



SMOKY LAKE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

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

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, December 2nd, 2025. ©

4. Delegation(s)

5. Business – Requests for Decisions

5.1. ASB Extension Program Proposal ©

5.2. ATTS Group Inc.

5.3. 2026 ASB Business Plan. ©

6. Issues for Information

6.1. ASB Chairmans Report. ©

7. Correspondence

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. ©

Recommendation: File for Information.

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

Recommendation: File for Information

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

Recommendation: File for Information.

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. ©

Recommendation: File for Information.

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. ©

Recommendation: File for Information

8.0 Date and time of Next Meeting
Adjournment.



Smoky Lake County Meeting Minutes

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

1 Meeting Called To Order

The meeting was called to order by the Executive Services Coordinator, Chyenne Shaw, time 9:03 a.m. in the presence of the following persons:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
Committee Member/Chairman	David Kully	Tues. December 2nd, 2025 Present in Chambers
Committee Member/Vice Chairman	Ryan Barker	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Curtis Boychuk	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Sara fern Eigher	Present in Chambers
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Brett Rurka	Present in Chambers
Acting Ag. Fieldman	Tori Ponich	Present in Chambers
Interim CAO/Finance MNG	Brenda Adamson	Virtually Present
Recording Secretary	Meaghan Andreychuk	Present in Chambers
Executive Services Coordinator	Chyenne Shaw	Present in Chambers
Comm. Officer	Evonne Zukiwski	Virtually Present
Representative from LARA	Sara Krawchuk	Present in Chambers
Representative from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation	Dillis Pelletier	Present in Chambers
Representative from LARA	Landon Hominiuk	Present in Chambers

1.1 Election of Agricultural Service Board Chairperson.

The Executive Services Coordinator called a first (1) time for nominations for Chairperson of the Agricultural Service Board.

That Councillor David Kully be nominated as the Chairperson of the Agricultural Service Board by Tori Ponich, Acting Agricultural Fieldman.

The Executive Services Coordinator called a second (2) time for nominations for Chairperson.

The Executive Services Coordinator called a third (3) time for nominations for Chairperson.

HEARING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS.

The Executive Services Coordinator declared nominations for the Chairperson of the Agricultural Service Board, ceased.

Mr. David Kully was declared elected by acclamation by the Executive Services Coordinator as the Chairperson of the Agricultural Service Board for the ensuing year and assumed the Chair.

1.1.1 Election of Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chairperson

The Chairperson called a first (1) time for nominations for Vice-Chairperson.

That Councillor Ryan Barker be nominated as the Vice-Chairperson of the Agricultural Service Board by Curtis Boychuk, Producer at Large.

The Chairperson called a second (2) time for nominations for Vice-Chairperson.

The Chairperson called a third (3) time for nominations for Vice-Chairperson.

HEARING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS.

The Chairperson declared nominations for the Vice-Chairperson of the Agricultural Service Board, ceased.

Mr. Ryan Barker was declared elected by acclamation by the Chairperson as the Vice-Chairperson of the Agricultural Service Board for the ensuing year.

2 Adoption of Agenda

ASB 204-25: Boychuk

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3 Adoption of Minutes

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

ASB 205-25: Rurka

That the Minutes of the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, October 7th, 2025, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

4 Delegations

4.1 Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association, to provide information on their year-to-date activities @ 9:15 a.m.

ASB 206-25: Barker

Present before Council from 9:10 a.m. to 9:25 a.m. was Alyssa Krawchuk, of Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association for the purpose of providing a PowerPoint presentation to the Agricultural Service Board.

That Smoky Lake County accepted the verbal and written presentation introducing new members to the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association's services to Smoky Lake County, along with an overview of their year-to-date activities presented by Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director of the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association, as information.

CARRIED

4.2 ASB Orientation – Dillis Pelletier, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

ASB 207-25: Barker

Present before The Agricultural Service Board from 9:27 a.m. until the remainder of the meeting was Dillis Pelletier, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation for the purpose of providing a PowerPoint presentation to the Agricultural Service Board.

That Smoky Lake County accepted the verbal and written presentation regarding the Agricultural Service Board orientation for new members, which covered legislative requirements as well as policy and bylaw guidance provided by Dillis Pelletier of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, as information.

CARRIED

5 Business-Request for Decisions

5.1 Motion Addition to agenda

ASB 208-25: Rurka

That the Agricultural Service Board move to add agenda item 5.6 to the Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025 agenda due to the information provided by Dillis Pelletier from Alberta Agricultural

and Irrigation

CARRIED

5.2 Agricultural Service Board Producer-at-Large Terms of Reference

ASB 209-25: Rurka

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommends to Smoky Lake County Council to amend Policy 62-19-05 - Agricultural Service Board Producer-at-Large Terms of Reference and bring forward to the next Regular Council Meeting for approval.

CARRIED

5.3 Smoky Lake County's Extension Program 2026.

ASB 210-25: Boychuk

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accepts the Smoky Lake County's Extension Program 2026 as information.

CARRIED

5.4 Coyote Reduction Program

ASB 211-25: fern Eigher

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.

CARRIED

5.4.1 Amendment to Policy No. 62-31-01

ASB 212-25: Boychuk

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommends amending Policy No. 62-31-01 Coyote Reduction program to the maximum of 1500 Coyotes and present to the next Smoky Lake County Council meeting for approval.

CARRIED

5.5 LARA Contract 2026

ASB 213-25: Kully

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommends that Smoky Lake County Council withdraw from the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association contract and transition to an inhouse extension program for 2026 and bring the matter forward for discussion at the next regular meeting of Smoky Lake County Council.

CARRIED

5.5.1 Recommendation to hire an Assistant Ag Fieldman

ASB 214-25: Barker

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommends to Smoky Lake County Council to hire an Agricultural Fieldman assistant to assist the Agricultural Services department due to the increased workload

CARRIED

5.6 Recommendation to appoint the Agricultural Field man for 2026 term

ASB 215-25: Boychuk

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommends to Smoky Lake County Council to appoint Carleigh Danyluk as the acting Agricultural Fieldman.

CARRIED

6 Issues for Information

None

6.1 ASB Provincial Conference January 20th- 23rd, 2026

ASB 216-25: fern Eigher

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board approve the attendance of any members who can attend, attend the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference on January 20th- 23rd located at the Delta South Conference Centre in Edmonton AB.

CARRIED

6.2 Mature Asset Strategies Oil and Gas and Landownership

ASB 217-25: Barker

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board accepts the Mature Asset Strategies Oil and Gas and Landownership as information.

CARRIED

6.2.1 Delegation to attendance at a Smoky Lake County Regular Council Meeting

ASB 218-25: Rurka

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board direct Administration to invite William Heidecker, President of the Alberta Surface Rights and Landowners Federation, and Darcy Allen, Energy, Utilities, and Policy Specialist with the Farmers' Advocate Office, to attend a future Council meeting in 2026 as a delegation.

CARRIED

7 Correspondence

None

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

ASB 219-25: Barker

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board accept the The Do More Agriculture Foundation as information.

CARRIED

8 Confirmation of next meeting

ASB 220-25: Rurka

That the next Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting be scheduled for Tuesday, February 3rd 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

9 Adjournment

ASB 221-25: Kully

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting of December 2nd, 2025, be adjourned, time 11:34 a.m.

CARRIED



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Agenda Item: #

Topic: ASB Extension Events 2026

Presented By: Agricultural Services Department

Recommendation:

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

Background:

The Agriculture Services Department made a motion at the December 2nd, 2025, meeting about building an ASB Extension Events proposal for 2026. Following this motion the Agricultural Services Department has put together several different options for the Board to consider for environmental and extension programming. Due to the motion being unspecific about any exact programming that the Board wants to see and with current staffing capacities the Agriculture Services Department has brought forward realistic options for the 2026 year, with an openness to even more ideas in future years.

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

Potential Event Ideas

Bumble Bee Box Workshop (full day)~\$2500

The Alberta Native Bee Council offers a Bumble bee box building workshop. A workshop like this would align with the environmental portion of the grant requirements from AGI. Below is the summary of what this workshop entails.

'Bumble bees are among the most recognizable native bees in Alberta, and our project aims to raise awareness while contributing data to understand their populations. Participants in our workshops construct bumble bee nesting boxes to place on their properties. These boxes serve not only as habitat for bees but also as monitoring stations, as participants are encouraged to report annually on box occupancy and this data is used for research as part of our Bee Box Monitoring Program to better understand bumble bee populations and nesting preferences.

The whole workshop takes 2.5-3 hours and includes a comprehensive 45-minute presentation on bumble bees, their ecological role, and the importance of citizen science. We provide all necessary materials to build 30 bumble bee nesting boxes, along with informative handouts on proper box placement and maintenance, as well as bumble bee guides. While we supply everything else, participants are required to bring their own power drills as we have a limited supply. I always encourage people to bring their own safety goggles if they have them (we do have enough though) and work gloves if they want to use them. The session is designed for up to 30 participants and costs \$2,250 plus mileage based on the standard Government of Alberta rate of \$0.55 per km. We have employees based out of Edmonton so you can estimate mileage cost based on either of those distances.'



Request for Decision (RFD)

Farmers Pesticide Applicator Certification Course: \$150/participant

Ideally, we would do this as a preregistration workshop, so we know if there's interest or not. Expenses would include trainer's cost and mileage, lunch, beverages, snacks, hall rental unless we don't receive a lot of interest in which case we could host it in Council chambers.

This is an important course for us to host because regulations have changed recently and producers are required to have this certification to use products such as *Sodium monofluoroacetate predacide* (Compound 1080). The Farmer Pesticide Certification course is a tool intended to help farmers to reduce risks associated with pesticide use. This course is recommended under the Alberta Environmental Farm Plan but is also mandatory for farmers who wish to use restricted pesticides that require certification.

Precision Ranching Workshop (half-day)- Landview Drones- Cost- Just mileage (0.73/km ~150km, \$110)

Landview Drones will do a half day workshop speaking about all the opportunities there are to use a drone on the farm for managing your cattle operation. This can be done in conjunction with an Ag Drone School for an additional cost.

Thriving Pastures: Unlocking Grazing Success Workshop (full-day)~1000

Forage Establishment and Care- Grant Lastiwka

A discussion of establishing forages to reach full potential and expression of key species and traits.

Herbicide Management for Pastures- Geoff Thompson Advantage VM

This presentation will go over the different herbicide options available through Corteva and Envu and how they can be an integral part of your pasture management plan.

Grazing Resources and Mentorship-Sonja Shank (CFGA)

Discussion and demonstration of the online learning platform for grazing and the opportunities available.

Tips and Tricks for Grazing in the Riparian Area- Cows and Fish

Highlight some of the riparian grazing principles and strategies for achieving healthy landscapes for the benefit of operations and ecosystems.

Drought Management of Pastures- Grant Lastiwka

An in depth discussion focusing on the crucial role of pasture management plays when drought conditions are faced.



Request for Decision (RFD)

Chickens 101-Rivercity chickens (half-day) \$400 + mileage for a group of 20

'Built on over 15 years of experience in public outreach and education in the field of urban hens, "Chickens 101" provides an informative and interactive look into the practical aspects of keeping your own backyard flock and is uniquely tailored to the challenges of raising hens in a cold climate, urban setting. River City Chicken's instructors are experienced urban hen keepers and include a University of Alberta scientist and a veterinarian experienced in poultry medicine and disease control. Topics include coop design and requirements; feeding and general care; winter needs and concerns; breed selection, buying hens, and flock introductions; predator and vermin prevention; waste management; disease recognition and control; end of life options; and biosecurity. A certificate of attendance will be provided in the name of the registered participant.

Welding for Producers Partner with Portage College Cost- \$2700+gst

We could partner with Portage College to offer a Welding for Producers course. This would be a special course held just for producers from Smoky Lake County at a discounted rate. They would receive a full 9-hour course broken up between 3 evenings for that price. The first evening is spent getting to know what equipment each course participant has on their farm to ensure that the instructor can tailor the course to suit the needs of the participants. The typical layout though is one night of stick welding, one night of MIG welding, and the final night is spent doing fabrication. Lac La Biche County partners with Portage College for this course and they subsize a portion of the cost for participants so that it only costs them \$125 each.

Garden Planning, No Till Gardening, Weed Free/Drought Resistant Gardening Cost- \$300 for 2 hours and \$600 for a full day

Kim Ross with Rossmore Farm offers a wide variety of gardening classroom topics. Her workshops are typically well attended, and she has a good reputation amongst other municipalities. Her most popular class is the 'No Till Growing'. She can do this as a 2-hour class or a full day demo class. Classroom in the morning, and in the afternoon, we go out to a garden and convert it to a no till.

Equine Education Workshop (full-day) Cost- TBD ~2000

Equine Dentist- Sheila Chamulke

The importance of equine dentistry to maintain a happy and healthy mouth on your horse.

Nutritional Solutions for Horses with "Recurring" Laminitis -Amanda Kroeker (RKS Nutrition Inc)

Solutions for treating and preventing 'recurring' Laminitis

Unlock your Mental Edge: Build Confidence and Resilience in the Saddle- Darci-Ecker-Popiel



Request for Decision (RFD)

Discover the key to becoming more confident, resilient, and empowered rider in this transformative session. Learn how mental performance coaching can help you break free from self-doubt, overcome fear, and ride with clarity and purpose.

Back to Basic Horse Nutrition- Amanda Kroeker (RKS Nutrition Inc)

Knowing what to feed your horse can often be overwhelming and confusing with the endless options on the market. In this presentation, we will go through the essential nutrition components (protein, fiber, sugar, starch etc.) needed to keep your horse and their hindgut microbiome in balance.

Herd Management Workshop (half-day or evening) Cost- TBD ~\$1500

Herd Health Toolbox- Dr. Anne Marie Russ

An overview of cow/calf health and the factors that contribute to it.

6P Cattle Nutrition-Jack Fisher (Delta Animal Solutions Inc)

Maximizing feed resources and supplementation while meeting the changing needs of cows through the year.

Extensive Winter Grazing Systems for Beef Cattle- Speaker TBD

A discussion on the pros and cons of various extensive winter grazing programs for beef cattle.

Farm Transition Planning/Succession Planning (full day or evening) Cost ~\$5000 and up

Annessa Goode Hassard created Peak Heritage Consulting Ltd. to assist families with their transition planning process as a completely *independent advisor*. Annessa is passionate about looking at the big-picture, holistic family's transition plan to understand the intricacies of each unique family, their business, and wealth ramifications.

One of the mottos she shares with clients is "Succession is the transfer of a business, while Estate Planning is the transfer of assets pre- and post-death. Transition is a combination of both and is proactive rather than reactive."

Crop-Portunities Workshop (half-day or evening)-Cost TBD ~500

Explore the PULSE-abilities- Dr. Jean Walker (Alberta Pulse Growers)

Explore the potentials, problems, opportunities and threats to growing pulses in the prairies.

101 Uses for Drone on Your Farm- Landview Drones

This is a pre-seeding talk.

Crop Markets, What's Happening? Neil Blue Provincial Crop Market Analyst

A discussion on Canadian and World Crop Market factors.



Request for Decision (RFD)

Local Farm Tour Cost (full day)- TBD dependent on sponsorships and partnerships.

A local farm tour presents an opportunity to visit two to three farms within Smoky Lake County to highlight innovative practices being implemented by local producers. These may include the adoption of new technologies, progressive grazing management techniques, or the use of modern equipment.

The tour could be delivered in partnership with local vendors, such as McEwan's, who may be willing to sponsor the event. This initiative offers significant value by encouraging direct engagement with producers, showcasing local operations, and recognizing the hard work and innovation of community members as they grow their agricultural businesses.

Of the potential engagement options, this initiative would require the greatest level of administrative coordination. Planning considerations would include identifying and securing participating farms, arranging a central meeting location, coordinating transportation between tour sites, organizing catering, and securing sponsors or partners to support the event's success.

Benefits:

- Highlights and supports local agriculture within Smoky Lake County.
- Enables flexible, lower-cost educational opportunities in the community
- Supports local venues, caterers, and agricultural businesses.

Disadvantages:

- 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.

Financial Implications:

Costs range from ~\$1000 for a single small event to \$15,000–\$20,000 for multiple events, depending on the number and type of activities delivered.

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:



Request for Decision (RFD)

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

Enclosure(s):

N/A

Signature of the CAO: 



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Agenda Item: #

Topic: ATTS Group Inc.

Presented By: Agriculture Department

Recommendation:

For the Board to discuss as an option to fill the gaps in our environmental programming.

Background:

On December 2nd, 2025, the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board made the motion, 'That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the Smoky Lake County's Extension Program 2026 as information.'

Following this motion the Agricultural Services Department has put together several different options for the Board to consider for environmental and extension programming. Due to the motion being unspecific about any exact programming that the Board wants to see and with current staffing capacities the Agriculture Services Department has brought forward realistic options for the 2026 year, with an openness to even more ideas in future years.

The Agricultural Department receives a grant from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation which helps support the development of ASB programming and services. The ASB grant has two different streams; the legislative stream which is what helps fund the duties that are carried out by the Agricultural Fieldman and seasonal staff in relation to the *Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pest Act, & Agricultural Service Board Act*. The other stream is the Environmental/Resource stream, this stream is a merit based so the more services that are provided the more **potential** funding Smoky Lake County could receive, currently Smoky Lake County receives \$15,000.

Smoky Lake County has historically never participated in a service like what Toso Bozic of ATTS Group Inc offers. We receive several phone calls yearly regarding tree health, pruning questions, pest identification etc. Toso offers the following services for \$3,500 annually.

- 3 webinars or 1 face to face workshop– topics range from tree planting, tree care, pruning, pests, tree selection, fire risk management but also trees and soil erosion/ flooding, beneficial pollinators, riparian, grafting, growing trees from seeds or cutting, etc
- **Unlimited** amount of questions regarding to trees, and shelterbelts – including: tree pest issues, any problems with trees such as herbicides, salt, drought, anything about tree planting, care and maintenance
- Use Toso's Blog articles for our newspapers and social media – we can use as many as we want
- 1 article on a topic of our choice– ex. how to grow trees from cuttings or specific pest, or whatever we decide

Additional services that can be provided at an additional cost include:

- **Tree Hazard Risk Assessments** – many counties hire Toso to evaluate trees on their campgrounds, parks, playgrounds, hamlets etc – It is under Duty of Care that a municipality must perform. This is something Parks and Recreation may benefit from.
- **Tree planning and designs (Shelterbelts, Riparian, and Windbreaks)** for various tree planting project (ALUS, FCM, 2 Billion Trees, etc)



Request for Decision (RFD)

- Development of tree bylaws, policy and regulations

Currently Toso provides his services to 25 municipalities across Alberta.

Benefits:

By partnering with Toso at ATTS Group Inc it ensures we are providing environmental services at a relatively low cost. His partnership would provide us with a tree expert to connect our ratepayers with when we are faced with questions we are unable to answer.

Disadvantages:

There is a cost associated with this service.

Alternatives:

We do not partner with Toso at ATTS Group Inc. and continue to provide ratepayers with online resources and our internal knowledge to answer questions.

Financial Implications:

\$3,500.00

Legislation:

It is stated in our ASB Grant Agreements with AGI that we must provide a level of extension and environmental programming to receive the Resource Management Stream funding.

Intergovernmental:

None.

Strategic Alignment:

(Select the Strategic Plan Priority that this topic is associated with)

Enclosure(s):

(List any supporting documents attached)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. H. Toso".

Signature of the CAO: _____



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Agenda Item: # 5.2

Topic: Policy Statement No. 62-10-11 Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2026

Presented By: Agricultural Department

Recommendation:

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommend that Smoky Lake County Council amend Policy Statement No. 62-10-11 Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2026 to incorporate the following amendments related to the ASB Extension Program:

Background:

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

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

Benefits:

Provides ASB Staff with guidance and ensures compliance.

Disadvantages:

N/A

Alternatives:

N/A

Financial Implications:

N/A

Legislation:

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

Intergovernmental:

N/A

Strategic Alignment:

N/A

Enclosure(s):

Policy Statement 62-10-11 Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2026

Signature of the CAO: 

DEPARTMENT SUMMARY

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board provides agricultural producers with programming designed to enhance environmental stewardship, farm income, and quality of life. These services are delivered through vegetation management, agricultural extension, problem wildlife management, pest control, program delivery and monitoring, as well as government advocacy.

The Agricultural Service Board is also responsible for the enforcement of provincial legislation, including the Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pests Act, Agricultural Service Board Act, Soil Conservation Act, and the Animal Health Act.

Vision Statement:

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

Mission Statement:

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

DEPARTMENT SUMMARY

Values

Integrity

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

Commitment to Service

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board strives to provide the highest level of service to its ratepayers by conducting operations in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Progressive

The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board takes a proactive and innovative approach to programming by examining new technologies and protocols, while welcoming and implementing relevant public input.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Program Goal

Reduce noxious weeds and maintain safe roadside sightlines through an integrated vegetation management approach on municipal rights-of-way.

Strategies, Actions, and Measures

Identify Problem Noxious Weeds

Strategy

- Identify problem noxious weeds within municipal rights-of-way, with key emphasis on Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weed species.
- Analyze both environmental and economic threats.

Actions

- All county roads inspected for noxious weeds at least once per growing season.

Measures

- Number of road inspections completed annually.



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Herbicide Application

Actions

- One-half of all county roads will receive herbicide application using One-Pass mower herbicide applicators, following:
 - Policy Statement 62-15 – Vegetation Management Plan
 - Policy Statement 62-23 – Tansy Reduction Program
- Brush spraying completed during the regular roadside spraying rotation in coordination with the Public Works brushing program.
- Spot spraying conducted in the remaining two zones where regular roadside spraying occurs.
- Targeted treatment of noxious weeds and brush.
- Custom spraying on private lands will occur if time and budget allow, with priority given to landowners struggling with Prohibited Noxious weeds.

Measures

- Number of miles receiving herbicide application.
- Amount of herbicide applied for brush control.
- Number of locations spot sprayed.
- Amount of herbicide applied during spot spraying.
- Number of landowners assisted with eliminating Prohibited Noxious weeds by the ASB Department.



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Roadside Mowing

Actions

- Roadside mowing conducted according to Policy Statement 62M-02 – Mowing Program.
- Roadsides will receive:
 - One initial shoulder pass.
 - A secondary shoulder pass once primary passes are complete.
- Lake roads leading to resorts, Victoria Trail, and Township Road 610 will be mowed prior to the July and August long weekends.
- One shoulder pass and a second seasonal pass to the property line for weed and brush control to be completed by October 1 annually.
- Iron Horse Trail mowed once per year.
- Additional mowing completed for community events and other municipal properties as required.

Measures

- Miles of road mowed.
- Amount of additional mowing completed for community events.
- Amount of additional mowing completed on other municipal properties

WEED CONTROL ACT DUTIES

Invasive Species & Weed Control Program Goal

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

Strategies, Actions, and Measures

Weed Inspection Program

Actions

- Weed inspections conducted on private land annually during the growing season.
- Recommendation letters sent to landowners in non-compliance with the Weed Control Act of Alberta, as outlined in Policy Statement 62-14 – Weed Inspection and Weed Notice.
- Weed Notices issued to landowners who do not comply with recommendation letters.
- Enforcement actions completed by the Agricultural Services Department for continued non-compliance with issued Weed Notices.

Measures

- Number of inspections completed.
- Number of letters sent to landowners and renters.
- Number of Weed Notices issued.
- Number of weed enforcement actions completed.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND EXTENSION

Environmental Stewardship & Extension Program Goal

To empower Smoky Lake County's agricultural producers through assistance with Environmental Farm Plans and innovative, locally driven workshops that promote environmental stewardship, sustainability, and resilient agricultural growth.

Strategies, Actions and Measures

Environmental Farm Plans

Actions

- Assist local producers with the completion of Environmental Farm Plans
- Provide air photographs for fields and farmyards
- Provide soils information
- Provide water well information from the Alberta Water Wells Database

Measures

- Number of Environmental Farm Plans assisted with
- Increased adoption of beneficial management practices by producers

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND EXTENSION

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Actions

- Assist local producers with information on new agricultural programs and grants
- Stay current with program updates and changes

Measures

- Number of producers assisted

Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program

Actions

- Assist local producers with information on new agricultural programs and grants
- Stay current with program updates and changes

Measures

- Number of producers assisted

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND EXTENSION

On-Farm Climate Action Fund

Actions

- Assist local producers with information on new agricultural programs and grants
- Stay current with program updates and changes

Measures

- Number of producers assisted

Classroom Agriculture Program

Actions

- Deliver the Classroom Agriculture Program to Grade 4 students at schools registered within Smoky Lake County

Measures

- Number of Classroom Agriculture Program presentations delivered

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND EXTENSION

Municipally hosted events and workshops

The Smoky Lake Agricultural Services Department will host a minimum of four (4) local agricultural events annually. Event topics will be determined on a year-to-year basis in response to emerging issues, producer needs, areas of interest within the local agricultural community, and current trends or challenges facing the agricultural sector.

PROBLEM WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Problem Wildlife Program Goal

To implement an Integrated Problem Wildlife Management Program that reduces wildlife-related damage through proactive, responsible, and coordinated management practices

Strategies, Actions, and Measures

Coyotes

Actions

- Maintain Form 7 License to provide 1080 toxicant to agricultural producers
- (Policy Statement 62-03: Coyote Control)
- Provide Coyote Control booklets to help producers manage predation

Measures

- Number of 1080 tablets distributed annually

Note

- As of December 2024, Health Canada has recalled all 1080, and it will be expected that producers attend a farmers pesticide applicator certification to use

PROBLEM WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Beavers

Actions

- Offer a Beaver Tail Bounty of \$15.00 per tail from pre-approved locations
- (Policy Statement 62-07: Beaver Management)
- Remove beaver dams to mitigate flooding and protect municipal infrastructure
- (Policy Statement 62-21: Beaver Control – Fee for Removal with Explosives)
- Part-time Animal Control Technician to:
 - Obtain required landowner easements
 - Secure all provincial and federal permissions
- Maintain a Certified Blaster's License with the Province of Alberta
- Trap and remove problem beavers and muskrats
- Install and maintain pond levelers and other flow devices

Measures

- Number of beaver tails submitted
- Number of dams removed affecting municipal infrastructure
- Revenue generated from private land blasting
- Damage Control Licenses issued by Alberta Environment
- Trapping conducted on County-owned lake properties
- Certification renewal completed every 5 years
- Number of beavers and muskrats removed
- Number of pond levelers installed or maintained
- Number of flooded roads

PROBLEM WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Richardson Ground Squirrel (Gopher)

Actions

- Provide alternative control options to producers
- Recommend local trappers where appropriate

Measures:

- Number of producers assisted

Wild Boar

Actions

- Promote the Alberta Invasive Species Council “Squeal on Pigs” campaign
- Support awareness and reporting of wild boar sightings
- Partner on surveillance efforts with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation when possible.
- Participate in the partnership with Alberta Pork when it's available, this is dependent on grant funding.

Measures

- County website posts and social media shares
- Number of sightings recorded while doing surveillance

PROBLEM WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Waterfowl Damage Control

Actions

- Scare cannons available for rent in accordance with Policy Statement 62-26 – “Scare Cannon Rental”
- Recommend alternative control measures to mitigate crop damage during fall migration

Measure

- Number of scare cannon rentals
- Number of producers utilizing alternative control measures

Alternative Control Methods

Actions

- Agricultural Fieldmen will continue to explore alternative control methods for all pest species
- Promote and notify producers of new alternative control measures as they become available

Measures

- Attend In-service training with Agricultural Fieldmen from across the province, to hear what they are doing
- Attend demonstrations with government research groups

PROBLEM WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Northern Pocket Gopher (Mole)

Action

- \$1.00 per tail bounty available in accordance with
- Policy Statement 62-02 – “Bounty for Pocket Gopher Tails”
- Accept and process mole tail bounties

Measure

- Number of mole tails submitted for bounty

Stray Dog Pickup

Action

- Assist Smoky Lake County Peace Officer with responses to ratepayer reports of loose dogs, as required
- Transport stray dogs to an approved animal shelter or reunite with owners when possible

Measure

- Number of stray dogs picked up and transported or reunited with owners



AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT DUTIES

Agricultural Pest Act Program Goal

To provide Smoky Lake County agricultural producers with responsible pest management strategies through pest monitoring and enforcement of declared agricultural pests, as outlined in the Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta.

Strategies, Actions, Measures

Swede Midge of Canola

Actions

- Monitored on behalf of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- 8-week monitoring program with weekly sticky pad changes
- Ongoing monitoring for new and invasive pests that threaten the agricultural industry

Measures

- Monitoring completed and data submitted as required

Canola Flower Midge

Actions

- Monitored on behalf of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- 8-week monitoring program with weekly sticky pad changes
- Ongoing monitoring for new and invasive pests that threaten the agricultural industry

Measures

- Monitoring completed and data submitted as required



AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT DUTIES

Grasshoppers

Actions

- Townships surveyed annually for grasshopper activity
- County ditches and fields sampled at each survey location
- Survey data submitted to Alberta Agriculture for forecasting

Measures

- Number of fields surveyed
- Number of outbreaks identified

Bertha Armyworm

Actions

- Three (3) fields monitored across the county
- Monitoring conducted from June to August
- Traps placed to collect moths responsible for egg laying
- Data used to support outbreak forecasting

Measures

- Number of moths counted annually
- Number of outbreaks forecasted

AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT DUTIES

Wheat Midge

Actions

- Wheat fields monitored when heads are emerging through anthesis (flowering), typically late June
- Monitoring focused on areas with historically high populations and risk of yield loss
- Samples collected annually and submitted to Alberta Agriculture when required

Measures

- Samples collected and submitted
- Areas monitored during susceptible growth stages

Blackleg of Canola

Actions

- Canola fields sampled annually to assess Blackleg severity
- Samples provided to the Crop Diversification Centre for research purposes

Measures

- Number of fields sampled annually

AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT DUTIES

Clubroot

Actions

- Random canola fields surveyed after swathing
- Fields assessed for visual symptoms of Clubroot
- Plant samples with suspected galls submitted for laboratory DNA confirmation
- Monitoring conducted in accordance with Policy Statement 62-12-04 – “Clubroot”

Measures

- Number of canola fields sampled annually
- Number of Clubroot Management Checklists issued to producers annually
- Number of Pest Notices issued annually

SOIL CONSERVATION ACT DUTIES

Soil Conservation Act Goal

To protect the quality and integrity of agricultural soils in Smoky Lake County

Strategies, Actions, Measures

Soil Conservation

Actions

- Agricultural Fieldmen are designated as inspectors under the Soil Conservation Act
- Document and photograph any instances of non-compliance
- Promote soil health workshops and site demonstrations
- Monitor soil conditions and respond to areas of concern following events that may impact soil or water sources

Measures

- Number of Soil Conservation Notices issued
- Number of Soil Conservation Letters issued
- Number of workshops delivered
- Number of areas assessed for soil condition concerns



INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION

Intergovernmental Collaboration Goal

Conduct intergovernmental collaboration with all levels of government

Strategies, Actions, Measures

Collaborate with multiple levels and forms of government

Actions

- Agricultural Service Board (ASB) participation in drafting and passing resolutions at:
 - Regional Agricultural Service Board Conferences
 - Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conferences
- Attend annual conferences and participate through:
 - Discussion
 - Voting on agricultural issues
-

Measures

- Attendance at Regional and Provincial ASB Conferences



INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION

Protect the interests of the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Community

Actions

- Convey agricultural concerns to relevant government agencies through:
 - Face-to-face meetings
 - Letter writing
 - Other available communication methods
- Advocate on behalf of the local agricultural community at provincial and federal levels

Measures

- Number of letters sent to:
 - MLAs
 - MPs
 - Other government representatives



INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION

Animal Health Act

Actions

- Liaise with the:
 - Chief Provincial Veterinarian (CPV)
 - Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
 - Local veterinarians
 - when necessary for livestock emergencies under Policy Statement 62-30 Animal Health & Livestock Emergency Preparedness
- Respond to livestock emergencies, including:
 - Highway livestock incidents
(e.g., cattle liner accidents)
- If a positive case or outbreak under the Animal Health Act is confirmed within Smoky Lake County:
 - ASB staff will act in accordance with CPV directives
- Coordinate with Fire Protective Services during highway livestock emergencies, including:
 - Sourcing rendering trucks
 - Arranging trailers
 - Contacting local veterinarians

Measures

- Number of investigations ASB staff are asked to assist on
- Number of highway livestock emergencies assisted on

ASB Chair report January 28, 2026

Dec 2nd , 2025 – I was elected as chair of the ASB committee, and Ryan Barker elected as vice-chair

- Presentation from Alyssa Krawchuk from LARA on year-to-date activites
- Dillis Pelletier from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation provided ASB orientation for new members
- Recommendations to be brought to County council
 - 1. Coyote reduction program
 - 2. Withdraw from LARA contract
 - 3. Appointment of assistant Ag fieldman
 - 4. Appointment of Ag fieldman

Dec 15th, 2025 – Attend LARA orientation and regular meeting. Main discussion on operations and quotes for new storage shed

Dec 18th, 2025 – Motion carried for administration to apply for grant from Alberta Outfitters Society to support Coyote Reduction Program

- Motion carried for administration to withdraw from LARA contract
- Motion carried for administration to hire an Assistant Ag Fieldman
- Motion carried to appoint Carleigh Danyluk as Ag Fieldman effective Dec 19,2025

Jan 20-22, 2026 – Attend ASB conference at Delta South Conference Centre hosted by Northeast

Region of AAAF, Conference MC was Mike LaBelle

- Chairmans meeting which gave an opportunity to network with other Municipalities.

- Assistant Deputy Minister John Conrad provided an update from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

- Welcoming remarks from Joey Nafziger, Dawn Fortin, Kerrianne Koehler-Munro, Hannah Mackenzie, MLA Garth Rowswell, and Mayor Andrew Knack

- Open market from numerous vendors

- Keynote speaker Rob Saik spoke on AI in agriculture

- Linda Hunt and Rod Siewert spoke on how ASB boards play a vital role in Alberta's agricultural system

-Presentation by Errol Anderson on how to make sense of stained economics and the world of Tariffs

-ASB update from regional reps. Kerrianne Koehler-Munro, Khalil Ahmed, Trevor Wallace, Dillis Pelletier, Kellie Jackson, and Alan Efetha

-Presentation by Miles Wowk on Trade, Tariffs, and Economy in the Cattle Industry

-Presentation by Trevor Wallace on Alberta's Climate and Weather

-Resolution session

1. Emergency Registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine - carried

2. Exemption of Agriculture Equipment from Canadian Environmental Protection Act. (DEF) - carried

3. Marked Fuel Program. Withdrawn by Province.

4. Rural Water Distribution and Connectivity Funding - carried

5. Modernizing Alberta's Rat Control Program – carried

6. On-Farm Meat Processing – carried

7. Legal Entity Aligned with ASBS – defeated

8. Urgent Reforms to CFIA and PMRA – carried

9. Vacant Biological Control Scientist Position – carried

10. Livestock Traceability Update Concerns – carried

-Presentation by Filipe Massetti-Leite on his 27,000 km journey on horseback

-Presentation by Darcy Allen on Landowner Considerations regarding Renewable Energy

-Presentation by Melissa Downing on Balancing Agriculture and Municipal Development

-Presentation by Megan Bergman on Motivations and Deterrents to Rural Veterinary Practice.

-Three 20 minute presentations on their small businesses from

1. Charlotte Wasyluk, Chatsworth Farms

2. Kerri Oshust, Ohust Farms Ltd.

3. Shane Chrapko, Birds & Bees Distillery

-Presentation by Megan Evans on Protecting Alberta from the Impacts of Invasive Species

-Presentation by Karen Wickerson on Compound 1080 Update

-Presentation by Hannah McKenzie on Wild Boar Control Program

-Dillis Pelletier announced that she will be stepping down as Northeast Region Liaison and that Hannah McKenzie will be taking over.



M.D. OF RANCHLAND NO. 66
 PO BOX 1060 • NANTON, AB • T0L 1R0 • 403-646-3131 • MDRANCHLAND.CA

October 14, 2025

The Honourable Heath MacDonald
 Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
 1341 Baseline Road
 Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5
 aafc.minister-ministre.aac@agr.gc.ca

Subject: Inquiry Regarding the Vacant Research Scientist Position at AAFC Lethbridge Research and Development Centre

Dear Minister MacDonald,

I am writing on behalf of the Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 to inquire about the timeline for filling the research scientist position recently vacated by the retirement of Dr. Rosemarie De Clerck-Floate, Weed Biological Control Entomologist at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Lethbridge Research and Development Centre. This vacancy leaves Canada without the capacity to evaluate and approve any new weed biological control (biocontrol) agents for use by farmers, land and water managers, effectively halting the pipeline of new tools to manage invasive species. Without this scientist in place, the significant federal investment in the Lethbridge quarantine facility cannot fulfill its intended purpose of developing and approving new agents, leaving this vital infrastructure underutilized and idle.

This position is pivotal to the future of weed biocontrol research and development in Canada. As a recognized cornerstone of integrated pest management, biocontrol provides a sustainable, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly approach to managing invasive species. The biocontrol of destructive plants that have invaded Canada from elsewhere involves importing insects that feed specifically on the weed at its place of origin, and this long-running AAFC program has earned wide recognition and acceptance among agricultural producers and land managers. Once developed, biocontrol agents offer long-term control with minimal ongoing costs, reduce reliance on chemical controls, and help restore balance to affected ecosystems.

Over the past year, the Alberta Invasive Species Council has convened a broad coalition of organizations from across Alberta, including municipal and provincial governments, federal agencies, industry, producer groups, and non-governmental organizations, to strengthen biocontrol capacity in our province. This collaboration, known as the Alberta Biocontrol Consortium, is focused on:

- Identifying and prioritizing invasive species targets for biocontrol in Alberta
- Supporting the development and evaluation of biocontrol agents
- Facilitating knowledge sharing among member organizations
- Mobilizing financial and in-kind resources to support biocontrol initiatives

Through this collaborative effort, we are working to secure the funding and partnerships needed to advance biocontrol research in Alberta and beyond. However, the absence of a dedicated research scientist at the AAFC Lethbridge facility creates a critical gap. Even if we are able to fund the overseas research needed to identify potential new biocontrol agents, without an AAFC scientist to lead and contribute to this work, the essential processes of assessing safety, efficacy, and suitability for release in Canada are disrupted.

The Lethbridge Research and Development Centre houses a state-of-the-art quarantine facility specifically designed for rearing biocontrol agents and testing them against invasive and native plant species to ensure host specificity and environmental safety. This specialized infrastructure is unique and irreplaceable, but without appropriately qualified scientific staff to operate it, the facility cannot fulfill its intended purpose and risks sitting idle despite the significant federal investment it represents.

We understand that the federal public service is facing fiscal pressures, but we urge you to recognize this position as essential to Canada's leadership in sustainable, science-based invasive species management. Filling this vacancy would ensure that the federal investment in the Lethbridge facility continues to deliver tangible benefits for producers and ecosystems across the country, work that is already backed by a broad grassroots network of collaborating organizations in Alberta.

Without timely action to fill this position, Canada's capacity to deliver new biocontrol agents will remain stalled, leaving producers without vital tools and allowing costly invasive species to spread unchecked. This vacancy would render world-class federal infrastructure effectively idle, despite strong provincial momentum and partner investments ready to be leveraged. Filling this position is the critical step needed to unlock these resources and deliver real solutions on the ground.

Thank you for considering this request. We would be happy to provide more information on the collaborative work underway in Alberta or discuss this matter further

Sincerely,



Ron Davis, Reeve
Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66
403-646-3131
rdavis@ranchland66.com

Cc: John Barlow, Member of Parliament – Foothills
The Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
The Honourable Rebecca Schulz, Alberta Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
The Honourable Todd Loewen, Alberta Minister of Forestry and Parks
Chelsae Petrovic, MILA – Livingstone-Macleod
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards

2025-11-18

Hon. R.J. Sigurdson
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
3rd Floor – 7000 113 Street
Edmonton, AB.
T6H 5T6

sent via email to: 310farm@gov.ab.ca

RE: On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) Licence Amendments

Dear Minister Sigurdson,

On behalf of Saddle Hills County, I would like to express our concerns with the recent proposed changes to the On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) Licence program.

Many producers in Saddle Hills County, and throughout the Peace Region, rely on the OFSO program for the viability of their operations, investing large sums of money and time into creating infrastructure to support these on-farm businesses. The previously proposed slaughter limit of 5,000lb per year, would have made the OFSO licence an unviable option for many producers, seemingly going against what the program was created for – to improve local food availability in communities and provide options to consumers.

While many producers completed the Government's subsequent survey on the program, there are concerns among licence-holders that the issues faced by producers may not be accurately captured by the questions asked.

We echo these concerns. Saddle Hills County is committed to supporting local food systems and the programs that ensure that rural farmers are able to continue their operations in a stable economic environment and, as such, would ask that the Government of Alberta meet directly with OFSO licence-holders and working groups to discuss any further changes before implementation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any further questions, please reach out to CAO Cary Merritt, at cmerritt@saddlehills.ab.ca.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerry Richard".

Gerry Richard
Reeve

cc. Hon. Joseph Schow, Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade, and Immigration

Cardston.Siksika@assembly.ab.ca

Hon. Danielle Smith, Premier premier@gov.ab.ca

ASB Provincial Committee ASBPC_EA@agriculturalserviceboards.com

Junction of Highway 49 and Highway 725, RR 1, Spirit River, Alberta, Canada, T0H 3G0
Phone: 780-864-3760 | Fax: 780-864-3904 | Toll Free: 1-888-864-3760



November 26, 2025

Honourable Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
204 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

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

RE: Farmer Pesticide Certification Program

The Northern Sunrise County Agricultural Service Board supports the letters written by Kneehill County and the Municipal District of Greenview No.16 Agricultural Service Boards about concerns regarding the Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program and updates to the registration of Sodium Monofluoroacetate (Compound 1080). We share the concerns outlined in both letters regarding the outdated course material, limited resources, and gaps in the administration of the program.

Pesticide application training is important, however, restricted accessibility to the program due to limited resources and qualified facilitators highlights a shortfall in the currently proposed regulatory framework. A core requirement for producers wanting to use Compound 1080 as a last-resort method for livestock protection from predation is that they must hold the Farmer Pesticide Certification. This is the only pesticide certification program in Alberta not overseen by Lakeland College and instead depends on municipal delivery.

To offer the program, a municipality must have an Agricultural Fieldman with at least five years of experience and a valid Pesticide Applicators License to serve as a certified trainer. However, high staff turnover in recent years, particularly in the Peace Region, has left few municipalities with personnel who meet these requirements. Consequently, the burden falls on a limited number of qualified municipalities, further restricting training availability across the region.

Producers seeking certification to use Compound 1080 should not be hindered by limited training availability. Expanding access through Lakeland College, along with offering online delivery options, would help ensure the Farmer Pesticide Certification program is more accessible and consistent across the province.

We respectfully request an update to course materials and a review of the program administration, as well as the creation of a more accessible platform for individuals seeking to obtain this certification.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Cindy Millar, Chief Administrative Officer
Agricultural Service Board
Northern Sunrise County





**NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD**

Box 1300, 135 Sunrise Road
Peace River, AB
T8S 1Y9
northernsunrise.net

CC: Claude Rodrigue, Reeve
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen



**Northern Sunrise County is a supportive
community where people can grow,
prosper, and belong.
We've got it all!**



November 26, 2025

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

RE: Continued Support for Unlimited On-Farm Slaughter Sales in Alberta

The Northern Sunrise County Agricultural Service Board supports the letter written by the County of Minburn for the continuation of unlimited on-farm slaughter sales in Alberta. We echo the appreciation for the pause to the limits on annual sales per farm that went into effect on July 2, 2025.

We believe the proposed slaughter-weight limits and the associated restrictions on the number of animals that could be processed under on-farm slaughter sales are both unnecessary and overly restrictive, especially given Alberta's already robust regulations governing meat processing and distribution. Such limits would disproportionately impact small and mid-sized livestock producers, reduce their ability to market directly to consumers, and create additional barriers to maintaining viable operations.

These restrictions would also diminish consumer access to locally sourced meat, particularly in rural and remote communities that rely heavily on on-farm slaughter to support their local food systems and economies. Limiting on-farm slaughter sales would therefore place unnecessary hurdles in front of Alberta's livestock industry without providing meaningful improvements to food safety or public health.

We appreciate the Government of Alberta for pausing and reconsidering the proposed slaughter-weight and sales limits, and for recognizing the strong food-safety requirements that already govern on-farm slaughter in the province.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Cindy Millar, Chief Administrative Officer
Agricultural Service Board
Northern Sunrise County

CC: Claude Rodrigue, Reeve
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen



December 11, 2025

The Honourable Heath MacDonald
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

RE: Request for Provincial Exemption or Reinstatement of 2% Strychnine for Gopher Control

Dear Minister MacDonald,

Since the PMRA cancellation of 2% strychnine, producers have been left with limited, less effective, and significantly more expensive alternatives. The consequences have been substantial:

- Escalating ground squirrel populations compound crop losses and erode already-tight margins.
- Burrow damage to equipment and field infrastructure has increased.
- Livestock injuries from unstable ground and broken legs have become a growing concern.
- Replacement products and multi-step control methods require far more labour, creating additional cost pressures during an already challenging economic period.

Producers across Alberta and even Saskatchewan have consistently reported that no replacement product matches the reliability and efficiency of 2% strychnine. The current situation threatens not only the rural farms, but also now the urban economies.

The County understands that strychnine must be managed responsibly, and Alberta has a strong track record of implementing controlled access, training requirements, and stewardship programs to mitigate risks. With proper oversight, the province is well-positioned to administer an exemption in a manner that addresses environmental concerns while still giving producers the tools they need to protect their operations.

The recent support expressed by MPs such as Steven Bonk, have already voiced support for allowing provinces to apply for exemptions when facing severe pest pressures. This reinforces the need for realistic, producer-focused action at the provincial level.

P.O Box 490, Two Hills AB T0B 4K0
Telephone: (780) 657-3358 Fax: (780) 657-3504

Alberta's agricultural sector is foundational to food security and economic stability. Allowing access to an effective vertebrate pest control tool-whether through reinstatement or exemption-would provide meaningful relief and restore a level of operational certainty that producers urgently need.

Thank you for your attention on this matter. The County of Two Hills welcomes the opportunity to provide further information or to connect you with producers who can speak firsthand about the impacts on their farms.

Sincerely,



Murray Phillips
ASB Chair & Reeve

cc'd: Minister RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Shannon Stubbs, MP for Lakeland
Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville
Pest Management Regulatory Agency
ASB Provincial Committee
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman
Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Federation of Canadian Municipalities