



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16

"A Great Place to Live, Work and Play"

REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, April 26, 2018

9:30 AM

Council Chambers
Administration Building

#1	CALL TO ORDER		
#2	ADOPTION OF AGENDA		
#3	MINUTES	3.1	Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes held March 26, 2018 – 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	
#7	STAFF REPORT & ASB MEMBERS BUSINESS & REPORTS	7.1	Staff Report 7
#8	CORRESPONDENCE	•	Beneficial Insects 17
		•	Farm animal care champions recognized with AFAC Awards of Distinction 18
		•	Veterinarian shortage looms for rural Alberta after province nixes agreement: critic 20
		•	Farmer-led AgSafe program helps producers tackle farm safe issues 23
		•	Environmental Stewardship News March 2018 28
		•	Forwarded on Behalf of Doug Macaulay RE: wild boar at large ear bounty program (2018-2020) 31
		•	They just keep coming - another new elevator going up 32
		•	ESA nomination to Ag Fieldmen 2019 36
		•	Pages from Call for Nominations

• Map 1 December and January precipitation accumulations relative to normal	41
• Map 2 Snowpack accumulations as of January 31 2018	42
• Map 3 February and March precipitation accumulations relative to normal	43
• Map 4 Snowpack accumulations relative to normal as of April 4, 2018	44
• Pages from Pest Insider April 2018	45
• Back Forty, April 2018	49

#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, January 24, 2018

**#1
CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Allen Perkins called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

PRESENT

A.S.B. Member – Chair	Allen Perkins
A.S.B. Member - Vice Chair	Warren Wohlgemuth
A.S.B. Member – Councillor	Bill Smith
A.S.B. Member - Councillor	Dale Smith
A.S.B. Member	Larry Smith
A.S.B. Member	Richard Brochu
A.S.B. Member	Stephen Lewis

ATTENDING

Manager, Agriculture Services	Quentin Bochar
Assistant Manager, Agriculture Services	Dave Berry
Supervisor Trainee	Kristin King
Recording Secretary	Beverly Spence

ABSENT

**#2
AGENDA**

MOTION: 18.01.01 Moved by: Larry Smith
That the Agenda be adopted with the following additions:

- Add 6.3 Peace Country Classic Sponsorship

CARRIED

**#3.1 REGULAR ASB
MEETING**

MOTION: 18.01.02 Moved by: Dale Smith
That the minutes of the November 22, 2017 Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting to be adopted with the following changes:
Move “Councillor Dale Smith vacated the meeting at 11:23 a.m.” after motion: 17.11.72

CARRIED

**#3.2
BUSINESS ARISING
FROM MINUTES**

3.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

**#5
OLD BUSINESS**

5.1 LETTER OF RESPONSE: FARM AND RANCH LEGISLATION

**#6
NEW BUSINESS****6.1 REQUEST FOR DECISION: 2018 AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY GRANT REQUEST**

MOTION: 18.01.03 Moved by: Warren Wohlgemuth

That the Agricultural Service Board authorize administration to provide funding to the grant recipients in the amounts as follows; \$3,500 to Prairie Rose 4-H Light Horse and Hound Club, \$1,500 to Valleyview & District 4-H Council, \$3,500 to Little Smoky 4-H Spurs Club with funds to come from the 2018 Agriculture Operating Budget.

CARRIED

6.2 REQUEST FOR DECISION: 2018 FARM TO MARKET CONFERENCE SPONSERSHIP

MOTION: 18.01.04 Dale Smith

That the Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council to approve a grant in the amount of \$500 to support a Silver Level sponsorship, with funds to come from the 2018 Agricultural Operational Budget.

CARRIED

**#4.0
DELEGATIONS****4.1 SMOKY APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION ASSOCIATION (SARDA)**

MOTION: 18.01.05 Moved by: Dale Smith

That the Agricultural Service Board accept the presentation from SARDA as information.

CARRIED

6.3 REQUEST FOR DECISION: PEACE COUNTRY CLASSIC SPONSORSHIP

MOTION: 18.01.06 Warren Wohlgemuth

That the Agricultural Service Board direct administration to pursue major day sponsorship for the Peace Country Classic Agri - Show for the value of \$1,500 with funding to come from the 2018 Agriculture Operational Budget.

DEFEATED

**#7 STAFF REPORT & ASB
MEMBERS BUSINESS &
REPORTS****7.1 STAFF REPORT & ASB MEMBERS BUSINESS & REPORTS**

COUNCILLOR BILL SMITH updated the Agriculture Service Board on his recent activities, which include;

- 2018 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference – Grande Prairie

COUNCILLOR DALE SMITH updated the Agriculture Service Board on his recent activities, which include;

- 2018 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference – Grande Prairie
- ASB Fieldman and Chairman Meeting - Grande Prairie
- Clubroot Meeting - Valleyview

VICE CHAIR WARREN WOHLGEMUTH updated the Agriculture Service Board on his recent activities, which include;

- 2018 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference – Grande Prairie

CHAIR ALLEN PERKINS updated the Agriculture Service Board on his recent activities, which include;

- 2018 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference – Grande Prairie
- ASB Fieldman and Chairman Meeting - Grande Prairie

MEMBER LARRY SMITH updated the Agriculture Service Board on his recent activities, which include;

- 2018 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference – Grande Prairie

MEMBER RICHARD BROCHU updated the Agriculture Service Board on his recent activities

MEMBER STEPHEN LEWIS updated the Agriculture Service Board on his recent activities, which include;

- 2018 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference – Grande Prairie

STAFF REPORTS

MOTION: 18.01.07 Moved by: Dale Smith

That the Agricultural Service Board accept the Manager's report and ASB members reports as information.

CARRIED

**#8
CORRESPONDENCE**

• 8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

**CORRESPONDENCE
LISTING**

MOTION: 18.01.08 Moved by: Warren Wohlgemuth

That the Agricultural Service Board accept the correspondence as presented.

CARRIED

#9
IN CAMERA

9.0 IN CAMERA

#10
ADJOURNMENT

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: 18.01.09 Moved by: Stephen Lewis

That the Agricultural Service Board Meeting adjourn at 11.27 p.m.

CARRIED

Agricultural Service Board Chairman

Manager, Agriculture Services



REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT:	Manager's Report and ASB Member's Report		
SUBMISSION TO:	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD	REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION	
MEETING DATE:	April 26, 2018	CAO:	MANAGER: QFB
DEPARTMENT:	AGRICULTURE	GM:	PRESENTER: QFB
STRATEGIC PLAN:	Level of Service		

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Provincial (cite) – N/A

Council Bylaw/Policy (cite) – N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board accept the Manager's report and ASB members reports as information.

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The Manager's report contains information pertaining to the departments operations for the time period from the previous meeting to time of writing of the agenda.

The ASB Member's report contains information pertaining to the members activities for the time period from the previous meeting to the current meeting.

BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Having the ASB vote in favour of the Ag Department Staff report, will allow the ASB to be kept updated on the Ag Department activities

DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

There are no perceived disadvantages to the recommended motion.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative #1: The ASB may choose to not accept this report as information.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

There are no financial implications to the recommended motion.

STAFFING IMPLICATION:

There are no staffing implications to the recommended motion.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT LEVEL:

Greenview has adopted the IAP2 Framework for public consultation.

INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC IMPACT

Inform

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL

Inform - To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC

Inform - We will keep you informed.

FOLLOW UP ACTIONS:

There are no follow up actions to the recommended motion.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Copy of the Manager/Staff Report from the Agriculture Services Department

**M.D. of Greenview Agricultural Services
Department Activity Report**

For the Period: March 15, 2018 – April 26, 2018

ENQUIRIES – Manager, Asst. Manager, Administrative Assistant and Ag. Supervisor Trainee

Weeds	12
Pests	15
Trees	10
Workshops	30
Rentals	30
Equipment Purchasing	10
Extension	5
employment	6
Miscellaneous	35
TOTAL ENQUIRIES	153

MEETINGS / CONFERENCES / TRAINING

Manager

- March 29, 2018 – Shared Accountability Training– Valleyview
- April 5, 2018 – Managers Meeting – Valleyview
- April 9-10, 2018 – CMML Course – Edmonton
- April 11, 2018 – Univar ProVM Training Course – Nisku
- April 17, 2018 – Shelterbelt workshop - Debolt
- April 18, 2018 – Shelterbelt workshop - Grovedale
- April 19-20, 2018 – Shared Accountability/Rapid Team Results Training – Valleyview
- April 24-25, 2018 – AISC AGM and Workshop – Lacombe

Asst. Manager Agriculture Services

- March 22-23, 2018 – Essential Skills for Supervisors – Grande Prairie
- March 26, 2018 – Shared Accountability – Valleyview
- March 28, 2018 – Shared Accountability – Valleyview
- April 9, 2018 – PRAAAF Industrial Corridors Work Shop – Peace River
- April 10, 2018 – PRAAAF Regional Meeting – Saddle Hills County
- April 16-17, 2018 – Ag Drone Workshop – High Prairie
- April 19-20, 2018 – Shared Accountability/Rapid Team Results Training – Valleyview
- April 24-25, 2018 – AISC AGM and Workshop – Lacombe

Agriculture Supervisor Trainee Agriculture Services

- March 26, 2018 – Shared Accountability – Valleyview
- March 28, 2018 – Shared Accountability – Valleyview
- April 10, 2018 – PRAAAF Regional Meeting – Saddle Hills County
- April 13, 2018 – Classroom Agriculture Program training – Sexsmith
- April 17, 2018 – Shelterbelt workshop - Debolt
- April 18, 2018 – Web Editor Training – Valleyview

- April 19-20, 2018 – Shared Accountability/Rapid Team Results Training – Valleyview
- April 24-25, 2018 – AISC AGM and Workshop – Lacombe

STAFFING

We made offers to 3 preferred candidates for seasonal Vegetation Management Technicians and 1 preferred candidate for Weed Inspector. All four have indicated that they will be coming on the April 30, 2018 start date.

Ag Services will be advertising for the Ag. Supervisor Trainee to fill an upcoming personal leave of absence.

RESOURCES, EQUIPMENT, AND FACILITIES

2018 Capital Purchases: AG18001 (Rear Blade) has been ordered, AG18002-AG18003 (Pick-up Trucks) have been ordered, AG18004 (Field Sprayer) has been ordered, AG18005 (Field Sprayer Boomless) has been ordered, AG18006 (Loading Chute) has been ordered, AG18007 (Bale Hauler) has been ordered and delivered, and AG18008 (Portable Wash Unit) has been ordered and delivered (just waiting for trailer delivery).

BUDGET

Agriculture Administration has already started working on budget 2019-2022.

EXTENSION EVENTS

SARDA and PCBFA have been conducting a number of Extension events in partnership with Ag Services and Ag Services has been posting the information to our web page, Facebook, and Twitter accounts.

Please see following list of events (year):

Date	Workshop	Location
January 18, 2018	2018 Peace Agronomy Update	Dunvegan Motor Inn
January 23, 2018	Clubroot Information Session	DeBolt Pioneer Centre
January 23, 2018	Clubroot Information Session	Valleyview Memorial Hall
January 25, 2018	Living With Wildlife	DeBolt Pioneer Centre
January 30 – February 2, 2018	FarmTech 2018	Edmonton Expo Centre

February 9, 2018	<u>Local Vegetable Markets</u>	Sunset House Hall
February 10, 2018	<u>Winter Watering Systems Tour</u>	Wanham
February 20, 2018	<u>SARDA AGM and Extension Event</u>	Falher
February 21-23, 2018	<u>Alberta Beef Industry Conference</u>	Sheraton Red Deer Hotel
February 22, 2018	<u>Hemp Fiber Marketing Info Session</u>	Manning Legion Hall
February 23, 2018	<u>PCBFA Annual General Meeting</u>	TBA
February 28, 2018	<u>Including Sainfoin in Your Pastures</u>	Grimshaw Legion Hall
February 28, 2018	<u>5% Rule on Farm Profitability</u>	Rycroft
March 12, 2018	<u>Crunching Numbers on Biocontrols in Bedding Plant Production</u>	Webinar
March 14, 2018	<u>EEP & Growing Forward 2 Openhouse Workshop</u>	PCBFA Office, High Prairie
March 14, 2018	<u>PRFSA Production and Marketing Seminar</u>	Rycroft Ag. Center
March 14-15, 2018	<u>2018 Livestock Car Conference</u>	Olds, Alberta
March 15, 2018	<u>Forage Seed Agronomy Update</u>	Rycroft Ag. Center
March 15, 2018	<u>Building for the Bumbles Workshop</u>	ENTREC Center, Grande Prairie
March 20, 2019	<u>Buttercup/Burdock Workshop</u>	Little Smoky Community Hall
March 21, 2018	<u>Buttercup/Burdock Workshop</u>	Grovedale Public Services Building
March 26-27, 2018	<u>Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference</u>	Hyatt Regency Calgary, Alberta
March 28, 2018	<u>No Fear Farm Finance</u>	Webinar
March 29, 2018	<u>Tools for Building Soil Health: Livestock and Crop Integration</u>	St. Isidore

April 3, 2018	Shelterbelt Workshop	Grovedale Public Services Building
April 4, 2018	Shelterbelt Workshop	DeBolt Public Services Building
April 16-17, 2018	Ag Drone School	Grande Prairie
April 24, 2018	Soil Information Viewer (becoming an expert) Webinar	
June 5, 2018	Septic Sense	Valleyview
June 6, 2018	Working Wells	Valleyview

PROGRAMS

➤ **VETERINARY SERVICES INCORPORATED**

Three (3) new cards have been issued.

➤ **PEST AND NUISANCE CONTROL**

WOLF HARVEST INCENTIVE

To date, 58 wolves have been presented for payment. Total 2018 incentive expenditures: \$20,100.00

YEAR	WOLVES	AMOUNT
2012	70	\$ 21,000.00
2013	53	\$ 15,900.00
2014	48	\$ 14,400.00
2015	98	\$ 29,400.00
2016	154	\$ 46,200.00
2017	99	\$ 29,700.00
2018	7	\$ 20,100.00
Total	589	\$ 176,700.00

WOLF PREDATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

There has been 2 new requests for assistance with verified wolf predation. There has been zero wolves removed.

Problem Wildlife Officer has been requested to come out and visit some farm/ranch operations, and has provided advice and information to the ratepayers. Have also had discussions with another 6 individuals regarding wolves.

COYOTE PREDATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

There has been 1 new requests for assistance with verified coyote predation. There has been 0 coyotes removed.

Problem Wildlife Officer has been requested to come out and visit some farm/ranch operations, and has provided advice and information to the ratepayers. Snares were set out for coyote predation, but with the change in weather the snares have been removed.

OTHER PREDATORS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

There have been 0 requests for assistance with other predator problems. There has been 0 pests removed.

OTHER PROBLEM WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

There have been 3 new requests for assistance with other problem wildlife species problems (Skunks). There has been 2 pests removed.

Problem Wildlife Officer has been requested to come out and visit some farm/ranch operations or acreages, and has provided advice and information to the ratepayers. One complaint required assistance with the use of the trap.

There have been 1 new requests for assistance with other problem wildlife species problems (Ravens). There has been 0 pests removed.

PWO gave information and advice to the ratepayer on how to deal with the problem.

There have been 1 new requests for assistance with other problem wildlife species problems (Magpies). There has been 0 pests removed.

PWO gave information and advice to the ratepayer on how to deal with the problem.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE FLOODING PREVENTION PROGRAM

There has been 3 new requests for assistance with beaver caused flooding issues (2 ratepayer and 1 infrastructure). There has been 0 beavers removed to date

WILD BOAR BOUNTY

There have been 0 sets of Wild Boar ears turned in. Total 2017 incentive expenditures \$0.00.

➤ **RENTAL EQUIPMENT**

Loc	Equipment	Equipment Number	S/N	Total Days	Cost/ Day	Total Charges
WV	1000 Earth Mover	SOIL3100		0	\$ 150.00	\$ -
CC	1000 Earth Mover	SOIL3101		0	\$ 150.00	\$ -
GD	900 Earth Mover	SOIL3070		0	\$ 150.00	\$ -
GD	425 Earth Mover	SOIL3072		0	\$ 100.00	\$ -
WV	12' Pull-Type Blade	SOIL3099	12502	0	\$ 50.00	\$ -
WV	Vee-Ditcher	VDIT3210	12502	0	\$ 50.00	\$ -
WV	Field Sprayer	ASB0004/SPRY3123	1400151	0	\$ 50.00	\$ -
CC	Field Sprayer	SPRY3076		0	\$ 50.00	\$ -
GD	Field Sprayer	SPRY3121		0	\$ 50.00	\$ -
WV	Boomless Sprayer - 300 Gal	SPRY3124	33262	0	\$ 50.00	\$ -
WV	Estate Sprayer - Pull Type	SPRY3007/3127/3128		0	\$ 20.00	\$ -
CC	Estate Sprayer - Pull Type	SPRY3008		0	\$ 20.00	\$ -
GD	Estate Sprayer - Pull Type	SPRY3206		0	\$ 20.00	\$ -
WV	Estate Sprayer - 3 pt hitch	SPRY3129	312101212	0	\$ 20.00	\$ -
WV	Water Tank and Trailer	TRL18		0	\$ 25.00	\$ -
GD	Water Tank and Trailer	TRL8		0	\$ 25.00	\$ -
WV	Quad Wick Applicator	SPRY3211		0	\$ 10.00	\$ -
CC	Quad Wick Applicator	SPRY3212		0	\$ 10.00	\$ -
GD	Quad Wick Applicator	SPRY3213		0	\$ 10.00	\$ -
WV	Quad Mount Sprayers	SPRY3010		0	\$ 10.00	\$ -
CC	Quad Mount Sprayers	SPRY3011		0	\$ 10.00	\$ -
GD	Quad Mount Sprayers	SPRY3012		0	\$ 10.00	\$ -
WV	Backpack Sprayers	SPRY3083		0	FREE	\$ -
CC	Backpack Sprayers	SPRY3084		0	FREE	\$ -
GD	Backpack Sprayers	SPRY3085		0	FREE	\$ -
WV	Hand Wick Applicator	MISCR98		0	FREE	\$ -
WV	Granular Pesticide Bait Applicator	PEAC3207		0	\$ 30.00	\$ -
WV	Manure Spreader	MANU3209	02104185UMLS75	0	\$ 200.00	\$ -
WV	Fertilizer Spreader	FERT001	AG3W53000FV001001	0	\$ 100.00	\$ -
WV	50' Heavy Harrow c/w Granular Applicator	HARR3113	245514031	0	\$ 150.00	\$ -
GD	33' Heavy Harrow c/w Granular Applicator	HARR3082		0	\$ 150.00	\$ -
WV	30' Land Roller	ASB0005		0	\$ 200.00	\$ -
GD	30' Land Roller	ROLL0001	12-1374	0	\$ 200.00	\$ -
WV	14' Heavy Disc	ASB0001	AGCW08420EX035270	0	\$ 400.00	\$ -
GD	14' Heavy Disc	DISC1	AGCW084EX035262	0	\$ 400.00	\$ -
WV	Cattle Squeeze	SQUE3099		1	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
CC	Cattle Squeeze	SQUE3097		0	\$ 25.00	\$ -
GD	Cattle Squeeze	SQUE3098		0	\$ 25.00	\$ -
WV	Loading Chute with 4 Panels	CHUT3115		5	\$ 25.00	\$ 125.00
CC	Loading Chute with 4 Panels	CHUT3097		0	\$ 25.00	\$ -
GD	Loading Chute with 4 Panels	CHUT3096		0	\$ 25.00	\$ -
WV	Panel Trailer with 20 Panels + 1 Gate	TRL6	SPTBF1627E1019676	0	\$ 25.00	\$ -
GD	Panel Trailer with 20 Panels + 1 Gate	PANL3046/T69		0	\$ 25.00	\$ -
WV	Tag Reader	GALA3117/3118		0	FREE	\$ -
WV	Burdizzo Clamps	MISCR98		0	FREE	\$ -
WV	Dehorner	MISCR98		0	FREE	\$ -
WV	Truck Mount Seeder	SEED3073		0	\$ 10.00	\$ -
WV	Quad Mount Seeder	SEED3074		0	\$ 10.00	\$ -
WV	Hand Seeder	MISCR98		0	FREE	\$ -
WV	Post Pounder	ASB0002		0	\$ 125.00	\$ -
CC	Post Pounder	POST3126		0	\$ 125.00	\$ -
GD	Post Pounder	ASB0003		0	\$ 125.00	\$ -
WV	Bale Wagon	ASB0007		0	\$ 150.00	\$ -
WV	No Till Drill	ASB0008		0	\$ 150.00	\$ -
WV	Grain Vacuum	ASBR0011		16	\$ 50.00	\$ 800.00
WV	Bin Crane	CRAN2123	09 1473	0	\$ 100.00	\$ -
WV	Water Pump and Pipe - Alberta Ag.	PUMPR99		0	\$ 200.00	\$ -
WV	Survey Equipment	SURV3091		0	\$ 10.00	\$ -
WV	Metal Detector	METL3081		0	\$ 10.00	\$ -
WV	Hay Sampler, Measuring Wheel, Bin Probe	MISCR98		8	FREE	\$ -
WV	Rodent Traps	MISCR98		0	\$ 10.00	\$ -
WV	Barbeque	TRL19		0	\$ 100.00	\$ -
WV	Picnic Tables	PICTABLES		0	\$ 10.00	\$ -
WV	Bag Roller	ASB0006		0	\$ 125.00	\$ -
WV	Scare Cannons	MISCR98		0	FREE	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUE				30	\$	950.00
CROOKED CREEK TOTALS				0	\$	-
GROVEDALE TOTALS				0	\$	-
VALLEYVIEW TOTALS				14	\$	950.00

➤ **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT****ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

The program is projected to spray approximately 2200 Km of MD roads.

SPOT SPRAYING / ATV / UTV

The program is projected to spray approximately 75 Ha.

BRUSH SPRAYING

The program is projected to spray approximately 300 Ha of brush.

PESTICIDE CONTAINER STORAGE

Empty jugs were shredded and hauled away by the Clean Farms contractor on September 6, 2017.

FENCELINE AND PRIVATE LAND SPRAY PROGRAMS

No new agreements have been signed.

SPRAY EXEMPTION AGREEMENTS

Deadline of April 27, 2018. For 2018 there are 23 Agreements signed at this time.

WEED CONTROL

White Zone

#	Re-Inspections	Weeds Present	Personal Contact	Phone Calls	Weed Alerts	Weed Warnings	Notices	Enforce

Greenzone

#	Re-Inspections	Weeds Present	Personal Contact	Phone Calls	Weed Alerts	Weed Warnings	Notices	Enforce

Town	#	Weeds Present	Personal Contact	Weed Letters
Valleyview				
Fox Creek				

➤ **AGRICULTURAL PESTS**

Greenview will continue to conduct enhanced monitoring for Clubroot, now that it has been confirmed within the municipal boundaries. An electronic map has been posted showing the affected townships.

➤ SEED CLEANING PLANT

Verbal Report on Progress will be given by Assistant Manager.

Beneficial Insects – Your Unpaid Workforce

There are literally hordes of unpaid workers in your field. They are the quiet, unheralded beneficial insects that work tirelessly to control crop insect pests for you. If it wasn't for them, we would have poorer crops to harvest in the fall. There are legions of them out there and they are the unsung heroes that keep insect and other pests under control.

Not only are beneficial insects controlling the "bad" insects, they perform other, vital, tasks. Insects are busy pollinating the crops, eating other insects, eating weeds and weed seeds, decomposing stubble and plant residues, freeing up nutrients for the next crop, and improving soil. The destructive ones feed on crops, livestock and stored grains.

There are 10 large groups of insects that help control pest species. The most important of these are the true bugs, lacewings, ground beetles, flies and wasps. In the true bugs, the names tell the story. Pirate bugs, ambush bugs, assassin bugs and stink bugs. They attack and suck out the juices of aphids and other problem insects. Damsel bugs are true bugs and they are important predators of diamondback moth larvae. In studies, one damsel bug ate 131 eggs or 95 larvae in a 24 hour period. This was in a greenhouse study. In the field it wouldn't be as high but the consumption numbers are impressive. These beneficial insects work for field crops in several ways. The insects may merely hunt and eat the adult pests. They also lay eggs in problem insects. These eggs hatch and eat their way out of their host, killing it and preventing it from making more problem insects.

Ground beetles are a large group of insects that help out in the field. They are mostly nocturnal, being active at night, and will attack almost anything they can overpower. Different ground beetles will eat cutworms, potato beetles, root maggots, diamondback moth larvae, wheat midge larvae and eggs of pest species. Some species of ground beetle feed on weed seeds. One, well known star of biocontrol is the lady beetle. Both the adult and larva of the beetles like to eat aphids.

Not all flies are a problem. Hover flies are the second most important group of pollinators after bees. They are often mistaken as wasps or bees. Larvae of many species prey on aphids, thrips and other, crop feeding insects. The stiletto flies larvae feed off of other insect larvae in the soil such as wireworms and earthworms.

Wasps are important for parasitizing larvae of Bertha armyworm, aphids, cereal leaf beetle and diamondback moths. There are many wasp species that are very good at reducing pest species populations.

If you would be interested in learning more about our beneficial insect partners, Alberta Agriculture is hosting a webinar on beneficial insects with John Gavloski, provincial entomologist with Manitoba Agriculture. It will be held March 20 at 10:00 am. The link to register for this webinar is <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/290458375461786627>. The webinar will also be recorded. However, by attending, you have the added advantage of being able to ask John questions related to his area of expertise.

In agriculture, we tend to concentrate and worry about those factors that have the potential to damage yield potential in our field crops. We also need to get informed about those insects that are working on our behalf. Just counting pests only gives an incomplete picture. With an idea of beneficial insect populations and activity, you can make better decisions on using insecticides when and where they are needed. Avoid the situation where you kill more of your beneficials than the pest species.

Farm animal care champions recognized with AFAC Awards of Distinction

Winners are East Olds Dairy Farmers group and Lakeland College

March 21, 2018

HIGH RIVER, ALBERTA — Two outstanding contributors to advancing farm animal care in Alberta were presented with Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) Awards of Distinction at the Livestock Care Conference in Olds, Alta., March 14-15, 2018.

The AFAC Awards of Distinction recognize those who have made exceptional contributions in the field of livestock welfare. These individuals or organizations work hard to advance the mandate of AFAC and the welfare of livestock in Alberta.

The Award of Distinction for Communication was presented to the East Olds Dairy Farmers group for its *Breakfast on the Dairy Farm* initiative. The Award of Distinction for Industry Leadership went to Lakeland College for its high standards and ongoing commitment to animal welfare.

“Each year we hand out awards to those who are driving innovation and highlighting what is advancing our industry forward – this year is no exception,” says Annemarie Pedersen, Executive Director of AFAC. “The East Olds Dairy Farmers group and the Lakeland College program are true examples of what we can achieve when we work together.”

Six years ago the East Olds Dairy Farmers group, which is made up of several dairy farm families, developed the idea to host a breakfast for their community to help the public learn about what dairy farmers do. With the support of the Southern Alberta Holstein Club and Alberta Milk the first *Breakfast on the Dairy Farm* event was delivered in 2013 drawing 348 people to a single location. The initiative has carried on as an annual series, expanding to two locations hosting over 1,000 people each year. It provides an opportunity for members of the public to connect with farmers and experience first-hand what life on a dairy farm is all about.

Plans are underway to add a third location for a northern event for 2018. Since the first year, the events have reached over 3,400 consumers with the support of 350 volunteers. “Good communication is one of the most important things in life,” says Arie Van den Broek, a milk producer involved in the project since its inception. “We as producers like to show where the milk comes from, how we take care of our animals and our

neighbours. ‘Open that farm gate and let people come in’—that’s what we always say.”

This event has gone a long way to help build trust with consumers, says Lorrie Jespersen, an Alberta Milk board director who presented the award. “Social licence needs to be earned. This event has been executed impeccably through authentic conversations, experiences and answering questions honestly and factually to ensure the integrity of dairy farmers and farming in general remains intact.”

Lakeland College is another deserving award winner, having evolved into a leading institution for education and leadership in farm animal care. Among key examples of the college’s focus on livestock welfare, students in the Animal Science Technology Program complete an entire semester of animal handling, welfare and ethics during their first year of studies alone.

“It’s great to have these students come in the fall, who haven’t really been exposed to too much of animal welfare training and then watch them throughout the semester,” says program instructor Marisa Schuebel. “The classroom is just a small part and then a lot of learning is done out on our farm where we get to teach handling and really go through the nitty gritty, hands-on things these students are going to face in industry.”

The hands-on lab component teaches students low-stress handling techniques in many types of situations, such as handling facilities and pasture settings. “At the college there is a high standard for animal welfare and care,” says Lakeland College student Hayley Clark, who presented the award. “It has provided me with opportunities to learn animal handling in a safe environment as well as the confidence and skills needed to head out into the industry.”

Veterinarian shortage looms for rural Alberta after province nixes agreement: critic



[Juris Graney](#)

[More from Juris Graney](#)

Published on: April 6, 2018 | Last Updated: April 6, 2018 8:00 PM MDT



Red Angus cattle.

Alberta faces a shortage of rural veterinarians in the coming years following the government's decision to pull funding from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and redirect a portion of it to the University of Calgary.

That was the bleak warning from Progressive Conservative Vermilion-Lloydminster MLA Richard Starke, a retired veterinarian, who Thursday grilled Advanced Education Minister Marlin Schmidt about the NDP government's decision to end a 54-year-old agreement among the four western provinces to divvy up student spots at the University of Saskatchewan.

Starting in the fall of 2020, veterinary students from Alberta will lose access to 20 guaranteed seats at the Saskatoon-based college.

"This will hurt rural Alberta," Starke said.

Instead of sending \$8 million annually across the border to fund those seats, the NDP government will put \$4.7 million of that into the University of Calgary's vet program to increase the size of the homegrown program to 50 seats from 30.

Schmidt argued the government will save \$3.3 million while training the same number of students. He told a legislative committee Thursday it was not the government's responsibility to fund another province's vet program when it can spend the money locally.

He also said the decision was part of his department's focus on accessibility and sustainability in the college system.

The move will mean the U of C will get a one-time \$7.2-million capital investment for equipment and expansion of its Clinical Skills Building to include a large lecture theatre, expanded surgery suite and clinical skills teaching areas.

Funding will be provided after the university submits a detailed capital plan.

But Starke said the decision to axe the partnership would have severe consequences on the livestock industry in Alberta.

He said the Saskatchewan and Alberta programs were complementary and afforded students the chance to choose between different schools with different delivery models and different specialities.

"This is bad for (the) livestock industry, it's bad for rural communities and it's bad for Alberta and does nothing about making life better," Starke said.

Western College veterinary medicine dean Douglas Freeman agreed with Starke's assessment of the impact on rural Alberta, but he also said that losing a quarter of its funding was a "huge issue" for the college.

He added it was his hope that as Calgary became a more mature program, it would work more closely with Saskatoon rather than severing ties.

"We are really disappointed at the ability to work collaboratively," he said.

"It is almost more distressing to lose the partnership, because it has been such an incredibly successful partnership across the four provinces."

Freeman said the seats opened up by Alberta's departure could be taken by students from other provinces who went to the U.S., Australia or the U.K., he said.

U of C veterinary medicine dean Baljit Singh dismissed Starke's concerns, saying his university's commitment to expand its program was proof there would no shortage.

He also pointed out 76 per cent of graduates since the program started 10 years ago have remained in the province and are scattered across the spectrum of specialities, including rural mixed animal practice, which deals with livestock.

"This province does far more (for veterinary medicine) than any other province in the country, in many ways," he said.

"This is going to give us more capacity to really tailor our programs to meet Alberta's need, especially in the rural sector."

There are currently about 80 vacant veterinary positions in Alberta, and labor market projections suggest the province will need 1,100 more veterinarians by 2023.

There are currently 1,596 practising veterinarians in Alberta.

jgraney@postmedia.com

Farmer-led AgSafe program helps producers tackle farm safety issues

Farm Safety Week: The program is free, designed to be practical, and can be tailored for individual farms

By **Jeff Melchior**

Published: March 14, 2018



Hanneke and Michel Camps wanted training for seasonal workers and have developed a safety program that involves their full-time staff. *Photo: Supplied*
Better farm safety can start with small steps.

Even a simple act like hanging a sign can play an important role in preventing a disaster.

“We have these lockout tags that say ‘Lockout. DO NOT OPERATE,’” said Donna Trottier, extension co-ordinator of the AgSafe Alberta program. “There was an incident a farmer told me about. The farmer was planning to mix some feed for his dairy cows. He went in the house for

lunch, came out and started up the feed mixer. When he looked back there was a hand coming out of the mixer at the top.

“As it turns out, one of the employees saw some twine at the bottom of the mixer so he got in to pull it out. When the mixer started he got all entangled in the equipment. He ended up spending several months in the hospital.

“Had the employee put one of those lockout tags on the steering wheel, the equipment would not have been started without checking why the tag was in place. The injuries could have been avoided. It’s really all about communication and having a process on the farm for communicating what each other is doing.

“I tell that story at trade shows; when I’m passing out those lockout tags people kind of dismiss them but then I tell them that story and they understand the practical applications and end up taking three or four of the tags for use on their farms.”

^AThe 356 claims accepted by the Workers Compensation Board in the first six months of 2016 underscores the need for better communication between those who work on farms and ranches, she added. It’s one of the things AgSafe Alberta’s on-farm advisers emphasize when they help farmers develop their safety plans.

“We have QuickStart guides to walk farmers through the key components of a program,” said Trottier. “We’ve tried to tailor each QuickStart guide down to four easy steps. For example, the hazard management program suggests you select a job, such as spraying, identify the hazards of that job, what control measures do you or should you have in place and then train everybody about those hazards and controls you have in place for them.”

As much (or as little) help as you want

AgSafe Alberta’s on-farm adviser program is a free service for producers. The first step for those wishing to participate in the program is to either fill out a form at the AgSafe Alberta website or email inquiries to office@agsafe.ab.ca.

An adviser will then call to discuss logistics.

“They will discuss the type of operation they have, the level of safety programming they already have on their farm and the level of farm safety programming that they may be looking for assistance with,” said Trottier.

“Then the adviser will make arrangements to come out to the farm, sit down with the producer and talk about targeting the farm safety program to meet the needs of the producer. It may involve walking around the farm identifying areas of concern for the producer. If they want to take it to the next level, the advisers can help them train employees or family members on farm safety.”

Producers can participate in a few ways. They can let an adviser develop a farm safety plan or get recommendations and develop a plan themselves. They can also skip the adviser component entirely and use the other free resources available on the website.

“There are QuickStart guides on the website to help farm managers develop safety programs themselves. We’ve also developed quite a few videos, such as how to do a hazard assessment.

“And then we have two videos we call ‘Speaking from Experience’ that include interviews with people who were seriously injured in a farm incident. They talk about how the incident impacted their lives, what they changed to prevent that incident from happening again and advice to other producers to prevent a similar occurrence on their farm.”

Interest in the adviser program has been strong since it started a few months ago, said Trottier. “It seems to be the progressive farmers — the leaders in the industry — who are embracing the help being offered. There appears to be pockets of demand; word gets out in a certain area and neighbouring producers call in and request guidance.”

One of the biggest concerns is that the program will be “excessive,” said Trottier.

“We just want to assure them that we make the programs practical and customized to the type of farm. We only develop to the level of programming that producers are willing to implement and carry forward with.”

Taking a proactive approach

Hanneke Camps — who grows potatoes, sugar beets, sunflowers, wheat and grain corn with her husband Michel on their farm southwest of Barnwell — enrolled in the adviser program because she wanted a better way to train seasonal workers about farm safety. The adviser input gave Camps the idea of encouraging her full-time staff to become more proactive in helping seasonal employees work safely.

“(Previously) our full-time staff would see seasonal staff do unsafe things and would leave it up to management to correct them, but now we have a sense of ‘It’s our farm and our safety,’” said Camps.

“Anyone can speak up in regards to safety because if something does happen or almost happens it should be talked about so we can take charge and make sure nobody gets hurt.”



*Hanneke and Michel Camps with their children Kevin (13), Lisa (11), Kim (nine) and Nick (seven).
photo: Supplied*

Camps, who serves on the AgSafe board, has also expanded her safety training sessions for new workers from a half-hour to two hours.

“If you take more time to train people, they’re more safety minded. If you give them a quick 10-minute run they’re going to feel like it’s just something that had to get done and it’s not a big priority.”

AgSafe Alberta is one of several initiatives by the AgCoalition in response to Bill 6 — the controversial farm safety legislation introduced in 2015. The project was initially funded by a Growing Forward 2 grant and has now been taken over by the AgSafe Society of Alberta. That organization evolved out of AgCoalition, a broad alliance of provincial farm groups that wanted to ensure workplace safety regulations were sensible and practical.

Environmental Stewardship News

- *Highlighting information, projects & resources from the Environmental Stewardship Branch*

Environmental Stewardship Page

Can't wait for the next newsletter for updated information? Check out this newly designed one stop shop for resources, tools, information and programs related to [Environmental Stewardship](#). All of this information is on Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's website but this page was developed to create a quicker way to find resources for those delivering environmentally sustainable agriculture extension programs. For more details, [click here](#).

Energy Program Information and Posters

The [On-Farm Solar Photovoltaics \(OFSVP\)](#) and the [Farm Energy and Agri-Processing \(FEAP\)](#) program information and posters are now available online. Details for the [OFSVP](#) and the [FEAP](#) can be accessed from the Environmental Stewardship page as well as the quick links on the program posters.

If producers have questions about the above programs, they can contact the Energy Outreach Officers:

- [Vern Steinborn](#) with [SouthGrow](#) in Lethbridge can be contacted at 403-894-0050.
- [Lyle Lawrence](#) with [Lakeland College](#) in Vermilion can be contacted at 780-581-8403
- [Kale Scarff](#) with [Gateway Research Organization](#) in Westlock can be contacted at 780-307-7849.

CAP Consultation Survey

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has developed a short online [survey](#) for input on the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP). The CAP program is set to begin in April 2018 after Growing Forward 2 (GF2) expires in March 2018. The survey can be completed by anyone, so this along to your contacts and producers.

This survey offers agriculture stakeholders the opportunity to make suggestions on the proposed CAP program concepts. Input provided will equip Alberta Agriculture and Forestry to provide programming that meets the needs and priorities of Alberta's industry.

The five priority areas identified by Alberta are:

- Science and Research
- Risk Management
- Environmental Sustainability
- Products, Market Growth and Diversification
- Public Trust

[Survey Link](#) open until **March 18, 2018**. If the link does not work please connect through:

http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca/NextPolicy/index.htm?contentId=CDF_NEXT_POLICY&useSecondary=true



Utilizing Highway Right of Ways and Culverts to Accommodate Manure Draglines

For dragline or direct-flow manure application systems to reach fields, hoses may have to run in or along a road ditch (right-of-way) or through culverts to cross roads. Roads can be crossed by using existing culverts or may require the installation of a culvert or pipe to create a crossing. If you would like to use road right of ways, you need to obtain permission from the responsible jurisdiction, whether it be the municipality or the Province.

For further information on the application procedures for provincial highways, [click here for the factsheet](#).

ManureTracker App

Looking for a better way to keep records for your manure production, transfers and application? This Alberta-based manure record keeping mobile application called ManureTracker can assist with farm management and reduce paper records. This app will help keep track of what is still left to do – add a new soil test, finish incorporation or complete a manure transfer. You can also add users, send custom manure applicator requests and access records for a discussion with your agronomist.

With the ManureTracker, field and manure storage locations can be identified, allowing you to make custom notes and identify any necessary setbacks. When you select the date for spreading manure, ManureTracker will automatically record the weather data around the timing of the manure application. Worried about losing your information? Don't be. This app will back up your information to the cloud and can be accessed at www.manuretracker.ca.

ManureTracker is created through the partnership of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Milk, Alberta Beef Producers, Alberta Pork and the Natural Resources Conservation Board. Creation of the app was funded through Growing Forward 2 and is available as a mobile app on: [iTunes](#) and [Google Play](#).

Part 2: Alberta Peas for a More Positive Profile

In October we featured an article on the collaboration project between Environmental Stewardship Branch and Alberta Pulse Growers (APG) to measure the environmental impacts of Alberta pea production using a life cycle assessment (LCA) approach. LCA looks at all significant environmental impacts including carbon footprint, water footprint, energy use, eutrophication, acidification, photochemical smog, etc. This comprehensive assessment can help identify production areas where management decisions can be made to reduce these environmental impacts. The second article created was “A Win-Win Crop - High Nutritional Value, Low Environmental Impact.” Both articles were originally published in the APG's Pulse Crop News - Summer 2017 and Fall 2017.

For these articles and other environmental sustainable information, [click here for the Environmental Stewardship page](#). For further information on this topic, please contact [Aung Moe](#), Environmental Footprint Agrologist.

Online Resources:

- [A Win-Win Crop - High Nutritional Value, Low Environmental Impact](#)
- [Measuring the Environmental Footprint of Alberta Peas](#)



AFSC Yield 2018 Alberta

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation and Alberta Farmer has released the [Yield 2018 Alberta](#) – a publication of crop insurance yields by variety and risk area. Within this publication is examples of information from the [Alberta Climate Information Service \(ACIS\)](#) with precipitation received, soil moisture and mean temperature. Also, the program information for the [Canada-Alberta AgriInsurance Products for 2018 Annual Crops](#) is available online.

Former ARECA Chair Receives Award

A story worth sharing is that the [former Chair of the ARECA Board of Directors Ian Murray](#) was awarded the Alberta Beef Producer's Environmental Stewardship Award for 2017. Full story on the Murray's using programs such as the Alberta Environmental Farm Plan and Verified Beef Production program can be found in the [Alberta Beef Magazine's December 2017 edition](#) on starting on page 12.

Staff Profiles

[Daniel Itenfisu](#) is a Drought Modeler with the AgMet unit in the Environmental Stewardship Branch. He collects data on weather and soil conditions from around the province and uses the information to create drought reports and maps that aid farmers. To read more about the work Daniel does with the [Alberta Climate Information Service \(ACIS\)](#) website, [click here to read the article in the GrainWest magazine](#).

Coming Events Calendar

Looking to connect with staff and update your resources from Environmental Stewardship? Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's website has a large listing of events around the province and is one of the most visited areas of our website. To view the Coming Events Calendar, click [here](#). If you have an event you would like to advertise on Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's website, please send all the event information to duke@gov.ab.ca.

Events:

[*Sustainability Series - Government's Role in Building Public Trust in Agriculture*](#)

- Webinar – March 15 at 2 pm
Sean Royer, Executive Director, Environmental Stewardship will review how Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has supported and will continue to support the agricultural industry and their journey to build public trust.

To join the webinar, [click here](#) or use the GoToMeeting App and use meeting ID **922-178-949**.

You can also dial in using your phone:

Canada: +1 (647) 497-9380

Access Code: 922-178-949



FORWARDED ON BEHALF OF DOUG MACAULAY

“RE: Wild Boar at Large Ear Bounty Program (2018-2020)”

Good Afternoon,

This is a notification that Agriculture and Forestry is continuing the Wild Boar at Large Ear Bounty Program (WBLBP) for an additional 2 years. The purpose will be to provide compensation to individuals who are controlling the spread of Wild Boar at large populations in the Province of Alberta, and to collect data of the locations where Wild Boar are at large and the severity of the infestation. It will be geared more towards those municipalities who have smaller populations or the occasional strays.

The program will be available to all ASBs other than the two who are currently participating in the Wild Boar at Large Eradication Pilot Program.

As for timelines, we are close to having the Program Conditions completed and will be sending these out shortly to give everyone a chance to review and decide whether they would like to participate in the program. Overall, there will be no changes to the program or process and it will be similar to the former program. The term will be from April 1, 2018 until March 31, 2020.

Also, we encourage anyone that suspects they have an emerging Wild Boar at Large population to connect with AF's Inspection and Investigation Section before entering into a new agreements. Staff from this branch would like to work with your ASB to help determine the extent of the population and whether another option would work better. For anyone wishing to explore this option please contact Perry Abramenko at 403 627-1177 (dial 310-0000 first for toll-free access in Alberta).

If there are any questions or anyone requires additional information please contact me.

Sincerely,

Doug Macaulay, P. Ag.
Manager, Agriculture Development Unit

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
6547 Sparrow Drive
Leduc, Alberta T9E 7C7
Phone: (780) 980-4878
Cell: (780) 717-2315
Fax: (780) 980-4237
Email: doug.macaulay@gov.ab.ca

They just keep coming — another new elevator going up

New 42,000-tonne grain terminal marks G3's first, but not last, foray into Alberta



By **Jennifer Blair**

Reporter

Published: April 9, 2018



The new G3 Canada elevator in Wetaskiwin will feed the new G3 Terminal Vancouver (pictured), which is expected to be up and running by 2020. *Photo: Supplied*

G3 Canada is expanding west with two new elevators on the Prairies — including its first in Alberta.

The new elevator to be built in Westaskiwin will be a state-of-the-art, high-throughput facility, said the company's vice-president of business development.



Alberta has been on G3 Canada's radar for a number of years, said vice-president of business development Brett Malkoske.

“Alberta is a province of growth for us,” said Brett Malkoske. “Since we formed G3 (in 2015), we’ve been fairly open about our ambition to build a coast-to-coast grain-handling enterprise in Canada.

“You can’t have a coast-to-coast presence without Alberta.”

Growing demand for Canadian grain has spurred grain companies to invest in infrastructure to capture a greater market share in the Prairies. Right now, Alberta has 90 grain elevators and a total capacity of around 2.25 million tonnes, an increase of about 350,000 tonnes over the past five years.

- **G3 has a new CEO**

In the past two years alone, work on at least four new grain terminals has begun in Alberta — two GrainsConnect Canada terminals (in Vegreville and Huxley); a Paterson Grain terminal in Bowden; and a Viterra terminal, also in Vegreville.

That’s a sign of the “incredible potential” grain companies see in Alberta’s cropping sector, said Wade Sobkowich, executive director of the Western Grain Elevator Association.

“In the last few years, we have seen more investment being made in elevator facilities,” he said.

“That speaks to the confidence that the participants have in the system in the future of the grains, oilseed, and pulse crops sector in Western Canada.”

And there’s more to come from this company, said Malkoske.

The Winnipeg-based grain company currently has 17 facilities across Canada and plans for eight to 10 more over the next two years, he said, adding the Westaskiwin elevator is the first of several planned terminals in Alberta for G3.

G3's expansion into Alberta was "a long time coming," he added.

"It's been on our radar for a number of years now, but we're finally able to formally announce that we're going to build in the area."

More competition

G3 will actually break ground on two new elevators this spring, with construction expected to be finished in time for next year's harvest. Both the Westaskiwin facility and its sister in Maidstone, Sask. will have 42,000 tonnes of storage along with state-of-the-art loading and unloading systems to speed up the flow of grain in and out of the facilities.

"Speed is a factor for farmers," said Malkoske. "Typically when farmers want to deliver grain, they're very busy, whether they're still out in the field harvesting or tending to other business matters. So they want to get that grain to the elevator and back as quickly as possible."

- **Closure of loading sites 'one more nail in the coffin'**

Each facility will come equipped with loop-track systems, which allow for continuous loading and unloading of rail cars.

"We're able to be more efficient with our train movement, and that means greater probability of a train under the spout and more delivery opportunities for local producers," said Malkoske.

Farmers will also be able to unload in less than five minutes, he added.

"That means quick turnaround times for trucks, getting them back to the farm quickly and predictably."

These facilities will feed the new G3 Terminal Vancouver, which is slated to open at the Port of Vancouver in 2020.

"If you look back over the last 10 years, yields across Western Canada have continued to grow," said Malkoske. "Our feeling is that production in Alberta is going to continue to grow, and the natural flow for that production is going to be for export to feed some of the growing markets around the world."

Sobkowich agrees.

“Last year, we had a drought in certain parts of the Prairies, and we still produced the second-largest crop ever,” he said. “That means there’s more stability for the investment grain companies are making. They know they’re going to be able to turn that elevator 12 times almost every year and that they’re going to have a good-quality crop to sell.”

And that increased investment will give farmers more options for their grain, he added.

“It gives them the ability to shop their grain around to more enterprises and potentially earn a greater return for the crop they grow every year,” said Sobkowich.

“Competition is a good thing. Any time there’s more competition, it works out in the farmer’s favour.”



April 16, 2018

Dear Agricultural Fieldman:

The Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) is seeking nominations for the 2019 Environmental Stewardship Award (ESA). The ESA recognizes cattle producers whose natural resource stewardship practices contribute to improving the environment and enhancing productivity and profitability.

If you know of a producer who would be an excellent ambassador for the beef industry, consider nominating them for the award. Take this opportunity to promote sound environmental practices and to present the positive story about cattle producers' contribution to the environment.

The winner will receive a commemorative gate sign and an all expenses paid trip for two from anywhere in Alberta to the 2018 ABP Annual General Meeting in Calgary, Dec 3-5, 2018.

The competition is open to all cattle producers. Deadline for nominations is July 15, 2018 and the winner will be announced at the 2018 ABP Annual General Meeting. A single nomination form has been attached. If you need any more or have any questions, please call me at (403) 451-1183 or email richs@albertabeef.org.

Send nominations to: Alberta Beef Producers
Environmental Stewardship Award
320, 6715 - 8th Street NE
Calgary, Alberta T2E 7H7

Phone: (403) 451-1183
Fax: (403) 274-0007

Thanks for your help.

Rich Smith, P.Eng.,
Executive Director



Call For Nominations

The Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) is seeking nominations for the 2019 Environmental Stewardship Award (ESA).

The ESA recognizes cattle producers whose natural resource stewardship practices contribute to the environment and enhance productivity and profitability. Take this opportunity to share your environmental practices with other producers and to present the positive story about cattle producers' contribution to the environment.

Nomination forms are available from the Alberta Beef Producers office or from ABP delegates. All cattle producers are encouraged to either enter or nominate another producer who they think may qualify.

The winner will receive a commemorative gate sign and an all-expenses paid trip for two from anywhere in Alberta to the 2018 ABP Annual General Meeting in Calgary.

The competition is open to all cattle producers. Deadline for nominations is July 15, 2018 and the winner will be announced at the ABP Annual General Meeting, December 2018.

Send nominations to:

Alberta Beef Producers
Environmental Stewardship Award
165, 6815 - 8th Street N.E.
Calgary, Alberta
T2E 7H7

Email: richs@albertabeef.org
Phone: (403) 451-1183
Fax: (403) 274-0007



Rules For Competition:

- Stewardship is defined as the environmentally beneficial management of natural resources.
- All applications must be typed and submitted on letter sized paper (8.5x11) or submitted electronically.
- Color photographs, maps, etc., are encouraged. Please provide a brief description of each item.
- Two independent letters of recommendation are required with one coming from an agricultural professional.
- Deadline for nominations is July 15, 2018 (extensions may be granted under special circumstances by the ESA chairman)
- Judging teams will tour each applicant's operation by the end of August 2018.
- The winner will be officially announced in December at the 2018 ABP Annual General Meeting in Calgary.
- All applicants will be informed of the decision in September 2018.

Section I - Description of Operation

1. Please supply the following information:
 - a. Name of Operation
Name of individual(s) to be recognized
Address
Town, Postal Code
Phone
Email
 - b. Does the cattle business provide your primary source of income? Yes/No
2. What is the nature of your current operation: (i.e. cow/calf, feedlot, backgrounder, other livestock, farming, etc. relative to production agriculture)
3. Discuss the history of your operation: (i.e. length of ownership, major changes in structure or business plan, number of acres, leased acres, crown lease acres, and other pertinent data, (information on acreage, stocking rate, herd numbers, etc. is encouraged but voluntary))



4. Give a brief ecological description of your land: (list cover types, terrain, water systems, average annual rainfall; if more than one property, list them separately by business name)
5. List all other uses of natural resources that provide income on your land: (examples include farming, timber, hunting, oil and gas production, mining, etc.)
6. List all organizations that your operation has utilized in environmental efforts: (government and non-government agencies i.e. PFRA, Ducks Unlimited, forage associations, etc.)

Section II - Discuss the Stewardship Goals of Your Operation

Please describe the resource management goals of your operation in terms of stewardship and conservation. Supporting information and benchmark data is encouraged. (use additional pages if necessary)

Section III - Stewardship Accomplishments

Describe specific, innovative stewardship practice(s) in detail pertaining, but not limited to, the following resources:

- energy
- water systems
- air
- vegetation
- wildlife
- soil
- manure

Include pertinent supporting information such as maps and photos. Before and after photos are encouraged. No videos will be accepted. (use additional pages if necessary)



Section IV - Productivity and Leadership

Please answer the following questions. (use additional pages if necessary)

1. How have your stewardship practices affected your cattle business, including productivity and profitability? (direct or indirect effects)
2. Discuss any of the following that are appropriate to your business.
 - a. Leadership activities or involvement in local, regional, and national efforts to improve stewardship among cattle businesses and/or the public's perception of the cattle industry. (i.e. public speaking and presentations, tours, etc.)
 - b. Involvement in cooperative research, demonstration, education, or government programs that promote environmental stewardship.
3. What reasons would you give to other producers for implementing these or similar conservation/stewardship programs in their business?
4. How does your cattle operation contribute to a positive public perception of cattle's impact on the environment?

60-Day Precipitation Accumulations Relative to Long Term Normal

December 03, 2017 to
January 31, 2018

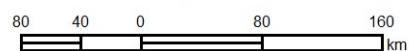
Condition



Frequency

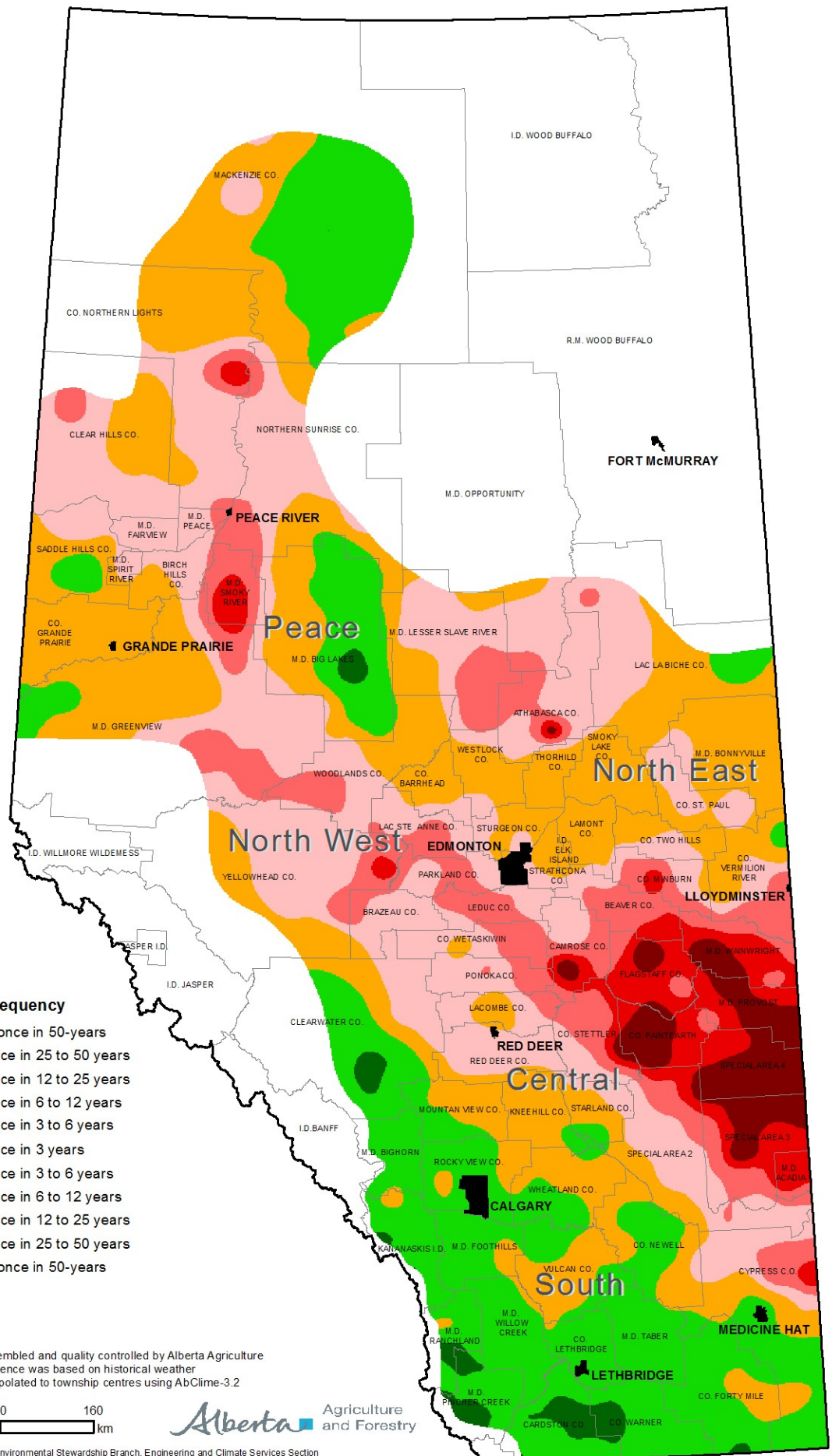
< once in 50-years
once in 25 to 50 years
once in 12 to 25 years
once in 6 to 12 years
once in 3 to 6 years
once in 3 years
once in 3 to 6 years
once in 6 to 12 years
once in 12 to 25 years
once in 25 to 50 years
< once in 50-years

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2016 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClima-3.2



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Environmental Stewardship Branch, Engineering and Climate Services Section
Created on February 01, 2018

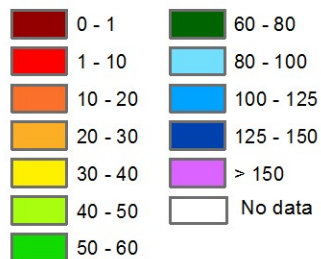
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry



Snow Pack Water Equivalent in Stubble Fields

Estimated as of January 31, 2018

Snow Water Equivalent (mm)

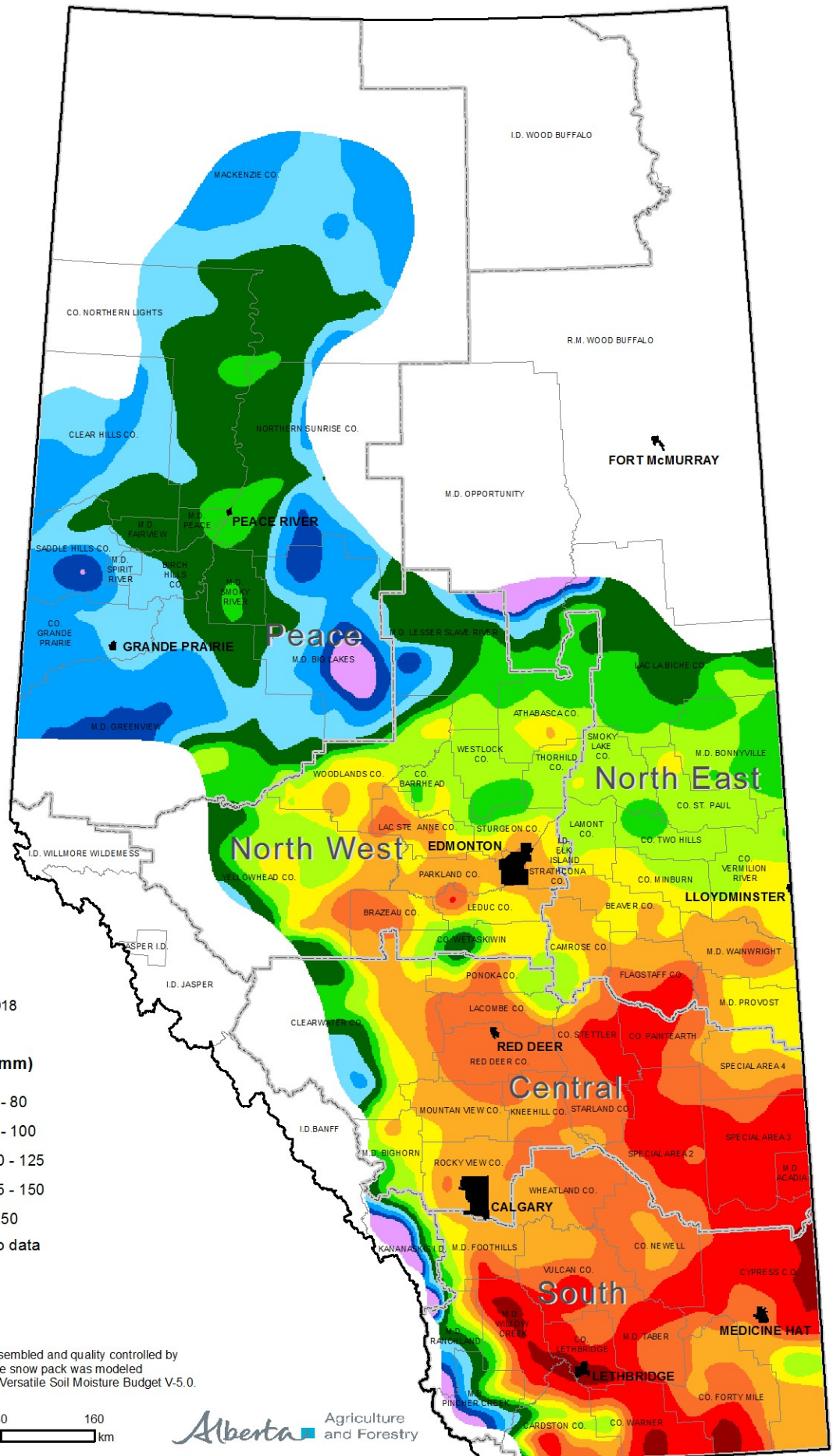


Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. The snow pack was modeled for stubble fields using the modified Versatile Soil Moisture Budget V-5.0.



Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Stewardship Division, Technology and Innovation Branch
Created on April 05, 2018



60-Day Precipitation Accumulations Relative to Long Term Normal

February 02, 2018 to
April 02, 2018

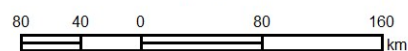
Condition



Frequency

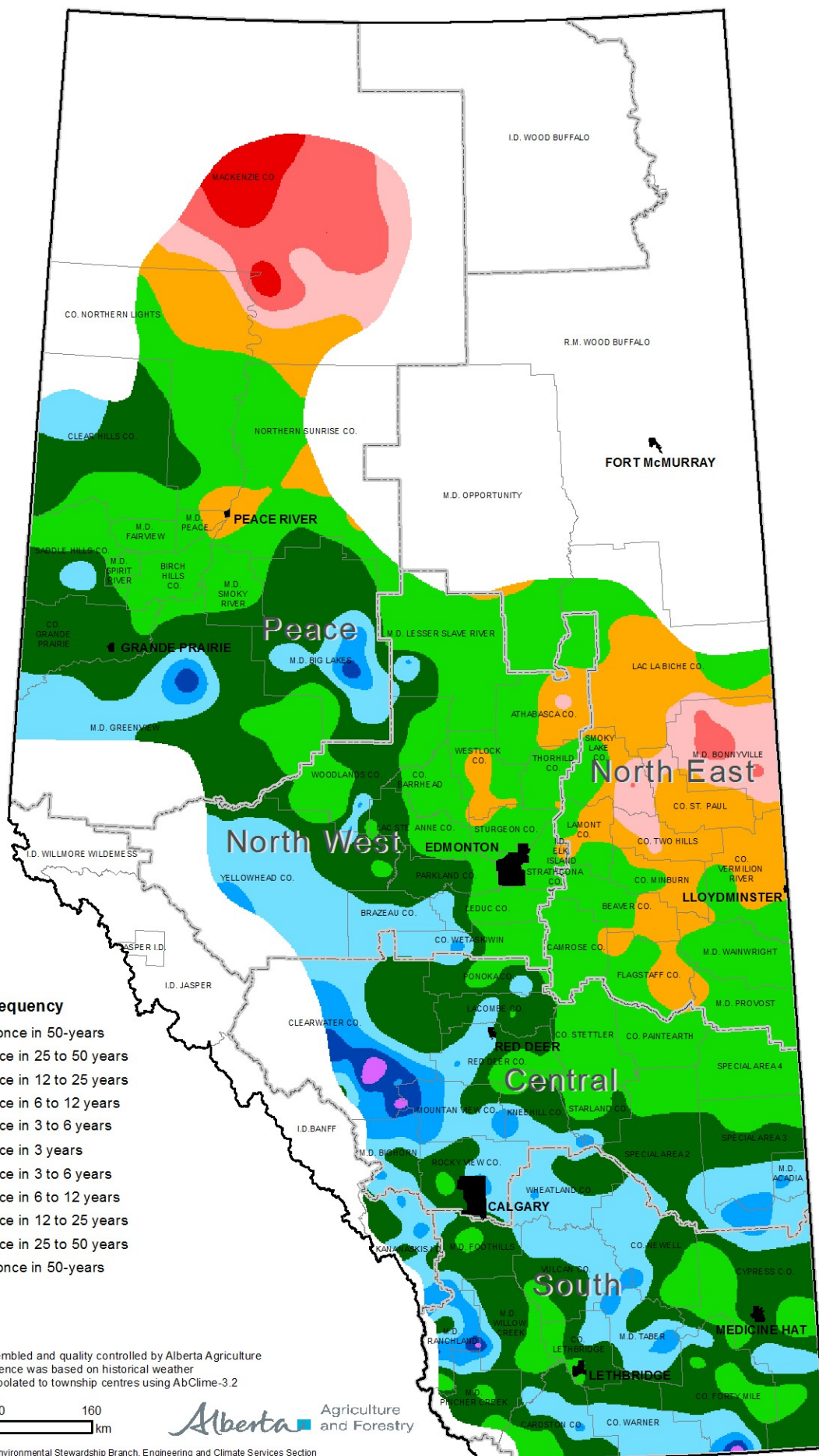
< once in 50-years
once in 25 to 50 years
once in 12 to 25 years
once in 6 to 12 years
once in 3 to 6 years
once in 3 years
once in 3 to 6 years
once in 6 to 12 years
once in 12 to 25 years
once in 25 to 50 years
< once in 50-years

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2016 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClima-3.2















Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Environmental Stewardship Branch, Engineering and Climate Services Section
Created on April 04, 2018

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

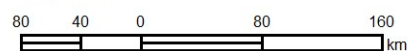


Snow Pack Accumulations In Stubble Fields Relative to Long Term Normal

Estimated as of April 04, 2018

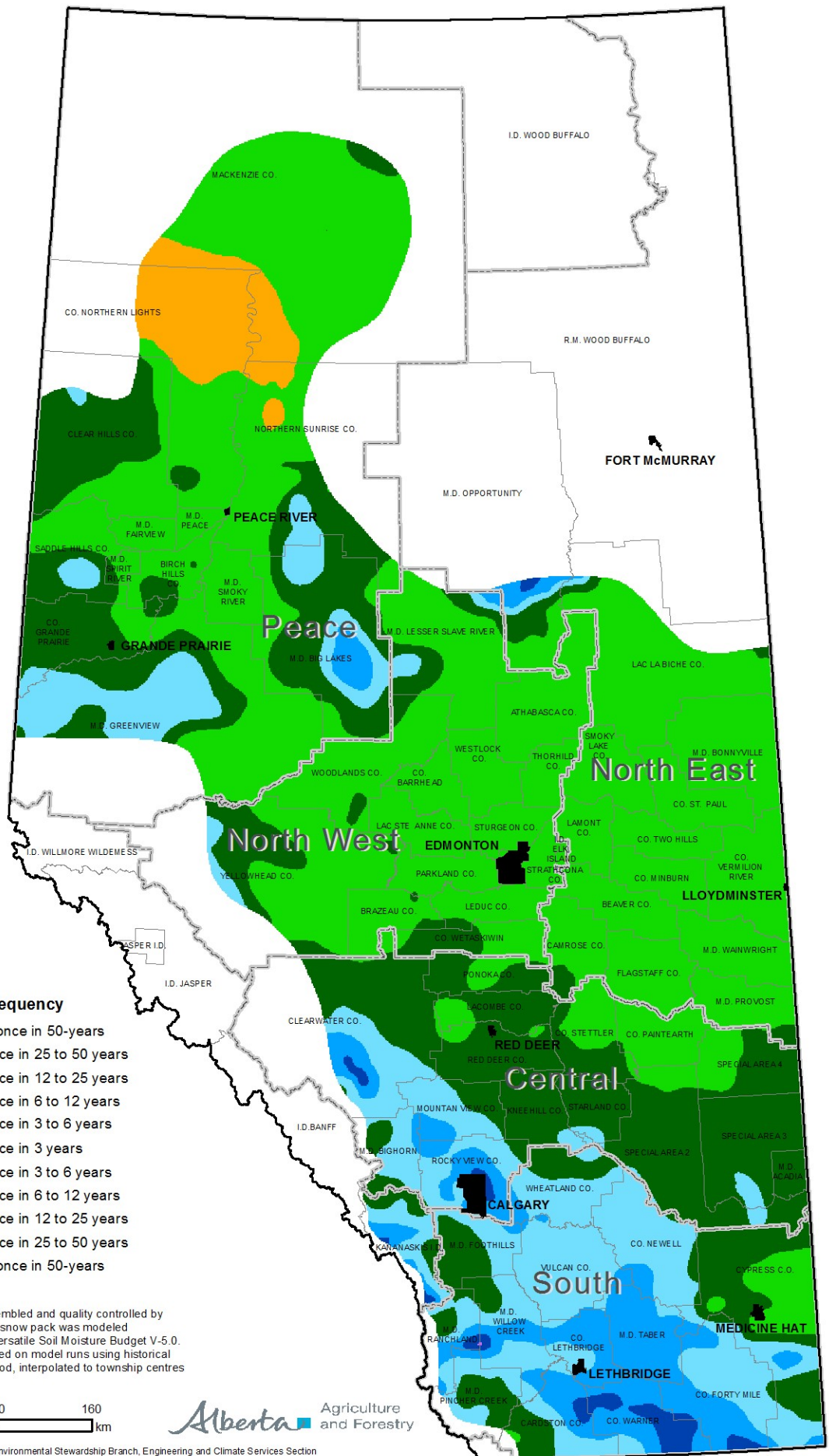
Condition	Frequency
 driest	< once in 50-years
 extremely low	once in 25 to 50 years
 very low	once in 12 to 25 years
 low	once in 6 to 12 years
 moderately low	once in 3 to 6 years
 near normal	once in 3 years
 moderately high	once in 3 to 6 years
 high	once in 6 to 12 years
 very high	once in 12 to 25 years
 extremely high	once in 25 to 50 years
 wettest	< once in 50-years
 no data	

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. The snow pack was modeled for stubble fields using the Modified Versatile Soil Moisture Budget V-5.0. The frequency of occurrence was based on model runs using historical weather data from the 1961-2016 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClima-3.2



Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Environmental Stewardship Branch, Engineering and Climate Services Section
Created on April 05, 2018





THE PEST INSIDER

April 2018

Wild Boar Capture Trials

Staff from Agriculture and Forestry's Inspection and Investigation Section (IIS) set up a trap near Whitecourt, AB to test wild boar capture techniques and equipment. Steps to successfully trap wild boar at large at this site are detailed below.

- A complaint of wild boar causing damage to crops and pastures was received.
- After confirming the presence of wild boar at large, trail cameras were set up to monitor their movements.
- The next step was to set up pre-baits. This involved setting out baits to lure the wild boar to a specific location, but there was no trapping at this time. Trail cameras were set up on the pre-baits to establish patterns of movements, and numbers of animals visiting the baits.
- Once it was established that wild boar were regularly attending the pre-bait site, plans were made for setting up the trap.
- Several 16 foot lengths of 4 gauge livestock panels were installed to form a corral and supported by equally spaced t-posts. One end of the corral trap was left open so that the wild boar could come and go. An automatic bait feeder set up inside the trap ensured the wild boar would continue to be attracted to the site.
- It took almost two weeks for the wild boar to feel comfortable entering the corral trap, as these animals are extremely intelligent and suspicious of any changes to their surroundings.
- A drop gate was installed at the entrance to the corral trap. This gate is a part of a system where a camera was connected to a cellular network and notified IIS staff when there was movement at the capture site. The trap site was viewable in real time using a cell phone app. Once IIS staff were satisfied that the entire wild boar herd (technically referred to as a sounder) was inside the trap, the gate was dropped remotely utilizing the cell phone app. Follow-up pictures sent by the app were used to confirm that the gate was down, and the capture of the whole sounder was successful. Whole sounder captures are essential as any escapees will quickly learn to avoid traps and humans.



Photos from trail cameras near Whitecourt, AB

*"Sometimes
it's good
to be the
smartest rat
in the sewer."
— Michael
Houbrick*

In This Issue

- Wild Boar Capture Trials
- Richardson's Ground Squirrels
- Rat Facts
- Rats In Paris
- Rat Ice
- Rat Update
- Provincial Rat and Pest Specialist Update



Richardson's Ground Squirrel

Richardson's Ground Squirrel (RGS)

April is the best month for controlling RGS. Get your baiting and shooting done before the young emerge in May. This spring has not been easy for ground squirrels to get going, and the late snow cover makes them easy targets for predators and shooters. Cool, wet weather does not favour the RGS.

If you are in a treeless area, nesting platforms for raptors is a good way to help birds of prey. Platforms need to be set up for a period of time before the raptors get familiar with them. Platforms can be a simple: two large round bales set on end, one on top of the other, or a more permanent structure. Raptors are very territorial, so no more than one platform needs to be erected per quarter section.



Nesting Platforms

Rat Facts

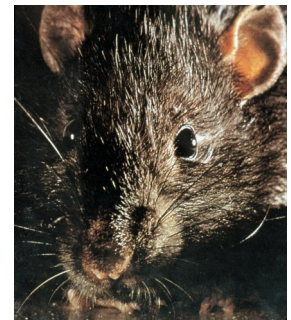
A healthy rat will excrete about 50 pellets per day, and urinate half an ounce.

They do not excrete in any particular place, thus contaminating far more food than they eat.

A rat will shed all its hair twice a year, adding to the food contamination.

The average rat lives about six months to a year.

Most Albertans have never seen a live rat in the province.



Rat Stock Photo

Rats in Paris

As reported by *The Telegraph*, Paris has a serious problem with rats. Workers recorded video of a large group of rats trying to leave a deep plastic rubbish bin. According to a worker, for the past year, they have seen a proliferation of rats in the arrondissements (administrative districts) along the banks of the Seine. The workers claim the rats are becoming emboldened and highly aggressive, making it "untenable for both Parisians and tourists."

Read the full story: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/01/22/paris-dustmen-film-swarming-plague-rats-paris-faces-mass-rodent/>

Rat Ice

A new rat control product registered in the U.S. by Bell Laboratories is Rat Ice.

It is a carbon dioxide (CO₂) pellet used for rat burrow baiting. It is effective in urban settings where rats burrow underground to make their nests and hide. It is cheaper than poison, safe for any non-target above ground, and less likely to be ingested by children than anticoagulant baits. When used at room temperature, the pellets sublimate quickly and, because CO₂ is heavier than air, it replaces all the oxygen in the rat burrow.

This product is being used very successfully in New York City and Chicago to help battle rat infestations.

Source: [NBC News](#)



Rat Ice by Bell Laboratories



Rupert the Rat - Taxidermy in the Olds Field Office

Rat Update

Five rats have been found in Alberta so far in 2018. Two roof rats were found dead; one at a residence in Calgary, and one at an Edmonton property.

Two Norway rats were discovered alive: a Medicine Hat resident recorded one on video, and the other was a notorious invader of a bakery in a department store in central Alberta. This rat, nicknamed "Cluso," evaded capture for months by baffled store staff. Cluso eluded traps, glue boards, and bait while only munching on gluten-free bread in the bakery. No scat, chew marks or other evidence were noticed except missing pieces from gluten-free loaves.

Finally, a picture taken on a night video camera revealed a Norway rat, which ended the mystery of the

disappearing chunks of bread. The subsequently elevated control measures of dozens of traps, glue boards and bait boxes succeeded in eliminating the rodent. Before being caught, Cluso was witnessed carefully jumping and sneaking through the maze of traps set out for his demise. Finally, he succumbed to a special bait intended to be more inviting than fresh warm gluten-free bread. He was captured under a bucket and disposed of by the pest control officer from Ecolab Pest Control.

The last rat, a roof rat, was trapped and disposed of by a RV owner in Sundre. She discovered rat scat in her trailer after returning home from a visit to Penticton. She set out several rat traps and glue boards in the trailer to capture the invader.

Provincial Rat and Pest Specialist Update

Training

Yearly rat control training was held April 17, 2018 in Oyen. All Rat Control Zone Pest Control Officers were invited to attend along with Agricultural Fieldmen in the near vicinity, and any other people interested in rat control. Instruction was planned for the morning, and a visit to an infestation in the area in the afternoon led by Acadia Valley's Pest Control Officer Jory.

California Rat Research

I shared a real Alberta rat experience with Andrew McCumber, who is completing his doctorate studying rat control in North America and could not believe Alberta was free of rats. He wanted to know how we accomplished this, and what citizens of Alberta think about our program. As a sociology major, he was interested in what people think about being rat-free and how that impacts their life more than how we became rat-free and maintain this rat-free status.

On March 22, I picked up Andrew at the Calgary airport and we headed out to Oyen. We ran into a nasty spring storm that caused visibility concerns and the snow was sticking to the road causing us to reduce our speed to about

50 km/hour and slowly continued to the hotel in Oyen.

It snowed most of the night and the next day we meet with Pest Control Officer for the Rat Control Zone, Jory Hoffman. Jory chatted with Andrew for a while then we went out to do rat inspections. The second place we inspected was a silage pit and feed lot.

Jory then took us to his friend's property in Saskatchewan who had rats. He arranged to have the hired man lift green feed bales. There were rats under every bale lifted; sometimes only one, sometimes several. One bale had 14 rats. The farmer had two dogs that loved to catch and kill the rats as they scurried across the snow.

In the afternoon, we met and chatted with Don Hogan, the Agricultural Fieldman in Special Area 3 in Oyen, then headed to Drumheller to stay overnight.

The next day, I took Andy to the Fairmont in downtown Calgary. He was planning to chat with the locals downtown to gather different Alberta opinions on rat control.

Contact Us

310-RATS (7287)

OR

310-FARM (3276)

Phil Merrill

Provincial Rat and Pest Specialist

Work: 403-381-5856

Cell: 403-308-0960

Email: phil.merrill@gov.ab.ca

Bruce Hamblin

Manager Inspection Unit

Work: 403-948-8510

Cell: 403-586-4919

Email: bruce.hamblin@gov.ab.ca

