



## SMOKY LAKE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, June 17 at 9:00 a.m. held

Virtually <https://video.businessconnect.telus.com/join/364532932> (Meeting ID # 364532932) and

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

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1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes
  - 3.1. Minutes of the Agricultural Service Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025. ©
4. Delegation(s)
  - 4.1. Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association, to provide information on their year-to-date activities @ 9:15 a.m.
5. Business – Requests for Decisions
  - 5.1. Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2025. ©
  - 5.2. Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee 2025 Resolution Response and Grading. ©
  - 5.3. Smoky Lake County's Extension Program 2026. ©
6. Issues for Information
  - 6.1. ASB Chairman's Report. ©
  - 6.2. 2024 Smoky Lake County ASB Department Overview. ©
  - 6.3. Mowing Map Update as of June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025. ©
  - 6.4. Smoky Creek Discussion (NE-13-59-18-W4). ©
  - 6.5. Wildlife Damage Compensation Program 2025 from Agriculture Financial Services Corporation. ©
  - 6.6. Farming in Municipal Right-of-Way. ©
7. Correspondence
  - 7.1. Weeds on Wellsites Update provided by Agricultural Service Boards, received April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. ©  
**Recommendation:** File for Information.
  - 7.2. Letter of Support for AgKnow from Cypress County, received April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. ©  
**Recommendation:** File for Information.
  - 7.3. ASB Connector April 2025 Edition, received April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025. ©  
**Recommendation:** File for Information.
  - 7.4. Wild Boar in Alberta: Understanding the Risks & Potential Changes article from Agricultural Service Boards, received April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025. ©  
**Recommendation:** File for Information.

- 7.5. Agricultural Moisture Situation Update as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, provided by Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation, received May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025. ©

**Recommendation:** File for Information.

- 7.6. Richardson Ground Squirrel Update from Agricultural Service Boards, received May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. ©

**Recommendation:** File for Information. ©

- 7.7. Alberta Crop Report update provided by Trade, Economic & Data Analytics Branch of the Alberta Government, received May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025. ©

**Recommendation:** File for Information.

- 7.8. Agricultural Moisture Situation Update as of May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, provided by Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation, received May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. ©

**Recommendation:** File for Information.

- 7.9. Agricultural Moisture Situation Update as of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, provided by Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation, received June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. ©

**Recommendation:** File for Information.

8. Date and time of Next Meeting  
Adjournment.



Minutes of Smoky Lake County's **Agricultural Service Board Regular Meeting** held on Tuesday, **April 8, 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:

		<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
		<b><u>Tues. April 8, 2025</u></b>
<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	
Committee Member	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
Committee Member	Jered Serben	Present in Chambers
Alt. Committee Member	Dominique Cere	Present Virtually
Alt. Committee Member	Lorne Halisky	Absent
Producer-at-Large Member	Tori Ponich	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Curtis Boychuk	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Tamara Flondra	Present in Chambers
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Kurt Melnyk	Absent
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Brett Rurka	Present in Chambers
County CAO	Kevin Lucas	Present in Chambers
Acting Ag. Fieldman	Kierstin Dubitz	Present in Chambers
County Executive Services/R.S.	Chyenne Shaw	Present in Chambers
Comm. Officer	Evonne Zukiwski	Absent

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No Members of the Media were Present.

No Members of the Public were Present.

Delegation: Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), Brett Matthiessen, Vice Chairman, and Ryan Kroeger and Ben Evans, Biologist and volunteer, Parkland Pintails Delta Waterfowl Chapter Alberta Grazing Lease Holders Association, present in Chambers.

## 2. **Agenda:**

ASB119-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, April 8, 2025, be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

## 3. **Minutes:**

ASB120-25: Boychuk That the Minutes of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

## 4. **Delegation:**

### **Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)**

Virtually present before the Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board from 9:05 a.m. to 9:19 a.m., was Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), who read from her following report:

Past Events:

Four (4) extension events hosted in Smoky Lake County (January - March 2025)

1. Grow Your Own Microgreens - Vilna Senior Centre

1. Garden Forum - April 10th, 2025 - Ukrainian National Hall
2. Remote Drug Delivery in Cattle - June 3rd, 2025
  - a. Location to be determined
3. Riparian Areas and Agriculture with Cows & Fish - July 9th, 2025
  - a. Location to be determined
4. Summer Field School- July 24th, 2025
  - a. Topics: Insect
    - i. Management with Boyd Mori (University of Alberta)
    - ii. Cover Crops and Polycultures with Covers & Co.
    - iii. Biologicals with Eco-Tea
  - b. Possible bus tour included with the field day.

S. Smoky Lake Grazing Club

Youth Education Programming

1. Walking With Moose: grade five (5) students to be further educated about ecosystems, supplementing the curriculum, learning about biodiversity, healthy shorelines and forest ecology. This is a full day program where the first half-day is spent where students have the opportunity to collect aquatic animals and organisms for identification. The students learn about water quality, wetlands and larger animals that live along water shores such as birds and fish. The second half of the day is a nature walk learning about wildlife, signs, tracks, vegetation and the forest ecosystem including potential threats such as pine beetle, fire and Human Impacts.

2. The Secret World of Soils: this is a **NEW** program currently being developed and is scheduled for release in the fall of 2025. This program aims to ignite curiosity, provide engaging hands-on learning opportunities, and empower students to develop a deep appreciation for the critical role soils play in both the ecosystem and our food systems. Soil is a foundational resource for life on Earth, yet its importance is often overlooked. Soil is often thought of simply as dirt, but through this education program, we aim to change that mindset. Students will learn that soil is not just an inert substance under our feet but a vibrant, complex ecosystem teeming with life. Healthy soils are essential for sustaining ecosystems by supporting plant growth, storing carbon, filtering water, and regulating nutrients. At the same time, they form the bedrock of agriculture, producing the food, fiber, and fuel we rely on every day. However, soil health faces significant challenges, including erosion, contamination, and the impacts of unsustainable agricultural practices. Through this program, students will gain insights into the interconnected nature of soils and the environment.

Research and Demonstration

Four (4) small plot research trials planned so far in 2025:

1. Eco-Tea on canola stubble x 2
2. Alpine products
3. Oat variety trial

Six (5) demonstrations under consideration so far for 2025:

1. Polycultures for livestock feed and soil management
2. Lupin (emerging pulse crop) variety demonstration
3. Cereal demonstration with under seeded perennial clovers
4. Camelina (emerging oilseed crop) variety demonstration
5. Industrial hemp variety demonstration

Two (2) field scale trials under consideration so far for 2025:

1. Biological amendments
2. Use of drones in Clubroot mapping and management

**Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) - Delegation**

ASB121-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the report provided by the April 8, 2025, Delegation: Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), as information.

Carried.

**Change in Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Directors**

ASB122-25: Boychuk That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge that Landon Hominiuk has been appointed, by Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) as Directors to the LARA Board:

Carried.



ASB123-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the report provided by the April 8, 2025, Delegation: Brett Matthiessen, Vice Chairman, Alberta Grazing Lease Holders Association, as information.

Carried

ASB124-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board direct the Ags Services Fieldman to advertise for Alberta Grazing Lease Holders Association members on social media and websites.

Carried

**Biologist and Volunteer, Parkland Pintails Delta Waterfowl Chapter**

Virtually/present before the Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board from 9:34 a.m. to 9:56 a.m., was Ryan Kroeger and Ben Evans, Biologist and volunteer, Parkland Pintails Delta Waterfowl Chapter, to provide information on previous work and future work in Smoky Lake County.

ASB125-25: Boychuk That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the report provided by the April 8, 2025, Delegation: Ryan Kroeger and Ben Evans, Biologist and volunteer, Parkland Pintails Delta Waterfowl Chapter, as information.

Carried

ASB126-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board direct the Agricultural Services Fieldman to promote the Parkland Pintails Delta Waterfowl Chapter's request for locations to install hen houses in Smoky Lake County via social media and websites.

Carried

**5. Business - Requests for Decision:**

**5.1 Lakeland Agricultural Research Association 2025 Contract**

ASB127-25: Flondra That the Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board recommends that Smoky Lake County provides a municipal contribution in the amount of \$55,000.00 towards the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Year-2025 Operating Budget, and enters into an agreement to allow Smoky Lake County producers access to LARA's Year-2025 environmental and extension programming.

Carried.

ASB128-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board direct the Agricultural Services Fieldman place the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association Contract on the Agenda for the next Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting for discussion.

Carried

**5.2 Firearms Authorization RFD**

ASB129-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board recommend that Smoky Lake County Council approve Schedule "A" Firearms Authorization for Trevor Cameron, Animal Control Technician for the

ASB130-25: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the following 2024 Leafy Spurge Biocontrol acknowledge and file the correspondence.

Carried.

#### **5.4 Wild Boar Program Update.**

ASB131-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the verbal update for information.

Carried.

#### **5.5 Smoky Creek Discussion.**

ASB132-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board direct Agricultural Services Fieldman and Administration Staff to collect information regarding permits for improving water flow or eliminating the dredge of Smoky Creek. Furthermore, they are to draft a letter to the Province requesting guidance on mitigation strategies to address the overgrowth of the creeks.

Carried.

#### **5.6 Additional Annual Funding to Agricultural Societies Discussion.**

ASB132-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board recommend increase funding of \$6,000 to Vilna Agricultural Society, \$6,000.00 to Waskatenau Agricultural Society and \$12,000.00 to Smoky Lake Agricultural Society

Carried

### **6. Issues for Information:**

#### **Agricultural Service Board Chairperson Report**

Dan Gawalko ASB chair report April 2025

- February 11/25, Smoky Lake County Ag Service Board Meeting with vice chair Jared Serben and several board members in attendance, Alyssa Krawchuk gave an update on LARA, updated policy statement 62-10-09 ASB business plan for 2025, drafts of the 2025 ASB resolution results, 1.7 million from the province to AgKnow & producer mental health program, discussed the June 13 Farmer & Rancher appreciation BBQ, next meeting April 8, 9am.

- February 24/25, attended the LARA meeting, discussed LARA logo redesign, weather stations, and capital funding from ROAR, Alyssa gave her executive directors report, working on the audit, hired 4 summer students, extension and upcoming events, on the research side they are writing their annual reports, helping producers with grants, financials were presented.

- March 6/25 attended the LARA AGM in Mallaig with councillor Lorne Halisky & producer reps Amanda Fischer & Charlie Leskiw, a new producer rep for Smoky Lake County was elected Landon Hominiuk and Teegan Miller for the MD. Of Bonnyville for 3 years terms, Barb McCarthy gave a presentation on the audited financials, the staff at LARA gave presentations of the work that was done in 2024 including the trials the chair & executive director gave their reports which can be viewed in the 2024 annual report, next came the organizational meeting Jay Cory was elected as chair, Amanda Fischer was elected as vice chair & Nick Kunec was elected as secretary/treasurer, March 31, strategic planning and directors meeting in Ashmont @ 10:00 am.

ASB133-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Chairperson's

**7.1 Letters of Concern Regarding Bill C-293**

- ASB134-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the correspondence received in respect to concerns with Bill C-293, which will enact the Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Act which includes clauses for providing measures to "promote commercial activities that can help reduce pandemic risk, including the production of alternative proteins" and "to regulate or phase out live animal markets", from:
- Lacombe County, received February 13, 2025,
  - Parkland County, received March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025,

Carried.

**7.2 Letters of Regarding Provincial Conference Procedure Conduct, and Preparation**

- ASB135-25: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the correspondence received in respect to letter of regarding Provincial Conference Procedure Conduct, and Preparation, from:
- Big Lakes County, received March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025,

Carried.

**7.3 Letters of Regarding Provincial Conference Procedure Conduct, and Preparation**

- ASB136-25: Boychuk That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the correspondence received in respect to letter of regarding Provincial Conference Procedure Conduct, and Preparation, from:
- MD of Spirit River No. 133, received February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025,

Carried.

**7.4 Letter Regarding Farmer Pesticide Program and Updated Registration of Sodium Monofluoroacetate**

- ASB137-25: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the correspondence received in respect to Letter Regarding Farmer Pesticide Program and Updated Registration of Sodium Monofluoroacetate, from:
- MD of Greenview, received March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025,

Carried

**7.5 Moisture Situation Update from Alberta's Natural Resources Management Branch**

- ASB138-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the correspondence received from Alberta Climate Information Service Manager at the Natural Resources Management Branch Government of Alberta, in respect to the moisture situation data as of February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, received as of March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Carried.

**7.6 Moisture Situation Update from Alberta's Natural Resources Management Branch**

- ASB139-25: Boychuk That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the correspondence received from Alberta Climate Information Service Manager at the Natural Resources Management Branch Government of Alberta, in respect to the moisture situation data as of March 20, 2025, received as of March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Carried.

be scheduled for **Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**, to be held to be held in County Council Chambers as well as virtually online.

Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

ASB141-25: Serben

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting of April 8, 2025, be adjourned, time 11:19 a.m.

Carried.

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CHAIRPERSON

S E A L

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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



# Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Agenda Item: # 5.1

Topic: Policy Statement No. 62-10-11 Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2025

Presented By: Agricultural Department

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## Recommendation:

**That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommend that Smoky Lake County Council amend *Policy Statement No. 62-10-10 Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2025* to include changes made to *Policy Statement No. 62-28-07 Mowing Program and 1080 Toxicant recall*.**

## Background:

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

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

## Benefits:

Provides ASB Staff with guidance and ensures compliance.

## Disadvantages:

N/A

## Alternatives:

N/A

## Financial Implications:

N/A

## Legislation:

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

## Intergovernmental:

N/A

## Strategic Alignment:

N/A

## Enclosure(s):

**Policy Statement 62-10-11 Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2025**

Signature of the CAO:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

# SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



<b>Title: Agricultural Service Board Business Plan</b>		<b>Policy No.: 10-11</b>
<b>Section: 62</b>	<b>Code: P-A</b>	<b>Page No.: 1 of 13 E</b>
<b>Legislation Reference:</b>		<i>Alberta Provincial Statutes</i>
<b>Purpose:</b>	To establish a Business Plan for the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board	
<b>Policy Statement and Guidelines:</b>		
<b>1. STATEMENT:</b>		
1.1 The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) is in the business of providing its residents with agricultural programming to enhance the environment, farm income and quality of life. This is achieved through Vegetation Management Programming, Agricultural Extension Programming, Problem Wildlife Programming, Pest Control and Monitoring as well as, Government Lobbying.		
<b>The Agricultural Service Board is also responsible for enforcement of Provincial Legislation such as the <i>Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pest Act, Agricultural Service Board Act, Soil Conservation Act and the Animal Health Act.</i></b>		
<b>2. VISION STATEMENT:</b>		
2.1 To encourage sustainable agriculture, environmental integrity and improved quality of life in Smoky Lake County.		
<b>3. MISSION STATEMENT:</b>		
3.1 To provide services, policies and education for Agricultural families, businesses and the public to enhance the environment, farm income and quality of life.		
<b>4. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:</b>		
4.1 <u><b>The Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board</b></u> identifies the following priorities:		
One: Vegetation Management Program		
Two: Weed Control Act Duties		
Three: Environmental Stewardship and Extension		
Four: Problem Wildlife Program		
Five: Agricultural Pest Act Duties		
Six: Soil Conservation Act Duties		
Seven: Intergovernmental Collaboration		

Title: <b>Agricultural Service Board Business Plan</b>		Policy No.: <b>10-11</b>
Section: <b>62</b>	Code: <b>P-A</b>	Page No.: <b>2 of 13</b> <b>E</b>

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION:

- 5.1 Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board shall review annually as required by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation.
- 5.2 Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board staff will consider and follow the priorities of the Business Plan when creating budgets and work plans.

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	<b>December 17, 2010</b>	# 184-10 - Page # 9570
Amended	<b>March 5, 2015</b>	# 416-15 - Page # 11626
Amended	<b>December 12, 2017</b>	# 59-17 - Page # 12873
Amended	<b>December 12, 2018</b>	# 193-18 - Page # 13400
Amended	<b>December 16, 2019</b>	# 291-19 - Page # 13927
Amended	<b>December 8, 2020</b>	# 138-20 - Page # 14367
Amended	<b>December 14, 2021</b>	# 111-21 - Page # 14890
Amended	<b>February 15, 2022</b>	# 353-22 - Page # 14983
Amended	<b>February 22, 2024</b>	# 358-24 - Page # 15517
Amended	<b>February 13, 2025</b>	#288-25 - Page # 15869



# Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2025



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

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

**VISION STATEMENT:**

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

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

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

**VALUES:**

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

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



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



1.



## Vegetation Management Program

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

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

## 2. Weed Control Act Duties

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

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

### 3. Environmental Stewardship and Extension




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

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








## 4. Problem Wildlife Program

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

Strategies	Action	Measures
<b>Beavers</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Beaver Tail Bounty for \$15.00 per tail from pre-approved locations as specified in <i>Policy Statement 62-07 "Beaver Management"</i>.</li> <li>-Beaver Dam Removal may occur to mitigate flooding which causes damage to municipal infrastructure. Dam removal will be conducted as per <i>Policy Statement 62-21 "Beaver Control- Fee for Removal with Explosives"</i>.</li> <li>-Part time Animal Control Technician will obtain required easements from landowners and all provincial and federal permissions needed.</li> <li>-Maintain Certified Blasters License with the Province of Alberta.</li> <li>-Trapping and removing problem beavers and muskrats.</li> <li>-Install/ maintain pond levelers and other Flow Devices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Number of Beaver tails brought in.</li> <li>-Number of dams removed affecting municipal infrastructure.</li> <li>-Amount of revenue generated completing private land blasting.</li> <li>-Damage Control Licenses issued by Alberta Environment.</li> <li>-Trapping of County owned property at Lakes.</li> <li>-Renew every 5 years as required.</li> <li>-Number of beavers and muskrats removed.</li> <li>-Number of pond levelers installed/maintained.</li> <li>-Number of flooded roads.</li> </ul>
<b>Coyotes</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Maintain Form 7 License to ensure Smoky Lake County can provide 1080 toxicant to agricultural producers as per <i>Policy Statement 62-03 "Coyote Control"</i>.</li> <li>- Coyote control booklets available for agricultural producers to help better manage coyote predation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Number of 1080 tablets given out annually.</li> <li><del>As of December 2024, Health Canada has recalled all 1080.</del></li> </ul>
<b>Richardson Ground Squirrel (Gopher)</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-2% Liquid Strychnine registration has been cancelled.</li> <li>-Recommend alternatives to producers.</li> <li>-Recommend local trappers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Number of producers assisted.</li> </ul>

## 4.






## Problem Wildlife Continued

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

## 5. Agricultural Pest Act Duties

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

### Crop Surveying

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

## 6. Soil Conservation Act Duties

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

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





## 7. Intergovernmental Collaboration

**Goal:** Conduct intergovernmental collaboration with all levels of governments.

Strategies	Action	Measures
<b>Collaborate with multiple levels and forms of government</b>	-Agricultural Service Board to participate in drafting and passing resolutions at Regional and Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conferences annually.	-Attend annual conferences and participate by discussion and voting on various agricultural issues.
<b>Protect the interests of Smoky Lake County Agricultural Community</b>	-Every effort will be made to convey agricultural concerns from the agricultural community to relevant government agencies via face-to-face interactions, letter writing or any other available means.	-Number of letters sent to MLA's, PM's or other government members.
<b>Animal Health Act</b>	<p>-Liaison with the Chief Provincial Veterinarian, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and local Veterinarians, when necessary, on any livestock emergencies as stated by <i>Policy Statement 62-30 "Animal Health &amp; Livestock Emergency Preparedness"</i>.</p> <p>-Livestock emergencies include cattle liner accidents on the highway.</p> <p>-If a positive case or outbreak as stated in the <i>Animal Health Act</i> is confirmed within Smoky Lake County boundaries, ASB staff will act in accordance with the directives of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian (CPV).</p> <p>-Work with our Fire Protective Service Department in case of livestock emergency on the highways. These duties would include helping them source rendering truck, trailers or calling a local vet.</p>	<p>-Number of investigations asked to assist on.</p> <p>-Number of highway livestock emergencies assisted with.</p>

5.2

# RESOLUTION RESPONSE GRADING PACKAGE

May 29, 2025

Linda Hunt  
ASBPC\_EA@agriculturalserviceboards.com

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## RESOLUTION 1-25: DROUGHT AND LIVESTOCK AGRI-STABILITY

**WHEREAS** in the last decade, Alberta has seen four of Canada's top ten extreme and costly weather-related disasters, and federal modeling for Western Canada predicts more extreme weather;

**WHEREAS** the current federal drought monitoring system aggregates weather data, including precipitation on forested crown land. This data is not available to privately held agricultural lands in its assessment, and it was the deciding criteria for the Canada- Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance program and the 2023 Livestock Tax Deferral;

**WHEREAS** the Canadian government has forecast continued extreme weather impacts on the agricultural industry. Programs like AgriStability are in place to safeguard producers' financial resilience; and

**WHEREAS** the Office of Audit and Evaluation of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) evaluated AgriStability and found that while it helps protect Canada's agriculture sector from income losses due to various risks, it is not fully effective.

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

AAFC re-evaluate the current weather mapping program and the Drought Monitoring System to include and more heavily weigh data from weather stations and available soil moisture mapping within agricultural lands, better acknowledging municipalities straddling the transition from agricultural white zone into forested Crown green zone, coupled with making efforts to capture in these maps the extreme weather events that are now a reality.

### **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

AAFC report back to the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee that the recommended improvements to AgriStability as identified and released October 22, 2022, by the Office of Audit and Evaluation of AAFC were put in place, by April of 2024:

1. Identify ways to simplify AgriStability to reduce producer administrative burden;
2. Find ways to make interim and final payments more predictable and to improve the timeliness of final payments; and
3. Develop and implement a means to increase access to AgriStability by underrepresented populations.

**SPONSORED BY:** Yellowhead County & MD of Greenview No. 16

**DEPARTMENT:** Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)

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## **INITIAL GRADE 1-25: ASBPC**

### **RESPONDED IN PART:**

The Committee felt that the AAFC response did indicate that they were working on changes that would address the concerns in the resolution, but the Committee was unable to discern from AAFC's response if the changes would adequately address the concerns in the resolution. A second letter was sent asking AAFC for specific details on how the farms that were on the boundaries with forested land would be considered in the future. A further response from AAFC was not yet obtained.

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## RESPONSE 1-25: AAFC MARCH 11



Quote: 288208

Brenda Knight  
Provincial Committee Chair  
Alberta Agricultural Service Board  
Woodlands County, c/o Dawn Fortin  
PO Box 33  
Fort Assiniboine AB T0G 1A0

Dear Brenda Knight:

I am writing in response to your letter to the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, regarding the resolution on drought and livestock AgriStability recently passed by the Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee. Please be assured that your correspondence has been brought to the Minister's attention. I appreciate the opportunity to reply.

Thank you for sharing the Board's concerns over the accuracy of moisture collection data and its applicability to on-farm drought conditions. The National Agroclimate Information Service (NAIS) utilizes the Canadian Drought Monitor and several additional layers of information (such as soil moisture, provincial condition reports, remotely sensed vegetation analysis and weather station data) that become available at different times of the growing season. The NAIS continues to examine ways to improve its tools, including the use of new datasets.

In addition, the process for designating Livestock Tax Deferral (LTD) areas underwent changes in 2024. The Government of Canada streamlined the process to identify regions earlier in the growing season and also instituted a buffer zone to adjacent regions to capture impacted producers on the edges of affected regions. These changes aim to minimize the underdesignation of areas included in the LTD program.


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Under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the Government of Canada and the provinces and territories committed to concrete measures to make the AgriStability program simpler and timelier as well as more predictable. As of the 2024 program year, producers in certain provinces and territories were offered the option of participating under a new model that calculates reference margins based on the same method producers use to file their taxes, offers them a new coverage notice, advances deadlines and makes timelier payments to producers. These benefits could also be extended to provide greater certainty for in-year interim payments. In Alberta, AgriStability is administered by the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation, which began offering this new streamlined approach as of program year 2025.

I appreciate your sentiments on expanding AgriStability access to underrepresented populations. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada officials are working hard with our provincial and territorial counterparts to do so. Federal, provincial and territorial governments are actively engaging with the sector, including through discussions with industry associations as well as a diverse group of producer representatives on the National Program Advisory Committee, to better understand how to improve the program. Based on these discussions, continuous work is underway to identify changes to business risk management programs that will benefit producers, both in the short and long term.

I trust that this information is of assistance. Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



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Liz Foster

Assistant Deputy Minister

Programs Branch



RESOLUTION 4-25: WEED CONTROL IN DRAINAGE CANALS (REGISTERED DRAINAGE DITCHES)

**WHEREAS** under the Weed Control Act of Alberta, Municipalities are tasked to Monitor and Enforce control of Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds;

**WHEREAS** the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides severely restricts the application of herbicides within 30 metres of a "drainage canal" and the amount of area that can be treated in a calendar year;

**WHEREAS** under a Special Use Approval to apply herbicides within 30 metres of an open body of water, the area allowed to be treated is still restricted; and

**WHEREAS** a Notice to Remedy Weed Problem in a "drainage canal" cannot be fully acted upon due to the limitations of the area allowed to be treated under the Code of Practice allowing for the proliferation of the weeds.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

The Government of Alberta - Environment and Protected Areas remove "drainage canal" from the definition of "open body of water" under the Pesticide Sales, Handling, Use and Application Regulation.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

To allow municipalities that have control over maintenance of drainage canals to treat invasive species listed in the Weed Control Act or those species elevated in the respective municipality, as they would control the same species in roadside ditches or under Notice to Remedy Weed Problem.

**SPONSORED BY:** Municipal District of Smoky River #130

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Environment and Protected Areas

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## **INITIAL GRADE 4-25: ASBPC**

### **RESPONDED:**

The Committee felt that the response contained clear rules and reasons for the regulations and stated that there was allowances for exceptions on a case by case basis.

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## RESPONSE 4-25: EPA



ALBERTA

ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS

126455

*Office of the Minister*

March 31, 2025

Ms. Brenda Knight,  
Chair c/o Ms. Dawn  
Fortin, Secretary  
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee  
Woodlands County  
PO Box 33  
Fort Assiniboine AB T0G 1A0  
[asbprovcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:asbprovcommittee@gmail.com)

Dear Ms. Knight:

Thank you for sharing the Agricultural Service Boards' (ASB's) concerns and resolutions 4-24, 5-25, and 7-25. I welcome the opportunity to provide the following information. I consulted the Honourable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, and he has provided input on Resolution 4-24. I understand Minister Sigurdson will be also providing a response on Resolution 5-25.

**RESOLUTION 4-24:** Weed Control In Drainage Canals (Registered Drainage Ditches)

Alberta's *Weed Control Act* (WCA) regulates weeds as noxious and prohibited noxious. Municipalities appoint inspectors to monitor compliance and enforce the WCA. When a landowner/occupant is not in compliance with the WCA, a weed notice can be issued. If the owner/occupant does not comply with the notice, the municipality is faced with the weed control. The landowner/occupant is then sent a debt recovery bill.

When weeds are located below the low water mark or on bed and shore, municipalities are faced with a dilemma for weed control. For example, a prohibited noxious weed such as purple loosestrife is found on bed and shore and in water bodies. Municipalities need special permission from Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) for special use permits to apply chemicals or for

other weed control (for example, hand pulling) methods when controlling or destroying weeds in or around water bodies.

EPA appreciates the ASB's support for municipalities controlling prohibited noxious weeds and noxious weeds, particularly near drainage canals. The Government of Alberta is mindful of balancing weed control priorities, while restricting pesticide use near open water bodies. Pesticide use regulation – in or near water – protects water, wildlife, and surrounding riparian vegetation from pesticide exposure and contamination.

To achieve this balance, Alberta recognizes certain site-specific cases may require a pesticide special use approval to use a pesticide to effectively control prohibited noxious weeds. This process allows for a thorough assessment, which considers factors such as location, pesticide chemistry, and infestation severity. Treatment areas under a special use approval are restricted; however, these approvals provide a way to regain control of weed infestations.

To apply for a pesticide special use approval, please visit [alberta.ca](http://alberta.ca) and search for “pesticides application process.” For more information about municipal drainage canals, please contact Ms. Erin Stonelake, Pesticide Policy Specialist, EPA, at [erin.stonelake@gov.ab.ca](mailto:erin.stonelake@gov.ab.ca).

Rebecca Schulz  
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

204 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada Telephone 780-427-2391

### **Background Info**

#### **RESOLUTION 4-24: Weed Control In Drainage Canals (Registered Drainage Ditches)**

##### **Background**

- Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides restricts pesticide/herbicide use near open bodies of water.
- Drainage Canals are included in the definition of an open body of water, Roadside Ditches are not
- ASB is arguing that drainage canals have the same function as roadside ditches and should be removed from the definition of an open body of water.
- Drainage canals are included in this definition as they can be connected to other open bodies of water and they help protect against pesticide contamination

##### **Rationale**

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- This resolution could not be accepted because excluding drainage canals from the definition of an open body of water would compromise drainage canals
  - In cases where drainage ditches function much like roadside ditches, these situations can be managed through special use approvals. These approvals allow the landowner to control their weeds with pesticides while ensuring the protection of open bodies of water.
-

RESOLUTION 5-25: CENTRAL CONTACT FOR THE WEED CONTROL AND AGRICULTURAL  
PEST ACTS

- WHEREAS** the lack of centralized point of contact can lead to delays in addressing weed and pest issues, resulting in possible environmental and economic impacts;
- WHEREAS** there are thousands of oil and gas wells, including abandoned wells, across Alberta where site maintenance following the *Weed Control Act* and *Agricultural Pests Act* must be followed;
- WHEREAS** challenges often stem from incorrect contact information and changes in leaseholders that are not consistently updated, hindering communication and compliance;
- WHEREAS** government agencies have multiple offices throughout the province, and ministry changes cause difficulties providing the information to the appropriate contact; and
- WHEREAS** municipalities face significant challenges in enforcing the *Weed Control Act* and *Agricultural Pests Act* due to difficulties in establishing and maintaining contact with landholders.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministers of Energy, Environment and Ag work collaboratively to establish a central point of contact for identifying landholder to send communication to industry and government agencies for matters related to agriculture legislation. This would involve municipalities sending notices and other communications regarding the Acts to a central government contact, who would then distribute the information to the respective landholders.

**SPONSORED BY:** Northern Sunrise County  
**STATUS:** Provincial  
**DEPARTMENT:** Energy and Minerals  
Environment and Protected Areas  
Agriculture and Irrigation  
Transportation and Economic Corridors

## INITIAL GRADE 5-25: ASBPC

RESPONDED: This resolution caused the various ministries and impacted departments to evaluate how they work together and how accessible they are to people outside of the ministry. While they are unable to completely change the way they are structured and work to accommodate this ask, they did work together to produce a Triage document that can be used to determine who to contact with weed or invasive pest notices in public land, and the links to a publicly available system for looking up landowners. There is still ongoing discussions around who will own and maintain the Triage document to ensure it remains updated and available. The ASBPC has distributed it through the blog post in May and will host this year's version on the ASB website.

## RESPONSE 5-25: EPA

### RESOLUTION 5-25: Central Contact for the Weed Control and Agricultural Pests Acts

EPA recognizes the ASB's recommendation to establish a central contact point for landholders to send communication to industry and government agencies for agricultural legislation matters.

Due to the specialized nature and management of public lands, the Government of Alberta's cross-ministry invasive species group created a process document, which I have attached for your reference. The document outlines who to contact when encountering regulated pests listed under the *Weed Control Act*, the *Agricultural Pests Act*, or the *Fisheries (Alberta) Act*. It also includes leaseholder/disposition tools and Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC) and Alberta Energy Regulator contacts.

For more information, please contact Kerrienne Koehler-Munro, Manager, Agriculture Service Boards, Crop Assurance and Rural Programming Branch, Agriculture and Irrigation, in Edmonton, at 780-938-4149 or at [kerrienne.koehler-munro@gov.ab.ca](mailto:kerrienne.koehler-munro@gov.ab.ca).

Rebecca Schulz  
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

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Classification: Protected A

### RESOLUTION 5-25: Central Contact for the Weed Control and Agricultural Pests Acts

- AGI leads on the Weed Control and Agricultural Pests Acts and have determined that a central point of contact is not feasible due to the broad range of requests

- Instead, a triage document was provided by AGI to identify who to contact when encountering invasive species and regulated weeds.
- EPA is in support of the assessment and agrees that the triage document provides a good option/solution for addressing this resolution.

## RESPONSE 5-25: AGI

### Response:

Because of the specialized nature and management of public lands, it is not feasible to have one point of contact. However, the attached Triage document is an approach that was endorsed by the Government of Alberta's Cross Ministry Invasive Species Group to assist with the identification of the appropriate landowners and contacts.

Key contacts for the Government of Alberta ministries are provided in the attached document:

*Government of Alberta Triage Process and Contacts When Invasive Pests are Detected on Public Land or Water.* This document outlines the process and whom to contact when encountering regulated pests listed on the *Weed Control Act / Regulations*, *Agricultural Pest Act / Regulations* or the *Alberta Fisheries Act*. The document also includes leaseholder/disposition tools as well as Alberta Transportation and Alberta Energy Regulator contacts.



GoA Triage  
Document.pdf

## FURTHER RESPONSE 5-25: AGI

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**From** AGRIC Minister <AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca>

**Date** Thu 5/15/2025 10:10 AM

**To** ASBPC Executive <ASBPC\_EA@agriculturalserviceboards.com>

**Cc** Kerrienne Koehler-Munro <kerrienne.koehler-munro@gov.ab.ca>

Dear Brenda Knight:

Thank you for your May 8, 2025, email requesting further clarification to Agriculture and Irrigation's (AGI) response to Resolution 5-25: Central Contact for Weed Control and *Agricultural Pests Act*.

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The document titled, Government of Alberta Triage Process and Contacts When Invasive Pests are Detected on Public Land or Water, which we provided in response to this resolution, will be maintained and updated by AGI staff. For greater accessibility the intent is for this document to be posted on the ASB website as well as emailed to the fieldmen.

An updated version of the document has been attached to address the concern of an annual fee to access disposition information. The Additional Resources section that referenced a fee was removed from the document to reduce any confusion. There is an online resource reference on page two of the document called, [OneStop Public Viewer](#), that can assist in determining disposition number and disposition holder of all oil and gas dispositions. This resource is available at no cost.

Please contact Kerrienne Koehler-Munro, ASB Program Manager, at [kerrienne.koehlermunro@gov.ab.ca](mailto:kerrienne.koehlermunro@gov.ab.ca) or 780-938-4149, if you require additional clarification.

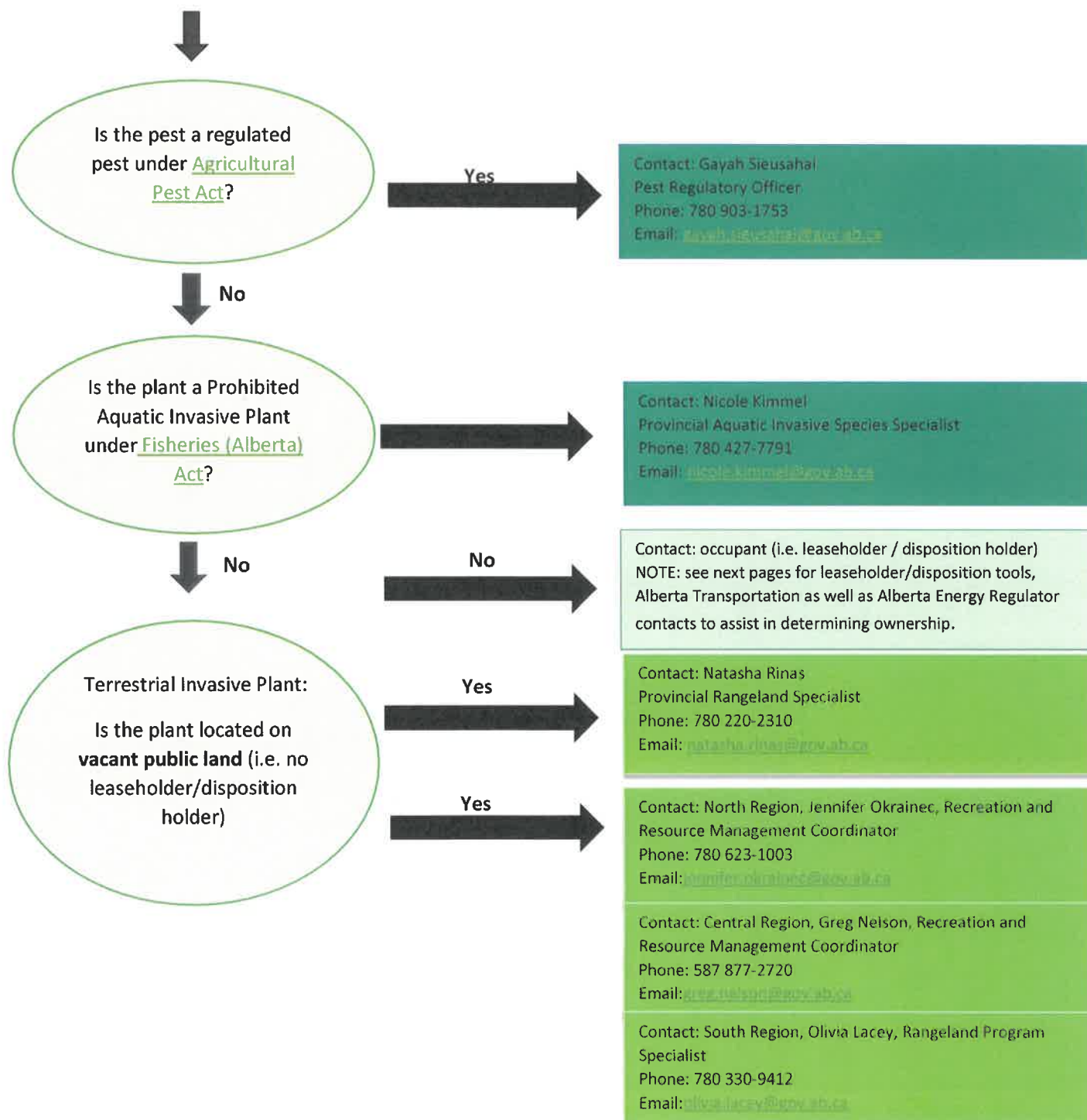
Sincerely,

Honourable RJ Sigurdson  
Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation  
AR87628

<https://outlook.office.com/mail/inbox/id/AAMkADI0ZjM2MTY0LTg4YmMtNDUzNi1iZTIzLTU1YTk5MDNlZTFiYQBGAAAAABiO4LwKGgkSKT6dgpwhw...>

## Government of Alberta Triage Process and Contacts When Invasive Pests are Detected on Public Land or Water

Prohibited Noxious Weed or Noxious Weed (Under the [Weed Control Act/Regulations](#)) or a  
Prohibited Species (under the [Alberta Fisheries Act](#)) Identified on Public Land/Water or a  
Regulated Agricultural Pest ([Agricultural Pest Act](#))



## Alberta Energy Regulator (AER):

Phone number: 1-855-297-8311 (this is the AER customer contact line)

On line resource: OneStop Public Viewer can assist in determining disposition number and disposition holder of all Oil and Gas dispositions. There is no cost to this public viewer

<https://www.aer.ca/regulating-development/project-application/onestop/onestop-help>

## Alberta Transportation Weed Management:

Contact: Allan Bartman, Director Highway Operations (780) 422-6431, [allan.bartman@gov.ab.ca](mailto:allan.bartman@gov.ab.ca)

## Invasive Species Contacts

Expertise	Name & Title	Contact Info
Aquatic Invasives	<b>Nicole Kimmel</b> Provincial Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist	(780) 427- 7791 <a href="mailto:nicole.kimmel@gov.ab.ca">nicole.kimmel@gov.ab.ca</a>
Vacant Public Land Weeds	<b>Natasha Rinas</b> Rangeland Program Specialist	(780) 220-2310 <a href="mailto:natasha.rinas@gov.ab.ca">natasha.rinas@gov.ab.ca</a>
North Region Alberta Parks Land Weeds	<b>Jennifer Okrainec</b> Recreation and Resource Management Coordinator	(780) 623-1003 <a href="mailto:jennifer.okrainec@gov.ab.ca">jennifer.okrainec@gov.ab.ca</a>
Central Region Alberta Parks Land Weeds	<b>Greg Nelson</b> Recreation and Resource Management Coordinator	(587) 877-2720 <a href="mailto:greg.nelson@gov.ab.ca">greg.nelson@gov.ab.ca</a>
South Region Alberta Parks Land Weeds	<b>Olivia Lacey</b> Vegetation Management Coordinator	(780) 330-9412 <a href="mailto:olivia.lacey@gov.ab.ca">olivia.lacey@gov.ab.ca</a>
Kananaskis Region Alberta Parks Land Weeds	<b>Patrick Waring</b> Parks Land Use Officer	<a href="mailto:patrick.nelson@gov.ab.ca">patrick.nelson@gov.ab.ca</a>

Weed and Pest Act / Regulations	<b>Gayah Sieusahai</b> Pest Regulatory Officer	(780) 903-1753 <a href="mailto:gayah.sieusahai@gov.ab.ca">gayah.sieusahai@gov.ab.ca</a>
Rat & related Agricultural Pests	<b>Karen Wickerson</b> Rat & Pest Program Specialist	(780) 427-7791 <a href="mailto:karen.wickerson@gov.ab.ca">karen.wickerson@gov.ab.ca</a>
Wild Boar & related Agricultural Pests	<b>Hannah McKenzie</b> Inspection Officer	(780) 996-3373 <a href="mailto:hannah.mckenzie@gov.ab.ca">hannah.mckenzie@gov.ab.ca</a>
Agriculture Entomologist	<b>Amanda Jorgensen</b> Provincial Entomologist	(780) 264-6708 <a href="mailto:amanda.jorgensen@gov.ab.ca">amanda.jorgensen@gov.ab.ca</a>
Plant Health (weed, disease and insect)	<b>Doug Macaulay</b> Acting Chief Plant Health Officer	(780) 717-2315 <a href="mailto:doug.macaulay@gov.ab.ca">doug.macaulay@gov.ab.ca</a>
ASB Programs	<b>Kerrienne Koehler-Munro</b> Provincial ASB Manage	(780) 938-4149 <a href="mailto:kerrienne.koehler-munro@gov.ab.ca">kerrienne.koehler-munro@gov.ab.ca</a>
ASB Programs	<b>Alan Efetha</b> Provincial ASB Specialist	(403) 315-5121 <a href="mailto:alan.efetha@gov.ab.ca">alan.efetha@gov.ab.ca</a>
Pesticide Use	<b>Tanya Rushcall</b> Provincial Pesticide Approvals Registration Specialist	(780) 644-4647 <a href="mailto:Tanya.rushcall@gov.ab.ca">Tanya.rushcall@gov.ab.ca</a>
Forest Entomologist	<b>Mike Undershultz</b> Senior Forest Entomologist	(780) 422-1508 <a href="mailto:mike.undershultz@gov.ab.ca">mike.undershultz@gov.ab.ca</a>
Wildlife Diseases	<b>Mark Ball</b> Wildlife Disease Specialist	(780) 644-8012 <a href="mailto:mark.ball@gov.ab.ca">mark.ball@gov.ab.ca</a>
Fish Diseases	<b>Emmanuel Pila</b> Fish Disease Lab & Molecular Biologist	(780) 446 0687 <a href="mailto:emmanuel.pila@gov.ab.ca">emmanuel.pila@gov.ab.ca</a>

## RESOLUTION 6-25: RURAL VETERINARY STUDENT SUPPORT

- WHEREAS** veterinary services are a critical component of rural sustainability through the industry's contributions to agriculture, food safety and animal welfare;
- WHEREAS** the Government of Alberta currently provides a Veterinary Student Bursary to veterinary students living and working in Northern Alberta via the Northern Alberta Development Bursary Program;
- WHEREAS** veterinary student temporary employment subsidies exist in other jurisdictions struggling to attract and retain rural veterinarians;
- WHEREAS** costs associated with completing the necessary educational requirements to become a veterinarian continue to increase; and
- WHEREAS** rural Alberta is experiencing a continued decline in veterinarian availability.

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That the Ministry of Jobs, Economy, and Trade and Ministry of Advanced Education create a complimentary program to the Northern Alberta Development Program Veterinary Student Bursary, to make bursary funds accessible to veterinary students working in mixed and large animal veterinary clinics throughout rural Alberta.

### **FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Trade institute a veterinarian student temporary employment program for rural mixed and large animal veterinary clinics to support the attraction and retention of veterinary students throughout rural Alberta.

**SPONSORED BY:** Lacombe County  
**STATUS:** Provincial  
**DEPARTMENT:** Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Trade  
Ministry of Advanced Education  
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

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## INITIAL GRADE 6-25: ASBPC

RESPONDED IN PART: There are some inaccuracies in the response from Alberta Advanced Education: "Administration of these initiatives was proposed to the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, but they did not pursue the opportunity.". The Committee did meet with the Chief Provincial Vet and was in agreement with the creation of a program in the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, but was not asked, nor are they legally able to administer a program. The RMA does not have a mandate to administer initiatives like this. The response clearly re-states the situation and work that has been done and is in progress, but does not talk about expanding the bursary program to be across the province so is not a complete response.

The Committee sent letters in April to Advanced Education and Jobs Economy and Trade reiterating the request for a bursary program expansion to the whole province and has not yet received a further response.

## REPONSE 6-25: ADVANCED EDUCATION



ALBERTA  
ADVANCED EDUCATION

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Office of the Minister  
MLA, Calgary-North West

AR 71406

Ms. Brenda Knight Chair

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee [asbprovcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:asbprovcommittee@gmail.com)

Dear Ms. Knight:

Thank you for your letter to the Honourable Matt Jones, Minister of Jobs, Economy and

Trade, regarding the Agricultural Service Board Resolution 6-25 — Rural Veterinary Student Support. As I am the Minister of Advanced Education, Minister Jones has asked me to respond, and I appreciate the opportunity to do so.

I agree with the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee that veterinary services are a critical component of the economic health and vitality of Alberta's rural communities. The Government of Alberta takes the needs of rural Albertans seriously, and I recognize that rural communities in Alberta especially rely on veterinary medicine with a focus on livestock and larger animals.

Through the Northern Alberta Development Council, Alberta provides non-repayable financial supports for students in select medical programs of study, including veterinary medicine. These non-repayable supports involve a return of service component, where recipients who graduate agree to live and practice in a Northern Alberta community for a duration of time dependent on the amount of funding received. The Northern Alberta Development Bursary program offers a veterinary student bursary of \$7,000 per year

(for a maximum of four years) for students in Large Animal or Large and Small Animal

Veterinary Programs. For more information, please visit the Northern Alberta

Development Council Veterinarian Bursary webpage at [alberta.ca/veterinary-studentbursary](https://alberta.ca/veterinary-studentbursary).

Additional funding for veterinary students may be available in partnership with a

veterinary sponsor who is willing to match funding. For more information on bursary partnerships, please visit the Bursary Partnership Program webpage at [alberta.ca/bursary-partnership-program](https://alberta.ca/bursary-partnership-program).

The University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) program was established, in part, to meet Alberta's need for veterinarians to support rural Alberta. Prior to 2017, Alberta's government had a funding agreement with the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatchewan to provide veterinary medicine education to Alberta students.

Page 1 of 3

In 2017, Alberta's government opted not to renew this agreement with Saskatchewan and instead redirected funds to support the UCVM and train veterinarians right here in Alberta. As part of the UCVM program, students participate in community-based practicums across Alberta, connecting veterinary students with rural practices to help meet labour market demand. Students who have the opportunity to participate in a practicum in a rural community are more likely to work in rural communities after graduation. The UCVM has also changed its admissions process to place more emphasis on factors such as a rural background and farm work experience.

In order to further build Alberta's capacity to train veterinarians, Advanced Education has invested over \$68 million in capital funding as part of the Veterinary Medicine Expansion Project, effectively doubling the number of students who can be accommodated in the UCVM program beginning with the fall 2025 admission cohort. Advanced Education is also supporting the UCVM with a \$13.6-million investment over four years through the Targeted Enrolment Expansion initiative, which will create 65 new classroom seats.

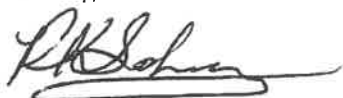
The Government of Alberta has been working closely with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) to address the unique challenges of attracting and retaining veterinarians in rural and remote communities. Alberta's Chief Provincial Veterinarian has commenced work on a program within the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to provide funding for summer student hiring, housing assistance, community appreciation programs, and other similar initiatives in order to draw students to rural communities early in their education. Administration of these initiatives was proposed to the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, but they did not pursue the opportunity. As a result, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation is building a program internally for individual practices and communities to apply.

In addition to the Northern Albert Development Bursary and other initiatives mentioned above, students have many other financial supports available to them while they study. Alberta Student Aid offers student loans, grants, and a variety of scholarships and awards, each of which has its own unique eligibility criteria and application process. If students exhaust the Government of Alberta's funding sources, the ALIS website provides information on applying for scholarships and awards from other organizations. Scholarships Canada is another helpful resource; it is a free online database that matches eligible students with available scholarships. We also recommend that students reach out to their institution's financial aid office, as they may have local resources available.

Thank you again for taking the time share the Agricultural Service Board Resolution 6-25 — Rural Veterinary Student Support. The issue of attracting and retaining veterinary professionals in rural areas, as with other health professions, is a complex and multifaceted concern that Alberta's government is working to address.

I hope this information is helpful, and I encourage you to share the resources described above with rural veterinary students.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Rajan Sawhney, ECA Minister of  
Advanced Education

## RESPONSE 6-25: AGI

### Response:

- Government of Alberta ministries, including Agriculture and Irrigation, Advanced Education, and Jobs, Economy and Trade, are working in partnership with stakeholders to address the vet and vet technologist shortage in rural Alberta.
- Since 2022, Government of Alberta committed \$68.5 million over three years for the UCVM's capital expansion. The government has also committed to invest about \$13.6 million over four years to support the creation of over 65 new seats in the veterinary medicine program.
  - The funding will create 50 new seats for veterinary students, doubling the class size to 100 starting in the fall of 2025. It will also cover the infrastructure costs of enrolment expansion.
  - Alberta's Chief Provincial Veterinarian sits on the faculty's Stakeholder Advisory Committee.
  - Several scientific articles indicate the issues that affect recruitment to different types of practice and different locations are complex and not always addressed with cash incentives.
- In 2023, the Alberta government committed \$1.2 million in capital funding to UCVM for renovations and lab equipment to further expand veterinary diagnostics.



- Between 2020 and 2023, Alberta and the federal government provided \$3.44 million in Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) funding to UCVM to start a veterinary diagnostics pilot to build access to more affordable and accessible diagnostic services for Alberta livestock producers and rural veterinarians. ○ In 2024, Alberta partnered with the federal government for a \$2.26 million Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) grant to continue the expanded pilot. The program targets education, extension, and training, as well as rural practice enhancement. ○ Previously, Alberta's livestock industry had no access to local diagnostic capacity, as samples were sent out of the province.
  - Government of Alberta continues to work in partnership with stakeholders on promoting the veterinary profession at home and abroad. The current focus is on exploring incentives to attract, recruit, train and retain vet professionals in rural and remote regions.
-

## RESOLUTION 7-25: ROADKILL CARCASS DISPOSAL

**WHEREAS** the Alberta Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors stated in a letter received on September 12, 2024, that Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) and Alberta Forestry and Parks (FP), the administrators of the Wildlife Act, do not currently “have formal guidance for the disposal of wildlife animal carcasses. However, both departments strongly recommend minimizing handling and transport of carcasses due to.... disease transmission,” further stating that any departure from these current disposal methods would require EPA and FP to issue permits under the Act for each carcass transported;

**WHEREAS** Highway Maintenance Contractors frequently transport carcasses to disposal and stockpiling sites that are easily accessible to the public and become utilized for the disposal of dead livestock and roadkill, through scavenger disposal;

**WHEREAS** the proximity of these disposal sites to active livestock production increases the impact of predators on livestock by providing a plentiful and easily accessible food source during winter scarcity; and

**WHEREAS** this disposal method comes with a high probability of disease spread through the landscape, including but not limited to foot-and-mouth disease, which infects deer and would cost billions of dollars in lost markets to the province and the country, and chronic wasting disease, a prion disease that is resistant to environmental degradation.

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas and Alberta Forestry and Parks to develop formal guidance on the disposal of wildlife carcasses hit by vehicles to minimize disease transmission vectors that may pose a serious economic threat to the livestock industry, such as foot-and-mouth disease.

### **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

#### **THAT THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That Alberta Transportation amend the Standard Specification for Highway Maintenance to require contractors to maintain controlled access to carcass disposal sites, the composting of roadkill carcasses.

**SPONSORED BY:** Municipal District of Greenview #16

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

Alberta Forestry and Parks

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

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## **INITIAL GRADE 7-25: ASBPC**

RESPONDED IN PART: The responses from all parties indicate that the current policy/regulations/guidelines that are being used for roadkill are designed specifically for agriculture producers disposing of owned and managed animals. However, the Committee is concerned that these guidelines may not adequately address a situation where wildlife killed in accidents since there is no “owner” to know if the animals are or are at risk of carrying diseases. Diseased animals are not able to be disposed of by scavenging and have to be specific distances from livestock premises.

There is no indication in the responses received that the staff handling road kill are testing carcasses for diseases, or managing the disposal in a way to prevent spread to neighboring livestock or wildlife populations. Chronic Wasting Disease, Tuberculosis, Avian Influenza (now spread to dairy cows and cats) and Hoof and Mouth disease are ongoing concerns. A further response letter was sent to Transportation and Economic Corridors which they did respond to. While they are not interested in creating a new guideline for wildlife and have suggested that would be a role for Environment and Protected Areas, they are asking ASBs to report incidents of concern.

The Committee felt that this was a first step in addressing the concern and will continue to bring this concern to follow the progress.

## **RESPONSE 7-25: AGI**

- The resolution states that the disposal of livestock and wildlife may be occurring through stockpiling sites, where scavenging is subsequently occurring.
- Scavenging, or natural disposal as it is termed in the Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation (DDAR), is not an approved method of disposal for dead livestock in a situation like this.
- Natural disposal can only be used by an animal owner with animals they own, or that are in their care and control prior to death and on land that they own. The dead livestock would most likely need to go to an approved landfill or to rendering for disposal.
- There may be a disease risk if dead livestock or wildlife are disposed of by natural disposal near other livestock operations. The cause of death is unknown for these animals dropped off at the stockpiling sites.
- In addition, if livestock were euthanized using drugs or other chemical substances, natural disposal could not be used because of the risk that residues could pose to scavengers.
- Natural disposal, if approved, would have to meet the setback requirements in the DDAR.
- Wildlife disposal does not fall under the DDAR so Agriculture and Irrigation has no mandate with respect to wildlife carcass disposal, although we may work collaboratively with wildlife departments should disease become a concern.

## **RESPONSE 7-25: EPA**

### **RESOLUTION 7-25: Roadkill Carcass Disposal**

I understand the Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of TEC, will be responding to this resolution as it falls under the purview of his ministry.

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I appreciate your input and remain committed to working with the ASB to ensure effective weed management while upholding environmental protections.

Rebecca Schulz  
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

## RESPONSE 7-25: TEC



ALBERTA

TRANSPORTATION and ECONOMIC CORRIDORS

*Office of the Minister*

*MLA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake*

March 26, 2025

AR 101520

Ms. Brenda Knight, Chair Provincial ASB Committee  
c/o Dawn Fortin, Secretary Provincial ASB Committee  
Box 33 Fort Assiniboine, AB T0G 1A0

[asbprovcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:asbprovcommittee@gmail.com)

Dear Ms. Knight:

I am writing to you in response to the Agricultural Service Board (ASB)

Resolution 7-25 regarding wildlife carcass disposal. As Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, I appreciate the opportunity to provide the following information.

The Ministries of Environment and Protected Areas and Forestry and Parks administer the *Alberta Wildlife Act*. Within the Act, there is no formal guidance for disposal of wildlife carcasses.

Transportation and Economic Corridors follows the guidance published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for disposal of deceased livestock in order to reduce the risk of disease transmission and mitigate predator conflicts. This is achieved by limiting the distance the carcass is moved, avoiding the reuse of natural disposal sites, and not centralizing disposal at single locations such as gravel pits. If nearby natural disposal sites are unavailable, the carcass must be disposed of at authorized sites.

Thank you for taking the time to write and I hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Devin Dreesen".

Honourable Devin Dreesen, ECA  
Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors

## FURTHER RESPONSE 7-25: TEC



ALBERTA

TRANSPORTATION and ECONOMIC CORRIDORS

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

Dear Ms. Knight:

Thank you for your follow-up regarding Agricultural Services Board (ASB) Resolution 7-25 on wildlife carcass disposal. The ASB is a significant stakeholder for Transportation and Economic Corridors, and I appreciate you bringing transportation-related matters important to your members to my attention.

Transportation and Economic Corridors' highway maintenance contracts follow the principles outlined in the Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Livestock Mortality Management (Disposal) guidance document. By adhering to these principles, the department helps reduce the risk of disease transmission and mitigate predator conflicts during the disposal of animal carcasses. To further reduce risks, Transportation and Economic Corridors does not permit the use of stockpile sites for the disposal of wildlife carcasses.

If there are site-specific concerns, your members are encouraged to contact the department's applicable local district office to discuss it further. While I understand your request for the development of formal guidelines on wildlife carcass disposal, I recommend pursuing this matter with my colleague, the Honourable Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas.

Regarding the ASB Provincial Committee's Resolution 1-24: Agricultural Equipment Highway Signs, I asked department staff to contact you directly to discuss potential options for addressing the safety of farm equipment on provincial highways. The discussion can also include actions the department could take to increase driver awareness and improve safety for both operators and motorists.

Thank you again for writing. I value the established working relationship between the ASB and Transportation and Economic Corridors. I look forward to continuing our collaboration on transportation matters which are important to your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Devin Dreeschen".

Honourable Devin Dreeschen, ECA  
Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors

## RESPONSE 7-25: FORESTRY AND PARKS

ALBERTA  
Forestry and Parks

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Office of the Minister  
MLA, Central Peace - Notley

22743

MAY 15 2025

Brenda Knight, Chair  
c/o Dawn Fortin, Secretary,  
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee  
PO Box 33 Fort Assiniboine, AB T0G 1A0  
Dear Brenda Knight:

Thank you for following up regarding the development of formal guidelines on the safe disposal of roadkill wildlife carcasses, as requested in resolution 7-25 by the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee.

The Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors leads policy and guideline development regarding the disposal of roadkill. Roadkill of severely damaged or decomposed animals and those of non-iconic species are disposed of by Transportation and Economic Corridor. As such, Minister Dreeshen's March 26, 2025, letter is a fulsome response on the issue of safe disposal.

Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services under the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services may attend to road kills of iconic species (grizzly bears, bighorn sheep, and caribou) when reported.

My ministry will continue to work with staff from Transportation and Economic Corridors and Public Safety and Emergency Services to identify and collect valuable roadkill with due consideration to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

I hope this information provides clarity to the response you received from Transportation and Economic Corridors.

Sincerely,



Honourable Todd Loewen  
Minister  
Forestry and Parks

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## RESOLUTION 9-25: NON-MATCHING FUNDING FOR AGKNOW

- WHEREAS** the farming population is at a high risk of mental illness when compared to the general population;
- WHEREAS** studies and surveys have shown that farmers are less likely to seek mental health care due to associated costs, lack of time during the day, and counselors lacking an understanding of agriculture;
- WHEREAS** the AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Initiative was established in 2022 with the intent to provide Alberta's farming population with agriculturally-informed mental health supports;
- WHEREAS** AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network has received grants for project-based services through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, which has 50% matching funds requirement; and
- WHEREAS** AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network faces funding gaps and restricted operating funds, leading to jeopardization of high-demand mental health programming and support services currently being delivered to Alberta's farming population.

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation waive the matching funding requirement through Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to support AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network to ensure that the Farm-Informed Therapy Program for agricultural producers continues to grow and is free of charge in Alberta.

**SPONSORED BY:** Municipal District of Fairview No.136

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

## INITIAL GRADE: ASBPC

RESPONDED: The response shows that the mandate of farm informed therapy program is with the ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and that AGI has aided AgKnow in achieving engagement with MHA to create an agriculture counselling program for the province and that MHA does not require matching funds for their grant programs. AGI is unwilling to wave the matching funds required for the SCAP grant programs for AgKnow.

## RESPONSE 9-25: AGI

### Response:

The mental health of farmers is an important topic.

The Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction (MHA) leads the Government of Alberta's mental health response. MHA is mandated to manage Alberta's recovery-oriented system of mental health and addiction care, focused on prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery. More specifically, they are directed to work with stakeholders across Alberta to help Albertans improve their mental wellness while creating healthy and vibrant communities.

Alberta's government, through MHA, provides funding to Counselling Alberta to provide mental health counselling services across Alberta. Counselling Alberta will also partner with local organizations across the province to provide affordable in-person mental health counselling options.

Additionally:

- Alberta Health provides funding to Primary Care Networks (PCN) across Alberta. PCNs offer a variety of supports, including mental health services such as individual counselling, social work navigation, group therapy, and workshops. Albertans can locate their local PCN by visiting <https://albertapcns.ca/pcn>.
- Alberta Health Services (AHS) is responsible for delivering health care in the province and has mental health supports available.
- AHS Addiction and Mental Health Clinics provide programs and services in communities across the province. Albertans can find clinic locations on the AHS webpage.
- The Community Services program is available in select Addiction and Mental Health Clinics across Alberta. This service includes screening, assessment, consultation, and treatment for people with mental health concerns that affect their ability to cope with everyday life. Clients work with a counsellor to identify treatment goals and options, which may include counselling.

Although Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) has no direct mandate to support mental health services, AGI does respect the impact of farmer mental health on our industry. AGI has facilitated a connection between the Applied Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) and MHA for ARECA to seek funding support to ensure that the farm-informed therapy program for agricultural producers continues to grow and is free of charge in Alberta. MHA does not require matching for their grant programming.

AGI has supported farmer-focused projects that complement and enhance MHA's programming over the past several years. The Resiliency and Public Trust Program, through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), provides grants on a cost-shared basis of 60 per cent grant and 40 per cent applicant for non-capital expenses. One of the main outcomes for minimum eligibility is

that the projects are industry driven, with the intention of industry contributing funds to move projects forward and leverage government funding even further. AGI provided grant funding to ARECA for the development of AgKnow. Since 2021, the Government of Alberta has invested over \$1.6 million in the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network through various funding opportunities to support the development, initial delivery of the program and subsequent projects. Although Sustainable CAP funding cannot be used for ongoing operations of an organization or program, it can support project-based deliverables and outcomes, which AGI continues to work on with ARECA staff.

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## RESOLUTION 11-25: AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FUNDING

- WHEREAS** agricultural production in Alberta has historically been, and remains, a significant economic driver and source of employment;
- WHEREAS** generations ago, many Albertans were raised on family farms, gaining firsthand knowledge of livestock, crops, and other agricultural practices;
- WHEREAS** today, most Albertans reside in urban areas and lack the same level of understanding about how livestock, crops, and agricultural products are cultivated;
- WHEREAS** the public has traditionally held agriculture and farmers in high esteem for their role in providing food for Albertans, Canadians, and people worldwide, leading to an increasing consumer interest in agricultural production and food sourcing;
- WHEREAS** misunderstandings regarding agricultural practices and food production are becoming more common, and without proper education, these misconceptions are likely to grow within the expanding population;
- WHEREAS** educating our children and youth about agriculture is crucial for fostering a deeper understanding of food production, sustainability, and the vital role agriculture plays in our economy and environment; and
- WHEREAS** stable funding would empower educators and childcare providers to access essential agricultural education materials and programs, allowing ASBs across Alberta to effectively enhance agricultural knowledge among the younger generation.

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That the Ministry of Education work collaboratively with the Agricultural Services Boards, Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to establish a dedicated funding stream aimed for agriculture education.

**SPONSORED BY:** Lac La Biche County

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Ministry of Education  
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation  
Rural Municipalities of Alberta

## INITIAL GRADE 11-25: ASBPC

RESPONDED: The response indicates that a funding stream already exists and the ASBPC will help to promote the use of the program for agriculture education opportunities.

## RESPONSE 11-25: AGI

- Agriculture education is an important part of building capacity and resiliency in the agriculture industry.
- To support agriculture education, funding is available through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), a five-year (2023-2028), \$3.5-billion investment by federal-provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector.
- Alberta's Sustainable CAP Resiliency and Public Trust Program includes a youth agriculture education priority area which provides funding for a variety of activities, including K-12 agriculture education field trips, learning activities and teacher training.
  - Alberta Education develops curriculum that is the foundation on which these supplementary programs can be delivered.
  - For example, Alberta's core curriculum includes topics like globalization, Alberta's history and soils.
  - Agriculture can be used as an example to bring these topics to life and not-for profit organizations, industry groups, municipalities, school authorities and post-secondary institutions can apply for funding to develop and deliver resources and teacher training that support curricular outcomes.
  - Government encourages industry organizations, post-secondary institutions, not-forprofit organizations, municipalities and school authorities to apply for agriculture education funding to increase the agriculture literacy of Alberta's K-12 students. Information on the funding can be found at <https://www.alberta.ca/resiliency-and-public-trust-program>
- Agriculture and Irrigation, in collaboration with Alberta Education, delivers the Green Certificate program. The program is unique in Canada and is an industry-supported, apprenticeship-style agriculture youth training program.
  - The Green Certificate program is offered in high schools throughout rural Alberta.
  - High school students select one of the 11 training specializations (field crop, irrigated field crop, cow-calf, feedlot, sheep, swine, poultry (broiler, broiler hatching egg, turkey, table egg), dairy, equine, beekeeping and greenhouse production) and work towards mastering all the skills within their training program.
    - Upon completion, students receive sixteen Grade 12 credits and a credential that could lead to a career in agriculture or agri-business.
  - For students and teachers interested in the Green Certificate Program, they can get information at <https://www.alberta.ca/green-certificate-program>
- The Green Certificate Program and the Sustainable CAP Resiliency and Public Trust Program both provide Alberta's students with opportunities to learn about Alberta's agriculture industry, a key component of Alberta's economy.

## RESPONSE 11-25: AE (ADVANCED EDUCATION)



ALBERTA  
EDUCATION

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Calgary - Bow*

AR128857 April 11, 2025

Dear Ms. Knight:

Thank you for your letter to the Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, and me regarding Resolution 11-25. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

I share your view on the importance of agriculture in our province. The Alberta Dual Credit Framework allows students to personalize their high school experience and build on or discover career interests and aspirations, including opportunities in agriculture. Alberta's government is providing \$4.8 million to school boards for dual credit programs this school year and to bring collegiate schools online. We are providing \$43 million to support the costs of new collegiate schools opening in the 2025/26 and 2026/27 school years.

In addition, Alberta's [Green Certificate Program](#), a collaboration between Alberta Education and Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, is designed for students interested in agricultural careers.

More than 98 per cent of Education's budget flows to school boards, with the expectation that they will prioritize the educational experience of students and support local needs. The boards have the autonomy and accountability for the operation of their schools, as locally elected trustees are best placed to make decisions in the best interest of the communities they serve.

Alberta Education continues to work closely with our education and industry partners to ensure that Alberta students have every opportunity to pursue their career interests and succeed in Alberta's dynamic job market.

Brenda, thank you for writing and for your dedication to Alberta's agricultural sector.  
Best,



Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD  
Minister of Education

## RESPONSE 11-25: RMA

April 14, 2025

Brenda Knight  
Chair, Provincial ASB Committee  
c/o Dawn Fortin, Secretary, Provincial ASB Committee  
PO Box 33  
Fort Assiniboine, AB T0G 1A0

Dear Brenda,

### **RE: ASB Resolution 11-25: Agricultural Education Funding**


The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) represents Alberta's sixty-nine rural municipalities, who collectively provide municipal governance to approximately 85% of Alberta's geographic area and are home to Alberta's agricultural producers, processors, innovators, and Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs).

On behalf of the RMA, I am writing to express our support for Resolution 11-25, requesting that the Ministry of Education work collaboratively with ASBs, RMA, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to establish a dedicated funding stream to support agricultural education in Alberta.


Agricultural production has long been a cornerstone of rural Alberta's economy and way of life. However, as the province continues to urbanize, fewer Albertans have direct ties to agriculture or an understanding of where their food comes from. This disconnect poses growing challenges for the agriculture sector and rural municipalities, including the spread of misinformation, reduced public trust, and an increasing number of regulatory and market pressures disconnected from the practical realities of agriculture.

RMA's member municipalities have also highlighted the importance of bridging this knowledge gap, passing Resolution 23-19F in Fall 2019, which called for the inclusion of mandatory agriculture education in the Alberta K-12 curriculum. While the government's response at that time acknowledged the value of agricultural learning through elective programs and grants, there was no coordinated or consistent effort to embed agricultural education broadly or equitably into the curriculum across the province.

Now, in 2025, Resolution 11-25 presents a meaningful opportunity to take a pragmatic step toward actioning the requests of Resolution 23-19F. RMA appreciates the provincial government's past efforts to encourage agriculture education through initiatives like the Green Certificate Program and the Classroom Agriculture Program. However, without stable and accessible funding, these efforts risk remaining piecemeal and unable to achieve the broader goal of agricultural literacy for all Alberta youth.



2510 Sparrow Dr, Nisku, AB T9E 8N5  
Office: 780.955.3639 | Fax: 780.955.3615  
rmaalberta.com



A dedicated funding stream would provide educators and childcare providers with the support necessary to access curriculum-linked agricultural resources to introduce students to the foundational concepts of food production, sustainability, and rural economic contribution. Such a program would also strengthen public trust in the agriculture industry and highlight career opportunities in one of Alberta's most essential sectors.

We support Resolution 11-25 and urges the Ministry of Education to partner with ASBs, RMA, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in the development of a sustainable approach to agricultural education in classrooms across the province. Together, we can ensure that future generations of Albertans - regardless of their geographic or cultural background - understand and value the importance of agriculture to Alberta's economy, environment, and identity.

Sincerely,



Kara Westerlund  
President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta



## RESOLUTION 12-25: CHARITABLE GAMING POLICIES HANDBOOK

- WHEREAS** rural municipalities have been encouraging non-profit organizations to increase activities that generates revenue and build reserve funds for future projects and capital replacements to use as matching funds when applying for provincial and federal grants;
- WHEREAS** the 2020 Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook (CGPH) section 4.4 indicated clear use of proceeds was consistent to the supportive intent of gaming funds as earned revenue;
- WHEREAS** the updated 2022 CGPH section 4.4 now states charitable programs expenses for that generate or receive revenue must be managed on a cost recovery;
- WHEREAS** the updated 2022 CGPH section 4.4 also states the purchase of any equipment, supplies, or services used in any activity or operation intended to generate profit is forbidden; and
- WHEREAS** the updated 2022 CGPH section 4.4. states that only when program revenues are not sufficient to cover program expenses, gaming proceeds may be used to pay the shortfall for approved expenses and therefore forcing the depletion of the organizational reserves.

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That the Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction and the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission to amend the Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook so rural non profit organizations are allowed to build reserves and generate revenues once again without affecting the ability to use the gaming proceeds.

### **FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That the Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction and the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission suspend any audits until stakeholder engagements are completed and the amendments to the Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook are adopted.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of Two Hills

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction

Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission

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## INITIAL GRADE 12-25: ASBPC

NO RESPONSE: Shortly after the resolution request for response was delivered, the Province released the following press release that addressed the concerns in the resolution, however no response was received from Red Tape Reduction or Service Alberta. Since it was clear that the Province was clearly already working on the concern prior to the ASB Resolution, and in the spirit of red tape reduction, it was felt that there was no need to follow up to get a specific response when the media release was sufficient.

## RESPONSE 12-25: GOA March 10 press release

Mar 10, 2025

# Less red tape, more freedoms for Alberta's charities

Charities in Alberta will now have more flexibility on how they can spend the money they earn from licensed gaming activities.

[Link to press release](#)

### Bigger thresholds for approvals, wider discretion for expenses

AGLC has added a wide range of proceeds categories, and raised thresholds for spending before approvals are required, giving charities wide discretion in determining eligible expenses.

Examples include:

- Groups can retain proceeds up to \$50,000 without AGLC approval (previously \$10,000).
- Charitable groups can now use \$100,000 of gaming proceeds to conduct community events without AGLC approval.
- The limit for administrative expenses has increased to 30 per cent from 20 per cent.
- Approvals for all travel have been eliminated.
- The limit for facility renovations and leasehold improvements without approval has been increased to \$100,000 from \$50,000. Quick facts
- Alberta is the only province that licenses charities to conduct and manage casino events that support charitable organizations.
- Alberta's charitable gaming model gives eligible charitable and religious groups the opportunity to directly benefit from the proceeds (revenue less expense) of casino, bingo, pull-tickets, and raffle events.
- In 2023-24, charitable organizations earned more than \$409 million in proceeds through charitable gaming events, with \$79 million raised by Host First Nation charities.
- In 2023-24, AGLC provided 3,462 charity licenses for casino events with charities earning \$276.9 million.

- In 2023-24, more than \$1.5 billion in net gaming revenue was allocated to the province's General Revenue Fund.

RESOLUTION PC 01-25: INFLATIONARY INCREASE FOR ASB GRANTS

**WHEREAS** the province of Alberta has included inflationary increases in multi year grants made to ASB stakeholders;

**WHEREAS** the ASBs continue to be important partners with the province on food and agriculture products assurance systems providing 1:7 return on investment with the ASB grant program;

**WHEREAS** the ASB grants have not received an increase beyond 2014 levels so grant amounts have not kept up with inflation;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation approve a 3%/year inflationary increase for the ASBs grant program.

**SPONSORED BY:** ASBPC

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Agriculture and Irrigation

## INITIAL GRADE PC 01-25: ASBPC

RESPONDED: The Committee was pleased that the Province indicated that inflationary increases were reasonable and encouraged a letter of request during the 2025 fall budget process.

## RESPONSE PC 01-25: AGI

### Response:

Agricultural Service Boards (ASB) are critical partners with the Government of Alberta. Government remains committed to supporting the important work ASBs do each year to administer and implement the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, *Weed Control Act*, *Agricultural Pest Act* and *Soil Conservation Act*, and assist in the control of animal diseases under the *Animal Health Act*. Government recognizes the vital role of ASBs in protecting Alberta's access to markets through the surveillance and control of pests and the continued strong relationship with municipalities.

The budget planning process for 2025-26 was complete at the time Resolution PC-01-25 was received. However, it will be discussed for the 2026-27 budget.

Thank you again for this important resolution. A strong agriculture industry remains at the heart of Alberta's economic strategy, and ASBs will continue to be an important partner in this success.

	RESOLUTION	Response request	Response Received	Sponsoring ASB	April 17 follow up actions
1-25	DROUGHT AND LIVESTOCK AGRISTABILITY	AAFC	March 12	Yellowhead	Further response - not yet received.
4-25	WEED CONTROL IN DRAINAGE CANALS (REGISTERED DRAINAGE DITCHES)	AB Env	March 31	Smoky River	
5-25	CENTRAL CONTACT FOR THE WEED CONTROL AND AGRICULTURAL PEST ACTS	AB Eng AB Env AGI AB Trans	(defer to AB Env) March 31 March 25 (defer to AGI)	Northern Sunrise	Further response requested from AGI – received
6-25	RURAL VETERINARY STUDENT SUPPORT	AB Jobs AB A Ed AGI	April 17 March 25	Lacombe County	Further response requested – not yet received.
7-25	ROADKILL CARCASS DISPOSAL	AB Trans AGI Forestry AB Env	March 26 March 25 May 15 Defer to Trans.	MD Greenview	Further response sent and received.
9-25	NON-MATCHING FUNDING FOR AGKNOW	AGI	March 25	Fairview	
11-25	AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FUNDING	AB Ed AGI RMA	April 11 March 25 April 14	Lac La Biche	
12-25	CHARITABLE GAMING POLICIES HANDBOOK	Service AB Red tape AB gam		Two Hills County	Reminder email/letter
PC1-25	INFLATIONARY INCREASE FOR ASB GRANTS	AGI	March 25		

## 2026 ASB Extension Revamp Options

### \*Disclaimer:

- Questionnaire results are anonymous and will be presented in the future to the ASB and Council.
- This is a two-part questionnaire, the first part is the basic structure of Smoky Lake County's ASB Extension Program. The secondary lists topics you would like to see covered.

☐ Shelter Belt Program – at cost ordering seedling etc., for pick up from the PW shop once a spring.

☐ Smoky Lake County ASB Grant – 3, \$500 grants for youth in smoky lake county

☐ ATTS Group Inc. consulting for tree health from Toso Bozic

☐ ASB Rental equipment (\*Existing rentals we have now are scare cannons (3)

→ Spray equipment:

- Backpack sprayer (12L-15L)
- Trailer Sprayer (15-25 gal) can be pulled behind a lawnmower
- Quad Sprayer (15-25 gal)

→ Bale probe

→ Soil testing probe

→ Push grass seeder for lawns

→ Post pounder

→ Tree planter (for shelter belt program)

☐ Meals in the field – twice a year local farmers enter to get a free catered meal delivered to the field during seeding/harvest.

☐ Tansy Rebate Program (also thistle or daisies?)

☐ Extension Events: Workshops/Tours

Please check all that you would like to see from Smoky Lake County ASB.

- ☐ Composting 101
  - ☐ Gardening/Seed Starting
  - ☐ Corn Grazing
  - ☐ Rotational Grazing
  - ☐ Weed Control in Pastures/Crop
  - ☐ Livestock Nutrition
  - ☐ Beneficial Insects for your Farm
  - ☐ Working Well – water quality and protection
  - ☐ Pest management (non-plants including wildlife, insects, diseases)
  - ☐ Biosecurity on the farm
  - ☐ Cattle/Crop Market updates
  - ☐ Microgreens
  - ☐ Increasing Pollinators on the farm
  - ☐ Tree Planting/Maintaining
  - ☐ Maintaining Shelter Belts
  - ☐ Farm & Yard Waste Management
  - ☐ Basic Farm Business (budgeting, marketing, planning, record keeping,)
  - ☐ How to submit an insurance claim for your farm (AFSC)
  - ☐ Farmers Pesticide Course
  - ☐ Biodiversity in Agriculture
  - ☐ Working with Riparian Areas
  - ☐ Impact of Air Pollution on Agriculture
  - ☐ Backyard Poultry for Beginners
-



- € Innovation Technology for Agriculture (drones, AI, GIS, thermal)
  - € Soil Health: maintain organic matter/nitrogen in top soil
  - € No-Till Farming
  - € Extreme weather management (drought, cold, flooding)
  - € What can Farmers do with Water (Water Act activities that are permitted and not)
  - € EFP
  - € Grant Funding Opportunities
  - € Promoting Crop Diversity
  - € Working with Beavers (including pond leveler info)
  - € Chemical Information (local reps talk prices and efficiency between pesticides/fertilizers)
  - € Smoky Lake ASB policies/programs
  - € Farm Safety (around chemicals, machinery, livestock, etc.)
  - € First Aid for Farmers/Rural Residents
  - € Other(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
-

## Dan Gawalko ASB Chair report division one June 11/25

- April 28 attended the LARA board meeting in Ashmont, we reviewed the strategic plan for 2025 and also looked at a new logo for LARA with Dark Horse media, Alyssa gave an update on the capital funding we will be purchasing a new seeder, crimp roller, grain analyzer, & a new tractor a MF 1840. Will be looking into hosting a regenerative agriculture soil health event with Don Huber, Alyssa gave her executive director report received funding for 2 summer jobs hired 4, Charlene R. will be retiring this spring so will be looking for someone to fill her position and also to work in the garden plot, working with LHR on new job descriptions and ordered a new microscope to be used with the kids in school programs, discussed starting a research committee with staff and 3 producer reps, updating the policy manual, research staff are getting the field trials ready Smoky Lake county will be at the Michael Carson field it has been soil sampled for clubroot & fertility and has been GPS pinned, also the weather station has been put up there which producers will have access to the data, Lance has helped over 22 producers with the new grant programs that have opened up on April 1/25, Alyssa gave the financial report no issues, Jay gave the LFA report, 390 heifers accepted into the pasture this year at .90/head/day and they updated the bull policy. Smoky Lake county field day will be on July 24 this year and LARA will also have a booth at Smoky Lake County Farmer appreciation BBQ on June 13 , next meeting June 23 @ 9am in Ashmont.
- June 9, attended the Bellis 4H beef club show & sale in Waskatenau along with councillor Lorne Halisky, the members did a great job again this year with their beef projects and the younger one with chicken projects, Georgia Hartly took the Supreme Female in the Cow/Calf Pair and also Reserve Female for her Heifer, Elise Feniak received Grand Champion Steer, Austin Cherniwchan had Reserve Champion Steer all very good looking animals and all four of these members received trophy buckles sponsored by Smoky Lake County the day concluded with the sale of 17 steers and 8 chickens with the chickens going for 160 – 170 dollars per bird.

# Agricultural Service Board Grant Reporting Overview

The following is an overview of the report that is sent to Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation outlining the outcomes of our programs in 2024.

## AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD ACT

- Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board had five meetings throughout the year.

## AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT

- 1 Agricultural Pest Inspectors appointed
- 100 fields inspected for Clubroot
- 4 fields surveyed for Blackleg in Canola
- 3 Bertha armyworms locations monitored throughout the County for Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation
- 1 Canola Flower Midge trap location monitored in county for Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation
- 1 Swede Midge trap location monitored in the County for Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation
- 36 townships surveyed for Grasshoppers on behalf of Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation
- 2 fields sampled for Fusarium Head Blight in wheat
- 1 new pond levelers installed
- 8 repaired/upgraded flow devices
- 18 1080 pills distributed
- 0 Wild Boar calls investigated
- 201 Problem beavers removed.
- 25 Beaver dams removed to protect County infrastructure
- **\*Internal purposes only\*** 36 problem muskrats removed
- Landowners can participate in Beaver Tail Bounty Program and Northern Pocket Gopher Tail Bounty Program
  - 658 Pocket Gopher tails brought in
  - 87 beaver tails brought in
- 0 Rat calls investigated

## WEED CONTROL ACT

- 1 Seasonal Weed Inspectors Appointed
  - 385 weed inspections completed on private land with awareness letters sent to landowners
-

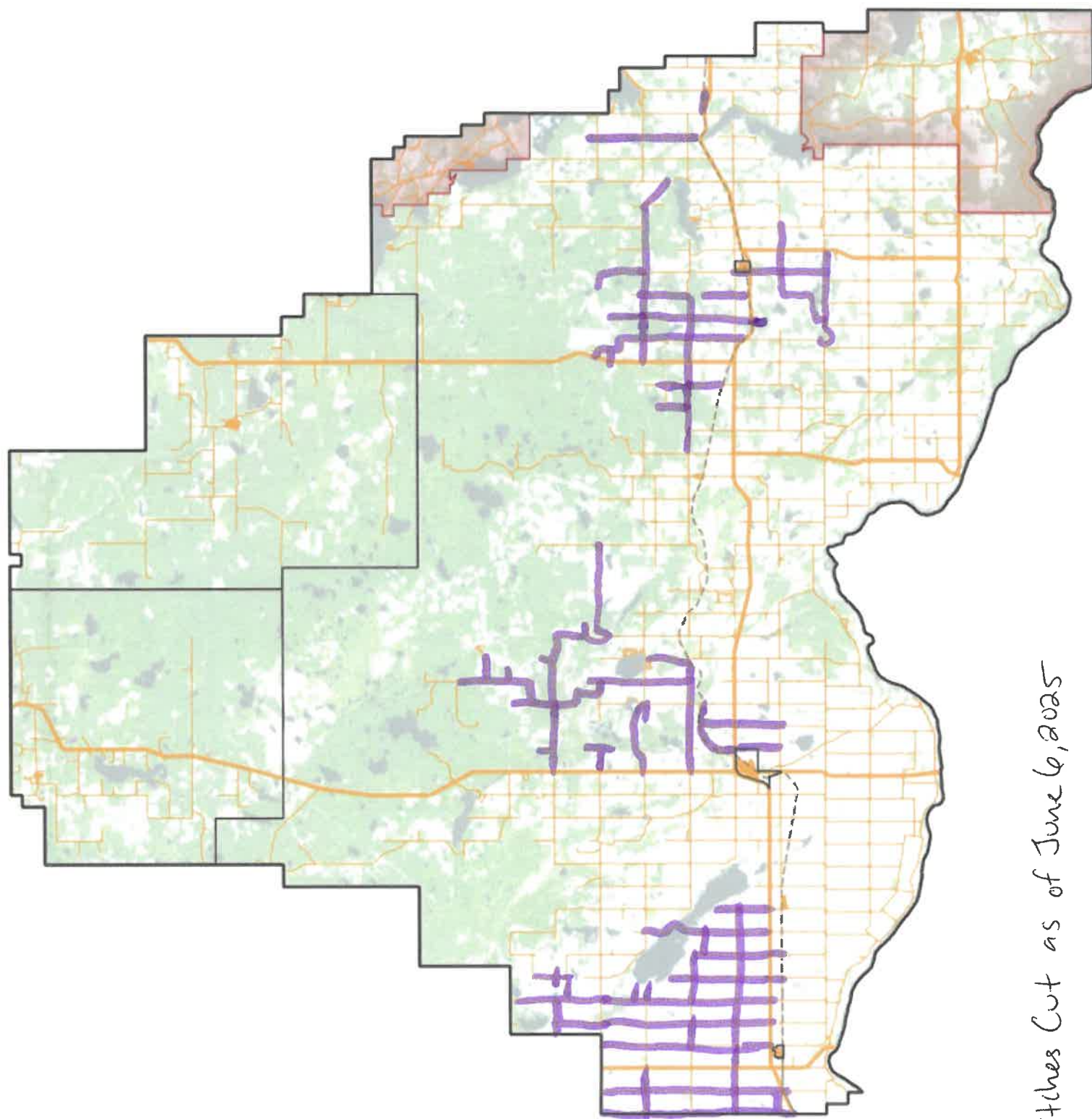
- 50% of municipal right-of-ways received a herbicide application for brush & noxious weeds
- 2 locations received a combination of herbicide application and hand picking for Prohibited Noxious Hoary Alyssum
- Smoky Lake County's successful biocontrol project for Leafy Spurge received its yearly survey. Biocontrol insects continue to be successful at this location.
- Weed awareness "WANTED" posted hung at all County truck fills and bulletin boards in the towns, villages, and hamlets.
- All County roads received one 'shoulder' mowing pass early in the season and a second mowing pass to the 'property line' in the Fall. 3134 total mowing miles in 2024.

#### **SOIL CONSERVATION ACT**

- 1 Soil Conservation Inspectors appointed
- 0 Soil Conservation letters issued
- Monitoring for different types of soil erosion occurs throughout growing season
- Shelterbelts and best practices promoted at County events

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL EXTENSION AND OUTREACH**

- 21 EFP's completed (7 done by SLC)
  - 251 producers attended 25 extension events put on by LARA
  - 1 LARA trial plot location in the County
  - Ag Department info booth at our Farmers Appreciation BBQ and LARA Annual General Meeting highlighting County programs, weed & pest awareness, shelterbelt info, Environmental Farm Plan info, beaver management techniques and Wild Boar 'Squeal on Pigs' Campaign
  - Sat on the Grazing School for Women planning committee
  - Delivered the Classroom Agriculture Program to the Grade 4 students at schools within Smoky Lake County
-



— Ditches Cut as of June 6, 2025

## Brushing Creek on Land NE-13-59-18-W4

To brush this creek we would probably need to remove the fence for proper maneuverability.

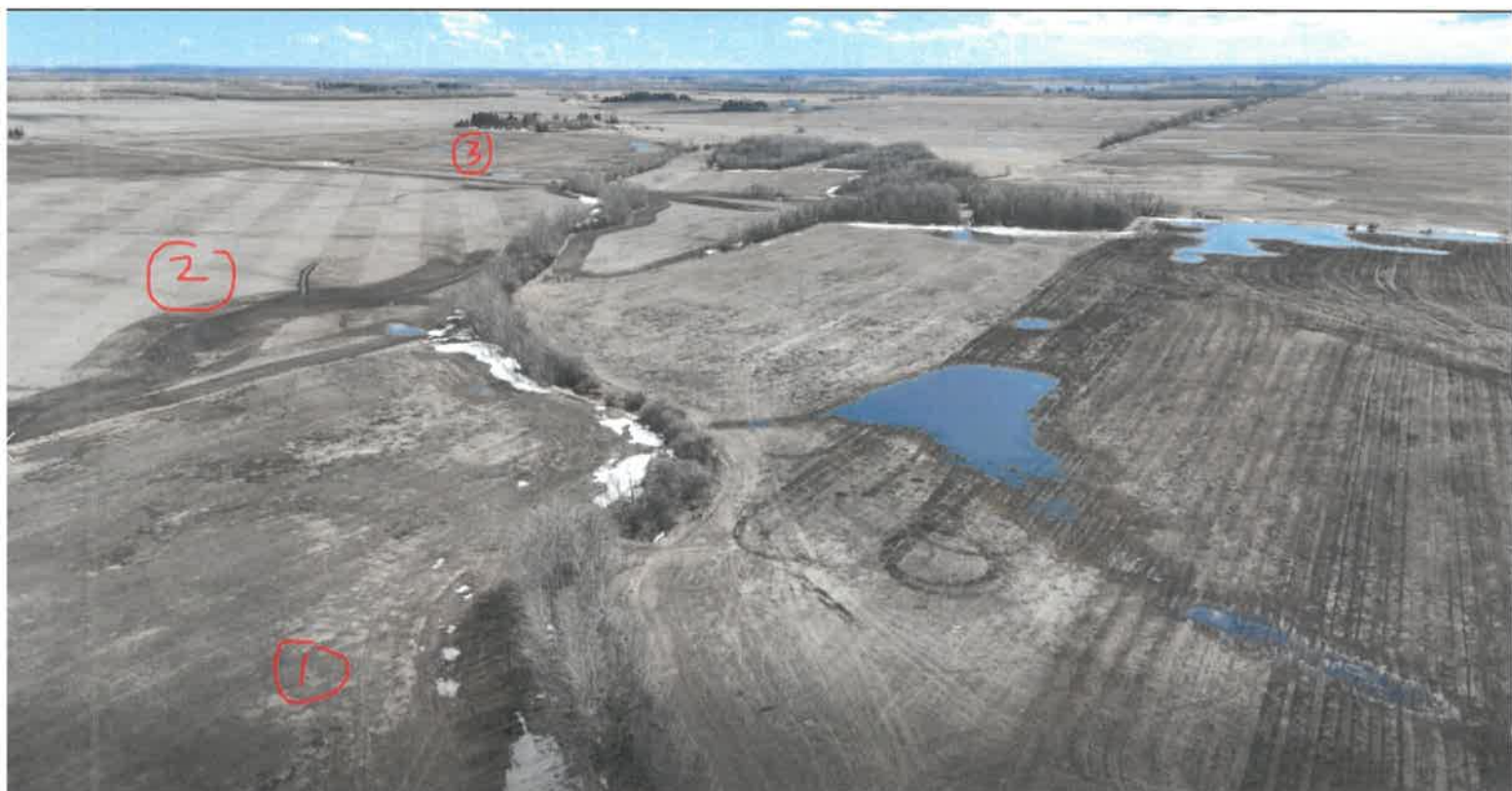
4 men x 16 hours = 64 hrs @ 35.00 hr. =	\$2,240.00
2 pickups x 16 hours = 32 hrs. @ 44.00 =	\$1,400.00
1 – backhoe or skid steer x 12 hrs @ 100.00 =	<u>\$1,200.00</u>
Fence Removal Total =	\$4,840.00
Track Hoe with Mulcher/bucket/operator	
7 days x 8 hrs. = 56 hrs. @ \$ 226.00 =	\$12,656.00
Truck and Lowboy 3 hrs. @ 240.00 =	\$ 720.00
Spotter or swamper 56 hrs.@ 35.00 hr. =	<u>\$ 1,960.00</u>
Brushing Total =	\$ 15,336.00
Fence removal and brushing total =	\$ 20,175.00
Fence restoration to be done by owner.	
If we were to restore fence double the removal cost to =	<u>\$ 9,680.00</u>
This would bring the total cost to	\$29,855.00











- ① SW-24-59-18-W4
- ② SE-24-59-18-W4
- ③ NE-13-59-18-W4

Canada-Alberta

## WILDLIFE DAMAGE COMPENSATION PROGRAM

2025





Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) is a provincial Crown corporation, serving Albertans across the province. AFSC provides crop insurance (AgrilInsurance) for annual and perennial crops as well as honey, bee overwintering and livestock price insurance. AFSC delivers provincial and federal agricultural support programs, including AgriStability and provides producers, agribusinesses and commercial enterprises with lending products.

## **PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY**

AFSC adheres to privacy procedures compliant with current legislation and is committed to securing our clients' personal information. Personal information is defined as any information about an identifiable individual that is recorded in any form, subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP Act). As an individual, it is your right to control when, how and to what extent your information is communicated to others.

## **REPORTING FRAUDULENT ACTIVITY**

AFSC does its best to ensure that only clients who legitimately qualify receive the amounts for which they are eligible. AFSC is responsible for protecting the integrity of the programs it administers and ensuring the taxpayers' dollars are properly accounted for. Some examples of fraudulent activities are:

- Falsifying documents
- Not disclosing all production
- Not disclosing all relevant information
- Selling production under someone else's name

If you suspect fraud, waste or abuse of AFSC programs, including insurance, income stabilization, lending or the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program, please contact AFSC and ask to speak with the Compliance and Investigations Department. Reports of fraudulent activity can be made anonymously at 1.877.685.9317 or by visiting [www.clearviewconnects.com](http://www.clearviewconnects.com).

## **DEFERRALS**

To facilitate tax planning, clients can choose in advance to defer payments to the following tax year. There will be no recourse to defer once payment has been issued. Deferred payments will not be applied to outstanding premiums or balances until the deferred date and interest will continue to accrue.

## **OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS**

Premiums, administrative fees and all other amounts owed to AFSC are due and payable upon billing. Outstanding amounts owed to AFSC will be deducted from indemnities payable to the client.

## **INSURANCE CLAIMS PAYING FOR OTHER PROGRAMS**

AFSC reserves the right to use Wildlife Damage Compensation indemnities to offset outstanding accounts for all insurance, income stabilization, and lending programs AFSC administers.

# WILDLIFE DAMAGE COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (WDCP) compensates agricultural producers for wildlife damage to eligible unharvested crops, stacked hay, stacked greenfeed, as well as silage and haylage in pits and tubes.

Producers wishing to participate in the program are not required to have AFSC insurance to qualify for a claim. Producers do need to have an insurable interest in the crop that is damaged; cash rent landlords are not eligible. For eligible crops, other than stacked hay or stacked greenfeed, the producer's crop needs to be located and must have been damaged in Alberta.

All costs for this program are paid by the federal and provincial governments; producers pay no premium or administration cost except for the appraisal fee. A non-refundable appraisal fee of \$25 per inspection type is required for each section of land or portion thereof on which the damage has occurred.

## PERENNIAL CROPS

The WDCP compensates agricultural producers for wildlife damage to eligible unharvested hay crops caused by ungulates, upland game birds, waterfowl, and wild boar at-large.

AFSC also compensates for wildlife damage to harvested perennial crops stored as stacked hay and haylage in pits and tubes caused by ungulates or wild boar at-large.

Wildlife Species
<b>Ungulates:</b> Antelope, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat and mountain sheep
<b>Waterfowl:</b> Ducks, geese and sandhill cranes
<b>Upland Game Birds:</b> Grouse, partridge, pheasant and ptarmigan
Wild boar at-large

## WHAT IS ELIGIBLE FOR A CLAIM

**Unharvested perennial crops:** all unharvested hay crops that can be insured under AFSC's Hay Insurance or Export Timothy Hay Insurance programs are eligible for compensation under this program. Swath grazing and bale grazing acres are eligible for compensation up to October 31.

**Stacked hay and haylage in pits and tubes:** are not insurable under any of AFSC's insurance programs but are eligible for a claim under this program.

**The following crops are not eligible:**

- grazing land or native pasture;
- acres of damaged crop that have been harvested prior to inspection;
- where it is determined that the damage occurred after the majority of the crops in the same vicinity were harvested;
- acreage of crop that was seeded on land considered unsuitable for crop production.

## PAYMENT

**Unharvested hay:** In order to be compensated under WDCP, there must be at least 10 per cent wildlife damage and a minimum of \$100 calculated loss per crop. Damaged hay crops cannot be cut until after they have been inspected, as wildlife claims cannot be adjusted from representative strips.

Compensation is based on the percentage of damage multiplied by the commercial value of the crop. Commercial value is determined by the intended use of the crop and the yield and grade of the crop as follows:

- Damaged crops with production-based insurance will use the insured's yield from the Harvested Production Report (HPR) or the determined yield;
- Damaged crops without production-based insurance will use an area average yield for the crop.

The yield is multiplied by the highest price used for production-based insurance that year.

For unharvested crops, losses paid under WDCP are deducted from any production-based insurance payments for that crop year.

**Damage caused by wild boar at-large:** to initiate a wildlife claim a producer must notify the provincial Wild Boar Specialist who will provide the producer with appropriate recommendations to prevent further damage prior to a claim being paid.

If a producer has a second claim, the minimum recommendations from the Wild Boar Specialist during the first claim visit must have been implemented in order to be eligible for a claim. If the recommendations have not been followed, no claim will be paid.

**Damage to stacked hay and haylage in pits and tubes:** to initiate a wildlife claim a producer must first contact a provincial Fish and Wildlife Officer who will provide the producer with appropriate recommendations to prevent further damage prior to a claim being paid.

If a producer has a second claim, the minimum recommendations from the Fish and Wildlife Officer during the first claim visit must have been implemented in order to be eligible for a full claim. If the recommendations have not been followed, the producer is only eligible to receive 50 per cent of the claim amount.

On third and subsequent claims, if minimum recommendations are not followed, no claim will be paid.

Claims filed for stacked hay, and haylage in pits and tubes over the winter will not be finalized until all damage has ceased and the total damage can be determined.

The maximum compensation for stacked hay and haylage in pits and tubes under the WDCP is \$5,000 per inspection.

## CLIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

**Unharvested hay:** Insured and uninsured producers are required to file all Wildlife claims online via AFSC Connect. AFSC recommends 10 days notice prior to harvest to allow AFSC time to arrange to have an adjuster perform an on-farm inspection.

Producers should check their fields to identify the damaged areas prior to filing a claim and are expected to take the adjuster to the damaged fields when AFSC completes the damage assessment.

**Damage caused by wild boar at-large:** Producers are responsible to notify the provincial Wild Boar Specialist and AFSC as soon as possible after first noticing damage to request an inspection and receive more detailed information. Producers can contact the Wild Boar Specialist by emailing [AF.WildBoar@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AF.WildBoar@gov.ab.ca) or by phone at 1.866.252.6403.

Producers must not hunt or trap wild boar on their property, including the section where the damage has occurred and each section that borders the damaged section when operated by the same producer. Additionally, producers must not permit access for other persons to hunt or trap wild boar on the same properties. The producer must permit the provincial Wild Boar Specialist access to their property to conduct wild boar eradication.

**Damage to stacked hay and haylage in pits and tubes:** Producers are responsible to notify Fish and Wildlife and AFSC as soon as possible after first noticing damage to request an inspection and receive more detailed information.

## ANNUAL CROPS

The WDCP compensates agricultural producers for wildlife damage to eligible unharvested annual crops caused by ungulates, upland game birds, waterfowl, bear, or wild boar at-large.

AFSC also compensates for wildlife damage caused by ungulates and wild boar at-large to harvested annual crops stored as stacked greenfeed, and silage in pits and tubes, as well as wildlife-excreta contaminated annual crops detected in storage.

Additionally, compensation is provided for bear damage to hives designated for honey production.

Wildlife Species
<b>Ungulates:</b> Antelope, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat and mountain sheep
<b>Waterfowl:</b> Ducks, geese and sandhill cranes
<b>Upland Game Birds:</b> Grouse, partridge, pheasant and ptarmigan
Bear, Wild boar at-large

**Bear Damage to Hives** was added in 2023 as an eligible loss under WDCP as a three-year pilot. Compensation for eligible claims includes losses for honey, bee hives (colonies) and beehive equipment. Producers will need to report damage, including a self-assessment report with photographic evidence, within 48 hours or 2 business days of discovery.

### WHAT IS ELIGIBLE FOR A CLAIM

**Unharvested and wildlife-excreta contaminated annual crops:** this program applies to all commercially grown cereal, oilseed, special and other crops that can be insured under AFSC's annual crop insurance and Straight Hail Insurance programs. Swath grazing, bale grazing and corn grazing are eligible for compensation up to October 31.

**Silage in pits and tubes, and stacked greenfeed:** are not insurable under any of AFSC's insurance programs but are eligible for claims under this program.

**Hives:** hives that are designated for honey production are eligible for a claim during the period of May 1 to October 31.

**The following crops are not eligible:**

- where it is determined that the crop was seeded too late to reasonably expect normal yields;
- acres of damaged crop that have been harvested prior to inspection;
- where it is determined that the damage occurred after the majority of the crops in the same vicinity were harvested;
- volunteer crops;
- acreage of crop that was seeded on land considered unsuitable for crop production;
- hives used for pollination and leaf cutter bees.

### PAYMENT

**Unharvested annual crops:** In order to be compensated under WDCP, there must be at least 10 per cent wildlife damage and a minimum of \$100 calculated loss per crop. Damaged annual crops must not be harvested until after they have been inspected as wildlife losses cannot be assessed from representative strips.

Compensation is based on the percentage of damage multiplied by the commercial value of the crop. Commercial value is determined by the intended use of the crop and the yield and grade of the crop as follows:

- Damaged crops with production-based insurance will use the insured's yield from the Harvested Production Report (HPR) or the determined yield;
- Damaged crops without production-based insurance will use an area average yield for the crop.

The yield is multiplied by the grade factor (the value of the crop in the field relative to the designated grade, when applicable) and the highest price used for production-based insurance that year. Clients with wildlife claims on damaged crops may be eligible for higher rates of compensation provided the eligibility criteria for the higher coverage under crop insurance is met; example: malt barley or organic.

For unharvested crops, losses paid under WDCP are deducted from any production-based insurance payments.

**Wildlife-excreta-contaminated crops:** Compensation is provided to producers who have incurred cleaning costs and/or market value loss for crops contaminated with wildlife excreta. In order to be compensated there must be a minimum of \$100 calculated loss.

**Damage caused by wild boar at-large:** to initiate a wildlife claim a producer must notify the provincial Wild Boar Specialist who will provide the producer with appropriate recommendations to prevent further damage prior to a claim being paid.

If a producer has a second claim, the minimum recommendations from the Wild Boar Specialist during the first claim visit must have been implemented in order to be eligible for a full claim. If the recommendations have not been followed, no claim will be paid.

**Damage to silage in pits and tubes, and stacked greenfeed:** to initiate a wildlife claim a producer must first contact a provincial Fish and Wildlife Officer who will provide the producer with appropriate recommendations to prevent further damage prior to a claim being paid.

If a producer has a second claim, the minimum recommendations for the Fish and Wildlife Officer during the first claim visit must have been implemented in order to be eligible for a full claim. If the recommendations have not been followed, the producer is only eligible to receive 50 per cent of the claim amount.

On third and subsequent claims, if minimum recommendations are not followed, no claim will be paid.

Claims filed for stacked greenfeed and silage in pits and tubes over the winter will not be finalized until all damage has ceased and the total damage can be determined.

Maximum compensation for wildlife damage for silage in pits and tubes is \$5,000 per inspection.

**Bear damage to hives:** in order to be compensated under WDCP, there must be a minimum of \$100 calculated loss.

If a producer has a second claim on a hive yard, the hive yard must have electric fencing in place as a mitigation strategy to be eligible for a full claim. If electric fencing is not erected, the producer is only eligible to receive 50 per cent of the claim amount.

On third and subsequent claims, if electric fencing is not erected, no claim will be paid.

For bear damage to hives, honey losses paid under WDCP are deducted from any production-based insurance payments.

## CLIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

**Unharvested annual crops:** Insured and uninsured producers are required to file all wildlife claims online via AFSC Connect with the exception of excreta damage to an unharvested annual crop. AFSC recommends 10 days notice prior to harvest to allow AFSC time to arrange to have an adjuster perform an on-farm inspection.

Producers should check their fields to identify the damaged areas prior to filing their claims and are expected to take the adjuster to the damaged fields for AFSC to complete the damage assessment.

**Wildlife-excreta contaminated crops:** Producers must contact AFSC as soon as possible after first noticing excreta contamination and request an inspection. To be eligible for a payment, the annual crop must not be disposed of, cleaned or sold prior to AFSC completing an initial on-farm inspection otherwise their request for inspection will be rejected.

Cleaning receipts, sales receipts, or evidence of on-farm cleaning must be submitted to AFSC before the deadline of January 1, two calendar years from the inspection date. After this deadline, wildlife-excreta claims are no longer verifiable and will be rejected by AFSC. New claims can be submitted if the deadline has not been met and will be subject to re-inspection.

For further details on compensation for cleaning costs and market loss value, producers can contact AFSC or visit [www.AFSC.ca](http://www.AFSC.ca).



**Damage caused by wild boar at-large:** Producers are responsible to notify the provincial Wild Boar Specialist and AFSC as soon as possible after first noticing damage to request an inspection and receive more detailed information. Producers can contact the Wild Boar Specialist by emailing [AF.WildBoar@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AF.WildBoar@gov.ab.ca) or by phone at 1.866.252.6403.

Producers must not hunt or trap the wild boar on their property including the section where the damage has occurred and each section that borders the damaged section when operated by the same producer. Additionally, producers must not permit access for other persons to hunt or trap wild boar on the same properties. The producer must permit the provincial Wild Boar Specialist access to their property to conduct wild boar eradication.

**Damage to silage in pits and tubes, stacked greenfeed:** Producers are responsible to notify Fish and Wildlife and AFSC as soon as possible after first noticing damage to request an inspection and receive more detailed information.

**Bear damage to hives:** Producers must contact AFSC and file a self-assessment report with photographic evidence within 48 hours, or 2 business days, of discovery of damage. To be eligible for payment, the damage must not be cleaned up prior to AFSC confirming the site can be cleaned up.



6.6









**From:** Agricultural Service Boards <donotreply@wordpress.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2025 8:29 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Weeds on Wellsites Update

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[Read on blog](#) or [Reader](#)



**Agricultural Service Boards**

## Weeds on Wellsites Update



By **asbexecassistant** on April 15, 2025

The Weeds On Wellsites working group met on March 26, 2025.

The meeting was planned to coincide with the release of the **Mature Assets Strategy (MAS)** report, however the report was delayed and not released until April 3, 2025.

At the meeting Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) staff discussed their involvement in the Mature Asset Strategy Initiative led by Alberta Energy and David Yaeger, including the engagement process, stakeholder meetings, and upcoming recommendations.

### Positive Outcomes:

- Raised awareness of the weeds on well sites issue to participants, including Oil and Gas industry representatives
- Raised awareness of Agricultural Trade impact from weed and pest contamination of grain/hay

- Landowner groups articulated the erosion of trust with Oil and Gas

By engaging and being involved in the Mature Asset Strategy engagements, the Agriculture and Irrigation staff were able to brief the Energy and Minerals Minister and discuss two endorsed actions:

- Adding the Weed Control Act and Agriculture Pest Act to the Specified Enactments of the Responsible Energy Development Act (REDA) and
- Working with the Municipal Governance Act to get cost recovery for municipal work regarding weeds on well sites added to the leaseholders tax roll.

In addition, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta is creating a survey for municipalities to determine the extent of the concerns regarding weeds on well sites. RMA staff provided an update on the survey development, mentioning the delay but highlighting the progress made. Outlined the survey's structure, target audience, and categories of questions, and invited feedback from attendees. They are aiming for a three week response window, recognizing that it will fall in the busy season for ASB staff, and hoping to have data analyzed by fall 2025.

## **Next Steps**

### **Support for the Mature Asset Strategy Cabinet Package**

Participants shared insights from the RMA perspective, highlighting disagreements with some premises of the strategy, particularly around municipal taxation. Emphasizing the need to solve outstanding issues before incentivizing Oil and Gas companies. Mention of the upcoming MAS report release to the public.

Reiterated the importance of raising awareness about weeds on well sites and the positive impacts of participating in the mature asset strategy discussions.

Discussed the ongoing work with municipal affairs and energy to respond to the draft report and continue addressing the weeds on well sites issues.

# Related Links

[Mature Asset Strategy engagement and final report](#)

[RMA - Response to the MAS Report](#)

[RMA Weeds on Wellsites Survey presentation Download](#)

[AGI Weeds on Wellsites presentationDownload](#)

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April 22, 2025

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

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**RE: Cypress County Letter of Support for AgKnow**

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To The Honourable Minister RJ Sigurdson, via email: ([AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca)),

The Cypress County Agricultural Service Board wishes to extend our strong and unwavering support for the AgKnow Program and to advocate for its continued funding by the Government of Alberta.

Many other municipalities have expressed their support of AgKnow to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation as well, and we all are hopeful for the outcome. Mental health needs for agricultural producers are a major concern since there is this stigma that they are a resilient demographic. AgKnow plays a vital role in offering essential support to agricultural producers who are facing serious mental health crisis. Stable funding for the program would ensure producers have support available that is accessible online and at any time they need it.

Agriculture is a key industry in Cypress County and a vital part of Alberta's economy. The implications of losing this program could be devastating to the producers in the province.

We thank-you for your continued support of the Agriculture Industry and we wholly support and urge you to consider advocating and funding the very important AgKnow program.

Sincerely,

Shane Hok  
Agricultural Service Board Chairman  
Cypress County

7.3

## Kierstin Dubitz

**From:** Agricultural Service Boards Program <asbprogram@gov.ab.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 25, 2025 4:52 PM  
**To:** Kierstin Dubitz  
**Subject:** ASB Connector - April 2025

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## ASB Connector

ASBs are key to Alberta's robust pest surveillance network that helps Alberta maintain market access by mitigating the risk of agricultural pest threats and managing the negative impacts of weeds in crops and the environment. This in turn enables the industry to provide assurance to trading partners and continue to produce high-value crops and livestock. The 68 ASBs in Alberta help nearly 60,000 farmers and ranchers protect the over 50 million acres they farm.

## April 2025

[View as webpage](#)



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### ASB 2024 Grant Program reporting

The reporting for the final year of the 2020-2024 ASB Grant Program has opened and will remain open until end of day on Monday **June 30, 2025**. An email with the link to the report and a PDF of the reporting questions was sent out to Ag Fieldmen.

If you did not receive this email please get in touch with the [ASB Program](#) to get the link and information for completing this report.

### ASB Grant Program renewal update

Thank you to all Agricultural Service Boards for submitting your grant applications for the 2025–2029 funding cycle. The ASB team

appreciates your willingness to collaborate as we work with you to address any necessary revisions.

Once these are completed, we will be attaching the approved applications to the grant agreements which will then be sent out for signing.



Common tansy. Image courtesy Gayah Sieusahai.

## Regulated Weed Review update

The Weed Review Committee (WRC), comprised of a member and alternate from each ASB region, cities of Edmonton and Calgary and ministry staff from Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI), Environment and Protected Areas, and Forestry and Parks (including Public Lands), have completed their review of all the feedback received from the Invited Stakeholder and AAAF/ASB surveys on existing and potential regulated weeds and have made recommendations for their inclusion and classification as regulated weeds in Alberta. The proposed recommendations from the WRC will now be prepared by AGI staff as a decision document for Minister that is expected to move up later this spring. As this progresses, we will continue to work with the WRC to communicate information on the process.

The committee also provided direction on related issues such as improving alignment for compliance between the provincial *Fisheries Act* and the *Weed Control Act* and the frequency for reviewing the regulated weeds.

We are grateful for all the work done by this committee and the willingness of AAAF and ASBs across the province to contribute to this initiative.



## Seed Cleaning Facility Licensing Form – product verification scoring

Following last year's inspections using the new form there were requests to look at the criteria and process for completing the product verification score of the updated licensing form. In response, we recently met with a group of Ag Fieldmen and ASPA manager representatives to review the scoring for the product verification check and ways to improve the criteria clarity.

Based on this discussion, we are looking to revise the process to include point deductions based upon the number of weed seeds found in a sample and modify the comparison with plant results to a checkbox to indicate this was done if these results were available.



If you have any input, questions or concerns with this, please contact Kellie Jackson at 403-813-9406 or [kellie.jackson@gov.ab.ca](mailto:kellie.jackson@gov.ab.ca) before the end of May.

Once the revisions are made, a draft of the proposed changes will be reviewed by this group with the intention of having the updated forms and guidance available by end of summer 2025.



### Spring 2025 ASB-ADM Biannual Townhall - save the date

The spring townhall is tentatively scheduled for **June 4** from 11am to 12pm. Invitations will be sent out in May so please save the date. If you have any topics that you would like an update on please contact the [ASB Program](#) or your regional liaison by **May 23**.



### Early intervention crucial in managing Richardson's ground squirrels

Richardson's ground squirrels typically emerge from hibernation in early spring, with their first appearances occurring in late February, depending on the local climate. Males are the first to surface, with females emerging about two weeks later.

Garrett Girletz, assistant rat and pest specialist with the Alberta government, says timely action ensures that the population is managed before it grows too large, making control more effective and reducing the need for more drastic measures in the future.

[Read the article](#)



*Image courtesy Amanda Jorgensen*

### Introducing AGI's new insect management specialist - Amanda Jorgensen

Amanda Jorgensen recently joined Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation as the department's insect management specialist and is based out of the Crop Diversification Centre North in Edmonton.

Meet Amanda:

As a kid, I was always running in fields, catching grasshoppers, and getting eaten by mosquitoes. I have been lucky enough to turn all those activities into a career!

I completed my B.Sc. in Ecology and Environmental Sciences at Thompson Rivers University in 2015. At that point I had completed

a few co-operative education terms with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and an undergraduate research project. In 2018 I finished my M.Sc. in Biology from the University of Alberta examining the monitoring and biology of wheat midge, *Sitodiplosis mosellana*, in northern Alberta. Since then, I worked as a research technician in an insect pest management lab with Agriculture Canada in Beaverlodge.

I am now excited to expand into my new role as the Insect Management Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. The most rewarding moments of my career have always been when I can see producers put the results of our surveys and research into action. I am grateful to get to focus on generating and sharing high quality insect pest population forecasts and surveys with Alberta producers.

In my down time I love to get out hiking with my two dogs – although I do have to stop if we see a cool bug.

As I prepare for spring and the 2025 insect surveys, Albertans can review the results of 2024 insect surveys through the [Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network](#) or [Prairiepest.ca](#).

To ask questions or participate contact me at [Amanda.Jorgensen@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Amanda.Jorgensen@gov.ab.ca) or 780-264-6708.



## Insect monitoring

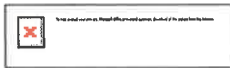
In 2025, like always, weather conditions will make or break our insect worries. If we have a warm spring, parts of Alberta could see high grasshopper populations (especially in the South). Read detailed results from the 2024 surveillance in the January issue of this newsletter and at the [Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network](#). Thank you to the Agriculture Service Boards, AAAF and volunteer producers for their help in making this work possible!

We have a full slate of plans for 2025 including our surveys, training opportunities and field events. Diamondback moth monitoring starts the week of May 5. Supplies have already been sent out to cooperators. Reporting will be open the week after trapping starts, and the live map will be active shortly after!

Let us know if you are interested in regional survey training and watch for Amanda's attendance at a field event near you.

[Learn more and check out the insect monitoring timeline](#)

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## Cutworm damage in southeastern Alberta

Reports of cutworm damage in winter wheat and forage crops are coming in from southeastern Alberta. We also have a report of damage from tiger moth larvae in an alfalfa field in southern Alberta.

Now is the time to scout for cutworms. Watch fields with dead patches, high apparent winterkill, or that look patchy. Check the first inch or so of soil at the edge of damaged patches. As seeding continues, watch for fields that are not emerging as expected or start to look patchy.

Read more about monitoring and control options:

- [Cutworm](#)
- [Cutworm Pests of Crops on the Canadian Prairies](#)

Cutworm live map

Report cutworm findings



## Crop disease monitoring update from Dr. Michael Harding

Monitoring of crop diseases in Alberta supports pest management and market access. Most crop disease monitoring and surveillance is led by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation staff in the Plant and Bee Health Section.

These staff are located at the Crop Diversification Centre South (Brooks) and the Alberta Plant Health Lab at the Crop Diversification Centre North (Edmonton). The Agriculture Service Boards are important partners in crop disease monitoring in Alberta. Our activities monitor regulated diseases and non-regulated diseases that are of interest to Alberta producers and stakeholders.

Learn more and read the full update



## ASB Program spring webinars

The kickoff to this season's webinars, the [Ag Fieldmen 2025 Spring Webinar](#) provided updates on highly pathogenic avian influenza by Dr. Delores Peters, excellent information on emergency preparedness for the upcoming season by Brad Andres, followed by an [update on Compound 1080 registration](#) by Karen Wickerson.

These updates are meant for Ag Fieldmen, municipal agriculture staff and ASB members so please do not share or post these links outside of these channels.

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## Rural life and the environment



### Agricultural moisture situation update

Moisture situation updates from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation's Agrometeorology Applications and Modelling Unit can be found [here](#).



### Fire advisories

Due to dry conditions fire advisories are now in place in most forest areas. Existing fire permits remain valid and new permits will be issued on a case-by-case basis. Safe campfires are still allowed.

There are also numerous fire bans and restrictions in Alberta Parks.

[Stay up to date on fire bans and advisories](#)



### Boosting fire network for faster wildfire response

With the 2025 wildfire season underway, the province is focused on improving wildfire prevention, mitigation and readiness to respond. Central to these efforts is the province's fire weather network, which plays a vital role in predicting fire conditions and detecting fires earlier.

That is why the province is investing an additional \$900,000 over three years, bringing the total to \$1.9 million over three years for upgrades to the network and to add new stations to key locations. These improvements will ensure that Alberta Wildfire teams are equipped with the tools they need to respond to wildfire risks quickly and effectively.

[Learn more](#)



### Alberta is ready for the 2025 wildfire season

Over the past two years, Alberta has experienced unprecedented wildfire challenges. As the province heads into the 2025 wildfire season, it is emphasizing a three-pronged strategy to combat the risk of devastating wildfires: prevention, mitigation and response readiness.

If Budget 2025 is passed, the province will invest a new historic high of \$160 million in base funding for wildfire personnel, equipment, training and contracts for aircraft, an additional night vision equipped helicopter, and heavy equipment. This investment is vital to ensure Alberta's wildland firefighting teams have the equipment, training, and personnel needed to respond to wildfire threats and mitigate the impacts of catastrophic wildfires on Alberta's communities.

[Learn more](#)



### Reducing the wildfire risk around your farm or acreage

The period between the melting of snow and the emergence of fresh grass and leaves creates the highest risk for spring wildfires.

FireSmart is a program that gives you information and recommendations on how to reduce the risk of a wildfire doing damage to your home or other buildings. The FireSmart program is supported by many community fire departments as an education and prevention tool for fire prevention/damage reduction.

[Read the article](#)



### Protecting homes and businesses from droughts and floods

The province is investing more than \$19 million in 10 projects through Budget 2025, if passed, to help protect families and businesses from future floods and drought.

These 10 projects will help protect critical infrastructure from floods, while increasing water storage to reduce the impacts of drought and build other necessary projects across the province.

This funding will help eight municipalities and two First Nations build projects designed to keep homes and businesses dry, ensure critical infrastructure remains operational during emergencies and maintain reliable access to water.

[More information](#)



## Finalizing flood maps

Flood maps help keep people safe and play a critical role in informing local emergency response plans and guiding future Indigenous community and municipal development decisions. In the past five years, flood mapping has launched in 100 municipalities and Indigenous communities.

Now, seven new flood map studies are underway for the communities of Carbon, Chateh, Crowsnest Pass, Lethbridge, Rycroft, Thorsby and Two Hills. Work will begin immediately, with results expected before the end of next year.

In addition, Alberta is soliciting feedback on four flood map studies nearing completion, including Hinton, Vegreville, Stettler, Red Deer County and Markerville. Mapping from these studies covers about 250 kilometres of rivers and creeks through seven municipalities. Albertans can provide feedback at [floods.alberta.ca](https://floods.alberta.ca) until **May 12**.

[More information](#)

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## What's new from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation



### Budget 2025 - what's in it for agriculture

RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, shared the following statement on the impact of Budget 2025 on agriculture:

"We are advancing cutting-edge research in agriculture and supporting small and medium-sized businesses. Additionally, we are strengthening our agricultural infrastructure, ensuring quicker and more affordable services for livestock producers and veterinarians. We're supporting innovation, attracting investment, and building a resilient economy for the future."

Among the highlights for agriculture:

- \$1.8 million to Western Crop Innovations for industry-leading crop research
- \$780,000 to support small- and medium-sized meat processors
- \$3.1 million for the University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine to expand toward a full-service veterinary diagnostic laboratory, giving livestock producers and vets access to quicker, more affordable livestock diagnostics closer to home

[Budget 2025](#)



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## Alberta public trust trends in agriculture and food

Understanding Albertans' trust in the food system is difficult as it is complex and shifts over time in relation to many evolving factors. Through a survey of Albertans and Canadians the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity (CCFI) provides relevant, reliable and consistent information about public trust issues in the agriculture and food system.

CCFI's 2024 survey provides reliable trends of Albertans' perspectives of Canada's agriculture and food system. This helps the agriculture industry with decision making and communication efforts to address key areas of concern for Albertans.

[Read more](#)



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## Powering up communities with ag society dollars

Agricultural societies play a crucial role in the province's rural communities. They bring people together, organize and run events and improve the overall quality of life for residents in their communities.

The province is helping regional agricultural societies weather increasing costs and plan ahead with a one-time cash injection of more than \$7.4 million.

New funding includes \$4.03 million in one-time supports distributed among the seven regional ag societies to help them manage cost pressures and allow them to plan for the future, including achieving more sustainable operational models. It also includes a one-time investment of \$2.87 million to support business transformation projects and funding set aside for a third-party consultant to help with those efforts.

[Read the media release](#)



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## More funding helps update irrigation infrastructure

In Budget 2024, the province increased funding for the Irrigation Rehabilitation Program to \$19 million, up from \$13.5 million the year before. This cost-shared program helps irrigation districts modernize infrastructure to deliver water efficiently and reliably to producers, processors and communities. Since the funding was announced, 14 projects have begun or progressed in Alberta's 11 irrigation districts.



[Read more](#)



## Growing the agriculture and biogas industries

The province has introduced legislation that will help grow and diversify agriculture, while supporting the emerging biogas industry.

Updates to the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act*, if passed, would help reduce waste, allow farmers to supplement fertilizer with organic materials and help the province attract job-creating investment. The Act and its regulations provide rules and standards for all agricultural operations that handle manure and organic materials.

[Learn more](#)



## Planning to expand or build new livestock facilities?

Are you planning to build or expand animal housing (like barns or pens) or facilities for handling, milking, or egg sorting at a new or existing confined feeding operation (CFO)? Are your livestock numbers or manure storage needs increasing?

Vince Murray, AOPA engineer with the Alberta government, says identifying manure storage or collection areas at your CFO during the planning stages can help you determine which facilities need to be permitted. This can help avoid additional costs or delays once construction begins and prevent issues with obtaining a permit under the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* (AOPA).

[Read the article](#)



## Tax credit fuels bioprocessing industry investment

The Agri-Processing Investment Tax Credit (APITC), launched in spring 2023, continues to attract investment that will further diversify Alberta's agriculture industry.

The most recent example of a company choosing to grow its business in Alberta is Canary Biofuels, which has qualified for the APITC by constructing a cold press oilseed crushing plant in Lethbridge. Canary Biofuels is investing \$18 million in the project that is expected to create 40 permanent and 25 temporary jobs, process 200,000 tonnes of seed per year and produce value-



added products such as canola oil and meal. Through the APITC, the province has granted Canary Biofuels conditional approval for a tax credit estimated at \$1.7 million.

[More information](#)



## Buy Local

When the going gets tough, Albertans stick together. That's why the province launched a new campaign to benefit hard-working Albertans. The Buy Local campaign encourages consumers to eat, drink and buy local to show support for the province's agriculture and food industry.

[Read the media release](#)

[Buy Local Alberta](#)



## New appointments to Agricultural Products Marketing Council

The government is appointing three new members, reappointing three others and designating a new chair and vice-chair to the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council. Three appointees are returning for a second term, including the new council chair, John Buckley, and vice-chair, Henricus Bos. The third appointment for a second term is council member John Guelly.

Three other members are either completing their terms or have decided to resign due to other priorities. They will be replaced by three new council members, who will infuse new ideas and perspectives into the council. They are Ian Chitwood, Susan Schafers and David Moss.

[Learn more](#)



## Agricultural societies find innovative ways to help communities thrive

The Alberta Agricultural Societies Innovation Awards honour agricultural societies for their creativity, resilience and dedication to their communities.

In recognition of their outstanding efforts, four agricultural societies have been selected to receive the 2024 Alberta Agricultural Societies Innovation Award: Edgerton Agricultural Society,

Colchester and District Agricultural Society, Lloydminster Agricultural Exhibition, and Grande Prairie Regional Agricultural and Exhibition Society.

[Read more](#)

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## What's in the news



### RDAR-delivered OFCAF program open for applications

The RDAR-delivered On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) program opened for applications on April 9.

OFCAF provides financial support to producers to accelerate their adoption and implementation of on-farm Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) to lower greenhouse gas emissions, support production efficiency, sustainability and resiliency on farm operations.

Please note the following:

- If you have only implemented the water portion of your rotational grazing project, **you are not eligible** for reimbursement.
- Any purchases **made before April 1, 2025 are not eligible** for reimbursement.
- Pre-approval by RDAR **in writing** is required to be eligible for program funding.

[More information](#)



### Protecting Alberta's borders from invasive species

Alberta is currently 100 per cent free from zebra mussels, quagga mussels and other aquatic invasive species, but reports continue increasing in provinces and states across North America. These species can wreak havoc on waterways and ruin infrastructure, destroy habitats and cause hundreds of millions in damages.

If passed, Budget 2025 will invest \$18.2 million over five years to expand Alberta's aquatic invasive species inspection, detection and rapid response programs.

[Learn more](#)



## PMRA re-instates feed uses for lambda-cyhalothrin

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) announced that, effective immediately, grain treated with lambda-cyhalothrin is once again an acceptable source of livestock feed. The reinstatement applies to grain and meal from treated canola, cereals, field corn, soybean and pulses.

Farmers can visit [Keep it Clean](#) for more in-depth information on product advisories. Keep it Clean is a cross-commodity initiative that provides Canadian farmers with timely updates and tips for growing market-ready canola, cereal and pulse crops.

[More information](#)



## New amendments to recreational access regulation enhance land management and accessibility in Alberta

Minister of Alberta Forestry and Parks, Todd Loewen, signed an Order in Council to amend the Recreational Access Regulation, which oversees recreational access to grazing leases in Alberta. This amendment introduces several significant changes aimed at improving the management and accessibility of these lands.

One of the key updates is the addition of a purpose statement under section 1.1, which clarifies that the regulation is designed to benefit Albertans by recognizing the economic, social, and environmental importance of agricultural disposition land.

[Learn more](#)



## Powering life in rural Alberta

Budget 2025 provides \$8.5 million for the Rural Utilities Program – which consists of the Rural Electric Program, Rural Gas Program and Rural Water Program – and the Remote Area Heating Allowance. This will help communities access critical services like gas, power and water, as well as deliver direct financial relief to thousands of rural Albertans facing high utility bills so that they can continue their vital work.

A total of \$700,000 is allocated to the Rural Electric Program, recognizing the increasing role electricity plays in modern farming and ranching. Under this program, grants are administered by the Alberta Federation of Electrification Associations and support the construction of electrical services for farms and ranches.

[More information](#)



## Ending unnecessary holdbacks to make more water available

Alberta is making more water available for communities, businesses and irrigators by removing the 10 per cent holdback on most water licence transfers.

Traditionally, water transfers required 10 per cent of the water be held back, often preventing readily available water from being safely used by irrigators, businesses and communities that need it.

The province has released three new policy directions so that water is only held back when absolutely needed. These new rules will make water transfers easier, free up more water in southern and central Alberta, and support economic growth for agriculture, industry and municipalities.

[Read more](#)



## Road improvements support booming agrifood sector

Developing agrifood corridors in Alberta is vital for growing the economy, creating jobs and ensuring food producers have better access to markets. By improving transportation infrastructure, these corridors help make Alberta's agricultural products more competitive globally, enhance supply chain efficiency and support rural development.

The province is providing \$1.8 million for a new road connection between Highway 873 and the JBS Food plant. Providing an alternative access to and from the JBS Food plant will improve safety and efficiency for thousands of County of Newell residents while also saving workers up to an hour and a half a day getting to and from the plant.

[Learn more](#)



## Improving land and property rights services

The Land and Property Rights Tribunal (LPRT) holds an important role in ensuring Albertans' property rights are protected by ensuring a fair and impartial appeal process for property assessments, surface rights, compensation, land use planning and other matters that affect land ownership and the municipalities where they live.

To further strengthen Albertans' rights to appeal decisions made regarding their land and property, the province has hired an external consultant to review the LPRT business processes to ensure they are effective and responsive to the needs of Albertans.

[More information](#)



## Increasing land conservation in Alberta

Landowners are committed to protecting their land, water and the plants and wildlife that live there, while still being able to provide for their families.

As a result of a request for proposal issued in 2024, \$5 million in grant funding through the Land Trust Grant Program will be awarded to 19 different projects, protecting nearly 21,000 acres across the province. These 19 projects are helping landowners and land trusts protect Alberta's natural landscapes without disrupting the livelihoods that hard-working families rely on.

[More information](#)



## Agriculture ministers meet to discuss evolving Canada-United States trading relationship

The federal agriculture minister has met with provincial and territorial Ministers of Agriculture, as part of ongoing discussions related to the impacts and potential responses to unjustified tariffs being implemented by the United States.

Ministers discussed various coordinated approaches to help Canadian agri-food producers and processors diversify international trade as well as to boost internal trade options. Ministers noted the importance of utilizing the suite of business risk management programs to meet the current and future needs of producers.

[Read more](#)



## National farmer crisis line launched

The Canadian Centre for Agricultural Wellbeing recently announced the launch of the [National Farmer Wellness Network Crisis Line](#), 1-866-FARMS01 (1-866-327-6701), a transformative initiative designed to address the unique mental

health challenges faced by Canada's farmers, farm families and agricultural workers.

This program, made possible through an investment of \$1.5 million over three years from Farm Credit Canada, provides tailored mental health support delivered by licensed professionals trained in the Canadian Agricultural Literacy Program.

[More information](#)



### Milk sampling and testing for highly pathogenic avian influenza in Canada

As part of the Government of Canada's One Health approach, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada, is taking [proactive measures](#) to monitor Canadian dairy cows for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

As of February 28, 2025, CFIA laboratories have tested 2443 samples of raw milk arriving at processing plants in all provinces across Canada. All samples have tested negative.

[More information](#)



### Unauthorized construction at confined feeding operations - constructing without a permit is a serious offence

The Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) continues to see increased cases of unauthorized construction of pens, barns, catch basins, and earthen manure storage facilities at a number of confined feeding operations (CFOs).

The *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* (AOPA) prohibits construction of a CFO, a manure storage facility, or a manure collection area, before required permits are issued. Unauthorized construction is a serious offence and can result in consequences ranging from enforcement orders to prosecution that could involve monetary penalties. In addition, operators may incur additional costs in addressing unauthorized construction issues such as costs associated with depopulation. Taking a regulatory shortcut may cost you more money in the end.

[Read more](#)



## RDAR delivers multi-million-dollar investment to One Health projects

RDAR and Genome Alberta recently announced the approval of approximately \$3.3 million in funding for several important One Health projects. One Health recognizes the intrinsic link between the health of people, animals and the environment.

This funding is provided, in part, by the federal and provincial governments under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership. The One Health research projects focus on diseases and health threats, such as Chronic Wasting Disease vaccines and noninvasive testing, feral pig control and disease monitoring, and antimicrobial resistance in dairy and beef cattle, swine and poultry.

[More information](#)

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## RDAR delivers funding to extend Silage Crop Regional Variety Trials

RDAR has agreed to distribute \$610,000 in funding to extend Silage Crop Regional Variety Trials (RVTs) across Alberta for the next three years. This funding, provided by the federal and provincial governments through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, builds on successful trials conducted in 2023 and 2024. Led by Alberta Seed Processors, these trials were previously supported by Sustainable CAP and RDAR.

[More information](#)



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## Helping Alberta industry lead the world

The province is investing \$55 million from the industry-funded TIER program to help industries, big and small, test and implement the technologies they need to keep leading the world. Delivered through Emissions Reduction Alberta, this funding will help 15 projects develop cutting-edge technologies that could one day be used across Canada and around the world.

Funding ranges from \$500,000 to \$10 million including:

- \$8.4 million to help Dairy Innovation West advance a new approach for developing concentrated milk products that can be transported with less energy and further processed into other dairy products, increasing the province's milk-processing capacity.

[More information](#)





## Blue Book available for download

The Blue Book is a longstanding and trusted resource for Alberta farmers and agronomists, providing current pesticide application information. With over 700 pages of valuable crop protection information, spraying guidelines and farm safety, The Blue Book is an essential tool for any farming operation. The Blue Book is collaboratively produced by three of Alberta's crop commissions – Alberta Canola, Alberta Grains and Alberta Pulse Growers.

[Order or download your 2025 Blue Book](#)



## Farmland values continued to climb in 2024

According to the latest Farm Credit Canada Farmland Values Report, the average value of Canadian farmland continued its steady climb in 2024, increasing by 9.3%, slightly less than the 11.5% increase reported in 2023.

The highest increases were observed in regions with strong agricultural activity and favourable growing conditions. In 2024, Saskatchewan again led with a 13.1% gain in average farmland values.

[Check out all the numbers](#)



## Be a host farm for Alberta Open Farm Days

Alberta Open Farm Days is an annual two-day summer event that presents Albertans with an opportunity to experience the farm firsthand from farmers and ranchers. The program started in 2013 and has encouraged Albertans to engage with their local communities and experience agri-tourism.

[Read the article](#)



## 2025 Women in Ag Award winners

AFSC's Women in Ag Awards celebrate the women who are helping shape the future of agriculture in Alberta. Their leadership is driving change, their resilience is building stronger communities, and their dedication is inspiring the next generation.

The 2025 recipients are:



- Josie Pashulka, The Operator
- Janice Wirsta, The Ignitor
- Sheri Strydhorst, Professional Leader
- Mariana Guerra-Maupome, The Promoter
- Nikki Peltzer, The Community Builder
- Kendra Donnelly, The Maverick
- Amanda Elzinga-Pugh, The Rising Star
- Leona Staples, The Notable Lifetime Achiever

[Learn more about the award winners](#)



## Nuffield Canada Scholarship applications open

The Nuffield Canada Scholarship is a prestigious award available to anyone mid-career who is involved in agriculture in any capacity of primary production, industry or governance.

A scholarship from Nuffield Canada is an amazing opportunity to develop global perspectives, expertise and leadership capacity in Canadian agriculture. Up to six scholarships valued at \$20,000 are awarded every year to Canadians with a passion for agriculture.

Scholars are able to travel anywhere in the world within a two-year timeframe, for a period of no less than 10 weeks to study their chosen topic with six weeks of that being consecutive travel.

[Learn more and apply](#)

## What's new from partners



### 2025 Product Advisory Webinar

Keep it Clean recently hosted a webinar that provided an overview of the product and crop combinations that may cause market risks for the 2025 growing season.

[Missed the webinar? Watch it here](#)



### Alberta Municipal Wetland Guide: Working with Wetlands

The Alberta North American Waterfowl Management Plan (AB NAWMP) Partnership recently announced the Alberta Municipal Wetland Guide: Working with Wetlands is now available.

This guide outlines key information for Alberta municipalities about their roles, responsibilities, and opportunities regarding wetland stewardship, while providing sources of important information, tools, and support. The Guide covers 10 modules, each focusing on different aspects of working with wetlands at the municipal level. It includes case studies and examples of municipalities taking action to conserve, protect, and restore wetlands through informed management decisions and planning, and emphasizes collaborating with partners, for the benefit of all Albertans.

To request print copies, email the AB NAWMP Partnership Coordinator at [g\\_hale@ducks.ca](mailto:g_hale@ducks.ca).

Learn more and download the guide



## Landowner Guide to the Alberta Wetland Policy

Thanks to interest from landowners and others supporting the ag sector, the Landowner Guide to the Alberta Wetland Policy is into its fourth printing.

This guide helps landowners understand their rights and responsibilities when working in and around wetlands on their farm or ranch under Alberta's Wetland Policy. If you have wetlands on your property, or if you work with people who do, the guide will help you identify the resources and programs that can be beneficial to your work.

Print copies can be requested by emailing the Alberta North American Waterfowl Management Plan Partnership Coordinator [g\\_hale@ducks.ca](mailto:g_hale@ducks.ca).

Learn more and download the guide



## Biocontrol Release Program

Biological control or biocontrol is the suppression of populations of pests using living organisms. Since 2016, the Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC) has been the project coordinator for a biocontrol release program using host-specific insects for invasive plants in Alberta.

The program reintroduces proven specialist insects to invasive plants from countries where they originated, weakening the competitive advantage these plants gain from escaping their natural predators in their invaded range. Biocontrol agents are self-sustaining and require little input after they are released, making them a valuable tool in integrated pest management programs.

If you are interested in biocontrol for 2025, get your orders to [communications@abinvasives.ca](mailto:communications@abinvasives.ca) by **April 28**. The AISC is offering biocontrol agents for leafy spurge, spotted/diffuse knapweed and Russian knapweed. One order costs \$900 +GST and includes a pre-release visit where the AISC helps select a release location for the agents.

#### Biocontrol Release Program



### What's new from AgSafe Alberta

AgSafe Alberta launched its free, online [Confined Space Awareness Course](#) earlier this year. This short 30-minute course introduces agricultural producers to the common hazards and risks of confined spaces found on farms and helps them determine what appropriate next steps would be for their operation.

AgSafe Alberta also updated [WHMIS, Pesticide, Veterinary Drug and Medicated Feed Awareness Course](#). This course reflects 2023 changes to the *Hazardous Products Act* and has been made shorter and easier. This course can be taken for free using Promo Code **GHS2025** until **June 30, 2025**.

AgSafe's May Newsletter includes an article relating to a farm charged under the *Alberta Occupational Health and Safety Act* in 2024 for a fatal injury that occurred in 2023. Many farms still mistakenly think that "it won't happen to me" and that they are only responsible for "basic safety." If you or a farmer in your county has questions relating to agricultural health and safety, please contact AgSafe Alberta at [info@agsafeab.ca](mailto:info@agsafeab.ca).

### AgSafe Alberta wants to hear from you

Does your county have resources relating to the safe and legal operation of farm equipment on county roads that you would like shared in a future newsletter? If so, please email it to [kfossheim@agsafeab.ca](mailto:kfossheim@agsafeab.ca) before **June 3**.

Are there agricultural health and safety resources that you see the need for? Let AgSafe Alberta know via email at [info@agsafeab.ca](mailto:info@agsafeab.ca).



### The Great Twine Round-Up Comes to Alberta

Cleanfarms, in partnership with the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group is excited to announce the launch of The Great Twine Round-Up, a province-wide initiative designed to promote used plastic baler twine recycling.

This exciting contest offers substantial cash prizes to the winners' 4-H club or district or an Alberta-based nonprofit organization or charity of their choice that supports agriculture.

The entry period runs until **May 31, 2025**.

[More details](#)



## Rural Peer Support Fundamentals Training

Rural Peer Support Fundamentals Training is offered by Stigma-Free Mental Health Society and Sara Riel Inc to equip participants with the skills they need to facilitate peer support programs, reduce mental health stigma and become a leader in their community. Participants will also have the opportunity to engage and collaborate with others who understand the rural way of life.

The next training session will be offered **May 5 and 6**.

[Learn more and register](#)

## What's new from the federal government



### Supporting Canadian hog producers

Agriculture Canada recently announced a commitment of up to \$567.16 million to support hog producers should there be a closure of key export markets for Canadian pork products and live pigs due to an African swine fever (ASF) outbreak in Canada or the United States.

While Canada remains free of ASF, a single detection of ASF in Canada would close export markets due to international trade regulations and import restrictions imposed by trading partners.

[More information](#)



### Farm cash receipts 2024

Statistics Canada reports that farm cash receipts totalled \$97.3 billion in 2024, down 2.1% (-\$2.1 billion) compared with 2023. This was the first decline in annual farm cash receipts since 2010.

Crop receipts and program payments both fell in 2024 because of lower crop prices and a drop in crop insurance payments. At the same time, livestock receipts increased, primarily driven by a rise in cattle prices.

Most provinces posted declines in farm cash receipts in 2024. Saskatchewan (-\$1.4 billion) accounted for almost two-thirds of the national decrease.

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## Principal field crop areas, 2025

Statistics Canada reports Canadian farmers expect to plant more wheat, corn for grain, oats and dry peas in 2025, while area seeded to canola, soybeans, barley and lentils is anticipated to decrease, compared with the previous year.

Among the highlights for Alberta:

- Farmers in Alberta anticipate planting 6.6% more wheat in 2025, totalling 8.4 million acres. Spring wheat area is expected to rise 8.0% to 7.0 million acres, while durum wheat area is anticipated to decrease 0.9% to 1.2 million acres.
- Farmers in Alberta anticipate seeding 6.1 million acres of canola, down 4.3% from the previous year.

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## Stocks of principal field crops

As of December 31, 2024, total stocks of wheat, corn for grain and soybeans were up, while those of canola, oats and barley were down, compared with the same date in 2023. Here are some of the highlights:

- Total wheat stocks rose 0.9% year over year to 24.5 million tonnes, largely because of higher production (+6.1% to 35.0 million tonnes) compared with one year earlier. On-farm stocks rose 3.4% to 20.9 million tonnes, offsetting lower commercial stocks, which decreased 11.7% to 3.5 million tonnes.
- Total stocks of canola were down 19.2% year over year to 11.4 million tonnes. The decrease was attributable to on-farm stocks declining 23.5% to 9.9 million tonnes, while commercial stocks rose 28.3% to 1.5 million tonnes.
- Barley stocks decreased 9.2% year over year to 5 million tonnes.

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## Livestock inventories as of January 1, 2025

Statistics Canada reports that on January 1, 2025, Canadian cattle, hog and sheep inventories were down compared with the same date one year earlier.

The Canadian cattle herd fell on January 1 for the third consecutive year. However, this latest decline was smaller than those observed on the same date in 2023 and 2024, following improvements in western Canadian feed and drought conditions over the past year.

Statistics Canada - Agriculture and food

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## Events

Women in Agriculture Essential Leadership Skills Development [Program](#), Virtual Info Sessions [April 29](#), [May 6](#), [May 13](#), [May 20](#)

Peer Support Fundamentals Training for Rural and Farming Communities, virtual - [May 5 & 6](#)

Dugouts for Agriculture and other Rural Uses, virtual - [May 6](#)

Building the Future Workforce for Agriculture & Food Manufacturing [Webinar Series](#), virtual

- Trends in Digitalization, Tech, Automation, AI & Jobs (Part 1) - [May 8](#)
- Trends in Digitalization, Tech, Automation, AI & Jobs (Part 2) - [May 15](#)
- Infrastructure and Workforce Attraction and Retention - [May 29](#)
- North American Workforce Trends: Impacts of Tariffs - [June 5](#)

Promoting Digitalization in Crop and Beef Production, Edmonton - [May 29](#)

RDAR Round-Up, Cremona - [June 11 \(registration opens May 1\)](#)

Rethinking Weeds: What's invading your fields and how to stop it, Lacombe - [June 17](#)

2025 AgricultHER School, Sunset House - [June 21](#)

Field of Mind: Supporting Men's Mental Well-Being, virtual

- [June 24](#)
- [September 25](#)
- [November 25](#)

Farming Smarter 2025 Field School - [June 25](#), [June 26](#)

Summer On-Farm Field Tour, Lethbridge - [July 16](#)

Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women, Twin Butte - [July 16 -17](#)

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## ASB Regional Liaison contacts

Your virtual regional liaison is part of a special team of liaisons who will provide you with monthly updates on both policy initiatives and programs. They are your virtual conduit between your ASB and Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation.



### Follow Alberta Agriculture on social media

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation is on Instagram as [@AlbertaAgriculture](#). Follow along to stay informed on the latest updates from the Ministry and see highlights from rural communities across Alberta.

We can also be found on [X](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

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## Agriculture Service Board Program



[Overview](#)

[Resources](#)

[ASB Grant Program](#)

Agricultural Service Boards website

### Follow Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation



### Agriculture Service Boards Program

Kerrienne Koehler-Munro, ASB Program Manager

phone: 780-938-4149

email: [kerrianne.koehler-munro@gov.ab.ca](mailto:kerrianne.koehler-munro@gov.ab.ca)

This email is intended for kdubitz@smokylakecounty.ab.ca.

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**From:** Agricultural Service Boards <donotreply@wordpress.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 16, 2025 8:02 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Wild Boar in Alberta: Understanding the Risks and Potential Changes

[Read on blog](#) or [Reader](#)



**Agricultural Service Boards**

## Wild Boar in Alberta: Understanding the Risks and Potential Changes



By **asbexecassistant** on April 16, 2025

### Resolution 5-24: Wild Boar and the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act

Wild boar represent a significant threat to agriculture and ecological landscapes. Jurisdictions across Canada and the US are reevaluating their policies around management of wild boar farms in light of significant risks to disease spread in wild and domestic herds.

"Given the threat of wild boar at large to the swine and other livestock, Minister Sigurdsson felt it was timely to review Alberta's farm to wild boar industry. We're at the stage of considering our options, and we want to keep you updated and informed. One of the options under considerations is the closure of the farm wild boar industry in Alberta." *Bruce Hamblin, AGI*

## The Threat of Wild Boar at Large

Wild boar are not native to North America and pose significant risks:

- Rapid reproduction and survival in diverse environments

- Destructive foraging that damages crops and grasslands
- Potential disease transmission to domestic livestock
- Ability to establish feral populations quickly
- Significant economic damage to agricultural lands

"We recognize that any pig that is not properly contained may cause many of the same problems. The risk is elevated for wild boar and their hybrids due to the physical characteristics that allow them to more successfully establish and breed in the wild." *Bruce Hamblin, AGI*

## Alberta's situation

At the 2024 Provincial ASB Conference, the ASBs passed Resolution 5-24: Wild Boar and the Alberta Agricultural Pest Act which asks the province to require and enforce minimum containment standard with penalties for noncompliance and to place a moratorium on expansion of the industry until a decision about the future of wild boar farming is made.

Currently in Alberta, farms are inspected annually and encouraged to meet the minimum containment standards. Wild boar farms are not licensed or regulated by the province so they do not have a complete listing of the number of farms, or any legal means to invoke or enforce a moratorium on expansion. The province knows of 14 wild boar farms.

"Although the Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms are not explicitly mentioned in the Agricultural Pests Act (APA) or the Nuisance Control Regulations, the existing legislation does provide some enforcement of these standards." *Resolution Response 5-24* As a result many municipalities have passed or are considering bylaws to regulate farms in their individual jurisdictions.

Wild boar producers and farmers were contacted invited to a call earlier in the day with ADM Conrad to learn about the review, engagements and options being explored. Wild Boar farmers that are known to AGI through past engagements or the premise identification program were invited.

## National Reponses

Different provinces have taken decisive actions:

- 
- BC - does not currently regulate Wild Boar in anyway but are considering putting in a ban.
- Saskatchewan - Implemented a moratorium on new wild boar farm licenses
- Manitoba - Stopped issuing new wild boar farm permits
- Ontario - Completely prohibited live Eurasian wild boar and hybrids since January 2022
- Quebec - Enhanced containment standards, mandatory reporting, and identification requirements
- Yukon - Phased out all existing wild boar farms by March 2024

## Options Being Considered

"We're at the stage of considering our options, and we want to keep you updated and informed. One of the options under considerations is the closure of the farm wild boar industry in Alberta. Basically everything is on the table." *Bruce Hamblin, AGI*

Other options include creating stricter regulatory frameworks, enhanced containment requirements and licensing and permitting systems.

## Engagement and Timelines

There is no formal engagement structure other than the conversations AGI staff are having with those directly involved in the industry including farmers, processors and livestock auctions.

Agricultural service boards are crucial in communicating these potential changes and providing feedback on local implications. AGI will continue to provide updates as things develop.

**One on one consultations with ministry staff can be requested by calling Hannah McKenzie at 780-996-3373 or emailing [wildboar@gov.ab.ca](mailto:wildboar@gov.ab.ca). Deadline for giving feedback is May 15, 2025.** Bruce specifically noted this is “not going to happen overnight” and there will need to be enough time to allow for any cabinet discussions or regulatory changes.

## Recommendations for Municipalities

- Stay informed about provincial developments
- Communicate with local agricultural stakeholders
- Be prepared to adapt bylaws once provincial direction is clear
- Prioritize agricultural and ecological protection

The government emphasized this is an ongoing process, and municipalities should maintain their current approach while awaiting further provincial guidance.

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# AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS

75+ years of promoting sustainable agriculture in Alberta

APRIL 16, 2025 BY ASBEXECASSISTANT

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## Related Links

[Examples of Approaches to Managing Wild Boar Farms – AGI](#)

 **UNCATEGORIZED**

**# AGRICULTURAL PESTS ACT, RESOLUTION 5-24, STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS, WILD BOAR**

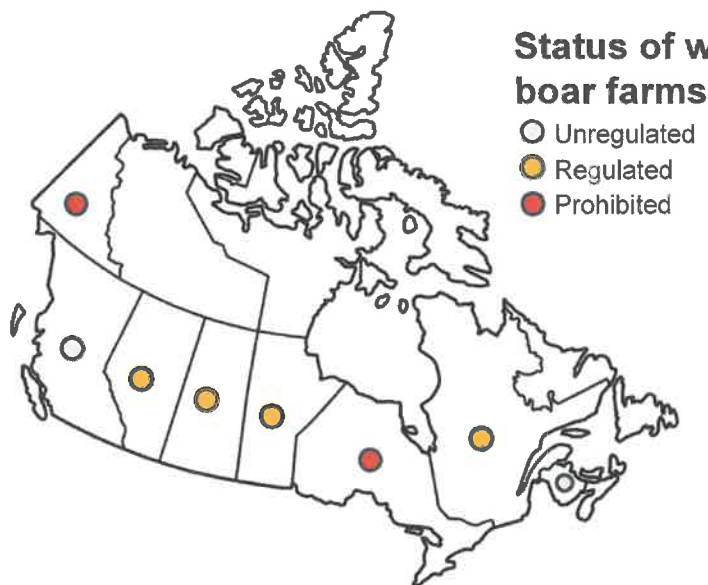
# Examples of approaches to managing wild boar farms

Hannah McKenzie, Wild Boar Specialist



- This presentation provides examples of how other jurisdictions in Canada and the United States are managing wild boar farms.
- These examples were chosen to show a range of different approaches; it is not an exhaustive review.
- A brief overview of the process the Government of Alberta followed when closing its commercial fisheries is included as another example for consideration.

# Management of wild boar farms in Canada



## Alberta

- As of 2008, wild boar declared a pest when at-large (*Agricultural Pests Act*)
- Containment standards (2014)
- Municipal bylaws

2

Alberta

- There are no known wild boar farms in Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, or Newfoundland & Labrador.
- Management approaches to wild boar farms vary across the country.
  - Although BC does not currently regulate wild boar farms, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is starting the process to plan how they might place a ban on new wild boar farms.
- The current regulations in effect in Alberta are:
  - Wild boar are regulated under the *Agricultural Pests Act* and Pest and Nuisance Regulation (PNCR) as of 2008.
    - Wild boar are considered livestock when on-farm but declared a pest when at-large.
    - The Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms were introduced as a program under the PNCR and required as of 2014.
  - Some municipalities have introduced bylaws prohibiting wild boar.
  - There are approximately 14 wild boar farms in Alberta.

## Other provinces that regulate wild boar farms

### Quebec

- Regulated as of 2002 with enhancements in 2010 and 2018
- Containment standards
- Mandatory reporting and must attempt to recapture escapees
- Identification of animals
- Permit or licence required

### Manitoba

- Regulated as of 2001
- Permit or licence required (None issued for several years)

### Saskatchewan

- Regulated as of July 1, 2024
- Moratorium on new farms after January 1, 2025
- Containment standards
- Mandatory reporting of escapes
- Licence required
- Annual inventories
- Annual inspections

3

Alberta

- Quebec, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan regulate wild boar farms.

### Quebec

- Regulated starting in 2002 (mandatory reporting of escapes) under the *Act respecting the conservation and development of wildlife* and the Regulation respecting animals in captivity.
  - The regulation was updated in 2010 to include minimum containment standards.
  - The most recent update in 2018 includes enhanced containment standards, requires wild boar farmers to actively attempt to recapture escaped animals, requires identification of wild boar or hybrids before the age of 6 months, and makes it mandatory for an owner of a wild boar or hybrid to possess a permit or licence.
- There are currently about 60 wild boar farms in Quebec.

### Manitoba

- Regulated as of 2001 under the *Wildlife Act* and Exotic Wildlife Regulation.
  - Requires wild boar farms to have a permit from the Minister, however no permits issued for several years now.
  - In 2019 there were estimated to be about a dozen unpermitted wild boar farms operating in Manitoba
- Manitoba is currently considering changes to the regulatory framework for wild boar management, including making wild boar farms prohibited rather than restricted.

**Saskatchewan**

- Regulated as of 2024 under the *Animal Production Act* and Animal Production Regulations.
- All existing wild boar farms were required to apply for a licence by January 1, 2025.
  - A moratorium is now in place and no new wild boar farm licence applications will be accepted.
- Requires wild boar farms to have a licence, meet containment standards, report escapes, provide annual inventories and have annual inspections.

# Provinces that prohibit live Eurasian wild boar and their hybrids

## Ontario

- Prohibited as of January 2022
- 2-year phase out ended January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024
- Approximately 7-10 farms
- Engagement
- Eurasian Wild Boar Transition Assistance Initiative (animals)

## Yukon

- Prohibited as of April 2024
- 1-year phase out, targeted to end March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025
- 3 farms
- Engagement
- Compensation negotiated directly with each farm (animals & infrastructure)

4

Alberta

- Both Ontario and Yukon prohibit live Eurasian wild boar and their hybrids.

### Ontario.

- Ontario had approximately 7-10 Eurasian wild boar farms prior to the current regulations.
- Live Eurasian wild boar and their hybrids are prohibited as of Jan 2022 under the *Invasive Species Act*, General Regulation.
  - This means that the possession, import, transport, sale, trade, purchase and propagation of live Eurasian wild boar and their hybrids is illegal. Sale of meat or Eurasian wild boar products is allowed.
  - The province provided a 2-year exemption for the known, established farms that provided notification to the ministry, which ended January 1, 2024.
- Known producers, relevant stakeholders and the public were consulted on the prohibitions and notified once the decision was made.
- Offered a transition program intended to provide financial support to help existing producers transition out of production of Eurasian wild boar to other forms of production, such as heritage breeds of swine, other livestock or crop production.
  - Payments were based on number of animals.

### Yukon

- Yukon had 3 Eurasian wild boar farms prior to the current regulations.
- Eurasian wild boar and their hybrids are prohibited as of Apr 2024 under the *Animal Protection and Control Act* and *Animals and Species Regulation*.
  - Government worked with the three existing farms to close out.

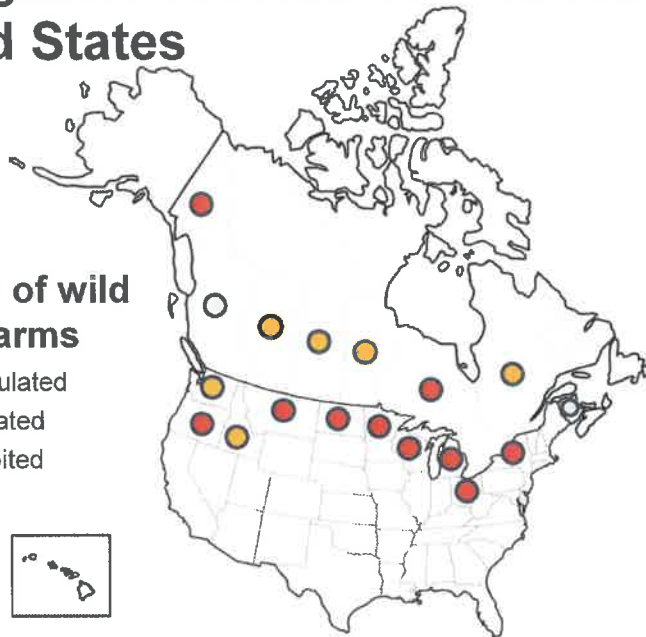


- Phase-out period was expected to end March 31, 2025, but extended to accommodate slaughter for one farm.
- Engaged with producers during discussions and decision-making process; notified them once decision was made.
- Compensation was negotiated directly with each farm and was based on number of animals and specialized infrastructure.

# Management of wild boar farms in the northern United States

## Status of wild boar farms

- Unregulated
- Regulated
- Prohibited



## Michigan

- As of 2011
- 1-year phase out ended 2012, followed by enforced depopulation
- No engagement, notification only
- No compensation provided

5

*Alberta*

- Wild boar are prohibited in most border states. Where they are shown as regulated, they are only permitted to enable scientific research or display in zoos, not as livestock or for fenced hunting operations.

### Washington – Regulated

- Wild boar are classified as a Deleterious Exotic Animal under WAC 220-640-200, Deleterious exotic wildlife
  - Possession and propagation is prohibited except as provided under subsections of WAC 220-640-200, which are meant to enable scientific research and display in zoos, not wild boar farms.

### Idaho - Regulated

- Wild boar are classified as a Deleterious Exotic Animal under 25-3903, Idaho Code – Rules for Importation or Possession of Deleterious Exotic Animals.
  - Possession and propagation is prohibited without a permit, but permits are meant to enable display in zoos, not wild boar farms.

### Michigan – Prohibited

- Provided as an example of another approach to closing wild boar farms which is different than what was done in Ontario and Yukon.
- Wild boar were prohibited as of 2011 under a Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Invasive Species Order.
  - Provided farms 1-year to depopulate, followed by enforced depopulation.
- No engagement with producers and no compensation provided.

## Closure of Alberta's commercial fisheries

- Extensive engagement with commercial fishers over many years
- 2011 Colby Report on the long-term viability of the industry
  - One recommendation was closure of the commercial fishery
- Closure announced May 2014; effective Aug 1, 2014
- *Ex gratia* payments provided to fishers based on licenses held and infrastructure in some cases

6

Alberta

- Environment and Parks fisheries managers worked extensively with commercial fishers for many years to work towards a sustainable commercial fishery.
- In 2011, with support from commercial fishing representatives, Environment and Parks contracted Dr. Peter Colby, an Ontario-based freshwater fisheries management expert, to conduct a third-party review on the long-term viability of the province's commercial fishery in northwestern Alberta.
  - Colby concluded that commercial fishing was economically and biologically unsustainable as status quo, but could exist in Alberta if major changes were made, which formed his recommendations.
  - One of the report recommendations was to close the fishery. Commercial fishers communicated to Minister that they preferred the closure recommendation.
- Minister announced at a public meeting in May 2014 that the government would be accepting this recommendation and would move to close the commercial fishery.
  - In June 2014 it was communicated that the closure would become effective August 1, 2014, meaning that issuing of licences would be discontinued, and that there was information coming about an *ex-gratia* payment.
  - Ex gratia payments are payments provided without legal obligation, but rather as a favor or a sense of moral obligation.
  - Letters were sent to the licensed commercial fishers informing them of their payment amount.
    - Payment amounts were based on number of licenses held.
    - Several fishers claimed they had exceptional circumstances to consider which should result in a greater payment amount.

- A firm was contracted to do a 3<sup>rd</sup> party review of these exceptional circumstance claims and advise government. In the end, only 2 licence holders who had also invested in a processing plant had their payment offers increase.
- Several fishers did not accept the payment and instead initiated a judicial review. The judicial review concluded with no additional payment triggered.
- The payment program concluded in 2016.

# Thank you

Hannah Mckenzie  
wildboar@gov.ab.ca  
780-996-3373

# Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms

## CONTAINMENT STANDARDS

### Fence construction:

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

Standard 1 Buried fence with an electric wire.		Standard 2 Double fencing system with an electric wire.	
Fence height above surface*	Minimum 1.5 metres	Outer fence height above surface*	Minimum 1.5 metres
Fence depth below surface	Minimum depth of 45 cm	Inner fence height above surface*	Minimum 1.5 metres
Fence material:	Hinge lock mesh fencing made from 12.5 gauge or heavier high tensile wire with spacing adequate to prevent escapes.	Fence material:	Hinge lock mesh fencing made from 12.5 gauge or heavier high tensile wire with spacing adequate to prevent escapes.
Fence posts:	Maximum spacing between posts is 3 metres.	Fence posts:	Maximum spacing between posts is 3 metres.
		Distance between fences	A minimum of 1.2 metres and a maximum of 5.0 metres
Electric wire:**	Made of minimum 14 gauge high tensile or stranded wire and must be 10 cm to 30 cm in distance from the inside of the fence and 10 to 30 cm above the ground.	Electric wire:**	Made of minimum 14 gauge high tensile or stranded wire and must be 10 cm to 30 cm in distance from the inside of the fence and 10 to 30 cm above the ground.
Electric output:	Minimum of 4000 volts must pass through at all points along the entire perimeter of the electric fence.	Electric output:	Minimum of 4000 volts must pass through at all points along the entire perimeter of the electric fence.

\* Fence height must be such that a minimum of 1.5 metres are above the ground surface or above any other surface including snow drifts.

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

**Maintenance:**

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

**EXCEPTIONS TO THE CONTAINMENT STANDARDS****Existing fences:**

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

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

**Repair or replacement of fences:**

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

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



# Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

## April 30, 2025

### 30-Day Synopsis (Maps 1 to 3)

Typically, April is the transition from winter to spring and we see a shift toward wetter conditions in Alberta (**MAP 1**).

Although there are notable regional differences in precipitation between March 25<sup>th</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>. A significant portion of the province received more than 15 mm of precipitation in April (**Map 2**). Southern Alberta, from the Cypress County west, and most of the Central Region received 20 to 25 mm. An area north-west of Calgary up through the County of Wetaskiwin received anywhere between 30 and 40 mm of precipitation. The mountains received more than 40 mm of precipitation.

Lower levels of precipitation were received in the North East Region and parts of the north-east Central Region. An area stretching from the County of Stettler and north to Athabasca County and to the Saskatchewan border received between 5 and 15 mm of precipitation. Pockets within the area only received 2 to 5 mm of precipitation.

The area around Peace River received 5 to 10 mm of precipitation. The northern Peace Region, around High Level and Fort Vermillion, received higher precipitation, 15 to 25 mm. The area east and west of Grand Prairie received very little precipitation, reporting less than 3 mm.

This pattern indicates a typical seasonal transition, with moisture beginning to build—especially in the South, Central and Mountainous Regions, while northern areas remain drier.

Comparing recent precipitation levels to long-term normals across Alberta over the past 30 days, revealed significant spatial variability. Relative to normal, the last 30-day precipitation accumulations trended near normal to higher than normal for most of the Central and South Regions, as well as an area north and east of Edmonton and the very northern Peace Region (**Map 3**).

The area running from Lacombe County south and east to Wheatland County experienced moderately high (once in 3 to 6-year highs) precipitation accumulation relative to long term normal. There are a few areas within the Central and South Regions reporting low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) precipitation accumulations relative to normal.

The North East Region plus the north-east portion of the Central Region are reporting moderately low (one in 3 to 6-year lows) to very low (once in 12 to 25-year lows) precipitation compared to normal. The North West Region as

well as most of the Peace Region is also reporting moderately low (one in 3 to 6-year lows) to very low (once in 12 to 25-year lows) 30-day precipitation accumulations relative to long term normal. A pocket west of Grand Prairie is reporting extremely low (once in 25 to 50-years) precipitation accumulations relative to normal.

### Winter Precipitation Trends (Maps 4)

The winter season, from November through April, precipitation accumulations varied spatially across the province, with areas experiencing both near-normal and below-normal conditions. The east half of the Central and South Region, the North West Region as well as the south Peace Region had near normal winter season precipitation accumulation (**Map 4**). Pockets of moderately low (one in 3 to 6-year lows) precipitation relative to normal are scattered through this area.

A large area along the foothills running from Cardston County to north-east of Red Deer, across to the County of Paintearth and north through Beaver County into Lamont County reported moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) winter season accumulation relative or normal. The central Peace Region from Saddle Hills County to the M.D of Opportunity and north into Mackenzie County also reported moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) precipitation relative to long term normal. Pockets across this area report low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) precipitation relative to long term normal.

About half of Alberta had a reasonably typical winter in terms of precipitation, although key agricultural and foothill areas saw drier-than-usual conditions.

### 365-Day Precipitation Trends (Map 5 and 6)

Looking back over the past 365 days, precipitation accumulations relative to normal (**Map 5**) have not changed much since the last report. A large portion of the agricultural area continues to report moderately low (once in 3 to 6 years) to low (once in 6 to 12 years) precipitation accumulations relative to normal. This includes areas through Cardston County and the M.D. of Pincher Creek in the South Region, the west half of the Central Region, the North West Region, parts of the North East Region and the south-west and northern parts of the Peace Region. These areas are reporting a 365-day precipitation accumulation of 70 to 90% of average (**Map 6**).

Once in 12 to 25-year lows continue to persist in and around Red Deer and Mountain View Counties. A small area

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/moisture-situation-update>

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Classification: Public

southwest of Red Deer is reporting a once in 25 to 50-year low in precipitation accumulations relative to the long term normal. This area is reporting 365-day precipitation accumulations of 50 to 70% of average.

Conversely, the central part of the North East Region, eastern half of the Central Region and most of the South Region are reporting near normal (once in 3 years) to moderately higher than normal (once in 3 to 6 years highs) precipitation accumulations relative to long term normal. Here, areas are reporting precipitation accumulations of 90 to 130% of average), which is positive news for those farming in these areas.

## Soil Moisture Reserves (Maps 7 to 9)

It is estimated that many fields in the South and Central Regions are experiencing near-normal soil moisture levels (**Map 7**). A large area from the M.D. of Taber north to Starland County and east into the Special Areas is estimated to have moderately high (once in 3 to 6-year highs) soil moisture reserves. It is estimated this area has between 60 to 80 mm of water in 120cm depth of soil ready to support early growth (**Map 8**). This is estimated to be 15 to 25 mm above normal soil moisture levels (**Map 9**).

In contrast, soil moisture in the County of Warner, east to the M.D. of Pincher Creek, and north to the M.D. of Foothills is estimated to be moderately low to very low, equating to once-in-3-to-25-year lows (**Map 7**). Similarly dry conditions extend across the west Central Region, North West, Peace, and parts of the North East Region, with less than 80 mm of available moisture in the top 120 cm of soil (**Map 8**). This represents a 15% to 50% deficit from normal levels (**Map 9**).

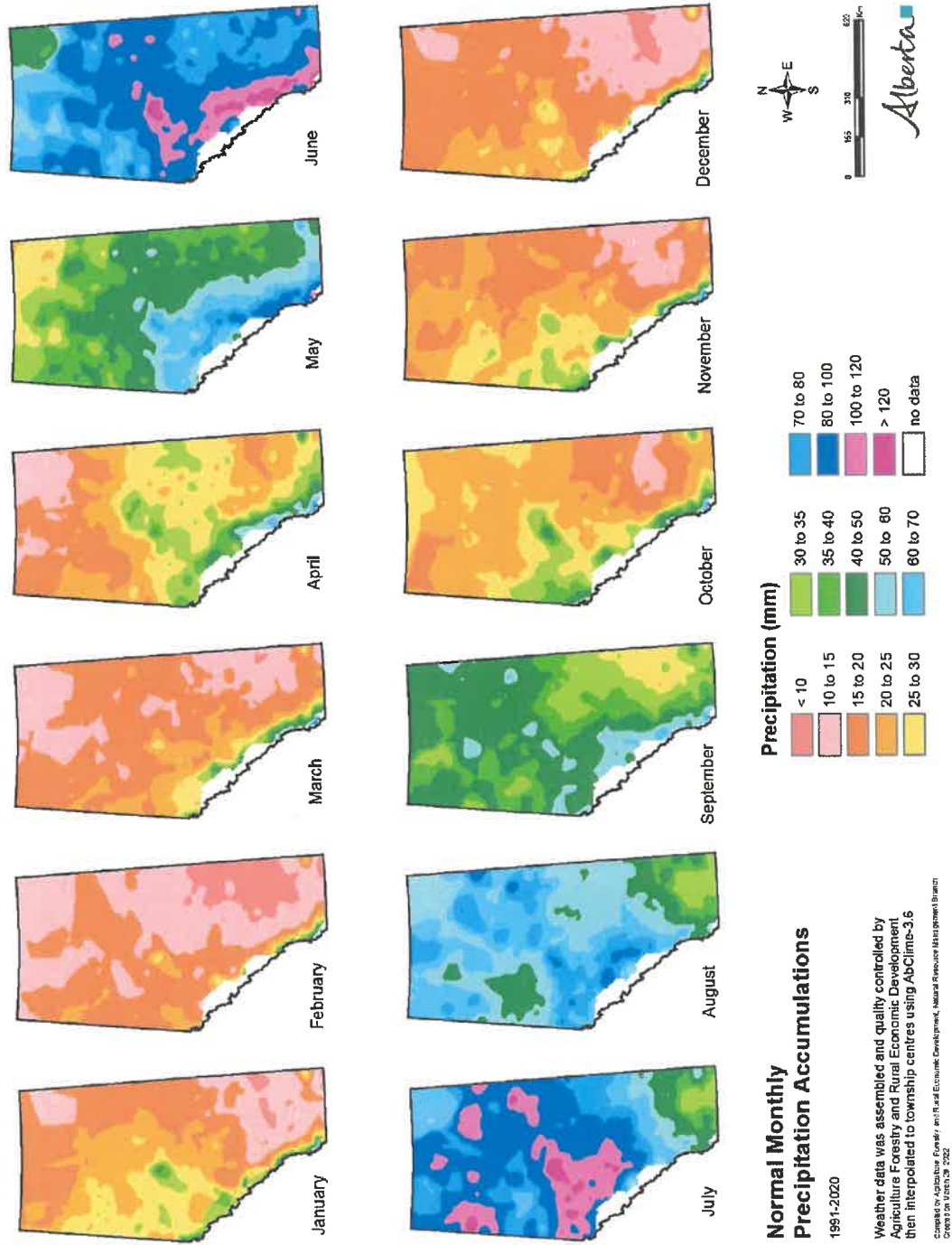
## Perspective

Even with above-average winter precipitation, it rarely replenishes deep soil moisture or reverses long-term deficits. Winter is inherently the driest season, so its influence on soil moisture and agricultural productivity is minimal.

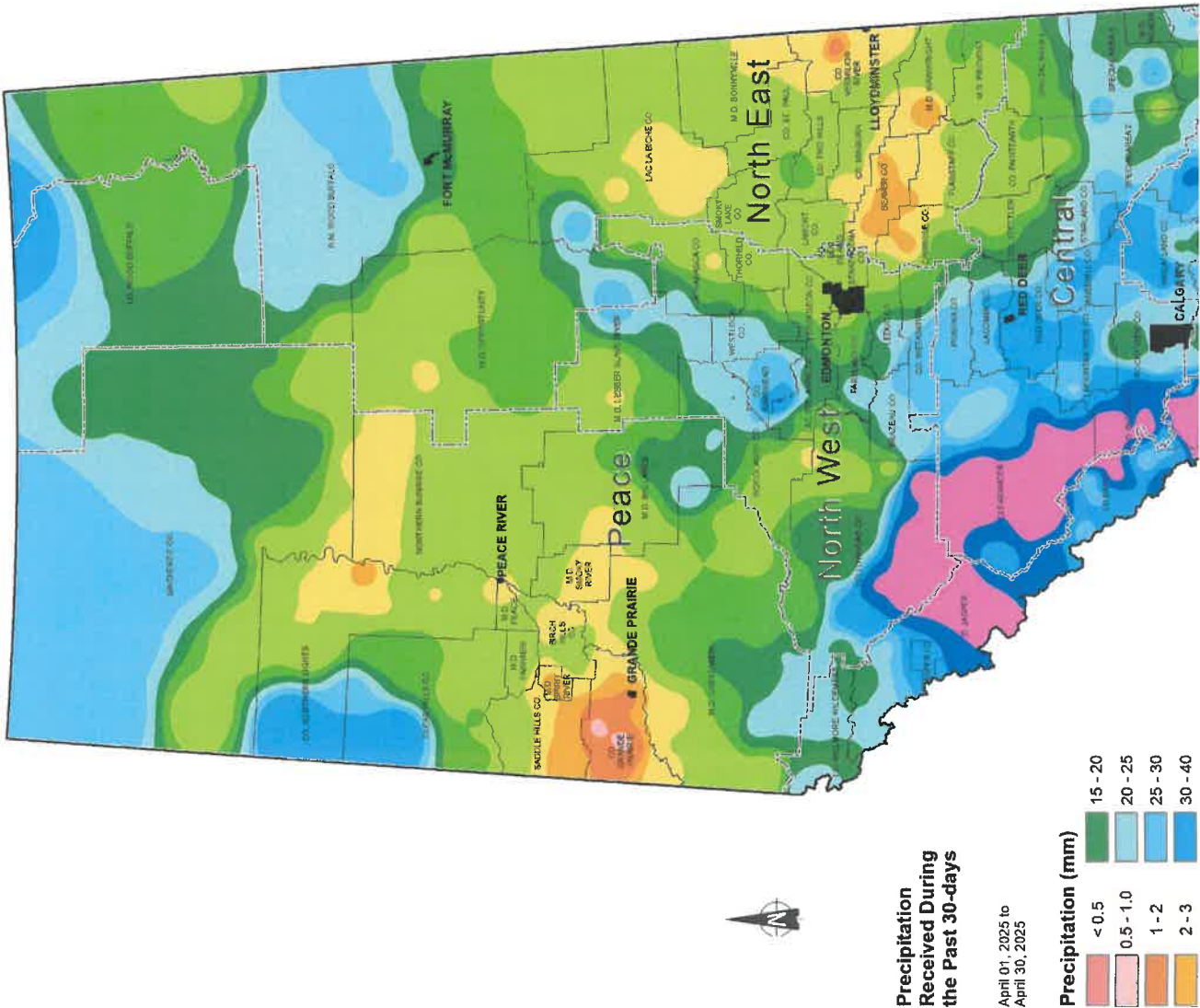
The months of May through July are pivotal. They contribute the bulk of moisture needed for crop germination, vegetative growth, and yield formation. What happens in these months will be the true determinant of the 2025 cropping season's outcome.

Alberta is now entering its historically wetter period. There remains ample opportunity to improve moisture conditions, provided rainfall arrives in a timely and sufficient manner.

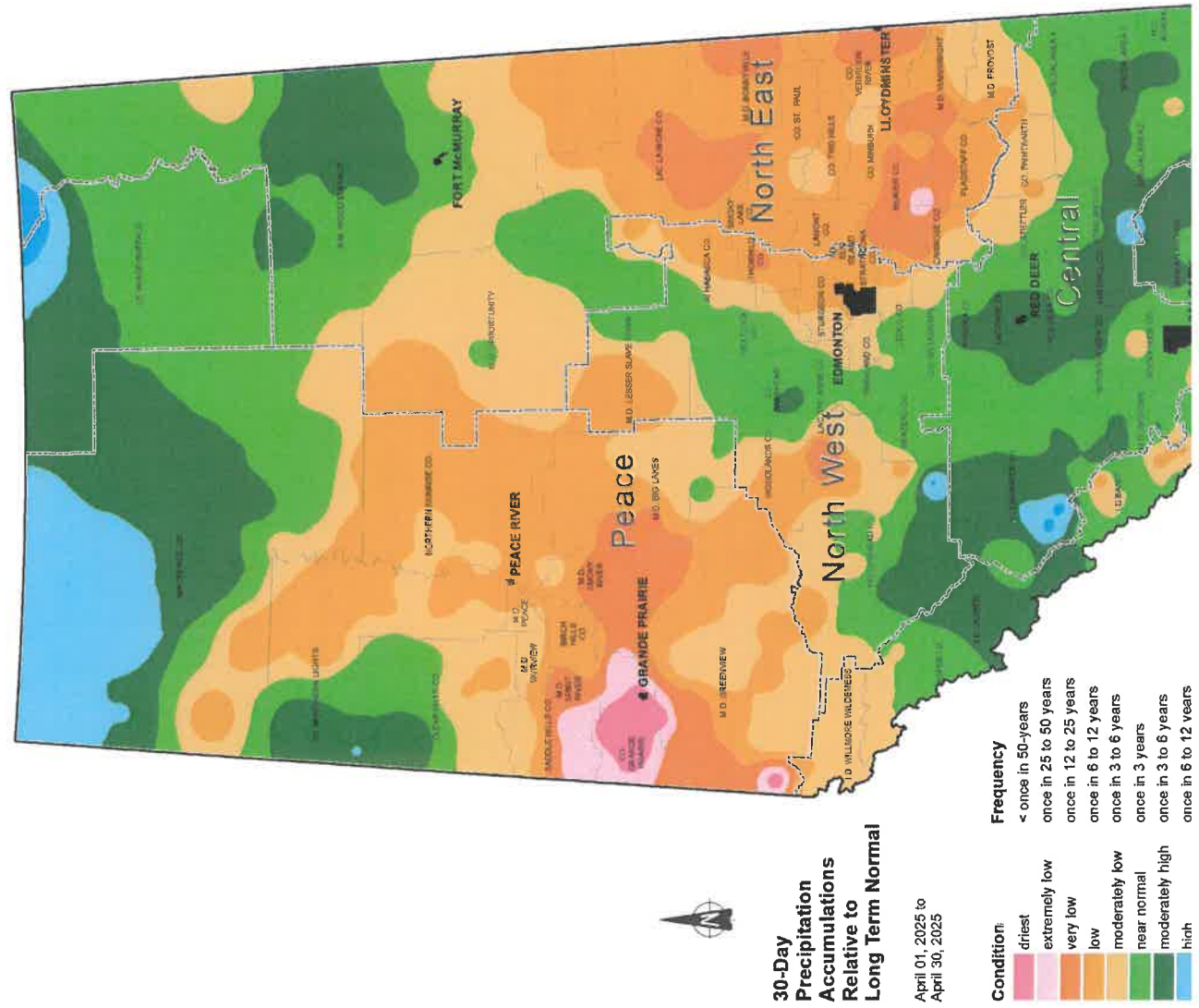
Map 1



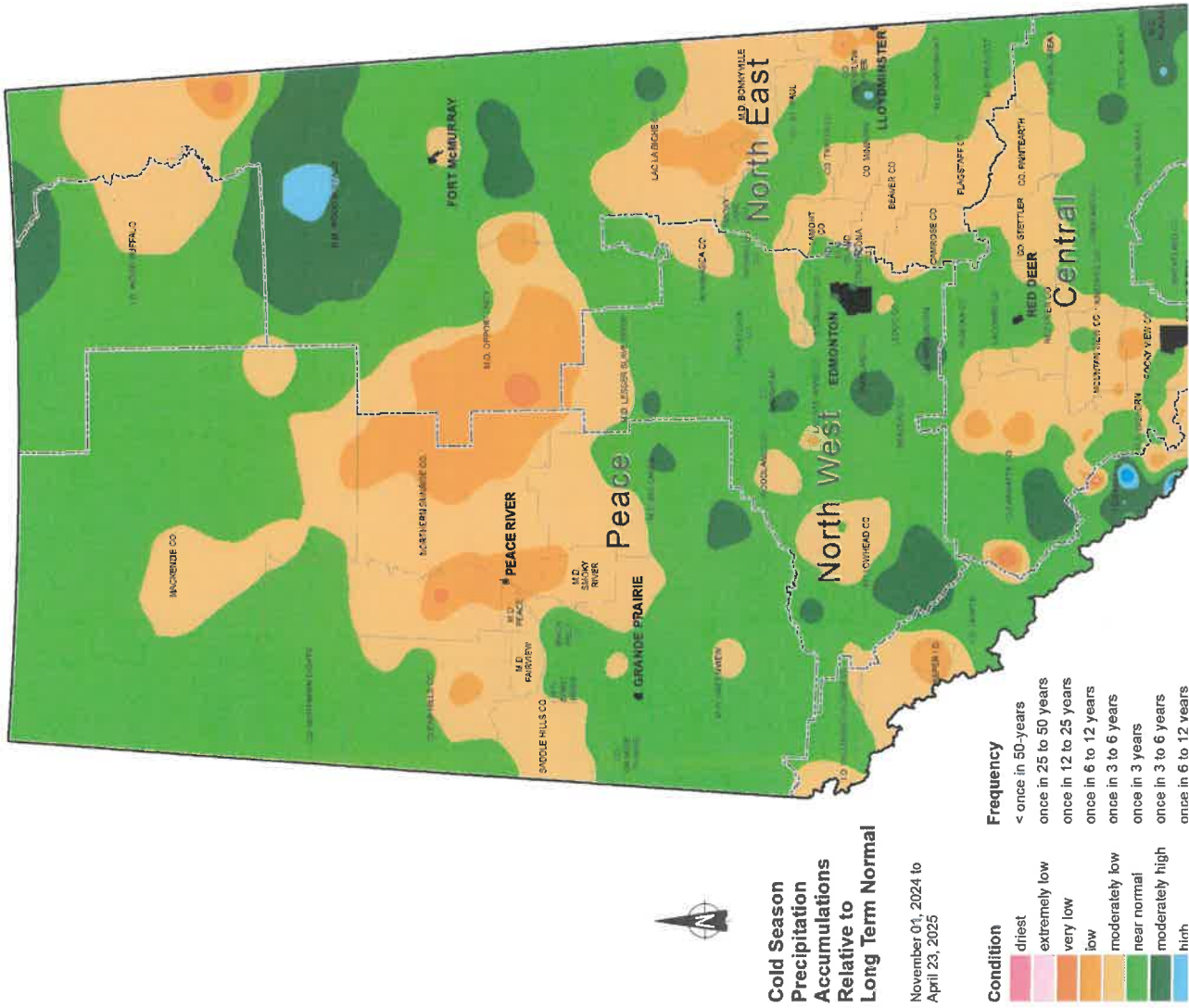
Map 2



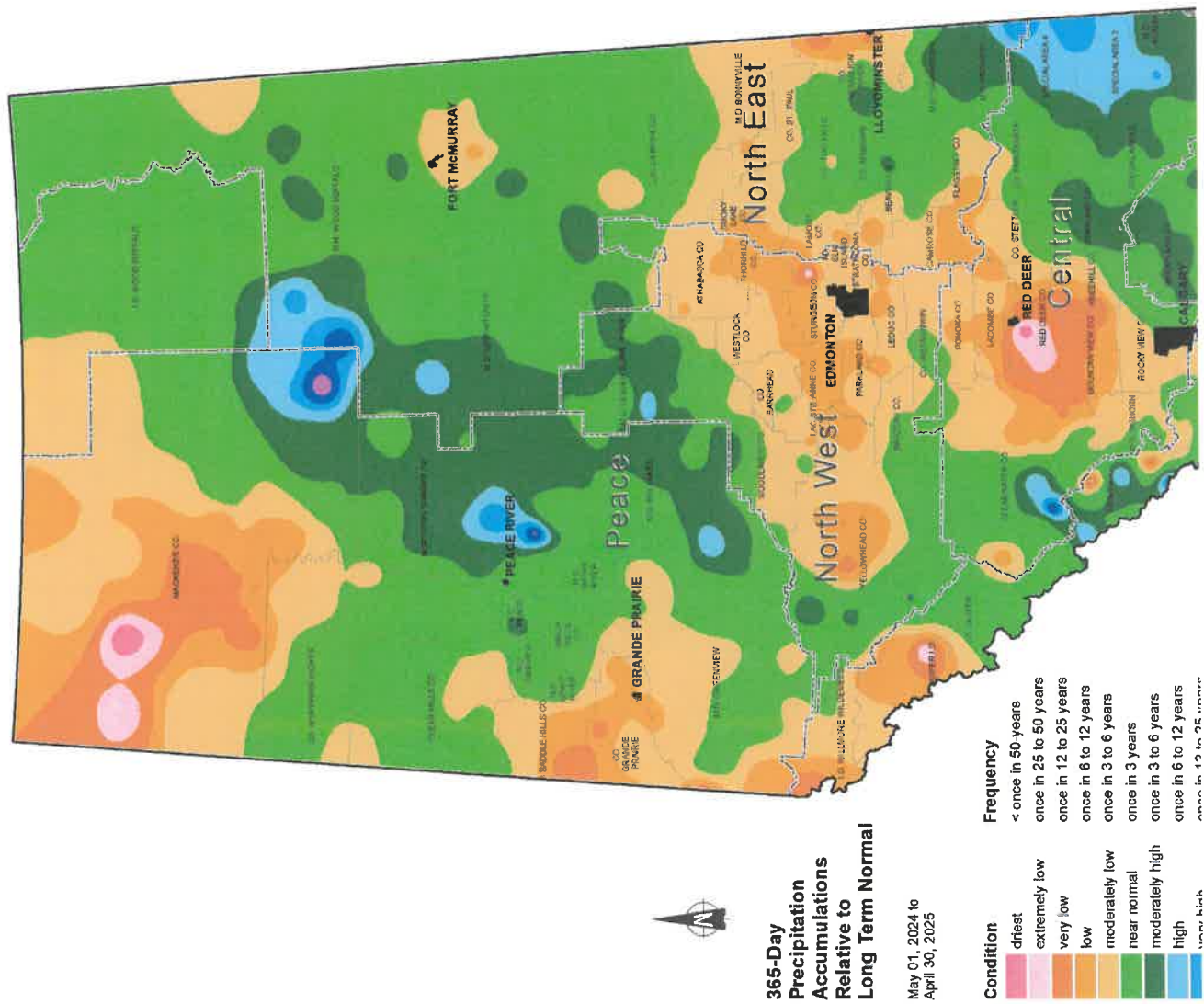




Map 4

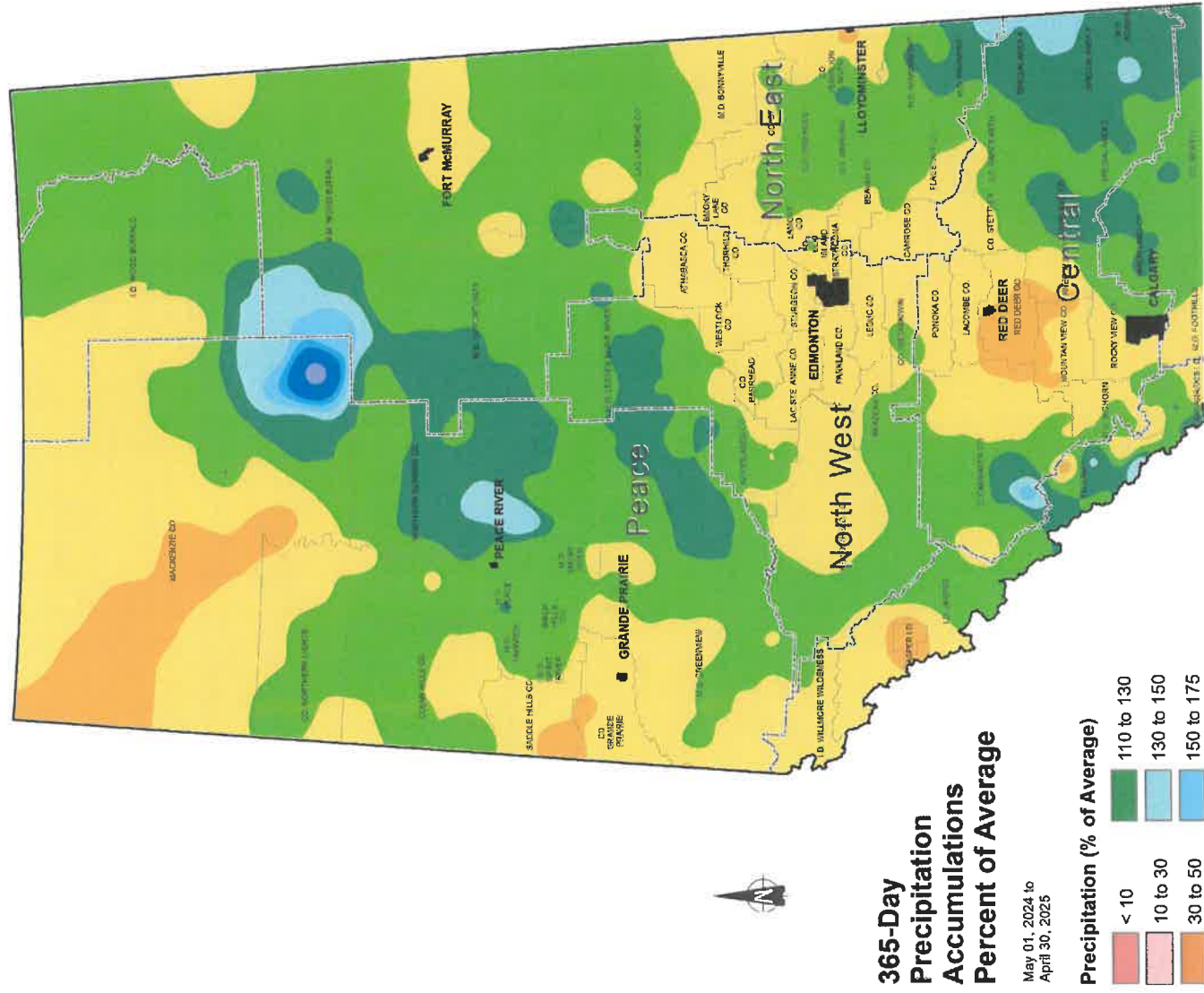


Map 5

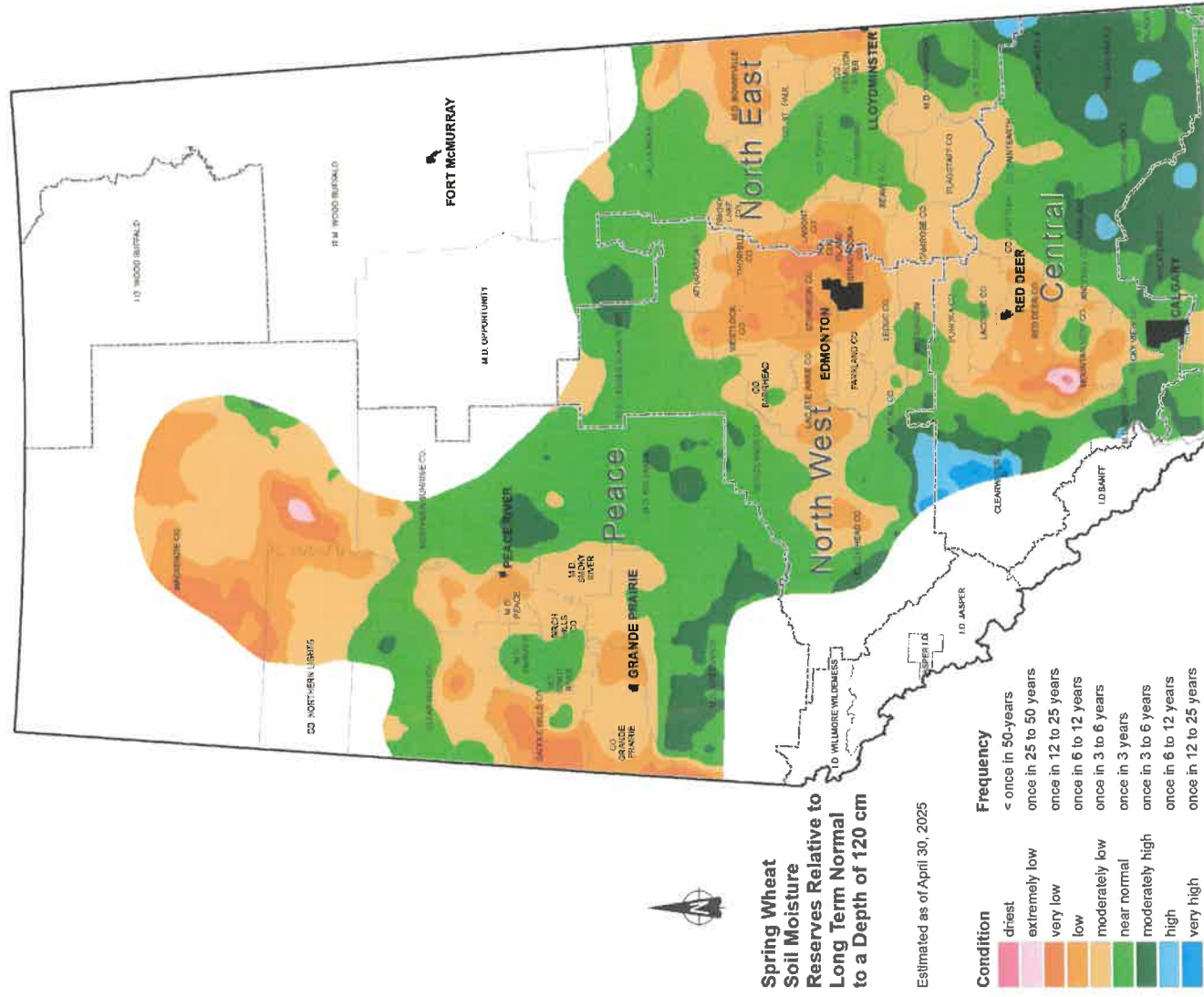




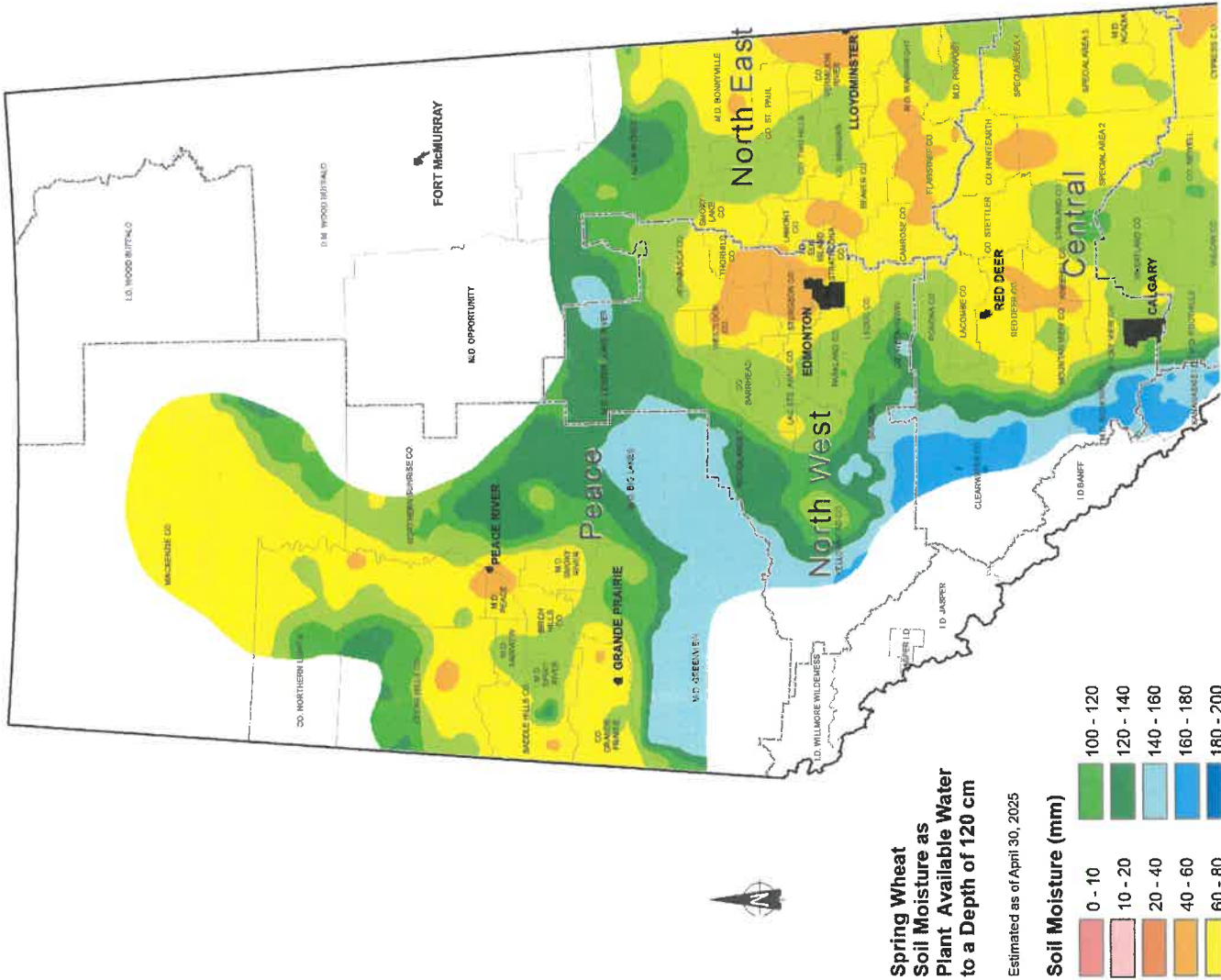
Map 6



Map 7



Map 8





**From:** Agricultural Service Boards <donotreply@wordpress.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:03 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Richardson's Ground Squirrel Update

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**Agricultural Service Boards**

## Richardson's Ground Squirrel Update



By **asbexecassistant** on May 7, 2025

ASBPC meets with SARM on April 22, 2025

## Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM)

SARM has been actively advocating for the reinstatement of strychnine for gopher control through multiple channels, including meeting with Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) in Ottawa multiple times before strychnine was deregistered in 2023. They found PMRA to be unresponsive and unwilling to consider their arguments. SARM's overall strategy has included multiple approaches including direct lobbying, exploring legal mechanisms like the Saskatchewan First Act, seeking research to counter PMRA's arguments, and building collaborative support from provincial and municipal organizations.

In February SARM issued a news release calling for strychnine reintroduction through the Saskatchewan First Act. In March SARM met with Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe and brought up the potential for reinstating strychnine for Richardson's Ground Squirrel control. This has been



brought up in subsequent meeting with the Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture but so far there hasn't been any known movement.

Strychnine is available in the US for use in underground applications at a concentration of 0.5% with restricted status which means that a licensed applicator needs to handle the product. [US Environmental Protection Agency Strychnine fact sheet](#) (1996)

## Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)

In 2020 the RMA passed resolution ER1-20S supporting the ASB advocacy for 2% strychnine to be reinstated on a permanent bases for Richardson's Ground Squirrel control. This resolution expired in 2023.

## Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI)

The Committee brought up the concerns around the increasing population of Richardson's Ground Squirrels and the feedback from farmers that the PMRA approved products are not practical in terms of timing of application or number of applications. The minister talked about his participation with the other provincial agriculture ministers in a working group that resulted from this advocacy. The working group noted that *"...in the U.S., regulators are legally obligated to examine what available alternative pest control methods could be used as substitutes for a pesticide being considered for cancellation. Furthermore, **regulators need to study the economic impact to pesticide users and consumers that would occur if these alternative pest control methods were used.**"* [Report to agriculture ministers from the FPT Working Group on Pesticides Management](#)

Further in the report, under the *Cancellation and amendments* section it states *"While PMRA cannot legally take into account socio-economic costs and benefits in determining the acceptability of risks, the working group felt that the value of a pesticide should be considered in other aspects of PMRA's work."* The burden of the socio-economic assessment and data collection is placed on the registration holder, provincial governments and private industry/farmers, and currently has little influence on PRMA's decisions.

The report goes on to state that in the US the socio-economic information is obtained to support the analysis comes from *"... a combination of in-house experts (that is, agricultural scientists, chemists, economists, information management specialists, microbiologists, policy analysts, statisticians, and*

*toxicologists) as well as external sources including state regulators, land-grant universities, grower surveys and commercially available data and analytics."*

*It was recognized by the working group that "While PMRA may have access to some data sources comparable to those used by the US EPA, the working group recognized that the scope and scale of information available from all sources in Canada is much less."*

*In Canada "Little consideration is given to the availability in the marketplace, or the relative cost, among other factors. The working group therefore felt that an up-to-date pesticide value assessment, including benefits and social and economic impacts and regional considerations, should be considered when determining the suitability of alternatives when cancelling product registrations or uses."*

## **ASB Provincial Committee and Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR)**

In March the ASBPC met with RDAR and brought up the current situation and asked if there were any projects looking into Richardson's Ground Squirrel control. It was acknowledged that there have been studies done on Ground Squirrel behavior and biology, but little has been done from the perspective of pest management in crop and livestock systems. Basic information like where in the province they are a problematic, management practices that increase or decrease their populations, economic thresholds for control, and other data points that would give farmers and insurers the tools and data needed for an adequate wholistic response.

The Committee learned that currently hawk poles have caught the attention of RDAR and their use as part of a Integrated Pest Management strategy is something that they would support as a project that would determine Return on Investment (ROI) for farmers and some recommendations on how to best use the tool. Later it was noted that Lakeland Collage was struggling with Richardson's Ground Squirrels in their Student Lead Farm and may be a candidate for a project.

The Committee has reached out to Lakeland Collage and the pest specialist in Saskatchewan James Tansy who presented at the Provincial ASB Conference this year to see if there was some interest in pulling together a project focused on the needs of farmers. The Committee wants to ensure that the feedback from farmers through the ASBs is considered.

Ideally, applied research studies that work towards:

- Quantifying the ROI,



- Develop regionally specific management recommendations,
- Quantify environment and management factors impacting populations, and
- Assess if there is a way to obtain economic thresholds that could provide the data needed for better insurance options.

**Strychnine was first registered in Alberta in the 1920s, and in nearly 100 years of continued pest pressure on crop and pasture land, there is very little to offer farmers in terms of best management practices on their farms or insurance options to cover forage and crop losses.**

## Research already available

Several Canadian researchers have made significant contributions to the study of Richardson's ground squirrels. Notable among them are:

- **Gail R. Michener** (University of Lethbridge, Alberta): A leading authority on the behavioral and physiological ecology of Richardson's ground squirrels, Michener has published extensively on their biology and ecology (2,3).
- **Josef K. Schmutz** (University of Saskatchewan, Nature Saskatchewan): Known for research on the ecological role of ground squirrels, particularly their importance as prey for birds of prey and other wildlife (2).

Other researchers and teams have also contributed to studies on habitat associations, management, and population ecology, as reflected in recent large-scale surveys and ecological assessments conducted in southern Saskatchewan (1). These works collectively inform both conservation and pest management strategies for this species in Canada.

## Citations:

1. <https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/10.1139/cjz-2021-0059>
  2. [https://www.albertapcf.org/rsu\\_docs/prairie\\_notes\\_2.pdf](https://www.albertapcf.org/rsu_docs/prairie_notes_2.pdf)
  3. <https://www.ulethbridge.ca/unews/article/understanding-ground-squirrel>
  4. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7754195/>
  5. <https://www.canadianfieldnaturalist.ca/index.php/cfn/article/download/1324/1317/5255>
  6. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/gardeners-are-going-nuts-about-rare-naked-ground-squirrels-found-in-saskatoon-1.6899285>
  7. [https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex3471/\\$file/684-2.pdf?OpenElement](https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex3471/$file/684-2.pdf?OpenElement)
- 

## Links

- [ASB Position Paper and background](#)
- [Report to agriculture ministers from the FPT Working Group on Pesticides Management - October 2024](#)
- [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities - Letter Feb 2025](#)
- [US Environmental Protection Agency Strychnine fact sheet](#) (1996) - only approved for below ground (pocket gopher) rodents and appears to be a 0.5% concentration.

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# Alberta Crop Report

## Crop conditions as of May 6, 2025

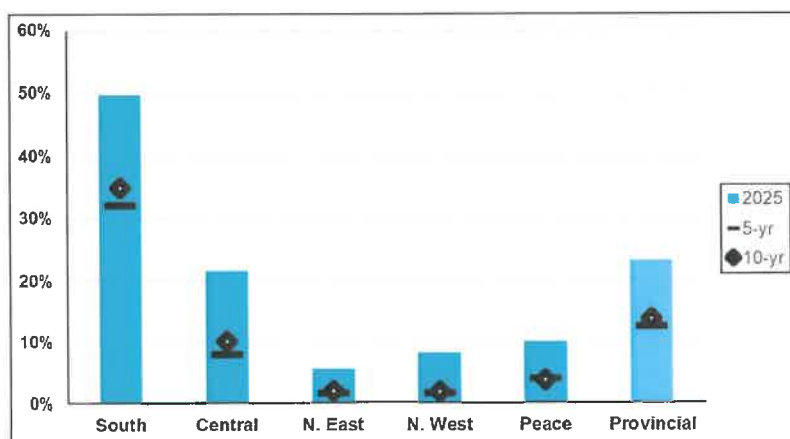
Alberta has had a favourable start to the 2025 crop season, with a smooth seasonal transition and some beneficial moisture. The good conditions have supported significant seeding progress over the past three weeks. As of the first crop report of the season, 23 per cent of all crops have been seeded, compared to the 5-year average of 12 per cent and the 10-year average of 14 per cent (see Table 1). Regionally, seeding is both ahead of the 5-year and 10-year averages in all regions. The South leads with 50 per cent of all crops seeded, followed by the Central Region at 22 per cent, the Peace Region at 10 per cent, the North West at 8 per cent, and the North East at 6 per cent. While early conditions are promising, timely rainfall in the coming weeks will be crucial to support crop emergence and establishment. Over the past 30 days, much of the Southern, Central, and North West regions received between 20 and 40 mm of precipitation. In contrast, most areas in the North East and Peace regions received near-normal amounts, ranging from 2 to 10 mm.

Table 1: Alberta Seeding Progress as of May 6, 2025

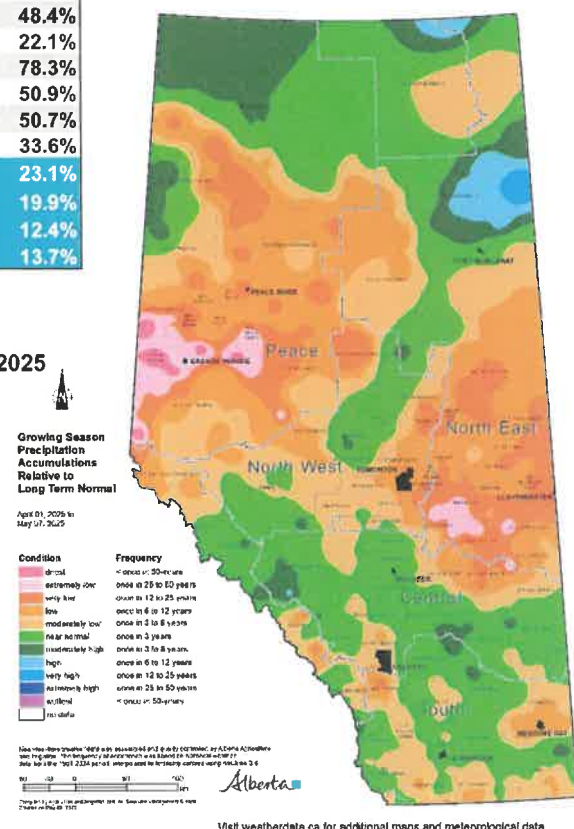
	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	48.7%	41.9%	8.7%	19.5%	24.2%	29.4%
Durum	64.4%	30.8%	-	-	-	59.0%
Barley *	50.4%	9.3%	4.9%	1.3%	6.9%	21.0%
Oats *	31.6%	5.5%	2.7%	0.1%	5.4%	4.0%
Canola *	23.8%	1.8%	0.7%	1.6%	1.1%	5.0%
Dry Peas *	76.4%	46.5%	28.4%	30.4%	15.8%	49.6%
Mustard	50.7%	0.0%	-	-	-	48.4%
Flax	27.3%	0.0%	0.0%	-	-	22.1%
Potatoes	88.4%	7.9%	-	0.9%	-	78.3%
Chickpeas	55.3%	12.0%	-	-	-	50.9%
Lentils	62.3%	15.1%	-	-	-	50.7%
Corn	44.2%	25.7%	-	25.0%	-	33.6%
All Crops, May 6	49.7%	21.5%	5.6%	8.2%	9.9%	23.1%
Major Crops (*), May 6	46.4%	21.5%	5.6%	8.3%	9.9%	19.9%
5-year (2020-24) Avg	31.9%	8.0%	1.6%	1.6%	4.0%	12.4%
10-year (2015-24) Avg	34.8%	10.1%	2.0%	1.8%	3.7%	13.7%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Figure 1: Provincial and Regional All Crops Seeding Progress as of May 6, 2025



Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



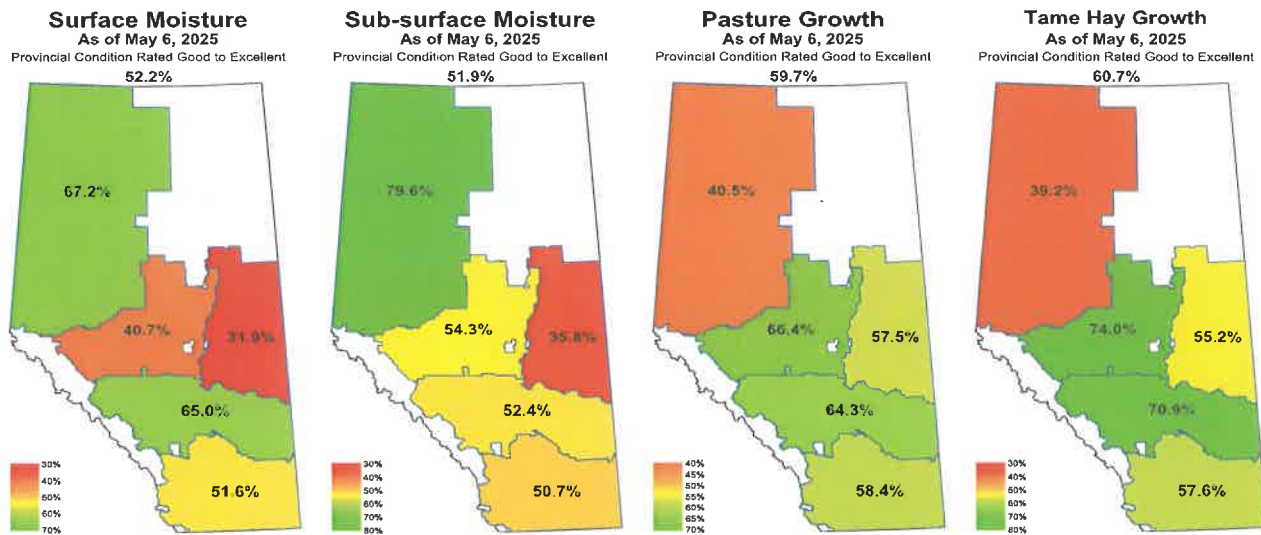
Visit [weatherdata.ca](http://weatherdata.ca) for additional maps and meteorological data

[alberta.ca/alberta-crop-reports](http://alberta.ca/alberta-crop-reports)

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Classification: Public

**Figure 1: Surface and Sub-surface Soil Moisture Conditions, Tame Hay and Pasture Growth, May 6, 2025**



Initial regional growth conditions for pasture and tame hay indicate generally favourable growth. Provincially, pasture growth is rated 60 per cent good to excellent, while tame hay is slightly ahead at 61 per cent rated good to excellent (see Table 2 and Figure 1). Fall-seeded crops are also off to a strong start, with 72 per cent rated good to excellent and 25 per cent rated fair. Feedback on forage and feed grain reserves indicates that approximately 76 per cent of producers have adequate or surplus forage, and 85 per cent report adequate or surplus feed grain supplies to carry them through until grazing begins.

**Table 2: Pasture Growth Conditions as of May 6, 2025**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	5.6%	36.0%	56.8%	1.6%
Central	7.7%	28.0%	61.7%	2.6%
North East	5.6%	37.0%	52.9%	4.5%
North West	3.3%	30.3%	64.2%	2.2%
Peace	20.0%	39.5%	37.5%	3.0%
Alberta	7.1%	33.2%	57.2%	2.6%
5-year (2020-24) Avg	23.2%	36.8%	37.3%	2.7%
10-year (2015-24) Avg	21.7%	31.9%	42.3%	4.1%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Spring precipitation has contributed to generally supportive soil moisture conditions across the province (see Table 3). Provincially, surface soil moisture (sub-surface soil moisture) is rated at 52 (52) per cent good to excellent. Regionally, surface soil moisture conditions rated as good to excellent are reported at 52 (51) per cent in the South, 65 (52) per cent in the Central, 32 (36) per cent in the North East, 41 (54) per cent in the North West, and 67 (80) per cent in the Peace.

**Table 3: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of May 6, 2025**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	4.2%	44.1%	46.9%	4.7%	0.0%
Central	6.2%	28.8%	61.5%	3.4%	0.0%
North East	11.3%	56.9%	30.0%	1.9%	0.0%
North West	3.7%	55.6%	38.4%	2.3%	0.0%
Peace	7.9%	23.3%	51.6%	15.5%	1.7%
Alberta	6.4%	41.2%	47.5%	4.7%	0.2%
5-year (2020-24) Avg	11.7%	28.9%	44.2%	13.9%	1.4%
10-year (2015-24) Avg	8.8%	24.7%	43.4%	18.5%	4.5%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

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## Regional Assessments:

### Region One: South (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Seeding progress for all crops (major crops) is 50 (46) per cent complete, compared to the 5-year average of 32 (29) per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture is 5 per cent poor, 44 per cent fair, 47 per cent good, 4 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Reported conditions of fall-seeded crop are 5 per cent poor, 20 per cent fair, 63 per cent good, and 12 per cent excellent.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 4 per cent poor, 39 per cent fair, 56 per cent good, and 2 per cent excellent.

### Region Two: Central (Rimbey, Airdrie, Coronation, Oyen)

- Seeding progress for all crops (major crops) is 22 (22) per cent complete, compared to the 5-year average of 8 (8) per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture is 13 per cent poor, 35 per cent fair, 50 per cent good, 2 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Reported conditions of fall-seeded crop are 3 per cent poor, 8 per cent fair, 87 per cent good, and 2 per cent excellent.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 8 per cent poor, 21 per cent fair, 67 per cent good, and 4 per cent excellent.

### Region Three: North East (Smoky Lake, Vermilion, Camrose, Provost)

- Seeding progress for all crops (major crops) is 6 (6) per cent complete, compared to the 5-year average of 2 (2) per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture is 15 per cent poor, 50 per cent fair, 36 per cent good, 0 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Reported conditions of fall-seeded crop are 2 per cent poor, 48 per cent fair, 50 per cent good, and 0 per cent excellent.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 4 per cent poor, 41 per cent fair, 53 per cent good, and 2 per cent excellent.

### Region Four: North West (Barrhead, Edmonton, Leduc, Drayton Valley, Athabasca)

- Seeding progress for all crops (major crops) is 8 (8) per cent complete, compared to the 5-year average of 2 (2) per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture is 6 per cent poor, 40 per cent fair, 45 per cent good, 9 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Reported conditions of fall-seeded crop are 0 per cent poor, 40 per cent fair, 58 per cent good, and 2 per cent excellent.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 2 per cent poor, 24 per cent fair, 72 per cent good, and 2 per cent excellent.

### Region Five: Peace (Fairview, Falher, Grande Prairie, Valleyview)

- Seeding progress for all crops (major crops) is 10 (10) per cent complete, compared to the 5-year average of 4 (4) per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture is 3 per cent poor, 17 per cent fair, 57 per cent good, 23 per cent excellent, and 1 per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 22 per cent poor, 39 per cent fair, 36 per cent good, and 3 per cent excellent.

## Contact

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation  
Product Innovation Department  
Insurance Products and Product Innovation Unit

Geoff Backman - Product Coordinator  
Manglai - Product Coordinator  
Email: [mediainquiry@afsc.ca](mailto:mediainquiry@afsc.ca)

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# Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

## May 21, 2025

### 30-Day Synopsis

As spring advances, Alberta typically enters a wetter phase beginning in May (**Map 1**).

There are notable regional differences in precipitation between April 22 and May 21. The western portion of the province, west of the Highway 2 corridor, received more than 30 mm of precipitation in the last 30 days (**Map 2**). The heaviest rainfall was received west of Red Deer, with Clearwater County receiving more than 70 mm of precipitation. East of Red Deer, Flagstaff County along with the Counties of Stettler and Paintearth received between 30 and 60 mm of precipitation.

Lower levels of precipitation, 5 to 20 mm, were received across the eastern portion of the province. The Peace Region received less than 20 mm in the last 30 days. A significant area around the central Peace Region, as well as several pockets across the region, received less than 5 mm of precipitation. The northern Peace Region, around High Level and Fort Vermillion received 5 to 10 mm of precipitation.

Comparing recent precipitation levels to long-term normal across Alberta, over the past 30 days, reveals significant spatial variability (**Map 3**). Relative to normal, the last 30-day precipitation accumulations trended from near normal to higher than normal for most of the Central, North West, North East and western portion of the South Region. A large area around Clearwater County and extending into Brazeau, Ponoka, Lacombe, Red Deer Counties and the County of Wetaskiwin received moderately high (once in 3 to 6-year highs) to high (once in 6 to 12-year highs) 30-day precipitation relative to long-term normal.

The eastern portion of the province, including parts of the North East, Central and South Regions, have several areas with moderately low (one in 3 to 6-year lows) precipitation accumulations relative to normal. A few areas in Cypress County and the County of Forty Mile have low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) precipitation accumulations relative to normal.

Most of the Peace Region is also reporting 30-day precipitation accumulations relative to long-term normal from moderately low (one in 3 to 6-year lows) to extremely low (once in 25 to 50-year lows). The lowest 30-day precipitation accumulations relative to long-term normal are in the M.D.s of Greenview, Big Lakes and Smoky River as well as Northern Sunrise County.

### Growing Season Precipitation Trends

As May 21 the growing season precipitation accumulations, from April through October, vary significantly across Alberta, with roughly half the province experiencing near-normal conditions, and the other half showing notable deviations from long-term norms.

The Central Region, the western half of the South Region, and the North West Region have near normal (once in 3-years) to moderately high (once in 3 to 6-year highs) growing season precipitation accumulations relative to long-term normal (**Map 4**). Pockets of high (one in 6 to 12-year highs) to very high (once in 12 to 25-year highs) precipitation relative to normal are scattered through the western portion of this area.

Cypress County and much of the County of Forty Mile have moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) to low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) growing season accumulations relative to normal.

The North East Region from Edmonton to the Saskatchewan border also have moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) growing season accumulations relative to normal. Pockets through Beaver, Lamont, Thorhild and Smoky Lake Counties have low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) growing season accumulations relative to normal.

The growing season accumulations relative to normal across the Peace Region ranges from low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) to extremely low (once in 25 to 50-year lows). A few pockets across the M.D.s of Greenview, Big Lakes and Smoky River have longer than once in 50-year growing season accumulations relative to normal. The exception is the northern Peace Region, Mackenzie County, which has near normal (once in 3-year) precipitation accumulations relative to normal.

About half of Alberta has a reasonably typical growing season so far, in terms of precipitation.

### 365-Day Precipitation Trends

Looking back over the past 365 days, precipitation accumulations relative to normal (**Map 5**) have changed since the last report. The areas that had reported moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year) to low (once in 6 to 12-year) precipitation accumulations relative to normal have increased. These areas are now reporting 365-day precipitation accumulations of 70 to 90% relative to average (**Map 6**).

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There are areas in each region experiencing very low (once in 12 to 25-year lows) 365-day precipitation accumulations relative to normal. Small pockets across the province have extremely low precipitation accumulations (once in 25 to 50-year lows) relative to the long term normal. The 365-day precipitation accumulations in these areas are approximately 50 to 70% relative to average.

Conversely, the eastern half of the Central Region, parts of the South and North West Regions and the eastern portion of the Peace Region have near normal 365-day precipitation accumulations relative to long-term normal. This translates to precipitation accumulations between 90 to 110% of average, which is positive news for those farming in these areas.

## Soil Moisture Reserves

It is estimated that many fields in southern and central Alberta are experiencing near-normal soil moisture levels (**Map 7**). A large area from Wheatland County north to the County of Stettler and east into the Special Areas is estimated to have moderately high (once in 3 to 6-year highs) soil moisture reserves relative to normal. It is estimated this area has between 60 to 80 mm of water in 120 cm depth of soil ready to support early growth (**Map 8**). This is estimated to be near normal to 25 mm above normal soil moisture levels (**Map 9**).

In contrast, soil moisture in the County of Forty Mile east to the M.D. of Pincher Creek is estimated to be moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) to low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) (**Map 7**).

Estimated soil moisture reserves appear to have improved around Red Deer. An area through Mountain View County, and into Red Deer County is estimated to be moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) to low (once in 6 to 12-year lows) (**Map 7**).

Moderately low (once in 3 to 6-year lows) to very low (once in 12 to 25-year lows) persist around Edmonton through Westlock, Thorhild, Strathcona and Sturgeon Counties. Similar conditions are estimated to persist across the Peace Region. This area is estimated to have 40 to 60 mm of soil moisture as plant available water to a depth of 120 cm (**Map 8**). This represents a 25% to 50% deficit from normal soil moisture levels (**Map 9**).

## Perspective

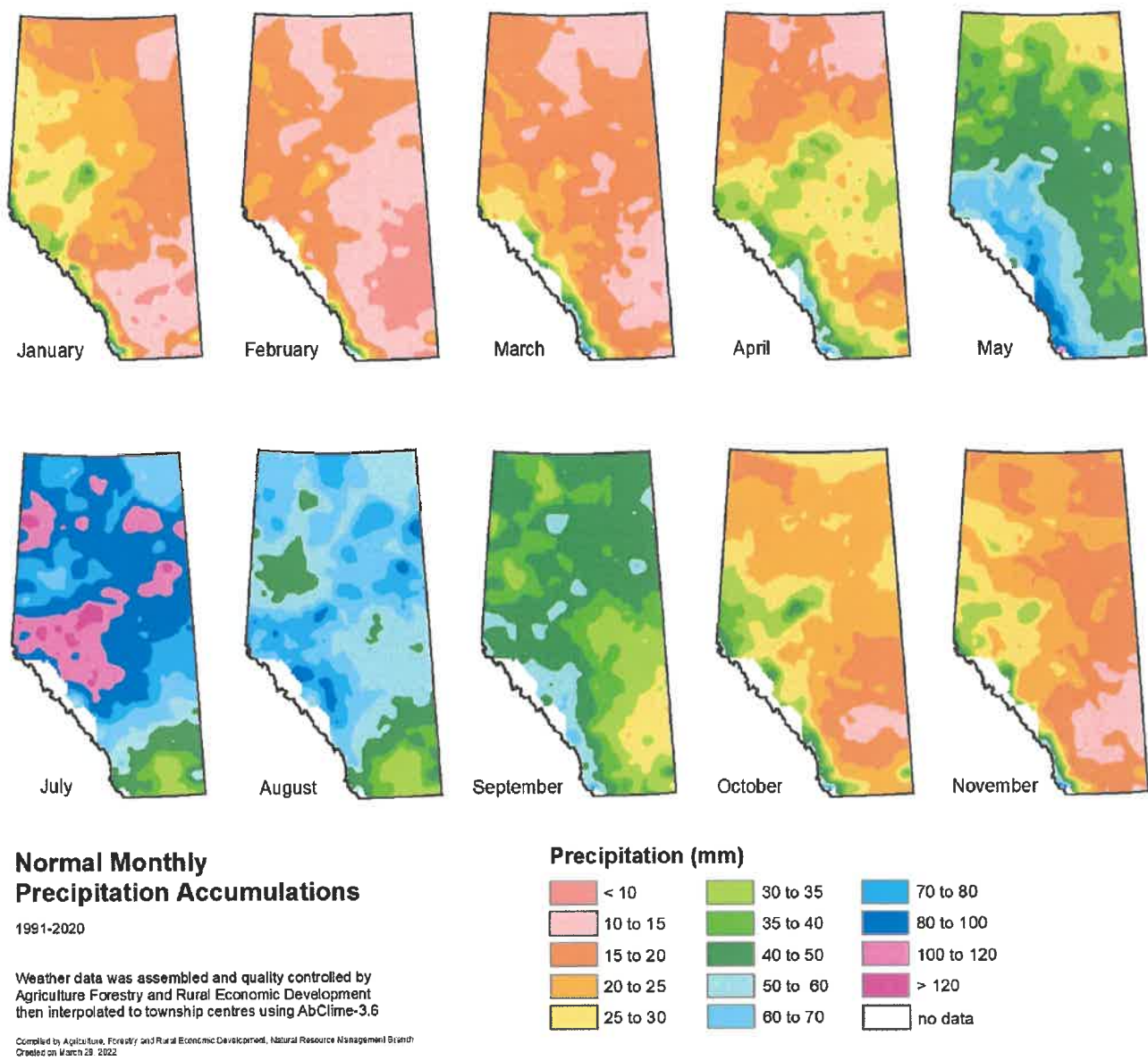
As spring moisture begins to accumulate, soil moisture reserves will improve. Winter is inherently the driest season, and its influence on soil moisture and agricultural productivity is minimal.

The months of May through July are pivotal. They contribute the bulk of moisture needed for crop germination, vegetative growth and yield formation. What happens in these months

will be the true determinant of the 2025 cropping season's outcome.

Alberta is now entering its historically wetter period. There remains ample opportunity to improve moisture conditions, provided rainfall arrives in a timely and sufficient manner.

Map 1

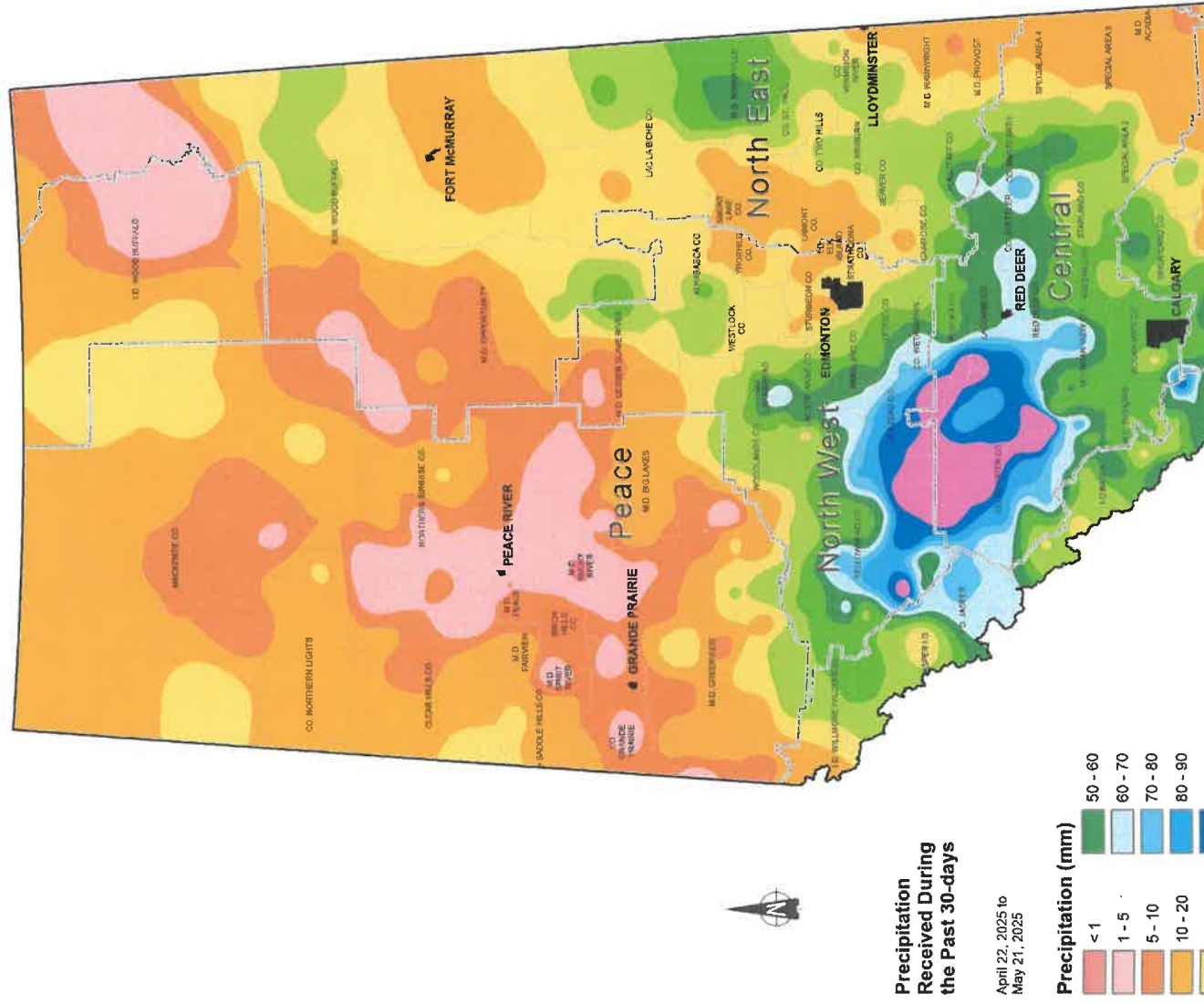


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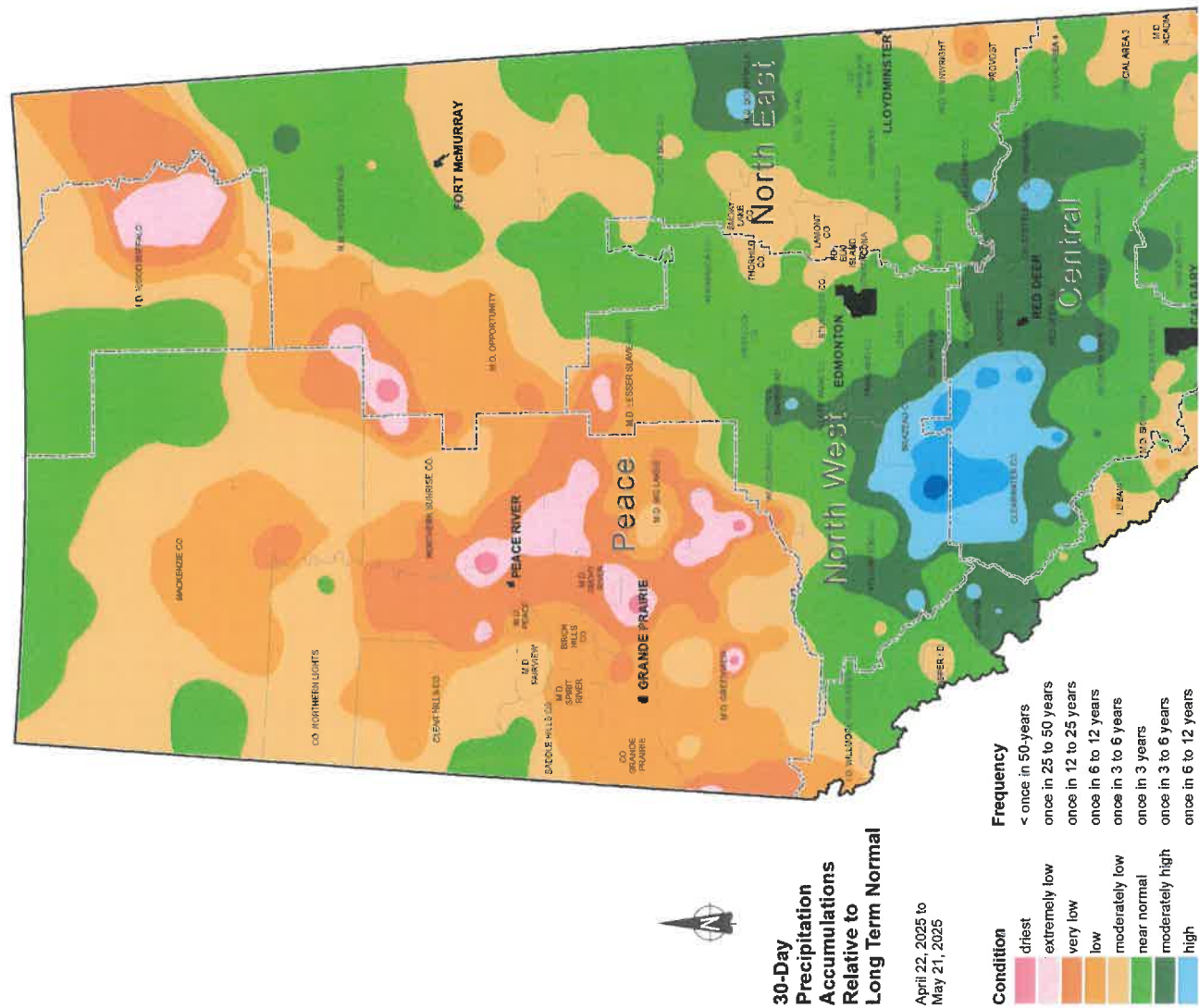
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Map 2

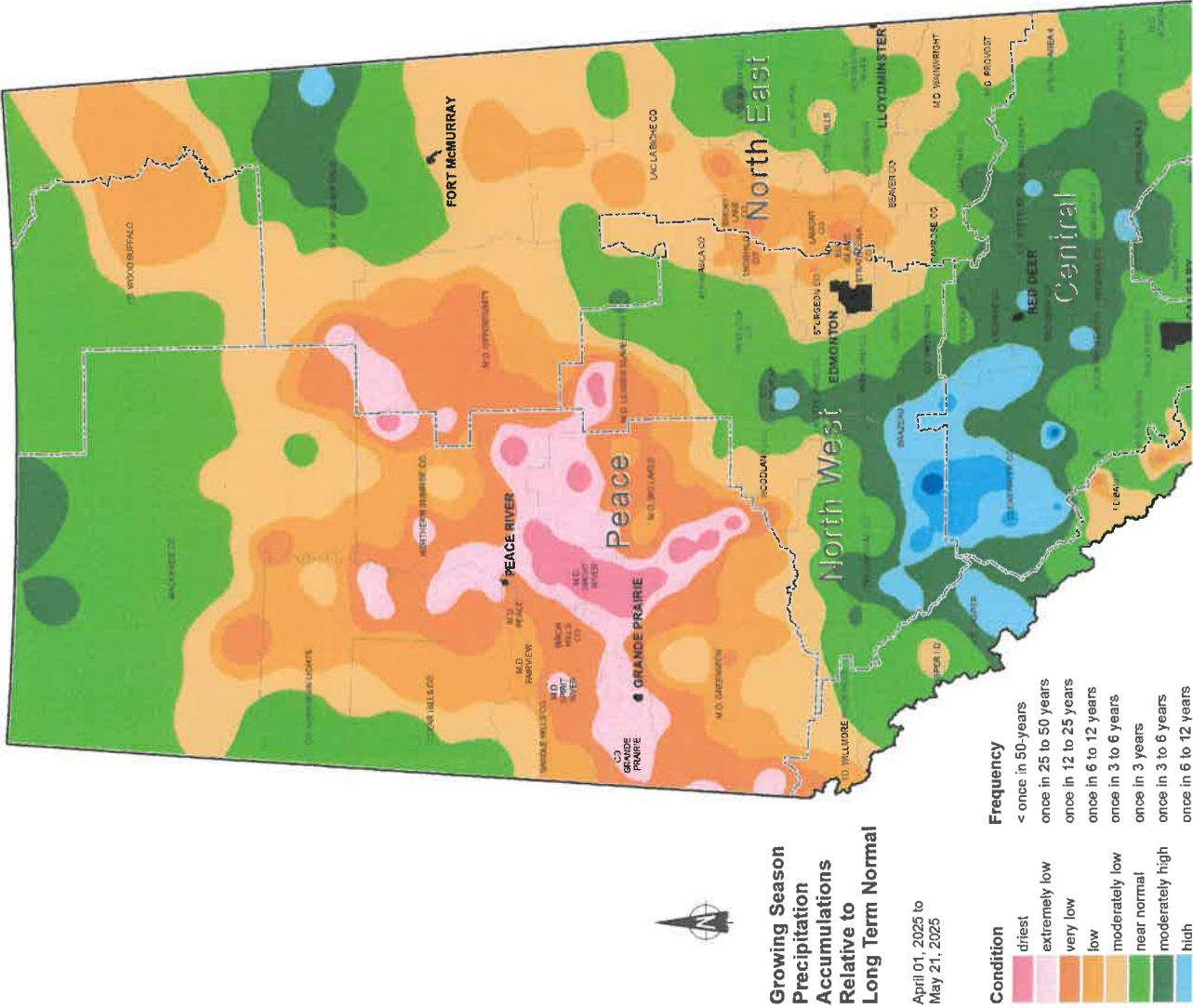


Map 3

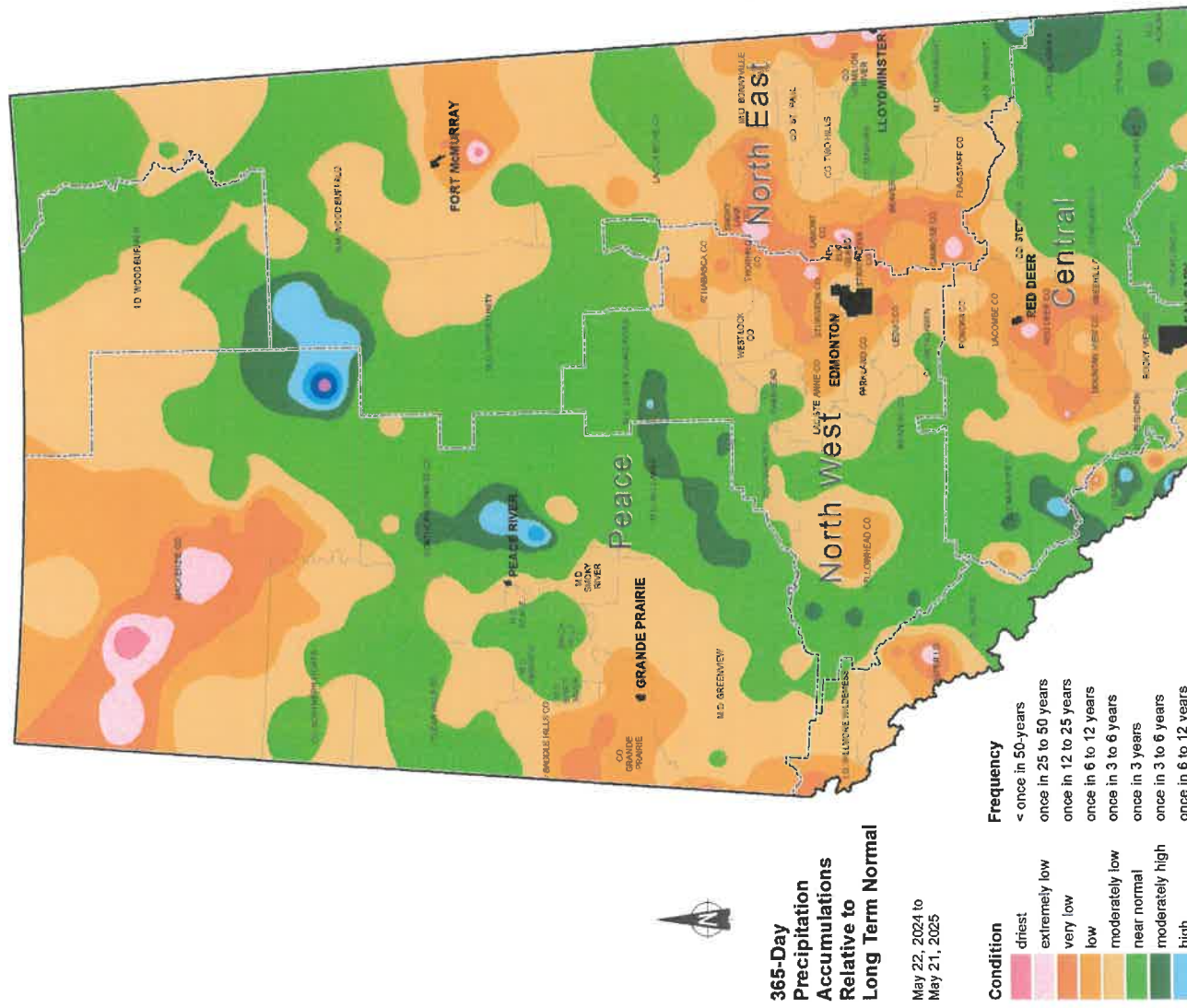




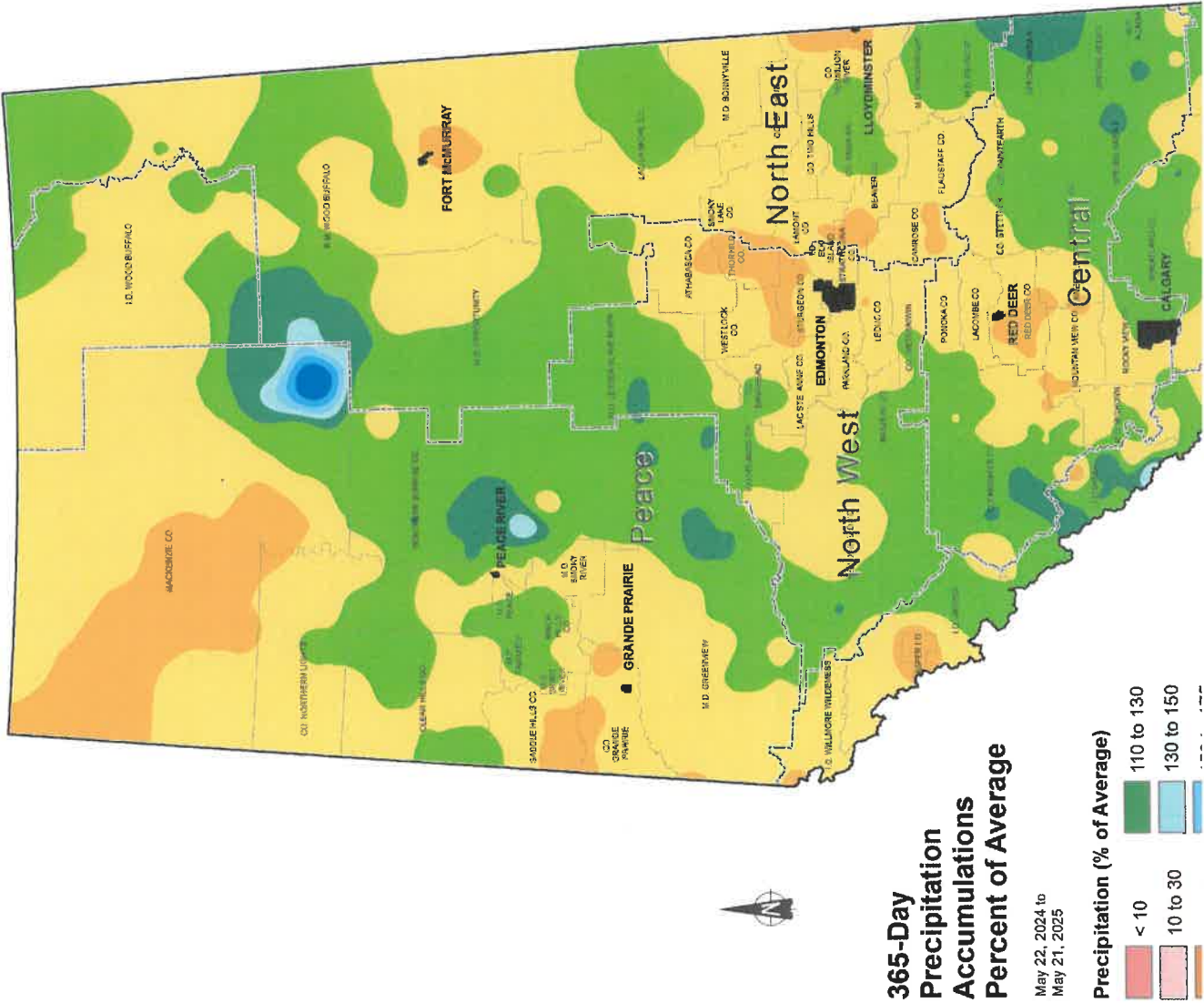
Map 4



Map 5



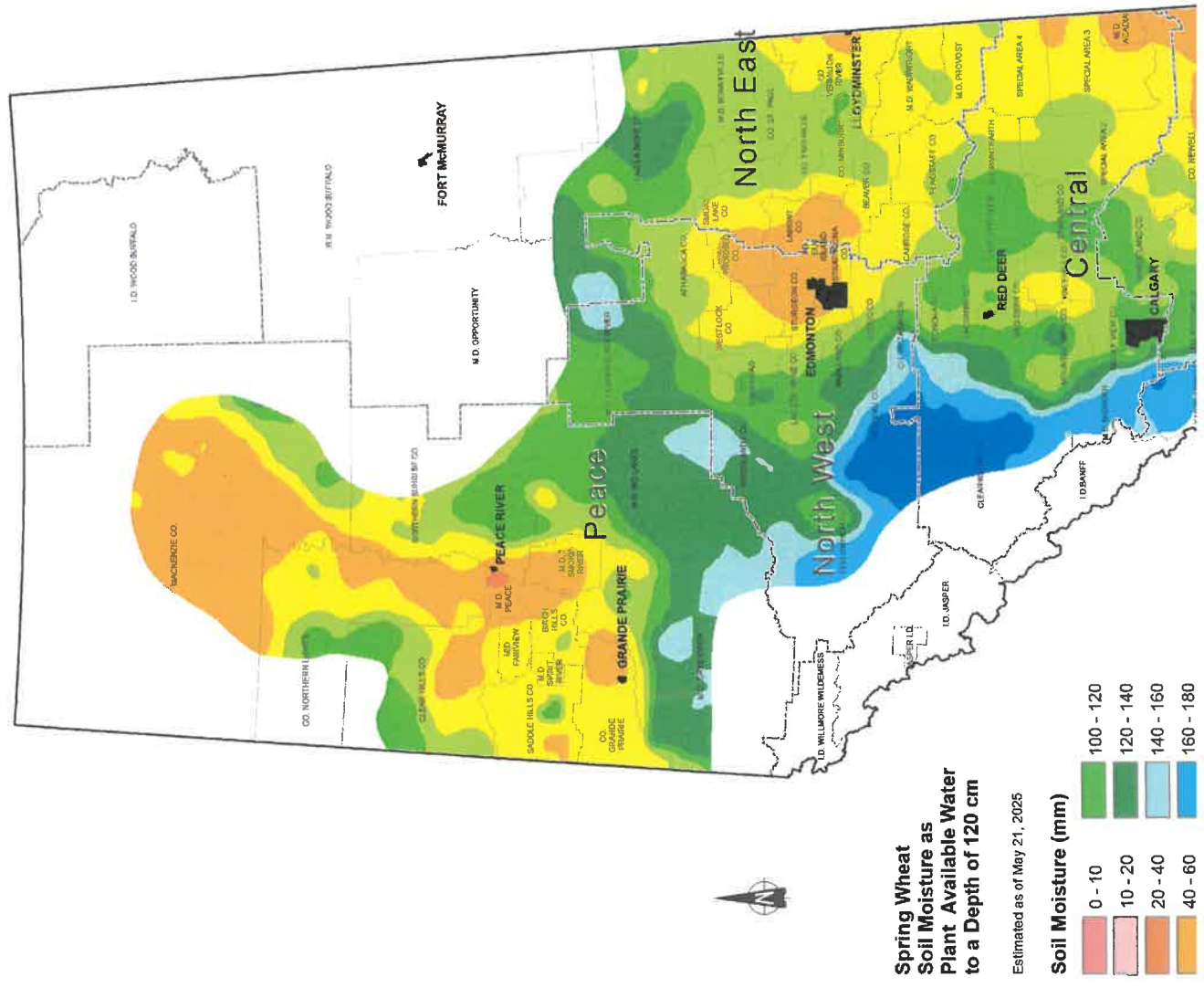
Map 6



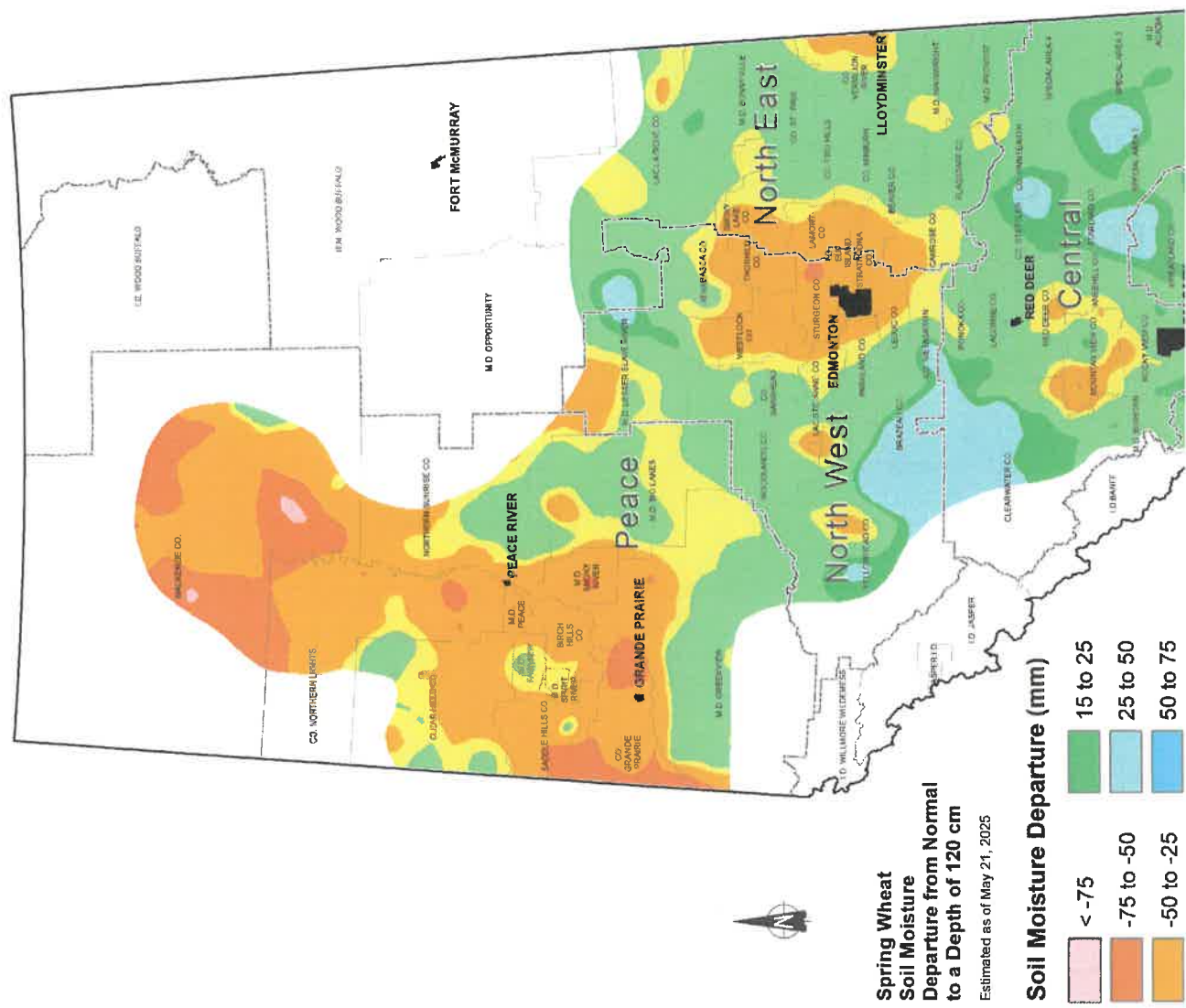




## Map 8



Map 9



# Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of June 3, 2025

Ongoing warm and windy conditions have led to seeding across the province being virtually complete (See Table 1). Weather interruptions were limited, with rainfall events reported as localized or spotty. The provincial seeding progress for all crops is reported as 99 per cent complete, compared to the 5-year and 10-year averages of 96 per cent. The rapid pace of planting is reflected in the rapid rate of crop emergence, with 83 per cent of all crops in the province emerged this week compared to the 5-year average of 66 per cent. Provincial major crop emergence (5-year average) is reported at 93 (75) per cent for spring wheat, 85 (65) per cent for barley, 65 (47) per cent for oats, 68 (53) per cent for canola, and 97 (80) per cent for dry peas. This rapid emergence has been followed by significant progress in post-emergence spraying, reported as 25 per cent complete compared to the 5-year average of 9 per cent. Rapid spraying may also be in response to seasonal pest pressures, which have risen along with crop emergence.

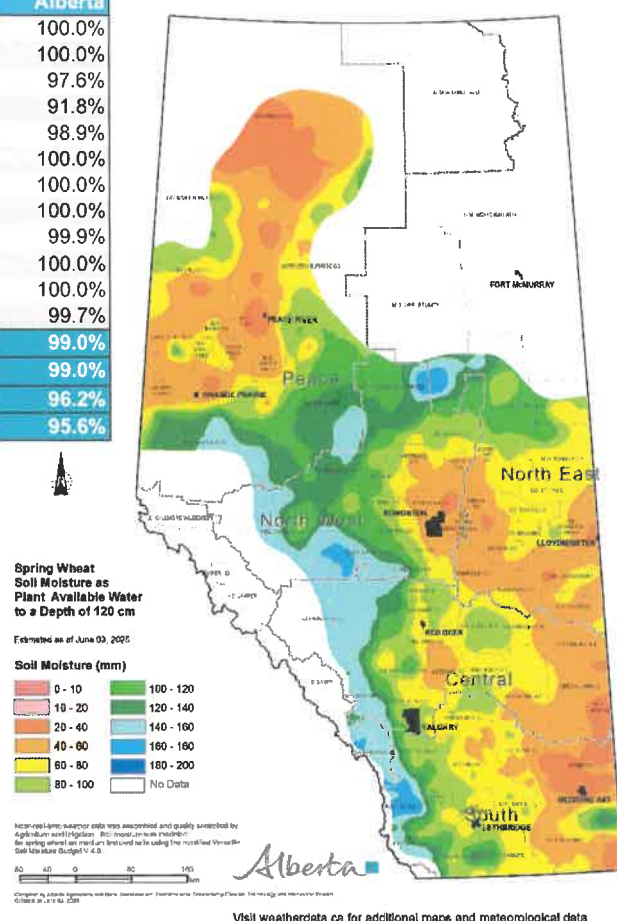
**Table 1: Alberta Seeding Progress as of June 3, 2025**

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Durum	100.0%	100.0%	-	-	-	100.0%
Barley *	99.4%	99.2%	95.7%	97.1%	91.1%	97.6%
Oats *	93.6%	96.2%	91.1%	90.9%	91.6%	91.8%
Canola *	100.0%	98.8%	99.3%	100.0%	96.8%	98.9%
Dry Peas *	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Mustard	100.0%	100.0%	-	-	-	100.0%
Flax	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	-	-	100.0%
Potatoes	100.0%	99.4%	-	99.3%	-	99.9%
Chickpeas	100.0%	100.0%	-	-	-	100.0%
Lentils	100.0%	100.0%	-	-	-	100.0%
Corn	100.0%	99.4%	-	100.0%	-	99.7%
All Crops, June 3	99.8%	99.4%	98.9%	99.0%	97.1%	99.0%
Major Crops (*), June 3	99.8%	99.4%	98.9%	99.0%	97.1%	99.0%
5-year (2020-2024) Avg	99.2%	98.5%	96.4%	92.8%	88.0%	96.2%
10-year (2015-2024) Avg	99.0%	97.5%	93.8%	93.6%	89.1%	95.6%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Reports of provincial crop development suggest the 2025 crop is ahead for almost all crops. Average development of spring wheat is at the 8-leaf stage, barley progressed to the 7-leaf stage, and oats have reached the 3-leaf stage. Canola is reported as 59 per cent in emergence and 37 per cent in the 1-3 leaf/node stage. Dry pea staging shows 47 per cent in the 1-3 leaf/node stage and 34 per cent in the 4-6 leaf/node stage. Average development of winter wheat and fall rye is reported to be at the booting and head emergence stages, respectively.

Throughout the province, 59 per cent of pasture growth is rated as good to excellent this week which is near the 5-year average of 60 per cent (see Table 2). Similarly, tame hay growth of 59 per cent good to excellent this week is near the province's 5-year average of 61 per cent.



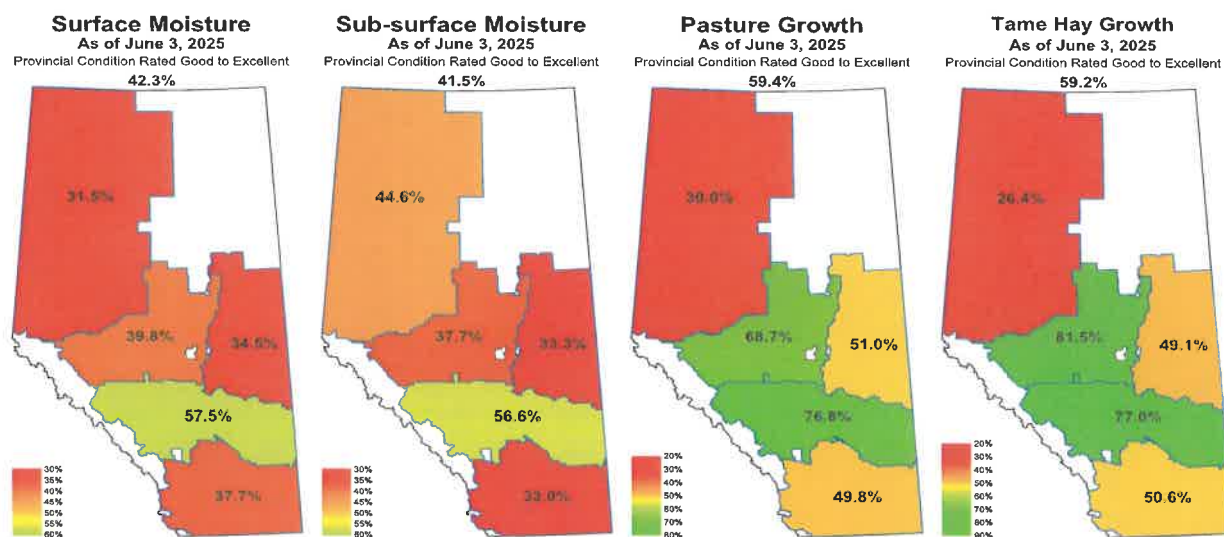
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**Figure 1: Soil Moisture, Pasture Growth and Tame Hay Growth Conditions as of June 3, 2025**



**Table 2: Pasture Growth Conditions as of June 3, 2025**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	8.9%	41.3%	46.5%	3.4%
Central	0.9%	22.3%	74.3%	2.5%
North East	9.2%	39.8%	47.9%	3.0%
North West	5.6%	25.6%	66.5%	2.2%
Peace	22.4%	47.6%	29.5%	0.5%
Alberta	6.9%	33.7%	56.7%	2.7%
5-year (2020-2024) Avg	9.9%	29.7%	54.5%	5.9%
10-year (2015-2024) Avg	13.9%	28.9%	49.6%	7.5%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Both surface and sub-surface soil moisture conditions have continued to decline week over week across the province as the spring precipitation has been limited, with conditions this week similar historically to the conditions experienced in 2022 and 2023. As seen in those previous years, June rains can result in significant improvements to soil moisture. Additional precipitation events over the coming weeks will help the 2025 crop reach its full potential. Provincial surface moisture (sub-surface moisture) good-to-excellent ratings were reported as 42 (42) per cent, a change of -14 (-12) per cent from last week, which is below the 5-year historical average of 62 (59) per cent for this week. Regional surface moisture (sub-surface moisture) conditions reported as good-to-excellent are reported as 38 (33) per cent in the South, 58 (57) per cent in the Central, 35 (33) per cent in the North East, 40 (38) per cent in the North West and 32 (45) per cent in the Peace Region.

**Table 3: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of June 3, 2025**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	18.0%	44.3%	26.7%	11.0%	0.0%
Central	7.9%	34.6%	48.3%	9.2%	0.0%
North East	13.0%	52.5%	33.2%	1.3%	0.0%
North West	15.6%	44.6%	32.2%	7.6%	0.0%
Peace	17.1%	51.4%	31.0%	0.5%	0.0%
Alberta	13.8%	43.9%	35.1%	7.2%	0.0%
5-year (2020-2024) Avg	9.2%	27.5%	46.7%	15.3%	1.2%
10-year (2015-2024) Avg	12.5%	26.0%	41.8%	17.2%	2.5%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

## Regional Assessments:

### Region One: South (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- In the South, emergence for all crops is at 94 per cent, which is ahead of the 5-year average of 74 per cent and 10-year average of 76 per cent.
- Pest pressure from lygus bugs, flea beetles, army cutworms, and gophers have been noted in some areas.
- Sub-surface moisture is 15 per cent poor, 52 per cent fair, 31 per cent good, 2 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 9 per cent poor, 41 per cent fair, 47 per cent good, and 4 per cent excellent.

### Region Two: Central (Rimbey, Airdrie, Coronation, Oyen)

- In the Central Region, crop emergence for all crops has reached 87 per cent, well ahead of the 5-year average of 71 per cent and the 10-year average of 69 per cent.
- Notable pest pressure from flea beetles and wireworms has been observed in some areas of the region.
- Sub-surface moisture is 5 per cent poor, 39 per cent fair, 52 per cent good, 5 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 1 per cent poor, 22 per cent fair, 71 per cent good, and 6 per cent excellent.

### Region Three: North East (Smoky Lake, Vermilion, Camrose, Provost)

- Emergence for all crops in the North East is at 73 per cent, exceeding the 5-year average of 68 per cent and the 10-year average of 67 per cent.
- Pest pressure from gophers was noted for this week.
- Sub-surface moisture is 12 per cent poor, 54 per cent fair, 33 per cent good, 0 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 8 per cent poor, 43 per cent fair, 43 per cent good, and 6 per cent excellent.

### Region Four: North West (Barrhead, Edmonton, Leduc, Drayton Valley, Athabasca)

- Emergence for all crops in the North West is currently at 74 per cent, well above the 5-year average of 48 per cent and the 10-year average of 55 per cent.
- Reports suggest notable pest pressure from flea beetles.
- Sub-surface moisture is 10 per cent poor, 52 per cent fair, 33 per cent good, 5 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 4 per cent poor, 15 per cent fair, 63 per cent good, and 18 per cent excellent.

### Region Five: Peace (Fairview, Falher, Grande Prairie, Valleyview)

- All crop emergence in the Peace region stands at 78 per cent, significantly above the 5-year average of 49 per cent and the 10-year average of 53 per cent.
- Flea beetle pest pressure has been observed in certain areas of the region.
- Sub-surface moisture is 10 per cent poor, 45 per cent fair, 44 per cent good, 0 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 25 per cent poor, 49 per cent fair, 26 per cent good, and 0 per cent excellent.

## Contact

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation  
Product Innovation Department  
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Geoff Backman - Product Coordinator  
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