing some new computers for the office staff also discussed some ideas for next years events and presented a letter from RDAR about funding for fiscal year 2023-2024 for 330,000 dollars for each research association in Alberta, reviewed all appointments from each municipality organizational meetings, upcoming events November 28 strategic weed webinar, November 30 young farmers social, December 1 Finding fairness in farm transitions with Elaine0 Froese March 6 2024 LARA AGM @ Goodridge hall and a farmer appreciation event in Glendon in early 2024next meeting is on December 18 at noon in Ashmont.

Cropping Program Report (August-September)

First off, I want to thank each staff member (Alyssa, Vic, Charlene, and Dustin) for their help and support since I joined LARA. It's been a pleasure working with a dedicated and hardworking team.

The last couple of weeks were quite busy for us since our summer students left at the end of August and Alyssa and I had to do most of the harvesting by ourselves. The summer staff has always been a huge help to LARA. However, I am excited to share that we have completed harvesting at all sites. We are thankful to Dustin for spraying crop desiccants before harvesting.

As per instructions, our regional variety trials (RVT) silage oats, barley, wheat, and triticale in St. Paul were harvested in August. We have submitted harvested data to RVT coordinator 'Sheri Strydhorst' and sent quality Lac La Biche was harvested in the beginning of September. We have recorded all yield parameters and shipped quality samples to the A & L lab for analysis. Once we receive finalized data from RVT coordinator and quality labs, we will share the results in our annual report. Following silage harvesting, RVT pea, oats, wheat and faba beans were harvested for grains in St. Paul, Fort Kent, and Smoky Lake. Each trial was harvested when the respective crop reached the desired moisture level. Fortunately, data from all trials was highly reliable except one (LARA grain trial) in Smoky Lake that experienced severe lodging issue. Upon final inspection of data by the RVT inspector, we will find out if all trials pass to receive full payment.

Moreover, we have submitted a proposal entitled 'Performance evaluation of two-row and six-row forage barley mixtures' to Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) for a research grant. I am anxiously waiting for this grant to be approved. Currently, there is a funding call through RDAR under Accelerating Agricultural Innovations (AAI) 2.0 program. I am writing a research proposal entitled 'Intercropping Pea and Canola at different rates of Nitrogen Fertilizers' to apply for funding under this program. I will ask other applied research organizations (BRRG and GRO) to participate in this study. If I get a positive response, the proposed study will be replicated in Forestburg, Westlock and Fort Kent. We are also planning an experiment to evaluate the effect of a few commercially available biostimulants (ACF-SR and Eco Tea) on wheat, canola, and pea next year. I am grateful to our board member 'Nick Kunec' for providing me with valuable information on biostimulants. Furthermore, we seeded RVT winter wheat trial in Fort Kent last week. Hopefully, we will see an expansion in our program next year.

Lastly, I want to thank each board member for their continuous support to LARA. It is because of your contributions LARA has successful trials every year.

I am looking forward to meeting board members at future events.

Momna Farzand

Cropping Agrologist

October 12, 2023

Cropping Program Report (October-November)

First off, I want to thank each staff member (Alyssa, Vic, Charlene, and Dustin) for their help and support since I joined LARA. It's sad to know that Vic is now officially retired from LARA, but I truly appreciate his contributions during the past 20 years.

The last couple of weeks were quite slow for me in terms of outdoor work. However, I kept myself busy in the office with some writing. On October 20, 2023, I attended Northeast Regional ASB conference as a speaker on behalf of Alyssa in Smoky Lake County. I am thankful to Alyssa because she thought to include me in a professional network. Furthermore, I attended "The Agri-Food Innovation Council (AIC) National Meeting" in Gatineau, Quebec on Nov 07-08, 2023. It was a great opportunity to learn about new technologies and funding programs available to support adoption in agri-food sectors across Canada. I am highly grateful to LARA for providing me with this professional development opportunity to keep my skills and knowledge up to date. Currently, I am analyzing data to create fact sheets from a few 3-year research trials conducted by LARA staff in the past (funded through the Canadian Agriculture Partnership). I will present my findings to local producers at the LARA annual meeting and related producer meetings/workshops.

I am also excited to share that LARA will be hosting a few interesting events; Working Well Workshop, Strategic Weed Management, Young Farmers Social, and Finding Fairness in Farm Transition on Nov 16, Nov 28, Nov 30, and Dec 01, 2023, respectively. I would not be wrong in saying that all credit goes to Alyssa for organizing these wonderful events. I highly encourage participation of all board members in these events.

Lastly, I want to thank each board member for their continuous support to LARA. It is because of your contributions LARA has successful trials and events every year.

I wish LARA continued success and look forward to meeting board members at upcoming events.

Momna Farzand

Cropping Agrologist

Nov 15, 2023

Alberta Applied Research Associations
Alberta Forage Associations

November 15, 2023

Dear Chairs, Presidents, Directors, and Managers,

We appreciate the positive feedback on the \$4M Base Funding and the benefits of the higher level of support of \$330,000 granted to each Association for fiscal 2023 - 2024.

We are pleased to advise you that subject to RDAR Management's review of annual reports and audited financial statements, RDAR will continue to provide annual support at the current contracted levels. The provision of this assurance should allow you to plan producer-led activities for the new year.

For clarity, we have attached the terms and conditions of the grant, which established eligible expenses for the use of funds, and a template for the required reports.

These funds are to be used for operational and research activities in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Base Funding Agreements and the master funding agreements between RDAR and the Province of Alberta and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Several Associations asked if a modest carry-forward of unspent funds could be permitted; RDAR's Management proposed a total carry-forward of \$45,000 base funding be allowed.

These funds must not be used for major capital equipment purchases (>\$30,000) or contingency or carried forward on a cumulative basis.

Kindest regards,



David Chalack, DVM, ICD.D
Board Chair, RDAR



Mark Redmond, Ph.D., ICD.D
CEO, RDAR

cc. RDAR Board
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
DM Agriculture and Irrigation
ADM Agriculture and Irrigation

Specific Examples of Ineligible Expenses

Expenses that are not eligible for reimbursement by RDAR include:

- a) Goods and Services Tax (GST), Provincial Sales Tax (PST), Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), or other similar taxes, excepting only unrecoverable portions of the taxes for which the Association is not otherwise reimbursed;
- b) costs incurred outside of the contracted term of the Association Base Funding Agreement;
- c) expenses for hosting, food, or alcohol and non-alcoholic beverages;
- d) expenses for commercial marketing materials;
- e) expenses for commercial product production;
- f) costs associated with complying with assurance programs;
- g) costs of website hosting / domain registration;
- h) equipment and capital expenses greater than \$30,000;
- i) any equipment and capital equipment not directly required for the delivery of research or research extension tasks described in the current board-approved business plan;
- j) costs for the purchase of office furniture and space;
- k) new facility construction costs or mortgage funding for physical infrastructure;
- l) cost of building fixtures – equipment attached to the building, such as sinks, walls, doors and office decorations;
- m) land purchase costs;
- n) donations to anyone, including individuals, non-profit corporations, municipal governments, or any government agency;
- o) interest, fines, penalties, overdue payment charges; and
- p) any other expense deemed by RDAR to be an ineligible expense.

Reporting Outline and Categories

1. Grant #:

2. Organization:

3. Financial Statements *To be submitted as a pdf attachment:*

Submit (i) the most recent audited financial statements with notes; and
(ii) the most recent (YTD) unaudited year-to-date Statement of Operations and Statement of Financial Position outlining the current commitments, expenditures, interest earned (if any) and remaining Base Funding balance.

4. Detailed Annual Report of Base Funding Expenses and Delivery of the Business Plan Outcomes:

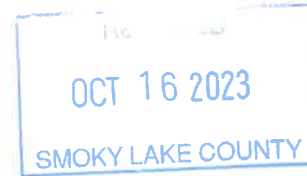
The Annual Report comprises the charted and detailed description of the outcomes of the approved business plan activities related to adaptive research or research extension.

RDAR will supply a Microsoft Excel template for data submission.

	Name of Activity	Date	Location	Objective Outcome	Evaluated Outcome
1.					

October 6th, 2023

Rajan Sawhney
Minister of Advanced Education
107 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton AB, T5K 2B6



Honourable Minister Sawhney,

RE: Support for University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Programs

The University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) provides a critical educational program to Albertans. As a rancher myself, I am appreciative of having quality veterinary medicine training in Alberta as I rely on veterinarians to provide me critical supports in maintaining the health and welfare of my herd. But veterinary medicine provides societal and economic benefits well beyond being a critical service to livestock producers like me. The majority of veterinarians in the province provide services to the general public and their companion animals which supports a fundamental human-animal bond important to many individuals and families. Companion animal ownership also meets many people's recreational needs and interests and contributes to active and lifestyles; those are big wins for our public health system that veterinary care supports. Veterinarians also serve society by working in research and industry to support activities like biosecurity, laboratory testing, and pharmaceutical research. Veterinarians are critically important in public health to monitor and respond to zoonotic disease outbreaks and monitor for zoonotic diseases of concern to human health. Veterinarians work in our food inspection and trade regulatory institutions to ensure food safety and maintenance of our trading opportunities. Beyond the direct work they do, the presence of these professionals, and the many support personnel they employ in their practices, are a valuable contributor to the economic and societal well-being of the many urban and rural communities these professionals are distributed across.

The current and projected shortage of veterinarians in the province is concerning given the range of services and benefits listed. The acuity of this shortage is particularly hard on rural communities. We feel this in Big Lakes County as we are an under-served community for veterinary care, particularly to our livestock industry with only one veterinary practice located in the bounds of our municipality who provides mixed practice (i.e., both companion animals and livestock). This practice primarily serves companion animals which requires many livestock producers to seek services from other municipalities up to two hours away. We are hurting for service.

As such, we applaud the current expansion at UCVM to double the seats in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program. This was much needed and overdue, and we continue to support further expansions of seats in the program to meet the critical current and projected shortage of veterinarians in Alberta. I realize encouraging even more Provincial financial support on the heels of a big increase is a big ask, but it's necessary. And, even with expanded seats, a lag time exists to



September 8th, 2023

Page 2

fill the current shortage. Attraction and retention of quality internationally trained veterinarians can help address this lag and UCVM is well positioned to support integrating newly arriving veterinarians as they face several challenges in integrating into practice in Alberta. Transferring international credentials and passing necessary Canadian certification examinations is a substantive task that can pose a hurdle for immigrating veterinarians to have to navigate. Additionally, depending on the region of the globe that an international vet is emigrating from, a difference in practice, practice environment, climate, language, and socio-cultural dynamics can exist. Having just served as Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism, I am sure you have given thought to such challenges already. A stream-lined bridging program to assist internationally trained vets to either fast-track their examination schedule or to surrogate a supervised practicum year—like that already required of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Students at UCVM—as an alternative to the international examination schedule would be very helpful. Additionally, a bridging program could assist with professional English-language credentialling and could provide immigrating veterinarians with exposure and insight into the nuances of practicing veterinary medicine in Alberta, and in rural Alberta specifically. That would be a massive benefit to better integrate newly immigrated vets into practice and life here.

UCVM is well set-up to provide this type of bridging program and we are aware that they are looking at this option in coordination with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association. We would like to express our support and appreciation for the relevance and benefit such a program would be to a rural municipality like ours and like so many others throughout the province. Your interest and support in such a program would be well appreciated. Part of a complement to a bridging program is having supports in place to ensure learning opportunities for both immigrating vets and UCVM students can be had in all regions of the province. Urban centres are already well-positioned and services to provide short-term learning opportunities—summer work and practicum placement. The province is also well positioned to provide financial supports to help rural and remote regions attract students for summer work opportunities and practicum placements.

Beyond advocating in support of veterinary medicine educational opportunities, I wanted to take this opportunity to promote the value of ensuring continued and expanded supports for the quality agricultural educational programming that takes place across the province. These institutions—colleges and universities alike—comprise a critical core of agricultural post-secondary programming that contributes to ensuring agriculture remains an integral part of our provincial economy and ecosystems. Thank you for your continued support of veterinary education at UCVM and for agricultural education in general.

Sincerely,



Tyler Airth

Big Lakes County Councillor and Agricultural Service Board Chair

Cc: University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Alberta Veterinary Medical Association
Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta



October 6th, 2023

Honourable Lawrence MacAulay
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Honourable Mark Holland
Minister of Health Canada



Honourable Ministers,

RE: Maintaining the Integrity of our Pesticide Regulatory System

I would like to congratulate Minister MacAulay on his recent return as the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada and congratulate Minister Holland on taking on the portfolio of Minister of Health Canada. As you take leadership of these Ministries, I would like to encourage your continued support for the maintenance of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) as a robust and scientifically based regulatory system.

I am concerned when we see a private members bill from a member of your own party requesting removal of glyphosate (Bill C-287). We recognize the right of MPs to forward such private members bills and we understand how very unlikely it is that such a bill will move forward. But Ms. Atwin's bill is not the only form of recent attack against glyphosate nor the only form of recent political interference into pesticide regulatory processes. I can understand societal uncertainty about the manner in which modern agriculture operates as many urban folk have such a limited opportunity to directly engage with and understand the complexities of modern agriculture and the intense demands placed on us producers to increase yields and decrease cost to the consumer. This uncertainty can give rise to fear when misinformation about how different pesticides are used is encountered. And this fear or scepticism can cover over the substantive benefits for using pesticides beyond just crop protection. Minister MacAulay just visited western farms over the summer and recognized the value of agronomic practices like no-till in better managing soil health, soil moisture retention, and in reducing the carbon requirements of pre-seeding field preparation. This practice relies on pre-seed weed management which often relies on the use of glyphosate.

In stating the above, I am not trying to be dismissive of the fear or scepticism some people may have about a product like glyphosate. As someone who directly handles these products, I care about my safety and the implications for my land and animals based on how I use these products. But rather than respond from fear, I support valid and scientifically based criticisms and scrutiny of the pesticides we use and the manner in which we use them. I have no way of making these determinations on my own, so I recognize my reliance—for my health and my economic viability—on a regulatory agency like the PMRA to establish and enforce standards to make sure that pesticides, and the ways that they can be used, protect public and environmental health.



September 8th, 2023

Page 2

As such, I have grave concerns when decisions made by a science-based agency repeatedly come under attack and are subject to not only societal scrutiny (which is fair), but also political actions—such as Ms. Atwin’s private members bill and the current delay on Maximum Residue Level increases for glyphosate—which amount to political interference. Again, scrutiny is reasonable, as a democratic institution, the PMRA needs to be transparent about how and from what sources they make their decisions. The previous Minister in AAFC—Minister Bibeau—and her colleagues in Health Canada and Environment and Climate Change committed a lot of dollars to helping the PMRA better resource their activities to do just these things with a commitment to supporting the productivity and competitiveness of Canadian farmers. This is appropriate political oversight and support of a science-based agency. I look forward to the increased toolbox the PMRA will be able to use and to investments made to enhance integrated pest management approaches that will allow us producers to hopefully further limit our use of pesticides. I’m about producing as much quality food off my land base as I can while maintaining the long-term viability and health of my land; society is demanding the same. I’ll use whatever tools and management approaches that are deemed appropriate and effective, but I want them vetted by the best science available and not by the court of public opinion.

We ask you to use your positions as the Minister of AAFC and Health Canada to affirm the integrity of our regulatory institutions and to educate your political peers on the many benefits of supporting the PMRA and not engaging in political interference by looking to address pesticide regulation outside the bounds of appropriate political oversight and support.

Sincerely,



Tyler Airth
Big Lakes County Councillor and Agricultural Service Board Chair

Cc: Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta





COUNTY OF WARNER NO. 5
AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD
P.O. Box 90 / Rural Address 172008 Twp Rd 4-2
WARNER, AB T0K 2L0

Phone: 403-642-2255
Toll Free: 1-866-642-2221
Fax: 403-642-2256
Email: jmeeks@warnercounty.ca
Website: www.warnercounty.ca

October 3, 2023

ASB2023-023

The Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Executive Branch | 131 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

To the Honourable RJ Sigurdson,

RE: Appreciation for the Increase of Funding for Agricultural Service Boards

The County of Warner Agricultural Service Board (ASB) is pleased to acknowledge the increase in funding provided to the Alberta Agricultural Service Boards.

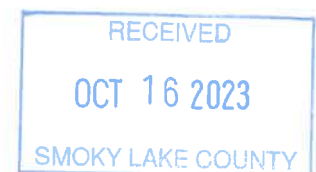
There has been a lot of uncertainty and changes in the Agricultural Service Board program in the past few years. We appreciate that we now have a signed agreement for confirmed funding through 2024.

This supports ASBs with the administration of legislative requirements under the Agricultural Service Board Act. This enables ASBs in the development and delivery of programming to increase awareness, understanding and implementation of sustainable agricultural practices with an emphasis on meeting industry standards that support consumer expectations.

We look forward to continuing to promote environmental sustainability of the agriculture industry with the help of our ASB grant agreement. We express our sincere gratitude for your support.

Yours truly,

Shawn Rodgers, ASB Chairman
Councillor Division 5 | County of Warner No. 5



c: Grant Hunter MLA Cardston-Taber-Warner
Paul McLaughlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)
Sebastien Dutrisac, Chair, Provincial Agricultural Service Board
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards



November 3, 2023

Sigurdson, RJ, Honourable
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Mr. Shane Getson
MLA Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland
4708 Lac St Anne Trail N #18,
Onoway, AB T0E 1V0

Minister Sigurdson,

Lac Ste Anne County Council would like to express our concern regarding the exemption of Lac Ste. Anne County from the 2023 AgriRecovery Program for livestock producers.

Much of Lac Ste. Anne County entered the 2023 growing season in severe moisture deficit, pastures were slow to start, and germination of annual cropped lands suffered until the rains finally arrived in mid to late June. The long overdue moisture was welcome; however, for many too late to secure sufficient grass and forage for the 2023 season.

While County Council understands that our municipality may have not met the Provincial climate data requirements to qualify for this program, it is important to note the County did qualify for the Federal Livestock Tax Deferral Program. This Federal program is triggered when forage yields are less than 50% of the long-term average as a result of drought or flooding in a particular year. We agree with this federal assessment and indicates the severity of the situation local to our County. We're looking for clarity as to how we are excluded from Provincial programing such AgriRecovery when its well recognized federally that the forage and feed situation is dire.

The effects of drought conditions such as those experienced this growing season are Province wide, not limited to specific locals. Little to no carryover remaining from 2022 along with a depleted inventory in 2023 have caused feed and hay prices to escalate outside of what is economically viable for many livestock producers.

Lac Ste Anne County Council asks that the Province recognize the extraordinary costs incurred by our livestock producers due to dry conditions. We ask that the Province provide equal support to all livestock producers as they were all affected by the drought of 2023.

Sincerely,

Mr. Joe Blakeman
Reeve, Lac Ste. Anne County



CC: Agricultural Services Boards of Alberta
Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman (AAAF)
Lac Ste. Anne County Council



Smoky Lake County

6.5
P.O. Box 310
4612 McDougall Drive
Smoky Lake, Alberta T0A 3C0
Phone: 780-656-3730
1-888-656-3730
Fax: 780-656-3768
www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
229 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

RE: Letter of Support: 2023 AgriRecovery Program for livestock producers

Dear Minister Sigurdson,

Smoky Lake County would like to express our concern regarding the exemption of Smoky Lake County from the 2023 AgriRecovery Program for livestock producers.

Smoky Lake County, like many municipalities, entered the 2023 growing season in a severe moisture deficit. Pastures were slow to start and germination of annual cropped lands was delayed, therefore resulting in lower yields.

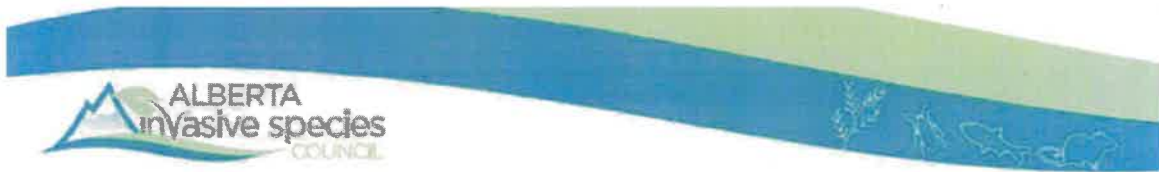
We understand that qualification for this program is based on the Provincial climate data, and Smoky Lake County did not meet these criteria. However, Smoky Lake County did qualify for the Federal Livestock Tax Deferral Program. This federal program is triggered when forage yields are less than 50% of the long-term average because of drought or flooding. This federal assessment demonstrates the severity of our local situation. We are looking for clarity as to why we are excluded from the provincial AgriRecovery programming, when it has been recognized federally that the forage and feed situation was bleak.

Smoky Lake County is asking that the province recognize the extraordinary costs experienced by our local livestock producers due to dry conditions. We ask that the province provide equal support to all livestock producers as everyone was affected by the drought in 2023.

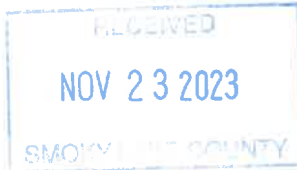
Sincerely,

Mr. Jered Serben
Reeve, Smoky Lake County

6.6



PO Box 1925
Blairmore, AB,
T0K 0E0
www.abinvasives.ca



November 9, 2023

Carleigh Danyluk
Smoky Lake County
P. O. Box 310
Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0

Dear Carleigh,

Thank you for your dedication to protecting Alberta from the impacts of invasive species!

Invasive species pose a major risk to biodiversity and are estimated to cost the Alberta Economy over \$2 billion each year. The Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC) is a non-profit organization that shares your goal to combat invasive species. We provide important invasive species resources such as factsheets, photo galleries, webinars, workshops, reporting apps, distribution maps, training, and more to facilitate management by invasive species practitioners and to increase awareness among the public.

As a non-profit, we rely on the support of organizations like yours to carry out our important work. Your contribution enables us to make a tangible difference and to continue to provide important resources and training. Without support from organizations like yours, the AISC would not be able to continue this important work.

Here are some highlights of accomplishments that, with your support, we made in 2023:

- **Strengthening our team:** We welcomed two new staff members, Chelsea Currie and Brenna Pavan! Chelsea and Brenna will work with Megan and Paige to deliver the AISC's programs and to build capacity and programming to combat aquatic and terrestrial invasive species.
- **Enhance AISC Member experience:** We launched a new AISC Member Portal, designed to facilitate communication between members, simplify renewals, enhance and simplify event registration, and offer exclusive access to AISC member resources such as our newsletter archive and member pricing in our store.
- **Community engagement:** We successfully wrapped up our Canadian Agriculture Partnership grants to promote the 'Squeal on Pigs!' campaign and revitalize the Alberta Certified Weed Free Forage Program. We applied for additional funding and were successful in securing funds to rebrand our beloved 'Squeal on Pigs!' pig to align with new national branding standards.



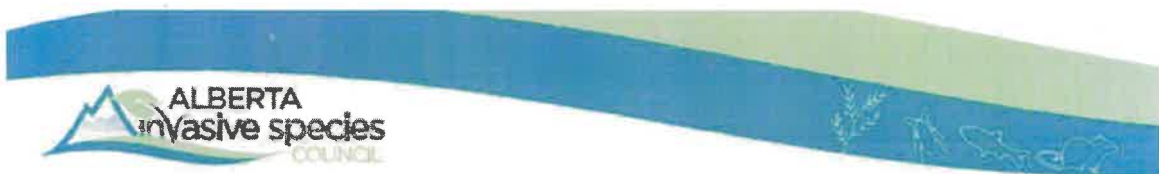
- **Annual Conference and AGM:** Our 10th Annual Conference and AGM boasted our highest turnout ever, with almost 300 attendees at Olds College. There were 20 oral presentations, in addition to several poster presentations, an appearance by Tank, the AISC's Don't Let It Loose Mascot, and social networking opportunities. It was SO GREAT to see everyone in person!
- **Invasive species detection, mapping, and monitoring:** We encouraged the public to take action by reporting invasive species using the free Early Detection and Distribution System Mapping (EDDMapS) app. Additionally, we offered the EDDMapS Pro and ISM Track tools and resources to professionals and practitioners. We created **distribution maps** for all invasive species reported through EDDMapS, with 1,414 reports and 66,133 infested acres reported in 2023 (up to date since October 13).
- **Outreach and advocacy:** We attended over **50 virtual or in-person events** to raise awareness of invasive species in Alberta, **directly reaching 10,000 individuals**. Events included, the Alberta Fish and Game Association Annual Conference, the Calgary Boat Show, the Calgary Reptile Expo, and the Pacific North West Economic Region Annual Summit which was attended by MLAs, MPs, and Senators from Alberta and across the Pacific Northwest.
- **Biocontrol initiatives:** We administered the **Alberta Biocontrol Release** program, conducting 76 releases of five different biocontrol agents, providing training to landowners and organizations, and creating and distributing guides on how to release and move these agents.
- **Contribute to research:** In partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International, we contributed to research for a common tansy biological control agent, thanks to a Saskatchewan Agriculture Development Fund Grant.
- **Educational resources:** We worked on revising our current invasive species factsheets and developed 4 new on goldfish, feral rabbits, climbing nightshade and crayfish.
- **Behaviour change campaigns:** We actively promoted behaviour change campaigns such as 'PlayCleanGo', 'Clean Drain Dry', 'Grow Me Instead' and 'Buy Local, Burn Local', and applied for funding to further grow these programs.
- **Expanded online presence:** Our social media presence saw significant growth, with over 500 new followers on Twitter (1,081) and Instagram (1,362), 2,353 followers on Facebook, and a brand new TikTok Channel that garnered 357 followers in one month, through 11 video posts since creating the account, one of which went viral **with over 502,700 likes and over 700 comments**.
- **Media engagement:** We participated in media interviews with different news agencies and channels, spreading awareness about invasive species, including the Western Producer, WildTalk TV, and Global News.
- **Collaboration with regional groups:** We actively participated in regional invasive species groups, such as the Southwest Invasive Managers and the Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve Association's Invasive Species Working Group, Transboundary Feral Swine Working Group, Weed-Free Products Committee Group, Regional Invasive Species Council Meetings, the International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species, and others, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

- **Newsletters:** We continued to publish quarterly newsletters, reaching over 1,650 subscribers with the latest invasive species information. We have also contributed an article and advertisement for 'Don't Let it Loose' messaging to the Alberta Conservation Association's Conservation Magazine extending our reach further.
- **Matching your contribution:** As a non-profit organization AISC can use partnership contributions as vital matching funds to secure grant funding, stretching your partnership dollars even further.

If you or your organization has benefited from the AISC's efforts, we invite you to consider a new or continued partnership with our organization for 2024. Please review the partnership options below and discover the perks of becoming an AISC Annual Partner!

Table 1. Highlights of Bronze, Silver, and Gold Level AISC Annual Partner Perks.

Partner Benefit	Bronze Partner (\$1,000)	Silver Partner (\$2,000)	Gold Partner (\$5,000)
Access to over 150 invasive species factsheets.	✓	✓	✓
Access to quarterly electronic newsletters.	✓	✓	✓
Free use of the EDDMapS, EDDMapS Pro, and ISMTrack apps and data downloads.	✓	✓	✓
Opportunity to participate in working groups, and events, or contribute articles to our newsletters.	✓	✓	✓
Recognition on the AISC's website and regular recognition of your generous contribution throughout the year in social media posts, at events, etc.	✓	✓	✓
Logo and recognition in our quarterly newsletter.	✓	✓	✓
Article in the AISC newsletter; choose the topic and provide content on one article per year in consultation with the Editor.	✓	✓	✓
Exclusive access to the AISC's New Newsletter Archive.	✓	✓	✓
Exclusive access to professional development and training events.	✓	✓	✓
Annual AISC memberships (includes 1 vote per member at AGM).	2	3	4
Member rate for the AISC Conference Registration.	2	3	4
Member rate prices on select items in the AISC's online store.	✓	✓	✓
Free conference registration fee.			1



Should you have any questions or wish to explore further partnership opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact us. We're open to discussing new program ideas or partner recognition options to foster even more collaboration.

Together we are stronger in the battle against invasive species! Thank you again for your continued support of the AISC. Your commitment is instrumental in our mission to protect Alberta from the harmful impacts of invasive species, and we could not do the work that we do without you.

Sincerely,

Megan Evans
Executive Director
Alberta Invasive Species Council



2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

abinvasives.ca

OUTREACH EVENTS

ATTENDED BY AISC

48



43 IN-PERSON

5 VIRTUAL

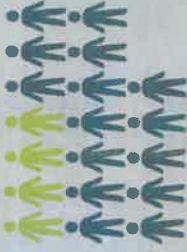
WEED ID GUIDES

10,000

PRINTED IN 2023

AISC AT A GLANCE

4 START MEMBERS



15 BOARD MEMBERS

31

SPONSOR
ORGANIZATIONS
ACROSS ALBERTA

CAMPAIGNS

SUPPORTED BY AISC

8

grow me
instead



15 BOARD MEMBERS

76

BIOCONTROL RELEASES

OF LEAFY SPURGE BEETLES, DALMATIAN
TOADFLAX WEEVILS, RUSSIAN Knapweed
WASPS AND SPOTTED/DIFFUSE Knapweed
WEEVILS



1,414



69 DIFFERENT SPECIES

EDDMaps
find • map • track

REPORTS

REPORTERS

116

237

INDIVIDUAL & STUDENT
MEMBERS

66,133 INFESTED ACRES

FACTSHEETS

FOR INVASIVE PLANTS, ANIMALS, INVERTEBRATES & DISEASES

150+

45+

VIDEOS

200+

PHOTOS

SOCIAL MEDIA

STATISTICS

1,650+

NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS

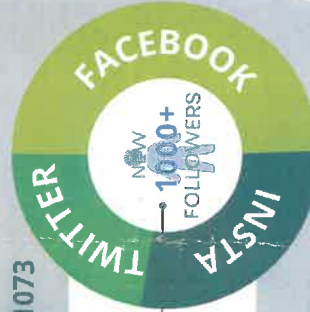
343

POSTS

200,000+ 1336

REACH

1073



2344

WEED FREE FORAGE

78 TRAINED INSPECTORS

21 PARTICIPATING COUNTIES

10TH

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2 DAYS HELD IN-PERSON

7 APPLICATOR CREDITS
OFFERED

293 ATTENDEES

15+ HOURS OF CONTENT

20 SPEAKERS

PROVINCIAL ASB RESOLUTION SESSION AGENDA PACKAGE

December 1, 2023

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01 2024 Provincial ASB Conference Resolution Session Agenda

January 23, 2023
Lethbridge Exhibition
Agri Food Hub and Trade Centre

1. Call meeting to order
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Adoption of previous year's resolution session minutes
4. [2023 Report Card on the Resolutions](#) (link to report card on website)
5. Call for Amendments to the Provincial Rules of Procedure
 - a. [Provincial Rules of Procedure – \(Jan 18, 2023\)](#)
 - b. [Regional Rules of Procedure – \(Jan 18, 2023\)](#)
6. Review of Provincial Rules of Procedure (Version used at the conference)
7. Adoption of Emergent Resolutions
8. Adoption of the order of resolutions
9. 2024 Resolution Voting
10. Motion to Adjourn

03 Minutes for the 2023 Provincial Agricultural Service Board

Resolution Session

The Tara Center, Grande Prairie, AB

January 18 & 19, 2023

Sebastien Dutrisac introduced the members of the ASB Provincial Resolutions Committee:

Sebastien Dutrisac, Chair, Northeast Region Representative
Brenda Knight, Vice Chair, Central Region Representative
John Van Driesten, South Region Representative alternate
Walter Preugschas, Northwest Region Representative
Christi Friesen, Peace Region Representative
Jason Schneider, Rural Municipalities of Alberta Representative
Doug Macaulay, Agriculture and Forestry Representative
Linda Hunt, Executive Assistant, ASB Provincial Committee

1. Call to Order

Chairman Dutrisac called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

Chairman Dutrisac informed the assembly that there was a lack of voting clickers due to technical difficulties. Because of this, the resolution session would require several municipalities to vote either by the raising of hands or by ballot.

MOVED: Randy Taylor, County of Warner moved to have one clicker per municipality for the voting process.

SECONDED: Tyler Airth, Big Lakes County

Motion Carried (one vote opposed)

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Dutrisac presented the agenda for the resolution session.

MOVED: Don Gulayec, County of Two Hills Moved to adopt the agenda as amended.

By unanimous consent, the Agenda was adopted as amended.

3. Adoption of Minutes

MOVED: Darrell Younghans, County of St Paul moved to adopt the Minutes for the 2022 Resolution Session as presented.

SECONDED: Dana Kreil, Lacombe County seconded

By unanimous consent, the Minutes for the 2022 Resolution Session were adopted as presented.

4. Review of the 2022 Report Card on the Resolutions

Chairman Dutrisac presented the highlights from the 2022 Report Card on the Resolutions.

MOVED: Corinna Williams, Northern Sunrise County moved to accept the 2022 Report Card on the Resolutions as information.

SECONDED: Murray Phillips, County of Two Hills

By unanimous consent, the 2022 Report Card on the Resolutions was received as information.

5. Call for Amendments to the Provincial Rules of Procedure

a. Call for Amendments to the Provincial Rules of Procedure

Chairman Dutrisac outlined the proposed amendments to the Provincial Rules of Procedure submitted by the ASB Provincial Committee. Chairman Dutrisac then made a call for any additional amendments to the Provincial Rules of Procedure.

MOVED: Terry Ungarian Name, County of Northern Lights, moved that Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards approve the amendments to the Provincial Rules of Procedure

SECONDED: Brian Rodgers, Mountain View County.

MOVED: Corey Rasmussen, Wetaskiwn moved to amend point 4b) from "These resolutions may" to "These resolutions will"

SECONDED: Tyler Airth, County of Big Lakes

MOTION CARRIED: 56-3 (95%)

MOVED: Josh Crick, MD of Bonnyville moved to remove 4b entirely from the Provincial Rules of Procedure.

SECONDED: Robert Brochu, MD of Smoky River

MOTION DEFEATED: 15-46 (25%)

MOVED: Robert Parks, Strathcona County moved that Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards approve the Provincial Rules of Procedure as amended.

SECONDED: Jim Duncan, Clearwater County

MOTION CARRIED: 51-8 (85%)

b. Call for Amendments to the Regional Rules of Procedure

Chairman Dutrisac outlined the proposed amendments to the Regional Rules of Procedure submitted by the ASB Provincial Committee. Chairman Dutrisac then made a call for any amendments to the Regional Rules of Procedure. No further amendments were received.

MOVED: John DeGroot, MD of Taber, moved that Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards approve the amendments to the Regional Rules of Procedure.

SECONDED: Shannon Laprise, Wheatland County, seconded the motion.

Motion Carried: 54-2, (92%)

6. Review of Provincial Rules of Procedure

Chairman Dutrisac reviewed the Provincial Rules of Procedure for the Resolution Session.

7. Adoption of Emergent Resolutions

Chairman Dutrisac presented three emergent resolutions that have come forward to the ASB Provincial Committee. By unanimous consent

MOVED: Randy Taylor, County of Warner moved that Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards accept E1-23 Stable Regional Agricultural Extension Funding, E2-23 Stable Funding for Farm Mental Health, and E3-23 Supporting a Vibrant Cervid Industry as emergent resolutions.

SECONDED: Kelly Chamzuk, Athabasca County

MOTION CARRIED 57-4 (93%)

8. Proposed Order of Resolutions

By unanimous consent, the proposed order of resolutions with the emergent resolutions added to the end of the order is accepted.

9. 2023 Resolution Debate

1-23 Creation of a Mid-Level Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (AbVMA) Professional Designation

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.

MOVED: Warren Wohlgemuth, Municipal District of Greenview #16

SECONDED: Tyler Airth, Big Lakes County

MOVED: Jim Duncan, Clearwater County moved to amend the resolution to add "with veterinary oversight" after "Alberta livestock producers"

SECONDED: Brian Roger, Mountain View County

MOTION FOR AMENDMENT CARRIED: 45-13 (76%)

The resolution was voted on as amended.

MOTION CARRIED: 50-1 (98%)

2-23 Rural Veterinary Students

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICES 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.

MOVED: Brian Rogers, Mountain View

SECONDED: Adam Fitzpatrick, Saddle Hills County

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution. There was no opposition to the resolution, so Chairman Dutrisac called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

The resolution was voted on as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 57-3 (95%)

3-23 Applied Research Associations Funding

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.

MOVED: Simon Lavoie, Northern Sunrise County

SECONDED: Alain Blanchette, MD of Smoky River

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution. There was no opposition to the resolution, so Chairman Dutrisac called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

The resolution was voted on as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 54-5 (92%)

RECESS AND RECONVENE:

RECESSED AT 12:07 PM ON JANUARY 18, 2023

REDCONVENED AT 10:47 AM ON JANUARY 19, 2023

4-23 Grizzly Bear Population Impact on Agricultural Production

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.

MOVED: Bill Smith, MD of Greenview

SECONDED: Tyler Airth, Big Lakes County

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution. There was no opposition to the resolution, so Chairman Dutrisac called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

The resolution was voted on as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 58-3 (95%)

5-23 Landowner Special License

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that the Government of Canada Minister of Finance, with support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act to include natural gas and propane as exempted fuels for agriculture production.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That Alberta Environment and Protected Areas allow Landowner Special Licenses to be valid for the entirety of the season in all Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) in which the applicant has deeded land.

MOVED: Adam Fitzpatrick, Saddle Hills County

SECONDED: Warren Wohlgemuth, MD of Greenview

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution.

MOVED: LeGrande Bevans, moved to add "for ungulates" after "to receive tags"

SECONDED: Lorrie Jespersion, County of Barrhead

The amendment was voted on.

MOTION DEFEATED: 17-44 (28%)

The resolution was voted on as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 50-5 (91%)

6-23 Enforcement of Water Management

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.

MOVED: Murray Phillips, County of Two Hills

SECONDED: Gene Hrabec, Beaver County

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution.

The resolution was voted on as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 37-20 (65%)

7-23 Campaign to Raise Awareness on the Disparity Between Consumer Pricing & Producer Revenue

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.

MOVED: Glenn Belozer, Leduc County

SECONDED: Kathy Rooyakers, County of Wetaskiwin

The Mover asked the assembly to ask if the Leduc County fieldman could speak to the resolution. By unanimous consent, the fieldman was permitted to speak to the resolution.

MOTION DEFEATED: 23-38 (62%)

8-23 Consideration of Municipal Environmental & Agricultural Policies for Large Scale Solar & Related Energy Developments on Agricultural Lands

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.

MOVED: Shawn Rodgers, County of Warner

SECONDED: Brian Hildebrand, MD of Taber

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution.

MOVED: Tyler Airth, Big Lakes County, moved to remove "Solar & Related" from the title of the Resolution.

SECONDED: Murray Phillips, County of Two Hills

The amendment was voted on.

MOTION CARRIED: 34-16 (68%)

MOVED: Glen Alm, MD of Willow Creek moved to add ", through quasi-judicial boards," after "large scale energy developments."

SECONDED: Harry Streeter, MD of Ranchland

The amendment was voted on

MOTION CARRIED 41-17 (71%)

MOVED: John DeGroot, MD of Taber moved to add “Renewable” after large scale in both the title and the resolution.

SECONDED: Corinna Williams, Northern Sunrise County

The amendment was voted on.

MOTION CARRIED: 56-6 (90%)

The amended resolution was voted on.

MOTION CARRIED: 56-4 (93%)

9-23 Synthetic Fertilizer 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.

MOVED: Clynton Butz, Northern Sunrise County

SECONDED: Robert Brochu, MD of Smoky River

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution. There was no opposition to the resolution, so Chairman Dutrisac called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 59-2 (97%)

10-23 Organic Production Certification Standards and Provincially 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 invasive species in order to achieve and maintain organic certification.

MOVED: Karen Rosvold, County of Grande Prairie

SECONDED: Dan Boisvert, Northern Sunrise County

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution. There was no opposition to the resolution, so Chairman Dutrisac called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 54-2 (95%)

11-23 Loss of 2% Liquid Strychnine

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.

MOVED: Darrell Younghans, County of St Paul

SECONDED: Murray Phillips, County of Two Hills

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution.

MOVED: Dustin Vossler, Cypress County amendment by substitution

SECONDED: Craig Widmer, County of 40 Mile

The amendment was voted on.

MOTION CARRIED 45-10 (80%)

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the amended resolution.

MOTION: Glen Ockerman, County of St. Paul to add "and until an alternative single feed product is available." To the first Therefore.

SECONDED: Dustin Vossler, Cypress County

The amendment was voted on.

MOTION CARRIED: 57-1 (97%)

The amended resolution was voted on.

MOTION CARRIED: 55-4 (93%)

RECESS AND RECONVENE:

RECESSED AT 12:11 PM ON JANUARY 19, 2023

REDCONVENED AT 3:12 PM ON JANUARY 19, 2023

12-23 Review of the Land & Property Rights Tribunal

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT 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, 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.

MOVED: Shannon Laprise, Wheatland County

SECONDED: Holly Johnson, County of Newell

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution. There was no opposition to the resolution, so Chairman Dutrisac called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 59-2 (97 %)

E1-23 Stable Regional Agricultural Extension Funding

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation make available five year stable regional funding for ASBs and their agriculture not for profit partners to hire and maintain the staff and operational costs associated with maintaining regional agricultural extension networks.

MOVED: Sandra Eastman, MD of Peace

SECONDED: Phil Kolodychuk , MD of Fairview

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution. There was no opposition to the resolution, so Chairman Dutrisac called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 58-2 (95%)

E2-23 Stable Funding for Farm Mental Health

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation provides stable 5 year funding support to the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network to hire and maintain staff and cover operational costs to continue the support and services offered through AgKnow.ca.

MOVED: Sandra Eastman, MD of Peace

SECONDED: Terry Ungarian, County of Northern Lights

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution. There was no opposition to the resolution, so Chairman Dutrisac called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 57-3 (93%)

E3-23 Supporting a Vibrant Cervid Industry in Alberta

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation support the requests of the Alberta Elk Commission to reduce regulatory processes inline with other livestock.

MOVED: Terry Ungarian, County of Northern Lights

SECONDED: Sandra Eastman, MD of Peace

Chairman Dutrisac called for opposition to the resolution. There was no opposition to the resolution, so Chairman Dutrisac called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 45-11 (80%)

10. Motion to Adjourn

Chairman Dutrisac adjourned the 2023 resolution session at 3:29 p.m.

04. [2023 Report Card on the Resolutions](#)

05. Call for Amendments to the Provincial Rules of Procedure

06. Review of the PROP

PROCEDURES:

- All Movers, Seconders and individuals entering the debate must be ASB Committee Members
- Only the Therefore Be It Resolved (TBIR) will be read
- Mover and Secunder will be allowed five (5) minutes in total to speak
- Chairman shall call for opposition. If there is no opposition, the question shall be called
- Each speaker has two (2) minutes to debate the resolution.
- Mover and Secunder each have two (2) minutes to close the debate
- Friendly amendments will only be considered for punctuation and spelling

PROCEDURES FOR EMERGENT RESOLUTIONS:

- Emergent resolutions are dealt with last
- The Committee recommends whether a resolution is considered emergent or not
- A Mover and Secunder are required to present emergent resolutions for acceptance by the Assembly
- Delegates may speak to the motion
- Mover and Secunder have the right to close the debate
- 3/5 majority needed to accept the resolution as emergent

PROCEDURES VOTING AND SPEAKING

- All Movers, Seconders and individuals entering the debate must be ASB Committee Members
- Two delegates from each Municipality, who display voting credentials, shall be recognized as voters
- An ASB member may request to have any person speak to a resolution
- Resolutions require a simple majority unless a legislative change is requested
- Legislative changes require a 3/5 majority
- Seconders please accompany Movers to the microphones
- Please state your name and municipality clearly

07. Emergent Resolutions

The deadline for Emergent Resolutions is 6pm January 21, 2024.

Copies of emergent resolutions will be made available at the conference, and the order will be displayed on screen for review and approval by the assembly.

08. Proposed Order of Resolutions

1. Resolution 1-24 Agricultural Equipment Highway Signs
2. Resolution 2-24 Compensating Producers for Ecosystem Services
3. Resolution 3-24 Creation of Livestock Production Insurance
4. Resolution 4-24 Supporting a Compensation Multiplier
5. Resolution 5-24 Wild Boar and the Alberta Agricultural Pest Act
6. Resolution 6-24 Improving the Sustainability of Canadian Apiculture Through Bee Package Imports and the Control of Varroa Mites
7. Resolution 7-24 Re-Registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine for Certified Applicators
8. E1-23 ...
9. E2-23 ...
10. E3-23 ...

09. 2024 Resolution Voting
RESOLUTION 1-24 AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT HIGHWAY
SIGNS

- WHEREAS:** 13% of farm related fatalities in Canada are traffic related; and
- WHEREAS:** farmers often travel long distances on public roads between fields; and
- WHEREAS:** agricultural equipment is generally large and slow moving; and
- WHEREAS:** the general public tends not to slow down around agricultural equipment on public roadways; and
- WHEREAS:** Alberta's highways do not currently give any warning in areas that are often traveled by agricultural equipment;

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

Alberta Transportation provide each Agricultural Service Board with six signs that state "Slow Down Around Agricultural Equipment" to be installed on highways, at locations determined by the individual municipality.

SPONSORED BY: Brazeau County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors

RESOLUTION 2-24 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; and
- 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; and
- 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; and
- 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: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation,
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

RESOLUTION 3-24 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; and

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; and

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: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

RESOLUTION 4-24 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; and
- WHEREAS** predation is highly variable from producer to producer and year to year; and
- 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; and
- 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: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation,
Environment and Protected Areas

RESOLUTION 5-24 WILD BOAR AND THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT

- WHEREAS:** Alberta has designated Wild Boar at Large a pest since 2008; and
- WHEREAS:** the Alberta Government established a minimum containment standard in 2013 to assist livestock owners with minimum guidelines to contain Wild Boar as livestock; and
- WHEREAS:** Alberta pork producers raising Wild Boar as livestock are not mandated to follow the Minimum Containment Standards set out by the Alberta Government, they are only used as guidelines; and
- WHEREAS:** Alberta Government Inspectors cannot uphold current Minimum Containment Standards for Wild Boar Farms or enforce penalties using the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST:

that the Government of Alberta amend the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act to require Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms, with penalties to enforce noncompliance.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST:

that Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation invoke a moratorium on expansions of Wild Boar Farming in Alberta, until the province makes a decision on the future of Wild Boar Farming in Alberta.

SPONSORED BY: County of Stettler No. 6

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

RESOLUTION 6-24 IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH BEE PACKAGE IMPORTS AND THE CONTROL OF VARROA MITES

WHEREAS: in 2022, honey producers across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba experienced one of the worst winters kill events in years, with some producers losing up to 90% of their hives;

WHEREAS: the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) currently prohibits the importation of bee packages from the United States, yet allows bee package imports from intercontinental apiaries, including those in South America and New Zealand;

WHEREAS: Varroa Mites are already present and established across Canada;

WHEREAS: bee package imports from South America and New Zealand cost up to three times as much as bee packages sourced from the United States; and

WHEREAS: since the 1980s, the CFIA has only approved two miticides for the control of Varroa Mites, a situation that has led to the development of miticide-resistant mites;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) permit Honeybee shipments from the United States for the purpose of hive repopulation, to combat the depopulation of Canada's Honey Bee hives;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the CFIA and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) conduct further research on Varroa Miticide controls, and approve a new Varroa Mite miticide to address the lack of control options available to honey producers.

SPONSORED BY: Beaver County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

STATUS: Federal

DEPARTMENT: Canadian Food Inspection Agency,
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

RESOLUTION 7-24 RE-REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR CERTIFIED APPLICATORS

WHEREAS: Health Canada has completed the re-evaluation of 2% Liquid Strychnine. Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, Health Canada has canceled the registration of Strychnine, and all associated end-use products, used to control Richardson's ground squirrels for sale and use in Canada; and

WHEREAS: Alberta producers have used alternative baiting, suffocates, and fumigant rodenticides to control Richardson ground squirrels but have not had the successes of Strychnine; and

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

WHEREAS: the federal government has banned the use of Strychnine without providing producers any comparative alternative or financial support to deal with the Richardson's ground squirrel pest; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation propose to Health Canada and Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to allow Strychnine to be used exclusively by certified applicators.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the existing strychnine label be subject to meticulous review and amendment, with a specific focus on reducing the potential for off-target exposure and implementing enhanced control measures to mitigate any adverse environmental impact.

SPONSORED BY: Flagstaff County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

STATUS: Federal and Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency

RESOLUTION 1-24

AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT HIGHWAY SIGNS

- WHEREAS:** 13% of farm related fatalities in Canada are traffic related; and
- WHEREAS:** farmers often travel long distances on public roads between fields; and
- WHEREAS:** agricultural equipment is generally large and slow moving; and
- WHEREAS:** the general public tends not to slow down around agricultural equipment on public roadways; and
- WHEREAS:** Alberta's highways do not currently give any warning in areas that are often traveled by agricultural equipment;

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

Alberta Transportation provide each Agricultural Service Board with six signs that state "Slow Down Around Agricultural Equipment" to be installed on highways, at locations determined by the individual municipality.

SPONSORED BY: Brazeau County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

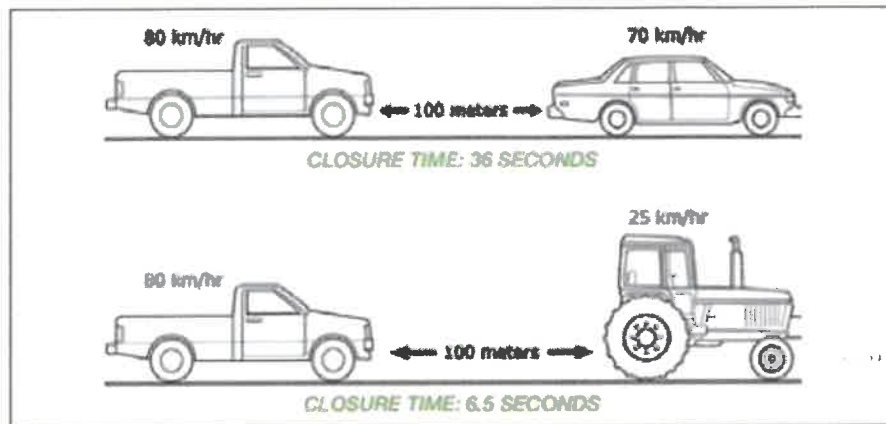
From Safe Transportation of Farm Equipment in Alberta:

According to the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance program, 13 per cent of farm-related fatalities across Canada are traffic related, and most of these involve tractors. As a farmer, you often travel long distances between fields, and this requires you to travel on public roads throughout Alberta. Farm equipment is oversized and slow compared to other vehicles using the roads, which can result in collisions and other accidents.

A common type of multiple-vehicle collision typically involves another vehicle and happens when the operator makes a left turn into a farm lane or field. Motorists often pull out to pass farm equipment as it slows down for the turn but fail to see the left signal due to a lack of signal or a dust-covered signal light. Once the equipment enters the opposite lane, a collision can occur.

There is a high number of rear-end collisions, usually occurring at intersections. Motorists often miscalculate the rate at which they are approaching farm equipment and consequently run into the rear of

it. The diagram shows the difference in reaction times for approaching another motor vehicle and approaching slow-moving farm equipment. With slow-moving equipment, the reaction time is so small that quick decisions must be made to avoid a rear-end collision.



If equipment is too wide to fit safely into one lane, approaching traffic can clip the machinery or hit it head-on.

As the operator of farm machinery, farmers also must take measures to make road travel safer, but those precautions do not prevent the hazards that other drivers create. Farm equipment is slower and less maneuverable than other vehicles. Education, in this case signage along Alberta's highways, will give motorists a reminder to be alert for slow moving, large farm equipment and to slow down when encountering farm equipment on the highway.

RESOLUTION 2-24
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; and
- 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; and
- 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; and
- 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: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation,
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:

Carbon return per acre

	\$10	\$50	\$170
1 tonne/ac	\$8	\$40	\$136
2 tonne/ac	\$16	\$80	\$272
3 tonne/ac	\$24	\$120	\$408
4 tonne/ac	\$32	\$160	\$544

% Return on \$3500/ac farmland:

Carbon price per acre

	\$10	\$50	\$170
1 MT/ac	0%	1%	4%
2 MT/ac	0%	2%	8%
3 MT/ac	1%	3%	12%
4 MT/ac	1%	5%	16%

Carbon sink per acre

Carbon sink per acre

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

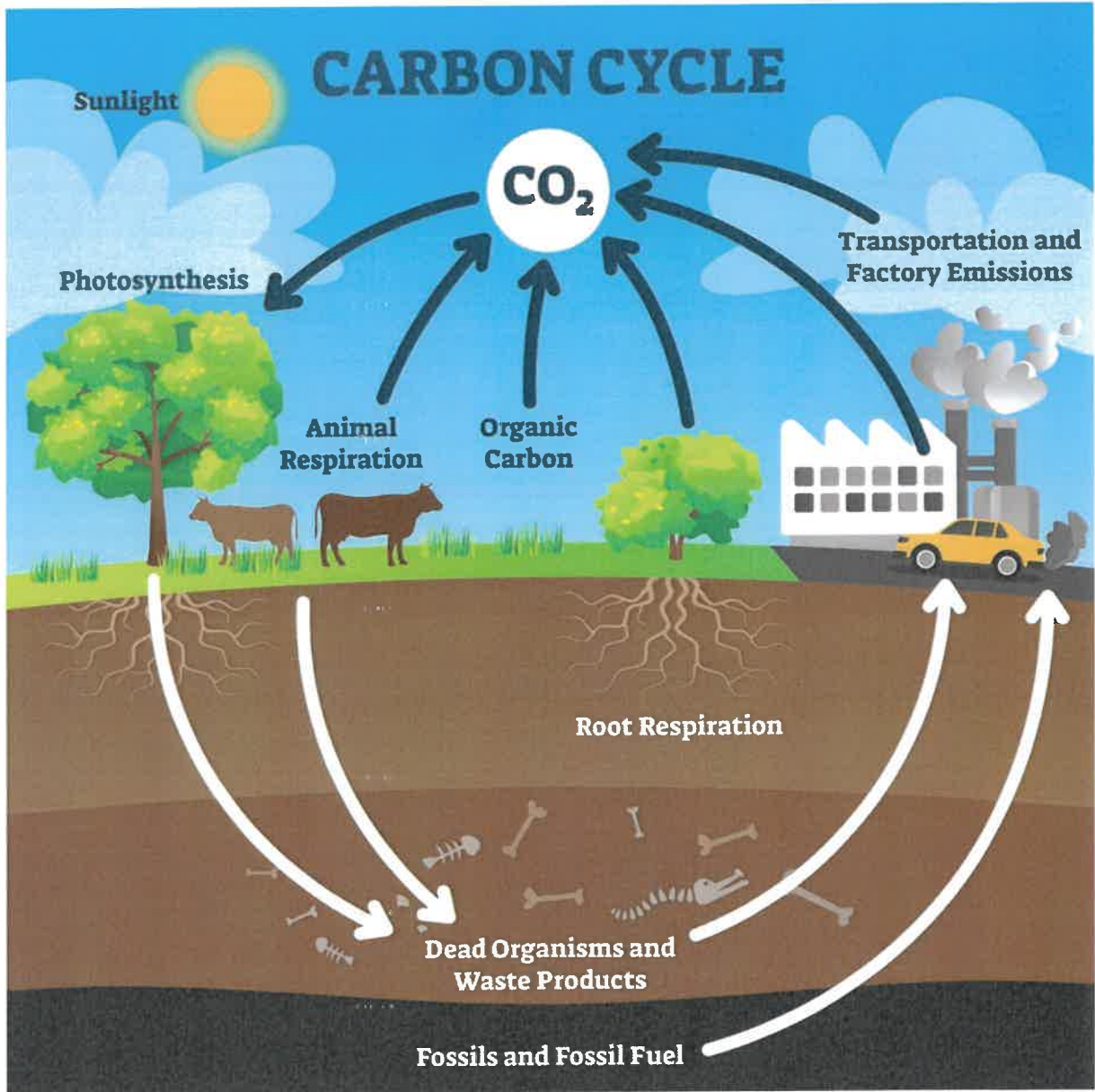
MEDIA CONTACT: Catherine King Vice President, Public Affairs Fertilizer Canada
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Eligibility for Sequestration Payments— New Adopters Versus All Adopters (Including "Good Actors")

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/department/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_tb1909c_1_.pdf?v=0
- <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpls.2021.636709/full>

RESOLUTION 3-24

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; and

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; and

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: Alberta 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

RESOLUTION 4-24

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; and
- WHEREAS** predation is highly variable from producer to producer and year to year; and
- 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; and
- 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: Alberta 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 5 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/Waterton Castle 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/Vamhs2lgZD1i6eSJQJiVQoTIssPY1lIMsFTd0CqC.pdf>
- https://summit.sfu.ca/flysystem/fedora/sfu_migrate/15922/etd9396_CMorrison.pdf

RESOLUTION 5-24
WILD BOAR AND THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT

- WHEREAS:** Alberta has designated Wild Boar at Large a pest since 2008; and
- WHEREAS:** the Alberta Government established a minimum containment standard in 2013 to assist livestock owners with minimum guidelines to contain Wild Boar as livestock; and
- WHEREAS:** Alberta pork producers raising Wild Boar as livestock are not mandated to follow the Minimum Containment Standards set out by the Alberta Government, they are only used as guidelines; and
- WHEREAS:** Alberta Government Inspectors cannot uphold current Minimum Containment Standards for Wild Boar Farms or enforce penalties using the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST:

that the Government of Alberta amend the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act to require Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms, with penalties to enforce noncompliance.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST:

that Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation invoke a moratorium on expansions of Wild Boar Farming in Alberta, until the province makes a decision on the future of Wild Boar Farming in Alberta.

SPONSORED BY: County of Stettler No. 6

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

BACKGROUND:

Wild boar at large have been an issue in Alberta since they began to escape from livestock operations in the 1980s. Since then, they have continually reproduced, uncontained. Wild boar are not native to Alberta; they came to the province in the 1980s and '90s as livestock. At that time, there were no requirements for secure containment. Over the years, wild boar have escaped and subsequently established feral (wild) populations.

In 2008, Wild Boar at large were designated as pests under the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act. The Alberta Government created '*Minimum Containment Standards*' for Alberta Wild Boar Farms in 2013(attached). These standards have only ever been used as guidance, as there are no penalties under the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act to enforce with wild boar.

In 2023, the number of trapped or caught wild boar in Alberta has begun to decline, due to the fact that wild boar are getting smarter at evading capture. They are becoming wise to the traps, weary of hunters.

Alberta Pork is assessing the Economic Impact Assessment of the wild boar sector. Their determinations will help inform the Province on the cost to destroy wild boar and compensate producers.

Wild boar at large are an invasive pest that can:

- damage property, agricultural crops, pastures and the environment, including through rooting (digging)
- endanger people and animals
- harass livestock and consume their feed, and prey on young livestock and wildlife
- spread diseases that could be transmitted to wildlife, livestock, pets and people (they are a known vector for African Swine Fever)
- alter the ecosystem, including through wallowing that can contaminate water supplies, promote erosion and destroy fish habitat
- compete with wildlife and destroy other sensitive natural habitats
- consume the eggs of ground-nesting birds

Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms

CONTAINMENT STANDARDS

Fence construction:

There will be two acceptable minimum containment standards. Wild boar producers have a choice of either building a fence that is partially buried into the ground (Standard 1) or using a double fence system (Standard 2). Both of these fencing systems require an electric fencing component.

Standard 1 Buried fence with an electric wire.		Standard 2 Double fencing system with an electric wire.	
Fence height above surface*	Minimum 1.5 metres	Outer fence height above surface*	Minimum 1.5 metres
Fence depth below surface	Minimum depth of 45 cm	Inner fence height above surface*	Minimum 1.5 metres
Fence material:	Hinge lock mesh fencing made from 12.5 gauge or heavier high tensile wire with spacing adequate to prevent escapes.	Fence material:	Hinge lock mesh fencing made from 12.5 gauge or heavier high tensile wire with spacing adequate to prevent escapes.
Fence posts:	Maximum spacing between posts is 3 metres.	Fence posts:	Maximum spacing between posts is 3 metres.
		Distance between fences	A minimum of 1.2 metres and a maximum of 5.0 metres
Electric wire:**	Made of minimum 14 gauge high tensile or stranded wire and must be 10 cm to 30 cm in distance from the inside of the fence and 10 to 30 cm above the ground.	Electric wire:**	Made of minimum 14 gauge high tensile or stranded wire and must be 10 cm to 30 cm in distance from the inside of the fence and 10 to 30 cm above the ground.

Electric output:	Minimum of 4000 volts must pass through at all points along the entire perimeter of the electric fence.	Electric output:	Minimum of 4000 volts must pass through at all points along the entire perimeter of the electric fence.
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* Fence height must be such that a minimum of 1.5 metres are above the ground surface or above any other surface including snow drifts.

**If two electric wires are used then it is suggested that the wires be placed at 20 cm and 40 cm above the surface and that separate fence chargers be used for each wire.

Maintenance:

It is expected that at all producers will maintain their fences in good condition at all times. This will include, but not limited to, maintaining proper tension on the fencing material, ensure that vegetation is trimmed below the electric wires, and replacing the fence posts as required.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE CONTAINMENT STANDARDS

Existing fences:

The following exception to Containment Standards is available for those producers with existing fencing systems:

- The bottom of the existing fence must be anchored to the surface with stakes spaced no more than 1.5 metres apart and the stakes must be a minimum of one metre into the ground sloped at a 45° angle to the outside of the enclosure. This will be considered as equivalent containment to buried or double fencing.
- All other fencing requirements regarding height, fencing material, electric wire and fencer output must be met.

Repair or replacement of fences:

Repairs, replacement, or modifications to existing fences may require an upgrade to the existing Containment Standards. Producers will be encouraged to consult with inspectors.

All existing wild boar fencing systems will be required to conform to the Containment Standards no later than December 31, 2018. This will give producers five years in which to upgrade their existing fences to meet the existing containment standards. It is estimated that buried fences could have a life span of four to seven years depending on the type of soil and moisture conditions. A double fence could last longer with fencing material lasting up to 15 years.

RESOLUTION 6-24
IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH BEE
PACKAGE IMPORTS AND THE CONTROL OF VARROA MITES

- WHEREAS:** in 2022, honey producers across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba experienced one of the worst winters kill events in years, with some producers losing up to 90% of their hives;
- WHEREAS:** the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) currently prohibits the importation of bee packages from the United States, yet allows bee package imports from intercontinental apiaries, including those in South America and New Zealand;
- WHEREAS:** Varroa Mites are already present and established across Canada;
- WHEREAS:** bee package imports from South America and New Zealand cost up to three times as much as bee packages sourced from the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** since the 1980s, the CFIA has only approved two miticides for the control of Varroa Mites, a situation that has led to the development of miticide-resistant mites;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) permit Honeybee shipments from the United States for the purpose of hive repopulation, to combat the depopulation of Canada's Honey Bee hives;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the CFIA and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) conduct further research on Varroa Miticide controls, and approve a new Varroa Mite miticide to address the lack of control options available to honey producers.

SPONSORED BY: Beaver County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

STATUS: Federal

DEPARTMENT: Canadian Food Inspection Agency,
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since the 1980s, the Canadian border has been closed to the importation of Honeybee Packages. This restriction on bee imports was the result of the increasing Varroa Mite population in the United States at

the time. Since then, only queen bees can be imported into Canada as they can be fully checked for mites, viruses, and other pests prior to their shipment.

Although the intention of this import restriction is to protect the Canadian Bee Industry from Varroa Mites, these mites are already present and established within Canada. Additionally, South America (a source that the CFIA does permit the importation of bees from) also has a well-established Varroa Mite population. Therefore, imports from both locations should be held to the same standard.

Also, since bee packages from the United States are not permitted to be shipped into Canada, packages must be sourced from other localities in order to supplement our bee populations. Most often, these packages are shipped from New Zealand and South America. Due to this increased distance (compared to U.S. shipments), these packages can be up to three times the cost of similar bee packages sourced from the United States.

Another compounding issue with Canada's Bee populations and Varroa mites is that there is a lack of miticide options for producer's who are dealing with Varroa Mites. In Canada, there have only been 2 new miticides that have been approved for use since the 1980s. Prior to the approval of these new miticides in 2019 and 2020, the Varroa Mite population had begun to show signs of miticide-resistance. Now that there are miticide-resistant mites spreading through Canada's beehives, the need for new and more diverse management tools is crucial to ensuring the longevity of Canada's Bee Industry.

The Bee Industry is not only crucial for honey production, but is important to many other aspects of agriculture as well. Most importantly, the bee industry helps with the pollination of our orchards, berry farms, vegetables, forages, and canola. Therefore, ensuring the stability and longevity of the Bee Industry not only aids our honey producers, but supports the health of Canada's diverse agricultural industry.

Sources:

- <https://academic.oup.com/jee/article/107/6/2030/794425>
- <https://www.ento.vt.edu/the-bee-group-at-vt/beekeeping/mites1.html#:~:text=Varroa%20mite%20damage%20was%20observed%20in%20eastern%20and,playing%20an%20important%20role%20in%20colony%20overwintering%20success>
- <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/sector/horticulture/reports/statistical-overview-canadian-honey-and-bee-industry-2021>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/decisions-updates/registration-decision/2020/racemic-camphor-eucalyptus-oil-l-menthol-thymol-api-life-var.html>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2023/06/keeping-albertas-beekeepers-flying.html>
- [Alberta Beekeepers Commission Report](#)
- [Beary Berry Inc. Concerns](#)

RESOLUTION 7-24
RE-REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR CERTIFIED APPLICATORS

WHEREAS: Health Canada has completed the re-evaluation of 2% Liquid Strychnine. Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, Health Canada has canceled the registration of Strychnine, and all associated end-use products, used to control Richardson's ground squirrels for sale and use in Canada; and

WHEREAS: Alberta producers have used alternative baiting, suffocates, and fumigant rodenticides to control Richardson ground squirrels but have not had the successes of Strychnine; and

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

WHEREAS: the federal government has banned the use of Strychnine without providing producers any comparative alternative or financial support to deal with the Richardson's ground squirrel pest; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation propose to Health Canada and Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to allow Strychnine to be used exclusively by certified applicators.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the existing strychnine label be subject to meticulous review and amendment, with a specific focus on reducing the potential for off-target exposure and implementing enhanced control measures to mitigate any adverse environmental impact.

SPONSORED BY: Flagstaff County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

STATUS: Federal and Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency

Background:

The first recommendation is made with the utmost concern for environmental preservation and safety;

Subjecting the existing strychnine label to meticulous review and amendment, with a specific focus on reducing the potential for off-target exposure and implementing enhanced control measures to mitigate any adverse environmental impact would not only safeguard our surroundings but also ensure that the use of this substance aligns with the highest standards of environmental responsibility and safety amongst certified applicators.

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 are 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 producer's integrated pest management plan and should be available for use.

In 2020, Health Canada and the PMRA concluded that the environmental risks associated with the use of strychnine for the control of Richardson ground squirrels were not shown to be acceptable when used according to label directions and that no further feasible mitigation measures could be implemented by users of this product. Consequently, the registration of products containing strychnine used to control RGS was canceled and a 3-year phase-out period was allowed until March 4, 2024. This decision was made to address significant environmental concerns and risks to wildlife caused by secondary poisonings.

In 2021, 4-21 Registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine-CARRIED

The Alberta government filed a Notice of Objection regarding this decision.

In March 2021, the PMRA informed AF that the re-evaluation decision was still under internal review following delays in completing the assessment. Until a final decision is made by PMRA on the use of strychnine for the control of Richardson's ground squirrels, the Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program is not looking to incorporate Strychnine training into the program.

In 2022, the Alberta government conducted an evaluation similar to the Government of Saskatchewan; however, conclusive evidence was not available due to inclement spring weather. Alberta then hoped to conduct a similar evaluation again in 2023.

March 4th, 2022, was the last day producers could legally purchase 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate.

In 2023, Resolution 11-23 Loss of 2% Strychnine-AMENDED

February 3rd, 2023, the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation wrote to the federal government to request a reversal of the decision. The letter stated that the loss of this pesticide could cost hay and pasture producers nearly \$800 million per year. The Minister also advised that with no viable alternative to control Richardson's ground squirrel, the decision will create immense pressure for producers and potentially exacerbate the food affordability and security crisis. Furthermore, Agriculture and Irrigation officials have engaged Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC) officials on this issue to press AAFC to

support producers in the transition to alternatives. AGI expects that a key element of this transition would be federal compensation to cover crop losses and cost differentials of using alternative pesticides. The Government of Saskatchewan conducted an evaluation of available alternatives, including zinc phosphide products, ZP Rodent Oat Bait and Burrow Oat Bait. Some evidence indicated these alternatives MIGHT be as effective as 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate, and less expensive.

March 4th, 2023, was the last day producers could legally use 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate for gopher control.

May 10, 2023, Health Canada acknowledges the implications the cancellation of the pesticide product containing strychnine could have on agricultural producers in Alberta and Western Canada and takes them seriously.

Under section 18 of the Pest Control Products Regulations, the Minister of Health may register a pest control product or amend the registration of a pest control product to permit its use, for a period not exceeding one year, for the emergency control of seriously detrimental pest infestations. For information on emergency registrations, such as criteria and information requirements, please refer to Regulatory Directive DIR2017- 03, Registration of Pesticides for Emergency Use: Revised Procedures. With respect to strychnine, an Emergency Use Registration is not an option as there are alternative products registered for the control of RGS and the environmental risks have been shown to not be acceptable. Emergency registrations are not a tool to be used to extend access to the use of a pest control product that has been canceled. For known or ongoing pest problems where no registered product is available, the normal registration processes would apply to address such situations.

INSECT SURVEY RESULTS – 2023 – SMOKY LAKE

6.8

2023 Summary

Thanks you Amanda, for all the work you do for the insect monitoring program, especially the grasshopper survey. I realize the time commitment on your part and it is appreciated.

There were four bertha armyworm sites in Smoky Lake in 2023, none were close to the first warning level of 300 moths. Monitoring for bertha continues to be important. This system helps us to be prepared for what may be happening in the population in season.

Pea leaf weevil has become established and is doing very well in the Edmonton north region. We know that fields with high residual nitrogen, are less likely to suffer from pea leaf weevil induced yield loss. This is because the pea plant will rely on the soil nitrogen rather than fix its own nitrogen. Producers will have to weigh the pea leaf weevil population information provided by the survey and their own experience with yield reductions to make decisions about seed treatments for peas. Research does indicate that with faba bean, insecticide seed treatments positively affect yield. For your reading pleasure <https://www.alberta.ca/pea-leaf-weevil-overview>

In the four fields I sampled for wheat midge in 2023, I did find wheat midge. Should the growing conditions favor midge development, rain in May and June in 2024 and or late seeding, it will be important to scout for the insect while the wheat is in flower. We know that midge can spend at least one additional winter in the ground waiting for proper conditions for it to finish its lifecycle.

We did find a couple of cabbage seedpod weevil were found in your area. In 2024, we will return to that field and scout a few fields around that one to see if this 2023 find was a one of.

Two fields were reported with cutworm damage in the County through our voluntary on line reporting tool. In 2023, cutworms were an issue in much of the province. We really need to remind our producers of cutworms. They need to be prepared to scout in the spring so they don't get caught out.

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 paired pheromone traps in single fields.

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
NW-22-59-19-W4	28
NE-26-59-18-W4	7

Shaded cells were managed by County

Sampling period June 5 – July 17, 2023

LLD	TRAP AVERAGE
NW-36-58-19-W4	79.5
SW-30-58-13-W4	73.5

CABBAGE SEEDPOD WEEVIL (CSPW)

In southern Alberta, including all counties south of and touching Highway 1, the earliest flowering canola crops will be at the highest risk from cabbage seedpod weevil and should be monitored very closely.

Cabbage seedpod weevil overwinters as an adult so the risk of infestation is further indicated by the adult population of the preceding fall. Winter condition also appear to have an impact on populations with mild winter favoring build-up of populations and expansion of their range.

We track the population of other insects in these sweeps as well. These go into long term data sets that will help us research their population trends over time from individual fields.



LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION					CSPW IN 25 SWEEPS	LYGUS ADULT	LYGUS NYMPH	LEAFHOPPER	FLEA BEETLE	RED TURNIP BEETLE	DBM ADULT	DBM LARVA	WASP <5 MM	WASP >5MM	HONEY BEE	BEE BUT NOT HONEY	CATERPILLAR
ne	32	59	19	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0
sw	17	59	15	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
ne	17	58	17	4	2	5	13	1	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0

Samples done with standard sweep net. (15" diameter & 3 foot handle). 25-180 degree sweeps.

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

CUTWORM

Although we don't actively monitor for cutworms, we do have an online reporting tool. This tool relies on the volunteer reporting of cutworm finds in Alberta. In 2023, there was 31 reports of cutworm.

LLD	Crop	2022 Crop	Species	Acres Affected	Spray Required
NE-14-59-20-W4	Canola	Wheat	Red Backed	14	Yes

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 (>20°C) 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	TOTAL NODES	TOTAL NOTCHES	AVERAGE NODE STAGE	AVERAGE NOTCHES/PLANT
sw-15-59-17-w4	300	452	6	9.04
ne-18-59-17-w4	298	224	5.96	4.48
se-16-59-18-w4	299	216	5.98	4.32

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

WHEAT MIDGE (SOIL) (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/m²)
- 3 to 5 will be shown as yellow (600 to 1200/ m²)
- 6 to 8 will be shown as orange (1200 to 1800/ m²)
- 9 or more will be shown as red. (>1800/ m²)

LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION					TOTAL MIDGE	VIABLE	NOT VIABLE	PARASITOID
nw	17	60	19	4	0	0	0	0
sw	1	58	15	4	0	0	0	0
ne	19	59	16	4	2	2	0	0
se	27	58	18	4	4	4	0	0

Sampling done by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, 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
- wear boot covers



6.9

101-1101 5 St., Nisku, AB T9E 2X3
phone: 780-955-3555 fax: 780-955-3444
leduc-county.com

Agricultural Services

Dec. 01, 2023

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Legislature Building 10800 97 Ave.
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Attention: the Honourable Minister Sigurdson

Re: 2023 AgriRecovery Program for livestock producers and Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance (CADLA) Program

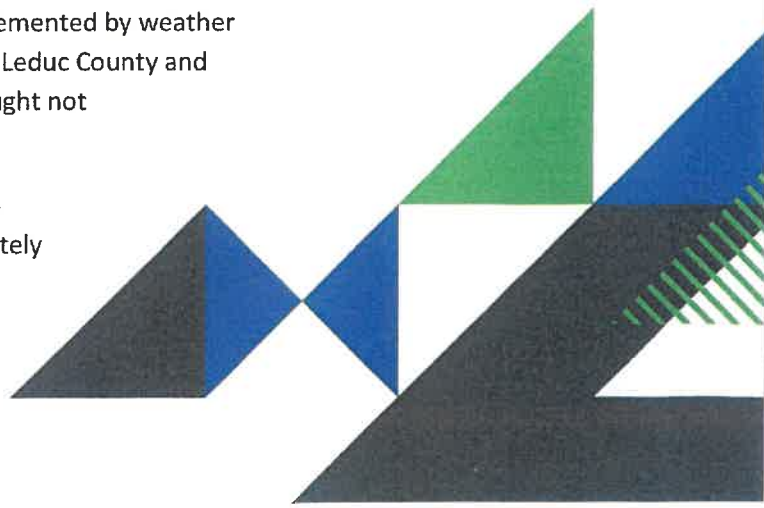
The Leduc County Agricultural Service Board is writing to express its concern regarding the exemption of Leduc County from the 2023 AgriRecovery Program for livestock producers and the 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance (CADLA) Program.

Like many municipalities in Alberta, Leduc County entered the 2023 growing season in a severe moisture deficit. The County did not receive significant precipitation until mid-June, which was well after early pasture production was set. While June did bring much-needed moisture, it arrived too late to provide sufficient grass and forage for livestock. This resulted in many producers having to supplement their feed with annual crop and make difficult decisions about herd size.

While the Agricultural Service Board appreciates that there should be a standardized method to determine eligibility for programs such as the CADLA, it questions whether these methods were measured against the reality on the ground.

The eligibility for the CADLA program was based on the Canadian Drought Monitor map, which is a federal data set that is supplemented by weather station information across the province. On this map, Leduc County and most of the area in central Alberta is labelled as "drought not analyzed."

This designation does not provide confidence that the eligibility for the provincial assistance program accurately

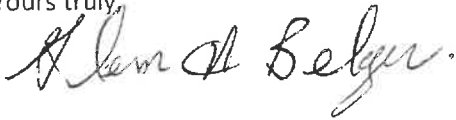


reflects the conditions in those areas where producers were severely impacted.

It's important to note that the severity of Leduc County's 2023 growing season was recognized by the federal government through the Federal Livestock Tax Deferral Program, which is triggered when forage yields are less than 50 per cent of the long-term average for the area because of drought or flooding in a given year. This is worth mentioning because if it is federally recognized that the forage and feed situation for Alberta producers is dire, it should be provincially recognized as well.

The Leduc County Agricultural Service Board would like the province to reconsider assisting producers because of this the significant lack of analysis and oversight. We trust that the province will be open to re-examining the data and stakeholder input to get a true and accurate understanding of the situation. We believe that this re-examination will provide the necessary data to make a fully informed decision. We ask the province to provide the same level of support to all Alberta livestock producers as they have all been equally affected by the 2023 drought.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Belzer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "B".

Glenn Belzer, Agricultural Service Board Chair
Leduc County

cc: Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta
Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta
Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)