



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16

"A Great Place to Live, Work and Play"

REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, March 22 ,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 Jan 24
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 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alberta Labour Legislation• Peace country farmers told the time to halt clubroot is now• GE Alfalfa Letter of Response from Minister• GE Alfalfa Letter from MD Smoky River• Forage Seed Agronomy Update March 15 2018• Provincial legislation isn't helping fusarium battle, say seed growers• Importance of seed treatments• ONE YEAR LATER carbon tax...• Clubroot can damage more than just the bottom line• Calf health closely tied to cow nutrition• Clubroot is coming to a field near you• Make sure your calves get off to a proper start• All quarantines lifted in bovine TB probe |

- Understanding the new drug regulations
- Predator compensation benefits all of society
- FORWARDED ON BEHALF OF DALE CHRAPKO
- Pulse School
- TechTour
- Biosecurity on the radar for many crop growers
- OSFPV
- 2018 HOF Nominations Form Final
- Back Forty Feb, 2018

#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

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

For the Period: January 20, 2018 – March 14, 2018

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

Weeds	10
Pests	19
Trees	2
Workshops	120
Rentals	30
Equipment Purchasing	25
Extension	20
employment	30
Miscellaneous	14
TOTAL ENQUIRIES	270

MEETINGS / CONFERENCES / TRAINING

Manager

- January 23, 2018 – Clubroot Workshop – DeBolt
- January 23, 2018 – Clubroot Workshop - Valleyview
- January 26-27, 2018 – Think Like a Wolf Workshop – Grovedale
- February 9, 2018 – Local Vegetable Markets Workshop – Sunset House
- February 13-14, 2018 – CMML Course – Edmonton
- February 21, 2018 – Shared Accountability Training – Valleyview
- February 23, 2018 – Shared Accountability Training – Valleyview
- February 27, 2018 – Weed Control Meeting with Town of Grande Cache – Grande Cache
- February 28, 2018 – Shared Accountability Training – Valleyview
- March 1, 2018 – Community Services Meeting – Valleyview
- March 6, 2018 – AdvantageVM Industry Day – Red Deer
- March 7, 2018 – PVMA Spring Meeting and AGM – Red Deer
- March 8-10, 2018 – Peace Country Classic Tradeshow – Evergreen Park
- March 13, 2018 – Seasonal Staff Interviews – Valleyview
- March 14, 2018 – Shared Accountability – Valleyview
- March 20, 2018 – Buttercup/Burdock Workshop – Little Smoky
- March 21, 2018 – Buttercup/Burdock Workshop - Grovedale

Asst. Manager Agriculture Services

- January 23, 2018 – Clubroot Workshop – DeBolt
- January 23, 2018 – Clubroot Workshop – Valleyview
- January 26-27, 2018 – Think Like a Wolf Workshop – Grovedale
- February 9, 2018 – Local Vegetable Markets Workshop – Sunset House
- February 14, 2018 – Shared Accountability Training – Valleyview
- February 15, 2018 – Workshop Prospecting – High Prairie
- February 21, 2018 - Shared Accountability Training – Valleyview
- February 22, 2018 - Shared Accountability Training – Valleyview

- February 23, 2018 – Peace Region AAAF Meeting – High Prairie
- February 27, 2018 – Weed Control Meeting with Town of Grande Cache – Grande Cache
- February 28, 2018 – Shared Accountability Training – Valleyview
- March 1, 2018 – Community Services Meeting – Valleyview
- March 6, 2018 – AdvantageVM Industry Day – Red Deer
- March 7, 2018 – PVMA Spring Meeting and AGM – Red Deer
- March 8-10, 2018 – Peace Country Classic Tradeshow – Evergreen Park
- March 14-15, 2018 – AB Farm Animal Care Conference – Olds
- March 20, 2018 – Buttercup/Burdock Workshop – Little Smoky
- March 21, 2018 – Buttercup/Burdock Workshop - Grovedale

Agriculture Supervisor Trainee Agriculture Services

- January 23, 2018 – Clubroot Workshop - DeBolt
- January 25, 2018 – Living with Wildlife Workshop
- January 29, 2018 – Think Like a Wolf Workshop – Grovedale
- February 9, 2018 – Local Vegetable Markets Workshop – Sunset House
- February 14, 2018 – Effective Onboarding – Webinar
- February 14, 2018 – Shared Accountability Training – Valleyview
- February 15, 2018 – Workshop Prospecting – High Prairie
- February 16, 2018 – Staff Breakfast – Valleyview
- February 21, 2018 - Shared Accountability Training – Valleyview
- February 22, 2018 - Shared Accountability Training – Valleyview
- February 23, 2018 – Peace Region AAAF Meeting – High Prairie
- February 28, 2018 – Shared Accountability Training – Valleyview
- March 7, 2018 – Shared Accountability Training – Valleyview
- March 8-10, 2018 – Peace Country Classic Tradeshow – Evergreen Park
- March 13, 2018 – Seasonal Staff Interviews – Valleyview
- March 14, 2018 – Shared Accountability – Valleyview
- March 20, 2018 – Buttercup/Burdock Workshop – Little Smoky
- March 21, 2018 – Buttercup/Burdock Workshop - Grovedale

STAFFING

We have 7 out of 8 Weed Inspectors and 2 out of 5 Veg. Techs who are returning for the 2018 season. Therefore we will be looking at hiring 1 new weed inspector and 3 new vegetation management techs. Interviews with potential candidates were conducted on March 13 for the four positions, and offers have been forwarded to the preferred candidates.

RESOURCES, EQUIPMENT, AND FACILITIES

Have been involved in a multi-department initiative to come up with solutions to the lack of dedicated covered heated workspace and storage space. Have started the process of ordering 2018 capital purchases. The Bin Cranes had their annual inspections completed, and declared fit for service.

BUDGET

N/A

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	<u>2018 Peace Agronomy Update</u>	Dunvegan Motor Inn
January 23, 2018	<u>Clubroot Information Session</u>	DeBolt Pioneer Centre
January 23, 2018	<u>Clubroot Information Session</u>	Valleyview Memorial Hall
January 25, 2018	<u>Living With Wildlife</u>	DeBolt Pioneer Centre
January 30 – February 2, 2018	<u>FarmTech 2018</u>	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>EFP & Growing Forward 2 Openhouse Workshop</u>	PCBFA Office, High Prairie

March 14, 2018	PRFSA Production and Marketing Seminar	Rycroft Ag. Center
March 14-15, 2018	2018 Livestock Car Conference	Olds, Alberta
March 15, 2018	Forage Seed Agronomy Update	Rycroft Ag. Center
March 15, 2018	Building for the Bumbles Workshop	ENTREC Center, Grande Prairie
March 20, 2019	Buttercup/Burdock Workshop	Little Smoky Community Hall
March 21, 2018	Buttercup/Burdock Workshop	Grovedale Public Services Building
March 26-27, 2018	Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference	Hyatt Regency Calgary, Alberta
March 28, 2018	No Fear Farm Finance	Webinar
March 29, 2018	Tools for Building Soil Health: Livestock and Crop Integration	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

PROGRAMS

➤ **VETERINARY SERVICES INCORPORATED**

Three (3) new cards have been issued. New fee schedule has been sent to Greenview.

➤ **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	67	\$	20,100.00
Total	589	\$	176,700.00

WOLF PREDATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

There has been 5 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, as well as a request for assistance from the February 20, 2018 Valleyview Grazing Reserve Meeting. Problem Wildlife Officer and Assistant Manager are researching guard dogs and other methods to help deal with predation issues. They are also researching composting or alternatives to help landowners in dealing with dead livestock carcasses.

COYOTE PREDATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

There has been 2 new requests for assistance with verified coyote predation. There has been 0 coyotes removed.

OTHER PREDATORS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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

OTHER PROBLEM WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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

INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE FLOODING PREVENTION PROGRAM

There has been 0 new requests for assistance with beaver caused flooding issues. There has been 0 beavers removed to date.

Greenview has entered into a project with the AB Conservation Association regarding clearing beaver dams from the only creek that is used for spawning walleye at Iosegun Lake. The project will commence for a few days in April.

WILD BOAR BOUNTY

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

➤ **RENTAL EQUIPMENT**Summary Report

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	AS80004/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 Belt Applicator	FEAC3207		0	\$ 30.00	\$ -
WV	Manure Spreader	MANU3209	02104185UMSL75	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	AS80005		0	\$ 200.00	\$ -
GD	30' Land Roller	ROL10001	12-1374	0	\$ 200.00	\$ -
WV	14' Heavy Disc	AS80001	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		3	\$ 25.00	\$ 75.00
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	AS80002		0	\$ 125.00	\$ -
CC	Post Pounder	POST3126		0	\$ 125.00	\$ -
GD	Post Pounder	AS80003		0	\$ 125.00	\$ -
WV	Bale Wagon	AS80007		0	\$ 150.00	\$ -
WV	No Till Drill	AS80008		0	\$ 150.00	\$ -
WV	Grain Vacuum	AS8R0011		8	\$ 50.00	\$ 400.00
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	MFTL3081		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	AS80006		0	\$ 125.00	\$ -
WV	Score Cannons	MISCR98		0	FREE	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUE				20	\$	500.00
CROOKED CREEK TOTALS				0	\$	-
GROVEDALE TOTALS				0	\$	-
VALLEYVIEW TOTALS				12	\$	500.00

➤ **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 0 Agreements signed at this time.

WEED CONTROL

#	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 given by Assistant Manager.



REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT: **Manager's Report and ASB Member's Report**
SUBMISSION TO: AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION
MEETING DATE: March 22, 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):

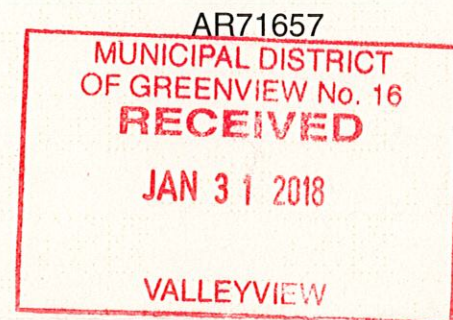
- Copy of the Manager/Staff Report from the Agriculture Services Department



Office of the Minister
MLA, Edmonton - Mill Woods

January 22, 2018

Mr. Allen Perkins
Chairman
Municipal District of Greenview Agricultural Service Board
Box 1079, 4806 – 36 Avenue
Valleyview, AB T0H 3N0



Dear Mr. Perkins:

Thank you for your letter dated December 1, 2017. As Minister of Labour, responsible for Alberta's labour legislation, I appreciate the opportunity to respond and apologize for the delay.

As per your request for an extension to the planned consultation end date, feedback will now be accepted until February 26, 2018. Maintaining safe, fair and healthy workplaces is a priority for this government as we continue to work together to ensure workplace standards remain relevant and reflect the needs of Albertans. The Technical Working Group (TWG) recommendation reports and accompanying summary documents were posted online on October 26, 2017.

Feedback received during this consultation period will be used in conjunction with the TWG recommendations to inform changes made to regulations. The changes will be done with those in the farm and ranch industry as we work to ensure worker safety and protect the family farm way of life.

If you or your membership would like assistance in understanding the TWG recommendations, current OHS Code requirements, or further explanation of the consultation process, please contact Labour through the dedicated farm and ranch email at farmandranch@gov.ab.ca or the OHS Contact Centre at 1-866-415-8690.

Thank you for taking the time to write and share your views with me. Your feedback is much appreciated. Please be assured that this government and I are listening to Albertans and working hard to represent you.

Sincerely,

Christina Gray
Minister of Labour
Responsible for Democratic Renewal

107 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada Telephone 780-638-9400 Fax 780-638-9401
3448 - 93 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6A4 Canada Telephone 780-414-1000 Fax 780-414-1278

Peace Country farmers told the time to halt clubroot is now

Workshops are being held across the region to arm farmers with best practices for combating the devastating canola disease



By **Alexis Kienlen**

Reporter

Published: January 24, 2018

Canola, Crops

Be the first to comment



Workshops are being held across the region to arm farmers with best practices for combating the devastating canola disease. *Photo: Jennifer Blair*

Clubroot was found in the Peace last summer — and that’s prompted an all-out effort to mobilize the farm community to do everything possible to halt the spread of the disease.

Officials from the ag research group SARDA and local municipalities along with ag fieldmen are hosting workshops at seven different locations so producers can be informed.

“Because it’s been on the back burner, most people know about it a little and we need to get good information out to the public,” said Shelleen Gerbig, extension co-ordinator for SARDA.

ADVERTISEMENT

Clubroot was first confirmed in Big Lakes County. That prompted neighbouring counties to step up their testing, which determined it was also in Greenview County.

The sessions will feature talks from plant pathologists Michael Harding and Krista Zuzak, Canola Council of Canada agronomist Greg Sekulic, and each county’s ag fieldmen. The ag fieldmen will talk about their county’s protocols, tests, and what they are doing if clubroot is found.

Peace County has had an ongoing problem with many farmers employing a snow/canola/snow rotation because the crop offers the best returns. But that also means they can’t afford a major outbreak of clubroot and why officials are now recommending a four-year rotation, said Gerbig.

Since SARDA is an applied research association, it is constantly testing alternative crops for the region. Gerbig recommends wheat, barley, oats, and peas as replacement crops. SARDA also is testing flax, lentils, fababeans, and industrial hemp, although those markets are somewhat limited. Forage seed crops do well in the Peace Country soil, although the region was hurt by the closure of an alfalfa-processing plant several years ago.

ADVERTISEMENT

“We had a lot of land that was put into alfalfa for about four years, and that was put back into cropping rotations. We lost that option, so the number of forage acres went down,” said Gerbig.

Producers are being urged to grow clubroot-resistant varieties but are also being warned they shouldn’t just rely on that measure because clubroot resistance breaks down over time. They’re also being asked to take reasonable containment measures, such as knocking clumps of dirt and mud off equipment before moving to the next field.

“It’s pretty unrealistic to expect people to steam clean and wash equipment between every field, but if they have clubroot, they should take the time to do that,” she said.

Any equipment that is purchased should be steam cleaned before being brought to the farm, she added.

Most clubroot is found at the entrances to fields and so if producers see any spots that are not looking healthy, they should consider testing, said Gerbig.

“General good agronomy processes keep crops thick, healthy, and strong,” she said.

ADVERTISEMENT

Weed control is also important to make sure that brassica family plants are not carrying the disease, even through non-canola years.

Gerbig expects that the sessions will attract a lot of interest. When clubroot was first confirmed in the Peace in the summer, 116 people showed up at an information session held in Guy.

“That was right at the end of August, when people were really busy during harvest, and they still came out,” she said.

Thirty more people attended a session in Big Lakes County in November.

The workshops are being held in Debolt and Valleyview on Jan. 23; in St. Isidore and High Prairie on Jan. 24; in Rycroft and Sexsmith on Jan. 25, and in La Crete on Jan. 26. Additional sessions are being planned.

For more information on the workshops or about clubroot, producers can contact their local ag fieldman or SARDA at 780-837-2900.



ALBERTA
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Office of the Minister
MLA, Whitecourt-St. Anne

JAN 19 2018

RECEIVED

JAN 22 2018

COUNTY OF
NORTHERN LIGHTS

Cheryl Anderson, Reeve
County of Northern Lights
600, 7th Avenue NW
PO Box 10
Manning, AB T0H 2M0

Dear Ms. Anderson:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the County of Northern Lights' (the County) request for Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) approval of Bylaw No. 17-63-378. AF has considered the County's request to designate genetically modified (GM) alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) as a prohibited noxious weed by local bylaw. As you know, pursuant to Section 9 of the Regulation of the Alberta *Weed Control Act*, my approval is needed for a local weed bylaw to become effective.

Although the Government of Canada has approved certain GM alfalfa technologies as safe for food, feed, and the environment, I appreciate your concerns regarding potential market access implications. I know GM crops are not universally accepted throughout the international market, and I also acknowledge alfalfa production is an important part of the province's agriculture industry.

AF also recognizes weeds are an important issue to Alberta's economy and the environment. AF is committed to the control of weeds listed on the Alberta *Weed Control Regulation* and to supporting municipalities with local weed issues.

The regulation of GM alfalfa through local weed bylaws poses a unique and challenging situation. It is a complex and far-reaching matter that has provincial, federal, and international implications. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has concluded that federally approved GM alfalfa varieties have no altered weed or invasiveness potential compared to currently commercialized alfalfa.

Since currently approved GM alfalfa varieties are not considered weeds, I cannot approve the County bylaw request. The purpose and intent of the *Weed Control Act* is not to regulate commerce or the marketplace, but to safeguard against the introduction and spread of invasive weeds. The control of a GM plant for market access purposes, when that plant can be grown for agricultural purposes in both modified and unmodified form, does not obviously fall under the purpose and intent of the *Weed Control Act*.

.../2

In addition, the regulation of GM crops in Canada is coordinated between the CFIA and Health Canada. GM crops go through intensive regulatory reviews in Canada that are based on international standards and guidelines. These plants cannot enter the marketplace unless a rigorous assessment by the CFIA and Health Canada determines these plants are as safe for use as food or feed, and as safe for release into the environment as other conventional plant varieties already being grown.

AF recognizes the federal regulatory assessment process does not assess social or economic factors, such as marketplace and consumer acceptance. The CFIA and Health Canada regulate for safety and efficacy of GM products, but are not responsible for evaluating need. To date, the CFIA and Health Canada have not enacted restrictions on GM crop producers.

It is important to note that Alberta operates under federal legislation and regulations when it comes to GM crops, and AF supports the federal government's science-based evaluation system for GM crops. AF also supports the responsible and appropriate development and adoption of biotechnology in agriculture to allow for the commercialization of innovative products, while safeguarding public interests, such as human food safety, human health, animal feed safety, animal health and welfare, and environmental wellbeing. Ultimately, the marketplace is best positioned to determine the need and demand for approved GM crops.

I appreciate your concerns, but again, I cannot approve the County Bylaw No. 17-63-378 because the purpose and intent of the *Weed Control Act* is to safeguard against the introduction and spread of invasive weeds, not to regulate commerce or the marketplace.

Sincerely,



Oneil Carlier
Minister

cc: Bret Kennedy, Director Policy and Regulatory Affairs Section, Agriculture and Forestry
Gayah Sieusahai, Pest Regulatory Officer, Agriculture and Forestry

Quentin Bochar

From: Norm Boulet <asb@mdsmokyriver.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 4:30 PM
To: 'Gayah Sieusahai'; 'Bret Kennedy'
Cc: 'Sebastien Dutrisac'; 'Amanda Ouellet'; 'Amelia Gies'; 'Audrey Bjorklund'; 'Becky Devaleriola'; 'Blake Gaugler'; Dave Berry; 'Dessa Nicholson'; 'Elaine Armagost'; 'fred'; 'Grant Smith (E-mail)'; 'Greg Coon'; 'Jill Henry'; 'Kelly Hudson'; 'Kim Robson'; Kristin King; 'Landon Driedger'; 'Marny Kenney - County of GP'; 'Nancy Mayo'; 'Nasar Iqbal'; Quentin Bochar; 'Riley Nooy'; 'Shayne Steffen'; 'Sheila Kaus'; 'Sonja Raven'; 'Stephanie Soucy'; Terrence Peever; 'Tracelle Hinze'; 'Wayne Wright'
Subject: Letter to Minister Carlier from M.D. of Smoky River regarding the denial of the WCA GE Alfalfa bylaw
Attachments: GE Alfalfa Bylaw letter to Minister Carlier from MDSR.pdf

Good afternoon:

The attached letter was just supported by Council to be sent with Reeve Brochu's signature. Please accept this attached scan as your cc.

In addition to the letter sent by County of Northern Lights, Council reviewed and agree with the points made by Northern Sunrise County.

In addition we would like consideration given to the following points, in respect to the social and economic factors which Minister Carlier recognizes are not included by the federal regulatory process:

The concerns we have with marketplace acceptance on these products cannot be overstated. Currently many of Canada's export markets will not accept GM contaminants in forages or forage seed. We ignore the wishes of the market at our own peril, as witnessed by the flax industry which took 5 years to recover from the 2009 Triffid debacle, the American Soft White wheat growers who saw their primary markets to Japan and South Korea closed overnight due to the discovery of 1 RR wheat plant in Oregon in 2013 and Syngenta which settled a lawsuit with U.S. farmers for close to \$1.5 Billion dollars when they released a variety of GMO corn prior to it being approved by the main market, China. Syngenta has not yet settled with Canadian farmers or marketing giant ADM on this issue. The M.D. of Smoky River wishes to use one of the few avenues open to us to prevent the growing of this GE alfalfa, not in perpetuity, but until the export markets accept it, and our forage producers are not faced with the huge expense of having their export crop refused due to GM contamination.

Considering the Clubroot and Fusarium graminearum issues which push our producers to investigate rotation crops, we must do what we can to protect the forage and forage seed industry so it can be a viable alternative.

We should perhaps have included the above in our letter, but Council wished to keep the letter to one page, make it as succinct as possible.

Normand Boulet, CCA
Agricultural Fieldman
M.D. of Smoky River
780-837-2221 ext 115 cell 780-837-0043
Fax: 780-837-2453
asb@mdsmokyriver.com
@MDfieldman

"One thought driven home is better than three left on base." - James Liter



Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130

P.O. Box 210 FALHER, ALBERTA T0H 1M0

Phone: (780) 837-2221

Fax: (780) 837-2453

March 14th, 2018

Oneil Carlier, Minister
Agriculture and Forestry
229 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Ave
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Honourable Minister Carlier:


Thank you for your January 19th, 2018 response to the M.D. of Smoky River No. 130 declining our Weed Control Act bylaw to designate Alfalfa when Genetically Engineered as a Prohibited Noxious weed.

The Council for the M.D. of Smoky River was copied on a letter sent to you by County of Northern Lights dated February 27th, 2018 which made some excellent points we believe were perhaps not considered in the Ministerial decision to decline our Weed Control Act bylaws. We concur with all the points made in the County of Northern Lights letter, and do not believe it necessary to repeat them.

The M.D. of Smoky River also had an Alberta Agriculture approved bylaw designating the Mustard crops; Oriental, Brown and Yellow as Noxious weeds. This was to allow the M.D. to prevent contamination of the areas' canola crops by mustard seed, protecting our producers' ability to remain sustainable - similar to what we are attempting for our forage producers now. When the new Weed Control Act was brought into force the M.D. of Smoky River did enact (with then Minister Hayden's signature) a bylaw to designate certain plants as noxious weeds. Ironically, it was believed the mustard's no longer posed a threat due to the advent of herbicide tolerant canola crops (mostly GE) which enabled producers to control mustard in their canola. The M.D. of Smoky River bylaw approved in 2011 and remaining in effect at this time designates Tartary buckwheat as well as both Roman and German chamomile as Noxious – all are considered to be crops, but we wish to prevent their cultivation in this municipality.

Respectfully, we request the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Forestry reconsider his position and approve the M.D. of Smoky River No. 130 bylaw No. 17-891 to designate Alfalfa when Genetically Engineered as a Prohibited Noxious weed, we have resubmitted the original bylaw for your signature.

Sincerely,


Robert Brochu, Reeve and ASB Chairman
M.D. of Smoky River No. 130

Cc: ASB Chairmen of the Peace Region
Bret Kennedy, Director, Policy and Regulatory Affairs Section, Agriculture and Forestry
Gayah Sieusahai, Pest Regulatory Officer, Agriculture and Forestry



ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION WORKSHOP & FORAGE SEED AGRONOMY UPDATE

March 15th, 2018

Location: Rycroft Ag Center
(located ½ mile west of Courtesy Corner)

Alfalfa Seed Workshop AGENDA

9:00 am	Coffee and Registration
9:30 am	Managing Alfalfa Seed Stands Establishment, Weed Control, Diseases and Harvest <i>Nancy Johns, Agronomist, Hope Floats Agronomy Services</i>
10:30 am	Coffee Break
10:45 am	Insects in Alfalfa Seed Crops <i>Jennifer Otani, Entomologist, Agriculture & AgriFood Canada</i>
11:15 am	Leafcutter Bee Management & Cocoon Testing Center <i>Brad Alexander, Research & Extension Manager, AB Alfalfa Seed Commission</i>
12:00 pm	Lunch

Forage Seed Agronomy AGENDA

12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Peace Region Turf and Forage Seed Industry <i>Calvin Yoder, Forage Seed Agrologist, AB Agriculture</i>
1:15 pm	Establishing Grass and Legume Seed Crops <i>Calvin Yoder, Forage Seed Agrologist, AB Agriculture</i>
1:45 pm	Insects in Grass & Legume Seed Crops <i>Jennifer Otani, Entomologist, Agriculture & AgriFood Canada</i>
2:30 pm	Coffee Break
2:45 pm	Review of Soil and Plant Nutrient Studies Conducted in The Peace Region <i>Nitya Khanal, Forage Scientist, Agriculture & AgriFood Canada</i>
3:15 pm	Weed Control in Established Grass and Legume Seed Crops <i>Calvin Yoder, Forage Seed Agrologist, AB Agriculture</i>
3:45 pm	Closing Comments

**CCA Credits
Available**

To register or for more information:

In AB Contact: Calvin Yoder at (780) 864 3879

In BC Contact: Talon Gauthier at (877) 630 2198

1/2 Day Registration (includes lunch): \$25

Full Day Registration (includes lunch): \$40

Pre-registration Required!

**Please Pre-register by
March 9th, 2018**

Provincial legislation isn't helping fusarium battle, say seed growers

Grower groups argue a zero-tolerance approach is the wrong way to reduce its spread in Alberta



By **Alexis Kienlen**

Reporter

Published: February 2, 2018

Cereals, Crops, News

Be the first to comment



Fusarium head blight on wheat spike. *Photo: Janet Lewis/CIMMYT*

Fusarium graminearum is listed as a pest in the province, and that's causing trouble for the crop industry.



Ward Oatway.

photo: Supplied

“Now that it’s in the pest act, it’s hard to get it out of the pest act,” said Ward Oatway, chair of the Alberta Seed Growers Association and owner of Oatway Seeds in Lacombe.

His association, the provincial wheat and barley commissions, and others have been calling on the province to take fusarium graminearum off the Agricultural Pests Act. That would still leave the fungal disease under the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, which as its name suggests, is about controlling rather than eradicating a pest. (For example, the Norwegian rat is a pest but coyotes and magpies are nuisances.)

Fusarium graminearum was listed under the pest act in 1999, a few years after a major outbreak in Manitoba of the fungal disease, which reduces yield and grade and produces mycotoxins. That means there is zero tolerance for fusarium graminearum in grain seed, and seed growers are prohibited from selling seed with any detectable level of the pathogen.

- **Read more: Don’t let your guard down — fusarium still a risk**

“It’s hard because there hasn’t been any enforcement for it. You don’t want to break the law, so you test it, and you do it and you follow the rules as best you can,” said Oatway. “It’s harder in certain areas of the province where you have seed that has 0.5 per cent of fusarium and you can’t sell it.”

That’s despite the fact that seed treatments kill fusarium.

“If you treat the seed, the chances of fusarium being there is virtually none,” said Oatway.

“That’s different from what we’ve been told in the pest act. If it’s present and you’re testing, it’s a moot point because you can’t sell it.”

Agriculture Minister Oneil Carlier has been sympathetic to calls from farm groups and his department recently conducted a survey (which closed earlier this month) and has pledged to review the matter. However, several municipalities are opposed, said Oatway.

Downgrading the pathogen to a nuisance and dealing with the problem on a case-by-case basis is the better route, he said.

“As long as you’re treating your seed and testing the seed, you’re propagating it much less. We’re not looking for an accepted level. We’re looking for a flexible program — not just zero.”

For example, durum is a significant challenge for seed growers. Good durum seed can have one or two per cent fusarium in it, and be treated to remove the risk. However, under the current law, that treated seed can’t be sold in Alberta. That’s not the case across the border in Saskatchewan, where seed can contain up to 20 per cent fusarium before it is treated.

“With seed treatment, the problem is that fusarium on the seed does not mean that you will have fusarium on your crop in the fall — it just means that it’s present,” said Oatway, adding proper management and rotations are the keys to reducing the spread of the pathogen.

Moreover, fusarium was added to the act to stop its spread through seed, but the main way it’s transmitted is through crop residue — either when it’s blown into neighbouring fields or hitchhikes a ride on equipment, he added. The main problem areas are south of the Trans-Canada, although it has been found in the Wainwright area, and is moving towards the Saskatchewan border.

“It’s not as pervasive as clubroot, but it moves with the environment, as well,” said Oatway.

“We get a wet year, and there’s more fusarium present.

“Back in the early 2000s, during the drought, we were getting fusarium hauled in (from other provinces) and fusarium on the bedding straw. That didn’t help the situation at all either.”

Having the disease in the pest act also prevents new crop varieties with better fusarium graminearum tolerance from being brought into the province.

At present, the industry has been educating people to test their seed. Only 20 per cent of the seed sold in Alberta is certified and has gone through testing, said Oatway. The vast majority of

producers don't test their seed if they are using farm-saved or common seed, which means that they could be spreading fusarium without knowing it.

"It's not just the seed growers who have to worry about this. We're the ones who have to follow the rules by law," he said.

In order to prevent fusarium, producers should use pedigreed seed, test their own seed, and use good management practices, such as a four-year rotation, he said.



April 29, 2015

By Top Crop Manager

Importance of Seed Treatments

Producers should consider seed treatments like an insurance policy for establishing the best crop possible given the growing conditions at the time. So says Bill Chapman, crop business development specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (AARD).

"If conditions are good for crop establishment, seed treatments may not be needed," he says. "However, if growing conditions at establishment are not ideal, the benefits of using a seed treatment will often more than pay for themselves. Good crop establishment is one of the most important stages in a crop's development. Any negative impact at this stage will affect the stages after this and at the end, could impact yields."

Chapman says that, most importantly, seed treatment helps in controlling

disease. "Your seed may be infected with a disease that was in the crop it originated from. A good seed treatment will prevent most seed borne diseases, like *Fusarium* and smuts, from developing. If you bought pedigreed seed, the seed certificate of analysis should tell you if any diseased kernels were found and of which disease."

Chapman says a lot of areas in the province, especially in central Alberta with the snow and cold last fall, had problems with germination. "There were reports of 40-80 per cent germination on some cereal crops which is way too low. Seed treatment won't cure this, but if you've checked your seed and are ready to go, treatment will help control diseases as they come in, and to keep the roots clean for the first 10-14 days after seeding. Treating your seed helps ensure your crop is getting as good as a start as you can give it."

Chapman says it is critical to check the root systems for problems. "When you look at the primary and secondary roots, you can see what the cleaner seed that was treated looks like. You should get out there every three to five days to make sure nothing is going on that can cost you, and to check for germination and emergence."

He adds you should also keep an eye out for are things like common root rot, which will be a darker brown discoloration on the plant, and which can affect a plant's ability to uptake nutrients and water.

ONE YEAR LATER: Carbon tax eating into bottom line

There's no overall figure on what the carbon levy cost farmers, but producers say they are feeling the impact



By **Alexis Kienlen**

Reporter

Published: January 29, 2018

News

Be the first to comment



The fuel in the tractor is exempt from the carbon tax, but not the fertilizer that's being applied. *Photo: Thinkstock*

It's hard to put exact numbers on it — but Alberta's carbon tax is taking its toll, say farmers.

And that toll increased at the start of the year, when the carbon tax increased to \$30 a tonne — a 50 per cent jump from the initial \$20-a-tonne tax implemented a year ago.

- **Read more: [Here's a primer on carbon taxes and cap and trade in Canada](#)**

For some things, the per-unit impact is known but then you have to calculate usage. For example, the Jan. 1 increase added another 50 cents to a gigajoule to natural gas prices bringing the total extra cost from the carbon tax to \$1.51.

That adds up in a hurry when you're drying grain, said Stephen Vandervalk, who grows malt barley, durum, canola, and export timothy on his 10,000-acre farm near Fort Macleod.



Stephen Vandervalk.

photo: File/Supplied

“You could easily go through 400 to 600 gigajoules when you're grain drying, or even more if you're farming up north,” he said.

But other costs are harder to calculate, such as the impact on the cost of shipping grain on part of the route to West Coast terminals. But it's already very expensive to transport grain from Western Canada and none of the export countries he competes against has a carbon levy, said Vandervalk, noting Australia had one but scrapped it.

Vandervalk is the Alberta vice-president of the Western Canadian Wheat Growers, which has been actively lobbying MPs and speaking to agricultural committees in Ottawa as the federal government prepares to bring in legislation requiring carbon taxes in every province. (Provinces “without a provincial carbon pollution pricing system” would be subject to a federal carbon tax, starting at \$10 per tonne this year, and rising to \$50 per tonne by 2022.)

Team Alberta, which represents the province's four largest crop commissions (wheat, barley, pulses, and canola) has been lobbying provincially, including taking part in meetings on the Climate Leadership Plan, the NDP government's strategy to cut carbon emissions.



Jason Lenz.

photo: File/Supplied

“We’re trying to bring the government to the realization about how it will affect primary producers,” said Alberta Barley chair Jason Lenz.

Their key point is that farmers will pay more for inputs but have no way of passing on those extra costs.

“If I’m buying fertilizer, the supplier adds a carbon tax on to his input prices,” said Lenz, who farms near Bentley.

In some cases, the tax also lowers the prices farmers receive, he said.

- **Read more: [B.C. farmers learned to live with a carbon tax](#)**

When barley goes to a malt plant or canola to a crusher, those operations pay the tax, too, and they make up for it by reducing the price they pay for that barley or canola, said Lenz.

Alberta Barley is also working to nail down the precise cost impact on farmers while lobbying the provincial government to have input on carbon-reducing projects funded by the carbon tax.

Milk producers have noticed increases in their gas bills, as well as their electricity costs, said Albert Kamps, vice-chair of Alberta Milk.

“It is an impact and it’s not substantial, but it does cut into the bottom line,” he said. “That should show up in the dairy cost studies.”

Like Team Alberta and the Western Canadian Wheat Growers, his organization is working to tally the extra cost borne by its members. Kamps also points out that milk producers can do little to reduce their natural gas use because they need hot water for clean facilities and clean milk, and to keep barns warm for animals.

Purple fuel (gasoline used on farms) has been exempted from the carbon tax, which now adds 6.7 cents to a litre of regular gas. And while that's appreciated, cattle producers haven't seen any benefits from the money raised by the tax which has increased costs for heating and electricity, said Kelly Smith-Fraser, vice-chair of Alberta Beef Producers.

Like grain production, the cattle business is an export-oriented industry, and ranchers are now at an economic disadvantage to their foreign competitors, she said.

Smith-Fraser, who raises Maine-Anjou cattle near Pine Lake, would like to see an ecosystems service program that would help ranchers care for their grasslands.



Kelly Smith-Fraser.
photo: File/Supplied

“That would assist us financially and environmentally, and ensure that those grasslands remain as they are and are not converted to cropland,” she said.

Farmers from across the province have complained there's been no meaningful recognition of environmental benefits produced by farms and ranches, such as carbon sequestration and grassland preservation.

The province issues carbon tax rebates for lower- and middle-income earners. It says the rebate for one-third of households is larger than their carbon tax costs; another third have most of their extra costs covered; and one-third receive no rebate.

But government efforts to reduce carbon emissions affect farmers in different ways, said Vandervalk. He points to technology that reduces emissions on tractors but adds \$70,000 to \$80,000 to their price tag.

“Tractors are getting used 200 to 300 hours a year,” he said. “That's a pretty big expense for that amount of use. It's not like a car where you are in it 365 days a year.”

Clubroot can damage more than just the bottom line

Along with economic and agronomic problems, clubroot causes emotional damage



By **Lisa Guenther**

Field Editor

Published: February 6, 2018



Photo: File/Jennifer Blair

Clubroot is a potentially devastating disease for canola growers in Western Canada. Severely infested fields may not be able to grow canola in the foreseeable future. Less-severe fields may see yield drops without a change in farming practices.

That adds up to a financial hit for affected farmers. But while the economic and agronomic realities are acknowledged, the psychology of dealing with a clubroot infestation has gotten less coverage.

John Guelly, a farmer from Westlock, Alberta, compares it to going through the grieving process.

“When you first find out, you’re kind of upset about it, and mad, and wondering how it got there,” says Guelly. Guelly discovered clubroot on his farm in 2013. At first, he didn’t quite believe it was clubroot, and wanted to downplay the situation, he says.

That rings true for Dr. Greg Gibson, a psychologist with Prairie Mountain Health in Manitoba and assistant professor at the University of Manitoba.

Clubroot is a practical problem and “an emotionally laden problem as well,” he says. Gibson hasn’t worked with farmers facing clubroot specifically, but he has worked with producers dealing with other issues.

The first four stages of the grieving process include shock and denial, pain and guilt, anger and bargaining, and depression. Once a person works through those four stages, they are on a better footing, moving towards acceptance and hope.

Guelly says it’s something he went through, to a certain extent.

“You go through it over a long period of time. It’s nothing something you digest and say — Boom! — I need to do this or do that. You have to work it through in your head and get things ironed out before you can actually come up with a full plan.”

- **Read more: [John Guelly’s six-step management plan](#)**

But if a person gets stuck in one of the first four stages, Gibson says, that can lead to more problems in the future.

Shock and denial followed by pain and guilt

The shock and denial stage is an issue because if the farmer isn’t awake to the problem, he might not deal with the clubroot quickly enough, says Gibson.

That’s critical because when clubroot spores are low, the disease is still manageable. Dan Orchard, Canola Council of Canada agronomist, has cited research showing that a two-year break from canola can cut viable clubroot spores by over 90 per cent. But if spore loads are sky-high, even a two-year break leaves too many viable spores in the soil.

In the shock and denial stage, other people may need to “shine a light on the issue,” says Gibson. “Sometimes it’s needed when folks are in denial, especially when it’s emotionally-laden.”

But once a farmer has pushed through (or been nudged out of) shock and denial, pain and guilt waits. This is especially true if farmers feel they are partly to blame, because of something they did or didn't do, Gibson explains. Concern about what others might think about them, or how others might be affected, can also create shame.

“Farming families are highly pro-active, industrious, and self-sufficient,” says Gibson. “And if they found that they in any way are the catalysts to other people's concerns—whether that be other people, their own families, or what have you—that can create a tremendous amount of guilt.”

The pain and guilt in these situations can also increase the likelihood that someone remains in denial, Gibson says.

Guelly sees the social stigma surrounding clubroot as part of the problem. “It seems to be something that nobody wants to talk about. It's like mental health.”

Along with worrying about what the neighbours will say, farmers also worry about land values dropping and the county's reaction, says Guelly (although he notes clubroot hasn't cut land values in his area). But the best thing farmers can do is talk about it, he says.

“You can learn more from neighbours, agronomists. Know what you're looking for in the first place so you can catch it early,” says Guelly.

Gibson tells farmers to think of themselves as engines that need to be maintained. They can watch for check-engine lights to catch problems early. The early stages of grief may come with negative coping strategies, such as self-medicating with alcohol or drugs, or perhaps smoking more than usual, says Gibson.

“Sometimes when people are stuck in that shame mode, it's almost like they feel that they're not worthy of looking after themselves,” he says.

Gibson advises people to avoid these negative coping strategies, to keep exercising and to take care of themselves.

Anger and bargaining, followed by depression

Once people are noticing there's a problem, they might try bargaining (perhaps in vain) with the powers that be, such as county officials, says Gibson. Or they may go into panic mode.

Another common behaviour is lashing out. Or people may try to come up with a solution, but it won't be done in a healthy way, says Gibson. "Rather than accepting the issue, they're fighting against it."

After the anger and bargaining stage comes depression. Depression is a huge one for many farmers, says Gibson. "Farmers are very self-sufficient folks and sometimes they don't want to burden other people with their issues."

People suffering from depression tend to isolate themselves. Hard-working people might face a lack of motivation, as though they're all in, Gibson says. This might spread to relationships and finances as well. They almost check out of life, he adds.

Even if a person doesn't feel suicidal, depression can be serious and extremely debilitating, says Gibson.

Getting unstuck

How can farmers avoid getting mired down in the first four stages? And how can their families, agronomists, and friends help them? Gibson says it's hard to think clearly in the early stages of grief, and to separate emotion from logic. Farmers will likely need help problem-solving from people they trust, whether that's an agronomist or neighbour. Guelly suggests getting farmers talking to clubroot experts and agronomists. Farmers need to realize that clubroot is not the end of the world, he says. Although their world has changed, that doesn't mean they're done growing canola, he adds. Gibson says agronomists and others should demonstrate empathy and validate the farmer's experience. Don't say things such as "I know how you feel." Instead, just let them talk or say something like "that sounds heavy," says Gibson.

From there, it's important to move into problem-solving, says Gibson. Avoid terms like "wrong" or "bad," as well as emotionally-laden language or anything that sounds like laying blame. Focus on the future, and on solutions to address problems. Set short-term goals. Be patient, says Gibson.

Watch out for all or none thinking about the situation — for example, remarks about things never getting better, or clubroot being a cross to bear. “If they’re not blaming the other person, they’re blaming themselves,” says Gibson.

Ultimately, agronomists are not therapists, Gibson says. But agronomists can refer struggling farmers to other resources, such as farm stress lines or services within the community.

Family is very important in this situation as well, because the whole family experiences trials and tribulations on the farm, Gibson says. Often spouses of farmers also have a self-reliant personality, but they need to make sure they’re maintaining their own engines, he says. That means having a support system, avoiding self-medication and other negative coping strategies, going for walks, and using farm stress lines if needed.

It’s also important that the family makes time to have fun, Gibson adds.

“Being able to balance life is important in general. But when you’re finding that there is a farm crisis, then sometimes play goes out the window. And it’s still important to have a good work-life balance.”

As for Guelly, he doesn’t want to see farmers in other provinces hit the clubroot learning curve the way Alberta farmers did. Try to find it when spore levels are low, he advises.

“The big thing is don’t panic. Keep scouting.”

Farm stress lines

In Manitoba: Manitoba Farm, Rural, and Northern Support Services. Chat online on its website or call 1-866-367- 3276 (Monday to Friday 10 am to 9 pm). After hours call 1-888- 322-3019.

In Saskatchewan: Sask Farm Stress Line. Call 1-800-667-4442 Available 24/7. For more info visit Mobile Crisis Services online.

In Alberta: Alberta Mental Health Help Line. Call: 1-877-303- 2642. Available 24 hrs a day.

Calf health closely tied to cow nutrition

Six problems you may see with calves if cow nutrition is compromised

By **Ron Clarke**

Published: February 2, 2018



Photo: File

Many cows came home in 2017 from pastures parched by drought for much of the grazing season. Without proper supplementation of brood cows through the rest of their gestation, vitamin and mineral deficiencies will show up as health issues next spring with economic consequences that often persist for several more.

It is well established that proper cow nutrition affects calf performance, health and survivability more than any other management factor. When cows are not properly supplemented, problems are magnified in heifers. Now is the time to test forages and grain for nutrient content and work with your veterinarian and other animal health professionals in designing rations for winter.

The interrelationship of vitamin and mineral metabolism by cattle is complicated and subject to year-to-year variations in weather, forage quality, water quality and body condition. Certain nutrients are required by beef cattle in the daily ration, whereas others can be stored in the body. When body stores of a nutrient are high, an example being vitamin A, dietary supplementation is unnecessary until stores are depleted. However, it's difficult to determine when body stores

approach critical levels until signs of deficiency start to appear, which not uncommonly shows up at calving.

At least 17 minerals and five vitamins are required by beef cattle. Minerals are divided into two groups: macro-minerals (calcium, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium and salt or sodium chloride), and trace minerals (copper, selenium, iodine, zinc, cobalt, iron, molybdenum). In a nutrient requirement table, macro-mineral requirements are expressed as per cent in a ration on a dry matter (DM) basis, while trace or micro-mineral needs are expressed in parts per million (ppm) or mg/kg. Trace minerals are often in short supply within the base diet and only small amounts are transferred to nursing calves. Calves rely on liver stores present at birth. Liver stores are replenished when calves begin to ingest forage and supplements. Calf liver stores at birth are linked to liver concentrations in the dam.

Vitamins, like minerals, are essential nutrients for cattle. As a group, they are involved in all aspects of the animal's metabolism including growth, reproduction and health. There are two general classes of vitamins: water-soluble and fat-soluble. The water-soluble vitamins include vitamin B and vitamin C; fat-soluble vitamins include A, D, E and K.

While all vitamins are essential, vitamins A, D, and E are most relevant from a ration management perspective. In most situations, rumen bacteria supply adequate levels of B vitamins and vitamin K. Exceptions include thiamine deficiencies (polio) and sweet clover poisoning caused by dicoumarol, a vitamin K antagonist.

Vitamin A is essential in the diet of cattle. Cattle convert carotene from leaves of plants to vitamin A in the wall of the small intestine. Vitamin A is necessary for vision, maintenance of epithelial tissue and mucous membranes, bone development, and immune function. Vitamin A is fat-soluble and stored in the liver when daily intake is three to five times greater than requirements. Mature cows can store up to four months of vitamin A. Under ideal conditions, cattle fed good-quality hay during the winter will have adequate vitamin A levels from carotene in hay and accumulated liver stores.

When conditions are less than ideal, vitamin A supplementation is required to maintain proper health and reproductive performance of the cow and normal development and health of calves. Drought conditions decrease the amount of carotene in plants limiting the ability of cows to accumulate liver stores while grazing. Forage harvested during drought also contains low carotene levels, decreasing the ability of cows to consume enough vitamin A during winter

feeding. Another complicating factor is drought-stressed forages with elevated nitrate levels, thought to destroy carotene and vitamin A in the digestive tract and increasing requirements for vitamin A by depressing thyroid function.

Some of the problems encountered when nutrition is compromised during grazing season and not corrected during the last half of gestation are:

1. Increased rate of dystocia (calving difficulty)

Underfeeding late-gestation cows leads to more weak calves and stillbirths, often due to prolonged labour. Weak calves are more likely to get sick and die, and have decreased performance out to weaning and beyond. Cows in body condition 2.5 or 3 deliver more live calves compared to cows in body condition 2 or less.

2. Weak calves and hypothermia (inability to maintain body temperature)

Birth weights of calves will decrease, as does the storage of brown fat used to generate warmth. Both are important factors in calf vigour and survivability short term and reducing sickness and death rates longer term. Inclement weather, poor housing, and the inability or desire of cows to seek shelter during calving all contribute to cases of hypothermia.

3. Sick calves

Low birth weights and reduced vigour increase the chances of calves not getting colostrum in time. A compounding factor: cows that are nutritionally deprived cannot produce quality colostrum in sufficient quantities. Both problems lead to the failure of passive transfer of protective antibodies. Without antibodies, calves are more likely to get sick and die. Even if calves survive an illness, performance is affected out to weaning and beyond.

4. Decreased response to vaccines

Response to vaccines administered during pregnancy (e.g. scours) is negatively affected in undernourished cows. Vaccinating cows to protect calves through colostrum will only work when cows are on a proper plane of nutrition. Without adequate colostrum, calves fail to respond to vaccines administered after calving. The result: fewer and lighter calves at weaning.

5. Infertility

Females in poor body condition don't breed back readily. A drop in body condition below 2.5 can reduce conception rates by 15 per cent. Dystocia rates also increase as body condition drops.

6. Replacement heifers

Calves that receive poor or inadequate colostrum, whether or not they get sick, do not grow as well as calves that get high levels of immunity through colostrum. The difference in growth extends into the feeding period for stocker calves and translates to increased time to breeding and time to mature weight in replacement heifers. Research suggests that cow nutrition during gestation has a long-term impact on growth and fertility of female offspring, an important consideration when retaining replacement heifers.

Bottom line

Feeding costs are a major expense in cow-calf herds. Selecting cost-efficient winter rations becomes imperative, but making sure nutrient requirements are met is critical to future profitability. An investment in rations that are right today pays dividends for years to come.

Clubroot is coming to a field near you

The stakes are high, as clubroot has defeated resistant canola varieties and continues to spread



By [Lisa Guenther](#) [FOLLOW](#)

Field Editor

Published: February 26, 2018

[Canola](#), [Crops](#), [Features](#)



When scouting for clubroot, one area to check is downwind of grain bins, Dan Orchard says. *Photo: Courtesy Canola Council of Canada*

Dan Orchard has a blunt message for Saskatchewan canola producers.

“I’m quite convinced that clubroot will come to your farm. It’s just too hard to keep it away,” said Orchard, agronomy specialist for central Alberta for the Canola Council of Canada. Orchard was speaking at the Saskatchewan Oilseed Producers meeting, organized by SaskCanola, SaskFlax, and the Sask. government, at North Battleford on November 17.

The stakes are high for many farmers. The worst-case clubroot scenario is that a farmer won’t be able to grow canola economically in a heavily infested field. Orchard has visited five such fields in Alberta.

“Clubroot has defeated the resistance of the resistant varieties,” said Orchard.

Kent Lamoureux, senior agronomist for Sturgeon Valley Fertilizers, said their local term for fields with very high spore loads is a Ground Zero field. Lamoureux relayed his experience with clubroot at an agronomy day organized by Cavalier Agrow in northwest Saskatchewan.

Lamoureux credited Orchard for first finding the disease in Alberta in 2003. It was discovered in a vegetable production area in Sturgeon County, just north of Edmonton, he said. Orchard was an agronomist with Sturgeon Valley Fertilizers at the time.

Since then, agronomists’ and farmers’ experience with the disease “has been nothing short of an odyssey,” said Lamoureux.

And just as Odysseus endured terrible losses on his long journey home after the Trojan war, Sturgeon County farmers have also seen some bad times. Even Lamoureux’s family farm has been affected by clubroot, he said.

Still, farmers needn’t throw up their hands in despair. The key is to keep spore loads low and find infestations early, Orchard said.

A gram of soil can hold up to a billion clubroot spores. Lamoureux said Ground Zero fields, which can’t even grow resistant varieties, have about ten million spores or more per gram. He said it would take about 100,000 spores per gram to cause an infection in the crop.

But infested fields in Manitoba and Saskatchewan are more likely to have around 50,000 spores per gram, said Orchard. “And we would call that really, really low in Alberta,” said Orchard.

That lower spore load gives Saskatchewan and Manitoba farmers more options for managing the disease. Manitoba and Saskatchewan farmers also have more technology and knowledge to draw on than their Alberta counterparts did when the disease first emerged.

Start looking

If Lamoureux could go back in time, he would set up an intelligent clubroot scouting program, he said.

A clubroot-infected crop patch might display relatively subtle symptoms, such as ripening a bit early, having a thinner plant stand, or having plants that are an off-green/yellow colour. Lamoureux said the disease can look a little like sclerotinia, but clubroot creates a creamier colour.



Stinkweed is one weed that hosts clubroot. Farmers should control the weed early, as it will produce viable spores within weeks of germinating.

photo: Courtesy Canola Council of Canada

By that point, the clubroot may have been present for several canola crops, said Orchard. The lack of above-ground symptoms in the early years of the disease can deter farmers from scouting.

“But I’m here to tell you that you need to start pulling plants at the entrance,” said Orchard.

Crops generally look poor at the field entrance, so farmers tend to ignore early signs of the disease. But Orchard said clubroot infestations usually start at the field entrance, and to the right of the field entrance.

Over the years, Orchard has found clubroot in other places, too. Old garden sites from homesteads can be an infestation source, as some vegetables host the disease. Other areas include alternate field entrances, farmyards, downwind of grain bins, highway exits, near beehives, near power lines, and low areas or areas with water.

Lamoureux also suggested farmers check persistently weedy patches and lease roads. He’s also seen a clubroot patch form where the combine broke down and was partly disassembled. The combine dust spawned the infestation.

It’s possible to test soil for clubroot. Orchard cautioned that a negative result doesn’t guarantee the field is clubroot-free. It might mean that producers sampled the wrong spot in the field. But farmers who do want to test soil for clubroot should sample from the area just to the right of the field entrance, he said.

Lamoureux suggested starting scouting four weeks before swathing, as visual symptoms will be the most obvious. Farmers who notice canola plants flipping up and landing on the canvas while swathing should be wary. Those plants might have been infected by clubroot, Lamoureux said, as the disease destroys the roots.

Minimize the spread

Farmers who have fields with infestations in one part of the field have more options than those with fenceline-to-fenceline infestations. One option is to create a separate field exit, far from the entrance, Orchard said. Farmers should not use the new exit as an entrance/exit. By having a dedicated exit, a farmer can reduce the chances carrying clubroot from that field.

Farmers can also seed the area around the entrance to a non-host crop, such as perennial ryegrass.

“I think there are so many benefits to putting a small grassed area at the entrance,” said Orchard. A grassy entrance cuts the chances of spores spreading through the field. It also gives operators an area to park, unfold, and clean equipment, he added.

Sanitizing equipment between fields has not been a popular suggestion in Alberta. Orchard acknowledged it’s not practical to do at seeding time. And given the heavy spore loads in central Alberta fields, operators would have to be very thorough to prevent disease spread.

But farmers facing lower spore loads don’t have to be nearly as thorough to make a difference. Orchard said knocking off basketball-sized lumps of dirt would go a long way in Saskatchewan.

Farm machinery isn’t the only equipment that can spread clubroot. Equipment from road crews can spread spores, so farmers may want to think twice before letting others park equipment in fields. And while machinery is the main culprit in spreading clubroot, it’s not the only one. Muddy boots can carry up to 600,000 spores per gram, according to research Orchard has read.

Lamoureux said they’ve stopped mud-slinging in his area. They don’t float fertilizer or sample soil if it’s muddy, and they clean dirt off equipment. Farmers also seed Ground Zero fields last, giving the field a chance to dry out and minimizing the spread to other fields.

Dust is dangerous too, Lamoureux added. Research has found dust from Ground Zero fields was “loaded with clubroot,” he says. “Think about your harvest.”

Lamoureux advised farmers to treat seed to ensure that it’s not carrying clubroot. Random sampling at a seed cleaning plant in a heavily infested clubroot area found that soil on seeds can bear the disease as well. Once the seed is commercially cleaned and treated, it won’t carry clubroot, Orchard said. He advised against getting common, untreated seed from known clubroot areas.

The disease can also survive a cow’s digestive system, Orchard said. Farmers shouldn’t spread manure over crop fields from cattle that have eaten a clubroot-ravaged crop.

Control weeds

Canola isn’t the only potential clubroot host in farmers’ fields. Weed hosts include stinkweed, shepherd’s purse, wild mustard, and volunteer canola.

“Control volunteer canola religiously,” said Lamoureux.

Both Orchard and Lamoureux advised farmers to control those weeds, whether or not canola is being grown in that field that year. Weeds will produce viable clubroot spores within weeks of germinating, so farmers should spray at the two or three-leaf stage, Orchard added.

Use resistant varieties

Clubroot-resistant varieties are like relief pitchers in baseball, said Orchard.

“You have to put your relief pitcher in one pitch before the grand slam, not one pitch after.”

Some farmers, thinking the infestation isn’t that bad, have stuck with susceptible canola varieties. There’s a perception that clubroot-resistant varieties don’t yield as well as their susceptible kin.

But both Lamoureux and Orchard said there was no yield penalty with the resistant varieties. “And it will prolong your canola-growing situation,” said Lamoureux.

Sticking to a susceptible variety has led to some disastrously low yields in clubroot-infested fields. Orchard advised farmers to start using clubroot-resistant varieties as soon as clubroot is detected in a field, no matter how mild the symptoms initially seem. And the Canola Council advises farmers in clubroot-infested areas to stick to resistant varieties as a precaution.

But farmers shouldn’t rely on resistant varieties alone. Short rotations increase the spore load in a field, giving the local clubroot population a better shot at evolving to overcome those resistant varieties.

So far, 17 clubroot strains have been identified in Alberta. And 11 can’t be controlled by clubroot-resistant canola varieties, said Orchard.

Ultimately, clubroot is a self-limiting disease, said Lamoureux. “Ground Zero fields should not grow canola again.”

Stretch the rotation

Recent research has shown that with a two-year break, 95 to 99 per cent of the clubroot spores aren’t viable, says Orchard.

Unfortunately, for many Alberta farmers spore loads are so high that even a two-year break leaves enough spores to cause a wreck. But Saskatchewan and Manitoba farmers still have a chance to manage the disease through rotation, Orchard said.

Rotation is key, Lamoureux said. Sturgeon Valley Fertilizers has been holding alternative crop workshops to encourage more diverse rotations. Faba beans are now well established in the area, Lamoureux said.

So how long should a farmer’s rotation be? The easy answer is four years, Orchard says.

But defaulting to four years is a little like telling someone you don’t know how fast they should be driving, over the phone, without asking questions, Orchard says. How long a rotation should be depends on everything from a farmer’s experience to disease levels in the area.

The two-year canola rotation has been working for years on the Prairies, Orchard acknowledged. “But not when it comes to clubroot. It needs that extra break.”

Life after clubroot

Losing the ability to grow the most profitable crop is very emotional for farmers. Lamoureux said it causes a lot of turmoil, anger and blaming. He noticed a pattern in his area after clubroot was detected, and every area that followed.

Lamoureux suggested having a bit of psychology in one's back pocket to deal with clubroot in a mature, intelligent way. He compared discovering clubroot on one's farm to the seven steps in the grieving process:

1. Shock and denial — for example, doubting the accuracy of tested samples.
2. Pain and guilt, perhaps over tight rotations.
3. Anger, blame and bargaining. Blaming custom applicators, oil crews, or others for bringing it into the field.
4. Depression, reflection, loneliness. Perhaps not wanting to go for to the coffee shop because of shame, or not wanting to talk about it.
5. The upward turn. Looking at resistant varieties, looking at other crops.
6. Reconstruction and working through it. Getting a plan together, adapting cultural practices.
7. Acceptance and hope.

Clubroot is not the first challenge farmers have faced. Lamoureux relayed the story of the boll weevil in Alabama. In the early 20th Century, it destroyed cotton crops. The pest forced farmers to change by adding peanuts to their crop rotations. That led to prosperity, and the people of Enterprise, Alabama, installed a boll weevil statue commemorating the insect and the change it wrought.

Is clubroot Alberta's boll weevil? It doesn't feel that way right now, Lamoureux said. "But with every crisis there can be an opportunity. So try to embrace this for what it is."

And ultimately, farming continues in Sturgeon County. Lamoureux said he had some "fantastic" canola yields this year, and he also had some great faba bean yields.

"Think rotation. Think scouting." And push agronomists to be aware of clubroot, Lamoureux told farmers.

"Don't panic. Plan."

Make sure your calves get off to a proper start

Beef 911: Calves need adequate amounts of high-quality colostrum after birth and substitutes are a good option

By [Roy Lewis](#) [FOLLOW](#)

Contributor

Published: January 25, 2018

[Beef 911](#), [Cow-Calf](#), [Livestock](#)

[Be the first to comment](#)



Photo: Thinkstock

There have been many articles written over the years on the value of calves receiving adequate amounts of good-quality colostrum. Also over the years, colostrum substitutes have come into greater and greater usage.

Several things have led to this change. Colostrum substitutes have become higher quality and are more convenient than using frozen colostrum. As well, with fewer cows needing help during calving and more producers calving later on grass, heavy producing cows are not around to save colostrum from. (It was

always considered best to have colostrum from your own cows, which are on your nutritional and vaccination program.)

ADVERTISEMENT

The colostrum we get from the Saskatoon Colostrum Company (with such names as Headstart and Calf's Choice Total) are pasteurized in a spray dry process, mainly to ensure diseases such as Johne's are not passed on. All batches are also tested in calves as well as in the lab before being released on the market. All the other products sold in Canada are imported from the U.S. These other companies take out some of the fat, as well as some of the antimicrobial and immune factors. There is a big market for these other factors in the human health supplement field. Our local company here in Western Canada does not do that, so all the more reason to shop locally.

ADVERTISEMENT

Heat treatment makes this commercial supplement safer than getting colostrum from, for example, a dairy where you don't know the health status. There is nothing wrong with getting colostrum from the first milk of a productive cow in your herd and freezing it for another day. Hopefully she doesn't have Johne's disease. When you collect the colostrum, do it carefully to prevent any manure contamination. Use it during the current year or hold over until you can secure more the next year if it goes unused.

I find with today's busy farmers and the reasons cited above, colostrum is not as convenient to get anymore. You can easily save lots of time by being able to rehydrate the colostrum replacers quickly in warm water versus thawing out the frozen colostrum carefully.

One of the keys to using them involves recognizing how many grams of immunoglobulin are in the product. We have always preached getting at least 100 grams (100 IgG) of immunoglobulin into the calf — ideally four to six hours after birth and, really, the sooner the better.

ADVERTISEMENT

If using a product such as Headstart (60g IgG), it is critical that the calf receive extra colostrum from the cow as this product is designed as an immediate feeding and the calf should still be encouraged to suckle the cow in the first few hours of life. (Calf's Choice Total provides the 100g IgG.) These products may seem expensive but the old adage, you get what you pay for, holds true. The better-quality colostrum supplements — that is, those with higher levels of immunoglobulin — are generally more expensive.

Beware of the very cheap colostrum supplements, or should I say those touting themselves as a colostrum substitute. I have often cited the example of colostrum boluses, which were touted as a colostrum source years ago. Each bolus contained 0.3 gram of immunoglobulin, meaning in order to get the full 100 grams the dose would be 300 boluses. Somehow I don't think that was ever done.

Inexpensive colostrum sources may also not absorb as well into the calf as they have a lower percentage IgG compared to the high-quality complete colostrum product. Look at the label first — the only ingredient should be colostrum. Buy them well and follow the mixing directions closely.

Producers can also think of using colostrum supplements more as partial substitutes. An example of this is twins from an average cow where both calves have sucked somewhat. Splitting a 100-gram package

between the two calves ensures they both have had enough colostrum. With calves born to poorer milking heifers, make the decision as to how much supplemental colostrum to give. It never hurts to give colostrum if in any doubt even if they have sucked (such as a weak calf, a wild mother, calf from a hard pull, or a calf whose mother has very big teats). Give the whole package (100 grams of immunoglobulin) to ensure their entire colostrum needs have been met.

Colostrum substitutes made from actual colostrum from western Canadian dairy cows seems like a good idea to me. The more local, the better prevention from diseases you are more likely to have show up in your own calves.

At our clinic, we used to acquire frozen colostrum from reputable dairies, which had vaccinated their cows. Now most of these dairies contract to the Saskatoon Colostrum Company because its products offer convenience to the farmer with a product that can be kept at room temperature and can be easily rehydrated and fed when needed.

New research is revealing how taking in colostrum sets the calf up for the long term in terms of how fat is metabolized and how this improves the productivity of the animal. In that critical first few hours of life, colostrum uptake has been proven time and time again to benefit the calf for the rest of its life. Let's ensure our newborn calves get that vital amount of colostrum in the first four to six hours of life. If there is any doubt on whether the amount was adequate or the quality high enough, don't hesitate to give the colostrum replacer. It is an investment worth making and will produce many benefits down the line both for that particular calf and for the herd in general (if for instance a herd outbreak of scours could be avoided).

This spring have a supply of colostrum replacer on hand because when you need it, you need it now and I mean right now (within the first four to six hours of life). You should always have some on hand and it is available at most veterinary clinics, feed mills, or farm supply stores. Make sure and clean and disinfect where appropriate the nipple bottles or esophageal feeders between usages. Keep one feeding device exclusively for newborn calves.

Have a great calving season everybody.

All quarantines lifted in bovine TB probe

No TB-positive cattle found beyond original six; no source found for infection

By **Staff**

Published: February 12, 2018

Beef Cattle, Livestock



Tuberculosis bacteria under an electron microscope. (Janice Haney Carr photo courtesy Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S.))

The mystery of how six Prairie cattle caught a Mexican strain of bovine tuberculosis (TB) is now expected to remain a mystery indefinitely.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency on Monday announced quarantines have been lifted from all Prairie cattle operations tested during its probe of a bovine TB outbreak beginning in the fall of 2016.

The agency's probe followed the discovery of a southeastern Alberta cow that tested positive for bovine TB when it was slaughtered at a U.S. packing plant in late September 2016. Five more

cattle from the same farming operation later tested positive for the disease. About 30,000 animals across 79 “trace-out” herds and 71 “trace-in” herds in the three Prairie provinces were tested. From those, about 11,500 cattle were ordered destroyed.

All that said, no further cases were discovered, and no source of infection has been identified for the six TB-positive cattle, the agency said Monday.

“Trace-out” denotes herds that got animals from the infected herd, while “trace-in” refers to herds that sent animals to the infected herd.

CFIA expects to post an investigation summary report on its web site later this spring, and to declare the investigation officially closed once the final lab culture test results are completed.

Producers whose herds were depopulated, and whose premises have gone through cleaning and disinfection, have restocked their herds, the agency said.

Two rounds of testing will be done on the restocked herds to verify those animals are TB-free, the agency said. One round of testing has just been completed and the second will take place this fall. These herds are not under quarantine in the meantime.

“While the investigation will not be officially closed until final laboratory culture results are received later this spring, this is a positive step forward for Canada’s cattle industry,” federal Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay said in a statement Monday.

MacAulay hailed the affected producers and cattle industry associations for their co-operation and their “key role” in the investigation, which, he noted, has “allowed Canada to retain its bovine TB-free status with no disruption in access to international markets.”

Producers whose herds were ordered destroyed have received \$39 million in federal compensation. Income tax deferrals were also put in place allowing them to defer portions of the lump-sum compensation they received in 2016 and 2017 into the 2018, 2019 and 2020 tax years.

A Canada-Alberta program budgeted up to \$16.7 million more to cover “extraordinary quarantine costs,” MacAulay added.

Costs covered under that program included feeding and water infrastructure, feed for animals, transportation, cleaning and disinfection and “interest costs on loans due to the circumstances.

”CFIA said Monday it is still working with the provinces to ensure any risks tied to TB in wildlife are included in its investigation. That work will include “active surveillance” this year on elk in southeastern Alberta, the agency said.

According to Alberta Beef Producers, “active surveillance” of wild elk means a proportion of the elk harvested by hunters will be tested for TB regardless of whether any unusual lesions are spotted.

During the 2016-17 hunting season, ABP noted, no evidence of bovine TB was seen in any of the 1,258 elk harvested in the Suffield area of southeastern Alberta.

Furthermore, CFIA in late 2016 found the strain of *Mycobacterium bovis* in the six TB-positive cattle wasn’t the same as any strains previously detected in Canadian domestic animals, wildlife or people.

Rather, the agency said, the *M. bovis* strain was “closely related” to a strain originating from cattle in central Mexico in 1997. — *AGCanada.com Network*

Understanding the new drug regulations

Vet Advice with Dr. Ron Clarke



By **Dr. Ron Clarke**

Columnist

Published: February 1, 2018



Photo: File

New regulations governing the purchase and use of antimicrobials (antibiotics) necessitate time spent between veterinarians and producers. Everyone has an opinion. Phrases like “prudent use,” “veterinary-client-patient-relationships,” “veterinary-pharmaceutical stewardship,” “veterinary oversight,” and “documented evidence” pepper the pages of government, academic and veterinary documents issued around antimicrobial use. There is a new vocabulary to be learned, the implications of which many producers and service providers in food-animal agriculture, including veterinarians, either misconstrue or interpret incorrectly.

- **Read more: Do you have a veterinary-client-patient relationship?**

If the industry is going to be seen as doing the right thing, a common language is needed. There should be no question why antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is an issue and why agriculture needs to be part of answering questions when they use 80 per cent of the antimicrobials produced. It’s

frightening when people die following surgery or after injury because bacterial infections resist any and all treatment. Questions do remain about the degree agriculture plays versus the role played by humans and the medical community. There are burning questions about environmental interaction when antimicrobials are used indiscriminately.

There is no point in thinking that change will come slowly because significant change is around the corner even though new regulations address issues that have been on federal government dockets for nearly two decades. The learning curve will be steep. Situations and circumstances exist for which answers are still missing — things like prevention of disease in feedlots and swine operations based on proper management of the immune system, and use of vaccines versus treatment using broad-spectrum antimicrobials. These and other important questions beg resolution. Almost assuredly, quick answers to important questions err on the side of safety and may need to be rethought.

2018 will be a grace period of sorts. Veterinarians and their clients must figure out how these new regulations fit with individual operations. There is no reason not to believe that revamping how we buy, sell and use antimicrobials will involve an additional financial burden, and be construed as an operational inconvenience based on old habits. Bitterness will work its way into the system as the freedom to use drugs in treating and preventing disease becomes more restrictive than we have come to know. Veterinarians, on one hand, will be targeted with petitioning control yet remain under the gun to issue prescriptions appropriately and maintain accurate records showing that clients have been properly instructed on antibiotic use and withdrawal times. In the event mistakes are made, veterinarians will be obligated to be front and centre in engineering solutions and developing protocols to prevent potential problems in the future. The legality of how business is conducted on a day-to-day basis is about to become more acute.

Understanding all aspects of change requires consideration of individual pieces first, then fitting them together. A critical aspect of compliance with new regulations is understanding the concept of a veterinarian-client-patient-relationship. A valid veterinarian-client-patient-relationship (VCPR) must exist before a veterinarian can prescribe or dispense medication. Two additional issues in Canada need to be discussed with a veterinarian: the import and use of active pharmaceutical ingredients (AIP) and the import of drugs for use by individual producers (OUI).

The following are excerpts from documents published by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and several provincial veterinary associations.

A legitimate VCPR is considered to exist only if medical records of the practice contain sufficient evidence of relevant and timely interaction between the veterinarian, animal owner and animal patients.

Interactions include, but are not limited to: farm or home visits, clinic appointments, consultations, direct animal examinations (individual or herd/flock), laboratory reports, production record reviews, etc.

The VCPR is supported by documented evidence that the veterinarian has undertaken steps necessary to establish medical needs, and consequently prescribes and subsequently dispenses pharmaceuticals.

The VCPR is not a signed contractual agreement but rather a working connection and interaction between veterinarian, client and specific animal patient or group of animals. The VCPR is not in and of itself an entitlement to prescribe and subsequently dispense.

Each provincial and territorial veterinary statutory body has its own definition of VCPR in provincial legislation. Veterinarians with clients in more than one province need to be aware of the differences and ensure clients are aware of them.

The CVMA's Antimicrobial Prudent Use Guidelines (2008) states that a VCPR exists when the following conditions have been met:

1. The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making clinical judgments regarding the health of the animal(s) and the need for medical treatment, and the client has agreed to follow the veterinarian's instructions.
2. The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal(s). This means that the veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal(s) by virtue of an examination of the animal(s) or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal(s) are kept.
3. The veterinarian is readily available for followup evaluation, or has arranged for emergency coverage, in the event of adverse reactions or failure of the treatment regimen.

Changes to federal policies and regulations in 2016 resulted in the removal of all production claims for antimicrobials in animal feed and water. The shift led to mandatory veterinary oversight of antimicrobial use in food-producing animals.

The website on Veterinary Oversight of Antimicrobial Use produced by the CVMA and provincial associations is mandatory reading for veterinarians and their clients.

The document outlines standards of antimicrobial use covering: active pharmaceutical ingredients (AIP), own use imports (OUI), veterinary stewardship, classification of medically important antimicrobials, prescription preparation and documentation, extra-label use of antimicrobials, information related to labelling and dispensing of antimicrobials, compounding, medical records, surveillance.

Predator compensation benefits all of society

Ranchers are key to maintaining wildlife habitat but pay a price because of predator losses, which are on the rise



By **Alexis Kienlen**

Reporter

Published: February 5, 2018



Wolves account for 70 per cent of losses on Alberta ranches, says a new study. *Photo: Thinkstock*

Ranchers play a key role in conservation by keeping their lands available to wildlife, and it's important that they be compensated for those losses, says a new study

“Our paper makes a case that there are benefits... if those ranchers who have depredation programs see some compensation for wildlife to be on their private lands,” said Mark Boyce, a professor of ecology at the University of Alberta.

If there were no financial compensation, there would only be negative consequences for ranchers who maintain wildlife habitat, which attracts deer, elk and moose and, in turn, large carnivores, says a paper written by Boyce, PhD student Andrea Morehouse, and master’s student Jesse Tigner.

For the report, Morehouse investigated incident reports, reviewing nearly 4,500 claims from 2000 to 2016. Payouts to ranchers come from the Alberta Conservation Association, which has financed the compensation program partly through licences from hunters and anglers since 1996. During that period, the annual amount of the payouts increased eightfold to \$800,000 in 2016.

“The cost just keeps going up and up because of the increase of the numbers of wolves and increase in depredation, but also because the price of cattle has gone up substantially,” said Boyce.

In most provinces and in many U.S. states, compensation is provided via agricultural subsidies or government revenues.

Seventy per cent of the predation is caused by wolves because their populations have increased dramatically in the province. In the 1950s, there was a rabies outbreak in southern Alberta, and the government almost eradicated wolves through a focused kill effort. But since the 2000s, wolf populations have rebounded.

“Since 2000, almost all the potential wolf habitat was occupied in Alberta,” said Boyce.

In theory, farmers receive full market value for their losses through a rate, based on current market values, established by the provincial government. But that system doesn’t take into account what the animals would be worth. Wolves often take breeding stock while bears mostly take calves.

“If bears get into calves in the spring, the farmer had those calves that she or he was planning to raise through the growing season, using the current annual production of forage on the ranch,” said Boyce.

Ranchers also argue wolves cause shrinkage in cattle because they are more anxious and don't gain weight when large predators are around. In Montana, ranchers are compensated for shrinkage, but that's not the case in Alberta.

The hot spots for predation are the southwest corner of the province, the Pincher Creek area, the Peace Country, and aspen parkland regions.

In the case of predation, a rancher can call a fish and wildlife officer trained to evaluate predator kills. If it's a confirmed cougar, wolf, or bear kill, the rancher gets 100 per cent compensation. However, older kills may be more difficult to determine as telltale signs — such as bite marks on the necks of wolf prey — may no longer be clearly visible.

It's important for ranchers to keep on top of their kills, and the paperwork involved is not onerous, said Boyce. He also recommends the use of dogs to ward off bears and having people ride through areas where their cattle are grazing.

“Anything that allows ranchers to retain wildlife on their land is a benefit for conservation,” he said. “It's not all bad that the Alberta Conservation Association is paying the bills (but) we think an agricultural subsidy program ought to be more broadly supported.”

FORWARDED ON BEHALF OF DALE CHRAPKO

Farm Energy Agri-Processing (FEAP) Program Open

www.agriculture.alberta.ca/feap

FEAP is a combination of two discontinued GF2 programs:

- On-Farm Energy Management Program
- Accelerating Agricultural Innovation Program (Stream C)

By combining these two programs, a single program can be offered across the whole agricultural value-chain, for energy efficiency and energy management projects.

Program Description:

The Farm Energy and Agri-Processing Program shares costs with the agriculture and agri-processing sector on energy efficiency investments. The Program is designed to encourage energy management which will result in cost savings, energy conservation, and ultimately, reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

The Program offers financial support, subject to financial constraint, to Applicants who incorporate high efficiency equipment that is identified in the applicable Funding List in their construction and/or retrofitting projects.

Key Messages:

- This program is RETROACTIVE to April 2016.
 - Applicants with eligible receipts dated April 2016 and later can apply.
 - Retroactive projects are subject to current eligibility criteria.
- 50% cost share on most items. See Funding List for full details.
- \$250,000 maximum grant per Applicant per year
- Funding Timeline is from now to Feb 2020
- An EFP is NOT a prerequisite for this funding
- Applications will be processed in a first complete, first served basis.
 - Incomplete applications will not secure a spot in line.
- Once applications have been approved, producers can watch for emails from the grant management system: "Grant_Management_System@agric.gov.ab.ca" They will get notifications from this email address as their application moves through the steps.

For More Information:

Visit www.agriculture.alberta.ca/feap for:

- Application forms
- Producer Funding List
- Processor Funding List
- Program Terms and Conditions

The On-Farm Solar PV Program

The program is being discontinued under GF2. It will now be a provincial program, located on Ropin' The Web.

URL is: <http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/all/pgmsrv464>

This move is happening because the March 31 deadline of GF2 is causing concern among solar installers. Since they cannot be sure that they can complete projects before that date, they are unable to apply. This move should alleviate that concern and get applications moving again. Please communicate this to your networks and drum up some business!

For both programs I think most callers will just want to get at the forms and documents. You can direct them to the website for that.

If producers have questions that you can't answer, here's where to send them:

- All Agri-Processing Questions go to Dana Gibson: 780-980-4220
- For Producer Questions:

Forward to:	Number:	If caller is producer and Q is about:
Keri McPhee	403-329-1212, x230	Status of application
Jason Price	780-427-4181	Policy, or complaints
Outreach Officers	Vern: 403-894-0050 Ponoka, Clearwater, Lacombe, Red Deer, Starland, Kneehill, Mountainview, Bighorn, Rocky View, Wheatland, Newell, Vulcan, Foothills, Cypress, Willow Creek, Ranchland, M.D. Taber, Lethbridge, Forty Mile, Pincher Creek,	Applicant or equipment eligibility

	<p>Cardston, Warner</p> <p>Lyle: 780-581-8403 Acadia County Beaver County Bonnyville MD Camrose County Flagstaff County Minburn County Lac la Biche County Lamont County Paintearth County Provost County St. Paul County Smoky Lake County Stettler County Special Area 2 Special Area 3 Special Area 4 Two Hills County Vermilion River County Wainwright County</p> <p>Kale: 780-307-7849 All other MDs</p>	
--	--	--

Pulse School: What do India's tariffs mean for pulse markets in 2018?

India's move to impose prohibitive import tariffs on peas, lentils and chickpeas has left a cloud of uncertainty hanging over the pulse market heading into the 2018 growing season.

After back-to-back bumper crops domestically, India implemented a 50 percent tariff on pea imports in November, followed by a 30 percent tariff imposed on lentils and chickpeas in December.

Questions about India's impact on the pulse market were on the minds of CropSphere conference attendees in Saskatoon this week, as they filled a speaker room to hear Chuck Penner of LeftField Commodity Research share his pulse crop outlook.



“People, I think, are putting too much emphasis on those tariffs because prior to that prices were already heading lower and Indian demand was softer,” says Penner, in the [Pulse School](#) episode below, filmed at CropSphere.

“The tariff was really the symptom, not the cause, but the Indian government has a long history of trying to manipulate the market, and failing to do it, or causing unintended consequences. So they’re going to have that kind of a situation now,” he says.

With Canada's largest pulse crop customer off the market for the foreseeable future, Penner says he expects lentil and pea acreage in Western Canada to drop by 20-25 percent — or about a million acres for each — in 2018.

There are a couple of bullish factors that could help prices recover, including dryness in the northern part of India, which Penner says he's paying close attention to.

“At some point they will reverse (those tariffs), it's just a matter of when,” he says.

Strong Chinese demand for peas could also help pea prices recover — likely sooner than lentils, he notes.

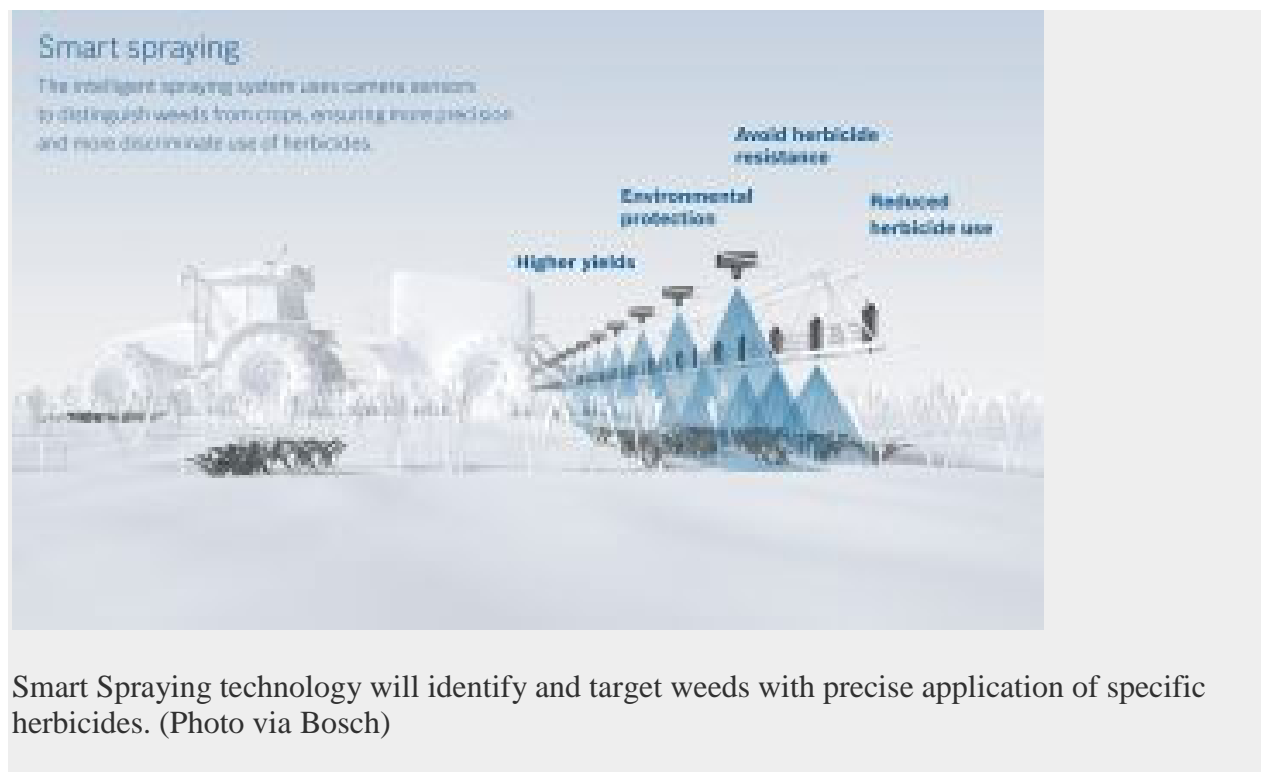
As for marketing 2017 crop that's still in the bin, Penner suggests jumping on one or two cent bounces in lentil prices with metered sales, if bids are available, and a similar approach for peas.

"Farmers have been patient so far and haven't been pushing that stuff onto the market. I think in the spring we'll see more of that, so we'll probably see a little bit of a short term dip there," he says.

TechTour: A quantum leap in weed control

Bayer and Bosch are working together on a three-year research collaboration to develop a precise spraying technology that will minimize herbicide use, while also mitigating against resistance development.

The technology, called Smart Spraying, will see camera sensors identifying weeds, and precise herbicide application targeting them on a single pass, within a fraction of a second. According to the companies, the system is projected to alternate active ingredients, and focus on herbicides with the greatest efficacy, to help prevent resistance. Weedless areas, meanwhile, would remain untouched.



Smart Spraying technology will identify and target weeds with precise application of specific herbicides. (Photo via Bosch)

“Smart Spraying provides sustainable weed control. It protects the harvest and is environmentally compatible at the same time,” says Markus Heyn, member of the management board of Robert Bosch GmbH.

“Smart Spraying constitutes a quantum leap in weed control,” says to Björn Kiepe, head of agronomy in Digital Farming at Bayer. “We are combining state-of-the-art weed detection technology with the means of applying different agents on a case-by-case basis and extremely accurately on an area of less than one meter. This will make it even easier for farmers to practice sustainable crop protection.”

Biosecurity on the radar for many crop growers

Clubroot sparks worry about outsiders — whether on ATVs or oilfield trucks — coming onto farms

By [Alex Binkley](#)

Published: February 22, 2018

[Crops](#)

[Be the first to comment](#)



Unauthorized land entry by hikers and ATV enthusiasts can spread disease and pests between farm fields. *Photo: Thinkstock*

Farm fields should be as biosecure as a big barn — and that means preventing trespassing and knowing who's on your land, says a Saskatchewan farm leader.

The spread of plant diseases — particularly clubroot — as well as weeds means farmers are paying more attention to the issue, said Norm Hall, vice-president of the Agriculture Producers Association of Saskatchewan.

“The issue has really come to a head in the last 10 years,” said Hall. “It had been lurking in the shadows out here for some time.”

The big concern is that outsiders coming into a field — whether they're hunting or working or even trespassing — could spread infected soil to another field. Hall's organization is pushing for the Saskatchewan government to toughen and enforce trespassing laws on hunters and recreational uses.

“In their current form, they’re no deterrent,” said Hall, who is also a vice-president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. “It would take a \$10,000 fine to get the public’s attention.”

Because of the spread of clubroot, growers are regularly reminded of the need to clean tillage or harvesting equipment as they switch fields and to ensure custom operators do as well. They also need to make sure pipeline and utility workers follow biosecurity practices too when they come on farmland.

Manitoba farmer Les Routledge, who is trying to raise awareness of the threat to crop health from trespassers, said he started with biosecurity for his livestock.

“As I learned more about risk management procedures, I also adopted biosecurity procedures on my cropland and forage land,” he said.

“That action really annoyed some hunters and recreational people, but the risk of spreading crop disease to my clean land was too much risk to take.”

He noted professional crop scouts disinfect their boots between fields or use disposable booties to minimize the risk of spreading crop diseases between fields.

Biosecurity “definitely is an issue” for some Alberta farmers, said Keith Gabert, an agronomist in the Canola Council of Canada’s Central Alberta South region.

“I have talked to growers who come back and say, ‘There are duck hunters in my area who come back each and every year. Some of them are coming from areas that are of higher clubroot than my area,’” said Gabert.

But bigger threat is from larger equipment travelling to oil leases or working on power lines and utility polls alongside fields, he said.

“Most talks have been with industry or with your own equipment,” he said. “We know that not every piece of equipment or vehicle has the same risk, but it just boils down to management risk and understanding what the issue could be.” — With staff files

ON-FARM SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAICS (OFSPV) PROGRAM

To be eligible for funding, a Photovoltaic system must be:

- Grid-tied, not off-grid

- Approved under Alberta's Micro-Generation Legislation

- Positioned to optimize sunshine and minimize shading

- Have manufacturer-warranties on: Solar modules, Racking, Inverters and/or Micro-inverters, and

- Installed on a Site ID that has a Distribution Rate Class of Farm, Irrigation, Grain Drying, or equivalent

Retroactive projects that have been completed AFTER APRIL 15, 2017 are eligible. See website for more details!

Ag-Info Centre: **310-FARM (3276)**
agriculture.alberta.ca/solar

2018

Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame Nomination Form

Entry Deadline: April 30, 2018

The Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame was created to recognize outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to the agriculture and food industry, and to the development and sustainability of rural life in Alberta. Agriculture and Forestry inducts up to three individuals at each awards ceremony. For further information on the program please contact colin.gosselin@gov.ab.ca or 780-968-3518 (dial 310-0000 for a toll-free connection).

Who is eligible?

Individuals who have demonstrated leadership in farm, rural or commodity organizations, or in the food industry, are eligible candidates for the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame. Leadership must have been demonstrated over many years at the provincial level, and the candidate must have made a significant province wide impact on the industry as a whole. Candidates may be nominated posthumously. For a listing of past inductees visit: [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/info1957?opendocument#2](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/info1957?opendocument#2)

Who can nominate an individual to the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame?

The candidate must be nominated by three individuals other than members of the candidate's immediate family. The nomination form must be signed by all three nominators. Nominators may submit the nomination on behalf of an organization or independently as an individual.

Note that the information provided in the nomination form must stand on its own, and is the primary document used for evaluating candidates. In addition to the completed nomination form, three letters of recommendation should be provided (letters should not exceed two pages each). Additional information is not required or encouraged.

Who sits on the Selection Panel?

The Selection Panel is appointed by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, and is comprised of a cross section of individuals representing Alberta's agriculture industry.

Send nominations to:

Electronic submissions are preferred and can be emailed to:

susan.lacombe@gov.ab.ca

Paper submissions are acceptable and can be mailed to:

Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame
Provincial Building
#106, 4709 - 44 Avenue
Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1N4

Please do not put the nomination in a binder if mailing your submission.

Forms can be obtained from:

www.agriculture.alberta.ca/halloffame

Deadline:

April 30, 2018

Part A: The Candidate

Candidate's full name:
Home Address: (including town or city, and postal code)
Phone Number and Email Address: ()

Nominated by:

We, who have signed below, nominate this candidate to be considered for admission to the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame. We certify that the information provided is true to the best of our knowledge.

Nominator 1

Name
Phone number ()
Email
Signature
If nomination is made on behalf of an organization, provide your title and organization name.

Nominator 3

Name
Phone number ()
Email
Signature
If nomination is made on behalf of an organization, provide your title and organization name.

Nominator 2

Name
Phone number ()
Email
Signature
If nomination is made on behalf of an organization, provide your title and organization name.

If we need further information about the candidate, we should contact:

Name	Phone Number ()
Email	

The personal information collected will only be used to administer the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame Award program. It is collected under the authority of and is subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you have any questions, please contact the program coordinator at 780-968-3518, colin.gosselin@gov.ab.ca, or #106, 4709 - 44 Avenue, Stony Plain, AB, T7Z 1N4.

Part B:
Personal Information

Candidate's full name:
Place of birth:
If deceased, please provide year:
Spouse's name:
Names of immediate family members:
Education:

Biographical Sketch: Please provide a brief biographical sketch of the candidate providing an overview of their life and career directly below (introduce your candidate to the Selection Panel; limit to half a page):

Part C: Leadership in Community and Business Organizations (one – two pages)

C1. Local or Regional Organizations			
Organization	Year(s)	Position(s)	Candidate's unique contribution

C2. Provincial Organizations			
Organization	Year(s)	Position(s)	Candidate's unique contribution

C3. National or International Organizations			
Organization	Year(s)	Position(s)	Candidate's unique contribution

Part D:

Achievements (limit to two pages)

D1. How did the candidate's initiative and leadership lead to significant developments within an organization or in agricultural practices?

D2. What lasting, industry wide impacts or outcomes did these achievements have in Alberta?

D3. Why is the candidate's contribution unique? What was their specific part?

D4. What other awards or recognition has the candidate received?

D5. How has the candidate volunteered time and talent to his or her broader community?

Part E: Please include three letters of recommendation (two page maximum per letter).