



SMOKY LAKE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, August 11th, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. held

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

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

1. *Meeting:*
 - 1.1. *Call to order*
2. *Adoption of Agenda*
3. *Adoption of Minutes*
 - 3.1. *Minutes of the Agricultural Service Board Meeting, Tuesday, May 26th, 2026.*
4. *Delegation(s)*
5. *Business arising*
 - 5.1. *Action Item List*
 - 5.2. *Memorandum of Update*
 - 5.3. *Summer Tour Report*
 - 5.4. *Agricultural Service Board Field Visit July 8th, 2026, report*
 - 5.5. *Strychnine update*
 - 5.6. *RFD Resolutions*
6. *New Business – Requests for Decisions*
 - 6.1. *RFD Declaration of Ag Disaster*
 - 6.2. *NE ASB Conference October 22, 2026, St. Michael Rec. Centre*
 - 6.3.
7. *Chair's report*
 - 7.1. *ASB Chair Report. (Verbal/Handout)*
8. *Correspondence*
 - 8.1. *Declaration of Agricultural Disaster*
 - 8.2. *Latest AGI moisture situation update*
 - 2026-07-23
 - 2026-07-30
 - 8.3.
- 8.0 *Date and time of Next Meeting –*
 - *topics to be discussed –Budgets and service levels.*
 - *If possible, the next meeting should be in the first week or third week of the month.*

Adjournment.



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

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

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

Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chair, Ryan Barker, at 9:00 a.m. in the
presence of the following persons:

		ATTENDANCE
<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Tuesday, May 26th, 2026</u>
Committee member/Chair	David Kully	Absent
Committee Member/Vice Chair	Ryan Barker	Present in Chambers
Alternate	Jered Serben	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Sarah Eigner	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Tori Ponich	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Curtis Boychuk	Present in Chambers
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Tamara Flondra	Present in Chambers
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Brett Rurka	Absent
Manager of Ag Services	Sebastien Dutrisac	Present in Chambers
Assistant Manager of Ag Services	Brieann Eden	Present in Chambers
Recording Secretary/Legislative Services	Meaghan Andreychuk	Present in Chambers

2. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution No: **Moved By: Curtis Boychuk**
ASB 202605-26-013
Seconded by: Sara Eigner

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

- Delegation Lac la Biche ASB extension program and appeal
committee discussion
- 6.6 is now strict 9 update Curtis
- Additional material to 5.1 Ag regarding Drone School

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

Resolution No: **Minutes of the Agricultural Service Board Meeting, on Tuesday,**
ASB 202605-26-014 **February 3rd, 2026**
Moved By: Tori Ponich
Seconded by: Curtis Boychuk

That the Minutes of the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service
Board Meeting held on Tuesday, February 03rd, 2026, be adopted as
presented.

CARRIED

5. Business

5.1 Action Item List

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-015

Moved By: Tori Ponich

Seconded by: Sara Eigher

That the Smoky Lake Agricultural Service Board adopt the Action item list as presented.

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-017

5.2 Summer Tour.

Moved By: Curtis Boychuk

Seconded by: Sara Eigher

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board approve any members who can attend, attend and register for the 2026 summer tour.

CARRIED

6. New Business

6.1 RFD Recommendation for Agricultural Fieldman appointment

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-018

Moved By: Sara Eigher

Seconded by: Curtis Boychuk

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

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-019

6.2 RFD ASB Annual Report 2025

Moved By: Tori Ponich

Seconded by: Ryan Barker

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board submits the Annual ASB Report to Council

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-020

6.3 Agricultural Service Board Field Visit July 8th, 2026

Moved By: Ryan Barker

Seconded by: Tori Ponich

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board accepts the Agricultural Service Board Field Visit for information.

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-021

6.4 Provincial Resolution Response

Moved By: Tori Ponich

Seconded by: Ryan Barker

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board submits the responses to the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee and accept as information.

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

- RESOLUTION 2-26: EXEMPTION OF AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT FROM CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1999 EMISSION LIMITS - Responded
- RESOLUTION 4-26: RURAL WATER DISTRIBUTION AND CONNECTIVITY FUNDING - Responded
- RESOLUTION 4-26: Responded
- PC 126 Alberta Rat Control program – Responded
- PC 2-26 On farm meat processing – Responded
- PC4-26: URGENT REFORMS TO CFIA AND PMRA – No response
- RESOLUTION E1-26: VACANT BIOLOGICAL CONTROL SCIENTIST POSITION – Somewhat response
- RESOLUTION E2-26: LIVESTOCK TRACEABILITY UPDATE
- CONCERNS – No response

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-022

6.5 Resolution for Fall 2026 (Discussion)

Moved By: Curtis Boychuk

Seconded by: Tori Boychuk

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board direct its members to submit subjects regarding but not limited to, registered trap lines to Administration for resolution by July 31, 2026, and further direct Administration to draft a letter outlining the effects of bridge repairs on agricultural transportation to the Minister of Agriculture, and to present the letter at the next ASB meeting.

CARRIED

Jered Serben, Division 5 Councillor and Alternate voting member left the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-023

6.6 Strychnine update

Moved By: Tori Ponich

Seconded by: Ryan Barker

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommends to Council the fees and dispersal practice will be \$22.00 per bottle, to a limit of 6 bottles until the empty bottles have returned empty.

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-024

6.7 Centennial Farm Family Award

Moved By: Ryan Barker

Seconded by: Sara Eigher

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommends to council to bestow the Farm Family Centennial Award to the applicant and direct administration to come back with a quote for a gate sign option at the next council meeting on May 28th, 2026.

CARRIED

Joint Agricultural Service Board meeting with Lac La Biche County (Hosted Virtually by Lac La Biche County)

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-025

Moved By: Ryan Barker

Seconded by: Tori Ponich

The Agricultural Service Board recessed the Agricultural Service Board meeting at **9:59 a.m.** to join the joint Agricultural Service Board meeting with Lac La Biche County to discuss joint municipal collaborations regarding shared extension program for the year of 2026 with the

following members virtually present to Smoky Lake Agricultural Service Board:

- Vic Toutant – Agricultural Service Board Chair
- Travis Ailsby - Member at large
- Jolene Yackimec - Member at large
- Debbie Burdek - Member at large
- Sierra Coy- Term Infrastructure Clerk
- Brennan Scott –Agricultural Fieldman
- Dan Gaudet –Resource Management Supervisor

The delegation focused on collaboration opportunities between municipalities to support local agriculture and producers. Lac La Biche County outlined several upcoming workshops they are hosting, including a cattle genetics workshop on June 4 and a pork production workshop on June 30, which will cover regulations, sourcing pigs, and livestock health.

They also highlighted ongoing support for producers through soil sampling and forage testing programs. There was interest in collaborating on future initiatives, such as slaughterhouse tours and additional cattle workshops.

Discussion included sharing costs for larger initiatives, such as bringing in specialized workshops from the United States. There was also a proposal to collaborate regionally on a joint weed and pest appeal board to help manage conflicts of interest between neighboring municipalities.

Overall, the conversation emphasized regional cooperation, resource sharing, and enhanced support for agricultural producers.

CARRIED

The Agricultural Service Board meeting resumed at 10:30 a.m.

**Joint Agricultural Service Board meeting with Lac La Biche County
(Hosted Virtually by Lac La Biche County)**

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-026

Moved By: Tori Ponich
Seconded by: Ryan Barker

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board accept the information from the Joint Agricultural Service Board meeting from Lac La Biche County as information.

CARRIED

**Joint Agricultural Service Board meeting with Lac La Biche County
(Hosted Virtually by Lac La Biche County)**

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-027

Moved By: Ryan Barker
Seconded by: Curtis Boychuk

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Direct Administration to continue working with Lac La Biche County on joint extension program events, and further to continue engaging with other municipal neighbours for future collaborative opportunities.

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-028

6.8 Ag Fees and Charges Bylaw
Moved By: Tori Ponich
Seconded by: Sara Eigher

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommends to Council the adoption of the Draft Ag Fees and Charges Bylaw as presented.

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-029

6.9 Aquatic Invasives Species

Moved By: Curtis Boychuk

Seconded by: Tori Ponich

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board accepts the report for information.

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-030

6.10 Vegetation Management Policy

Moved By: Tori Ponich

Seconded by: Ryan Barker

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommends to council to adopt the amended Policy 62-15-05 Vegetation Management Policy.

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-031

6.11 Regional Weed and Pest Appeal Committee

Moved By: Ryan Barker

Seconded by: Sara Eigher

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommends that Council to investigate into the creation of a Regional Weed and Pest Appeal Committee with neighbouring municipalities for 2027.

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-032

6.12 Weed and Pest Inspector Appointment

Moved By: Tori Ponich

Seconded by: Ryan Barker

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board supports the appointment of Hannah Richard and Natalie Tychkowski as weed and pest inspector at the next council meeting.

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-033

6.13 Weed Inspection and Weed Notice Policy

Moved By: Curtis Boychuk

Seconded by: Ryan Barker

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommends to council to adopt the amended Policy 14-02 Weed Inspection as presented with the recommendation to provided by the Agricultural Fieldman Manager with amendments to responding to complaints with 3 business days.

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-034

6.14 RFD Roadside Mowing Policy

Moved By: Ryan Barker

Seconded by: Sara Eigher

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommends to Smoky Lake County Council to adopt the amended Roadside Mowing Policy.

CARRIED

7.

7.1. ASB Chairmans Report
Nil.
8.

Correspondence

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-035

8.1. Growing Agritourism, Alberta Farm Fresh Released February, 2026, RE: A Briefing for Communities, Destinations, and Economic Development

Moved By: Tori Ponich

Seconded by: Curtis

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board receive item “A Briefing for Communities, Destinations, and Economic Development” as information.

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-036

8.2 Growing Agritourism, Alberta Farm Fresh Released February 2026, RE: Exploring local opportunities through community Agritourism Town.

Moved By: Ryan Barker

Seconded by: Tori Ponich

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board receive item “Exploring local opportunities through community Agritourism Town as information”.

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-037

8.3 Letter received from Shayne Blosky, ASB Chair, Brazeau County, released February 18th, 2026, RE: Support for Unlimited On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO)

Moved By: Curtis Boychuk

Seconded by: Ryan Barker

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board file the letter received from Shayne Blosky, ASB Chair, Brazeau County, released February 18th, 2026, RE: Support for Unlimited On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) as information.

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-038

8.4 Letter received from Ryan Ratzlaff, Reeve, Municipal District of Greenview, released March 24th, 2026, Proposed Amendments to the Traceability Regulation.

Moved By: Tori Ponich

Seconded by: Sara Eigher

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board file the letter received from Ryan Ratzlaff, Reeve, Municipal District of Greenview, released March 24th, 2026, Proposed Amendments to the Traceability Regulation.as information.

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-039

8.5 Letter Bill 22 Fact Sheet – Animal Protection Amendment Act released March 31, 2026.

Moved By: Ryan Barker

Seconded by: Tori Ponich

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board receive item “Bill 22 Fact Sheet – Animal Protection Amendment Act released March 31, 2026” as information.

CARRIED

Resolution No: 8.6 Weed/Pest Compliance Handout, released May 1st, 2026, AER
ASB 202605-26-040
Moved By: Tori Ponich
Seconded by: Curtis Boychuk

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board receive item “Weed/Pest Compliance Handout, released May 1st, 2026, AER” as information.

CARRIED

Resolution No: 8.7 Referral Criteria for Shared-Jurisdiction Pest and Weed
ASB 202605-26-041 **Infractions, released May 1st, 2026, AER, AEM, AGI**
Moved By: Sara Eigher
Seconded by: Ryan Barker

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board receive item “Referral Criteria for Shared-Jurisdiction Pest and Weed Infractions, released May 1st, 2026, AER, AEM, AGI” as information.

CARRIED

Resolution No: 8.8 Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation and Local Authority Enhanced
ASB 202605-26-042 **Pests and Weed Control Management Process (RCAM Orders), released May 1st, 2026, AEM, AER, AGI**
Moved By: Ryan Barker
Seconded by: Tori Ponich

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board receive item “Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation and Local Authority Enhanced Pests and Weed Control Management Process (RCAM Orders), released May 1st, 2026, AEM, AER, AGI” as information.

CARRIED

Resolution No: 8.9 CAM Order Referral Process, released May 1st, 2026, AER
ASB 202605-26-043
Moved By: Curtis Boychuk
Seconded by: Ryan Barker

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board receive item “CAM Order Referral Process, released May 1st, 2026, AER” as information.

CARRIED

Resolution No: 8.10 AGI moisture situation update
ASB 202605-26-044
Moved By: Ryan Barker
Seconded by: Tori Ponich

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board receive item “AGI moisture situation update” as information.

CARRIED

9. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**
Resolution No: **Moved by:** Ryan Barker
ASB 202605-26-045 **Seconded by:** Tori Ponich

That the next Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting be scheduled for August 11th, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., to be held to be held virtually, through electronic Communication Technology as per Bylaw 1376-20 and/or physically in County Council Chambers.

CARRIED

Resolution No:
ASB 202605-26-046

Adjournment
Moved By: Ryan Barker
Seconded By: Tori Ponich

That Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board Meeting of May 26th, 2026, be adjourned, time 11:24 a.m.

CARRIED

CHAIRMAN,
David Kully

SEAL

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER,
Chyenne Shaw

ASB ACTION ITEM LIST				
Legend		Meeting Date	2026	
		Completed		
		2027 Budget Consideration		
		In Progress		
MOTION NO.	RESOLUTION	Assigned to	Status	Comments
5/26/2026 and prior				
Serben- Resolution No: 20260326-199	That Smoky Lake County Council amend Policy Statement AG-02-05: Gopher Incentive Program as presented.	Agricultural Fieldman/Legislative Services	Completed	Policy posted to the website
Kully- Resolution No: 20260326-200	That Smoky Lake County rescinds the following policies: •Policy Statement AG-01-03: Magpie Traps •Policy Statement AG-09-01: Pocket Gopher Traps	Agricultural Fieldman/Legislative Services	Completed	Policies removed from the website on April 1, 2026
Halisky - Resolution No: 20260326-201	That Smoky Lake County Council amend Policy Statement AG-07-07: Beaver Management Program as presented.	Agricultural Fieldman/Legislative Services	Completed	The policy is signed and posted to the website on June 18, 2026
Serben - Resolution No: 20260416- 280	That Smoky Lake County Council supply the Bellis 4-H Club donation of \$1,400.00 for the Bellis 4-H Beef Club Trophy Buckle Sponsorship for the year of 2026.	Legislative Services / Finance / Ag Services	Completed	An email was sent to notify the club on April 21st. A cheque will be prepared to mail out to the 4-H Club. Bellis 4-H club is attending the May 28th, mtg as a delegation.
ASB 202605-26-019	Agricultural Service Board submits the Annual ASB Report to Council	Ag Fieldman	Completed	Submission complete and preferred format selected
ASB 202605-26-021	Agricultural Service Board submits the responses to the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee.	Ag Fieldman	Completed	Response sent June 03, 2026
ASB 202605-26-022	Agricultural Service Board direct its members to submit subjects regarding but not limited to, registered trap lines to Administration for resolution by July 31, 2026, and further direct Administration to draft a letter outlining the effects of bridge repairs on agricultural transportation to the Minister of Agriculture, and to present the letter at the next ASB meeting.	Ag Fieldman	Completed	3 draft resolution ready for August 11 meeting
ASB 202605-26-023	Agricultural Service Board recommends to Council the fees and dispersal practice will be \$22.00 per bottle, to a limit of 6 bottles until the empty bottles have returned empty.	Ag Fieldman	In Progress	No supply has been received to date
ASB 202605-26-024	Agricultural Service Board recommends to council to bestow the Farm Family Centennial Award to the applicant and direct administration to come back with a quote for a gate sign option at the next council meeting on May 28th, 2026.	Ag Fieldman/Legislative	Completed	Recommendation adopted by Council

ASB 202605-26-027	Agricultural Service Board Direct Administration to continue working with Lac La Biche County on joint extension program events, and further to continue engaging with other municipal neighbours for future collaborative opportunities.	Ag Fieldman/Legislative	Completed	Recommendation adopted by Council
ASB 202605-26-028	Agricultural Service Board recommends to Council the adoption of the Draft Ag Fees and Charges Bylaw as presented.	Ag Fieldman/Legislative	Completed	Recommendation Adopted by Council
ASB 202605-26-030	Agricultural Service Board recommends to council to adopt the amended Policy 62-15-05 Vegetation Management Policy.	Ag Fieldman/Legislative	Completed	Recommendation adopted by Council
ASB 202605-26-031	Agricultural Service Board recommends that Council to investigate into the creation of a Regional Weed and Pest Appeal Committee with neighbouring municipalities for 2027	Ag Fieldman	Completed	Recommendation adopted by council to investigate
ASB 202605-26-034	Agricultural Service Board recommends to Smoky Lake County Council to adopt the amended Roadside Mowing Policy.	Ag Fieldman/Legislative	Completed	Recommendation adopted by Council
28-May-26				
Kully - Resolution No: 20260528- 341	That Smoky Lake County Council direct the Agricultural Services Department to use Option 2, the condensed version, for presentation to Council, and to include a reference to the Option 1 Annual ASB Report submitted to the Government for further information.	Agricultural Fieldman	Completed	Template selected will be used starting in 2027
Halisky - Resolution No: 20260528- 342	That Smoky Lake County Council direct Administration to research grant funding opportunities, identify priority lakes, and determine the cancellation policy for the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program.	Agricultural Fieldman	In Progress	Emailed organizations. Further correspondence with identified organization and draft grant parameters received
Halisky- Resolution No: 20260528- 344	That Smoky Lake County Council direct administration to investigate the creation of a Regional Weed and Pest Appeal Committee for Smoky Lake County and interested neighboring municipalities for 2027.	Agricultural Fieldman	In Progress	Two municipalities interested draft MOU and Bylaw sent for review and further discussion
Kully - Resolution No: 20260528- 345	That Smoky Lake County Council adopts the amended Policy 62-14-03 Weed Inspection as presented.	Agricultural Fieldman / Legislative Services	Completed	Policy was signed and Posted to the website on June 22
Halisky - Resolution No: 20260528- 346	That Smoky Lake County Council direct the Agricultural Service Board to review and amend, as necessary, its procedures to reflect changes to the Weed Control Act and its related regulations, including amendments recognizing the change from town to municipality.	Agricultural Fieldman	Completed	Posted to the website on June 22
Halisky- Resolution No: 20260528- 347	That Smoky Lake County Council defer Policy 62-15-04 Vegetation Management Policy to the June 25 th , 2026 Regular County Council meeting.	Agricultural Fieldman / Legislative Services	Completed	Policy adopted as amended

Kully - Resolution No: 20260528- 348	That Smoky Lake County Council adopt Policy No. 62-28-09 Roadside Mowing Policy, as amended, to remove the Waskatenau Ball Diamond.	Agricultural Fieldman / Legislative Services	Completed	Policy was signed and Posted to the website on June 22
Lukinuk - Resolution No: 20260528- 396	That Smoky Lake County Council deny the Riverland Recreational Society request for funding received on May 24 th , 2026, from Jerry Bidulock and supply in kind services for planting and watering the trees located within Smoky Lake County.	Environment and Parks Manager / Agricultural Fieldman	In Progress	June 16 meeting. Current service levels reviewed and discussed with group. Other items would be a 2027 budget discussions
25-Jun-26				
Barker - Resolution No: 20260625-451	That Smoky Lake County Council amend Policy 62-15-04 Vegetation Management Policy with the following additions: Insert sections for printing and signing signatures	Agricultural Fieldman / Legislative Services	Completed	Policy has been updated with the amendments requested. Posted to the website on July 17
Serben - Resolution No: 20260625-481	That Smoky Lake County Council acknowledge receipt of the letter from Chamber of Commerce President Noel Simpson, dated June 1, 2026, regarding the Iron Horse Trail, and direct Administration to provide a response outlining the County's maintenance program for the Iron Horse Trail.	Environment and Parks Manager/ Ag Fieldman	Completed	Letter was drafted on July 22 and sent out



Weed and Pest Inspection

- Inspection in the county started on the West end on the second week of June

To: Agricultural Service Board

From: Manager of Ag Services, Sebastien Dutrisac

Date: August 4, 2026

Re: Scheduled Ag Services Update

- 1 Complaint received and discussion with Government Agency agreement to follow
- 2 Complaint from residents
- 2 Weed inspectors appointed July 14
- Communication strategy is implemented and good feedback thus far
- Properties inspected as of July 31, 2026 (Agricultural and Non Agricultural Area)

Inspections completed: 653

Noxious Weeds: 628 (all N species in 2026 inspections cases)

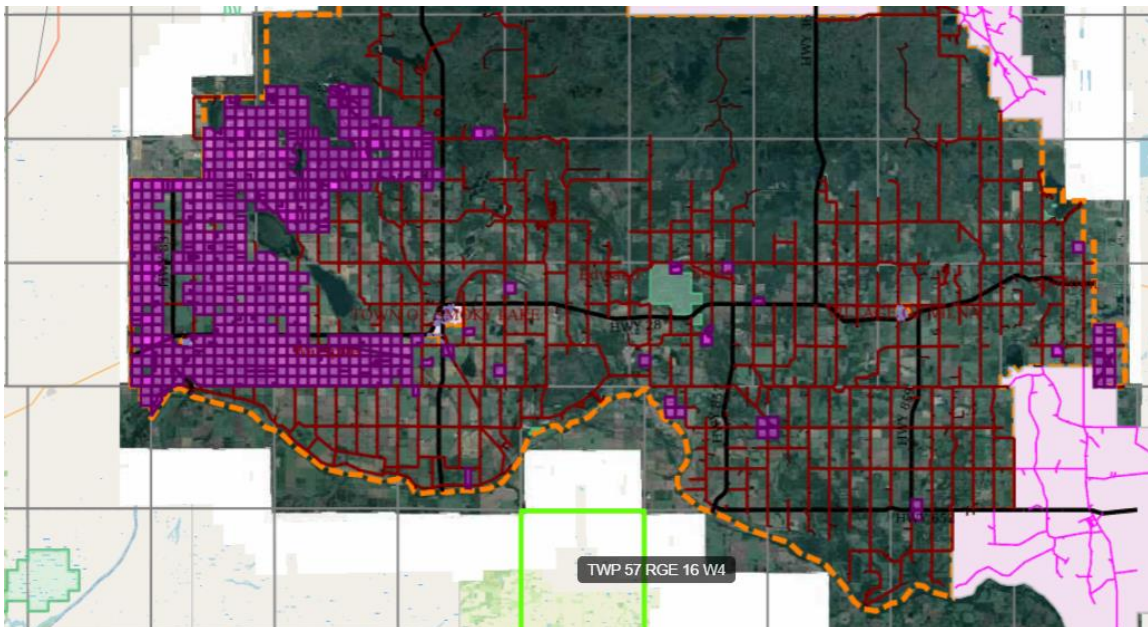
Prohibited species found : 27 cases

Door knockers:

Info pkg: 6

Compliance: 2

Notices issued: 8



Roadside Mowing Program as per August 04, 2026

- First mower in operation started on June 10, 2026 the other 2 second week of June
- Started the year 2 transmission issues, 3 mowers repaired in June

Vision

To build a strong and sustainable rural community by growing and diversifying the local economy, including agriculture, and working directly with residents and businesses to create long term opportunity.

Mission

The County is committed to practical leadership, responsible growth, and protecting the rural way of life through effective governance, strong partnerships, and responsive service delivery

- 1855km (1159 miles) completed - 738 hours
- Request for mowing for the Victoria trail Tour completion June 23
- Two passed for arterial road complete as per policy Iron Horse Trail in progress
- Assisted in one Municipal reserve completed

Workshop and extension items

- Workshops completed – In progress
 - No Till gardening May 12th, attendance
 - 1 Native bee workshop June 10, 2026, attendance 23
 - Drone demo June 11, open house – attendees around 20
 - Grazing school for Women June 23 – attendees 23
 - Drone school cattle management Nov 04-05
 - Welding workshop – Fall of 2026

Diverse Duties

- Floating the Iron Horse Trail completed on July 10
- Assisting with vehicle and equipment upkeep
- Met with local recreation group for discussion June 16, 2026
- Draft MOU and Extension collaboration sent and to be reviewed in fall
- Beaver management (255) resulted in almost 200% catches compared to the yearly average (135)

2026 ASB Summer Tour- Wheatland County

The ASB summer tour was hosted by Wheatland County for the 2026 year. It consisted of a two-day tour of different sites that Wheatland County offers. The Tuesday was a bonus day that was an option between golfing at Spear Grass golf course or a guided tour through the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park. From listening to my peers who choose the golfing it was a great day in the sun on a great golf course. I choose the guided tour which took me through the time frame of the Siksika nation and their amazing history and connection to the land itself. The tour took the group from the dog days leading into the times of the horse and into today's world. Then, showing us what tools and methods, they utilized to cook just a simple meal which could take 10-12 hours. It wasn't till many years later they would acquire a pot to make the times easier. The museum itself is located on the side of a valley with a buffalo jump just meters away. This was a fantastic introduction to the land and the connection to nature everyone holds.

The second day consisted of 4 stops in total, the first was to a pig farm just north of Strathmore that is the first in Canada to import red Mangalitsa pigs from Hungary. The meat is known for a higher fat content and amazing marbling in the meat. EH farms receive produce from local grocery stores to feed to the pigs resulting in a great use for unusable items. A win-win situation for both parties from an agricultural standpoint. Next stop was to the Strathmore seed cleaning facility. The plant was on a shut down day for maintenance which resulted in a good time to see the facility at a stand still and listen to the employees explain more in-depth information about each step and the whole process of cleaning seed. One machine that made this different from the other seed cleaning facility's I have personally seen is they had a method/machine to load and unload a sea can. This was unfamiliar to me and a great opportunity to learn. The afternoon of the first day was a bus tour throughout a solar farm that utilizes Kunekune pigs and sheep for the local vegetation under the solar panels. The pigs are from New Zealand and they are grazing pigs; they do not root in the ground but graze the vegetation very similar to the sheep. This was their first or second year trying the pigs in the solar farm to analyze the benefits of using both sheep and pigs. After the solar farm we had the amazing opportunity to take a tour around the Archibald biodiversity centre and actively see endangered species up close. Unfortunate due to some species being sensitive to humans only a hand full were available to be seen while the staff explained more about them. This facility rehabilitates and breeds endangered species to assist in the rise of populations numbers and use selective breeding to bring back some variance among the individuals.

The second day of the summer tour started out at a local air spray demonstration. This aerial spray company has been around for only a few generations and has grown from one small 100 Gallon tank plane to 6 spray planes over the years. Family run business with everyone involved in one way or another. One family member received a job across Canada and flew the plane needed for the job there and back. Once the fog dissipated, they filled and prepared a plane for

the demonstration. The field for the demo was merely meters away from the hanger doors. The pilot was able to give the whole group of summer tour participants a fantastic show resulting in real time viewing of what these planes can do for producers. Once the tank was empty it was off to the Western irrigation district storage facility (pond). This is one stop that was very informative to me. With very little personal experience with irrigation this answered all and any questions I've ever had over the years. The CEO went through the whole process of not only the company but how producers can get irrigation, the time it takes for a farm to receive water and a rough estimate on cost for different areas of the province. Around Strathmore it was roughly \$1,900 an acre and closer to Lethbridge it is estimated \$10,000 an acre. After digesting that information and some delicious lunch Wheatland County gave a demonstration of their grain bag roller and what differing services the county offers to the ratepayers. Onto the bus for the final stop of the day and the tour, the Rural Route Agricultural Academy. Which is a public K-12 Charter school, focusing on hands on learning mixed with agricultural ties. The school consisted of a mix between town and farm students. So depending on the grade of the students, that is what chore was to be completed that day. 2025-2026 was the first year of operation so only a hand full of livestock was on the property but the students were in the process of building more paddocks to welcome more animals to the facility. This school has had nothing but successful feedback from both the students and the parents of the values this academy is teaching the youth of tomorrow.

Overall, this ASB summer tour was an amazing opportunity to really learn about just a small portion of what Alberta can provide for the agricultural industry and gives myself more knowledge and confidence to bring ideas back to Smoky Lake. Thus, providing more services or presenting new ideas to current services that we as a county can provide to our local producers.

Thank you,

Brieann Eden



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: August 11, 2026

Agenda Item: #5.6

Topic: ASB resolutions

Presented By: Manager of Agricultural Services, Sebastien Dutrisac

Recommendation:

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board adopt the draft resolutions and forward them for the regional ASB conference held on October 22, 2026 held in Lamont County

Background:

After discussions on July 27, an email was sent requesting feedback from Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board regarding the continuous precipitation. Discussion point arose that recommends that Smoky Lake County Council declares Agricultural Disaster due to excessive precipitation and would request the Reeve to send a letter to the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation notifying the Minister of Council's declaration.

Many areas of the County have received nearly 200 to 300% of average monthly precipitation during June and July 2026. As a result of the influx of rainfall, agricultural producers across the county have experienced severe impacts. Partial to entire fields have been left unseeded; seeded crops have been partially flooded, and the remaining threatened by disease. Good quality hay is now impossible to put up and, while livestock producers are now facing increased animal health concerns, including hoof rot as the pastures are severely flooded. Overall, continued wet and cool conditions will increase production costs for many producers. Reduced yields, higher input costs, limited feed supplies, and ongoing uncertainty are and will be putting significant financial and mental health pressure on farm families.

Benefits:

Acknowledgement of the agricultural industry's plight in Smoky Lake County

Disadvantages: Not applicable

Alternatives

1. That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board accepts the RFD as information

Financial Implications:

Not applicable

Legislation:

Not applicable

Intergovernmental:

Provincial

Strategic Alignment:

Not applicable



Request for Decision (RFD)

Enclosure(s):

1. Draft Resolution Problem Wildlife ROW
2. Draft Resolution Equipment Use Problem Wildlife
3. Draft Resolution Bridge Funding

Signature of the Manager:

Sebastien G. Dutilleul

PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

FIREARM USE IN RIGHT OF WAY FOR PROBLEM WILDLIFE

- WHEREAS:** Rural Municipalities are tasked with protecting infrastructure from damage from pests such as beaver, muskrat and badger, among other species;
- WHEREAS:** Under the Wildlife Act (WA), Part 4 Hunting and Related activities, general rules for hunting have prohibited the use of firearms in the Right of Ways;
- WHEREAS:** Under WA Section 51 subsection 3 states that it *does not apply to a person hunting game birds with a shotgun under the authority of a license authorizing the hunting of game birds*;
- WHEREAS:** Under WA Section 51 subsection 5 states it *does not apply to a person engaged in a wildlife depredation control program authorized in writing by the Minister*; and
- WHEREAS:** Under Wildlife regulations schedule 1 section 7 subsection 13 states that *A person employed by a municipality under a contract of service or for services and whose duties include the control of animals that cause problems may hunt beaver, coyote, red fox, badger, red squirrel and muskrat within the boundaries of a city, town, village or summer village if the hunting is performed in the course and falls within the scope of that employment.*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Environment and Protected areas, Ministry of Forestry and Parks, and the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services collaborate on amending the Wildlife Act and its regulations to create an exemption for municipal staff to have the ability to use a firearm within the margins of a Right of Way.

Sponsored by: **Smoky Lake County**

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: _____

Department: Ministry of Environment and Protected areas,
Ministry of Forestry and Parks,
Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services

Background information

Options 1 Act

Part 4 Hunting and Related Activities

General Rules for Hunting

Firearms on roads

51(1) *A person shall not discharge a firearm from, or cause a projectile from a firearm to pass along or across,*

- a) a highway designated as a provincial highway under the Highways Development and Protection Act, or*
- b) any other road that is paved, oiled, graded or regularly maintained in a municipal district or prescribed area.*

(2) *In subsection (1), “highway” or “road” includes, as well as the travelled portion of it, a width of land on either side of the travelled portion, including the inner 2 sides of a divided highway, that extends,*

- a) if there is a fence paralleling the travelled portion that separates the adjacent lands from the travelled portion, to the fence,*
- b) if there is an identifiable ditch alongside the travelled portion and there is no fence separating the travelled portion from the adjacent lands, to the edge of the ditch that is further from the travelled portion, or*
- c) if there is no such fence or ditch, to a distance of 20 feet from the edge of the travelled portion,*

and also includes the whole of the remaining area between the 2 travelled portions of a divided highway at any location where the distance between the 2 nearest points on the innermost edges of the 2 travelled portions is less than 200 yards.

(3) *Subsection (1)(b) does not apply to a person hunting game birds with a shotgun under the authority of a licence authorizing the hunting of game birds.*

(4) *Subsection (1) does not apply with respect to a road that is on privately owned land and that is maintained for the private use of the owner or occupant or a road held under any active disposition under the Public Lands Act or under an order under the Surface Rights Act.*

(5) *Subsection (1) does not apply to a person engaged in a wildlife depredation control program authorized in writing by the Minister.*

Options for amendments, add the following

(6) Subsection (1)(b) does not apply to a person employed or contracted to a municipality for the purposes of problem wildlife control, and

(a) This person is discharging a firearm from the margin portions of the road, and

(b) The firearm(s) used are rimfire

Option 2 (Regulation)

Schedule 1

(Section 5 of this Regulation)

Exemptions and Exclusions

General exemption and exclusion provision

1 *This Schedule sets out exemptions and exclusions, in respect of specified persons, activities and organisms, from the application of specified portions of the Act and, if applicable, of this Regulation, with any applicable conditions.*

Idem: also hunting by non-residents — ss24(1), 25(1), 42, etc.

7(1) *To the extent that a person is hunting in accordance with an applicable provision of subsections (2) to (13), that person is exempt from the application of*

(13) *A person employed by a municipality under a contract of service or for services and whose duties include the control of animals that cause problems may hunt beaver, coyote, red fox, badger, red squirrel and muskrat within the boundaries of a city, town, village or summer village if the hunting is performed in the course and falls within the scope of that employment.*

Options for amendments add the following

(14) A person employed by a municipality under a contract of service or for services and whose duties include the control of animals that cause problems may hunt beaver, badger, and muskrat, may discharge a rimfire firearm in the un-travelled of a Right of Way if the hunting is performed in the course and falls within the scope of that employment.

(a) Section 14 does not exempt any persons from section 38 and 52 of the Wildlife Act

EQUIPMENT USE FOR WILDLIFE AFFECTING INFRASTRUCTURE

- WHEREAS:** Rural Municipalities are tasked with protecting infrastructure from damage from pests such as beaver, muskrat and badger, among other species;
- WHEREAS:** Under the Wildlife Regulations (WA), Part 4 Section 125(2)(a) of the Hunting and Related activities, A person who operates an unmanned or remotely controlled aircraft or drone, watercraft or vehicle shall not use the whereabouts or signs of wildlife witnessed by anyone during the operation of the aircraft or drone;
- WHEREAS:** Under Wildlife regulations schedule 1 section 7 subsection 13 states that *A person employed by a municipality under a contract of service or for services and whose duties include the control of animals that cause problems may hunt beaver, coyote, red fox, badger, red squirrel and muskrat within the boundaries of a city, town, village or summer village if the hunting is performed in the course and falls within the scope of that employment.*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Environment and Protected areas, Ministry of Forestry and Parks, and the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services collaborate on amending the Wildlife Act and its regulations to create an exemption for municipal staff to have the ability to use a drone and watercraft as well as the information collected from it for the control of problem wildlife affecting the integrity of the infrastructure.

Sponsored by: Smoky Lake County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: _____

Department: Ministry of Environment and Protected areas,
Ministry of Forestry and Parks,
Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services

Background information

Excerpt from the Article - Mitigating infrastructure loss from beaver flooding: A cost–benefit analysis. December 2017 Human Dimensions of Wildlife 23(53):1-14 Authors: Glynnis A. Hood, Varghese Manaloor, University of Alberta, Augustana Campus, Brendan Dzioba

... “In the province of Alberta, Canada, 52 municipalities (including two parks) spent over \$3 million (CAD) annually to repair damaged facilities or mitigate flooding by beavers (Hood et al. 2018a). The most common management approach to address human-beaver interaction in most areas is to remove the dam, thus draining the associated water body (Boyles and Savitzky 2009;Hood et al. 2018a).”

... “Given the dramatic impacts that beavers can have on water levels in wetlands and surrounding areas, extensive drawdowns of wetlands to control flooding by North American beavers (Castor canadensis) are a common practice in human-wildland interfaces (Hood et al. 2018a). Unlike a seasonal drawdown used by wetland managers to enhance habitat for target species, wetland drainage at beaver-modified wetlands can occur repeatedly at the same site throughout the year.” ...

Part 4

Hunting and Related Activities

General Rules for Hunting

Communication of information acquired in aircraft flight

125(1) A person who is on an aircraft flight, or who is disembarking or has disembarked from an aircraft, shall not communicate the whereabouts or signs of wildlife witnessed by anyone during the flight to any other person for the purpose of assisting anyone to hunt.

(2) A person who operates an unmanned or remotely controlled aircraft or drone, watercraft or vehicle shall not

*(a) use the whereabouts or signs of wildlife witnessed by anyone during the operation of the aircraft or **drone, watercraft** or vehicle to hunt, or*

*(b) communicate the whereabouts or signs of wildlife witnessed by anyone during the operation of the **aircraft or drone**, watercraft or vehicle to any other person for the purpose of assisting anyone to hunt.*

AR 137/2020 s29

Options for amendments, add the following

(3) Section 125(1)(2) does not apply to a person employed or contracted for the purposes of damage control, and

(a) is using drones or watercraft in the commission of their duties

Or

(3) Section 125(1)(2) does not apply to a person for the purpose of trapping.

PROVINCIAL BRIDGE FUNDING

- WHEREAS:** The infrastructure in rural areas is crucial for agricultural production;
- WHEREAS:** The same infrastructure is also a pivotal asset in emergency response for disasters and public well-being;
- WHEREAS:** The condition of bridges and culverts managed by rural municipalities and estimated there is an infrastructure deficit of \$14 billion;
- WHEREAS:** The target state level of condition is about 94 per cent of new condition. Of the 8,334 bridges and culverts surveyed in the report, more than half had a condition rating of less than 50 per cent. Only 23 assets had a 100 per cent rating and;
- WHEREAS:** In Budget 2024, Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) funding increased slightly from \$43 million to \$43.5 million; In Budget 2025, STIP funding decreased slightly to \$42.3 million.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Government of Alberta increase and accelerate STIP funding for rural bridge replacement and maintenance without decreasing other Transportation and Economic Corridor budget lines.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Government of Alberta increase their cost share of the provincial contribution to 85% of eligible expense without reducing the list of eligible expenses.

Sponsored by: Smoky Lake County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: _____

Department: Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridor

Background information

Canada's Core Public Infrastructure Survey: Required renewal budgets, 2022

Released: 2025-06-24

At the end of 2022, owners of core public infrastructure estimated that \$294.4 billion was required for the rehabilitation or replacement of existing core public infrastructure in Canada to upgrade or maintain assets in good condition.

In 2022, while \$31.3 billion was invested to renew existing assets (11% of required renewal budgets), there was a decrease in the share of assets in good or very good condition from 59% in 2020 to 55% in 2022.

At \$160.8 billion, transportation infrastructure—including roads, bridges, tunnels, active transportation networks and public transit assets—accounted for over half (55%) of the required renewal budgets in 2022. That share was higher in rural municipalities (61%) than in urban municipalities (48%).

Rural municipalities require more investments per capita to maintain their assets in good working condition.

Decades-long provincial underfunding threatens rural infrastructure, municipalities say

Published 3:43 pm Wednesday, September 17, 2025

By George Lee, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, The Macleod Gazette



A dump truck trundles across a rural landscape dominated by blooming canola in east-central Alberta.

A critical need for infrastructure spending persists in rural Alberta because of decades of provincial government neglect, says the president of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta.

Kara Westerlund, a councillor in central Alberta's Brazeau County, said the unique needs of the countryside aren't met in current funding levels and models.

Shortfalls isolate residents, limit development, degrade infrastructure and make the demands of industry difficult to meet, she said.

The UCP and its current government are not solely responsible, she emphasized. "This is an accumulation from governments over the last 20 to 30 years making cuts to infrastructure in rural Alberta, and it's coming to a head," Westerlund said.

With the current legislative session resuming Oct. 23, the UCP is signalling that belt tightening lies ahead. The RMA, meanwhile, is getting set for its fall convention Nov. 17-20 at the Edmonton Convention Centre.

Representing 69 municipal jurisdictions that blanket more than 85 per cent of the province's landmass, the RMA estimates that an infrastructure deficit affecting members has reached \$17.25 billion. Given current funding trends, the deficit will grow to more than \$40 billion by 2028, the association predicts.

The figures come from an RMA analysis of provincial and municipal road, bridge and utility infrastructure assets.

The current deficit for roads and bridges alone is about \$14 billion, the RMA calculated.

Transportation and Economic Corridors Minister Devin Dreeshen said that provincial and municipal assets face funding pressure and decisions that lie ahead will be difficult.



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: August 11, 2026

Agenda Item: #6.1

Topic: Declaration of Agricultural Disaster

Presented By: Manager of Agricultural Services, Sebastien Dutrisac

Recommendation:

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council to declare an agricultural disaster within Smoky Lake County

Background:

After discussions on July 27, an email was sent requesting feedback from Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board regarding the continuous precipitation. Discussion point arose that recommends that Smoky Lake County Council declares Agricultural Disaster due to excessive precipitation and would request the Reeve to send a letter to the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation notifying the Minister of Council's declaration.

Many areas of the County have received nearly 200 to 300% of average monthly precipitation during June and July 2026. As a result of the influx of rainfall, agricultural producers across the county have experienced severe impacts. Partial to entire fields have been left unseeded; seeded crops have been partially flooded, and the remaining threatened by disease. Good quality hay is now impossible to put up and, while livestock producers are now facing increased animal health concerns, including hoof rot as the pastures are severely flooded. Overall, continued wet and cool conditions will increase production costs for many producers. Reduced yields, higher input costs, limited feed supplies, and ongoing uncertainty are and will be putting significant financial and mental health pressure on farm families.

Benefits:

Acknowledgement of the agricultural industry's plight in Smoky Lake County

Disadvantages: Not applicable

Alternatives

1. That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board accepts the RFD as information

Financial Implications:

Not applicable

Legislation:

Not applicable

Intergovernmental:

Not applicable

Strategic Alignment:



Request for Decision (RFD)

Not applicable

Enclosure(s):

Not applicable

Signature of the Manager:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sebastien G. Dutilleul". Below the signature, the text "PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY" is printed in small, black, uppercase letters.



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: August 11, 2026

Agenda Item: #6.2

Topic: ASB resolutions

Presented By: Manager of Agricultural Services, Sebastien Dutrisac

Recommendation:

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board establish the representatives in attendance and those who will speak on the SLC ASB resolutions at conference held on October 22, 2026, held in St Michael in Lamont County

Background:

Every year, The Northeast Region hosts a regional ASB regional conference with presentations and discusses proposed resolutions of a regional and provincial scope. Any draft resolution forwarded by a municipal ASB, a mover from that ASB is tasked to present the purpose and validity of the resolution to the region to gain support for its adoption. Additionally, a registration is submitted prior to the conference to assist the host of the conference in preparing the venue, the caterer and other items of concern.

Benefits:

Attendance provides an ability to network, listen to speakers and hear trends and issues past, present and future. This opportunity also provides the attendees with a bigger picture of what is going on in the agricultural industry on a regional, provincial, national, and on occasion global basis. For the ASB members that cannot commit a few days in January for the provincial conference, this is an opportunity to attend a one-day local event.

Disadvantages: Not applicable

Alternatives

1. That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board accepts the RFD as information

Financial Implications: Cost of registration and mileage

Legislation: Not applicable

Intergovernmental: Provincial

Strategic Alignment: Not applicable

Enclosure(s):

Agenda is not available currently

Signature of the Manager:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sebastien Dutrisac". Below the signature, the words "PROTECTING AND ENHANCING" and "THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY" are printed in small, spaced-out letters.



July 14, 2026

The Honourable Tara Sawyer
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Members of Executive Council
Executive Branch
131 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

VIA EMAIL: AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca

Dear Minister Sawyer:

Re: Westlock County Declaration of Agricultural Disaster – July 14, 2026

Agricultural producers throughout Westlock County are experiencing significant impacts resulting from excessive moisture and prolonged saturated soil conditions. While pasture conditions in many areas remain relatively stable, excessive moisture has adversely affected annual crop production and forage yields across Westlock County.

Producers have reported widespread crop losses due to drowned-out areas, standing water, and delayed crop development. Grain crops are showing signs of forced heading and reduced yield potential because of environmental stress caused by extended wet conditions.

In addition, hay and silage production have been negatively affected, with many producers indicating below-average yields, lands too wet to silage and hay and have great concerns regarding adequate feed supplies for the upcoming winter season.

As such, Westlock County Council passed the following motion (passed unanimously) at the July 14, 2026 Regular Council Meeting:

That Westlock County declare a Municipal Agricultural Disaster due to excessive moisture conditions that have resulted in saturated soils, drowned-out crop acres, forced heading in grain crops, reduced yield potential, and below-average hay and silage production, for the purpose of raising awareness of the impacts affecting agricultural producers and advocating for continued provincial assessment and support, recognizing that the declaration does not automatically trigger municipal, provincial or federal funding assistance.



As noted in the motion, Westlock County recognizes that this declaration does not trigger any funding assistance; however, Council felt it was important to bring awareness of the significant impacts that producers in Westlock County have been dealing with in recent weeks.

Sincerely,


Christine Wiese,
Reeve, Westlock County

cc. Glenn van Dijken, MLA, Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock (via email)
Kara Westerlund, RMA President (via email)

July 21, 2026

**Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
307 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6**

Subject: State of Agricultural Disaster and Proposed Assistance

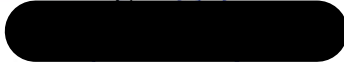
Dear Honorable Tara Sawyer,

At the July 14, 2026, Council meeting, Thorhild County Council declared a State of Agricultural Disaster in response to excessive precipitation during the 2026 growing season. Rainfall totals ranging from 325 mm to 450 mm between June and mid-July with further precipitation forecasted. This has resulted in excessive moisture and overland flooding, causing widespread impacts to seeded acres, forage crops, pastureland, agricultural infrastructure, crop development, and crop quality.

Field saturation levels are at maximum capacity, showing standing water across crops that were seeded and sprayed. Pending field topography, fields average 55% saturated.

Thorhild County would like to bring this situation to the attention of the Provincial Government. To help ease the negative economic impacts that this disaster is inflicting on the agricultural producers of Thorhild County, Thorhild County Council is urging the Minister to implement an assistance program for 2026. Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Trevor Dafoe
Reeve, Thorhild County

cc:

Hon. Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta
Hon. Todd Loewen, Minister of Forestry and Parks
Hon. Grant Hunter, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
Hon. Rick Wilson, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Glen van Dijken, MLA Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock
Shannon Stubbs, MP Lakeland
Kara Westerland, President Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)
Agricultural Financial Services Corporation
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman

July 24, 2026

The Honourable Tara Sawyer
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Members of Executive Council
Executive Branch
131 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca

Re: DECLARATION OF AGRICULTURAL DISASTER

Dear Minister Sawyer,

On July 13, 2026, at its regular meeting, Beaver County Council passed a motion "to declare an Agricultural Disaster due to excessive moisture, and to authorize the Reeve to send a letter to the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation notifying the Minister of Council's declaration".

Since May 29, 2026, many areas of Beaver County have received nearly 300 mm (12 inches) of rain. While the moisture was initially welcomed following several years of drought, the unprecedented rainfall has caused significant damage to agricultural land, public infrastructure, and rural communities.

Following nearly 200 mm (8 inches) of rainfall in a 48-hour period on June 20-21, 2026, Beaver County and the Town of Tofield declared a State of Local Emergency in response to extensive flooding. Damages to public infrastructure and homes sustained during this time are expected to take several months to years to recover and repair.

As a result of the influx of rainfall, agricultural producers across the county have experienced severe impacts. Crops have been flooded, threatened by disease, or left unseeded due to saturated fields. Pasture and hay production have also been significantly impacted, while livestock producers are now facing increased animal health concerns, including hoof rot. Overall, continued wet and cool conditions have delayed crop and forage development and increased production costs for many producers.

Although the full financial impact is not yet known, it is clear that many producers will experience substantial losses this growing season. Reduced yields, higher input costs, limited feed supplies, and ongoing uncertainty are placing significant financial and mental health strain on farm families.

Beaver County Council respectfully requests that the Government of Alberta recognize the severity of this agricultural disaster and work with the Government of Canada to provide timely assistance to affected producers. We ask that all available disaster recovery and agricultural support programs be considered and that additional assistance be explored where existing programs do not adequately address these extraordinary losses.

Furthermore, Beaver County Council requests that the Agricultural Financial Services Corporation refrain from using the data collected during this growing season to determine future flood insurance rates. While insurance rates are appropriately adjusted based on claims history and associated risk, the flooding experienced this year is not representative of typical conditions. As such, including this year's data in future rate calculations could disproportionately skew the results and lead to higher premiums that do not accurately reflect the long-term flood risk.

Agriculture is the foundation of Beaver County's economy and rural communities. Providing timely support will help producers recover and strengthen the long-term resilience of Alberta's agricultural sector.

Thank you for your consideration. Beaver County Council appreciates your attention to the challenges facing our agricultural producers and looks forward to working with the Province to support their recovery.

Sincerely,


Gene Hrabec, Reeve

CC;

The Honourable Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

The Honourable Rick Wilson, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction, MLA for Maskwacis-Wetaskwin

The Honourable Pierre Polievre, MP for Battle River-Crowfoot

Ms. Jackie Lovely, MLA for Camrose

Agricultural Financial Services Corporation

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

Association of Alberta's Agricultural Fieldmen

Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

July 23, 2026

Precipitation

Most of the precipitation over the past week fell across the northern two-thirds of Alberta (**Maps 1 and 2**).

The South Region and the southern half of the Central Region received less than 2 mm of precipitation, or less than 30 per cent of average for this period (**Maps 1 and 2**). However, isolated showers produced 5 to 15 mm of rainfall in parts of Pincher Creek, Bighorn, Willow Creek, Foothills, Vulcan, Newell, and Special Areas No. 3 and No. 4.

Higher precipitation accumulations occurred across the northern half of the Central Region (**Maps 1 and 2**). Clearwater, Yellowhead, Brazeau, Leduc, Wetaskiwin, Ponoka, Camrose, Strathcona, Beaver, Minburn, and Vermilion River counties received 25 to 40 mm of precipitation. Beaver County recorded 40 to 50 mm, while isolated areas within Yellowhead, Brazeau, Wetaskiwin, and Leduc counties received more than 50 mm.

Across the North East Region, precipitation generally decreased from west to east (**Maps 1 and 2**). Municipalities along the Saskatchewan border received 5 to 15 mm of precipitation. Accumulations ranged from 25 to 50 mm across Two Hills, Lamont, Sturgeon, Thorhild, Smoky Lake, Athabasca, and Opportunity municipalities, representing approximately 130 to 200 per cent of average. The highest totals, exceeding 50 mm and more than 250 per cent of average, were recorded in parts of Athabasca, Sturgeon, Strathcona, and Opportunity.

The entire North West Region received rainfall during the past week (**Maps 1 and 2**). Accumulations of 5 to 20 mm were recorded in Barrhead, Woodlands, and Big Lakes counties. Elsewhere in the region, precipitation totals ranged from 20 to 40 mm, or approximately 130 to 175 per cent of average. The highest amounts, exceeding 50 mm, were recorded in Greenview, Lesser Slave Lake, and Parkland.

Most of the Peace Region received 5 to 20 mm of precipitation (**Maps 1 and 2**). Small pockets within Saddle Hills and Clear Hills counties received less than 5 mm. Higher accumulations of 25 to 40 mm were recorded in Fairview, Peace, Northern Lights, Northern Sunrise, Birch Hills, and Smoky River municipalities, exceeding 200 per cent of average.

Growing-season precipitation remains near normal to above normal across most of Alberta (**Map 3**). Across the North West, Central, and South regions, growing-season precipitation totals range from 90 to 150 per cent of average (**Map 4**).

In contrast, growing-season precipitation across the Peace Region remains near normal to below normal relative to the long-term average (**Maps 3 and 4**). Areas of below-normal precipitation persist within Greenview, Grande Prairie, Saddle Hills, Clear Hills, Northern Lights, and Mackenzie municipalities. Since the previous report, the extent of below-normal conditions has expanded. Across these areas, growing-season precipitation totals range from 50 to 90 per cent of average.

The highest growing-season precipitation totals extend from the eastern portion of the North West Region; including Lac Ste. Anne, Barrhead, Westlock, Parkland, and Sturgeon, and eastward through the North East Region to the Saskatchewan border (**Maps 3 and 4**). Across much of the North East Region, growing-season precipitation totals range from 150 to 250 per cent of average. In many locations, precipitation levels are consistent with events that occur less than once every 50 years.

July is typically one of the wettest months of the year across the Central, North West, North East, and Peace regions. This pattern has generally continued this year across the Central, North West, and North East regions. However, the Peace Region has received below-normal precipitation so far this month (**Map 5**).

Temperature

The average daily mean growing-season temperature has remained near the long-term average across most of Alberta (**Map 6**). Warmer temperatures over the past week have shifted conditions in parts of the North East and Central Regions from moderately cooler than normal to near normal, bringing growing-season average daily mean temperatures closer to the long-term average (**Map 7, 8, and 9**).

Warmer temperatures this past week have expanded the areas experiencing moderately warmer growing season average daily mean temperatures relative to long-term average normal (**Map 6, 7, 8, and 9**). These

conditions persist along Alberta's western border from the Peace Region south through the North West Region, along the foothills and into the South Region.

Soil Moisture Reserves

Across the South Region, spring wheat soil moisture reserves, estimated as of July 22, have declined since the last report (**Map 10**). Soil moisture reserves are estimated to be moderately below normal in parts of Forty Mile, Cypress, Warner, Vulcan, Willow Creek, Pincher Creek, Bighorn, Foothills, Wheatland and Special Area No. 2 municipalities. In Vulcan, Forty Mile, Cypress, and Special Area No. 2, plant available moisture is estimated to be less than 20 mm within the top 120 cm of the soil profile, representing deficits of 15 to 50 mm relative to normal (**Maps 11 and 12**). In Willow Creek, Pincher Creek, Bighorn, Foothills, and parts of Wheatland, plant available moisture is estimated to range from 60 to 100 mm, also representing departures from normal of 15 to 50 mm.

In the Central Region, soil moisture reserves are estimated to remain near normal in an area extending east of Stettler, Starland, and Special Area No. 2, and south of Camrose, Flagstaff, and Wainwright counties (**Map 10**). Plant available moisture in this area is estimated to range from 20 to 60 mm within the top 120 cm of the soil profile (**Maps 11 and 12**). Moderately low to low soil moisture reserves relative to normal have expanded across the western half of the Central Region. Plant available moisture across this area is estimated to range from 20 to 120 mm, or approximately 15 to 75 mm below normal within the top 120 cm of the soil profile. The lowest soil moisture reserves in the Region are estimated to occur in Red Deer and Mountain View Counties.

Across the North East Region and the northern edge of the Central Region, soil moisture reserves remain above the long-term average (**Map 10**). Recent rainfall has helped maintain favourable moisture conditions throughout the area. Plant available moisture is estimated to range from 80 to 180 mm within the top 120 cm of the soil profile, representing surpluses of 25 to 75 mm above normal (**Maps 11 and 12**).

Soil moisture reserves across most of the North West Region have improved since the last report (**Map 10**). Soil moisture reserves in Greenview, Yellowhead, Woodlands, and Big Lakes counties are estimated to be moderately high to very high. Plant available moisture across these areas is estimated to range from 140 to 180 mm, approximately 15 to 50 mm above normal (**Maps 11 and 12**). In contrast, several small areas of moderately low soil moisture reserves remain scattered across Yellowhead, Lac Ste. Anne, and Woodlands counties, where plant available moisture is

estimated to range from 60 to 120 mm, or 15 to 50 mm below normal.

Soil moisture reserves relative to the long-term average improved in parts of the Peace Region during the past week (**Map 10**). However, most of the region continues to have moderately low to very low estimated reserves. The lowest soil moisture reserves are concentrated in Greenview, Grande Prairie, Saddle Hills, Northern Lights, and Mackenzie municipalities. In these areas, plant available moisture is estimated to be less than 60 mm within the top 120 cm of the soil profile, representing deficits of 50 to more than 75 mm relative to normal conditions (**Maps 11 and 12**).

Perspective

Moisture conditions remain favourable across much of Alberta. However, limited rainfall across the South, Central, and Peace regions over the past week has increased reliance on stored soil moisture reserves to support crop growth and development.

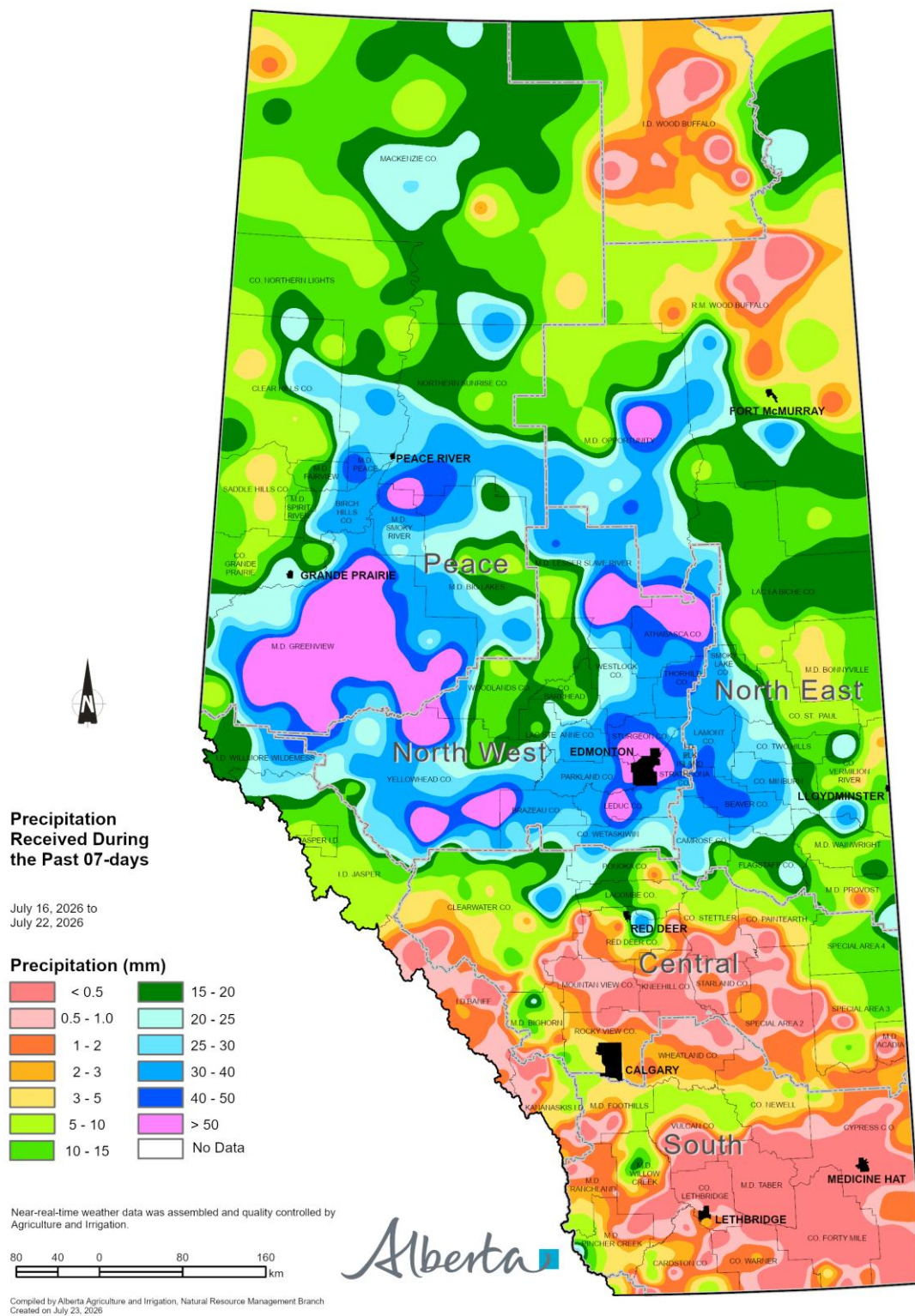
In contrast, the North East and North West regions, along with the northern portions of the Central Region, continue to receive frequent rainfall. As a result, soil moisture reserves in many of these areas remain well above to extremely above the long-term average. Ponding and localized flooding have developed in some locations, affecting crop growth and delaying field operations.

Crop water use is approaching its seasonal peak as many crops enter heading, stem elongation, or flowering stages. Actual water demand varies depending on crop type, growth stage, temperature, solar radiation, humidity, and soil moisture availability. Warmer temperatures over the past week have increased crop water requirements relative to earlier cooler conditions. Consequently, soil moisture reserves have declined in areas where crop water use has exceeded rainfall inputs, a typical pattern for this time of year.

While warmer temperatures have provided favourable conditions for plant growth, combined with wet or humid conditions significantly increase the risk of crop disease development and spread. Field scouting is important to monitor conditions and respond in a timely manner.

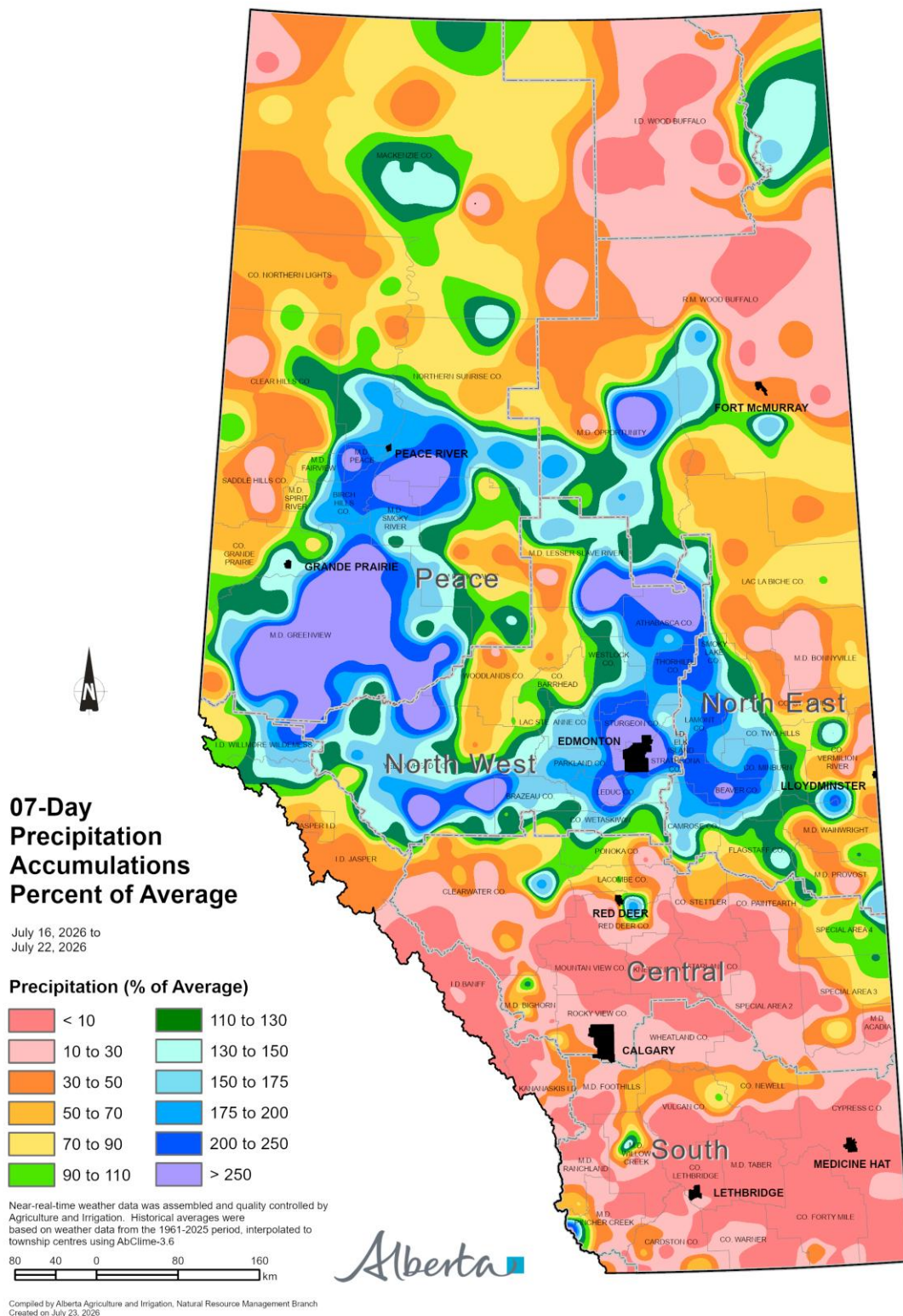
Overall, the growing season remains on track. Looking ahead, timely rainfall will be important for maintaining soil moisture reserves and supporting crop development through the remainder of the growing season.

Map 1

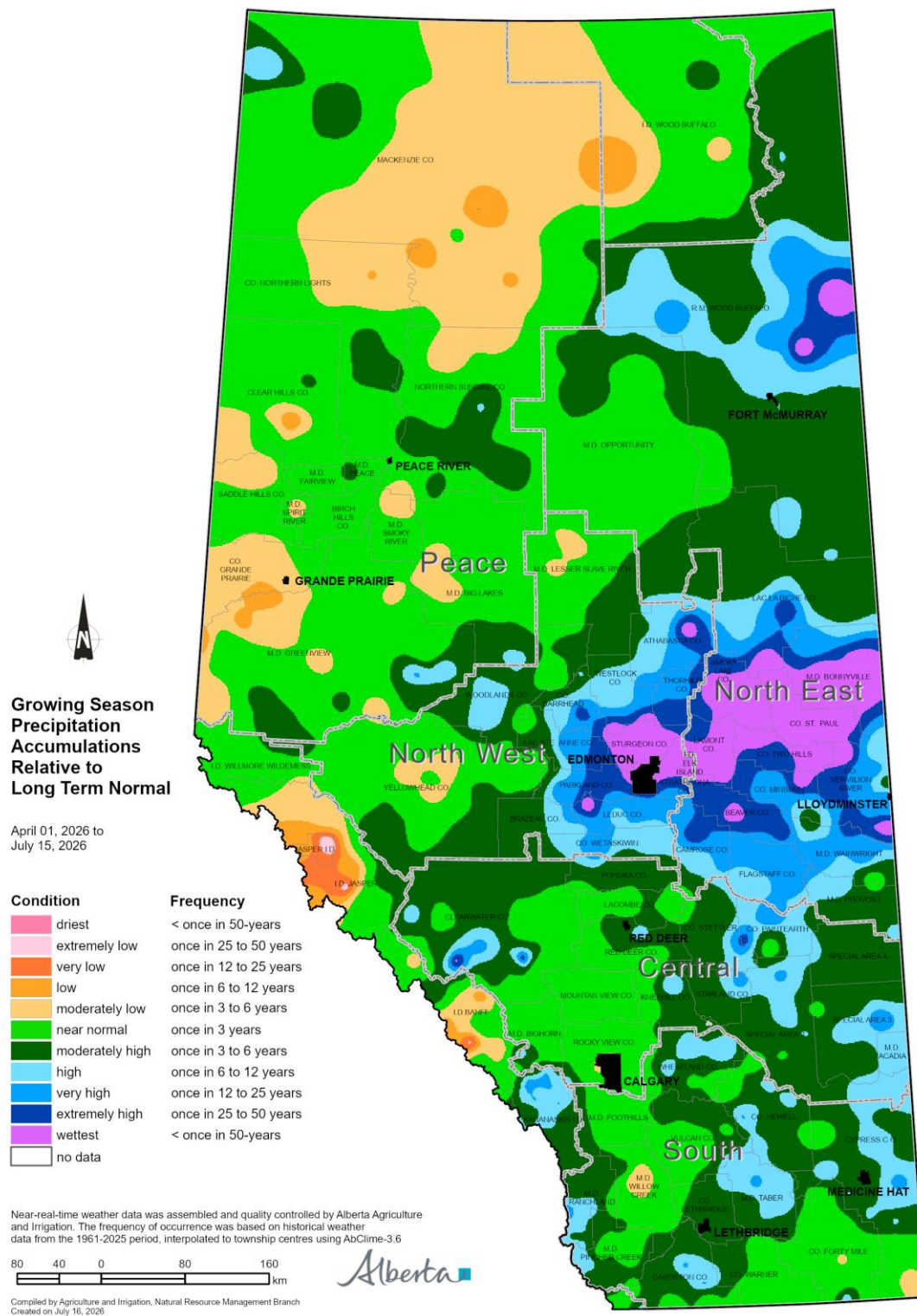


Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 2



Map 3



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

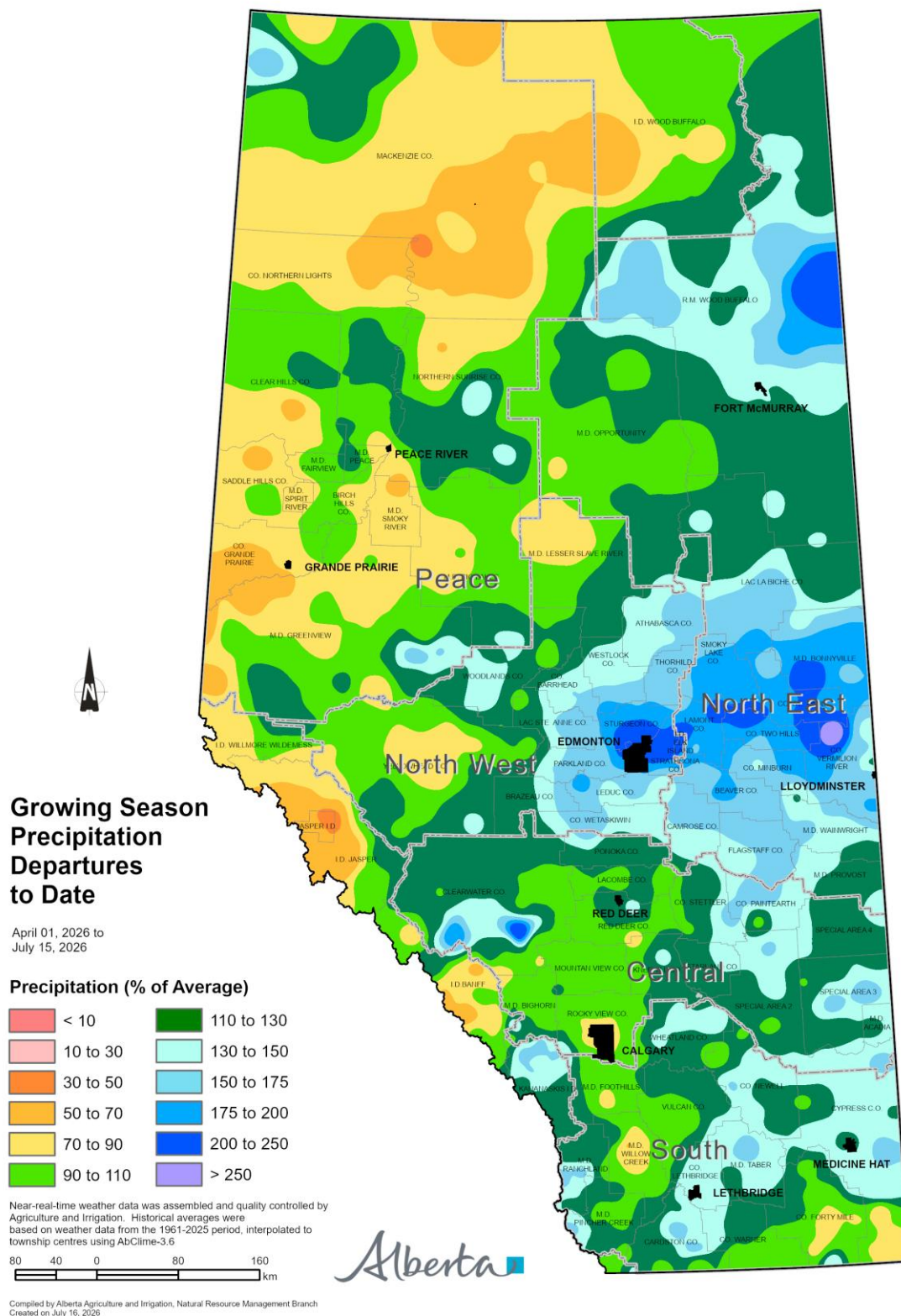
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/moisture-situation-update>

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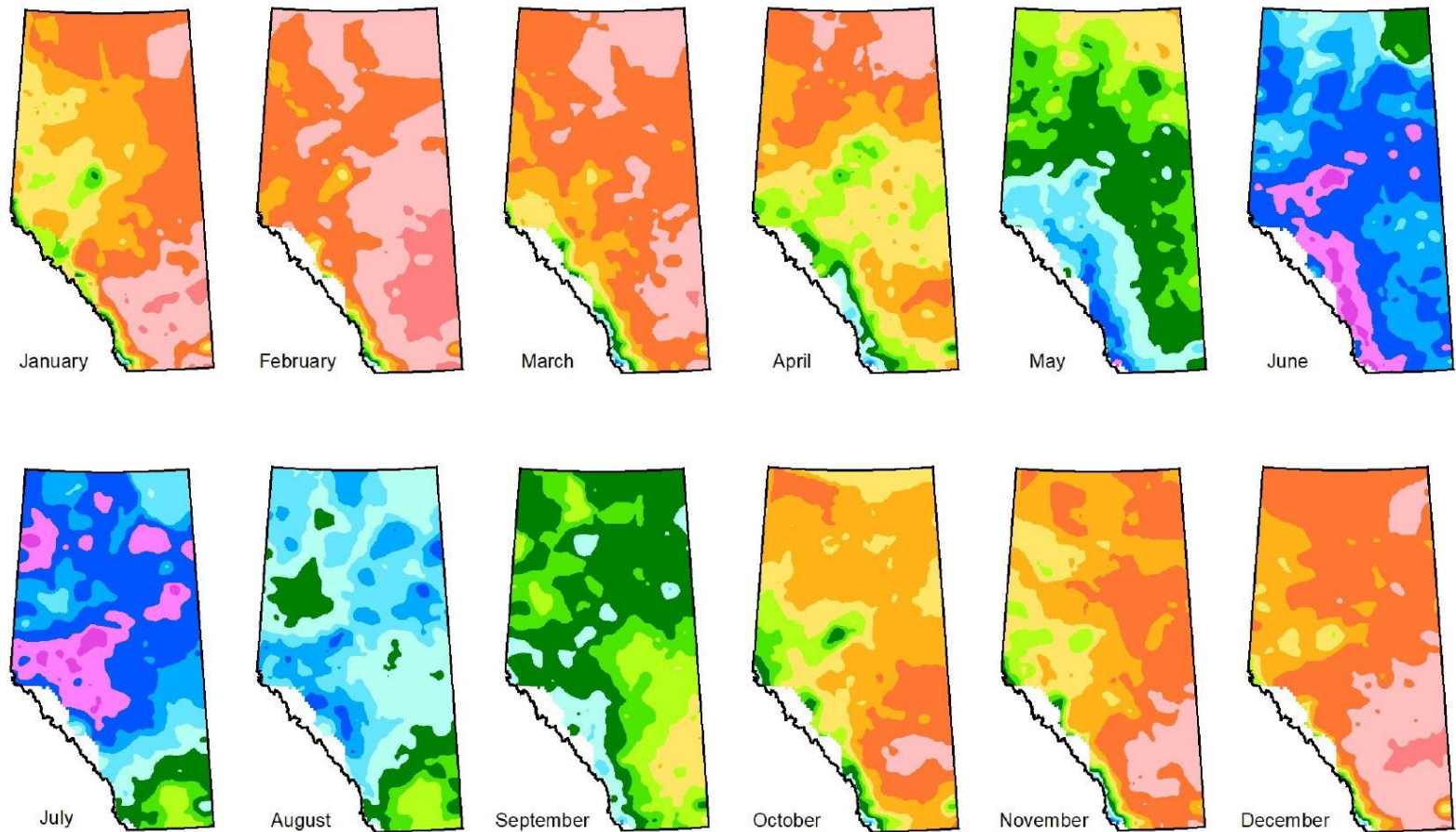
Classification: Public



Map 4



Map 5



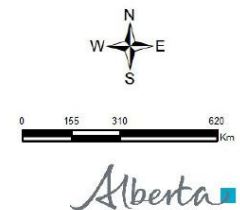
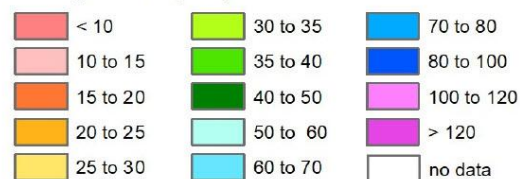
Normal Monthly Precipitation Accumulations

1991-2020

Weather data was assembled and quality controlled by
Agriculture Forestry and Rural Economic Development
then interpolated to township centres using AbClima-3.6

Compiled by Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on March 29, 2022

Precipitation (mm)

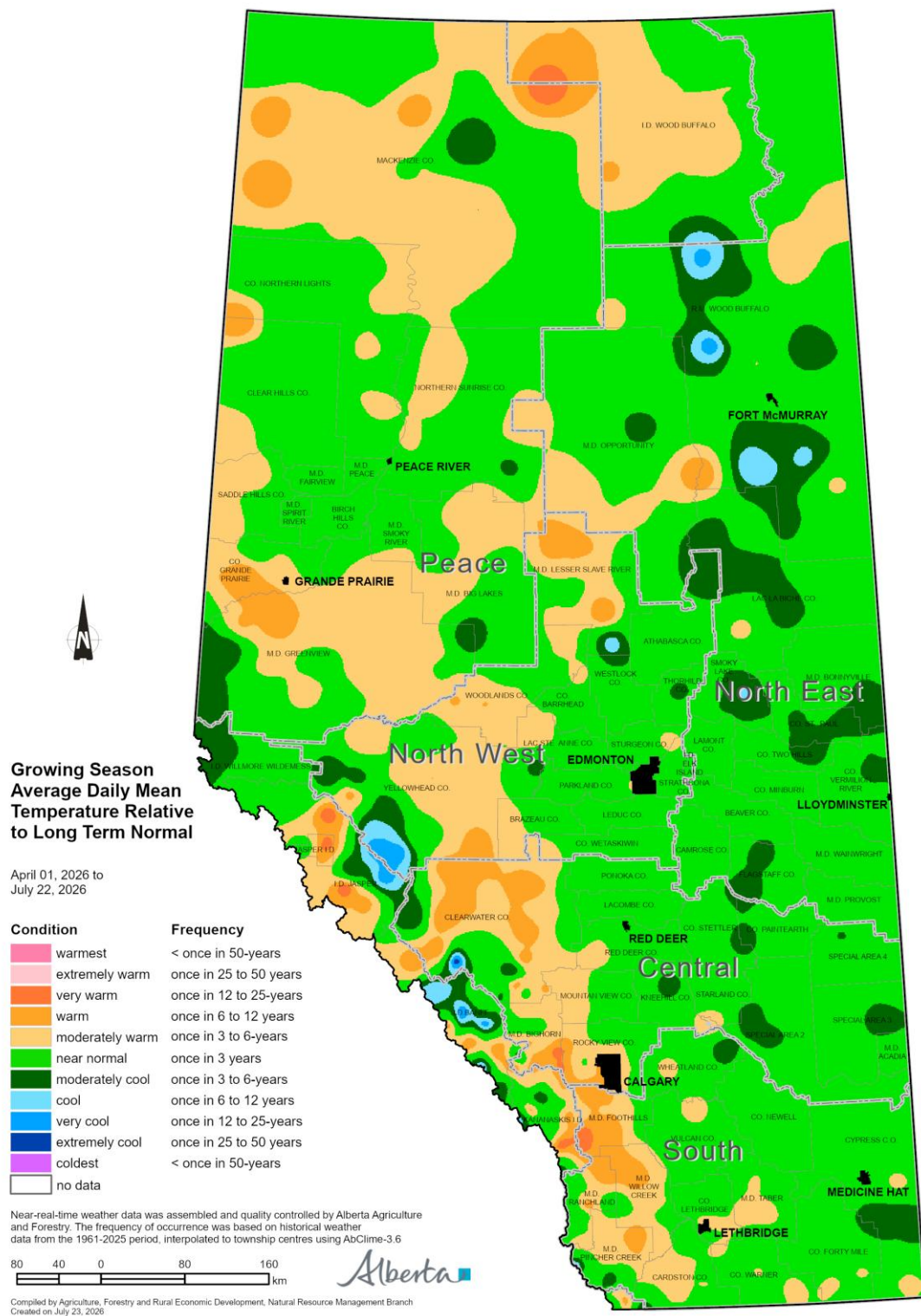


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Map 6



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Map 7

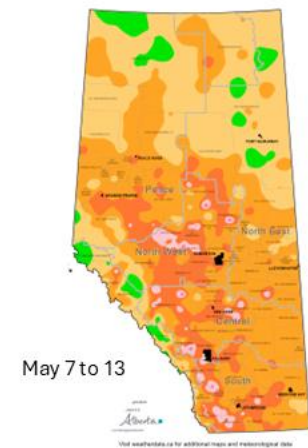
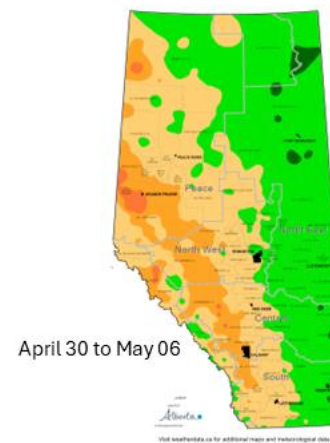
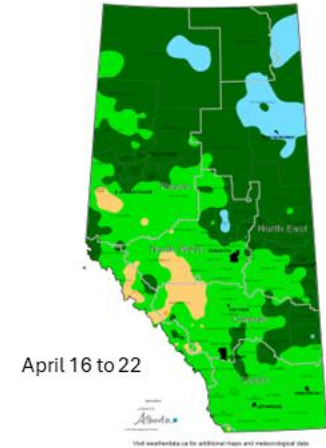
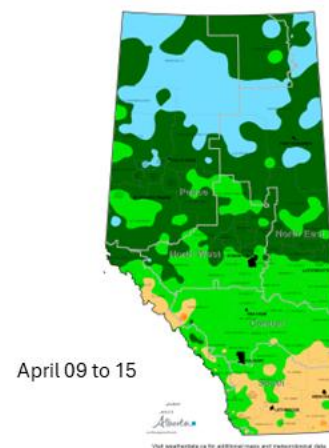
Map 7

07-Day
Average Daily Mean
Temperature Relative to
Long Term Normal

April 02nd to
May 13th

Condition	Frequency
 warmest	< once in 50-years
 extremely warm	once in 25 to 50 years
 very warm	once in 12 to 25-years
 warm	once in 6 to 12 years
 moderately warm	once in 3 to 6-years
 near normal	once in 3 years
 moderately cool	once in 3 to 6-years
 cool	once in 6 to 12 years
 very cool	once in 12 to 25-years
 extremely cool	once in 25 to 50 years
 coldest	< once in 50-years
 no data	

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by and Forestry. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using



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

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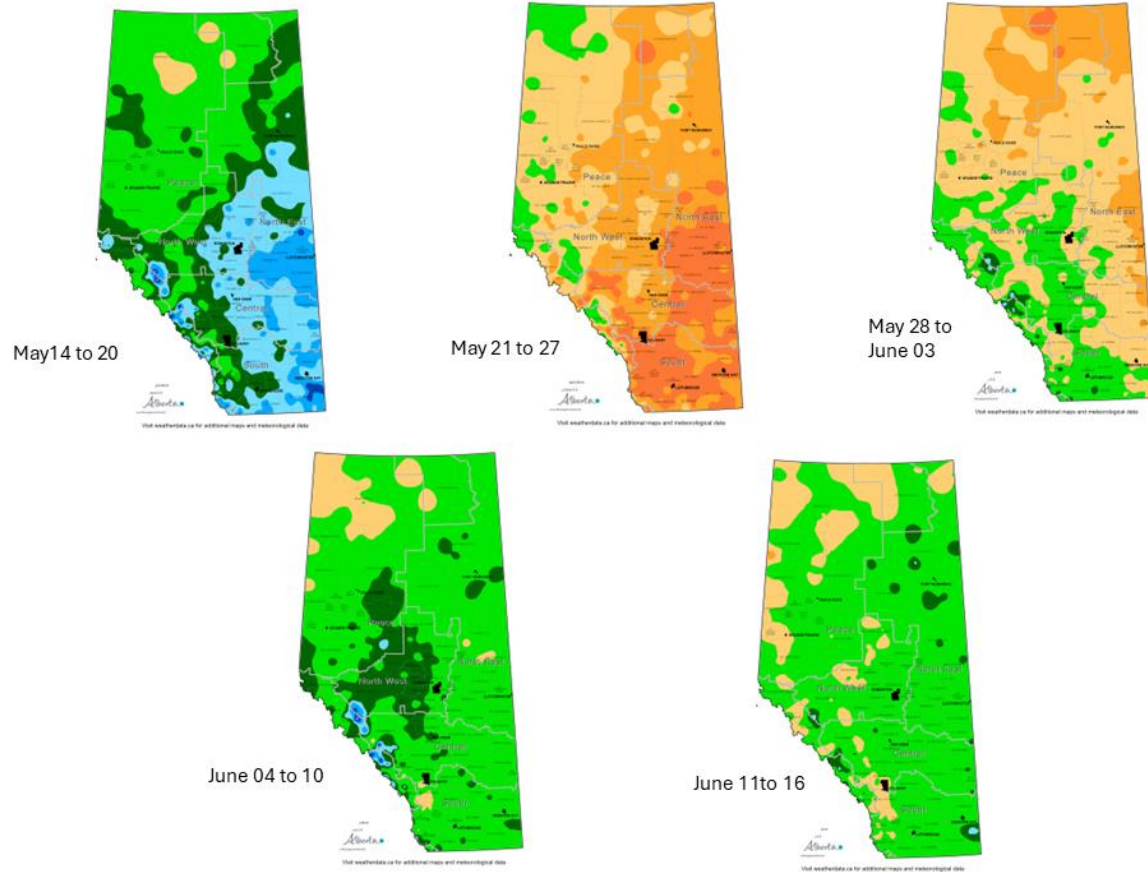
Classification: Public

Map 8

Map 8

07-Day
Average Daily Mean
Temperature Relative to
Long Term Normal

May 14th to
June 16th



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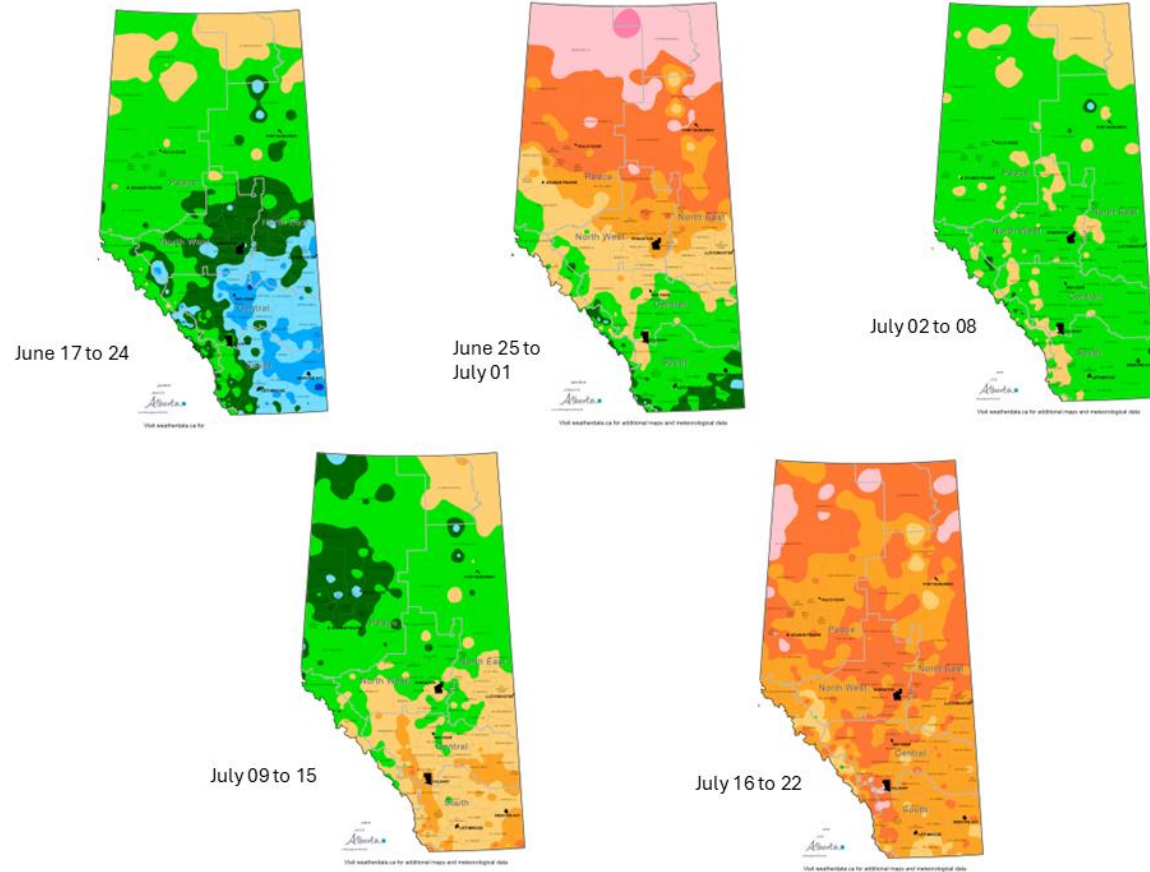
Classification: Public

Map 9

Map 9

07-Day
Average Daily Mean
Temperature Relative to
Long Term Normal

June 17 to
July 22

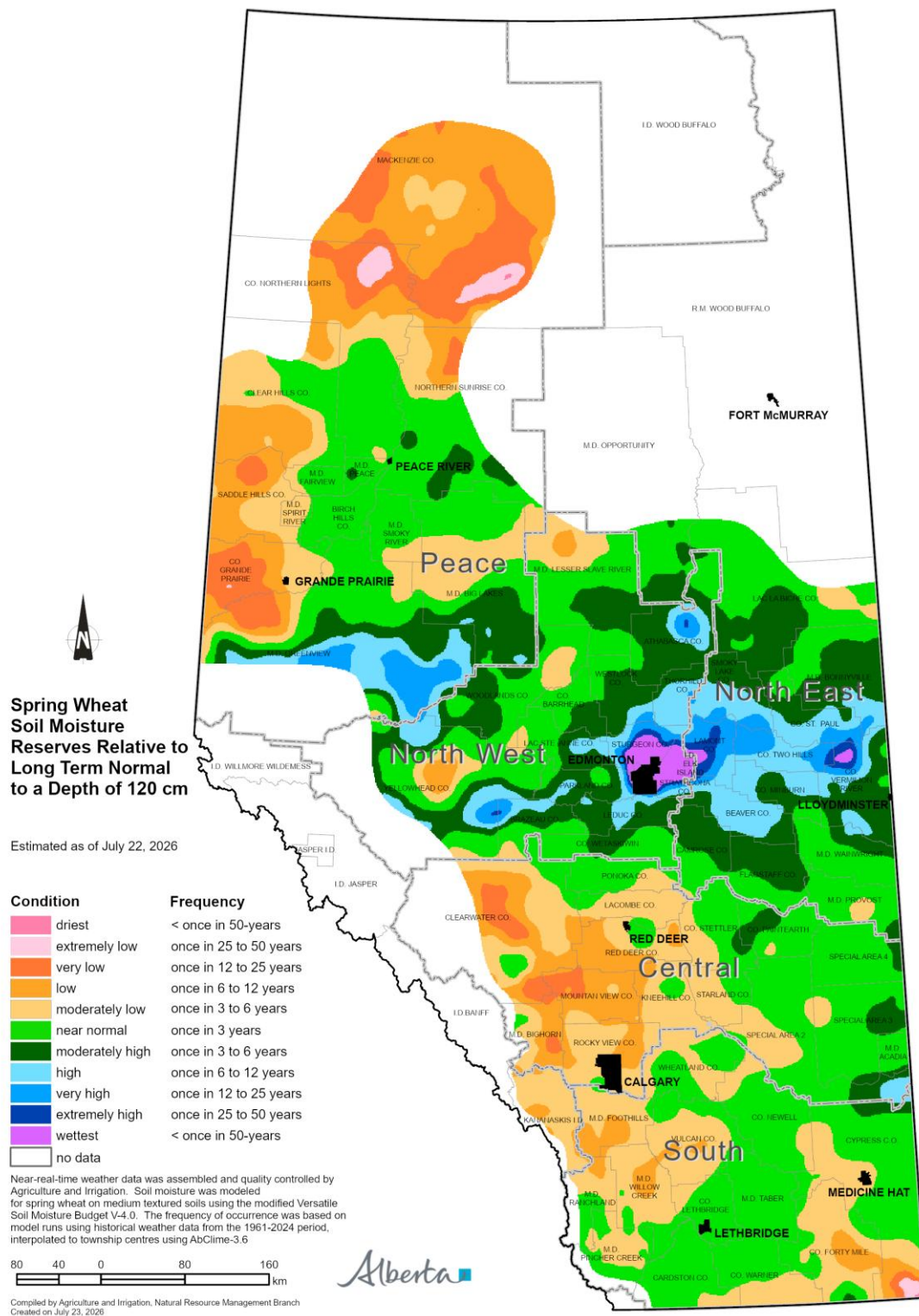


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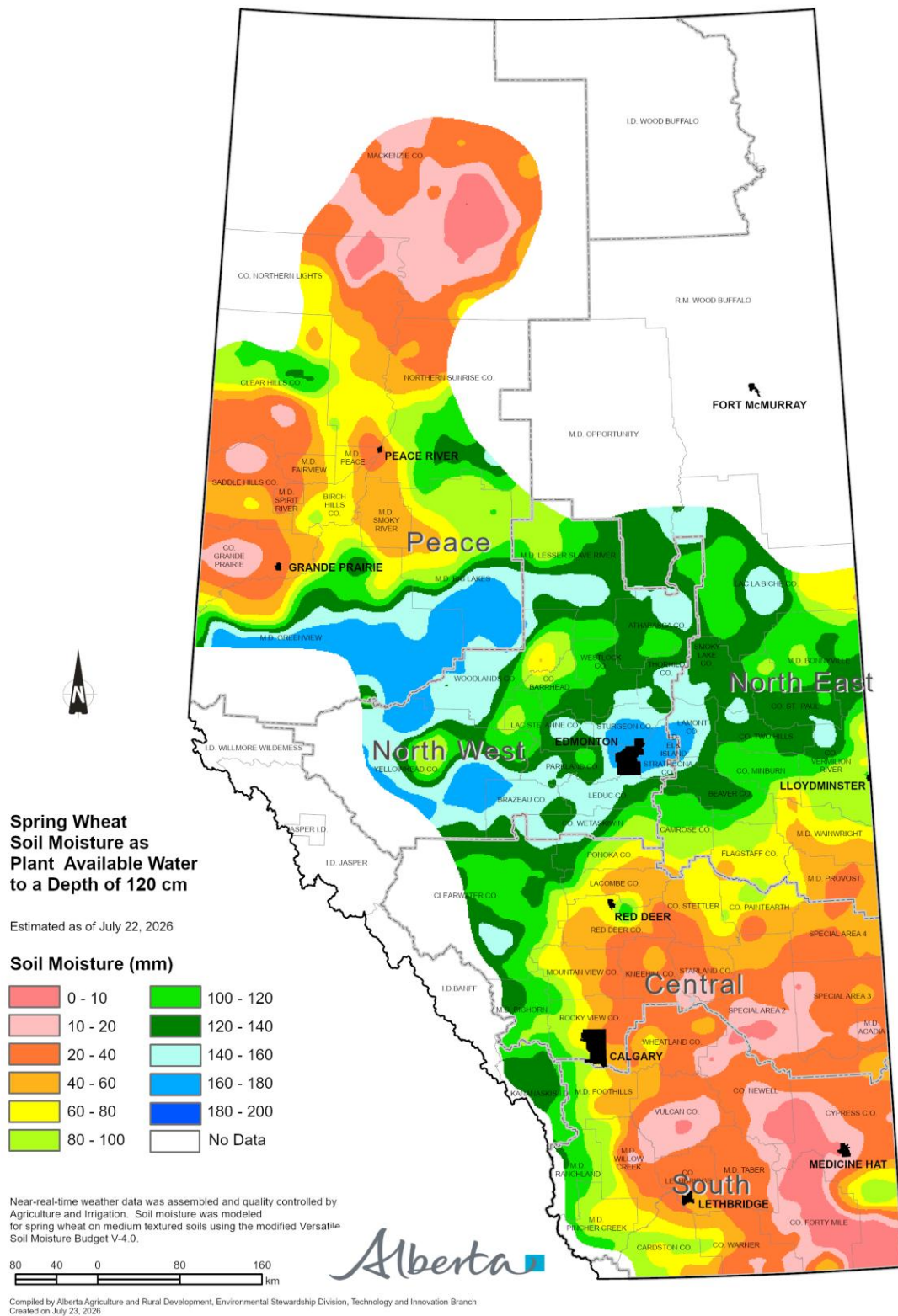
Classification: Public

Map 10



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Map 11



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Map 12

