



Smoky Lake County

December 2, 2025 - Agricultural Service Board Organizational Meeting - 09:00 AM

1 **Meeting Called To Order**

- 1.1 Election of Agricultural Service Board Chairperson.
- 1.1.1 Election of Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chairperson

2 **Adoption of Agenda**

3 **Adoption of Minutes**

- 3.1 Minutes of the Agricultural Service Board Meeting, Tuesday, October 7th, 2025.
 - 🔗 Minutes of the Agricultural Service Board Meeting, Tuesday, October 7th, 2025.

4 **Delegation**

- 4.1 Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association, to provide information on their year-to-date activities @ 9:15 a.m.
- 4.2 ASB Orientation – Dillis Pelletier, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

5 **Business-Request for Decisions**

- 5.1 Agricultural Service Board Producer-at-Large Terms of Reference
 - 🔗 Agricultural Service Board Producer-at-Large Terms of Reference
- 5.2 Smoky Lake County's Extension Program 2026.
 - 🔗 Smoky Lake County's Extension Program 2026.
- 5.3 Coyote Reduction Program
 - 🔗 RFD Coyote Reduction Program
 - 🔗 Policy 62-31-01 Coyote Reduction Program
- 5.4 LARA Contract 2026
 - 🔗 LARA Contract 2026

6 **Issues for Information**

- 6.1 ASB Provincial Conference Jan 20th- 23rd
- 6.2 Mature Asset Strategies Oil and Gas and Landownership
 - 🔗 Mature Asset Strategies Oil and Gas and Landownership

7 **Correspondence**

- 7.1 The Do More Agriculture Foundation - Recommendation: File for Information.
 - 🔗 The Do More Agriculture Foundation - Recommendation: File for Information.

8 **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

9 **Adjournment**



Smoky Lake County
Meeting Minutes
Agricultural Service Board Meeting October 7, 2025 - 09:00 AM

1 Meeting Called To Order

Minutes of Smoky Lake County's **Agricultural Service Board Regular Meeting** held on Tuesday, **October 7, 2025**, at 9:05 A.M. held in Smoky Lake County Council Chambers and virtually online through Electronic Communication Technology.

The meeting was called to Order by the Chairperson, Dan Gawalko, in the presence of the following persons:

Title	Name	ATTENDANCE
Committee Member	Dan Gawalko	Tues. October 7th, 2025 Present in Chambers
Committee Member	Jered Serben	Present in Chambers
Alt. Committee Member	Dominique Cere	Present Virtually
Producer-at-Large Member	Curtis Boychuk	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Tamara Flondra	Present in Chambers
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Kurt Melnyk	Absent
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Brett Rurka	Absent
Acting Ag. Fieldman	Tori Ponich	Present in Chambers
Interim CAO/Finance MNG	Brenda Adamson	Virtually Present
Recording Secretary	Meaghan Andreychuk	Present in Chambers
Comm. Officer	Evonne Zukiwski	Virtually Present
Representative from LARA	Sara Krawchuk	Virtually Present
Public	1 Guest	Virtually Present

2 Adoption of Agenda

ASB164-25: Serben

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, October 7th, 2025, be adopted with the following additions:

- 4.1 Delegation: Alyssa Krawchuk Virtual presentation from Lakeland Agricultural Research Association
- Appointment Tori Ponich as Acting Ag Fieldman

CARRIED

3 Adoption of Minutes

ASB165-25: Flondra

That the minutes of the **Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting**, held on October 7th, 2025, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4 Business-Request for Decisions

4.1 Appointment of Tori Ponich as Acting Ag Fieldman.

ASB 166-25: Flondra

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board appoint and acknowledge Tori Ponich be the acting Interim Agricultural Fieldman on a temporary basis until December 19, 2025.

CARRIED

4.2 Policy Statement 62-02-04 Bounty for Pocket Gophers.

ASB 167-25: Serben

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board amend Policy No. 62.02, "Bounty for Pocket Gophers," to reflect a price increase to \$3.00 per tail, effective January 2026.

CARRIED

5 Issues for Information

None

5.1 6.1 ASB Chairman's Report (Handout)

ASB 168-25: Flondra

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the ASB Chairmans report prepared for October 7, 2025, as information.

CARRIED

5.2 Northeast Regional Conference

ASB 169-25: Serben

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board approve the attendance of any members who are able to attend the Northeast Regional Conference, to be held at the Vegreville Social Centre in Vegreville Alberta on November 3rd, 2025, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

CARRIED

5.3 Delegation- Alyssa Krawchuk, of Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association.

ASB 170-25: Boychuk

Virtually present before Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board from 9:16 a.m. to 9:25 a.m. was Alyssa Krawchuk, of Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association for the purpose of updates regarding events provided by LARA.

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accepted the verbal presentation of Alyssa Krawchuk, of Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association, as information.

CARRIED

5.4 Mowing Map Update as of October 5th, 2025.

ASB 171-25: Flondra

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the Mowing Maps and discussion regarding mowing tenders update dated October 5th, 2025, as information.

CARRIED

5.5 Agricultural Department Report.

ASB 172-25: Boychuk

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the Agricultural Department Report updated October 2026 for information.

CARRIED

5.6 Request for inclusion of Smoky Lake County in the Federal Livestock Tax Deferral Program.

ASB 173-25: Boychuk

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the information from the letter regarding "Request for inclusion of Smoky Lake County in the Federal Livestock Tax Deferral letter" that was sent to Honourable RJ Sigurdson Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and Honourable Heath MacDonald Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food sent on dated August 29th, 2025.

CARRIED

5.7 Smoky Lake County Declaration of Agricultural Disaster and Livestock Tax Deferral Letters.

ASB 174-25: Flondra

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledges the Smoky Lake County Declaration of Agricultural Disaster and Livestock Tax Deferral Letters that were sent to the The Honorable Heath MacDonald Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food on August 29th, 2025, as information.

CARRIED

5.8 Agricultural Pest Update

ASB 175-25: Serben

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the Agricultural Pest update as presented.

CARRIED

5.9 Agricultural Service Board Provincial Report Card on Resolutions.

ASB 176-25: Flondra

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept Provincial Report card on Resolutions as information.

CARRIED

6 Correspondence

None

6.1 AgKnow Impact Summary received June 25th, 2025. Recommendation: File for Information.

ASB 177-25: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board direct administration to research the "Ag Do More" Ag Foundation Mental Health in Agricultural resources and bring back the information to the next Agricultural Service Board meeting.

CARRIED

6.2 Letter regarding Agricultural Disaster in the MD of Pincher Creek, received June 24th, 2025.

ASB 178-25: Flondra

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Letter regarding Agricultural Disaster in the MD of Pincher Creek, received June 24th, 2025, and file for information.

CARRIED

6.3 Insights from ASB Spring Town Hall Meetings, received June 24th, 2025.

ASB 179-25: Boychuk

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board accept the Insights from ASB Spring Town Hall Meetings, received June 24th, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

6.4 Agricultural Moisture Situation Update as of June 19th, 2025, provided by Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation, received June 23rd, 2025.

ASB 180-25: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge receipt of the Agricultural Moisture Situation Update as of June 19th, 2025, provided by Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation, received June 23rd, 2025.

CARRIED

6.5 AgKnow Transforming Mental Health in Alberta's Farming Community, received July 14th, 2025.

ASB 181-25: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the AgKnow Transforming Mental Health in Alberta's Farming Community, received July 14th, 2025 and file as Information.

CARRIED

6.6 ASB Connector July 2025 Edition, received July 15th, 2025.

ASB 182-25: Serben

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge receipt of the ASB Connector July 2025 Edition, received July 15, 2025, and recommend that any board members who identify information in the July edition that would be beneficial bring it forward at a future meeting.

CARRIED

6.7 Alberta Launches Regulatory Dialogue Portal for Water Management provided by Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation, received July 17th, 2025.

ASB 183-25: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge receipt of the Alberta Launches Regulatory Dialogue Portal for Water Management provided by Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation, received July 17th, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

6.8 Letter regarding Agricultural Disaster declaration in Mackenzie County, received July 31st, 2025.

ASB 184-25: Flondra

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Letter regarding Agricultural Disaster declaration in Mackenzie County, received July 31st, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

6.9 Letter regarding Agricultural Disaster declaration in Lac La Biche County, received July 31st, 2025.

ASB 185-25: Boychuk

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Letter regarding Agricultural Disaster declaration in Lac La Biche County, received July 31st, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

6.10 Wild Boar Update received Aug 18th, 2025.

ASB 186-25: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge regarding the Wild Boar Update received Aug 18th, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

6.11 Agricultural Moisture Situation Update as of Aug 6th, 2025, provided by Alberta Agriculture.

ASB 187-25: Boychuk

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Agricultural Moisture Situation Update as of Aug 6th, 2025, provided by Alberta Agriculture and file as information.

CARRIED

6.12 Agricultural Disaster declaration in Municipal District of Greenview, received July 8th, 2025.

ASB 188-25: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Agricultural Disaster declaration in Municipal District of Greenview, received July 8th, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

6.13 Agricultural Disaster declaration in Cypress County, received July 15th, 2025. ©

ASB 189-25: Flondra

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Agricultural Disaster declaration in Cypress County, received July 15th, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

6.14 Agricultural Disaster declaration in Municipal District of Bonnyville, received July 23rd, 2025.

ASB 190-25: Flondra

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Agricultural Disaster declaration in Municipal District of Bonnyville, received July 23rd, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

6.15 Agricultural Disaster declaration in County of Grande Prairie, received July 21st, 2025.

ASB 191-25: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Agricultural Disaster declaration in County of Grande Prairie, received July 21st, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

6.16 Agricultural Disaster declaration in Saddle Hills County, received July 25th, 2025.

ASB 192-25: Boychuk

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Agricultural Disaster declaration in Saddle Hills County, received July 25th, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

6.17 Agricultural Disaster declaration in County of Northern Lights, received July 28th, 2025.

ASB 193-25: Boychuk

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Agricultural Disaster declaration in County of Northern Lights, received July 28th, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

6.18 Agricultural Disaster declaration in Municipal District of Smoky River, received Aug 6th, 2025.

ASB 194-25: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Agricultural Disaster declaration in Municipal District of Smoky River, received Aug 6th, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

6.19 Letter from Minburn County for the Reinstatement of previously approved Gopher control methods, received August 20th, 2025.

ASB 195-25: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Letter from Minburn County for the Reinstatement of previously approved Gopher control methods, received August 20th, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

6.20 Letter for Continued support for unlimited On-Farm Slaughter Sales in Alberta written by Minburn County, received August 20th, 2025.

ASB 196-25: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Letter for Continued support for unlimited On-Farm Slaughter Sales in Alberta written by Minburn County, received August 20th, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

6.21 Agricultural Disaster declaration in Athabasca County, received Aug 6th, 2025.

ASB 197-25: Boychuk

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Agricultural Disaster declaration in Athabasca County, received Aug 6th, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

6.22 Agricultural Disaster declaration in Municipal District of Peace, received Aug 19th, 2025.

ASB 198-25: Flondra

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Agricultural Disaster declaration in Municipal District of Peace, received Aug 19th, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

6.23 Request for inclusion of Lac Ste. Anne County in Federal Livestock Tax Deferral Program, received Aug 19th, 2025.

ASB 199-25: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Request for inclusion of Lac Ste. Anne County in Federal Livestock Tax Deferral Program, received Aug 19th, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

6.24 Request for inclusion of Westlock County in Federal Livestock Tax Deferral Program and a Declaration of Agricultural Disaster, received Aug 19th, 2025.

ASB 200-25: Flondra

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Request for inclusion of Westlock County in Federal Livestock Tax Deferral Program and a Declaration of Agricultural Disaster, received Aug 19th, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

6.25 Update on the Proposed Provincial Resolutions Process, Received Sept 1st, 2025.

ASB 201-25: Serben

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge receipt of the Update on the Proposed Provincial Resolutions Process, Received Sept 1st, 2025, and file as information.

CARRIED

7 Date and Time of Next Meeting

ASB 202-25: Flondra

That the next Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting be scheduled for Tuesday, December 2nd, 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

8 Adjournment

ASB 203-25: Boychuk

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting of October 7th, 2025, be adjourned, time 10:07 a.m.

CARRIED

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



Title: Agricultural Service Board Producer-at-Large: Terms of Reference	Policy No.: 19-05	
Section: 62	Code: P-A	Page No.: 1 of 6

Legislation Reference: Alberta Provincial Statutes

Purpose: To provide a guideline for appointing Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Members, including Producers-at-Large and Elected Officials.

Policy Statement and Guidelines:

1. STATEMENT:

1.1 Smoky Lake County Council has established an Agricultural Service Board Bylaw No. 1441-23 that advises on the development of agricultural programs and services to promote and enhance viable sustainable agriculture in the County.

2. OBJECTIVE:

2.1 To establish Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board (ASB) membership to be three (3) Producer-at-Large members with two (2) alternate Producer-at-Large members, and two (2) Elected Official members with two (2) alternate Elected Official members.

2.2 To authorize per diem and mileage expense compensation for Producer-at-Large members.

3. GUIDELINES:

3.1 Appointment of Producers-at-Large:

3.1.1 Smoky Lake County will advertise for ASB Producers-at-Large prior to its annual Organizational Meeting in each Municipal Election year.

3.2 Selection of Producers-at-Large:

3.2.1 Applications will be reviewed by County Council.

3.2.2 County Council, at its sole discretion, will appoint three (3) Producer-at-Large members and two (2) alternate Producer-at-Large members.

3.2.3 Producers-at-Large are appointed for a four (4) year term, in coordination with the Municipal Election.

3.2.4 Orientation will be provided to successful applicants to outline the position, responsibilities, and the role of the Agricultural Service Board within Alberta.

Title: Agricultural Service Board Producer-at-Large: Terms of Reference	Policy No.: 19-05
Section: 62	Code: P-A

Policy Statement and Guidelines:

4. PROCEDURE:

- 4.1 Applicants must be received in writing as per **Schedule “A”:** **Application for Producer-At-Large** detailing Agricultural related experience, Community Involvement and reason for interest in serving on the ASB.
- 4.2 Applicants who are actively farming are preferred and must be familiar with current agricultural practices and trends that affect producers in Smoky Lake County.
- 4.3 Producers-at-Large are required to execute **Schedule “B”:** **Producer-At-Large: Oath of Office and Confidentiality Agreement**, to exercise on behalf of Council, all the powers and perform all the duties that are conferred on it by Council under the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, RSA 2000, c.A-10 or any other Act with respect to agricultural matters.
- 4.4 An Expense Claim Form, as per **Schedule “C”:** **Producer-At-Large: Expense Claim**, must be submitted in order for a claim to be processed, unless provided otherwise.
 - 4.1.1 All necessary receipts and/or documentation must accompany the Expense Claim.
 - 4.1.2 Receipts must be detailed and must show the vendor GST registration number.
 - 4.1.3 Producer-at-Large Expense Claims must be submitted within the same year as the year when the expense occurred.

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	October 21, 2010	# 978-10 - Page # 9491
Amended	May 9, 2016	# 687-16 - Page # 12241
Amended	April 27, 2023	# 560-23 - Page # 15626
Amended	June 29, 2023	# 680-23 - Page # 15690

Schedule “A”
Agricultural Service Board Application for Producer-at-Large



**Smoky Lake County
Agricultural Service
Board
Producer-at-Large Application Form**

Personal Information (Please print or type)

Title (Mr./Mrs./etc.)

Full Name

Town/City

Province

Postal Code

Phone

Email

Are you a resident of Smoky Lake County? Yes / No

If yes, how

long? Are you actively farming within Smoky Lake County? Yes / No

Are you an employee of Smoky Lake County? Yes / No

By completing and submitting this form you are consenting to the confidential review of your application by County Council, County Representatives and Representatives from the respective Board. If appointed, your name would appear in the record of the meeting and other County publications, as a Member of the ASB, and may be publicized from time to time, when required.

I accept the release of my name to the general public: Yes / No

Completed application forms can be submitted to Smoky Lake County by either: Email: county@smokylakecounty.ab.ca

Mail: Smoky Lake County, Box 310, Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0

Deliver to: Smoky Lake County Main Office, 4612 McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake

Section**Policy 19-****Interest and Qualifications**

Please answer each of the following questions, in relation to the committee and describe your relevant education, expertise, work or real-life experience.

Are you an active producer within Smoky Lake County? Please describe your farming operation.

Do you have any previous Board experience? Please elaborate.

How will Smoky Lake County benefit from your participation on the Agricultural Service Board?

What special skills or knowledge would you bring to the Board?

Are there any professional or personal constraints to your time that could interfere with serving on the Board?

Describe your understanding of the purpose and function of the Agricultural Service Board and how it operates.

What would make for a satisfying Board experience for you? What are you hoping to get out of being on this Board?

Do you foresee any limitation to you being on this Board in terms of personal interests that could conflict? If so, please elaborate.

Any other information you would like to add?

Signature

Date

Schedule “B”
Agricultural Service Board Producer-at-
Large: OATH OF OFFICE AND
CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT



As a **Producer-at-Large** Member of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) on behalf of

Smoky Lake County: I, _____ UNDERSTAND AND AGREE I SHALL:
(Please Print Name)

1. exercise the powers of my office and fulfill my responsibilities, at all times, in good faith, with due diligence, care and skill in a reasonable and prudent manner; and in the best interests of the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board (ASB);
2. respect and support the Board's and municipalities bylaws, policies, Code of Conduct, and decisions of the Board and membership;
3. agree any information recorded or not, received or acquired in connection with my duties is considered confidential, including all records which in any way would divulge information in regards to any community member or their family; and any other matters specifically determined by the Board to be matters of confidence, including matters dealt with during executive session (in-camera) meetings of the Board;
4. act in a professional manner in the performance of my duties as a Producer-at-Large on the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board;
5. immediately declare any personal conflict of interest that may come to my attention;
6. immediately resign my position as Producer-at-Large of the Agricultural Service Board in the event that I, or my colleagues on the Board, have concluded that I have breached my Oath of Office; and
7. be bound to maintain, in strict confidence, the Agricultural Service Board's business, even after my appointment as a member ceases.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 20____.

Board Member Name

Board Member Signature

Witness Name

Witness Signature

Schedule “C”
Agricultural Service Board Producer-at-Large: Expense Claim



As a **Producer-at-Large** Member of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB), on behalf of

Smoky Lake County: I, _____ claim the following expenses:
 (Please Print Name)

IN ACCORDANCE TO: Bylaw 1441-23 sec.5.3 At-Large members will be reimbursed at the current per diem
 rate and expenses for mileage

Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Producer-at-Large Expense Claim				
Date	Meeting Description	Meals	Mileage	Total
	\$175 per day	Breakfast \$20, Lunch \$30, Dinner \$35	\$.68/km	

Producer-at-Large Signature

Date



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Agenda Item: #

Topic: ASB Extension Program for 2026

Presented By: Agricultural Services Department

Recommendation:

Further direction will be based on Board's discussion on potential event ideas.

Background:

Following the Board's motion, the Agricultural Services Department has prepared several options for potential extension and environmental programming. The motion did not specify preferred program types, and current staffing uncertainties within the Agricultural Services Department make it challenging to build a detailed proposal. Program capacity may vary depending on future staffing levels.

The current extension grant funding available is \$15,000. Event offerings can vary year to year based on agricultural trends, emerging issues, and community needs.

It is not recommended to pursue rental equipment programs due to liability concerns and direct competition with Flaman Rentals at McEwen's. Additionally, equipment rentals would create significant time demands for ASB staff during peak seasons.

Potential Event Ideas

Local Farm Tour ~Price: \$3500

Participants would preregister and pay a small fee (TBD). The tour would include 3–4 diverse local farms, such as grain operations, cattle producers, apiaries, or Hutterite poultry operations.

The event would run from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and would include transportation, lunch, snacks, beverages, and small host gifts for participating farms.

Registration revenue (e.g., 30 participants \times \$30 = \$900) could help offset event costs.

Alternatively, the event may be offered free of charge, with preregistration still required to support planning and logistical coordination.

Local agricultural businesses may be invited to sponsor portions of the event, for example, covering costs for a supper at the end of the tour, renting a hall, or supporting other event expenses.

Sponsorship opportunities could include companies such as Nutrien, Pioneer, McEwen's, Providence Grain, and Bunge.

Evening or Daytime Workshops – Estimated Cost: \$1,500–\$2,500

Events focused on "hot topics" or emerging issues.

Potential topics include:

- Weed control in pastures & rangelands (Dr. Edward Bork)
- Adaptive multi-paddock grazing (Dr. Edward Bork)



Request for Decision (RFD)

- Grazing for drought management (Kelly Sidoryk)
- Cattle nutrition (Barry Yaremcio)
- Nutrient management (Trevor Wallace)
- Canola disease management (Dr. Stephen Strelkov)

Costs include hall rental, speaker fees (if applicable), meals or snacks, and beverages.

Workshops ~Price: \$2000

Workshop expenses would include: lunch, beverages, snacks, hall rental, host gift and potentially speaker cost.

Corn Grazing Tour

Smoky Lake County could collaborate with Pioneer Seeds to highlight active corn grazing projects within the region. This workshop would feature one or more farm site visits where producers can see corn grazing systems in real-world conditions.

At the conclusion of the tour, the group would gather for an information session delivered by a subject-matter expert. Potential presenters include Barry Yaremcio or Dr. Emma McGeough from the Government of Alberta—both of whom may offer reduced or no-cost speaking engagements depending on availability.

This tour can be scheduled in winter or summer, depending on the demonstration sites chosen. Preregistration would be required to manage transportation, meal planning, and site coordination.

Rotational Grazing Tour

This event would follow a similar structure to the corn grazing tour, with visits to farms demonstrating rotational or adaptive grazing systems. Participants would learn how producers are improving forage utilization, managing drought conditions, increasing pasture resilience, and extending grazing seasons.

Potential speakers include Kelly Sidoryk or Barry Yaremcio, who can provide practical insights into grazing strategies, livestock nutrition, and pasture management. Due to the need to observe pastures during the growing season, this tour would be offered during summer months only.

Pasture Management Tour

This workshop would again use an on-farm tour format but focus on improving pasture productivity through weed management, soil health, and forage planning. Sites may demonstrate herbicide control, mechanical management, grazing strategies, or integrated weed management.

Potential speakers include Dr. Edward Bork, a leading expert in rangeland science, or a no-cost speaker from Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI). Like the rotational grazing tour, this event must be scheduled in the summer months when pastures are actively growing.

Ag Technology from the Future Workshop

Ag Technology: "Farming the Future" Workshop



Request for Decision (RFD)

This classroom-style workshop would bring together companies specializing in emerging agricultural technology. The event could feature presentations or demonstration booths on:

- SWAT MAPS (precision soil mapping)
- Drone technology for crop scouting and livestock monitoring
- 4R Nutrient Stewardship tools and satellite-based soil mapping
- AI-supported farm data analysis and decision-making tools
- Equipment automation and sensor technology

This workshop would expose producers to cutting-edge innovations that support efficiency, sustainability, and data-driven decision making.

Agricultural Grant Opportunities

This workshop would provide producers with an overview of available provincial and federal grant programs, including equipment funding, environmental stewardship grants, and farm technology cost-share opportunities.

Delivery options include:

- An in-person workshop with Q&A opportunities
- A mail-out flyer summarizing available funding streams
- An online webinar if interest is high

This session would help producers navigate funding programs and improve uptake of agricultural supports within Smoky Lake County.

Benefits:

- Highlights and supports local agriculture within Smoky Lake County.
- Enables flexible, lower-cost educational opportunities compared to the \$55,000 annual LARA partnership.
- Supports local venues, caterers, and agricultural businesses.

Disadvantages:

- Requires consent from local farms to host on-site tours.
- Events may demand significant administrative time, particularly during peak agricultural seasons or with limited staffing.

Alternatives:

- Do not participate in the extension grant.
- Host only one in-house event per year.
- Continue partnering with LARA at a cost of \$55,000 per year.



Request for Decision (RFD)

Financial Implications:

Costs range from \$1,500 for a single small event to \$15,000–\$20,000 for multiple events, depending on the number and type of activities delivered.

To provide these events, the County will need to increase staffing capacity. This can be accomplished by adding either an Assistant Agricultural Fieldman or an Agricultural Technician Position at a cost of \$80,000 to \$110,000 (including payroll costs and supplies).

Legislation:

The ASB Grant Agreements with Agricultural and Forestry (AGI) require the County to provide a level of environmental and extension programming to remain eligible for Resource Management Stream funding.

Intergovernmental:

None

Strategic Alignment:

- Supports the County's commitment to agricultural education and community capacity building.
- Encourages environmental stewardship and sustainable agricultural practices.
- Enhances collaboration with producers, local industry, and educational partners.

Enclosure(s):

N/A

Signature of the CAO:



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Agenda Item: #

Topic: Policy Statement 62-31-01

Presented By: Agricultural Service Board

Recommendation: The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommends to Smoky Lake County Council to have administration apply for \$90,000 over three years to the Wildlife Management Fund Grant through the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society for the Coyote Reduction Program in 2026-2029.

Background: The Wildlife Management Fund is a grant program that has contributed \$2 million to wildlife stewardship and conservation projects in Alberta. The funding comes from annual fees paid by outfitters in Alberta.

Our neighboring municipalities are also participating in this program. For example, County of Two Hills was approved for \$90,000 split equally between 3 years. They pay pre-approved ratepayers \$15.00 per coyote and charge a \$5.00 admin fee per coyote.

Benefits: A key advantage to participating in the program is a reduction in the coyote population and predation of tame domestic livestock as well as ungulates.

Disadvantages: This program does increase the demand on staff to be available to remove a paw from each coyote that is brought in. As well as additional invoices sent to the Alberta Professionals Outfitters Society as proof of money spent.

Alternatives: Continue with no program and host a ratepayer workshop on how to manage and mitigate coyote problems in yards and around livestock.

Compound 1080 poison will be coming back to counties in Alberta. The new program will require farmers to have certification to use the product. This certification will be offered by Lakeland College or by various workshops held within our region.

Financial Implications: Our municipality would benefit by receiving an administrative fee of \$5.00 per coyote.

Legislation: Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta

Intergovernmental: Regional collaboration with our surrounding municipalities who also have or will be participating in a coyote reduction program.

Strategic Alignment:



Request for Decision (RFD)

Enclosure(s):

Signature of the CAO:  John



Smoky Lake County Policy

Title: **Coyote Reduction Program Policy**

Policy # **AG-31** Version **01**

Category: Agricultural Services (AG)

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE:

- Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta
- Municipal Government Act (MGA)
- Wildlife Management Fund Grant Requirements

PURPOSE:

To reduce coyote predation on livestock by providing an incentive-based program for ratepayers while ensuring safe, humane, and compliant handling, verification, and disposal of carcasses aligned with County and grant standards.

STATEMENT:

Smoky Lake County supports agricultural producers by implementing a Coyote Reduction Program funded in part through the Wildlife Management Fund. The program provides compensation for coyotes harvested within the County, ensures proper verification through staff removal of the left front paw, and maintains environmental and safety standards.

This program may terminate at an earlier date than the March 31 deadline, subject to budget limitations and/or abuse of the program.

Cancellation or Denial: Permits and applications may be cancelled or denied at any time with no liability or obligation to the County

OBJECTIVE:

To provide an incentive payment of **\$15.00 per coyote** from **November 1 to March 31** annually, subject to program funding.

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved		
Amended		
Amended		



Adopted	Date	Council Resolution #	Version
Amended	Month, day, year	Motion #	01
Reviewed			

GUIDELINES & PROCEDURE:

Participants must complete Schedule A – Coyote Reduction Permit. Applications made under Schedule “A”: Coyote Reduction Permit must be approved by the Agricultural Fieldman or their designate.

1. Applications & Eligibility

- One participant per household is eligible.
- Coyotes must originate **within Smoky Lake County boundaries**.
- Non-residents and imported carcasses are **not** eligible.

2. Program Limits

- Maximum **20 coyotes per week**.
- Maximum **100 coyotes per season** per participant.
- Residents are advised that it is illegal to sell whole or unskinned carcasses to anyone other than a licensed Fur Buyer.

3. Carcass Handling & Verification

- Coyotes may be hunted (but not trapped) without a license at all times of the year throughout the Province by a resident who has right of access (permission) to hunt on lands that are not public lands or by the owner or occupant of their privately owned land.
- Participants must bring in **whole carcasses only**.
- ASB staff will remove the **left front paw** for verification.
- Carcasses must be **covered with a tarp** during transport to avoid public display.
- Carcasses must be **accessible**, not frozen tightly together, and suitable for inspection.

4. Appointments

- Carcasses are accepted **by appointment only**.
- Staff may inspect disposal locations at any time without prior notice.

5. Disposal Requirements

- Carcasses are returned to the participant for **proper disposal**.
- Participants must provide a **legal land location** for potential disposal site inspection.

6. Grant Reporting Requirements

- Staff will maintain full records of payments issued.



- Staff will prepare and submit required reports and invoices to the Wildlife Management Fund.
- Records will be retained in accordance with County retention schedules.

7. Abuse or Non-Compliance

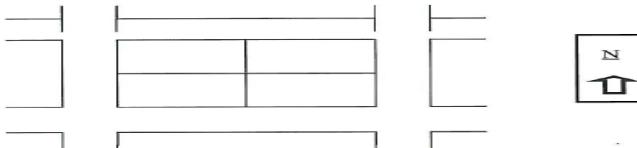
- Participation may be **immediately suspended or terminated** for:
 - False declarations
 - Importing carcasses
 - Exceeding program limits
 - Any misuse of the program
- Program may close early if **funding is depleted**.

SCHEDULE "A"

COYOTE REDUCTION PERMIT



DETAILS	Applicants Name: _____ _____
	Address: _____
	Telephone 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 
---------------	---

DECLARE	<p>I (We), do hereby declare to SMOKY LAKE COUNTY that only beaver tails from the above approved locations will be brought in for a <u>service fee of FIFTEEN DOLLARS (\$15.00)</u> per coyote.</p> <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 <u>SMOKY LAKE COUNTY</u>, 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 <u>SMOKY LAKE COUNTY</u> on a solicitor-client full indemnity basis), that may arise directly or indirectly out of the performances of the above described work(s).</p> <p>Program is subject to available funds. Coyotes will not be paid for when funds have been depleted. If abuse of the program is conducted, the applicant will be banned from participating.</p>
---------	--

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

SIGNATURE OF OWNER: _____	DATE: _____
SIGNATURE OF AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN: _____	DATE: _____



Operational Funding Agreement

Between

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association
(LARA)

and

Smoky Lake County
(the Municipality)

1.0 Term

This agreement will commence January 1, 2026, and subject to termination, according to the terms of the agreement, continue through December 31, 2026. This agreement will be renewed on an annual basis.

2.0 Conditions

2.1 During the term of this agreement, LARA agrees to:

- a) Allow representation from Smoky Lake County on the LARA Board of Directors according to the bylaws of LARA.
- b) Make public results from LARA research and demonstration programs via newsletters, annual report, meetings, articles, etc. as may be decided by the LARA Board of Directors.
- c) Conduct extension programs and related research and demonstration trials that maybe requested by municipal representatives, residents and the LARA Board of Directors in conjunction with Smoky Lake County.
- d) Have the research trials in Smoky Lake County planted and harvested in a reasonable timeline and maintained weed free. In case of severe weather conditions such as drought, excess moisture, storms and animal damage these conditions will be eased.
- e) Continued partnership with Smoky Lake's County through their Agricultural Service Boards, Lakeland Forage Association, AAFRD and private Ag-Industries.
- f) LARA manager to liaise with the Smoky Lake's County's Agricultural Fieldman or Assistant Agricultural Fieldman on a monthly basis.

2.2 During the term of this agreement the Municipality agrees to:

agreement

- a) provide operational funding to LARA in the amount of \$55,000.00 upon signing of agreement
- b) appoint representatives to the LARA Board of Directors according to the bylaws of LARA.
- c) allow LARA to use Agricultural Demonstration Equipment owned by the County at no cost.
- d) provide project ideas to the LARA Board of Directors, via the Agricultural Service Board.
- e) LARA participation at the Agricultural Service Board meetings bi-annually to review project status.

2.3 Smoky Lake County and LARA agree to have a combined responsibility to conduct Environmental Farm Plans for Smoky Lake County producers.

2.4 LARA will provide Smoky Lake County with an outline of the research trails and extension programs LARA wishes to put on for that calendar year.



2.5 In the case where Smoky Lake County finds that LARA is not providing sufficient services, Smoky Lake County holds the right to withhold funds until services are being completed or termination of contract may occur.



Infrastructure

3.0

To ensure optimal regional coverage by LARA the Municipality will provide:

- a) Access to telephone and/or fax
- b) In Kind contributions

4.0

Hold Harmless

4.1 LARA agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Smoky Lake County, its employees and agents from any claims, demands, actions and costs whatsoever that may arise directly or indirectly, out of any act or omission of their employees or agents, in performance of this agreement. This hold harmless shall survive the term of this agreement.

5.0

Termination

5.1 Smoky Lake County may terminate their involvement in this agreement with 30 days' notice should Lakeland Agricultural Research Association fail to meet Smoky Lake County's conditions in (2.1) listed above.

6.0

Addresses for Notices

6.1 Any notice made under the Agreement shall be deemed given to the other parties in writing and personally delivered, sent by registered mail or equivalent, addressed as follows:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association
P.O. Box 7068
Bonnyville, Alberta
T9N 2H4
Fax: (780) 826-7099

Smoky Lake County
P.O. Box 310
Smoky Lake, AB
T0A 3C0
Fax: (780) 656-3730

7.0 Signed and sealed by the proper officers this _____ day of _____, 2026

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association

Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director

Jay Cory, LARA Chairman



Smoky Lake County



Tori Ponich, Interim Agricultural Fieldman

David Kully, Agricultural Service Board Chairman

Alberta's Mature Asset Strategy:

A Quiet Threat to Landowners' Property Rights

The Alberta government's Mature Asset Strategy (MAS) — finalized April 3, 2025 — aims to manage the province's aging oil and gas infrastructure. But for rural landowners, municipalities, and grazing leaseholders, the strategy raises deep concerns about erosion of property rights, weakened lease protections, and the potential transfer of industry liabilities onto private land.

What the Mature Asset Strategy Is — and Why It Matters for Property Rights

The Mature Asset Strategy (MAS) is a government-led plan to “optimize the value” of oil and gas wells, pipelines, and facilities that are nearing the end of their productive life. The stated goal is to extend operations where feasible, repurpose existing infrastructure, and accelerate closure of truly uneconomic sites.

On paper, that may sound balanced. In practice, the MAS introduces new pathways for companies to keep marginal wells operating longer — or to transfer them to smaller operators — without clear guarantees that landowners' rights to compensation, access control, and full reclamation will remain intact.

The plan also fails to provide a definition of Mature Assets. Without a clear definition, regulators could label active sites as mature and apply weaker obligations to these sites.

Property Rights at Stake

Control of Access to Private Land: Under Alberta's Surface Rights Act, landowners cannot refuse entry to an approved operator — but they retain legal rights to compensation, restoration, and fair dealing. The MAS does not propose changes to this law directly, yet it could weaken enforcement if the province allows extended “mature operations” without timely reclamation or lease renegotiation. That means landowners might see infrastructure sitting idle for years while operators avoid full reclamation responsibilities, limiting how owners can use or sell their property.

Loss of Lease Value and Payment Security: Surface lease payments are a key form of compensation for landowners whose land hosts oil and gas sites. When wells are “mature” or transferred under new programs, lease payments can stall or vanish entirely if operators go bankrupt or if the government allows reduced payments under the guise of keeping “economic activity” alive. **The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) has warned that the MAS lacks mechanisms to ensure surface payments remain protected and that the number of non-paying or inactive operators could rise.**

Delayed or Denied Reclamation: A key tenet of property rights is the right to have your land restored after industrial use. Yet the MAS encourages “repurposing” infrastructure — meaning abandoned pipelines or well pads could be re-used for other industrial or energy projects, prolonging the disruption to private property and grazing lands indefinitely. This approach could delay the return of productive farmland and grassland, leaving landowners with contaminated or inaccessible parcels.

Liability Transfer to Owners and Taxpayers: The most serious risk to property rights is the potential transfer of liability from corporations to individuals. If an operator fails and no financial security is in place, the cost of cleanup — and the diminished land value — fall to landowners or the public purse. The MAS’s vague commitment to “industry-led solutions” does not ensure that those responsible will pay.

A Question of Fairness and Consent

At its core, the MAS challenges a foundational rural principle: that those who use the land should leave it as they found it, and should pay for the privilege. This is commonly referred to as the Polluter Pays Principle. By promoting the indefinite extension or repurposing of aging wells, the government risks normalizing ongoing industrial occupation of private property — without consent or adequate compensation. The right to quiet enjoyment, productive use, and clean restoration of one’s land could be indefinitely deferred.

It should also be noted that consultation was limited. The engagement summary released in April 2025 lists industry and government participants extensively but only a handful of surface rights groups and municipalities. Many ranchers, farmers, and leaseholders had no meaningful seat at the table while policies affecting their property rights were shaped.

What landowners can – and should – do now

Get informed (read the primary documents). Read the province's MAS final report and the engagement summary (published April 3, 2025) so you can quote exact recommendations and timelines.

Join or work with local associations. Rural Municipalities of Alberta, local grazing associations and surface-rights federations are already engaging MAS; these groups have submitted formal responses and can amplify landowner concerns. RMA's response and local county letters (e.g., Stettler County communications) show coordinated action is happening.

Attend town halls and public engagement events. Local sessions (for example, the Oct. 14, 2025 Warburg town hall) give opportunities to ask provincial reps and industry directly about liabilities, timelines and what safeguards exist for landowners. Make your questions concrete: who holds financial security for closure; how will unpaid local taxes/leases be addressed; what timeframes for reclamation are guaranteed?

Document and protect your interests on your land. Keep careful records of all surface leases, payments, communications with operators, and any environmental observations. If there are unresolved damages or unpaid lease amounts, seek legal advice about remedies under the Surface Rights Act and related statutes. (This is general guidance — consider local legal counsel for specifics.)

Push for clear definitions, inventory and enforceable financial security. There is a need for (a) a clear and consistent "mature asset" definition, (b) a transparent inventory of assets and locations, and (c) enforceable financial security tools so industry—not taxpayers—cover end-of-life costs. Ask your municipal council and MLA to demand those features.

Monitor regulator enforcement and orphan-well funding. Watch Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) policies, the Orphan Well Association's status, and any provincial funding changes — these determine who ultimately pays for cleanup. News reports and regulatory updates show reclamation progress is uneven and funding shortfalls remain a worry.

The Bigger Picture

Alberta's Mature Asset Strategy represents more than an oil-and-gas management plan — it's a test of whether property rights still hold weight when provincial economic policy conflicts with private ownership. Landowners have long accepted the necessity of resource development. What they cannot accept is a future where the right to use, protect, and reclaim one's land is gradually eroded in the name of "economic efficiency."

If implemented without clear safeguards and definitions, the MAS could normalize indefinite industrial presence on private land, blur responsibility for cleanup, and chip away at the very foundation of Alberta's rural property system — one built on respect for ownership, compensation, and stewardship.



HOW WE DO MORE.

We champion the mental well-being of those in Canadian agriculture, from the farmgate to the boardroom and everywhere in between. We cultivate a culture where everyone is encouraged, supported, and empowered to care for their mental health.

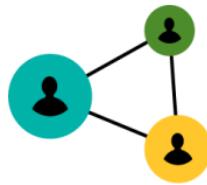
Agriculture is an industry built on deep rural roots, hard work, resilience, independence and strength. These same traits can also be the industry's weakness when they become barriers to speaking up and seeking help. Those in the Canadian agriculture industry are among the most vulnerable when it comes to mental health issues: stress, anxiety, depression, emotional exhaustion and burnout are all high.

By collaborating with the entire industry and those working to cultivate a culture of mental well-being in agriculture, we can and will make a substantial impact!

Peer-to-peer mental health platform

The Do More Agriculture Foundation (Do More Ag) recently announced the renewal of AgTalk, a specialty agricultural community within the powerful online site Togetherall.

On Togetherall, individuals 16+ can anonymously and safely connect, share, and receive support from a community of peers who also understand the pressures of farming, and the pressures of staying mentally well. Backed by 24/7 clinical moderation, hundreds of people have found strength within AgTalk since its inception in 2023.



Community – at your fingertips

Connect with people who understand.

Be yourself, be honest, reach out.

Explore resources that make a difference.

Sign up today for **FREE**, anonymous online support.



Scan to join today.