



SMOKY LAKE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING

AGENDA

Tuesday, May 26th, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. held

Virtually <https://video.businessconnect.telus.com/join/521005776> Meeting ID #521005776 and

Physically in Smoky Lake County Council Chambers, 4612 McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake

1. Meeting:
 - 1.1. Call to order
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes
 - 3.1. Minutes of the Agricultural Service Board Meeting, Tuesday, February 3rd, 2025.
4. Delegation(s)

Recess at 10:00 a.m. for joint Lac La Biche and Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/275519245166028?p=aomff7jXAUK5cx9I7e>

Meeting ID: 275 519 245 166 028

Passcode: VK2bo9wS
5. Business arising
 - 5.1. Action Item List
 - 5.2. Summer Tour
6. New Business – Requests for Decisions
 - 6.1. RFD Recommendation for Agricultural Fieldman appointment
 - 6.2. RFD ASB Annual Report 2025
 - 6.3. Agricultural Service Board Field Visit July 8th, 2026
 - 6.4. Provincial Resolution Response
 - 6.5. Resolution for Fall 2026 (Discussion)
 - 6.6. Strychnine update
 - 6.7. RFD Farm Family Centennial Award
 - 6.8. RFD Ag Fees and Charges Bylaw
 - 6.9. RFD Aquatic Invasives Species
 - 6.10. RFD Vegetation Management Policy
 - 6.11. RFD Regional Weed and Pest Appeal Committee
 - 6.12. RFD Weed and Pest Inspector Appointment
 - 6.13. Presentation and RFD Weed Inspection and Weed Notice Policy
 - 6.14. RFD Roadside Mowing Policy
7. Chair's report
 - 7.1. ASB Chair Report. (Verbal/Handout)
8. Correspondence

- 8.1. *Growing Agritourism, Alberta Farm Fresh Released February, 2026, RE: A Briefing for Communities, Destinations, and Economic Development*
- 8.2. *Growing Agritourism, Alberta Farm Fresh Released February, 2026, RE: Exploring local opportunities through community Agritourism Town.*
- 8.3. *Letter received from Shayne Blosky, ASB Chair, Brazeau County, released February 18th, 2026, RE: Support for Unlimited On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO)*
- 8.4. *Letter received from Ryan Ratzlaff, Reeve, Municipal District of Greenview, released March 24th, 2026, Proposed Amendments to the Traceability Regulation.*
- 8.5. *Letter Bill 22 Fact Sheet – Animal Protection Amendment Act released March 31, 2026.*
- 8.6. *Weed/Pest Compliance Handout, released May 1st. 2026, AER*
- 8.7. *Referral Criteria for Shared-Jurisdiction Pest and Weed Infractions, released May 1st, 2026, AER, AEM, AGI*
- 8.8. *Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation and Local Authority Enhanced Pests and Weed Control Management Process (RCAM Orders), released May 1st, 2026, AEM, AER, AGI*
- 8.9. *RCAM Order Referral Process, released May 1st, 2026, AER*
- 8.10 *AGI moisture situation update*
 - 2026-04-22
 - 2026-05-06

8.0 *Date and time of Next Meeting
Adjournment.*



**SMOKY LAKE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 3rd at 9:00 a.m. held

Virtually <https://video.businessconnect.telus.com/join/800483679>

(Meeting ID # 800483679) and Physically in Smoky Lake County Council Chambers, 4612
McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake

Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, David Kully, time 9:01 a.m. in the presence of the following persons:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u> <u>Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026</u>
Committee Member/Chairman	David Kully	Present in Chambers
Committee Member/Vice Chairman	Ryan Barker	Present in Chambers
Agricultural Fieldman	Carleigh Danyluk	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Sara fern Eigher	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Tori Ponich	Present in Chambers
Interim CAO/Finance MNG	Brenda Adamson	Virtually Present
Producer-at-Large Member	Curtis Boychuk	Absent
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Tamara Flondra	Present in Chambers
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Brett Rurka	Absent
Recording Secretary	Meaghan Andreychuk	Present in Chambers
Comm. Officer	Evonne Zukiwski	Virtually Present

2. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution No: ASB 20260203-01
Moved By: Ryan Barker
Sara Seconds

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, February 3rd, 2026, be adopted with the following additions:

- Additional material to 5.1 Ag Drone School

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

Resolution No: ASB 20260203-02
Minutes of the Agricultural Service Board Meeting, on Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025

Moved By: Tamara Flondra
Seconded by: Sara fern Eigher

That the Minutes of the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Delegation(s)

None.

5. Business

Resolution
No: ASB
20260203-
03

5.1. ASB Extension Program Proposal

Moved By: Ryan Barker

Seconded by: Sara fern Eigher

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommends that the following educational workshops and extension events be incorporated into the ASB Extension Program for 2026:

- **Bumble Bee Box Workshop (full day)**
- **Precision Ranching Workshop (half-day)- Landview Drones**
- **Welding for Producers Partner with Portage College**
- **Garden Planning, No Till Gardening, Weed Free/Drought Resistant Gardening**
- **Equine Education Workshop (full-day)**

CARRIED

Resolution
No: ASB
20260203-
04

5.2. ATTS Group Inc.

Moved By: Tori Ponich

Seconded by:

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommend that the information provided by the Agricultural Fieldman regarding Toso Bozic of ATTS Group Inc. be filed for information.

CARRIED

Resolution
No: ASB
20260203-
05

5.3. 2026 ASB Business Plan

Moved By: Tamara Flondra

Seconded: Sara fern Eigher

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommend that Smoky Lake County Council approve Policy Statement No. 62-10-11 Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2026 as presented.

CARRIED

6. Issues for Information

Resolution
No: ASB
20260203-
06

6.1. ASB Chairmans Report

Moved By: Tori Ponich

Second: Ryan Barker

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the ASB Chairmans report prepared for January 28th, 2026 as information.

CARRIED

7. Correspondence

Resolution
No: ASB
20260203-
07

7.1. Letter received from Ron Davis, Reeve, Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66, received October 14th, 2025, RE: Inquiry regarding the vacant research scientist position at AAFC Lethbridge Research and Development Centre.

Moved By: Ryan Barker

Seconded by: Sara fern Eigher

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board file the Letter received from Ron Davis, Reeve, Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66, received October 14th, 2025, regarding the vacant research scientist position at AAFC Lethbridge Research and Development Centre as information.

CARRIED

Resolution
No: ASB
20260203-
08

7.2 Letter received from Gerry Richard, Reeve, Saddle Hills County, received November 18th, 2025, RE: On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) License Amendments.

Moved By: Tamara Flondra

Seconded by: Ryan Barker

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board file the letter received from Gerry Richard, Reeve, Saddle Hills County, dated November 18th, 2025, regarding On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) License Amendments as information.

CARRIED

Resolution
No: ASB
20260203-
09

7.3 Letter received from Cindy Millar, CAO, Northern Sunrise County, received November 26th, 2025, RE: Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program.

Moved By: Sara fern Eigher

Seconded by: Tori Ponich

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board file the letter received from Cindy Millar, CAO, Northern Sunrise County, dated, November 26th, 2025, regarding the Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program as information.

CARRIED

Resolution
No: ASB
20260203-
010

7.4 Letter received from Cindy Millar, CAO, Northern Sunrise County, received November 26th, 2025, RE: Continued Support for Unlimited On-Farm Slaughter Sales in Alberta.

Moved By: Tamara Flondra

Seconded by: Sara fern Eigher

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board file the letter received from Cindy Millar, CAO, Northern Sunrise County, dated, November 26th, 2025, regarding the continued Support for Unlimited On-Farm Slaughter Sales in Alberta as information.

CARRIED

Resolution
No: ASB
20260203-
011

7.5 Letter received from Murray Phillips, ASB Chair & Reeve, Two Hills County, received December 11th, 2025, RE: Request for Provincial Exemption or Reinstatement of 2% Strychnine for Gopher Control.

Moved By: Ryan Barker

Seconded by: Tamara Flondra

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board file the letter from Murray Phillips, ASB Chair & Reeve, Two Hills County, received December 11th, 2025, regarding the Request for Provincial Exemption or Reinstatement of 2% Strychnine for Gopher Control as information.

CARRIED

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Moved by Tori Ponich

Seconded by: Tamara Flondra

That the next Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting be scheduled for Tuesday, May 26th at 9:00 a.m., to be held to be held virtually, through electronic Communication Technology as per Bylaw 1376-20 and/or physically in County Council Chambers.

CARRIED

Resolution
No: ASB
20260203-
012

Adjournment

Moved By: Ryan Barker

Seconded By: Tamara Flondra

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting of February 3, 2026, be adjourned, time 9:55 a.m.

CARRIED

CHAIRMAN,
David Kully

SEAL

INTERIM CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER,
Brenda Adamson

2026 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour

📍 Wheatland County 📅 July 14-16th, 2026

Wheatland County is proud to host the 2026 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour, celebrating the theme “Where Innovation Meets Tradition.”

This three-day event welcomes Agricultural Service Board members from across Alberta to experience the heart of our rural community; where forward-thinking practices, deep-rooted agricultural heritage, and local ingenuity come together. Through immersive site visits, producer showcases, and hands-on learning, participants will explore sustainable farming, innovative agri-business, and the real-world challenges and opportunities shaping today’s agricultural landscape.

The tour not only highlights the strength and diversity of Wheatland County’s agricultural sector, but also fosters collaboration, connection, and shared vision for the future of agriculture in Alberta.



Registration

We are excited to welcome you to an action-packed 2026 ASB Summer Tour! Registration is now open.

Date: July 14-16, 2026

Location: Wheatland County

Delegate Registration Fee: \$775.00

Registration Deadline: May 15, 2026

[Register Now](#)



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: May 26, 2026

Agenda Item: 6.1

Topic: Agricultural Fieldmen Appointment

Presented By: Sebastien Dutrisac, Manager of Agricultural Services

Recommendation(s):

That Smoky Lake County ASB supports the appointment of Sebastien Dutrisac and Briemann Eden as the Agricultural Fieldmen for the County of Smoky Lake, effective April 16 2026, pursuant to the Agricultural Service Board Act.

Background:

The grant agreement ASB-076850 with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI) requires the municipality to appoint an Agricultural Fieldman per the Agricultural Service Board Act (ASB Act): "*Agricultural Fieldman, Section 8(1) If a council has established a board, the council, in consultation with the board, must appoint a qualified person as agricultural fieldman to implement agricultural policies and programs and to manage the agricultural resources of the municipality.*" and Section 8(2) *The agricultural fieldman shall act as a designated officer of the municipality (a) in carrying out the functions, duties and powers of the municipality under any Act relating to agriculture, and (b) in implementing projects respecting agriculture agreed on between the council and the Minister.* On April 16, 2026, Council appointed both individuals as Agricultural Fieldman.

Benefits:

The appointment of a qualified Agricultural Fieldman provides significant benefits to the County of Smoky Lake, including:

- Legislative and regulatory compliance
- Delivery of agricultural and environmental services
- Continued access to provincial grant funding

Disadvantages:

N/A

Alternatives

1. none

Financial Implications:

Access to the grant of \$184,997 per annum

Legislation:

- Agricultural Service Board Act
- Agricultural Pest Act
- Animal Health Act



Request for Decision (RFD)

- Soil Conservation Act
- Weed Control Act

Intergovernmental:

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

Strategic Alignment:

N/A

Enclosure(s):

N/A

Signature of the CAO: _____



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday May 26, 2026

Agenda Item: 6.2

Topic: Annual Agricultural Service Board report

Presented By: Manager of Agricultural Services, Sebastien Dutrisac

Recommendation:

- 1. That Smoky Lake County ASB recommend to council to receive the report as presented**

Background:

Under Section 4 of the *Agricultural Service Board Act* "A board must present a summary of its activities for the preceding year to the council in a form acceptable to the council containing the information required by the council." Attached is the report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Benefits:

The submission of this report fulfills the municipality's requirement under the grant agreement ASB-076850 with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI). It will also increase access to the summary of the activities and the benefits of having an ASB in Smoky Lake County. Scheduled for July 8, 2026 is the scheduled ASB Field Visit of which the submission of this report is on the first page of the audit as "ASB provides a summary of activities to Council; minimum one annual report"

Disadvantages:

Alternatives

1. That ASB accepts and provides directions for annual activity information to be presented next year along with submitting the report to Council.

Financial Implications:

Municipal requirement under the grant agreement ASB-076850 with the MOAI

Legislation:

Agricultural Service Board Act

Intergovernmental:

MOAI

Strategic Alignment:

Service Delivery & Community Wellbeing - Ensure compliance with agricultural legislation and support producers

Enclosure(s):

1. Enclosure 1 - 2025 ASB Grant Report SLC filed

Signature of the CAO: _____

2025 ASB Field Visit Checklist

For each requirement criteria please provide the requested documentation in advance to the AGI staff assigned to your field visit or have the documents ready and available for review at the field visit.

Section 1: Legislated Duties & Requirements

Eligibility: Council establishes ASB (ASB Act 3 1)-8); qualified Ag Fieldman appointment by Council ASB Act 8 1); Ag Fieldman employed FT, year-round ASB grant T&C 2.1.1 with duties ASB 8 1)-3)

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Requested Documentation</u>	<u>Documentation Provided or Available for Review</u>	
ASB is appointed by council	- Council minutes - motion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ASB members meet section 3 (3) of ASB Act (knowledgeable on ag and qualified to develop ag related policies ASB 2 a)-3))	-ASB member qualifications	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	- ASB meeting minutes: show members are familiar with ag concerns; input on ag policies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ag Fieldmen is appointed by council	- Council minutes (motion); valid inspector/officer card	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Goal Area 1 – ASB Act

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Requested Documentation</u>	<u>Documentation Provided or Available for Review</u>	
ASB policy/by-law	-Approved ASB policy, bylaw	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ASB is active ASB 3 4)5)	- ASB meeting minutes; frequency of meetings: minimum quarterly; members in attendance, participating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ASB provides input to Council on ag related policies, programming, compliance requirements; advice provided to Council on ag issues; ag strategic plan (input or separate)	- Council minutes showing ASB providing input on ag to Council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	- Municipal strategic plan,	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	- ASB Strategic plan (Document) - Date of last review		
ASB members understand their legislated roles and responsibilities ASB 2 a)-e), 8(1)	- Record of ASB orientation training for all current ASB members	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ASB provides a summary of activities to Council; minimum one annual report	- Report # reports/year	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	- Council minutes – motion to accept report(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ASB assurance/governance activities and outputs as per application	-Refer to your application and provide supporting documentation for all other ASB activities/outputs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Goal Area 2: APA

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Requested Documentation</u>	<u>Documentation Provided or Available for Review</u>	
Current approved policies and/or bylaws in place for APA	- List or links to applicable approved policies and/or bylaws - #/types of pests elevated by bylaw (approved bylaw)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Council appoints sufficient APA inspectors APA 10(1) for compliance to all legislated requirements, to implement all APA policies, bylaws and programming	-Council motions appointing APA inspectors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	-APA inspector photo ID	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	- APA policy implementation,	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	- APA program related documentation (proactive, reactive) for crop, tree, vertebrate pests (e.g., program details, procedures)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Council appointed inspectors inspect and investigate regulated and target pests, taking appropriate follow up actions	-Inspection and investigation records for pests (crop, tree, vertebrate) including documentation on findings, and next steps (e.g. copies of redacted notices, enforcement actions, outcomes)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	-Compliance tracking system documentation for all pests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
APA appeal committee per APA 14(5)	-Council minutes (motion/date); -Notices appealed, appeal outcome	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Requested Documentation</u>	<u>Documentation Provided or Available for Review</u>	
Product Stewardship Program	-Dispenser training record	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(1080, strychnine) records		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
			-Tracking and reporting
	for dispensed toxicants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vertebrate Pest Reporting	-Wild boar reports, actions taken	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	-Rat sighting reports, # confirmed actions taken	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Monitoring and Surveillance	-Surveys (disease, insect) done	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	-Survey monitoring priorities		
APA assurance and compliance activities and outputs from application	-Documentation for all APA activities and outputs listed in your application	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goal Area 3: SCA			
Current approved policies and/or bylaws in place for SCA	- List or links to applicable approved policies and/or bylaws	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Council appoints SCA officers SCA15 (1) (2) for compliance to all legislated requirements, to implement all SCA policies, bylaws and programming	-Council motions appointing SCA officers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	-SCA officer photo ID	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	- SCA policy implementation,	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	- SCA program related documentation for soil (e.g., program details, procedures)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Council appointed officers inspect and investigate potential soil issues, taking appropriate follow up actions	-Inspection and investigation records for soil issues including documentation on findings, and next steps (e.g. copies of redacted notices, enforcement actions, outcomes)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	-Compliance tracking system documentation for soil issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Council recognizes the ASB as the SCA appeal committee as per SCA Act 14 (a-d) and appeal process complies with 7(1) (2) (3), 8, in response to 4(1) (2), 5 (a) (b), 6 (1) (2) (3) and follows 9(1) (2), 10, 11, 12 (1) (2), 13 (1) (2).	Council policy; Council minutes showing ASB is the appeal committee for SCA;	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	SCA appeal process documentation;	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cause and response for confirmed soil issues	Notices appealed, appeal outcome Documentation on types of soil issues encountered, with responses and area impacted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SCA assurance and/or compliance activities and outputs from application	Documentation for all activities and outputs listed in your application	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Goal Area 4 WCA

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Documentation Requested</u>	<u>Documentation Provided or Available for Review</u>	
Current approved policies, bylaws in place for WCA	List of links to approved policies, bylaws	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Council appoints sufficient WCA inspectors per WCA 7 (1) to ensure compliance to all legislated requirements and to implement all WCA policies, bylaws, and programming	-Council motions appointing WCA inspectors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	-WCA inspector photo ID	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	- WCA policy implementation, - WCA program related documentation (proactive, reactive) for weeds (e.g., program details – manual, biocontrols, spray, spray procedures, records, vegetation management)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Council appointed WCA inspectors investigate and inspect for regulated and target weeds with appropriate follow up actions taken	-Inspection and investigation records for weeds (elevated, noxious, prohibited noxious) including documentation on findings, and next steps (e.g. copies of redacted notices, enforcement actions, outcomes)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	-Compliance tracking system documentation for all weed issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Annual appointment by Council of independent WCA appeal committee per WCA 19 (1) and appeal process provided as per WCA 17 (1-2), 19 (2,3)	-Council minutes for independent appeal committee appointment -WCA appeal process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inspection and licensing of stationary (private and co-operative) and mobile seed cleaning facilities as per WCA 6(1)	-Notices appealed and outcomes -Current inspection report and license for all mobile and stationary seed cleaning facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
WCA assurance and/or compliance activities and outputs from application	Documentation for all activities and outputs listed in your application	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Goal Area 5 - AHA

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Requested Documentation</u>	<u>Documentation Provided or Available for Review</u>	
Current, approved policies, by-laws in place for AHA	List or links to approved policies, by-laws for AHA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Examples of ways AHA is supported as per ASB Act 2 c)	Provide documentation on how you support AHA (e.g., list or links to reportable diseases, livestock emergency response plan, animal health support in municipal emergency response plan)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reporting for notifiable and reportable diseases to CPVO	Records of diseases reported	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
AHA assurance and/or compliance activities and outputs from application	Documentation for all listed AHA activities and outputs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Goal Area 6: Outreach for Legislation (ASB, APA, SCA, WCA, AHA)

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Documentation Requested</u>	<u>Documentation Provided or Available for Review</u>	
Awareness and education provided to residents on the purpose and requirements of ASB Act	Records on all the ways you provided outreach (content and	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	delivery method) (e.g. website, social media posts, events)		
Awareness and education provided to residents on the purpose and requirements of APA.	Records on all the ways you provided outreach (content and delivery method) (e.g. website, social media posts, events, fact sheets, newsletters)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Awareness and education provided to residents on the purpose and requirements of SCA.	Records on all the ways you provided outreach (content and delivery method) (e.g. website, social media posts, events, fact sheets, newsletters)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Awareness and education provided to residents on the purpose and requirements of WCA.	Records on all the ways you provided outreach (content and delivery method) (e.g. website, social media posts, events, fact sheets, newsletters)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Awareness and education provided to residents on the purpose and requirements of AHA.	Records on all the ways you provided outreach (content and delivery method) (e.g. website, social media posts, events, fact sheets, newsletters)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Goal Area 7 – Extension

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Documentation Requested</u>	<u>Documentation Provided or Available for Review</u>	
Awareness and education extension that benefits the economic viability and sustainability of producers is provided to residents as per ASB Act 2 (d) (e)	Provide supporting documentation (minimum one example) for each activity and output listed in your application including delivery that you have done or are doing.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Capital Purchases

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Documentation Requested</u>	<u>Documentation Provided or Available for Review</u>	
Purchases of capital items under the Legislative stream comply with ASB Grant T&C 2.4.2 (a)	List capital items purchased	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Section 2: Resource Management (if receive RM funding these items will be confirmed by RM program staff)

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Documentation Requested</u>	<u>Documentation Provided or Available for Review</u>	
RM Activity Tracker	Documentation supporting listed items	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Successful RM activities	Documentation supporting listed items	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Demonstrated value of RM program	Documentation supporting value	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Proposed changes implemented	Documentation supporting implementation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Section 3: Rat Control Program (if receive funding under this stream)

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Documentation Requested</u>	<u>Documentation Provided or Available for Review</u>	
System for inspecting, investigating, responding, tracking and reporting	System records: -inspections, investigations -responses -tracking -reporting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
System for control and eradication of confirmed rat infestations	-Site inspection records: - # confirmed - # eradicated - # controlled	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
System to properly store, dispense, track and report on bait issued	Bait system records: -storage (amounts, types) - dispensed to approved residents (amounts, types) - control, types/amounts used	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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RESPONSE TRACKING SUMMARY – April 15

		Rec.	Recommendation for ASBPC
RESOLUTION 1-26: EMERGENCY REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL (RGS) CONTROL	AGI	11-Mar	Province is working for farmers.
	AAFC		action taken - no letter
	HC		action taken - no letter
	PMRA		Yes we have it but red tape is making it hard or impossible to use
RESOLUTION 2-26: EXEMPTION OF AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT FROM CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1999 EMISSION LIMITS	AGI	11-Mar	
	EPA		Follow up – email again
	AAFC		wait until May
	ECCC		wait until May
RESOLUTION 4-26: RURAL WATER DISTRIBUTION AND CONNECTIVITY FUNDING	AGI	11-Mar	Resolution for farmers AND rural residents, distribution lines AND tie ins.
	TEC	2-Mar	non answer - wait for Integrated water program
	Af & Util		follow up inquiry
	AB Inf		follow up inquiry
	AAFC		wait until May
	CHIF		wait until May
RESOLUTION PC1-26: MODERNIZING ALBERTA'S RAT CONTROL PROGRAM	AGI	11-Mar	Watch for program review updates? Follow up in Summer
	EPA		Follow up inquiry
	TEC	2-Mar	Follow up with a letter, - want them to acknowledge the importance of it and commitment to collaborate on awareness and enforcement -
	AB Inf		follow up inquiry
RESOLUTION PC2-26: ON-FARM MEAT PROCESSING	AGI	11-Mar	Watch for further developments
RESOLUTION PC4-26: URGENT REFORMS TO CFIA AND PMRA	AGI	11-Mar	Doing something, watch for further developments
	AAFC		wait until May
	HC		wait until May
	cc CFIA		Not expecting
RESOLUTION E1-26: VACANT BIOLOGICAL CONTROL SCIENTIST POSITION	AAFC		Follow up
	cc: HC		
RESOLUTION E2-26: LIVESTOCK TRACEABILITY UPDATE CONCERNS	AGI	11-Mar	Watch for AGI engagement, ask for "traceability outcomes"
	P/safe		follow up inquiry
	Ser AB		follow up inquiry
	AAFC		wait until May
	Pr. EDC		wait until May
	PHAC		wait until May

RESOLUTION 1-26: EMERGENCY REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL (RGS) CONTROL

WHEREAS 2% liquid strychnine has proven the most effective tool in managing Richardson's ground squirrels in the prairie provinces since about 1928;

WHEREAS to help maintain a level of Richardson's ground squirrel infestation below economic threshold as part of an integrated pest management plan;

WHEREAS there is still no other product available that is as effective as 2% liquid strychnine; and

WHEREAS when handled and used according to label, the off-target impacts have been minimal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Health Canada, work with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) and make 2% liquid strychnine available to farmers/ranchers for the 2026 season and beyond.

SPONSORED BY: Foothills County
STATUS: Provincial and Federal
DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada,
Health Canada,
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation,
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

RESPONSE AGI

On October 1, 2025, the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan jointly submitted an Emergency Use Registration (EUR) request to the PMRA to approve the use of 2% liquid strychnine to control RGS. This request was [denied](#) by the PMRA, disappointing farmers and rural communities. Following this, on February 2, Minister Sigurdson and Minister Marit of Saskatchewan sent a joint letter advocating for the PMRA to reconsider this decision. This is further backed by Premier's Smith's February 12 joint letter with Saskatchewan Premier Moe advocating directly to Prime Minister Carney to grant an immediate 3-year exemption for the use of strychnine. An immediate decision is required to enable access to the product this spring to set our producers up for a successful 2026 growing season.

Alberta remains deeply concerned about the impact of RGS on the province's agricultural sector and is committed to identifying effective management solutions. Alberta continues to advocate for the federal government to provide access to strychnine as an important part of integrated pest management control plans for this pest.

RESPONSE AAFC

No response

RESPONSE PMRA

No response

RESPONSE HEALTH CANADA

No response

RESOLUTION 2-26: EXEMPTION OF AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT FROM CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1999 EMISSION LIMITS

WHEREAS Concerns have been raised about the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of current Government of Canada emissions controls on diesel vehicles and machinery, specifically the use of Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF);

WHEREAS Producers in Alberta face expensive repairs and more costly down time dealing with Diesel Exhaust Fluid and cold temperatures;

WHEREAS Producers in Alberta need to stay competitive in the international markets; and

WHEREAS The net environmental benefit of DEF is negligible when considering the environmental impact of break downs, down time, and reduced longevity of equipment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Agriculture and Agri Food Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, and Alberta Environment work with the Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada to exempt agricultural equipment and vehicles from emission limits for nitrogen oxides (NOx) so that the waste of maintaining diesel exhaust fluid and selective catalytic reduction systems can be eliminated.

SPONSORED BY: Foothills County

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri Food Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

RESPONSE AGI

Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) has heard from producers and ASBs about Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) use in farm machinery – in particular, concerns related to:

- crystallization and freezing in cold conditions;
- contamination and product degradation;
- sensor and component failures leading to downtime; and
- storage and handling difficulties.

Producers report these complications can lead to significant repair bills – sometimes amounting to thousands or even tens of thousands of dollars – along with lost productivity during critical operating windows. These costs have a real impact on farm profitability.

The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA) is federal legislation focused on preventing pollution and protecting the environment and human health to support sustainable development.

- It enables regulations for on-road and off-road vehicles and emission standards for engines to reduce hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides (NO_x), particulate matter and other air pollutants listed in Schedule 1 of the Act.
- It enables regulating greenhouse gas emissions from passenger automobiles and light trucks, and from heavy-duty vehicles and engines.
- DEF enables diesel engines to comply with emission standards by converting NO_x into harmless nitrogen and water.
- Federal emission regulations may have unintended impacts on producer profitability, including operational challenges for producers.

As CEPA is federal legislation, provinces do not have authority to grant DEF exemptions. No Canadian province has received a DEF exemption to date.

Alberta is committed to bringing forward producer concerns in ongoing discussions with federal counterparts and looking at ways to conduct a thorough assessment of potential agricultural exemptions so that actions are supported by evidence and reflect the realities farmers face.

RESPONSE AAFC

No response

RESPONSE EPA

No response

RESOLUTION 4-26: RURAL WATER DISTRIBUTION AND CONNECTIVITY FUNDING

WHEREAS Alberta is experiencing prolonged drought conditions, leaving both agricultural producers and rural residents without reliable access to water;

WHEREAS Existing federal and provincial programs fund treatment plants and transmission mains but provide inadequate support for the distribution and service connections that directly reach farms and households;

WHEREAS This funding gap creates affordability barriers, leaves regional transmission systems underutilized, and undermines agricultural production, public health, and rural sustainability;

WHEREAS bridging the gap between funded transmission projects and user connections will maximize the value of federal and provincial investments, reduce long-term operating and maintenance costs, and reduce public health risks associated with private wells of uncertain quality; and

WHEREAS Other jurisdictions have implemented grant or cost share programs to assist property owners with service lateral costs and on lot infrastructure, resulting in improved uptake of centralized services and stronger outcomes for rural residents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

The Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta **expand water infrastructure funding to include distribution and service connections for farms, rural residences, and small communities** through an equitable cost-sharing program.

SPONSORED BY: County of Stettler No. 6

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors
Alberta Affordability and Utilities
Alberta Infrastructure
Canada Housing and Infrastructure

RESPONSE AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

The Government of Alberta continues to support rural and regional water infrastructure through existing grant programs, including the Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership and the Water for Life program. These programs are designed for smaller municipalities and

regional water commissions serving populations under 45,000. The programs help ensure that rural communities have reliable drinking water and wastewater systems.

- Recently, AGI has been working closely with Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC) to identify gaps in the current water-infrastructure programs and to support TEC's work on a potential integrated water program. To help shape this work, TEC surveyed municipalities and regional partners in August 2025 to gather perspectives on both the existing programs and what an integrated approach could look like. TEC is responsible for delivering the current water-infrastructure programs, and any future changes or announcements regarding an integrated water program would come from them.
- Water co-ops also play an essential role in providing reliable water services to farms and rural residences, particularly in areas that are not served by municipal systems. Affordability and Utilities supports the development, operation, governance, and long-term sustainability of rural water co-operatives across the province. The Rural Water Program also provides important support for water co-op systems that benefit rural communities.
- In addition to these municipal programs, AGI and the federal government support agricultural producers directly through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership Water Program. This program provides 50 per cent cost-share funding, up to \$10,000 per water-source development, and up to \$20,000 total for new water-source projects over the program term (April 2023-March 2028). Eligible projects include tie-ins to multi-user water pipelines, improving water security for farm operations.
- AGI is mandated with completing ongoing irrigation modernization commitments and exploring opportunities to further invest in irrigation expansion and water-storage infrastructure.
- Through the Irrigation Rehabilitation Program, AGI provides annual funding to irrigation districts to support upgrades and repairs to conveyance systems. These improvements help ensure efficient, reliable, and secure water delivery across irrigation districts – benefits that extend to rural communities and agricultural users alike.

RESPONSE TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC CORRIDORS



ALBERTA

TRANSPORTATION and ECONOMIC CORRIDORS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake*

March 2, 2026

AR 107011

Mr. Rob Siewert
Chair
Provincial Agriculture Service Board Committee
PO Box 33
Fort Assiniboine, AB T0G 1A0
ASBPC_EA@agriculturalserviceboards.ca

Dear Mr. Siewert:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee regarding Resolution 4-26, passed at the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference on January 21, 2026. We appreciate you bringing forward the perspectives of agricultural municipalities and producers from across Alberta.

The Government of Alberta recognizes access to reliable and safe water is essential to the long-term sustainability of agriculture, rural residences, and small communities. We understand the intent of the resolution is to seek expanded provincial support for water distribution infrastructure and service connections through an equitable cost-sharing approach.

At present, provincial water infrastructure funding programs are designed primarily to support regional and municipal-scale systems which deliver broad public benefit, with eligibility criteria focused on core infrastructure

rather than private service connections. These criteria help ensure funding is allocated in a manner which balances demonstrated need, fiscal responsibility, and consistency across the province.

We acknowledge the ongoing challenges faced by rural landowners and agricultural operations in securing affordable access to water infrastructure.

The Government of Alberta continues to work with municipalities, regional water commissions, and stakeholders to explore opportunities to improve regional collaboration, optimize existing systems, and consider future program design improvements where feasible.

Regarding PC1-26, Alberta's rat control program is not under the jurisdiction of Transportation and Economic Corridors. However, my colleague the Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, will be able to provide a response on this topic.

We appreciate the Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee's advocacy on behalf of Alberta's agricultural community and thank you for sharing this resolution. Your input helps inform ongoing discussions related to rural infrastructure needs and long-term water sustainability.

Sincerely,



Honourable Devin Dreeshen, ECA

Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors

cc: Honourable Nathan Neudorf, ECA, Minister of Affordability and Utilities Honourable Martin Long, ECA, Minister of Infrastructure

Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, ECA, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

RESPONSE AFFORDABILITY AND UTILITIES

No response

RESPONSE ALBERTA INFRASTRUCTURE

No response

RESPONSE CANADA HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

No response

RESOLUTION PC1-26: MODERNIZING ALBERTA'S RAT CONTROL PROGRAM

WHEREAS: the current Rat Program in Alberta was designed in the 1950s and may not fully address the realities of modern pest (rat) management, with emerging challenges both inside and outside the established rat control zone;

WHEREAS: recent years have seen increased rat activity in urban municipalities and regions outside the traditional control zone, with increased and new pathways for rat spread and heightened risk to agricultural and urban infrastructure;

WHEREAS: public awareness efforts, while improved through initiatives like the “Rat on Rat” campaign, require further expansion to ensure both rural and urban Albertans are informed and vigilant;

WHEREAS: an effective provincial strategy depends on the collaborative efforts of the Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs), Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA), Alberta Municipalities (AM), the Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC), the Government of Alberta (GOA), First Nations and Métis communities (FNM), and the support of surrounding jurisdictions;

WHEREAS: there are identified gaps in training for municipal and pest control staff, particularly regarding rat identification, management, and reporting;

WHEREAS: effective rat management requires current data, including accurate mapping and tracking of high-risk sites such as landfills, recycling facilities, and rail yards, which are currently lacking a comprehensive, province-wide inventory.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation perform a full strategic review and modernization of Alberta's Rat Program, ensuring its effectiveness and responsiveness to current and emerging pest management challenges throughout the province;

FURTHER BE IT

RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Province of Alberta include the creation of a working group composed of members from ASBs, Rural Municipalities of Alberta, AM, AISC, GOA ministries, FNM and adjacent jurisdictions to provide direction and recommendations to the GOA for the modernization of Alberta's Rat Program

SPONSORED BY: ASBPC

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Environment and Protected Areas,
Infrastructure, Transportation and Economic Corridors

RESPONSE AGI

- A comprehensive review of the Rat Control Program is being considered for summer 2026 to identify modernization opportunities and ensure long-term program sustainability.
- Alberta has operated the Rat Control Program since 1950 with the goal of preventing rats from establishing resident populations within our borders. While rats do occasionally enter the province, “rat-free” means they are detected quickly and eradicated before they can reproduce. Under the *Agricultural Pests Act*, landowners are responsible for controlling rats on their property, while municipalities oversee eradication efforts locally. The province supports this work through coordination, technical expertise, and emergency response when infestations occur.
- A critical component of our prevention efforts is the 600-kilometre Rat Control Zone along Alberta’s eastern border. Municipal and provincial officers conduct routine inspections in this area and implement targeted control measures to ensure Alberta remains rat-free. Every reported sighting is investigated, and more than one rat is considered an infestation requiring immediate action. This coordinated system is recognized internationally and remains foundational to protecting farms, infrastructure, and stored feed supplies across Alberta.
- In 2023, the program was strengthened to address rising pressures on pest-prevention systems. Enhancements included increased funding for bait and equipment, the creation of the Assistant Rat and Pest Specialist position, and support for the Alberta Invasive Species Council’s “Rat on Rats!” public awareness campaign. Since June 2024, the Assistant Specialist proactively inspects recycling and waste-handling facilities – locations that can unintentionally transport rats into the province.
- Alberta’s rat-free status continues to protect rural communities from extensive property damage, contamination and economic losses that other jurisdictions experience as a result of established rat populations.
- Alberta’s success in staying rat-free is a shared success, achieved through the partnership between producers, municipalities and the province. Prompt reporting of sightings, cooperation with inspections and on-farm prevention measures remain vital to maintaining this unique advantage.

- Please continue to report any suspected rat sightings immediately so we can act quickly to protect our farms and communities.

RESPONSE EPA

No response

RESPONSE TEC

Included in Response 4-26 – deferred to AGI

RESOLUTION PC2-26: ON-FARM MEAT PROCESSING

WHEREAS: the On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) program, introduced in 2020, provides critical opportunities for small-scale livestock producers in Alberta to enhance local food systems, and support economic diversification through direct-to-consumer sales and custom slaughter services for household use;

WHEREAS: regulatory changes implemented on July 2, 2025, including annual slaughter weight limits of approximately 5,000 lbs live weight and restrictions on co-ownership based on animal size, have introduced uncertainty and potential barriers that could reduce viability for small processors by up to 70% in revenue;

WHEREAS: the government's pause on the regulatory changes, following immediate stakeholder concerns about unintended consequences, highlights the program's vulnerability to abrupt policy shifts and the importance of responsive governance in supporting rural agriculture;

WHEREAS: the subsequent online survey and engagement process for OFSO holders and stakeholders, conducted from August 25 to September 22, 2025, aimed to gather input on reducing foodborne illness risks and assessing long-term impacts, but has yet to yield publicly announced outcomes as of December 2025, contributing to ongoing anxiety among small processors;

WHEREAS: the lack of timely updates following the consultation period underscores the need for more transparent and comprehensive evaluations to address persistent red tape, such as stringent licensing prerequisites (e.g., food safety modules, onsite assessments, water testing, zoning compliance, and quarterly reporting), which may disproportionately burden local small processors and hinder their ability to operate efficiently;

WHEREAS: a thorough economic evaluation is essential to quantify the financial impacts of existing barriers and regulatory uncertainties on small processors, including potential revenue losses, investment deterrence, and contributions to Alberta's rural economy, with the explicit goal of streamlining processes, reducing red tape, and fostering sustainable growth in the local meat production sector.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation initiates a **comprehensive, transparent, and timely reviews of the On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) program**—including all regulatory changes, licensing requirements, and enforcement measures—be conducted with meaningful stakeholder input, with the aim of minimizing administrative burdens and financial uncertainty for small-scale processors.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation **reduce unnecessary red tape** and ensure that regulatory policies do not disproportionately hinder small, rural operators and supports long-term viability, economic sustainability, and growth of Alberta's local meat production while simultaneously meeting traceability and safe food safety requirement.

SPONSORED BY: ASBPC

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation,

RESPONSE AGI

- The OFSO program was introduced in July 2020 to increase access to local meat. All meat resulting from slaughter under an OFSO licence is uninspected. Therefore, this meat cannot be sold, gifted, bartered or otherwise transferred. It must be returned to the owner(s) of the animal for consumption by their households only.
- In 2024, AGI updated OFSO pre-licensing requirements to support operator compliance and increase consumer confidence. The updates require applicants to successfully complete testing requirements for food safety and water potability, as well as participate in a pre-licensing onsite assessment.
- Pre-licensing requirements are foundational food safety and risk-management practices. These requirements are streamlined, low-cost, and designed to prevent far more serious issues that would create real burdens for small producers. They also protect public health, reduce liability for operators and ensure the OFSO program remains credible and sustainable without adding unnecessary administrative steps.
- In July 2025, the Government of Alberta proposed an annual uninspected slaughter limit of 5,000 pounds for new OFSO licences.
- An annual uninspected slaughter limit was proposed in response to complaints that some OFSOs were slaughtering large numbers of animals, creating concerns about food safety, animal welfare and safe disposal of waste. Introducing limit to control growth in uninspected meat was intended to help minimize the risk of foodborne illness outbreaks and maintain Alberta's reputation as a safe source of high-quality meat.
- The implementation of proposed slaughter limits for new OFSO licences was paused to further engage with licence holders who expressed concern about business impacts. During consultation with OFSO licence holders, commodity groups and the Alberta Meat Facilities Association, **AGI collected valuable input that will be used to consider potential improvements to the OFSO program.**
- Proposed annual slaughter limits would apply only to uninspected on-farm slaughter and meat processing activities – not to meat products available for sale from local in-

spected slaughter and meat processing operations. Farmers can continue to sell unlimited amounts of local, inspected meat through their farm shops and various other retail locations throughout the province, provided they have the appropriate licence.

- Alberta has 117 provincially licensed and inspected small-scale abattoirs. The Government of Alberta maintains a [Directory of licensed slaughter operations](#) to help customers find a local abattoir that sources animals from Alberta producers.
- AGI is **considering ongoing improvements** to the OFSO program to support local food security and create opportunities for small farmers while enhancing the safety of Alberta's meat supply.
- Alberta continually **strives to reduce regulatory red tape**.

RESOLUTION PC4-26: URGENT REFORMS TO CFIA AND PMRA

WHEREAS: during a meeting with the Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, it was noted that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) are not legally enabled to respond to feedback from Canadians, leading to a lack of accountability in their decision-making processes;

WHEREAS: provincial discussions are underway regarding the potential relocation of CFIA and PMRA from Health Canada back to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to better align with agricultural needs and improve responsiveness;

WHEREAS: verifiable case studies from Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs), including examples from poultry and cervid sectors, demonstrate how CFIA's delays in depopulation decisions cause significant business disruptions, increased anxiety among farmers and workers, and animal welfare concerns without consideration for practical on-farm impacts;

WHEREAS: the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Working Group on Pesticides Management report explicitly states that PMRA is not legally able to respond to industry feedback, and there are recommendations under discussion at the FPT level for improving CFIA operations;

WHEREAS: in the beekeeper sector, independent peer reviews of CFIA risk assessments revealed biases that were disregarded as "out of scope," while paradoxical policies allow imports of diseased bees from jurisdictions like Italy, New Zealand, and Australia, but restrict disease-free imports from the United States, highlighting the need for mechanisms to address industry concerns and ensure practical, evidence-based mandates;

WHEREAS: a thorough economic evaluation is essential to quantify the financial impacts of existing barriers and regulatory uncertainties on small processors, including potential revenue losses, investment deterrence, and contributions to Alberta's rural economy, with the explicit goal of streamlining processes, reducing red tape, and fostering sustainable growth in the local meat production sector.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Government of Canada to **urgently implement changes to the mandates**, processes, and accountability structures of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), including enabling legal authority to

meaningfully consider and respond to feedback from industry stakeholders and Canadians;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Government of Canada immediately **move CFIA and PMRA from Health Canada back under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada** to restore alignment with agriculture and improve responsiveness, and that both agencies be legally required to factor in practical on-farm realities, business disruptions, animal welfare, and scientific evidence when making decisions.

SPONSORED BY: ASBPC

STATUS: Provincial, Federal

DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada,
Health Canada, Prime Minister's Office

RESPONSE AGI

- The Government of Alberta will continue to advocate to the federal government for policy decisions and actions to consider the economic and regional impact to agriculture. Alberta's commitment to agriculture first does not stop at the provincial border.
- The province has long been advocating for improvements to processes and accountability structures of both the CFIA and the PMRA, including for the transfer of the CFIA and PMRA back under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.
- Ensuring PMRA and CFIA regulatory decisions are transparent, responsive, and aligned with the needs of those they impact; for example, pushing PMRA to consider economic risk assessments when making decisions on the continuity of vital chemicals to the agricultural industry.
- This is an ongoing effort that we continue to push at meetings between the [Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Agriculture](#). As a result of Alberta's, and other provinces advocacy, the CFIA is currently under a [regulatory red tape reduction review](#) which is in progress.

RESPONSE AAFC

No response

RESPONSE HEALTH CANADA

No response

RESPONSE PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE

No response

RESOLUTION E1-26: VACANT BIOLOGICAL CONTROL SCIENTIST POSITION

WHEREAS: In 2008 the Canadian Food Inspection Agency estimates the economic cost of invasive plant species in Canada is \$2.2 billion annually.

WHEREAS: In 2022 the Alberta Invasive Species Council updated estimated the cost of invasive species to Albertans at \$2.1billion annually.

WHEREAS: Biological control is a critical tool for managing established invasive plants, particularly in natural landscapes or where chemical and mechanical controls are impractical, cost-prohibitive, or ineffective.

WHEREAS: The Lethbridge Research and Development Centre houses a state-of-the-art quarantine facility specifically designed for rearing and evaluating biocontrol agents.

WHEREAS: The recent retirement of the Weed Biological Control Entomologist Research Scientist, working at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Lethbridge Research and Development Centre has left this pivotal position vacant, halting Canada's capacity to evaluate and approve new weed biological control agents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to immediately fill the vacant Research Scientist - Weed Biological Control position at the AAFC Lethbridge Research and Development Centre, to restore Canada's critical capacity for biocontrol research and protect producers and land managers from the impacts of invasive species.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

RESPONSE AAFC

RESOLUTION E2-26: LIVESTOCK TRACEABILITY UPDATE CONCERNS

WHEREAS: the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has proposed amendments to Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations (Identification and Traceability) to expand species coverage, require enhanced movement reporting, premises identification, and digitized record-keeping;

WHEREAS: the stated objective of these amendments is improved disease control and outbreak response, yet significant concerns remain regarding increased workload, cost, and on-farm practicality, particularly in the absence of a clearly defined gap in the existing system;

WHEREAS: Canada's 59 beef trading partners, including the United States, have not raised concerns regarding Canada's traceability system that would threaten market access;

WHEREAS: CFIA engagement on traceability has occurred intermittently since 2013, but formal public input was limited to a 90-day consultation in 2023, generating only 778 submissions nationwide, and the finalization of the regulations has since been paused (as of January 10, 2026) to address stakeholder concerns;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST:

The Government of Canada, specifically the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the Government of Alberta **suspend the implementation of additional mandatory livestock traceability regulations under Part XV for a minimum three years, and until a comprehensive risk assessment is completed that fully evaluates the impacts on small-scale and mixed farming operations, as well as the broader downstream effects on rural communities.**

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST:

The Government of Canada, specifically the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the Government of Alberta maintain the **pause on the proposed Part XV amendments until regionally representative consultations are completed and producer feedback is incorporated into any revised regulatory framework.**

SPONSORED BY: County of Stettler No. 6

DEPARTMENTS: Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation; Alberta Public Safety & Emergency Services, Alberta Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction, AAFC, CFIA, Prairies Economic

Development Canada, and Public Health Agency of Canada.

RESPONSE AGI

Response:

- Due to the deep concerns shared with me by livestock producers and the overall industry, I felt it was necessary to request an immediate pause to the current suite of changes. On January 9, 2026, I also released a statement asking the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to take the necessary steps to engage the industry and ensure the changes will not continue to set the industry up for failure and further erode the ability for the Alberta beef industry to compete on the global stage.
- On January 10, 2026, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) confirmed it will pause the publication of traceability regulations to better hear and consider producer concerns.
- While the Government of Alberta supports the importance of maintaining strong export markets and a trusted traceability system, it is essential that federal regulatory changes are practical and supports producers' competitiveness.
- Alberta government remains committed to enhancing traceability outcomes without imposing an undue administrative burden on producers. We will continue to work constructively with our federal partners and industry leaders to find practical solutions that support the long-term success and competitiveness of Alberta's beef industry.
- Agriculture and Irrigation will continue working with industry groups and representative organizations to understand the diverse perspectives of producers

RESPONSE ALBERTA PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY SERVICES

No response

RESPONSE SERVICE ALBERTA AND RED TAPE REDUCTION

No response

RESPONSE AAFC

No response

RESPONSE CFIA

No response

RESPONSE PRAIRIES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CANADA

No response

RESPONSE PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA

No response

Emergency Use of Strychnine for RGS

- Approved for AB and SK on March 30th with restrictions
- Continue to engage ASBs on program development

3

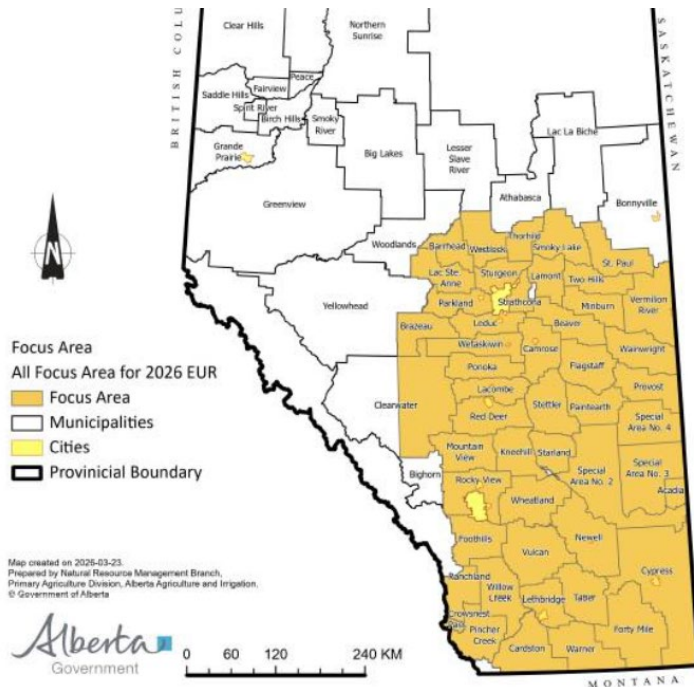
Alberta

Weeds on Wellsites

- New Approach
- *Oil and Gas Conservation Act (OGCA) – General Regulation*
 - New regulation includes *Agricultural Pest Act* and *Weed Control Act*
- Announced April 1, 2026
- Effective May 1, 2026
- Next Steps

4

Alberta



Smoky Lake County Welcomes Federal Emergency Approval of Strychnine for Richardson’s Ground Squirrel Control

Smoky Lake County, Alberta - April 1, 2026

Alberta’s local producers and agricultural organizations are cautiously optimistic following the Government of Canada’s announcement of a time-limited emergency registration for 2% liquid strychnine to help manage damaging populations of Richardson’s ground squirrels (commonly known as gophers). The federal approval, granted on March 30, 2026, under the Pest Control Products Act, authorizes controlled use of strychnine in Alberta (and Saskatchewan) until November 2027. This decision responds to significant crop and pasture damage caused by surging ground squirrel populations, which have led to millions of dollars in losses for producers across the Prairies.

This emergency registration temporarily brings back a tool in the integrated pest management toolbox at a time when gopher infestations are threatening yields and forage. After months of advocacy by the Agricultural Service Boards (ASB), Alberta Commissions and Producers groups, we’re hopeful this emergency measure will deliver meaningful relief for affected operations. The approval follows a revised joint application from the two provinces (Alberta and Saskatchewan), which incorporated enhanced risk-mitigation measures, targeted application windows, and stricter stewardship requirements to address environmental and wildlife safety concerns raised in an earlier review. Use will be

limited to specific high-infestation areas, with stricter conditions including mandatory training, reporting, and application timing (for example, late summer windows in eligible zones).

While producers might view this as a positive and practical step forward, caution remains essential. Details of the final program—including exact eligible regions in Alberta, product availability, training requirements, and precise mitigation protocols—are still being finalized by federal and provincial authorities. Parameters could still evolve as implementation plans are developed and rolled out.

“Safety for non-target species and the broader environment is paramount,” Sebastien Dutrisac, Agricultural Fieldman for Smoky Lake County added. The County urges all producers to await full guidelines from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) before any use, and to follow them diligently. This is a temporary, controlled authorization—not a blanket return to past practices.”

Local Municipalities, ASBs, and commodity groups continue to work closely with provincial officials to ensure smooth access and responsible application. They also emphasize the need for ongoing research into longer-term, sustainable gopher management solutions that balance effective control with environmental stewardship.

Producers with questions about the emergency registration are encouraged to contact their local agricultural service board, county office, or Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation for the latest updates as more implementation details become available.

Sebastien Dutrisac

Agricultural Fieldman

Smoky Lake County

780-656-3730

Additional information

Some extra training will be required for staff and farmer’s



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday May 26, 2026

Agenda Item: 6.7

Topic: Farm Family Centennial Award

Presented By: Manager of Agricultural Services, Sebastien Dutrisac

Recommendation:

That Smoky Lake County ASB recommends to Council to bestows the Farm Family Centennial Award to the applicant

Background:

Smoky Lake County Council acknowledges the contribution that agriculture provides to the economy, the community, and the County. In keeping with this recognition, Council established the Farm Family Centennial Award to honour families who continue to farm on the same location over the generations.

Benefits:

Community recognition

Disadvantages:

Not applicable

Alternatives

1. That Smoky Lake County ASB accepts the Farm Family Centennial Award application as information

Financial Implications:

Cost of the Award

Legislation:

Policy 18-01 Farm Family Centennial Award.

Intergovernmental:

Not applicable

Strategic Alignment:

Not applicable

Enclosure(s):

1. Application submitted

Signature of the CAO: _____

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



Title: Family Farm Centennial Award	Policy No.: 18-01
Section: 01	Code:
Page No.: 1 of 2 <i>E</i>	

Legislation Reference:	Alberta Provincial Statutes
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Purpose:	To provide a guideline for centennial tributes.
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Policy Statement and Guidelines:	
1.	<p>STATEMENT:</p> <p>1.1 County Council acknowledges the significant contribution made by settlers, homesteaders, multi-generational family farmers in Alberta and is proud to recognize the centennial anniversary of residents in Smoky Lake County.</p>
2.	<p>DEFINITION:</p> <p>2.1 "Homestead" means a farm house or residence located on a quarter section or lesser area.</p>
3.	<p>GUIDELINE:</p> <p>3.1 Rural residents of Smoky Lake County whose family has continuously owned a farm, ranch, or homestead and/or actively farmed for a minimum of 100 years are eligible for recognition under this policy.</p> <p>3.2 Applicants must currently own the original homestead.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">3.2.1 Only one award will be issued per homestead</p>
4.	<p>PROCEDURE:</p> <p>4.1 Applicants shall submit Schedule "A": Request for Family Farm Centennial Award.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">4.1.1 Date homestead established.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">4.1.2 Kinship ties between the applicant and the founder of the farm, ranch or homestead.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">4.1.3 Dates each subsequent landowner/occupant resided on the homestead.</p> <p>4.2 Requests should be submitted at least two (2) months prior to the date of celebration if the award is to be presented at a celebratory function.</p> <p>4.3 Applicants will be notified when the Award is prepared. If requested by the applicant, the Councillor of the area in which the homestead is located may present the Award personally.</p>

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	August 24, 2010	# 797-10 - Page # 9413
Amended		
Amended		



SCHEDULE "A"

REQUEST FOR FAMILY FARM CENTENNIAL AWARD

Applicant Name: Larry Kotylak

Date of Application: MAR 14 2026 Telephone: [REDACTED]

Homestead location: (Legal Property): [REDACTED]
Section Quarter Township Range Median

Date of Homestead Establishment: 1926

Descendants' Kinship Ties (beginning with Founder of Homestead):

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	DATES ON HOMESTEAD
DMYTRO KOTYLAK	GRANDFATHER	1926
HARRY KOTYLAK	FATHER	1966
LARRY KOTYLAK	SELF	2018

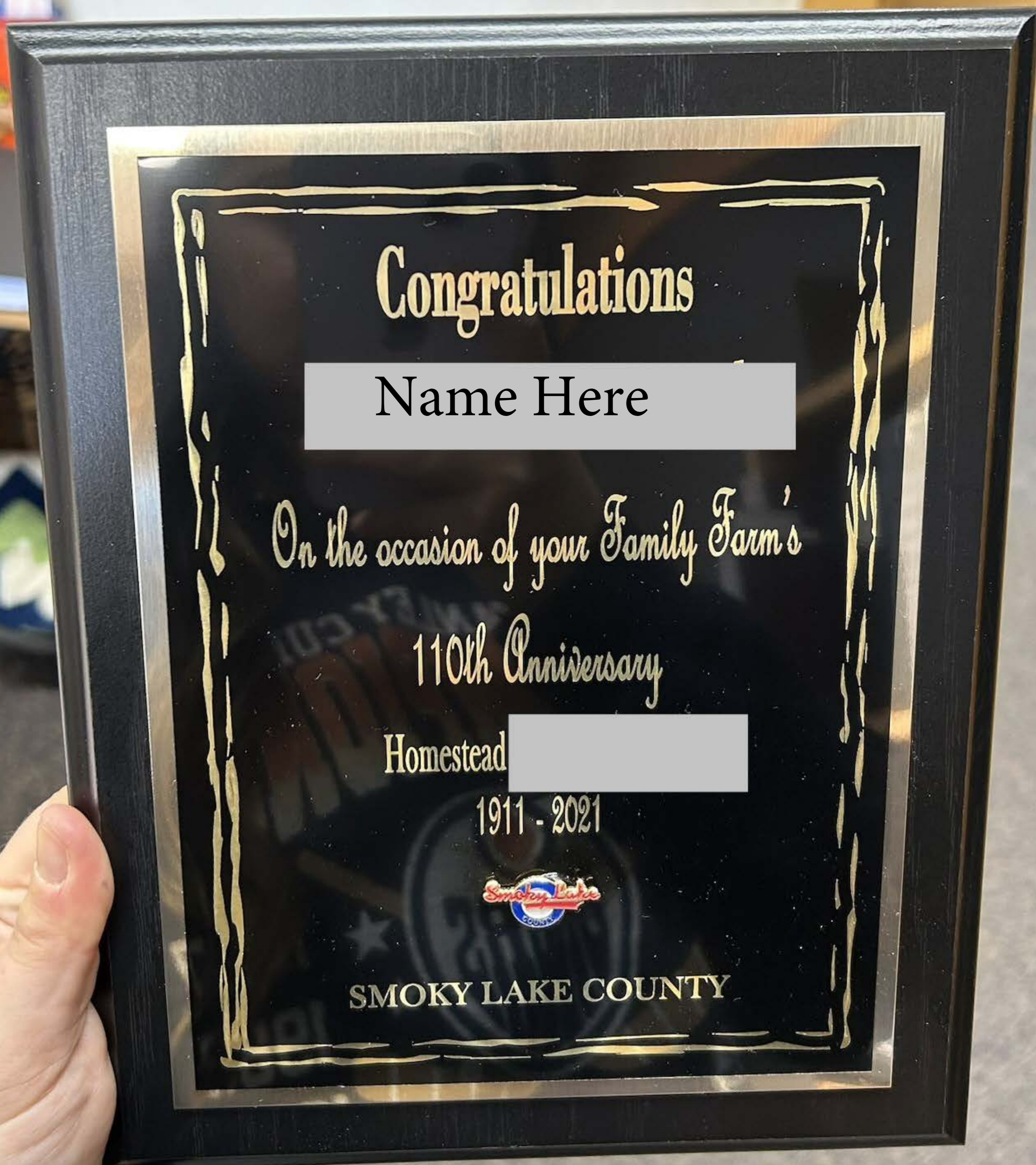
Date of Celebration: AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Local Councillor or Councillor representative request to present Award?

- Yes, Please
- No, not necessary

8"x10" \$160 plus gst.

Starbrite Embroidery,
St. Paul Alberta





**Calgary
Construction
Association**

Charles Beckley

Axis Insurance Managers Inc.

Mary Ann Smith

Champion Member Award

Class of 2026

1-800-295-5510
CANADA



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday May 26, 2026

Agenda Item: 6.8

Topic: Agricultural Services Fees & Charges Bylaw No. XXXX-XX

Presented By: Manager of Agricultural Services, Sebastien Dutrisac

That Council

1. That Smoky Lake County ASB recommends Council to adopt Bylaw No. XXXX-XX.

Background:

Bylaw No. XXXX-XX: Agricultural Services Fees & Charges Bylaw is proposed to establish rates and fees for various Agricultural Services-related fees, charges, and payments. This bylaw directly supports and ties into the services delivery and enforcement, with related charges that currently may or may not appear in the County's separate Policies. Examples of ag services fees, charges, and payments includes, but not limited to:

Weed control notice appeal fee: \$500.

Pest control notice appeal fee: \$100.

Soil conservation notice appeal fee: \$50.

Custom spraying (per hour): Base mobilization fee + hourly rates (with discounts or add-ons for weed notices) + herbicide at cost.

Offenses fees in the event an additional penalty is required.

Payments for Wildlife Management Initiatives

These fees/charges fund or recover costs for programs the department would now formally administers under the new bylaw framework.

Benefits:

The new format would shift from informal Terms of Reference and/or Policies to a formal bylaw/structure (shifting from informal to professional format). The proposed bylaw would consolidate all fees, charges in payments under one bylaw and its schedules while simultaneously reducing the length and complexities of relative policies. In addition, clarifying and defining the officer's duties and powers would minimize potential misunderstandings and challenges.

Disadvantages:

If approved, the amendments to the related policies will be required.

Alternatives

1. That Smoky Lake County ASB recommends Council accepts the RFD as information.

Financial Implications:

Reduces the probability of litigation consequences.

Legislation:

Alberta Weed Control Act

Agricultural Pests Act



Request for Decision (RFD)

Agricultural Service Board Act
Soil Conservation Act
Weed Control Act

Intergovernmental:

Not applicable

Strategic Alignment:

Not Applicable

Enclosure(s):

1. Draft Ag Fees and Charges Bylaw

Signature of the CAO: _____

**SMOKY LAKE COUNTY
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
BYLAW NO, XXXX-XX**

**A BYLAW OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SMOKY LAKE COUNTY IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA,
TO ESTABLISH FEES, CHARGES AND PAYMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL SERVICES FOR
SMOKY LAKE COUNTY.**

WHEREAS Smoky Lake County deems it expedient to set and review, as necessary, from time-to-time various fees, charges, and payments related to agricultural services within the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, the *Agricultural Pest Act (APA)*, as amended from time to time, authorizes an accredited municipality to make bylaws respecting fees for anything issued or any material or service provided pursuant to the *APA*;

WHEREAS, the *Agricultural Service Board Act (ASBA)*, as amended from time to time, authorizes an accredited municipality to make bylaws respecting fees for anything issued or any material or service provided pursuant to the *ASBA*;

WHEREAS, the *Soil Conservation Act (SCA)*, as amended from time to time, authorizes an accredited municipality to make bylaws respecting fees for anything issued or any material or service provided pursuant to the *SCA*;

WHEREAS, the *Weed Control Act (WCA)*, as amended from time to time, authorizes an accredited municipality to make bylaws respecting fees for anything issued or any material or service provided pursuant to the *WCA*;

WHEREAS, the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000 Chapter M-26, as amended from time to time, authorizes an accredited municipality to make bylaws respecting fees for anything issued or any material or service provided pursuant to the *MGA*;

WHEREAS, the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act (POPA)* as amended from time to time, authorizes an accredited municipality to make bylaws respecting fees for anything issued or any material or service provided pursuant to *POPA*;

NOW THEREFORE under authority and subject to the provisions of the *MGA*, and by virtue of all other enabling powers, the Council of Smoky Lake County, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

1. NAME:

- 1.1 This Bylaw may be referred to as the "Smoky Lake County Agricultural Services Fees & Charges Bylaw."

2. DEFINITIONS

For this Bylaw, the following definitions will apply:

- 2.1. *Agricultural Pest Act* - The *Agricultural Pest Act* (R.S.A.2000 Chapter A-8) and the *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation* (A.R. 184/2001) and any successor thereto.

- 2.2. Agricultural Pest Appeal Committee - The annual Council-appointed committee that hears and determines appeals of a Notice to Control Pest and Debt recovery Notice issued under the *APA*.
- 2.3. Agricultural Service Board – The appointed Board that exercises on behalf of Council, all the powers and performs all the duties that are conferred on it by Council, under this or any other enactment, with respect to agricultural matters.
- 2.4. *Agricultural Service Board Act* – The *Agricultural Service Board Act* (R.S.A 2000 Chapter A-10) and any successor thereto.
- 2.5. Council – means the Reeve and Councilors duly elected in Smoky Lake County and who are eligible to continue to hold office.
- 2.6. Debt Recovery Notice - a statement of the expenses and a demand for payment on the owner of the land, property or livestock in respect of which the work was carried out to fulfill the requirements of an Inspector's notice or a local authority's notice.
- 2.7. Inspector's Notice - a legally binding document demanding compliance by a specified deadline and outlining acceptable options under the following legislation: *APA*, *SCA*, or *WCA*.
- 2.8. Local Authorities Notice – Notice issued by a local authority to control noxious weeds and to destroy prohibited noxious weeds to the owners and occupants of land in a subdivided area that does not exceed 20 acres.
- 2.9. Notice(s) – relates to all notices and Pest Detention Tag referred in this document
- 2.10. Municipal Tag - means a tag or similar document issued by the County pursuant to the MGA that alleges a bylaw offence and provides a Person with the opportunity to pay an amount to the County in lieu of prosecution for the offence.
- 2.11. Pest Detention Tag – a notice issued to facilitate the identification of livestock or material, to help prevent the spread of an infestation, issued under the *APA*
- 2.12. *Provincial Offences Procedure Act* R.S.A 2000 c. P-34 and any successor thereto
- 2.13. *Soil conservation Act - Soil Conservation Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. S-15 and the *Soil Conservation Notice Regulation* (A.R. 272/1998) and any successor thereto
- 2.14. Soil Conservation Appeal Committee - means an Agricultural Service Board established under the *ASBA* that determines appeals under the *SCA*
- 2.15. Weed Control Act - *Weed Control Act*, (R.S.A. 2008, c. W-5.1) and *Weed Control Regulation* (A.R. 19/2010) and any successor thereto.
- 2.16. Weed Appeal Panel – the annually Council appointed independent appeal panel that determines appeals of the inspector's notice, local authority's notice and debt recovery notices issued under the *WCA*.

3. FEES ESTABLISHED

- 3.1 **'Schedule A – Appeal Panel Fees**
- 3.2 **'Schedule B – Charges, Enforcement Fees and Fines**
- 3.3 **'Schedule C – Bounty Payment**

attached herein, each forms a part of this Bylaw.

- 3.4 The Agricultural Service Board appointed by Council, under the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, may recommend related fees, fines and payments.

4. FEES RELATED TO APPEALS

Fees must be paid as per Schedule A for any person who:

- a) Applies to appeal of an inspector's notice, Pest Detention Tag or debt recovery notice issued under the *Agricultural Pest Act* and its *Regulations*.
- b) Applies to appeal of an inspector's notice or debt recovery notice issued under the *Soil Conservation Act* and its *Regulations*.
- c) Applies to appeal of an inspector's notice, local authority's notice or debt recovery notice under the *Weed Control Act* and its *Regulations*.

5. FINES RELATED TO OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

5.1 Under Schedule B, fines may be imposed for any person who is guilty of an offense if they:

- a) Contravenes the *Agricultural Pest Act* or its *Regulations*.
- b) Fails to comply with a Notice to Control Pests.
- c) Contravenes or fails to comply with a decision of the Agricultural Pest Appeal Committee.
- d) Obstructs or otherwise hinders in any manner Pest Inspectors, in the exercise or performance of that person's powers authorized under this or any other Bylaw or enactment.
- e) Fails to comply with a Soil Conservation Notice.
- f) Contravenes the *Soil Conservation Act* or its *Regulations*.
- g) Fails to comply with Section 3 of the *Soil Conservation Act*.
- h) Contravenes a bylaw or order made under section 21 of the *Soil Conservation Act*.
- i) Fails to comply with the terms or conditions under which a permit is issued under the *Soil Conservation Act*.
- j) Contravenes or fails to comply with a decision of the Soil Conservation Appeal Committee.
- k) Obstructs or otherwise hinders in any manner, a Soil Conservation Officer in the exercise or performance of that person's powers authorized under this or any other Bylaw or enactment.
- l) Contravenes the *Weed Control Act*.
- m) Contravenes or fails to comply with a decision of the Weed Appeal Panel.
- n) Obstructs or otherwise hinders in any manner Weed Inspectors, in the exercise or performance of that person's powers authorized under this or any other Bylaw or enactment.
- o) Contravenes or fails to comply with a stop order issued pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act*; is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine.
- p) Contravenes or fails to comply with a stop order issued by the Minister with the agriculture portfolio or ministry.
- q) Contravenes the agreement of land under supervision or rehabilitation made under the *Agricultural Service Board Act*.
- r) Contravene the Order of Reclamation made under the *Agricultural*

Service Board Act. If a person is found guilty of an offence under the Agricultural Pest Act, Soil Conservation Act, or Weed Control Act, the court may, in addition to any other penalty imposed, order the person to comply with the these Acts or a permit issued under this Bylaw, or a condition of any of them, or a term of imprisonment.

- 5.2 Where a contravention or offence is of a continuing nature, further Municipal Tags may be issued by an Officer of the municipality for each day the offence continues.
- 5.3 A person named on a Municipal Tag may, in lieu of being prosecuted, plead guilty to the offence by signing the Municipal Tag and paying the specified penalty at the location indicated on the Municipal Tag.
- 5.4 If payment of a Municipal Tag is not made within the time specified, an Officer of the municipality may issue a Violation Ticket under the Provincial Offences Procedures Act requiring the person named to appear in court on the date indicated in the Violation Ticket.
- 5.5 Nothing in this Bylaw shall prevent or restrict an Officer of the municipality from immediately issuing a Violation Ticket under the *Provincial Offences Procedures Act* for a mandatory court appearance of any person who contravenes this Bylaw or the Land Use Bylaw.

6 RIGHT OF ENTRY

- 6.1 As described under Section 17 (2) of the *Agricultural Pest Act*, an inspector may, for the purpose of carrying out the inspector's duties,
 - a) enter at any reasonable hour on any land to inspect the land or any buildings, property or livestock on the land,
 - b) on giving reasonable notice, direct the owner or person in control of livestock to assemble and confine the livestock for the purpose of an inspection, and
 - c) take specimens of a pest or nuisance and of any matter or thing that contains or is suspected of containing a pest or nuisance.
- 6.2 As described under Section 19 of the *Soil Conservation Act* an officer or a member of a soil conservation appeal committee or any person authorized by one of them may, at any reasonable time, enter onto land for the purposes of
 - a) determining, in respect of that land,
 - i. whether appropriate measures are being taken
 - A. to prevent soil loss or deterioration from taking place, or
 - B. in the case where soil loss or deterioration is taking place, to stop the loss or deterioration from continuing,
 - or
 - ii. whether remedial measures set out in a notice are being properly carried out, or
 - b) carrying out remedial measures set out in a notice.
- 6.3 As described under Section 12 the Weed Control Act,

- (1) An inspector may enter land or inspect land or personal property at a reasonable time
 - a) to monitor compliance with this Act, including making inquiries, taking samples or performing tests, or
 - b) to enforce an inspector's notice, local authority's notice or Minister's notice in accordance with section 18.
- (2) An inspector shall not enter a building unless the owner or occupant of the land on which the building is situated
 - a) consents, or
 - b) has been given a written notice.
- (3) Subsection (2) does not apply if the building is, or is part of, a seed-cleaning facility, grain-handling facility or auction market.

6.4 As described under Section 8 of the *Agricultural Service Board Act* Section:

- (2) An agricultural fieldman shall act as a designated officer of the municipality
 - a) in carrying out the functions, duties and powers of the municipality under any Act relating to agriculture, and
 - b) in implementing projects respecting agriculture agreed on between the council and the Minister.
- (3) An agricultural fieldman is, in the municipality employing that fieldman,
 - a) a municipal inspector under the *Weed Control Act*,
 - b) an inspector of the municipality under the *Agricultural Pests Act*, and
 - c) a soil conservation officer of the municipality under the *Soil Conservation Act*.

6.5 For the purpose of entering and inspecting land or structures as described under Part 13, Division 4, Section 542 of the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, Chapter M-26 as amended, a Development Officer or the Development Compliance Officer, and any other persons appointed by Council, are hereby declared to be "designated officers" or "officer of the municipality".

7 RECOVERY OF EXPENSES

- 7.1 As per the *APA* Section 19, the municipal secretary of the municipality in which the expenses were incurred, shall serve a statement of the expenses as per Schedule B and a demand for payment on the owner of the land, property or livestock in respect of which the work was carried out.
- 7.2 As per the *SCA* Section (6) the local authority shall:
 - a) notify the landholder and, if the landholder is not the owner, the owner, of those expenses, and,
 - b) demand payment for those expenses within 30 days from the date of notification.

As per Section (3) Subject to SCA section 13(2), where the payment of the expenses demanded under subsection (2) is not made within the 30-day period, the local authority may do one or both of the following:

- a) add the unpaid expenses to the tax roll as an additional tax against the land in respect of which the expenses were incurred.
- b) recover the unpaid expenses as a debt due to the local authority by action against the landholder and, if the landholder is not the owner, the owner.

7.3 As per the WCA Section 21 (4), A local authority may recover the debt due to charges as per Schedule B, from any person who is given a debt recovery notice in either or both of the following manners:

- a) in the same manner as property taxes against land to which the inspector's notice or local authority's notice relates.
- b) by filing a certificate with the clerk of the Court of King's Bench at any judicial center certifying the amount owing.

8 BOUNTY PAYMENT

8.1 Payments for bounties shall follow Schedule C.

9 REVIEW

9.1 This Bylaw should be reviewed at least every two years from its adoption, or as deemed necessary from time to time.

10 PREVAILANCE

10.1 To the extent that a provision of this bylaw is found to conflict with another bylaw or policy of Smoky Lake County, this bylaw shall prevail.

11 REPEAL & SEVERABILITY:

11.1 Previous Fees, Charges, and Payment Bylaw is repealed, upon adoption of this bylaw.

11.2 If any part of this Bylaw is found to be invalid, it is the intention of Council that the remaining sections remain in force until repealed or otherwise amended.

12 EFFECTIVE DATE:

12.1 This Bylaw comes into force and effect upon it receiving Third Reading.

SCHEDULE A- APPEAL FEES

ITEM DESCRIPTION	FEE
APPEAL FEE AS PER RESPECTIVE LEGISLATIVE REGULATIONS	
Agricultural Pest Appeal	\$100.00
Soil Conservation Appeal	\$50.00
Weed control Appeal	\$500.00

SCHEDULE B – FEES AND CHARGES

ENFORCEMENT FEE SCHEDULE

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES: ENFORCEMENT\CONTRACT CHARGES/SERVICE CHARGES

Service/Equipment	Fee
Internal Enforcement	
ATV/UTV and Spray Unit	\$600/day plus GST
Herbicide	Cost plus 15%/hectare plus GST
Labour	\$75/hr/person plus GST
Spray Truck – up to 1.5 Ton	\$800/day plus GST
Travel (Trucks Under One Ton)	\$0.70/km plus GST
Travel (Trucks Over One Ton)	\$1/km plus GST
Travel Time	\$100/hr plus GST
Truck and Trailer	\$800/day plus GST
Water Truck	Cost plus 15%
Administrative Billing: **	\$100/hr plus GST
Administrative Enforcement: **	\$100/hr plus GST
Re-Inspection: **	\$75/hr plus GST
Construction Equipment	Alberta Roadbuilders Construction Rate
External Enforcement	
Weed and Pest Control Contract	Cost plus 15%
Beaver Control Services Charges (with DFO approval)	
Permit application with DFO	\$200
Charge for dam removal	\$100
Charges per stick	\$50
Rental Fees	
Scare cannon	\$100 deposit
Magpie Traps	\$165
Predacide	Cost plus 20%

NOTE: Services marked with ** require a minimum of one hour to cover additional administrative costs.

FINES AND PENALTIES

Offenses Agricultural Pest Act	Fee
Legislation	Section 23 – of not more than \$5000
First Offense	\$500
Second Offense	\$2500
Third Offense	\$5000
Offenses under Soil Conservation Act	
Legislation	Section 22(1) –of not more than \$5000
First Offense	\$500
Second Offense	\$2500
Third Offense	\$5000
Soil Conservation Act Section 3 – Soil loss and deterioration	Section 22(2)A fine of not more than \$500/day to a maximum of \$10,000
Fine	\$100/day
Offenses under the Weed Control Act	
Legislation	Section 28 – of not more than \$5000
First Offense	\$500
Second Offense	\$2500
Third Offense	\$5000

SCHEDULE C- PAYMENT

ITEM DESCRIPTION	PAYMENT
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BOUNTY	
Coyote (as grants permit)	\$15.00
Northern Pocket Gopher (per tail)	\$3.00
Beaver (tail)	\$20.00
Must be a registered individual with the municipality and animal(s) harvested within its boundary	

READ A FIRST TIME IN COUNCIL THIS DAY OF , AD .202

READ A SECOND TIME IN COUNCIL THIS DAY OF , AD 202.

READ A THIRD AND FINAL TIME WITH THE CONSENT OF COUNCIL THIS DAY OF , AD 202.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Agenda Item: 6.9

Topic: Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

Presented By: Sebastien Dutrisac, Manager of Agricultural Services

Recommendation:

- 1. That Smoky Lake County ASB supports that council directs administration to include the testing of waterbodies and awareness campaign for the 2027 budget cycle**
-

Background:

Early detection plays a critical role in protecting watershed health by supporting proactive management and reducing the ecological and economic impacts associated with invasive species spread. In Summer 2025, Lakeland Industry and Community Association (LICA) launched its Early Detection Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Program using environmental DNA (eDNA) technology to help protect lakes and waterways within the watershed.

The program targets high-priority aquatic invasive species and pathogens, including:

- Zebra and Quagga Mussels
- Rusty and Northern Crayfish
- Goldfish
- Prussian Carp
- Whirling Disease

On April 16, 2026 motion 20260416-278, Council moved that administration obtain additional information regarding Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) from LICA to a future council meeting.

Benefits:

Economic and Development Benefits. Lakes can attract tourism, recreation, and real estate development, supporting local businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and retail. In addition, lakes also provide opportunities for fishing, boating, swimming, and outdoor activities, which improve local public health and community well-being.

Disadvantages:

N/A

Alternatives:

1. That the ASB accepts the RFD as information.

Financial Implications:

1. Budget 2027

Legislation:

Fisheries (Alberta) Act

Federal Fisheries Act and Fisheries (Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations)

Intergovernmental:

Ministry of Environment and Parks

Strategic Alignment:

1. Service Delivery & Community Wellbeing



Request for Decision (RFD)

Enclosure(s):

1. Enclosure 1 – AIS Pricing

Signature of the CAO: _____

Awareness:

- AIS stickers

4" x 7" Sticker Sheets - 2 designs

500 sheets of each design (1000 total) - \$830 (\$415 per set)

750 sheets of each design (1500 total) - \$930 (\$465 per set)

1000 sheets of each design (2000 total) - \$1070 (\$535 per set)



- Development of AIS Pocketbook
 - Approx. \$2000.00 for printing 400 copies.
- Educational Signs

Info Sign: Latex Print // Matte Laminate // Drytac PAGP // 5/8" FPVC (CNC Cut) // 24" W x 18" H	\$355.00
Fabricated Post: 3" Steel Tubing // 72" L // Powder Coated (Black) // 8" x 8"	\$575.00
Cost total of one sign:	\$930.00

****Pricing does not include GST****

Prevention:

- Boat washing stations

Equipment Cost: Pick One Option	
CD3 Roadside + Precast Base *no software*	\$6,228.26
CD3 Outpost + Precast Base	\$37,459.06
CD3 Wayside Solar + Precast Base	\$69,932.28
CD3 Wayside Solar Trailer	\$78,262.40
Annual Operational Costs	
CD3 Software annual fee, wet/dry vac tank pump-outs and tool replacement	\$1600.00

This expense covers the purchase of one station, replacement parts, a winter cover, full customization wrap, shipping costs, and software for one year for use in tracking

****These prices do not include GST****

Early Detection Monitoring:

- eDNA Monitoring per Sample: Total \$122.00 per sample (x2 per lake each season)
 - Filters \$31.00
 - Plate \$3.00
 - Sample Analysis \$88.00
- Cost of eDNA Machine including extra battery and charger: \$5,225.00 + GST

Important Lakes in Smoky Lake County:

2025 eDNA: No lakes

2026 eDNA: Garner Lake

Extras: Whitefish Lake, Goodfish Lake, Reed Lake etc.



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Agenda Item: 6.10

Topic: Vegetation Management Plan Policy

Presented By: Sebastien Dutrisac, Manager of Agricultural Services

Recommendation:

- 1. That Smoky Lake County ASB recommend to council to adopt the amended Policy 15-04 Vegetation Management Policy**
-

Background:

The County's Vegetation Management Plan Policy (Policy No. 62-15-04, last amended October 22, 2018) established the local framework for managing regulated vegetation, weeds and brush. Over the years, changes in technology and practices have evolved, been adopted, and shown significant benefits. However, the practices and products are not aligned with the current policy.

Benefits:

This change updates the vegetation management plan policy to ensure full alignment with the current municipal program and practices. Updating the policy will continue to:

- Support effective management of invasive plants that threaten local agriculture, biodiversity, infrastructure, recreational areas, and community values.
- Clarify the program limitations and available program to property owners/occupants.
- Shorten the policy by removing legislative procedural content followed by the municipality.
- Improve stakeholder perception on vegetation management and collaborative efforts.

This proposed amendment ensures the municipal Vegetation Management Plan Policy remains relevant, compliant, and resident-centred.

Disadvantages:

N/A

Alternatives:

1. That the ASB accepts the RFD as information.

Financial Implications:

1. Risk Reduction and Liability Savings,
2. Reduced Staff Time
3. Administrative Efficiency

Legislation:

Policy Statement No. 62-15-04: Vegetation Management Plan
Alberta Agricultural Service Board Act

Intergovernmental:

Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation

Strategic Alignment:

1. Regional Collaboration & Modernization



Request for Decision (RFD)

2. Service Delivery & Community Wellbeing

Enclosure(s):

1. Policy Statement No. 62-15-04
2. Enclosure 2 Draft Policy Vegetation Management

Signature of the CAO: _____

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



Title: Vegetation Management Plan	Policy No.: 15-04
Section: 62	Code: P-I
	Page No.: 1 of 6
	E

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

Purpose:	To carry out Vegetation Management Program under the provisions of the Weed Control Act, and the direction of the Agricultural Fieldman. All programs will be implemented in accordance with budget, manpower and weather.
-----------------	--

Policy Statement and Guidelines:

1. Operational Guidelines:

- 1.1 The Agricultural Fieldman must be a certified pesticide applicator and sprayer operators must be authorized assistants as a minimum.
- 1.2 Sprayer operators must follow all legislative requirements and all relevant acts and laws.
- 1.3 All areas of the Vegetation Management policy fall under the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman.
- 1.4 Applicators must keep accurate spray records as follows:
 - 1.4.1 Name of unwanted vegetation for which herbicide was applied.
 - 1.4.2 Date of application and dimensions of application area.
 - 1.4.3 Exact location.
 - 1.4.4 Trade name of herbicide and PCP registration number.
 - 1.4.5 Application rate and amount of herbicide used.
 - 1.4.6 Temperature, wind speed, and wind direction at the time of application.
 - 1.4.7 Method of application.
 - 1.4.8 Applicators name.
 - 1.4.9 Records must be kept for a minimum three (3) years.
- 1.5 Weather conditions: Applicator will cease spray operations if wind speed is greater than 16 km/hr. Wind measurements will be taken during spray operations and recorded. In temperatures below 5 degrees Celsius and above 25 degrees Celsius, and in weather conditions which are conducive to temperature inversions spraying operations will cease.

Title: Vegetation Management Plan		Policy No.: 15-04
Section: 62	Code: P-I	Page No.: 2 of 6 E

Policy Statement and Guidelines:

2. Blanket Spray:

- 2.1 Divide County into Two Zones as follows:
 - 2.1.1 **Zone 1:**
West County Line of Range Road 200 to Range Road 160.
 - 2.1.2 **Zone 2:**
Range Road 160 to East County Line Range Road 120.
- 2.2 Spraying the entire County in a two -year rotation.
- 2.3 Spray one half of the County per year using a residual herbicide; Chemical choice will be at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman as environmental, climatic, technical and legal factors may change.
- 2.4 Conduct blanket spraying, targeting the whole ROW where possible. Where crops, pasture or brush are encroaching spray as close to edge as possible to gain best control. If brush is small enough to be controlled then it should be sprayed as well.
- 2.5 Blanket spray should be started **June 1st** as long as growing conditions permit.

3. Weed Inspections and Spot Spray:

- 3.1 Spot Spraying will coincide with weed inspections. Weed inspectors will start roadside weed inspections as soon as possible; e.g., when weed identification becomes possible, as well as weed inspections on private land. Problem areas will be dealt with on a case by case basis.
- 3.2 Historical data (weed maps/GIS data) will be used to conduct weed inspections and spot spraying in problem areas.
- 3.3 Conduct blanket weed inspections as time and manpower permits.
- 3.4 Conduct weed inspections in response to complaints as they may arise.
- 3.5 An effort will be made to rectify weed problems on private land emphasizing cooperation between the Agricultural Service Board and the landowner as per *Policy Statement No. 62-14: Weed Inspection and Notice*. If the landowner is not willing to participate then, at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman, weed notices shall be issued and proper steps will be taken to rectify situation.
- 3.6 Spot Spraying may take place on private land at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman if it is in the best interests of the County's Vegetation Management Plan. There may or may not be a charge to the landowner and this will be determined on a case by case basis. Landowners will be required to sign a chemical release form as per **Schedule "A": Chemical Release Form**.

Title: Vegetation Management Plan		Policy No.: 15-04
Section: 62	Code: P-I	Page No.: 3 of 6 E

Policy Statement and Guidelines:

3.7 Landowners may apply to participate in a “Reverse Fenceline Program” at the direction or request of the Agricultural Fieldman or at the request of the landowner if time permits. This program will allow Agricultural Services staff to apply herbicide from the landowner’s property into the County Right-of Way thereby controlling invasive species on fenceline and field margins. Landowners interested in participating in the “Reverse Fenceline Program” must sign ***Schedule “B”: Reverse Fenceline Spray Program – Application Form.***

4. **Brush Spraying:**

4.1 Brush spraying will commence once brush has “greened up” in late spring and continue until leaf color changes in fall.

4.2 Brush spraying will be coordinated with Public Works Department, following brushing easements to administer brush control program.

4.3 Re-growth is to be sprayed where hydro axing brushing was carried out the year prior as re-growth permits. Trees greater than five feet of height will need to be removed by mechanical means.

4.4 A “brush” control chemical will be used at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman.

5. **Public Works/ Road Construction:**

5.1 The Agricultural Services Department and the Public Works Department will coordinate to control vegetation where road construction is to take place and where road construction took place the year prior.

5.2 The Public Works Department will submit to the Agricultural Service Board a schedule for the current years’ construction projects to allow glyphosate application for non-selective vegetation control.

5.3 Glyphosate must be applied a minimum of 14 days prior to construction up to a maximum of 30 days.

5.4 At the request of the Public Works Department the Agricultural Service Board may conduct other spray operations at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman.

6. **Hamlets, Resorts, Subdivisions, Other:**

6.1 Hamlets and resorts will be sprayed at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman.

6.2 All proper legislation must be followed when applying pesticides in populated areas.

Title: Vegetation Management Plan		Policy No.: 15-04
Section: 62	Code: P-I	Page No.: 4 of 6 E

Policy Statement and Guidelines:	
6.3	Proper signage must be displayed where applicable.
6.4	Other spraying operations can take place at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman; e.g. Spraying around shop, spraying around office, spraying around gas dept. meter station etc.).
6.5	The Agricultural Service Board may take applications from the public, as required, to conduct spraying for noxious weeds on private land as manpower and budget permit. Landowners interested in herbicides applied on private land must sign Schedule "A": Chemical Release Form.

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	January 14, 2010	Motion # 234-10 - Page # 9204
Amended	May 23, 2013	Motion # 664-13 - Page #10618
Amended	October 12, 2017	Motion # 1124-17 - Page #12819
Amended	October 22, 2018	Motion # 1032-18 - Page #13314

SCHEDULE "A"



CHEMICAL RELEASE FORM

DETAILS	Property Owner: Name: _____
	Address: _____
	Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

LEGAL DETAILS	Legal Description (hereinafter referred to as the "Lands":
	Location: LEGAL, LAND LOCATION:
	1/4 _____ SECTION: _____ TOWNSHIP: _____ RANGE: _____ W4M
	1/4 _____ SECTION: _____ TOWNSHIP: _____ RANGE: _____ W4M
	1/4 _____ SECTION: _____ TOWNSHIP: _____ RANGE: _____ W4M

PERMISSION	<p>I (We), do hereby grant permission to SMOKY LAKE COUNTY and its employees or agents, to enter upon the "Land(s)" and use such equipment and material as considered necessary for the application of <u>Herbicides</u>.</p> <p>List and rate of Herbicides to be used:</p> <hr/>
	<p>I (We) hereby agree to, in consideration of the benefit derived by me (us) from the work description above shall indemnify and save harmless the SMOKY LAKE COUNTY, its Councillors, officers, employees, and agents from any claim, damages, liability, cost, fee, penalty, action, cause of action, demand, damage to property, injury to person or death (including, without limitation to, legal fees of SMOKY LAKE COUNTY on a solicitor-client full indemnity basis), that may arise directly or indirectly out of the performances of the above described work(s).</p>

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, HAVE READ THIS APPLICATION AND AM AWARE OF ITS CONTENTS AND AGREE TO THE CONDITONS.

SIGNATURE OF OWNER: _____	DATE: _____
SIGNATURE OF SMOKY LAKE COUNTY: _____	DATE: _____



REVERSE FENCELINE SPRAY PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

SCHEDULE "B"

Date: _____

I, _____ Owner
APPLICANT NAME Lessee

ADDRESS: _____ _____	TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ FAX NUMBER: _____
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DO HEREBY apply for the Reverse Fence Line Spray Program and give SMOKY LAKE COUNTY and its employees or agents access to parcels below to spray Herbicides as per **Schedule "A": Chemical Release Form**, along the County road allowance on farmland that I own, rent, or control.

Legal Description

Location: LEGAL, LAND LOCATION:

$\frac{1}{4}$ _____ SECTION: _____ TOWNSHIP: _____ RANGE: _____ W4M
 $\frac{1}{4}$ _____ SECTION: _____ TOWNSHIP: _____ RANGE: _____ W4M
 $\frac{1}{4}$ _____ SECTION: _____ TOWNSHIP: _____ RANGE: _____ W4M

I (We) hereby agree to, in consideration of the benefit derived by me (us) from the work description above shall indemnify and save harmless the Smoky Lake County, its Councillors, officers, employees and agents from any claim, damages, liability, cost, fee, penalty, action, cause of action, demand, damage to property, injury to person or death (including, without limitation to, legal fees of Smoky Lake County on a solicitor-client full indemnity basis), that may arise directly or indirectly out of the performance of the above described work(s).

SIGNATURES

SIGNATURE OF OWNER: _____	DATE: _____
---------------------------	-------------

SIGNATURE OF LESSEE: _____	DATE: _____
----------------------------	-------------



Smoky Lake County Policy

Title:	Vegetation Management Policy	<u>Policy #</u>	<u>Version</u>
Category:	Agricultural Services (AG)	AG-08	01

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: Municipal Government Act, Chapter M26.1, Section 18(1) and Section 545.

PURPOSE: To define a level of service level for vegetation management in Smoky Lake County.

STATEMENT: This policy applies to vegetation management in roadside ditches, municipal properties, approved private properties, and approved community areas. Smoky Lake County further recognizes that it is beneficial to the County to implement measures to Control the spread of invasive plant species and other vegetation on all public and private lands within the boundaries of the County for infrastructure integrity, public safety, agricultural productivity and the preservation of the natural environment.

DEFINITION: For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

“Community areas” – Areas owned and operated by a community organization

“Fenceline Request” – A program where a landowner(s) may apply, and if approved, vegetation management could occur to areas juxtapose to the roadside ditch smaller than 0.5 of an acre.

Commented [SD1]: That is 8” by ½ mile

“Good Agronomic Practices” – Strategies that include but not limited to, chemical, mechanical, cultural, biological control methods.

“Municipal properties” – Larger areas of municipal owned land that houses infrastructure such as, but not limited, to water reservoirs, lagoons, water fill stations.

“Occupant Release Form” A signed form where a landowner gives to the County and their staff the ability to share the information collected on their land to a person of interest such as a renter or leasee

“Roadside ditches” – The ditch located on both sides of a municipally owned developed gravel or paved road allowance

“Small Area Request” – A program where a landowner(s) may apply, and if approved, allows county vegetation management work to be done to an area no larger than 1 acre.

Commented [SD2]: Size of area to be decided by Council/ASB

OBJECTIVE:

- The vegetation management program will attempt to manage brush and vegetation, including legislated weeds, as a blanket application on a third (1/3) of roadside ditches on a rotational basis using good agronomic practices.
- The vegetation management program will attempt to manage brush and vegetation, including legislated weeds, as a spot treatment on the other two- third (2/3) of roadside ditches on a rotational basis and municipal properties by using good agronomic practices. The Agricultural

Commented [SD3]: Decided by Council/ASB



Department will perform the spot vegetation management program by priority until a shortage of staff and/or budget has occurred.

- Landowners may apply to participate in a Small Area Request Program. When approved, this program would allow Agricultural Services staff to provide vegetation management of legislated weeds on the landowner's property or a community area to up to one acre. Landowners interested in participating in the Small Area Request Program must sign Schedule "A": Small Area Request Application Form. Only when the Agricultural Department has enough staff and budget will they implement the program by priority.
- Landowners may apply to participate in a "Fenceline Program". If approved, this program would allow Agricultural Services staff to apply herbicide on the landowner's property and the County Right-of Way thereby controlling invasive species on fenceline and field margins. Landowners interested in participating in the "Fenceline Program" must sign Schedule "B": Fenceline Spray Program – Application Form. Only when the Agricultural Department has enough staff and budget will they implement the program by priority.
- Landowners may request that certain persons of interest, such as renters, be included in correspondence from the County and/or could enter into an agreement with the County regarding weed, pest, and other vegetation management.

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Council Resolution #</u>	<u>Version</u>
Adopted	Month, day, year	Motion #	01
Amended			
Reviewed			



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT RELEASE

OFFICE USE ONLY
Case #: _____

Fence Line Agreement

_____ Initial I hereby grant permission for Smoky Lake County to control regulated weeds by applying residual herbicide, mowing, or by other methods **within the perimeter of the listed property**, including the fenceline and headlands, and adjacent Municipal right-of-way.

Private Land Agreement

_____ Initial I hereby grant permission for Smoky Lake County to control regulated weeds to a maximum area of two acres, by applying residual herbicide, mowing, or by other methods **within the listed property**.

Brush Control Agreement

_____ Initial I hereby grant permission for Smoky Lake County to control brush, by applying residual herbicide, mowing, or by other methods, **adjacent to County infrastructure of the listed property**.

I hereby declare by signing this form that I understand that vegetation management will be conducted only if time and weather conditions permit, with the knowledge that priority is always given to the County's road right-of-way program. Services outlined in this agreement shall not be billable. This signed agreement shall include permission for Smoky Lake County to enter the listed property for the purpose of performing such related work.

I understand that herbicides may be applied for the purpose of this request. I understand herbicides applied contain low toxicity and that the residual effects may restrict the growth of certain plants and crops for several years. I hereby declare that I understand the effects and I agree to save harmless and indemnify Smoky Lake County, its employees and agents, from and against all actions, suits, claims and demands arising in any manner whatsoever from activities associated with said vegetation control work.

I understand that brush control will only be completed when it impedes County infrastructure such as sightlines or drainage.

I understand that amendments to land ownership or occupancy must reported to the County. Amendments discovered by the County will render this agreement thereto, null and void.

The property I wish to have maintained:

LEGAL: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ - W4 If applicable, SUBDIVISION (LOT: _____ BLOCK: _____ PLAN: _____)
Quarter Section Township Range Meridian

NOTES: _____
 i.e. Property access, area of concern, etc.

 Landowner Name (Print)

 Date

X _____
 Signature of Landowner / Registered Occupant

 Mailing Address

 Smoky Lake County Approval

 Telephone Email



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Agenda Item: 6.11

Topic: Creation of a Weed and Pest Regional Appeal Committee

Presented By: Manager of Agricultural Services, Sebastien Dutrisac

Recommendation:

- 1. That Smoky Lake County ASB recommend to council to direct administration to investigate the creation of a Regional Weed and Pest Appeal Committee for Smoky Lake County and interested neighbouring municipalities for 2027.**
-

Background:

Under the *Agricultural Pest Act* (APA) of Alberta Section 14 subsection 5 “A local authority shall annually appoint a committee to hear and determine appeals under this section and on receipt of a notice of appeal a local authority shall refer the appeal to that committee” as well as under the *Weed Control Act* (WCA) Section 19 subsection 1 “A local authority shall establish, at least annually, an independent appeal panel to determine appeals of inspector’s notices, local authority’s notices and debt recovery notices”.

Benefits:

The current appointment of a Weed and Pest Appeal Committee under the WCA and APA achieves legislative compliance for the 2026 ASB audit. The creation of a Regional Weed and Pest Appeal committee should increase the number of applicants for the position if the regional collaboration includes the caveat that an appointee from a municipality will not sit on the appeal panel hearing an appeal within the same municipality they reside in. The intent is to have each municipality cover the cost of their own appointees that are sitting at a neighbouring municipal appeal. This initiative would decrease the likelihood of a committee member be in a compromising position when having to decide on an appeal of neighbouring producer therefore increasing the objectivity of the verdict and decreasing potential conflict between neighbours.

Disadvantages:

N/A

Alternatives:

1. That the ASB accepts the RFD as information.

Financial Implications:

Potential variance in mileage paid for the panel appointees.

Legislation:

Alberta Weed Control Act



Request for Decision (RFD)

Agricultural Pests Act

Intergovernmental:

Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation

Strategic Alignment:

1. Regional Collaboration & Modernization

Enclosure(s):

N/A

Signature of the CAO: _____



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Agenda Item: 6.12

Topic: Weed/Pest Inspector Appointment

Presented By: Sebastien Dutrisac, Manager of Agricultural Services

Recommendation:

That Smoky Lake County ASB recommends council to appoint Hannah Richards and Natalie Tychowski as Weed and Pest Inspectors for Smoky Lake County, effective May 28th, 2026, to termination of employment.

Background:

Under the *Weed Control Act* of Alberta Section 7(1) states “A local authority shall appoint inspectors to enforce and monitor compliance with this Act within the municipality”, and the *Agricultural Pest Act* Statutes of Alberta Section 9(1) states “Inspectors may be appointed by a local authority or by the Minister to carry out this Act and the regulations”.

Benefits:

The appointment of qualified staff as Weed and Pest Inspectors fulfills the municipality’s requirement under the grant agreement ASB-076850 with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI) includes Goal 2-2 and Goal 4-2 as well as the Weed Control Act (Section 7) and the Agricultural Pests Act to appoint sufficient inspectors for enforcement and monitoring.

Disadvantages:

N/A

Alternatives:

1. That ASB accepts the RFD as information.

Financial Implications:

Goals not met under the current grant agreement might affect grant funding levels

Legislation:

Alberta Weed Control Act

Agricultural Pests Act

Policy Statement No. 62-14-02: Weed Inspection and Weed Notice

Intergovernmental:

Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation

Strategic Alignment:

N/A



Request for Decision (RFD)

Enclosure(s):

N/A

Signature of the CAO: _____



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Agenda Item: 6.13

Topic: Weed Inspection and Weed Notice Policy

Presented By: Manager of Agricultural Services, Sebastien Dutrisac

Recommendation:

- 1. That Smoky Lake County ASB recommends to council to adopt the amended Policy 14-02 Weed Inspection as presented**
-

Background:

The County's Weed Inspection and Weed Notice Policy (Policy No. 62-14-02, last amended May 09, 2016) established the local framework for managing regulated weeds in accordance with Alberta's Weed Control Act (SA 2008, c W-5.1) and the Weed Control Regulation (Alberta Regulation 19/2010,). Effective January 28, 2026, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation implemented significant updates to the regulated weed list through the Weed Control Amendment Regulation (Alberta Regulation 19/2026). These changes — the first major revision in 16 years — include the addition of 17 new species and select hybrids, reclassifications of certain weeds, and the removal of two species (Perennial sow thistle and Creeping bellflower) from regulation. The updates reflect current ecological, economic, and agricultural risks posed by invasive plants in the province.

Benefits:

These provincial changes necessitate a review and update of the Municipality's Weed Control Policy to ensure full alignment with the current Weed Control Act and Regulation. Updating the policy will:

- Maintain compliance with provincial legislation and avoid potential liability for the Municipality.
- Support effective management of invasive plants that threaten local agriculture, biodiversity, infrastructure, recreational areas, and community values.
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Municipality, appointed inspectors, and property owners/occupants.
- Strengthen education and enforcement efforts in response to the expanded or revised list of regulated weeds.

In addition to aligning with the updated provincial requirements, staff recommend a broader modernization of the content and format of the policy. The existing policy currently blends high-level policy direction with detailed internal operational procedures (such as inspection protocols, enforcement workflows, notice issuance steps, and administrative checklists) This proposed amendment ensures the Municipality's Weed Control Policy remains relevant, compliant, and resident-centred while effectively addressing the evolving provincial regulatory landscape.

Disadvantages:

N/A

Alternatives:



Request for Decision (RFD)

1. That Council accepts the RFD as information.

Financial Implications:

1. Risk Reduction and Liability Savings,
2. Reduced Staff Time
3. Administrative Efficiency

Legislation:

Alberta Weed Control Act and Regulation

Policy Statement No. 62-14-02: Weed Inspection and Weed Notice

Alberta Agricultural Service Board Act

Intergovernmental:

Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation

Strategic Alignment:

N/A

Enclosure(s):

1. Enclosure 1 Policy Statement No. 62-14-02
2. Enclosure 2 Draft Weed Policy 2026

Signature of the CAO: _____

Noxious weeds

Do residents know what our vision is

Sebastien Dutrisac, CCA, CAgF
Manager of Agricultural Services

Isn't the Act specific?

The WCA is enabling legislation

Inspector obligations

Landowner obligations

- The *Weed Control Act* states
 - **Noxious weeds — control**
 - **2** A person shall control a noxious weed that is on land the person owns or occupies.
 - **Prohibited noxious weeds — destroy**
 - **3** A person shall destroy a prohibited noxious weed that is on land the person owns or occupies.
- 13(1) If an inspector finds non-compliance with this Act, an inspector may give an inspector's notice in writing requiring compliance (Noxious)
 - (2) If an inspector finds Prohibited Noxious Weeds that have not been destroyed, the inspector shall give an inspector's notice requiring the prohibited noxious weeds to be destroyed.

Why Municipalities Differ?

Municipal Programs are a Product Of Area

“Nature” And “Nurture”

Municipal Programs are a Product Of Area

Area “Nature”

- Local Natural Features
 - Geography
 - Geology
 - Hydrography
 - Climate

Area “Nurture”

- The effects are
 - Complex
 - Interconnected
 - Accumulative
 - Shifting
 - Demographics
 - What kind of people, urban? rural?
 - Economics
 - Does the MD&C have resources to enforce or assist
 - Technology
 - Linked to Economics
 - Politics And Culture
 - Local Bylaws

Inspection Protocols Around Province Varies

- **Some Municipalities are**

- **Methodical**
- **Ambitious**
- **Thorough**
- **Formal**
- **Consistent**

- **Some Municipalities programs are**

- **Individualized**
- **Sustaining**
- **Perceptible**
- *Informal*
- *Flexible*

So what should we do?

- Increase and maintain communication
- Diversify tools
- Diversify resources
- Look into alternatives
- Promote EDRR
- Use an Integrated Prevention Plan
- Encourage Vegetation Management



How can this possibly happen?

ASBA

- **Agricultural service board duties**
- (a) To act as advisors
- (b) Organize and Direct programs,
- (d) Promote, Enhance and Protect
- (e) Develop agricultural policies for municipal needs.

The message

- **Agricultural Service Boards and Municipalities provides services some of which are required by the Province**
- **Promote the Program get people to understand how we do inspections**
- **Establish fair treatment**
- **Start establishing clear expectations**

Why did you pull me over

Speeding, you need to stop going so fast



No speed limit sign and I have no speedometer. How will I know when it's too fast

CARTOONSTOCK.com

Search ID: dto130711

7-11
DAN THOMPSON

Awareness

If we start sharing information we will start seeing cooperation instead of enforcement. People fear what they don't know.

Raising awareness will explain:

- Who we are
- What we do
- Why we do what we do
- How we do it



Where did this all start?

Cas e File Number	Severity of Infestation					Proximity To (within 250 meters)			Weed History		Population Density			Introduction of New Species			Rarity of Species (Introduction of species not commonly found in a 6 mile radius)			Total Points	Potential for Weed Notice Issued	Notes		
	4	3	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	3	2	1	12 or More	Yes/No		
07-3296				1	1	1	1	1	3	0	0				2					1	1	7	No	
07-3279		3				1	1	1	3	1	1		1	0	2					1	1	11	No	
07-3284		3				1	1	1	3	1	1		1	0	2					1	1	11	No	
08-4552			2			2	1	1	2	1	1		1	1	1	1				1	1	8	No	
08-3519				1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1		1	1	2					1	1	9	No	
07-4333	4				4	1	1	1	2	1	1	2		2	2			3			3	14	Yes	
08-2340	4				4	1	1	1	3	1	1	2		2	2			3			3	15	Yes	
07-3362		3			3	1	1	1	2	1	1	2		2		1			2		2	11	No	
08-2345		3			3	1	1	1	3	0	0	2		2	2					1	1	11	No	Using Biological Control (Canada Thistle Stem Mining Weevil)
08-4570			1		1	1	1	1	2	0	0		0	0			0			1	1	4	No	Physical evidence of control, landowner is compliant
08-1345		3			3	1	1	1	2	1	1	2		2		1			2		2	11	No	
08-2497		3			3	1	1	1	3	1	1	2		2	2				2		2	13	Yes	
09-6001			2		2	1	1	1	2	0	0		1	1	1			2			2	8	No	
07-2689				2	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	2		2		1				1	1	10	No	
10-6002	4				4	1	1	1		1	1	2		2		1				1	1	10	No	Orange/Meadow Hawkweed not included

Yellowhead County had a Matrix

- People think it's a notice even if it clearly says INFORMATION LETTER.
- People get mad because they think I am wasting time and money flying over the county taking pictures (AIMS).
- After a season or two they start to get it.
- We have a door knocker program that helped a lot

Can we go too far?
Can we make
changes?

If we make things too
convoluted....

So keep it simple



I.N.S.P.E.C.T.

Inspector's next step per established communication table

- Standardizing - consistency
- Stabilizing - priority
- Sustaining - clarity (ratepayers and inspectors)

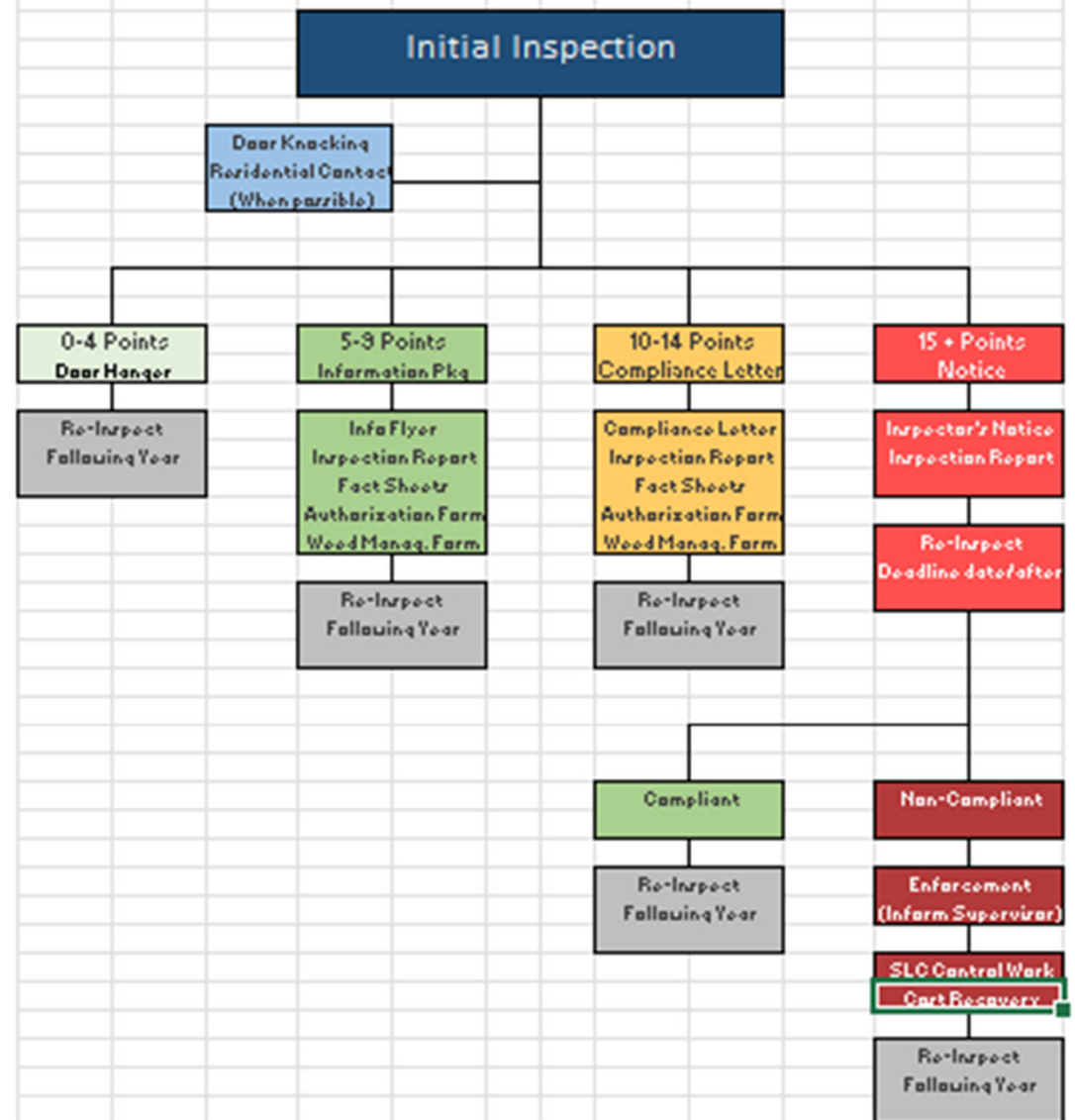
3 of the 6S program
(missing Sorting, Shining and Safety)

I.N.S.P.E.C.T.

Inspector's Next Step Per Established Communication Table



WEED INSPECTION FLOWCHART



Adapted by SLC ASB month, Year



I.N.S.P.E.C.T.

INSPECTOR'S NEXT STEP PER ESTABLISHED COMMUNICATION TABLE

POINTS PER WEED SPECIES

Weed Infestation Area	0 0 - 0.59 acres	1 0.6 - 2.49 acres	3 2.5 - 9.9 acres	6 10 - 39.9 acres	12 40 - 160 acres			
Required m² Counts	3 m ² Counts	6 m ² Counts	9 m ² Counts	12 m ² Counts	15 m ² Counts			
Per Square Meter	1 <1	2 1<1.99	3 2<3.99	4 4>6.99	5 7<10.99	6 11<		
Severity	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Serious	Severe	Extreme		
Weed Species:	-3 Canada Thistle	-1 Noxious	0 Uncommon Noxious	7 Atypical	20 Prohibited Noxious			
Located Within 10 m of:	0 Center of Property	2 Property Line	3 Riparian or Sensitive Area					
Activity of Case File:	0 Proactive / New	1 Complacent	3 Dismissive					
Weed Infestation:	-2 Decreasing	0 Different Area / New	2 Static	4 Increasing				
Previous Communication:	0 None / Verbal	1 Information Package	3 Compliance Letter	3 Notice				

*For multiple weed case files, the weed species with the highest total points will be transferred to inspection report and determine required communication.

TOTAL POINTS*

ESTABLISHED COMMUNICATION TABLE

POINTS	NEXT STEP
1 - 4	Door Hanger or verbal communication with Landowner / Occupant as needed
5 - 9	Information Package: Flyer, Inspection Report, Fact Sheet(s), Weed Management & Authorization Release Forms (Agreement forms Non-Foresty Or
10 - 14	Compliance Letter, Inspection Report, Fact Sheet(s), Weed Management & Authorization Release Forms (Agreement forms Non-Foresty Or
15 +	Inspector's Notice, Inspection Report, Fact Sheet(s), Weed Management & Authorization Release Forms (Agreement forms Non-Foresty Or

Inspector's Notice Action Deadline



						POINTS PER WEED SPECIE		
Notice Delivery:	0 Mail		2 In Person (18+)					
Growth State:	1 Rosette	2 Bolt	3 Seed Dispersal	4 Seed Fruit	5 Bud	6 Flower		
Species:	0 Noxious		2 Uncommon Noxious		3 Prohibited Noxious			
Located Within 10m of:	0 Center of Property		2 Property Line		3 Riparian or Sensitive Area			
Historical Activity of Case File:	0 Proactive / New		1 Complacent		3 Dismissive			
Inspection Month:	0 Oct - April	1 May	2 June	6 July	8 August	10 September		
Weather:	1 Rain / Windy	2 Cool / Cloudy		3 Sunny / Cool		4 Sunny / Warm		
The weed species with the highest total points will determine the action deadline. Notices sent out after September 21 should be dated June 30 of the following year						TOTAL POINTS		

ACTION DEADLINE TABLE

POINTS	NEXT STEP
1 - 4	5 weeks from the Thursday following the inspection date
5 - 9	4 weeks from the Thursday following the inspection date
10 - 14	3 weeks from the Thursday following the inspection date
15 +	2 weeks from the Thursday following the inspection date

We gave everybody a matrix and a "how to". We started with size.

0.6			
.6-2.5			
2.5-10 acres			
10-40 acres			
40-160 acres			

To assist everyone in understanding the program, below is a breakdown of the County's procedures of **I.N.S.P.E.C.T.** (**Inspector's Next Step Per Established Communication Table**).

Step 1 Inspections for Legislated weeds present on the property.

Inspection starting point will rotate each year with the goal of inspecting all properties within the municipality at least once within the calendar year.

Step 2 Size of Infestation

If Legislated weeds are found, assessing the size is the next step. A bigger weed patch will result in a higher number of square meters random counts required as well as higher points in the chart.

Step 3 Severity of Infestation

Once the plants are counted within the square meters, they will be divided by how many square meters counts was required by step 2. The results will define how an infestation is classified ranging from *Very Low* to *Extreme*. The increased severity will results in higher points. Steps 2, 3, and 4 help with reports to the Alberta Ministry of Agriculture on the spread and severity of each species.

Step 4 Weed Species

The legislated weeds identified:

- Are highly invasive, introduced, alien plant species which cause significant *negative* impact to:
 - Economy
 - Ecology/environment
 - Social/recreational activities
 - Health/Safety
- Are provincially divided into 2 groups - Prohibited Noxious and Noxious. The province mandated that specific steps be followed if they are identified as Prohibited Noxious.
- Noxious weeds are municipally divided into uncommon and common. Due to the nature and history of Canada thistle, the procedures allow a reduction of required communication.
- An increased value is given to uncommon Noxious weeds as the County prefers to implement an "early detection-rapid response" program to avoid these plants becoming established.

Step 5 Location of Weed Infestation

Since the Province has established that these plants are a concern to the environment as well as agriculture, the chart will take in consideration how they will affect neighbouring areas.

Then we address density.

To assist everyone in understanding the program, below is a breakdown of the County's procedures of I.N.S.P.E.C.T. (Inspector's Next Step Per Established Communication Table).

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Inspection starting point will rotate each year with the goal of inspecting all properties within the municipality at least once within the calendar year.

Step 2 Size of Infestation

If Legislated weeds are found, assessing the size is the next step. A bigger weed patch will result in a higher number of square meters random counts required as well as higher points in the chart.

Step 3 Severity of Infestation

Average Plants Per Square Meter	1	2	3	4	5	6
Severity	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Serious	Severe	Extreme

Step 4 Weed Species

The legislated weeds identified:

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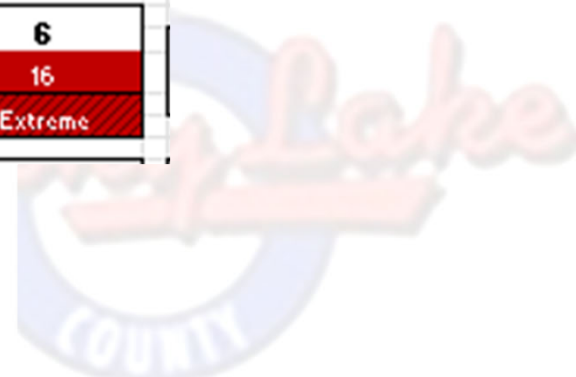
the years illustrates to the inspector how weeds have been party. Neglected properties that have unabated weed problems than properties with good stewards.

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- An increased value is given to uncommon Noxious weeds as the County prefers to implement an "early detection-rapid response" program to avoid these plants becoming established.

Step 6 Historical Activity

The data collected over the years illustrates to the inspector how weeds have been controlled on that property. Neglected properties that have unabated weed problems will have higher points than properties with good stewards.

Step 7 Historical Size of Infestation

Records of the recent inspections will indicate if a new or existing weed area is increasing, decreasing or located in a different area. The status of the area will be reflected in the points allotted.

Step 8 Last Communication Sent

We also added a component to the sheet that identifies the level of past communication regarding weed inspections.



Weed Species:	-3	-1	0	15	20
	Canada Thistle	Noxious	Uncommon Noxious	Woody species	Prohibited Noxious

To assist everyone in understanding the program, below is a breakdown of the County's procedures of I.N.S.P.E.C.T. (Inspector's Next Step Per Established Communication Table).

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 - Economy
 - Ecology/environment
 - Social/recreational activities
 - Health/Safety
- Are provincially divided into 2 groups - Prohibited Noxious and Noxious. The province mandated that specific steps be followed if they are identified as Prohibited Noxious.
- Noxious weeds are municipally divided into uncommon and common. Due to the nature and history of Canada's climate, the procedures allow a reduction of required

Located Within 10 m of:	0 Center of Property	2 Property Line	3 Riparian or Sensitive Area
--------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	--

established.

Step 5 Location of Weed Infestation

Since the Province has established that these plants are a concern to the environment as well as agriculture, the chart will take in consideration how they will affect neighbouring areas.

Step 6 Historical Activity

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Step 2 Size of Infestation

If Legislated weeds are present, they will result in a higher number of higher points in the chart.

Activity of Case File:	0	1	3
	Proactive / New	Complacent	Dismissive

Step 3 Severity of Infestation

Once the plants are counted within the square meters, they will be divided by how many square meters counts was required by step 2. The results will define how an infestation is classified ranging from *Very Low* to *Extreme*. The increased severity will result in higher points. Steps 2, 3, and 4 help with reports to the Alberta Ministry of Agriculture on the spread and severity of each species.

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Step 7 Historical Size of Infestation

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Step 3 Severity of Infestation

Once the plants are counted within the square meters, they will be divided by how many square meters counted. The results will define how an infestation is classified ranging from -2 to 4. Results in higher points. Step 4 Agriculture on the spread

Weed Infestation:	-2	0	2	4
	Decreasing	Different Area / New	Static	Increasing

Step 4 Weed Species

The legislated weeds identified:

- Are highly invasive, introduced, alien plant species which cause significant *negative* impact to:
 - Economy
 - Ecology/environment
 - Social/recreational activities
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- Are provincially divided into 2 groups - Prohibited Noxious and Noxious. The province mandated that specific steps be followed if they are identified as Prohibited Noxious.
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Step 8 Last Communication Sent

We also added a component to the sheet that identifies the level of past communication regarding weed inspections.

St	Previous Communication:	0	1	3	3
		None / Verbal	Information Package	Compliance Letter	Notice

impact to:

- o Economy
- o Ecology/environment
- o Social/recreational activities
- o Health/Safety
- Are provincially divided into 2 groups - Prohibited Noxious and Noxious. The province mandated that specific steps be followed if they are identified as Prohibited Noxious.
- Noxious weeds are municipally divided into uncommon and common. Due to the nature and history of Canada thistle, the procedures allow a reduction of required communication.
- An increased value is given to uncommon Noxious weeds as the County prefers to implement an "early detection-rapid response" program to avoid these plants becoming established.

Step 5 Location of Weed Infestation

Since the Province has established that these plants are a concern to the environment as well as agriculture, the chart will take in consideration how they will affect neighbouring areas.

Tally the numbers and find the communication strategy

ESTABLISHED COMMUNICATION TABLE	
POINTS	NEXT STEP
1 - 4	Door Hanger or verbal communication with Landowner / Occupant as needed
5 - 9	Information Package: Flyer, Inspection Report, Fact Sheet(s), Weed Management & Authorization Release Forms (Agreement forms Non-Forestry C
10 - 14	Compliance Letter, Inspection Report, Fact Sheet(s), Weed Management & Authorization Release Forms (Agreement forms Non-Forestry Only)
15 +	Inspector's Notice, Inspection Report, Fact Sheet(s), Weed Management & Authorization Release Forms (Agreement forms Non-Forestry Only)

- Door knocker were kept very informal
- One thing we learned when sending the information packages don't write names, put lots of pictures

How should this be promoted?

Inspectors may be distributing reports on some years prior with the intent in assisting with planning your management strategy

Inspectors may be distributing reports on some years after weed management so you can assess its efficacy

How we deliver the program will definitely affect how people perceive it



Why bother with door knockers and information packages

EDRR



**Early Detection
Rapid Response**

**Isolated
Spotted Knapweed
Infestation**

**Very Inexpensive
To Eradicate**

Spotted Knapweed 2014 – Photo By Kelly Cooley – coolprosolutions@gmail.com

At This Point, It's NOT EDRR



Leafy Spurge 2009 – Photo By Kelly Cooley – coolprosolutions@gmail.com

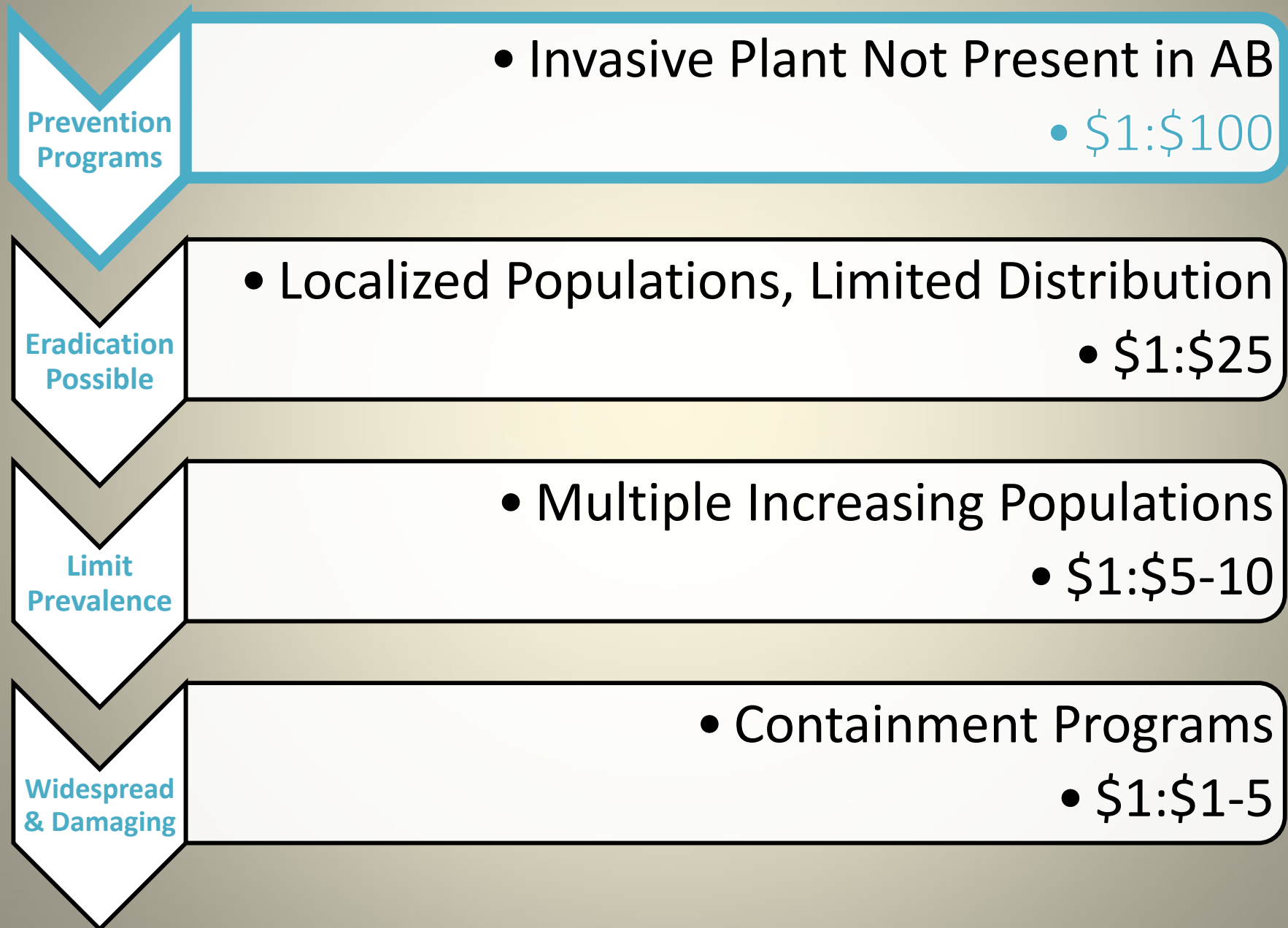


Leafy Spurge 2009 – Photo By Kelly Cooley – coolprosolutions@gmail.com

At This Point, It's NOT EDRR



Early Detection & Rapid Response



Remember in Life.....
you can choose 1 thing
out of 3

If you put more effort
you might get 2 out of 3



If you want Cheap and Fast it won't be Perfect.

If you want it Cheap and perfect , it wont be Fast.

You get the drift.....

You seldom attain all three, just like our waiter and the spoon.

It's your choice but Good things under budget requires more
preparation and increased communication

Why is this so important?

When it comes to the Weed Control Act, we know we have obligations to a Prohibited Noxious

When it comes to the Agricultural Pest Act

Duty of local authority

6 A local authority of a municipality shall take active measures

- (a) to prevent the establishment of, or
- (b) to control or destroy, pests in the municipality.

1984 cA-8.1 s6

Notice

12(1) When an inspector is of the opinion that land, property or livestock contains or is likely to contain a pest or should be protected against a pest, **the inspector may issue a notice** in writing directed to the owner or occupant of the land or property or to the owner or person in control of the livestock



Virulent Blackleg

of Canada

SEVERITY OF PEST INFESTATION RATING

Calculate the **Total** number of point for all the samples collected:

RATING	NO. OF PLANTS	RATING TOTAL	TOTAL POINTS	SEVERITY LEVEL
0	x _____ =	0	1 - 83	Very Low
1	x _____ =		84 - 166	Low
2	x _____ =		167 - 250	Moderate
3	x _____ =		251 - 334	Serious
4	x _____ =		335 - 418	Severe
5	x _____ =		419 - 500	Extreme
TOTAL POINTS				

PEST POINTS SYSTEM - Per pest species

Severity of Infestation:						POINTS
Extreme	Severe	Serious	Moderate	Low	Very Low	
18	15	12	9	6	3	
Historical Activity of Case File:						
Dismissive		Complacent		Proactive / New		
3		1		0		
Previous Communication Sent:						
Notice	Compliance Letter	Information Package	None			
3	3	1	0			


TOTAL POINTS*

*Total points will be transferred to Inspection Report

ESTABLISHED COMMUNICATION TABLE

POINTS	NEXT STEP
1 - 7	Information Package: Inspection Report, Lab Report, Management Plan, etc
8 - 14	Compliance Letter & Inspection Report, Lab Report, Management Plan, etc
15 +	Inspector's Notice & Inspection Report

Anything more? Yes, we could broaden current methods, update to minimize confusion, minimize litigation, and increase communication channels



OCCUPANT AUTHORIZATION RELEASE

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case #: _____

Initials

Initials

Land Title Ownership

I declare: I am the registered owner of the land described herein and that I have legal authority to exercise control over said land, under the *Land Titles Act of Alberta*.

- W4

within Smoky Lake County, Province of Alberta

Quarter Section Township Range Meridian

I understand that amendments to land ownership or occupancy must reported to the County. Amendments discovered by the County will render this agreement thereto, null and void.

Initials

Initials

Authorization for Release of Information

I declare that I have entered into a private agreement authorizing rental or lease of said land to the registered occupant listed below.

I declare: I understand that control of Noxious weeds and eradication of Prohibited Noxious weeds on the land is the responsibility of the registered landowner, unless otherwise specified within a legally binding agreement for rental or lease of said land.

I declare: I understand that Smoky Lake County is obliged to ensure that Prohibited Noxious weeds are *eradicated* and Noxious weeds are *controlled* as required by the *Weed Control Act of Alberta* (S.A. 2008 /W-5.1) and the *Weed Control Regulation* (19/2010) including any amendments or successor legislation thereto.

I hereby grant permission for Smoky Lake County to release copies of weed related notifications to the registered occupant listed below for the sole purpose of expediting weed control on said land.

Initials

Initials

Authorization for Vegetation Management

I hereby grant permission for the registered occupant listed below to enter into an agreement of said land with Smoky Lake County, for the sole purpose of authorizing County employees or agents to expedite the control of Noxious weeds and the eradication of Prohibited Noxious weeds on said land, which may include the application of residual herbicides.

I agree to save harmless and indemnify Smoky Lake County, its employees and agents, from and against all actions, claims, suits, and demands arising in any manner whatsoever from any activities associated with vegetation management on said land. Execution of this authorization constitutes the entire agreement between parties and no other warranties are given or implied.

Initials

LANDOWNER (Print)

Mailing Address

Telephone # Email


X

Initials

REGISTERED OCCUPANT (Print)

Mailing Address

Telephone # Email



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT RELEASE

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case #: _____

Initials

Initials

Fence Line Agreement

I hereby grant permission for Smoky Lake County to control regulated weeds by applying residual herbicide, mowing, or by other methods within the perimeter of the listed property, including the fenceline and headlands, and adjacent Municipal right-of-way.

Initials

Initials

Private Land Agreement

I hereby grant permission for Smoky Lake County to control regulated weeds to a maximum area of two acres, by applying residual herbicide, mowing, or by other methods within the listed property.

Initials

Initials

Brush Control Agreement

I hereby grant permission for Smoky Lake County to control brush, by applying residual herbicide, mowing, or by other methods, adjacent to County infrastructure of the listed property.

I hereby declare by signing this form that I understand that vegetation management will be conducted only if time and weather conditions permit, with the knowledge that priority is always given to the County's road right-of-way program. Services outlined in this agreement shall not be billable. This signed agreement shall include permission for Smoky Lake County to enter the listed property for the purpose of performing such related work.

I understand that herbicides may be applied for the purpose of this request. I understand herbicides applied contain low toxicity and that the residual effects may restrict the growth of certain plants and crops for several years. I hereby declare that I understand the effects and I agree to save harmless and indemnify Smoky Lake County, its employees and agents, from and against all actions, suits, claims and demands arising in any manner whatsoever from activities associated with said vegetation control work.

I understand that brush control will only be completed when it impedes County infrastructure such as sightlines or drainage.

I understand that amendments to land ownership or occupancy must reported to the County. Amendments discovered by the County will render this agreement thereto, null and void.

The property I wish to have maintained:

LEGAL: - - - - W4 If applicable, SUBDIVISION (LOT: BLOCK: PLAN:)

Quarter Section Township Range Meridian

NOTES: _____

i.e. Property access, area of concern, etc.

Initials

Landowner Name (Print)

Signature of Landowner / Registered Occupant

Smoky Lake County Approval

Initials

Date

Mailing Address

Telephone Email

6412 McDougall Drive, PO Box 310, Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0 | sdturisac@smokylakecounty.ab.ca | tel: 780.656.3730 fax: 656.3730



Smoky Lake County Policy

Title:	Weed Control Policy	<u>Policy #</u>	<u>Version</u>
Category:	Agricultural Services (AG)	AG-XX	01

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: Weed Control Act of Alberta (S.A. 2008, Chapter W-5.1), the Weed Control Regulation (19/2010) and any successor thereto.

PURPOSE: To ensure that Prohibited Noxious Weeds are Eradicated, and Noxious Weeds are Controlled under the Weed Control Act and the Weed Control Regulation.

STATEMENT: Smoky Lake County recognizes that several introduced plant species have been designated as Noxious or Prohibited Noxious under the *Weed Control Act* of Alberta and/or applicable bylaws. Smoky Lake County further recognizes that it is beneficial to the County to implement measures to prevent the establishment of and/or to Control the spread of invasive plant species, on all public and private lands within the boundaries of the County, for the protection of agricultural productivity and the preservation of the natural environment.

DEFINITIONS: For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions shall apply

“Compliance Letter” - a forceful reminder letter requesting compliance by a specific deadline, and warning of potential issuance of an Inspector's Notice and enforcement for if compliance fails. The Compliance Letter has evidentiary value in support of an Inspector's due diligence in the event enforcement becomes necessary.

“Control” - to inhibit the growth or spread of a plant.

“Eradicate” - destroy all parts of a plant and render reproductive parts of a plant non-viable.

“Information Package” - A package with evidentiary value in support of an Inspector's due diligence.

“Notice” - a legally binding document demanding compliance by a specified deadline and outlining acceptable weed Control options.

“Weed Control Act” - the Weed Control Act of Alberta (S.A. 2008 Chapter W-5.1) and the Weed Control Regulation (19/2010) and any successor thereto.

“Weed Inspectors” - Inspectors appointed by Smoky Lake County or by the Minister to carry out the Weed Control Act, the regulations, and any relevant municipal bylaw.

OBJECTIVE:

- Weed Inspections will be done at random and by complaint basis.
- Weed Inspectors shall attempt to investigate within 5 working days of receipt of a weed report or complaint.

Commented [SD1]: ASB and Council should give direction

Commented [SD2]: ASB and Council Direction



- Weed complaints may be submitted, verbally or in writing, to the Agricultural Services Department.
- If an inspection is done on due to a complaint, the inspector shall inspect the adjacent parcels as well.
- Inspectors appointed under the Weed Control Act shall encourage voluntary compliance with the requirements of the Act.
- All Prohibited Noxious Weeds observed during inspections of private or public lands shall, through cooperation or enforcement, be Eradicated by the registered landowner or occupant.
- All Noxious Weeds observed during inspections of private or public lands shall, through cooperation or enforcement, be controlled by the registered landowner or occupant.
- An appointed Inspector shall issue and enforce such Notices as required by the Weed Control Act and/or Procedures.
- Weed Inspectors shall attempt to contact landowners at the residence of occupied properties. Information Packages and/or Compliance Letters shall be delivered to registered landowners where the Weed Inspector has identified a weed problem.
- The attached "Schedule A" contains a list of weed species declared as Noxious or Prohibited Noxious under the Weed Control Regulation and shall be considered part of this Policy.
- Completed Appeals Notice "Schedule B", accompanied by the fee, received within the 10 days period or prior to the notice deadline, whichever is less, will be heard by the Smoky Lake County's Weed and Pest Appeal Panel.
- The Weed and Pest appeal panel shall hear and determine the appeal within 5 days of receipt of the notice of appeal by the chief administrative officer.
- Once the appeal period has expired as stated in the Weed Control Act and/or the Bylaw, the Agricultural Service Department is authorized to destroy or take any action on up to 160 acres of land, as determined as necessary to fulfil the requirements stated on the Notice that has not been complied with.

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Council Resolution #</u>	<u>Version</u>
Adopted	Month, day, year	Motion #	01
Amended			
Reviewed			



Schedule "A"

Commented [SD3]: Highlighted items are new or changed designation

1 The following plants are designated as prohibited noxious weeds in Alberta:

amaranth, Palmer — *Amaranthus palmeri* S. Watson
autumn olive — *Elaeagnus umbellata* Thunb.
balsam, Himalayan — *Impatiens glandulifera* Royle
barberry, common — *Berberis vulgaris* L.
bartsia, red — *Odontites vulgaris* Moench
buckthorn, common — *Rhamnus cathartica* L.
cinquefoil, sulphur — *Potentilla recta* L.
crupina, common — *Crupina vulgaris* Pers. ex Cass.
dyer's woad — *Isatis tinctoria* L.
Eurasian water milfoil — *Myriophyllum spicatum* L.
flowering rush — *Butomus umbellatus* L.
garlic mustard — *Alliaria petiolata* (M. Bieb.) Cavara & Grande
goatgrass, jointed — *Aegilops cylindrica* Host
hawkweed, common — *Hieracium lachenalii* Suter*
hawkweed, European — *Hieracium sabaudum* L.*
hawkweed, polar — *Hieracium atratum* Fr.*
hawkweed, smooth — *Hieracium laevigatum* Willd.*
hawkweed, spotted — *Hieracium maculatum* Schrank*
hawkweed, wall — *Hieracium murorum* L.*
hoary alyssum — *Berteroa incana* (L.) DC.
hogweed, giant — *Heracleum mantegazzianum* Sommier & Levier
iris, pale yellow — *Iris pseudacorus* L.
jimsonweed — *Datura stramonium* L.
knapweed, Russian — *Rhaponticum repens* (L.) Hidalgo
knotweed, giant — *Reynoutria sachalinensis* (F. Schmidt) Nakai
knotweed, hybrid Japanese — *Reynoutria × bohemica* Chrték & Chrtková
knotweed, Japanese — *Reynoutria japonica* Houtt.
loosestrife, purple — *Lythrum salicaria* L.
medusahead — *Taeniatherum caput-medusae* (L.) Nevski
nutsedge, yellow — *Cyperus esculentus* L.
phragmites, invasive — *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trinius ex Steud. ssp. *australis*
puncturevine — *Tribulus terrestris* L.
Queen Anne's lace — *Daucus carota* (L) ssp. *carota*
ragwort, tansy — *Jacobaea vulgaris* Gaertn.
rue, African — *Peganum harmala* L.
rush skeletonweed — *Chondrilla juncea* L.
saltcedar — *Tamarix ramosissima* Ledeb.
saltlover — *Halogeton glomeratus* (M. Bieb.) C.A. Mey.
St John's-wort, common — *Hypericum perforatum* L.
starthistle, yellow — *Centaurea solstitialis* L.
swainsonpea, alkali — *Sphaerophysa salsula* (Pall.) DC.
swallowwort, black — *Vincetoxicum nigrum* (L.) Moench
swallowwort, pale/European — *Vincetoxicum rossicum* (Kleopow) Barbar.
tamarisk, Chinese — *Tamarix chinensis* Lour.
tamarisk, smallflower — *Tamarix parviflora* DC.
thesium, field — *Thesium ramosum* Hayne.
thistle, marsh — *Cirsium palustre* (L.) Scop.
thistle, nodding — *Carduus nutans* L.
thistle, plumeless — *Carduus acanthoides* L.
ventenata — *Ventenata dubia* (Leers) Coss. & Durieu
waterhemp, tall — *Amaranthus tuberculatus* (Moq.) J.D. Sauer.
*and all hybrids thereof

2 The following plants are designated as noxious weeds in Alberta:



baby's-breath, common — *Gypsophila paniculata* L.
bindweed, field — *Convolvulus arvensis* L.
blueweed — *Echium vulgare* L.
brome, downy — *Bromus tectorum* L.
brome, Japanese — *Bromus japonicus* Houtt.
burdock, great — *Arctium lappa* L.*
burdock, lesser — *Arctium minus* (Hill) Bernh.*
burdock, woolly — *Arctium tomentosum* Mill.*
buttercup, tall — *Ranunculus acris* L.
chamomile, scentless — *Tripleurospermum inodorum* (L.) Sch. Bip.
clematis, yellow — *Clematis tangutica* (Maxim.) Korsh.
cockle, white — *Silene latifolia* Poir.
daisy, oxeye — *Leucanthemum vulgare* Lam.
dame's rocket — *Hesperis matronalis* L.
hawkweed, kingdevil — *Pilosella floribunda* (Wimm. & Grab.) Fr.*
hawkweed, meadow — *Pilosella caespitosa* (Dumort.) P.D. Sell & C. West*
hawkweed, mouse-ear — *Pilosella officinarum* F.W. Schultz & Sch. Bip.*
hawkweed, orange — *Pilosella aurantiaca* (L.) F.W. Schultz & Sch. Bip.*
hawkweed, queendevil — *Pilosella praealta* (Vill. ex Gochnat) F.W. Schultz & Sch. Bip.*
hawkweed, tall — *Pilosella piloselloides* (Vill.) Soják*
hawkweed, whiplash — *Pilosella flagellaris* (Willd.) Arv.-Touv.*
hawkweed, yellowdevil — *Pilosella glomerata* (Froel.) Fr.*
henbane, black — *Hyoscyamus niger* L.
hoary cress, globe-podded — *Lepidium appelianum* Al-Shehbaz
hoary cress, heart-podded — *Lepidium draba* L.
hoary cress, lens-podded — *Lepidium chalapense* L.
hound's-tongue — *Cynoglossum officinale* L.
knapweed, bighead — *Centaurea macrocephala* Muss. Puschk. ex Willd.*
knapweed, black — *Centaurea nigra* L.*
knapweed, brown — *Centaurea jacea* L.*
knapweed, diffuse — *Centaurea diffusa* Lam.*
knapweed, hybrid — *Centaurea × psammogena* Gáyer*
knapweed, meadow — *Centaurea × gerstlaueri* Erdner*
knapweed, spotted — *Centaurea stoebe* L. ssp. *australis* (Pančić ex A. Kern.) Greuter*
knapweed, squarrose — *Centaurea virgata* Lam. ssp. *squarrosa* (Willd.) Gugler*
knapweed, Tyrol — *Centaurea nigrescens* Willd.*
mullein, common — *Verbascum thapsus* L.
pepper-grass, broad-leaved — *Lepidium latifolium* L.
scabious, field — *Knautia arvensis* (L.) Coult.
spurge, leafy — *Euphorbia virgata* Waldst. & Kit.
tansy, common — *Tanacetum vulgare* L.
thistle, Canada — *Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop.
toadflax, Dalmatian — *Linaria dalmatica* (L.) Mill.
toadflax, yellow — *Linaria vulgaris* Mill.
*and all hybrids thereof

AR 19/2010 sched;19/2026

Policy: 14-02

Schedule "B"
APPEAL NOTICE



APPEAL NOTICE
Appeals to this Weed Notice must be hand delivered or sent double registered or certified mail within the time specified on the notice to take corrective actions or 10 days, whichever is less.

TO: CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER DATED: _____
Smoky Lake County
Box 310, 4612 McDougall Drive Smoky Lake,
Alberta T0A 3C0

I am appealing the Direction (_____), on
Date on Directive

Legal Land Description

You may give reasons for your appeal:

(Use a separate sheet if necessary)

Signature _____ Name Printed _____
Street Address _____ Phone Numbers:
Home: _____
Town _____ Cellular: _____
Province _____ Postal Code _____ Work: _____

NOTE: As per provincial legislation and regulations:

- Appeals file within the 10 day period or prior to the notice deadline, whichever is less, are eligible to be heard by the county's weed appeal panel.
- The application requires a \$500 appeal fee.

Commented [SD4]: Reflects curret legislative and regulatory wording

I.N.S.P.E.C.T.



INSPECTOR'S NEXT STEP PER ESTABLISHED COMMUNICATION TABLE

Weed Infestation Area	0	1	3	6	12
	0 - 0.59 acres	0.6 - 2.49 acres	2.5 - 9.9 acres	10 - 39.9 acres	40 - 160 acres
Required m ² Counts	3 m ² Counts	6 m ² Counts	9 m ² Counts	12 m ² Counts	15 m ² Counts

POINTS PER WEED SPECIES

--	--	--

Average Plants Per Square Meter	1	2	3	4	5	6
	1	2	4	7	11	16
Severity	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Serious	Severe	Extreme

--	--	--

Weed Species:	-3	-1	0	15	20
	Canada Thistle	Noxious	Uncommon Noxious	Woody species	Prohibited Noxious

--	--	--

Located Within 10 m of:	0	2	3
	Center of Property	Property Line	Riparian or Sensitive Area

--	--	--

Historical Activity of Case File:	0	1	3
	Proactive / New	Complacent	Dismissive

--	--	--

Weed Infestation:	-2	0	2	4
	Decreasing	Different Area / New	Static	Increasing

--	--	--

Previous Communication:	0	1	3	3
	None / Verbal	Information Package	Compliance Letter	Notice

--	--	--

*For multiple weed case files, the weed species with the highest total points will be transferred to inspection report and determine required communication.

TOTAL POINTS*

--	--	--

ESTABLISHED COMMUNICATION TABLE

POINTS	NEXT STEP
1 - 4	Door Hanger or verbal communication with Landowner / Occupant as needed
5 - 9	Information Package: Flyer, Inspection Report, Fact Sheet(s), Weed Management & Authorization Release Forms (Agreement forms Non-Forestry Only)
10 - 14	Compliance Letter, Inspection Report, Fact Sheet(s), Weed Management & Authorization Release Forms (Agreement forms Non-Forestry Only)
15 +	Inspector's Notice, Inspection Report, Fact Sheet(s), Weed Management & Authorization Release Forms (Agreement forms Non-Forestry Only)

To assist everyone in understanding the program, below is a breakdown of the County's procedures of *I.N.S.P.E.C.T.* (*Inspector's Next Step Per Established Communication Table*).

Step 1 Inspections for Legislated weeds present on the property.

Inspection starting point will rotate each year with the goal of inspecting all properties within the municipality at least once within the calendar year.

Step 2 Size of Infestation

If Legislated weeds are found, assessing the size is the next step. A bigger weed patch will result in a higher number of square meters random counts required as well as higher points in the chart.

Step 3 Severity of Infestation

Once the plants are counted within the square meters, they will be divided by how many square meters counts was required by step 2. The results will define how an infestation is classified ranging from *Very Low to Extreme*. The increased severity will results in higher points. Steps 2, 3, and 4 help with reports to the Alberta Ministry of Agriculture on the spread and severity of each species.

Step 4 Weed Species

The legislated weeds identified:

- Are highly invasive, introduced, alien plant species which cause significant *negative* impact to:
 - Economy
 - Ecology/environment
 - Social/recreational activities
 - Health/Safety
- Are provincially divided into 2 groups - Prohibited Noxious and Noxious. The province mandated that specific steps be followed if they are identified as Prohibited Noxious.
- Noxious weeds are municipally divided into uncommon and common. Due to the nature and history of Canada thistle, the procedures allow a reduction of required communication.
- An increased value is given to uncommon Noxious weeds as the County prefers to implement an "early detection-rapid response" program to avoid these plants becoming established.

Step 5 Location of Weed Infestation

Since the Province has established that these plants are a concern to the environment as well as agriculture, the chart will take in consideration how they will affect neighbouring areas.

Step 6 Historical Activity

The data collected over the years illustrates to the inspector how weeds have been controlled on that property. Neglected properties that have unabated weed problems will have higher points than properties with good stewards.

Step 7 Historical Size of Infestation

Records of the recent inspections will indicate if a new or existing weed area is increasing, decreasing or located in a different area. The status of the area will be reflected in the points allotted.

Step 8 Last Communication Sent

We also added a component to the sheet that identifies the level of past communication regarding weed inspections.

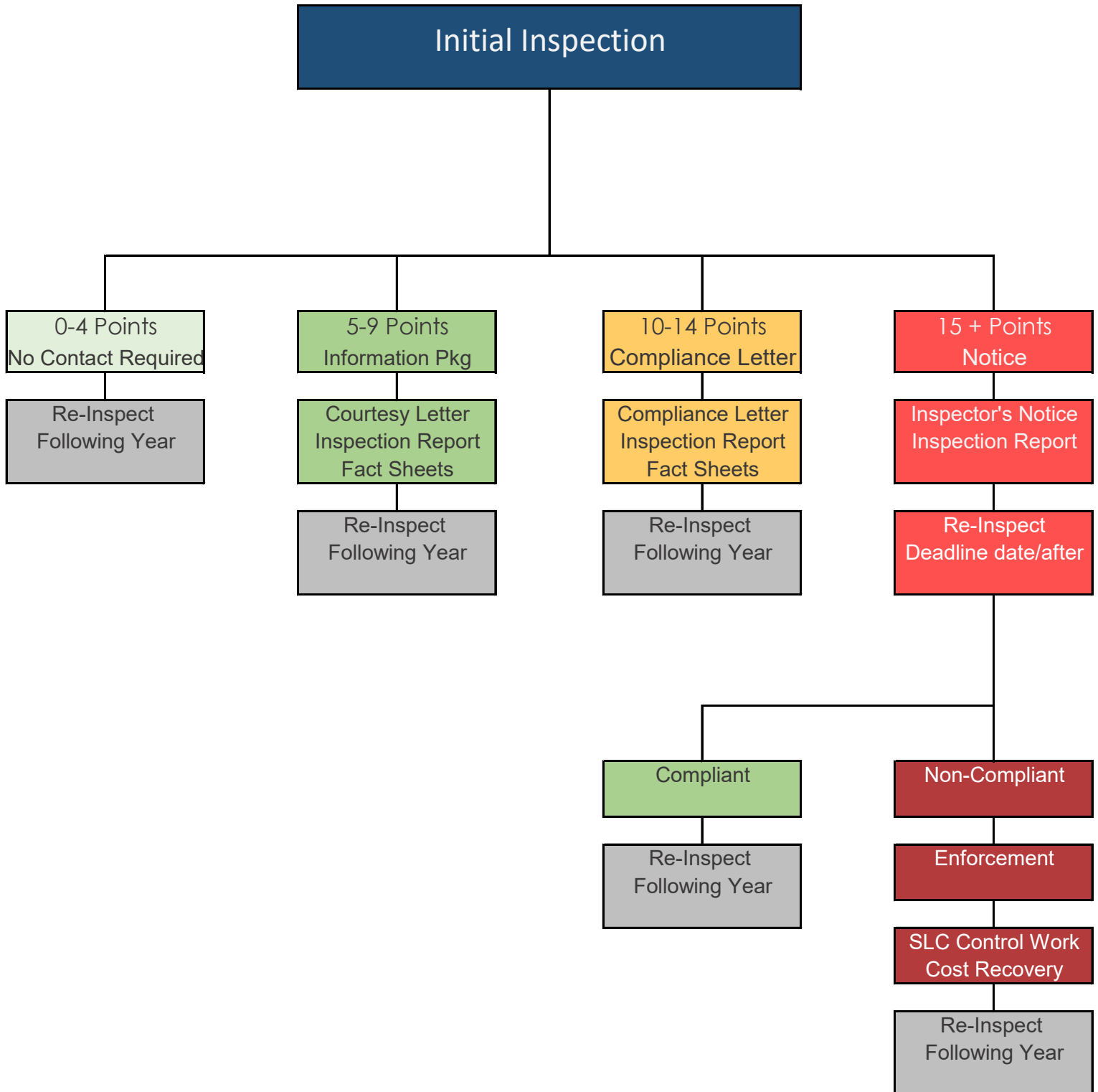


I.N.S.P.E.C.T.

Inspector's Next Step Per Established Communication Table



WEED INSPECTION FLOWCHART

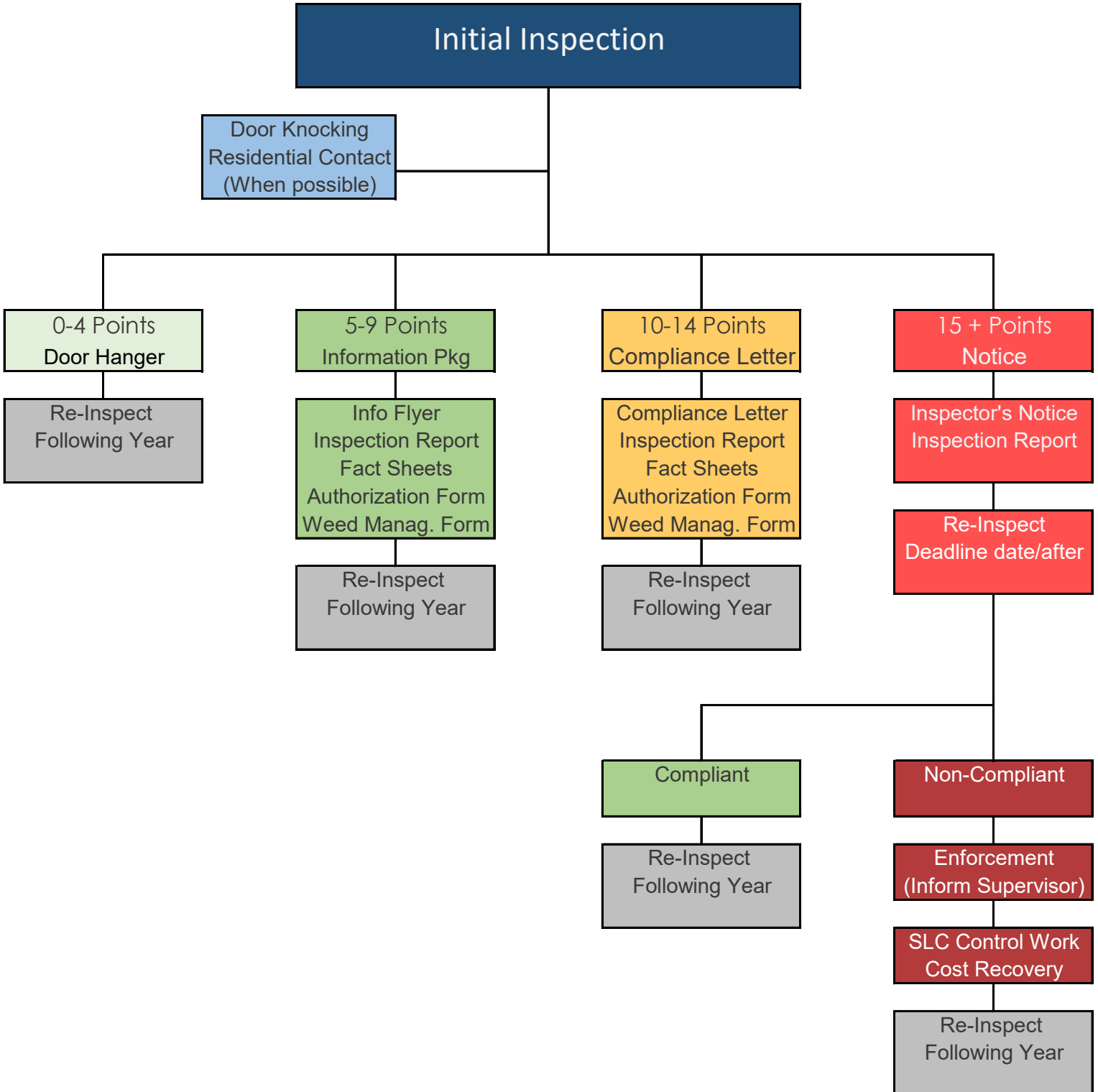


I.N.S.P.E.C.T.

Inspector's Next Step Per Established Communication Table



WEED INSPECTION FLOWCHART



*WEED MANAGEMENT FORM = FENCELINE / PRIVATE LAND AGREEMENT

Smoky Lake County

Phone: 780-656-3730 | www.smokylakecounty.ab.ca



Addressed To



Weeds In Alberta

Alberta is a beautiful place, so it's no big question why legislation has long been put in place to protect its valuable assets from invasive species

Landowner Responsibility

We all have a vested interest in controlling these weeds, and all landowners are responsible for taking action to ensure weed populations are controlled and do not increase. Noxious weeds will continue to spread unless we collectively make a concerted effort to control them. Mandatory control work by all landowner is the most effective way to stop the spread of these plants.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Weed Control Act of Alberta History

1865

Canada Thistle Act of Upper Canada

1907

Noxious Weed Act

1972,
1979

Alberta Weed Act

2010

Alberta Weed Control Act

Protecting what we have

Weed control work is necessary, even on small infestations, in order to prevent them from spreading and becoming more difficult to control. We encourage you to review the weed fact sheets at www.abinvasives.ca, and consider one or more of the control options provided.

Let Us Help

Weed control can be a daunting task. Smoky Lake County recognizes this, which is why we have put in place a few programs **Free of Charge** to assist landowners.

Vegetation Control Release - An agreement that allows the Municipality to spray regulated weeds found within landowner's property and along the property edge.

Authorization Release - A landowner release that permits the Village to relay information about the property to their renter / leaseholder.

Weed Inspection Report

Once a property had been inspected a report is made. This report includes property owner, legal land description, inspection notes and if any regulated weeds were found they are marked out in a **orange** polygon (shape) which highlights the location(s) of weeds found within the property.

Weed Inspectors

Under the Alberta Weed Act the Municipality must employ weed in-spectors to inspect all land within our jurisdiction. Inspectors will attempt to make contact with residents when possible. Once appointed, inspectors have the **legal right to enter on any land** provided it is during reasonable hours. A person shall not willfully obstruct an inspector as this is a offence that is indicable with a fine under the act.



PROHIBITED NOXIOUS



Purple Loosestrife



Himalayan Balsam



Spotted Knapweed



Orange Hawkweed

NOXIOUS



Canada Thistle



Toadflax



Scentless Chamomile



Dame's Rocket



Oxeye Daisy



Tansy



White Cockle



Yellow Clematis

Regulated Weeds most likely to be found within the Municipality.

Weed Designation

Countless hours of research in regards to weeds has been done, that has helped classify weeds by the threat they pose to us. There are two weed designation under the Alberta Weed Act:

Noxious

These weeds are highly invasive, can pose a **significant** threat to agriculture and the environment. They can quickly out compete native vegetation and crops. Many noxious weeds are also toxic to domestic animals and wildlife. Noxious weeds must be **controlled**.

Prohibited Noxious

These weeds pose a **serious** threat to Agriculture and the environment and as such, must be **eradicated**. These weeds are capable of very rapid spread, are extremely competitive and can quickly destroy native vegetation and crops.



May 20, 2026

«NAME»
«ADDRESS»«ADDRESS_2»
«CITY», «PROVINCE»
«POSTAL»
«COUNTRY»

Re: **Weed Control Information Letter**

Dear «NAME»,

Through Smoky Lake County's Weed Inspection Program we have identified Noxious Weeds as outlined in the attached Weed Inspection Report(s).

As a courtesy to all landowners, results of inspections and details of weed infestations are recorded on a Weed Inspection Report and sent by mail, accompanied by a letter, for your records. This letter provides you with a reminder that performing weed control work is necessary, even on small infestations, in order to prevent them from spreading to become larger and more difficult to control. We encourage you to review the attached weed fact sheet(s) and consider one or more of the control options.

Weeds that are designated Noxious under the "**Weed Control Act of Alberta**" pose a significant threat to our valuable agricultural land, our environmentally sensitive areas, and to the native vegetation within Smoky Lake County. We all have a vested interest in eradicating these weeds, and all landowners are responsible for taking action to ensure weed populations are controlled and do not increase. Noxious weeds will continue to spread unless we collectively make a concerted effort to destroy them. Mandatory control work by all landowners is the most effective way to stop the spread of these plants.

The above noted property will be monitored and re-inspected at a later date, and if there is no evidence of any action taken to control these weeds, a WEED NOTICE may be issued in the future.

For further information or assistance, please contact the Agricultural Services Department at sdutrisac@smokylakecounty.ab.ca or 780-656-3730.

Thank you,

Insert Signature

«INSPECTOR_NAME»
Smoky Lake County Weed / Pest Inspector or



May 20, 2026

«NAME»
«ADDRESS»«ADDRESS_2»
«CITY», «PROVINCE»
«POSTAL»
«COUNTRY»

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Thank you,

Insert Signature

«INSPECTOR_NAME»
Smoky Lake County Weed / Pest Inspector or



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Agenda Item: 6.14

Topic: Roadside Mowing Policy

Presented By: Sebastien Dutrisac, Manager of Agricultural Services

Recommendation:

- 1. That Smoky Lake County ASB recommends that Council adopts the amended Policy xx - xx Roadside Mowing Policy**
-

Background:

The County's Mowing Program Policy (Policy No. 62-28-08, last amended June 25, 2025) established mowing of developed road allowances annually to control vegetation including legislated species and brush. Over the years, changes in technology and practices have evolved, been adopted, and shown significant benefits. However, the practices and products are not aligned with the current policy.

Benefits:

This change updates the mowing policy to ensure full alignment with the current municipal program and practices. Updating the policy will:

- Improve clarity about the policy affecting roadside mowing equipment and their use
- Clarify the program limitations and available program to property owners/occupants.
- Shorten the policy by removing procedural content followed by the municipality.
- Improve stakeholder perception on vegetation management and collaborative efforts.

This proposed amendment ensures the municipal Roadside Mowing Policy remains clear, compliant, and resident-centred.

Disadvantages:

N/A

Alternatives:

1. That The ASB accepts the RFD as information.

Financial Implications:

1. Reduced resource utilization
2. Increase weed control efficiency

Legislation:

Alberta Agricultural Service Board Act

Intergovernmental:

none



Request for Decision (RFD)

Strategic Alignment:

1. Regional Collaboration & Modernization
2. Service Delivery & Community Wellbeing

Enclosure(s):

1. Policy Statement No. 62-28-08
2. Enclosure 2 Draft Policy Roadside Mowing

Signature of the CAO: _____

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



Title: Mowing Program	Policy No.: 28-08
Section: 62	Code: P-R
Page No.: 1 of 3 E	

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

Purpose:	Smoky Lake County will govern the municipal mowing program on developed road allowances and County lands under the Agricultural Service Board.
-----------------	--

Policy Statement and Guidelines:

1. STATEMENT:

- 1.1 Smoky Lake County will mow developed road allowances annually to maintain safe visibility for the travelling public and to improve drainage of infrastructure.
- 1.2 The mowing program promotes effective control of weeds and brush within the municipal right-of-way encroaching the roads surface.
- 1.3 The County will mow County lands on a as needed basis.

2. DEFINITION(S):

- 2.1 **County Lands:** Property owned and/ operated by Smoky Lake County
- 2.2 **Developed Road Allowances:** Road allowances containing a gravel or hard surfaced roadway under the jurisdiction of Smoky Lake County.

3. OBJECTIVES:

- 3.1 Define areas that will be mowed within the right-of-way and on County lands.
- 3.2 Provide the level of right-of-way mowing as set out by the Agricultural Service Board.
- 3.3 The County`s desire to achieve the following objectives with its roadside mowing program:
 - to assist with weed control by preventing the seed set of noxious weeds in the right-of-way and to cut any brush regrowth encroaching on the road
 - to enhance road maintenance with minimal gravel loss and allow positive drainage of rainwater to be more efficiently channeled to the right-of-way
 - to increase visibility of wildlife crossing and reduce obstructed visibility of signs at intersections for the safety of the travelling public
 - to provide a fire break and reduce the amount of fire load material in right-of-way.
 - To prevent drifting on roads, where the blowing snow will travel across the road, rather than being trapped by standing vegetation which will travel across

4. GUIDELINES:

- 4.1 The mowing program will be developed and planned by the Agricultural Service Board and implemented through the Agricultural Services Department. The defined mowing areas consist of three (3) zones, divided using range road 150 and Highway 855 as boundaries.

Title: Mowing Program		Policy No.: 28-08
Section: 62	Code: P-R	Page No.: 2 of 3 E

Policy Statement and Guidelines:	
4.2	Roadside prep and equipment maintenance will commence 2 weeks prior to mowing program start date.
4.3	Mowers will begin mowing operation the third week in May. All mowing operations will cease no later than November 1 st -
4.4	Mowing Operations consist of three (3) tractors and mowers used to cut grass, brush, and noxious weeds. These mowers are able to accomplish a significant amount of mowing and right-of-way clearing very efficiently when compared to other methods of mechanical control.
4.5	Without limiting the program or its effectiveness, it will generally be planned as following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.5.1 Developed Road Allowances will be mowed twice a season: All grassy areas along oiled, or gravel roads receive a shoulder pass first, meaning one width of the mower. A second seasonal pass will be to the property line. This will be completed once all developed road allowances have received the first seasonal shoulder pass. The second seasonal pass will be completed where the mowers began mowing in the early season and if there is high grass regrowth, and approved by the Agricultural Fieldman. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mowers will begin mowing outwards from their 'home base' to avoid high blading and eliminate unnecessary travel. • These secondary passes to the property line should be a minimum of 5ft. • Main roads into lake resorts will only be mowed prior to the July and August long weekends (two seasonal passes per year) • Township Road 610 from Range Road 181 East to HWY 855 (gravel haul road) and Victoria Trail will be mowed in conjunction with the lake resorts prior to July and August long weekends (two seasonal passes per year) • The Iron Horse Trail shall only be mowed once per season • It is recognized that inclement weather, such as rain and early winter could prevent completion of the program
4.6	All other mowing requests will be at the discretion of the Agricultural Service Board and added to Schedule "A" Approved Additional Mowing

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	May 24, 2018	# 581-18 - Page # 13130
Amended	October 22, 2018	#1030-18 - Page # 13312
Amended	April 13, 2021	# 572-21 - Page # 14597
Amended	August 10, 2021	#1009-21 - Page # 14755
Amended	December 14, 2021	# 108-21 - Page # 14883
Amended	October 11, 2022	#1111-22 - Page # 15362
Amended	June 25, 2025	#598-25 - Page # 15991



SCHEDULE "A"
APPROVED ADDITIONAL MOWING

Metis Crossing

Smoky Lake Rodeo Grounds

Smoky Lake Air Strip

Hamlin Ball Diamonds

Waskatenau Ball Diamonds

Bellis Ball Diamonds

Bonnie Lake Enviro Reserve 7921626

Victoria Trail

Iron Horse Trail

Warspite Ball Diamond



Smoky Lake County Policy

Title:	Roadside Mowing Policy	<u>Policy #</u>	<u>Version</u>
Category:	Agricultural Services (AG)	AG-28	01

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE: Municipal Government Act, Chapter M26.1, Section 18(1) and Section 545.

PURPOSE: To define a level of service for mowing in Smoky Lake County.

STATEMENT: This policy applies to mowing roadside ditches, municipal properties, and approved community areas. Smoky Lake County further recognizes that it is beneficial to the County to implement measures to Control the spread of invasive plant species, on all public lands within the boundaries of the County for infrastructure integrity, public safety, agricultural productivity and the preservation of the natural environment.

DEFINITIONS: For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

“Approved community areas” – Areas listed under Schedule A

“Arterial roads” – Road designated under Schedule A

“Municipal properties” – Larger areas of municipal owned land that houses infrastructure such as, but not limited, to water reservoirs, lagoons, water fill stations.

“Roadside ditches” – The ditch located on both sides of a municipally owned developed gravel or paved road allowance

OBJECTIVE:

- The roadside mowing program will attempt the first round of County roadside ditches mowing will be done once (1) a year at one width in an attempt to with the Migratory Bird Act.
- The roadside mowing program will ensure that the second round for County roadside ditches mowing will attempt to encompass the full width of the road right-of-way.
- Arterial roads will receive an additional mow one week or less, prior to the long weekend of July and August.
- Requesting Community to notify the county of any request by May 1 of every year

Policy: 14-02

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Council Resolution #</u>	<u>Version</u>
Adopted	Month, day, year	Motion #	01
Amended			
Reviewed			



Schedule "A"

1 Approved Community Areas

- a. Metis Crossing
- b. Smoky Lake Rodeo Grounds
- c. Smoky Lake Air Strip
- d. Hamlin Ball Diamonds
- e. Waskatenau Ball Diamonds
- f. Bellis Ball Diamonds
- g. Bonnie Lake Enviro Reserve 7921626
- h. Victoria Trail
- i. Iron Horse Trail
- j. Warspite Ball Diamond

2 Arterial Roads

- a. Range Road 173, 175 and Township Road 612 to Hanmore Lake Campgrounds
- b. Range Road 170 and Township Road 612 to Mons Lake Campground and Resort
- c. Range Road 152 to Bellis Campground
- d. Range Road 152 all the way to Kaduk Lake Campground
- e. Range Road 123 and 124 and Township Road 602 to Gardner Lake Campground
- f. Township Road 620 and Range Road 133 to Whitefish Lake Campground and surrounding resorts
- g. Range Road 133 To Bonnie Lake Resort
- h. Township Road 610 from Range Road 181 East to HWY 855
- i. Victoria Trail

Emergency Use of Strychnine for RGS

- Approved for AB and SK on March 30th with restrictions
- Continue to engage ASBs on program development

3

Alberta

Weeds on Wellsites

- New Approach
- *Oil and Gas Conservation Act (OGCA) – General Regulation*
 - New regulation includes *Agricultural Pest Act* and *Weed Control Act*
- Announced April 1, 2026
- Effective May 1, 2026
- Next Steps

4

Alberta

limited to specific high-infestation areas, with stricter conditions including mandatory training, reporting, and application timing (for example, late summer windows in eligible zones).

While producers might view this as a positive and practical step forward, caution remains essential. Details of the final program—including exact eligible regions in Alberta, product availability, training requirements, and precise mitigation protocols—are still being finalized by federal and provincial authorities. Parameters could still evolve as implementation plans are developed and rolled out.

“Safety for non-target species and the broader environment is paramount,” Sebastien Dutrisac, Agricultural Fieldman for Smoky Lake County added. The County urges all producers to await full guidelines from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) before any use, and to follow them diligently. This is a temporary, controlled authorization—not a blanket return to past practices.”

Local Municipalities, ASBs, and commodity groups continue to work closely with provincial officials to ensure smooth access and responsible application. They also emphasize the need for ongoing research into longer-term, sustainable gopher management solutions that balance effective control with environmental stewardship.

Producers with questions about the emergency registration are encouraged to contact their local agricultural service board, county office, or Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation for the latest updates as more implementation details become available.

Sebastien Dutrisac

Agricultural Fieldman

Smoky Lake County

780-656-3730

Additional information

Some extra training will be required for staff and farmer’s

View results

Respondent

68 Anonymous

99:16

Time to complete

Collection Notice

The personal information collected through **the ASB Grant Report** and the **2025 Goal Area 7 Extension Activity Report** are for **the purpose of administering the ASB program to: report on, support and improve program delivery including confirm all minimum requirements for the Legislative stream are met, that approaches taken to meet legislative responsibilities align with the respective legislation, and to verify grant funds for the three streams, Legislative, Resource Management, Rat Program, are being used in accordance with the grant program terms and conditions.** This collection is authorized under Section 4.4 (a - c) and Section 5.5 (1) k (i) (ii) of the *Protection of Privacy Act*, **section 6 of the 2025-2029 ASB Grant Program Terms and Conditions and any additional applicable legislation and sections.** For questions about the collection of personal information, contact **ASB Program, at ASBProgram@gov.ab.ca.**

ASB Grant Streams

Select the streams you received funding for.

1. Select the grant streams you received funding for. Everyone must select Legislative and if you received funding under the Rat Control and/or Resource Management streams you must select these as well. *

- Legislative
- Rat Control
- Resource Management

Contact Information

2. Which municipality are you reporting for? *

Smoky Lake County

3. Select the region your ASB belongs to? *

- Peace
- Northwest
- Northeast
- Central
- South

4. Full Name (first, last) *

Sebastien Dutrisac

5. Job Title *

Manager of Agricultural Services

6. Address *

4612 McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0

7. Phone Number *

780-656-3730

8. Email Address *

sdutrisac@smokylakecounty.ab.ca

Agriculture Staff

Provide the requested information for all relevant positions that directly worked on the administration and operational delivery of the municipalities/county's agricultural programs and services for the Legislative and Rat Control streams of the ASB grant you received funding for, during the current reporting year. This includes full time, part time and seasonal positions that are supported by the municipality/county to fulfil all agricultural legislative compliance and program related duties. **(You will be asked to report on staffing for Resource Management in the RM Activity Tracker.)**

9. Provide the total full time equivalent (FTE) number of staff, employed full time, year-round with your municipality/county that had agriculture related duties and responsibilities for Legislative and/or Rat Control ASB grant streams in the current reporting year. Full time is based on working over 30 hours/week on a continuous basis over the entire year. Express this as the number of FTE to reflect any full-time positions that had duties and responsibilities in areas other than agriculture. *

one

10. Provide the total FTE number of staff, employed part time, year-round with your municipality/county that had agriculture related duties and responsibilities for Legislative and/or Rat Control ASB grant streams in the current reporting year. Part time is based on working less than 30 hours/week on a continuous basis during the reporting year. Express this as the number of FTE to reflect any part-time positions that had duties and responsibilities in areas other than agriculture. *

one

11. Provide the total FTE number of staff, employed seasonally, with your municipality/county that had agriculture related duties and responsibilities for Legislative and/or Rat Control ASB grant streams in the current reporting year. Seasonal is based on the majority of the working period occurring in the primary agricultural operations period between April - October, noting there may be exceptions that will exceed these months and that most seasonal staff work >30 hrs/week. Express this as the number of FTE to reflect any seasonal positions that had duties and responsibilities in areas other than agriculture. *

Five

Legislative Stream Reporting Questions

ASB Grant Eligibility Questions (mandatory). Failure to **fully answer** these questions may cause a review of your grant eligibility status.

12. Confirm Council establishes the ASB and maintains the current appointment of all qualified ASB members as per ASB Act 3 1)-8). *

Yes

No

13. Confirm all ASB members (members at large and Council members) meet ASB Act 3(3) and are able to fulfil all duties as per ASB Act 2 a)-e). *

Yes

No

14. Confirm Council in consultation with the ASB, appointed a qualified Ag Fieldman by a motion in Council as per ASB Act 8 1). Note: if you used other legislation or methods to appoint the Ag Fieldman other than the ASB Act this may impact agricultural legislation-based appeal decisions. *

Yes

No

15. Confirm the Council appointed Ag Fieldman is employed full time, year-round by the local authority as per ASB grant terms and conditions 2.1.1 (d) *

Yes

No

16. Confirm the duties of the full time Ag Fieldman employed year-round by the local authority only include those stated in the ASB Act 8 1)-3). *

Yes

No

Legislative Stream

Goal Area 1 ASB Act (mandatory)

17. Confirm there is a Council or Administration approved policy and/or bylaw is in place for the *ASB Act*. (application minimum activity requirement) *

Yes

No

18. Confirm ASB meetings are scheduled and occur at a frequency, with members in attendance, that addresses the agricultural needs of the municipality ASB Act 3 (4, 5). *

Yes

No

19. Provide the number of ASB meetings held in 2025. *

six

20. Confirm the ASB provided at minimum, a report on the years activities to Council (or Council committee such as Committee of the Whole) in the form and manner required by Council as per ASB Act 4. Note: You must be prepared to provide the approved Council minutes (motion/date) accepting the ASB report(s). *

Yes

No

21. Confirm the ASB acted as an advisor to and assisted Council on agricultural matters, policies and programming, as stated in ASB Act 2a), during the reporting year. *

Yes

No

22. Confirm all current ASB members received orientation to understand their legislated roles and responsibilities based on the ASB Act 2 (a - e), 8(1), 9(1), 12(1), 14 (1-5), 15 (1). Note: The orientation of ASB members is not an annual requirement. *

Yes

No

Legislation Stream

Goal Area 2 Agricultural Pest Act (APA) (mandatory)

23. Confirm Council or Administration approved policies and/or by-laws are in place to support *APA*. (application minimum activity requirement) *

Yes

No

24. Provide the number and type(s) of pests (disease, insect, vertebrate) you have elevated through a bylaw in your municipality. If you have no pests elevated enter zero. *

zero

25. Provide the total number of inspectors (includes staff FT, PT, seasonal and Ag Fieldman) that were appointed in any year, by Council as per APA 10(1), that were actively involved in compliance activities for the reporting year. (minimum activity requirement)* If inspectors, including the Ag Fieldman were appointed by other methods, identify the method and provide the total number of inspectors appointed that way who were actively working on APA compliance activities. **Note, appointing inspectors under other legislation such as the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* may impact appeal decisions.** *

Four

26. Confirm APA inspectors actively inspect for and investigate potential pest issues and sightings for regulated and target pests and nuisances (diseases, insects, vertebrates) to support compliance with APA legislation. (minimum activity requirement) *

This minimum activity requirement is based on investigating potential pest issues and sightings, for the purpose of identifying and confirming pests that require actions to be taken for compliance. This activity is not the same as conducting surveillance or monitoring surveys for crop, tree/forest and environmental pests which is reported separately in this goal area.

Yes

No

27. For the reporting year, provide the total number of initial inspections and investigations done by APA inspectors for potential regulated crop pests (e.g., crop, diseases, insects) and the number of regulated pest issues that were confirmed. Do not include the number of monitoring surveys completed as part of inspections and investigations as this is reported separately. Note: a confirmed pest issue can but does not always need to be associated with the issuing of a notice. *

Provide the total # of pest investigations/inspections done and # confirmed regulated crop pests (diseases, insects) for the reporting year.

47 surveys and inspections. 39 confirmed grasshopper

28. For the reporting year, provide the total number of initial inspections and investigations done by APA inspectors for potential regulated tree/forest pests and the number of regulated tree/forest pest issues that were confirmed. Do not include any monitoring surveys completed as part of inspections and investigations as this is reported separately. Note: a confirmed pest issue can but does not always need to be associated with the issuing of a notice. *

Provide the total # of tree/forest pest investigations/inspections done and # confirmed tree/forest pests for the reporting year

Zero

29. For the reporting year, provide the total number of initial inspections and investigations done by APA inspectors for potential regulated and nuisance vertebrate pests and nuisances (e.g., rats, wild boar, RGS, coyotes) and the number of regulated vertebrate pest issues that were confirmed. Note: a confirmed pest issue can but does not always need to be associated with the issuing of a notice. *

Provide the total # of vertebrate pest and nuisance investigations/inspections done and # confirmed vertebrate pests and nuisances for the reporting year.

3 investigation and 1 confirmed for wild boar

30. Confirm *APA* inspectors follow up on confirmed crop pest issues from investigations and inspections that occurred in current or previous reporting years to ensure appropriate and effective actions for compliance were implemented. (minimum activity requirement) *

This minimum activity requirement is based on the ability to take appropriate actions when a pest issue is confirmed to ensure compliance with *APA* requirements.

- Yes
- No pest issues confirmed for the reporting year
- Prepared to follow up but no follow up actions were required this reporting year for confirmed pest issues from current or past years
- No follow up actions taken

31. Provide the total number of follow up actions taken by *APA* inspectors for all confirmed regulated crop pest issues from current and previous reporting years. Do not include surveys as part of follow up actions taken. If follow up actions were not required for the reporting year, enter zero. *

This includes when notices were issued and when they were not issued.

Zero

32. Check all the types of follow up actions taken by *APA* inspectors during the current reporting year for confirmed crop pests to ensure compliance with *APA* legislated requirements *

Do not include any goal area 6 outreach for *APA*, e.g., pre-notice letters as this will be captured in Goal Area 6.

- Follow up actions taken (e.g., re-inspection) without notice or enforcement, compliance achieved.
- Notice issued, re-inspected, compliance achieved.
- Notice issued, re-inspected with enforcement actions taken for compliance.
- Multiple year notice issued with only follow up monitoring for compliance.
- Multiple year notice issued with follow up monitoring, requiring enforcement for compliance
- No follow up actions required in reporting year

33. Confirm *APA* inspectors follow up on confirmed tree/forest pest issues from investigations and inspections that occurred in current or previous reporting years to ensure appropriate and effective actions for compliance were implemented. (minimum activity requirement) *

This minimum activity requirement is based on the ability to take appropriate actions when a pest issue is confirmed to ensure compliance with *APA* requirements.

- Yes
- No confirmed pest issues for this reporting year
- Prepared to follow up but no follow up actions were required this reporting year for confirmed pest issues from current or past years
- No follow up actions taken

34. Provide the total number of follow up actions taken by *APA* inspectors for all confirmed regulated tree/forest pest issues from current and previous reporting years. Do not include surveys as part of follow up actions taken. If follow up actions were not required for the reporting year, enter zero. *

This includes when notices were issued and when they were not issued.

zero

35. Check all the types of follow up actions taken by *APA* inspectors during the current reporting year for confirmed tree/forest pests to ensure compliance with *APA* legislated requirements *

Do not include any goal area 6 outreach for *APA*, e.g., pre-notice letters as this will be captured in Goal Area 6.

- Follow up actions taken (e.g., re-inspection) without notice or enforcement, compliance achieved.
- Notice issued, re-inspected, compliance achieved.
- Notice issued, re-inspected with enforcement actions taken for compliance.
- Multiple year notice issued with only follow up monitoring for compliance.
- Multiple year notice issued with follow up monitoring, requiring enforcement for compliance
- No follow up actions required in reporting year

36. Confirm *APA* inspectors follow up on confirmed vertebrate pest issues from investigations and inspections that occurred in current or previous reporting years to ensure appropriate and effective actions for compliance were implemented. (minimum activity requirement) *

This minimum activity requirement is based on the ability to take appropriate actions when a pest issue is confirmed to ensure compliance with *APA* requirements.

- Yes
- No confirmed pest issues for this reporting year
- Prepared to follow up but no follow up actions were required this reporting year for confirmed pest issues from current or past years
- No follow up actions taken

37. Provide the total number of follow up actions taken by *APA* inspectors for all confirmed vertebrate pest issues from current and previous reporting years. *

This includes when notices were issued and when they were not issued.

one

38. Check all the types of follow up actions taken by APA inspectors during the current reporting year for confirmed vertebrate pests to ensure compliance with APA legislated requirements *

Do not include any goal area 6 outreach for APA, e.g., pre-notice letters as this will be captured in Goal Area 6.

- Follow up actions taken (e.g., re-inspection) without notice or enforcement, compliance achieved.
- Notice issued, re-inspected, compliance achieved.
- Notice issued, re-inspected with enforcement actions taken for compliance.
- Multiple year notice issued with only follow up monitoring for compliance.
- Multiple year notice issued with follow up monitoring, requiring enforcement for compliance
- No follow up actions required in reporting year

39. Provide the number of wild boar sightings, including potential issues or impacts caused by wild boar, that were received by your municipality during the current reporting year. *

40. Provide the number of wild boar reports that were confirmed by your municipality during the current reporting year. *

If you did not have any confirmed wild boar reports enter zero. If you confirmed wild boar, provide the total number of reports you confirmed.

41. Provide the number of rat sightings received by your municipality during the current reporting year. *

42. Provide the number of rat reports that were confirmed by your municipality during the current reporting year. *

If you did not have any confirmed rat reports enter zero. If you confirmed rats, provide the total number of reports you confirmed. If you are part of the rat control zone, please provide the number here as well as in the reporting submitted to the Rat Program.

43. Provide the number of APA notices issued during the reporting year, including the pest the notice was issued for. If no notices were issued enter zero. *

44. Provide the number of APA enforcement actions taken during the reporting year on confirmed pest issues from current and previous years. If no enforcement actions were taken enter zero. *

If no enforcement actions were taken enter zero.

45. Confirm Council annually appoints the APA appeal committee as per APA Act 14 (5). *

- Yes
- No

46. If you answered No to the previous question, please describe what you have in place. **Note other methods to appoint the APA appeal committee may impact appeal decisions.**

The ASB INDEPENDENT APPEAL PANEL FOR WEED CONTROL would be the appeal committee. A new 2026 bylaw and an RFD has been created for council to formally appoint them as the pest appeals committee.

47. Provide the number of APA notices that were appealed to the appointed APA appeal committee during the reporting year. *

If no notices were appealed enter zero.

Zero

48. Provide the number of Form 7 holders you had for the current reporting year. If there are no Form 7 holders enter zero. *

2

49. Confirm, when available, Compound 1080 is dispensed to eligible landowners in accordance with all Product Stewardship Program requirements that were in place during the current reporting period. *

- Yes
- No
- Did not dispense Compound 1080 during the reporting period

50. Confirm, if you conducted monitoring and surveillance surveys for regulated and target diseases and insects (crop and tree/forest pests). This would include but not be limited to pests such as clubroot, wheat head pathogens, grasshoppers, emerald ash borer. *

- Yes
- No

51. Provide the total number of Disease surveys you completed for all disease pests. (e.g., clubroot, wheat head pathogens, Dutch elm disease) If you didn't complete any surveys enter zero. *

The total number of surveys completed includes those you did for AGI, for any other organizations/groups and for your municipality. If you did a survey, that was shared with multiple partners only count this survey once in the total number of surveys completed.

zero

52. Provide the total number of Insect surveys you completed for all insect pests. (e.g., grasshoppers, Emerald ash borer, Diamondback moth, wireworm) If you didn't complete any surveys enter zero. *

The total number of surveys completed includes those you did for AGI, for any other organizations/groups and for your municipality. If you did a survey, that was shared with multiple partners only count this survey once in the total number of surveys completed.

Five

53. Confirm all other **APA activities and outputs** included in goal area 2 of your 2025-2029 grant application/agreement were completed in the current reporting year or are progressing and on track for completion during the grant cycle. *

Refer to your application/signed grant agreement for the activities/outputs you included for this goal area. If you need a copy of your application, please email ASBProgram@gov.ab.ca

- Yes
- No
- Did not include any additional activities/outputs for Goal Area 2 APA in my grant application

Legislative Stream

Goal Area 3 SCA (mandatory)

54. Confirm current Council or Administration approved policies and/or by-laws are in place to support SCA. (application minimum activity requirement) *

- Yes
- No

55. Provide the total number of officers (includes FT, PT, seasonal staff and Ag Fieldman) that were appointed in any year, by Council as per SCA 15 (1)(2), who were actively involved in compliance activities for the reporting year. (minimum activity requirement*) If officers, including the Ag Fieldman were appointed by other methods, identify the method with the total number of officers appointed by this method who were actively working on SCA compliance activities. **Note, appointing officers under other legislation such as the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* may impact appeal decisions.** *

1

56. Confirm SCA officers are prepared to actively inspect for and/or investigate potential soil related issues and conditions on public and private lands to support compliance with SCA legislation. (minimum activity requirement*) This is based on the ability to identify any soil issues and conditions requiring specific actions to be taken to attain compliance. *

- Yes
- No

57. Provide the total number of SCA inspections and investigations done by appointed SCA officers in response to potential soil issues with the total number of soil issues that were confirmed. The number of confirmed soil issues includes when notices were issued and any that were managed using other approaches. If no soil related inspections or investigations were done enter zero. If SCA inspections and investigations were done and no soil issues confirmed, provide the total number of inspections/investigations done and enter zero where none were confirmed. *

zero

58. Identify the primary cause of each confirmed soil issue. Select all that apply. *

- Wind erosion
- Water erosion
- Development related
- Farming practices
- Road construction
- Other
- No confirmed soil issues

59. Confirm SCA officers follow up on previously confirmed soil issues on public and private lands from inspections and investigations done during the current and previous reporting years to ensure appropriate and effective actions for compliance were implemented. (minimum activity requirement*) This minimum activity requirement is based on the ability to take appropriate actions when a soil issue is confirmed to ensure compliance with SCA. *

- Yes
- No
- Prepared to follow up but no follow up actions were required this reporting year for confirmed soil issues from current or past years

60. Provide the total number of follow up actions taken by SCA officers for all confirmed soil issues from the current or previous reporting years to confirm compliance with SCA. Note, an issue may require more than one follow up action and follow up actions may be taken for issues where notices were issued and for those managed by other approaches. If you did not do any follow up actions for confirmed soil issues enter zero. *

zero

61. Check all the types of follow up actions taken by SCA officers to ensure compliance with SCA legislated requirements. The following options do not include any outreach for SCA which is addressed in goal area 6, e.g., pre-notice letters as this will be captured in Goal Area 6. *

- Issued notice, follow up confirmed compliance achieved
- Issued notice with follow up actions requiring enforcement actions taken for compliance
- Issued multiple year notice with follow up monitoring for compliance
- Issued multiple year notice with follow up monitoring requiring enforcement for compliance
- No follow up actions required in reporting year
- No follow up actions taken in reporting year

62. Provide an estimate of the total # acres impacted by soil erosion (development, construction et al) on public and private lands that were being managed (including any under reclamation, restoration and supervision) during the reporting year. *

zero

63. Provide the number of SCA notices issued during the reporting year, including the reason (soil issue) the notice was issued. If no notices were issued enter zero. *

zero

64. Provide the number of SCA enforcement actions taken during the reporting year, including the reason (soil issue) and the actions taken to resolve to compliance. If no enforcement actions were taken enter zero. *

zero

65. Confirm Council recognizes the ASB as the SCA appeal committee as per SCA Act 14 (a-d) *

Yes

No

66. If you answered No to the previous question, please describe what you have in place. Note, other SCA appeal committee compositions may impact appeal decisions.

New Bylaw proposed that will include ASB as the Soil Conservation Appeal Panel

67. Provide the number of SCA notices that were appealed to the ASB during the reporting year. If there were no appeals enter zero. *

zero

68. Confirm all other **SCA activities and outputs** included in goal area 3 for your 2025-2029 grant application/agreement were completed in the current reporting year or are progressing and on track for completion during the grant cycle. Refer to your application/signed grant agreement for the activities/outputs you included for this goal area. If you need a copy of your application, please email ASBProgram@gov.ab.ca *

Yes

No

Did not list any additional activities/outputs in my grant application

Legislative Stream

Goal Area 4 WCA (mandatory)

69. Confirm Council or Administration approved policies and/or by-laws are in place to support WCA. (minimum activity requirement) *

Yes

No

70. Provide the total number, name(s) and regulated status of all weeds you have elevated through a bylaw in your municipality. If you have no weeds elevated enter zero. *

zero

71. Provide the total number of inspectors (includes FT, PT, seasonal staff and Ag Fieldman) that were appointed in any year, by Council as per WCA 7(1), that were actively involved in compliance activities for the reporting year. (minimum activity requirement*) If inspectors, including the Ag Fieldman are appointed by other methods, identify the method with the total number of inspectors appointed that way who were actively working on WCA compliance activities. **Note, appointing inspectors under other legislation such as the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* may impact appeal decisions.** *

4

72. Confirm WCA inspectors actively inspect and investigate (including complaints) potential weed issues on public and private lands to support compliance with WCA legislation. (minimum activity requirement*) This minimum activity requirement is based on the ability to identify weed issues which is demonstrated by investigating potential issues. *

Yes

No

73. For the reporting year provide the total number of initial inspections and investigations done by WCA inspectors for all potential weed issues. This includes all inspections and investigations regardless of whether the issue was or was not confirmed to be a regulated weed issue. *

216

74. For the reporting year provide the total number of weed cases that were confirmed (prohibited noxious and noxious) by WCA inspectors. This includes all regulated weed issues where notices were issued and issues that were addressed through other approaches. *

216

75. Confirm WCA inspectors follow up on confirmed regulated weed issues from current and past years on public and private lands to ensure appropriate and effective actions for compliance were implemented*. (minimum activity requirement) This minimum activity requirement is based on the ability to take appropriate actions when a weed issue is confirmed to ensure compliance with WCA requirements. *

Yes

No

Prepared to follow up but no follow up actions were required this reporting year for confirmed weed issues from current or past years

76. For the reporting year provide the total number of confirmed noxious sites, with an estimate of the total area affected that was controlled. Identify all the noxious weeds found at these sites. If a site also contained a prohibited noxious weed do not include it in your response to this question. The total number of sites includes those where a notice was issued and ones that were controlled using other approaches. *

216 sites, no data was collected for the amount of acres. The new updates will give the county the ability to collect the data required for the 2026 year period

77. For the reporting year provide the total number of confirmed prohibited noxious sites, with an estimate of the total area affected that was destroyed. Identify the prohibited noxious weeds found at these sites. If a site also included noxious weeds do not include it in your response to this question. If you had no confirmed prohibited noxious sites enter zero. *

zero

78. For the reporting year provide the total number of sites that contained both confirmed noxious and prohibited noxious weeds, with an estimate of the total area affected that was managed. Identify both the noxious and prohibited noxious weeds found at these sites. The total number of sites includes those where a notice was issued and ones that were managed using other approaches. If you had no sites with confirmed noxious and prohibited noxious weeds enter zero. *

zero

79. Identify the types of follow up responses taken by the landowner and/or WCA inspectors for all confirmed weed issues at a site. Select all that apply. When a site has both confirmed prohibited noxious and noxious weeds, check the most appropriate option taken for each. Select all that apply. *

- Prohibited noxious, destroyed by landowner in current reporting year. (manual, chemical, combination).
- Prohibited noxious, destroyed by county in current reporting year. (manual, chemical, combination).
- Prohibited noxious, multiple year efforts and methods to destroy by landowner (manual, chemical, combination).
- Prohibited noxious, multiple year efforts and methods to destroy by county (manual, chemical, combination).
- Prohibited noxious, multiple year efforts and methods to destroy by landowner and county (manual, chemical, combination).
- Noxious, controlled by landowner in current year. (manual, chemical, biocontrol, combination).
- Noxious, controlled by county in current year. (manual, chemical, biocontrol, combination).
- Noxious, multiple year efforts for control taken by landowner, using multiple methods for control (manual, chemical, biocontrol).
- Noxious, multiple year efforts for control taken by county, using multiple methods for control (manual, chemical, biocontrol).
- Noxious, multiple year efforts for control taken by landowner and county, using multiple methods for control (manual, chemical, biocontrol).

80. For the reporting year select all the follow up actions taken for current and previous years confirmed weed issues by WCA inspectors to ensure compliance with WCA legislated requirements. Do not include any goal area 6 outreach for WCA, e.g., pre-notice letters as this will be captured in Goal Area 6. *

- Issued notice, follow up confirmed compliance achieved
- Issued notice, follow up required enforcement actions to be taken for compliance
- Issued multiple year notice with follow up monitoring for compliance
- Issued multiple year notice with follow-up monitoring requiring enforcement for compliance
- Follow up actions taken through outreach
- No follow up actions required
- No follow up actions taken

81. For the reporting year, provide the number of WCA notices issued for noxious weeds. If no notices were issued enter zero. *

One

82. For the reporting year, provide the number of *WCA notices issued for prohibited noxious weeds*. If no notices were issued enter zero. *

zero

83. For the reporting year, provide the number of *WCA enforcement actions taken* to achieve compliance. If no enforcement actions were taken enter zero. *

zero

84. Confirm Council annually appoints an independent *WCA* appeal committee as per *WCA19 (1)*. *

Yes

No

85. Confirm the process to appeal to the local authority is provided as per *WCA 17 (1,2), 19 (2,3)*. *

Yes

No

86. Provide the number of *WCA* notices that were appealed to the appointed *WCA* appeal committee during the reporting year. If there were no appeals enter zero. *

zero

87. Do you have commercially operated, (private, co-operative) stationary and/or mobile seed cleaning facilities located and operating in your jurisdiction? *

Yes

No

88. If yes, provide the total number and names of the commercially operated stationary private, stationary co-operative, and mobile facilities located and operating in your jurisdiction.

1 - MiraBella Feed and Seed , Vilna, AB

89. Confirm that during the reporting year, you inspected and licensed the identified stationary (private, co-operative) and/or mobile seed cleaning facilities, located and operating in your municipality/county as per *WCA 6 (1)* using the current licensing form and process. *

Yes

No

90. If you answered No to the previous question, provide an explanation why the seed cleaning facilities you identified as located and operating in your municipality/county were not inspected and licensed.

The Plant is closed for upgrades and anticipated return to operation is scheduled for fall of 2026

91. Confirm all other **WCA activities and outputs** included in goal area 4 for your 2025-2029 grant application/agreement were completed in the current reporting year or are progressing and on track for completion during the grant cycle. Refer to your application/signed grant agreement for the activities/outputs you included for this goal area. If you need a copy of your application, please email ASBProgram@gov.ab.ca

*

- Yes
- No
- Did not list any additional activities/outputs in my grant application

Legislative Stream

Goal Area 5 *AHA* (mandatory)

92. Confirm Council or Administration approved policies and/or by-laws are in place to support *AHA* requirements*. (minimum activity requirement) *

- Yes
- No

93. Select all of the ways you are prepared to provide support for *AHA* *

- Maintain a list of reportable/notifiable diseases (internal and/or on website)
- Maintain a livestock emergency response plan (internal and/or on website)
- Have a livestock emergency response plan in the municipal emergency response plan
- Report notifiable/reportable diseases to CPVO
- Not prepared to provide support
- Other

94. If you selected 'not prepared to provide support' in the previous question, provide an explanation on how you plan to meet this requirement. **Please note, this is a requirement under ASB legislation.**

No answer provided.

95. Confirm all other **AHA activities and outputs** included in goal area 5 for your 2025-2029 grant application/agreement were completed in the current reporting year or are progressing and on track for completion during the grant cycle. Refer to your application/signed grant agreement for the activities/outputs you included for this goal area. If you need a copy of your application, please email ASBProgram@gov.ab.ca

*

- Yes
- No
- Did not list any additional activities/outputs in my grant application

Legislative Stream

Goal Area 6 Outreach (mandatory) Responses are required by legislation goal (1 - ASB, 2 - APA, 3 - SCA, 4 - WCA, 5 - AHA)

96. Confirm, for goal 6-1 ASB Act - outreach: awareness, and education, was provided to municipal residents on the purpose and requirements for this legislation as provided in your 2025-2029 ASB grant application/agreement*. (minimum activity requirement) This includes the activity, resulting output and delivery. *

Yes

No

97. For goal 6-1 ASB Act - identify all of the ways outreach was provided to municipal residents during the current reporting year. Select all that apply. *

Website links to legislation

Policy information on website for ASB Act

Program information on website for ASB Act

Social media posts for ASB Act (e.g. information, promotion)

Fact sheets on ASB Act requirements

Articles on ASB Act requirements

Events (virtual or in person) related to ASB Act requirements

Other

98. Confirm for goal 6-2 APA - outreach: awareness, and education, was provided to municipal residents on the purpose and requirements for this legislation as provided in your 2025-2029 ASB grant application/agreement*. (minimum activity requirement) This includes the activity, resulting output and delivery. *

Yes

No

99. For goal 6-2 APA - identify all of the ways outreach was provided to municipal residents during the current reporting year. Select all that apply. *

- Website links to APA legislation
- Policy information on website for APA
- Program information on website for APA
- Social media posts for APA (e.g. information, promotion)
- Fact sheets on APA requirements
- Articles on APA requirements
- Events (virtual or in person) related to APA requirements
- Pre-notice letters, door hangars
- Other

100. For goal 6-2 APA, outreach: provide the total number of pre-notice letters, door hangars et al given for the current reporting year. If none were given, enter zero (0). *

101. Confirm for goal 6-3 SCA - outreach: awareness, and education, was provided to municipal residents on the purpose and requirements for this legislation as provided in your 2025-2029 ASB grant application/agreement*. (minimum activity requirement) This includes the activity, resulting output and delivery. *

- Yes
- No

102. For goal 6-3 SCA - identify all of the ways outreach was provided to municipal residents during the current reporting year. Select all that apply. *

- Website links to SCA legislation
- Policy information on website for SCA
- Program information on website for SCA
- Social media posts for SCA (e.g. information, promotion)
- Fact sheets on SCA requirements
- Articles on SCA requirements
- Events (virtual or in person) related to SCA requirements
- Pre-notice letters, door hangars
- Other

103. For goal 6-3 SCA, outreach: provide the total number of pre-notice letters, door hangers et al given for the current reporting year. If none were given, enter zero (0). *

zero

104. Confirm for goal 6-4 WCA - outreach: awareness, and education, was provided to municipal residents on the purpose and requirements for this legislation as provided in your 2025-2029 ASB grant application/agreement*. (minimum activity requirement) This includes the activity, resulting output and delivery. *

Yes

No

105. For goal 6-4 WCA - identify all of the ways outreach was provided to municipal residents during the current reporting year. Select all that apply. *

Website links to WCA legislation

Policy information on website for WCA

Program information on website for WCA

Social media posts for WCA (e.g. information, promotion)

Fact sheets on WCA requirements

Articles on WCA requirements

Events (virtual or in person) related to WCA requirements

Pre-notice letters, door hangars

Other

106. For goal 6-4 WCA, outreach: provide the total number of pre-notice letters, door hangers et al given for the current reporting year. If none were given, enter zero (0). *

189

107. Confirm for goal 6-5 AHA - outreach: awareness, and education, was provided to municipal residents on the purpose and requirements for this legislation as provided in your 2025-2029 ASB grant application/agreement*. (minimum activity requirement) This includes the activity, resulting output and delivery. *

Yes

No

108. For goal 6-5 AHA - outreach, identify all of the ways outreach was provided to municipal residents during the current reporting year. Select all that apply. *

- Website links to AHA legislation
- Policy information on website for AHA
- Program information on website for AHA
- Social media posts for AHA (e.g. information, promotion)
- Fact sheets on AHA requirements
- Articles on AHA requirements
- Events (virtual or in person) related to AHA requirements
- Other

109. If you answered No to any of the following questions: Q 117, 119, 122, 125, 128 provide an explanation by goal (6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-5) on what you did, and your plan to meet this minimum requirement in future years of the grant cycle.

No answer provided.

110. Confirm all Outreach **activities and outputs** included in goal area 6 for your 2025-2029 grant application/agreement were completed in the current reporting year or are progressing and on track for completion during the grant cycle. *

- Yes
- No

Legislative Stream

Goal Area 7 Extension (mandatory) **Note: In addition to the questions in this report, below there is a separate link to additional reporting questions for Goal Area 7 that must also be completed and submitted prior to the reporting deadline for each activity in your 2025-2029 ASB grant application that you did in the reporting year.**

111. Confirm, extension that benefitted the economic viability and sustainability of producers in the municipality/county was supported as listed in your 2025-2029 ASB grant application/agreement*. (minimum activity requirement) This includes the activity, resulting output and delivery. *

- Yes
- No

112. Confirm goal Area 7 extension reporting for each Goal Area 7 activity in my 2025-2029 ASB Grant application/agreement will be completed and submitted using the Goal Area 7 Extension Reporting form accessed at <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/7x9vXMSEe5>. **Completion and submission of the Goal Area 7 Extension Reporting form is required as part of your annual ASB grant reporting.** If you are having difficulty accessing the report, please contact ASBProgram@gov.ab.ca for assistance. *

- Yes
- No

Capital and Legislative Stream Declarations

113. If you purchased capital items under the legislative stream during the reporting year, confirm this purchase/these purchases comply with 2.4.2 (a) of the 2025-2029 ASB grant terms and conditions. *

- Yes
- No
- Did not make any capital purchases under the legislative stream in current reporting year

114. Confirm the responses provided to all Legislative stream questions, 12-138, accurately reflects what was done in the municipality during the current reporting period for all items and activities outlined in my executed 2025-2029 ASB grant application and agreement. By confirming this I acknowledge the implications of section 10. False or Misleading Information in the 2025-2029 ASB grant terms and conditions and understand that providing a No response to this question will include a review of my application and current ASB grant report. *

- Yes
- No

Rat Control Program (mandatory if received funding for this stream)

115. Did you receive Rat Control Program funding *

- Yes
- No

116. Confirm the information provided in the responses to questions 140-146 accurately reflects what was done during the current reporting period. I understand that not fully meeting these may impact the ability to effectively support relevant assurance and legislated compliance requirements. *

- Yes
- No
- Did not receive funding

Resource Management Stream (mandatory if received funding for this stream)

Resource Management questions are mandatory to complete if you received funding for this stream. There are 8 sections for Resource Management Program reporting. Seven sections are included in the Activity Tracker spreadsheet, which was provided by the Resource Management Program. The 7 sections in the Activity Tracker, which when completed must be submitted by email during the reporting period to ASBProgram@gov.ab.ca. The last section, found below, contains 6 questions for completion.

117. Did you receive Resource Management (RM) funding? *

- Yes
- No

118. What was the most successful RM activity in your ASB in this reporting year (2025)?

Gardening Forum Workshop

119. How did the results of this activity demonstrate the value of your RM program?

25 attendees with discussions around Biodiversity, Waste Management, and GHG Reductions

120. Provide any changes you are proposing to make for your RM programming in 2026. If no changes are proposed, please state this.

The agreement between the County and LARA has dissolved. We have direction from Council to work on the RM through internal provided events and intermunicipal collaborated workshops going forth.

121. RM reporting for sections 1 - 7 was completed using the provided RM Activity Tracker and submitted to AGI at ASBProgram@gov.ab.ca. Completion and submission of the RM Activity Tracker is required as part of your annual ASB grant reporting. *

- Yes
- No
- Did not receive RM funding

122. Confirm all information provided in the responses to questions 148 - 152, including the responses provided in the submitted RM Activity Tracker, accurately reflects the current reporting period. I understand that not meeting RM grant requirements may impact funding. *

- Yes
- No
- Did not receive RM funding

Survey Complete, thank you

Once you have finished your survey you can save a copy as a pdf by selecting print form. Once your report is reviewed, we will reach out if there are issues or questions with any of your responses. Remember to file with Municipal Affairs and submit your Income and Expenditures to ASBProgram@gov.ab.ca by the reporting deadline (April 30, 2025)



Growing Agritourism in Alberta

A Briefing for Communities, Destinations, and Economic Development

This briefing outlines how communities, destinations, and economic development partners can support thoughtful, farm-led agritourism growth across Alberta.

Across Alberta, people are seeking real connections — to food, to land, and to the people who farm it. Agritourism responds to that demand by welcoming visitors onto working farms for authentic, place-based experiences that complement and strengthen the core farm business. What's needed now is coordination, readiness, and professionalism so agritourism grows in ways that work for farms, communities, and destinations alike.

A Sector Ready to Grow — Professionally

Agritourism is no longer a niche activity. From U-pick farms and farm-to-table dinners to on-farm events and seasonal festivals, Alberta farms are already welcoming visitors and contributing to local economies. This project is about moving agritourism from **informal and inconsistent** to **confident and visitor-ready** — without losing the authenticity that makes farm experiences special. By aligning agriculture, tourism, and local economic development, agritourism can grow with clarity, consistency, and care.

AFFPA's Role: Practical, Farm-Led, and Grounded

The **Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association (AFFPA)** has supported farm-direct businesses in Alberta for nearly 40 years. Our members understand what it takes to farm, host visitors, manage risk, and deliver quality experiences.

AFFPA is leading as the Voice of Agritourism in Alberta to:

- Strengthen agritourism readiness and quality standards across Alberta
- Support farms in becoming confident hosts, not accidental operators
- Align visitor expectations with farm capacity and realities
- Build trust with communities, partners, and visitors

This project focuses on professionalism that supports farming — building confidence, consistency, and readiness for hosting visitors.

What This Project Delivers

With support from Alberta's Northern and Regional Economic Development Program, AFFPA is leading a coordinated, Alberta-wide agritourism initiative focused on four practical areas:

- **Growth Strategy & Advocacy** – clearer understanding of agritourism, land use, liability, and insurance
- **Training & Visitor Readiness** – safer, more consistent, and well-managed farm experiences
- **Marketing & Visitor Growth** – promotion aligned with readiness, seasonality, and destination goals
- **Partnerships & Local Food Connections** – stronger coordination between farms, municipalities, DMOs, and economic development partners

The focus is on **quality experiences, professional operations, and long-term viability**.

A Shared Opportunity for Alberta

Agritourism keeps farms viable, strengthens rural economies, and builds lasting connections between food, place, and people. **This project invites communities across Alberta to participate as partners in raising the standard of agritourism — while protecting what makes it authentic.**

Project FAQs: What This Means in Practice

What does “raising the standard of agritourism” actually mean?

It means helping agritourism move from informal and inconsistent to **confident, well-prepared, and visitor-ready** — while keeping farming at the centre. This includes clearer expectations, safer operations, better experience design, and stronger alignment between farms and communities.

How is this different from simply promoting agritourism?

Promotion alone can outpace readiness. This project focuses first on **capacity, clarity, and quality**, so promotion matches what farms can realistically and safely deliver. The result is agritourism that grows with confidence, credibility, and staying power.

Why is this work being led by AFFPA?

The **Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association (AFFPA)** represents farm-direct growers that are already engaged in agritourism. AFFPA understands the realities of farm direct marketing, growing food, hosting visitors, managing risk, and active participation in the visitor economy — and can translate those realities across agriculture, tourism, and economic development systems.

Who benefits from this project?

- **Farms**, through clearer pathways, training, cluster development and confidence as hosts
 - **Communities**, through stronger rural economies and better-managed experiences
 - **DMOs and tourism partners**, through more visitor-ready, reliable products
 - **Visitors**, through higher-quality, more meaningful farm experiences
-

Is this about turning farms into tourist attractions?

Agritourism remains **farm-led and founded in primary agriculture**. This project supports farms that choose to welcome visitors and helps ensure those experiences strengthen sustainable farming.

What role can communities, municipalities, or DMOs play?

Participation is flexible and supportive. Partners may host meetings or workshops, help convene local operators, support responsible promotion, or share local insights. The role is **collaborative and partnership driven**.

How will this project change what agritourism looks like in Alberta?

Over time, it will create:

- More consistent and credible agritourism experiences
 - Allows small farms opportunities to grow, be more profitable and sustainable
 - Better alignment between farms, destinations, and communities
 - Greater confidence among operators and partners
 - Keeps families on farms, and create jobs for women, youth and young agrarians
 - A stronger reputation for Alberta agritourism as **authentic, professional, and well-managed**
-

What does success look like?

Success means farms that are confident and visitor-ready, communities that know how to enable agritourism responsibly, and visitors who leave with a deeper connection to Alberta’s food, farms, and places.

Tam Andersen
President
780-909-6601 (Direct Cell)
president@albertafarmfresh.com



Let's Talk Agritourism

Exploring local opportunities through community Agritourism Town Halls

[Agritourism Is Growing — and It's Changing How People Experience Alberta](#)

Across Alberta, people are seeking deeper connections to food, land, and the people who farm it. Agritourism responds to that demand by welcoming visitors onto working farms for authentic, place-based experiences.

From U-pick farms and farm-to-table dinners to on-farm events, tours, and seasonal festivals, agritourism is no longer a niche activity. It is becoming a meaningful part of how communities attract visitors, strengthen rural economies, and build a distinct sense of place.

[AFFPA's Role: Practical, Farm-Led, and Built for Delivery](#)

Agritourism is emerging as a resilient, community-rooted approach to rural renewal — supporting farm viability through diversified income, attracting visitors to rural regions, strengthening local economies, and reconnecting Albertans to agriculture.

The Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association (AFFPA) has **supported farm-direct businesses in Alberta for nearly 40 years**. Our members understand firsthand what it takes to farm, host visitors, manage risk, and deliver quality experiences.

With support from Alberta's Northern and Regional Economic Development Program, AFFPA is leading a province-wide agritourism initiative focused on **raising the standard of agritourism** while keeping farming at the centre. The role of AFFPA is to help guide agritourism growth in ways that respect local capacity, reduce barriers, and support long-term sustainability for farms and communities alike.

The goals are clear: to create connections, build relationships, reduce barriers, and enable agritourism to grow through quality experiences, visitor-ready operations, long-term viability and stronger local food connections.

[The Role of Communities: Partners in Shaping What Comes Next](#)

AFFPA is inviting communities across Alberta to host a **local or regional Agritourism Town Hall** — a facilitated conversation bringing together farm operators, municipalities, DMOs, economic development partners, and community leaders.

Communities that act now can help shape this momentum — building local capacity, strengthening partnerships, and positioning themselves as leaders in a growing provincial movement.

The role is **collaborative and partnership-driven**, helping agritourism grow in ways that reflect local values and capacity. AFFPA supports facilitation, framing, and follow-up to help translate conversation into practical next steps.

[Now is a good time to start the conversation: Communities interested in hosting an Agritourism Town Hall are invited to contact AFFPA to schedule a brief pre-meeting consultation and discuss timing and focus.](#)



Agritourism Town Hall – FAQs

What is the purpose of this initiative?

This initiative is about **supporting thoughtful, well-managed agritourism growth** across Alberta by bringing farms, communities, and destinations into the same conversation. The goal is to improve alignment, readiness, and shared understanding so agritourism strengthens farms and communities over the long term.

Why is AFFPA leading this work?

The **Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association (AFFPA)** has supported farm-direct businesses for nearly 40 years and works directly with operators who are already delivering agritourism experiences. AFFPA understands both farming realities and visitor expectations and is well positioned to bridge agriculture, tourism, and economic development in a practical, farm-first way.

What is an Agritourism Town Hall?

An Agritourism Town Hall is a **facilitated community conversation**, not a public hearing or decision-making meeting. It brings together farm operators, municipalities, DMOs, economic development professionals and other tourism & community partners to:

- Share perspectives
 - Explore local opportunities and challenges
 - Build shared understanding
-

What does AFFPA provide?

AFFPA supports:

- Pre-meeting consultation and planning
- Facilitation of the Town Hall
- Framing questions and discussion themes
- Post-meeting summary and key takeaways

Communities are not expected to design or lead the session on their own.

What happens before the Town Hall?

Each Town Hall begins with a **pre-meeting consultation** between AFFPA and the host community. This planning conversation helps:

- Clarify local goals and priorities
- Identify who should be at the table
- Shape the discussion topics

This ensures the Town Hall is **relevant, respectful, and productive**.

What is expected of the host community?

Hosting a Town Hall does not require funding, policy changes, or regulatory commitments. Communities typically:

- Provide a meeting space
- Help invite local stakeholders
- Participate in the discussion

- If possible, provide light refreshments (coffee, snacks, or lunch), depending on timing
AFFPA provides full supports (planning, facilitation, and follow-up).

What outcomes can communities expect?

Outcomes may include:

- Clearer understanding of agritourism in a local context
- Identification of new or expansion opportunities in agritourism
- Stronger relationships across agriculture, tourism, and economic development
- Improved alignment and shared language across departments and partners
- Earlier identification of opportunities and potential barriers
- A shared sense of next steps grounded in local realities

Why Participate?

Agritourism Town Halls provide a structured, low-commitment opportunity for communities to build shared understanding of agritourism, strengthen local relationships, and explore opportunities grounded in agricultural realities.

Participating helps communities align agriculture, tourism, and economic development efforts, help clarify opportunities and challenges early, and identify realistic next steps grounded in local capacity and values.

How can our community get involved?

Communities interested in hosting a Town Hall are invited to contact AFFPA to schedule a **pre-meeting consultation**. Together, a suitable format, focus, and date will be confirmed based on local needs.

Reach out to Kathryn to find out about booking your community's Agritourism Town Hall today.

CONTACTS

Tam Andersen
President
780-909-6601 (Direct Cell)
president@albertafarmfresh.com

Kathryn Dragowski
Coordinator
403-964-3276
admin@albertafarmfresh.com



Brazeau County

7401 – Twp Rd 494, P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A 1R1
 PHONE: (780) 542-7777 - FAX: (780) 542-7770
www.brazeau.ab.ca

February 18, 2026

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

Dear Minister Sigurdson,

Re: Support for Unlimited On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) Licence In Alberta

On behalf of the Brazeau County Agricultural Services Board (ASB) I am writing to express our support for unlimited on-farm slaughter sales for compliant operations in Alberta. Like other municipalities, we appreciate the pause on proposed limits to the On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) Program while a thorough review of the proposed changes can be done.

On-farm slaughter operations play an important role in strengthening Alberta's local food systems and enhancing producer viability—especially in rural and remote regions. While we would like this program to continue without the proposed weight limit, we believe there should be an emphasis on the importance of robust inspections, regulatory compliance, and food safety within the OFSO framework. An OFSO licence without a slaughter weight limit, when paired with stringent inspection protocols, ensures that food safety and public health remain paramount. Alberta's existing regulatory framework already establishes clear requirements for food safety and an OFSO licence with no cap does not diminish these standards; rather, it allows qualified operators who consistently demonstrate compliance to operate at a scale that reflects demand while remaining fully accountable to inspectors and regulatory authorities.

Regular inspection and verification by trained officials are essential to maintaining consumer confidence and regulatory integrity. An OFSO licence with no cap may incentivize operators to maintain high standards of compliance, especially if continued authorization is directly tied to demonstrated compliance with provincial legislation and inspection findings. This approach would support continuous improvement and increased compliance within the OFSO program.

In conclusion, I believe that granting OFSO licences with no cap, to operators who meet and maintain Alberta's inspection standards is a responsible, forward-looking policy choice. It upholds food safety, strengthens local food systems, and ensures that regulatory oversight remains both practical and effective.

Sincerely,

Shayne Blosky
 Chair, Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board
 Councillor Division 5

Cc: Agricultural Service Boards



Municipal District of **GREENVIEW**

March 24, 2026

Honourable Marjorie Michel
Minister of Health
Health Canada
Address Locator 0900C2
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Attention: Minister of Health

Re: Council Concerns with Proposed Amendments to the Traceability Regulation

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Council of the Municipal District of Greenview, we are writing to formally express concern regarding the proposed amendments to the federal Traceability Regulation, particularly as they relate to mandatory reporting timelines, reliance on digital reporting systems, and the resulting impacts on livestock producers operating in northern and rural regions.

The Municipal District of Greenview is a large, predominantly rural municipality in northwestern Alberta with a strong livestock production base. Council is concerned that the proposed amendments do not adequately account for the realities faced by producers in regions where reliable internet and cellular connectivity remain limited or unavailable. Many livestock operations within Greenview are located in remote areas where consistent access to broadband services does not exist, and producers may only have periodic connectivity.

The proposed seven day reporting deadline presents a serious compliance challenge under these conditions. Council is concerned that producers may face enforcement risks or administrative penalties despite making reasonable efforts to comply, simply because of infrastructure limitations beyond their control. Regulatory requirements that rely heavily on timely electronic reporting must reflect current rural connectivity and availability to be both fair and workable.

Council is also concerned about the cumulative impact the proposed amendments will have on the cost of production for livestock producers. Additional administrative requirements, increased record-keeping, investments in technology, potential reliance on third-party service providers, and added labour demands will all contribute to higher operating costs. These added pressures come at a time when producers are already managing rising input costs,

market uncertainty, and narrow margins. For many family-run operations, the financial and administrative burden associated with the proposed changes is significant.

Greenview Council supports the underlying objectives of traceability, including food safety, animal health, and system integrity. However, Council believes these objectives can only be achieved through regulations that are practical, regionally appropriate, and sensitive to the operational realities of northern and rural producers.

Accordingly, Council respectfully urges the federal government to reconsider aspects of the proposed amendments and to incorporate greater flexibility for regions with limited connectivity. This may include extended reporting timelines, alternative or offline reporting mechanisms, or regional accommodations where digital infrastructure does not support the proposed requirements.

Thank you for considering the concerns of Greenview Council and the livestock producers we represent. We would welcome the opportunity to provide further input or participate in continued discussions as these regulatory amendments are considered.

Respectfully,



Ryan Ratzlaff
Reeve
Municipal District of Greenview

cc: Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen
Alberta Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Local Members of Parliament
RMA

Bill 22 Fact Sheet

Animal Protection Amendment Act

What is the Animal Protection Act?

Alberta's *Animal Protection Act* (APA) prohibits causing or allowing an animal to remain in distress and establishes the basic minimum duties of care for which all animal owners and caregivers are responsible. The APA provides tools for peace officers to act when animals are in distress, lacking adequate care or are abandoned.

Why is it changing?

The *Animal Protection Act* was last updated two decades ago. If passed, Bill 22 will modernize the act and make Alberta a leader at addressing repeat offences.

What is being amended?

The *Animal Protection Amendment Act* will see dozens of changes, including:

- Improving outcomes for animals in distress or at risk of distress
 - The act will be updated to reflect current definitions related to distress, animal care duties and abandonment
 - Address gaps for responding to animals in distress, including authority to issue and follow up on corrective action orders
 - Align the *Animal Protection Act* with other Canadian jurisdictions
- Improving court orders to protect animals from repeat offences
 - Expand availability of prohibition orders and provide guidance to the court to ensure orders are effective
 - Create statutory powers to inspect for compliance and address violations
 - Make Alberta a leader by allowing enforcement of prohibition orders issued in other provinces and territories
- Modernization of inspection authorities
 - Enable inspection of additional activities, including boarding and grooming facilities
- Increasing maximum fines from \$20,000 to \$250,000 and enabling jail time

Who will be affected?

While any Albertan who owns or interacts with animals could be affected by the changes, most will not be impacted by the updated act.

When will the Animal Protection Amendment Act come into effect?

These amendments will come into force on proclamation. The changes are intended to align with amendments to the *Animal Protection Regulation*, which is expected to be completed later in 2026.

Where can I get more information?

Connect with the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian via AGI.OCPVpolicy@gov.ab.ca.

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation and Local Authority Enhanced Pests and Weed Control Management Process (RCAM Orders)

Executive Summary

This document outlines the conceptual framework for implementing Government of Alberta Order in Council 113/2026 (OIC) under the *Oil and Gas Conservation Act* (OGCA).

Alberta's *Agricultural Pests Act* and *Weed Control Act* are intended to prevent or mitigate significant impacts on Alberta's economy, agriculture, municipal lands, and other landowners. Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) and local authorities are the primary enforcement bodies for this legislation. The OIC establishes an energy resource sector regulatory backstop (excluding pipelines) to address non-compliance by parties regulated by the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER).

Under the OIC, the AER is authorized, pursuant to the *Oil and Gas Conservation Act*, to issue Reasonable Care and Measures (RCAM) orders in support of enforcement actions initiated by AGI and local authorities. Failure to comply with an RCAM order may result in escalating enforcement actions by the AER.

To operationalize this authority, the AER has established a referral process enabling AGI and local authority inspectors to request RCAM orders after all AGI and local authority tools are exhausted yet weed or pest issues remain. This process includes defined referral criteria, a dedicated intake mailbox managed by the AER's Compliance Assurance team, and guidance on the information required to support an RCAM order. The AER has also identified and referenced existing, publicly available tools and information related to AER-regulated sites to support local authority inspection and enforcement activities.

The RCAM Order referral process does not apply to activities on First Nation Reserves or their local authorities. Related matters will be addressed on a case-by-case basis with Indian Oil and Gas Canada (IOGC) under the AER–IOGC Memorandum of Understanding.

The AER cannot collect money from licensees to compensate or reimburse AGI or local authorities for costs incurred in relation to activities for weed or pest control.

Applicable Legislation

The *Agricultural Pests Act* establishes requirements to prevent, control, and eradicate pests and nuisances that may damage land, crops, livestock, or property. The Act authorizes the Government of Alberta to declare certain animals, plants, insects, or diseases as pests or nuisances and to require actions to limit their establishment, spread, or impact. The Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation identifies designated species, movement restrictions, and quarantine authorities.

The *Weed Control Act* establishes requirements for the control or destruction of designated noxious and prohibited noxious weeds. It requires municipalities to appoint inspectors, issue notices, recover enforcement costs, and impose penalties for non-compliance, as set out in the Weed Control Regulation.

On March 31, 2026, the Government of Alberta issued [a regulation](#) under the Oil and Gas Conservation Act specifying that reasonable care and measures (RCAM) apply to energy resource enactments and to specified enactments, including the *Agricultural Pests Act* and the *Weed Control Act*. This regulatory change authorizes the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER), within its existing jurisdiction under the OGCA, to support enforcement actions related to agricultural pest control and weed management where they intersect with energy resource activities.

Roles and Responsibilities

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI)

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) is the provincial department responsible for the administration of the *Agricultural Pests Act* and the *Weed Control Act*, including overall policy oversight and the exercise of ministerial authorities under those Acts. Under the *Agricultural Pests Act*, the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation is empowered to declare pests or nuisances, appoint provincial inspectors, establish quarantine or movement controls, and oversee appeals and reviews of enforcement actions where provided for in legislation. AGI inspectors may conduct inspections, issue binding notices, and recover enforcement costs in accordance with the Act and the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation. While AGI sets the provincial framework and may act directly through provincial inspectors, the Acts place primary responsibility for day-to-day inspection and enforcement on local authorities within their respective jurisdictions.

AGI inspectors remain the primary agency of jurisdiction and subject matter experts to support the RCAM Order and the AER's Statutory Decision Makers.

For RCAM order appeals, the AGI inspector (i.e., SME) will be relied upon to provide evidence as part of the appeals process.

Local Authorities

Local authorities, which include Agricultural Service Boards (ASB) established under the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, are the primary frontline enforcers of both the *Agricultural Pests Act* and the *Weed Control Act*. For municipalities, this role is carried out through municipally appointed inspectors who are authorized to inspect land, issue notices requiring control or destruction of pests or weeds, recover enforcement costs, and initiate penalties for non-compliance. The Acts define "local authority" to include municipal councils, improvement districts, and—importantly—Special Areas constituted under the *Special Areas Act*. In Special Areas, the local authority function is exercised by the Minister responsible for the *Special Areas Act*, administered through Municipal Affairs and

operationalized by the Special Areas Board and its appointed agricultural fieldmen and inspectors. In these areas, Municipal Affairs fulfills the same enforcement role that municipal councils perform elsewhere, including the appointment of inspectors and administration of notices and cost recovery under the pest and weed legislation.

Local authority inspectors remain the primary agency of jurisdiction and subject matter experts to support the RCAM Order and the AER's Statutory Decision Makers.

For RCAM order appeals, the local authority inspector (i.e., SME) will be relied upon to provide evidence as part of the appeals process.

*For document clarity, local authority inspector refers to a municipal inspector, as per the Weed Control Act

Alberta Energy Regulator

Under Order in Council 113/2026, issued pursuant to the *Oil and Gas Conservation Act*, the AER is authorized to take compliance action under the *Agricultural Pests Act* and the *Weed Control Act* as part of a licensee's or approval holder's obligation to provide reasonable care and measures (RCAM) on AER-regulated sites. This authority enables the AER to compel compliance through RCAM orders where pest or weed issues are associated with energy resource activities and when all AGI and local authority tools are exhausted yet weed or pest issues remain.

The AER's role is to support and reinforce the existing enforcement framework administered by AGI and local authorities, while those bodies continue to carry out inspection and primary enforcement functions under their respective legislation. In support of these inspections, the AER may provide access to existing regulatory information related to AER-regulated sites—such as publicly available licence, operator, location, and status information—to assist inspectors in identifying responsible parties and understanding site context.

Where an RCAM order is not complied with, the matter may be escalated through the AER's Compliance Assurance Program, with the full suite of compliance and enforcement tools available under applicable energy legislation. The AER is not able to collect money from licensees to compensate or reimburse AGI or local authorities for costs incurred in relation to activities for weed or pest control.

Farmers' Advocate Office

The Farmers' Advocate Office (FAO) provides independent, non-enforcement advisory and advocacy support to landowners affected by pest or weed issues arising in the context of energy development. This includes assisting landowners to understand their rights, responsibilities, and procedural options when engaging with municipalities, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, the Alberta Energy Regulator, or other provincial authorities.

Land and Property Rights Tribunal

The Land and Property Rights Tribunal (LPRT) is an independent quasi-judicial body with authority to determine access, and compensation matters under its enabling legislation, including the *Surface Rights Act* and the *Expropriation Act*. While the Tribunal may consider land impacts as part of a compensation assessment within that jurisdiction, it does not administer or enforce the *Agricultural Pests Act* or the *Weed Control Act*, nor does it award compensation for non-compliance or enforcement costs arising under those Acts. Where pest or weed conditions attributable to an energy-related surface operation result in demonstrable land impacts—such as loss of use, damage, or adverse effects—the Tribunal may consider those impacts as evidence of compensable surface effects under applicable surface rights legislation, rather than as matters of statutory non-compliance.

Indian Oil and Gas Canada and First Nation Local Authorities

The RCAM Order referral process does not apply to activities on First Nation Reserves. Related issues will be considered on a case-by-case basis under the AER-IOGC Memorandum of Understanding.

Pest and weed complaints on First Nation Reserve Land related to oil and gas activities are addressed through IOGC, a special operating agency within Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). IOGC applies the provincial weed codes and regulations of the province in which the reserve is located, requiring noxious weeds to be managed and prohibited noxious weeds to be destroyed. Surface contract holders must develop, implement, and maintain weed management plans in accordance with Environmental Protection Terms.

IOGC oversees compliance through inspections, audits, and First Nation observations, and requires evidence of control actions to be submitted to its Environment Unit. It also reviews and approves seed certificates for seeding and reclamation and requires testing and approval before soil is imported onto reserve lands. While IOGC does not prescribe specific pest control methods, surface lease holders must follow provincial directives and maintain effective housekeeping practices to minimize pest presence.

Access to Information and Coordination

AGI Provincial inspectors and local authority inspectors can access the [OneStop Public Map Viewer](#) to identify where AER licensed assets are located. The viewer shows energy industry assets, including wells, facilities, compressor stations, pipelines and incidents within a specific area. The map viewer also shows reclamation applications and oil and gas dispositions. Specific regions include cities, protected areas, Indigenous lands, and military bases.

Contact details for AER licensees and approval holders are available in the [ST104](#) publication, which is updated monthly. This may assist AGI and local authority inspectors accessing sites through accompanied site visits with the licensee or approval holder's field

staff for safe and timely access at AER-regulated sites. An additional source of information is the [AER Licence Reports](#), updated daily.

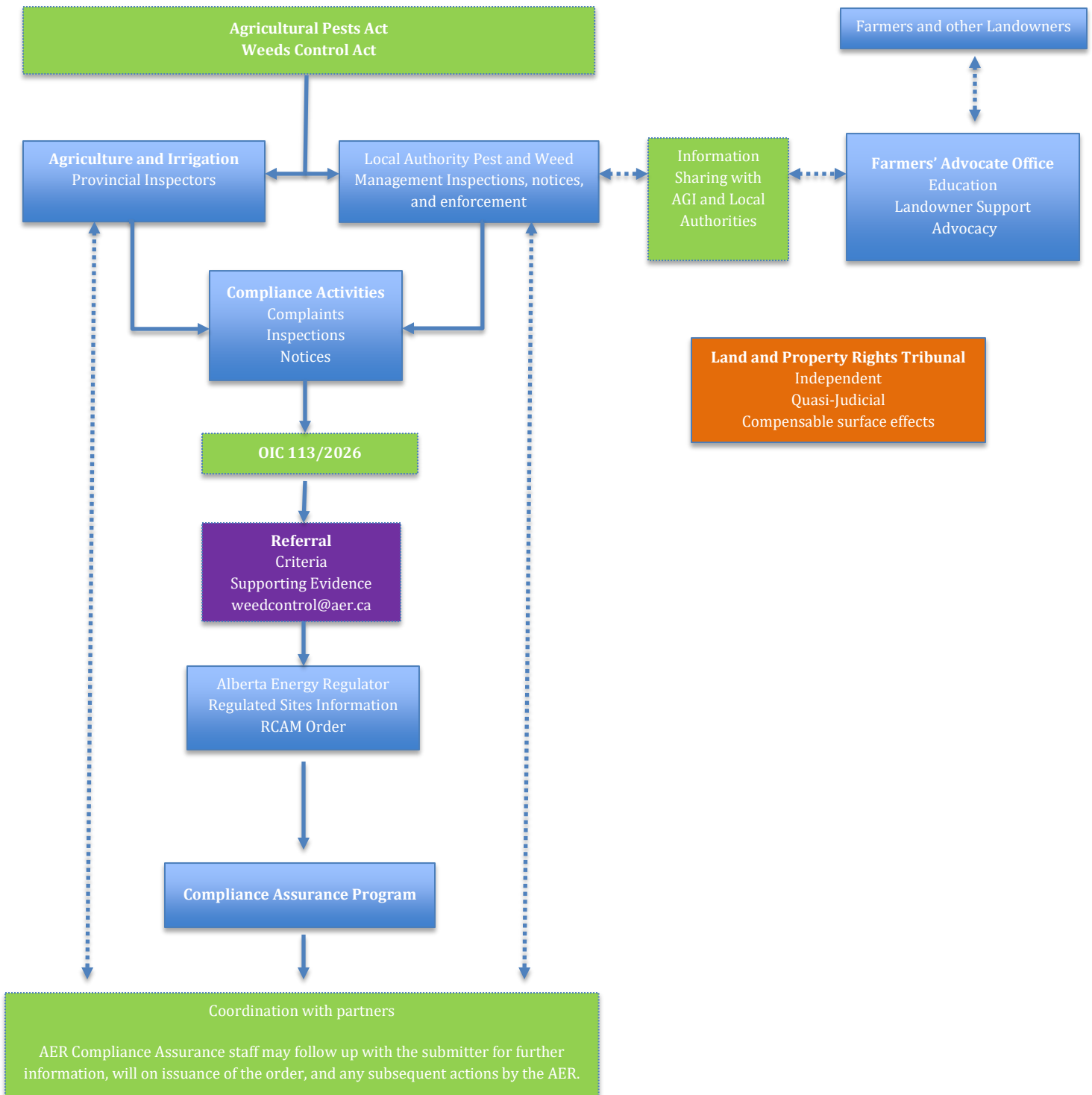
Other sources of information include the Orphan Well Association’s (OWA) inventory using its [interactive map](#) or site-specific inventory list that is updated periodically. It lists orphan sites currently undergoing decommissioning, reclamation, or is closed with a reclamation certificate issued by the AER.

Information on AER RCAM orders issued is available on the AER’s [Compliance Dashboard](#).

If further assistance at an AER regulated site is needed, a layer in the map viewer can also be activated to show the AER operational boundaries, and the Field Center contact details are listed below.

Field Centre (Region)	General Mailbox	Phone Number
Field Operations, Central - Edmonton	FieldOpsCentral@aer.ca	780-642-9310
Field Operations, Central - Slave Lake	FieldOpsCentral@aer.ca	780-843-2050
Field Operations, Northeast - Fort McMurray	FieldOpsNortheast@aer.ca	780-743-7214
Field Operations, East - Bonnyville	FieldOpsEast@aer.ca	780-826-5352
Field Operations, West – Red Deer	FieldOpsWest@aer.ca	403-340-5454
Field Operations, West – Drayton Valley	FieldOpsWest@aer.ca	780-542-5182
Field Operations, Northwest – Grande Prairie	FieldOpsNorthwest@aer.ca	780-538-5138
Field Operations, South – Medicine Hat	FieldOpsSouth@aer.ca	403-527-3385

AGI and Local Authority RCAM Referral Schematic



Wade Clark,
Assistant Deputy Minister
Energy Policy Division
Energy and Minerals

Date: _____

John Conrad
Assistant Deputy Minister
Primary Agriculture Division
Agriculture and Irrigation

Date: _____

Martin Foy
Chief Operations Officer
Operations Division
Alberta Energy Regulator

Date: _____

Referral Criteria for Shared-Jurisdiction Pest and Weed Infractions

Agricultural Pests Act and Weed Control Act

This document establishes referral criteria to guide when [pest and weed infractions](#) can be referred to the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) on its regulated sites for RCAM Orders. All referrals must be submitted through the [web form](#). Supporting information may be provided by email to weed.control@aer.ca. Refer to Figure 1 for the process schematic.

Jurisdiction for pest and weed management is now shared with Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) and local authorities (including Agricultural Service Boards) by [regulation](#) pursuant to the Oil and Gas Conservation Act. The Order expires March 31, 2031.

The criteria presented respects the primary role of AGI inspectors or local authority inspectors in managing pests and weeds and establishes when referrals to the AER for a RCAM order is appropriate. Where an RCAM order for weeds or pests has been issued, the AGI or local authority inspector will provide expert evidence to support RCAM order closure or appeals process.

To ensure that the AER can proceed with an RCAM order the criteria in Table 1 must be met for referral.

AGI or local authority inspectors remain the primary agency of jurisdiction and subject matter experts to support the RCAM Order and the AER's Statutory Decision Makers. AER staff may follow up with the submitter for further information once the referral is received. The submitter will be informed when the order is issued and may be called upon to provide further information or expertise to the AER. The AER is not able to collect money from licensees or approval holders to compensate or reimburse AGI or local authorities for costs incurred in relation to activities for weed or pest control.

The RCAM order referral process does not apply for pipeline rights-of-way . First Nation reserves are also excluded as pests and weeds are the responsibility of Indian Oil and Gas Canada.

*For document clarity, local authority inspector refers to a municipal inspector, as per the Weed Control Act

Figure 1 – Referral Process Schematic

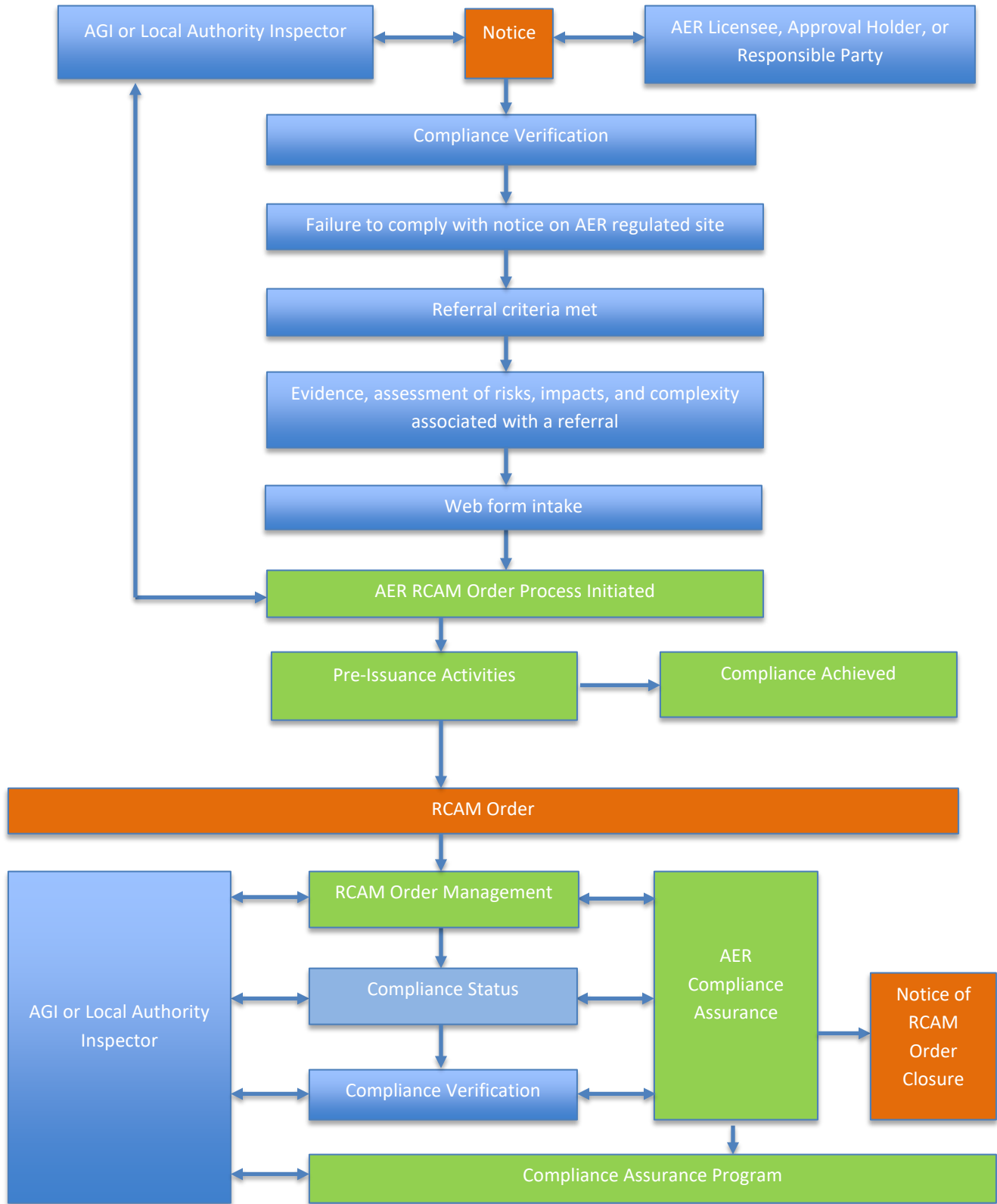


Table 1 – Referral Criteria

	Referral Criterion	Explanation
1.	Documented Evidence of an AER-Regulated Activity Nexus	The pest or weed issue is directly attributable to an AER-regulated activity, site, or approval holder under the OGCA. General agricultural infestations without a causal link remain with AGI or local authorities. Pipelines are excluded from the referral process under the OGCA.
2.	Documented Evidence of Failure to Act Following Local Authority Notice	An AGI inspector or local authority inspector has issued direction or notice under the <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i> or <i>Weed Control Act</i> and the licensee has failed to comply within the time provided in the notice. Any appeals or consequential stays must have concluded before referral.
3.	Documented Evidence of Risk Escalation Requiring Coordination.	The infestation presents elevated risk (spread, persistence, scale, or impact) requiring multi-jurisdictional cooperation.
4.	Documented Evidence of Impacts as described within the <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i> and <i>Weed Control Act</i> .	Pests or weeds are present on private, municipal, or crown lands and includes an AER-regulated site.
5.	Documented Evidence of Refusal to Cooperate or Obstruction	If a weed or pest issue exists on an AER regulated site, and the licensee refuses access or obstructs inspection

Information Required for the Referral

AGI Provincial inspectors and local authority inspectors can access the [OneStop Public Map Viewer](#) to identify where AER licensed assets are located. The viewer shows energy industry assets, including wells, facilities, compressor stations, pipelines and incidents within a specific area. The map viewer also shows reclamation applications and oil and gas dispositions. Specific regions include cities, protected areas, Indigenous lands, and military bases.

Contact details for AER licensees and approval holders are available in the [ST104](#) publication, which is updated monthly. This may assist AGI and local authority inspectors accessing sites through accompanied site visits with the licensee or approval holder’s field staff for safe and timely access at AER-regulated sites. An additional source of information is the [AER Licence Reports](#), updated daily.

Before referral to the AER, AGI and local authority inspectors should check a site’s status against the Orphan Well Association’s (OWA) inventory using its [interactive map](#) or [site-specific inventory](#) list that is updated periodically by the OWA. It lists orphan sites currently undergoing decommissioning, reclamation, or is closed with a reclamation certificate issued by the AER.

Information on AER RCAM orders issued is available on the AER's [Compliance Dashboard](#). The Compliance Dashboard may also include prior Orders if the AER has directed the remaining working interest participant(s) to conduct decommissioning and/or reclamation of a site held by a defunct or insolvent licensee.

If further assistance at an AER regulated site is needed, a layer in the [OneStop Public Map Viewer](#) is available to show the AER operational boundaries and the responsible Field Centre. Contact details are listed below.

Table 2 – AER Field Centre Contact Details

Field Centre (Region)	General Mailbox	Phone Number
Field Operations, Central - Edmonton	FieldOpsCentral@aer.ca	780-642-9310
Field Operations, Central - Slave Lake	FieldOpsCentral@aer.ca	780-843-2050
Field Operations, Northeast - Fort McMurray	FieldOpsNortheast@aer.ca	780-743-7214
Field Operations, East - Bonnyville	FieldOpsEast@aer.ca	780-826-5352
Field Operations, West – Red Deer	FieldOpsWest@aer.ca	403-340-5454
Field Operations, West – Drayton Valley	FieldOpsWest@aer.ca	780-542-5182
Field Operations, Northwest – Grande Prairie	FieldOpsNorthwest@aer.ca	780-538-5138
Field Operations, South – Medicine Hat	FieldOpsSouth@aer.ca	403-527-3385

Any RCAM order issued will be based on information submitted by the referring agency or inspector, who may also be asked to provide additional information or technical expertise as needed throughout the order process.

The evidence provided must support the applicable categories outlined below. The risks, impacts, and complexity associated with a specific referral, as well as AER resourcing considerations, may influence whether an AER response is issued and may also affect the scope, timing, and nature of the response. Additional guidance on required documentation is provided through the referral [web form](#).

AER Jurisdiction

- Clear, factual evidence that the weeds or pests are located within an **AER regulated lease, licence, or approval area related to an energy resource activity** (e.g., lease boundary mapping, site plans, geo-referenced photographs)

Identification of the Regulated Issue

- Identification of the weed or pest species observed, based on field observation
- Citation of the **applicable provincial legislation or regulation** under which the species is regulated (e.g., Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pests Act)
- Confirmation that the matter falls within AER jurisdiction due to the regulated activity or site
- Assessment of risks, impacts, and complexity associated with a referral. These parameters may determine if an AER response is issued, or may affect the nature, timing, and extent of an AER response.

Observed Condition and Extent

- Factual description (including notes, photographs, etc.) of the presence and condition of the weeds or pests on the regulated site
- Description of the extent of infestation as observed at the time of inspection (e.g., isolated, multiple locations, widespread)

Local Authority Enforcement Actions

- Records confirming that the local authority or AGI inspector has exercised their legislative authority
- Documented evidence that a person or entity failed or refused to respond to, or comply with, an order issued by an AGI or local authority inspector pursuant to legislation.
- Copies of notices, orders, warnings, or other enforcement actions issued
- Evidence that compliance was not achieved within the authority's available tools. Compliance means an AER licensee, approval holder, or a sites responsible party (e.g. OWA) has not complied with a notice. **Any appeals or consequential stays must have concluded before referral.**

Non-Compliance Confirmation

- Documentation demonstrating continued non-compliance following local authority action
- Evidence that further compliance cannot reasonably be achieved without AER intervention

Attestation

- Formal attestation from the local authority confirming:
 - The accuracy of the observations and documentation
 - That enforcement tools under their authority were applied
 - That compliance was not achieved
 - That the matter is being referred to AER for escalation

Wade Clark,
Assistant Deputy Minister
Energy Policy Division
Energy and Minerals

Date: _____

John Conrad
Assistant Deputy Minister
Primary Agriculture Division
Agriculture and Irrigation

Date: _____

Martin Foy
Chief Operations Officer
Operations Division
Alberta Energy Regulator

Date: _____

Weed and Agricultural Pest Compliance



Weed and Pest Compliance on Well and Facility Sites

The AER supports enforcement activity for Alberta's weed and agricultural pest laws to ensure well and facility sites meet regulatory standards. Effective May 1, 2026, the AER may issue reasonable care and measure (RCAM) orders, when necessary, under the *Oil and Gas Conservation Act*.

What's New

The AER may issue RCAM orders to support enforcement actions initiated by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation or by municipal authorities through the referral process.

Referral Process

- 1) A landowner or member of the public notifies their local municipal authority of a weed or pest issue on an energy development site.
- 2) An agricultural fieldman or municipal inspector visits the site and verifies the weed or pest issue on the site.
- 3) The fieldman or inspector uses their enforcement tools to address the noncompliance.
- 4) Once fieldmen and inspectors have exhausted their enforcement tools, they can refer the issue to the AER if it concerns a well or facility site for consideration and enforcement under an RCAM order.

Important Notes

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation fieldmen and municipal inspectors retain their responsibility to enforce compliance with weed and pest regulations.

- Municipalities are the initial point of contact for public and landowner concerns regarding weeds and pests.
- Licensees and approval holders must control weeds and pests on their energy development sites in accordance with legislation and AER requirements.
- The AER does not enforce weed and pest compliance on land outside its jurisdiction or on pipeline rights-of-way.

[Learn more](#) about weed and pest compliance on well and facility sites



APRIL 28, 2026

RCAM Order Referral Process

Weed & Pest Control on AER-Regulated Sites

Gary Neilson, Senior Advisor

AGI/ASB fieldmen

Overview

- New OGCA regulation to address pest and weeds on AER regulated sites.
- Primary enforcement remains with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) and local authority inspectors
- RCAM Orders as a regulatory backstop through AER.
- Process overview, standard operating procedure, referral webform, and online tools.
- Implementation and next steps

Regulation issued under the Oil and Gas Conservation Act (OGCA)

- Authorizes the AER to issue RCAM Orders on AER-regulated sites under Agricultural Pests Act and Weed Control Act
- Supports enforcement actions taken by AGI or local authorities
- Applies after enforcement actions have been exhausted, appeals and stays concluded.
- RCAM order is not a cost recovery mechanism – compels compliance and possible escalating action.

RCAM Order Scope and Exclusions

- Pest or weed issue is directly linked to an AER-regulated site (pipeline ROWs and First Nation reserves excluded)
- **RCAM Order considerations:**
 - Complex resource intensive process for the AER
 - Consider sites with a history of persistent issues, higher risk (e.g., prohibited weeds)
 - Failure to comply with notices or required remedial action by an inspector
 - Most effective against solvent licensees – licensees in distress or OWA adds complexity (discuss this later)

Roles and Responsibilities (Process Overview)

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI)

- Provincial authority, oversight and ministerial authorities
- Notices and enforcement actions (provincial inspectors have primary jurisdiction and are subject matter experts)
- Support to AER for evidence for RCAM Orders and as SMEs

Local Authorities (Municipal Inspectors / ASBs)

- Notices and frontline enforcement
- Support to AER for evidence for RCAM Orders and as SMEs

AER

- RCAM Orders based on evidence and submitters attestation
- RCAM Order management shared responsibility with partners
- Compliance Assurance Program

RCAM Order Referral Process

1. Complaint or inspection identifies pest or weed issue
2. AGI or local authority
 - Conducts inspection
 - Issues notice under applicable legislation
 - May take enforcement (spraying)
3. AER Licensee fails to comply within the prescribed timeline (Notice/Appeals/Stays concluded)
4. Referral submitted to AER through web form (established support mailbox weedcontrol@er.ca) – Daniel to demonstrate
5. AER evaluates referral and supporting evidence
 - Coordination with submitter
 - Pre-issuance activities (contact licensee, discuss issue etc.)
 - RCAM Order and management (SDM, compliance verification, escalation)

RCAM Referral Criteria

SOP defines referral criteria (see Table 1 in the SOP)

- Mandatory - AER-regulated site
- Others are site dependent (i.e., one or more may apply)

Attestation

- Accuracy of the observations and documentation
- Enforcement tools under their authority were applied
- Compliance was not achieved
- Matter is being referred to AER for escalation
- Submitter acknowledges SME and support for procedural fairness activities

Webform and Mailbox (for supplementary information)

- Fillable
- Additional guidance provided
- Attestation (as above)

Information for Referral Support

OneStop Public Map Viewer

- Identify AER-regulated sites and boundaries
- Confirm location and responsible parties
- Map layer for regional AER Field Centres and MDs

ST104 publication

- Licensee and approval holder contact information

OWA Public Map Viewer and Inventory spreadsheet

- Identify orphan or managed sites

AER Compliance Dashboard

- Issued RCAM Orders

Continuous improvement

Processes, tools, training and online resources for fieldmen will evolve with experience.

RCAM Order Complexity

- RCAM Order – most effective on solvent responsible licensees.
- Complexity increase and effectiveness may decrease for licensees in financial distress, or WIPs involved, or OWA.
- Working with AGI and OWA to develop a plan to mitigate weeds (possible 2025 season issues and 2026 growing season) for high priority sites.
- RCAM Order process is time consuming and dependent on when a referral is received.
- Process will evolve but the overarching goal is to demonstrate action is being taken and sustained.

Key Takeaways and Next Steps

AGI and local authorities remain the primary enforcement bodies

- Continue applying existing enforcement tools
- RCAM Orders provide a last-resort escalation tool

Referrals must be evidence-based, well-documented and defensible (for due process reasons)

- RCAM referral only when criteria are fully met
- Coordinated effort between AER and inspectors
- Carefully considered based on risk etc.

May 1 OGCA regulation active (expired May 1, 2031)

- Overview and SOP (to be) approved by ADMs and AER COO
- Communications with AER Industry Bulletin
- OWA Weed Management Plan (AER, AGI, and OWA)
- Six- and 18-month performance review

Communication & Resources Next Steps

- Bulletin, web page & referral form on aer.ca – April 29
- Resources for fieldmen – April 29
- Follow-up information sessions – early June



Questions?

Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

April 24, 2026

Precipitation

Over the past 30 days, most agricultural areas across the province have received less than 20 mm of precipitation (**Map 1**). A corridor of higher precipitation, ranging from 25 to 50 mm, occurred across the Central Region, extending from Rocky View and Foothills Counties northeast through Wheatland to Special Areas No. 3 and No. 4 and Acadia.

Elevated precipitation was also observed in parts of the North West and North East Regions. Higher precipitation, generally between 30 and 60 mm (**Map 1**), fell across the municipalities of Greenview northeast through Big Lakes and Lesser Slave River, then southeast through Athabasca and Lamont to Vermilion River and Bonnyville. Precipitation totals in these areas were above average for this 30-day period (**Map 2**).

In contrast, portions of South and Peace Regions, including Cardston, Warner, Forty Mile, Cypress, Grande Prairie, Smoky River, Birch Hills, Spirit River, Saddle Hills, Fairview, and Peace generally received less than 15 mm of precipitation (**Map 1**). These amounts were below average for this 30-day period (**Map 2**).

Cold-season precipitation has been moderately high to very high across much of the Peace, North East, and North West Regions compared with long-term normal (**Map 3**). Areas north of a line extending through the municipalities of Greenview, Woodlands, Barrhead, Sturgeon, Lamont, and Vermilion River have received approximately 130% to 250% of normal precipitation (**Map 4**), with cold-season totals exceeding 150 mm (**Map 5**).

Most of the Central Region, along with parts of Forty Mile and Cypress Counties, have experienced near-normal cold-season precipitation (**Map 3**). These areas have accumulated 70 to 100 mm, representing roughly 90% to 130% of normal (**Maps 4 and 5**).

Conversely, the lowest cold-season precipitation relative to normal has occurred across the municipalities of Clearwater, Ponoka, Leduc, Camrose, Flagstaff, Foothills, Willow Creek, Vulcan, Taber, Cardston, Lethbridge, Warner, Newell, and Cypress (**Map 3**). These areas have received less than 90% of normal precipitation (**Map 4**), with much of the South

Region accumulating only 50% to 70% of normal, with some localized areas receiving less than 50%.

Looking ahead to May, forecasts indicate an increase in precipitation across Alberta. Historical patterns also show a notable rise in precipitation during this time of year (**Map 6**). If realized, upcoming moisture will support soil moisture recharge heading into spring.

Temperature

During the cold season, average daily temperatures in municipalities north of a line extending east from Greenview through Yellowhead, Parkland, Camrose, Flagstaff, and Vermilion River ranged from near-normal to moderately cooler than the long-term average (**Map 7**). Several municipalities within the Central Region also experienced near-normal cold-season average daily temperatures.

In contrast, municipalities along the mountains and foothills, as well as much of the Central and South Regions, experienced warm to very warm average daily temperatures relative to long-term normal during the cold season (**Map 7**).

The warmest average daily temperatures occurred along the mountains and foothills, extending from Yellowhead County south through Calgary, into the County of Willow Creek, and eastward toward Cypress County (**Map 7**).

Overall, the cold season was marked by significant temperature variability. Daily mean temperatures frequently shifted from approximately 10 °C below normal to 10 °C above normal within short timeframes. Average weekly temperatures over the past four weeks highlight a less pronounced variability across Alberta since March 25th (**Map 8**).

Snowpack

These pronounced temperature swings have contributed to substantial snowmelt across the province. Several areas have experienced periods of snow accumulation followed by rapid melt. In some locations, surface soils have thawed during warm periods when snow cover was absent.

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/moisture-situation-update>

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Classification: Public

Most of the province has little to no snow cover, which is normal for this time of the year (**Map 9**). Snowpack accumulation on stubble fields, relative to normal, is highest in municipalities north of a line from Greenview east to St. Paul. In these areas, snowpack water equivalent exceeds 150% of normal (**Map 10**), indicating moderately to extremely above-normal accumulation.

Current forecasts indicate rain and snow over the next few days, meaning many areas are likely to see snow return to the ground, at least in the short term.

365-Day Precipitation Trends

Year-over-year conditions remain highly variable, with substantial precipitation deficits persisting across much of Alberta (**Map 11**). Across most of the Central, North East, North West, and Peace Regions, 365-day precipitation amounts range from moderately low to very low compared with long-term normal. Several areas including parts of the municipalities of Grande Prairie, Greenview, Northern Lights, Camrose, Flagstaff, Beaver, Wainwright, and Provost, are experiencing very to extremely low 365-day precipitation accumulations.

Soil Temperatures

Approximately 36 stations across Alberta have soil temperature sensors installed at 5 cm, 20 cm, 50 cm and 100 cm depths. Soil temperatures, at the 20 cm to 50 cm depth, increased to above zero in southern Alberta starting in mid-March. Soil temperatures, at this same depth interval, across central Alberta to Edmonton, began to move above zero around April 14th. Soil temperature north of Edmonton and into the Peace Region began to warm and move above zero around April 19th and 20th.

As soils thaw, moisture will begin to infiltrate, recharging soil moisture reserves.

Soil Moisture Reserves

Soil moisture reserves have changed since the previous report. Spring wheat soil moisture reserves, relative to long-term normal and assessed to a depth of 120 cm, have begun to improve in parts of the Central and South Regions. Improvements are estimated in some areas within the municipalities of Rocky View, Wheatland, Newell, Special Areas No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4, as well as Acadia, Vulcan, Lethbridge, Taber, and Cypress (**Map 12**).

Near-normal soil moisture reserves to a depth of 120 cm are currently estimated in several areas within the municipalities of Yellowhead, Brazeau, Rocky

View, Wheatland, Starland, the Special Areas (No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4), Acadia, Vermilion River, Lamont, Two Hills, Wainwright, Willow Creek, and Warner. Improvements in these areas have occurred as soils thawed and recent precipitation was able to infiltrate the ground (**Map 12**).

Despite these localized improvements, soil moisture reserves across most of Alberta remain moderately to very low compared with long-term normal (Map 12). Conditions are estimated to have declined since the last report in municipalities along the southern border, around the Red Deer area, and north into the Peace Region. Soils in these areas have not been thawed for as long, limiting moisture infiltration to date.

In parts of the South, North West, North East, and Peace Regions, soil moisture reserves are estimated to be extremely low. In these areas, moisture levels at the 120 cm depth are approximately 25 mm to 75 mm below long-term normal (**Map 13**).

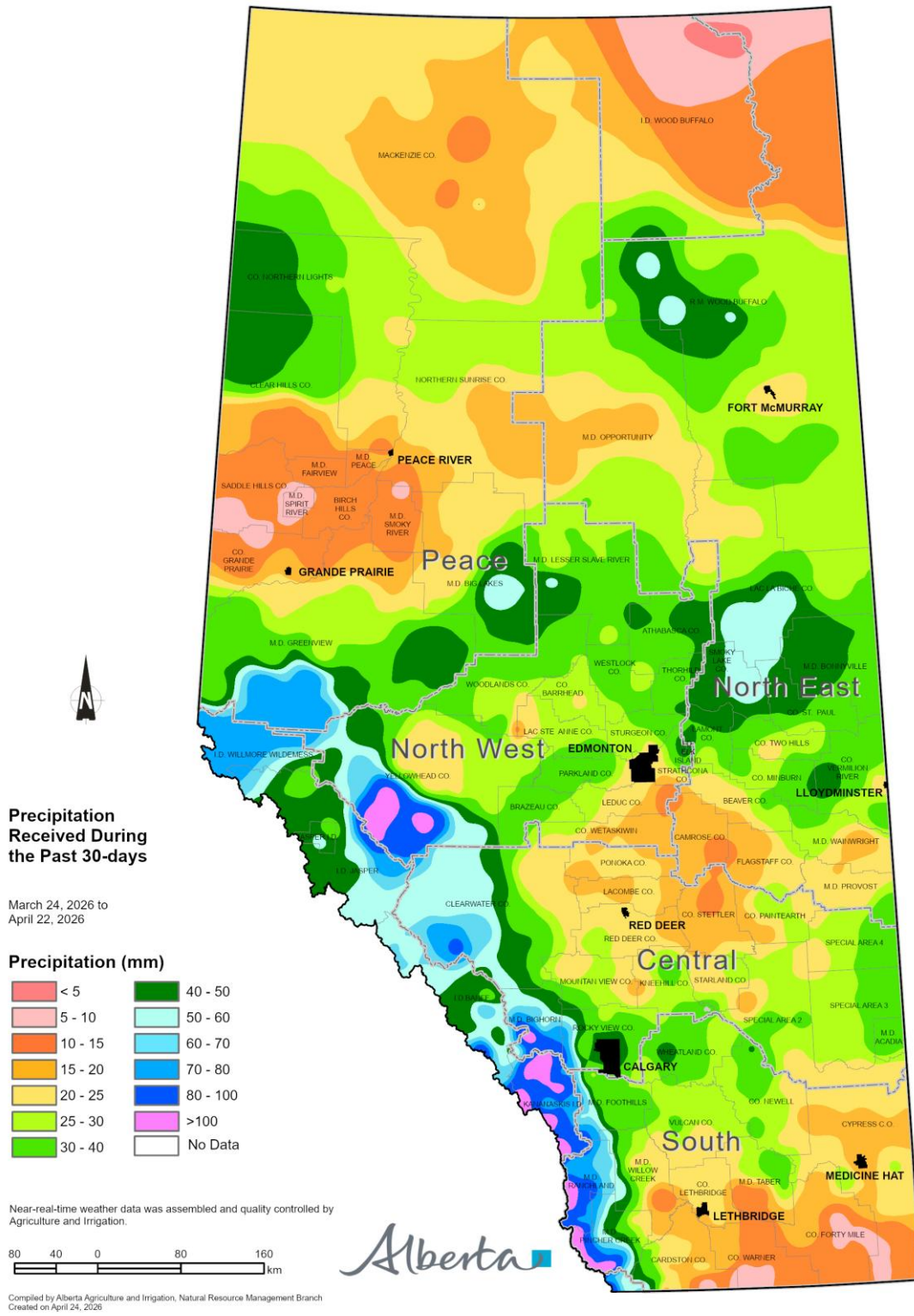
Perspective

Alberta's cold season is typically the driest time of year (**Map 6**), and even above-average precipitation during these months rarely makes up for year-to-date moisture deficits. In the Central Region, only about 15% of annual precipitation normally falls during winter, while the Peace Region receives closer to 25% of its annual total. From an agricultural perspective, May, June, and July are the most critical months for moisture, accounting for more than 50% of annual precipitation in the Central Region and at least 40% across much of the Peace Region (**Map 14**).

Warm and windy conditions this winter have likely increased moisture losses through evaporation and sublimation. Recent warm weather has also led to rapid snowmelt across much of Alberta, which may help recharge dugouts. However, frozen soils have limited soil moisture recharge. In areas south of Edmonton, surface soils have begun to thaw, and recent spring precipitation has resulted in some soil moisture replenishment.

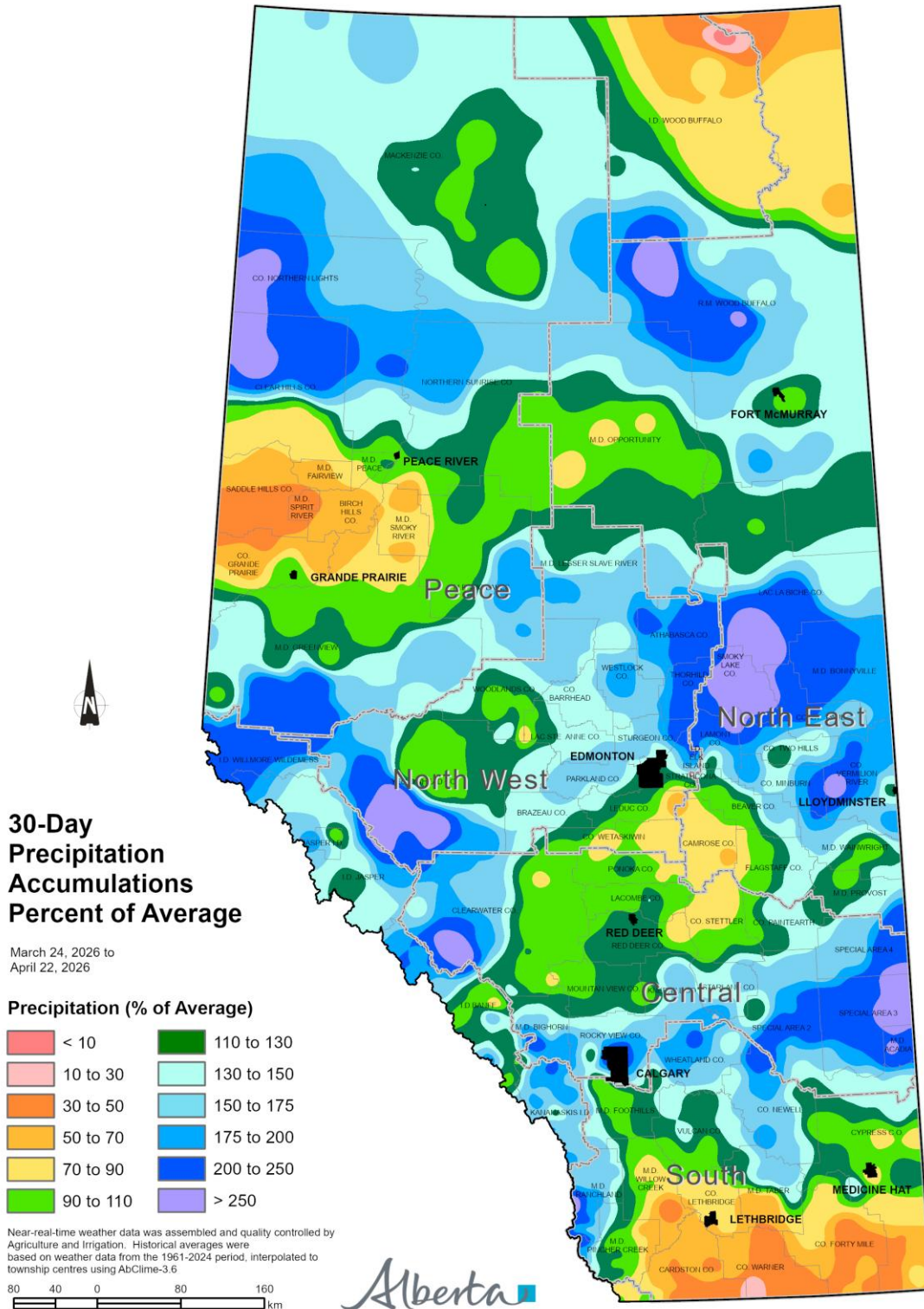
Forecasts continue to suggest the potential for additional rain and/or snowfall. For now, patience remains important, with the hope that timely spring precipitation will help support the upcoming growing season.

Map 1



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

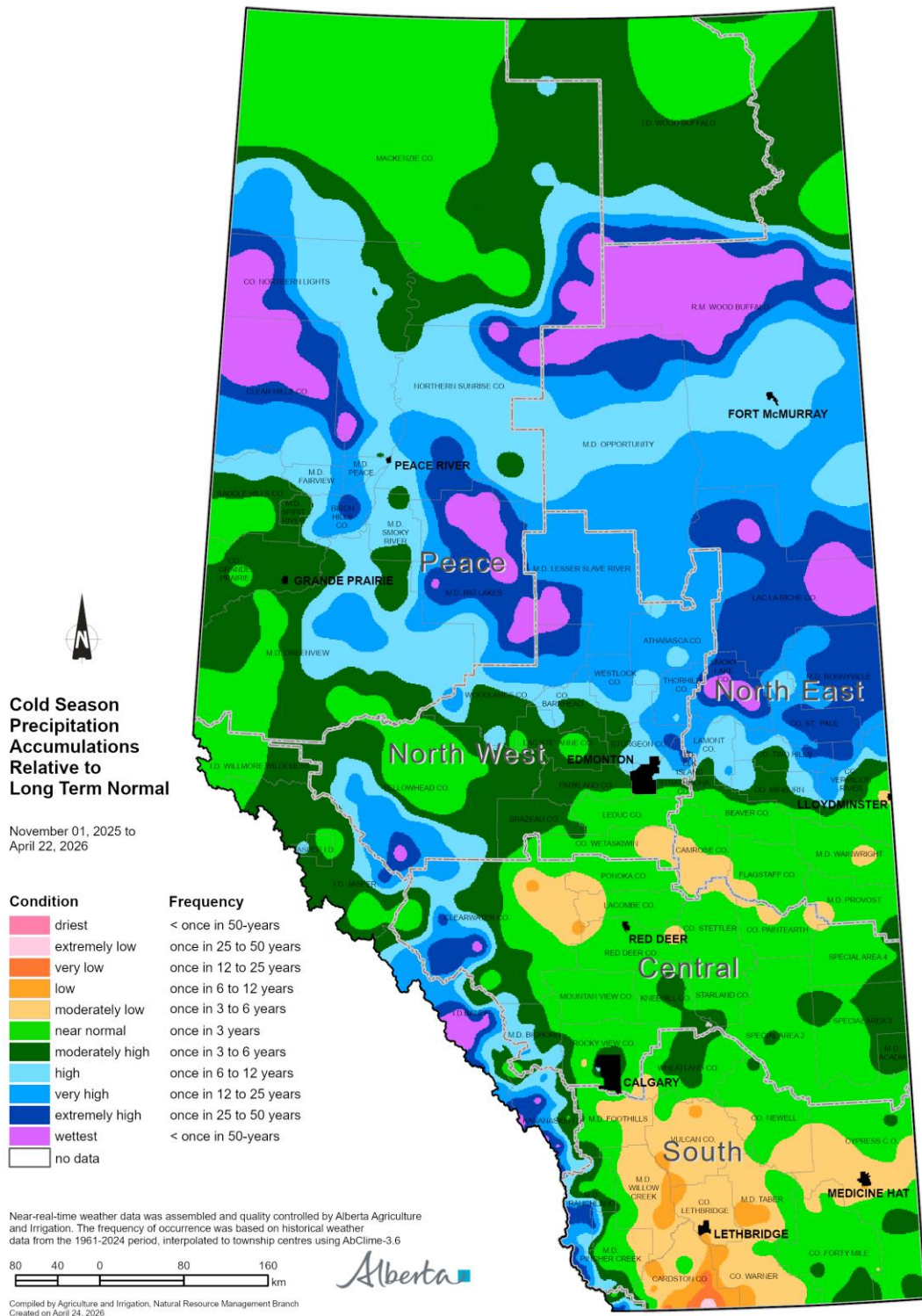
Map 2



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on April 24, 2026

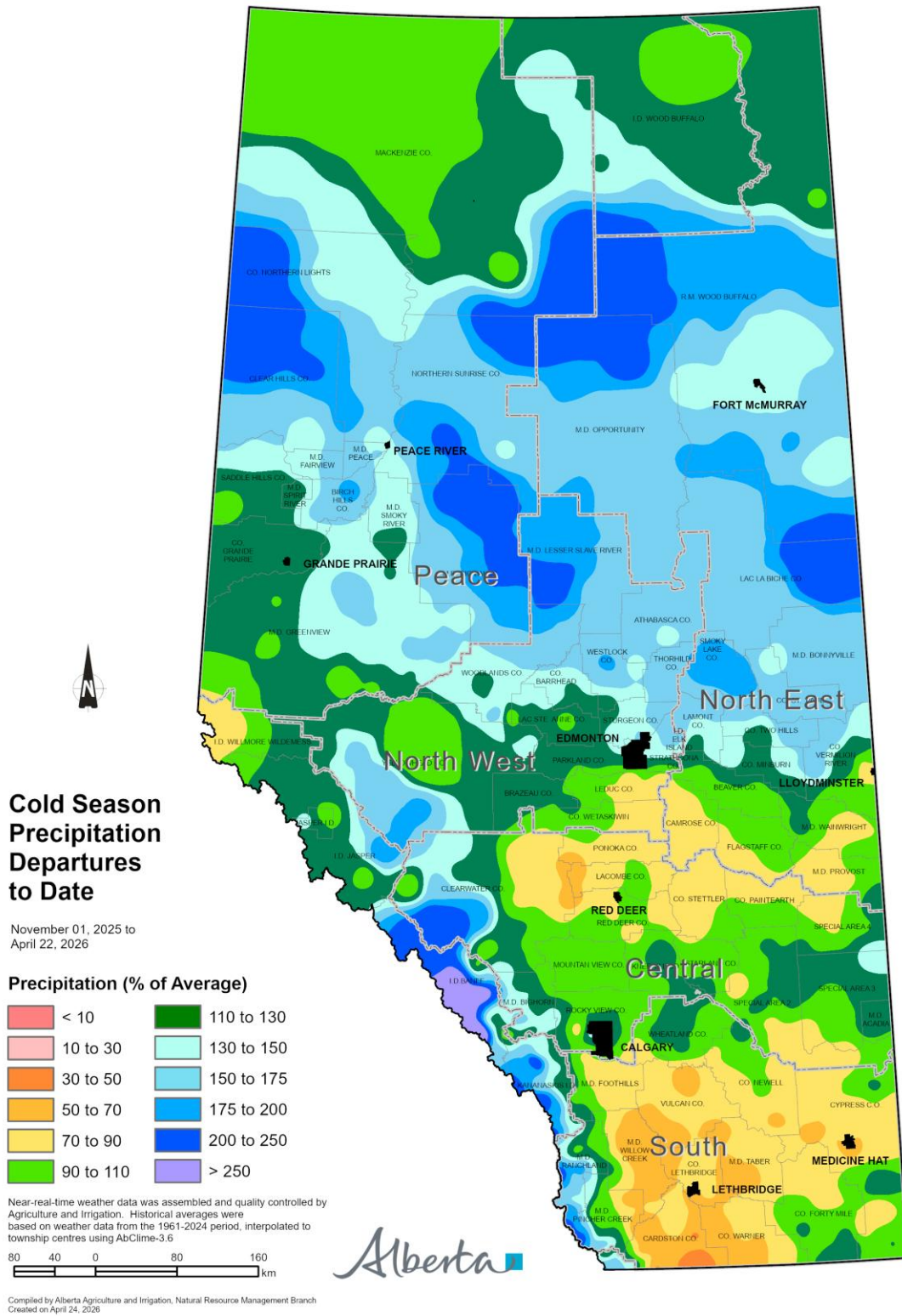
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Map 3



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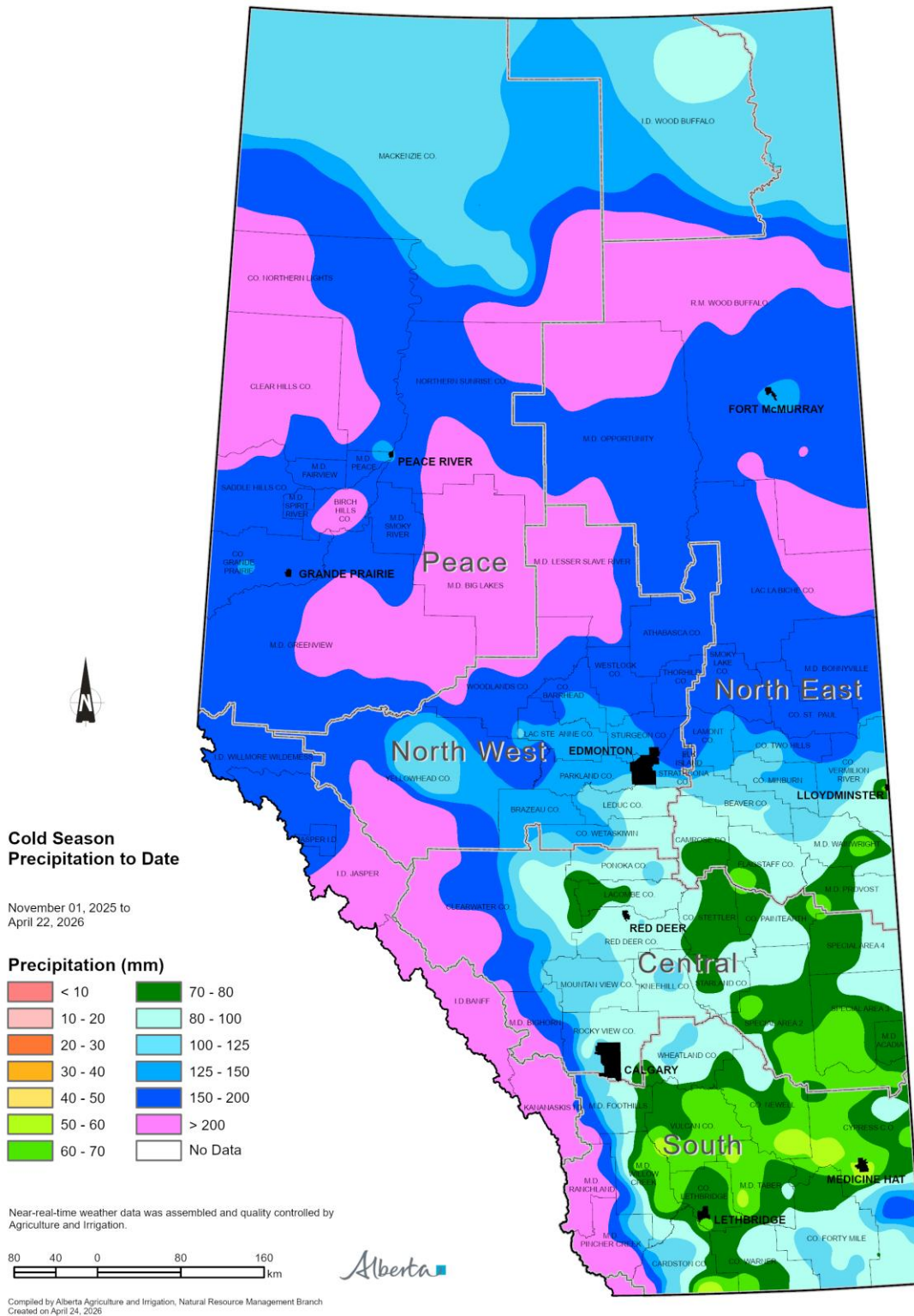
Map 4



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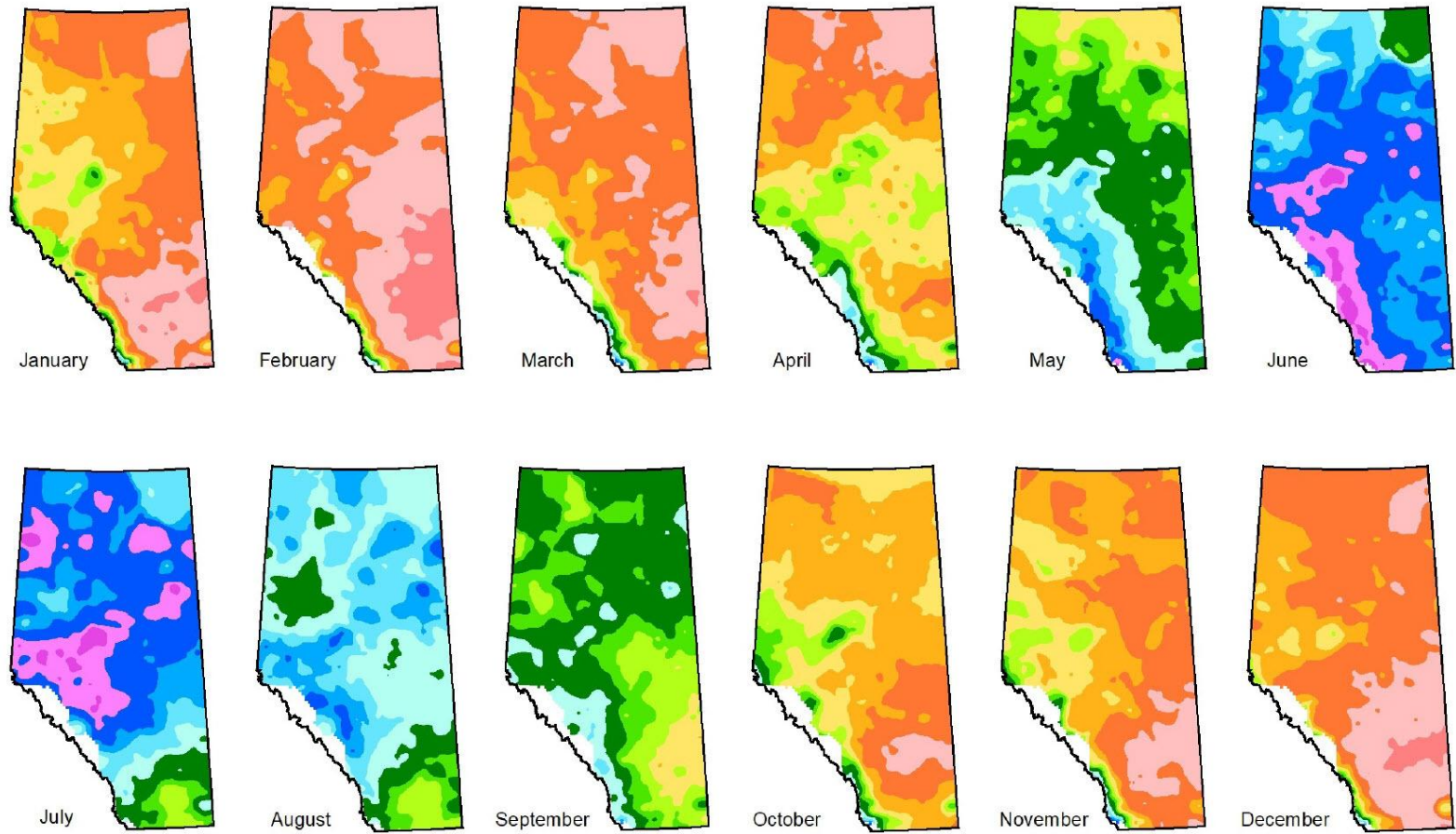


Map 5



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 6



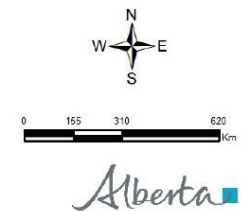
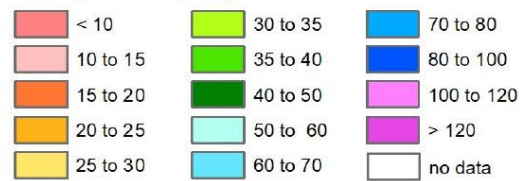
Normal Monthly Precipitation Accumulations

1991-2020

Weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture Forestry and Rural Economic Development then interpolated to township centres using AbClima-3.6

Compiled by Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on March 29, 2022

Precipitation (mm)



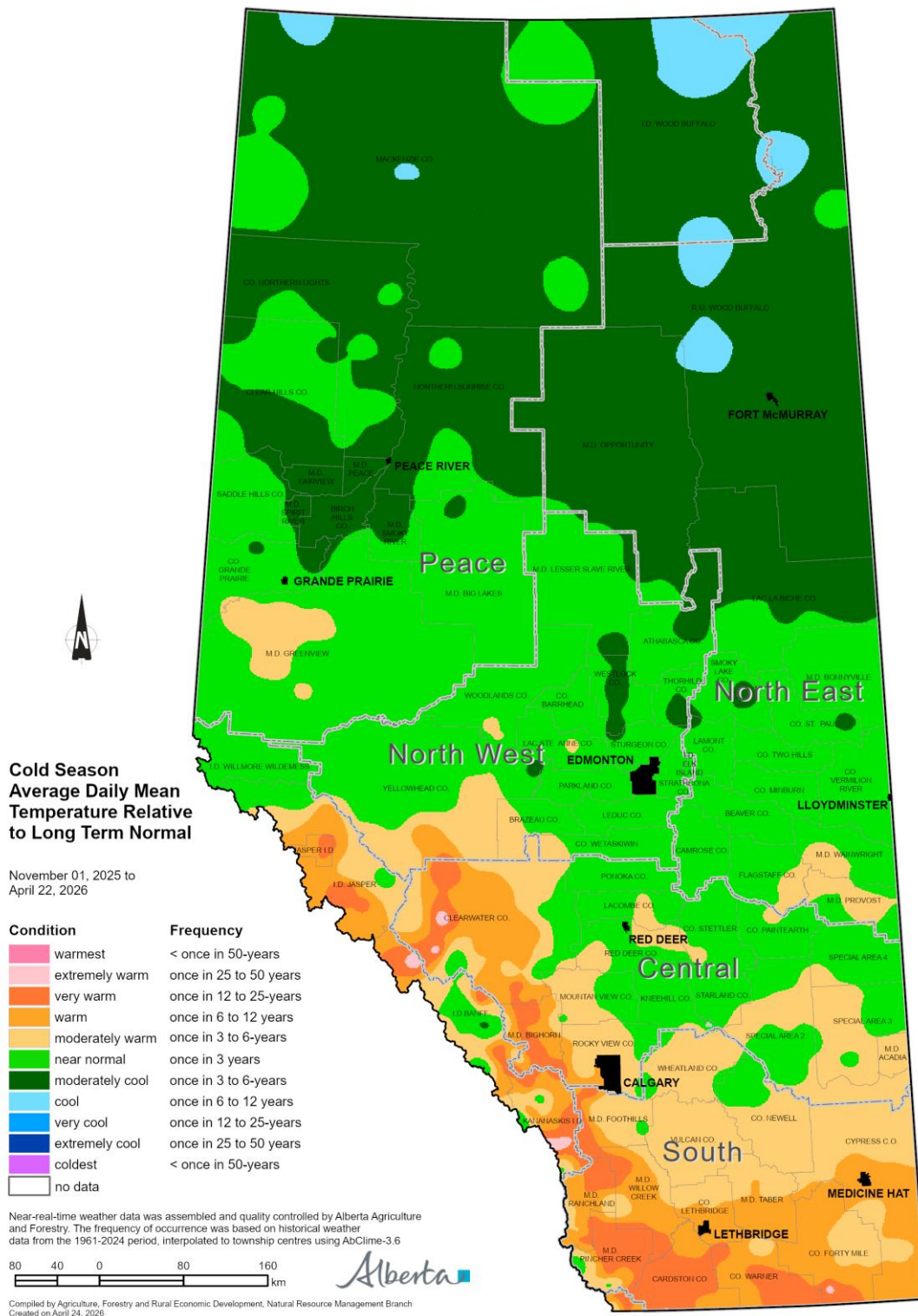
Alberta

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/moisture-situation-update>

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Map 7



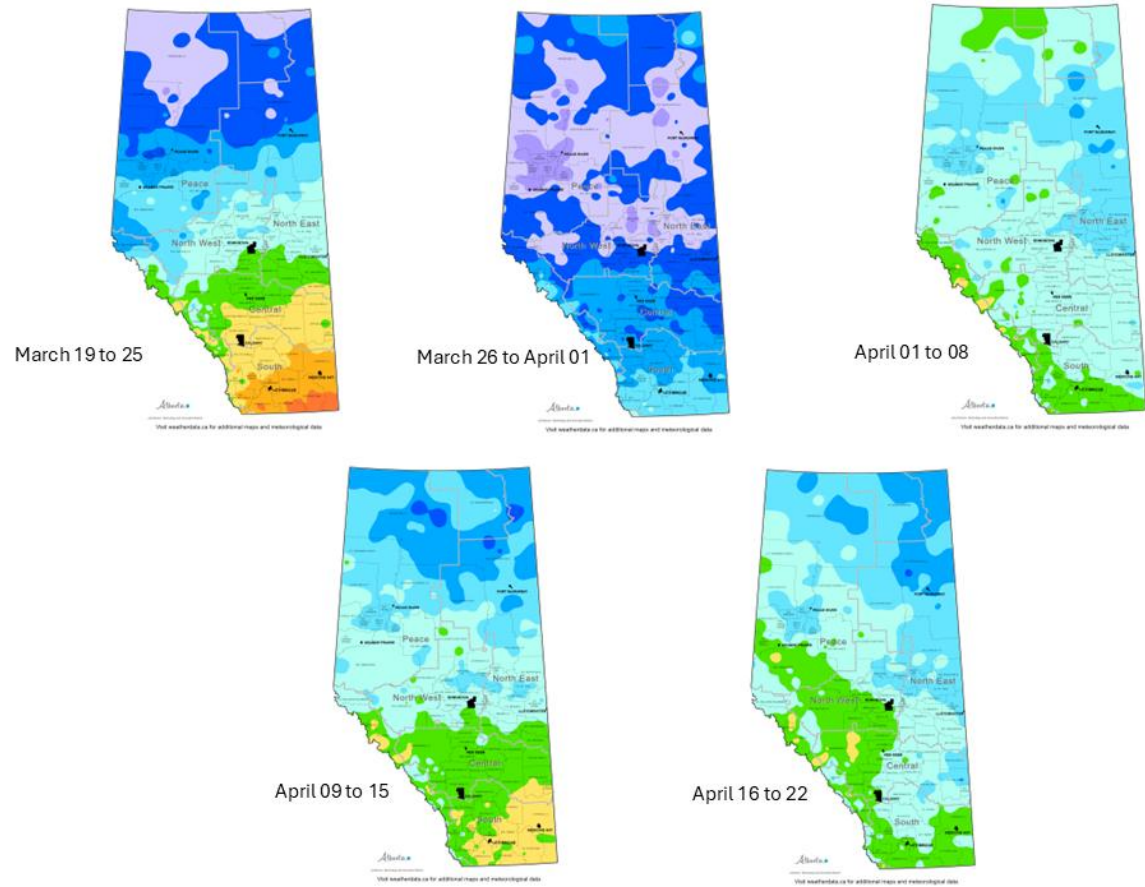
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Map 8

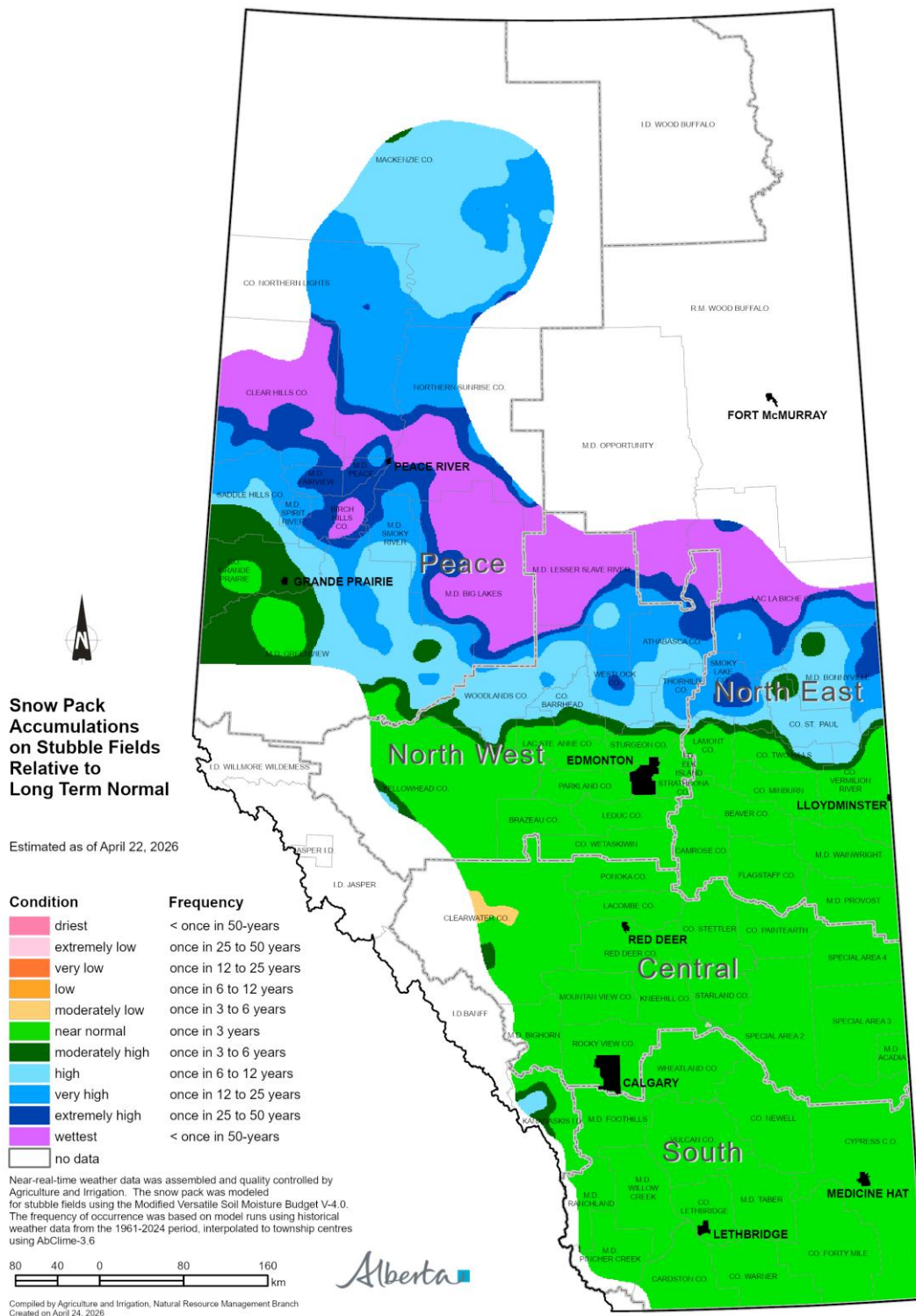
Map 8

07-Day Average Daily Mean Temperature Departure From Long Term Average

March 19th to
April 22nd

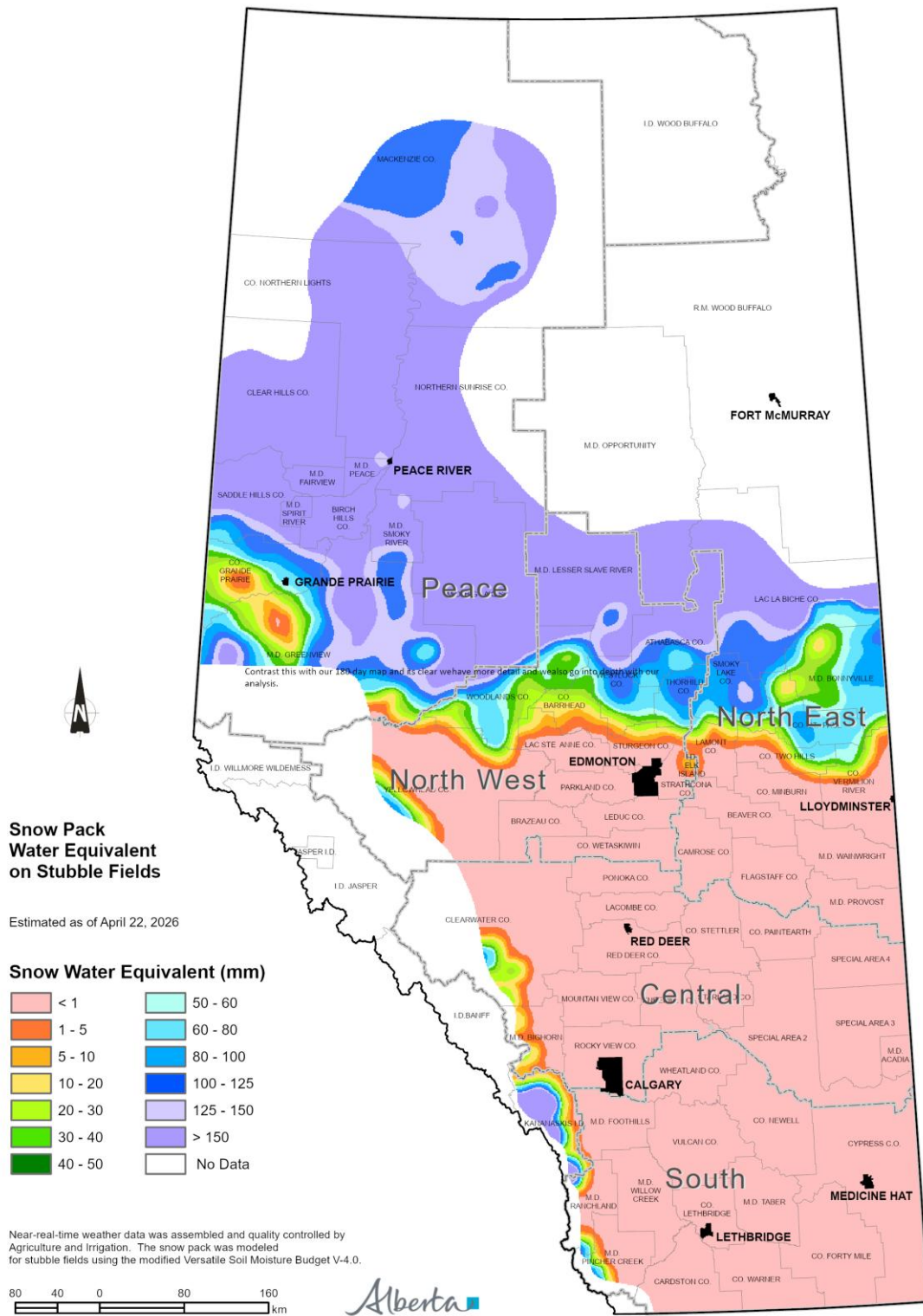


Map 9



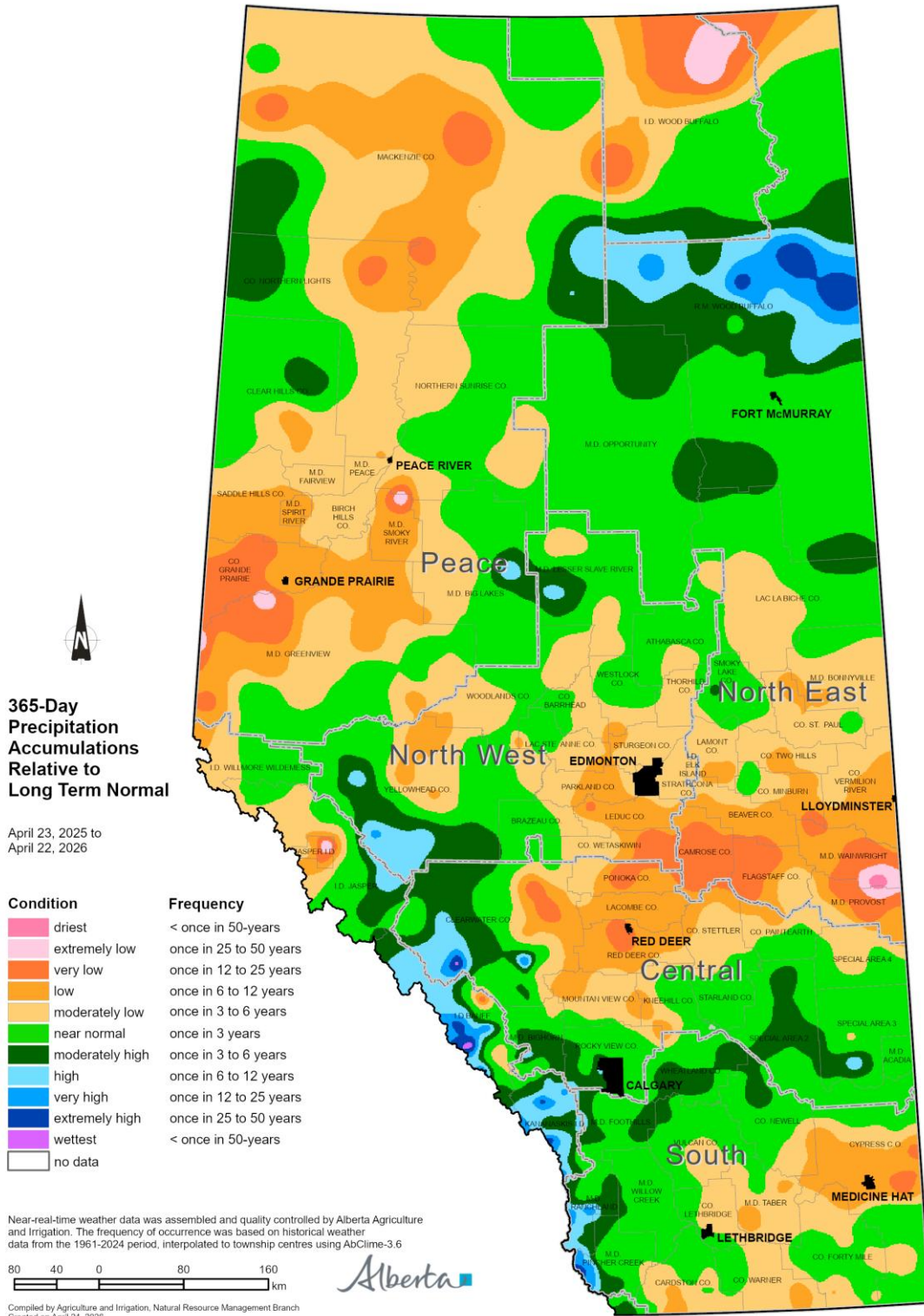
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Map 10



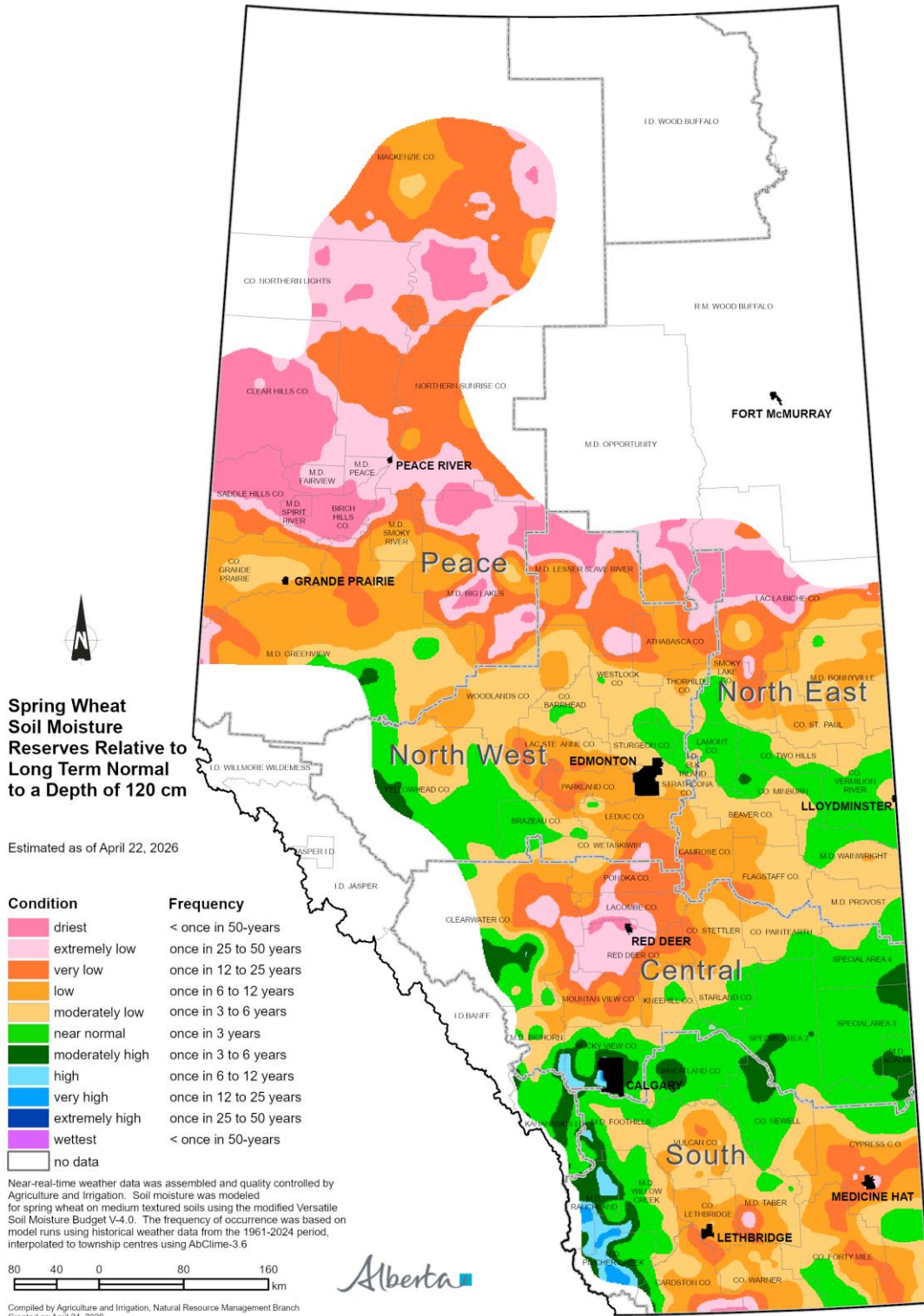
Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 11



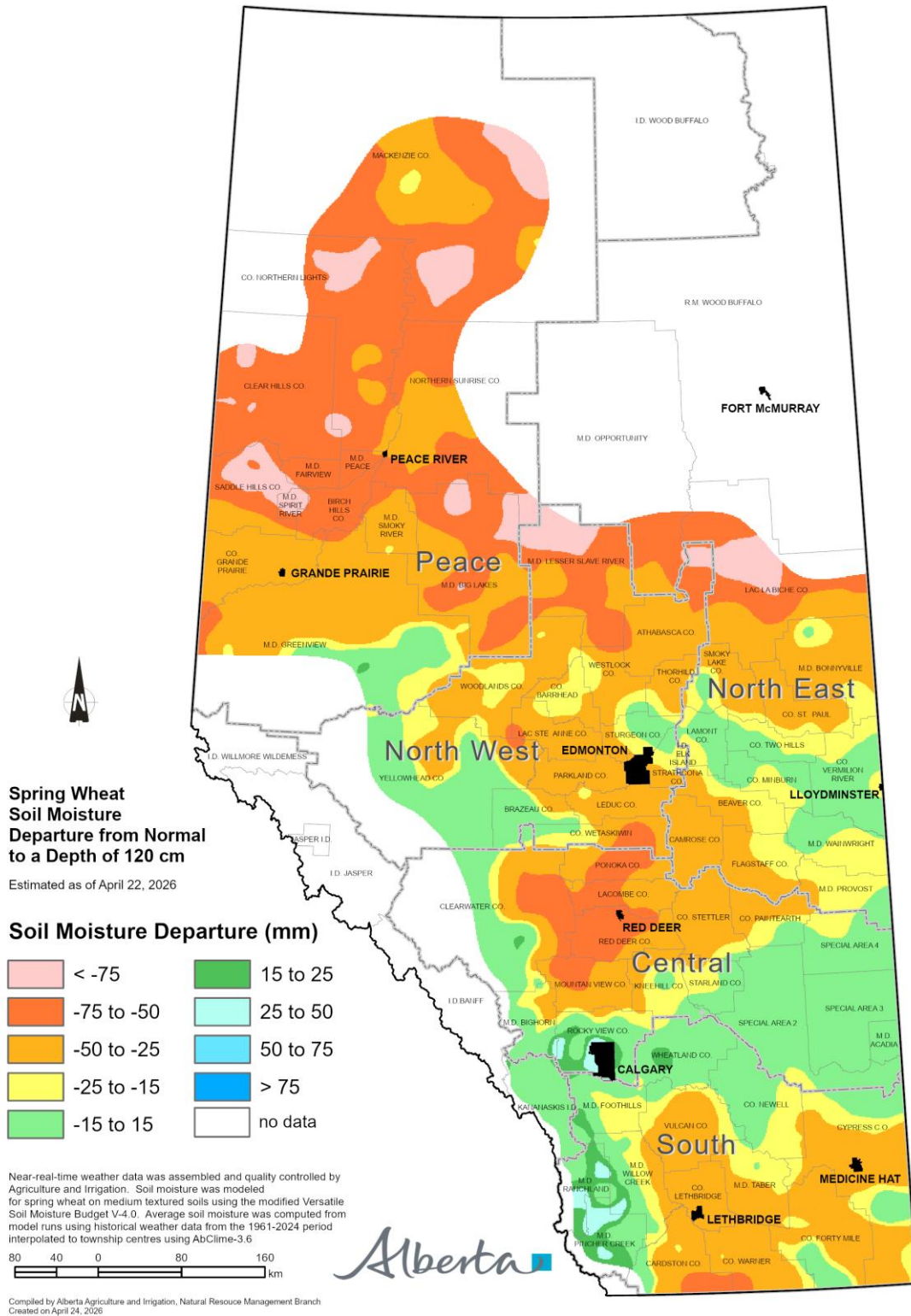
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Map 12

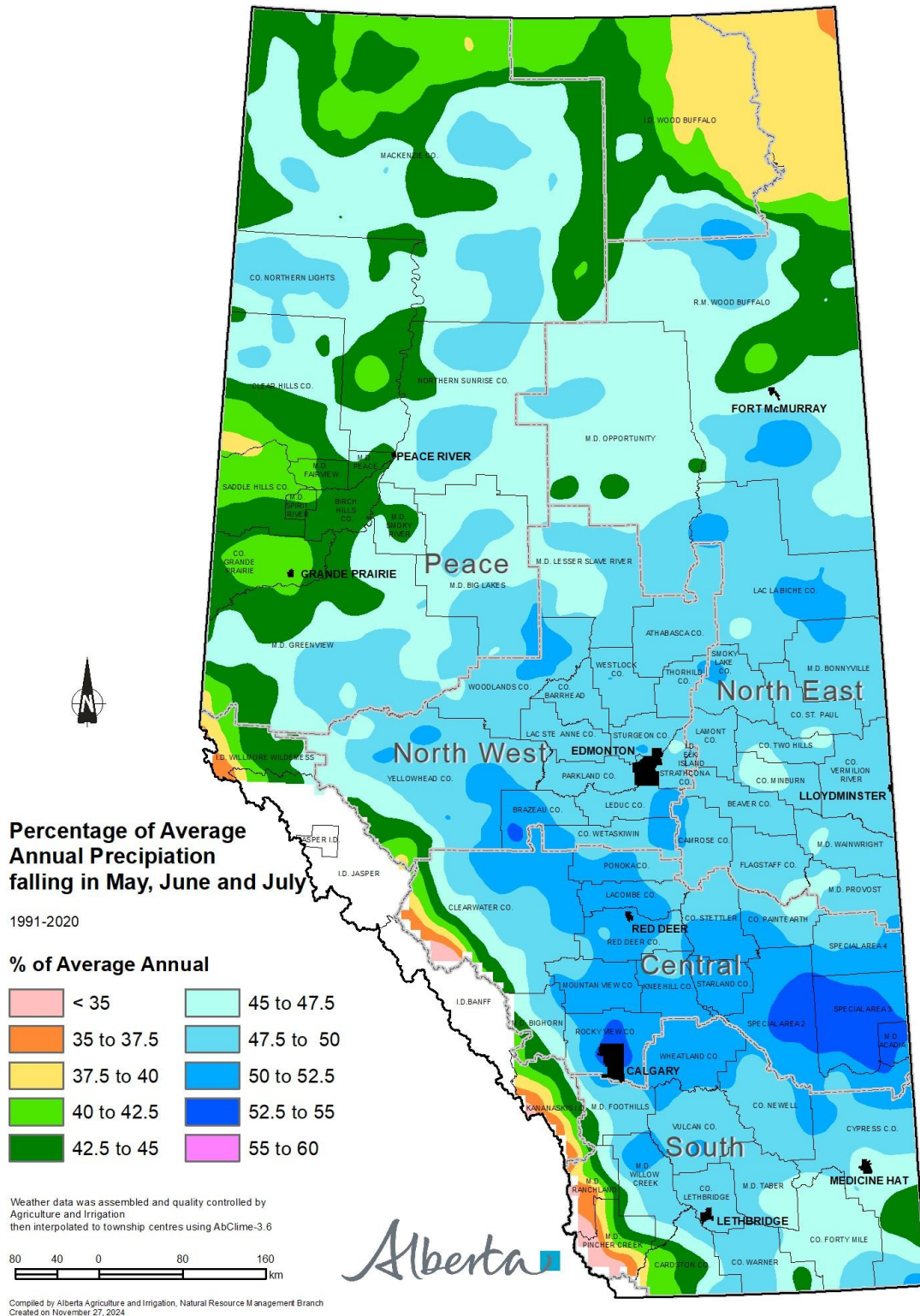


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Map 13



Map 14



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Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

May 07, 2026

Precipitation

Since the April 22 report, scattered precipitation has occurred across Alberta (**Maps 1 and 2**). Precipitation totals were notably higher during the weeks of April 22 and 29 than during the period from April 30 to May 6. In fact, very little precipitation fell across most of the province between April 30 and May 6 (**Map 4**).

The highest precipitation amounts during the week of April 22 to 29 fell largely in non-agricultural areas. Municipalities extending from Greenview south along the mountains and foothills to Cardston received between 10 and 40 mm of precipitation, with isolated areas in Ranchland and Pincher Creek exceeding 40 mm. In the North East Region, municipalities from Vermilion River east to Smoky Lake and north to Wood Buffalo also received 10 to 40 mm, with one isolated area receiving 40 to 50 mm. Precipitation totals during this week exceeded 200 per cent of normal in these areas (**Map 3**).

Some agricultural areas in portions of the North East, Central, and South Regions did receive precipitation during the week of April 22. Amounts generally ranged from 3 to 10 mm, which is below average for most locations at this time of year (**Maps 1 and 3**).

The lowest precipitation totals—less than 3 mm—were observed across much of the Peace Region (**Map 1**). This represents less than 30 per cent of average precipitation for the region and time period (**Maps 1 and 3**). Similarly low totals were recorded across large portions of the North West Region and in parts of the Central and South Regions.

Growing-season precipitation accumulation to date (April 1 to May 6) has been moderately high to high across several municipalities in the North East Region, including parts of Vermilion River, St. Paul, Lamont, Thorhild, Athabasca, Smoky Lake, Bonnyville, Lac La Biche, and Wood Buffalo (**Map 5**). These areas have received approximately 110 to 175 per cent of normal precipitation so far this growing season (**Map 6**). Much of the remaining North East Region has received near-normal growing-season precipitation.

North of Edmonton, as well as in portions of the North West Region, growing-season precipitation has been near normal so far this year (**Map 5**). However, a large area in the central part of the North West Region—

including Yellowhead, Woodlands, and parts of Lac Ste. Anne, Parkland, and Brazeau Counties—is experiencing moderately low precipitation accumulation. These areas have received roughly 30 to 90 per cent of normal precipitation to date (**Map 6**).

The Peace Region received above-normal precipitation during the previous cold season, with the highest totals observed in the central and northern Peace. So far this growing season, areas north of the Peace River have generally received near-normal precipitation (**Map 5**). In contrast, much of the southern Peace Region; from Clear Hills south to Greenview and east through Big Lakes and Opportunity to the southern portion of Northern Sunrise, has received below-normal precipitation. These areas have accumulated less than 50 per cent of normal growing-season precipitation to date (**Map 6**).

In the Central Region, eastern and southern areas, along with a few locations in the South Region, have received near-normal growing-season precipitation (**Map 5**). However, municipalities in the core of the Central Region—including Leduc, Ponoka, Lacombe, Stettler, Camrose, and parts of Red Deer and Clearview—have received below-normal precipitation. Much of this area has accumulated less than 70 per cent of normal precipitation so far this growing season (**Map 6**).

Most of the South Region is also experiencing below-normal precipitation accumulation (**Map 5**). Parts of the municipalities of Cardston, Warner, Forty Mile, and Cypress have received less than 50 per cent of normal growing-season precipitation to date (**Map 6**).

It is important to note that typical spring precipitation across Alberta is relatively limited; April precipitation usually totals only 15 to 30 mm across much of the province (**Map 7**). Historically, precipitation increases substantially in May. Long-term forecasts are currently indicating the potential for above-normal rainfall during May and June.

Temperature

Average daily temperatures so far this growing season have been near long-term normal in municipalities west of a line extending south from Saddle Hills through Greenview, Brazeau, Mountain View, Rocky

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View, Foothills, Lethbridge, Taber, and Forty Mile (**Map 8**).

Municipalities east of this line have experienced moderately cool to cool average daily mean temperatures relative to long-term normal (**Map 8**). The coolest conditions occurred along the eastern border, extending from Special Areas and Acadia northward through Beaver and Westlock, and into Opportunity and Wood Buffalo.

Overall, the growing-season 7-day average daily mean temperature has ranged from near normal to moderately cooler than long-term normal (**Map 9**). So far this growing season, the first three weeks experienced near normal to moderately cooler temperatures. One week the province experienced very to extremely cool temperatures relative to normal, while another week was moderately warmer than normal.

365-Day Precipitation Trends

Year-over-year conditions remain highly variable, with significant precipitation deficits persisting across much of Alberta (**Map 10**). In most of the Central, North East, North West, and Peace Regions, 365-day precipitation totals range from moderately low to very low relative to long-term normal.

Several areas; including portions of the municipalities of Grande Prairie, Greenview, Northern Lights, Camrose, Flagstaff, Beaver, Wainwright, and Provost; are experiencing very to extremely low 365-day precipitation accumulations. In contrast, only a few isolated areas across the province show normal to moderately high 365-day precipitation totals compared with long-term normal (**Map 10**).

Soil Moisture Reserves

Estimated soil moisture reserves as of May 6 have changed since the previous report. Spring wheat soil moisture reserves, assessed to a depth of 120 cm and expressed relative to long-term normal, have begun to improve in parts of the Peace Region and in northern portions of the North West and North East Regions as cold-season precipitation continues to infiltrate the soil profile (**Map 11**). Despite these improvements, soil moisture reserves across much of this area remain moderately to very low compared with long-term normals.

Across the Peace Region and northern portions of the North West and North East Regions, soil moisture reserves are estimated to be 60 mm or greater (**Map 12**). This corresponds to a soil moisture

departure of approximately -15 to -50 mm relative to normal at the 120 cm depth (**Map 13**).

South of a line running through the municipalities of Woodlands, Barrhead, Westlock, Thorhild, Smoky Lake, and Bonnyville, spring wheat soil moisture reserves have generally declined relative to long-term normal (**Map 11**). The largest declines are estimated along the southern border of the province, and particularly in and around the Red Deer area.

In parts of the agricultural region south of Edmonton, estimated soil moisture reserves are less than 80 mm, with most areas below 60 mm at the 120 cm depth (**Map 12**). While some locations show only minor departures of -5 to -15 mm from normal, many areas are experiencing more substantial deficits ranging from -25 to -75 mm (**Map 13**).

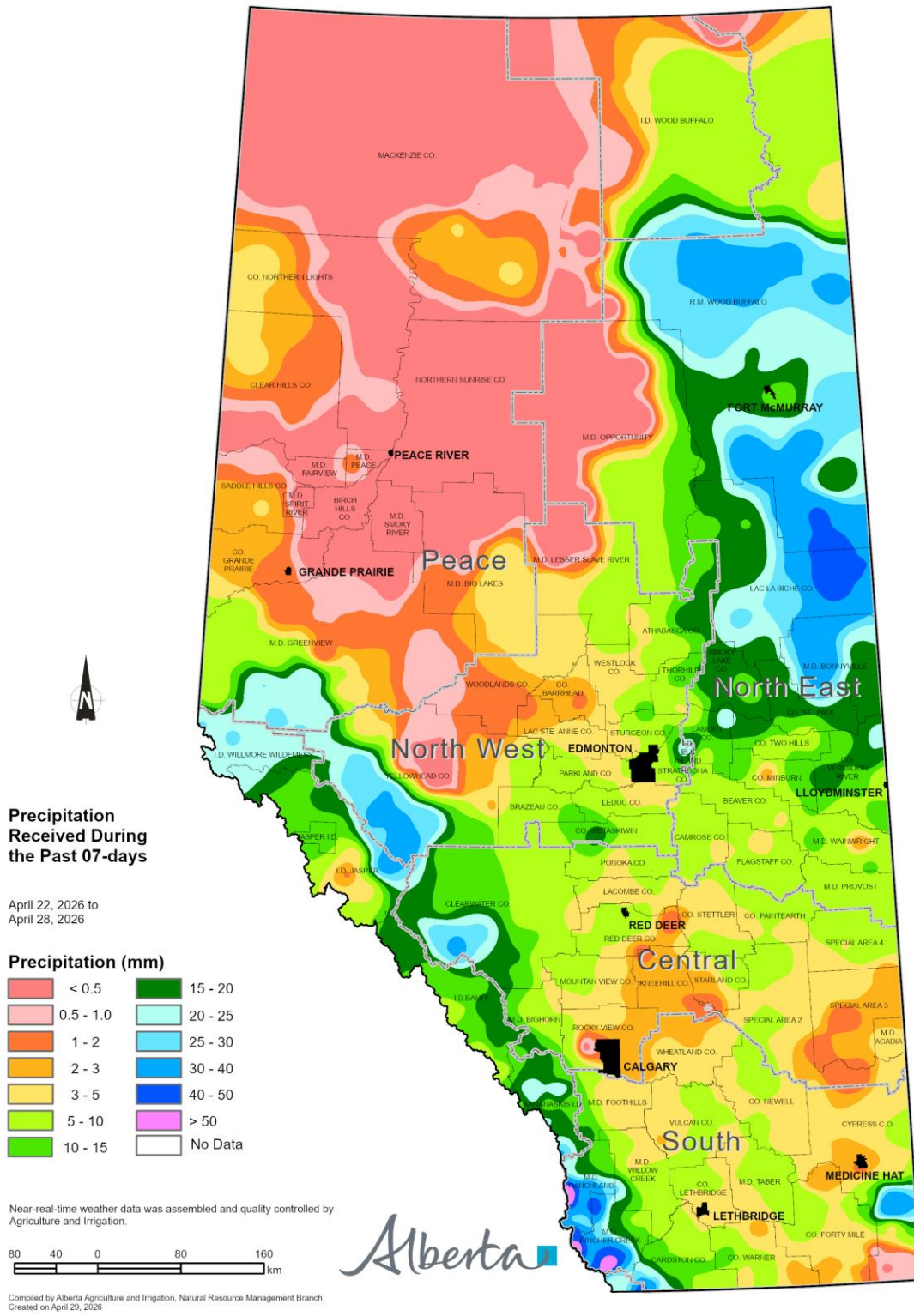
Perspective

Alberta's growing season is just beginning, and the province's wettest period is still ahead (**Map 7**). From an agricultural perspective, May, June, and July are the most critical months for moisture, accounting for more than 50 per cent of annual precipitation in the Central Region and at least 40 per cent across much of the Peace Region (**Map 14**).

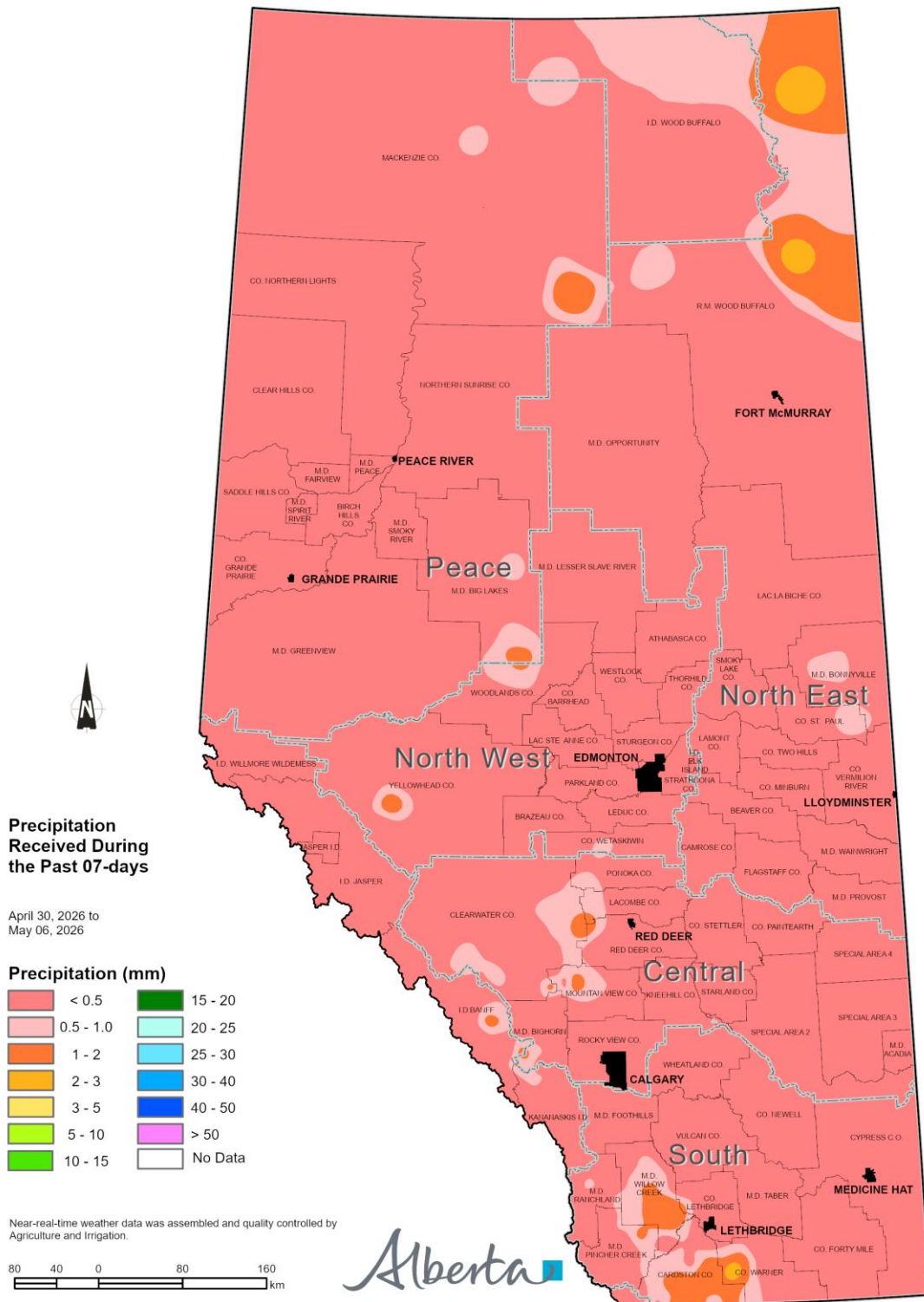
Current conditions have been favourable, allowing early fieldwork and seeding to begin and progress rapidly across much of the province. Forecasts continue to suggest the potential for additional rainfall in the coming weeks.

For now, patience remains important, with the expectation that timely spring precipitation will support crop development and help replenish soil moisture reserves, which are essential later in the growing season.

Map 1

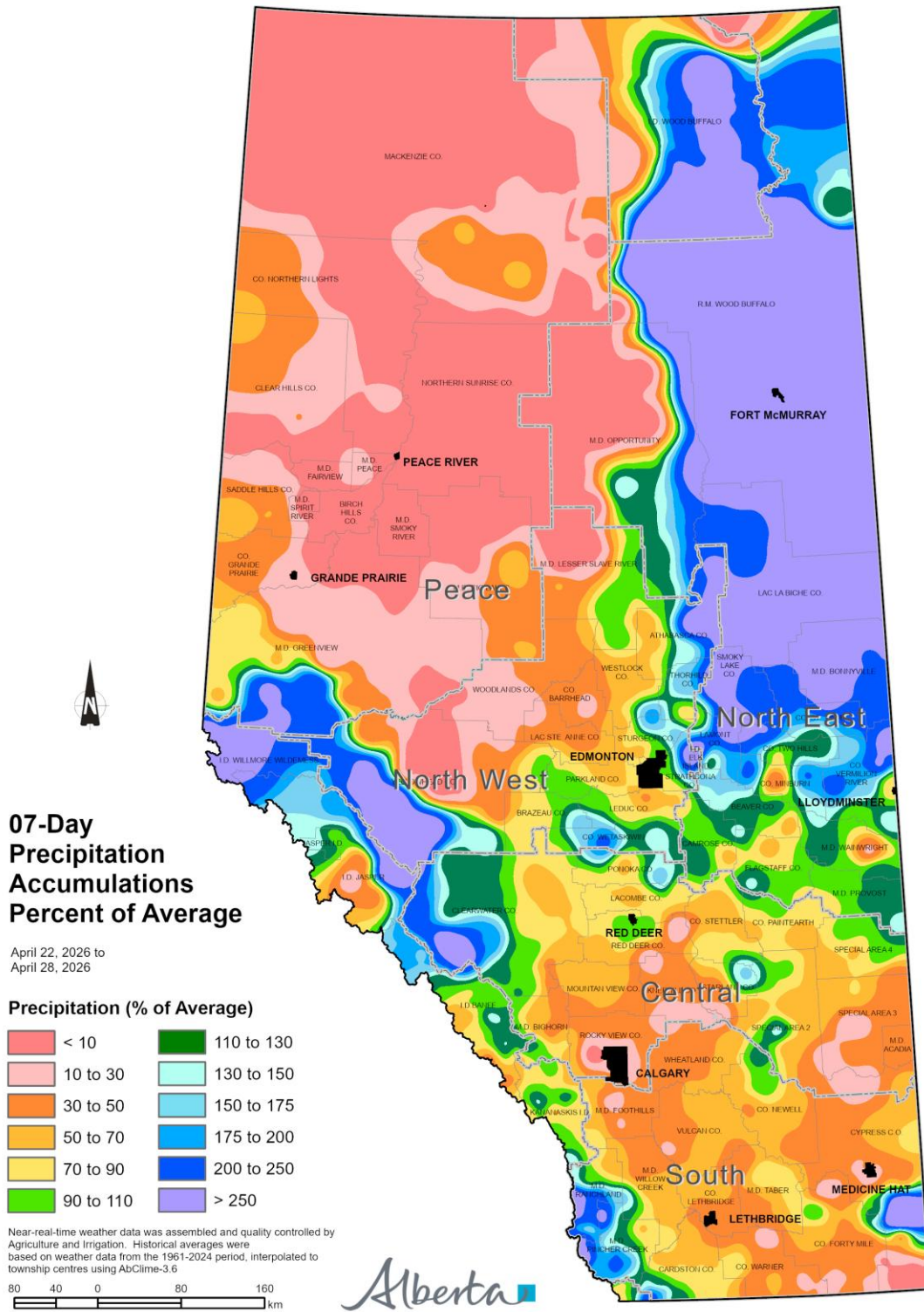


Map 2



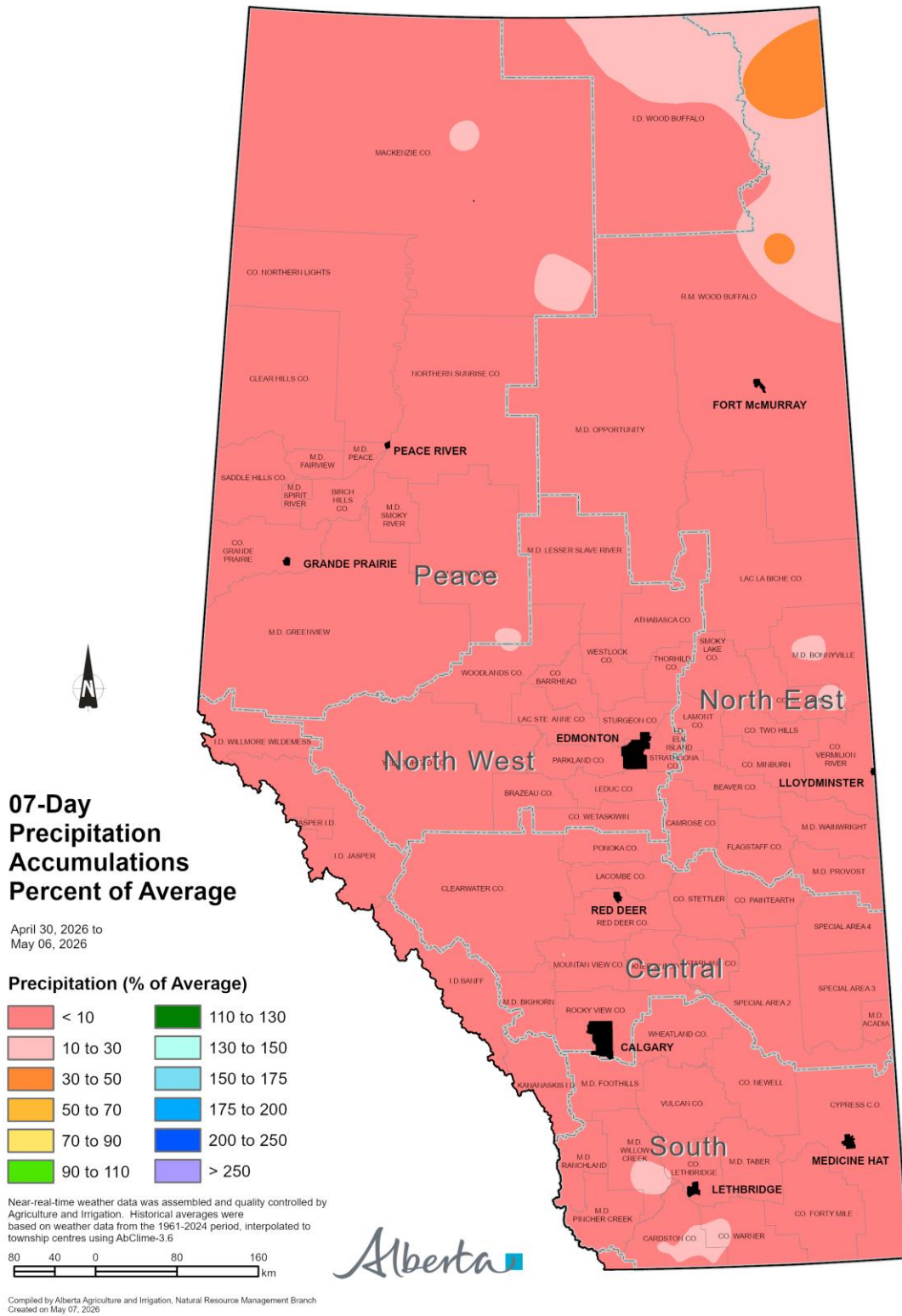
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Map 3



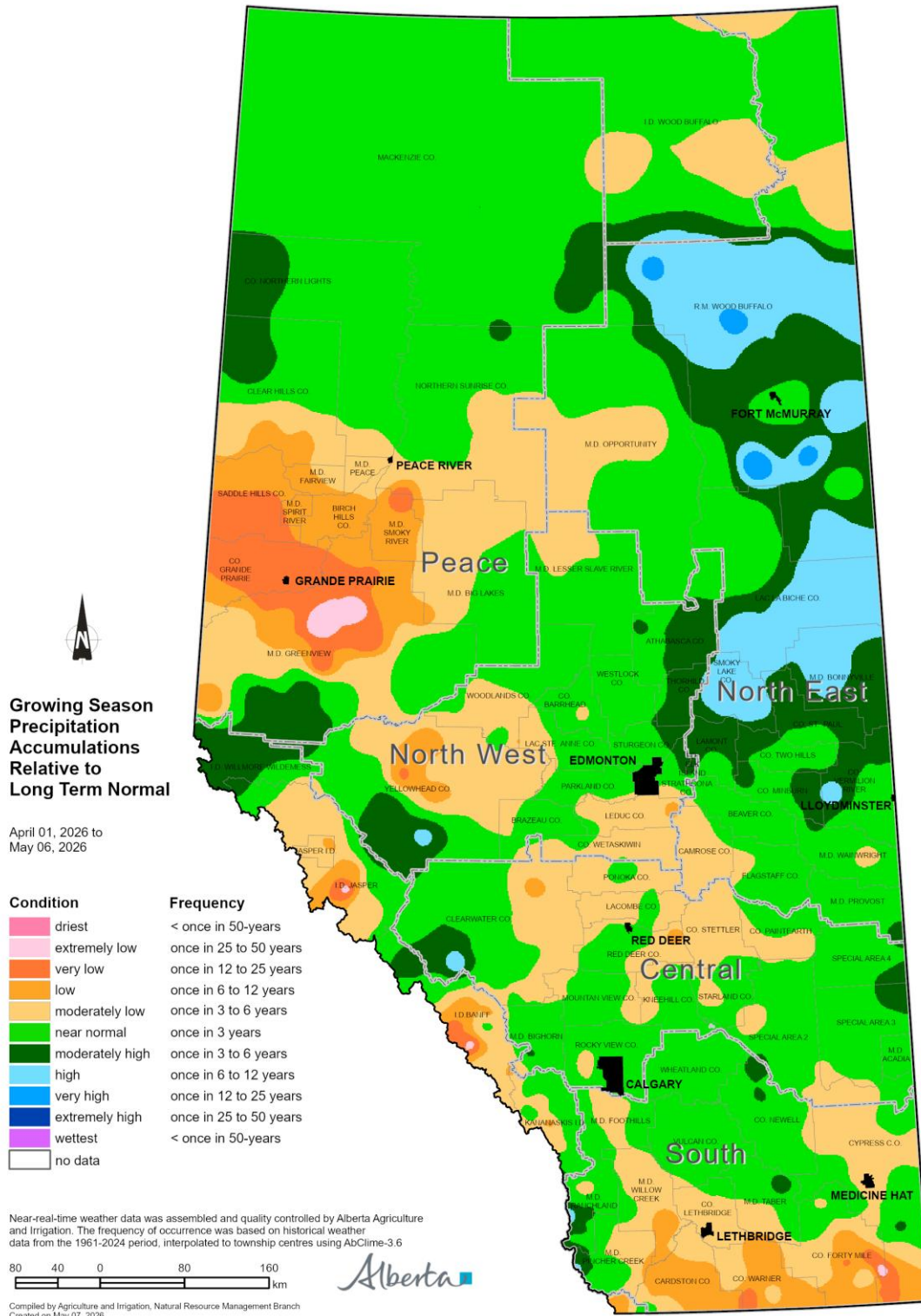
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Map 4



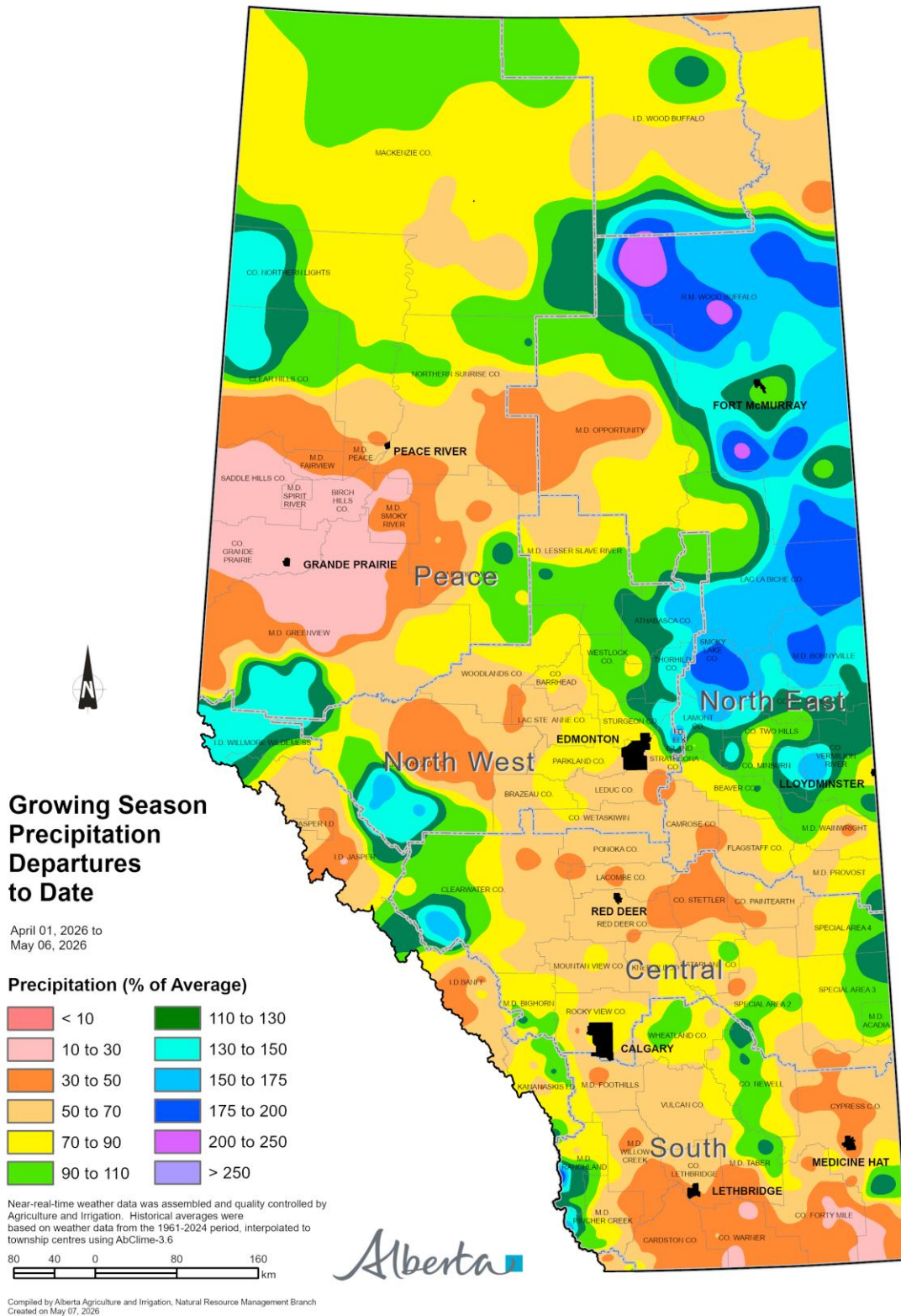
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Map 5



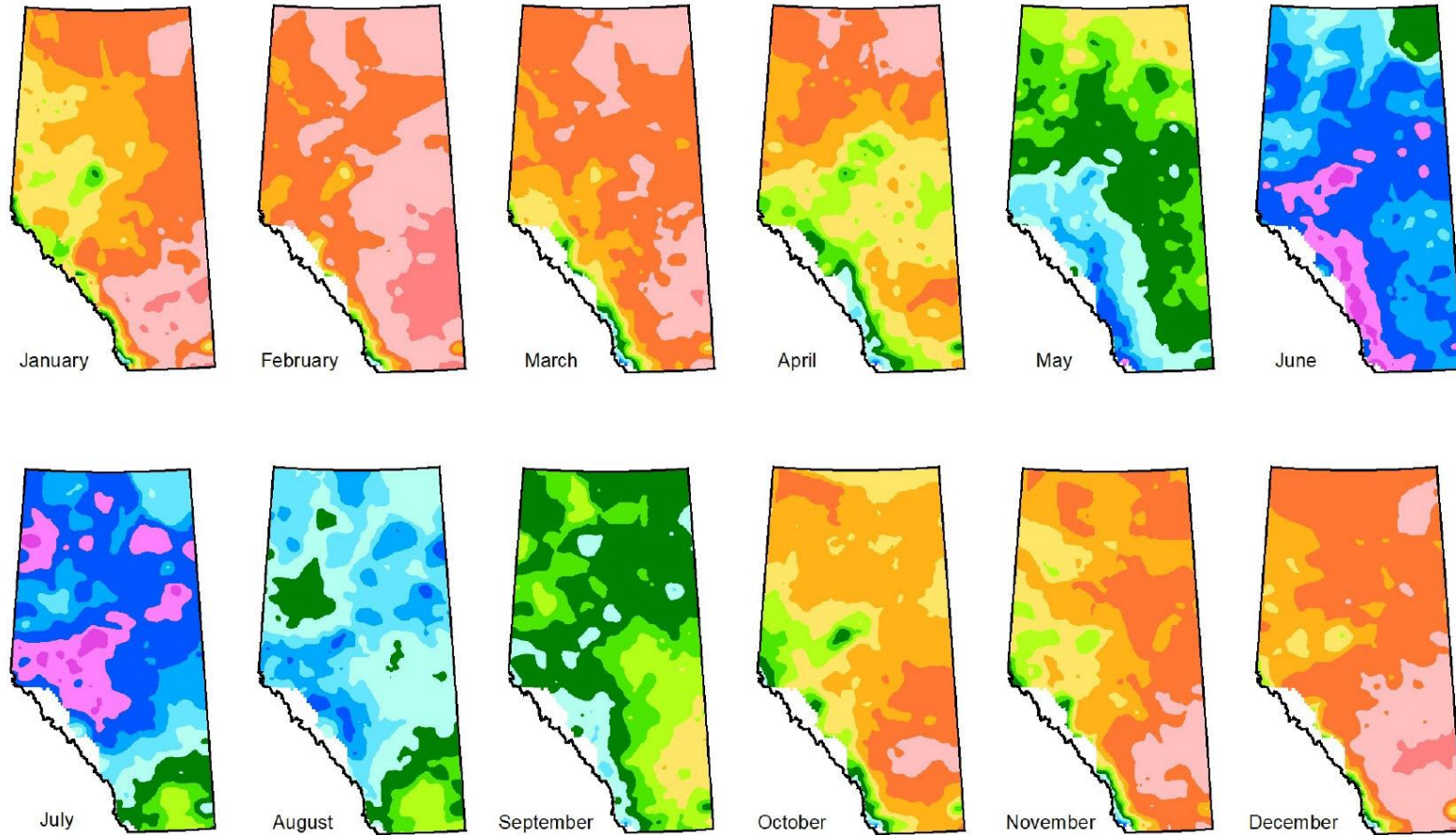
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Map 6



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Map 7



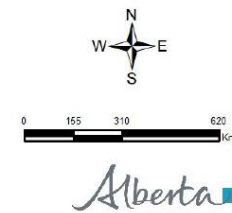
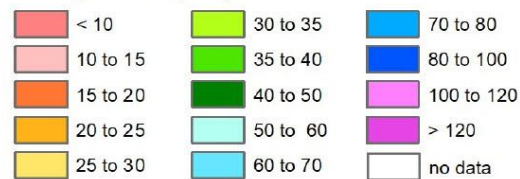
Normal Monthly Precipitation Accumulations

1991-2020

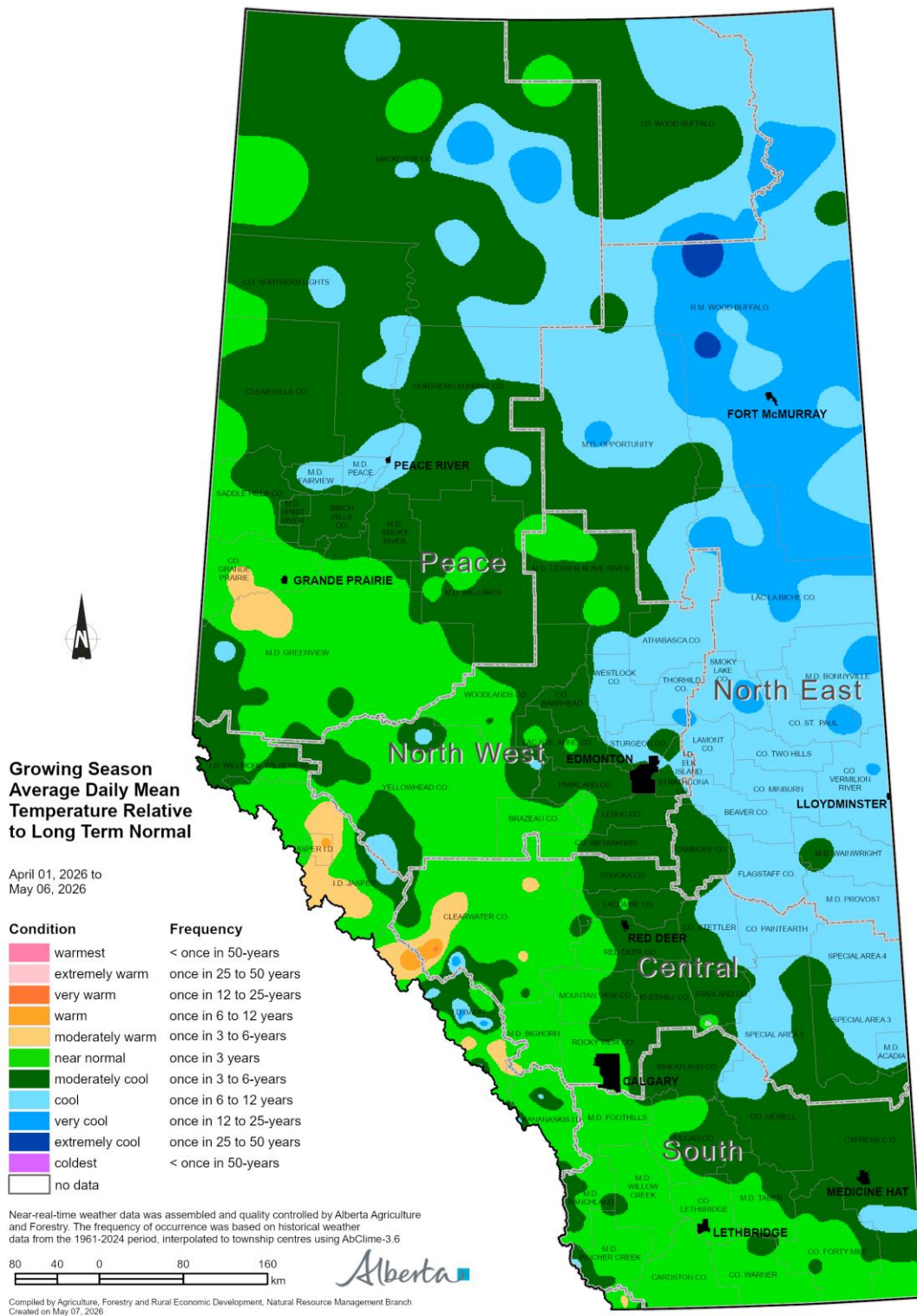
Weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture Forestry and Rural Economic Development then interpolated to township centres using AbClima-3.6

Compiled by Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on March 29, 2022

Precipitation (mm)



Map 8



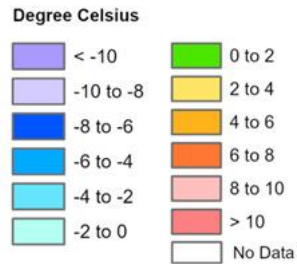
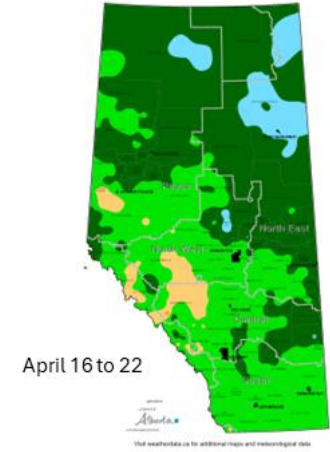
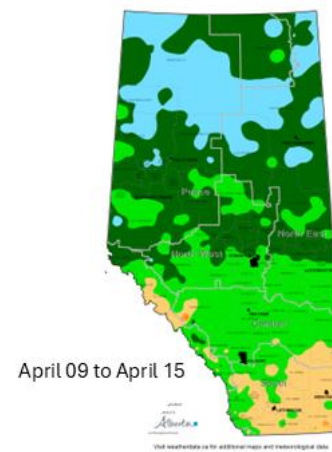
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Map 9

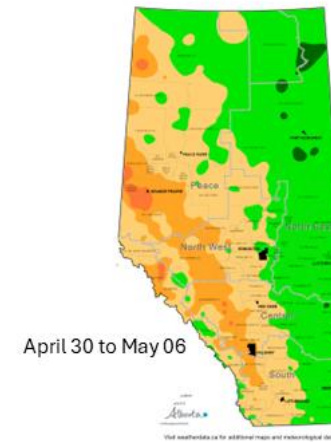
Map 9

07-Day
Average Daily Mean
Temperature Departure
From Long Term Average

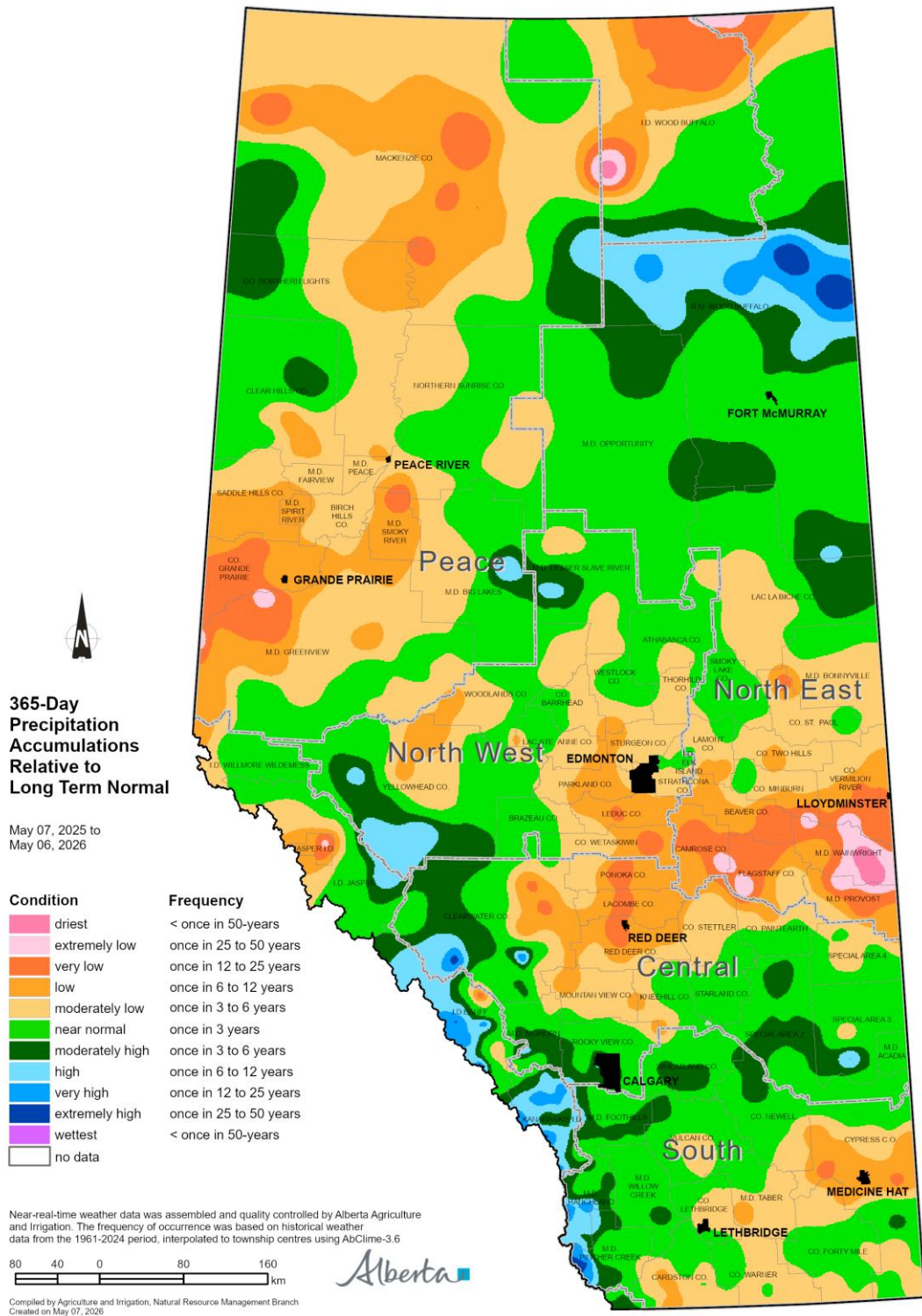
April 02nd to
May 06th



Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Historical averages were based on weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClimate-3.6

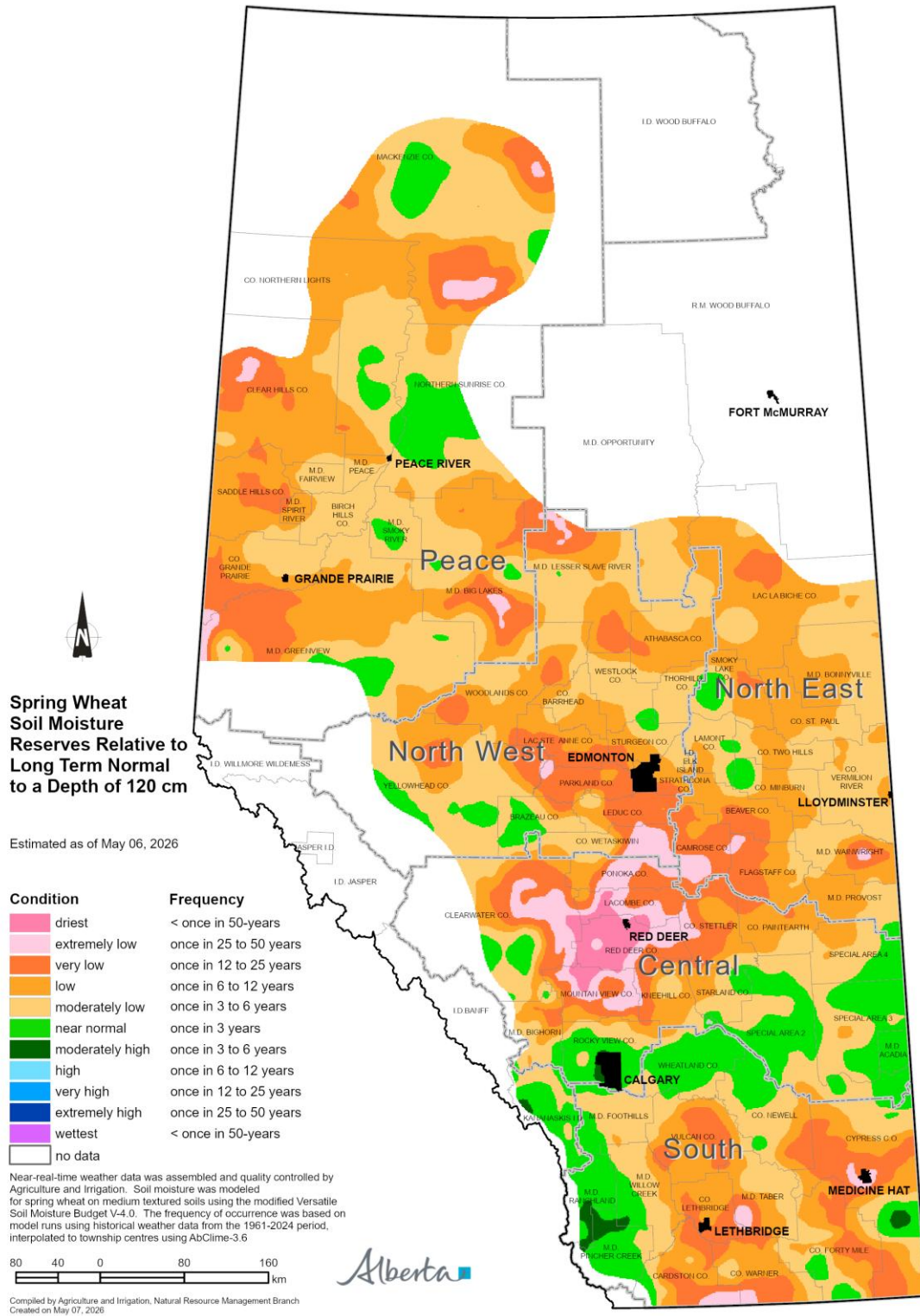


Map 10



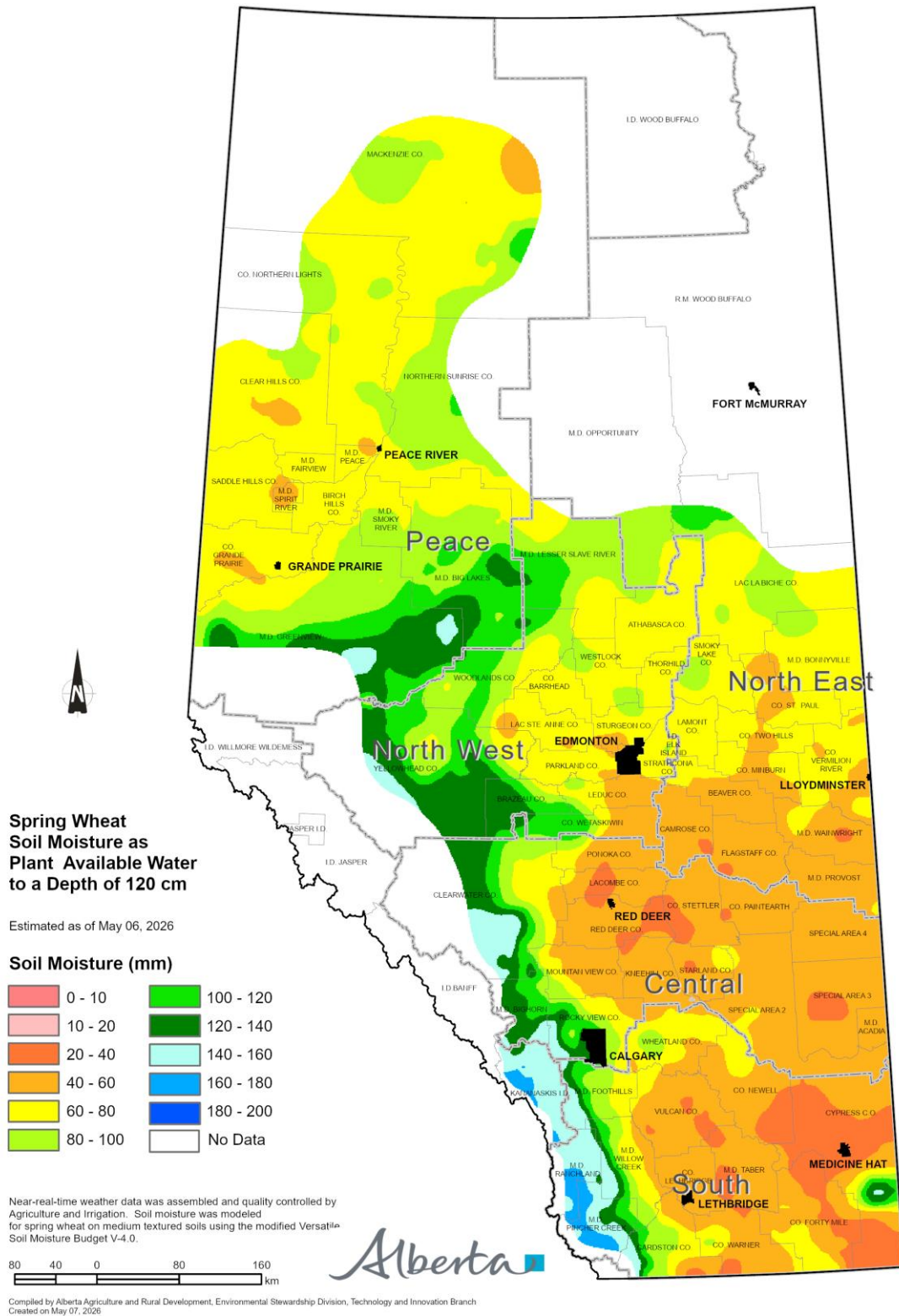
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Map 11



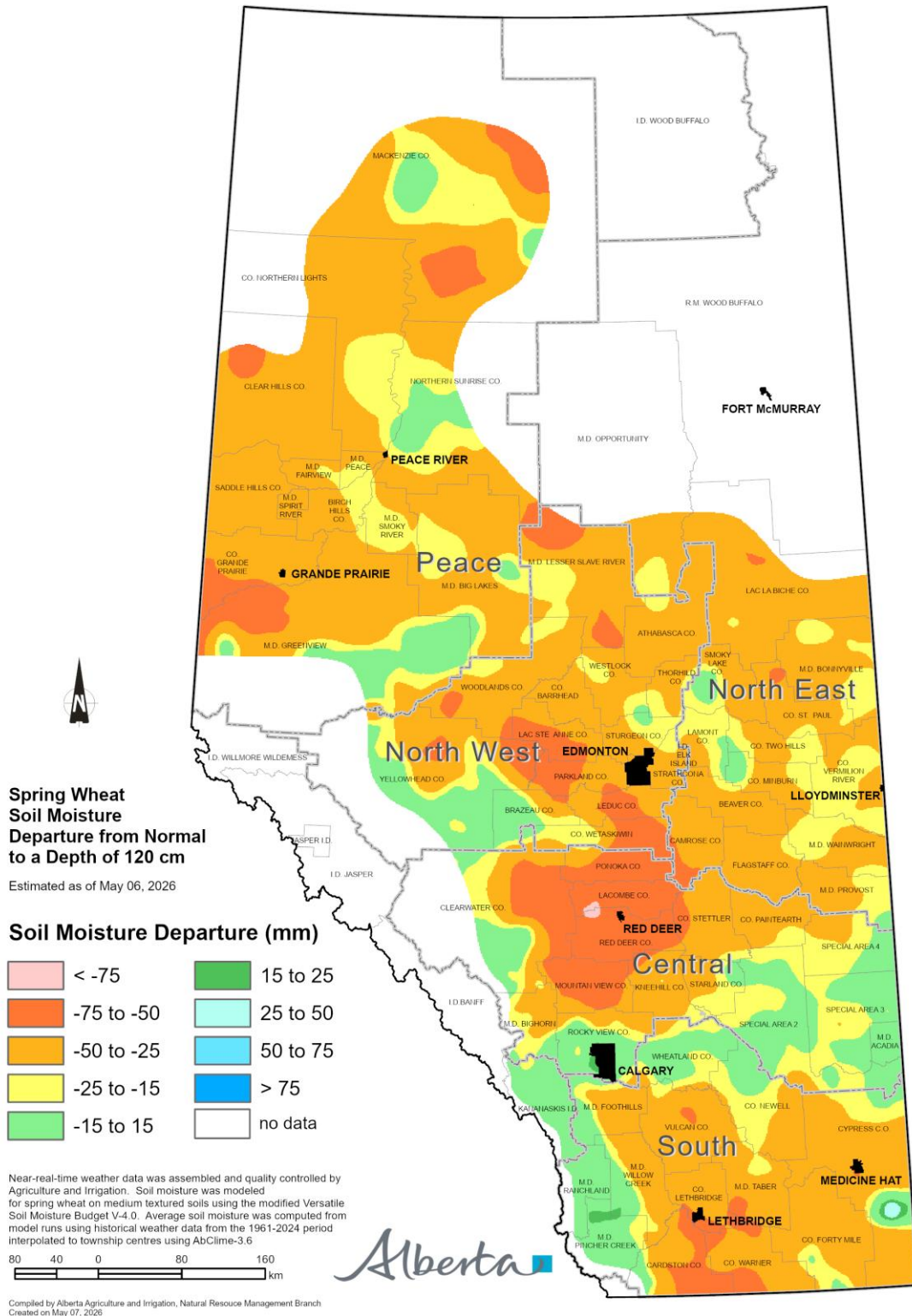
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Map 12

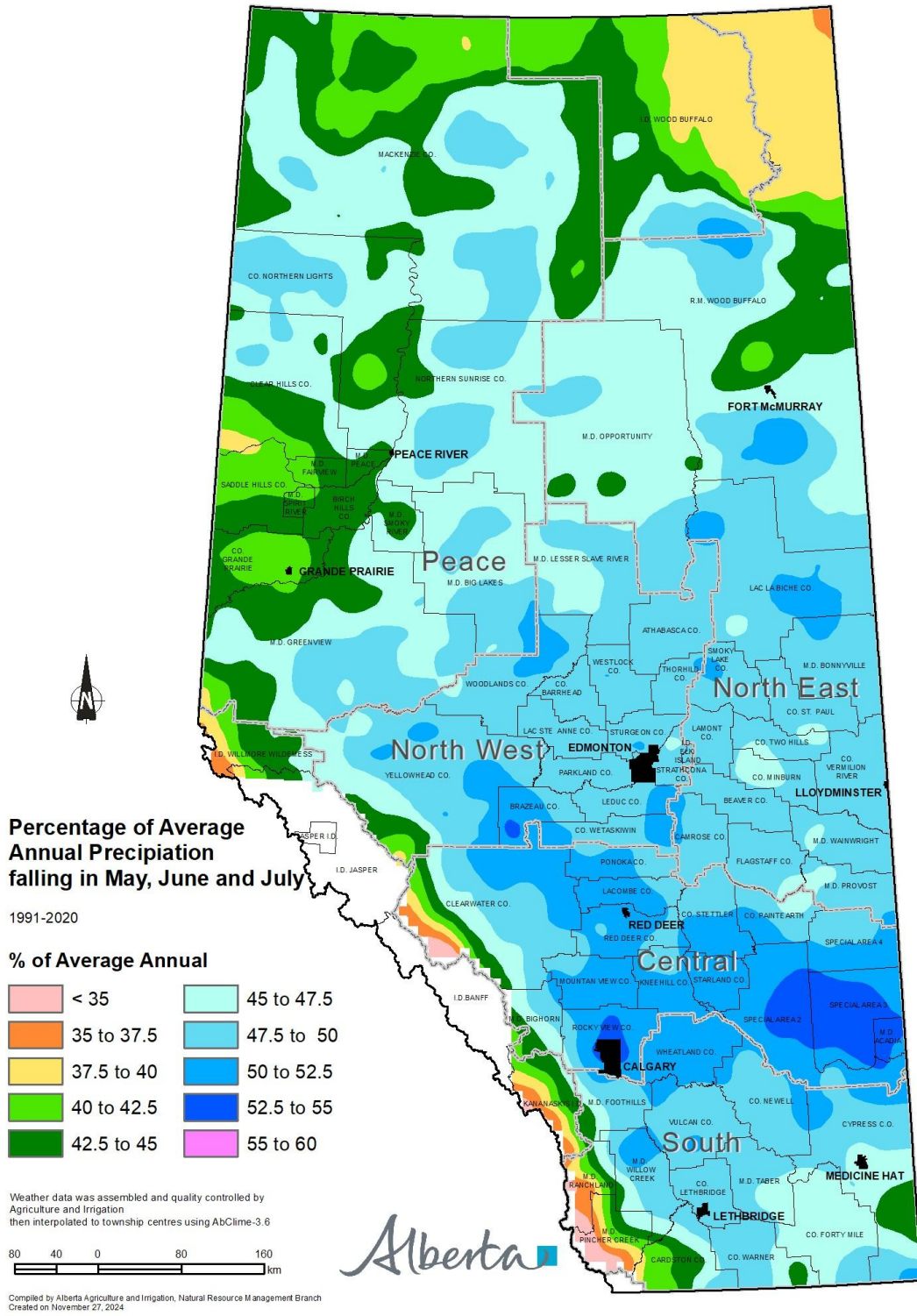


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Map 13



Map 14



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