



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16

"A Great Place to Live, Work and Play"

REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

9:30 AM

Council Chambers
Administration Building

#1	CALL TO ORDER		-
#2	ADOPTION OF AGENDA		1
#3	MINUTES	3.1 Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes held February 24, 2016 – to be adopted	3
		3.2 Business Arising from the Minutes	-
#4	DELEGATIONS	4.1	-
#5	OLD BUSINESS	5.1	-
#6	NEW BUSINESS	6.1 Policy Review – Animal Health	7
		6.2 Policy Review – Agriculture Improvement	9
		6.3 Policy Review – Agriculture Research and Development	11
		6.4 Policy Review – Equipment Sanitation	13
		6.5 Policy Review – Rental of M.D. Equipment	15
		6.6 Policy Review - Soil Conservation	18
		6.7 Policy Review – Voluntary Program Participation Alberta Agricultural and Rural Development	20
		6.8 Policy Review - Weed Control	22
#7	STAFF REPORT & ASB MEMBERS BUSINESS & REPORTS	7.1	-
#8	CORRESPONDENCE	8.1 Forage Facts – March	24

	8.2 Forage Facts – April	28
	8.3 National Western Stock Show & Agricultural Tour	32
	8.4 SARDA Back Forty - April 2016	40
	8.5 SARDA Moisture Situation	63
	8.6 Waste Utilization in Wood Biomass Production	66
	8.7 The October 2015 Trans Pacific Partnership	68
	8.8 AAMDC Dale Gervais Interview	70
	8.9 ABP McDonald’s Verified Beef	72
	8.10 Roundup Ready Alfalfa Primed for Launch in East	73
	8.11 AB Call for Nominations	76
	8.12 2016 ASB Provincial Conference Presentations	77
	8.13 Calendar Updates – April, May and June	78
#9	IN CAMERA	N/A
#10	ADJOURNMENT	-

**Minutes of a
REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16**
M.D. Administration Building
Valleyview, Alberta on Wednesday, February 24, 2016

**#1
CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Cailliau called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

PRESENT

Chair	Roland Cailliau
Vice Chair	Allen Perkins
A.S.B. Member – Councillor	Dale Smith
A.S.B. Member	Larry Smith
A.S.B. Member	Jonas Ljunggren
A.S.B. Member	Laurie Mitchell

ATTENDING

Manager, Agriculture Services	Quentin Bochar
Assistant Manager, Agriculture Services	Dave Berry
Recording Secretary	Kristin King

ABSENT

Communications Officer	Diane Carter
A.S.B. Member – Councillor	Bill Smith

**#2
AGENDA**

MOTION: 16.02.16 Moved by: Larry Smith
That the Agenda be adopted with the following additions:

- 6.5 Meeting Dates
- 8.12 Alberta Agriculture Hall of Game Nomination Form

CARRIED

**#3.2
BUSINESS ARISING
FROM MINUTES**

3.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

**#3.1
REGULAR ASB MEETING**

MOTION: 16.02.17 Moved by: Dale Smith
That the minutes of the January 14, 2016 Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting be adopted with the following changes:

- Change "Chair Cailliau called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m." to "Councillor Dale Smith called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m."
- Change 8.2 from "Forage Fact – January 2016" to Forage Facts – January 2016"
- Change the adjournment time to 12:22 p.m. from 4:22 p.m.

CARRIED

**#4
DELEGATIONS**

4.1 CLAUDIA METZ, ALBERTA AGRICULTURE: BSE PRESENTATION

MOTION: 16.02.17 Moved by: Jonas Ljunggren
That the Agriculture Service Board accept the BSE presentation as information.

CARRIED

#5
OLD BUSINESS

5.0 OLD BUSINESS

#6
NEW BUSINESS

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 WOLF HARVEST INCENTIVE

6.2 POLICY REVIEW: AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

MOTION: 16.02.18 Moved by: Allen Perkins
That the Agriculture Service Board recommends that administration adjust the definition of Agricultural Producer to state "An individual, group of individuals, or corporate entity that makes, grows, or supplies agricultural goods and commodities for sale".

That the Agriculture Service Board recommends that administration add in a definition of "Economic Viability".

CARRIED

6.3 POLICY REVIEW: PRIVATE LAND HERBICIDE APPLICATIONS

MOTION: 16.02.19 Moved by: Allen Perkins
That the Agriculture Service Board recommend that administration add under the definition of Noxious/Prohibited Noxious Weeds the current year of the Act and Regulations.

CARRIED

6.4 POLICY REVIEW: SPRAY EXEMPTION

MOTION: 16.02.20 Moved by: Laurie Mitchell
That the Agriculture Service Board recommend that administration add under the definition of Noxious/Prohibited Noxious Weeds the current year of the Act and Regulations.

CARRIED

6.5 MEETING DATES

Move the January ASB meeting to a day other than after the second Council meeting of that month.

EMERGENT

MUNICIPAL ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAYS

MOTION: 16.02.21 Moved by: Jonas Ljunggren
That the Agriculture Service Board recommend that administration seek public review on the road right-of ways pertaining to Policies EES 07, EES 12, OP 11.
CARRIED

**#7 STAFF REPORT & ASB
MEMBERS BUSINESS &
REPORTS**

MEMBER LAURIE MITCHELL:

- Attended ASB Provincial Conference, Edmonton

MEMBER LARRY SMITH:

- No Report

MEMBER JONAS LJUNNGREN:

- Attended ASB Provincial Conference, Edmonton
- Attended Beef Conference, Red Deer

VICE CHAIR ALLEN PERKINS:

- Attended FarmTech, Edmonton

COUNCILLOR DALE SMITH:

- Attended the Sustainable Beef Project

CHAIR ROLAND CAILLIAU:

- Attended the Sustainable Beef Project

MOTION: 16.02.22 Moved by: Dale Smith
That the Agriculture Service Board accept the reports as information.
CARRIED

**#8
CORRESPONDENCE**

8.1 FORAGE FACTS - FEBRUARY

8.2 21ST CENTURY HOMESTEADING CONFERENCE

8.3 2016 INSECT FORECAST MAP FOR THE PEACE REGION

8.4 PCBFA – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8.5 THE CLASSROOM AGRICULTURE SELECTION

8.6 COCKTAIL COVER CROP SELECTION WORKSHOP

**8.7 CULTIVATING SAFE, FAIR & HEALTHY WORKPLACES FOR ALBERTA'S FARM
& RANCHES**

8.8 PRAIRIE SHELTERBELT PROGRAM

8.9 GETTING INTO FARMERS' MARKETS

8.10 KNOW GMO: THE MOVIE

8.11 CALENDAR UPDATES – FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL

**CORRESPONDENCE
LISTING**

MOTION: 16.02.23 Moved by: Allen Perkins
That the Agricultural Service Board accept the correspondence listing as
presented.

CARRIED

**#9
IN CAMERA**

#9 IN CAMERA

**#10
ADJOURNMENT**

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: 16.02.24 Moved by: Allen Perkins
That this meeting adjourn at 12:35 p.m.

CARRIED

Agricultural Service Board Chair

Manager, Agricultural Services

Title: ANIMAL HEALTH

Policy No:

Effective Date:

Motion Number:

Supersedes Policy No: AG 11



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16

"A Great Place to Live, Work and Play"

Purpose: ~~The Municipal District of~~ Greenview recognizes that the *Agricultural Service Board Act* imposes obligation upon municipalities under the *Animal Health Act* including any amendments or successor legislation thereto, and that it is beneficial to livestock producers and the general public to actively support and assist the activities of the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian and Officers of the ~~Canadian Food Inspection Agency~~ Canadian Food Inspection Agency in their efforts to enact a rapid response in the event of animal disease outbreak.

DEFINITIONS

Biosecurity measures – Actions taken to minimize the spread of a disease or a disease-causing agent.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) - a regulatory agency that is dedicated to the safeguarding of food, animals, and plants, which enhance the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

Chief Provincial Veterinarian – The chief provincial veterinarian appointed under Section 5 of the *Animal Health Act*.

Notifiable disease – A notifiable disease within the meaning of Section 4 of the *Animal Health Act*.

Reportable disease – A disease within the meaning of Section 3 of the *Animal Health Act*.

POLICY

1. The Manager of Agricultural Services or ~~his-their~~ designate ~~will~~shall, as required by law, report known or suspected cases of reportable and/or notifiable diseases to the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian within 24 hours.
2. The Manager of Agricultural Services or ~~his-their~~ designate ~~will~~shall serve as an Inspector under the *Animal Health Act*, when requested and under appointment by the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian or Officers of the ~~Canadian Food Inspection Agency~~ CFIA.
3. Agricultural Services will provide information based on local knowledge to the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian

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Policy No:

Page 1

PROCEDURE

1. Agricultural Services personnel ~~will-shall~~ provide information and technical assistance to producers, residents, and members of the public ~~on~~ appropriate animal disease prevention practices, and ~~will-shall~~ conduct activities to encourage the adoption of farm bio-security measures.
2. Agricultural Services ~~will-shall cooperate with provincial and federal authorities in the event of an outbreak~~ provide logical assistance when an outbreak has occurred which requires immediate containment or control; such assistance may include, but not limited to,
 - 2.1 Conducting animal health inspections
 - 2.2 Arranging facilities and public information sessions
 - 2.3 Arranging subsistence and accommodations for bio-containment officers
 - ~~2.2.4~~ Arranging equipment necessary for incineration and burial of diseased animal
3. The Manager of Agricultural Services or ~~their~~his designate ~~will-shall~~ provide information to the Minister of Agriculture, and disseminate information on disease outbreaks as authorized by the Minister's Office.

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Title: AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT

Policy No:

Effective Date:

Motion Number:

Supersedes Policy No: AG 01



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16

"A Great Place to Live, Work and Play"

Purpose: ~~The Municipal District of~~ Greenview recognizes that it is beneficial to Municipal residents and ratepayers to actively encourage the adoption of innovative technologies and best management practices, in order to improve agricultural production and support and economical, environmentally sustainable agriculture industry, while preserving and protecting the natural environment.

DEFINITIONS

~~Alphabetical — ABC single spaced content with 1 full line space between each def (if needed)~~

POLICY

1. Agricultural Services ~~will~~ shall offer innovative programs and information services for municipal residents, ratepayers and affected stakeholders, with the goal of improving the economic viability of producers while protecting the natural environments;
2. Agricultural Services ~~will~~ shall collaborate with other agencies, federal and provincial government departments, watershed groups, and applied research and/or demonstration organizations in encouraging the adoption of innovative technologies, and may provide assistance with demonstration plots, public information seminars, field tours, and extension events to promote public awareness of agricultural and environmental concerns.

PROCEDURE

1. ~~The Municipal District will~~ Greenview shall undertake measures to enhance productivity by providing information to area producers regarding the application of research findings on crop varieties, tillage techniques, crop management strategies, livestock health, livestock nutrition and management practices;
2. ~~The Municipal District will~~ Greenview shall undertake measures to preserve and protect agriculture and the natural environment by encouraging the adoption of preventative measures proven to reduce or eliminate soil erosion, air pollution, contamination of ground and surface water, invasive weeds, harmful insects, and crop or animal pests and diseases.

APPENDIX

~~1. — ABC single spaced content with 1 full line space between each number (if needed)~~

Policy No:

Title: AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION

Policy No: 63004

Effective Date:

Motion Number:

Supersedes Policy No: (None)



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16

"A Great Place to Live, Work and Play"

Purpose: ~~The Municipal district of Greenview no. 16~~ believes it is important to ~~provide residents and ratepayers with accurate and current information and to~~ encourage the adoption of innovative technologies and best management practices, intended to improve agricultural production and support an economically viable and environmentally sustainable agriculture industry, while protecting and preserving the natural environment.

DEFINITIONS

~~Alphabetical~~ **PCBFA** – ~~ABC single spaced content with 1 full line space between each def (if needed)~~ Peace Country Beef and Forage Association

~~SARDA~~ – aSmoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association

POLICY

~~1. The purpose is to provide residents and ratepayers with accurate and current information, and to encourage the adoption of, innovative technologies and best management practices.~~

~~2.1.~~ Greenview ~~will~~ shall provide funding to area research organizations including, but not limited to ~~the Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association (SARDA)~~ and ~~the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association (PCBFA)~~, to support their efforts in conducting research, field tours, demonstration projects, and extension events.

~~3.2.~~ Greenview ~~will~~ shall fund, support, organize, promote and otherwise be involved in the generation and dissemination of pertinent and timely information through extension events and other means (including newsletters, website, advertisements and media releases) to ensure the public has access to current environmentally sustainable agriculture information and programs.

PROCEDURE

1. Greenview ~~will~~ shall support activities and organizations which provide leading-edge, innovative, agricultural information of significance to agricultural producers and municipal ratepayers; Greenview ~~will~~ shall further assist these organizations by disseminating pertinent information obtained through research projects.

2. Greenview ~~will~~ shall support the organization and delivery of information seminars, field tours, workshops, and similar extension events designed to promote new agricultural concepts and

Policy No:

ideas that assist municipal residents and ratepayers, and encourage the adoption of new technologies, equipment and management strategies that may enhance production and reduce the negative impact of agricultural activities upon the environment.

APPENDIX

~~1. ABC single spaced content with 1 full line space between each number (if needed)~~

Title: EQUIPMENT SANITATION

Policy No:

Effective Date:

Motion Number:

Supersedes Policy No: AG 17



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16

"A Great Place to Live, Work and Play"

Purpose: ~~The Municipal District of~~ Greenview recognizes that a number of crop diseases and invasive plants are declared pests and/or noxious or prohibited noxious weeds under the Agricultural Pests Act or the Weed Control Act of Alberta and are a concern to agricultural operations within the Municipality. Greenview further recognizes that it is beneficial to the Municipality to establish measures to prevent and/or control the spread of crop pests, diseases and noxious or prohibited noxious weeds by sanitation of ground disturbance equipment and/or off road vehicles.

DEFINITIONS

Alphabetical-Best Management Practices – has ab ag adopted the CAPP version of the BMP?ABC

Pests – any animal, bird, insect, plant or disease outlined in the current Agricultural Pests Act (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter A-8) and the Agricultural Pests Act; Pest and Nuisance Control Regulations (AR 184/2001) of Alberta

Noxious/Prohibited Noxious Weeds – any plant outlined in the current Weed Control Act (R.S.A. 2008 chapter W-5.1) and Regulations (AR 19/2010) of Alberta

Sound Soil Conservation Practices – any practice as outlined in the Soil Conservation Act (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter S-15)

POLICY

1. The MD of Greenview will-shall encourage producers to follow the Best Management Practices (Clubroot Disease Management) to prevent the spread of all soil borne diseases.

2. All vehicles and equipment originating from outside the Peace Region and which may cause soil disturbance, shall be sanitized prior to entry onto agricultural lands, using the following criteria:

- a. First; soil and vegetative material shall be removed from equipment by;
 - i. sweeping or scraping to remove all loose soil and plant debris;
 - ii. pressure washing, preferably with hot water or steam;
 - iii. high pressure crevice sanitation, with particular attention paid to those parts of equipment which come into direct contact with soil;
- b. After soil and plant material removal; equipment shall be sprayed and/or misted throughout with disinfectant (1-2% active ingredient bleach solution);

Policy No:

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- ~~1-3.~~ Aquatic vehicles (ex. boats) originating from outside the Peace Region, shall be completely cleaned as per the Best Management Practice for prevention of aquatic invasives.

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PROCEDURE

1. ~~ABC~~ Vehicle and equipment traffic onto and off of agricultural lands shall be minimized whenever reasonable practicable, particularly during wet conditions;
2. Vehicles and equipment shall be staged in a vegetated area whenever reasonably practicable, with concern for sound soil conservation practices and soil erosion;
- ~~1-3.~~ If "field sanitation" of vehicles and/or equipment is the only viable option, sanitation stations shall be located in vegetated (grassed) areas whenever reasonably practicable, to prevent direct contact between sanitation residue and arable soil;

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APPENDIX

1. ~~ABC~~ Attached "Schedule A" provides guidelines for Best Management Practices for equipment sanitation and shall be considered part of this Policy.

Title: RENTAL OF ~~M.D.~~GREENVIEW EQUIPMENT

Policy No:

Effective Date:

Motion Number:

Supersedes Policy No: AG 09



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16

"A Great Place to Live, Work and Play"

Purpose: ~~To give non-profit organizations and ratepayers access to specialized equipment being made available for rent by the M.D. To provide Greenview residents, agricultural producers, and non-commercial ratepayers and non-profit organizations access to specialized equipment for which a need exists, or for equipment that is of such limited use, the cost of purchase by an individual producer is prohibitive. Further, to provide innoevative equipment that affords producers an opportunity to demonstrate its use at the field level, prior to purchasing a similar model of their own.~~

DEFINITIONS

Alphabetical-Ratepayer – ~~ABC single-spaced content with 1 full line space between each def (if needed)~~ a person required to pay local property taxes

POLICY

- ~~The M.D. of Greenview will rent equipment to non-profit organizations and ratepayers that are in good standing with the M.D., as per established guidelines. Rental equipment shall be utilized only by ratepayers and residents within the boundaries of Greenview (who are in good standing) and/or to non -profit organizations within the towns of Valleyview, Fox Creek~~a~~ and Grande Cache;~~
- ~~Equipment shall not be rented for the purpose of fulfilling a fee-for-service commercial contract or for sub-lease;~~
- ~~Equipment shall be released to a renter only upon completion of an Equipment Rental Agreement and only after the equipment has been inspected and the ~~inspection~~appropriate documents signed by the renter as having been inspected;~~
- ~~Equipment rental rates, cleaning fees and delivery charges shall be set by Greenview Council in the Schedule of Fees, and rates shall be reviewed annually or upon recommendation from the Agricultural Service Board;~~
- ~~Non-profit organizations including, but not limited to, 4H clubs, Agricultural Societies, Church groups and/or Schools shall be allowed to rent equipment only for recognized community events, and shall be allowed the use of rental equipment at no charge. However, applicable damage deposit, cleaning fees and cost of repairs for damaged equipment chall apply (in accordance with Sections 9, 10 and 11 of this Policy);~~

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Policy No:

6. Failure by a renter to return equipment by the date specifies on the rental agreement may result in retrieval of equipment by Agricultural Services personnel, and forfeiture of rental privileges, until such time as full recovery of all outstanding charges, which may include rental fees, retrieval charges, damage costs, cleaning charges, and applicable taxes, are recovered from the renter;
7. Outstanding charges in arrears for a period in excess of 90 days shall result in forfeiture of rental privileges until such time as all outstanding charges, which may include rental fees, retrieval charges, damage ~~costs~~ charges, cleaning charges, and applicable taxes, are recovered from the renter;
8. Release of equipment shall be at the discretion of Municipal staff or Rental Agents, with due regard for the ability of the renter to transport the equipment safely and in compliance with existing provincial traffic legislation ~~(it is the renters responsibility to transport the equipment in a safe mannor);~~
9. Recommendations for disposal of a particular piece of equipment shall be brought to the Agricultural Service Board when:
- a. Annual cost of repair of said equipment exceeds 20% of replacement cost; or
 - b. Safety of operation of said equipment is in question; or
 - c. Public opinion has become unfavourable towards said equipment; or
 - d. Utilization of said equipment has ceased or declined sufficiently to warrent review; or
 - ~~1-e.~~ Replacement of said equipment is slated, in accordance with the 10-Year Capital Plan

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PROCEDURE

- ~~1. Rental equipment will be utilized only in the M.D. of Greenview No. 16.~~
 - ~~a. Rental equipment will be released to a renter following the completion of a Rental Agreement form, which is attached hereto as part of this policy.~~
- ~~2. Rental fees plus applicable Goods and Service Tax will be collected for the number of days rented, upon the equipment's return. A minimum one days rent will be collected, whether the equipment was used or not.~~
- ~~3. Damage charges may be assessed after the equipment passes and inspection of working order and cleanliness. Damage obviously caused by the renter will be charged back to the renter.~~
- ~~4. Equipment returned unclean will be cleaned and a cleaning fee will be charged.~~
- ~~5. If the equipment is not returned on the day specified by the rental agreement, and other persons are waiting for the equipment, the rental will be contacted. If the lessee fails to return the equipment, the C.A.O. or his designate will retrieve the equipment. This will result in the renter forfeiting rental privileges until such time as fill recovery of costs, plus rental charges for the total number of days that the equipment was held, are recovered.~~
- ~~6. The renter is responsible to ensure the equipment is transported safely and M.D. staff has the right to refuse the release of any piece of equipment, if in their opinion it cannot be transported in a safe manner.~~

Policy No:

Page 2

- ~~7. Rental fees are to be established by Council by resolution from time to time, and set forth in the Schedule of Fees for the Municipality.~~
- ~~8. The M.D. may provide transportation for delivery of the equipment with rates set forth in the Schedule of Fees. A~~
- ~~9. The M.D. reserves the right to deliver and pick up the equipment, based on limitations due to operations.~~
- ~~1. Non profit organizations will be allowed to rent/use equipment only for recognized community events, minimum of one (1) day rental fee shall be collected for any piece of equipment that is removed from the yard on a rental agreement, regardless whether or not the equipment was used for that period;~~
- ~~2. Upon the return of equipment, rental fees plus applicable G.S.T. shall be collected for the entire period the equipment was in the possession of the renter. However, under extenuating circumstances, at the discretion of the Agricultural Services Manager, charges may be altered;~~
- ~~3. An invoice in lieu of immediate payment may be issued to the renter;~~
- ~~4. Upon return by the renter, equipment shall be inspected for damage and cleanliness by both parties prior to return of applicable damage deposit;~~
- ~~5. If, after inspection, it is determined that equipment has been damaged by inappropriate use, abuse, or operator negligence (damage which has resulted from any cause other than normal use) the renter shall be held responsible for repair costs, and may result in the retention of applicable damage deposit to cover all, or portion of, the repair costs incurred by the Municipality;~~
- ~~10-6. Equipment shall be returned in clean condition; equipment returned unclean shall be appropriately cleaned by municipal staff, and a cleaning fee shall be charged to the renter as determined by the Municipal Schedule of Fees labour rate.~~

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APPENDIX

- ~~1. ABC single spaced content with 1 full line space between each number (if needed) Attached is a copy of the rental agreement and shall be considered part of this Policy.~~

Title: SOIL CONSERVATION

Policy No:

Effective Date:

Motion Number:

Supersedes Policy No: AG 18



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16

"A Great Place to Live, Work and Play"

Purpose: ~~The Municipal District of~~ Greenview recognizes that protection of soil quality and integrity is vital to agricultural and environmental sustainability. ~~the MD~~Greenview further recognizes that it is beneficial to actively encourage the adoption of Best Management Practices and soil conservation techniques in order to protect and enhance productivity, and to take measures to prevent soil erosion and/or soil degradation on public and private lands throughout the Municipality-District of Greenview.

DEFINITIONS

Soil Degradation – the reduction in the level of soil organic matter and available crop nutrients, the redistribution of soluble salts onto the soil surface as a result of groundwater movement or evaporation, and/or the breakdown of soil structure through tillage practices.

Soil Erosion – the loss or movement of topsoil through the forces of wind and water

POLICY

1. As per Section 14(a) of the *Soil Conservation Act*, the local authority (Municipal Council) shall appoint the Agricultural Service Board ~~will be appointed~~ as the Soil Conservation Appeal Committee at the beginning of each year, to review and render decisions upon appeals submitted
2. The local authority (Municipal Council) shall appoint the Assistant Manager of Agricultural Services as a Soil Conservation Officer under the Soil Conservation Act for the term of their employment. The Manager of Agricultural Services is, by virtue of title under the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, automatically appointed as a Soil Conservation Officer under the *Soil Conservation Act*.
3. ~~The MD will~~Greenview shall provide appropriate identification to duly appointed Inspectors.
4. The Manager of Agricultural Services ~~will~~shall coordinate with other Municipal departments to establish a method of communicating the locations of soil disturbances, which have resulted in exposed soil that requires re-vegetation measures.

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PROCEDURE

Policy No:

Page 1

1. Agricultural Services personnel ~~will~~shall provide practical advice and technical assistance~~information~~ to residents, ratepayers, and stakeholders in appropriate soil management practices.
2. Agricultural Services personnel ~~will~~shall conduct activities to encourage the establishment and maintenance of healthy vegetation on roadside ditches, and municipal lands.
3. The Manager and Assistant Manager of Agricultural Services ~~will~~shall serve as Inspectors under the *Soil Conservation Act*, and take action and/or impose penalties upon landowners if soil is deteriorating through wind or water erosion and/or other means. Any notice of soil deteriorating through wind or water erosion or other means will be reported to the ASB for considerations and recommendation to Municipal Council.
4. The Inspector ~~will~~shall encourage voluntary compliance with the *Soil Conservation Act* including any amendments or successor legislation thereto, and shall as a last resort, issue and enforce such Notices to the landholder directing action to be taken as required by the Act, when the Inspector is of the opinion that appropriate measures are not being undertaken to prevent or stop soil loss and/or deterioration from taking place.
5. To minimize soil erosion on Municipal lands, Agricultural Services personnel ~~will~~shall take appropriate measures in an attempt to ensure the rapid establishment of desired vegetation on Municipal properties by:
 - a. seeding exposed areas on all Municipal properties, as soon as reasonably practicable and using an appropriate grass seed blend, and maintaining healthy vegetation, once established.
 - b. seeding areas that have been disturbed as a result of Municipal construction projects, as soon as reasonably practicable, using an appropriate grass seed blend and maintaining healthy vegetation, once established.

APPENDIX

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Title: VOLUNTARY PROGRAM PARTICIPATION ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Policy No:

Effective Date:

Motion Number:

Supersedes Policy No: AG 16



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16

"A Great Place to Live, Work and Play"

Purpose: ~~The Municipal District of~~ Greenview recognizes the benefit to residents and ratepayers of voluntary participation by the Municipality in programs offered by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development including, but not limited to, the Wild Boar Bounty Program and Coyote Predation Management Program.

DEFINITIONS

Wild Boar Bounty Program – A program available through Alberta Agriculture to help control the province's wild boar population

~~ABC single spaced content with 1 full line space between each def (if needed)~~

Coyote Predation Management Program – A program to help reduce predation on livestock to a level that is tolerable and manageable to an individual producer

~~Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development~~

~~Eligible Participant~~

POLICY

1. ~~The MD will~~Greenview shall administer the Wild Boar Bounty Program and Coyote Predation Management Program within the guidelines specified by Alberta Agriculture and ~~Rural Development~~Forestry.

PROCEDURE

1. Greenview shall ensure the requirements and restrictions imposed upon participants of the Wild Boar Bounty Program are strictly adhered to; and that all reporting requirements are met;
2. The Manager of Agricultural Services or their designate shall take measures to ensure appropriate incentive reward payment is made to eligible participants; however, all reward payments shall be made at the discretion of the Manager of Agricultural Services or their designate;
3. The Manager of Agricultural Services shall present to Council, at budget deliberations, the value of anticipated incentive reward expenditures for the upcoming calendar year;

Policy No:

4. Council shall, during budget deliberations, establish the level of funding to be provided to program participants, with due regard for requisition values as set forth by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (if specified);
5. Greenview shall ensure the duties, requirements and restrictions imposed upon License holders and participants of the Coyote Predation Management Program are strictly adhered to, and that all reporting requirements are met;
- ~~— The Manager of Agricultural Services shall make every effort to ensure the maximum number of allowable License holders are available to administer the Coyote Predation Management Program;~~
6. Agricultural Services personnel shall provide practical advice and technical assistance to residents and ratepayers, and shall encourage appropriate non-lethal prevention and management practices as required by the Coyote Predation Management Program guidelines;
- ~~1-7.~~ Any assistance provided to residents and ratepayers, through the distribution of toxicants or other lethal devices for coyote control, shall be at the sole discretion of the License holders.

APPENDIX

- ~~1. ABC single spaced content with 1 full line space between each number (if needed)~~

Title: WEED CONTROL

Policy No: 6303

Effective Date:

Motion Number:

Supersedes Policy No: (None)



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16

"A Great Place to Live, Work and Play"

Purpose: Greenview believes that it is beneficial to implement measures to prevent the establishment of, and to control the spread of, invasive plant species on all public and private lands within the boundaries of Greenview.

DEFINITIONS

Control – inhibit the growth or spread of the plant.

Eradicate – destroy all parts of the plant, and render reproductive parts of the plant non-viable.

Noxious Weeds and Prohibited Noxious Weeds – as defined, and include all those weeds identified^{sd}, under the *Weed Control Act* of Alberta (RSA 2008/W-5.1) and the *Weed Control Regulation* (19/2010), as amended from time to time. As well, Noxious Weeds and Prohibited Noxious Weeds shall include invasive plant species which have been elevated in status by municipal bylaw.

POLICY

1. Greenview ~~will~~^{shall} strive to eradicate prohibited noxious weeds and to control noxious weeds ~~within its boundaries~~.
2. The effective control of noxious and eradication of prohibited noxious weeds will assist in the protection of agricultural productivity and the preservation of the natural environment.
3. This policy ~~will~~^{shall} be reviewed^{ed} annually.

PROCEDURE

1. Greenview Council shall appoint the ~~Assistant Manager, the Agricultural Services~~ Supervisor ~~Trainee~~ and other weed/pest inspectors as identified under the *Weed Control Act*. The Manager of Agricultural Services is automatically appointed as Weed Inspector under the Agricultural Service Board Act (RSA 2000, Section 8).
2. Greenview Council shall appoint an independent appeal committee at the organizational meeting each year to review and render decisions upon appeals submitted.

3. The Manager of Agricultural Services, [Assistant Manager, Supervisor Trainee](#) and Appointed Weed Inspectors are to serve as Inspectors under the *Weed Control Act* and shall, as authorized under this Act, conduct weed inspections and surveillance and shall monitor and accurately record weed infestations observed.
4. [The Manager of Agricultural Services, Assistant Manager, Supervisor Trainee](#) ~~The Manager of Agricultural Services~~ and Appointed Weed Inspectors shall encourage voluntary compliance with the requirements of the *Weed Control Act* and shall, as a last resort, take action and/or impose penalties, as required by the noted Act, upon the landowners or occupants in the event that declared weed species infest public or private lands unabated.
5. [The Manager of Agricultural Services, Assistant Manager, Supervisor Trainee](#) ~~The Manager of Agricultural Services~~ and Appointed Weed Inspectors shall, upon confirmation of a noxious weed infestation on private land, the inspector may notify the landowner by way of telephone or personal visit; followed by correspondence; and then enforcement procedures if required.
6. [The Manager of Agricultural Services, Assistant Manager, Supervisor Trainee](#) ~~The Manager of Agricultural Services~~ and Appointed Weed Inspectors shall issue and enforce such Notices as required by the *Weed Control Act* when the Inspector is of the opinion that the property contains Prohibited Noxious weeds and the landowner or occupant is unwilling to take measures to eradicate the infestation.
7. [The Manager of Agricultural Services, Assistant Manager, Supervisor Trainee](#) ~~The Manager of Agricultural Services~~ and Appointed Weed Inspectors shall provide practical advice and technical assistance to residents, ratepayers, and stakeholders in appropriate weed prevention and management practices, and shall conduct activities to prevent establishment and/or limit the spread of declared weeds.
8. ~~Human Resources~~[Greenview](#) shall provide appropriate identification to duly appointed Weed Inspectors.
9. Registered landowners and industrial lease holders shall eradicate all ~~Prohibited-prohibited~~ [Noxious-noxious](#) weeds [and control all noxious weeds](#) observed on private or public lands during inspections conducted pursuant to this procedure, through cooperation or enforcement.
10. ~~Registered landowners and industrial lease holders shall control all Noxious-noxious weeds observed on private or public lands during inspections conducted pursuant to this procedure, through cooperation and enforcement.~~

APPENDIX

1. ~~ABC single spaced content with 1 full line space between each number (if needed)~~

March Bull Sales are Upon Us!

By Kaitlin McLachlan

Volume 13
Issue 134
March 2016

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March is here! My favourite time of the year! If you are anything like me, going to get the mail is almost like Christmas – there might be the gift of a sale catalogue to flip through! Not only is Ritchie Bros. spring sale catalogue here, but bull sale catalogues are rolling in. Bull sale season is kicking off here in the Peace! If you were at our AGM you would have seen some flyers advertising some local sales and private treaty offerings in our Bull Sale Corner. If not, I'm sure that you have also been receiving catalogues in the mail, seen the digital versions on Facebook, and have likely gotten the *Bull Sale Supplement* in the last *Northern Horizon*.

If you are in the market for a new bull this spring, what are you looking for? Cow bull, heifer bull, simmental bull, black bulls, tan bulls, the list is endless! Purchasing a new bull is a big decision and can have a significant long-term effect on your herd, so it is important to determine what you want in a bull before heading to the sale barn. With the advances in technology with artificial insemination and embryo transfers, it is not hard to find high quality genetics here in the Peace Country. Remember, that when you are looking for a specific trait in a bull, such as a high rate of gain, other traits may be compromised, such as conformation of the feet and legs.

Look at the Bull

When assessing a new potential herd sire, it is important to take into consideration many factors including: conformation, reproductive soundness, performance characteristics, and age. We all know what we like in the physical appearance of a bull – spring in the rib and girth, length in the topline, smoothness in the front, and width across the back with meat and muscle that carries down his hip into his leg. When in the pen with a potential bull, look at his feet. If you are breeding on pasture, he needs to be able to cover the miles and get up on females. Ensure that hooves are sound and solid. How he stands on his feet can give insight to how long his feet will last. If he sits back on his hooves, he may go slipper-footed over time and go lame. If he sits too far ahead, his knees might give out over time. Watch him on the move. Ideally, when a young animal walks, their back foot should land exactly where their front foot lands. If it lands behind, they may not be as flexible in their movement as they should to be. If it lands to the outside or inside, they are splayfooted or pigeon-toed, meaning they swing their legs outwards or inwards when they walk. This may wear on his legs, knees and hips. Over time, his legs can potentially break down and he may go lame.

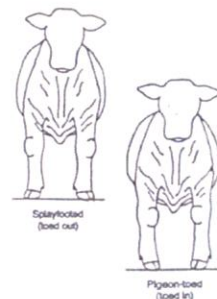


Illustration of Splayfooted and Pigeon-toed cattle via: sdstate.edu

Over the years it has become more and more common to buy yearling bulls, to the point that almost all the bulls on the market are yearlings. With the advances in genetics in the past years, there is little concern in turning a yearling bull out during the breeding season. However, it should not be expected that a yearling will cover as many cows as a mature bull. Yearlings also get worn down through the breeding season faster than mature bulls as they are still growing and developing themselves. While we may get one more year of use out of a yearling versus a two-year-old, we still need to be careful not to over-work him and take steps to grow him out properly.



There are a number of bull sales coming up in the Peace, for more information on local sales, check out the Northern Horizon Bull Sale Supplement at <http://bit.ly/1LcF2IV>
photo via facebook.com/northernhorizoncd

Not only is it important to look at the bull himself, but also the program that he is coming out of. Most all breeders are open about their feeding and growing programs, and it is important to get that information on the bull's development. Bulls that have been on high-energy, grain-based rations will likely be heavier and packing more fat than those brought up on a forage-based ration, there may be some long-term consequences to consider. According to Dr John Kastelic, professor of cattle reproductive health at the University of Calgary, in a www.canadiancattlemen.ca article he warns against buying fat bulls. As with all cattle, when bulls are pushed too hard on high energy rations during their growing phase, issues may crop up later in that bull's life such as: reduced semen quality and count, poor feet and lameness, and potential digestive issues such as ruminitis and liver abscesses. On the other hand, bulls developed on a

forage diet may be on the lighter side come sale time. If they are on the smaller side, they may need a bit more attention during their continued growth to ensure they grow into maturity properly and last for the long-term.

Bull Selection Con't

...Continued from Page 1

Read the Sale Catalogue

You've found a bull you really like visually. Looks alone are not enough to buy the bull however. Think of looking at the catalogue as looking up the bull's 'specs', similar to looking up the horsepower and pulling capacity of a new tractor! It may be shiny and green, but if it won't pull and run your baler, it's not a fit for you; the same goes for bulls.



Liking the look of a bull is the first step to selecting a new herd sire. Photo via: facebook.com/willow-creek-simmentals

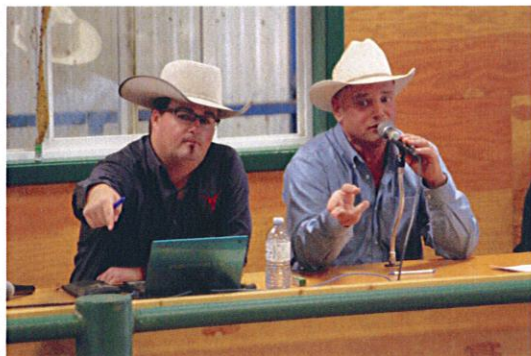
Birth weights are one of the first things we look at when flipping through a catalogue. It is something that has become commonplace in the commercial industry – buying a light birthweight bull means we won't have to be out in the middle of the night pulling calves. While that may be true, we also need to look at the long-term effects of breeding to light birthweight bulls year after year. It is important to remember that birth weights and yearling weights on bulls are very highly correlated. Some in industry caution against continually breeding for light birth weights as you are effectively selecting for a smaller framed and potentially frailer animal. Typically, heifers can handle up to 75lb calves with little issue, and mature cows can typically handle 80-95 lb calves with ease. Therefore, it is something to keep in mind when looking at a bull in a catalog. Maybe those light birthweight bulls are best suited for the heifers and a bull with a higher birthweight will

work for the mature cows.

Most sale catalogues have an explanation of EPDs and the averages for the breed being sold. If not, the *Bull Sale Supplement* in the last *Northern Horizon* also has these averages for your reference. Comparing a bull's EPDs to the breed average can give you an idea on the calving ease, and qualities of his offspring, such as carcass weight and milk quality. Explanations of EPD values compared to the breed average can typically be found.

It is becoming more and more commonplace to find additional information on bulls in catalogues aside from parentage, birthweight, yearling weight, and EPDs. Information such as DNA test results for colour and polledness, negative results to PI (persistently infected) for BVD, carcass data, and even ultrasound results for ribeye can be available. These values can be important to your operation - for example, if you are looking to buy a simmental bull who will throw black calves with no horns, you'd be looking at buying a bull who is homozygous black and homozygous polled.

Other important herd information is typically listed near the front or back of the catalogue. This includes farm vaccination protocols, nutrition program, when and where breeding soundness exams (semen tests & scrotal measurements) were taken, as well as any insurance options. When buying a bull, be cognisant that the majority of the issues we will have with a bull occur in the first year, therefore insurance is not a bad idea as bulls are a major investment.



PCBFA wishes all buyers and sellers the best this spring! Photo via: facebook.com/northernhorizondc

So keep this all in mind this spring when perusing the bull pens this spring. Take all of a bull's attributes into consideration and decide what is most important to you and your cow herd. Remember that a bull purchase will have a long-lasting impact on your cow herd! Wishing all a successful bull sale season and happy shopping!

2015 PCBFA Memberships expire March 31st!

Make sure to renew your membership to continue receiving relevant, local information, details on our projects & upcoming events, as well as your 2 free feed samples and all the other perks of PCBFA membership!

Find us online!

www.peacecountrybeef.ca



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Sustainable Sourcing Coming to Alberta

By: Paul Watson
Environmental Farm Plan Director

There are likely two questions that come to mind after reading the title. First, what is sustainable sourcing? And second, how can this be a good thing?

The Alberta Environmental Farm Plan defines sustainable sourcing as a “means of buying goods from suppliers who adhere to a code of practice that reduces the social, economic, and environmental impacts of food production, processing and distribution”.

Sustainable sourcing has been becoming a reality for many years now. About 10 years ago, I was involved in a project that aimed to get producers a premium for demonstrating “Good Agricultural Practices”. It was based on the knowledge that Alberta’s producers are good environmental stewards, and we wanted them to get paid for that. Fast forward to March 2015 when I attended an SAI Platform Meeting in Toronto, with a diverse group in attendance: livestock and crop industry groups, provincial EFP reps, academics, food industry, producer groups, and likely more. At the meeting, representatives from crop industry associations spoke about how they had come to the conclusion that sustainable sourcing was here to stay.



What does that mean for producers? Perhaps less than you might think. Peter Ywema, General Manager of the SAI Platform, said that in Canada, we are the reverse of other countries. We have the legislative frameworks that cover the social and ethical aspects (e.g. child labour), regulatory and environmental (eg. production practices). But we don’t have the paper trail. While many other countries have that trail they struggle to meet the low expectations of the Farmer Self-Assessment version 2.0. For example, question FSA 13 asks: “When selecting and using varieties do you make an informed choice”? I’ve never met a producer who doesn’t make informed choices on varieties. So, in some areas, the bar is not exceedingly high.

Why is it good news that sustainable sourcing is coming to Canada? As a society, we have the social, ethical, economic and environmental aspects of sustainability in place. Demonstrating good stewardship will soon be a requirement in all sectors and offers Alberta (and Canada) a competitive advantage in the global marketplace. I believe sustainable sourcing will mean two things to producers.

One, we need to document what we do and this has been echoed by producers. Here at Alberta EFP, we are trying to make this easier; we are updating our WebBook, and planning to make it easier for producers to fill in and update information. For example, we are developing our online version so you can enter your legal land location and the WebBook will access maps, soils data, and maybe more. We know that this is the “hard part” quite often and we aim to make it easier.

Two, there may be a verification step or even an audit process for some industries. Will everyone be “verified” or audited? Some sectors may require it, but the sheer number of farms (≈ 43,000 in Alberta) makes that unlikely. For the environmental component, AEFP has trained technicians who have said they can, and will audit/verify if it’s required.

Alberta’s agricultural community has long been a leader in adopting more sustainable practices. We can easily demonstrate to the food industry and consumers that Alberta producers are excellent stewards of the land. By doing that, we can become the preferred source for agricultural products, all while maintaining healthy profits. It’s time for us to get ready for sustainable sourcing and make it one of the best things that’s happened to Alberta’s agricultural industry.

Environmental Farm Plans

Many Alberta producers are wondering if they need a current Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). The EFP is meant to be reviewed and upgraded regularly for each operation. It’s simple to do. The program is coordinated by the ARECA and EFP technicians are available across the province. A completed EFP is required for the On-Farm Stewardship categories of the Growing Forward 2 program. Stewardship is being tied to business opportunities and it is good to be prepared. There are many other reasons to complete an EFP too, including having a hard copy record of the environmental status of your operation, becoming more aware of the rules and regulations concerning the environmental impacts on farms including protecting water resources and air quality. EFPs can also contribute to the environmental sustainability of crop and livestock operations. Updating your EFP shows your commitment to being good stewards of the land and your commitment to meeting consumer expectations and food safety. By establishing that food is produced in an environmentally sustainable way in Alberta, also positions Alberta to be competitive in world markets.

Producers can use an online workbook. This workbook carries data entered to all areas of the plan where it is needed, provides quick access to information sources, ensures each section is complete prior to moving to the next and allows the EFP technician to see what is completed, answer questions and assist with finishing the plan.

To get started on an EFP, contact PCBFA, or attend one of our upcoming EFP workshops!

Contact us for:

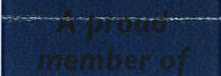
- Project Ideas
- Feed Testing

- Growing Forward 2 Assistance
- Ration Formulation Help

- Environmental Farm Plans
- Past Project Information

Upcoming Events!

*Thanks
to our
Sponsors!*



Peace Country Classic

March 10-12, 2016

10am-5pm

Beef Market Update with Anne Wasko, Mar 11th, 10 am registration

Evergreen Park, Grande Prairie

Solar Workshop

March 10, 2016

9:30am Registration

Agriplex- High Prairie

\$25/Member, \$35/Non-Member

EFP & Growing Forward 2 Workshops

March 15, PCBFA High Prairie Office

March 16, GPRC Campus room TIB 142, Fairview

March 17, Saddle Hills County, Location TBA

1pm Registration

Free to Attend

Peace Country Beef School

March 15, 2016

Postponed

Sprayer Workshop

Week of March 21st

MD of Spirit River & MD of Peace

More information to come

Succession Planning Workshop with Merle Good

March 30, 2016

1pm Registration

Debolt Community Center

For more information, or to register for PCBFA events please call
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Forage Facts

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Welcoming Some New Faces to PCBFA!

By: Kaitlin McLachlan

2016 is off to a wonderful start here at PCBFA! We kicked off the year with some of the highest event attendance numbers that we have ever seen, and now we are pleased to be welcoming some new faces to the Association! We hired our new Agri-Environmental Program Coordinator, who started on the 29th of March. As well, we elected three new board members at our AGM on February 26th! Let's get to know our new additions!

Jen Allen, Agri-Environmental Program Coordinator



First off, I am very excited for the opportunity to work with PCBFA as the Agri—Environmental Program Coordinator. Originally, I am from Ontario and recently moved to the Fairview area this past summer.

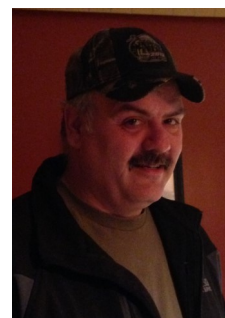
So far, I am really loving what the Peace Country has to offer. I graduated last spring in Ontario from the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences, majoring in Natural Resources Management. I really enjoyed my schooling and am excited to put my education knowledge and experiences to work at PCBFA. Since moving to Fairview I have gained a lot of on-farm experience and have become more familiar with agriculture production systems. More specifically, I have been recently involved in the cattle production industry. Furthermore, I have gained familiarity of Alberta's northwest

Provincial Grazing Reserves from my past employment.

I am very eager about this new position as it is in my field and relates to my strong passion for the environment as well as my more recent interest in agriculture. As I take on this new job, I hope to assist in the introduction and maintenance of both environmentally and economically sustainable production systems. I also hope to help promote awareness of optimal farm management strategies and the optimal use of resources.

I am really looking forward to learning the new aspects and expanding my experience in both areas of agriculture and the environment. I am also looking forward to extending my roots in the community and hope to meet many of you while being a part of the PCBFA team!

Faron Steffen—Director, North



Tell us a bit about your operation:

We are running 100 commercial cow/calf pairs north of Grimshaw and also farm a bit of crop land.

How long have you been in the area?

All my life

Where do you see your operation heading over the next 5 years?

We would like to expand and get some more cows.

Where do you hope to see the beef industry as a whole go over the next 5 years?

I would like to see it stay where it is. Prices

Continued from Page 1

are good and we finally have some long awaited stability!

What types of projects & events are you interested in participating in as you become more involved with PCBFA?

Cocktails! Tried one last year and I was quite impressed with how it turned out in the drought. As well, I would like to learn more about beef cow efficiency.

Joyleen Beamish—Director, South East



Tell us a bit about your operation:

We run 85 pairs of commercial cattle near High Prairie.

How long have you been in the area?

Born and raised!

Where do you see your operation heading over the next 5 years?

We are looking to expand our operation and working more with the family, and getting our son and daughter more involved with the farm.

Where do you hope to see the beef industry as a whole go over the next 5 years?

I just hope that cattle prices stay close enough to input prices that we can make ends meet!

What types of projects & events are you interested in participating in as you become more involved with PCBFA?

I am very interested in off-site solar watering systems! Would also like to learn more about options to extend the grazing season and

figure out a way to control those nasty grasshoppers!

Gary Gurtler—Director, North



Tell us a bit about your operation:

We run a purebred operation by the name of Gurtler's Polled Herefords near North Star, south of Manning, as well as a commercial herd. We are running about 150

cow/calf pairs and selling 50 purebred and hybrid bulls. I was also a delegate for Alberta Beef Producers for 16 years.

How long have you been in the area?

Since 1955!

Where do you see your operation heading over the next 5 years?

Over the next 5 years we will be transitioning the farm over to our son Ethan. I hope that 5 years from now he is making the decisions around the place and I take more of a mentor role helping him out.

Where do you hope to see the beef industry as a whole go over the next 5 years?

I would like to see more young people entering the industry.

What types of projects & events are you interested in participating in as you become more involved with PCBFA?

I would like to work more with extending the grazing season and stretching pastures in drought years. As well, I would like to learn more about wildlife management—namely wolves.

Thank-You to the PCBFA Board of Directors

Jordan Barnfield
Thomas Claydon
Conrad Dolen
Nancy VanHerk
Preston Basnett
Faron Steffen
John Prinse
Stan Logan
Gary Gurtler
Joyleen Beamish

Have Project or Workshop Ideas?

We are always
looking for ideas!
Give us a call!

PCBFA Member Perks

- Two Free Feed Tests/Year
- Ration Balancing Assistance
- Growing Forward 2 Assistance
- Environmental Farm Plans
- Scale & Tag Reader available for member use
- Soil & Livestock Water Quality Testing

Thank-You to our Municipal Partners

MD of Fairview
MD of Peace
Clear Hills County
Saddle Hills County
MD of Spirit River
Birch Hills County
MD of Greenview
Big Lakes County
County of Grande Prairie

Keep your eyes on the *Growing Forward 2* website for programs that are re-opening!

www.growingforward.alberta.ca

If you have questions on any of the programs, or would like assistance filling out a *Growing Forward 2* application, give us a call!

McDonald's Verified Sustainable Beef Pilot Project—What Does it Mean to Us?



By: Kaitlin McLachlan

Did you know that 100% of the beef sold by McDonald's in Canada is in fact Canadian beef? They have been serving Canadian beef for several years now, since shortly after the BSE crisis rocked the Canadian Beef Industry. So how did the Verified Sustainable Beef (VSB) Pilot Project come about, and why should we care about it? We know words like "sustainable" and "humane" can be buzz words in today's industry, and since many of our consumers have little background in, or knowledge of primary agriculture, they want more information when it comes to their food and where it comes from.



Photo via: livescience.com

Back in 2009, McDonald's announced their plan to move towards sourcing sustainable beef. Since then, they have been involved in the establishment of the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef and the Canadian

Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, which includes members from all steps of the beef value chain. McDonald's chose Canada as their venue for the VSB Pilot Project for a number of reasons. First, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Cattle Feeders, and numerous other producer groups were more than willing to help out with the project as one way to help ensure a reliable market for Canadian beef. Second, Canada has the most advanced portfolio of programs already relating to sustainable beef production, such as Environmental Farm Plans, the Verified Beef Production program, the Beef Infoexchange System (BIXS), and Growing Forward 2. We have already taken most of the steps here in Canada to be "Verified Sustainable," and the VSB Pilot is a great indicator to test the effectiveness of our existing programs. Third, McDonald's is only selling Canadian beef in Canada – it is

a closed system. These reasons made Canada a very attractive host for this pilot project.

What does "Verified Sustainable" mean? During the past year, McDonald's has been working with producers who have voluntarily joined the project, and they have been sending third-party verifiers to inspect these farms. The verifiers tour the farm with the owner and have a checklist of indicators to inspect including: soil health, beneficial grazing management, good quality water sources, animal health record-keeping, humane handling of cattle to ensure safety and minimize stress, energy efficiency of the farm, and 24 other indicators. This program is outcome-based rather than practice based. This means that producers can demonstrate the outcomes of their practices rather than focusing on the practice itself. McDonald's is listening to producers and verifying them based on their final outcome, rather than forcing them to comply by a rulebook with a list of standard practices.

Outcome Based Indicators	Practice Based Indicator
Operation can demonstrate steps implemented to mitigate animal pain.	All males are left intact.
Operation can demonstrate how its facilities and handling techniques minimize stress on cattle.	Handling system is featured on VBP's approved equipment list.

Wondering how can you get involved with McDonald's Verified Sustainable Beef Pilot Project and what you will get out of it? This project is meant to test verification methods. By participating in the pilot project, producers are helping to develop a verification system that works for Canadian producers and consumers. It will also help stakeholders – such as the Canadian Cattlemen's Association – to move forward in their marketing of Canadian beef as safe, humane, and sustainable. The VSB Pilot will also create a benchmark for future sustainability in the Canadian beef industry. For more information or to get involved with the VSB Pilot Project, please visit vsbpilot.ca.



Upcoming Events

Clear Hills County Trade Show	April 9th 10am-5pm	Dave Shaw Memorial Center, Hines Creek
Sprayer Workshops	Tues, April 12th 1 pm Registration	Grimshaw Legion
	Thurs, April 14th 1 pm Registration	Spirit River Location TBA

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Twin Rate = \$2989/Person
Single Rate = \$3526/Person
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\$500 Deposit/Person due July 4th
Group Flight pricing available

For more information, contact Lawrence at lawrence@leadertours.ca, or visit leadertours.ca
Or call Kaitlin at 780-835-6799, or visit www.peacecountrybeef.ca/event/study-tour-to-denver



For more information or to register for any of these great events,
please call Kaitlin at 780-835-6799 or email kmclachlan@gprc.ab.ca

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PCBFA 2017 STUDY TOUR NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW, DENVER, COLORADO JANUARY 10-17, 2017

Join the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association as we visit our largest trading partner, the United States for one of the largest gatherings in the Beef Industry, the National Western Stock Show!

Twin Rate = \$2989/Person

Single Rate = \$3526/Person

Land Only

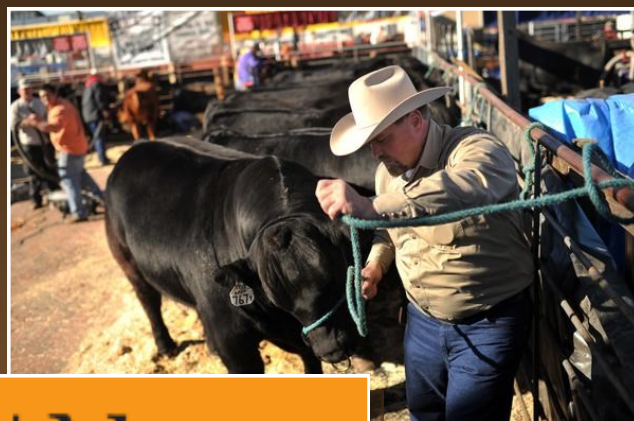
\$500 Deposit/Person due July 4th

Group Flight pricing available

For more information, contact Lawrence at lawrence@leadertours.ca, or visit leadertours.ca
Or call Kaitlin at 780-835-6799, or visit www.peacecountrybeef.ca/event/study-tour-to-denver



Leader Tours Inc.



National Western Stock Show & Agricultural Tour

January 10th—17th, 2017

Tour Highlights

Day at leisure, Welcome Dinner at the Historic Buckhorn Exchange, 4 Full days at the National Western Stock Show, - Various Livestock Shows, Horse Shows, Rodeo Events and Educational presentations, Wild West Tasting Tour, Visit to Colorado State University Research Farm, Visit to JBS and local feedlot, Day of farm visits around the Denver area, Farewell Group Dinner.



Day 1: Tuesday, Jan 10th 2017 (D)

Arrive in Denver

Coach transfer is available to those that have booked on the group flights

Arrive at hotel: check in and rest of the day at leisure.

7pm Welcome Dinner at the famous Buckhorn Exchange

Denver, Colorado's most historic eating and drinking establishment, located at 1000 Osage Street in Denver, Colorado, is now in its second century of operation. The Buckhorn Exchange, which has liquor license Number One in the State of Colorado, was founded on November 17, 1893 by Henry H. "Shorty Scout" Zietz, easily recognized as one of the most colorful figures of the Old West.

In 1875, at age 10, a wide-eyed Zietz met Col. William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody. Within two years young Henry was a full-fledged member of the hard-riding, straight-shooting band of scouts. It was during the years that Henry rode with Buffalo Bill that the great Indian leader, Chief Sitting Bull, dubbed him "Shorty Scout" due to his diminutive stature.

The Buckhorn Exchange brims with historic artifacts, legends and notable moments. Five Presidents - Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan - dined at the Buckhorn. Hundreds of Hollywood legends, too, have savored our fare, including Bob Hope, Jimmy Cagney, Charlton Heston, astronauts Scott Carpenter and Jack Swigert, Great Britain's Princess Anne, Roy Rogers and Will Rogers. The list is virtually endless.

Hotel: Holiday Inn, Lakewood

Day 2: Wednesday, Jan 11th 2017 (B, D)

Depending on 2017 schedule – dates to attend the show may change

The National Western Stock Show is considered the Super Bowl of Livestock Shows as one of the World's Largest Cattle Shows!



The National Western Stock Show hosts nearly 20 breeds of cattle during its 16-day run. Visitors are able to view traditional competition among exhibitors of breeding animals ultimately used for seedstock in agricultural production (beef cattle, sheep and goats). National Western also offers competition among exhibitors of animals used primarily for recreation or companionship (llamas, alpacas, poultry and dogs). Viewing these events is all part of the Stock Show experience and can be done with a grounds admission ticket.

5:30pm—The Wild West Whiskey Tour

In the mid-1800s the discovery of gold in the part of Kansas that was to become Denver had Argonauts flooding down the Smoky Hill trail in hopes of hitting it rich. Denver was the embodiment of the western frontier, with locally distilled spirits, cowboys, saloons, gambling, and opium. On the Wild West Tour we have the first three covered. You don't have to be a cowboy or cowgirl to enjoy the alcohol and dancing. Come join us as we rediscover the nostalgia of Denver's wild west on this tasting tour.

<http://centennialspecialtytours.com/colorado-cowboy-tour/>

Hotel: Holiday Inn, Lakewood



Day 3: Thursday, Jan 12th 2017 (B)

Colorado State University's research farm in Fort Collins visit – Eastern Colorado Research Center

Center History

In 1952, a ranch consisting of 3,760 acres and now known as the Eastern Colorado Research Center was purchased by Colorado State University. At the time of purchase, some 2,960 acres were rangeland in poor to fair condition while 800 acres were abandoned cropland. This offered an ideal opportunity for CSU scientists to investigate problems in management and improvement of range and beef cattle production.

The Eastern Colorado Research Center is located midway between Akron and Sterling just east of State Highway 63. A sign located along the highway directs visitors to the headquarters.

Land and Facilities

The present facilities consist of more than 35 fenced pastures of native and seeded rangeland, 22 feedlot pens with 640 feet of bunk-space, enclosed working facilities with chute and scales for working and weighing the livestock.

Program History

The ECRC research effort presently is focused on beef cattle reproduction and nutrition.

Extensive research has been conducted at ECRC in beef cattle estrous synchronization. Early work evaluated the use of estradiol valerate and progesterone to induce estrus in non-cycling heifers. Recently, a low cost system using melengestrol acetate (MGA) and prostaglandin F2a for synchronizing estrus has been developed. This system is highly effective in replacement heifers and has been evaluated in lactating cows and found to be effective when body condition is not limiting.

Beef cattle nutrition research is being done in both range and feedlot. Work has been completed on the effect of time (A.M. vs. P.M.) or supplementation on range. The effect of protein type upon finishing steer performance when fed whole shelled corn has been studied and research has shown positive effect on the economics of feeding whole shelled corn in a finishing ration.

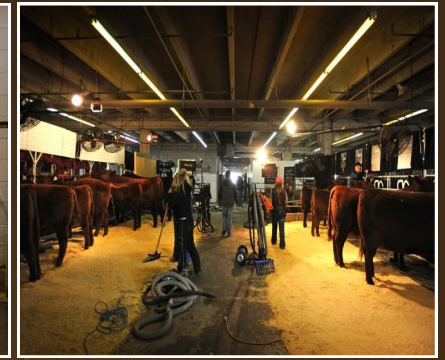
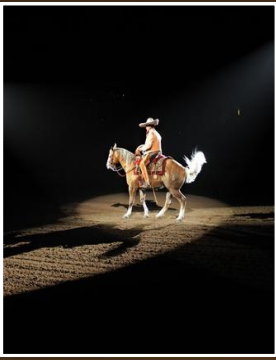
JBS and Feedlot visit – to be confirmed

The story of JBS® began in 1953 in Brazil, when José Batista Sobrinho (whose initials now form the name of our company) started out processing less than five head of cattle per day. Through determination, discipline, simplicity, years of hard work and a few acquisitions along the way, JBS has grown from a small, family-owned business into the world's leading provider of quality meat protein, leather and sustainable co-products.

JBS® USA is a leading processor of beef, pork and lamb in the U.S., a leading processor of beef in Canada and the largest cattle feeder in the world with operations in the U.S. and Canada. Our company also enjoys a strategic relationship with JBS Australia, the largest processor of beef and lamb and one of the largest livestock feeders in Australia.



Hotel: Holiday Inn, Lakewood



Day 4: Friday, Jan 13th 2017 (B)

The National Western Stock Show

Horse Shows:

- **Freestyle Reining**—Beautiful spins and powerful stops mingled with original costumes and musical themes make up the RAM Invitational Freestyle Reining, one of National Western Stock Show's crowd favorites. Reining was developed from the moves a cow horse is asked to perform during regular ranch duties. However, unlike standard reining classes which require competitors to perform a specified pattern, freestyle reining allows exhibitors to use costumes, music, themes, props and special effects
- **Monarch Grand Prix**
- **Evening of Dancing Horses**- The wine and roses event of the National Western Stock Show, **An Evening of Dancing Horses** brings the best equestrian talent together in front of live music from the Denver Brass. Enjoy an evening full of formal dressage, reining, liberty and other talent from around the world.
- **Draft Horse Show**
- **Wild West Show**—National Western's **Wild West Show** features the color and pageantry of the Old West. Fans of all ages can reminisce of Wild West legends, including Buffalo Bill, Annie Oakley and others. The show is full of quick draw antics and cowboy entertainment, painting the story of how the West was won.



Hotel: Holiday Inn, Lakewood

Day 5: Saturday, Jan 14th 2017 (B)

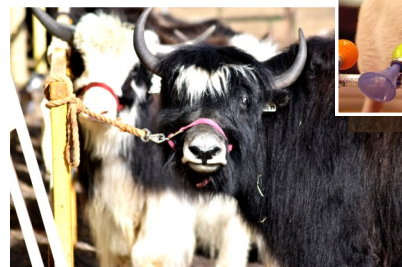
The National Western Stock Show

Livestock Shows:

Livestock exhibited at the National Western include more than 20 breeds of beef cattle along with bison, yaks and longhorns, sheep, hogs, goats, poultry, llamas and alpacas. Stock dog herding competitions are also held. Along with the many events in the main Hall and Stadium Arena, known as the "Hill", the historic Denver Stock Yards is home to multiple cattle shows that include pens and carloads of cattle in competition

- Breeding Cattle Show
- Herdsire/Heifer Mart
- Specialty Livestock Shows—Bison/Yak/Sheep/Goat/Llamas/Alpacas/Dogs/Sheep

Hotel: Holiday Inn, Lakewood



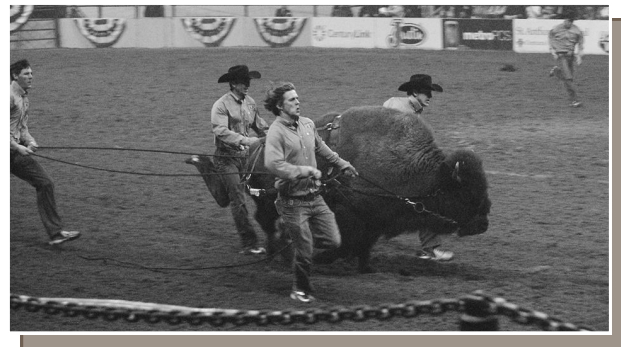


Day 6: Sunday, Jan 15th 2017 (B)

The National Western Stock Show

Rodeo Events:

- **PBR Bull Riding**—True down-and-dirty, in-your-face, hard-hitting competition features the world's best bull riders clinging to the top of an 1,800-pound mountain of muscle for eight seconds of glory.
- **Cinch Super Shootout Rodeo**—Bulls and broncs, cowboys and cowgirls – rodeo's biggest superstars perform amazing feats of athleticism during each performance of our professional rodeo
- **Mexican Rodeo Extravaganza**—Filled with cultural pageantry, the **Mexican Rodeo Extravaganza** features Mexican style bull riding, bareback riding, trick roping and Mariachis, all choreographed by Jerry Diaz, a fourth-generation champion charro.
- **African American Heritage Rodeo**—Partake in the history and heritage of America's black cowboy as top cowboys and cowgirls compete in the Pony Express relay, ladies' steer un-decorating and more traditional rodeo events. The evening rodeo will include a tribute to the late Lu Vason to celebrate his life and dedication to African-American cowboys and cowgirls across the nation.



Hotel: Holiday Inn, Lakewood

Day 7: Monday, Jan 16th 2017 (B, D)

Commercial Beef Producer Farm visits today - to be confirmed

Cattle and Calves is Colorado's number one agricultural commodity with 2.6 million head of cattle in the state.

Beef Stud Breeder visit—afternoon—to be confirmed

Farewell Dinner—Denver Brew Pub

Hotel: Holiday Inn, Lakewood



Day 8: Tuesday, Jan 17th 2017

Transfer to airport – Flights home to Canada





National Western Stock Show & Agricultural Tour

January 10th—17th, 2017

Tour Land Pricing

Twin: \$2989 per person

Single: \$3526

\$500 per person deposit to hold your seat.

First come basis! Book now to secure your seat!

Deposit is due on or before July 4th, 2016

Flights: Pricing for group flights are not available this far from the departure date.

We will advise flight pricing to all passengers that have signed up once we get group rates from the airline.

Please note: If you wish to use your air miles or air points to book your flights you have that option available by booking land only.

For more information please contact:

Sawyer Asmundson or Lawrence Rowley

Toll Free: 1844-370-7044 sawyer@leadertours.ca / lawrence@leadertours.ca

Website: www.leadertours.ca

Peace Country Beef & Forage Association - National Western Stock Show - January 10 - 17th , 2017

Passenger 1	Surname	Given Name (As per passport)	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY)	Preferred Name
Passenger 2	Surname	Given Name (As per passport)	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY)	Preferred Name
Mailing Address	Street City Province/State Postal/Zip Code Country			
Contact Information	Home Phone Email Cell Phone Fax			

PLEASE SCAN & FAX/EMAIL A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT

Emergency Contact	Name	Relationship
	Address	Phone/Emergency

Special Requirements - Please mention any special needs or requirements that the tour leader should know about:
 Example: Medical Conditions, Medications, Dietary Requirements, Allergies, Disabilities, Impairments, other....

Tour Pricing:

Twin Rate: \$2989.00 Single Rate: \$3526.00 Deposit: \$500.00 Per Person to secure seat

I am interested in group airfare: YES NO I would like to book my own flights: YES NO

Initial Deposit of \$500.00 per person required by July 4th, 2016 to secure your seat. Deposit due at the time of booking.
 Final Payment due October 4th, 2016
 Booking forms must be filled & emailed or faxed to: **Email: sawyer@leadertours.ca Fax: 403-270-4212**
FINAL PAYMENT CAN BE MADE VIA CHEQUE, CREDIT CARD OR BANK TRANSFER: Cheque payable to Leader Tours

<p>This package is 100% non-refundable: Cancellation Insurance must be purchased with this tour package or you must provide proof of coverage through your insurance provider</p> <p>I have insurance through another provider I would like to purchase insurance through Leader Tours</p>	<p>I authorize Leader tours to charge the card provided for the following:</p> <p>Card type: Card Number: Exp. 3 Digit CVV</p> <p>Insurance Amount: Deposit Amount:</p> <p>Total Amount to be charged:</p> <p>Signature/Initial: Date:</p>
<p>Booking Conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tour deposit due no later than July 4th, 2016 2. Tour package is 100% non-refundable 3. Guaranteed departure with a minimum of 24 passengers 4. Tour itinerary is subject to change 5. Final payment is due no later than October 4, 2016 6. Final payment can be paid via CC, Cheque or Bank Transfer 7. I am physically able to travel 8. I have read & understand the booking conditions 9. This tour is limited to a maximum of 34 passengers <p>Signature/Initial: Date:</p>	<p align="center">Leader Tours Inc. 114, 3907, 3A Street, NE Calgary, Alberta, T2E 6S7</p> <p>Phone/Fax P: 403-270-7044 F: 403-270-4212</p> <p>Email Lawrence@leadertours.ca Sawyer@leadertours.ca</p>



SARDA

Back Forty

Mission: To facilitate the transfer of unbiased ideas and information between research institutions, industry, and agricultural producers.

SPRING ISSUE

April 2016

IN THIS ISSUE



Those Government Reports!

By Neil Blue Crop Market Analyst, Alberta
Agriculture & Forestry, Vermilion

Government agricultural reports can affect the market. Those who follow the crop and livestock markets have experienced the often dramatic reaction that prices can have after the release of a government report. The information in these reports is an example of the fundamental, or supply and demand, factors affecting market prices. The reports are usually the result of a survey of inventory, or estimated use of crops or livestock, or may be an estimate of acreage or

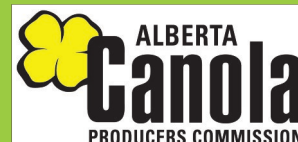
production. Most government reports are preceded by estimates from private firms. Reaction from the release of the government numbers often depends on how those numbers compare to the range and average of the private estimates.

Regardless of the eventual accuracy of these government reports, they are widely respected and therefore heavily weighted in the marketplace.

Continued on page 2

Those Government Reports	1
FAO Advisory	3
AFSC Enhancements to Insurance Programs	4
SARDA Research Projects	6
Green Acres Workshops	8
Carbon Offsets Updates	10
Considering the Spring Price Endorsement	11
AFFIRM	14
Working for You!	17
Blue Book Available Now	18
Surface Rights Board Streamlines Process	19
Dangerous misuse of Propane Cylinders	20
PGR on Clovers	21

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Continued from page 1

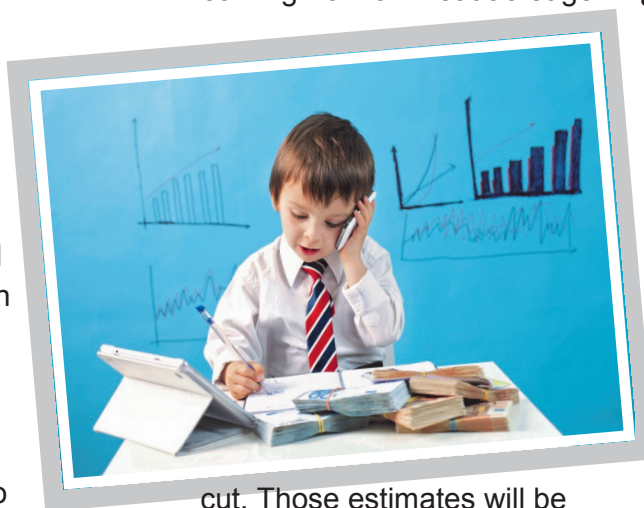
Because these reports can be market-moving saleable inventory, it is a good idea to keep track of when these reports are released.

Depending on the market circumstances and a producer's situation (i.e.,

inventory to sell, projected need for cash flow, current market prices compared to target prices in their marketing plan), it may be prudent to make some marketing decisions prior to the release of a report rather than be fully exposed to a market move resulting from the report. That market move could be favorable or unfavorable for a producer, so part of the marketing decision is assessing whether, as a producer, you are financially able to take the risk of some action or not going into a report release.

Due to three consecutive high-yielding years in the US, the strong US dollar and world competition, the US has accumulated high inventories of soybeans, corn, wheat, and oats. The monthly USDA supply-demand reports have confirmed those large stocks

of US crops, and prices have fallen during the last year. The March 31 prospective planting report from USDA indicated that US producers may plant similar acres of soybeans as last year, but about 3.5 million more acres of corn, with most of those coming from a wheat acreage



cut. Those estimates will be what the markets use until more is known about actual acreage. The market reaction was negative to corn prices, neutral for soybean prices and positive for wheat prices. Northern Hemisphere weather will now become the market driver for several months. The June 30 update on US planted acreage and US crop stocks are the next major USDA reports.

For reference, here are expected release dates for some 2016 Statistics Canada and USDA reports.

- Canadian seeded acreage estimate— June 30
- July 1 semi-annual Canadian livestock inventory—

August 19

- Canadian principal field crop production estimates— August 22, October 3, December 5
- Stocks of Principal Field Crops—Sept. 2
- Also, the Canada Grain Commission provides weekly updates on crop deliveries and exports. This can be useful in tracking crop movement, and is available at—www.grainscanada.gc.ca
- US Hog & Pig inventory report (quarterly) - June 24, Sept. 30, Dec. 23
- US Cattle on Feed estimate (as of beginning of each month) - Ap. 22, May 20, June 24, July 22, Aug. 22, Sept. 23, Oct. 21, Nov. 22, Dec. 23
- US Planted Acreage report— June 30
- US Grain Stocks (quarterly) - June 30, September 30
- US & World crop supply & demand +crop production - Ap. 12, May 10, June 10, July 12, Aug. 12. Sept. 12, Oct. 12. Nov. 9, Dec. 9

More Information

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Advisory: FAO Warns Landowners About Actions that Contradict the Surface Rights Act

From [Farmers' Advocate Office](#)

The Farmers' Advocate Office (FAO) has been contacted by numerous landowners regarding some unusual and disturbing requests made by companies in the oil and gas industry. We believe that additional landowners have been impacted, and we encourage affected landowners to contact the FAO as soon as possible.

Specifically, we have heard reports that:

Landowners are being instructed that the annual compensation for their surface leases will be decreased on account of clauses relating to change of use or reclamation/surrender. This is occurring both on the surface lease agreement anniversary date and mid-term.

Companies have stopped paying full annual rentals upon beginning (or claiming to begin) the reclamation process.

Landowners should be aware

that:

The Surface Rights Act supersedes any clause in a negotiated agreement.

The amount of compensation paid to a landowner in the annual rental is clearly negotiated

disturbance. Loss of Use is provided to compensate a landowner for the inability to use and benefit from a portion of their land on an ongoing basis.

A landowner has the right to a 5 year review of the rate of



compensation. A company cannot unilaterally decide to reduce the amount of compensation provided to a landowner. Section 27 (6) of the Surface Rights Act entitles landowners to

at the time of signature.

The amount provided for annual rental is based on a landowner's Adverse Effect and Loss of Use, not the state of the industry. Adverse Effect reflects the alterations made to a landowner's business practices as well as the time, stress, and inconvenience experienced by a landowner as a result of the presence of a surface

the opportunity to negotiate with industry in good faith.

A landowner is under no obligation to accommodate the changing financial circumstances of a company.

A landowner has recourse to obtain compensation for unpaid or reduced rentals through the Surface Rights

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

Board (SRB) under section 36 of the Surface Rights Act at any time during the 5 year term.

Cashing a cheque of a reduced amount does not necessarily imply acceptance of the amount.

Companies are responsible for paying the annual rental on a surface lease until a Reclamation Certificate is issued under section 144 of the

Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act. Prior to a company making their application for reclamation to the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER), they must disclose the full application to the landowner and provide 30 days to review. The reclamation process will not be complete without industry consultation being initiated with the landowner.

We recommend that landowners who have been affected by these types of

issues contact the FAO. Template letters have been developed to assist landowners asserting their rights to the company. We will continue to work with the affected landowners to formulate next steps.

More Information

Michele Del Colle

Energy, Utilities, and Policy
Specialist

780-427-2350

michele.delcolle@gov.ab.ca



Enhancements Introduced to Six ASFC Insurance Programs for 2016

By AFSC Research and Product Development

Alfalfa seed insurance - winterkill added as a designated peril

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) amended the Annual Insurance Program to include winterkill as a designated peril for pedigreed alfalfa seed production loss insurance. The Alberta Alfalfa Seed Commission provided background information and requested that this product be developed. Coverage will be available for the year in which the winterkill occurs.

Pedigreed alfalfa seed producers lacked access to an insurance product that protects them from losses attributed to winterkill. In the past, winterkill

has caused alfalfa seed producers to suffer serious economic losses.

Bee overwintering insurance – individual coverage now available

The Bee Overwintering Insurance Program was introduced in 2009 when the sector experienced two straight years of abnormal overwintering losses. As part of a review of the bee overwintering program and in consultation with the Alberta Beekeepers Commission, AFSC will now implement individual coverage - based on a producer's unique experience - with a ten percent deductible. As well, clients will

receive a premium discount or surcharge based on their loss experience.

New recognition for organic production insurance

Organic Alberta worked with AFSC to find a way to give organic production the recognition that it deserves. In 2016, Organic insurance will work like AFSC's standard production insurance programs. The exception is that certified organic producers will no longer be assessed for uninsured causes of loss, provided the producer follows the guidelines established by the Organic Standard and the Insuring Agreement.

Depending on crop and practice, new clients will be given the commercial township average yield reduced by 15 to 50 per cent. Current clients who wish to switch to organic end use may be able to use their individual yield records to set coverage. Organic insurance prices will be between 1.6-2.6 times higher than the commercial insurance prices depending on crop. Due to the lack of substantial certified organic yield data in Alberta, premium will initially be above the commercial premium and adjusted as the risk of organic production is better understood. The program will be limited to Barley, Canola, Field Peas, Flax, Oats, Rye (fall, spring), Triticale (fall, spring) and Wheat (CPS, Durum, Extra Strong, Hard Red Spring/Winter and Soft White Spring).

Malt Barley Insurance Coverage – new option for producers

Through a premium price that is compared to commercial barley, a new end use option for malt barley insurance will provide more coverage for growers with malt contracts. A working group, including AFSC and Alberta Barley Commission staff and board members, maltsters and producers, was

formed to overcome challenges to the original product and mould it to fit the needs of farmers who grow malt in Alberta.

The product will be the first in Canada to tackle specific insurance coverage for a malting end use.

Field Pea Insurance Prices – shift to edible end use continues

Over time, field pea insurance pricing has transitioned to reflect the ratio of edible and feed peas grown in the Alberta. Changes to field pea insurance pricing for 2016 will continue to shift from a 70:30 edible-to-feed price ratio to a 100% edible pea end-use price. The change will include an increase in the guaranteed quality from a 3 CAN to a 2 CAN level.

Distinct category created for Yellow Dry Beans

Yellow Dry Beans are currently insured under the “black/other” dry bean category. A distinct, separate insurance category will be created for Yellow Dry Beans in 2016.

The enhancement was created through the combined efforts of the Alberta Pulse Growers and AFSC pulse insurance

enhancement team. Changes will provide more accurate insurance coverage for both yellow dry beans and beans in the black/other category.

AFSC lending programs

AFSC offers financial lending services to support a wide range of industries. These include access to long term, fixed rate financing with flexible repayment options for all eligible farmers and commercial businesses, in addition to prepayment privileges without penalty. The option for 20 year fixed rate financing is unique to AFSC, and interest rates are competitive.

Alberta Farm Loan

- 1 Year 2.350%
- 3 Year 2.870%
- 5 Year 3.240%
- 10 Year 4.090%
- 20 Year 4.940%

**Lending rates are as of March 28th – April 3rd and are subject to change. Visit www.AFSC.ca for weekly rate updates.*

More Information

Visit your [local AFSC branch](#)
Call 1.877.899.2372 or
Email [AFSC Call Centre](#)



www.pulse.ab.ca

SARDA 2016 RESEARCH PROJECTS

In 2016, The Smoky River Agriculture Research & demonstration association (SARDA) will be funded for over 20 research projects at Green view and Smoky river locations. Much of these research will be funded by governmental and industrial resources. Among the projects which received confirmed funding support for 2016 are:

Advanced Agronomy



This research has been generously funded by: WGRF, ACIDF, AI-Bio, AWC, ABC, APG with in-kind support from ARD and numerous others. 2016 is the last year of this project. SARDA is conducting seven research trials under this program. The key objective of this project are:

1. Using a systems approach, determine synergistic benefits of stacking multiple agronomic practices: PGRs; supplemental UAN; Agrotain; and/or foliar fungicides to increase yields and economic returns of wheat and feed barley.
2. Compare small plot results from objective 1 with "Wheat 150" and "Barley 180" field scale trials to develop statistical tools to allow producers to effectively analyze field research.
3. Determine if wheat or feed barley cultivars respond differently to the intensive agronomic practices listed in objective 1.
4. Using a systems approach, determine which agronomic practices (PGRs, inter-row seeding) improve field pea harvest ability.
5. Determine the benefits of various fungicide modes of action and application timings for use on feed barley.



Regional Cereal, Flax, Green and Yellow Peas variety testing trials

SARDA is participating in these trials since 1985 to evaluate the performance of new varieties as compare to standard varieties of the peace region.

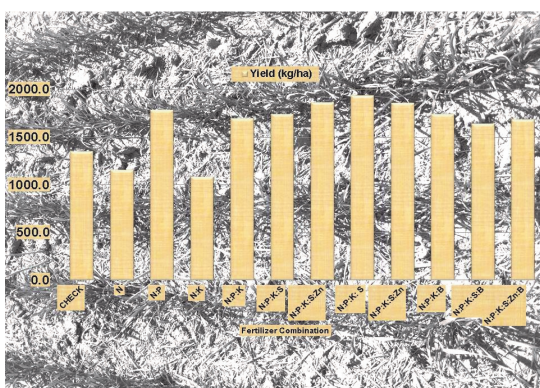


Industrial Hemp agronomic management

We will continue to established the hemp projects in 2016.

The project consist on three research experiment including ;

- Evaluation of different N rates on hemp varieties
- Effects of seeding dates on hemp yield and growth.
- Comparison of different hemp varieties performance related to seed yield and fiber



Fertility and Fertilizer Industry Research projects

This Year SARDA also going to conduct more than 10 research trials on organic, biological and chemical soil amendments on canola , cereal and peas crop supported by agriculture industry including; Monsanto, Mosaic , Pioneer, DuPont and Koch . These trials will be helpful for regional producer to enhance soil fertility of their farms by using reliable sources.



Pest Monitoring Project

We will continue to participate in pest monitoring project such as Wheat midge and black leg. Also Canola Flea beetle and Cut worms would be potential research projects in 2016 at SARDA research sites



Environmental Project

We will participate in water testing project 2016 and looking for participation in different other potential project.

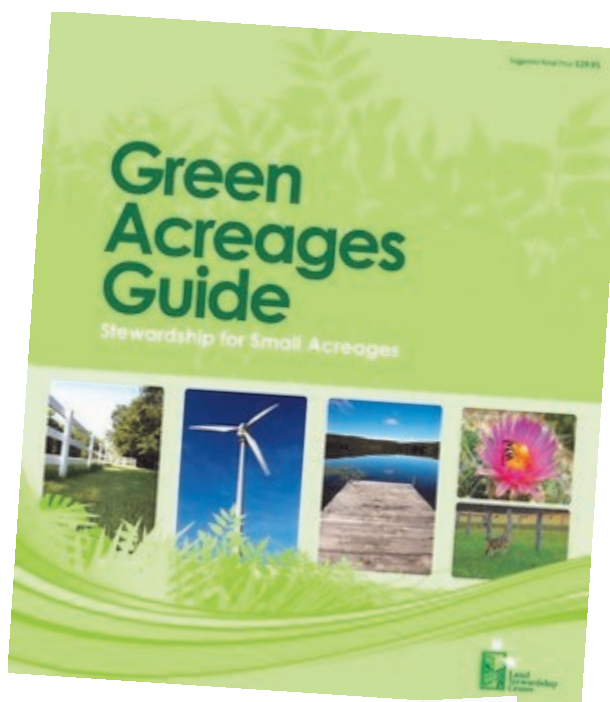


Green Acreage Workshops and Rain Barrels

By Meghan Payne

It's a busy time of year for the Lesser Slave Watershed Council and we want you to join in and get involved! We have two exciting things happening this April. First we will be hosting a Green Acreages Workshop in partnership with the MD of Big Lakes. Secondly we will once again be selling rain barrels, keep reading for more information.

Owning and living on an acreage or recreational property can be rewarding and enjoyable, yet it comes with its own set of unique challenges. In the past, resources available to landowners of small acreages or recreational properties have been limited or they did not provide enough information. But that has changed with the recent development of the "Green Acreages Guide: Stewardship for Small Acreages" workbook and workshops. If you live on an acreage, hobby farm or recreational property, you will benefit from attending this workshop on the evening of April 21st from 6pm



to 10pm at the High Prairie Agriplex. Presenters will teach you how to assess, understand and implement stewardship practices, enabling you to protect the valuable natural assets associated with your land and reduce the environmental footprint of your property on the Watershed. Learn what you can do to ensure your property is well managed, productive and attractive.

The Green Acreages

Workshop is hosted and presented by the Lesser Slave Watershed Council and Big Lakes County with materials developed by Land Stewardship Centre. All participants will receive take home materials including Green Acreage Guide Binders (valued at \$30), Firesmart, riparian area & wetland, lake and watershed resources. This is a free event with snacks and refreshments provided, all ages are welcome. To attend this free workshop please pre-register by calling Kaylyn Jackson at the Lesser Slave Watershed



Council – 780-523-9800 or email coordinator@lswc.ca. Everyone who pre-registers will be entered in a draw to win 1 of 3 rain barrels from the LSWC.

Winning isn't the only way to get your hands on a rain barrel. The LSWC will once again be holding its annual rain barrel sale in partnership with RainBarrel.ca; all proceeds will go towards funding our educational programs. All rain barrels hold 55 gallons and are made from food grade recycled ma-

terials and come with a screen and attachment for a garden hose. With an averaged sized home it only takes 0.3 inches of rainfall to fill the barrel! Did you know that using a rain barrel helps our lake and watershed by reducing the amount of storm water carrying pollutants running off of paved surfaces. And for an added bonus rain water is better for your plants and gardens then treated and chlorinated tap water. To order a rain barrel go to our website www.lswc.ca and download an

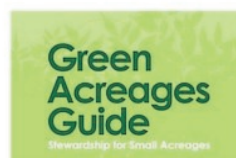
order form, or come stop by our booth at the High Prairie Gun and Sportsman show on April 16th -17th. Rain Barrels will be available for pick up in High Prairie at the Agriplex on May 27th from 3pm-7pm. For more information call Kaylyn Jackson at the Lesser Slave Watershed Council 780-523-9800 or email coordinator@lswc.ca.

More Information

Meghan Payne

780-523-9800

meghanpayne@lswc.ca



Green Acreage Workshops

Make the most of your rural property and become a better steward!

Did you know that good land management practices can protect your investment in your acreage, hobby farm or recreational property?

If you live on an acreage, hobby farm or recreational property, you will benefit from attending this workshop. Presenters will teach you how to assess, understand and implement stewardship practices, enabling you to protect the valuable natural assets associated with your land and reduce the environmental footprint of your property on the Watershed.

High Prairie

Thursday, April 21, 2016
at the High Prairie Agriplex
6:00pm – 10:00pm Snacks and
refreshments provided.

Slave Lake

Saturday, April 23, 2016
at Northern Lakes College,
10:00am – 3:00pm
Lunch provided



Carbon Offsets Update

By Paul Jungnitsch,
Carbon Offset Agrologist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Summary

The main change over the past year is that for the first time since the start of the market the carbon price has increased, with another increase due in 2017.

Conservation Cropping carries on as the method (protocol) of use to Alberta farmers looking at the carbon market, but others mentioned below have seen some meaningful development work.

Conservation Cropping

For farmers that are direct or two pass seeding, if ground disturbance is below certain limits. Generally working well, the main carbon protocol of use to farmers at present. Still not a large amount of income but has increased slightly this

year to around \$1.30 to \$.70/acre to the farmer.

NERP (Agricultural Nitrous Oxide Emissions Reduction)

For farmers that band fertilizer and use the 4R nitrogen system. This protocol has been under development for some time and was recently revised in the fall of 2015. One of the key challenges has been getting accurate and provable, yet practical and affordable yield and fertilizer use measurements. Some credits are anticipated from the 2015 crop year and it may finally become more widely operational in 2016. Can be stacked with Conservation cropping, does not require direct seeding.

Beef: Feedlot (Fed Cattle)

Aimed at beef cattle, this protocol rewards shortening the time in the feedlot. This protocol was revised this February and is hoped to become operational in 2016.

Beef: Genetics (Residual Feed Intake or RFI)

This applies to cattle bred for more efficient feed use, thus reducing methane and nitrous oxide. Income from the carbon market would be variable, with feed savings the main benefit so far. Two research trials are underway.

More Information

Alberta Agriculture Carbon
www.agriculture.alberta.ca/agcarbonoffsets



2016 is now Available
[Click Here](#)

- ♦ calculate expected total margins and probabilities based on your knowledge of soil and moisture conditions, along with long term yield and price expectations.
- ♦ create a "base" cropping plan, then compare it to other different scenarios.
- ♦ choose a plan that works for your operation by looking at forecasted margins and their probability of success.





Considering the Spring Price Endorsement

By Neil Blue, Crop Market Analyst
Alberta Agriculture & Forestry

Many Alberta crop producers are considering their crop insurance decisions, and one of those decisions is that of Spring Price Endorsement. The SPE, a supplementary election to production insurance, is a form of price insurance to protect against a price drop for that crop. A Spring Price is set for each crop during the winter. If the calculated average price during the month of October for that crop falls by more than 10% from the Spring Price for that crop, a payout will be triggered under Spring Price Endorsement. This SPE payout would be the difference between the Spring Price and the average October price on the covered yield to a maximum drop of one-half the Spring Price. A claim under SPE can occur regardless of whether there is a production claim.

Alternatives to the Spring Price Endorsement are priced contracts signed with a physical buyer or, for crops

with a related futures market like canola, buying a put option with your own commodity futures account. These price risk management alternatives are not identical, and one needs to assess the merits of each to make an informed decision.

Locking in a price via contract with a physical buyer has the advantage of price certainty but, for most contracts, has the concern of implications resulting from a possible production shortfall. That concern is why those using their own trading account may buy a put option to lock in a minimum futures price while leaving price upside open, and meanwhile have no physical delivery commitment.

The Spring Price Endorsement available through AFSC is convenient and readily available. References for Spring Price Endorsement information are your AFSC office or the AFSC website. The website, afsc.ca, contains a [calculator](#) with which to test different scenarios for production insurance, Spring Price Endorsement and the

Variable Price Benefit.

Some farmers are finalizing their crop choice decisions and a good resource to help with those decisions is Crop Choice\$ on the Alberta Agriculture & Forestry website. This software program helps crop producers predict revenues and margins for their crop enterprise, and includes crop insurance considerations.

More Information

Spring Price Endorsement
Calculator & Hail Premium
Calculator

[http://www.afsc.ca/
Default.aspx?cid=3794-3801-
3809](http://www.afsc.ca/Default.aspx?cid=3794-3801-3809)



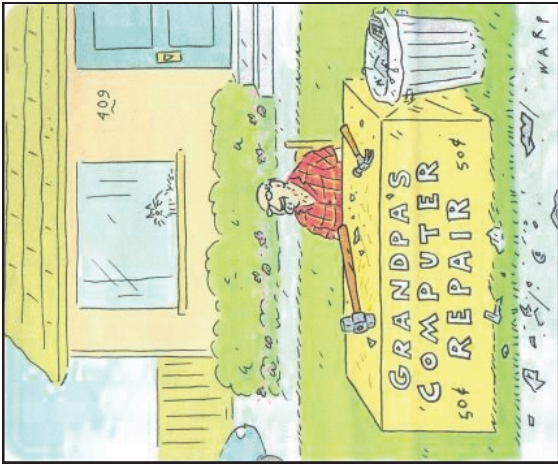








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www.albertacanola.com



SARDA requires pre-registration for ALL SARDA events.



Event Name	Location	Time	Date	Cost	Comments
 Large Animal Emergency Rescue	Pomeroy Inn & Suites Grande Prairie		April 20 & 21		For Firefighters, rescue, police, EMT, veterinarians, animal control, humane societies, livestock inspectors, etc. Call Kaitlin 780-835-6799
 Green Acreage Workshops	Ag-Plex High Prairie	6:00-10:00 pm	April 21	FREE	For more information contact Kaylyn Jackson at 780-523-9800 or coordinator@lswc.ca
	Northern Lakes College Slave Lake	10:00am-3:00pm	April 23	FREE	
 MPWA Annual General Meeting	Sawridge Inn, Peace River	TBA	May 27	FREE	For more information contact Megan Graham at 780-324-3355
 Canada Celebration	NSC Public Works Building	4:00pm—7:00pm	June 27	FREE	For more information contact 780-624-0013
 Rate Payers' BBQ	Administration Building, Valleyview	5:00pm	June 14	FREE	For more information contact 780-524-7600 or 1-866-524-7601
	Eagle's Nest Hall Grande Cache	5:00pm	June 21	FREE	
	Community Hall Grovedale	5:00pm	July 19	FREE	
	Community Services Building DeBolt	5:00pm	July 26	FREE	
 2016 Summer Field School	TBA	8:30 am	June 22	\$200	Registrations accepted online www.sarda.ca or phone 780-837-2900 ext 3





AFFIRM

Alberta Farm Fertilizer Information and Recommendation Manager

The Alberta Farm Fertilizer Information and Recommendation Manager (AFFIRM) is an interactive user friendly system that allows the user to select a crop to be grown, identify the field's agro-climatic region, input soil and crop management practices and enter soil test results from a laboratory report into the model. In addition, the model requires values for fertilizer costs and an expected crop value. The model is designed to access a series of databases to retrieve various coefficients based on the information entered by the user.

Periodic updates of these database files will be made available at the following link.

Optimizing fertilizer requirements for crop production is influenced by many soil, crop, climatic and management factors. The interaction of these factors can be complex. The Alberta Farm Fertilizer Information and Recommendation Manager (AFFIRM) software will allow the user to evaluate fertilizer nutrient requirements for crop production based on Alberta research and production economics. Information specific to the user's situation is entered into this decision support system to obtain a fertilizer recommendation and/or to test various cropping scenarios. Based on the results of these scenarios, the user can make a final decision on fertilizer requirements.

AFFIRM is an interactive user friendly system that allows the user to select a crop to be grown, identify the field's agro-climatic region, input soil and crop management practices and enter soil test results from a laboratory report into the model. In addition, the model requires values for fertilizer costs and an expected grain value. The model is designed to access a series of small databases to retrieve

various coefficients based on the information entered by the user. These coefficients are then used in a series of calculations designed to generate N, P205, K20, S and micronutrient fertilizer requirements and crop yield response to incremental rates of fertilizer nitrogen for the major crops and agro-climatic zones in Alberta. The yield response model uses a set of empirical equations for dryland and irrigated crops. These equations utilize soil test nitrogen, incremental fertilizer nitrogen rates, spring soil moisture and expected growing season precipitation based on long-term normals for the region. The predicted crop yield response plus fertilizer cost and expected crop value are used to estimate the economic return from fertilizer use.

AFFIRM is a full spectrum fertilizer recommendation system for N, P, K, S plus micronutrients. It will accept soil test results from a variety of laboratories that use various soil test procedures. AFFIRM uses unique calibration functions for each soil test method. AFFIRM provides an economic analysis based on

More Information

Software and Updates
[http://
 www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/
 \\$department/softdown.nsf/
 main?
 open-
 form&type=AFFIRM&page
 =information](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/softdown.nsf/main?open-form&type=AFFIRM&page=information)

marginal revenue vs. marginal cost for each 10 pound/acre increment of fertilizer nitrogen. It demonstrates the economic relationship that marginal revenue product must be greater than marginal factor cost for an input to remain economic at a given use level. The producer is told how much he is expected to make from each dollar he spends on fertilizer and how this will change if he spends an extra dollar on nitrogen fertilizer (or cuts back by a dollar).

This software is designed to be used by a wide range of users, including crop specialists, farm consultants, industry agents, producers and students to assist in the selection of optimum fertilizer rates.

It is based on:

1. Current field and laboratory research
2. Soil test analyses
3. Irrigation level (if applicable)
4. Crop to be grown
5. Soil and moisture conditions

6. Cost per pound of nutrients
7. Economic factors influencing the sale of crops

Disclaimer

Alberta Agriculture Food & Rural Development, having no control over individual soil tests, lab evaluations and environmental conditions makes no representations or warranties, expressed or implied, as to the predicted yield responses to fertilizer use generated by this system and assumes no responsibility or liability for use of the program.

What's New in this Version

- ♦ Able to use soil test results from numerous laboratories
- ♦ Estimated Nitrogen Release (ENR) calculator
- ♦ Individual field agronomic recommendations and economic analysis.
- ♦ Whole farm optimization to allocate fertilizer budget based nutrient requirements, crop response to applied nitrogen fertilizer, fertilizer

costs and crop prices.

- ♦ Historic fertilizer cost information.
- ♦ Help function with links to background and interpretation information.
- ♦ Tutorial guide for user instructions.

What can AFFIRM do for me?

- ♦ Designed to assist with making fertilizer decisions for your farming operation and budget limitations.
- ♦ Calculate economic marginal returns for fertilizer application for making fertilizer decisions
- ♦ Allows the user to consider various crop choices, and economic scenarios of crop prices and fertilizer costs.
- ♦ Provides the impact of various spring soil and growing season moisture conditions.
- ♦ Diagnosis of soil and crop problems.
- ♦ Maintain historic records of soil test information, fertilizer

Leave a Legacy!

Give a gift that benefits the Agricultural Community by providing a piece of land or funds to assist with the purchase of land. SARDA is a producer directed, not for profit organization whose Vision is to own an advanced agriculture resource center of excellence. Leave your legacy. Call Vance at 780-837-2900. Tax deductible benefits available.

- costs and crop prices.
- ◆ Record field specific user notes.

AFFIRM Features

- ◆ Uses dry, medium and wet moisture conditions based on soil regions, precipitation probabilities, and soil texture.
- ◆ Presents fertilizer recommendations, economic analysis and farm optimization in easy to understand statements, tables and graphs
- ◆ Evaluates the effects of different management strategies, such as crop selection,
- ◆ AFFIRM is based on field and laboratory research

from real Alberta and/or western Canada. AFFIRM is designed for Alberta conditions and should not be used outside of the province of Alberta.

System Requirements

- ◆ Pentium with Intel, Celeron, AMD Processor.
- ◆ Windows 95, 98, 98 SE, Me, NT 4.0, 2000, XP and Vista.
- ◆ Video Display: minimum resolution of 600 x 800 dpi.
- ◆ A minimum of 2.0 Megabytes free hard disk space is required.

Getting Started

1. Download file AFFIRM.exe (approx. 2 MB) to a directory on your hard drive.

2. The AFFIRM software does not have an installation routine.
3. The AFFIRM.exe can be copied onto the Windows Desktop or kept in a directory of your choice.
4. On the Windows Desktop double click the AFFIRM icon to start the AFFIRM software.
5. In the directory containing AFFIRM.exe, double click on the AFFIRM.exe file to start the AFFIRM software.

More Information

Ag Info Call Centre
310-Farm (3276)

AFFIRM

An interactive user friendly system that allows the user to select a crop to be grown, identify the field's agro-climatic region, input soil and crop management practices and enter soil test results from a laboratory report into the model. In addition, the model requires values for fertilizer costs and an expected crop value.

FREE!

Click Here



www.albertawheat.com



Annual General Meeting – May 27, 2016

9:30 am – 3:30 pm
Sawridge Inn, Peace River, AB

AGM – Including Project and organization updates presented by Staff and Directors

Election of Directors (*Nomination forms can be found on the MPWA website*)

-2 year terms (May 2016– May 2018) - Metis Nation of Alberta; Lower Watershed First Nation; Conservation/ Environment; Research/ Education; Agriculture; Oil & Gas; Utilities; Provincial Government; Small Urban Municipalities; Rural Municipalities.

-1 year term (May 2016– May 2017 to fulfill the second year of a 2 year term) – Mining; Upper Watershed First Nation; Middle Watershed First Nation; Member-at-Large

Guest Speaker Topics: 1. AB-NWT and AB-BC Bilateral Agreements including water quality, quantity and monitoring commitments. 2. Heart River Life and Times Project by Cows and Fish

For More Information please go to our website:

www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org

To Register for AGM:

Tel: 780-324-3355

Email: mpwa.admin@telus.net



**Mighty Peace
Watershed Alliance**

Working for You!

By Megan Graham

It is the time of year to be updated regarding the work of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance – our Annual Meeting and Information Day will be Friday, May 27th, 2016 in Peace River. Our AGM is a learning opportunity and a chance to discuss watershed

issues and concerns from across the Peace and Slave Watersheds (water quality, water quantity, wetlands, restoration, water, and watershed planning). The day will consist of a brief AGM, 2 guest speakers and a lunch.

The speakers include, Tim Toth

from the Government of Alberta, who will talk about the AB-NWT and AB-BC Bilateral Agreements, including water quality, water quantity, and monitoring commitments. The second speaker will be from Cows and Fish to discuss

Continued on page 18

Continued from page 17

some of the work happening along the Heart River and will present the Heart River Life and Times project. These 2 speakers will show the public a small part of the diversity of projects that the MPWA has worked within the last few years.

The Annual General Meeting portion of the day will focus on updates from the Board of Directors and Staff. There will

also be the election for a variety of Director seats. Nominations will be asked for in advance of the meeting as well as from the floor. Please check the MPWA website (www.mightypeacewatershedalliance.org) for a nomination form if you are interested. We will also keep the website updated for more information regarding registration for the event.

The MPWA looks forward to the opportunity to inform the public and members about the work

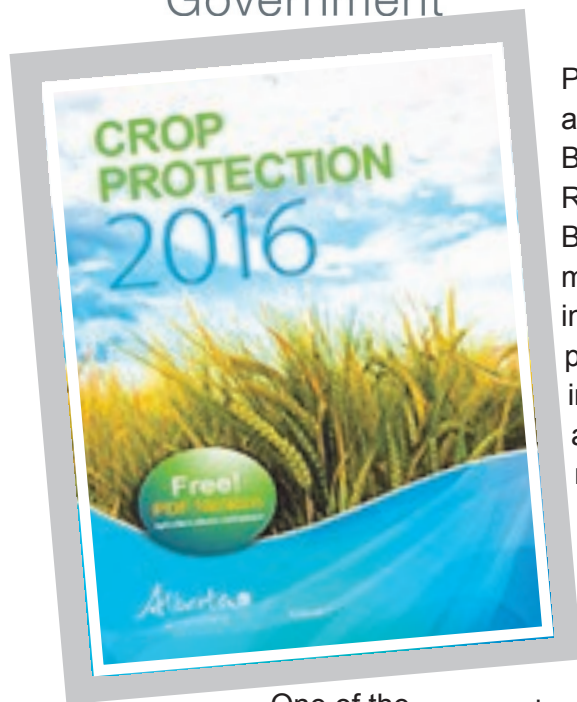
they have engaged in during the past 12 months (work on the Wapiti River Water Management Plan, Red Willow Restoration Plan, Heart River Restoration Plan, Integrated Watershed Management Planning, and the multitude of smaller initiatives we have been addressing). We will also share with you our scope of work for the next year.

MPWA looks forward to seeing you May 27th.



Blue Book Available Now

By Mark Cutts



One of the most widely-requested publications from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) is

the Crop Protection publication, also known as the “Blue Book” in industry circles. Revised annually, the Blue Book includes the most up-to-date information around crop protection. “The most important part of the annual update includes newly-registered pesticide products” says Mark Cutts, crop specialist at the Ag-Info Centre. “This year’s edition includes

new herbicides, insecticides, seed treatments, and foliar fungicide.”

In addition to including new products, previously registered products are updated. Significant changes in some products, crops covered, and usage instructions give producers more options than ever. “The majority of the new pre-seed herbicides are registered for use ahead of seeding cereals, but there is one pre-seed product registered for use ahead of canola” says Cutts.

Other new herbicide products are registered for in-crop use for a variety of crop types. In addition, a number of new fungicides have been registered for use in 2016,

and new foliar fungicides are available for use on pulse crops, canola, and cereal crops. A small number of insecticides and seed treatments were also added to the 2016 Blue Book, mostly for potatoes.

When using pesticides, it is important to be aware of pesticide resistance. "It is recommended that pesticide products be selected based on

chemical group and active ingredient. Purchasing pesticides products based on newly registered product names could lead to repeated use of a chemical group, and increase the risk of developing pesticide resistance," says Cutts. All pesticide products presented in the Blue Book have their chemical group and active ingredient listed. By using this information, the risk of

developing pesticide resistance can be reduced.

To order a hard copy of Crop Protection 2016 for only \$12, go to AF's website at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/blue or call 780-427-0391.

More Information

To order:
www.agriculture.alberta.ca/blue or call 780-427-0391



Surface Rights Board Streamlines Process

Agri-news, March 21

The Surface Rights Board has streamlined its approach for handling recurring applications for recovery of unpaid rentals for surface leases.

Section 36 of the Surface Rights Act provides landowners with the opportunity to apply for the Surface Rights Board (SRB) when annual surface lease rentals are in arrears. The SRB will seek payment for the unpaid rental and, if unsuccessful, terminate the rights to the site. An SRB panel may direct the Minister to pay

compensation for unpaid surface lease rentals from General Revenue.

"The new streamlined process applies to recurring applications – situations where the SRB directed payment from General Revenue in previous years," explains Jeana Les, rural engagement and communications specialist for the Farmers' Advocate Office. In the past, landowners were required to provide a Statutory Declaration sworn by a Commissioner of Oaths every

year. Under the new process, applicants will now complete a specified form in the presence of a witness. Landowners should note that this new process may only be used in situations where there is the same applicant(s), for the same site, licenced to the same operator, under the same surface lease or compensation order.

More Information

www.surfacerights.alberta.ca



Rural Farm mailboxes in the MD's of Smoky River and Greenview, the County of Grande Prairie, Big Lakes County and Northern Sunrise County, all receive complementary issues of the Back Forty Newsletter. Request your mailbox be classified as **Farm** by talking to your local Post Mistress to ensure you receive your copy.

**Do you
Receive the
Back Forty?**



Dangerous Misuse of Propane Cylinders

Agri-News, March 21

Incidents involving the improper use of propane cylinders have resulted in injuries and fatalities in Alberta. Many users are not aware of the safety risks of using the cylinders for purposes other than what they are intended for. "Propane cylinders are only designed to store and handle propane," says Allan Hantelmann, technical advisor/boilers and pressure vessels of Alberta Municipal Affairs. "When cylinders are used for alternate purposes, a number of dangerous things happen to the cylinders that can't be seen with the naked eye."

When a 20-pound propane cylinder is manufactured, it meets specific requirements set out by the Canadian Standards Association Group. This includes the design, testing, repair, and rebuilding of cylinders to transport propane. Anyone manufacturing, rebuilding, or repairing the cylinder must follow the rules in the standard. If the standards are not adhered to, cylinders can suffer metal fatigue and corrosion/rust, and can ultimately rupture.

The 20-pound cylinders are made from a specific type of manufactured carbon steel, with grain structures that can be seen under a microscope. When the steel is heated or subjected to higher pressures than the cylinder was originally designed to withstand, there is stress and strain put on the grain structure, and tiny movement occurs within the metal itself. This may form a crack that is not readily apparent. When this stress and strain is applied many times, the crack will become larger, the material can become worn-out and burst open. "This is similar to when you bend a paper clip back and forth until it breaks – it's called metal fatigue," says Hantelmann.

Filling the cylinder with water and heating it up, or reusing the cylinder to hold compressed air is also hazardous because

moisture formed in the cylinder will start the corrosion process. Corrosion will weaken the ability of the cylinder to hold gas or liquid under pressure, which can further weaken the



cylinder to the point of rupturing.

Making modifications to the cylinder so it can be used to heat water to produce steam is also extremely dangerous. When water changes from a liquid to steam, it expands 1,700 times its size. When the heated water is contained in a closed cylinder it cannot expand. This puts extreme

stress on the steel and can cause it to burst open, sending fragments everywhere.

In addition to the cylinder itself, the opening for the nozzle is also an important part of the safe design of a propane cylinder. According to the Canadian Standards Association Group's approved design, the head of the

cylinder is only designed for one nozzle, using a standard valve fitting. No other nozzles are allowed to be added, at any time during the life of the cylinder. Welding is also not allowed on the cylinder, as it shrinks the cylinder material by approximately 7 per cent, and creates stress on each side of the weld.

Hantelmann says the proper use of propane cylinders is key to safety: "We want to minimize incidents and accidents associated with propane cylinder use in agriculture. And part of this is bringing awareness to the dangers of modifications, and the potential for catastrophic explosions."

Plant Growth Regulator (trinexapac-ethyl) on Established Red and Alsike Clover Seed Crops

Calvin Yoder, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association, Falher
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Beaverlodge
Funding provided by: Peace Region Forage Seed Association and
Agri-Innovation-Agri-Science Program, AAFC



Plant Growth Regulators on Clovers

- Trinexapac-ethyl applied at stem elongation increased red clover seed yields by up to 34% in Norway (Øverland and Aamald, 2007).
- Trinexapac-ethyl (TE) has increased red clover seed yield under Oregon, and New Zealand conditions by 9 to 16% (Anderson, et. al. 2015).
- Reduction of canopy height, increase in flowers and earlier maturity.
- Parlay registered in Canada on perennial ryegrass grown for seed production.

5/23/2010

2013, 2104 and 2015 Trials

- Alsike and red clover seed fields
- Small plot replicated (2m x 40 m and 4 reps)
- Conducted on 1st year stands
- 6 treatments
- Stages - Stem elongation (BBCH 32) and bud emergence (BBCH 50).
- Plant heights, flower counts, seed yield, 1000 kwts and germination.



Application Dates and Stages For Trinexapac-ethyl on Alsike and Red Clover

Site and Year	1 st Application Date/Stage	2 nd Application Date/Stage	Harvest Date
RED CLOVER			
Beaverlodge 2013	June 17 th /Stem Elongation	June 28 th /Bud	Oct.27
Girouxville 2013	June 7 th /Stem Elongation	June 24 th /Early Flower	Oct. 31
Girouxville 2014	June 11 th /Stem Elongation	July 1/Bud	August 22
Girouxville 2015	June 15 th /Stem Elongation	July 29 th /Bud	Sept. 29 th
ALSIKE CLOVER			
Guy 2013	June 4 th /Stem Elongation	June 17 th /Early Flower	Sept.12
Girouxville 2014	June 11 th /Stem Elongation	June 24 th /Bud Stage	August 22
Guy 2015	June 4 th /Stem Elongation	June 15 th /Early Flower	Sept. 2 nd

Growing Season Precipitation For Alsike Clover Trials (inches)

	Guy 2015		Girouxville 2014		Guy 2013	
	2015	L.T.A.* (43 yrs)	2014	L.T.A.*	2013	L.T.A.* (43 yrs)
May	0.2	1.7	0.3	1.7	0.7	1.7
June	1.2	3.2	1.4	3.0	2.7	3.2
July	1.4	2.9	0.9	2.7	3.0	2.9
August	2.2	2.1	0.2	1.9	0.3	2.1
TOTAL	5.0	9.9	2.8	9.3	6.7	9.9

* Long Term Average

Growing Season Precipitation For Red Clover Trials (inches)

	Girouxville 2015		Girouxville 2014		Girouxville 2013		Beaverlodge 2013	
	2015	L.T.A.* (43 yrs)	2014	L.T.A.*	2013	L.T.A.*	2013	L.T.A.* (1981-2011)
May	0.6	1.7	0.3	1.7	1.0	1.7	1.6	1.6
June	1.0	3.0	1.4	3.0	4.1	3.0	3.5	2.5
July	1.2	2.7	0.9	2.7	2.3	2.7	3.0	2.8
August	2.2	1.9	0.2	1.9	2.3	1.9	3.7	2.3
TOTAL	5.0	9.3	2.8	9.3	9.7	9.3	11.8	9.2

* Long Term Average

Effect of trinexapac-ethyl on a red clover seed crop – Girouxville 2013

Treatment kg ai/ha	Plant Height (cm)	Flower Counts (# / 1/4m2)	Seed Yield kg/ha	Germination %
0.140 Stem Elongation	67.8 a	274	493	97
0.280 Stem Elongation	59.8 bc	238	499	99
0.420 Stem Elongation	61.3 bc	278	474	98
0.210 Stem Elongation+ 0.210 Bud	58.5 c	274	466	99
0.280 Bud	65.0 ab	212	475	97
Check	68.5 a	232	417	98
CV%	4.6	20.8	11.2	1.9
LSD (P=.05)	4.4	NSD	NSD	NSD

Growing Season Precipitation For Red Clover Trials (inches)

	Girouxville 2015		Girouxville 2014		Girouxville 2013		Beaverlodge 2013
	2015	L.T.A.* (43 yrs)	2014	L.T.A.*	2013	L.T.A.*	L.T.A.* (1981-2011)
May	0.6	1.7	0.3	1.7	1.0	1.7	1.6
June	1.0	3.0	1.4	3.0	4.1	3.0	3.5
July	1.2	2.7	0.9	2.7	2.3	2.7	3.0
August	2.2	1.9	0.2	1.9	2.3	1.9	3.7
TOTAL	5.0	9.3	2.8	9.3	9.7	9.3	11.8

* Long Term Average

Effect of trinexapac-ethyl on a red clover seed crop – Girouxville 2013

Treatment kg ai/ha	Plant Height (cm)	Flower Counts (# / 1/4m2)	Seed Yield kg/ha	Germination %
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0.280 Bud	65.0 ab	212	475	97
Check	68.5 a	232	417	98
CV%	4.6	20.8	11.2	1.9
LSD (P=.05)	4.4	NSD	NSD	NSD

Effect of trinexapac-ethyl on a red clover seed crop – Beaverlodge 2013

Treatment (kg ai/ha)	Plant Height (cm)	Seed Yield kg/ha
0.140 Stem Elongation	78.2 b	192
0.280 Stem Elongation	81 b	167
0.420 Stem Elongation	76.7 b	209
0.280 Bud	87.0 a	177
Check	87.7 a	151
CV%	2.9	16.5
LSD (P=.05)	4.5	NSD

Trinexapac-ethyl applied to Red Clover at stem elongation and bud-early flower.

Early 2x

Late 1x

Check

Red Clover – Girouxville 2014

Effect of trinexapac-ethyl on a red clover seed crop – Girouxville 2014

Treatment (kg ai/ha)	Plant Height (cm)	Flowers (# / 1/4 m2)	Seed Yield kg/ha*	Germ. %	1000 kwt g
0.140 Stem Elongation	39.4 b	107	53 a	97.1	1.391 ab
0.280 Stem Elongation	32.7 c	114	37 ab	96.5	1.345 b
0.420 Stem Elongation	31.7 c	96	34 b	98.1	1.294 c
0.210 Stem Elongation+ 0.210 Bud	34.5 c	103	34 b	98.7	1.242 c
0.280 Bud	42.5 ab	100	42 ab	97.6	1.281 c
Check	43.8 a	100	53 a	96.6	1.435 a
CV%	5.6	9.2	18.9	1.9	2.48
LSD (P=.05)	3.1	NSD	12	NSD	0.051

*Yields were low due to in-correct combine settings.

Effect of trinexapac-ethyl on a red clover seed crop – Girouxville 2015

Treatment (kg ai/ha)	Plant Height (cm)	Flowers (# / 1/4 m2)	Seed Yield kg/ha	Germ. %	1000 kwt g
0.140 Stem Elongation	54.3	124	295	97.5	1.501 a
0.280 Stem Elongation	54.5	132	297	96.5	1.444 ab
0.420 Stem Elongation	50.2	152	311	94.8	1.449 ab
0.210 Stem Elongation+ 0.210 Bud	50.4	159	287	98.0	1.398 bc
0.280 Bud	50.6	159	294	99.0	1.356 c
Check	58.5	158	286	98.3	1.509 a
CV%	9.0	21.5	4.8	2.1	2.8
LSD (P=.05)	NSD	NSD	NSD	NSD	0.06

Effects of Growth Regulator on Red Clover Seed Yields % of Check

Treatment (kg ai/ha)	Beaverlodge 2013	Girouxville 2013	Girouxville 2014	Girouxville 2015
0.140 Stem Elongation	+27	+18	0	+3
0.280 Stem Elongation	+10	+19	-31	+4
0.420 Stem Elongation	+38	+13	-36	+8
0.210 Stem Elongation+ 0.210 Bud		+12	-36	0
0.280 Bud	+17	+14	-21	+3

Trinexapac-ethyl applied to Alsike Clover at stem elongation and bud-early flower.



Effect of trinexapac-ethyl on an alsike clover seed crop – Girouxville 2014

Treatment kg ai/ha	Height (cm)	Flower s (# / 1/4 m2)	Seed Yield kg/ha	Germ. %	1000 kwt g
0.140 Stem Elongation	32	308	318 a	96.7	0.659 b
0.280 Stem Elongation	30	290	256 b	96.9	0.633 c
0.420 Stem Elongation	29	282	193 c	98.5	0.630 c
0.210 Stem Elongation+ 0.210 Bud	32	317	152 c	97.6	0.604 c
0.280 Bud	29	319	200 c	97.8	0.607 c
Check	36	264	354 a	98.1	0.692 a
CV%	13.8	14.0	11.9	1.9	2.3
LSD (P=.05)	NSD	NSD	45	NSD	0.022

Effects of Growth Regulator on Alsike Clover Seed Yields % of Check

Treatment kg ai/ha	Guy 2013	Girouxville 2014	Guy 2015
0.140 Stem Elongation	-2	-10	+9
0.280 Stem Elongation	0	-28	+8
0.420 Stem Elongation	-3	-45	+11
0.210 Stem Elongation+ 0.210 Bud	-16	-57	+2
0.280 Bud	-17	-46	+5

Trinexapac-ethyl applied to Alsike Clover



Effect of trinexapac-ethyl on an alsike clover seed crop – Guy 2013

Treatment (kg ai/ha)	Plant Height (cm)	Flower Counts (# / 1/4 m2)	Seed Yield kg/ha	Germination %
0.140 Stem Elongation	72	462	281	96
0.280 Stem Elongation	74	457	286	97
0.420 Stem Elongation	69	612	278	96
0.210 Stem Elongation+ 0.210 Bud	74	497	241	96
0.280 Bud	74	359	238	96
Check	75	466	287	93
CV%	7.2	17.7	9.1	2.0
LSD (P=.05)	NSD	NSD	NSD	NSD

Effect of trinexapac-ethyl on an alsike clover seed crop – Guy 2015

Treatment kg ai/ha	Height (cm)	Flower s (# / 1/4 m2)	Seed Yield kg/ha	Germ. %	1000 kwt g
0.140 Stem Elongation	47.3 a	159	395	94.0	0.714
0.280 Stem Elongation	42.0 bc	164	391	94.3	0.734
0.420 Stem Elongation	41.6 bcd	183	403	96.0	0.734
0.210 Stem Elongation+ 0.210 Bud	38.5 d	164	373	95.0	0.726
0.280 Bud	39.0 cd	191	384	93.3	0.729
Check	44.6 ab	190	363	92.8	0.719
CV%	5.3	24.4	7.5	2.4	0.6
LSD (P=.05)	3.4	NSD	NSD	NSD	NSD

Summary

- Extremely dry conditions in 2 of 3 years
- Height reductions in most years
- Decrease in lodging in wet years
- Visual increase in flowers
- Lower seed weights on red clover.
- Seed yields on RED CLOVER (low rate + early application)
 - 2013 Girouxville +18%
 - 2013 Beaverlodge +24%
 - 2014 Girouxville 0%
 - 2015 Girouxville 0%
- Seed yields on ALSIKE CLOVER (low rate+early application)
 - 2013 Falher 0%
 - 2014 Girouxville - 10%
 - 2015 Guy +8%
- Good responses on red clover to GR in wet years.
- Decrease in yield under stress conditions at higher rates in 2014.
- Conduct an additional trial on red clover in 2016

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Moisture Situation as of March 31

Throughout the month of March, most of the province continued to experience warmer than normal temperatures, with many areas seeing a March this warm, less than once in 25 years (**map-1**). A combination of warm weather, a late start to winter and below normal precipitation accumulations, lead to early “snow free” conditions across much of the province. In fact, by March 15th most agricultural areas south of the Yellowhead highway were snow free.

For those areas north of Red Deer, March marked a change in precipitation patterns, with many areas experiencing near normal to above normal accumulations for the month (**map-2**).

Over winter precipitation accumulations were well below normal across most of the province with areas, southeast of Edmonton, between Calgary and Medicine Hat, and through the eastern Peace Region experiencing at least one in 12-year lows (**map 3**). However, on average winter precipitation accumulations only account for about 20-30% of the average annual precipitation accumulations and total over winter precipitation deficits do not exceed 70 mm in even the driest areas. From a cropping perspective, these shortfalls can effectively be eased by one good soaking rain or a few large spring snow storms.

Long term moisture deficits (365-days) show significantly dry areas through the northern Peace Region, across much of northern Alberta and through many areas between Lethbridge and Medicine Hat (**map 4**). These lands will benefit greatly from near normal precipitation accumulations over the coming few months, particularly if warmer than normal temperatures persist.

Frost Probabilities:

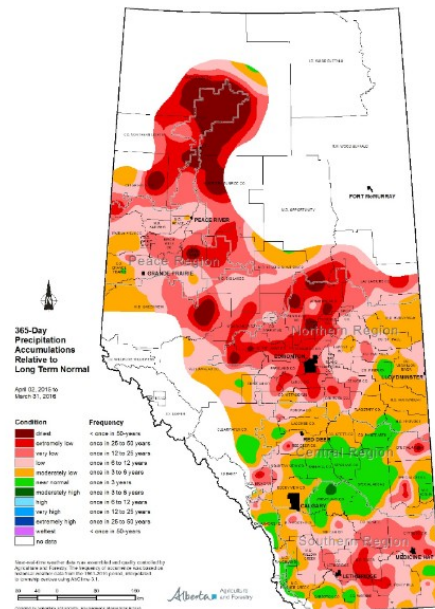
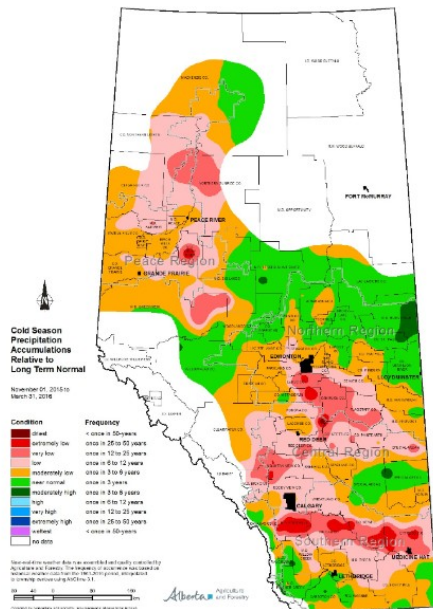
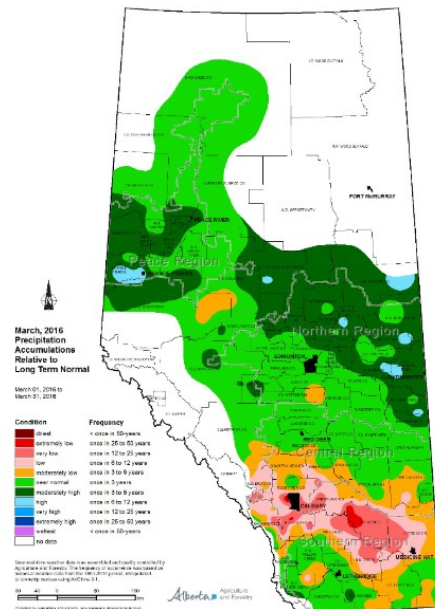
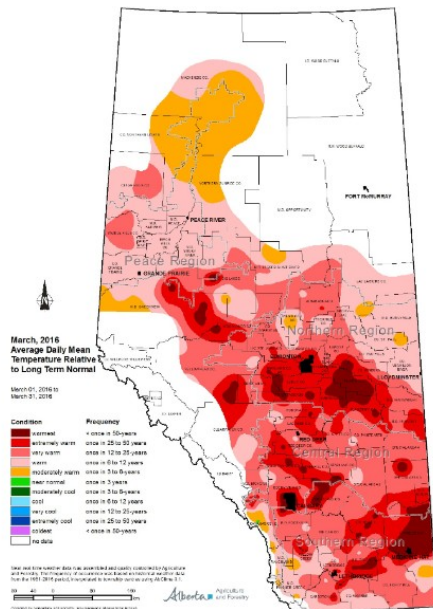
With winter snows gone early and warmer than normal temperatures, producers are likely to be out on the land sooner this year. If so, late spring frosts may be a concern for early seeded crops.

As a general guideline, on average, only about one in four years (25% chance) will most agricultural areas lying south of Grande Prairie expect to see frosts as low as -5 °C on or after about April 27th or frosts as low as -2 °C on or after about the 10th of May. For those areas north of Peace River, add about a 10 days to each of these dates. Table 1 lists these 25% frost probabilities for selected areas. Note, these dates will need to be adjusted earlier for low lying areas and those lands situated near the foothills, or at higher elevations.

Table 1. Dates beyond which the probability of a frost at the given temperature, drops to 25%

Location	Severity of Frost	
	-5 ⁰ C	-2 ⁰ C
La Crete	08-May	21-May
Grande Prairie A	29-April	11-May
Edmonton	26-April	09-May
Strathmore	30-April	12-May
Lethbridge	29-April	12-May
Medicine Hat	27-April	11-May

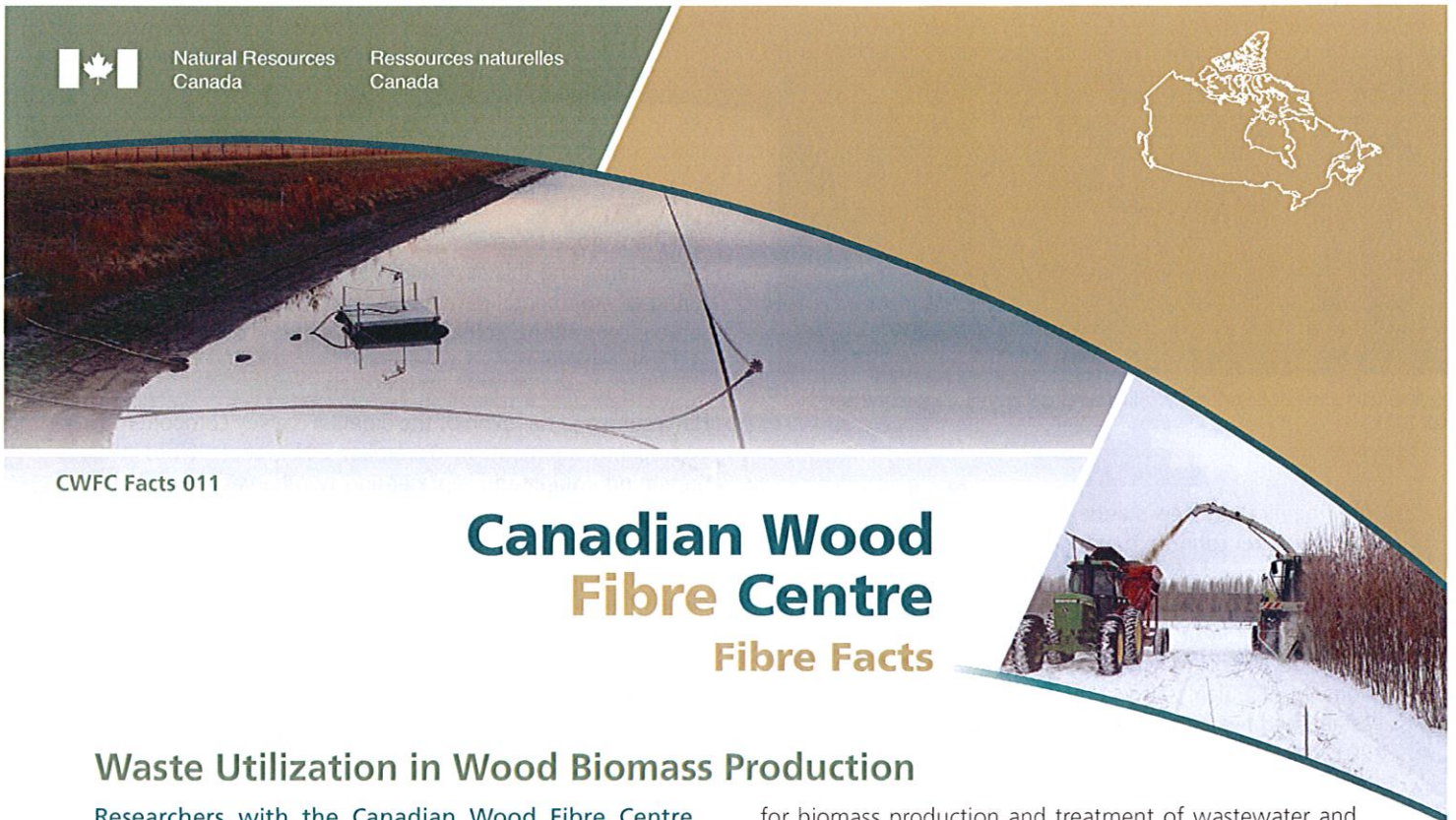
To investigate frost probabilities in your area log on to <http://agriculture.alberta.ca/acis/alberta-weather-data-viewer.jsp> and, select the “normals” tab.





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CWFC Facts 011

Canadian Wood Fibre Centre Fibre Facts

Waste Utilization in Wood Biomass Production

Researchers with the Canadian Wood Fibre Centre (CWFC), Natural Resources Canada, have been studying the effects of applying municipal wastewater and biosolids on the fibre production of woody crops. This is an alternative to traditional waste treatment. They are looking at how these systems can utilize organic waste in the production of wood biomass from high-density willow and hybrid poplar plantations. Analysis of the full production process will enable municipalities to assess the system's suitability for waste treatment and fibre production as well as options available to them in the full management cycle and end use of the crop.

CWFC researchers are testing and demonstrating wastewater and biosolids application to both short rotation intensive culture (SRIC) and afforestation systems. These systems require a high level of management, and a predetermined and precise row spacing to optimize biomass yield and stem volume, respectively, and to facilitate weed control.

Short rotation intensive culture woody crops are established at densities of 15 000–20 000 stems per hectare (sph) in a two-row bed pattern. Crops are harvested on a three-year rotation with a full SRIC cycle encompassing seven to eight rotations or 21–24 years on the same root system. The SRIC crops research focuses mostly on willow. Fast growth, ease of propagation, ability to be coppiced, high water use, and potential for genetic improvement make willow ideally suited

for biomass production and treatment of wastewater and biosolids.

For the hybrid poplar afforestation system, planting densities range from 900 to 2000 sph. The trees are used for traditional forest product manufacture. Hybrid poplar planted on the research site at Clairmont, Alberta, at 950 sph are projected to be harvested approximately 5–6 years sooner with irrigation than the expected 18–25-year rotation without irrigation. The harvested material will be used at the Ainsworth Engineered OSB plant in neighboring Grande Prairie, Alberta.

CWFC's researcher Richard Krygier started this project in the spring of 2006 with the establishment of western Canada's **first municipal wastewater-irrigated SRIC willow and poplar** plantation at Whitecourt, Alberta. He wanted to determine if the proven European technology for wastewater and biosolids application to SRIC crops would work as well to increase woody biomass production in Alberta. Concurrently, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment was developing new stricter standards for the discharge of municipal wastewater. Interest in this concept grew as municipalities looked at creative and cost effective ways of not

(Top) Irrigation pump platform floating in sewage lagoon at Beaverlodge, Alberta, fall 2011. (Right) Willow harvesting at wastewater treatment plant, Whitecourt, Alberta, December 2011.

Canadian Wood Fibre Centre

Working together to optimize wood fibre value – creating forest sector solutions with FPinnovations



Canada



Willow plantation at Beaverlodge, Alberta, after first full season of irrigation, fall 2011.

only meeting the new standards but of reducing their environmental footprint (e.g., bioenergy) and developing new economic opportunities.

To further the research and demonstrate the concept, the CWFC received funding from Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions. Martin Blank, also of the CWFC, and Richard Krygier **established five additional research locations by the end of 2011.** Approximately 20 organizations from government, industry, private companies, and academia became involved in the project.

Of the six research sites throughout central and northern Alberta, four are dedicated to irrigation with wastewater. Subsurface drip irrigation is used on three sites, and one site will use a surface irrigation technology (installation 2012) commonly used in Europe (e.g., Ireland and Sweden) on SRIC crops. The use of different irrigation systems will enable the assessment of each method and provide options **to address concerns and constraints specific to interested municipalities** (e.g., potential for human contact, cost). The research will determine the irrigation rates for the crop, and their effect on biomass production and the environment.

Biosolids, the non-liquid portion of municipal sewage, will be applied to the two remaining sites. Biosolids are applied by direct injection into the soil or by surface application followed by tilling. By varying the biosolids application rate of nitrogen content from 200 kg to 400 kg N/ha, the effect on biomass production and utilization of waste can be assessed.

Provincial guidelines and regulations for application of wastewater and biosolids to agronomic crops have been set to address agricultural and environmental concerns. Krygier

and Blank hope to assist regulators in making informed decisions regarding this application to woody crops by monitoring environmental parameters, such as soil nutrient and salt concentrations, soil and ground water, foliar nutrients and soil respiration.

Harvesting and handling of the biomass is a key component in crop management. In December 2011, three types of harvesting equipment, representing two harvesting methods and two scales of operations, were demonstrated at the SRIC plantation in Whitecourt. CWFC personnel and the Forest Operations staff of FPInnovations assessed each piece of equipment for productivity and biomass recovery rates. The results from this study will help executives and others make management decisions for optimal end-product usage. The team will also be assessing the effectiveness of an agricultural system to dry the wood chips produced from this process and will compare results to round bales of willow.

The CWFC is working with its partners and collaborators to provide rural municipalities with not only an economic and environmentally friendly option for treatment of organic wastes but with a means of producing wood fibre. **This wood fibre will contribute to community diversification and stability by providing a feed stock for bioenergy production in addition to fibre for supporting existing or developing new industries.**



Researchers Richard Krygier (left) and Martin Blank (right).

The October 2015 Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement is a substantial trade treaty for its 12 members, and like other trade treaties, it will introduce concessions on market access, such as tariff reductions and increased import quotas, as discussed below.

But there is also considerable focus on food safety regulations as well as on biotechnology and organic standards, since these can be major sources of non-tariff barriers (eg. I may try to make my food inspection rules or my organic standards a little different than yours so I can keep yours out).

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TPP addresses transparency in such rules, using science-based criteria, and it also establishes dispute-settlement processes for some or all of them.

These may eventually be the most important parts of TPP. When market access barriers come down following trade negotiations, protectionist pressure is brought on legislators to replace them with non-tariff barriers, as illustrated by the U.S. mandatory country-of-origin labelling (MCOOL) that took Canada's beef and pork industries eight years to finally bring down.

Market Access

The agricultural and food prize in TPP was the highly protected Japanese market, followed by Vietnam and Malaysia. Improved access to these markets will provide opportunities for many farm products, especially if additional countries eventually join, such as China.

Many of the remaining signatories, although potential markets for some Canadian products, tend either to be Canada's competitors, such as Australia, the U.S., Chile and New Zealand, or they are relatively small, such as Brunei, Singapore and Peru.

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In addition to Canada's gains in access, TPP levels the field with Australia, which had a major advantage in the Japanese market for products like beef and canola through a bilateral treaty between the two countries.

TPP also contains potential gains for Canadian farms, agribusinesses and food companies. Some major opportunities are:

- Japan reduces its 39 per cent tariffs for beef and pork to 9 per cent over nine years, and will phase out additional "over gate" tariffs on pork.
- Vietnam and Malaysia phase out or substantially reduce tariffs for beef and pork (and most other products). Current Vietnamese tariffs are around 30 per cent. Detractors point out that these countries don't import much, a fact consistent with 30 per cent tariffs!
- TPP will substantially reduce tariffs for grains and phase out of Japan's respective 10.9 y/kg and 13.2 y/kg tariffs on crude and refined canola oil.
- Where tariffs are not immediately phased out, many countries will establish tariff rate quotas (TRQs), under which an amount of product can be shipped at no or very low tariffs.

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Supply management captured the most Canadian media coverage during the negotiations. The U.S. and New Zealand hammered Canada publicly, but in the end the yardsticks didn't move that much. Canada increased dairy TRQs by 3.25 per cent and those for chicken, eggs and turkeys by 2.1, 2.3 and 2.0 per cent, respectively.

Still, Canada's dairy industry will have little opportunity to use U.S. TRQs and it faces increased pressure from the limited increase in our TRQs, largely because of decisions the industry made several years ago. These resulted in agreement by Canada that all Canadian dairy exports are subsidized and, therefore, not allowed. The problem is that Canada is short of dairy fats, but has a surplus in protein. Since Canada essentially can't export, that creates a growing surplus of skim milk powder.

Even a 3.25 per cent increase in imports, along with increased cheese TRQs in the European agreement, will put considerable pressure on Canada's dairy industry at its current prices.

Several alternatives exist for adjustment, but all suggest that "adjustment" will be the order of the day for dairy farmers.

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Canadian poultry industries have put themselves in a more positive position and can likely see some adjustment toward being more export oriented, so long as it is done carefully without encouraging trade disputes.

Bottom Line

The Harper government had offered supply management compensation if the deal injured them, but at press time, the Trudeau government had yet to lock itself into a specific compensation package. It is our expectation that the Liberals will focus support on agriculture, because its strength is essential in this economic environment.

That said, the treaty's ratification means most Canadian farmers will not only have increased opportunity, but also an increased need to be competitive with other countries that also got improved access.

Larry Martin is a principal of [Agri-Food Management Excellence](#) and is one of the instructors in AME's Canadian Total Excellence in Agriculture Management (CTEAM) program.

12

About the author

Larry Martin's recent articles

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NEWS LOCAL

AAMDC conference begins Monday



By Jocelyn Turner, Grande Prairie Daily Herald-Tribune
Sunday, March 13, 2016 5:43:05 MDT PM



Dale Gervais, Reeve for the Municipal District of Greenview

Funding will be a big topic for local municipalities when they attend the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) spring conference beginning Monday.

From the 14th to the 16th, municipal representatives from all over the province will congregate in Edmonton to talk issues affecting

residents across the province.

Of the list of resolutions to be presented, the MD of Greenview will take the agricultural opportunity fund for agricultural research and forage associations forward. "What it boiled down to is the province has cut back funding to these organizations over the last couple of years and the resolution is just asking the province to restore that funding because of the quality and the amount of work that they do in research for all types of farming," explained Reeve Dale Gervais. "SARDA (Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association) does work for grain farmers and we have the... Peace Country (Beef and) Forage Association. They do all kinds of research on the livestock side of it and without funding, a lot of this research is going to be curtailed and it's going to affect the ability of the (Peace Country) farmers to stay competitive on the world market."

Gervais said funding was increased in 2014 by \$2.5 million and then cut by \$2.5 million in January of 2015. The resolution asks that the funding be restored for the 2016 fiscal year. "There's a lot of municipalities in the peace district that also support these organizations financially but, we can't do it alone so we're just asking for the province... to refill the place that they had in the funding chain," he said.

Deputy Reeve for the County of Grande Prairie Ross Sutherland said, although the county did not bring forward any specific resolutions, they are supporting all of the ones that will come forward. Other resolutions include improving oversight of delegated legislation from Starland County, and creating a residential exemption to roadside development permits from Lac Ste. Anne County.

"Even though they do come from different areas of the province, we still support them," he said. "Our support behind the kind of one offs, for instance, the regional air ambulance services to the Cypress County there. It's handled out of Medicine Hat and they don't have a service like STARS down there, so we try to support those types of resolutions."

Another resolution the county is particularly interested in are the three to do with linear assessments: Preservation of linear assessment for rural municipalities from the MD of Willow Creek; recovery of linear property, commercial property and education requisition tax arrears from the County of Paintearth, and notice period for adjustments to linear assessment modifiers from Sturgeon County.

"And provincial funding for municipal public libraries and regional library systems," said Sutherland.

The funding to libraries has not seen an increase in funding in several years.

"The funding increases have not kept pace with our costs and we're just trying to get it back so we stay on an even keel," he said.

Gervais said the resolution had to be approved at the zone meeting prior to the conference. Since it was approved there, it will be brought to the floor at the conference in Edmonton and, if approved there, the AAMDC executive will take it to the province.

"There's no way of enforcing it, it's just a request that the province look at this funding cut and reinstate it," he said.

"Just by presenting a resolution is no guarantee of any action on the province's part."

The conference wraps up on Wednesday.

JTurner@postmedia.com

Twitter: @DHTJocelyn

 clearly



SUSTAINABILITY INFORMATION SESSION

Join Bob Lowe, ABP Chair, and Karen Haugen-Kozyra, Viresco Solutions, as they breakdown the process for participating in McDonald's Verified Sustainable Beef Pilot Project and what it can mean for your ranch.

Meeting 1

Monday, February 8, 2016 - 10 a.m.
Evergreen Park Tec Centre, Grande Prairie

Meeting 2

Monday, February 8, 2016 - 2 p.m.
Triangle Hall, High Prairie

Roundup Ready alfalfa primed for launch in East

FGI's HarvXtra will also include a trait meant to ease hay digestion

By [Staff](#)

Published: March 30, 2016

Crops, Forages, Markets



(Deborah Samac photo courtesy ARS/USDA)

The company with Roundup Ready alfalfa on its launchpad plans a limited rollout of commercial seed into Canada's six eastern provinces this spring.

In a move likely to face opposition from several farm groups across the country, Forage Genetics International (FGI) on Tuesday announced plans for a limited release of commercial HarvXtra alfalfa "in time for spring 2016 planting."

HarvXtra alfalfa will include Monsanto's glyphosate-tolerant Roundup Ready genetics plus a trait for lower levels of lignin, a structural component of alfalfa plants that holds them upright but makes them less digestible for dairy and beef cattle.

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Seed quantities are expected to be enough for growers to plant a “small, targeted launch” of less than 5,000 acres of hay, FGI said.

Idaho-based FGI stressed its decision is “confined to the sale of seed for hay production” and not for alfalfa seed production. All HarvXtra seed production for the Eastern Canada market will have taken place in the U.S.

Only commercial sales for hay production will be allowed — and the hay can be sold for Canadian domestic use only, the company said.

Sale and planting will only proceed in “limited geographical areas” — specifically, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. There are no plans to commercially offer HarvXtra alfalfa to growers in Western Canada “at this time,” FGI said.

FGI’s move comes as groups opposed to genetically modified (GM) alfalfa’s release in Canada ramp up their campaign, citing a recent report in *Alberta Farmer* that a batch of foundation seed contaminated with Roundup Ready alfalfa was sent to a forage seed grower in southern Alberta four years ago.

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Citing the potential loss of markets, the Alberta Association Of Municipal Districts and Counties this month also passed a resolution urging a halt for any GM alfalfa launch in the province.

“Several alfalfa markets are highly sensitive to GM contamination, including certified organic, seed, pellet and hay exports to Europe, China and Japan, as well domestic seed production and feed for organic livestock and dairy,” National Farmers Union president Jan Slomp said in a letter last Thursday to federal Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay.

Hay-to-hay “coexistence” plans and best management practices have been developed for both the West and East, with the help of the Canadian Seed Trade Association and the forage industry, FGI said.

The updated plans and BMPs for both regions were drawn up in response to requests for further stewardship guidelines, FGI said, “to address the possibility of product moving from Eastern Canada to Western Canada.”

Similar plans have allowed organic, conventional and genetically modified alfalfa farmers to coexist in the U.S., where GM alfalfa has been on the market since 2005, the company said.

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But Slomp, in his letter to MacAulay, warned of “widespread GM contamination of conventional alfalfa” in the U.S. “Because of its biological characteristics, it is not possible for GM alfalfa to ‘co-exist’ with conventional alfalfa.”

Canadian regulatory agencies approved unconfined environmental release for the lower-lignin alfalfa trait in October 2014, while HarvXtra alfalfa with the Roundup Ready trait was approved that December.

FGI said that for Canada, it has decided to release alfalfa with the Roundup Ready trait only as part of the HarvXtra package, and won’t be releasing a separate product without the lower-lignin trait.

Genetically modifying alfalfa for lower lignin content, beyond what was possible through conventional breeding, should increase fiber digestibility and change or improve quality as the plant matures, compared to conventional alfalfa at the same stage of maturity, the company said.

Thus, FGI said, HarvXtra “offers more flexibility in cutting schedule to achieve improved forage quality or greater yield potential when compared to conventional alfalfa at the same stage of maturity.”

The NFU’s Slomp, however, said FGI’s variety, by allowing hay harvests at later dates, would increase bloom time “and hence, the unwanted spread of GM traits by cross-pollination.” — *AGCanada.com Network*

Subject: Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame Nomination Deadline is April 30

FORWARDED ON BEHALF OF COLIN GOSSELIN

The nomination deadline for the 2016 [Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame](#) is April 30.

If there is an individual in your area who has made a significant contribution to the agriculture and food industry, and to the development of rural life in Alberta, please consider nominating them.

Some past inductees were recently featured on Call of the Land:

[Mabel Hamilton](#), inducted 2012, Belvin Angus

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/newslett.nsf/all/cotl24983/\\$FILE/16_96_Mabel_Hamilton.mp3](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/newslett.nsf/all/cotl24983/$FILE/16_96_Mabel_Hamilton.mp3)

[Phil Thomas](#), inducted 2010, “Mr. Canola”

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$Department/newslett.nsf/all/cotl24940/\\$FILE/16_84_Phil_Thomas.mp3](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$Department/newslett.nsf/all/cotl24940/$FILE/16_84_Phil_Thomas.mp3)

If you have further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Colin

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The **2016 ASB Provincial Conference Presentations** are now available on the **AAAF website**.

Here is the link:

<http://www.aaaf.ab.ca/asb-boards/asb-conference.html>

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Transition to Organic Grains Workshop—La Crete</i>	2 <i>Organic Grain and Field Crops Conference—La Crete</i>
3	4	5	6 <i>BearSmart—Grande Prairie</i>	7 <i>Fusarium Workshop—Girouxville</i>	8	9
10	11	12 <i>Council Meeting</i>	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 <i>Equine Nutrition Seminar—Grande Prairie</i>	26 <i>Council Meeting</i>	27 <i>ASB Meeting</i>	28	29	30

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 <i>AB Association of Ag Societies Regional Meeting—Peace River</i>
8	9	10 <i>Council Meeting</i>	11 <i>Technical Large animal Emergency Rescues—Grande Prairie</i>	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 <i>Council Meeting</i>	25 <i>ASB Meeting Stompede—Grande Prairie</i>	26 <i>Stompede—Grande Prairie</i>	27 <i>Stompede—Grande Prairie</i>	28 <i>Stompede—Grande Prairie</i>
29 <i>Stompede—Grande Prairie</i>	30	31				

June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 <i>Council Meeting</i>	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 <i>Summer Field School—TBA</i>	23	24	25
26	27	28 <i>Council Meeting</i>	29 <i>ASB Meeting</i>	30		