



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW No. 16

REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday October 30, 2019

9:30 AM

Council Chambers
Administration Building

#1	CALL TO ORDER		
#2	ADOPTION OF AGENDA		1
#3	MINUTES	3.1 Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting minutes held Monday September 25, 2019 to be adopted.	3
		3.2 Business Arising from the Minutes	-
#4	DELEGATION		
#5	BUSINESS	5.1 Peace Country Beef Congress – Grant Request	6
		5.2 Alberta Goat Association Conference – Sponsorship Request	29
		5.3 Agriculture Services Draft Operating Budget 2020-2022	34
#6	MEMBERS REPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman – Al Perkins • Vice Chair – Warren Wohlgemuth • Reeve – Dale Smith • Councillor – Bill Smith • Member – Larry Smith • Member – Stephen Lewis • Member – Richard Brochu 	42
#7	CORRESPONDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crop Conditions – September 23, 2019 • Crop Conditions – October 4, 2019 • Crop Conditions – October 8, 2019 • Crop Conditions – October 15, 2019 • Weed Alert 2019 	-

- Clubroot Sniffer Dogs
- Elm Pruning Ban in Alberta
- Moisture Situation – October 1, 2019
- Prairie Creek Energy Services
- ASB Grant Program Review
- 2019 Regional ASB Conference Agenda
- Report Card on the Resolutions
- 2020 ASB Resolution – Canadian Product
- 2020 ASB Resolution – Beehive Depredation
- Emergency Livestock Removal – Final
- Grain Storage Considerations Report
- Grain Storage Education 2019
- Grazing Lease Resolutions
- Regional ASB Resolutions Rules of Procedures
- AG Safe Workshop
- CAP ES & CC Program Information Sessions for Extension Staff
- Clubroot Maps
- Environmental Stewardship News
- Fall Soil Health Workshop
- New ASB Website
- Rural Municipalities Tax Shortfall
- Grant Writing Workshop
- Pest Insider – September
- Alberta Farm Animal Care Newsletter
- Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Network Newsletter
- Livestock Welfare Insights – October 2019
- Forage Facts – October
- SARDA Back Forty – October 2019

#8 CLOSED SESSION

#9 ADJOURNMENT

**Minutes of a
REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16
M.D. Administration Building
Valleyview, Alberta on Wednesday, September 25, 2019**

**#1
CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Allen Perkins called the meeting to order at 9.30 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 - Reeve	Dale 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
Agriculture Supervisor Trainee	Kristin King
Wetlands Coordinator	Kendra Kozdroski
Recording Secretary	Jacki Crocker

ABSENT

A.S.B. Member	Larry Smith
---------------	-------------

**#2
AGENDA**

MOTION: 19.09.30 Moved by: Warren Wohlgemuth
That the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

**#3.1 REGULAR ASB
MEETING**

MOTION: 19.09.31 Moved by: Bill Smith
That the minutes of the July 30, 2019 Regular Agricultural Service Board
Meeting to be adopted

CARRIED

**#3.2
BUSINESS ARISING
FROM MINUTES**

3.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

**#4.0
DELEGATIONS**

**4.1 REQUEST FOR DECISION – PCBFA (Peace Country Beef and Forage
Association) Presentation**

MOTION: 19.09.32 Moved by: Dale Smith
That the Agriculture Service Board accept the presentation from PCBFA as
information.

CARRIED

#5
OLD BUSINESS

5.1 OLD BUSINESS – No old business was discussed

#6
NEW BUSINESS

6.1 REQUEST FOR DECISION- 2019 Peace Regional ASB Conference

MOTION: 19.09.33 Moved by: Dale Smith
That the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) accept the 2019 Peace Regional ASB Conference registration sheet as information.

CARRIED

#7 STAFF REPORT & ASB
MEMBERS BUSINESS &
REPORTS

7.1 REQUEST FOR DECISION- Manager’s Report and ASB Member’s Report

Motion: 19.09. 34 Moved By: Stephen Lewis
That the Agricultural Service Board accept the Manager’s report and the ASB members reports as information.

CARRIED

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

- **Nothing to report**

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

- **Has not attended any recent meetings.**

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

- **Nothing to report**

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

- **Rainy season**

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

- **Nothing to report**

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

- **Attended field day in Fairview**

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

- **Nothing to report**

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

MOTION: 19.09.34 Moved by: Stephen Lewis
That the Agricultural Service Board accept the Manager’s report and ASB members reports as information.

CARRIED

MOTION: 19.09.35 Moved by: Warren Wohlgemuth
That The Agricultural Service Board requests administration to contact Fish and Wildlife to attend a meeting as delegation.

CARRIED

**#8
CORRESPONDENCE**

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

**CORRESPONDENCE
LISTING**

MOTION: 19.09.36 Moved by: Richard Brochu
That the Agricultural Service Board accept the correspondence as presented.

CARRIED

**#9
IN CAMERA**

9.0 IN CAMERA – No in camera items

**#10
ADJOURNMENT**

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: 19.09.37 Moved by: Bill Smith
That the Agricultural Service Board Meeting adjourn at 12:27 p.m.

CARRIED

Agricultural Service Board Chair

Manager, Agricultural Services



REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT:	Peace Country Beef Congress Grant	REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION	
SUBMISSION TO:	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD	CAO:	MANAGER: QFB
MEETING DATE:	October 30, 2019	GM:	PRESENTER: QFB
DEPARTMENT:	AGRICULTURE		
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 approve a grant in the amount of \$5000 to support the 21st Annual Peace Country Beef Congress, with funds to come from the 2019 Agricultural Operational Budget.

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The 21st Annual Peace Country Beef Congress (PCBC) will be held January 10-11, 2020 in Dawson Creek. The PCBC has sent Greenview a Sponsorship and Trade Booth Information Package requesting sponsorship. The PCBC is one of the major agricultural events for the Peace Region and is held annually revolving from Dawson Creek, High Prairie and Grande Prairie. This event has been well attended by local producers and other interested parties since its inception in 1998.

Sponsorship amounts suggested are as follows: Platinum Sponsor \$ 7,500.00, Gold Sponsor \$ 5,000.00, Silver Sponsor \$ 2,500.00, Bronze Sponsor \$ 750.00 or Supporting Sponsor any value under \$ 750.00.

BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. This is a major Agricultural event for the Peace Region and is an opportunity for Greenview to show support for the event.

DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. There are no perceived disadvantages to the recommended motion.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative #1: Agriculture Service Board has the alternative to not sponsor the Peace Country Beef Congress, even though Greenview has a history of providing sponsorship.

Alternative #2: Agriculture Service Board has the alternative to alter the requested amount to sponsor the Peace Country Beef Congress.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

Funding of \$5,000 is to come from the 2019 Agriculture Services Operating Budget

Direct Costs: \$5000.00

Ongoing / Future Costs: N/A

STAFFING IMPLICATION:

There are no staffing implications to the recommended motion.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT LEVEL:

Greenview has adopted the IAP2 Framework for public consultation.

Using that framework outline the proposed level of public engagement associated with the recommended action.

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:

A letter will be sent out to the applicant indicating the status of the funding request.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Greenview Community Services Grant Application
- PCBC Sponsorship and Trade Booth Information Package
- PCBC Books

- PCBC Sponsorship and Trade Booth Information commitment form



GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Overview

Grant requests directed to the MD of Greenview must meet a number of criteria in order to be successful. Each application must contain all required information, include all applicable supporting documentation and be submitted on or prior to specified deadline.

The MD is committed to supporting sustainable activities that positively impact the ratepayers of the MD, and is faced with allocating a limited amount of resources among an ever growing list of applicants. This process is intended to help make the best use of limited funds.

You are **ineligible** to receive a grant if any of the following conditions exist:

- 1) You are not a registered charity or a registered not for profit society in active status.
- 2) The grant application is not complete.
- 3) A current financial statement is not included.
- 4) A detailed budget for the grant expenditure is not included.
- 5) A final report remains outstanding from a previous grant application.

Name of Organization

Full legal name of the organization as registered under Corporate Registries or the Societies Act. Organizations not registered or currently listed as inactive are ineligible for grants.

Mailing Address of Organization

This should include full address and postal code.

Contact Name(s)

First and last name of contact(s).

Contact Telephone Number(s)

Please include a phone with message capabilities, cell phone or work number if possible since most calls from the MD will come during the day.

Position Held

The person making the application should normally be a member of the executive of the organization or be specially appointed by way of motion.

Purpose of the Organization

Outline in a few sentences the purpose of the organization, including how long it has been in operation and its overall objective(s). Include an overall budget for the next year of operations.

Purpose of the Application

Outline in a few sentences what these specific funds would be used for and attach a detailed budget for the proposal. The outline should include the estimated number of participants/users impacted, other social or economic impacts of the application, cooperation with or funding from other groups and the impact on the organization/users if the grant is denied.

Past Financial Statements

Provide an approved copy of your most recent financial statements. Approval can be via signatures of two board members or as prepared by an accountant, based on your organizations legislated requirements.

Funding Sources that Denied this Application

List other funding sources applied to that denied this application.

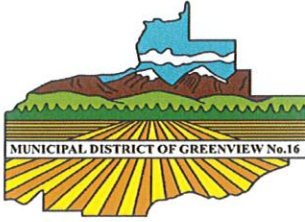
Previous Grant and Reporting History (if applicable)

List the last two grants received from the MD, including purpose and amount. Please note that starting with the October 2010 application process, final reports **MUST** be filed with the MD within 90 days of completion of the grant expenditure. Failure to provide a final report will result in rejection of all future applications until applicable report(s) are filed.

Final Report Content

Within 90 days of the completion of the grant expenditure, a report must be filed with the MD verifying expenditure of the grant. This report should include:

- 1) Name of Organization
- 2) A summary of actual expenditures of grant funds compared to submitted budget
- 3) A short written description of activities, number of participants, successes etc.
- 4) Signatures of two members of the organization's executive



Municipal District of Greenview

Grant Application Checklist

- 1) Have all final reports from previous grant applications been filed?
- 2) Has the application been fully completed and signed?
- 3) Have you attached an overall budget for your organization for the next year?
- 4) Have you attached a detailed budget for the grant application?
- 5) Have you attached your approved financial statements for the last year available?
- 6) Have you attached other supporting documentation if applicable?
- 7) Is everything you provided clearly written and easy to understand?



Municipal District of Greenview #16
Box 1079 Valleyview, AB T0H 3N0
Phone: (780) 524-7600 Fax: (780) 524-4307

GRANT APPLICATION

Organization Information:

Name of Organization: Peace Country Beef Promotional Society

Address of Organization: #20 -1405-102nd Ave, Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 2E1

Contact Name and Phone Number: Liz Gustafson 780-264-2656

Position of Contact Person: Congress Coordinator

Purpose of organization:

The purpose of the Peace Country Beef Promotional Society is to promote the beef cattle industry within the Peace Region. The Peace Country Beef Congress is the main method used to promote youth involvement through a 4-H and junior program that includes clinics and a show, as well as the cattle show and trade show where we bring beef producers and local agribusiness together.

What act are you registered under? Corporate Registration No. 508485091

Grant Information:

Total Amount Requested \$5,000
Operating Capital

Proposed Project: The requested funds will aid with the organization and operation of the upcoming Peace Country Beef Congress. We are returning to the Encana Centre and Lakota Agriplex on January 10th & 11, 2020. The cattle show will bring together commercial and purebred producers allowing them to network and view potential local stock cattle s We are extending our 4-H/youth program to be a full day this year in order to provide
to the beef cattle industry.

Operating costs are the costs of day-to-day operations.

Capital costs are costs more than \$2,500, which is not consumed in one year and/or those costs, which add value to property owned and operated by the organization.

FORM A **must** be filled out with **all** grant applications. Fill out FORM B for any capital requests.



Municipal District of Greenview #16
Box 1079 Valleyview, AB T0H 3N0
Phone: (780) 524-7600 Fax: (780) 524-4307

Additional Information:

Have you previously applied for grant from the M. D. of Greenview?

Yes No

List the last two grants your organization has received from the M.D. of Greenview

1. Amount \$ 5000 Year 2019

Purpose: For the operating costs of the 2019 Peace Country Beef Congress.

2. Amount \$ 5000 Year 2018

Purpose: For the operating costs of the 2018 Peace Country Beef Congress.

Have you provided the M.D. of Greenview with a final completion report for grant funds received?

Yes No

If no, why has the report not been filed?

Have you applied for grant funds from sources **other** than the M.D. of Greenview?

Yes No

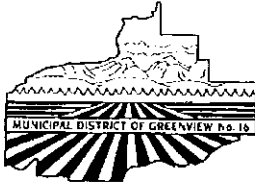
Have you received grant funds from sources **other** than the M.D. of Greenview?

If yes; who, purpose and amount?

We have not received confirmation yet but we typically receive grant funding from other sources such as local businesses (e.g. UFA and Dawson Creek Co-op) as well as other municipalities (e.g. City of Dawson Creek and Saddle Hills County)

Have you performed any **other** fund raising projects? If yes; what and how much was raised?

Proceeds from the trade show and a small portion of the show entry fees are used to supplement the sponsorship and grant funds.



Municipal District of Greenview #16
Box 1079 Valleyview, AB T0H 3N0
Phone: (780) 524-7600 Fax: (780) 524-4307

By signing this application, I/we concur with the following statements:

- The organization applying for the grants is registered with Corporate Registries or under the Societies Act;
- The grant application is complete and includes all supporting documentation, including most recent financial statement (based on legislative requirements of our organization), balance sheet, current bank balances and current year detailed operating budget or completed Form "A".
- The grant shall be used for only those purposes for which the application was made;
- If the original grant application or purposes for which the grant requested have been varied by the M.D. of Greenview Council, the grant will be used for those varied purposes only;
- The organization will provide a written report to the M.D. of Greenview within 90 days of completion of the grant expenditure providing details of expenses, success of project and significance to the ratepayers of the municipality; failure to provide such a report will result in no further grant funding being considered until the final report is filed and grant expenditure verified;
- The organization agrees to submit to an evaluation of the project related to the grant, and;
- The organization will return any unused portion of the grant funds to the Municipal District of Greenview #16 or to request approval from the Municipality to use the funds for an optional project.

Applicant Information:

Name: Elizabeth Gustafson

Signature: _____

Address: 76221 RR 60 SHC, AB T0H 3V0

Telephone Number: 780-264-2656

Date: Oct. 13, 2019



Municipal District of Greenview #16
 Box 1079 Valleyview, AB T0H 3N0
 Phone: (780) 524-7600 Fax: (780) 524-4307

APPLICATION FOR GRANT
 FORM A - OPERATING

REVENUE		Previous Year Actual 20 16	Current Year Estimates 20 26	Next Year Proposal 20 27
1.	Fees			
2.	Memberships	860	900	1000
3.	Other income (please list)			
	Entry Fees	13729.25	14000	15000
	Trade Show Booths	10920	10000	10000
	Banquet	500	500	500
4.	Grants (please list)			
	Sponsorships	43500	45000	50000
5.	Donations (please list)			
6.	Interest Earned	102.08	102.08	102.08
7.	Miscellaneous Income			
	TOTAL REVENUE (add up items 1-7)	69,611.33	65,400	76,500
EXPENSES				
8.	Honourariums/Wages/Benefits	8000	8000	8000
9.	Travel Expenses	345.29	360.00	370.00
10.	Professional Development			
11.	Conferences	21143.08	15000	15000
12.	Cleaning & Maintenance	2500	2500	1500
13.	Licensing Fees	50	50	50
14.	Office Supplies	382.56	325	350
15.	Utilities (phone, power, etc.)			
16.	Rent	8650	5000	7500
17.	Bank/Accounting Charges	30.80	30.80	30.80
18.	Advertising	9562.36	5000	7500
19.	Miscellaneous	7658.32	8000	2100
20.	Capital Purchases (please list)			
	TOTAL EXPENSES (add up lines 8-20)	58322.41	44265.80	34400.80
	NET BALANCE (subtract Total Expenses from Total Revenue)	11288.92	21134.20	26199.20

Cash on Hand	\$ 0	Operating Loans	\$ 0
Current Account Balance	\$ 7421.36	Other Loans	\$ 0
Savings Account Balance	\$ 0	Accounts Payable	\$
Accounts Receivable	\$ 0		
Inventory to Dec 31, 20__	\$ 0		
Buildings	\$ 0		
Furniture/Fixtures	\$ 0		
Land	\$ 0		
Equipment	\$ 0		

*Please submit your organization's most recent financial statement (based on your organizations legislated requirements) with the grant application.



Peace Country Beef Congress

Dawson Creek, BC
January 11th & 12th, 2019
LAKOTA AGRIPLEX

Trade Show

We will have outdoor space for your large equipment and indoor booths that will allow the exhibitors to interact.

5' x 5'	\$105
10' 10'	\$472.50
10' x 20'	\$787.50
10' x 30'	\$1155.00
Outside Space	\$262.50

Sponsorship Deadline is November 30, 2019

Please mail Sponsorship & Trade Booth Commitments to:

Peace Country Beef Congress

#20, 1405-102 Ave, Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 2E1

Or email to pcbeefcongress@gmail.com

Or online at www.pcbeefcongress.ca

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

LAKOTA AGRIPLEX, DAWSON CREEK | www.pcbeefcongress.ca



Peace Country Beef Congress

Dawson Creek, BC
January 10 & 11, 2020
LAKOTA AGRIPLEX

Sponsorship & Trade Booth Information

Connect with us!

facebook.com/peacecountrybeefcongress [@PCBeefCongress](https://twitter.com/PCBeefCongress)

www.pcbeefcongress.ca



Peace Country Beef Congress

Dear Potential Sponsor,

The Peace Country Beef Congress Board and organizers are pleased to officially invite you to be a part of the 22st Annual Peace Country Beef Congress, the premier event of the Peace Country beef industry.

The Peace Country Beef Promotional Society has been organizing the very successful Peace Country Beef Congress since 1998. This is our 21st year and we are excited to make it more exciting and with more cattle than ever before. The Peace Country Beef Congress Board of Directors invites all local agriculture industry and producers to be part of the 2020 show. The cattle industry is an economic pillar across the north and the Peace Country Beef Congress is a cornerstone event bringing industry members together to showcase livestock and products available to Peace Country producers. The committee strives to bring together all facets of the agriculture industry to put on a show and event that meets the marketing needs of beef producers and local agribusiness.

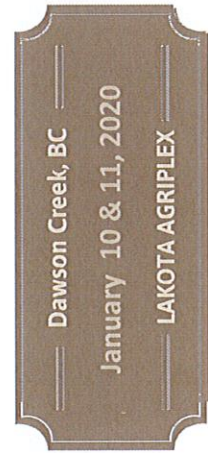
Please find the Sponsorship and Trade Show package for the 22st Annual Peace Country Beef Congress enclosed. We are happy to be returning to the Lakota Agriplex in Dawson Creek, BC on January 10th & 11th, 2020. The sponsorship package is flexible and we are committed to ensuring that our Sponsors and Exhibitors are able to take part in this high value event in the way that best suits their needs.

After reviewing the Sponsorship and Trade Show package, please respond with your commitment online (www.pcbeefcongress.ca), by email (pcbeefcongress@gmail.com) or by mail (#20, 1405-102 Ave, Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 2E1). If you have any questions please contact the event coordinator, Liz Gustafson, at pcbeefcongress@gmail.com or 780-264-2656.

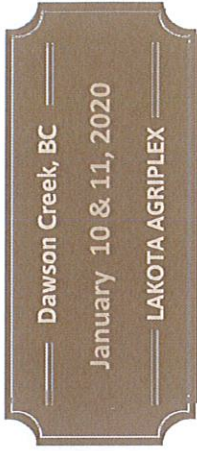
We look forward to working with you to help create the 2020 Peace Country Beef Congress!

Sincerely,

The 2020 Peace Country Beef Congress Board of Directors



Peace Country Beef Congress



Supporting Sponsor

< \$750

We welcome any and all sponsorship opportunities. Please let us know what you would like to contribute and we will apply you sponsorship to a specific aspect of the show, such as:

- Facility Rental
- Shavings for stalls
- Master of Ceremonies
- Gift in Kind
- Silent Auction Items

Signage is welcome with any sponsorship and sponsors will be recognized at the show.

Sponsorship Deadline is November 30, 2019
Sponsorships will be accepted after this date, but some advertising deadlines may be past.

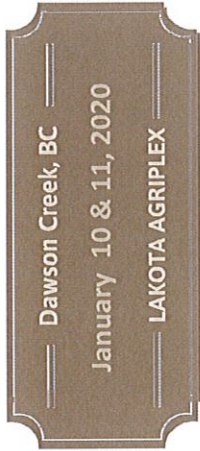
Please mail Sponsorship & Trade Boothe Commitments to:

Peace Country Beef Congress

#20, 1405-102 Ave, Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 2E1

Or email to pcbeefcongress@gmail.com

Or enter online at www.pcbeefcongress.ca



Bronze Sponsor

\$750

Media

Acknowledgement as a Bronze Sponsor in all newspaper, radio, print and web advertisements
Recognition as a Bronze Sponsor on PCBC website and social media

Program

Acknowledgement as a Bronze Sponsor on all posters, prize lists and in the event brochure

Signage

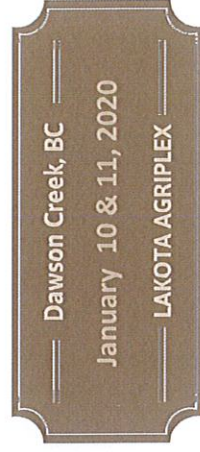
Signage in winner's circle photos (approx. 3' x 6' and provided by you)
Sponsor Class or Banquet
Representative invited to present championship prizes in the classes sponsored and appear in championship photos in the show ring

Announcements

Announced as Bronze Sponsor in the show ring during the event, highlighted during sponsored class

Banquet Ticket

2 tickets to the Banquet



Platinum Sponsor

\$7,500

Media

Acknowledgement as a Platinum Sponsor in all newspaper, radio, print and web advertisements
Recognition as a Platinum Sponsor on PCBC website and social media

Program

Acknowledgement as a Platinum Sponsor on all posters, prize lists and in the event brochure

Signage

Signage in all winner's circle photos (approx. 3' x 6' and provided by you)
Choice of class to sponsor or banquet sponsor
Representative invited to present championship prizes in the classes sponsored and appear in championship photos in the show ring

Announcements

Announced as Platinum Sponsor in the show ring during the event, highlighted during sponsored class

Banquet Tickets

Up to 15 tickets to the Banquet (exact number as requested prior to event).



Gold Sponsor **\$5,000**

Media

Acknowledgement as a Gold Sponsor in all newspaper, radio, print and web advertisements
Recognition as a Gold Sponsor on PCBC website and social media

Program

Acknowledgment as a Gold Sponsor on all posters, prize lists and in the event brochure

Signage

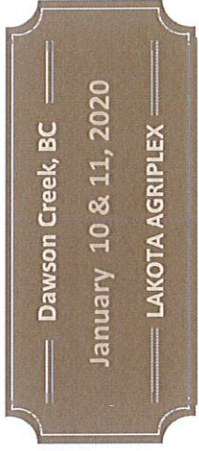
Signage in winner's circle photos (approx. 3' x 6' and provided by you)
Sponsor Class or Banquet
Representative invited to present championship prizes in the classes sponsored and appear in championship photos in the show ring

Announcements

Announced as Gold Sponsor in the show ring during the event, highlighted during sponsored class

Banquet Ticket

Up to 10 tickets to the Banquet (exact number as requested prior to event)



Silver Sponsor **\$2,500**

Media

Acknowledgement as a Silver Sponsor in all newspaper, radio, print and web advertisements
Recognition as a Silver Sponsor on PCBC website and social media

Program

Acknowledgment as a Silver Sponsor on all posters, prize lists and in the event brochure

Signage

Signage in winner's circle photos (approx. 3' x 6' and provided by you)
Sponsor Class or Banquet
Representative invited to present championship prizes in the classes sponsored and appear in championship photos in the show ring

Announcements

Announced as Silver Sponsor in the show ring during the event, highlighted during sponsored class

Banquet Ticket

Up to 5 tickets to the Banquet (exact number as requested prior to event)

PEACE REGION BEEF PROMOTIONAL SOCIETY.

**Financial Statements (unaudited)
For the Period Ending March 31, 2018
And Notice to Reader**

CONTENTS

Notice to Reader	1
Balance Sheet	2 & 3
Statement of Income & Expenses	4 & 5

**PEACE REGION BEEF PROMOTIONAL SOCIETY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31,2018

NOTICE TO READER

We have compiled the Balance Sheet and Statement of Income and Expenses for Peace Region Beef Promotional Society period April 1 to March 31, 2018 from the information and documentation provided by management. I have not audited, reviewed or otherwise attempted to verify the accuracy or completeness of such information.

**LISA KRANTZ
DAWSON CREEK, BC**

PEACE REGION BEEF PROMOTIONAL SOCIETY.
BALANCE SHEET
March 31, 2018
(unaudited – see Notice to Reader)

ASSETS

Current Assets

Savings Bank Account	0.00	
Chequing Bank Account	<u>13,976.20</u>	
Total Cash		<u>13,976.20</u>
Investments		13,976.20
Accounts Receivable	0.00	
Advances & Loans	<u>0.00</u>	
Total Receivable		<u>0.00</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>13,976.20</u>

Capital Assets

Leashold Improvements		0.00
Office furniture & Equipment	8,544.00	
Accum. Amort. –furn. & Equip.	<u>-1,709.00</u>	
Net – Furniture & Equipment		6,835.00
Vehicle	0.00	
Accum. Amort. –Vehicle	<u>0.00</u>	
Net – vehicle		0.00
Building	0.00	
Accum. Amort. –Building	<u>0.00</u>	
Net Building		0.00
Land		<u>0.00</u>
Total Capital Assets		<u>6,835.00</u>

TOTAL ASSETS **20,811.20**

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable		0.00
Bank Loan – Current Portion		0.00
Bank Advances		0.00
Corporate Taxes Payable		0.00
Vacation Payable		0.00
EI Payable	0.00	
CPP Payable	0.00	
Federal Income Tax Payable	<u>0.00</u>	
Total Receiver General		0.00

WCB Payable		0.00
PST Payable		0.00
GST/HST Charged On Sales	3,643.12	
GST/HST Paid On Purchases	-6,753.30	
GST/HST Adjustment	0.00	
ITC Adjustment	<u>0.00</u>	
GST/HST Owing (refund)		<u>-3,110.18</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>-3,110.18</u>

Long Term Liabilities		
Bank Loans		0.00
Mortgage Payable		0.00
Loans From Shareholders		<u>0.00</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities		<u>0.00</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES **-3,110.18**

EQUITY

Share Capital

Common Shares		0.00
Preferred Shares		<u>0.00</u>
Total Share Capital		<u>0.00</u>

Retained Earnings

Retained Earnings – Previous Year		37,308.68
Current Earnings		<u>-13,387.30</u>
Total Retained Earnings		<u>23,921.38</u>

TOTAL EQUITY **23,921.38**

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY **20,811.20**

**PEACE REGION BEEF PROMOTIONAL SOCIETY.
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31,2017
(unaudited – see Notice to Reader)**

REVENUE

Sales Revenue

Banquet Ticket Sales	449.37
Entry Fees	10,487.45
Membership	0.00
Sponsorship	38,500.00
Trade Booth	9,528.75
Stall Fees	0.00
Interest Income	102.08
Total Other Revenue	<u>59,067.65</u>

TOTAL REVENUE

59,067.65

EXPENSES

General & Administrative Expe...

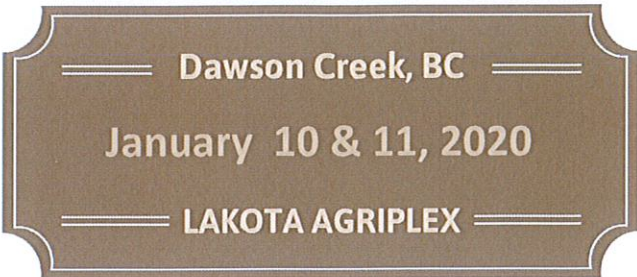
Accounting & Legal	3,754.76
Advertising & Promotion	10,266.53
Amortization Expense	0.00
Banquet Expense	997.07
Business Fees & Licenses	0.00
Coordinator Expense	8,000.00
Congress Expense	29,870.04
Coordinator Mileage	1,010.00
Fuel	0.00
Judges & Speaker Expense	2,112.14
Insurance	1,125.00
Interest & Bank Charges	0.00
Office Supplies	336.64
Prizes	10,038.08
Prize-Payout	4,323.00
R&M – Equip & Auto	0.00
Rent	0.00
Small Tools	0.00
Security	300.00
Telephone	0.00
Travel & Entertainment	321.69
Provisions for Corp Tax	0.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>72,454.95</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES

72,545.95

NET INCOME

-13,387.30



Sponsorship & Trade Booth Commitment

Company Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Town: _____ Province: _____

Postal Codes: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Contact Name: _____

I/We would like to support the 2020 Peace Country Beef Congress

- Platinum Sponsor \$7,500 Gold Sponsor \$5,000
 Silver Sponsor \$2,500 Bronze Sponsor \$750
 Supporting sponsor <\$750 (please note contribution) _____

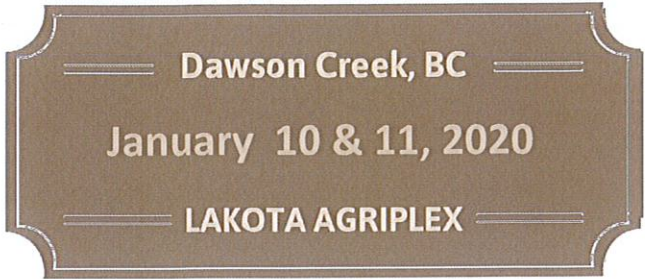
I/We will be attending the trade fair and require booth space

- 10' x 10' Booth \$472.50 10' x 20' Booth \$787.50
 10' x 30' Booth \$1155.00 Outside Space \$262.50
 5' x 5' Home Business \$105

Sponsorship Deadline is November 30, 2019

Please mail Sponsorship & Trade Booth Commitments to:

Liz Gustafson, Congress Coordinator
#20, 1405-102 Ave, Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 2E1
Or email to pcbeefcongress@gmail.com
Or online at www.pcbeefcongress.ca



I/We wish to use my sponsorship commitment to Sponsor the following Class or Event: (Please indicate top 3 choices)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cattlemen's Choice | <input type="checkbox"/> UFA Youth/4-H Show |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sr Pen of 3 Commercial Heifers | <input type="checkbox"/> Jr Pen of 3 Commercial Heifers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Purebred Heifer Pen | <input type="checkbox"/> Purebred Pen of Three Bulls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open Heifer Class | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Steer Class |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banquet | <input type="checkbox"/> Judges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop Speaker | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment |

Sponsorship Deadline is November 30, 2019

Please mail Sponsorship & Trade Booth Commitments to:

Liz Gustafson, Congress Coordinator

#20, 1405-102 Ave, Dawson Creek, BC, V1G 2E1

Or email to pcbeefcongress@gmail.com

Or online at www.pcbeefcongress.ca

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT: **Alberta Goat Association Conference Sponsorship**
SUBMISSION TO: AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION
MEETING DATE: December 12, 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 approve a Gold Sponsorship in the amount of \$500 to support the “Eighth Annual AGA (AB Goat Association) 2019 Conference”, with funds to come from the 2019 Agriculture Department Operational Budget.

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The “Eighth Annual AGA (AB Goat Association) 2019 Conference” will be held November 8-10, 2019 in Edmonton, AB. The AGA (AB Goat Association) has sent Greenview a package requesting sponsorship. The AGA is a membership-driven non-profit organization representing the interests of AB Goat Producers. Sponsorship amounts suggested are as follows: Platinum Sponsor \$ 1,000.00+, Gold Sponsor \$ 500.00-999.00, Silver Sponsor \$ 201.00-499.00, Bronze Sponsor \$ 100.00-200.00. Sponsor will be recognized during the event, in the various forms of media utilized.

BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. This is a major Agricultural event for the AGA and is an opportunity for Greenview to show support for the event.

DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. There are no perceived disadvantages to the recommended motion.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative #1: Agriculture Service Board has the alternative to not sponsor the AB Goat Association.

Alternative #2: Agriculture Service Board has the alternative to alter the requested amount to sponsor the AGA.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

Funding of \$500 is to come from the 2019 Agriculture Services Operating Budget

Direct Costs: \$500.00

Ongoing / Future Costs: N/A

STAFFING IMPLICATION:

There are no staffing implications to the recommended motion.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT LEVEL:

Greenview has adopted the IAP2 Framework for public consultation.

Using that framework outline the proposed level of public engagement associated with the recommended action.

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:

A letter will be sent out to the applicant indicating the status of the funding request.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Sponsorship package from AB Goat Association (AGA)



Contact: Sponsorship Coordinator, Mallory (780) 864-5126
Box 26, RR1, Site 2, Spirit River AB, T0H3G0
E-mail: abgoatbreeders@gmail.com
Website: www.albertagoats.com

Greetings!

The Alberta Goat Association (AGA) is hosting the Eighth Annual AGA Convention on November 8th, 9th and 10th, 2019 during FarmFair International in Edmonton, Alberta, at Northlands Park!! We are extremely excited about this incredible partnership with Northlands Park who has been equally eager to support the AGA in our goal of promoting the Alberta goat industry and our members to the Alberta agriculture industry along with the public at large.

Our Convention is the industry's most important event. Producers from all parts of Alberta gather to listen and learn about developments in the industry, to network and to plan the future direction for AGA. North/Central Alberta supports a large agricultural region with a diverse goat population while being centrally located with easy access from all other regions of the province for all producers to be able to benefit from this unique educational opportunity.

The Alberta Goat Industry is on the leading edge of Alberta's Diversified Livestock industry. Alberta Goat producers are consistently producing some of the best breeding stock in North America and our industry is growing at an exponential rate. Goat meat and dairy is in high demand around the world as well as locally as consumers demand more "local" grown food, our fibre is increasingly prized as well. An important part of the industry is supplying quality healthy meat animals to the discerning Muslim and Ethnic communities which, today, make up a large segment of Alberta's population.

The goat industry is experiencing huge growth, with demand for our products growing tremendously over the last five years. We are very happy to offer you this opportunity to meet our producers and communicate your services to them. Your donations and sponsorships help make our convention fun, enjoyable and productive.

Attached is a list of items you may choose to sponsor such as coffee breaks, lunches, door prizes, and speakers. Please take a couple of minutes to review the list, we hope you find an item that catches your eye and fits your budget. Every sponsor is promoted in the convention package, signage at the convention as well as on the power point running throughout the convention, on our Facebook page, the monthly industry newsletter, and year round on our website www.albertagoats.com. You will gain the opportunity to reach a growing sector of the agricultural society and promote your goods and services to a target audience. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

On behalf of The AGA Convention Committee

Friday, November 8, 2019

4:00 to 6:00 pm – Registration – Room 105

6:00 to 6:15 pm- Welcome address

Friday social with wine and goat cheese

An alternative evening would include convention attendees going to *The Heritage Ranch Rodeo* if there is enough interest. In this case the speakers would start at 5:00 pm, and end no later than 6:15 pm.

Saturday, November 9, 2019

8:00-8:45 am - Registration

8:45-9:00 am – Welcome from AGA Chair

9:00-10:00 am -Kathy Collier Bates- How to Access Reliable Information and Research About Goat Health Online.

10:00-10:30 am - Break

10:30-12:00 pm - Jamie McAllister- Feed and Forage Testing

12:00-100 pm – Lunch provided

1:00-1:45 pm - Dr. Hernan Ortegon- Scrapies

1:45-2:30 pm - Dr. Madhu Ravi- Causes of Abortions and Stillbirths in Alberta Sheep and Goats

2:30-3:00 pm - Break

3:00-4:00 pm -- AGM

4:00-4:15pm - Break

4:15-4:45pm - Minister of Agriculture, The Honorable Mr. Dreeshen

4:45-6:00 pm - Dianne Finstad- Effective use of Media in Promoting Your Individual Ag Business

6:00-7:30 pm - Buffet Dinner featuring goat prepared in a variety of dishes.

The choice to network for the evening, or attend *The Heritage Ranch Rodeo*.

Sunday, November 10, 2019

8:30-10:00 am -Kathy Collier Bates- Basic Goat Health

10:00-10:15 am - Break

10:15-11:30 am- Leisl Lockhart- Effective Use of Livestock Guardian Dogs

11:30-12:15pm – Dr. Lindsay Wourms – Physiotherapist: Prevention of Stress and Repetitive Injuries For Farm Life

12:15-12:30 Closing Remarks Convention Committee Chair



REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT: **Agriculture Services Draft Operating Budget 2020-2022**
SUBMISSION TO: AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION
MEETING DATE: October 30, 2019 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 Agriculture Service Board accept the Agriculture Services Draft Operating Budget 2020-2022.

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The Agriculture Service Board is an Advisory Board to Greenview Council and recommends a draft three year Operating Budget Outline to Council for the Agriculture Services Department Budget. This is a document that will guide the Agriculture Service Board and the Agriculture Services Department in fulfilling Councils mandate of providing services to the residents of Greenview.

BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. The benefits of providing a three year budget allows the ASB to see how budgeting for Capital and Operations over a three year span is an efficient and effective use of resources.

DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. There are no perceived disadvantages

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative #1: The ASB decides to not accept the recommendation as above and modify the 2020-2022 Agriculture Services Draft Operating Budget.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

N/A

Direct Costs:

Ongoing / Future Costs:

STAFFING IMPLICATION:

N/A.

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:

N/A

ATTACHMENT(S):

- The Agriculture Services 3 year Operating Budget plan

PROPOSED 3 YEAR

OPERATIONAL

BUDGET

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES		2019 BUDGET	2019 PROJECTION	2020 BUDGET	2021 BUDGET	2022 BUDGET
Agricultural Services Administration						
6-37-370-000-6001	Salaries	903,651	729,000	1,290,036	1,309,124	1,326,259
6-37-370-000-6004	Employer Contributions	191,523	161,000	260,929	266,467	271,438
6-37-370-000-6011	Accommodation & Subsistence	21,300	14,000	21,300	21,300	21,300
6-37-370-000-6012	Travel - Transportation Expenses	1,800	1,600	1,800	1,800	1,800
6-37-370-000-6013	Tuition & Other Training Costs	6,100	9,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
6-37-370-000-6015	Memberships Seminars Conferences	9,400	8,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
6-37-370-000-6021	Advertising Services	4,600	4,300	4,600	4,600	4,800
6-37-370-000-6029	Other Information Services	2,000	2,000	2,500	3,000	3,000
6-37-370-000-6032	Freight & Courier Services	700	400	700	700	800
6-37-370-000-6040	Professional & Special Services	1,750	1,000	1,750	1,750	1,750
6-37-370-000-6104	PPE & First Aid Supplies	1,000	1,000	1,400	1,400	1,500
6-37-370-000-6109	General & Operating Supplies	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,300	3,500
		1,146,824	934,300	1,606,015	1,631,441	1,654,147
Agriculture Service Board						
6-37-371-000-6003	Honorariums	57,350	20,000	57,350	57,350	57,350
6-37-371-000-6004	Employer Contributions	3,000	2,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
6-37-371-000-6011	Accommodation & Subsistence	23,500	5,000	23,500	23,500	23,500
6-37-371-000-6012	Travel - Transportation Expenses	7,000	6,500	7,000	7,000	7,000
6-37-371-000-6015	Memberships Seminars Conferences	10,350	5,000	10,350	10,350	10,350
6-37-371-000-6021	Advertising Services	1,000	400	1,000	1,000	1,000
6-37-371-000-6032	Freight & Courier Services	500	200	500	500	500
6-37-371-000-6040	Professional & Special Services	1,000	3,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
6-37-371-000-6109	General & Operating Supplies	500	500	500	500	500
		104,200	42,600	104,200	104,200	104,200
AG Rental Equipment Program						
6-37-372-000-6011	Accommodation & Subsistence	500	200	500	500	500
6-37-372-000-6032	Freight & Courier Services	800	700	900	900	900
6-37-372-000-6036	Mobile Communication Services	700	700	700	700	700
6-37-372-000-6040	Professional & Special Services	13,500	8,500	14,000	14,000	14,000
6-37-372-000-6104	PPE & First Aid Supplies	500	250	500	500	500
6-37-372-000-6105	Fuels & Oils	2,500	1,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
6-37-372-000-6107	Parts of Motor Vehicle & Other	19,000	12,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
6-37-372-000-6108	Consumable Tools & Supplies	3,000	3,000	4,500	3,500	3,500
6-37-372-000-6109	General & Operating Supplies	7,500	7,000	7,800	7,800	7,800
		48,000	33,850	51,400	50,400	50,400

Vegetation Management

6-37-373-000-6011	Accommodation & Subsistence	22,500	27,000	22,500	22,500	22,500
6-37-373-000-6012	Travel - Transportation Expenses	1,000	400	1,000	1,000	1,000
6-37-373-000-6013	Tuition & Other Training Costs	8,500	6,000	8,500	8,500	8,500
6-37-373-000-6029	Other Information Services	22,000	22,000	16,500	16,500	17,000
6-37-373-000-6036	Mobile Communication Services	9,500	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
6-37-373-000-6040	Professional & Special Services	29,000	16,000	29,000	29,000	29,000
6-37-373-000-6066	Harvest & Cleanup Incentives	30,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
6-37-373-000-6104	PPE & First Aid Supplies	20,350	18,000	20,450	20,450	20,450
6-37-373-000-6105	Fuels & Oils	40,000	30,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
6-37-373-000-6107	Parts of Motor Vehicle & Other	35,000	35,000	35,000	37,000	37,000
6-37-373-000-6108	Consumable Tools & Supplies	1,600	1,600	2,500	2,000	2,000
6-37-373-000-6109	General & Operating Supplies	14,000	13,500	14,000	14,000	14,500
6-37-373-000-6110	Chemicals	350,000	120,000	350,000	350,000	350,000
6-37-373-000-6202	Grants to Organizations	2,500	500	3,000	3,000	3,000
		585,950	323,000	585,450	586,950	587,950

Pest Control

6-37-374-000-6036	Mobile Communication Services	1,440	1,140	1,140	1,140	1,140
6-37-374-000-6040	Professional & Special Services	10,200	3,800	11,000	11,000	11,000
6-37-374-000-6066	Harvest & Cleanup Incentives	36,000	30,000	36,000	36,000	36,000
6-37-374-000-6104	PPE & First Aid Supplies	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
6-37-374-000-6105	Fuels & Oils	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
6-37-374-000-6107	Parts of Motor Vehicle & Other	8,000	5,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
6-37-374-000-6108	Consumable Tools & Supplies	3,000	3,000	3,500	4,000	4,000
6-37-374-000-6109	General & Operating Supplies	9,000	8,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
		83,640	66,940	85,640	86,140	86,140

Extension and Outreach

6-37-375-000-6011	Accommodation & Subsistence	1,800	600	1,800	1,800	1,800
6-37-375-000-6021	Advertising Services	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
6-37-375-000-6040	Professional & Special Services	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
6-37-375-000-6109	General & Operating Supplies	3,000	2,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
6-37-375-000-6143	Rental of Building	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
6-37-375-000-6202	Grants to Organizations	172,000	145,003	162,000	162,000	162,000
		196,300	167,103	186,300	186,300	186,300

Veterinary Services

6-37-376-000-6085	Other Government Fees	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
6-37-376-000-6121	Power Supply Service	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
6-37-376-000-6122	Natural Gas Service	3,500	3,000	3,500	3,500	3,500
6-37-376-000-6125	Rural Water	1,500	2,500	3,000	3,000	3,000
6-37-376-000-6202	Veterinary Services Inc. Grant	130,000	120,000	130,000	130,000	130,000
		148,500	139,000	150,000	150,000	150,000

Beautification Program

6-37-377-003-6036	Mobile Communication Services	-	600	1,650	1,650	1,650
6-37-377-003-6040	Professional & Special Services	-	1,200	2,000	2,000	2,000
6-37-377-003-6104	PPE & First Aid Supplies	-	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
6-37-377-003-6105	Fuels & Oils	-	-	19,000	19,000	19,000
6-37-377-003-6107	Parts of Motor Vehicle & Other	-	10,000	15,500	15,500	15,500
6-37-377-003-6108	Consumable Tools & Supplies	-	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
6-37-377-003-6109	General & Operating Supplies	-	25,000	37,000	37,000	37,000
		-	43,300	81,650	81,650	81,650

TOTAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

2,313,414	1,750,093	2,850,655	2,877,081	2,900,787
------------------	------------------	-----------	------------------	------------------

Proposed 3 Year Revenue

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES REVENUE		2019 BUDGET	2019 PROJECTION	2020 BUDGET	2021 BUDGET	2022 BUDGET
Agriculture Services Revenue						
5-53-538-000-5201	ASB Seminars & Courses	(800)	(1,980)	(800)	(800)	(800)
5-53-538-000-5202	ASB Services	(150)	(50)	(150)	(150)	(150)
5-53-538-000-5207	Maintenance & Repair Services	(1,200)	(300)	(1,200)	(1,200)	(1,200)
5-53-538-000-5215	Vegetation Management	(7,500)	(500)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
5-53-538-000-5299	Other Services	(2,000)	(500)	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)
5-53-538-000-5301	Fees - ASB Equipment Rental	(25,000)	(20,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)
5-53-538-000-5304	Building Rental	(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)
5-53-538-000-5604	Weed Enforcement	(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)
5-55-555-000-5706	Grant from Provincial Government	(150,000)	(168,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)
		(217,150)	(221,830)	(210,650)	(210,650)	(210,650)
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICES REVENUES		(217,150)	(221,830)	(210,650)	(210,650)	(210,650)



REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT: **Manager's Report and ASB Member's Report**
SUBMISSION TO: AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION
MEETING DATE: October 30, 2019 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:

The benefit of accepting the presentation is to confirm receipt of the ASB update of the Staff and Members reports.

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):

- Managers' Report

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

For the Period: Sept 20, 2019 – Oct 30, 2019

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

Weeds	22
Pests	25
Trees	5
Workshops	35
Rentals	65
Equipment Purchasing	8
Extension	22
Employment	0
Miscellaneous	57
TOTAL ENQUIRIES	229

MEETINGS / CONFERENCES / TRAINING

Manager Agriculture Services

- Oct 10, 2019 – Department safety meeting - GD
- Oct 16, 2019 – Producer Vaccination Meeting with PCBFA - VV
- Oct 22-23, 2019 – Operational Budget Meeting - VV
- Oct 24, 2019 – Community Services meeting – Valleyview
- Oct 24, 2019 – Skip Level Manager’s Meeting - VV
- Oct 24, 2019 – Inter-departmental snow removal meeting - VV
- Oct 29, 2019 – PRAAAF ASB Regional ASB Conference - St. Isidore
- Oct 30, 2019 – ASB Meeting - VV

Asst. Manager Agriculture Services

- Oct 10, 2019 – Department safety meeting - GD
- Oct 16, 2019 – Producer Vaccination Meeting with PCBFA - VV
- Oct 17, 2019 – Exit interviews for seasonal staff that left
- Oct 17-18, 2019 – Deliver spray trucks to Strathmore for spray system checkup.
- Oct 22, 2019 – Operational Budget Meeting - VV
- Oct 24, 2019 – Community Services meeting – Valleyview
- Oct 24, 2019 – Skip Level Manager’s Meeting - VV
- Oct 24, 2019 – Inter-departmental snow removal meeting - VV
- Oct 29, 2019 – PRAAAF ASB Regional ASB Conference - St. Isidore
- Oct 30, 2019 – ASB Meeting - VV

Agriculture Supervisor Trainee Agriculture Services

- Sept 25, 2019 – Meeting with Communication Department
- Oct 10, 2019 – Department Safety meeting - GD
- Oct 15, 2019 – Meeting with Records Management
- Oct 21, 2019 – WCB Safety Audit Meeting – Valleyview
- Oct 29, 2019 – PRAAAF ASB Regional ASB Conference - St. Isidore
- Oct 30, 2019 – ASB Meeting - Valleyview

GC Beautification Coordinator Agriculture Services

- Aug 21, 2019 – Tansy Attack – Wapiti River
- Sept 17, 2019 – Staff BBQ in Grande Cache, dept. staff meeting, weed complaint investigation

Wetlands Coordinator Agriculture Services

- Oct 9, 2019 – investigating location for a pond leveler demonstration site
- Oct 21-23, 2019 – Living with Beavers workshop – Calgary
- Oct 28-31, 2019 – Working in and around water course – Edmonton

STAFFING

One of the weed inspectors for the white zone has left for the end of the season and one green zone weed inspector has left for the end of the season and the Grande Cache weed inspector has left for the season. One of the Grande Cache beautification staff has left for the end of the end of the season.

RESOURCES, EQUIPMENT, AND FACILITIES

The renovations to the office area are progressing quite nicely. The original four rooms have been converted into four office, a reception area, work space for spray crew, work space for weed inspectors and work space for the rental coordinator.

BUDGET

The Operational Budget was presented to Council on Oct 22-23, 2019.

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
April 9, 2019	Grande Cache Coops/Enterprises invasive species workshop	Grande Cache, AB
April 10, 2019	Grand Cache Hamlet Invasive Species and Control Methods Workshop	Grande Cache, AB
April 11, 2019	Buttecup/Burdock Incentive Program Info Session	Valleyview, AB
June 21, 2019	AAFC 66 th Annual Beekeeper's Field day	Beaverlodge, AB
June 26, 2019	CanolaPalooza	Lacombe, AB
July 22-23, 2019	PCBFA Grazing School with Dr. Allen Williams	Grimshaw, AB
July 25, 2019	SARDA Summer Field School	Fahler, AB
August 1, 2019	PCBFA 5 th Annual Field Day at Research Farm	Fairview, AB
August 6, 2019	PCBFA Morning Coffee and Plot Tour	High Prairie, AB
August 8, 2019	PCBFA Wheat Stalks	Teepee Creek, AB
August 23, 2019	Cattle Market Outlook Evening	Rycroft, AB
Oct 16, 2019	East Peace Beef Cattle Evening	Valleyview, AB
Oct 22, 2019	Bioswales: Great for the water system, great for the community	Clairmont, AB
Oct 28, 2019	Opportunities in Fruit Workshop	Lacombe, AB
Oct 29, 2019	Opportunities in Vegetables Workshop	Lacombe, AB
Nov 8, 2019	Opportunities in Greenhouses Workshop	Lacombe, AB
Nov 26-27, 2019	Precision Agriculture Conference	Calgary, AB
Dec 4, 2019	Farm and Ranch Safety Management Workshop	Falher, AB
Dec 10, 2019	Septic Sense	DeBolt, AB
Dec 11, 2019	Working Wells	DeBolt, AB
Dec 11, 2019	Farming Smarter Conference	Lethbridge, AB
Dec 10-12, 2019	Western Canada Conference on Soil Health and Grazing	Edmonton, AB
Jan 7-9, 2020	Banff Pork Show	Banff, AB

Jan 21-24, 2020	ASB Provincial Conference	Banff, AB
Jan 28-30, 2020	FarmTech	Edmonton, AB
March 4-6, 2020	AB Beef Industry Conference	Red Deer, AB

PROGRAMS

➤ **VETERINARY SERVICES INCORPORATED**

One (1) new card has been issued.

PEST AND NUISANCE CONTROL

To date, 49 wolves have been presented for payment. Total 2019 incentive expenditures: \$14,400.00

YEAR	WOLVES	AMOUNT
2018	90	\$ 27,000.00
2019	49	\$ 14,700.00
Total	134	\$ 41,700.00

WOLF PREDATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

There has been 0 new requests for assistance with verified wolf predation. There has been zero wolves removed.

Problem Wildlife Officer has been requested to come out 0 times and visit some farm/ranch operations, and has provided advice and information to the ratepayers. Have also had discussions with another 1 individual regarding wolves.

COYOTE PREDATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

There has been 0 new requests for assistance with verified coyote predation. There has been 0 coyotes removed, and (0) compound 1080 tablets were issued as per the Form 7.

Problem Wildlife Officer has been requested to come out and visit some farm/ranch operations, and has provided advice and information to the ratepayers. Have also had discussions with another 1 individual regarding coyotes.

OTHER PREDATORS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

There have been 0 new requests for assistance with other predator problems (bears). There has been 0 pests removed. Have also had discussions with another 4 individual regarding bears.

OTHER PREDATORS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

There have been 0 new requests for assistance with other predator problems (cougars). There has been 0 pests removed. Have also had discussions with another 0 individuals regarding cougars.

OTHER PROBLEM WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

There have been 1 new requests for assistance with other problem wildlife species problems (Skunks). There has been 1 pests removed and 1 traps rented. Have also had discussions with another 5 individuals regarding skunks.

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

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

INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE FLOODING PREVENTION PROGRAM

There has been 35 new requests (15 rate payers, 20 infrastructure) for assistance with beaver caused flooding issues (infrastructure) including multiple days to open up culverts and remove dams. There has been 6 locations that have had the use of explosives to open up dams. There has been 145 beavers removed to date.

WILD BOAR BOUNTY

There have been 0 sets of Wild Boar ears turned in. Total 2019 incentive expenditures \$0.00.

Education Opportunities

Currently planning and scheduling workshops and seminars that deal with wildlife and pests.

Manager and PWO are working with AB Environment and Parks to have an information session for GC residents, as well as getting GC hamlet and district to Wildlife Smart Community status.

➤ **RENTAL EQUIPMENT**

Rentals is moderately busy at this time of year, there have been 29 pieces of Equipment rented out since the last ASB meeting.

➤ **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The weather has had quite an effect on vegetation Management activities. Even though the weather has been less than ideal the Valleyview district is approximately 98% finished and the Grovedale district is approximately 95% finished.

The program has sprayed approximately 1492 Km (68% as of August 20, 2019) of Greenview roads. The areas to be sprayed this year are Wards 3, 4, 5, and 8.

The program has sprayed approximately 0 Km of shoulder on Greenview roads for grass control, in a cooperative venture with the Operations Department.

SPOT SPRAYING / ATV / UTV/TRACTOR

The program has sprayed approximately 42 Ha requiring approximately 84 hours of spray time (includes: landfill, transfer station sites, private land spraying, fence line program, Grande Cache Coops/Enterprises. Etc.).

BRUSH SPRAYING

The program has sprayed approximately 209 Ha of brush. Have received new maps from Operations and will continue spraying brush.

HAMLET SPRAYING

The program has sprayed approximately 40 Ha of Parks/Alleyways/Open Spaces.

PESTICIDE CONTAINER STORAGE

Containers continue to be collected. The recycled jugs were shredded on August 13, 2019, which is quite early for the year.

FENCELINE AND PRIVATE LAND SPRAY PROGRAMS

10 agreements have been signed to date for 2019.

SPRAY EXEMPTION AGREEMENTS

16 agreements have been received so far Deadline of April 26, 2019.

BUTTERCUP/BURDOCK INCENTIVE PROGRAM

4 agreements have been signed to date for 2019.

WEED CONTROL

White Zone

#	Re-Inspections	Weeds Present	Personal Contact	Phone Calls	Weed Alerts	Weed Warnings	Notices	Enforce
1911	201	976	295	163	314	1	0	0

Greenzone

#	Re-Inspections	Weeds Present	Personal Contact	Phone Calls	Weed Alerts	Weed Warnings	Notices	Enforce
2251	56	607	41	104	470	1	27	0

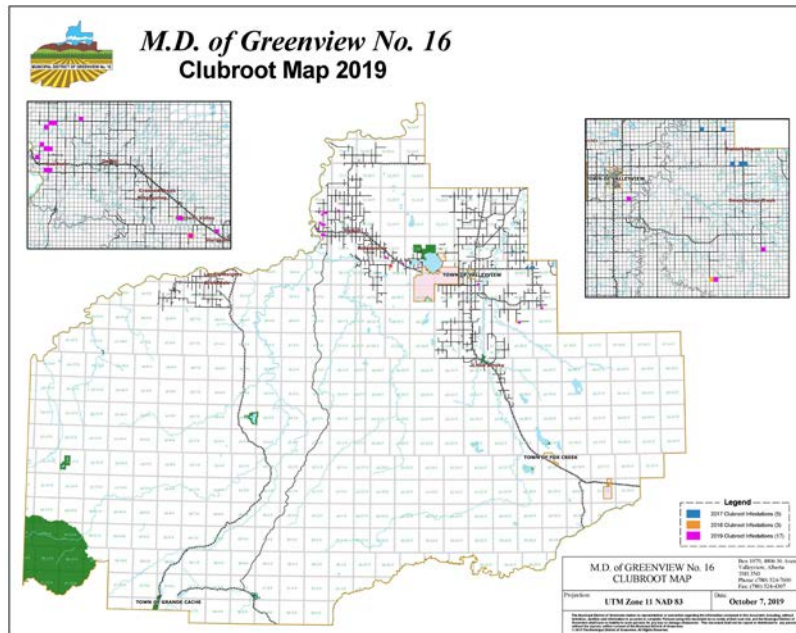
Hamlets

#	Re-Inspections	Weeds Present	Personal Contact	Phone Calls	Weed Alerts	Weed Warnings	Notices	Enforce
1183	75	331	205	73	15	7	0	0

➤ AGRICULTURAL PESTS

Greenview will continue to conduct enhanced monitoring for Clubroot, now that it has been confirmed within the municipal boundaries. An electronic map for 2017 and 2018 and 2019 has been created showing the affected parcels. Additionally 50 comprehensive samples were sent to the lab for testing to confirm the severity of the infestations. All the samples were also sent to Dr. Strelkov’s laboratory to determine the pathotype of the club root galls.

# Inspected	Suspect	Confirmed	Letter to Adjacent LandOwners	Phone Calls
363	24	17	130	15



SEED CLEANING PLANT

- No changes

GC BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM

- Flowers/Trees
 - We have had a lot of positive feedback from ratepayers about the flowers, especially in the hamlet center area.
 - Removed hanging baskets from the light poles.
 - Ground Prune small dead trees in Stern Park & Central Park
 - Clean up plant material for the winter (removing all annuals & cleaning up perennials) throughout all parks and the downtown areas.
- Mowing
 - Monitoring our priority 1 list and cut on an “as needed” basis
 - Priority 1 is the park areas and ball diamond playing areas of the hamlet
 - Priority 2 is the boulevards along the streets/highways, and municipal buildings
 - Priority 3 is the alleyways, ditches and greenspaces (MR's).
- Vegetation Control
 - Weed Inspector completed follow ups with rate payers for the season.
 - Noxious weed bin was returned to the operations yard, cleaned out and put into storage for the winter.
- Miscellaneous
 - Winterized equipment (mowers, weed eaters, roto-tiler, sweeper, water trailer, and UTV sprayer.
 - Installed maintenance gates at Labyrinth park and Grande Cache Lake (with the assistance of the Facilities Maintenance Department.
- Christmas Decorations for Hamlet Area
 - Re-facing and Re-building most of the outdoor decorations.
 - Have all of the decorations and lights ready for installation after Remembrance Day

WETLANDS/ALUS/WATERSHEDS

- Planning and coordinating upcoming wetlands events – i.e. Pond Water Leveler Demonstration, Green Acreages, etc.
- Working with AB Environment and Parks regarding water/wetland easements in Greenview.

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of September 23, 2019

Accumulated precipitation in September has been varied across the province, from less than 20 mm in the eastern parts of the North West Region, western parts of the North East Region and central parts of the Peace Region, to upward of 30 mm in most areas in the Southern and Central Regions, and up to 100 mm in the western parts of the North West Region and the northern parts of the Peace Region (see the Map on the next page). However, producers in most areas have not experienced a killing frost to date. Over the last week, cool and damp weather conditions continued in general, but producers benefited from some warm sunny days and combined an additional 10 per cent of their major crops.

Currently, about 33 per cent of all crops have been combined, on par with last year, but 12 per cent behind the 5-year (2014-2018) average of 45 per cent. Almost 24 per cent of crops are in swath and 43 per cent are still standing. When compared to the 5-year averages, harvest progress remains behind normal in all regions, with the exception of the Southern Region (See Table 1). Harvest progress is 29 per cent behind in the Peace Region, 18 per cent in the North East, 14 per cent in the Central and 13 per cent in the North West Region. Producers have swathed more canola than what they did in recent years due to uneven maturity. Some standing canola will be straight-cut harvested. Most cereals are being combined tough and need to be dried or aerated for safe storage.

Table 1: Estimates of Crop Harvest Progress as of September 23, 2019

	Per cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	66.9%	19.8%	15.4%	5.7%	8.1%	26.9%
Durum Wheat	91.2%	43.8%	---	---	---	85.0%
Winter Wheat	99.6%	72.5%	100.0%	---	---	97.7%
Barley*	77.0%	29.6%	22.8%	36.2%	11.1%	42.8%
Oats*	73.1%	11.4%	19.1%	5.1%	4.6%	14.9%
Fall Rye	95.2%	65.8%	100.0%	---	---	74.9%
Spring Triticale	96.0%	19.1%	---	---	---	31.5%
Canola*	53.3%	3.8%	4.0%	0.0%	2.3%	11.8%
Dry Peas*	98.4%	82.3%	81.5%	72.6%	33.0%	77.9%
Lentils	99.1%	73.5%	---	---	---	95.0%
Chickpeas	95.2%	88.2%	---	---	---	95.0%
Flax	62.3%	0.5%	---	---	---	40.7%
Potatoes	68.5%	49.1%	---	75.0%	---	67.9%
All Crops, September 23	74.2%	22.2%	15.3%	11.1%	8.3%	32.6%
Major Crops (*), September 23	69.7%	21.1%	15.2%	11.0%	8.4%	28.1%
Major Crops (*), September 17	49.3%	13.3%	6.8%	3.0%	4.5%	17.7%
All Crops, Last year	68.1%	33.8%	12.8%	12.3%	5.8%	32.6%
All Crops, 5-year Average	71.9%	35.7%	33.6%	24.1%	37.3%	44.6%
All Crops, 10-year Average	68.7%	40.8%	39.6%	30.4%	44.5%	47.9%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

The quality of harvested crops is variable across the province. Provincially to date, about 88 per cent of harvested hard red spring wheat and 85 per cent of durum wheat are grading in the top two grades. About 29 per cent of barley is eligible for malt grade and 49 per cent has graded as No. 1 feed. For oats, about 50 per cent is graded in the top two grades, which is lower than the 5-year average. Almost 97 per cent of harvested canola is in the top two grades, with 88 per cent graded as No. 1, higher than average. For dry peas, nearly 21 per cent is graded as No. 1, 54 per cent as No. 2, 19 per cent as No. 3 and six per cent is in feed grade.

Dryland yield estimates remained similar to the previous estimates reported on September 10, with yields three per cent higher than the short-term averages and five per cent above the long-term averages (See Table 2). Yields for the Central, Peace and North East Regions are 17 per cent, 11 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively above the 5-year averages. For the Southern and North West Regions, yields are 18 per cent and 10 per cent below. The provincial average yields for potatoes on dryland and irrigated fields are estimated at 11.6 and 17.8 tons per acre, respectively. Yields so far for irrigated dry beans are reported at 2,700 pounds per acre and 28.6 tons per acre for sugar beets.

Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates as of September 23, 2019

	Estimated Yield (bushel/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	34.0	58.0	54.0	54.9	50.0	50.3
Durum Wheat	27.0	34.7	---	---	---	28.1
Barley	46.3	85.3	78.6	63.0	59.1	68.8
Canola	32.8	47.5	44.8	39.9	38.1	41.5
Dry Peas	29.3	45.6	41.0	32.3	46.1	38.1
5-year Yield Index	82.3%	116.5%	110.4%	89.9%	110.5%	102.8%
10-year Yield Index	77.7%	120.9%	116.0%	92.3%	116.7%	104.9%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

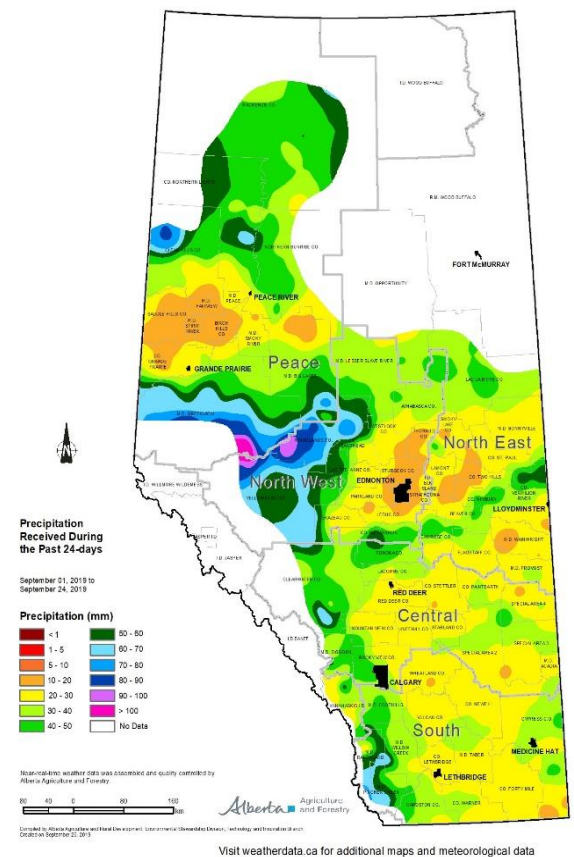
The 2019 Alberta Crop Report Series continues to provide summaries for the following five regions:

Region One: Southern (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Producers were able to combine an additional 20 per cent of their major crops from a week ago. Yields in the region have been impacted by the dry spring and summer.
- About 74 per cent of all crops are now in the bin (up 31 per cent from two weeks ago), eight per cent in swath and 18 per cent still standing.
- Crop quality remains above the provincial 5-year averages for malt barley and the top two grades of hard red spring wheat, durum wheat, oats and dry peas. About 68 per cent of canola is graded as No. 1, lower than the 5-year average, while 25 per cent is graded as No. 2.
- About 69 per cent of potatoes have now been harvested, with yields on dryland and irrigated fields estimated at 10 and 17.8 tons per acre, respectively. Yields for irrigated dry beans and sugar beets are respectively reported at 2,700 pounds per acre and 28.6 tons per acre.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface shown in brackets) are rated as 15 (19) per cent poor, 43 (50) per cent fair, 40 (30) per cent good and 2 (1) per cent excellent.

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

- Producers in the region were able to harvest an additional eight per cent of their major crops from a week ago, despite the showers and heavy dews. Warm and dry weather is needed to advance the progress.
- About 22 per cent of all crops are now in the bin (up 13 per cent from two weeks ago), 24 per cent in swath and 54 per cent still standing.



- To date, the quality for all crops is above their provincial averages. However for barley, about 33 per cent is eligible for malt, which is above the 5-year average and 37 per cent graded as No. 1 feed, lower than average.
- About 49 per cent of potatoes have been harvested, with dryland yield at 11.1 tons per acre.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface shown in brackets) are rated as 6 (11) per cent poor, 25 (31) per cent fair, 58 (49) per cent good and 11 (9) per cent excellent.

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

- Cool and wet weather is still delaying harvest and crop maturity and dry weather is needed to move harvest operations forward. Producers were able to make a progress of eight per cent of major crops over the last week.
- About 15 per cent of all crops are in the bin (up 12 per cent from two weeks ago), 38 per cent in swath and 47 per cent still standing.
- Crop quality to date is below their provincial averages for malt barley, top two grades of oats and dry peas. About eight per cent of barley is eligible for malt grade and 79 per cent is graded as No. 1 feed, which is above the provincial average. About 22 per cent of oats are graded as either No. 1 or 2 and 78 per cent as No. 3. For dry peas, 49 per cent is graded as No. 2, 35 per cent as No. 3 and 16 per cent as feed.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface shown in brackets) are rated as 1 (1) per cent poor, 3 (3) per cent fair, 49 (41) per cent good and 42 (54) per cent excellent, with 5 (1) per cent excessive.

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

- Harvest is progressing slowly, due to uncooperative weather conditions. Producers were able to harvest an additional eight per cent of major crops over the last week.
- Almost 11 per cent of all crops are now in the bin (up nine per cent from two weeks ago), 29 per cent in swath and 60 per cent still standing.
- To date, crop quality for the top two grades of the spring wheat is above its provincial average, but only three per cent is graded as No. 1, with 86 per cent as No. 2 and 11 as No. 3. No harvested barley is eligible for malt, with 40 per cent graded as No. 1 feed. For dry peas, 17 per cent is graded as No. 2, 57 per cent as No. 3 and 26 per cent as feed grade.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface shown in brackets) are rated as 22 (22) per cent good and 62 (69) per cent excellent, with 16 (9) per cent excessive.

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

- Scattered light showers over the last week along with wet cool conditions permitted producers to harvest only an additional four per cent of their crops.
- Currently, about eight per cent of crops are in the bin (up four per cent from two weeks ago), while 30 per cent are in swath and 62 per cent still standing.
- To date, quality for all crops are above their provincial averages, with the exception of dry peas. About 94 per cent of dry peas are graded as No. 2 and six per cent as No. 3.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface shown in brackets) are rated as 0 (4) per cent poor, 10 (20) per cent fair, 68 (57) per cent good and 12 (17) per cent excellent, with 10 (2) per cent excessive.

Contacts

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Economics and Competitiveness Branch
Statistics and Data Development Section
September 27, 2019

Ashan Shooshtarian
Crop Statistician
Phone: 780-422-2887
Email: ashan.shooshtarian@gov.ab.ca

Note to Users: The contents of this document may not be used or reproduced without properly accrediting AFSC and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Economics and Competitiveness Branch, Statistics and Data Development Section

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of October 1, 2019 (Abbreviated Report)

Harvest progress for major crops is 20 points behind the provincial 5-year average, but on par with progress for this reporting period last year. As compared to last week, 5 per cent more crop is in the bin. The Peace region is 34 points behind its 5-year average, followed by the North East at 25 below, the Central back 24 points, the North West 18 below and the South estimated at 4 points under (see Table 1). The regional average for swathed major crops is estimated at 29 per cent. Across Alberta 58 per cent of canola is in the swath, 18 per cent of oats, 14 per cent of barley and 11 per cent of spring wheat, with only 1 per cent of peas swathed.

Table 1: Regional Harvest Progress (Major Crops) as of October 1, 2019

	% Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	79.2%	23.2%	18.6%	22.5%	17.5%	34.7%
Barley	87.9%	32.6%	27.5%	39.2%	17.8%	48.8%
Oats	77.0%	14.1%	23.2%	15.0%	10.5%	20.6%
Canola	61.3%	5.4%	6.0%	1.2%	9.1%	15.6%
Dry Peas	99.8%	85.9%	87.7%	82.2%	40.9%	82.4%
Major Crops	78.9%	23.8%	18.3%	18.5%	16.0%	33.7%
Major Crops Last week	69.7%	21.1%	15.2%	11.0%	8.4%	28.1%
Major Crops Last year	69.2%	41.0%	12.8%	12.3%	12.9%	32.9%
Major Crops 5-year Average	82.5%	47.5%	43.1%	36.7%	49.7%	53.9%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

This past weekend brought significant snowfall ranging from over a metre in the southern foothills down to 10 cm or so for areas as far north as Red Deer. Over the same time frame much of the rest of the province received enough rainfall to bring harvest to a halt.

Overnight September 30 into the morning of October 1 temperatures dropped below -4 Celsius resulting in killing frosts occurring throughout much of the province (see dark blue and purple areas of Map). While the continued cold and wet conditions will help with green counts in Canola, crops not yet mature may suffer some grade loss.

The estimated surface soil moisture ratings have moved out of the poor/fair rating up into the good/excellent end of the scale mostly due to changes in the South and Central region after the snow event (see Table 2 on page 2). Good and excellent ratings jumped an impressive 24 points in Central area with a 7 point increase in the South. Excessive rating for Peace region stayed static with North East rating dropping 3 points and North West region is 6 per cent lower than last week.

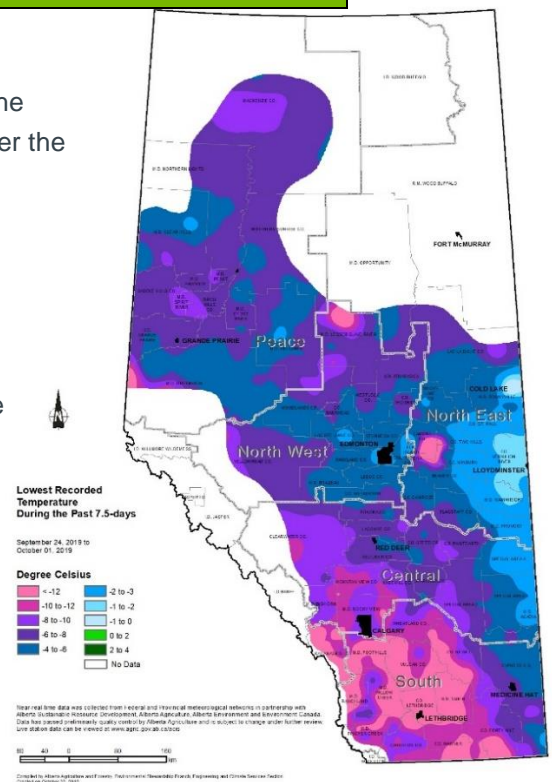


Table 2: Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of October 1, 2019

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	10.5%	40.4%	47.3%	1.8%	---
Central	---	7.5%	70.4%	22.1%	---
North East	---	1.6%	51.1%	45.5%	1.8%
North West	---	---	21.9%	68.5%	9.6%
Peace	---	10.3%	68.4%	12.0%	9.3%
Alberta	3.5%	16.6%	53.6%	24.0%	2.4%
Last Week	6.7%	22.3%	47.6%	19.6%	3.8%
5-year Average	10.5%	21.0%	47.8%	19.2%	1.5%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

The 2019 Alberta Crop Report Series continues to provide summaries for the following five regions:

Region One: Southern (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Harvest progress came to an abrupt halt with the snowfall across the region on the weekend. Some standing cereal crops are down, or partially so, due to snow and may be a challenge to pick up with the header.
- Peas are all in the bin, 88 per cent of barley, 79 of wheat, 77 of oats and 61 per cent of canola has been harvested. Swathed acres are 6 per cent for barley, 7 for wheat, 6 for oats, with canola at 16 per cent.
- The recent heavy wet snow is a welcome sight in terms of replenishing soil moisture reserves. Surface soil moisture rated as poor is 11 percent, fair 40, good 47 with 2 rated as excellent. Sub-surface soil moisture rated as poor is 16, fair 50, 33 good with only 1 per cent rated as excellent.
- Pasture is now going dormant. Poor ratings are currently at 21, fair is at 37, good ratings are 37 with 5 per cent as excellent.
- Fall seeded crop ratings of poor are at 5, fair ratings are 40, 50 rated as good with excellent rated as 5 per cent.

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

- Harvest activity was stopped due to the weather. Producers are looking for an extended period of sunny, warm and windy weather to get the equipment moving again.
- For this reporting period, 86 per cent of peas have been harvested, 33 per cent of barley combined with 20 per cent swathed, 23 per cent of wheat combined with 17 per cent in the swath, 14 per cent of the oats binned with 13 swathed and only 5 per cent of canola combined and 56 per cent swathed.
- There is no surface soil moisture rated as poor, fair ratings are at 8, good 70 with 22 per cent rated as excellent. Sub-surface soil moisture rated as poor is 7, fair 29, good 50 with 14 per cent rated as excellent.
- Pasture rated as poor is currently at 29 per cent, fair is now 31, good ratings 40 and no pasture is rated as excellent.
- Fall seeded crop ratings of poor are at 2, fair ratings are 16, 80 rated as good with excellent rated as 2 per cent.

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

- Minimal harvest progress took place since last report. Field conditions have been affected by both rain and snow and crops were impacted by frost. There are also reports of geese in fields as they migrate south.

- Pea harvest is 88 per cent complete, 28 per cent of barley has been combined with 26 per cent swathed, 19 per cent of wheat is off with another 18 per cent in the swath. Oats have 23 per cent in the bin with 26 swathed, and 6 per cent of canola has been combined with 75 per cent in the swath.
- There are no surface soil moisture ratings of poor, 2 percent fair, 51 good with 45 rated as excellent and 2 per cent excessive. There are no sub-surface soil moisture ratings of poor, fair ratings are 4 per cent, 41 rated as good with 54 per cent rated as excellent and 1 per cent rated as excessive.
- Pasture rated as poor is currently at 11, fair is 26, good ratings are 63 per cent, with none rated as excellent.
- Fall seeded crop ratings of fair are 13 and 87 rated as good.

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

- Little harvest progress achieved as weather conditions still unfavourable for combining. Grain dryers have been busy with tough and damp cereals.
- Pea harvest is at 82 per cent, 39 per cent of barley combined with 4 swathed, 23 per cent of wheat is binned with just 1 per cent swathed, 15 per cent of oats combined and 30 per cent swathed. A great deal of canola is in the swath at 84 per cent and only 1 per cent combined.
- Surface soil moisture rated as good is now 22 per cent with 68 rated as excellent and 10 per cent rated as excessive. Sub-surface soil moisture rated as good is 22 per cent with 78 per cent rated as excellent.
- Pasture rated as fair is currently 25 per cent and good ratings are at 75 per cent.

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

- Showers, cooler weather and heavy frosts have hampered harvest progress.
- Currently 41 per cent of peas have been combined, 18 per cent of both barley and wheat are in the bin with less than 2 per cent in the swath, 11 per cent of oats have been harvested and 1 per cent swathed. Canola acres are 9 per cent combined and 55 per cent is in the swath.
- Surface soil moisture rated as fair is 10 per cent, 69 rated as good with 12 rated as excellent and 9 per cent excessive. Sub-surface soil moisture rated as poor is 3 per cent, 21 fair, 57 good with 17 per cent rated excellent and 2 per cent rated as excessive.
- Pasture rated as poor is currently at 5, fair is 37, good ratings are 49, with 9 per cent as excellent and none rated as excessive.

Contacts

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
Business Risk Management Products Unit
Lacombe, Alberta

October 4, 2019

J. Sanden & Z. Sangster
Product Coordinators

Email: jackie.sanden@afsc.ca

Email: zsuzsanna.sangster@afsc.ca

Note to Users: The contents of this document may not be used or reproduced without properly accrediting AFSC and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Economics and Competitiveness Branch, Statistics and Data Development Section

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of October 8, 2019

Most parts of the province experienced wet weather conditions in September and the month ended with a significant amount of snowfall in the south. In addition to wet conditions, average daily temperatures were below seasonal norms in most areas across the province over the past two weeks (See map on Page 2). Many places in Central and Southern Regions recorded a one in 50-year low temperature event. The poor weather conditions have led to a general slowdown in harvest progress, which could impact the quality of standing crops that remain in the fields. Warm and dry weather is needed across the province in the coming weeks to further advance harvest progress.

Provincially, about 48 per cent of crops are now harvested and in the bin, compared to 40 per cent at this same time last year. Harvest progress, however, is well below the 5-year (2014-2018) average of 68 per cent (See Table 1). Regionally, despite the challenging season so far in 2019, harvest progress is actually ahead of last year for all regions except for the Central Region. However, all regions are behind the 5-year average. The largest harvest delays are reported in the Peace Region (32 per cent behind), followed by the Central (26 per cent behind), North East (25 per cent behind), North West (19 per cent behind) and the Southern Region (four per cent behind), when compared to their respective 5-year averages. Estimates suggest that about 25 per cent of the unharvested crops are in swath, while 27 per cent are still standing.

Table 1: Estimates of Crop Harvest Progress as of October 8, 2019

	Per cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	82.2%	37.6%	37.4%	39.1%	35.6%	48.3%
Durum Wheat	95.6%	64.2%	---	---	---	91.5%
Winter Wheat	99.8%	95.2%	100.0%	---	---	99.5%
Barley*	89.9%	49.4%	40.2%	46.1%	33.6%	59.1%
Oats*	81.4%	21.6%	37.1%	31.0%	27.3%	33.6%
Fall Rye	100.0%	98.8%	100.0%	---	---	99.2%
Triticale	98.0%	36.1%	---	---	---	46.1%
Canola*	65.5%	13.6%	17.6%	7.5%	24.8%	25.2%
Dry Peas*	99.8%	92.2%	94.9%	89.2%	72.2%	91.4%
Lentils	99.5%	89.3%	---	---	---	97.9%
Chickpeas	98.7%	98.0%	---	---	---	98.7%
Flax	66.3%	1.7%	---	---	---	43.6%
Potatoes	85.4%	90.0%	---	98.0%	---	86.3%
All Crops, October 8	84.1%	37.1%	32.4%	28.7%	34.3%	48.4%
Major Crops (*), October 8	81.6%	35.9%	32.5%	28.7%	34.4%	44.8%
Major Crops (*), October 1	78.9%	23.8%	18.3%	18.5%	16.0%	33.7%
All Crops, Last year	70.5%	42.6%	22.0%	15.7%	22.8%	40.1%
All Crops, 5-year Average	87.9%	63.3%	57.3%	47.7%	66.5%	67.7%
All Crops, 10-year Average	86.5%	70.8%	68.6%	62.3%	71.7%	74.0%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

The quality of standing crops is likely to deteriorate due to the prolonged wet and cool conditions. That said, the quality of harvested crops is highly variable across the province, depending on harvest date. Of the crops harvested so far provincially, about 85 per cent of hard red spring wheat and 83 per cent of durum wheat are grading in the top two grades. About 32 per cent of barley is eligible for malt grade and 51 per cent has graded as No. 1 feed. For oats, about 56 per cent is grading within the top two grades, which is lower than the 5-year average. Almost 91 per cent of harvested canola is graded as No. 1, with another seven per cent as No. 2. For dry peas, nearly 19 per cent is graded as No. 1, 54

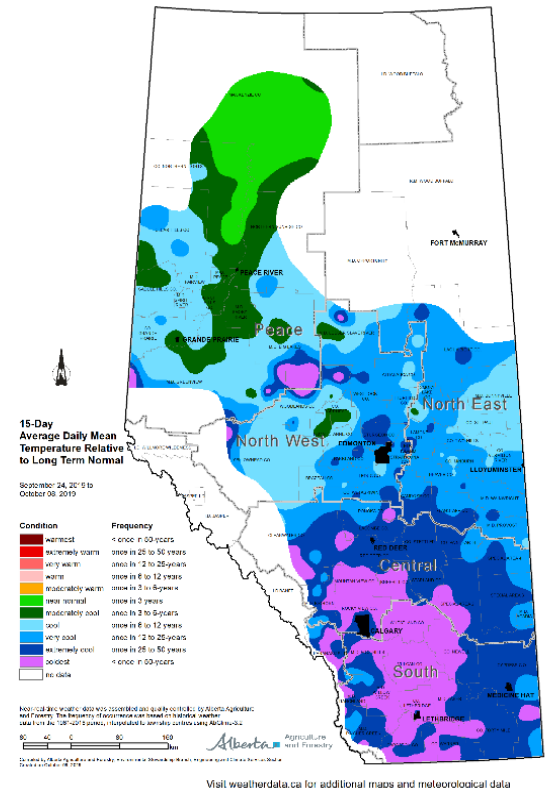
per cent as No. 2, 19 per cent as No. 3 and eight per cent is in feed grade. It is important to note that these initial grading results are based on the volume of harvested crops to this point in time. With more than half of crops still in the fields, and much of it in central and northern regions, there is potential for crop quality to slip as combining activity continues into October.

Dryland yield estimates remained similar to previous estimates reported on September 27, with yields three and six per cent, respectively higher than the short and long term averages (See Table 2). The provincial average yields for potatoes on dryland and irrigated fields are estimated at 13.9 and 17.8 tons per acre, respectively. Yields for irrigated dry beans and sugar beets are reported at 2,700 pounds per acre and 29 tonnes per acre, respectively.

Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates as of October 8, 2019

	Estimated Yield (bushel/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	34.6	57.6	57.4	55.4	50.7	51.5
Durum Wheat	28.2	28.7	---	---	---	28.3
Barley	45.2	85.2	81.4	64.6	60.5	69.2
Canola	33.0	47.6	44.9	39.9	38.1	41.6
Dry Peas	30.2	44.1	42.8	32.8	46.0	38.4
5-year Yield Index	82.7%	112.8%	112.2%	88.8%	111.3%	102.5%
10-year Yield Index	78.6%	118.6%	118.5%	92.1%	118.3%	105.5%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Regional Assessments:

Region One: Southern (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Minimum harvest progress has been made over the last week (about three per cent of major crops), as a result of a snowstorm over the weekend of September 28 followed by cool weather.
- In this region, 84 per cent of the crops are in the bin, seven per cent are in swath and nine per cent are standing. Nearly 66 per cent of canola in this region has been combined, 17 per cent is swathed and the other 17 per cent is standing. For spring wheat, 82 per cent is now in the bin, seven per cent is in swath and 11 per cent still standing.
- About 85 per cent of potatoes have been harvested, with yields on dryland and irrigated fields at 10 and 17.8 tons per acre, respectively.
- To date, crop quality for malt barley, the top two grades of spring wheat, oats, canola and dry peas are all above their provincial 5-year averages, but below average for durum wheat No. 1, barley No. 1 feed and canola No. 1.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface shown in brackets) are rated as 7 (13) per cent poor, 43 (50) per cent fair, 48 (36) per cent good and 2 (1) per cent excellent.

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

- Despite unfavorable wet weather, producers continued harvest operations, but at a slower pace. Since last week, producers were able to combine an additional 12 per cent of their major crops, with most cereals harvested tough and in need of drying or aeration. Some producers may choose to bale or swath graze grains in certain fields, due to grade loss.
- About 37 per cent of crops are in the bin, 29 per cent are in swath and 34 per cent remain standing. Almost 14 per cent of canola in this region has been combined, 58 per cent swathed and 28 per cent is standing. For spring wheat, 38 per cent is in the bin, 16 per cent is in swath and 46 per cent is standing.

- For harvested crops so far the quality is above the provincial 5-year averages, with the exception for barley No. 1 feed, which is below.
- About 90 per cent of potatoes have been harvested, with dryland yield at 16 tons per acre.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface shown in brackets) are rated as 3 (11) per cent poor, 22 (34) per cent fair, 63 (46) per cent good and 12 (9) per cent excellent.

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

- After a spell of wet weather, producers were able to resume operations for a couple of days to advance harvest progress by 14 per cent for major crops from a week ago, this was before another cool wet system hit the region.
- About 33 per cent of crops are in the bin, 39 per cent are in swath and 28 per cent remain standing. Nearly 18 per cent of canola has been combined, 68 per cent swathed and 14 per cent is standing. For spring wheat, 37 per cent is in the bin, 17 per cent is in swath and 46 per cent is standing.
- To date, crop quality for the top two grades of the spring wheat, canola No. 1 and Barley No. 1 feed are above their provincial averages, while only 11 per cent of barley is eligible for malt. Quality for the top two grades of oats as well as dry peas are markedly below their provincial average.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface shown in brackets) are rated as 3 (3) per cent fair, 53 (45) per cent good and 42 (51) per cent excellent, with 2 (1) per cent excessive.

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

- Inclement weather has slowed harvest progress. Over the past week, producers in most areas had only a few days of relatively good conditions and were able to advance the harvest by an additional 10 per cent.
- Almost 29 per cent of the crops are in the bin, 38 per cent are in swath and 33 per cent remain standing. About eight per cent of canola is now in the bin, 83 per cent is in swath and nine per cent is standing. For spring wheat, 39 per cent has now been combined, two per cent swathed and 59 per cent is standing. About 98 per cent of potatoes have been harvested, with dryland yield at 12 tons per acre.
- The quality for harvested hard spring wheat No. 1, malt and feed barley, oats and dry peas is below the provincial 5-year averages, due to the abundance of rain this summer, followed by a wet September.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface shown in brackets) are rated as 23 (23) per cent good and 70 (77) per cent excellent, with 7 (0) per cent excessive.

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

- Rain, snow and cold weather limited the number of harvest days to just few throughout the region. However, producers were able to combine an additional 18 per cent of their crops over the last week.
- Currently, about 34 per cent of crops are in the bin, 23 per cent are in swath and 43 per cent are standing. Nearly 25 per cent of canola in this region has been combined, 46 per cent is swathed and 29 per cent is standing. For spring wheat, 36 per cent is now in the bin and 64 per cent remain standing.
- The quality for all harvested crops is above provincial averages, with the exception of dry peas.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface shown in brackets) are rated as 0 (3) per cent poor, 10 (20) per cent fair, 68 (58) per cent good and 12 (17) per cent excellent, with 10 (2) per cent excessive.

Contacts

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Economics and Competitiveness Branch
Statistics and Data Development Section
October 11, 2019

Ashan Shooshtarian
Crop Statistician
Phone: 780-422-2887
Email: ashan.shooshtarian@gov.ab.ca

Note to Users: The contents of this document may not be used or reproduced without properly accrediting AFSC and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Economics and Competitiveness Branch, Statistics and Data Development Section

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of October 15, 2019 (Abbreviated Report)

Wet weather along with below normal temperatures have been the dominant pattern in Alberta over the past couple of weeks. During the long weekend, large areas in the North East and North West Regions received between 10 to 15 mm of precipitation in the form of either rain or rain and snow mix (See the Map). For the Southern, Central and Peace Regions, precipitation was mainly light, but variable, with some areas accumulating 3 - 5 mm. The moisture has halted harvesting operations in most parts of the province. However, producers in all regions except for the Southern Region were able to make some progress over the last week before the cool wet weather that prevailed over the weekend.

Provincially, about 59 per cent of major crops across the province have now been harvested, up 14 per cent from last week (See Table 1). Estimates suggest that about 21 per cent of major crops are in swath and 20 per cent remain standing. When compared to the 5-year averages (2014-2018), provincial harvest progress is 17 per cent behind. Regionally, harvest progress is behind in all regions, led by the Central Region (26 per cent behind), followed by the Peace (25 per cent behind), North East (16 per cent behind) and Southern and North West Regions (8 per cent behind).

Nearly 9 per cent of spring wheat, 12 per cent of barley, 17 per cent of oats and 41 per cent of canola have been swathed. Also, 28 per cent of spring wheat, 18 per cent of barley, 33 per cent of oats, 17 per cent of canola and 5 per cent of dry peas remain standing.

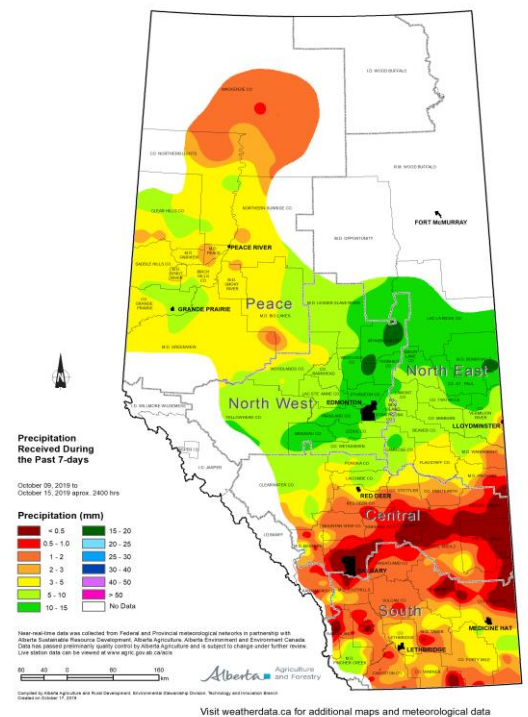


Table 1: Estimates of Harvest Progress as of October 15, 2019

	Per cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	82.5%	47.8%	60.9%	67.8%	50.4%	62.6%
Barley	89.9%	59.8%	66.1%	65.9%	44.8%	70.2%
Oats	81.5%	30.3%	55.9%	56.9%	42.8%	50.3%
Canola	67.8%	24.6%	43.2%	34.5%	40.8%	42.2%
Dry Peas	99.8%	92.7%	98.3%	96.2%	86.0%	95.3%
Major Crops, October 15	82.4%	45.8%	55.9%	54.2%	49.5%	58.8%
Major Crops, October 7	81.6%	35.9%	32.5%	28.7%	34.4%	44.8%
Major Crops, Last year	71.0%	43.7%	43.5%	30.5%	29.7%	46.7%
Major Crops, 5-year Average	90.6%	72.1%	71.8%	62.3%	74.8%	75.8%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen, staff of AFSC and the Alberta Ag-Info Centre for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program.



The climate map is compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Environmental Stewardship Branch, Engineering and Climate Services Section.

Frost and low temperatures are slowing pasture growth across the province. In some areas, cattle are being moved to harvested fields. Currently, pasture conditions are rated as 21 per cent poor, 40 per cent fair, 37 per cent good and 2 per cent excellent (See Table 2).

Table 2: Regional Pasture Conditions as of October 15, 2019

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Southern	18.3%	39.7%	37.2%	4.8%
Central	37.6%	23.5%	38.9%	0.0%
North East	15.2%	60.6%	24.2%	0.0%
North West	2.1%	56.2%	41.8%	0.0%
Peace	3.7%	38.9%	51.6%	5.7%
Alberta, October 15	20.7%	40.1%	37.0%	2.3%
Alberta, Last year	27.3%	35.8%	33.6%	3.3%
Alberta 5-year Average	22.8%	34.9%	36.9%	5.4%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

The 2019 Alberta Crop Report Series continues to provide summaries for the following five regions:

Region One: Southern (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Snow and cool weather in the region has prevented producers from further advancing harvest. A forecast of more favourable harvest conditions should enable harvest to resume in the coming week(s). Some specialty crops have been damaged by frost and may be abandoned.
- Regionally, 82 per cent of major crops are harvested, 9 per cent are swathed and another 9 per cent are still standing.
- About 10 per cent of spring wheat, 5 per cent of barley and 9 per cent of oats are still standing. For canola, 68 per cent is harvested, 16 per cent is swathed and another 16 per cent is still standing.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 5 per cent poor, 39 per cent fair, 51 per cent good and 5 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface soil ratings in the brackets) are rated as 7 (13) per cent poor, 43 (49) per cent fair, 48 (37) per cent good and 2 (1) per cent excellent.

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

- Although moisture from previous snow and recent rain has halted harvest operations in some areas, producers in other areas were able to resume harvest. Regionally, harvest advanced an additional 10 per cent of major crops from a week ago.
- Currently, about 46 per cent of major crops in this region are now in the bin, 27 per cent in are swath and another 27 per cent are still standing.
- About 37 per cent of spring wheat, 22 per cent of barley, 50 per cent of oats and 7 per cent of dry peas are still standing. For canola, 25 per cent has been harvested, 52 per cent is swathed and 23 per cent is still standing.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as two per cent poor, 15 per cent fair, 81 per cent good and 2 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface soil ratings in the brackets) are rated as 3 (11) per cent poor, 18 (28) per cent fair, 65 (48) per cent good and 14 (13) per cent excellent.

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

- Most areas in the region had good progress until snow and rain fell on Sunday, putting harvest operations on pause again. In this region, harvest advanced by an additional 23 per cent of major crops from a week ago.
- Regionally, about 56 per cent of major crops have been harvested, 25 per cent are in swath and 19 per cent are standing.
- About 28 per cent of spring wheat, 18 per cent of barley, 23 per cent of oats and 2 per cent of dry peas are still standing. For canola, about 43 per cent has been combined, 44 per cent is in swath and 13 per cent is still standing.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 13 per cent fair and 87 per cent good.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface soil ratings in the brackets) are rated as 2 (3) per cent fair, 54 (44) per cent good and 42 (52) per cent excellent, with 2 (1) per cent excessive.

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

- Over the past week, harvest advanced an additional 26 per cent in the region, before rain on Sunday put harvest on hold again.
- Overall, 54 per cent of major crops are now in the bin, 30 per cent are in swath and 16 per cent are standing.
- About 25 per cent of spring wheat, 26 per cent of barley, 21 per cent of oats and 4 per cent of dry peas are still standing. While 34 per cent of canola has been harvested, 58 per cent is in swath and 8 per cent is still standing.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface soil ratings in the brackets) are rated as 28 (23) per cent good and 67 (77) per cent excellent, with 5 (0) per cent excessive.

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

- Although damp conditions and cool temperatures kept harvest at a slower pace over the past week, producers managed to get in the fields and advanced harvest by an additional 15 per cent, before wet weather started on the long weekend and halted harvest operations again.
- Regionally, 50 per cent of major crops have been combined, 19 per cent are in swath and 31 per cent are standing.
- About 50 per cent of spring wheat, 54 per cent of barley, 56 per cent of oats and 14 per cent of dry peas are still standing. While 41 per cent of canola has been harvested, 38 per cent is in swath and 21 per cent is still standing.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface soil ratings in the brackets) are rated as 0 (3) per cent poor, 10 (19) per cent fair, 69 (59) per cent good and 12 (17) per cent excellent, with 9 (2) per cent excessive.

Contacts

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Economics and Competitiveness Branch
Statistics and Data Development Section
October 18, 2019

Ashan Shooshtarian
Crop Statistician
Phone: 780-422-2887
Email: ashan.shooshtarian@gov.ab.ca

Note to Users: The contents of this document may not be used or reproduced without properly accrediting AFSC and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Economics and Competitiveness Branch, Statistics and Data Development Section

Weed Alert

Jimsonweed – Not Common to Alberta

ALL PARTS OF THE PLANT ARE POISONOUS

Concern: Jimsonweed (a.k.a Devil's Trumpet) is a serious weed in cultivated land in the United States and eastern Canada. The plant has toxic effects that have resulted in death to livestock and humans that ingest it.

Plant: The plant has smooth thick red to purple stems that can reach 2 meters tall. Leaves have irregular toothed margins 10-20 cm long. Flowers are white to purplish, 5 point trumpet shape, 7-10 cm long. Seed pod is 2-5cm wide, has spines, is egg shaped and may contain up to 600-700 seeds per capsule. The seed capsule will explode expelling the seeds once mature. Has distinctive sour repulsive odour.

Where to Find This Weed: This invasive weed has been showing up in canola fields. Jimsonweed has been reported recently in the Municipal District of Peace while producers are swathing canola.

Control: Jimsonweed seed is difficult to clean from canola, removal prior to combining is recommended. Jimsonweed should be pulled from fields prior to swathing down, once cut the seed capsules may mature into viable seeds for next year. When hand pulling, wear gloves and long sleeves and double bag the plants for the landfill disposal. In this year of feed shortages, canola stubble should not be baled up for feed where plants have been found. These practices will increase risk for poisoning in livestock feed.

Do not compost. Do not burn, as this will release toxins in the air and may cause secondary poisoning.

Early detection and eradication is very important to stop the spread.

Please report any sightings to Krista Zuzak, Chief Provincial Plant Officer, Agriculture & Forestry at (587) 985 2277 or krista.zuzak@gov.ab.ca.



Photos courtesy of Westlock County

Two sniffer dogs pass in-field clubroot test in Alta.

Dogs initially had trouble finding the disease in undisturbed soil but were soon pulling out canola stubble to reveal galls

BY **BARB GLEN**
LETHBRIDGE BUREAU

Dogs can be trained to find clubroot in canola fields.

The fact became obvious Sept. 17 when two dogs that were trained in clubroot detection were brought to Alberta to test their sniffing skills.

Michael Harding, crop pathologist with Alberta Agriculture, was on hand to see the test.

"They definitely had the capability of finding clubroot in a canola field," he said.

Clubroot is a production limiting disease in canola that does its work below ground, creating galls on plant roots that affect production. It is impossible to confirm without pulling up plants and examining the roots.

Now Harding's project has confirmed dogs can detect its presence by using their superior olfactory capabilities.

Four dogs have been trained for the task by Bill Grimmer, an internationally respected dog handler based in New Brunswick who has also trained dogs for drug detection, police rescue and service to the disabled.

Two of those dogs, a German shepherd and a Labrador, were brought to Alberta and successfully detected clubroot 100 percent of the time in a clinical demonstration involving cups of soil and in finding a hidden canister bearing clubroot.

Let's say you discovered clubroot in a field and you wanted to know if that was the only patch. You could take the dogs through and have them sniff out if there were other locations where there were significant clubroot symptoms.

MICHAEL HARDING, ALBERTA AGRICULTURE

Out in a swathed canola field, Harding said the dogs were initially slow to identify clubroot under crusted, undisturbed soil, but once that was remedied they responded with positive identification of infested areas.

"As soon as the trainer started to reward the dogs for finding it on the canola plants under the ground, they started to make the connection," said Harding.

Before long, the dogs were pulling canola stubble from the ground to show telltale galls on the roots.

That was surprising given the dogs had not been previously trained to do that, Harding said. With the concept proven, it's possible more dogs could be trained for the task.

"Let's say you discovered clubroot in a field and you wanted to know if that was the only patch. You



Dogs have been trained to detect zebra mussels on boats, as seen in this photograph, and have now also learned how to sniff out clubroot. | FILE PHOTO

could take the dogs through and have them sniff out if there were other locations where there were significant clubroot symptoms," said Harding.

He noted some counties try to scout every canola field within their boundaries in hopes of containing the destructive crop dis-

could alert you to where the symptoms were and then you could confirm it."

Surveillance is key because soil-borne clubroot has a firm foothold in Alberta fields, spreading from Edmonton and gradually spreading outward. Less severe infestations have also been found in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The proof-of-concept dog project was funded by Farming Smarter, the southern Alberta applied research group, using \$35,000 obtained through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

Harding said he will now write a final report and see where it goes from there. Greater use of dogs in this capacity would require more trainers, more dogs and municipalities, agriculture groups or individuals willing to buy, use and care for the canines.

The trained Labrador, which was visited Alberta earlier this month was a rescue dog, Harding said.

"It was a very high energy dog, which is what the trainers look for. They don't want lazy dogs. They want hard-working high-energy dogs. But apparently whoever had the dog couldn't deal with it and so it was scheduled to be euthanized."

"I went from being scheduled for euthanasia to being an actual working dog."

barb.glen@producer.com

Elm Pruning Ban in Alberta is over until March 31

By Janet Feddes-Calpas - STOPDED Executive Director

The annual elm pruning ban in Alberta is now over until March 31, 2019. With the ban lifted it's time to start pruning the dead wood out of your elm trees. To help eliminate elm bark beetle habitat, elm sanitation is essential to an integrated Dutch elm disease (DED) prevention program to keep Alberta DED free.

The only time it is legal to prune elms in Alberta is between October 1 and March 31. This is when the elm bark beetles, responsible for spreading the deadly DED fungus, are not active. Elm bark beetles feed on healthy elms and breed and overwinter in dead and dying elm trees. If elm trees are pruned between April 1 and September 30, beetles will be drawn to the scent of the fresh pruning cuts, potentially infecting an otherwise healthy elm.

Having your tree pruned properly is important. The Society to Prevent Dutch Elm Disease (STOPDED) recommends that all trees be pruned by a professional arborist such as an ISA Certified Arborist. They will determine what type of pruning is necessary to maintain or improve the health, appearance and safety of your trees. Improper pruning, topping or removing an excessive amount of live wood is not recommended, as these types of pruning will weaken the tree's structure and shorten its lifespan. It is essential that all pruned elm wood be properly disposed of by burning, burying or chipping by March 31. It is illegal to store elm firewood since it could be harboring elm bark beetles.

Alberta is still free of DED, however its borders are being pressed from two sides by Saskatchewan and Montana, both of which are battling the disease. Once an elm is infected with DED there is no cure and it must be removed and destroyed immediately. We must stay vigilant to keep our elms healthy. DED can be prevented.

For more information, call the STOPDED hotline at 1-877-837-ELMS or check out the web site at www.stopded.org. To find an ISA Certified Arborist in your area go to www.isaprairie.com.

FORWARDED ON BEHALF OF DALE CHRAPKO

Southern Alberta snow fall accumulations (Map 1 and Map 2)

Over the weekend, a large storm system deposited significant amounts of snow across most of the south-half of the province. Lands south of Red Deer received at least 10 cm of fresh snow. At least 20 cm fell across a large area lying west of a line from Rocky Mountain House, running diagonally down to Medicine Hat (**Map 1**).

Moving westward, snow fall accumulations increased rapidly towards the foot hills, with some areas south of Calgary and lying west of Highway 22, experiencing more than 1 meter of snow. Six mountain stations have reported over 130 mm of precipitation (measured as depth of water), with two stations in the mountains west of Lethbridge, Spionkop Creek and Porcupine Lookout recording 260 and 212 mm, respectively (**Map 2**). This translates to about 2 m of fresh snow accumulating in less than 4-days.

For those areas that did not received snow, north of Red Deer, upwards of 20 mm fell throughout parts of the North East, and southern Peace Region (**Map 2**). For the most part this moisture is unwelcome as harvesting operations are currently underway.

Some areas in and around Lethbridge received upwards of 30 cm of snow. Looking back through Lethbridge's historical records as far back as 1961, there was only one year with more snow in September. That was 1968, were it is estimated that nearly 1 meter of snow fell. This is about three times more than what fell this weekend. Ranked third and fourth are the Septembers of 1972 and 1965 with each receiving nearly 20 cm of snow.

Frost during the past 5-days (Map 3)

As the skies cleared in the wake of the storm, all of Alberta was left with freezing overnight temperatures. On the Moring of October 1st, many stations recorded temperatures below -10°C. Claresholm was the coldest, dipping to -19.4°C at 5:00 am, with temperatures remaining below -10°C for 13 hours.

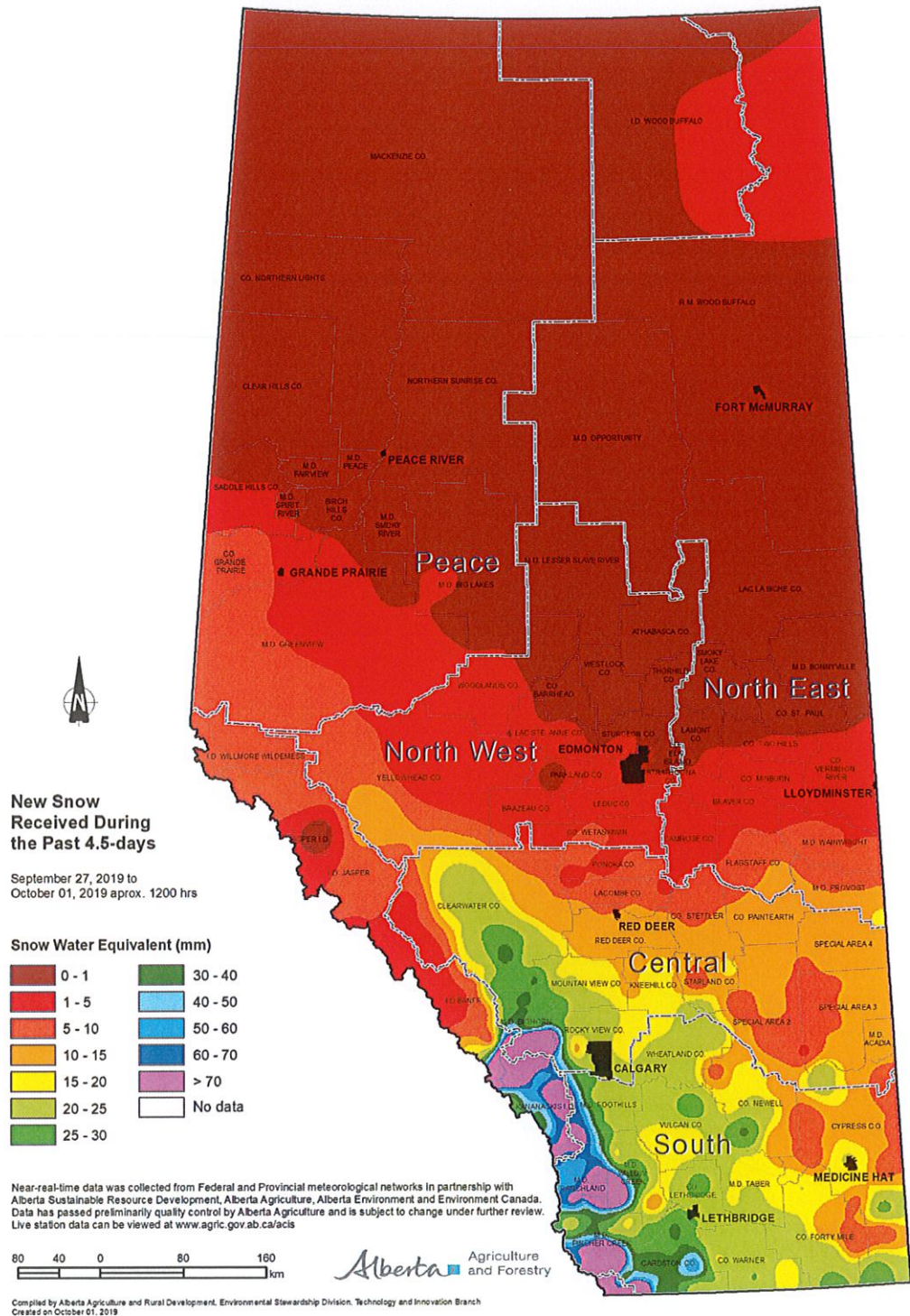
Nearly the entire province experienced hard frosts, with most areas seeing the temperature dip well below -4°C for several hours. Only a small portion of the far eastern portions of the province escaped hard frosts with many areas lying between Lloydminster, and Oyen only dipping to -1°C.

September rainfall accumulations (Map 4)

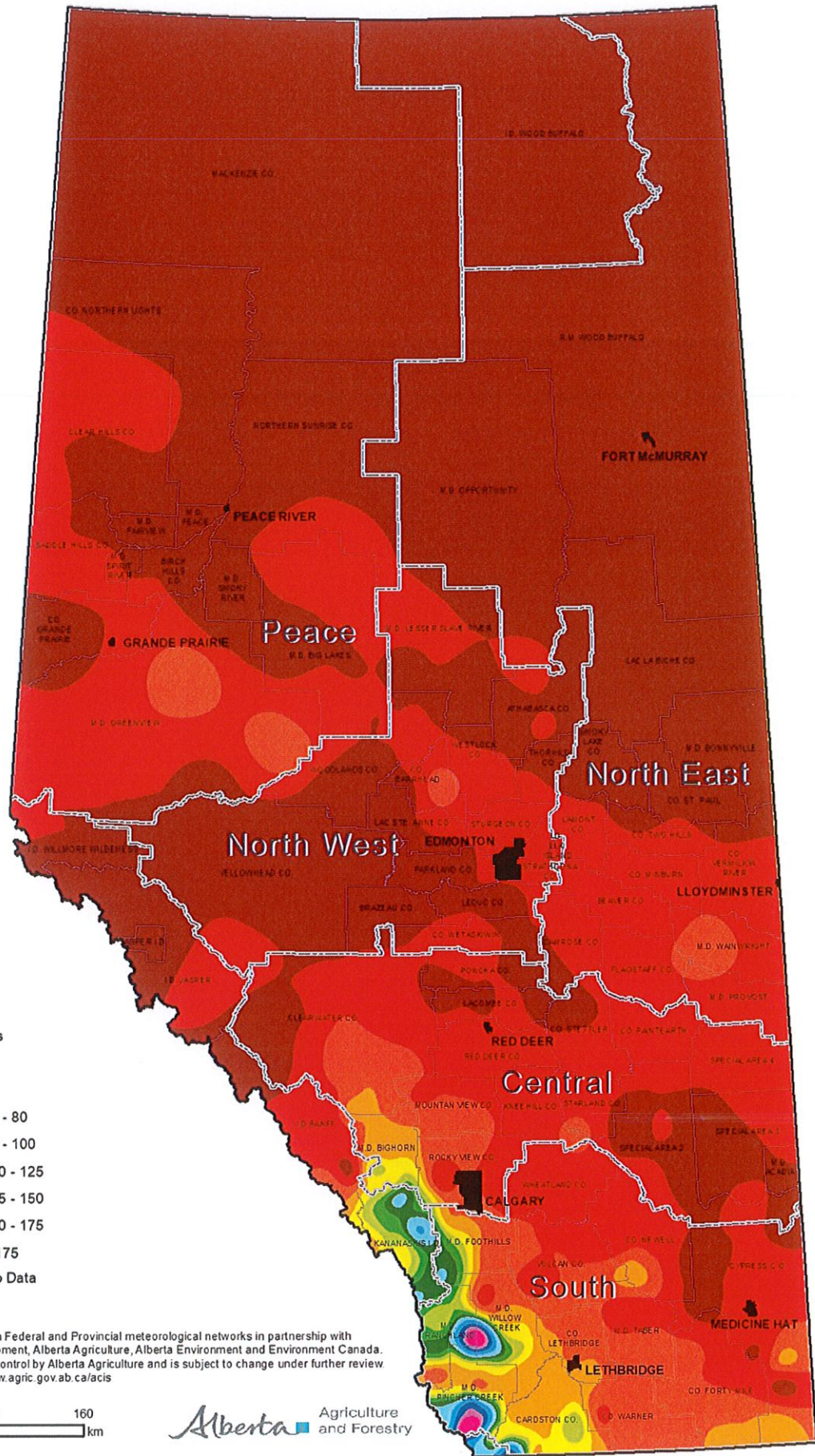
The month of September has been relatively wet throughout the entire province, with most areas experiencing at least 30 mm of moisture. Much of the North West has continued with wet weather in September, following abundant rains in June, July and August. Here some lands have received between 80 to 100 mm witch is roughly twice the normal amount.

Other wet areas include a large area extending from the extreme southern Peace Region, down along the foothills to the US border where precipitation accumulations range from 60 to well over 100mm. Additionally a large strip of land from about Wetaskiwin, through Camrose and continuing just north of Lloydminster has received 50 to 70 mm of rain. Finally the Central Peace region has been quite wet too, with upwards of 60 to 80 mm of rain recorded since the start of September.

Ralph Wright
Agrometeorology Applications and Modelling Unit
780-446-6831



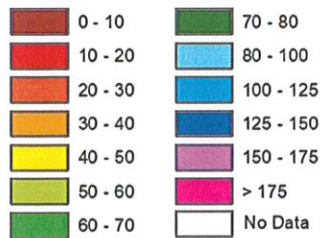
Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data



Precipitation Received During the Past 6.5-days

September 25, 2019 to October 01, 2019 approx. 1200 hrs

Precipitation (mm)

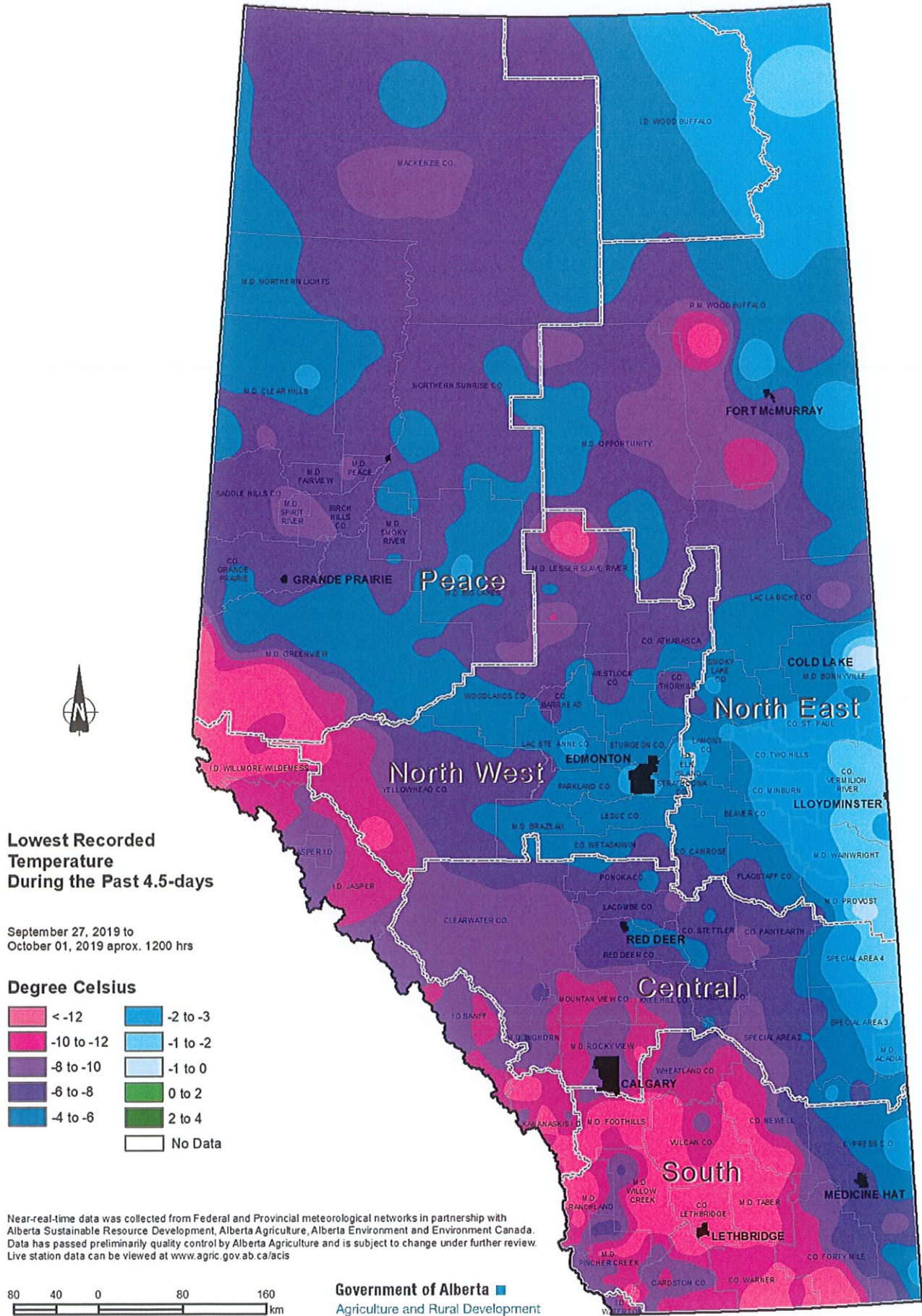


Near-real-time data was collected from Federal and Provincial meteorological networks in partnership with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Environment and Environment Canada. Data has passed preliminary quality control by Alberta Agriculture and is subject to change under further review. Live station data can be viewed at www.agric.gov.ab.ca/facis



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Stewardship Division, Technology and Innovation Branch
Created on October 01, 2019

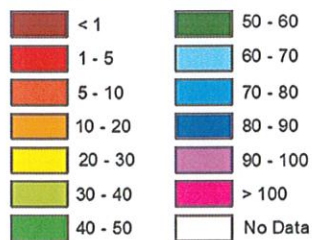
Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data



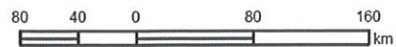
Precipitation Received During September, 2019

September 01, 2019 to September 30, 2019

Precipitation (mm)



Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.



Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Stewardship Division, Technology and Innovation Branch
Created on October 01, 2019

Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data



PRAIRIE CREEK

Energy Services

MOBILE WOOD Recycling Equipment Services

*Enhancing Environmental Stewardship
through the Application of Innovative Technology & Equipment*

Prairie Creek Energy Services offers the most advanced closed loop Wood waste recycling service solutions available to advance best practice and develop tools, strategies and approaches related to waste prevention and the Canadian circular economy.

We provide responsible all-inclusive Wood waste recycling solutions for the wood waste generators in the Forestry, Oil & Gas, Agriculture, Construction, Indigenous and Waste management Landfill industries through the use of our specialized Wood waste recycling equipment, technologies and leadership.

As such, we strive to be a leading source for environmental Wood waste recycling technology & equipment supply needs to get projects started right and continue through to successful completion, on budget and safely. Prairie Creek has the best Wood recycling resources available for most tasks, including leadership, labour, equipment operators, construction, fabrication and environmental services.

Mobile Wood Air Curtain Burner / Biochar Production Carbonizing / Incineration Services

The Future of Wood Waste is “Recycling”

The future of Wood waste elimination systems - Our Carbonizer, Air Curtain Burner operates on advanced principles and processes to be the most cost effective, environment-friendly portable Wood waste combustion recycling systems on the market.

Our portable equipment provides a secure and safe environment in which the combustion of wood and other types of waste occur, utilizing the wood and other combustible waste streams as its own fuel source. The elevated combustion chamber, above chamber air curtain, and pre-heated under-fire air, increase combustion efficiency. There is no smoke when burning (only when the air curtain is pierced), all the smoke and ash is kept in the Carbonizer with the air curtain creating a vortex that reaches heats of 2500 deg F. This Enviro Saver is the most cost and environmentally effective way for customers to eliminate their wood and other applicable waste materials.

There is an internal quenching system that turns wood waste into bio char, 3 to 5% of inbound weight is turned into bio char, approximately 400 to 500 lbs. per hour. All while reducing greenhouse gases, mitigating climate change, and improving crop and pasture yields with our Biochar.

Our unit is readily available, easily moved and can be brought to anyone that may need it.

Mobile, high production sub-soilers that incorporate biomass back into the soil. Not like traditional mulchers that leave the debris on the surface.

Environmental industry sectors

Oil & Gas, Forestry, Agriculture, Construction, Indigenous and Waste management Landfills

Mobile Biomass Incorporation / Mulching Services

Our Services – Providing the most advanced Land clearing environmental solutions

Prairie Creek Energy Services offers the most advanced land clearing solutions available. Covering a wide range of requirements, we work with a variety of clients from Forestry, Farmers, Construction, Indigenous, Waste management companies and estate owners. With our advanced land clearing techniques, we have established ourselves as the number one choice for land clearing.

We provide responsible Wood waste recycling solutions for the Oil & Gas, Forestry, Agriculture, Construction, Indigenous and Waste management Landfill industries, utilizing high horsepower, low ground pressure farm tractors with both MeriCrusher and FAE crusher heads for cost effective sub-soiling and stripping activities. Our tractors can mobilize between sites via roads which saves on trucking costs.

Environmental industry sectors

Oil & Gas, Forestry, Agriculture, Construction, Indigenous and Waste management Landfills

Mobile Biosecurity Services

Prairie Creek Energy Services provides a complete, turn-key biosecurity package for cleaning construction equipment. Each wash station crew will track all aspects of the cleaning process electronically. This provides our clients with auditable documentation for each piece of equipment cleaned at each station. All data is stored in the Cloud, and clients can access the data via a secure portal. All documentation, approvals, and reports are done electronically to ensure access to the most current data.

Prairie Creek will manage all aspects of the equipment cleaning process. This includes:

- Picker Trucks for Wash Pad relocation
- Water Trucks for supply of fresh water
- Vac Trucks for removal and transport of waste to disposal facility
- 100' hose reels
- All required PPE
- Wash/Sterilization station for PPE and boot decontamination
- Fully Equipped Wash Units -trailer mounted
- Air Compressors with air chisels/blow guns
- Self-contained 3500psi wash units
- Rotary Cleaning nozzles
- Support Vehicles
- Industry Knowledgeable Supervision

Prairie Creek can acquire any piece of equipment needed – from small utility to large earth moving equipment.

We have established agreements in place with industry leading equipment providers across Western Canada.

The result, Prairie Creek provides industry with innovative, dependable equipment and people.

Environmental industry sectors

Oil & Gas, Forestry, Agriculture, Construction, Indigenous and Waste management Landfills

BUILDING CANADA'S WOOD RECYCLING BIOECONOMY INDUSTRY

Recycled Wood Materials

Prairie Creek Energy Services is providing mobile wood recycling services, as well sourcing and brokering recycled clean and surface preserved wood waste materials from the Forestry, Oil & Gas, Pipeline, Agriculture, C&D Wood, Landfill producing industries.

Availability of Processed Wood Materials

Prairie Creek Energy Services has available on a limited bases, clean green, white, C&D wood and surface preserved recycled wood materials in a variety of processed preparations: ranging from and including – a processed grind/screen/shred generally in a 4" minus format, tub/hammer milled is a wood fine of either green, C&D blend, sawdust, chip, hog, bark and a biochar format.

Environmental industry sectors

Oil & Gas, Forestry, Agriculture, Construction, Indigenous and Waste management Landfills

Prairie Creek Energy Services understands there is a right tool for every job and to get the job done right, you need to work with a reliable and knowledgeable Bioeconomy service company.

Call us today!

For information about our environmental Wood waste recycling equipment services, recycled wood materials, visit our website and or please call us for a quotation. The PCES staff is here to help with your environmental equipment and service supply needs.

Best Regards,

Ed Doyle, Operations Manager
Prairie Creek Energy Services Ltd.

<https://www.prairiecreekenergy.ca>

587-337-3052

edoyle@pces.ca



Providing Bioeconomy, Environmental Wood Waste Recycling Solutions

Innovation towards sustainable environmental Development



CANADIAN
WOOD RECYCLING
INDUSTRY

www.cdnwoodwasterecycling.ca



PRAIRIE CREEK

Energy Services



Biomass-Incorporation / Mulching Services

Agricultural

- Land clearing - forest to "seed ready"
- Regrowth mulching and incorporation
- Biosecurity
- Orchard removal
- Biomass / topsoil incorporation
- Access road regeneration (aggregate)
- Pasture revitalization



Commercial / Residential / Site prep

- Site clearing
- Frozen topsoil mulching
- Biosecurity
- Biomass / topsoil incorporation
- Access road regeneration (aggregate)

Heavy Industrial

- Site clearing
- Biomass / topsoil incorporation
- Frozen backfill grinding
- Biosecurity
- Pipeline / Powerline Clearing
- Right of way clearing
- Access road regeneration (aggregate)
- Ice scarification - parking lots, access roads
- Frozen topsoil mulching for stripping operations



FROZEN TOPSOIL MULCHING FOR STRIPPING OPERATIONS

County's / Municipalities / Highways

- Roadside regrowth clearing & incorporation
- Aggregate road regeneration
- Aggregate road and parking lot ice scarification
- Biosecurity
- Asphalt grinding
- Fire break clearing

Contact us for more information and other services including Biosecurity and Complete Reclamation Services

For Pricing and Availability Contact 587 337 3052





BIOSECURITY

Prairie Creek Energy Services provides a complete, turn-key biosecurity package for cleaning construction equipment. Each wash station crew will track all aspects of the cleaning process electronically. This provides our clients with auditable documentation for each piece of equipment cleaned at each station.

All data is stored in the Cloud, and clients can access the data via a secure portal. All documentation, approvals, and reports are done electronically to ensure access to the most current data.



Prairie Creek will manage all aspects of the equipment cleaning process. This includes:

- Picker Trucks for Wash Pad relocation
- Water Trucks for supply of fresh water
- Vac Trucks for removal and transport of waste to disposal facility
- Fully Equipped Wash Units – trailer mounted
- Self-contained 3500psi wash units
- Rotary Cleaning nozzles
- 100' hose reels
- All required PPE
- Wash/Sterilization station for PPE and boot decontamination
- Air Compressors with air chisels/blow guns
- Support Vehicles
- Industry Knowledgeable Supervision



Prairie Creek Energy Services wash pads can handle the largest pipeline equipment

KEY FEATURES OF PRAIRIE CREEK WASH PADS

- 100% Containment of Residue & Water
 - ✓ Individual sections allow for custom sizing with ramps.
 - ✓ Each section follows contour of the ground.
 - ✓ Rubber seals connect each section together.
 - ✓ Side Curtains prevent any overspray from exiting the wash pad.
- 3500 Gallons (+) of Storage Capacity
 - ✓ Sections connected to allow for fluid skimming equalization.
 - ✓ System can be heated to keep water from freezing.
- Durable Practical Design
 - ✓ Easy cleaning of containment tanks.
 - ✓ Weight rating of 150,000 lbs.
 - ✓ Withstand any tracked machine with ice lugs.
 - ✓ Weighs approx. 42,000lbs. (hauled in 1 load).
 - ✓ Can be unloaded and set up in 45 minutes to change locations.

PLEASE CONTACT:

Ed Doyle
587-337-3052
edoyle@pces.ca
www.prairiecreekenergy.ca





**Agricultural Service Board
Grant Program Review**

**Ag-Fieldmen & ASB Member
Engagement**

SUMMARY REPORT

Prepared for the Steering Committee

Cindy Bishop, Engagement Consultant-Facilitator

May 2019

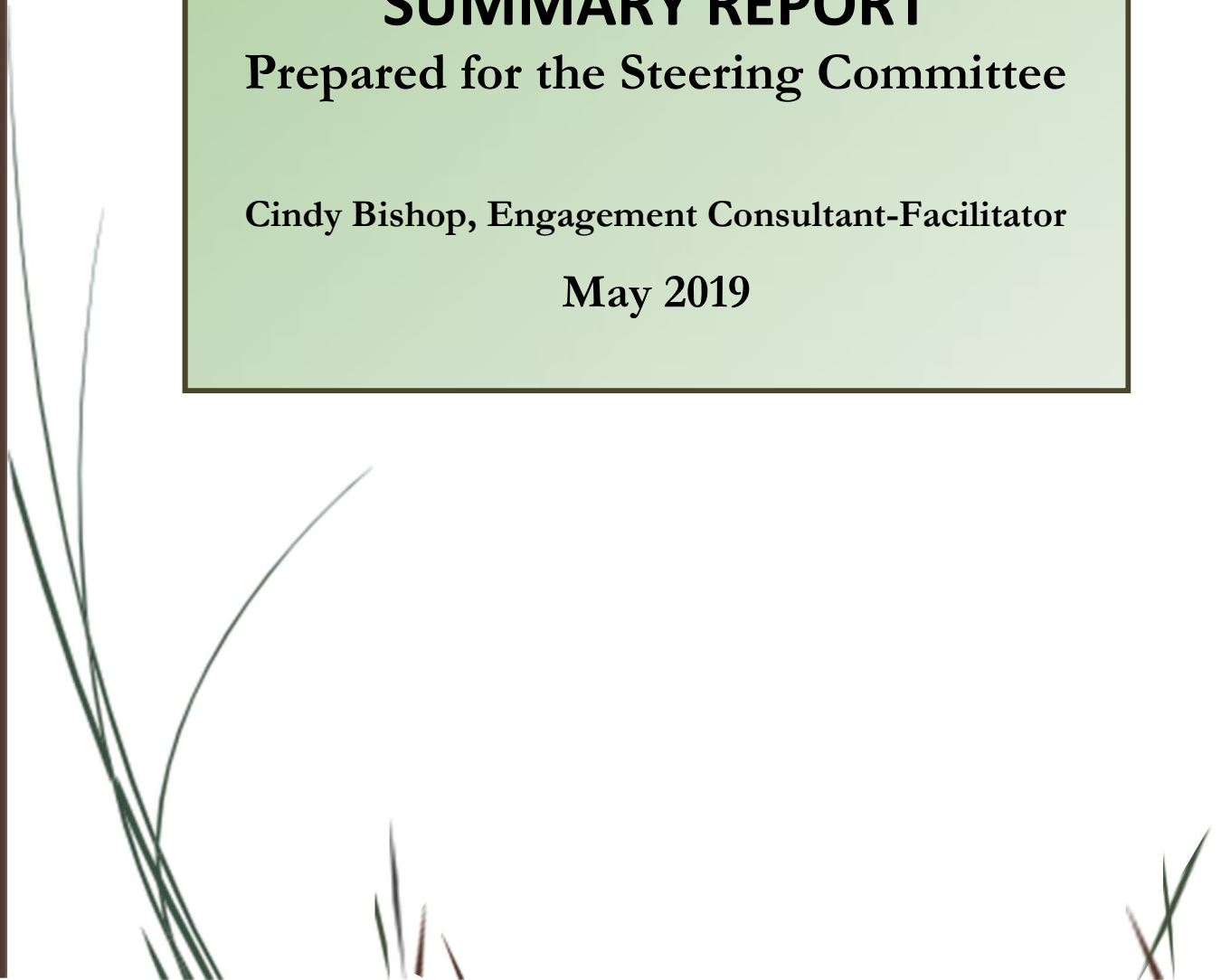


Table of Contents

Introduction and Background	1
Target Stakeholder Engagement – Ag Fieldmen, ASB Members	2
Stakeholder Engagement Design and Delivery Process – Survey, Face-to-Face Sessions	2
Data Analysis Approach	4
Provincial Results & Insights – Agricultural Fieldmen	5
1) ASB Grant Program – Impact	
2) ASB Story – Measuring and Communicating Success	
3) ASB Resolution Process – Informing Policies, Practices and Legislation	
4) ASB Grant Program Administration – Alberta Agriculture and Forestry	
5) AF Support – Key Contact Program	
6) Communication between AF and Ag Fieldmen/ASBs	
7) Innovation – Responding to Change Preparing for the Future	
8) “Open Floor” – Additional Comments, Program Review and Beyond	
Provincial Results & Insights – ASB Members	9
1) Positioning ASBs to Succeed – Future Thinking (Environmental Scanning)	
2) Program Innovation	
3) Quantifiable Success – ‘Telling Our Story’, Advocating/Communicating Impact	
4) Enhancing the Resolution Process	
5) Strengthening the AF ↔ ASB Working Relationship – Key Contact Program, Communications	
6) “Keep in Mind” Advice to AF	
7) “Open Floor” – Additional Comments, Program Review and Beyond	
ASB Grant Program Review Engagement Outcomes – “Stand Out’s”	25
▪ Over-arching Comments	
Feedback & Evaluation – Indicators of Engagement Success	26
Acknowledgements – ASB Grant Program Review Contributions	27

Introduction and Background

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Grant Program Review was initiated by the Provincial ASB Committee and endorsed by the Deputy Minister of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) in 2017. A Steering Committee was formed with representation from the Provincial ASB Committee, the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen and AF's Agricultural Service Board Unit, Livestock and Crops Division, and Agriculture Stewardship Division. The Steering Committee was tasked to oversee the Program Review and report to the Minister.

The Agricultural Service Board Unit in AF took on the project leadership and contracted a Consultant-Facilitator to skillfully lead all facets of the engagement process design, delivery, and reporting. The planning, stakeholder engagement, and follow-up phases of the ASB Grant Program Review extended from the summer of 2018 to the spring of 2019.

The time was ripe for a thorough assessment of the current ASB Grant Program – Legislative Grant Stream. The last comprehensive Agricultural Service Board Review was conducted in 2005. The focus at that time was the level of funding and program updates to meet expanding needs of agriculture producers and municipalities. In 2012, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development did a “check-in” with ASBs. This was one year after the new ASB Grant Program was implemented. This review centred on program efficiencies and consolidation of the environmental funding stream in the ASB Grant Program the along with the legislative stream.

It should be noted that ASB Grant Program funding and Environmental Grant Stream is out of scope for the 2018/19 ASB Grant Program Review. This Program Review centered on grant-funded activities, programs, and services. There was no intent to assess specific ASB or municipal agricultural programs and extension activities beyond what AF assists with.

Purpose

From a Ministry perspective, engagement with stakeholders will verify previously identified issues, identify new issues, and identify potential options that could be used to improve the overall effectiveness and impact of the ASB Grant Program. In addition to supporting continuous improvement, output from the Review will help shape the renewed Program Terms and Conditions.

Objectives

The constructive review of the ASB Grant Program focused on five key focus areas:

- i. Program impact – Achieving the ASB Grant Program purpose
- ii. Program efficiency and effectiveness – Measuring and communicating success in municipalities, the province
- iii. ASB Grant Program administration – Spotlight on the resolution process, program/service elements
- iv. Strengthening the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and ASB working relationship
- v. ASB Grant Program innovation – Responding to change and preparing for the future

Productive, meaningful stakeholder engagement was the cornerstone for the 2018/19 ASB Grant Program Review. Diligent engagement of Agricultural Fieldmen and ASB members from 69 municipalities in Alberta was carried out with these expectations in mind:

- Stakeholders are informed during the program review process and have a clear understanding of its purpose, objectives and timelines.
- Stakeholders are engaged both provincially and regionally so they have the opportunity to provide input into the program review.
- Stakeholders are supportive of the ASB Program Review.

Target Stakeholder Engagement – Agricultural Fieldmen and ASB Members

Agricultural Fieldmen

In November 2018, Ag-Fieldmen were surveyed online to tap their on-the ground work and practical knowledge of the Program strengths and limitations. The survey scheduled timeframe was November 13 - 30 with the survey closing on December 5, 2018. The response rate was an exceptional 81.2%. 56 individuals/69 invitees completed the survey. People were clearly vested.

Agricultural Service Boards

Five *Face-to-Face ASB Member Sessions* were held in February 2019. The purpose of these Sessions was to exchange information, share perspectives, and tap the collective wisdom of ASB members in each of the five regions, and consider Province-wide interests. The engagement process respected the ASB Members' unique responsibility for strategic, forward thinking and oversight of local ASBs. Target registration numbers for all five sessions were met. Total participation: N=105. 86% of ASB Municipalities (59/69) had representation at the Sessions. Participation ranged from 17-24: Lethbridge (24), Barrhead (20), Lacombe (22), St. Paul (17), Peace River (22). Facilitated table discussions included 4 - 5 participants each with ample opportunity to engage.

While stakeholder engagement was tailored to draw on the unique viewpoints and role of each target audience, there was overlap in the line of inquiry. Common focus topics for Ag-Fieldmen and ASB Members included:

- ASB Program Impact – Perceived value and using outcome measures to advocate/communicate ASB Program success
- Program Innovation – New or improved ASB Grant Program funded elements
- Enhancing the Resolution Process – Perceived value, understanding the process, improvements
- Strengthening the AF and ASB Working Relationship – Key Contact Program, communication (information exchange), leveraging the AF ↔ Ag-Fieldmen/ASB connection
- “Open Floor” – Opportunity to provide additional comments on survey or agenda topics as well as issues and concerns beyond the scope of the ASB Grant Program Review

Ag-Fieldmen Survey Emphasis:

- Identifying appropriate measures of success for the ASB Program – Indicators and outcome (impact) measures
- ASB Program/Service Priorities – Categories of expenses, existing and prospective
- ASB Grant Application and Annual Reporting Process

ASB Member Face-to-Face Sessions Emphasis:

- The ASB profile and socio-economic impact of ASB programs, services, and activities (presentation)
- Environmental Scanning – Future trends, projections, critical issues expected to influence the ASB Program
- Provincial ASB Committee – Perceived usefulness in advocating on Resolutions
- “Keep in Mind” advice as the ASB Grant Program evolves
- Ideas for how ASB Member participants best inform their respective Boards of the Program Review
- Session evaluation
- “Overview Report” – Session highlights report distributed to participating ASBs

Stakeholder Engagement Design and Delivery Process

Ag-Fieldmen Survey

The Consultant-Facilitator designed the survey with clear objectives and input from the Project Team and Steering Committee. The line of questioning was vetted through the Steering Committee. Further refinements were made to the survey with feedback from Pre-testers. Three Ag-Fieldmen and the Executive Assistant - Provincial ASB Committee, were asked for their constructive feedback on what it's like for the target audience to receive and experience completing the survey. Guiding questions helped to enhance the feedback process.

The aim of having specific, focused survey questions presented in an engaging flow was achieved. The line of inquiry started with the end in mind – desired ASB Grant Program impact, moving to Ag-Fieldmen/ASB centric questions, then AF Program Administration related questions. Context and probes/prompts helped participants

better understand the intent of the questions. Most questions elicited qualitative responses. All questions were aligned with Program Review objectives

The Opinio online survey tool was used to deliver the survey and track participant responses. An AF staff member with Opinio system expertise worked with the Project Team to format the questions, administer the survey, and capture results. To encourage participation, two customized Opinio-generated reminders were sent to Ag-Fieldmen while the survey was open. Another bid to strengthen the response rate was made in a post-closure last call reminder. The 81.2% response rate is a strong measure of engagement success.

ASB Member Face-to-Face Sessions (5 Regions)

The Participant Agenda and Process Agenda for the ASB Member sessions were prepared by the Consultant-Facilitator with Project Team input. Ag-Fieldmen survey results helped to inform and strengthen agenda development. A mock Session was held to better prepare for and strengthen the process outcomes. Support materials served to enlighten and enhance ASB Member dialogue. These included: “Backgrounder” reference, Participant Workbook (small + large group dialogue questions), “Alberta’s Agricultural Service Boards” factsheet, and a “Return on Investment” Session evaluation. Facilitator-Recorders were recruited and trained to support active, productive small group dialogue at each Session.

For the ASB Member Face-to-Face Sessions, particular attention was paid to laying the foundation and setting the stage for productive dialogue. The ASB Grant Program Review purpose, objectives, and project phases were outlined. At the request of the Steering Committee, the Chair presented an overview of ASB Program history and mandate linked to legislation. A pivotal message from the Steering Committee summarized the value of the ASB Program Review:

*“It is good practice to evaluate programming and conduct program reviews from time to time.
They help us be informed and creative; to be better able to pre-plan and prepare for the future.
They are a good way for us to pause and take stock of our mutual roles and responsibilities tied
to the Program.”*

Developing a mindset for positive and forward-thinking dialogue came through the well-received presentation on the socio-economic impact of the ASB Program and facilitated environmental scanning with participants.

ASB Members were actively engaged throughout the facilitated small and large group dialogue. As with the Ag-Fieldmen Survey, assessing the ASB Grant Program impact launched the line of inquiry. ASB Grant Program elements and program innovation, “Telling Our Story” – advocating/communicating measurable outcomes, enhancing the resolution process, and strengthening the AF and ASB working relationship, followed. Context and probes/prompts were used with many questions. The Sessions wrapped up with a large group “Idea Exchange”. Volunteer presenters at each table selected Session dialogue highlights to share with the room at large. This allowed participants to hear a sampling of what resonated most with them.

Participant “Return on Investment” evaluations were exceptionally positive. Satisfaction with all five sessions was high, often exceeding participants’ expectations.

On March 15, 2019 a one-page “ASB Member Face-to-Face Session Overview Report” was sent to participating ASBs.

Engagement best practices were employed at every opportunity in both the Ag-Fieldmen Survey and the ASB Member Face-to Face Sessions. The engagement was robust and highly interactive. Communication about the process was timely, transparent, and comprehensive. Stakeholder feedback was sought throughout both the planning and delivery phases of engagement. A strong process evolved with diligent attention to stakeholder interests.

Data Analysis Approach

Obtaining both quantitative and qualitative data enriched the findings. The vast majority of questions in the Program Review were qualitative in nature. The intent was to avoid leading questions and to gain better understanding of the focus area context, issues and concerns from the respondents' standpoint.

Agricultural Fieldmen Survey

The Opinio online survey tool generated comprehensive reports with results compiled by Region and for the entire Province. Charts and frequency tables reflected much of the quantitative data. Qualitative data was captured in listings of free text (open ended) comments entered by respondents.

The Consultant-Facilitator reviewed and synthesized the Provincial 56-page compilation of survey results into a 8-page report for the Steering Committee: *"Snapshot Preliminary Province-Wide Results – Highlights & Insights."*

ASB Member Face-to-Face Sessions

The questions asked of the ASB Members were virtually all open-ended which garnered qualitative data. Facilitator-Recorder notes from table dialogues in each Session were compiled, reviewed, and summarized to facilitate data analysis and comparison. The *"Preview Report – Preliminary Result: Face-to-Face Session Highlights & Insights"* was presented to the Steering Committee as a precursor to this Summary Report.

As with the Ag-Fieldmen Survey, participants frequently cited issues or suggestions that fell within the environmental stream. Though Environmental Stream Program concerns are out of scope for the 2018/19 ASB Grant Program Review, related data has been maintained and shared with the Environmental Programming Unit.

Guideposts for Data Analysis

A comprehensive analysis of all stakeholder engagement data was done in the last phase of the ASB Grant Program Review. A consistent approach to extracting key information included paying careful attention to:

- Common themes/groupings of similar ideas by the 5 key focus areas – Provincially and regionally
- Regional differences or trends
- Unique/novel stand-alone ideas (Termed "Outliers/Insights" in the ASB Member Summaries; noted in the Ag-Fieldmen Survey Steering Committee reports.)
- What is clearly working well? What is not working, i.e. problem areas or concerns with the ASB Grant Program? Areas for improvement?
- Practical, feasible actions that could be part of revised *Program Terms & Conditions* and/or inform the ASB Grant Program staff, Provincial ASB Committee
- Stakeholder perceptions of the ASB Program impact, linking to measures, accountability, and advocacy
- Stakeholders views on Albertans' interests in ASB Program outcomes

The two Steering Committee interim reports prepared by the Consultant-Facilitator complement the strategic, high level data analysis presented in this Summary Report. These documents and the raw data are critical references for drafting Recommendations to the Minister, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and for updating ASB Grant Program Terms of Conditions.

Provincial Results & Insights – Agricultural Fieldmen

1) ASB Grant Program – Impact, (Fieldmen – Municipality – Province)

Primary Benefits or Positive Impact of the Program

- Many comments were made about what would happen without the financial support of the ASB Grant Program, especially in smaller municipalities having a lower tax (revenue) base. *“Without financial support we would not be in existence... our municipal contribution (\$) to Alberta’s Agriculture and Environment Sector would end.”* The Program was deemed vital to hiring staff and fulfilling the Ag-Fieldmen role and duties; essential to ASB existence.
- Respondents valued the power of the Program and legislation in giving their work authority, justification, credibility, and earning the trust of their ASB. The Program provides oversight, helps to align goals, direct priorities, and ensures a consistent focus. Grant Program dollars are leveraged in the municipalities to achieve more than what would otherwise be possible. Leveraging (80% municipality : 20% grant) relieves the burden on municipalities.
- *“The benefits and impacts are second to none and it’s an amazing program being run.”* Tangible outcomes that surfaced in this section: *“Cost savings to producers”*; *“keep weed and pest populations under control so they do not adversely and economically impact ag producers”*; *“Province considers these issues as important and worth managing”*.
- It was thought that Albertans’ most value Agricultural land stewardship (90% of respondents) and disease and pest management (90%), followed by ag land productivity (61%) and awareness of agriculture’s contribution to the economy (53%).

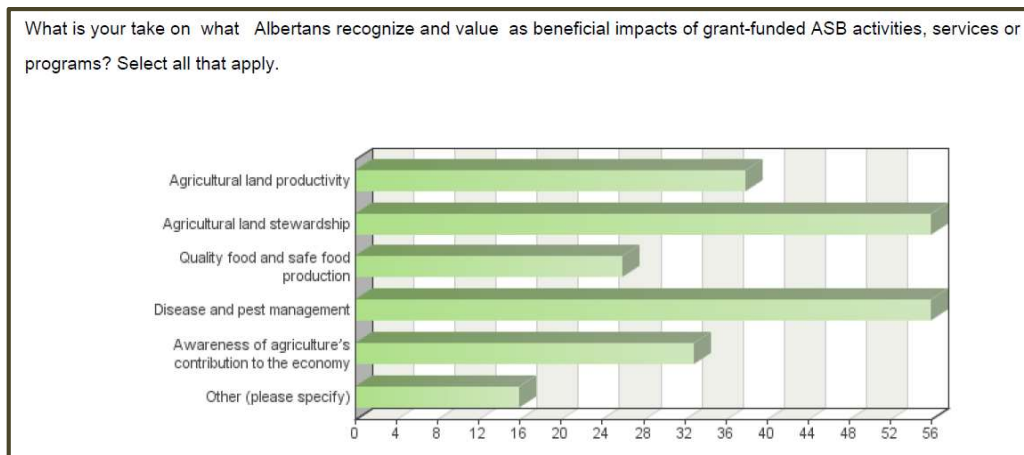


Figure 1 - Number of Responses by Topic

2) ASB Story – Measuring and Communicating Success

What to Measure, Track and Report on to Demonstrate the Collective Impact of the Program

- It was evident that identifying meaningful quantifiable outcome (impact) measures is a challenge. Individual ASB Program activity measures (indicators/input measures) were typically emphasized over province-wide standards/measures.
- Many Ag-Fieldmen view demonstrating collective impact *“almost impossible to quantify in a meaningful, consistent manner and this will make comparing success from municipality to municipality or cumulatively in the province extremely difficult.”*
- The importance of measuring stakeholder and public engagement was recognized. Respondents were unsure of appropriate measures for each. One respondent viewed stakeholder collaboration and partnering as having the greatest impact.
- There was considerable interest in developing practical tools, technologies, and consistent approaches to tracking, measuring, and reporting on success, i.e. lending evidence or credibility to telling their story.
- AF was asked to provide a model for desired metrics and core deliverables well in advance to ensure tracking and reporting of the most relevant information to the Ministry. Ag-Fieldmen appreciate that this will help the Ministry tell its story.

3) ASB Resolutions Process – Informing Policies, Practices and Legislation

Most Crucial Activities in the Resolution Process, Perceived Value

- Drafting resolutions with direction from my ASB topped out the responses (76.8%). Preparing speaking notes for Board members (17.9%) surfaced as the least frequent response.
- 75% (of 56 respondents) view the process as useful. Reasons cited include: *“Well written resolutions that request specific outcomes help raise issue awareness by the Provincial and Federal Governments”*. The resolution process keeps rural issues relevant and brings rural issues to the attention of decision-makers. The process contributes to having the Province accountable to Albertans; theoretically it should give ag producers a voice in government policy decision-making. Representing opinions of a wide range of producers is an important part of the process.
- The process is seen to have improved. *“We are making strong strides towards taking what was a weak resolution process and strengthening it. The Provincial ASB Committee’s commitment to following up on resolutions, lobbying and advocating is vital to this continued mission.”*
- Respondents indicated that the Resolution Process was not useful for a variety of reasons. The dominant theme was concerns with timely responses, i.e. months and years, and tangible results, i.e. visible changes to regulation and programming. *“An annual resolution session is not timely enough to address many agricultural issues.”* Some viewed government agencies as providing *“subpar”*, ineffective responses to grassroots information; not leading to any meaningful change. The investment of time and effort is not worth it.
- Though there is an agreement that all ag-related issues go solely to the Provincial ASB Committee, some respondents perceived that there is overlap in resolutions being brought forward to both the Provincial ASB Committee and RMA (Rural Municipalities of Alberta). This is seen to lessen the weight or validity of the (Provincial) ASB.

4) ASB Grant Program Administration – Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Details in the Opinio-generated reports will definitely inform both the Recommendations and the upcoming renewal of the ASB Grant Program Terms and Conditions.

Expense Categories

The visual that follows summarizes what Ag-Fieldmen view as their top-5 priorities from select categories of expenses currently funded by the ASB Grant Program.

Select your top 5 priorities for your ASB, based on their importance to fulfilling your mandate and achieving your desired results.
Rank these from 1 to 5 (with 1 being the top priority).

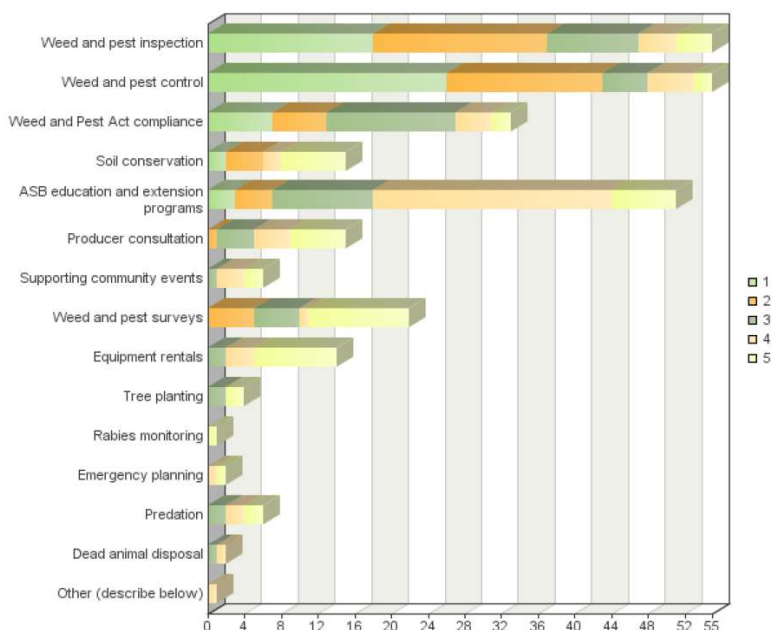


Figure 2 - Number of Ranked Responses

- The prevailing view is that all expense categories are important and should be maintained to support flexibility and diversity in municipalities as they fulfill legislated responsibilities. *“On a whole” with each ASB facing their own individual concerns, it would be inadvisable to remove any of the current eligible expenses; should look at increasing (expense categories).”*

Comments under “Other” were clearly tied to regional concerns, e.g. rabies, tree planting, construction of a multi-purpose agricultural facility, support growth of local food industry, VSI Program, emergency planning.

- Responding to growth in technology and urban/acreage owner education emerged as new categories to be covered by the ASB Grant Program.
- Legislation not keeping pace with the evolving role (position) of Ag-Fieldmen was referenced in the question pertaining to expense categories that may be no longer relevant. It is an interesting sidebar.
- Funding levels were excluded from the line of inquiry (out-of-scope). Where respondents were able to provide open comments, there were fewer asks for funding than expected. When mentioned, access to specialist/expert resources were requested alongside requests for more dollars.

Application Process

- 73% of respondents rated the process as relatively easy or very easy; 5% rated as very difficult. Generally, it was viewed as streamlined, straight forward, and practical.
- Discontent related to the time to complete the application, submission timing, i.e. during the busy April to October months, and the application not being printer-friendly.

Annual Reporting

- The annual reporting process was rated as relatively easy or very easy (82%); <1% rated the reporting process as very difficult.
- 96% of the 54 people who responded indicated online reporting is advantageous. Benefits of online reporting: It is much simpler and quicker, clarifies the type of info required, is easier to submit responses, and it allows for year to year consistency.
- On the downside, respondents raised concerns with printing and ‘save documents’ technical glitches. *“Not much room for customization for unique program areas”*, i.e. online reporting of diverse or unique programming, was another concern that was raised.

5) AF Support – Key Contact Program

- 75% of the 56 survey respondents participate in the Key Contact Program (KCP).
- The KCP was seen to be most helpful: *“The key contact is an important link between our ASB and the government.” “Our key contact has been an incredible resource for us.” “It might be good to have an AF (KC) contact mentor-type arrangement for brand new Fieldmen.” “...Keep it a priority for the province as we appreciate it.”*

Key Contact (KC) ‘Positives’ Sampler: KCs provide/share valuable (relevant, up to date, specific) information from a technical standpoint as required; support and insight from a provincial view; take questions back; answers questions concerning policies and procedures; have first-hand knowledge, able to share of other boards’ practices, solutions, etc.; act as a conduit from ASB to AF and reverse; great resource when looking for information or a contact from AF; keeps our ASB current with AF programming changes; brings forth area concerns to the Ministry; has many contacts in the extension world/for particular areas.

- A number of reasons were cited for not participating with the KCP and/or dissatisfaction with the KC: Perceived as too far away; lack of contact in 2.5 years indicates they do not feel any need to work with us; KC does not reach out to us in any form...; useless in returning calls; no staff available; still don’t know who our KC is; see no benefit/use; already have established contacts, go-to specialists, advisors, information sources. Effectiveness is limited with their inability to work directly with ASB staff on projects.
- Respondents acknowledged that Key Contacts can’t be experts in every area. Suggested improvements to the KCP centered on broadening access to diverse expertise. For example, have multiple KCs specializing in different areas attend ASB meetings at different times; encourage neighbouring Key Contacts to give alternative/supplemental information; have a rotating provincial expert coming in to the ASBs; continue to share knowledge, monthly topics among KCs.

Other KCP Suggestions: Individuals should have an interest, want to be the liaison between the province and the municipality; provide concise info; offer something of value; be allowed to attend Regional and

Provincial conferences to keep up to date, ASB meetings (more regularly), municipal functions; be directly involved in projects or at the ASB table; establish clear duties, expectations + limitations, *“we haven’t known how best to utilize their role”*; make them mandatory (increase ASB connection to the Provincial government).

- More access to Key Contacts is needed in the Peace Region. There is definite interest in this region.

6) Communication Between AF and Ag-Fieldmen / ASBs

- Comments about the communication were favourable as a rule. The *“single point of contact”* (Agriculture Service Board Unit/ASB Grant Program office) was much appreciated. Respondents *“like that the information comes from one source...”* Relevant, consistent information is offered.
- Ag-Fieldmen are looking to more directly engage the Minister and MLAs, i.e. the political level. It was suggested that the Minister should address Provincial ASB Conferences.
- *“The continual improvement of communication between AF, the AAAF, and ASB’s is essential.”*
- Suggested Improvements: Monthly or quarterly e-newsletter; info sessions/Q & As with the ASB Grant Program Manager and the Fieldmen; attend more ASB/Regional/Partnership meetings; continue discussions and training of municipal and provincial staff to comprehend mutual expectations; better manage/schedule number of emails during the growing season
- ASB website is useful; needs to be updated... information refreshed.
- It was noted that amalgamation of ASB with Municipal Councils leaves insufficient time for ag issues.

7) Innovation – Responding to Change, Preparing for the Future

- Though less than expected, there was still several mentions of funding increases to: Keep pace with inflation; offset increased costs and AF/legislation stream program requests; assist ASBs with legal costs relating to legislative areas of responsibility.
- Requests for human resources revolved around accessing AF staff to help directly in the field e.g. provincial inspectors, or to assist with ASB projects.
- Among the more novel suggestions for ASB Grant funding were:
 - Opportunity and innovation elements that create market access, spur diversification, and increase long term sustainability, e.g. local/regional food initiatives, local food production/processing programming, *“funding incentives for value-added initiatives which promote rural sustainability”*.
 - Tracking/measuring/reporting technology, e.g. ag inspection, ag education event tracking software; shared data platforms; provincial survey apps.
 - Merit-based grant incentive for ASBs that are doing bold, new or improved programs.
 - Ag safe work practices.

8) “Open Floor” – Additional Comments, Program Review and Beyond

As requested by the Steering Committee an opportunity was provided for stakeholders to comment on Issues, questions, or comments in addition to or beyond what was asked in the survey or discussed in each session. (Based on the “Open Floor” comments for both Ag-Fieldmen and ASB Members.)

- There were a great variety of topics under “Open Floor” (a.k.a. ‘Parking Lot’). Many points reinforced previously answered survey questions. For example:
 - ☛ *“... Need to work to recognize the economic driver that agriculture still is in this province...”*
 - ASB Program and Legislative Acts review are far overdue. Many ‘historical’ requirements are no longer relevant or realistic.
 - Consider building and implementing tracking and reporting software.
 - Need one (consistent) legal opinion for issues across all the municipalities.
 - Seeking a rapid response from staff and the Minister to Weed and Pest Act appeals.
 - Strengthen/improve advocacy to stakeholders, i.e. impact the ASBs have on our agricultural sector.

Provincial Results & Insights – ASB Members

1) Positioning ASBs to Succeed – Future Thinking (Environmental Scanning)

Environmental scanning is an integral part of adapting to change and positioning an organization or program to survive and thrive into the future. Participation in an environmental scanning exercise helped ASB Members to develop a mindset for strategic, forward thinking. The aim was to depart from day-to-day concerns and look 3 - 5 plus years into the future at factors – trends, issues, opportunities, expected to influence ASB programs, activities, and services.

The Ministry will also benefit from having a rich source of stakeholder-generated projections, trends and issues. This environmental scan reflects the diverse backgrounds and insights of ASB Grant Program stakeholders.

Small groups of ASB Members explored a broad range of factors under “STEEP” headings with cross-over expected. Participants were asked to think about what concerns them most. The dialogue was distilled to their top three critical issues, including some implications. A compilation of the most concerning factors follows.

Social/Demographic Factors

- The urban population shift (focus), coupled with their lack of understanding of the industry, compromises informed policy choices regarding agriculture. Urban issues may take more priority with regard to legislative changes.
- Urban sprawl, acreage ownership, and lack of public knowledge of food production and other agricultural concerns, pose challenges to ASB Program compliance. Misinformed people neglect or are reluctant to follow legislation-based, regulated agricultural practices. *“ASBs might need to adapt their services to also include acreage owners.”*
- Social media, famous personality spokespersons, and advertising perpetuate disconcerting misinformation about agriculture practices, food production and processing, food quality.
- There is increased consumer/market place demand for food produced in humane/environmentally sound manner. ASBs could partner with corporations in promoting the ag industry.
- Social license – the ability to farm, has implications for accessing funding to support agricultural activities.
- The need for agricultural advocacy and ag education surfaced repeatedly. *“We need to pro-actively tell our story.”* Education from elementary school through to university and beyond, is increasingly important, i.e. the benefits of farming and the rural life, acceptability of agriculture and agricultural practices. To message the positive, true facts about agriculture ASBs and the Industry should get together with one, unified voice.
- Disappearance of the family farm/small farms has a detrimental social impact on rural communities, e.g. smaller or no schools, declining population, inability for young people to stay on the farm or in the community.
- The loss of the agricultural land base and legislation for zoning agriculture, are concerns. *“Work with planning departments and agriculture to get on the same page.”*
- Social/demographic concerns permeated all other environmental scanning categories.

Technological Factors

- There needs to be judicious use of social media technology for telling the ag story, i.e. Agriculture industry is viable and valuable.
- Proper access to and use of technology is paramount, e.g. education for producers on available technologies to support sustainability, traceability, pest surveillance, field chemical application, monitoring infrastructure; systems to ensure credibility and security including access across the production chain; rules to enforce appropriate use, i.e. planes, drones; use and affordability of surveillance/tracking technology, drones in particular.
- More broad-band, internet coverage to eliminate dead zones in communication.
- Open source code relates to universal parts and the right to repair for farm equipment.
- Information/data sharing through integrated, accessible database systems offers many benefits.
Outlier/Insight: “Can ASBs utilize some of the data that’s being generated on farms (data on equipment use, product application, application timing, etc. are all being generated and can be sold or passed on to Industry?”
- Need a government and ASB website that provides disease map data to producers (like insect maps).
- There are opportunities for ASB Program app development. ASBs can use an app for communication with producers and ratepayers; ASB Members, e.g. weed issues, no-spray zones, tracking soil disruption, Council notices/meeting reminders, alerts for seasonal ag practices (watch out for equipment).
- Better, safer food production and processing technology will be coming out.

- ASBs should keep up with tech advancement; be better equipped for programs they're responsible for. Keep ASB staff safe with technologies for working alone or at a distance, e.g. dash cams, autonomous vehicles, info-sourcing apps; social media to track people/information; hazard analysis and best management practices.

Economic/Financial Factors

- Increasing costs of inputs/operating (including the cost of compliance, equipment) will affect the next generation wanting to earn a living from agriculture. *"Return of young people to farming is critical for the future."* Inflated land values and farm debt impedes succession planning, i.e. the transition from established older farmers to young farmers. It is *"becoming difficult for the established farm to support the next generation."*
- ASBs can support young farmers, i.e. *"Act as advocates for farmers to encourage banking and lending institutes to support young farmers."*, offer workshops on banking language and other financial hands-on skills. *"Outlier/Insight":* Resolution to develop a program similar to the US 'Buy land from the government' example wherein the young farmers pay over the ownership lifetime of the land.
- While larger farm operations are taking precedence over the small family farm, small farm businesses are increasing, e.g. more tree nurseries, speciality crops/livestock, greenhouses.
- Revenue generating options and multi-level government support are needed to attract investment, value-adding (processing/manufacturing) and diversification in rural communities. *"ASBs can work with adjacent counties to maximize relevant growth opportunities."*
- Cost to ASBs associated with transferring credible information on agricultural practices to acreage owners, urban populations. ASBs are dependent on external funding sources to operate; difficult without societal financial support for agriculture.
- Taxation: Increase taxation of agriculture to compensate for the gap in MSI (Municipality Sustainability Initiative) funding. The assessment of land is outdated with the diversion of ag land to other use, i.e. taxes for agriculture are low and the low tax assessment does not reflect the real tax on land. Corporate farming impacts tax revenue.
- Carbon tax: Deemed a significant cost to producers. Need to lobby (advocate) to government on how the Carbon tax adversely affects their bottom line. Pursue advocacy to the government on the 'Carbon Tax on the Grasslands' resolution. Create awareness that *"grass and not just cows are in the carbon sink"*.
- Impact of future trade agreements, e.g. Potential for China to ban canola imports; traceability compliance.
- Market access is impacted by the federal Seed Royalty Review. ASBs should have a say in the de-listing of varieties.

Environmental

- *"Environment is the area that is growing the most. ASBs will be more environmental as time goes on."*
- Climate change: Impacting crop diversification (opportunities), water access and quality, drought, irrigation (moving north), new invasive plants and diseases. ASBs have an advocacy and education role: Promoting crops with better water use efficiency; working with industry groups, research associations, and producers to encourage this. *"Producers are looking to ASBs for water rights."* Community irrigation projects have financial implications for ASBs.
- There is public mistrust about the agriculture and environmental record. Urban people lack knowledge about agriculture's interest in the environment. At the same time, the public trusts farmers more than big corporations and government.
- Loss of good agricultural land to non-productive land types. Increasing land costs have more farmers breaking the land.
- Access to fresh water: *"Why are we using fresh water for oil and gas fracking?"*
- Acreage owners don't fully appreciate or adhere to environmental best practices or regulations, e.g. spraying, removing beaver dams or trees from ditches. More subdivisions bring environmental concerns and challenges with compliance. *"How do you enforce these things (legislation, regulations, practices) from an ASB perspective?"*
- Legislation and regulations: Risk that ASBs will no longer be able to use certain tools/methods, e.g. chemical spraying for weed/pest control along roads or waterways; implications for weed free versus "dirty" seeds, invasive species, movement of weeds/pests. There are significant costs associated with mandatory programs, e.g. Environmental Farm Plan, Environmental Stewardship Program. Though this relates to market access; producers view the cost as leading to "pricing ourselves out of the world market."
- Legislation is environmentally weak; need *"more teeth in legislation"*. There are not enough early adopters. ASBs need to foster change through education, practice change incentives, having ASBs promote known grant/funding programs for the environment.

- Abandoned oil reclamation sites (regional concern) could be a big ASB concern, i.e. better enforcement of private sector responsibility to maintain and reclaim the land, manage weeds.
- A cooperative approach is needed when ASBs are working with the oil and gas sector; relationships matter.
- Agriculture awareness, education and advocacy are crucial. *“In schools, we need to change the conversion from Ag = bad for the environment”*. Use social media; reach non-ag urban audiences by different means; provide PR (public relations) training to staff. Fund education for concerns that are provincial in scope. ASBs
- ASB education on agriculture carbon capture is needed. *“Carbon capture, pricing proposals, opportunity for to capitalize on this. How can we sustain and afford this?”*
- Straw from hemp/marijuana grown organically are technically not weeds falling under the Pest Act. In a similar vein, regulating organic is a challenge and policy needs to change, i.e. covers this under the Act.
- Politics, the environment, and social license are very closely tied. *“Do not want to see Ag go the way of oil and gas sectors”*. *“Pushback against chemical use versus legislation become political.”* ASBs can partner to get a better, more diverse message out encouraging that the whole story of agriculture be told to school children, teachers, municipalities, producers, the urban population. *“(Answer) the why questions, so people understand the reasons behind agricultural practices/production... Think out of the box to showcase new technology, crop and management practices.”*
- Disconnect, misalignment, between government Ministries, i.e. Environment, Transportation, Agriculture and Forestry are not on the same page. *“Alberta Environment does not back the ASBs when it comes to decisions.”*; *“We feel unsupported.”*

Political Factors

- Once again, “telling the agriculture story”, educating on and advocating for agriculture, dominated the dialogue. The urban/acreage-owner population influx to rural Alberta coupled with this demographic segment’s increased decision-making authority and influence on politics, is concerning. Education is seen as the way to avoid having urban government making ag/rural decisions. Be proactive versus reactive.
- The growing gap between agriculture and government decision-makers/funders/the public could result in reduced ASB funding/support from AF and other government ministries. Maintain or improve ASB funding models by advocating to and building strong working relationships with government leaders and all political parties. ASBs need to increase their advocacy activities to politicians, AF decision makers, and the public to increase their profile, and to show their impact on economic and environmental sustainability.
- Legislation overload is taxing on producers, i.e. fulfilling legislative duties is a big-time investment for little or unknown financial benefit. Advocate to simplify legislation to enable more efficient processes (i.e. appeal process) for ASBs; encourage alternative approaches for compliance other than legislation.
- Need for regulatory-streamlining with a consistent approach and full integration, i.e. flexibility in policy development (regional vs. province-wide impact policy); mitigate contracting policies, update and coordinate policies. Risk management must be part of policy development.
- Policy development and implementation: Crucial to increase education/advocacy on policies. Be more educated about policy development both inward and outward. Share experiences with policy issues among various counties.
- No advocacy for grain shipments. With the railway *“we don’t have a voice and it doesn’t seem to matter”*. Interest in shipping oil seems to take precedence over shipping grain.
- Municipalities are challenged to get and keep ASB members; more members at large are needed to address challenges.
- Add an innovation funding category to the ASB Program – wide scope, flexible, e.g. ASB delegates attending international conferences to research and understand market opportunities. (This is a cross-over point, i.e. surfaced in “political” dialogue but relates more to Program Innovation.)

2) Program Innovation

ASB Members tend to have general familiarity with ASB Grant Program funded programs, services, and activities. Given their role and responsibilities, Ag-Fieldmen have a more in-depth understanding of how the Program operates, including eligible categories of expenses. To ground this audience in ASB Grant Program focus areas (elements), participants were asked to discuss priorities and what works well. Highlighting what is was intended to be a stepping stone to what could be, i.e. program innovation.

As was often the case in the ASB Grant Program Review, municipal ASB program elements surfaced that were beyond what AF funds. Still, it is worth noting what participants believe works well in supporting relevant legislation and their notion of ASB Program/Service Priority Areas, in their area or in the Province.

Grant-funded ASB Program/Service Focus Areas (Elements) That Work Well – Carry Forward

Responses Aligning with ASB Grant Program Categories of Expenses ▪ Bullets – Sampling of Existing and Potential Elements, Comments	Occurrences (Table Dialogue)
<p>(Note: Some terms/elements were not differentiated, e.g. weed/pest control, surveys, inspection.)</p> <p>Weed and pest control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pest surveillance; river rat program; decreased funding a concern when this is important to market access ▪ Spraying; acreage owner sprayer program ▪ Event where ratepayers get canisters of premixed herbicide to spray for specific weed ▪ Chemical access ▪ Clubroot and fusarium testing, work with seed plants (zero tolerance) 	35
<p>ASB education and extension programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In school – farming, farm safety; Farm Safe and Farm Smart (working with LARA) ▪ Farm vehicle inspection days with Peace Officers ▪ Green Certificate Program as a Model ▪ Target small land holders, acreage owners ▪ Focus on extension to farmers has dropped, may/should change ▪ For staff, public, professional development, e.g. pesticide applicator, Ag Safe Alberta, water/soil management, proper spraying 	27
<p>Weed and pest inspection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clubroot and Fusarium 	16
	9
<p>Equipment rentals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Equipment funding – rentals to farmers, acreage owners; access to tech equipment ▪ Land rollers, cattle fencing, squeezes, pest traps, hay testers, air seeders, post pounders... 	9
<p>Weed and pest surveys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clubroot ▪ Crop surveillance is necessary 	8
<p>Soil conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understanding impacts, soil health, northern migration 	8
<p>Rabies monitoring (animal health)</p>	3
<p>Producer consultation</p>	2
<p>Dead animal disposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cost, a deterrent for producers 	2
<p>Tree planting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shelterbelt program; ASBs as a broker for trees on a cost recovery basis 	2
<p>Predation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduction; bounty for wolves, coyotes, beaver and mole tails ▪ Predator control isn't just moving them into other counties 	1
<p>Supporting community events</p>	1

Other Elements/Comments Relating to Program Priorities:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocacy (links to education and extension) ▪ ASB participation ▪ AF Support ▪ VSI - Veterinary Services Incorporated (3) ▪ Support 4H, ARA's (3), upgrading seed-cleaning plants ▪ Ditch vegetation clearing; huge concerns working with other GOA Agencies and CNR ▪ Continue to cover Acts in place; more funding is needed ▪ May need to legislate Board structure to ensure ag people are involved ▪ Regional policy (2) ▪ Farm safety, including farm safety insurance (3) ▪ Climate change ▪ Economic development <p>Environmental-centric elements (out-of-scope for this Program Review):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Farm Plan, environmental stewardship, water wells/monitoring, water quality, water source monitoring, conservation and environmental programs

Summary of Top-5 ASB Program/Service Priority Focus Areas

Key Words or Themes - Results	Occurrences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Weed and pest control (incl. surveys, surveillance, inspection, testing, monitoring, predator control, road side spraying, Clubroot, Fusarium) 	29
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education/Extension/ (teaching, schools, workshops) 	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Equipment rentals 	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Weed and Pest Act compliance/enforcement 	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economic development 	2
<p>Wording / themes that follow were identified just once (1) in the consensus summaries for all tables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocate and advise (public perception and social license) ▪ Coyote reduction programs ▪ Ditch vegetation ▪ Animal welfare ▪ VSI (Veterinary Services Incorporated) ▪ Chemical access ▪ Innovative technology (not directly funded) ▪ Farm safety (not directly funded) 	
<p>Environmental stream (out of scope):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wetlands and soil conservation, soil/water source monitoring and conservation programs, EFP's, environmental stewardship and compliance (15 occurrences) 	

Program Innovation – Bold, New or Improved ASB Grant Program Elements

Table Dialogue Highlights:

- Centre of Excellence for Ag-Fieldmen Expertise
 - Chief Ag-Fieldmen to function like Chief Provincial Vet
 - One window contact for all ASB staff and Members; one spot to share all ideas and data information
 - Provide ideas for innovation in agriculture, sharing among ASBs
- “*Telling Our Story*”: Agriculture Advocacy Training and Support
 - Increase ASB Profile, Communicate Impact of Economic and Environmental Sustainability
 - ☛ Requires appropriate advocacy training, planning and delivery
 - Links to education and extension, public relations – proactively respond to public perceptions
 - Message socio-economic impact of ASB programming (Need research to capture and report tangible outcomes – benefits, impact, of the ASB Program; components funded by AF.)
 - Social license; “*Renewable Agriculture*”; rural lifestyle; regulation compliance and rationale
 - Target audiences: Urban populations, acreage owners (small holdings), new entrants, teachers, elementary through to university students, politicians, AF decision-makers, media
 - Use social media effectively, i.e. expand reach, ensure credible accurate information
 - Partner with Industry (commodity groups), 4H, Ag Societies, Classroom Ag Program, and other ASBs
- Economic Diversification and Investment Attraction → Market Access, Economic/Rural Sustainability
 - Rural entrepreneurship
 - Local pasture to plate projects; local value-added; niche markets; travel bursaries for educational travel
- Local Food Production/Processing
 - Value-added incentives
 - Promote sustainability and local processing or manufacturing; hemp, fibre, oats industries (ties to crop diversification and rotation)
- Support Next Generation Transition to Farming
 - Young farmers’ tuition fees; farm plans; technology; financial management, marketing, banking savvy; ASB mentorship and extension, land acquisition
- Farm Safety
 - Support farm safety education in the schools; target youth on acreages who have little farm safety “smarts”
 - Collaborate with industry and existing farm safety programs
- Technology Use / Development
 - Drones for monitoring, surveillance, inspections, mapping
 - GPS tracking for disease/pest/weed mapping, chemical application; ASB staff (personal safety)
 - Apps: ASB Member and Rate Payer communication/information exchange; monitoring and surveillance, record-keeping; report generation
- Merit-based Grant Incentive for Innovative ASBs / ASB Program Innovation Expense Category
 - Incent ASBs delivering bold, new, or improved programs and services; engaging in innovative activities, e.g. waste energy for ag production, vertical farming, innovative producer practices/skills, ASB delegates attending international conferences to research and understand market opportunities
 - Cover expenses for innovative technology needed to implement ASB legislation-related activities, e.g. drones, automation, app development, mapping, equipment for efficiency, testing technology
- Database Information Management → Better Sharing, ASB Collaboration
 - Deeper, longer-term tracking and reporting; improve access; use of apps
 - Asset information management; explore selling data information to industry (i.e. research purposes)

(Note: Some elements are outside the current Program mandate or may already be in place.)

ASB Grant Program Improvements – AF Support

Suggestions:

- Funding – Increases to keep pace with inflation, offset increases and costs and AF program requests; more access to AF staff to help direct in the field; one-off capital funding every 3 years
- ASB input to municipal development planning
- Misalignment between GOA Ministries working with ASBs – need consistency, mutual support, better ways to talk to decision-makers
- Adapt to changes in agriculture, e.g. extension re: hemp, pulse crops
- Inventory small (and large) scale producers/farm types
- Exemption of CN and AB Parks from weed control – advocating that ASBs do work and send them bill
- Encourage coordinated sharing of priority programs/services with other municipalities, i.e. leveraging
- More discretionary funding for ASBs to do applied research
- Extension, collaboration with oil and gas, ATCO, etc. – address disconnect in ag practices standards between counties and utility companies
- Tech transfer to horticulture, a potentially growing area

(Note: It is recognized that the above suggestions do not necessarily relate to the mandate of the Grant Program. Other areas in the Ministry may be able to respond to some of the expressed concerns. More details and ideas can be found in the five “Session Summary” documents. Environmental stream-orientated content has been captured separately.)

Program Impact

There was considerable interest in this topic, especially around the ASB Program economic impact or value proposition in ASB programming. The socio-economic contributions shared in the “*ASB Profile – Appreciating Our Impact*” presentation (and “Backgrounder” reference) were very well received and spurred lively table discussion in all sessions.

Primary Benefits or Positive Impact – Municipality

Participants did not always differentiate between the impact or benefits of their municipality’s ASB Program and the specific impact of the ASB Grant Program. Some feedback is based on matters outside the mandate of AF’s legislative stream Grant Program. To help Members think about outcomes linked to the AF Program, it was useful to probe what would happen in the absence of the ASB Grant Program.

“You don’t know the true benefit of the program until the program or service is gone.”

Many beneficial programs, services, and activities – existing or potential, were identified. Where dialogue centered on the ends over the means to the end, the following emerged:

- Enforcement of the Acts / Regulatory Arm
 - Ensures viability of the agriculture industry; need a “watchdog”, rules and policies for enforcement
- Weed and Pest Control Management – Control, Inspection
 - Helps with land productivity (crop yields), lowering costs for individual producers; better for the environment
 - Contributes to road safety, i.e. “*School Divisions praise the increased safety aspect of clearing sight lines.*”
 - Pride in being rat free
- Education and Extension
 - Critical to informing producers and their adoption of sustainable, productive farming practices
 - Enables primary producers to make money in a sustainable manner
 - Promotion of rangeland management practices keeps invasive species at bay, beautifies the landscape
- Agriculture Awareness / Profile
 - Supports social licence; branding of ASB (with consistent message)

- The missing link that could have additional impact is for ASB programs to fund education of the public (Albertans). *“Can use various outreach methods to invite urbanites (public and city councillors) to rural (areas) to be educated on safe healthy, and sustainable local food production systems...”*
- Soil Conservation
 - Reduces erosion of productive soils
- Equipment Rental
 - Reduces cost of production

Other Benefits:

- Subsidized vet services (VSI) helps to attract expertise
- Promotion and use of local products
- Employing people within the municipality helps the local economy
- Better collaboration and partnership among municipalities

Primary Benefits or Positive Impact – Albertans

The importance of responding to Albertans’ interests was clear. Albertans were seen as a key stakeholder.

Participants were asked to describe what Albertans recognize and value, whether or not they are familiar with ASBs and the programs/services they provide. Responses did not consistently link what Albertans value to ASB grant-funded programs, services or activities.

More concrete benefits or impacts viewed as important to Albertans included:

- Inexpensive, safe, and good quality food; *“Trust that our food is safe”* with our high level of standards
- Locally produced/sourced food; humanely raised
- Land productivity, conservation and protection of the environment – soil, water, air, habitats, through good land stewardship; economic impact of protecting land productivity
- Market protection (access) with respect to livestock and crops practices and environmental protection
- Soil reclamation, rural and urban value reclamation
- Safety and aesthetics gained through roadside mowing program; public protected from wildlife issues
- Urban agriculture, hobby and backyard farms
- How farmer (farming) practices support carbon sequestration
- *“Renewable Agriculture”*; communication of best practices and promotion of agriculture awareness and concerns
- *“Telling our story”* is critical – Key messages:
 - “Albertans value the good product that agriculture provides and high quality of it. We need to show Albertans how ASB programs work to maintain things that affect export value and food safety.”*
 - “Sustainable agriculture is key for the health of our land. We are stewards of the land.”*

3) Quantifiable Success

Tracking, Measuring, Reporting → Collective ASB Program Impact

(Note: This line of questioning was not aimed at identifying measures. Rather, what would demonstrate progress, results and/or impact.)

Discussion around *what to measure*, tended to centre on activity reporting despite awareness of the importance of demonstrating and communicating impact, i.e. ultimate results or outcomes. As was evident with the Ag-Fieldmen survey, identifying appropriate high level (strategic, province-wide) outcome measures for the ASB Program is a challenge whether real or perceived.

Responses to *“What to measure?”* were not always directly linked to ASB Grant Program funded activities/ programs, e.g. beautification of rural landscapes attracts tourists; advocating for agriculture and rural development; number of new businesses and employment (unless correlated to ASB grant-funded programming); agricultural income (as a portion of provincial GDP); number of mental health issues topics; farmers’ markets (choice of products, organic versus conventional).

Examples of Measures Generated by ASB Members:

Input measures or measures of resources ASBs invest in their Program: Collaboration, i.e. reporting how you work with the county/projects; Financial leveraging, i.e. % of the ASB Grant dollars to ASB municipal expenditures (e.g. 20% ASB and 80% local municipality); # AF surveys ASBs participated in (diseases, pests, weeds, etc.), # students hired for the weed control program; funding/budgeting for weed inspections.

Output measures or what the ASB produces - tangible products, reports, activities, etc. that are quantifiable. Outputs may be *indicators* of progress in achieving ultimate Program results/outcomes: # of school visits/programs; # of acres sprayed; # education/extension programs/events; # of weed notices issued; # km mowed or sprayed.

Outcome measures relate to impact, ultimate results, what is different. *Indicators* of outcomes are frequently used to convey impact though they are not as robust as outcome measures. Ag-Fieldmen identified: Land area on which weeds have been inspected and controlled; # farms practicing the best management practices BMPs; # of new non-traditional agricultural business, i.e. increased inventory of agricultural business, e.g. greenhouses, marijuana, tree nurseries, local bakeries, etc.

The strongest outcome measures that ASB members identified may be:

- Weed/pest control → Increased productivity/yield, market access; quality, secure, and safe food production.
- Predator control → Reduction in death/injury to people and animals, building damages.
- Clear roadways, i.e. mowed, cleaned of brush → Prevent animal/car collisions, good visibility is a safety factor.
- ASB Program youth employment → Community support; keeps kids interested in agriculture, perhaps as a career.

- A broad collection of suggested measures are captured in the Session “Workbook Summaries”. Program evaluation expertise is needed to distill what measures are most meaningful for communicating success in terms of outputs and outcomes. It would be prudent to keep in mind “less is more.”

Viable Prospects for the ASB Grant Program:

- i. Conduct an **Economic Impact Assessment** at both the regional and Provincial levels as a means for communicating credible, informative Program impacts. Related comment: Need to make results relatable, e.g. how many loaves of bread could have been made from wheat grown in the county, how many steaks, how many liters of canola oil.
- ii. ASB Grant Program could create a ‘one-pager’ to quantify what ASBs do, i.e. suggest appropriate measures to ASBs well in advance to allow for tracking and reporting through the Program year.

(Note: Measures applicable to the environmental stream were identified, i.e. around water quality, Environmental Farm Plans, conservation and protection of the environment, ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services), Stewardship of the environment incl. chemical use. These will be shared with the environmental stream program personnel.)

Telling Our Story – Advocating / Communicating Impact (Outcome Measures)

The need to “tell our story” was very popular, clearly resonated with participants especially targeted at:

- Albertans at large, especially urbanites. Participants recognize the importance of responding to Albertans’ interests. Albertans were seen as a key stakeholder.
- Youth in both urban and rural schools; elementary through to University. There was a keen interest in having the ASB Program (agriculture) story incorporated into the Alberta school curriculum; connect with youth by many different means.

There was a good deal of discussion about the need to build awareness of food and agriculture as a way to combat misinformation in the media, especially in social media.

Suggested Key Message / Advocacy Topics:

- We need to tell the whole story of agricultural production, i.e. ‘Farm to Plate’, using factual and scientific information
- Things that interest the general population, such as the economy, GDP, exports, agriculture’s efforts toward reducing the carbon footprint, food production
- Land stewardship – technology, BMPs being used, what and why

- What ASBs are doing; cost savings arising from ASB programming; supporting rural Alberta

Insights surfaced around the importance of particular types of ASB “telling our story” activities, e.g. Farm tours – open farm days that connect people to what they eat to the land where food is grown. Can’t be scared to be transparent, open up our farms to the general public. Balance the risks and rewards of education.

4) Enhancing the Resolution Process

After the first session in Lethbridge, it was apparent that many ASB Members do not fully understand the resolution process in particular, where incomplete, unsatisfactory and/or defeated resolutions go; how long the resolutions brought forward at the Provincial ASB Conference are “kept alive” (on record). A more thorough review of the Resolution Process as a preface to table dialogue, coupled with timely clarification to questions asked of the Session Chair, helped to diffuse any animosity or misunderstandings in the remaining four sessions.

Usefulness, What Makes it Effective

The vast majority of participants viewed the Resolution Process in a positive light. A great variety of points were raised on what makes the process effective. Typical points are represented below.

- Strengthens the focus and work of ASBs.
- Allows for collaboration among municipalities with “*power in numbers*”
 - Provides credibility while building collaboration and consensus
- Fosters communication
 - Forces regional ASB communication at least once a year
 - Collective voice to advocate for each other
 - Encourages conversations among and between ASBs and AF
- Showcases issues and concerns
 - Allows awareness, learning, and sharing of both common and unique issues from all parts of the province; raises relevant issues to the provincial level and starts the discussion, i.e. awareness gets people talking → province-wide effect
 - Provincial ASB Conference informs Chairs and government about what is going on in the province
- Puts pressure on Ministers/government/NGO’s to make policy or operational changes
- Confidence is gained in moving resolutions from the local to regional and provincial level
 - “*Minister knows that everyone has viewed the resolutions.*”
 - Democratic process (not a consensus view), useful and important
 - Chosen by an elected official; peer reviewed; any ASB/county can put forward and support resolutions
 - A repetitive ask makes it work
 - “*Multiple levels of vetting mean less issues emerge and wording can be changed to be more effective.*”
 - “*The ‘Report Card’ is a huge benefit, shows good and bad and ensures that the Minister sees the resolution.*”
- Feedback loop with the Provincial ASB Committee, and Report Card; honesty in feedback, can provide direct input from the regions; opportunity for a “next shot” with a change in wording or angle

Dissatisfaction with the resolution process can be summarized in the following quotes:

“The Ag Minister views the ASBs as providing a service for him, not so much as a voice for agriculture, which is inappropriate. Resolutions from the ASB show the inefficiency of trying to act as a political body rather than a Service Board.”

“Currently the process is not useful. There are concerns that the ‘expert’ that the resolution is handed to may not currently have a good idea of what is happening on the ground. It appears that very few actions are created as a percentage of the number of resolutions that are put forward.”

Other Areas of Concern:

- Concerned with the 23% “Accept the Response” standing from the “ASB Resolutions from 2007 to 2018

(total of 135)" pie chart visual in the "Backgrounder" Session support document, i.e. "feels like a failure"

- Red tape gets in the way, the process is not timely; "Report Card" is not timely enough
- Seen as a letter writing campaign, no real sense that the issue is actually being taken seriously
- Regionalized resolutions are not helping the whole province
- Poor quality resolutions – Where the focus is narrow, resolutions are poorly written or not well thought out, e.g. asks for money without providing solutions; many resolutions are reactive and at times resolutions are irrelevant to the legislated duties of ASBs
- Difficulty in voting for resolutions with a regional focus, e.g. a resolution made by the Peace may die by the South (drought, Fusarium) based on ideologies
- More engagement sessions like this one would be useful

Provincial ASB Committee – Usefulness in Advocating for Resolutions

Some ASB Member feedback related more to the resolution process rather than the structure or advocacy function of the Provincial ASB Committee. This and other content better addressed by AF, has been appropriately redirected.

It was evident that a number of ASB Members are not familiar with the role and responsibilities of this body.

Positively Speaking:

Positive comments reflected the usefulness of the Committee in speaking collectively for the province reporting back on resolutions, addressing and bringing forward issues to the government. The Committee is seen as an improvement compared to the past.

Other positive viewpoints:

- One, unified voice for all of Alberta in bringing forward issues to government and the Minister
- Members are knowledgeable, able to speak for the ASBs
- It's good that there is a Committee to centralize resolutions
- Enables meeting with other Ministers and agencies relating to the resolution

Areas of Concern:

- Limitations in having the resolutions acted upon at the Ministerial level
- The Provincial ASB Committee should do more work advocating ASBs to the Minister, MLAs, the Deputy Minister, other government, and the public; advocate at all political levels
- *"The Committee does not report back to the grassroots in a timely manner."* ; provide more regular updates on the status and outcomes of the resolutions including the AF Minister's response (can be verbal +/- written)
- Lack of clarity around what happens with defeated resolutions, i.e. kept for 3 - 5 years; need better tracking of resolutions
- Committee membership, i.e. continuity with turnover, qualified people with knowledge and expertise to deal with resolutions
- *"The usefulness of the Provincial ASB Committee is limited. It would be more useful if the Committee was open to hearing advocacy from a person or party who is well versed in the issue in the resolution."*
- View that the *"Resolution is a tool, not the end result"*
- Significant interest in reporting on outcomes – end result, impact, what's different; emerged as a major area for improvement
- Limitations of the Committee role – *"ASBs are using this Committee to try and play a political role but they are not a political body. ASBs were created by government... This (Provincial ASB) Committee is government (ASB) sending resolution up to government."*
- The Provincial ASB Committee is not as credible as the Rural Municipalities Association (RMA)
- The Committee grades resolutions and communicates with AF but does not do enough advocating for these resolutions to result in policy change or legislation.
- *"Lots of pressure on regional rep to communicate back to the local level."*

Suggested Improvements to the Resolution Process

ASB members had a vast array of ideas for improving the resolution process. Central themes follow.

- *Educate, Inform ASB Members (prevalent theme)*
 - Educate ASB members, especially new Members, about the process

- Respond to: *"Is there a 'Terms of Reference' for Regional representatives?"*
- Communicate how the Provincial ASB Committee advocates the Resolutions to the Minister and how successful this process is
- **Resolution Prioritization, Weighting, Assessment**
 - Resolutions that currently have equal weighting should be prioritized by the Provincial ASB Committee before going forward to the Provincial ASB Conference
 - Limiting resolutions based on prioritization as well as the number of proponents may increase the chances of success and avoid diluting good resolutions. *"Better priorities prevent erosion of the messages"; "If we only get 1 hour with the Minister then use the time to talk about the most important ones."*
 - Consider a rating system to help set priorities
 - Municipalities that wrote the resolution should present it at the conference/to government
 - Enable interactive texting in the resolution process at the Provincial ASB Conference
 - Distribute resolutions to ASB members in advance to allow time to review/digest, ask questions prior to discussion.
 - The review process could be strengthened by referencing source data, adding credibility to resolutions; credibility of a resolution can build with multiple letters of support on the same concern
- **Resolution Quality**
 - Resolutions need to be proactive in nature, original and relevant to or reflect the work and interests of ASBs in the province.
 - *"Lot more 'clout' if it benefits the entire province rather than just one small region."*
 - Avoid redundant resolutions, bringing resolutions forward at different conferences, e.g. ASB, RMA
 - Strengthen drafting with background expertise, improved writing; wording is critical
 - Provide training in writing resolutions
 - Dissect resolutions into resolution-based / financially-based / Information purposes
 - Put standards for resolution in writing, i.e. positives versus negatives
 - Provincial ASB Committee should screen resolutions in advance – scope, clarity; make sure their interpretation of the issue matches that of the proponent's, i.e. essence is not "lost in translation"
 - Gain support from partners and Industry, collaborate in writing resolutions; *"Make sure to work with other groups that have the same special interests and have experience with the topics..."*
- **Evaluating and Communicating Impact**
 - Evaluate the impact of accepted resolutions 3 - 5 years out, i.e. policy change (positive or negative), concern addressed
- **Communication / Reporting Back (prevalent theme)**
 - Need for more clear and timely information explaining the standing of the resolution; provide follow-up analysis with the municipality to clarify and explain the rationale; would like to see AF provincial staff discuss outcomes with the municipalities
 - Put status of the Resolution on the website; notify people when resolutions expire
 - Improve Provincial ASB Committee communication, i.e. tracking, outcomes, feedback, updates
 - Simplify the Report Card presentation; question if it is necessary to include the defeated category (what does it mean?)
 - Enable, encourage municipalities to share their resolutions with each other, i.e. know what each other is putting forth; more communication between municipalities/regions → better collaborative approach
- **Ministerial, Senior Government, Political Interaction (prevalent theme)**
 - The notion of having AF ADMs, DM, +/or the Minister, and MLAs attend the presentation of Resolutions at the Provincial ASB Conference was cited in a number of table discussions; *"(They) need to listen and acknowledge what they've heard."*
 - Does the Minister know the % of ASBs that voted on a particular resolution? This could add weight, credibility
 - Government ministries including AF, Environment, Transportation and other related departments, should have ag advisors, a team that governs/works together

- The Provincial ASB Committee needs to quickly advocate for the change at multi-government levels, including informing rural and urban MLAs of the issue at hand
- More time with the DM and the Minister is needed
- Ensure that the Minister has knowledgeable support staff, is well briefed on issues and aware of ASBs ahead of time
- Create a “postcard” for MLAs, i.e. ASB role, how resolutions are developed
- *Process Modifications for Efficiency and Effectiveness*
 - Both the review process and the time to achieve real outcomes (change), is seen as too slow; shorten response times, especially with time-sensitive issues; expediate the process and turnaround time, i.e. more targeted responses to Regions or Industry
 - Reducing the number of resolutions to a maxim of 5/year, or narrowing who’s involved in the Review process to the Provincial ASB Committee with the DM/ADM or only the Minister, surfaced as ideas for speeding up the process
 - Have a multiple-tiered resolution process, with a core set of resolutions that deal with ASBs role, i.e. main business, and a second tier for issues, policies and stakeholder awareness
 - For local/regional resolutions, fan out the government response to resolutions to local ASB Chairs asking for feedback before they are finalized; *“Regional Rep needs to collect feedback from ALL local ASBs.”*
 - *“The municipality that wrote the motion should be the presenter of the resolution with letters of support from each municipality in favour to show the size of the group wanting the change.”*
 - Moderate questions texted in before-hand or during discussions
 - Involve Hutterites, commodity groups
 - Allow important emerging issues to go to government more than once a year, i.e. fall, winter, spring
 - Currently policies are provincial; recognize uniqueness in the province; appreciate issues across the province
 - Enable the Provincial ASB Committee to generate resolutions without all municipalities voting
 - Analyze cost/benefits of the resolution including who will pay if the resolution is passed
 - *Voting,*
 - Like the use of clicker technology for voting, i.e. a lot quicker
 - Question whether it’s fair to give Boards just two votes at the ASB conference; RMA allows all to vote
 - More feedback, e.g. quarterly updates
 - Perhaps abstain from voting or restrict voting by those not affected

Other Ideas:

- The purpose of the resolutions beyond input to policy development, was a point of clarification that appeared to catch the attention of many, i.e. Resolutions to *inform* relevant agencies and the AF Minister and/or other agencies about issues/concerns that ASBs view as important
- Perhaps forgo one speaker session at the Provincial conference and set up a kind of tradeshow with the various presenters
- How do we know what is being put forth at other levels, commissions?

5) Strengthening the AF ↔ ASB Working Relationships

Key Contact Program

Providing a more thorough review of the Program as a preface to the table discussion was crucial. A number of participants had little familiarity with or understanding of the Program. In more than one instance, ASB members did not initially recognize an AF staff person who had been interacting with their ASB as being a Key Contact.

Participant comments were generally very complimentary when there was knowledge of or participation with the KCP. Most Members reported that the Key Contacts are great resources for AF information with an *“incredible amount of knowledge on government workings that impact ASBs”*. Key Contacts were seen to be very responsive to Member questions. Having a Key Contact that serves more than one county was considered an advantage in terms of sharing insights and opportunities.

“The Key Contact Program is one part of the ASB Program that is really good.”

“(The Key Contact) stimulates your brain with new ideas and initiatives.”

Ag Fieldmen appear to be a gate-keeper (strong influence) for Key Contact involvement/program participation, i.e. the primary and sometimes a sole point of contact. Chairs want to receive more direct communication about the KCP, i.e. in addition to the Ag-Fieldmen.

There is a great range of Key Contact involvement with ASBs between municipalities, and across the Province. It's working very well in some areas; less so or not at all in others. Potential benefits of the KCP to ASB Members are hindered by irregular or infrequent ASB meetings and KC attendance, lack of understanding of the KC role.

Practical Improvements to the Key Contact Program:

Many good insights and ideas for improving the KCP came up. Details can be found in the “Workbook Summaries” for each Region. Here is a sampling:

- Reconfirm the role of Key Contacts and the Key Contract Program to better understand the value, i.e. opportunities to interact and support ASBs; (re)introduce the Key Contact/Key Contact Program every year after changes in Council
- Enable access to rotating specialists
- Develop a contact list of AF Key Contacts with areas of expertise (menu of knowledge/strength areas) and send to Ag-Fieldmen, ASB Chairs, and ASB Members; KC can be guests at meetings where their subject matter expertise is needed
- Push to have AF representation at meetings; have ASBs invite KCs to their meetings, in-person is important
- Use distance collaboration technology on occasion, e.g. tele/video-conferencing, conference calls, skype
- KCs should have consistent reporting, a uniform message to share with all ASBs; KCs can send a quarterly report to highlight what is new and beneficial to ASBs
- KCs need to be familiar with ASB issues, bring forward AF programs/services/information, Ministry updates
- Determine ways to transfer information from ASBs back to AF
- Change the ASB Program fiscal year to Jan. 1 - Dec. 31st (versus April 1 - March 31)
- Keep ASBs that do not have KCs in the information loop
- Inform KCs of the resolutions that are coming – they can be a conduit

Concerns:

It should be noted that AF turnover or change present a challenge to accessing expertise. Succession planning is a concern.

It is understood that the Peace Region is disconnected from the Program and AF staff. The Peace feels forgotten; don't feel they are being heard.

Strengthening Communication / Exchange of Communication: AF ↔ ASBs

Generally speaking, communication and the flow of information is good though room for improvement was evident. Many references to this topic have been previously described. Distinct suggestions raised in this focus area follow.

Suggestions for Improving Communication:

- Trust, transparency, open and timely communication are critical
- *“Ministry to reduce time it takes to get a response on ASB issues – resolutions...”*
- Both sides are obligated to bring new information forward
- Open two-way communication
- AF language should be clear, not bureaucratic or 'legaleze'
- Funnel information in emails to the Ag-Fieldmen down to the ASB Members
- Communicate information on any bills/policies that are in the headlights, e.g. Bill 6
- Develop an inventory of subject matter expertise and working groups; *“Exchange information and turn it into knowledge.”*
- Facilitate an “exchange program” to strengthen communication between regions and where connections between ASBS are not strong

In regards to communication modes or tools, consider:

- A social media presence, i.e. highlight what ASBs are doing, provincial issues/happenings
- Quarterly newsletter
- Timely emails (continue)

- In-person AF attendance at meetings

Outlier/Insight:

- *“We need backing and advice from government when it comes to interpreting legislation.”*

AF ↔ ASB Contributions to Leveraging the Connection

Trust, commitment, and frequent or regular 2-way communication were cited as essential to leveraging the AF ↔ ASB connection.

Points Raised:

- ☛ ASBs want to partner with AF and not just advocate to (through) AF; ASBs have the ability to be a sounding board, inform policy actions and project reception to what the Ministry is considering or providing information on
- Show value in the relationship in order to build the relationship; foster mutual appreciation with get together to exchange information on what we’re each doing, e.g. informal networking meetings, tour AF facilities (CDC-North), invite AF to county events
- Explore the idea of a Provincial “Centre of Excellence” for addressing emerging ideas (See the ‘Program Innovation’ section in this report.)
- Concerned that Ag Ministry has been shrinking (cutting) for decades
- Though not an intended focus of this dialogue, funding was discussed.
 - Current funding is maintaining the status quo (programs)
 - ASB funding is maxed out, i.e. as costs increase ASBs are picking and choosing programs to support
 - ASBs need to do an “Annual Report” to justify funding that highlights the impact in their communities

6) Keep in Mind

The following is a sampling of advice that ASB Members gave in response to: *“Offer one piece of advice or a tip to those in AF who touch the ASB Grant Program (design, deliver, decide) → As the Program evolves or changes over time, keep in mind...”*

- *“Remember, we are partners in regulatory legislation.”*
- Keep the program flexible; *“can’t do cookie cutter”; “need to address diverse regional issues not just common issues”*
- Government – KISS (Keep it simple) the Program
- We have to tell our stories, be better advocates → ASB Program impact on the industry and on our communities
- We have common diverse problems within the Regions
- Maintain or increase Program funding, i.e. *“Stable adequate funding is crucial. It needs to be predictable to handle new or emerging issues and make future programs (are) possible.”*
- *“Communication is key to success”. “In times of change, communicate, communicate, communicate.”*
- Have understanding, compassion on both sides for actions that need to be taken

(Note: Additional details are in the full compilation stored in the SharePoint folder.)

7) “Open Floor” – Additional Comments, Program Review and Beyond

The following points were hand-written by participants (in their words). There were a great variety of topics and many points reinforced ASB member dialogue. Input is grouped by region for comparison purposes.

Lethbridge

- Environment: Need more flexibility to grant \$ - soil conservation = environ protection
- Grant: Flexibility + education should be primary use of grant funding
- Priorities: 1) Funding – reliable + consistent, 2) Education – Tell our story, 3) Communication – Honest, Respectful, 2-way
- Transboundary tours, at least once a year in each region
- # Environmental Farm Plans done in county [Seeking data? Other?]

Barrhead

- Ag Plastics program
- Need for a standard set of terms for regulatory instruments or policy and consistent application of these terms
- Need a repository of current policies that are in place
- Environmental Stewardship Program → Becoming more mandatory; cost \$
- When is Alberta Agriculture/AB Government going to show the AB public about our agricultural industry in the Province and how important it is to the economy!?
- Weed control must be better coordinated between counties and include Alberta Transportation
- See more self-promotion of Ag; have credible representatives speak to Global Markets, e.g. China, etc.; send the people that know best.
- Request to send out notes back to Council

Lacombe

- Farmer carbon credits for grass + trees → pasture being destroyed, → carbon sequestration, → annual crops
- For Dale Crapko: Watershed Protection and Riparian Protection, *** OHV's on public land ripping up meadows + crossing streams, spread weeds + destroy grasslands.
- Work with SSRR (South Saskatchewan Regional Plan) + State of Watershed plans from Watershed stewardship groups to communicate with various government departments on the need to protect our watersheds from OHV and recreational damage + industrial impacts.
- Supporting watershed groups and water stewardship especially in headwater systems where rangeland/grazing is important for headwater stewardship. Wetland stewardship – water quality services.
- Strategic planning re: care of Public lands, weed control + erosion; land management, legislation and legislative enforcement should be more stable with dedicated funds for public lands and not tied to political party + their agenda.
- Strychnine? What is happening?
- Manned cleaning sites at Lakes to control invasive species such as Zebra Mussels or extra funding to ASBs to monitor [pest control].
- Class 1 drivers' license. Transportation says it doesn't affect AG (agriculture). It will be a disaster for seasonal employees.
- Some issues overlap with Environment and Parks – water quality, water stewardship, recreation on Green Zone Lands/Public Lands – perhaps we need a Key Contact in Environment and Parks.
- Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) should create a Farm Safety Worker Insurance (that farmers can buy into for their seasonal workers or permanent workers.
- Was there a problem with cattle meds being sold through e.g. Peavey Mart, UFA, etc.? Why the change – to Vets?
- For new ASB members, I would like the opportunity to take the ASB Program and Legislation Course that the Ag Fieldmen get to take

St. Paul

- What medium do we use for educating people, especially urban, e.g. Facebook?
- Environmental Timeliness – Responses to issues are too late for the concerns of ASB; “water, spraying, etc.”
- Wetland Policy – Need clarity to how this Policy affects municipalities in the day-to-day operations.

Peace River

- Idea: To entice more young farmers to become engaged, would ASB be interested in developing a separate group designed for young farmers... that would be similar to Saskatchewan's YAP – Young Ag-involved Producers w/APAS (Agriculture Producer Association of Saskatchewan)?
- ARA's – Is there a way to provide more sustainable funding for them? How do we make competition for available research more friendly?
- Rural Development – Has faded away as a focus. To move forward with technology Ag is going to need 5G reliable to take advantage. This is a rural Economic Development issue.
- Bison affected by TB are getting close to our herds – How do we entice politicians to address this issue, i.e. “UNESCO” sites protected herd etc. What about the farmers?
- Overarching → Economic study for capturing benefit → and providing coordinated feedback.

ASB Grant Program Review Engagement – “Stand Out’s”

- The points that follow are by no means a comprehensive or definitive response to what surfaced in the Program Review. What follows is simply what stood out to the Consultant-Facilitator and the Project Team (Core Group).

Program Impact – Achieving the ASB Grant Program Purpose

- From the standpoint of ASB Grant Program mandate and operations, stakeholder feedback indicates that the Program functions well. As expected, there are opportunities to improve the Program in select areas.
- It is challenging to assess Program impact in the absence of defined, quantifiable success indicators or outcome measures, i.e. strategic level. Program evaluation experience is needed to identify appropriate impact/outcome measures for the Province (and potentially for ASBs).
- Longer-term economic impact assessment of the ASB Program would go a long way to demonstrate credibility and viability.

“Telling Our Story”,

- There was considerable interest in this topic, especially around the ASB Program *economic impact*, the *value proposition* in ASB programming. Credible data, relevant measures are important in telling the story.
- Communication, advocacy, and education were seen as essential to getting the story out to Albertans – rural and urban population, youth of all ages.

ASB Grant Program – Moving Forward,

- It is important the Program remains flexible, accommodates both provincial and distinct local or regional concerns.
- A variety of bold, emerging or new ideas came forward for ASB Grant Program funding.

Strengthening AF ↔ ASB Working Relationship,

- Many practical ideas were raised for how to better understand or utilize the Key Contact Program. There is concern about a dwindling AF presence in rural Alberta, i.e. succession plans for AF staff including Key Contacts.
- Communication and the working relationship are generally good and hinge on trust and 2-way communication.

Ag-Fieldmen and ASB Member Common Concerns,

- The data analysis revealed common thinking between the two target audiences, most notably around outcome and operational measures, “telling our story”, desire for flexibility in the Program (accommodate regional differences), support for the Key Contact Program, concern with timeliness in the resolution process, and the need to better identify, track and communicate results/outcomes of the resolution process, i.e. changes to programming, practices, legislation, policy.
- Government of Alberta Ministries and other agencies that have a role with the ASB-governed legislation and compliance need to better integrate, align requirements and support of ASBs and municipalities.

Resolution Process,

- ASB Members want to more fully understand how the resolution process works and the outcomes – change in policy, operations, practices. A number of practical ideas surfaced for streamlining or improving the resolution process.
- The purpose of resolutions beyond input to policy development caught the attention of ASB members, i.e. Resolutions *inform* the AF and other relevant agencies about issues/concerns that ASBs view as important.
- Both stakeholder groups are concerned with the timeliness of the resolution process, especially around reporting back standings and outcomes. Striving for high quality and prioritized resolutions is a concern.

Regional Differences,

- *South*
 - Invasive species (e.g. Knapweed) are a big concern.

- *Central*
 - Concerned about two-way communication between AF and ASBs.
 - Had ideas around Ag-Fieldmen “resource officers”, farm safety insurance packages, and Sustainable Certified Farms.
 - The spread of Clubroot is an issue.
- *Northwest*
 - Concerned with government downloading, the loss of AF extension services (District Agriculturists and District Home Economists, other local and regional Specialists).
 - Introduced the concept of a “Centre of Excellence for Agriculture”. Region with the most concerns about urban sprawl and the loss of agricultural land.
 - Raised points on a Resolution banking system (i.e. inventory), ASB economic impacts, Seed Cleaning Plant upgrades, and mounting weed issues on abandoned oil field reclamation sites.
- *Peace*
 - More access to Key Contacts. Feel isolated and disconnected.
 - Concerned about the effects of the global market on the region.

(Note: Opinio-generated survey results with all the qualitative and quantitative details – province-wide and by Region, are stored in the ASB Grant Program Review (2019) SharePoint folder.)

“We Have Common Diverse Problems within the Regions”,

- ASB Members appreciated the opportunity to mix with other ASBs in their region, hear and understand both common and distinct issues. Ag-Fieldmen expressed the same view.

Feedback & Evaluation – Indicators of Engagement Success

- ✓ Target response rates for both the Ag-Fieldmen Survey and the ASB Member participation in the Face-to-Face Sessions were met: 81.2% survey response rate; minimum of 20 ASB Member participants registered. Total participation in the Face-to-Face Sessions: N = 105.
- ✓ Overview Report to ASB Member Face-to-Face Session participants and continuous communication with the target stakeholders through the duration of the Grant Program Review, supported awareness of the process and a feedback loop.
- ✓ **“Return on Investment for This Session”** evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. For example:
 - “I was glad to be included in this process and to be able to be heard and have input to the direction of the ASB.”*
 - “(I) appreciated the process and the ability to hear from board members on what’s good and what could be better.”*
 - “All worked very well – a wealth of information.”*
 - “Such sessions should be mandated every 5 years minimum.”*

Participants frequently expressed their appreciation for mixing ASB representation through the day and with different topics. They were very pleased with the opportunity to hear the concerns and interests of other municipalities in their region, both common ground and unique perspectives. There was obvious comfort in the realization that many ASBs share the same concerns.

A number of verbal ‘hallway comments’ were overheard indicating that the Face-to-Face Sessions were far better than participants expected.

(Based on a compilation of ASB Member “Return on Investment” session evaluations.)

- ✓ The Steering Committee has a comprehensive Summary Report to verify past and emerging issues, inform and guide development of Recommendations to the Minister.

Acknowledgments – ASB Grant Program Review Contributions

The ASB Grant Program Review engagement process was a robust and illuminating. The collaborative efforts of a multidisciplinary band of people should be acknowledged.

Steering Committee

Marcia Hewitt-Fisher, Dale Chrapko, Doug Macaulay – Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Corey Beck (Provincial ASB Committee), Sebastian Dutrisac (Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen - AAAF)

Provided strategic guidance on the ASB Grant Program Review, constructive feedback on stakeholder engagement planning and delivery, and feedback and approval of the Survey and Face-to-Face Session questions. Steering Committee presence as an observer, participant, or facilitator at the Face-to-Face Sessions was well received.

Project Team – Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Doug Macaulay (Project Lead), Alan Efetha, Toso Bozic – Core Group

Provided project guidance, constructive review and feedback on the engagement focus (content) and process, input to support materials and communication to stakeholders, and input and feedback on project reports.

Recruited Facilitator-Recorders. Chaired, presented and/or facilitated at the ASB Member Face-to-Face Sessions.

Pam Retzloff – Coordinated ASB Development Unit communication with ASB Grant Program Review stakeholders. Cherril Guennewig and Judy Lee – Contributed to project initiation, planning and execution. Managed logistics for the Face-to-Face sessions. Prepared ASB Member Dialogue Session note compilations of Facilitator-Recorder notes.

Kellie Jackson – Collaborated on data analysis and reporting and provided insights to strategic evaluation of the ASB Grant Program. Assisted with editing the “Summary Report”. Facilitator-Recorder at Lethbridge.

Project Support

Lois Hameister – Lent Opinio Survey expertise to the Ag-Fieldmen question development and survey design. Responsible for loading, monitoring and online report generation. Provided guidance on survey communication with the target audiences, and results interpretation.

Pre-testers – Ag-Fieldmen Survey

Sebastian Dutrisac, Dawn Fortin, Norm Boulet, and Maureen Vadnais – Completed the survey in advance of the scheduled launch. Provided real time completion estimates, comments, and suggested improvements,

Facilitator-Recorders – ASB Member Face-to-Face Sessions

Kellie Jackson, Toso Bozic, Alan Efetha, Jan Warren, Troy Ormann, Cody Metheral, Tanya Warren, Mike Hittinger, Krista Zuzak, Marcia Hewitt-Fischer, Scott McKie, Shelly Ann Dodgson, Elaine Stenbraaten, Joel Bokenfohr

Volunteer Facilitator-Recorders from Across the Ministry and Project Team members contributed to a productive highly rated process by effectively guiding and capturing group dialogue. They participated in Session orientations, briefings and debriefings. Their feedback enabled continuous improvement as the Sessions progressed.

Engagement Consultant-Facilitator

Cindy Bishop – Lead: Engagement process design and delivery, Survey and Face-to-Face Session question development, Facilitator-Recorder orientations and coordination, Session facilitation. Guided project management. Developed Process Agendas and Participant Agendas with accompanying stakeholder communication. Drafted key messages for the Steering Committee. Wrote and presented stakeholder engagement interim reports to the Steering Committee. Coordinated data management and analysis. Prepared the “ASB Member Face-to-Face Session Overview Report”. Drafted and presented this “Summary Report” for review and approval by the Steering Committee – a pivotal reference to inform drafting of Recommendations to the Minister.



2019 Regional ASB Conference Agenda



09:00 – 09:30

Registration



09:30 – 09:45

Opening remarks – *Dan Boisvert, Chair NSC ASB; Blake Gaugler, Director Peace Region AAAF; Corey Beck, Chair ASB Provincial Committee*



09:45 – 11:00

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Updates – *Doug Macaulay, Manager GoA Agricultural Service Board with Toso Bozic, GoA Crop Assurance Extension Specialist*



11:00 – 11:15

Health Break



11:15 – 12:00

Provincial Apiculturist – *Samantha Muirhead, Technologist GoA Apiculture Research*



12:00 – 12:45

Lunch – *Catered by Denise Hankins*



12:45 – 13:30

Emergency Services – *Brad Andres, Director GoA Emergency Management*



13:30 – 14:15

Enterprises Macay Inc. – *Marc Lavoie, Manager*



14:15 – 14:30

Health Break



14:30 – 15:15

Alberta Seed Processors – *Hector Ouellette, President*



15:15 – 16:30

Resolutions



NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY

Agricultural Service Board
1964-2019

Sponsors: St. Isidore Co-Op



REPORT CARD ON THE RESOLUTIONS

2019

Abstract
2019 Resolution Responses and Updates

Provincial ASB Committee
asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Introduction	2
2019 Activities.....	4
Definition of Terms.....	5
2019 Resolutions	
1-19: Loss of 2% Liquid Strychnine	7
2-19: Wildlife Predator Compensation Program Enhancement	10
3-19: Deadstock Removal.....	13
4-19: Carbon Credits for Permanent Pasture and Forested Lands.....	16
5-19: Multi-Stakeholder Committee to Work at Reducing the Use of Fresh Water by the Oil and Gas Industry in Alberta.....	19
6-19: STEP Program Agricultural Eligibility.....	21
E1-19: Access to Agriculture Specific Mental Health Resources.....	24
E2-19: No Royalties on Farm Saved Seed.....	28
Update on Previous Years' Resolutions.....	30
Expiring Resolutions.....	34
Current Advocacy.....	36
Appendix	
Directive for Licensing of Hydraulic Fracturing Projects	i
Rancher's Guide to Predator Attacks on Livestock.....	viii
Local Food Act	xiii

Executive Summary

The Provincial ASB Committee has assigned the following grades to responses by government and non-government organizations for resolutions passed at the 2018 Provincial ASB Conference.

Resolution Number	Title	Proposed Grade
1-19	Loss of 2% Liquid Strychnine	Accept in Principle
2-19	Wildlife Predator Compensation Program Enhancement	Incomplete
3-19	Deadstock Removal	Unsatisfactory
4-19	Carbon Credits for Permanent Pasture and Forested Lands	Accept in Principle
5-19	Multi-Stakeholder Committee to Work at Reducing the Use of Fresh Water by the Oil and Gas Industry in Alberta	Incomplete
6-19	STEP Program Agricultural Eligibility	Accept the Response
E1-19	Access to Agriculture Specific Mental Health Resources	Unsatisfactory
E2-19	No Royalties on Farm Saved Seed	Accept in Principle

Introduction

The Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee is pleased to provide Agricultural Service Board (ASB) members and staff with the 2019 Report Card on the Resolutions. This report contains the government and non-government responses to resolutions passed at the 2019 Provincial ASB Conference. The Report Card on the Resolutions includes the *Whereas* and *Therefore Be It Resolved* sections from the resolutions, response, response grade and comments from the Committee and ASBs for each resolution. The resolutions and responses are also posted on the new Agricultural Service Board website at agriculturalserviceboards.com. Actions taken by the Committee on current and prior resolutions are also included in this report.

2019 ASB Provincial Committee Members

Members	Alternate
Corey Beck, Peace, Chair	Dale Smith
Steve Upham, Northeast, Vice-Chair	Marc Jubinville
Sebastien Dutrisac, Secretary, Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen	Jane Fulton
Morgan Rockenbach, South	Shawn Rodgers
Wayne Nixon, Central	Brenda Knight
Lloyd Giebelhaus, Northwest	Dale Kluin
Brian Brewin, Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)	
Elden Kozak, AAAF	
Doug Macaulay, Agriculture and Forestry	
Pam Retzloff, Recording Secretary, Agriculture and Forestry	
Maureen Vadnais-Sloan, Executive Assistant, Provincial ASB Committee	

Responses for many of the resolutions were received late this year due to the provincial election and changeover in government. The Committee has been working with the various government ministries to ensure that responses are received in a timely manner and anticipates that ASBs will be able to provide their input into the grading process earlier next year. The Committee appreciates the comments and grading provided by the ASBs as it helps them appropriately grade each response for advocacy efforts.

The Committee reviewed the responses and assigned one of four grades: *Accept the Response*, *Accept in Principle*, *Incomplete* and *Unsatisfactory*. The Committee considers the quality of each response and grading and comments submitted by ASBs when grading the resolutions. The grades assigned by the Committee are intended to provide further direction for advocacy efforts for each resolution. Please contact your Regional Representative if you have questions or comments about the grade assigned to a resolution or advocacy efforts.

A summary of grading provided by ASBs is attached for information. The Committee appreciates the input of ASBs into the grading process.

Number of ASBs that Responded

Region	No. of ASBs Responding	% of Region Responding
South	5	28%
Central	5	36%
Northeast	1	9%
Northwest	4	31%
Peace	4	31%
Overall	19	28%

2019 Summary of Grading Responses Submitted

Resolution No.	Accept in Principle	Accept the Response	Incomplete	Unsatisfactory
1-19	19	0	0	0
2-19	1	0	18	0
3-19	2	0	0	17
4-19	18	0	0	1
5-19	0	0	18	1
6-19	0	19	0	0
E1-19	2	1	0	16
E2-19	17	0	0	2

2019 Activities

The Committee met four times in person as of September 25. The Committee has additional meetings planned for November and December to prepare for the 75th Anniversary of ASBs in 2020.

The Committee has been involved in the review of the ASB Program by Agriculture and Forestry. The Committee appreciates ASBs participation and input into this process and is looking forward to sharing the outcome of this review.

The Committee had the opportunity to meet with the new Ministers for Agriculture and Forestry and Environment and Parks. The Committee appreciated being able to connect with these Ministers and discuss the resolutions. Both Ministers seemed to be very aware of issues related to agriculture and the Committee was able to have good discussion with both Ministers. The Committee feels the Ministers have a better understanding of ASBs and what they do after meeting with them. The Committee is pleased with how the two ministries have started to reach out to the Committee for advice and support.

The Committee continues to try to develop stronger relationships with other agricultural organizations within the province. The Committee sent letters to all industry groups in Alberta in 2019 with the resolutions that passed at the 2019 Provincial Conference. The goal was to inform other organizations of resolutions that we were working on and attempt to find synergies and common ground with these organizations. Several of the organizations contacted replied saying their organizations were working on issues such as mental health and expressed interest in working with the Committee on this issue. Other organizations realized that there needed to be common ground found between ASBs and their organization and have met with the Committee to discuss how we can work together better on issues to benefit farmers and industry. The Committee meeting with the Industry Working Group in July is an example of this. The Industry Working Group has members from the Alberta Wheat and Barley Commissions, Alberta Seed Processors and Alberta Seed Growers. One of the main topics of conversation for this meeting was *Fusarium graminearum* and its' management. The Industry Working Group realized that they need to have a better working relationship with ASBs and may be in attendance at the 2019 Regional Meetings to meet ASB members.

The Committee is currently working on a new website specifically for ASBs. The website agriculturalserviceboards.com is being developed to fill in gaps created by recent changes to the Agriculture and Forestry website. The Committee felt that this website could be used to increase availability of information to ASBs regarding resolutions and advocacy efforts. All ASBs are encouraged to visit the website and provide input on what they would like to see as part of the new website. ASBs may contact Maureen Vadnais-Sloan, the Committee's Executive Assistant, to provide input on the website.

The Committee appreciates the support from ASBs and encourages them to contact their Regional Representatives as needed.

Definition of Terms

The Provincial ASB Committee has chosen four indicators to grade resolution responses from government and non-government organizations.

Accept the Response

A response that has been graded as **Accept the Response** addresses the resolution as presented or meets the expectations of the Provincial ASB Committee.

Accept in Principle

A response that is graded **Accept in Principle** addresses the resolution in part or contains information that indicates that further action is being considered.

Incomplete

A response that is graded as **Incomplete** does not provide enough information or does not completely address the resolution. Follow up is required to solicit information for the Provincial ASB Committee to make an informed decision on how to proceed.

Unsatisfactory

A response that is graded as **Unsatisfactory** does not address the resolution as presented or does not meet the expectations of the Provincial ASB Committee

2019 Resolutions

**RESOLUTION 1-19
LOSS OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE**

WHEREAS Under the authority of the *Pest Control Product Act* and based on the evaluation of currently available scientific information, Health Canada is proposing that products containing strychnine for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels do not meet the current standards for environmental protection and, therefore, proposed to be cancelled;

WHEREAS There needs to be a product available to producers to effectively assist in the control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency reconsider their decision and leave 2% Liquid Strychnine on the market available on a permanent basis to agricultural producers to utilize on their farms for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA

On behalf of the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence to her predecessor, the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, and the enclosed copy of the Agricultural Service Board's "Resolution 1-19: Loss of 2% Liquid Strychnine".

As you may know, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has completed a consultation on strychnine and associated end use products in order to make a decision on its' future use. I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your correspondence to the Office of the Honourable Ginette Pettipas Taylor, as this matter falls under her jurisdiction. I am certain that Minister Pettipas Taylor will give your concerns every consideration.

HEALTH CANADA: PEST MANAGEMENT REGULATORY AGENCY

Thank you for your correspondence of February 11th, 2019, addressed to the Honourable Ginette Pettipas Taylor, Minister of Health, regarding the proposed re-evaluation decision to cancel the use of strychnine for the control of ground squirrels. The Minister has asked that I respond on her behalf.

In Canada, pesticides are regulated federally under the *Pest Control Products Act*, which is administered by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). Our number one priority is to protect the health and safety of Canadians and their environment, including non-target wildlife.

Before a pesticide is allowed to be used or sold in Canada, it must undergo a rigorous scientific assessment process to determine that the health and environmental risks of using the product are acceptable, when used according to label directions. In addition, Health Canada periodically re-evaluates pesticides that are on the market to assess whether they continue to meet the Department's health and environmental standards and hence whether they should continue to be permitted for use in Canada. Health Canada will take regulatory action at any time should unacceptable risks to human health or the environment be identified.

As you are aware, Health Canada published a proposed re-evaluation decision, PRVD2018-13: Strychnine and Its Associated End-use Products (Ground Squirrel Use), in June 2018. This document proposed to cancel the use of strychnine for ground squirrel control due to risks of concern for non-target organisms, including species at risk. As indicated in this document, multiple lines of evidence (risk assessment based on available information, incident reports, information from provinces including information generated through the Integrated Pest Management Committee) indicated that risks of concern for non-target poisonings continue to occur with the use of strychnine. Reliance on strychnine may not be sustainable in the long-term due to the lack of practical mitigation measures to protect non-target organisms.

During the consultation period, several comments relating to the proposed decision were received from the Canadian public and stakeholders, including Agricultural Service Boards, and are currently under review.

Once Health Canada has considered all of the comments and information received from stakeholders and members of the public, a science based approach will be applied in making a final decision.

Please note that there are alternatives to strychnine as mentioned in the consultation document:

- chlorophacinone and diphacinone (multi-feed anticoagulant baits);
- zinc phosphide (non-anticoagulant bait);
- aluminum phosphide (fumigant); and
- white mustard seed powder and sodium alpha-olefin sulfonate (foam).

Should you have further questions regarding pesticides and the federal pesticide regulatory system, please contact the PMRA by telephone at 1-800-267-6315 or by email at pmra.infoserv@hc-sc.gc.ca.

GRADE: Accept in Principle

COMMENTS

The Committee graded this resolution as “*Accept in Principle*” as the response from PMRA indicated that a decision is still pending for Re-evaluation Decision PRVD2018-13. PMRA indicated that their response will be science based and included a list of other products that can be used to control ground squirrels. The Committee continues to monitor PMRA’s website for the re-evaluation decision.

The Committee discussed this with the Minister in July and requested support from the Minister to advocate for the continued registration of strychnine. The Minister expressed support for maintaining the registration as he indicated he “hates gophers” and requested the Committee send another letter to PMRA outlining the issues with each of the products, requesting that people that want to use strychnine must undergo mandatory training and to request tracers be put into new batches of strychnine to indicate if it is old or new strychnine responsible for off target poisonings. ASBs commented that there is a need to address the economics of strychnine.

The Committee is concerned because the registration for 2% liquid strychnine expires December 2019. The Committee will continue to advocate for the continued registration of 2% liquid strychnine.

RESOLUTION 2-19
WILDLIFE PREDATOR COMPENSATION PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT

- WHEREAS** Predation by carnivores and birds of prey continues to be a problem for ranchers and agriculture producers;
- WHEREAS** Many Municipalities have submitted multiple resolutions in this regard for these same problems;
- WHEREAS** To maintain the credibility of the program, livestock losses must be confirmed by Fish and Wildlife Officers, as killed or injured by predators;
- WHEREAS** The protection of life and property is a priority for the provincial government, which means providing a response to reports of problem wildlife, may sometimes shift the efforts of Fish and Wildlife Officers away from the predator control mandate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Ministers of Environment and Parks, Justice and Solicitor General, and all other relevant government ministries implement an enhanced Predator Compensation Program that could utilize the GPS location and date time features and photo capabilities of smart phone technology to provide photographic or video evidence to assist in the confirmation of livestock death and livestock injury in a timely and prompt manner, and reduce the number of physical site investigations Fish and Wildlife Officers must conduct.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Through the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC), Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) is responsible only for Wildlife Damage Compensation Program and not for the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program; therefore, neither AFSC nor AF is in a position to provide response to Resolution 2-19.

The Wildlife Predator Compensation Program is administered by the Alberta Environment and Parks (AEPs) Fish and Wildlife section, and we will defer to them for response.

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

The Wildlife Predator Compensation Program accepts electronic photos from producers as supplementary evidence in determining eligibility of compensation claims. Such photos are particularly valuable in cases where key evidence may be lost if not immediately recorded (weather, scavenging, etc.). The protocol for this program is to initiate investigations within 24 hours of notification of a livestock loss due to predation.

Only on rare occasions do response times exceed this protocol, and measures are taken to ensure such delayed responses do not affect decisions about compensation.

Environment and Parks staff evaluate the field investigative response times for the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program on an annual basis, and adjust the program by stationing seasonal problem wildlife technicians in municipalities with the highest incidence of predation. To continue to support producers, in 2018, department staff enhanced the "Ranchers Guide to Predator Attacks" and included additional tools to focus producers on collecting the types of evidence most useful to investigators. Municipalities can order copies of this publication from the department Information Centre by contacting aep.info-centre@gov.ab.ca.

The department is reviewing several initiatives to reduce livestock losses to predators, including evaluation of proposed program timelines, costs and potential opportunities for stakeholder partnerships.

Mark Heckbert, Provincial Wildlife Conflict Specialist, would be pleased to meet with the ASB Provincial Committee to further discuss any issues regarding the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program. You can reach Mark Heckbert at mark.heckbert@gov.ab.ca or at 780-523-6517 (dial 310-0000 for a toll-free connection to any Government of Alberta number).

ALBERTA JUSTICE AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

Thank you for your inquiry below with respect to an outstanding response to the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee's resolution: 2-19: Wildlife Predator Compensation Program Enhancement.

Upon review of resolution 2-19, it was determined that Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) was the more appropriate ministry to respond, given the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program falls under the jurisdiction of that ministry. I am pleased to advise that the ministry of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General did provide AEP with input into their response, prior to the spring provincial election held on Tuesday, April 16, 2019.

For further updates, please feel free to contact the Deputy Minister's Office of Alberta Environment and Parks.

GRADE: Incomplete

COMMENTS:

The Committee graded this resolution as Incomplete as the response was received in July. The Committee did not have adequate time to review and grade the resolution before meeting with the Minister of Environment and Parks.

The Committee discussed this resolution with the Minister on September 25. The Director of

Fish and Wildlife attended the Minister meeting and replied that the one concern is that it will upset the balance in the current compensation program. Other predators under the compensation program are harvested under regulated programs compared to coyotes that are listed as a nuisance under the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act with no limitations on harvesting them. The Minister added that another concern is with money to fund the program. The Minister has met with other groups on this issue and is recommending setting up a working group to look at the compensation program in total.

ASB Comments recommend that the grade be changed to Accept in Principle as the response indicates that photos are accepted as part of their investigations.

The Committee looks forward to working on this issue with Environment and Parks and coming up with a solution that addresses the needs of producers.

**RESOLUTION 3-19
DEADSTOCK REMOVAL**

- WHEREAS** rendering companies would travel the Province of Alberta picking up deadstock for free and turn the deadstock into by products;
- WHEREAS** Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) was discovered in Canada in 2003;
- WHEREAS** regulatory changes were made to remove Specified Risk Materials from carcasses causing rendering companies to charge a fee for service;
- WHEREAS** producers are trying to limit or manage the cost of removing deadstock and started disposing of deadstock on-farm;
- WHEREAS** on farm disposal of deadstock attracts livestock predators such as coyotes, wolves and bears;
- WHEREAS** large carnivore interaction with farm families has increased, causing public safety concerns;
- WHEREAS** the primary producer bears the cost of regulatory changes for the entire food production chain;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Provincial Government compensate producers fifty percent (50%) of the deadstock pick up fees with producers bearing the remainder of costs.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE

ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

The *Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation* (Alberta) provides for several methods of disposal that are acceptable for routine on-farm animal deaths (provided the animal was not infected with a provincially or federally reportable disease and the animal was not euthanized with drugs): by landfill, burial, burning, composting, rendering, and natural disposal. Certain additional conditions are outlined in the regulation that are dependent on the type of disposal method chosen.

While the presence of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Canada did change the availability of rendering in some locations of the province, this was largely due to a change in the demand for the services in more remote areas, and a subsequent decision by renderers to change the supply of their services. AF has reviewed options to subsidize rendering costs in order to increase the number of samples available for BSE surveillance; the results of this analysis has continued to suggest a lack of return on

investment, with a significant increase in cost and very little increase in the number of samples.

The most valuable samples for BSE surveillance are those collected on-farm, rather than those collected at deadstock/rendering facilities, because of the presence of a disease history for those collected on farm. The BSE surveillance program currently pays producers \$75 per animal to assist with keeping the carcass from predation while testing is performed.

As part of emergency preparedness for foreign animal disease incursions, all farms should consider developing an on-farm disposal program that will work in all seasons. Municipalities could be eligible for funding under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program for the development of emergency preparedness plans, including option for locating sites to dispose of deadstock. More information is available at:

<https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/>.

GRADE: Unsatisfactory

COMMENTS

The Committee graded this resolution as Unsatisfactory as the response did not address the resolution as presented. The focus of the response was for BSE Surveillance but the concern raised by ASBs was regarding predator and human conflicts. The Committee also felt that producers and not municipalities needed funding to help with disposal of livestock.

The Committee analyzed what the potential cost of implementing a program like this would be and determined the cost to be approximately \$10 million dollars to implement a cost share program for rendering services. The Committee used the following assumptions:

- Average number of Alberta cattle: 3.34 million (StatsCan, 2016)
- Normal death loss: 2-3%
- Average cow weight: 1,390 lbs
- Rendering cost: \$0.14/lb (West Coast Reduction Charges)
- Average cost to render 1 cow = (1,390 lb)(\$0.14/lb) = \$194.60 (round up to \$195)
- (3.34 million cows)(3% death loss) = 100,200 animals lost
- (100,200 dead cows)(\$195/cow) = \$19,539,000 = cost to render animals
- reimburse at 50% (resolution ask) = \$9,769,500 or ~\$10 million

The Committee discussed this resolution with Minister Dreeshen and requested assistance with developing a viable rendering industry in Alberta again. The Minister replied budgets were tight in Alberta and there was no funding available for a program such as this. The Minister asked if any of the other provinces were doing a better job of livestock disposal and said the Committee needs to look at what other provinces are doing and what could possibly be done to re-establish the rendering industry and look at a stream that would add value to deadstock removal.

ASB comments varied but there was a consensus that producers should have responsibility for their deadstock.

RESOLUTION 4-19
CARBON CREDITS FOR PERMANENT PASTURE AND FORESTED LANDS

- WHEREAS** A significant amount of Carbon is stored within land used for permanent pasture, estimated at ten to thirty percent of the worlds carbon;
- WHEREAS** A significant amount of Carbon is stored within private land associated with agricultural operations that is left forested;
- WHEREAS** There is currently a carbon credit program available for annual crop growers but nothing for permanent pasture or forested lands;
- WHEREAS** Producers with permanent pasture and forested lands should be compensated for their contributions to reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry develop a process to allow farmers and landowners to access carbon credits for land used for permanent pasture, perennial forage crops or land that is left forested.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

AF recognizes that carbon sequestration will be an important source of emissions reductions, and we support market-based approaches to emissions reductions that compensate producers for doing their part to combat climate change.

Under the *Climate Change and Emissions Management Act* and the associated regulations, Alberta policy is for measurement and mitigation of all greenhouse gases (GHGs). The regulations specify 23 different gases, three of which are common in the agriculture sector: carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and methane.

The development of offset protocols requires careful consideration to ensure they are science-based, verifiable, and robust. Protocols must consider all relevant or affected GHG emissions. Changes in nitrous oxide and methane must also be taken into account, as well as carbon/carbon dioxide. Additional considerations include:

- Establishing science-based baselines;
- Determination of clear, well-defined geographical boundaries;
- Establishing a framework; Identifying monitoring, verification, and reporting requirements;
- Ensuring permanence and avoiding leakage;

- Ensuring proper valuation of credits (quantification of the impact of an action and proper economic valuation);
- Establishing legal and institutional frameworks; and Organizing stakeholders and obtaining 'buy-in*.

Offsets are measured by the difference in emissions when a producer changes their practices or implements a technology (not in a business-as-usual state); that is, it is not about total carbon in the soil, but how soil carbon is altered with a change in management. Offsets in perennial agriculture crops, for example, include a livestock component. Management changes to produce more forages may promote more cattle (fed on or off the field) releasing more methane and nitrous oxide. The positive change in carbon may, thus, be reduced by the increased production of these other two gases.

AF is currently working with the Alberta Climate Change Office to develop a carbon sequestration protocol for forestry in collaboration with stakeholders. The Government of Alberta may consider developing additional protocols, including permanent pasture or perennial forage crops, as science and policy evolves to make them a market opportunity.

ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

Environment and Parks administers the Alberta Emission Offset System, and Agriculture and Forestry often provides valuable input into the protocol development process. Currently, the Carbon Competitiveness Incentive Regulation (CCIR) enables the Alberta Emission Offset System. A government-approved quantification protocol is required for activities to generate emission offsets. There are currently no approved protocols for the activities list by ASB (permanent pasture, perennial crops and land left forested).

Organizations interested in developing a protocol for a reduction or sequestration activity may submit a request to develop a protocol to Environment and Parks. Information on the process and the template for submitting a request is available in the "Technical Guidance for Offset Protocol Development and Revision" (July 2018), which you can find by searching for the document's title at <https://open.alberta.ca/publications>.

Environment and Parks evaluates requests and selects protocols to be developed or revised. Factors considered in the selection process include available resources, magnitude of potential reductions, ability to accurately quantify reductions or sequestration, additionality and alignment with policy priorities. The deadline to submit a request is the end of calendar year. If a protocol is not selected, the protocol developer is welcome to submit another request the following year.

Biological sequestration protocols are challenging because the science is still evolving for measurement, monitoring and quantification of land and trees as both

sources and sinks for atmospheric carbon dioxide. It is also challenging to quantify incremental reduction or sequestration due to implementing a management practice or technology. There must be an increase in the rate of sequestration compared with the baseline scenario, and the increase must be measured and quantified in a way that meets the rigour of Alberta's regulatory system.

GRADE: Accept in Principle

COMMENTS

The Committee graded this resolution “Accept in Principle” as the responses indicated that there was consideration for these protocols to be developed. The responses were also clear in outlining how ASBs could start to work on protocols that could be submitted to the government for vetting and approval.

The Committee discussed this briefly with the Minister and were told that Alberta Environment and Parks is currently focusing on large emitters. Environment is planning to undertake consultations for carbon credits once this work has been completed. The Minister said he is very aware of this issue as the grazing associations have been actively advocating for this also.

RESOLUTION 5-19
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE TO WORK AT REDUCING THE USE OF FRESH WATER BY
THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY IN ALBERTA

WHEREAS there is a concern about the enormous loss of fresh water (see Reference 1) by the oil and gas industry in the hydro-fracking and water injection processes (see Reference 7 and 8);

WHEREAS the oil and gas industry is licensed over one billion cubic metres of fresh water annually;

WHEREAS fresh water is a critical resource to Alberta's agricultural producers;

WHEREAS free and easy access to fresh water for enhanced oil recovery acts as a disincentive for oil and gas companies to pursue alternate methods such as CO₂ injection, light oil hydro-fracking or to drill deeper to locate and pipe saline water (see Reference 3 and 7) for injection purposes;

WHEREAS the Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board is concerned with the amount of fresh water used in the fracking and water injection process;

WHEREAS the Council of Brazeau County recently moved a Motion requesting a multi-stakeholder committee be struck to look at reducing the use of fresh water by the oil and gas industry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee request the Government of Alberta to immediately strike a multi-stakeholder committee to work at reducing the use of fresh water by the oil and gas industry in Alberta.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

AEP, Alberta Energy, and the Alberta Energy Regulator are leading the efforts to minimize the use of fresh water in oil and gas extraction activities. As this resolution has been forwarded to AEP, as well, AF will defer to that department for response.

ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

Water use, including where, when and how much water can be withdrawn, is regulated under the *Water Act*. Diversion licences are granted to applicants when sufficient water is available to meet both ecosystem requirements and the rights of existing licence holders. The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) is responsible for issuing water licences on behalf of the government for energy development activities.

The 2006 Water Conservation and Allocation Policy for Oilfield Injection requires operators to assess alternatives to freshwater prior to applying for a water licence for enhanced oil recovery (water floods) and in-situ operations. This policy made significant improvements to water productivity.

In February 2018, Environment and Parks issued the Directive for Water Licensing of Hydraulic Fracturing Projects - Area of Use Approach (the directive). The directive provides direction to the AER to ensure a consistent approach to water licensing of hydraulic fracturing projects with multi-year operations. The directive requires operators to demonstrate their need for water and to conduct an assessment of alternatives to fresh water. You can find the directive by visiting <https://open.alberta.ca/publications> and searching for "directive for water licensing of hydraulic fracturing."

Because these issues are wide-ranging and complex, I welcome the opportunity to meet with you, along with some of my staff, to discuss these important topics.

ENERGY

The resolution falls under the jurisdiction of Environment and Parks. I believe they will be reaching out to you shortly.

GRADE: Unsatisfactory

COMMENTS

The responses for resolution 5-19 were graded as Unsatisfactory because they did not address ASBs request to strike a multi-stakeholder committee to review. The Committee appreciates that work has been done by Alberta Energy Regulator with the "Director for Water Licensing of Hydraulic Fracturing Projects – Area of Use Approach" to reduce fresh water use but feels that more could be done to reduce fresh water use in the oil and gas industry.

The Committee discussed this with the Environment Minister and the Minister said it could be included as part of the review of the Alberta Energy Regulator. One of the concerns the Minister has been hearing is that landholders, agriculture and communities are not currently able to participate in the process. The Minister said he would bring it up with the Deputy Minister who is currently the head of the Alberta Energy Regulator and they will incorporate it into the review.

The "Directive for Water Licensing of Hydraulic Fracturing Projects – Area of Use Approach" may be found in the Appendix.

RESOLUTION 6-19
STEP PROGRAM AGRICULTURAL ELIGIBILITY

WHEREAS: Farming operations, whether they are incorporated, or a sole proprietorship can be very labour intensive, especially in the fruit and vegetable sector;

WHEREAS: As of October 1, 2018, the minimum wage goes up to \$15.00/hour creating an even greater expense to farming operations with high labour costs;

WHEREAS: The STEP program states that “Small businesses must be registered in Alberta and have a valid Alberta Corporate Access Number (ACAN);

WHEREAS: Opening up opportunities for students both high school and post secondary for summer employment in the agricultural industry whether the employer is incorporated or not will benefit both employer and employee and support local agriculture, local food production, agritourism, and farmers markets;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

the Government of Alberta review its Summer Temporary Employment Program to include farms and small businesses that are not incorporated.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE

CULTURE AND TOURISM

Our office had forwarded your previous email to the Ministry of Labour to reply on our behalf our Ministry as this resolution would fall under their mandate. I have attached a copy of the response that was sent out on March 22, 2019.

ALBERTA LABOUR

Thank you for your February 12, 2019 email, providing a copy of the February 4, 2019 letter regarding Resolution 6-19, passed at the 2019 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference. I am responding on behalf of the Government of Alberta, as a provincial election is currently underway.

I appreciate that the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee recognizes the importance of the Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP). STEP provides students with the opportunity to build meaningful work experience, increase their skills and workplace knowledge and help prepare them for the future.

Currently, to be eligible to participate in STEP, businesses must be incorporated or registered under provincial or federal legislation. Small businesses within the province must be registered in Alberta, have been operating for no less than one year (from the

date of application) and have an Alberta Corporate Access Number (ACAN), which is used for verification and validation purposes. Employers that do not meet the eligibility criteria cannot be funded through STEP, regardless of their industry.

When providing funding to employers to hire students, it is important that all organizations are verified to ensure they meet all program requirements. Application assessment includes verifying the position is in Alberta, verifying the business is registered in Alberta (as noted above) and is in good standing with Alberta's health and safety legislation, and confirming that all other eligibility criteria is met.

Please be assured Labour is committed to monitoring our programs to support workers and employers, including STEP, and your organization's feedback will be taken into consideration.

You may be pleased to know Labour has a network of Workforce Consultants across the province who work with employers, including farm and ranch owners, to address their workforce needs. Employers may contact the Employer Hotline at 1-800-661-3756 to get connected with a Workforce Consultant in their area and learn about programs and supports available to them.

Agriculture and Forestry also provides programs and services that may assist farm operators, including the Summer Farm Employment Program, which provides opportunities for full-time farm work experience for young people. Employers are encouraged to call the Agriculture and Forestry contact centre at 310-FARM or visit their website at www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/general/progserv.nsf/all/pgmsrv35 to learn more about this and other programs that are available for the current year.

Employers considering applying for the Canada Summer Jobs Program, available through the Government of Canada, can find more information at www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html or call 1-800-935-5555.

If you have comments about the Canada Summer Jobs Program you may wish to contact the Honourable Patricia Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, at:

Honourable Patricia A. Hajdu
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Email: Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca
Phone: 1-613-996-4792

Thank you again for writing and for the opportunity to respond. I trust this information will be of use to you.

GRADE: Accept the Response

COMMENTS

The response answered the question so the Committee assigned it a grade of “Accept the Response”. The Committee was pleased that the Ministry of Labour said that they would consider this resolution as part of their review process for the STEP. The Committee hopes that Labour will consider changing STEP in the future to benefit producers that are not incorporated and appreciated that Labour provided information for other programs that producers could access.

EMERGENT RESOLUTION E1-19
ACCESS TO AGRICULTURE-SPECIFIC MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

- WHEREAS** Agriculture is economically essential, both provincially and federally, and agriculture needs healthy farmers to function;
- WHEREAS** Agriculture is a stressful occupation, which has become especially clear with three consecutive years of poor harvests, livestock feed shortages and other effects of climate change;
- WHEREAS** Despite mental illness diagnoses increasing, a large stigma exists around mental illness and asking for help which is especially prominent in industries like agriculture where members are isolated and have a distinct workplace culture of not requesting help;
- WHEREAS** Alberta does not have an agriculture-specific mental health crisis line, although neighbouring provinces do (e.g. Saskatchewan);
- WHEREAS** 310-FARM is a well-known and commonly utilized number that can direct callers to an abundance of resources, but only offers agronomic information during office hours;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Provincial Government of Alberta facilitates the formation of a free, year-round, all hours, mental health crisis hotline, dedicated to the agriculture industry, providing farmers with direct access to uniquely qualified professionals and resources, whom have both an understanding of mental health issues and agriculture-specific stresses.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Provincial Government of Alberta secure long term, sustainable funding for the operation and maintenance of this mental health crisis hotline.

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

AF appreciates Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards interest in this important topic. Indeed, a 2016 study from the University of Guelph found that 45 per cent of farmers had high stress, while 40 per cent said they would feel uneasy asking for professional help. Thirty-five per cent of Canadian producers could be classified as depressed and 58 per cent of producers meet the criteria for anxiety (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2016/06/farmers-need-want-mental-health-heipsurvey/>).

While this study does not offer any Alberta-specific data, Farm Management Canada recently released an "Expression of Interest" to industry stakeholders interested in contributing to an industry-wide, national study on the connection between mental health and farm business management (<https://fmc-gac.com/announcements cpt/rei-mh-fbm/>). Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards may consider responding to this call as a means of providing an Alberta perspective, and to further validate the need for the proposed service.

At this time, there is no funding available for a mental health crisis hotline dedicated to agriculture. AF is committed to reaching out to Alberta Health in the coming months to discuss potential options and strategies to address the concerns of mental health as they specifically relate to the agriculture industry in Alberta.

HEALTH

I appreciate the comprehensive information the Provincial Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Committee provided in the *Resolution E1-19: Access to Agriculture Specific Mental Health Resources*, and am pleased that the findings are aligned with the approach we are taking to support Albertans who live in rural communities. I understand that agriculture is a stressful occupation with unique mental health concerns.

I assure you that improving mental health supports for farming families in rural communities is a priority for our government. There are a number of activities underway that focus on rural communities.

- Currently, the 211 database (mentioned in your resolution), covers about 65 per cent of the province. It is being expanded to cover the whole province so people can get information about addiction and mental health services that are close to home, especially in rural areas.
- Alberta Health Services is increasing mental health service delivery to rural and remote communities through telehealth services. Telehealth is also used for specialized service delivery in rural areas (e.g., child psychiatry, psychogeriatrics, opioid services) in combination with local Alberta Mental Health staff.
- Alberta Health provided grant funding to, and is working closely with, the Canadian Mental Health Association to improve community-led mental health supports in rural areas. Over the next three years, 150 rural communities (including towns, villages and Indigenous communities) will develop and implement local action plans to improve addiction and mental health services. We are looking forward to seeing the results.
- There have been 40 free Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) for Seniors training sessions offered across Alberta, including rural areas, with more to come. MHFA is an evidence-based course that supports participants to respond to emerging and crisis mental health issues in the people they serve, their co-workers, friends and families.
 - It has been recognized as an effective tool for farming communities, and training is also being offered through Farm Credit Canada.

- We are also piloting and evaluating e-counselling options and expanding the Mental Health Capacity Building in Schools program to 18 more schools, including in rural and remote areas of the province, bringing supports to 100,000 children across the province.

Additionally, the Mental Health Help Line provides a province-wide, 24/7 telephone service. This is a confidential, anonymous service that offers help for mental health concerns, including crisis intervention, information about mental health programs and services, and referrals to other agencies, if needed.

There are also agriculture specific health supports available to farming families in Alberta:

- 4-H Farm Management Canada has just launched their Healthy Living initiative, a two-year program available to all 4-H Clubs in Canada. The first year of the program will focus on providing mental health supports to children and youth in collaboration with partners such as the Kids Help Phone. Information is available on their website at <https://4-h-canada.ca>.
- Farm Credit Canada has a program, Rooted in Strength, that focuses on breaking the stigma of mental health support in the farming community and providing resources to farming families. Information about this program is available on their website at www.fcc-fac.ca/en/ag-knowledge/wellness.html.
- Do More Ag is a not-for-profit organization focusing on mental health in agriculture, that offers resource listings and works with partner organizations across Canada. Information about this organization is available on their website at www.domore.org.

I commend you for your advocacy on this matter and appreciate the time you have taken to bring this concern to my attention. The information you have provided will help to ensure that our health care system remains responsive to the needs of all Albertans.

GRADE: Unsatisfactory

COMMENTS

The Committee graded this response Unsatisfactory as it does not meet the expectations of the Committee. The Committee appreciates the response from Alberta Health as it shows commitment to supporting mental health resources for rural municipalities through expansion of various initiatives already in place. The Committee is disappointed that there wasn't an indication of agriculture specific training to be included as part of the expansion of these initiatives to provide better support for producers.

The Committee discussed this with the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and the Minister said that providing additional, agriculture specific training for existing help lines is something that could be considered. The Committee plans to work with Rural Municipalities of Alberta

and other organizations to advocate for agriculture specific resources for mental health.

ASBs commented that the Committee should accept the Minister's recommendation for a proposed study and highlighted that there are resources currently available in Alberta. ASBs also indicated that they thought there could be more done to help with mental health and that long term sustainable funding needed to be secured with a commitment for resources specific to agricultural producers.

**EMERGENT RESOLUTION E2-19
NO ROYALTIES ON FARM-SAVED SEED**

- WHEREAS** Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) are considering implementing a system to collect royalties on farm saved seed;
- WHEREAS** Paying royalties on farm saved seed will increase the price of seed and decrease profit margins for farmers;
- WHEREAS** Royalties on farm saved seed could limit seed choices for farmers as seed companies move to deregister old varieties, which could mean farmers would be forced to pay royalties and to grow only newer varieties;
- WHEREAS** AAFC and CFIA have not outlined details on how much a royalty would be, how it would be collected or how potentially \$100 million in royalties would be dispersed;
- WHEREAS** Farmers currently pay check-offs on almost all grains they deliver to elevators, some of these funds are funneled through the Western Grain Research Foundation (WGRF) and used for variety breeding programs;
- WHEREAS** Also, the WGRF Endowment Fund has received the CN and CP rail overages & penalties under the maximum revenue entitlement program every year since 2000 and had a balance of just under \$132 million at the end of 2017. This money has been collected from farmers via excessive freight charges, and could be used to fund research;
- WHEREAS** The purpose of Agricultural Service Boards is to improve the economic welfare of the farmer and a royalty system has potential to decrease farmers' ability to be profitable and make sound agronomic decisions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency abandon the proposal to implement the adoption of End Point Royalties (EPR's) or farm saved seed "trailing royalty contracts".

STATUS: Provincial

RESPONSE

CANADA FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY

Thank you for sharing your letter of February 11, 2019, which includes the seed royalty resolution (Resolution E2-19: No Royalties on Farm Saved Seed), passed by the

Agricultural Service Board. I appreciate you taking the time to write to me about this important matter.

As you may be aware, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency were asked by the Grains Value Chain Roundtable, a consultative body with broad representation from across the value chain, to launch public consultations on two proposed seed royalty models. The purpose of these proposed “value-creation” models are to stimulate greater investment and innovation in Canada’s cereal sector. The first phase of the consultative process was launched in late 2018 and is an initial step in what government views as a multi-stage discussion process.

The Government of Canada understands that many farmers place considerable value on their ability to save seed and often choose specific crop kinds and varieties that allow for replanting of saved seed in subsequent years. At the same time, a large number of agriculture sector stakeholders have signaled a desire for Canada to consider some form of value-creation model that would allow increased investment in wheat variety development by both public and private breeders across the country. Many producers see increased investment in research and breeding as key to ensuring the long term profitability and competitiveness of Canada’s cereals sector.

The government remains open to hearing all perspectives on this matter, and will consider the feedback heard to inform next steps in the consultative process.

GRADE: Accept in Principle

COMMENTS

The Committee feels that since the consultation is ongoing that the grade “Accept in Principle” is most appropriate. The Committee encourages all ASBs to continue to monitor and provide input into this consultation.

The Committee discussed this with the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. The Committee recommended that an end user tax on products like bread, rather than royalties on producers that use the seed, be implemented. The Committee asked the Minister why Canadian researchers can’t access funds from WGRF for public plant breeding programs. It seems that WGRF has funds but no one seems to know how the money is being spent. The Minister replied that the Committee needs to work on a plan to present to WGRF on how money should be spent to support public plant breeding programs.

ASB Comments varied with some expressing support for a royalty system to encourage industry to research and develop new varieties with others expressing strong support to abandon the royalty proposal.

Update on Previous Years' Resolutions

2018 Resolutions

1-18: Environmental Stream Funding of the Agricultural Service Board Grant Grade: Accept in Principle

Update from Doug Macaulay, Manager, Agricultural Service Board Unit, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry:

AF has discussed this resolution and whether to change timelines in the Terms and Conditions so they align with our fiscal year (April 1-March 31) from the current (January 1 – December 31). After much discussion we have decided to continue to align with the MGA and therefore will not be changing the timelines in the Terms and Conditions at this time.

RESOLUTION 1-18 ENVIRONMENTAL STREAM FUNDING OF THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD GRANT: <https://agriculturalserviceboards.com/previous-year-resolutions/2018-resolutions/#jump-resolution-1-18>

I would be available to discuss this decision in more detail at our next ASB Provincial Committee meeting.

2-18: Appeals to the Minister Under the *Weed Control Act* and *Agricultural Pests Act* Grade: Unsatisfactory

Resolution 2-18 requested that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) amend the *Agricultural Pests Act* and *Weed Control Act* to hear and determine appeals to the Minister within a 30 day time frame. AF's response indicated they were not supportive of a legislated time frame as they needed appropriate time to conduct investigations in a manner that was transparent and evidence based. The resolution response indicated that AF was willing to review their process to determine if there was a way to hear and determine appeals in a more timely manner. AF announced to the Committee and AAAP in March 2019 that outlined a pilot program for appeals made under the *Weed Control Act*. The intent of this new process was to reduce the time for a decision to be made for appeals made to the Minister.

The Ministerial Review process pilot project outlined that all appeals would be an in person hearing process. The hearing would be overseen by an adjudicator with legal training and who was familiar with agriculture. The adjudicator would review the appeal and make their

recommendation to the Minister for the outcome of the appeal.

The Committee discussed the pilot project with ADM Curran at their March meeting and expressed their concerns with the process but decided it would be best to let the pilot project proceed and review the outcomes once the first review had gone through the new process.

The Committee understands that one appeal to the Minister has gone through this process. The Committee plans to meet with the municipality involved and ADM Curran to review how the process worked and if it was fair to all parties involved. The Committee will continue to advocate for changes to be made to the Ministerial Review appeal process until a process that benefits AF and ASBs is created.

This process has been included as part of the review by the government's "Red Tape Reduction Action Plan".

4-18: Weed Control on Alberta Vacant Public Lands Within Green Areas **Grade: Incomplete**

The Committee brought this up with the Minister. The Minister replied that he didn't have adequate knowledge in this area and this was the first time that this issue had been brought up with him. The Minister's staff replied that this was part of the Public Lands program but they would have to look into funding and budgets more. The Minister appreciated this being brought to his attention and said he would investigate more. The Committee reminded him of his responsibility under the *Weed Control Act* and how everyone needs to be involved with working to manage regulated weeds.

5-18: Wildlife Predator Compensation Program Enhancement **Grade: Accept in Principle**

The Committee discussed the Wildlife Predator Compensation program in some detail with the Minister of Environment and Parks and the Director of Fish and Wildlife. The Committee is pleased that the Minister is considering a review of the Predator Compensation Program with a working group that would include ASBs. The Committee looks forward to participating in this working group and will continue to advocate for changes to be made to the Predator Compensation Program based on resolutions brought forward by ASBs.

6-18: Review of Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) Crop Insurance Program **Grade: Unsatisfactory**

Reviewing AFSC was listed as a priority for the new government. The document "Alberta Strong and Free" on page 28 states that the government will "streamline the Agriculture Financial services Corporation to improve services and responsiveness to farmers." This review has been started as part of the government's "Red Tape Reduction Action Plan".

AFSC's lending mandate has been reviewed as part of this plan and to date the decision has been made to implement the AFSC lending mandate that was approved in January 2018. This new mandate will provide assistance to agriculture processors, producers and agri-businesses. Implementation of this mandate includes establishing an agribusiness lending group to work with agricultural producers. (Source: alberta.ca)

The Committee continues to monitor this resolution and advocate for more changes to be made to AFSC as part of the "Red Tape Reduction Action Plan" to make AFSC programs more responsive to farmers.

11-18: Organic Food Testing and Labeling

Grade: Accept in Principle

Resolution 11-18 requesting Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) advocate for better labelling of organic products and for additional testing to be conducted by CFIA and other agencies to assure organic claims are true. The response from AF indicated that they were working on a new Act to endorse the national standard while CFIA responded that they do routinely and randomly check products that claim to be organic to ensure that all products meet the Canadian Organic Regime (COR). The Committee graded this resolution as "Accept in Principle" based on the fact that a new Act was in development regarding organic standards.

The "*Supporting Alberta Local Food Sector*" Act was passed on May 30, 2018. This Act now requires all producers that claim their food is organic to be certified and meet the COR standards. Producers previously could claim their food was raised to be "organic" in Alberta without having any proof of certification.

The Committee appreciates the work completed by the government to pass this Act and supports the new requirement for all organic producers to be certified to meet the COR requirements and feels that this will decrease the number of products falsely being advertised as organic.

The *Supporting Alberta Local Food Sector Act* is found at:

<http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/s23p3.pdf>

Relevant sections of the Act are found in the Appendix.

1-17: Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways

Grade: Accept in Principle

The Provincial Committee continues to monitor the progress made by Alberta Transportation in carrying out the vegetation management plan implemented in 2018. This is a four year plan and the Committee plans to meet with Alberta Transportation in 2020 to review the plan.

3-17: Incorporating Agriculture and Agri-Food Education in the Classroom
Grade: Incomplete

The Committee continues to monitor Alberta Education’s curriculum review and provide input as needed. The Committee strongly support the work being done by organizations such as “Ag for Life” that provide resources for teacher to incorporate agriculture into their classrooms.

The Committee has not had an opportunity to meet with the Education Minister to discuss this resolution.

E3-17: Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Prevalent in Bison Within and Surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park
Grade Unsatisfactory

The Committee discussed this with the Minister and his response was that it was complicated by legislation related to Species at Risk. His department continues to monitor it but feels that not much can be done due to federal Species at Risk legislation.

Parks Canada has released a plan that addresses bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis as part of their recovery strategy for wood buffalo in the park. Details on their strategy can be found at the link below or the 2018 Report Card on the Resolutions.

https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/nt/woodbuffalo/decouvrir-discover/science_nature/bison

Expiring Resolutions

The Provincial Rules of Procedure state in section 3(10) that the Provincial ASB Committee will actively advocate for resolutions for a period of five years. Any expiring resolutions that an ASB wishes to remain actively advocated for must be brought forward for approval at the next Provincial ASB Conference.

The following resolutions are set to expire December 31, 2019.

Resolution Number	Resolution Name	Grade
1-15	Adapt Crop Insurance to Protect Clubroot Tolerant Varieties	Unsatisfactory
2-15	Pest Control Act – Clubroot	Accept in Principle
3-15	Standardized Clubroot Inspection Procedure	Accept in Principle
4-15	Additional Funding for Municipalities dealing with Prohibited Noxious Weeds that come from Outside the Province of Alberta	Accept in Principle
5-15	Maintaining Canada Thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>) as a Noxious Weed under the Alberta <i>Weed Control Act and Regulation</i>	Accept in Principle
8-15	Monitor Ergot Levels in Livestock Feeds	Accept in Principle
9-15	Elk Quota Hunt	Accept in Principle
10-15	Alberta Fish and Wildlife Officer availability	Accept in Principle
12-15	Agriculture Plastics Recycling	Unsatisfactory
14-15	Management of Farm and Agricultural Leases	Accept in Principle
15-15	Farm Property Assessment	Accept in Principle
E1-15	<i>Fusarium graminearum</i> Management Plan	Accept in Principle

Updates on Expiring Resolutions

Resolution 9-15

The Committee had an opportunity to discuss resolution 9-15 with the Minister of Environment and Parks. The Committee expressed concern with the number of elk in parts of the province and requested additional action for managing elk within those areas. The Minister replied that some of the problem is the conflict between hunters and landowners not allowing hunters to go onto their land. That being said, the Minister said there were several things his department was looking at including allowing extra landowner tags, possibly having multiple elk seasons for hunting, and including requiring producers prove they allowed reasonable access to land for ungulate management for producers seeking 20 year grazing leases or elk fencing.

Resolution 12-15

The Committee also discussed resolution 12-15: Agriculture Plastics Recycling with the Minister and thanked him for the pilot project that started in 2019. The Minister indicated that he was excited about the pilot project and looking forward to seeing the outcome of the results. He indicated that he planned to look at making the program permanent once he saw results from the first year of the project. He indicated that he had been talking with Saskatchewan about their program and felt that a similar program in Alberta would be of benefit to the province.

Current Resolutions

1-15	Adapt Crop Insurance to Protect Clubroot Tolerant Varieties	Unsatisfactory
2-15	Pest Control Act - Clubroot	Accept in Principle
3-15	Standardized Clubroot Inspection Procedure	Accept in Principle
4-15	Additional Funding for Municipalities dealing with Prohibited Noxious Weeds that come from Outside the Province of Alberta	Accept in Principle
5-15	Maintaining Canada Thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>) as a Noxious Weed under the Alberta <i>Weed Control Act and Regulation</i>	Accept in Principle
8-15	Monitor Ergot Levels in Livestock Feeds	Accept in Principle
9-15	Elk Quota Hunt	Accept in Principle
10-15	Alberta Fish and Wildlife Officer availability	Accept in Principle
12-15	Agriculture Plastics Recycling	Unsatisfactory
14-15	Management of Farm and Agricultural Leases	Accept in Principle
15-15	Farm Property Assessment	Accept in Principle
E1-15	<i>Fusarium graminearum</i> Management Plan	Accept in Principle
1-16	Proactive Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways	Unsatisfactory
2-16	Reinstate Provincial Funding for the Canada and Alberta Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Surveillance Program	Unsatisfactory
3-16	Agricultural Plastics Recycling	Accept in Principle
5-16	Climate Stations	Accept in Principle
6-16	Compensation for Coyote Depredation	Accept in Principle
8-16	<i>Species at Risk Act</i> (SARA)	Accept in Principle

E1-16	Bill 6: <i>Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers</i>	Accept in Principle
1-17	Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways	Accept in Principle
2-17	Ensuring Competition for Seed and Crop Protection Products	Incomplete
3-17	Incorporating Agriculture and Agri-Food Education in the Classroom	Incomplete
E3-17	Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Prevalent in Bison Within and Surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park	Unsatisfactory
1-18	Environmental Stream Funding of the Agricultural Service Board Grant	Accept in Principle
2-18	Appeals to the Minister Under the <i>Weed Control Act</i> and <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i>	Unsatisfactory
4-18	Weed Control on Alberta Vacant Public Lands Within Green Areas	Incomplete
5-18	Wildlife Predator Compensation Program Enhancement	Accept in Principle
6-18	Review of Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) Crop Insurance Program	Unsatisfactory
7-18	Crop Insurance for Alberta Fruit Producers	Accept the Response
9-18	Farm Direct Marketing of Eggs and Products Using Eggs	Accept in Principle
10-18	Proposed Federal Tax Changes	Accept the Response
11-18	Organic Food Testing and Labeling	Accept in Principle
1-19	Loss of 2% Liquid Strychnine	
2-19	Wildlife Predator Compensation Program Enhancement	
3-19	Deadstock Removal	
4-19	Carbon Credits for Permanent Pasture and Forested Lands	
5-19	Multi-Stakeholder Committee to Work at Reducing the Use of Fresh Water by the Oil and Gas Industry in Alberta	
6-19	STEP Program Agricultural Eligibility	
E1-19	Access to Agriculture Specific Mental Health Resources	
E2-19	No Royalties on Farm Saved Seed	

Appendix

Resolution 4-19

Directive for Water Licensing of Hydraulic Fracturing Projects – Area of Use Approach
February 22, 2018

Source: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/directive-for-water-licensing-of-hydraulic-fracturing-projects-area-of-use-approach>



Title:	Directive for Water Licensing of Hydraulic Fracturing Projects – Area of Use Approach
Number:	AEP, Water Quantity, 2018, No.1
Program Name:	Water Policy
Effective Date:	February 22, 2018
This document was updated on:	

Scope and Applicability

This directive does not replace or override requirements specified in other guidelines, directives, regulations, policies or legislation in effect at the time of application for a licence under the *Water Act*.

This directive applies to hydraulic fracturing projects, typically with a longer development horizon, which are planned to occur over a specified geographic area and that have ongoing water needs over the life of the project. These projects are generally distinguished by:

- an operating area that is identifiable and constrained by mineral tenure rights held by an applicant;
- multiple hydrocarbon wells to be developed within those specific and defined geographic areas;
- hydrocarbon wells that are completed using multi-stage hydraulic fracturing techniques; and
- well pad and hydrocarbon well development that is staged to occur over many years.

For this type of oil and gas project, there are unique characteristics warranting development of a tailored approach to water licensing. These include:

- most of the water being required prior to the operating phase of each hydrocarbon well (i.e. used initially only for the fracturing of a formation, with no ongoing water need in the hydrocarbon production phase of the well);
- the exact surface location of each hydrocarbon well over the life of the project not being known at the outset of the project; and
- the surface areal extent of where an operator is authorized to explore and develop for oil and gas being known and defined by the mineral tenure rights.

A distinguishing characteristic is the longer-term need for water over the life of a project, where use at a single location is short-term, and the ongoing water use is characterized by spatial movement in progression to the next hydrocarbon well development location.

Intent

This directive provides direction to the Alberta Energy Regulator to ensure a consistent approach in evaluating the various factors regarding water licensing of hydraulic fracturing projects with multi-year operations occurring over an area of use constrained by mineral tenure rights. The directive also provides direction to applicants when preparing licence applications under the *Water Act*.

Background

Mineral tenure rights held by oil and gas companies can span a wide range of land areas, from multiple sections of land and up to many townships in size. As a consequence, multi-stage hydraulic fracturing projects are generally planned in a sequence of development and can extend over larger geographic areas.

The conventional approach for licence applications, typically for smaller areas or projects where the details of the surface locations of water use are provided at the application stage, is difficult to apply to longer-life multi-stage hydraulic fracturing developments. Traditionally, applications to divert water for oil and gas wells have been handled on a "well-by-well" basis by issuing temporary diversion licences for each well completion, or for each well pad development. However, this approach generally would not explicitly consider potential cumulative effects within long-life projects; and also does not provide sufficient regulatory certainty or incentive for applicants to consider longer-term investments in infrastructure that could reduce the overall impact of activities.

To better enable the policy outcomes around water use and conservation by the energy sector, longer term, multi-year licences are the preferred water allocation approach for multi-stage hydraulic fracturing projects. These types of projects require greater flexibility regarding use of water, where the project areas are known at the time of application but exact locations where water will be applied become known as development plans are finalized and operational phases commence. There is a need to:

- balance avoidance of speculation in the water resource with flexibility regarding how the precise locations of water use are identified;
- clarify the areal considerations and requirements for licences, including the information the proponent is required to provide for these types of applications;
- demonstrate that the projected and likely impacts of a project within an area have been adequately assessed, considered, and can be mitigated.

Purpose of Licensing using an Area of Use Approach

The purpose of developing this directive for hydraulic fracturing projects is to allow operational flexibility by a licensee within specific and defined geographic areas of oil and gas development, while remaining within provisions of the *Water Act*.

Compared to the traditional licensing approach (obtaining temporary licences for each well), this directive is intended to enable better management of water resources; planning for longer-term infrastructure and supply options; and address water supply risk for operators.

This directive provides a set of consistent considerations and requirements for implementing this tailored approach to issuing a licence. This directive does not preclude other types of *Water Act*

authorizations such as temporary diversion licences, preliminary certificates and approvals, which continue to be used when appropriate to the circumstance of an application.

Alternatives Assessment

It is expected that proponents will seek the use of alternative water sources before considering the use of non-saline water for their projects. Alternative water sources include, but are not limited to, recycled flowback, recycled municipal or industrial wastewater, saline groundwater, groundwater containing hydrocarbon compounds (excluding methane) and/or non-water technologies. As part of the application submitted under this directive, proponents must include an alternatives assessment that demonstrates no other economically and environmentally feasible water sources are available over the proposed term of the licence. The *2006 Water Conservation and Allocation Guideline for Oilfield Injection* provides guidance on conducting alternatives assessments.

Demonstrated Need for Water

To address potential speculation in the water resource, the licence application must demonstrate the need for the allocation of water being requested by providing, at a minimum, the following information:

- Project area, including the mineral lease boundaries to be developed and any boundaries of major river basins as defined in the *Water Act*.
- Development plan for the project (concept/scoping level) that identifies the well density needed to develop the resource (e.g. #wells/section).
- Schedule of development (concept/scoping level) that identifies the potential annual water need from year zero to the anticipated end of the project.
- Total volume of water needed per well (e.g. m³/well). The information must be sufficient (provide data, models, assumptions) for justification of the allocation request.
- Number of years expected to complete the project.

Ongoing demonstration of the need for water is required through the life span of the project, within a reporting period specified by the Director. As a condition of the licence, licensees must be required to report supporting information, including, but not limited to, the following:

- The volumes of water diverted from the source; the volumes of water used; and the water use per energy well, compared to estimates submitted with the application and any previous reports;
- For the upcoming reporting period, an estimate of the monthly volume of water that is expected to meet the needs of the project operations;
- Changes to the:
 - mineral lease boundaries within the project area; and
 - well density plan;that may result in a change from the original schedule of development, which would affect the timelines required to complete the project.

Licences must include a condition that allows for Director-initiated amendments to reduce the allocation of water and/or reduction in the term of the licence.

Prior to considering a reduction of volume and/or reduction of the term by the Director, a 30-day written notice (or other time period specified by the Director) will be sent to the licensee requesting additional information that justifies the ongoing and future water needs under the current allocation. If there has been a consequential deviation from an operator's development plan and water need cannot be demonstrated, the Director must have the discretion to amend the annual allocation (volume, rates of diversion, timing) and/or the licence term may be reduced.

The Director also has ability to apply both statutory (preliminary certificates) and administrative (licence conditions) instruments to provide necessary regulatory oversight and controls to manage water needs that may change over time or are subject to variable conditions (for example, "ramping-up"/phasing; economic factors; conditional buildout).

One Point of Diversion per Licence

Water licences issued under this approach should be limited to one Point of Diversion per licence from either a surface or a groundwater source. The recommended procedure limits applications to one point of diversion with one priority-of-use date per licence, as a means to limit opportunities for speculation in the resource.

With respect to groundwater sources, for the purpose of this directive one Point of Diversion is a well or multiple wells contained within the equivalent area of one quarter section and completed within the same aquifer.

Appurtenance

Appurtenance¹ conditions in water licences are mandatory. The licence condition must specify appurtenance to land or undertaking; it cannot be both. A licence is typically appurtenant to the Point of Diversion, which determines where a diversion is taking place within a basin. The Point of Diversion is the precise physical location where water is withdrawn from a specified source. A licence may also be appurtenant to a Point or Points of Use, which is description or specification of where water that has been diverted may be used or applied.

For licensing of multi-stage large scale hydraulic fracturing projects, the licence must be appurtenant to the Point of Diversion only. These types of licence are not made appurtenant to a Point of Use. The use and application of water is regulated separately with licence conditions, specifying a point of use or points of use as a bounded area.

The Point of Diversion must be known at the time of application and can only be amended in accordance with provisions in the *Water Act* under section 54(1)(b)(vi). The appurtenance statement in the licence regarding the Point of Diversion should refer to land and not the undertaking, as:

- reference to land is more appropriate given the nature of these projects, which are limited and described by access to mineral rights based on surface locations; and
- consistent interpretation based on AEP's *Guidelines Regarding Appurtenance* would be expressed as appurtenant to lands for industrial projects involving mineral extraction.

¹ Appurtenance means belonging to; accessory or incident to; adjunct to; appended or annexed to. Refer to AEP's *Guidelines Regarding Appurtenance* for additional explanation.

Point of Use

This water licensing approach for multi-stage hydraulic fracturing projects allows for a generally described and spatially limited Point of Use Area to be identified at the time of application. The Point of Use becomes specified when water is applied during the term of the licence. Various aspects regarding the Point of Use must be incorporated into licences using this approach as described below.

Point of Use Area Boundary

The applicant must identify the sub-surface mineral lease area(s) that the application is based on and held at the time the application is submitted and where water will be used for drilling and completion (i.e. hydraulic fracturing) purposes. The Sub-surface Mineral Lease Area is a principal component of a specific Point of Use Area, identified within the licence. Multiple sub-surface mineral lease areas to be included under one licence shall generally be contiguous with or in close proximity to one another.

The Point of Use Area is the extension of the Sub-surface Mineral Lease Area to the surface, with a small and justifiable buffer that allows for related ancillary surface activities related to the hydraulic fracturing project, that require water. Examples of these activities are road access and maintenance, dust suppression, construction, related infrastructure, etc. The Point of Use Area should generally align with the licensee's mineral leases to be held under the project water licence and it must encompass all of the Sub-surface Mineral Lease Area of the licensee. This is best identified in the licence and application using a detailed map, diagram or similar visual identification, which can be referenced as a Plan in the licence. The licence must specify the purpose(s) and uses for which water may be applied within the Point of Use Area, and within the Sub-surface Mineral Lease Area as appropriate.

The Point of Use Area can only be amended in accordance with provisions in the *Water Act* under Section 54.

Watershed boundaries should be identified on maps or diagrams; any major river basin boundaries (reference Section 10, *Water (Ministerial) Regulation*) must be identified in applications. Transfer of water across the boundary of a major river basin is restricted by Section 47 of the *Water Act*, requiring a special Act of the Legislature to authorize the issuing of such a licence. To avoid triggering special provisions required for inter-basin transfer of water, the boundary of the Point of Use Area must be indicated on plans and clearly identified as constrained to within the same major river basin as the Point of Diversion.

Size of Point of Use Area

The Point of Use Area should be no larger than the equivalent area of 16 townships. The Sub-surface Mineral Lease Area will be equal to or smaller than the Point of Use Area and will comprise one or more contiguous areal block(s) generally corresponding with mineral leases within the Point of Use Area held by the operator at the time of application for a water licence.

The Director may consider a larger Point of Use Area than the specified maximum in this directive, if there is clearly demonstrated net environmental benefit compared to assessed alternatives (for

example; a reduced or less significant spatial footprint; fewer independent water sources needed; ability to use a source with less potential for adverse impact).

Specified Upon Use

Within a reporting period specified by the Director, the licensee is required as a condition of the licence to report the specific surface locations where the water allocation under the licence was used for the hydraulic fracturing project within the Point of Use Area. These surface locations must align with the Point of Use Area in the licence.

Altering Point of Use Area

The Point of Use Area can only be amended as provided for in the *Water Act*. A new licence must be obtained for new Point of Use areas. The Point of Use Area boundary cannot be expanded. A reduction in the Point of Use Area can be authorized through a licence amendment.

Altering Sub-surface Mineral Lease Area

Any proposed changes to the Sub-surface Mineral Lease Area must be submitted to the Director for consideration. Director discretion in accordance with section 54(5) of the *Water Act* will determine if the changes are significant enough to require an amendment, or if a simple update to the plan is sufficient.

Addition

In circumstances where new mineral leases are acquired within the existing Point of Use Area, the licensee must submit an application under the *Water Act* to amend the Sub-surface Mineral Lease Area in the licence. In such cases small additional areal block(s) can be proposed as new sub-surface mineral lease area(s) within the original Point of Use Area. The proposed sub-surface mineral lease area(s) shall be contiguous with or in close proximity to the original sub-surface mineral lease area(s), and shall apply to the same target formation(s).

An application to amend cannot request an increase in the volume of the diversion of water specified in the licence. If a change in the Sub-surface Mineral Lease Area results in a need for additional water, a new licence is required.

Disposition

The removal of a sub-surface mineral lease area, usually due to the sale, transfer or expiry of a mineral lease, may require an update to the plan on the licence. The Director may consider a reduction in allocation volume or a change in diversion rate or timing to reflect the disposition of the lands, if it materially affects the schedule of development for the project. Depending on the extent of the removal of sub-surface mineral lease area(s), a reduction in the Point of Use Area may also be required by the Director.

Other operators who have acquired new mineral leases under such circumstances (i.e. through the disposition of others) must apply for a separate water licence for those newly acquired leases.

Term Length

Unless otherwise established in a water guideline or subject to an amendment of the *Water (Ministerial) Regulation*, the term of a licence under this approach is 10 years or less. Licensees can submit applications to renew licences for subsequent terms of up to 10 years. The Director must also specify when a licence is not subject to further renewal. Other terms or conditions may be revised in accordance with Section 59 of the *Water Act*.

Water Release

A general expectation of hydraulic fracturing activity is an effectively fully consumptive process, where water, makeup waters and flow back are generally mixed throughout the process and injected or eventually disposed of, and not returned to the environment. Circumstances of well drilling and completions are not always fully predictable and there may be potential for water, capable of discharge back to environment, to be generated.

Based on authorization procedures already in general use, this directive requires that potential water return be addressed through the use of standard licence conditions. Licensees must be required to ensure that prior to any discharge or release of fresh or non-saline water to the environment:

- all applicable protocols and recommended practices to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species are implemented (including the possibility that no release can be made, regardless of satisfying all other water release criteria);
- water must meet acceptable surface water quality and groundwater quality guidelines;
- the return is made to a watershed where the original diversion took place;
- licensees employ erosion prevention and other environmentally precautionary measures; and
- consent of immediate and downstream landowner(s), as appropriate, is obtained.

Policy and Regulatory Alignment

Licences issued under this approach may be subject to the requirements of new or updated policies or regulatory tools that are developed in the future. Furthermore, this directive may be updated in the future to ensure alignment with new or updated policies or regulatory tools that are developed.

Original signed by: _____

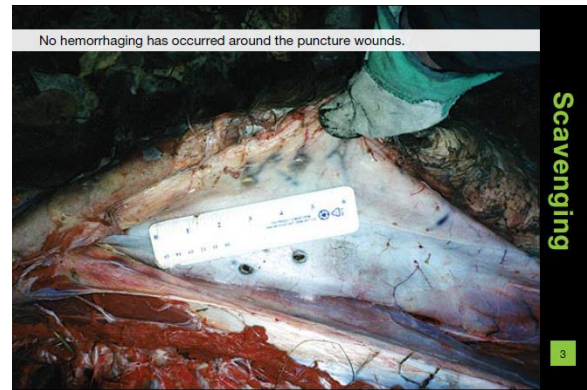
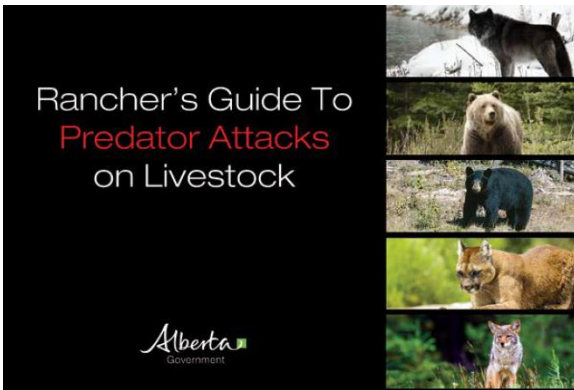
Date: February 16, 2018

Karen Wronko, Executive Director
Water Policy
Environment and Parks

Resolution 5-18

Rancher's Guide to Predator Attacks on Livestock March 2018

Source: <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/b5bee14e-1339-48b7-9388-b71bc6d378d1/resource/8fbe1c21-cb35-4485-8df8-439c8e83e7b7/download/ranchersguidetopredatorattacks-mar2018.pdf>



Predation or Scavenging?

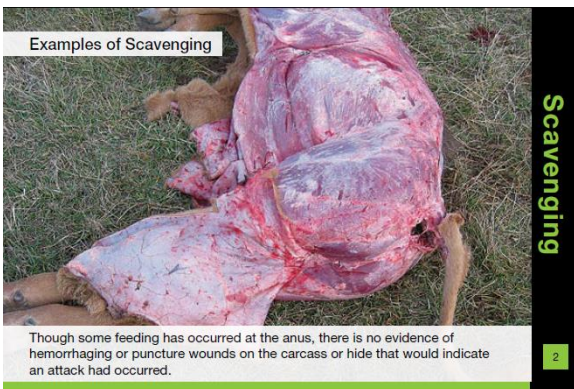
Bears, wolves, cougars and coyotes can be scavengers as well as predators.

Evidence of Scavenging	Evidence of an Attack
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There may be no blood on the ground around the carcass, or blood may have drained onto the ground from body cavities such as the nose. Lacerations and puncture wounds found on the hide's exterior do not show corresponding signs of hemorrhaging on the interior of the hide or in adjacent tissue. The body may be curled up with the legs tucked in, indicating the animal died of disease or other condition not related to predation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There may be blood on the ground indicating the animal bled when attacked. Blood stains may be spread widely around the dead animal. There may be a blood trail. Lacerations and puncture wounds on the hide's exterior will show corresponding signs of hemorrhaging on the interior of the hide and tissue. Blood may also drain from puncture wounds. The body may be stretched out in an unnatural position.

Common Attack Zones on Adult Livestock

Indications: hemorrhaging/bruising/lacerations/tears/bite marks/crushed bones

	Wolf	Grizzly Bear	Black Bear	Cougar	Coyote
Tail	X				X
Hindquarter/Groin	X				X
Flank	X				X
Behind and under front leg	X				X
Withers		X	X		
Spine		X	X		
Neck		X	X	X	X
Throat				X	X
Skull		X	X	X	
Spacing between canine teeth	1½-2"	2-3"	1½-2½"	1½-2¼"	1-1 3/8"
Diameter of canine tooth punctures	¼"	¼"	¼"	¼"	1/8"



Characteristics of a wolf attack

Wolves chase their prey.
During the attack, prey are weakened through pursuit and blood loss.

Wolves normally attack their prey from behind.
Bite marks and lacerations are often found on the animal's hindquarters, and the tail may also be missing or stripped of its hide.

Wolves may attack other parts of the body.
Bite marks can also be found on the nose, under and behind the front legs and on the ears.

When wolves prey on younger or smaller animals, they may centre their attack on the animal's back.

Wolves use their teeth in an attack.
The biting causes hemorrhaging, which is most evident on the inside of the hide and in the adjacent tissue.



Wolf Attacks

The wolf attack on this yearling resulted in a stripped tail, hemorrhaging in the hind quarters and flank, and damage under and behind the front legs.

Wolf

6



The wolf attack on this spring calf resulted in extensive tissue damage to the back. The puncture wounds will be evident on the hide's exterior.

Wolf

10



The wolf attack on this mature cow resulted in damage to the perineum. The lacerations from the wolves' teeth are broader than those from a coyote.

Wolf

7

Characteristics of a bear attack

Bears ambush their prey.

In the attack, bears will not usually pursue their prey over long distances. However, once the animal is dead, they may drag it some distance to feed under the protection of cover.

Bears normally attack their prey from the top of the animal.

Lacerations may be left by the bear's teeth when it bites and by its claws when it attempts to grip its prey during the attack.

Bears are opportunistic hunters and feeders.

Bears will take advantage of any food source when they have the opportunity to do so. Both black and grizzly bears are known to prey on all age classes of

cattle, as well as swine and sheep. Because grizzlies are larger, they may prey on larger animals, such as mature cows. Black bears prey more heavily on calves. Unlike wolves and cougars, bears often eat the stomach contents (rumen) of livestock.



Bear

11



Black/purple stains on an older, inverted hide shows hemorrhaging caused in an attack. Evidence of bite marks will be visible on the exterior of the hide.

Wolf

8



Bear Attacks

Bear attack to the withers of this spring calf resulted in extensive tissue damage.

Bear

12



On the left photo are fresh wounds from a wolf attack. On the right photo are older wounds that have started to heal.

Wolf

9



The bear attack on this calf resulted in crushed nasal bones.

Bear

13



The bear attack on this calf resulted in canine tooth puncture wounds over the spine.

Bear

14



Cougar Attacks

The entry point on this sheep illustrates typical cougar feeding patterns: the opening is in the chest area, the edges are clean, and the hair around it was clipped or plucked.

Cougar

18



The bear attack on this calf resulted in hemorrhaging in the tissue in the withers area.

Bear

15



In the attack on this sheep, the cougar inflicted a fatal bite to the skull.

Cougar

19



The bear attack on this sheep resulted in puncture marks to the skull and wounds to the back.

Bear

16



The cougar attack on the foal left canine tooth puncture wounds in the throat area.

Cougar

20

Characteristics of a cougar attack

Cougars stalk their prey. When hunting, cougars sneak up on prey and then rush it from a short distance away. They will not pursue their prey over long distances. However, once the animal is dead, they may drag it some distance to feed under the protection of cover.

Cougars are efficient hunters. Cougars normally kill their prey in one of two ways: by biting at the head and neck to crush the skull and neck bones, or by biting at the throat to crush the windpipe.

Cougars use their strength and sharp claws to grip their prey. In a struggle, cougars are normally strong enough to maintain hold on their prey with minimal re-adjustment. Lacerations may not show marks from all five of the

cougar's claws. The claw marks are knife-like, with very clean edges.

Cougars prey on a variety of livestock. Cougars typically attack sheep, goats, horses and exotic animals, such as llamas and alpacas.

Cougars feed on organ meat first. Cougars normally feed on the heart, lungs and liver first. They use their teeth to chew out a clean entryway rather than tearing at the tissue. Before feeding, cougars pluck out the wool or hair from the hide. Unlike bears, cougars do not normally eat the stomach, intestines or their contents.

Cougar

17



Wounds made by cougar claws:

- Top images: lacerations
- Right: punctures

Cougar

21

Characteristics of a coyote attack

Coyotes attack in a manner similar to both wolves and cougars.

Coyotes commonly hunt as individuals, but like wolves, may also hunt in packs, attacking their prey from the rear. Like cougars, they may also suffocate their prey by crushing the windpipe.

Coyotes are smaller than other predators and will leave smaller punctures and lacerations. Lacerations and puncture marks may also show the coyote needed to re-adjust its grip on its prey during the attack.

Coyotes normally take prey that is smaller.

Sheep, goats and young calves are susceptible to coyote predation.



Coyote

22

The Wildlife Predator Compensation Program

The livestock covered under the program are cattle, bison, sheep, swine and goats. Horses and exotic animals, such as llamas, alpacas or mini-donkeys, are not covered.

Producers may qualify for compensation when livestock are killed or injured by a grizzly or black bear, wolf, cougar or eagle. Attacks by coyotes or incidents of post-mortem feedings are not covered by the compensation program.

Costs relating to both medications and veterinarian fees can be compensated up to the value of the injured animal.

If producers suspect that a predator has killed or injured their livestock, they are advised to contact the nearest Fish and Wildlife office of Justice and Solicitor

General as soon as possible. Call the Report-A-Poacher hotline at 1-800-642-3800 to reach a Fish and Wildlife officer. An investigator will examine the animal. The producer may be advised to move or cover the animal prior to the investigator's arrival, which will help ensure that evidence is not lost due to scavenging.

26



The puncture wounds on this sheep are typical of a coyote attack. The inter-canine spacing of 1" is less than the inter-canine spacing of a cougar.

Coyote

23

You can help

Report suspected livestock losses early. Losses must be reported within 3 days in order to be eligible for compensation under the **Wildlife Predator Compensation Program**. Early detection and reporting allows for more effective mitigation and control actions that may limit further livestock losses.

Share information with your neighbours.

Communicating information concerning livestock losses to predators may allow for others to increase vigilance, mitigation and husbandry practices and may limit additional livestock losses.

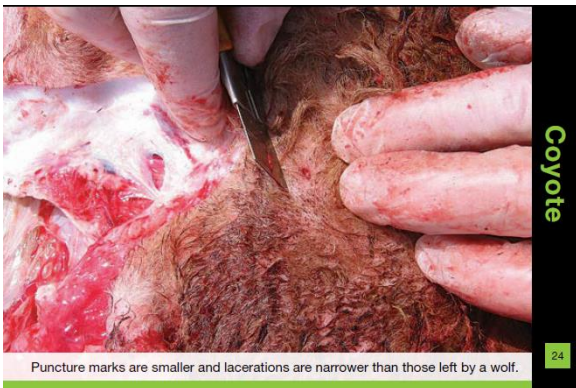
Preserve evidence.

While the protection of public safety and property is a priority, if there is a delay in completing the investigation, collection of photographic evidence from the scene may preserve important evidence that can be lost due to scavenging, further decomposition and other environmental factors.

Ensure your safety and do not approach a livestock carcass if it is not safe. Do not disturb the scene or livestock carcass.

Use the form and ruler on the next pages to guide in the collection of evidence which can supplement the investigator's findings.

27



Puncture marks are smaller and lacerations are narrower than those left by a wolf.

Coyote

24

Reporting

Claimant: _____ Date Investigated: _____

Location of Loss: Qtr S T R W

Loss Reported By: _____

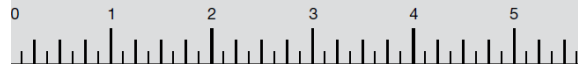
Dead Livestock: Age Sex Weight Number Killed

Photos Taken: Y/N

Overall Scene with Carcass Evidence of Struggle

Evidence of Blood at Site Predator Tracks at Site - Ruler

Location of Attack Spacing of Bite - Ruler



Barbed Wire Injuries

Barbed wire wounds are often mistaken for lacerations from a cougar attack. The injuries to the front legs and to the lower part of the rear legs are not typical of cougar attacks.



25

Notes

29

Notes

A Rancher's Guide to Predator Attacks on Livestock provides ranchers with information about wolves, bears, cougars and coyotes and the attack characteristics specific to each predator. This guide is meant for informational purposes only. Call your nearest Fish and Wildlife office if you have questions about preventing predation, or if you suspect that a predator has killed your livestock.

ISBN: 978-1-4601-1560-2 (Printed Edition)
978-1-4601-1561-9 (Online Edition)
Revised March 2018



Resolution 11-18

Local Food Act (excerpt)

Source: <http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/s23p3.pdf>

Part 2 Organic Agricultural Products

Definitions

7 In this Part,

- (a) “advertise” means to directly or indirectly promote the sale of an agricultural product;
- (b) “certification body” means a body that is accredited by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency that is responsible for the certification of agricultural products under the *Organic Products Regulations*;
- (c) “certification record” means a record of certification obtained in accordance with section 8;
- (d) “organic product” means an agricultural product that is certified by a certification body as meeting the *Organic Products Regulations*;
- (e) “vendor” means a person who offers for sale agricultural products.

Certification

8 A producer or processor who advertises, labels or offers for sale an agricultural product that is produced or processed in the Province for sale in the Province as an organic product must hold the appropriate certification for that product in accordance with the *Organic Products Regulations*.

Prohibition

9 No person shall advertise, label or offer for sale an agricultural product produced or processed in the Province for sale in the Province using the term “organic”, “biologique”, “organically grown”, “organically raised”, “organically produced” or similar words, including abbreviations of, symbols for and phonetic renderings of those words, or any other term prescribed in the regulations unless the producer of the agricultural product holds the appropriate certification for that product in accordance with section 8.

CANADIAN PRODUCT AND CANADIAN MADE

WHEREAS: The guidelines for "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" claims promote compliance with subsection 5(1) of the Food and Drugs Act and subsection 6(1) of the Safe Food for Canadians Act, which prohibit false and misleading claims.;

WHEREAS: A food product may use the claim "Product of Canada" when all or virtually all major ingredients, processing, and labour used to make the food product are Canadian;

WHEREAS: A "Made in Canada" claim with a qualifying statement can be used on a food product when the last substantial transformation of the product occurred in Canada, even if some ingredients are from other countries;

WHEREAS: Products will qualify for a "Made in Canada" when at least 51% of the total direct cost of producing or manufacturing the good must have occurred in Canada;

WHEREAS: Some of our "Made in Canada" raw products such as honey could be mixed with up to 30% of imported honey is misleading the Canadian consumer.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Canadian Food Inspection Agency amend the Guidelines for "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" claims to not include pure products such as honey.

Sponsored by: Northern Sunrise County

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Carried: _____

Defeated: _____

Status: _____

Department: Canadian Food inspection Agency

Background information

May 2013

Competition Bulletin

[James B. Musgrove](#)

The Competition Bureau's Enforcement Guidelines as to "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" Claims (the "Guidelines") came into effect as of July 1, 2010. The Guidelines apply to all goods sold in Canada, including those that are imported. The Guidelines, like their predecessors, are designed to assist in evaluating compliance with misleading advertising prohibitions as applied to the identification of Canadian content requirements in the *Competition Act*, the *Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act*, and the *Textile Labelling Act*.

In the predecessor version to the Guidelines, The Bureau expressed the view that "Made in Canada" claims could be made as long as the product met a 51% threshold of Canadian content and had its last substantial transformation in Canada.

Despite no changes in legislation or jurisprudence the current Guidelines set higher thresholds and draw a distinction between "Made in Canada" and "Product of Canada" claims. For a good to qualify as a "Product of Canada", the Guidelines take the position that the last substantial transformation must have occurred in Canada and at least 98% of the total direct costs of producing or manufacturing the good must have incurred in Canada.

For a good to qualify as being "Made in Canada", the Guidelines provide that the last substantial transformation must have occurred in Canada, and at least 51% of the total direct costs of producing or manufacturing the good must have been incurred in Canada. In addition, the representation must be accompanied by an appropriate qualifying statement such as "Made in Canada with imported parts" or "Made in Canada with domestic and imported parts". This could also include more specific information such as "Made in Canada with 60% Canadian content and 40% imported content". The Guidelines go on to advise that use of specific terms that reflect the limited production, manufacturing, or other activity that took place in Canada would be most appropriate (for example, "Assembled in Canada with foreign parts" or "Designed in Canada").

Terms such as "produced in Canada" or "manufactured in Canada" are likely to be considered synonymous with "Made in Canada" and should also, according to the Guidelines, comply with the above "Made in Canada" requirements. Sellers must also be cautious of implicit declarations (such as logos, pictures or symbols) that could be considered to give the same general impression to the public that a product is "Made in Canada" as an explicit declaration.

By contrast with the approach in the Guidelines, under the United States' "Made in USA" rules, total domestic versus foreign costs are analyzed on a case-by-case basis, according to the Federal Trade Commission's guide *Complying with the Made in USA Standard*, which expressly states that there is not a fixed point for all products at which they become "all or virtually all" made in the United States; the nature of the product, consumer expectations, how far removed the finished product is from the foreign content and the proportion of domestic costs are all taken into account.

The hard and fast quantitative thresholds contained in the new Guidelines are not prescribed by legislation or regulation. They are not the result of court decisions. They simply represent the Bureau's view of the issue. Furthermore, some aspects are impractical. For instance, having to state in advertising materials such things as "Made in Canada with domestic and imported parts" may be problematic for many companies. It is simply too long a claim to be concisely articulated.

Additionally, it would appear that the transition from 51% to 98% was without significant public support. The House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food, after receiving extensive representations, recommended only an increase to an 85% threshold, in their June 2008 report on "Product of Canada", in order to achieve the appropriate level of transparency and accuracy in these claims for food products.

There are obviously peculiarities inherent in rigid "Made in Canada" rules. Consider the case of jam, sausages and pickles. The fruit, pork and cucumbers, the essential ingredients, can all be locally grown in Canada. But the requirement for sugar, salt and spices, in transforming the essential ingredients into their finished product may require qualifying statements such as "made with imported sugar". It would be difficult to argue that consumers, who take pride in Canada made or produced goods, would think that the incidental addition of such ingredients not available in Canada would rob the finished product of its "Canadian-ness". Such producers and manufacturers, who cannot take advantage of the beneficial "Product of Canada"/"Made in Canada" claims, are negatively affected. Consumers are affected, because they are deprived of knowing that certain goods are essentially made in Canada, yet do not qualify for technical reasons.

The Guidelines take a very narrow, and mathematical, view of what is Product of Canada/Made in Canada. Much more so than the U.S. equivalent. They do so without the legislative, regulatory, jurisprudential or stakeholder support. They suggest clarifications which are impractical. The difficulty, however, is that if advertisers do not accede to the Bureau's view, they run a serious risk of prosecution or civil challenge – with fines up to \$10 million. With such serious consequences, it is submitted that the Bureau's Guidelines should reflect a more flexible approach – consistent with the legislation and jurisprudence.

by [C.J. Michael Flavell and James Musgrove](#)

[a cautionary note](#)

The foregoing provides only an overview and does not constitute legal advice. Readers are cautioned against making any decisions based on this material alone. Rather, specific legal advice should be obtained.

© McMillan LLP 2013

BEEHIVE DEPREDATION

- WHEREAS Alberta agriculture has a spectrum of different farming and ranching operation;
- WHEREAS The Ungulate Damage Prevention Program, offers producers advice and assistance to prevent ungulates from spoiling stored feed and unharvested crops;
- WHEREAS All commercially grown cereal, oilseed, special and other crops that can be insured under the Production and Straight Hail Insurance programs are eligible for compensation;
- WHEREAS The Wildlife Predator Compensation Program provides compensation to ranchers whose livestock are killed or injured by wildlife predators;
- WHEREAS Alberta Beekeepers, as an Alberta Agricultural Producers, also experiences wildlife damages such as hive destruction every year by bear depredation but is not covered by a program;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks work with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation to amend the Wildlife Compensation Program to include coverage for hive destruction by bear activity.

- Sponsored by:** Northern Sunrise County
- Moved by:** _____
- Seconded by:** _____
- Carried:** _____
- Defeated:** _____
- Status:** _____

Department: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation

Background information

Source: <https://afsc.ca/news/wildlife-damage-compensation-program-what-you-need-to-know/>

With the onset of harvest season, an intense effort by producers around the province is underway to ensure the crops are being taken off the field in a timely manner.

Circumstances surrounding harvest may not always be suitable for a swift completion of the effort. There might be some damage to crops stemming from the presence of wildlife in the area.

Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (WDCP), administered by AFSC in Alberta and funded completely by the federal and provincial governments, provides coverage for producers who suffer crop loss or degradation due to wildlife.

To benefit from this program, a producer does not have to have an insurance policy with AFSC, but it is important to know that not all crops are eligible under WDCP.

Here are some basic guidelines of how WDCP works:

- WDCP compensates agricultural producers for wildlife damage to eligible unharvested crops, wildlife excreta contaminated crops, silage or haylage in pits and tubes; and stacked hay.
- While producers pay no premium to be eligible for indemnity, a non-refundable \$25 appraisal fee per inspection is required for each section of land (or portion thereof) on which the damage has occurred with at least 10 per cent wildlife damage and a minimum of \$100 loss per crop must be assessed for payment eligibility.
- All commercially grown cereal, oilseed, special and other crops that can be insured under the Production and Straight Hail Insurance programs are eligible for compensation. Swath grazing, bale grazing and corn grazing are eligible for compensation only up to October 31.
- To initiate a wildlife claim on Stacked Hay and Silage or Haylage in pits and tubes, a producer must first contact a provincial Fish and Wildlife (FW) Officer who will provide the producer with appropriate recommendations to prevent further damage prior to a claim being paid.
- Crops under the following circumstances are not eligible: Crops in granaries, bins, stacks or bales left in the field (exception: silage in pits and tubes are eligible); crops seeded on land considered unsuitable for production; crops seeded too late in the season to produce a normal yield; volunteer crops; crops left exposed to wildlife damage due to management practices.

Source: <https://afsc.ca/crop-insurance/perennial-crop-insurance/wildlife-damage-compensation-program/>

The Wildlife Damage Compensation program compensates agricultural producers for damage to eligible unharvested hay crops that is caused by ungulates, upland game birds and waterfowl.

Producers wishing to participate in the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program are not required to have insurance to qualify for a claim. All costs for this program are paid by the federal and provincial governments; producers pay no premium or administration cost except for the appraisal fee. A non-refundable appraisal fee of \$25 per inspection type is required for each section of land or portion thereof on which the damage has occurred.

In order for a producer to be compensated under the program, there must be at least 10 per cent wildlife damage and a minimum of \$100 calculated loss per crop. Damaged hay crops must not be harvested until an AFSC inspector inspects them.

The following crops are not eligible: grazing land or native pasture; crops seeded on land considered unsuitable for production; crops left exposed to wildlife damage due to management practices.

For stacked and haylage in pits and tube, producers are responsible to notify Fish and Wildlife and AFSC as soon as possible after first noticing damage to request an inspection. A provincial Fish and Wildlife (FW) Officer will provide the producer with appropriate recommendations to prevent further damage prior to a claim being paid.

Source: <https://www.alberta.ca/wildlife-predator-compensation-program.aspx>

The Wildlife Predator Compensation Program provides compensation to ranchers whose livestock are killed or injured by wildlife predators.

Funding for the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program comes from dedicated revenue from the sale of recreational hunting and fishing licences in Alberta and from the federal government.

Compensation is paid only for	Compensation is not paid for
Cattle, bison, sheep, swine and goats.	Any other animal, including horses, donkeys or exotic animals, such as llamas, alpacas or wild boar.
Attacks by wolves, grizzly bears, black bears, cougars and eagles.	Attacks by other types of predators, such as coyotes.
The costs of veterinary care and medication associated with the incident or the loss of an animal, up to the value of the animal based on the average for the type and class of livestock.	Incidents of feeding on livestock that had already died of disease or other causes not related to wildlife predation.

EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK REMOVAL

- WHEREAS Maintaining livestock health, viability and profitability during emergency situations such as, but not limited to, disease, fire and flooding is a major priority to livestock producers;
- WHEREAS Livestock removal during emergency situations pose major challenges to producers' safety, livelihoods and animal welfare;
- WHEREAS Major challenges arise from transportation, acquiring pasture and red tape from various departments to access grazing reserves;
- WHEREAS These major challenges restrict the ability of these producers to evacuate rapidly and pose serious risk to life and property;
- WHEREAS Removal of red tape and rapid access to grazing reserves and/or created areas allotted for the use during emergency situations would improve the evacuation process, protect life and property;
- WHEREAS Currently Municipal Affairs and Agriculture and Forestry do not coordinate an effort to make livestock removal a priority under the Emergency Management Act in rural areas;
- WHEREAS The purpose of an Agricultural Service Board is to improve the economic welfare and safety of producers and by not having a provincial streamlined system to safely and effectively remove and rehome livestock; emergency situations will continue to plague the life and property of producers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD REQUEST

that Municipal Affairs, Agriculture and Forestry and Environment and Parks—Public Lands work together to improve access and provide all necessary resources to create separate allotments at grazing reserves and/or other created sites designated for livestock during emergency management situations and recognize livestock removal as an important part in the Emergency Management Act.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD REQUEST

that Municipal Affairs and Agriculture and Forestry work together to research and develop best practice procedures in the event livestock are to be left behind due to an Evacuation Order issued under the Emergency Management Act.

SPONSORED BY: County of Northern Lights

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED BY: _____

DEFEATED BY: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Municipal Affairs, Agriculture and Forestry, Environments and Parks—Public Lands

BACKGROUND INFO

In May of 2019 we saw widespread fires and emergency situations erupt throughout Northern Alberta. One of many fires was the Battle Complex Fire (PWF 052), which led to an evacuation of the Northern half of the County of Northern Lights. It became apparent that the removal of livestock and willingness of livestock producers to leave would become a major challenge to emergency management staff at the County of Northern Lights as the County is not equipped to provide assistance in removal of livestock to increase the likelihood of producers evacuating.

Two reoccurring themes emerged from producers.

1. "Where could I even move my livestock if I wanted too?"
2. "I can't remove my livestock, what is the best practices if I have to leave them and get out?"

It would remove a major hurdle to livestock producers if it was public knowledge that they had a place to rehome livestock during emergencies, if they chose. The initiation of sound research and development of standard operating procedures regarding what to do if you cannot remove the livestock would reduce the stress for producers and first responders in the event of an evacuation.

Dealing with the immediate threat of the fire, the staff realized there was little they could do to help and few resources to offer in this situation other than reaching out to intermunicipal contacts and Alberta Environment and Parks to find pasture or reserves with space to rehome livestock. If areas were designated for emergency use provincially and producers were aware of these sites, they would act before immediate threat to life and property was posed. This would not only be beneficial to producers but also the brave emergency responders that work tirelessly to keep our community safe. Livestock producers who are under immediate threat of evacuation must be given viable options for their animals if we expect them to evacuate, by addressing this threat to life and property it allows emergency responders to perform their jobs more effectively and does not create another hazard of livestock running loose.

The County of Northern Lights would like to thank all the emergency responders that risked their lives to save our community. We would also like to thank all the volunteers for their time, resources and trucks to rehome livestock of affected producers. It's families like these that help to build strong, robust and vibrant communities but provincially we shouldn't have to rely solely on great volunteers. A structured and targeted Inter-Ministerial Provincial Plan on how to respond during an Agricultural Emergency needs to be created. That is why we need to make Emergency Livestock Removal a priority and provide the necessary funding and areas required to protect life and property.

Grain Storage Considerations

**Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Economics and Competitiveness Branch
Competitiveness and Market Analysis Section
August, 2014
Updated May, 2018**

**Contact:
Ryan Furtas
780-422-7095
ryan.furtas@gov.ab.ca**

Executive Summary

On farm grain, storage is essential for most Alberta cropping operations. Grain storage became a concern in 2013 due to record crop yields and transportation issues. Grain bin prices have increased from \$2.50/bushel in 2004 to nearly \$5.00/bushel in 2018. This is due to the increase in steel, concrete and labour prices and demand. With the increase in cost and the need to add more storage, producers have been looking at alternative grain storage options.

Statistics Canada farm survey found that as of March of 2017, Alberta had nearly 27 million tonnes of permanent on-farm storage capacity with less than 10 per cent of on farm grain being held in temporary storage.

Grain storage is important for grain marketing, in most cases grain prices are seasonally the lowest at harvest. Storing grain over a short-term, following harvest can improve returns and provide product at times when deliveries have slowed.

It is important for producers to consider their entire operation when deciding on what system to invest in. Some things they need to consider are the size of the operation, distance the land is from the storage area, age of the operator and if the land is rented or owned. These factors will assist in the decision making process for which storage system to invest in.

Permanent storage provides piece of mind that grain is protected from weather and wildlife damage. These facilities include steel grain bins, sheds and farmer owned elevators. Temporary systems are excellent for short-term storage and include grain bags, grain rings with tarps, bunkers, open piles and rentals. The most commonly used systems in Alberta are grain bins and grain baggers. When comparing bins to bags, grain bins are more economical when storing smaller volumes of grain.

When storing larger volumes of product on an annual basis, grain bags become more competitive. In the example provided in this report, 70,000 bushels were needed to be stored per year before bags were more economical than bins. Even when grain bags are more economical, they can be more prone to damage and increased possibility for grain spoilage. Bags also lack aeration options and the waste plastic can be difficult to dispose of. To make a fair comparison of each system, factors such as lifespan, the cost of the system, depreciation, salvage value, repairs and maintenance, interest and spoilage need to be calculated.

Grain storage considerations are expensive decisions for farms to make. Deciding on which storage option to select can be complicated and dependent on the needs of the individual operation. With some planning and research, the right storage option can be selected for the operation.

Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction:	1
2.0 History:.....	1
3.0 Grain Storage Today:.....	2
4.0 Importance of Grain Storage for Marketing	3
5.0 Grain Storage Decisions	3
5.1 Permanent Storage	4
5.2 Temporary Storage	7
6.0 Costs and Features of Common Grain storage	11
7.0 Set up and Location.....	12
8.0 Price Comparison Example	12
9.0 Conclusion.....	16
10.0 References	17

Figures

Figure 1. Alberta Crop Production and Crop Stocks.....	1
Figure 2. Alberta Grain Bin Prices	2
Figure 3. Permanent and Temporary Storage in Canada as of March, 2014.....	3
Figure 4. Advantages and Disadvantages of Permanent Storage Systems.....	4
Figure 5. Steel Grain Bins (Corrugated and Smooth Walled).....	4
Figure 6. Grain Storage Sheds	6
Figure 7. Farmer Owned Grain Elevators for Storage.....	6
Figure 8. Advantages and Disadvantage of Temporary Storage Systems.....	7
Figure 9. Grain Bagging and Extracting Operation.....	8
Figure 10. Grain Ring and Tarp System (Steel and Wood)	9
Figure 11. Grain Bunker	10
Figure 12. Open Pile of Wheat	10
Figure 13. Grain Storage Options.....	11
Figure 14. Storage Options Estimated Price Comparison Example (Based on above assumptions)	14
Figure 15. Grain Bagger Cost Curve	15

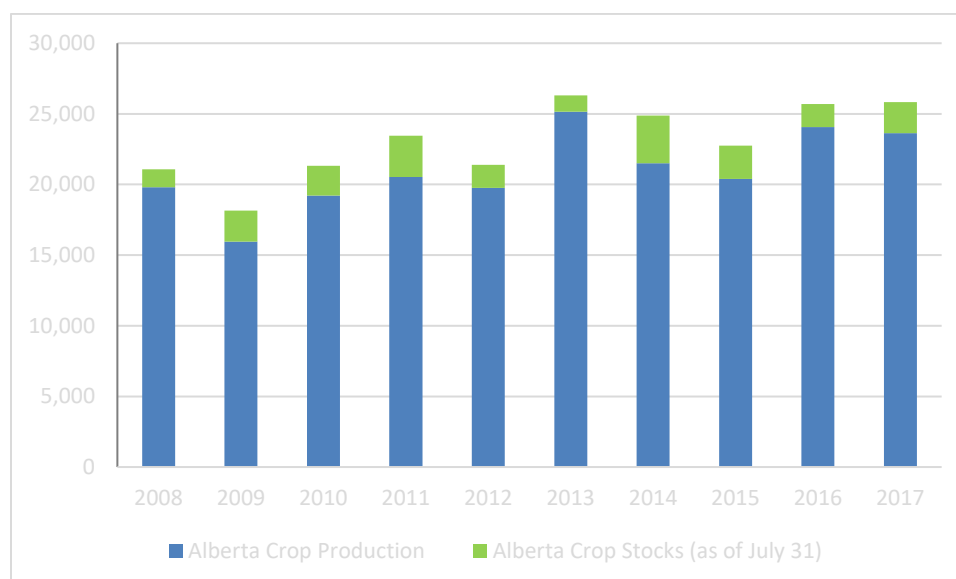
1.0 Introduction:

Grain storage is essential to any grain operation in Alberta. Since commercial grain handling systems in western Canada cannot store the entire grain crop. Grain storage is used as part of a grain marketing strategy. Grain prices tend to be the lowest at harvest and it makes sense for it to be stored until prices rise later in the year. The choices available for storing grain are abundant.

The 2013 crop year, experienced record production as seen in Figure 1. Rail transportation backlogs also occurred due to weather and competition for rail resources. This led to increased interest in on farm storage. Storage options are either permanent or temporary. Producers are also looking at storing on farm fertilizer, which has increased the need for added and diversified storage.

This paper will identify options for grain storage and the associated costs and benefits.

Figure 1. Alberta Crop Production and Crop Stocks as of July 31, all figures in '000



Source: Statistics Canada

2.0 History:

As grain production in the early 20th century was developing in Western Canada the need for grain storage was essential. The iconic grain elevator began to dot the countryside. Alberta's first grain elevator was built in 1895. As there was very little on farm storage and farmers relied on grain elevators to store and hold their grain until it was shipped by rail. In 1934, the highest number of elevators were recorded. Alberta had 1,781 elevators and Western Canada had 5,758 elevators. In the 1940's and 50's additional temporary and permanent storage was built in or near existing elevators. The minimal on farm storage producers did have, were wooden buildings that were susceptible to rodents and weather damage. In 1926, Western Steel Products Limited (now known as West Steel) designed the first corrugated steel weatherproof granary, which began to dot the western Canadian prairies.

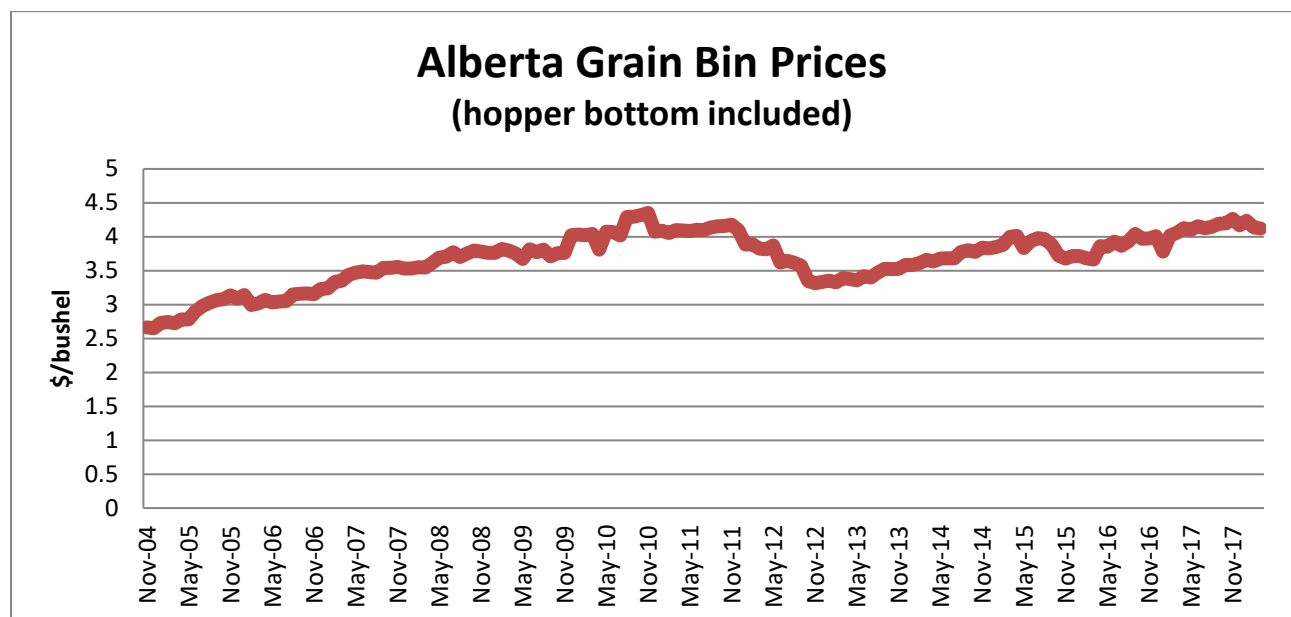
In the late 1950's the consolidation of delivery points started to occur and larger wood elevator facilities were built. In the 1990's grain companies concentrated on building large concrete silos that were designed as high capacity, high throughput terminals. The larger elevators serviced larger areas and more farmers. The availability of commercial elevator storage became limited. Many wooden elevators were sold to producers for personal storage, adapted for bulk fertilizer storage, torn down or turned into a museum.

By 2017, there were only 352 operational country elevators in Western Canada and 79 in Alberta. Despite the reduction in elevator numbers these elevators become increasingly more efficient. As of 2012, the average western Canadian elevator turnover rate was six turns a year, in 1999 it was less than five turns. As grain elevator storage became more limited, farms were getting larger, yields were increasing and on farm storage facilities were deteriorating. Farms needed to invest in more efficient on farm grain storage.

3.0 Grain Storage Today:

Grain bin prices have been climbing over the last 10 years. Figure 2 shows that prices have increased from \$2.50 a bushel in 2004 to over \$4.00 a bushel in 2011. Prices have decreased in 2012 but have been trending higher in late 2017, bins values matched the 2011 prices. Steel (both corrugated or smooth walled) grain bin prices are driven by demand and steel prices. Producers are looking at other permanent and temporary alternatives to grain bins for reasons of cost and portability.

Figure 2. Alberta Grain Bin Prices



Source: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Competitiveness and Market Analysis Section

According to Statistics Canada March 2017 survey, Alberta has approximately 27 million metric tonnes of permanent on farm storage capacity and approximately 9% of the total grain was in temporary on

farm storage (Figure 3). This shows that producers are using both temporary and permanent storage options on their farm.

Figure 3. Permanent and Temporary Storage in Canada as of March, 2017

March 2017 Farm Survey – Supplementary Questions on Grain Storage			
Province	Q1 Permanent On-farm Storage Capacity		Q1 Percentage of Total Grain in On-Farm Temporary Storage (%)
	Bushels	Metric Tonnes	%
Quebec	196 000 000	5 330 000	1.9
Ontario	345 000 000	9 380 000	5.9
Manitoba	477 000 000	12 970 000	2.8
Saskatchewan	1 313 000 000	35 750 000	7.7
Alberta	984 000 000	26 770 000	8.6
Canada	3 314 000 000	90 200 000	6.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Grain Storage Capacity, March, 2017

4.0 Importance of Grain Storage for Marketing

Generally in years of normal production, prices are seasonally lowest at harvest. This is due to a large supply of newly harvested crop putting pressure on the grain handling system. Grain, oilseed and pulse users require crop over the whole year. Storing grain over a short-term following harvest (three to four months) can improve returns and provide product at times when deliveries are slow.

The longer grain is held, the more expensive storage becomes. Only in the event that there is a general price rise throughout the crop year does long-term storage pay. Deciding on a storage option depends on the financial situation of the farm. Things to consider are the cost of the buildings, maintenance of the system, the opportunity costs of receiving sales proceeds from the crop, using the money to pay debt or invest, storage payments offered by the grain handling company and the impact of the changing basis levels on cash prices. Farm storage is used as a marketing tool and can increase farmers' net returns, however if stored too long or sold at the wrong time storage can be costly.

5.0 Grain Storage Decisions

Making the decision of what system to invest in begins with assessing the needs of the entire operation. Factors to consider are:

- Size of operation and storage needed
- Distance of land from storage area
- Type(s) of commodity being stored
- Is land rented or owned
- Age of operator and succession plans
- Current cash flow and/or loan needs
- Labour availability during the year
- New build or expansion
- Cost
- Lifespan
- Average yields for the operation
- Grain conditions while storing
- Ability to monitor storage bins
- Accessibility of the storage site

- Equipment needs
- Options needed (aeration, handling system, monitors, sweeps, etc.)
- Length of storage
- Resale value
- Pest and wildlife concerns

The decision to use either permanent or temporary storage is unique to each individual’s situation. Generally permanent storage is preferred to maintain grain quality and for the ease of use. That said some temporary systems are becoming popular due to their flexibility.

5.1 Permanent Storage

Includes any affixed structures not easily moveable such as steel bins, sheds/quonsets and farmer owned elevators

Figure 4. Advantages and Disadvantages of Permanent Storage Systems

Advantages	Disadvantages
Provides peace of mind that grain will be “safe” (aeration, limited contamination, moisture barrier and reduced pest and wildlife damage)	Costly to setup and takes time to build (proper foundations are needed)
Investment for future resale	Permanent and more costly for grain transportation if land is not close to the structures
Ease of handling	Maintenance is required
Facilities can be used for other uses (i.e. smooth walled bins for fertilizer storage, sheds for equipment)	Structures need to be cleaned before using

Steel Bins

Figure 5. Steel Grain Bins (Corrugated and Smooth Walled)



Source: <http://www.brockmfg.com/uploads/photos/600/hoppersblue.jpg>;
<http://www.flaman.com/agriculture//image.php?width=475&image=http://www.flaman.com/agriculture/images/products/GrainMax2.jpg>

There are two main types of steel bins, corrugated steel and smooth walled steel. Smooth walled bins have a higher upfront cost than corrugated. They can be used for both fertilizer and grain storage and have minimal assembly costs. Smooth walled bins come with hopper bottoms and are quick and easy to install. Corrugated bins are more economical and come in larger capacities than smooth walled. Corrugated bins can be placed on a hopper bottom or on a flat bottom concrete base. Either corrugated or smooth walled bins allow for aeration and permanent handling options.

Brands, sizes and additional options can be purchased for either corrugated or smooth walled bins. Prices are dependent on the bin size and options. Larger bins normally have a lower investment per bushel, but lack long-term flexibility. Grain quality is more difficult to manage in a larger bin. With smaller bins, one can reduce the risk of jeopardizing a large volume of crop if a storage issue occurs.

Maintenance for grain bins is minimal. They should be cleaned when empty, inspected for insects and repairs made when needed. Some things to look for are corrosion, loose bolts, foundation cracks and seals. Any mechanical equipment should have the dust removed regularly and electrical equipment should be inspected for damage. If using smooth walled bins for both fertilizer and grain, the bin should be pressure washed on the inside after fertilizer use, to remove the dust. With proper maintenance, there will be minimal wear and tear and an increase in the lifespan of the bin.

Grain operations would look at investing in steel bins if:

- They owned the majority of the land farmed
- Land was located close to the bin system(s)
- Existing bin and auger system that is easy to add onto
- Reliant on aeration to maintain quality
- There is a need to closely monitor grain for quality
- The operation has plans to be in business for a long time
- A need for long term grain storage (over 8-12 months)
- Storing high quality crops (malt barley, milling wheat, durum, canola, human consumption pulses)
- Use of storage as an investment
- Want peace of mind that grain is relatively safe from pests, wildlife, weather and theft
- There is a need for flexibility to store fertilizer or seed is important

Sheds

Figure 6. Grain Storage Sheds

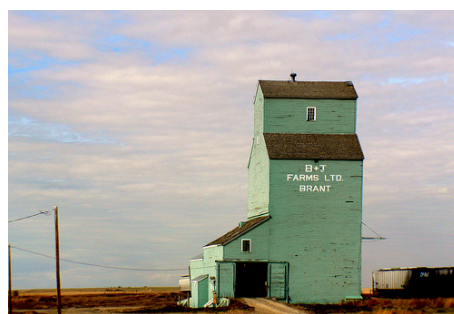


Source: <http://www.ahrens.com.au/files/1681.jpg>; <http://asicoverbuildings.com/sites/default/files/Comm8.jpg>

Sheds are another option for grain storage, they can be made of either steel or fabric. Concrete floors are beneficial for moisture barrier and cleanup. If there is no concrete floor a moisture barrier should be laid down. Sheds hold less grain than expected as they can only withstand minimal weights on the sidewalls. Grain packages can be purchased for sheds that will reinforce or tie together the walls allowing for a higher load capacity. For fabric buildings, concrete sidewalls need to be poured to allow grain to pile against them. Adequate aeration is difficult to achieve in a shed and roof vents are required to allow for ventilation. Fabric buildings are more economical than steel sheds, but have a shorter lifespan. An operation would choose a shed to store grain if storage is infrequent and the shed can be used for other purposes when not storing grain.

Farmer Owned Elevators

Figure 7. Farmer Owned Grain Elevators for Storage



Source: http://farm8.staticflickr.com/7445/11826188014_eb69701c27.jpg

In the 1990's grain companies consolidated grain terminals and built large high throughput concrete facilities. Small wooden grain elevators were torn down or sold. In some cases, a producer might purchase a wooden elevator for grain storage. This system works if the land being farmed is within close range of the elevator. Additionally, grain elevators require a tremendous amount of maintenance and

upkeep as many of the facilities are quite old. The opportunity to purchase an existing wood elevator is limited.

5.2 Temporary Storage

Includes any system that holds grain on a temporary basis or has a limited life span. These include grain bags, plywood or steel bin rings with tarps, piles and bunkers.

Figure 8. Advantages and Disadvantage of Temporary Storage Systems

Advantages	Disadvantages
Readily available in times of excess production	Reduced ability to provide moisture and heat management (aeration)
Usually have minimal investment	Creates waste – wasted grain and materials waste
Portable (can be placed in the location of choice)	Limited resale value
	Risk of pest, wildlife, moisture and contamination damage
	Challenging loading and unloading
	Short storage period (6-8 months)

Grain Bagging Systems

Figure 9. Grain Bagging and Extracting Operation



Source: <http://www.loftness.com/GrainLogix/>

Grain bagging systems are a newer technology. The system puts grain into a tightly sealed plastic bag. For it to work you need a bagger, extractor, and bag. Bagging systems keep grain airtight from moisture and pests. Bags are good short-term storage options but if stored for too long damage to the bag can occur and spoilage can result. Bagging systems allow for in the field storage, eliminating trucking during harvest. In some situations, high moisture grain can be stored in grain bags with minimal heating and rot damage. Grain bags are at a high risk of having puncture holes from wildlife, mechanical damage (snowmobiles) or trees. Due to this risk, bags should be monitored for damage and repaired regularly to reduce grain spoilage. Some options to reduce bag breakdown include using a thicker poly bag or installing reusable bag covers. Bags usually hold approximately 10,000 bushels so small volumes of grain do not work well for this system.

Bags should be placed in a well-drained area away from trees or other potential sources of damage. The surface needs to be level and smooth with no stones or sharp objects. Picking an area that is accessible in the winter also needs to be considered.

Grain baggers and extractors require yearly and seasonal maintenance. The bagger and extractor have hydraulics, moving parts, augers and tires; regular inspection and greasing of all the parts should be done. With wear and tear on baggers and extractors, parts may break and need to be replaced. Equipment in good working order will capture a good resale value but as the equipment ages and new technology comes on the market equipment can become obsolete.

Disposing of the plastic once the grain has been removed can be an issue. Few municipalities have recycling programs in place and if so, require the plastic be clean and rolled. Some extractors have built in rollers but others do not. Rolling the plastic is time consuming and difficult to roll tightly. For municipalities that do not have recycling programs they may not accept plastic or charge a tipping fee. Burning plastic is not recommended as it is hazardous for human health and the environment.

Grain operations would look at using a bagging system if:

- The operation has a large amount of rented or leased land with no other storage options
- There is a need for short term storage
- The operator plans to exit the business in the near future (equipment is easier to sell than physical bins)
- Limited available trucking during harvest
- The operation has land located a long distance away from grain bin storage sites
- Storing low quality crops (feed wheat and barley, sample canola)
- Grain is dry and does not need to be dried or aerated or can be stored at higher moisture
- Recycling options are available for the plastic
- Large volume storage is needed

Grain Ring and Tarp

Figure 10. Grain Ring and Tarp System (Steel and Wood)



Source: <http://www.willwood.ca/>

Grain rings and tarps come with either wood rings or steel rings. This system is useful for temporary storage, but not recommended for longer storage periods. Pest, wildlife and moisture damage are the biggest concern when storing grain in this system. By keeping the grain contained in the rings and using a tarp, grain quality can be maintained much better than open piling. To keep the rings and tarps in good condition they need to be dismantled and stored when not in use. If using steel rings, the tarps usually need to be replaced well before the ring wears out. Wood rings are much more economical, but have a shorter lifespan than steel. Aeration holes and in-load out-load ports can be installed into the ring as an option.

Bunkers

Figure 11. Grain Bunker



Source: <http://bartlett.net.au/wp-content/gallery/grain-bunker/grain-bunker-covers-4.jpg>

A bunker system can be designed with many different materials such as bales, wood, cement, steel and earth. They have some of the same challenges as grain rings and tarps. These systems are for temporary storage and are susceptible to wildlife, insect and moisture damage. Large amounts of grain can be stored in a bunker and most bunkers can be tarped.

Open Piles

Figure 12. Open Pile of Wheat



Source: http://farm4.staticflickr.com/3682/9369533955_c9255f9848.jpg

If grain needs to be stored for an extremely short period of time, uncovered open piles are a low to no cost solution. This system is not recommended for longer-term storage as it has no protection from moisture, wildlife and pests. There is a greater chance for grain to spoil and to have contaminants such as animal feces and soil tag. Most grain that would be stored on the ground would be used for feed, as human consumption grain would lose quality very quickly by being stored on the ground.

Rental

Having rented or leased land can make grain storage complicated. If the lease is temporary, adding permanent storage may not make sense. Bin space may be rented from a neighbour, landowner or local retired farmer. Having a rental agreement in place and clearly marking the rented bins as to the variety

and owner of the grain. This will alleviate any confusion as to who owns the grain. Equipment such as grain extractors can be rented for grain bagging systems as opposed to investing in the equipment.

6.0 Costs and Features of Common Grain storage

Figure 13 shows the most common permanent and temporary storage options with average costs, size ranges, lifespan, maintenance and options.

Figure 13. Grain Storage Options

	Grain ring & tarp		Corrugate d hopper	Corrugate d flat bottom	Smooth walled hopper	Grain Bagging System		
	Wood	Steel				Bagger	Extractor	Bag
Cost/bushel or machine \$ (approx.)	0.18 – 0.50	0.22 - 0.8	2.75 - 3.85	1.40 – 3.30	3.85 – 4.95	30,000 - 60,000	40,000 – 50,000	0.08
Set up costs	Labor	Labor	Gravel base 1.00 – 2.00	Concrete base 2.00 – 3.00	Gravel base 1.00 – 2.00	Minimal labor		
Common Size Range (bushels)	1,500 – 12,000	3,500 – 120,000	1,500 – 9,500	1,500 – 55,000	1,000 – 6,000	Bag holds approximately 10,000 bushels, number of bags are unlimited		
Lifespan (years)	5	20	40+	40+	40+	15-20		
Maintenance	High	High	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
Resale value	Low	Low	High	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	

Options	Out-load and aeration ports	Aeration, handling systems, monitors, canola floors, bin sweeps	Bag covers, bag rollers, sealers
----------------	-----------------------------	---	----------------------------------

7.0 Set up and Location

For a grain handling system to be effective, thought and attention should be given to the set-up and location. Some things to consider when designing a grain handling system are:

- Trucks ability to maneuver for loading and unloading
- Size of trucks and handling equipment
- Distance from field to storage
- Auger movement and positioning
- Drying and aeration needs
- Accessibility to storage all year round
- Potential damage risks (trees, wind etc.)
- Ease of monitoring
- Theft risk and security

Every growing season is different and it is hard to anticipate the exact storage needs for the farm operation. Investing in grain handling and storage facilities require careful consideration of both current and future storage capacity needs. Looking at future plans for the entire farm will assist in your storage decision.

8.0 Price Comparison Example

The decision as to what system or combination of systems to use can be overwhelming. Taking the time to pencil out all factors can assist in making a sound investment decision.

Along with the purchase price, other factors such as setup costs, site prep, labour and type of physical storage system needs to be considered for the total project cost.

Depreciation is an important aspect when determining costs. Depreciation is generally considered to be the result of aging, wear and tear, and obsolescence. It represents a decrease in the potential economic benefits that can be generated by the capital asset. This is very important in determining which system is the best for an operation.

Repairs and maintenance are also key to the decision, since some storage systems are relatively maintenance free while others require a lot more upkeep. Even if the option chosen has the most economical purchase price, it may have the highest maintenance and repair costs.

Financing interest is also important to consider. If the investment in a storage system has a high upfront cost and money needs to be borrowed, a substantial amount of cash can be lost to interest. The high

cost of interest on a system may not make sense for some operations. As well, the lost opportunity of using that money for an alternative investment needs to be considered.

Certain storage systems are more prone to spoil grain, while others, if managed properly, will provide relatively unspoiled product. Expected loss should be calculated into the total cost of the system.

Figure 14 is a comparison of five different storage options, based on the following assumptions.

- This example assumes the operation needs to add 25,000 bushels of storage.
- The grain bin and ring and tarp held a capacity of 25,000 bushels while grain baggers have unlimited storage capacity by adding more bags.
 - The bins are five, 5000-bushel steel bins with corrugated hoppers, corrugated flat bottom and smooth walled bins with hoppers either on a gravel or concrete base.
- Insurance, energy, labor and tractor requirements were equal for all storage options.
- Augers are already an asset on the farm and require no additional investment.
- Aeration systems have not been installed for any of the options.
- The years' of use was calculated using an estimated life expectancy. Grain bins can expect a 30-40 year life span with proper maintenance.
- Depreciation was calculated using Canadian Revenue Agency classes of depreciable property.

Since this is an example to analyze costs, it is best to calculate for each individual farm and situation.

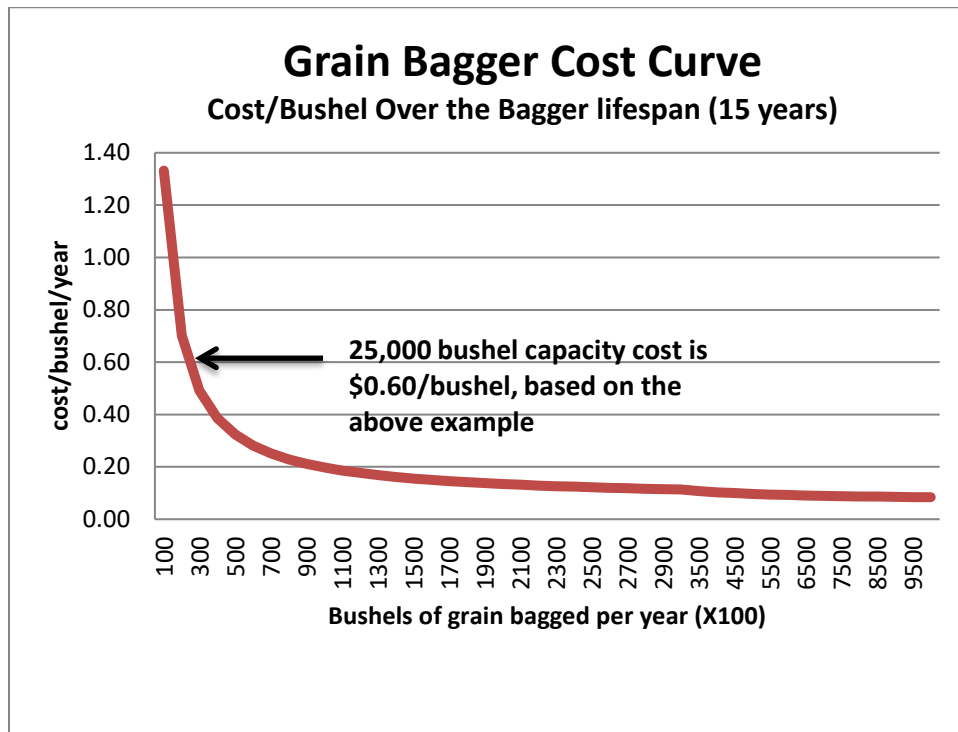
Figure 14. Storage Options Estimated Price Comparison Example (Based on above assumptions)

	Grain ring and tarp	Corrugated	Corrugated	Smooth Wall	Grain bagging system	
Base type	soil	hopper on gravel	flat bottom on concrete	hopper bottom on concrete	N/A	
Size (25,000 bushels)	1 ring @ 25,000 bushels	5 bins @ 5,000 bushels/bin			25,000 bushels bagged	
Years of use	10	25	25	25	15	
Cost/bushel (includes equipment, site prep and set up)	\$0.44	\$3.70	\$4.10	\$5.70	\$95,000	Bagger & Extractor
					\$0.08	cost of bag/bushel
Storage cost of purchase including, base, site prep and set-up	\$11,000	\$92,500	\$102,500	\$142,500	\$95,000	Bagger & Extractor
					\$2,000	cost of bags/year
Depreciation	10%	10%	4%	4%	20%	For bagger & extractor
	\$6,320	\$85,490	\$64,790	\$90,074	\$91,240	
Salvage value	5%	40%	30%	60%	10%	
	\$1,100	\$37,000	\$30,750	\$85,500	\$9,500	
Repairs and maintenance (tarp/ring 10%, bins 2%, equipment 5%)	\$1,100	\$1,850	\$2,050	\$2,850	\$4,750	
Interest on investment (loan rate 5% at 60 months)	\$1,455	\$12,235	\$13,558	\$18,849	\$12,566	
Spoilage 0.5% @ \$5/bushel	\$6,250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,375	
Total investment cost over life span to store 25,000 bushels/year	\$25,025	\$155,075	\$152,147	\$168,773	\$189,024	Bagger & extractor
					\$30,000	Bags
					\$219,024	
Total annual cost for 25,000 bushels of storage	\$2,503	\$6,203	\$6,085	\$6,750	\$14,601	
Cost/bushel/year	\$0.10	\$0.25	\$0.24	\$0.27	\$0.58	

This example shows that grain rings and tarps are the most economical solution for grain storage. Unfortunately, this system can only be used on a temporary basis as there is a high risk for pest, wildlife and moisture damage and loss. As well, these systems require more maintenance along with assembly and disassembly every year. This increases the workload for the operation. Grain bins are the second most economical option. The smooth walled hopper on concrete is slightly more expensive corrugated bottom or corrugated hopper bins. This is due to the higher initial investment and extra interest.

The grain bagging system is the highest cost for adding 25,000 bushels of storage. This was due to the high investment cost for the bagger and extractor along with high spoilage, depreciation, and low salvage values. Since grain bagging systems have unlimited storage capacity, the cost per bushel over the lifespan of the asset decreases the more bushels being stored. Grain bagging systems become competitive when more than 70,000 bushels of product are stored per year as shown in Figure 15.

Figure 15. Grain Bagger Cost Curve



When accounting for depreciation, spoilage, interest, repairs and maintenance, an operation can evaluate the entire cost of the storage options under consideration. The cost comparison is only one factor when deciding which storage option works best for an operation. Other considerations include the farm's future plans, existing systems and labor availability.

9.0 Conclusion

Grain storage has evolved over the last 150 years, most producers rely on on-farm storage for marketing grain. The most popular permanent storage options are steel grain bins and the most popular temporary storage are grain bags. There are downfalls to grain bags and to make the system economical a large volume of product needs to be stored each year. There are other economical grain storage options besides bins or bags, but the risk for damage by wildlife and spoilage are high.

Deciding on which system to use is dependent on each farm's circumstances. The needs and future plans of each farm need to be analyzed and considered before deciding the best grain storage option.

10.0 References

AGSTAR Financial Services, ACA. John Hanssen

<http://calculators.agstar.com/uploads/GrainStorageMethods0707.pdf>

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. *Alberta Input Monitoring Program, Average Farm Input Prices for Alberta*. <http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app21/farminputprices>

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. *Grain Storage as a Marketing Strategy*.

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sis10941](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sis10941)

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. *Storage of Canola*.

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/crop1301](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/crop1301)

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. *Cereal Grain Drying and Storage*.

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/crop1204](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/crop1204)

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. *Management of Cereal Grain in Storage*.

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex4509](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex4509)

Alberta Community Development. 1998. *Alberta's Grain Elevators, a brief history of a prairie icon*.

<http://www.grainelevatorsalberta.ca/articles/HRM-history.pdf>

Grains Research & Development Corporation. July, 2013. *Economics of On-Farm Grain Storage: Cost-Benefit Analysis*. <http://www.grdc.com.au/GRDC-Guide-OnFarmStorageEconomics>

Government of Canada and Quorum Corporation. 2014. *2012-2013 Crop Year Annual Report, Monitoring the Canadian Grain Handling and Transportation System*.

<http://grainmonitor.ca/Downloads/AnnualReports/AnnualReport201213.pdf>

Historical Canada. 2014. *Grain Elevators* <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/grain-elevators/>

Kansas State University. September, 2007. *The Economics of On-Farm Storage*.

<http://agmanager.info/marketing/publications/marketing/mf2474.pdf>

Statistics Canada. CanSim Table 001-0040

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. February 27, 2013. *Bins vs Bags What Does It Cost?*

<http://www.saskcanola.com/quadrant/media/news/pdfs/producer2013-Humboldt-Payne-Bins-vs-Bags-what-does-it-cost.pdf>

Weststeel history information. 2014. <http://www.westeel.com/index.php?page=about>

GRAIN STORAGE ADVERTISING AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

- WHEREAS Recycling of agricultural plastics remains a significant challenge, leaving transfer stations full of used grain bags;
- WHEREAS Alberta had the highest percentage of total grain in on farm temporary storage in Canada in 2017¹;
- WHEREAS There are many misconceptions and a lack of information on costs, advantages and disadvantages of different forms of grain storage;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and all other relevant government ministries implement an education and advertising program that would provide producers with economically and scientifically relevant information to assist them when deciding on what storage options would work best for them.

SPONSORED BY: Clear Hills County

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

CARRIED:

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Forestry

Background Information:

Alberta's use of grain bags as an alternative to permanent grain storage has been increasing each year. There are many reasons for this increase, such as capital costs of permanent storage, location of storage to rented land, etc. Good information on the costs and pros and cons of different storage solutions are difficult for producers to find, and because of this, solutions are sometimes only based on short term circumstances.

Good economic and scientific data needs to be made available to producers so that good long term solutions can be implemented.

Also attached is the reference material referred to in footnote 1.

Reference Material:

1. Grain Storage Considerations, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Economics and Competitiveness Branch Updated May, 2018

AGRICULTURAL RELATED LEASE DISPOSITIONS

WHEREAS Grazing Lease Dispositions on Public Lands are an integral component of many livestock operations throughout the Province of Alberta;

WHEREAS The demographics of the Province of Alberta's Agricultural Producers indicate that the sector is experiencing and will continue to experience the rapid succession of livestock operations for the foreseeable future;

WHEREAS The sale and/or purchase of grazing lease dispositions represent the transfer of an asset and the capital used to develop that asset;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST a transfer of the management of Public Lands- Agricultural Related Lease Dispositions to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to streamline and/or provide increased resources to expedite the disposition of grazing leases within the Province of Alberta.

SPONSORED BY: Big Lakes County

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

CARRIED

DEFEATED

STATUS Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Grazing leases have existed in Alberta since 1881 and were created to encourage economic activity utilizing forage on Crown Lands, allowing producers to grow their herds by utilizing large swaths of Provincial grass resources. This system has been an integral component of the Alberta Livestock Industry's success.

Grazing Leases are managed by Alberta Environment and Parks and can be issued for terms not exceeding 20 years, though 10 years is the typical allotment. Once assigned, lease

holders have exclusive rights to the use of the specified land(s) for grazing purposes. In Alberta, there are approximately 5,700 grazing leases utilizing approximately 8 million acres of range for livestock through various dispositions.

Once a grazing lease has been issued, the lease becomes an asset to the lease holder. The lease holder is responsible for fencing, necessary outbuildings and other capital expenditures. If a lease holder wishes to transfer a grazing lease to an arm's length entity through the sale of the lease rights, an "Application for General Assignment of Disposition" must be completed, all fees must be paid, and the completed package submitted to Alberta Environment and Parks, Operations Division. Fees for this process are dependent for the Zone the Grazing Lease is located in. Zone C in the Northern portion of the Province of Alberta fees are \$5 per animal unit month (AUM). An AUM is defined within the Public Lands Act, RSA 2000 cP-40 s104;2009 cA-26.8 s91(49) as the forage required to sustain a cow of average weight with a calf at foot for the period of one month.

Approvals of a grazing lease had a wait time of 12-16 months for transfer to the arm's length entity in 2015. Livestock producers within Alberta have reported that final approval of grazing lease disposition transfers is taking more than 3 years to complete. This presents a challenge to producers as the sale of grazing lease rights represents a transfer of asset from one producer to another. While the final approval remains incomplete, the current lease holder cannot collect on the funds from the sale of the grazing lease disposition rights. These funds are held in trust until the disposition application is approved.

With the current demographics of Alberta Livestock Producers, this protracted process represents undue hardship for both the lease holder and the arm's length entity purchasing the rights to the grazing lease disposition. Succession of livestock operations is an ongoing process throughout the Province. Consolidation of these operations is also a very active concern. By protracting the period of completion of these transfers, the purchaser has no responsibility to improve or maintain the grazing lease and the lease holder is still responsible for payment of rent.

With an anticipated increase in pressure of multiple succession of operations over a short period of time and continued consolidation, coupled with almost 5,700 active leases that may require transfer throughout the Province of Alberta, the current FTE for transfers of Grazing Lease Dispositions of 2.0 is inadequate.

Within the Public Lands Administration Regulations, 30 days are given for the Director to provide notice to the applicant that an application for formal disposition has been accepted or rejected and 1 year after this notice the Director is to issue a notice of the issuance of the disposition or refusal to issue. Currently the Crown is not complying with the Public Lands Administration Regulation.

Regional A.S.B. Conference Resolutions Rules of Procedure

1. Regional Resolutions Committee

a. Shall consist of:

1. A representative or alternate elected at the Regional Conference to sit on the Provincial ASB Committee and to act as the Chairman of the Regional Resolutions Committee.
2. The Agricultural Fieldman or their designate who must be a AAAF member from the hosting Agricultural Service Board as Secretary.
3. The Regional Director of the Agricultural Fieldmen's Association
4. An Agricultural Service Board member from the hosting Board selected by that Board.
5. The ASB Grant Program Manager representing Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) or their designate.

b. The representative and alternate elected at the Regional Conference to sit on the Provincial ASB Committee, shall be an elected or appointed member of an ASB in that region.

c. Election of the representative and alternate shall take place at the beginning of the Resolution session at each annual ASB Regional Conference, term of office to be two years. The representative (or alternate) shall assume the chair immediately following the conclusion of the resolutions session.

2. Responsibilities of Regional Resolutions Committee Members

a. The Chairman shall:

1. Chair Regional Resolutions Committee meetings
2. Chair the presentation of resolutions at the Regional Conference
3. Attend all Provincial ASB Committee meetings
4. Assist in presenting resolutions at the Provincial Conference

b. The Secretary shall:

1. Advise Agricultural Service Boards that resolutions must be forwarded four weeks prior to the Regional Conference.
2. In conjunction with the Regional Resolutions Committee, review, seek clarification if necessary, compile and distribute resolutions to Agricultural Service Boards in the Region, at least one week prior to the Regional Conference.

3. Record proceedings of Regional Resolutions Committee meetings and the presentation and voting on resolutions at the Regional Conference.
4. Forward all approved resolutions to the Provincial ASB Committee Secretary.

c. All other members shall:

1. Assist with presentation of resolutions at the Regional Conference.

d. All costs incurred by the members of the committee for attending meetings will be reimbursed by each individual member's employer.

3. Resolutions

a. Resolutions shall be submitted in an approved format and shall follow the procedures for selecting, preparing and drafting resolutions as set out in Appendix "A" attached to this document.

b. Resolutions, regional or provincial in scope, and having been passed by a majority at a local Agricultural Service Board meeting shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Regional Resolutions Committee four weeks prior to the Regional Conference. Late resolutions must be submitted to the Regional Conference with sufficient copies for all voting delegates and attendants (approx. 125) and accepted by a simple majority of the assembly.

4. Procedures

a. Resolutions submitted to the Regional Conference shall be handled in numerical order assigned by the Chairman unless 3/5 of the voting delegates on the floor agree to accept a resolution out of numerical order.

b. Each resolution must have a Mover and a Seconder.

c. Only the "Therefore Be It Resolved" section will be read

d. The Chairman shall call on the Mover and Seconder to speak to the resolution and then immediately call for anyone else wishing to speak in opposition

1. If there is no one to speak in opposition, the question shall be called.
2. If there are speakers in opposition, the chairman shall at his discretion call for anyone other than the Mover or Seconder to speak to the resolution before the debate is closed

e. Anyone wishing to amend a resolution must then speak in opposition to the resolution as written, or anyone wishing clarification must speak up. All amendments must have a Mover and Seconder.

f. Only one amendment will be accepted at a time and only one amendment to the amendment will be accepted on any resolution

g. The Chairman has discretion to request a written amendment

h. The Mover and Seconder are allowed five minutes in total to speak to the resolution or amendment. The Seconder may waive his right to speak and the Mover would be allowed the full five minutes.

i. The Mover and Seconder have the right to close the debate and a maximum of two minutes each will be allowed for this.

j. All other speakers, for or against the resolution, are allowed a maximum of two minutes.

5. Voting and Speaking

a. Voting members of Agricultural Service Boards/Agricultural Committees shall be recognized voters on any resolution.

1. In the South Region, each ASB shall select two voting delegates to the Regional Conference who shall display the voting credentials and be recognized voters on any resolution. (October 1997)

b. An Agricultural Service Board member may have any person speak to a resolution by their request.

c. All resolutions are passed or defeated by simple majority

6. Procedures for Approved Regulations

a. Secretaries of the Regional Resolutions Committee shall:

1. Submit Regional Resolutions to the appropriate agencies as soon as possible following the Regional Conference.
2. Regional Resolutions shall also be submitted to the Provincial ASB Committee for information.
3. Submit Provincial Resolutions to the Provincial ASB Committee Secretary by December 1st following the Regional Conference.

7. Amendments to Regional Rules of Procedures

a. An amendment to Regional Rules of Procedure may be initiated by simple motion from:

1. The Provincial ASB Committee
2. Any voting delegate at the Provincial ASB Conference
3. The Regional Resolutions Committee if the proposed amendment were to affect only that Region, subject to ratification by the Provincial ASB Committee
4. Any voting delegate at a Regional Conference if the proposed amendment were to affect only that Region, subject to ratification by the Provincial ASB Committee.

b. Amendments must be accepted by a simple majority of all voting delegates at the Provincial ASB Conference.

c. Amendments that are carried will take effect at the next Regional Conference.

Appendix "A" - AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS

REGIONAL PROCEDURES FOR SELECTING, PREPARING AND WRITING RESOLUTIONS

1. Well in advance of the regional conference, discuss as a board the concerns of your farmers. Determine the factors affecting their economic well-being as well as those limiting their capability to maintain or improve agricultural production.

2. Make a list of concerns and rate each as to its level of importance.

3. Divide your concerns into the following categories:

a. Local concerns

1. Concerns which are local in nature.
2. Your board has the authority and capability to deal with these concerns. If local or provincial finances are available you may wish to initiate programs or projects or policy to satisfy these concerns.

b. Regional Concerns

3. Concerns which are regional in nature.
4. You have the authority and capability to deal with these concerns but wish to request the support (cooperative action) of bordering agricultural service boards, government departments or other agencies. Note: These concerns may be taken to the regional conference with a request for action at the regional level eg. You may be concerned about scentless chamomile, its movement and spread in hay, crop seed in the region, etc. You would like the support of all boards in the region as well as government agencies in slowing down spread and in working towards common objectives. If such a resolution was passed at the regional conference, your regional resolutions committee would forward the request for support to all boards in the region plus the appropriate government agency.

c. Provincial Concerns

5. Concerns which are provincial in nature.
6. In order to deal with these concerns at the local level, you require a change in provincial policy. Note: When writing your resolutions make certain you do not ask the province to do something that you already have authority at the local level to do. Because most concerns will ultimately need to be dealt with locally, ask for a change in provincial policy that would enable you as a board to take

the necessary action. Resolutions that are provincial in scope, if passed by the regional conference, could be forwarded to the provincial conference for action.

4. Conduct some research on your regional and provincial concerns to:

a. Ensure that these concerns were not submitted as resolutions previously and that action has already been taken regionally or provincially.

b. Check with those agencies that you expect to respond to your concern (resolution). Determine if they are aware of the need and whether any action is being considered.

c. Obtain sufficient background information to be able to write and defend your resolution.

5. Write your resolutions with sufficient "whereas" statements to ensure that those reading the resolution will be able to understand your request.

a. All "whereas" statements should relate specifically to your request.

b. Resolutions need to be presented with only one "Therefore Be It Resolved" statement.

1. If other closely related requests are required in the resolution, it may be appropriate to add no more than two 'Further Therefore Be It Resolved' statements.

2. If you wish to make an additional request for action, it is appropriate to write another resolution.

6. Each resolution submitted for consideration must be accompanied by background information consisting of the history of the issue and potential impacts for the sponsoring municipality and the province-wide impacts for municipalities.

7. The resolution shall be presented in the approved format as indicated on the following page.

REGIONAL RESOLUTIONS FORMAT

TITLE

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

SPONSORED BY:

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

CARRIED

DEFEATED

STATUS

DEPARTMENT

Background information

Background information should include the history of the issue, potential impacts for the sponsoring municipality and the province-wide impacts for municipalities.

Last revised January 21, 2015

AgSafe ALBERTA Workshop

**Are you required to
have a Farm Safety
Plan?**

This workshop will help
you develop your own
personal plan.

Contact SARDA for more information
780-837-2900 ext. 3

\$20

December 4th, 2019

8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Falher, AB

AFSC Conference Room

Step 1

On-Line Preparation prior
to workshop (~ 3 hours)

Step 2

Workshop—December 4th

Step 3

On-Farm Safety Consultations
or Formal Safety Planning

Subject: CAP ES&CC Program Information Sessions for Extension Staff

SENT OF BEHALF OF KATHRINE ROGERS

Good afternoon!

As you may have seen in previous emails, there were changes to cost share levels to a few CAP programs over the summer. This includes the Environmental Stewardship & Climate Change – Group and Producer programs. The major change is the cost share maximum is now 50% for both programs.

Our team is pleased to announce that we will be hosting in-person information sessions for extension staff and fieldmen such as yourselves. These are not producer workshops, so please only share information about the sessions to other extension staff. These half-day sessions will include informational presentations from program staff, as well as opportunities to share extension tips, network, and ask questions to program staff. The dates and locations are below:

Lethbridge: Wednesday October 30th **9am-12pm** @ Farm Stewardship Centre Boardroom (3020 College Drive, Lethbridge, AB T1K 1L6)

Leduc: Monday November 4th **1pm-4pm** @ Leduc Agriculture Business Centre (6547 Sparrow Drive Leduc T9E 7C7)

Red Deer: Thursday November 7th **1pm-4pm** @ Red Deer Provincial Government Building (#301 4920 51st Street Red Deer T4N 6K8)

Fairview: Thursday November 14th **9am-12pm** @ Fairview Provincial Office (10209 109 Street Fairview T0H 1L0)

Space is limited for these sessions, and spots will be reserved on a first come first served basis. These are half-day sessions, and lunch will not be provided at any of the sessions.

Please email Katherine Rogers (katherine.rogers@gov.ab.ca) stating which session you'd like to attend, with your name and organization by Friday, October 25th.

If needed, more sessions may be added. If you are unable to make it to the session in your region, you are welcome to register for any of the other sessions.

Please feel free to contact myself or any of the program staff about any questions you may have about the training sessions and/or the programs in general.

We look forward to seeing you at these sessions!

Katherine Rogers

Energy Extension Coordinator
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Environmental Stewardship Branch
Environmental Extension and Programming Section

katherine.rogers@gov.ab.ca

phone: 780-422-2086

7000-113 Street, Room 302 | Edmonton AB T6H 5T6

FORWARDED ON BEHALF OF MICHAEL HARDING

Dr. Stephen Strelkov has prepared some provincial clubroot maps based on the % of fields with clubroot detected. He has graciously agreed to share them. Please find attached two figures; the first is an image containing the annual maps individually, and the second is a GIF that automatically scrolls through each year (2011-2018) showing the spread year-by-year.

I hope these are useful for you.

Best regards,

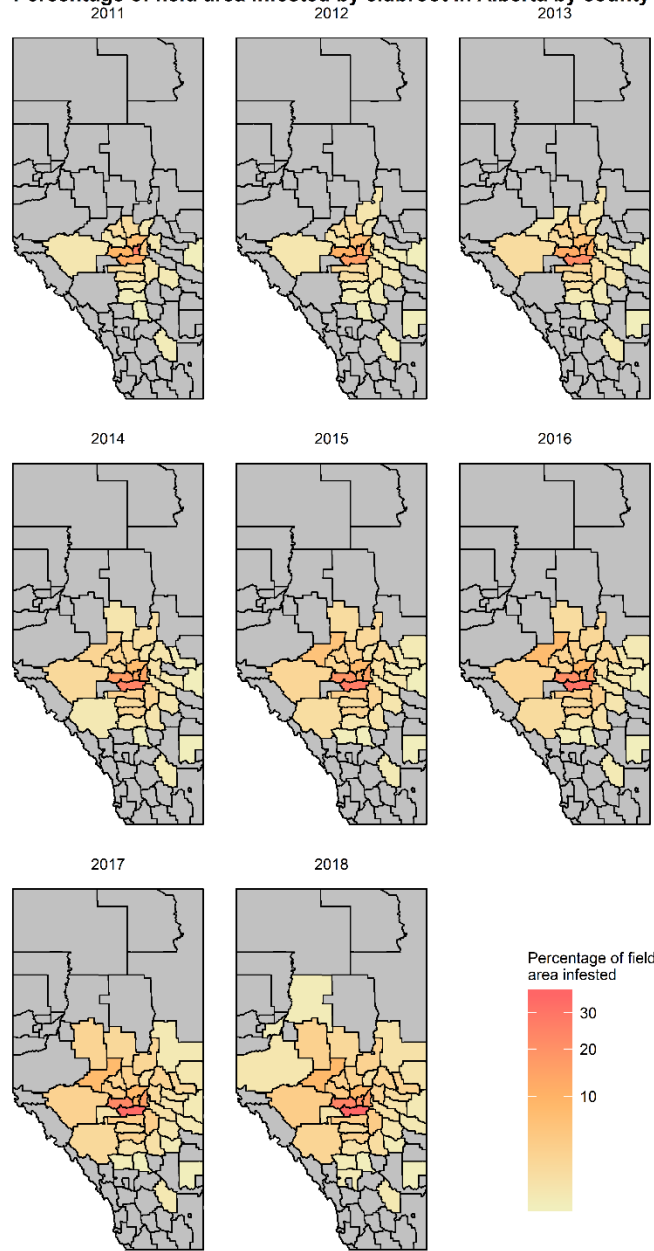
Mike

Michael Harding, PhD
Research Scientist, Plant Pathology
Unit Lead, Plant and Bee Health Surveillance Section
Adjunct Faculty, Biological Sciences, University of Lethbridge

Crop Diversification Centre South
301 Horticultural Station Rd. E.
Brooks, AB T1R 1E6
403-362-1338

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail.

Percentage of field area infested by clubroot in Alberta by county



Environmental Stewardship News

- Highlighting information, projects & resources from the Environmental Stewardship Branch (ESB)

Agriculture Environmental Stewardship on Alberta.ca

A new look is coming this October for the [Agriculture Environmental Stewardship](#) (AES) web page on Alberta.ca! Currently, under the agriculture section on www.alberta.ca, the environmental stewardship information now is accessible by directly linking to [Agriculture Environmental Stewardship](#). Once web page renovations are finished, be sure to check out the information, resources, projects, publications and decision-making tools related to environmental stewardship.

Alberta.ca Highlights:

- To view multiple topics related to a document of interest, look for “Explore this Section” at the top of the page (only appears when available).
- [Soil](#), [weather](#) and [public trust](#) are part of the Agriculture Environmental Stewardship resources and information and will be linked to that area once changes are complete.
- Alberta Climate Information Service (ACIS) is at <http://agriculture.alberta.ca/acis/>
- Alberta Soil Information Viewer is at <https://soil.agric.gov.ab.ca/agrasidviewer/>
- Agriculture decision making tools (calculators) are accessible at <http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app21/ldcalc>
- Agri-News is found under [News for Producers](#)
- Search in [Open Publications](#) and [Open Data](#) for publications, factsheets, reports and various data. Select “Agriculture” to decrease items in the search results.
- Apps like ManureTracker, Alberta Emergency Alert and 511 Alberta are located under [Apps](#)

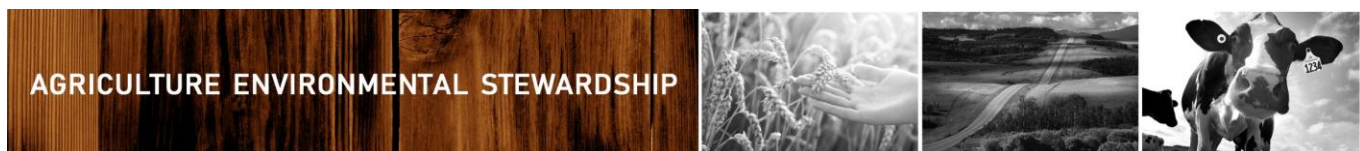
#ABAgChat on Twitter

Tune in every week on Tuesday from 10 am - 11 am for Alberta Agriculture and Forestry’s Twitter conversation called #ABAgChat. New areas to [#ABAgChat](#) are Environmental Stewardship, Livestock and Crops, Food and Value Added. Ag-Info Centre specialist will continue to participate highlighting department resources and information on crops, beef and forage, farm management and horticulture.

If you are unfamiliar with Twitter or not sure how to participate, follow along by simply searching [#ABAgChat](#) and click on the most recent topic. If you would like to share (also known as a retweet) information with your network or ask questions during the live session, make sure to sign into Twitter before Tuesday at 10 am and follow [@AlbertaAg](#). Topics announced the week prior but here is a sneak peak of what’s to appear from environmental stewardship.

#ABAgChat Topics:

- Alberta Climate Information Service (ACIS) – Oct. 1, 2019
- Manure and Nutrient Management – Nov. 5, 2019
- Footprinting and Sustainability Series – tune into #ABAgChat for Dec. 2019



ManureTracker for Fall Applications

Fall manure applications is a perfect time to start using the new app called ManureTracker to manage manure production records, track applications and transfer records. Best part, this can be done all on your phone – be it in the barn, tractor or field! A special feature on the app is the ability to send a request directly to a custom applicator. In the app, you can identify field features such as setbacks, amount of manure and location of storage. There is even an ability to comment on field access and the rate of manure to spread. To download [ManureTracker](#) on your apple or android phones, [click here](#).

For more information or to create a ManureTracker account, visit www.manuretracker.ca. To read the full ManureTracker article in Agri-News by [Trevor Wallace](#), Nutrient Management Specialist with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, [click here](#).

Coming Events and Topics of Interest

Sustainability Series – Live Webinars and YouTube Recordings

Hosted by the Environmental Stewardship Branch of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, this free webinar series addresses the agriculture industry's approach and initiatives on sustainability. Past webinars dating back to 2018 are available on Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's YouTube channel in the [Sustainability Series playlist](#).

- November 26, 2019 @ 10:00 am – Alberta Chicken Producers
- December 10, 2019 @ 10:00 am - Sustainability Series: Field to Market Canada

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Before joining the webinar, be sure to check system requirements to avoid any connection issues. For further questions or ideas about future topics on the Sustainability Series, contact [Kerriane Koehler-Munro](#).

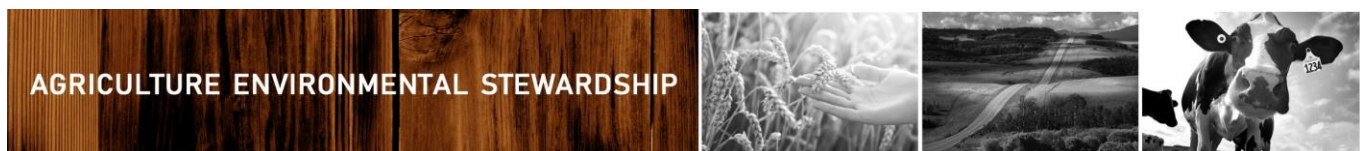
Canadian Public Trust Summit 2019 – November 13 - 14, 2019

Together, the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity and Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan are pleased to bring you the 2019 Canadian Public Trust Summit; a forum for building relationships and learning how to engage and build trust in our food system together. The Summit is an exciting and unique opportunity to network with leaders from across supply chains and across the country, who are equally passionate about earning trust in our food. [Register](#) before September 13th for early bird pricing.

Getting the Most from Nutrient Management –Lethbridge College, November 13th, 2019

Nutrients are some of the most costly inputs for agricultural producers. This workshop will take a hands-on and practical approach to nutrient management to ensure you get the most from your nutrients. There will be CCA CEUs. The workshop will qualify Commercial Manure Applicators for the Canadian Agriculture Partnership—Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Program. Cost: \$80/person (includes lunch).

For more information or to register contact Dwayne Rogness at Lethbridge County at 403-380-1598 or email at drogness@lethcounty.ca



Get the Dirt on Soil Health

Prepare to get dirty with Dr. Kris Nichols

Soil Health is Critical - Are You Doing Everything Possible to Build and Manage It?
Explore how what happens above ground affects what happens below ground



Learn how to:

Sequester more carbon

Reduce your inputs

Make the most of your rainfall

Grow healthier food

Thursday November 14

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Rycroft Ag Society Hall, Rycroft

Friday November 15

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Triangle Hall, High Prairie

\$50 for PCBFA members, \$80 for PCBFA member pair
\$70 for non-members, \$120 for non-member pair includes lunch

Call Katie 780-835-6799 ext 3

email info@pcbfa.ca or visit peacecountrybeef.ca

Bring a ziplock bag with a little topsoil from your farm and something heavy (like a book) to use for a weight



Funded by:

Alberta

SENT ON BEHALF OF THE PROVINCIAL ASB COMMITTEE

Introducing...

agriculturalserviceboards.com

The Provincial ASB Committee has created a website to increase communication and serve as a resource for ASBs. This new website will host information such as:

- Resolutions - current and archived
- Report Cards
- ASB Policies
- Regional and Provincial Rules of Procedure
- Legislation
- Contact information

This website was developed in conjunction with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and is intended to complement the information that can be found there.

The Committee is excited to have a new tool to communicate directly with ASBs. The website is still a work in progress so bookmark it and check back frequently to see the improvements and changes.

If you have suggestions on how the website can be improved, please contact our Executive Assistant, Maureen Vadnais-Sloan at asbprovcommittee@gmail.com or your Regional Representative.

The link to the website is:

<https://agriculturalserviceboards.com/>

We hope that you will find this to be a useful and easy to use tool.

Sincerely,

Corey Beck, Chair, Peace Region Representative
Steve Upham, Vice Chair, Northeast Region Representative
Morgan Rockenbach, South Region Representative
Wayne Nixon, Central Region Representative
Lloyd Giebelhaus, Northwest Region Representative

--

Maureen Vadnais-Sloan
Executive Assistant
Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee
PH: 780-718-6034
asbprovcommittee@gmail.com

Rural Alberta coping with \$81-million shortfall in oil and gas taxes. How did we get here?

An analysis by The Narwhal found many rural municipalities are deeply reliant on oil and gas payments for their tax revenue — some as much as 96 per cent. A new UCP government proposal to cover for industry is controversial among some rural officials who say they're forced to cut services while companies are 'flouting the process'

[Sharon J. Riley](#)

Sep 26, 2019 19 min read

For small, rural municipalities in Alberta, the fortunes of a single oil and gas company can be acutely felt.

This summer in Mountain View County, a rural area just north of Calgary, gas company Trident went [bankrupt](#), leaving 4,700 [orphan wells](#) and hundreds of thousands in unpaid taxes in its wake.

Bruce Beattie, the reeve of Mountain View, which has a population of about 13,000 people, told The Narwhal Trident's sudden fall places a significant burden on the county.

The county "will be looking at a reduction of half a million dollars in our revenue from the oil and gas sector," Beattie said.

He's hopeful the county can survive the shock by tightening its belt.

"When you have 363-odd bridges, for example, to look after and 2,800 kilometres of roads — those numbers are significant," he said.

"That kind of an impact is definitely going to be felt at the municipal level."

Mountain View is by no means alone.

Earlier this year, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta — the organization representing Alberta's rural counties and municipal districts — put out a [press release](#), saying a survey of its members found many oil and gas companies hadn't been paying their taxes.

The amount of lost income for rural municipalities, the association said, is "unprecedented."

The survey found at least [\\$81 million in unpaid taxes](#) from oil and gas companies had accumulated across the province, creating a "significant hole in rural municipal budgets throughout Alberta."

In 2015, new rules came into effect, requiring for the first time oil and gas companies publicly disclose how much money they pay to governments, from the municipal to federal.

The Narwhal analyzed data filed under the [Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act](#) (ESTMA) to examine how reliant counties and municipalities in rural Alberta are on oil and gas payments for their revenues.

The findings show two thirds of Alberta’s rural municipalities received tax payments from oil and gas companies totalling more than \$2 million in 2018.

In some cases, the taxes from oil and gas companies made up more than 90 per cent of local governments’ available tax revenue.

But as the experience of Mountain View shows, a high reliance on industry payments can create a deep vulnerability for local governments that must weather the highs and lows of a sometimes volatile market economy.

The fragility of the tax base is opening up new concerns for municipalities across rural Alberta who are openly questioning measures by the current government to step in and give parts of the industry a break.

At least 20 counties, districts rely on payments for more than half of tax revenue

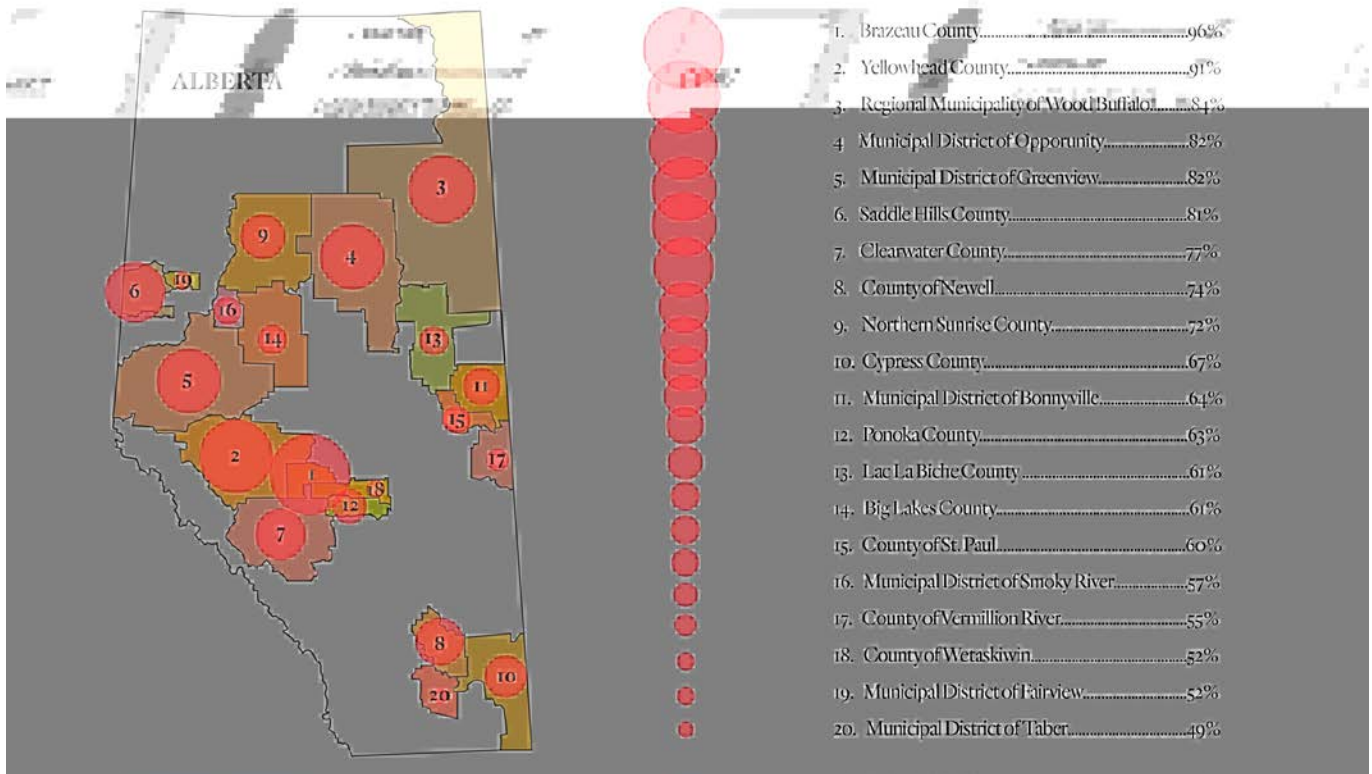
Alberta’s rural municipalities — most commonly known as counties or municipal districts — cover approximately [85 per cent](#) of land in the province, which means they are home to a large portion of the province’s oil and gas activity.

Their local governments are responsible for paying for public infrastructure and services, which can include roads, policing, wastewater treatment, parks, libraries and cemeteries.

Though the rural municipalities do have other sources of revenue — property taxes paid by landowners, government transfers, investment income or levies for licenses and permits — many rely extremely heavily on tax paid by oil and gas companies.

The Narwhal’s dive into corporate payments found 20 counties and municipal districts relied on oil and gas tax payments for more than half of their net tax revenue in 2018 (see the bottom of this article for more details on The Narwhal’s calculations).

Top 20 of Alberta rural municipalities (by oil and gas tax revenues)

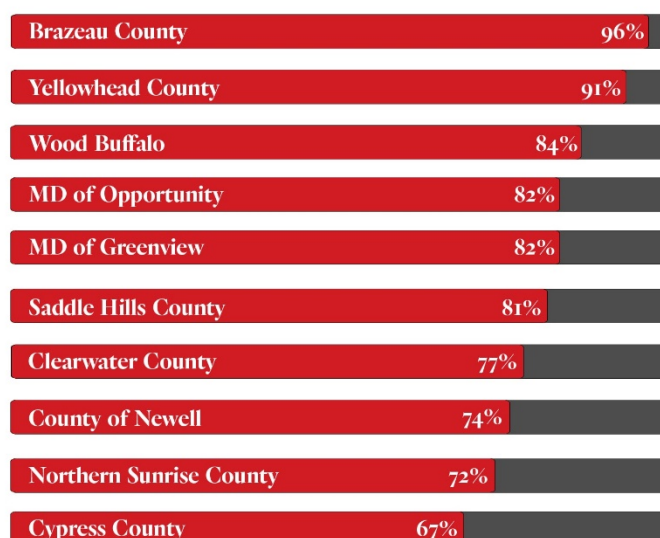


The Narwhal calculated the reliance of Alberta’s rural municipalities on tax revenue from oil and gas companies using data obtained through the Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act (see the bottom of this article for a full explanation on how we did this). The results reveal that rural communities are deeply reliant on the industry — and when we talked to local officials, we found communities worried that some companies have simply stopped paying their bills, leaving local governments in a lurch. Map: Carol Linnitt / The Narwhal

Taken together, the 41 rural municipalities that received more than \$2 million in tax payments from oil and gas companies received close to \$1.2 billion altogether, The Narwhal’s analysis found. Their total net tax base was \$1.8 billion.

That’s a substantial share of rural municipalities’ funding hanging in the balance if oil and gas companies don’t pay their bills.

Top 10 Albertan rural municipalities (by oil and gas tax revenue)



Estimated portion of net taxes derived from oil and gas companies in Alberta's top-ten most reliant rural municipalities in 2018, based on The Narwhal's analysis of data obtained through the Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act and the 2018 financial statements of each rural municipality. Graph: Carol Linnitt / The Narwhal

‘Blind-sided’ in Woodlands County

In Woodlands County, a 7,600-square-kilometre rural municipality two hours north-west of Edmonton, the [small population](#) has relied on oil and gas taxes for services for its entire existence.

The rural municipality's mayor, Ron Govenlock, told The Narwhal that around 80 per cent of the county's taxes are supposed to come from oil and gas companies.

This year, Govenlock said, council was “blind-sided” to find out that some companies in the area were simply not paying.

The Narwhal's analysis of disclosure data found those companies reported paying only about 17 per cent toward the county's net tax revenue in 2018.

The county, Govenlock added, is “out \$9 million over two years ... a revenue stream that Woodlands county depends on to continue its operations.”

“It's a serious situation,” he said, while also acknowledging that the revenue from the oil and gas industry is crucial to his county's operation.

“Our population base is way too small to support the area that we are responsible for providing infrastructure for,” Govenlock told The Narwhal. “So the oil and gas industry, unquestionably, has been a real boon for rural municipalities such as ours to help provide those kinds of services.”

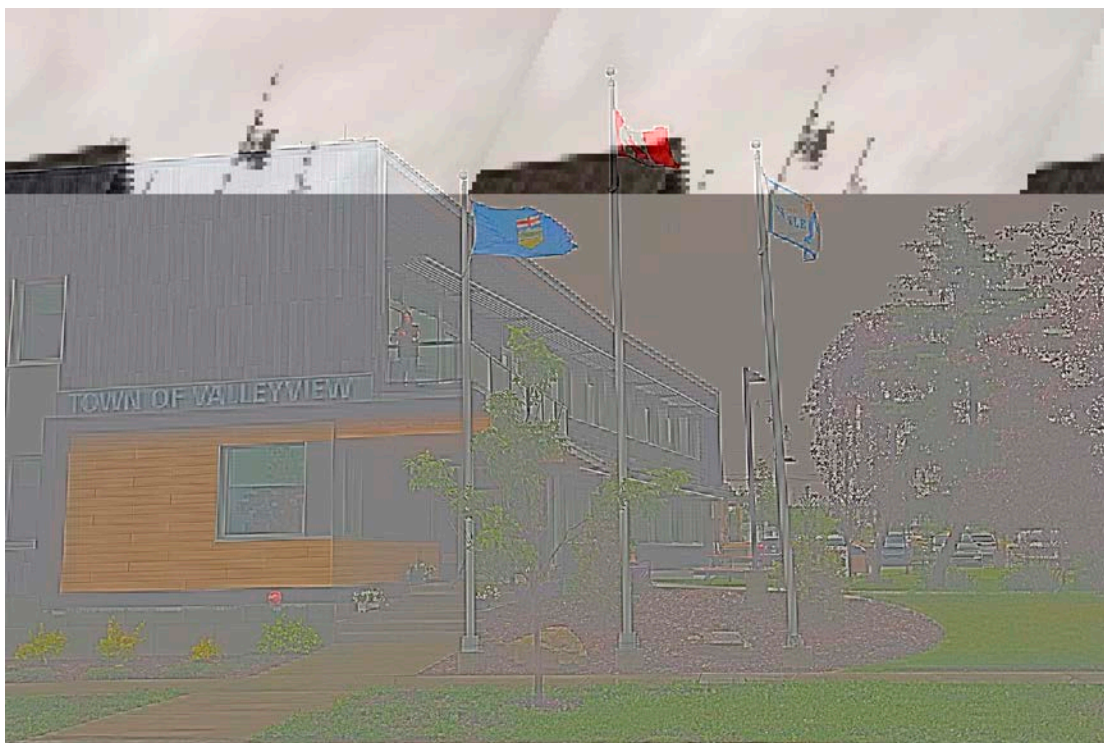
“Woodlands County and neighbouring municipalities like [Greenview](#) have been blessed to have oil and gas activity in the area,” he added.

“That’s changing, however.”

Govenlock pointed to the closure of a local gas plant as a symptom of the shift.

“A substantial amount of the activity — in terms of conventional oil and gas drilling — has seen substantially less investment and less activity as the resources have been tapped,” he said of Woodlands County.

In the nearby municipal district of [Greenview](#), however, the drilling of unconventional resources deep in the Duvernay formation has exploded, leading to [much wealth](#) for that region.



Town of Valleyview offices in the Municipal District of Greenview, which receives the highest per capita oil and gas payments of any district in Alberta.
Photo: Amber Bracken / The Narwhal

That kind of money isn’t flowing in Woodlands County, where Govenlock said the county is “out \$4.5 million out of the \$11.5 million that would have been generated on a normal year from the oil and gas industry. That’s in excess of a third that has not been paid.”

And that shortfall, he said, led council to vote to freeze all non-essential spending a few weeks ago.

Plans for paving projects and road maintenance have been paused. There's a hiring freeze on all new staff.

Council recently heard that taxes on everyone — including residents — could have to increase by 15 or 21 per cent over five years, though Govenlock noted that they have not yet reached any conclusions.

And, he said, there are more “challenging decisions yet to come.”

‘Conscious choice’ to not pay bills: mayor

Govenlock is concerned that companies are simply deciding not to pay their taxes — and that the Alberta government isn't doing enough to ensure rural municipalities get a fair shake.

“The people in the industry that are taking advantage of the rules ... what we need to do is ensure that the provincial government that's ultimately responsible for managing the oil and gas industry understands the impact that failure to pay taxes has on not only the municipality,” he told The Narwhal.

“We do not have tools in the provincial regulations that help us to force these guys to do the right thing,” he added.

Some oil and gas companies, he said, are “simply flouting the process.”

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), the self-described “voice” of Canada's oil and gas industry, has previously said that rural municipalities in Alberta and Saskatchewan “place a [disproportionate fiscal burden](#) on industrial property, including upstream oil and natural gas property.” CAPP declined The Narwhal's request for comment on taxes paid by producers to rural municipalities, saying the organization “does not comment on company-specific issues such as the individual taxes paid by an operator in a municipality.”

Industry players have echoed CAPP's concerns about tax rates. When Trident Exploration ceased operations earlier this year, the company's president [cited](#) “extremely high rural municipality taxes” which it [said](#) led to “inflated” property tax obligations that made it infeasible to continue operations.

Govenlock doesn't think that's an accurate portrayal of what's going on.

“There's a multitude of factors that go into any business in terms of its operational cost,” he told The Narwhal. “So to suggest that it's the tax burden — that's been consistent for the past 20 years — that is now going to be targeted as the reason that their profit margin is tighter?”

“I don’t buy that.”

Beattie of Mountain View County expressed similar concerns. “I’m in the agriculture sector, so I know all about volatile pricing,” Beattie told The Narwhal. “Our revenues go up and down, whether it’s beef cattle or grain. The market can be very volatile.”

He said some financial planning can go a long way.

“We set aside reserves in the good years so we take care of those years when the income isn’t there. I wonder why these companies haven’t done that,” he said.

“Where have the profits gone for these companies that they say they can’t make it?”

Smaller companies ‘struggling to pay their bills’

Company payments can vary greatly, with operations run by huge, multinational companies as well as small, local drilling companies.

Some large companies report very large tax payments — Imperial Oil, for example, paid approximately [\\$29.5 million in taxes](#) to the Municipal District of Bonnyville alone.

But many payments to rural municipalities come from smaller companies — as low as [\\$193](#) — with many reporting tax payments in the thousands, not the millions.

With low commodity prices, larger often-global companies have diversified their operations to [remain profitable](#). It’s often smaller companies, reliant on only upstream production, that are more likely to struggle to pay their bills.

The Narwhal’s analysis found roughly half of all tax payments to rural municipalities were for amounts less than \$500,000.

A lack of funds like these force counties to make tough decisions.

In Yellowhead County, west of Edmonton, where oil and gas companies reported paying \$49.8 million in taxes in 2018 under the Extractive Sector Transparency Measure Act, approximately 91 per cent of the 2018 net tax base came from oil and gas companies.

But this year, the county reported over \$7 million in [unpaid taxes](#), “a figure considerably higher than prior years,” and concluded that oil and gas companies owed some [\\$3.8 million of those outstanding taxes](#). (Yellowhead County did not respond to The Narwhal’s request for comment by press time.)

“The County is now in the position where tax receivables are approximately five times greater than this period last year,” the council heard in late July. In response, the Yellowhead Council approved a motion to transfer nearly \$3 million [from an emergency fund](#) to compensate for “noncollectable taxes.”

“It’s not a perfect world ... Smaller gas companies are struggling to pay their bills,” Dale Smith, the reeve of the Municipal District of Greenview in northwestern Alberta, told The Narwhal when we visited this summer to ask [how that region uses industry money](#).

It’s not just taxes that some oil and gas companies struggle to pay.

Earlier this year, an investigation by The Narwhal revealed that oil and gas companies owe the Alberta government more than [\\$20 million in unpaid land rents](#) — paid out to farmers and landowners on behalf of delinquent oil and gas companies— accumulated since 2010.

The investigation found that government was increasingly stepping in to pay landowners on behalf of oil and gas companies — payments made to cover for delinquent companies increased 840 per cent between 2010 and 2017.



Alberta taxpayers are increasingly picking up the tab for rents owed to landowners by delinquent oil and gas companies. Photo: Theresa Tayler / The Narwhal

Uptick in fracking to pay the bills?

Other rural municipalities are less concerned about companies' ability to pay the bills — especially those experiencing an uptick in hydraulic fracturing, as in the Municipal District of Greenview, where [revenues from the industry](#) have meant a huge windfall for the local government.

Similarly, Brazeau County in central Alberta, home to a [fracking boom](#), reported \$25,585,209 in net tax revenue from all sources in 2018. That same year, oil and gas companies reported paying \$24,637,988 in taxes to the country — roughly 96 per cent of the entire net tax base of the county.

In an emailed statement, Jocelyn Whaley, chief administrative officer of Brazeau County confirmed the county's "tax revenue from all non-residential and farmland sources was approximately ... 92.1 per cent."

In its 2018 financial statement, Brazeau County [acknowledges](#) there are issues with collecting taxes from a boom-and-bust industry.

"The County is exposed to the credit risk associated with fluctuations in the oil and gas industry," the statement reads, adding a "significant portion" of outstanding taxes were "receivable from companies in the oil and gas industry."

In the county, the taxes reported by oil and gas companies are down 12 per cent from 2016, the earliest year for which data is available through the Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act.

The County [told residents](#) that it had identified "efficiencies" and would be able to keep up its level of service, even in the face of a "downturn in the economy and the decrease of tax revenue." The county's [new budget plans](#) are designed to "minimize the impact to our citizens" of the economic challenges of the oil and gas sector.

But Whaley said in the statement that the problem hasn't been overwhelming, noting the county "has not encountered any major issues collecting taxes from industrial properties, including oil and gas properties."

In neighbouring Clearwater county — home to its own [uptick in hydraulic fracturing](#) — county officials are similarly betting on companies' ability and willingness to pay.



The Clearwater River near Rocky Mountain House, Alta., is a major source of water for fracking operations in the county and is also a tributary of the North Saskatchewan River, the sole source of drinking water for Edmonton. Photo: Amber Bracken / The Narwhal

“The recent changes in the economy have forced many municipalities to be conservative while exercising high fiscal responsibility,” the Clearwater’s communications coordinator, Djurdjica Tutic, wrote in an email to The Narwhal.

But an increase in fracking in Clearwater has also led to an increase in community tensions around industry impacts. When fracking company Repsol was granted permission to withdraw 1.8 billion litres of water from the Clearwater River each year, locals generally supportive of industry vocalized an uncommon level of concern.

The Clearwater River is a tributary of the North Saskatchewan River, the sole source of drinking water for Edmonton.



Residents concerned with industrial uses of water from the Clearwater River meet at a resident's home near Rocky Mountain House, Alta. Photo: Amber Bracken / The Narwhal

But while there may be concerns about the environmental impact of the industry, the revenue generated continues to be a boon to the community — and they don't see it disappearing any time soon.

Tutic said the local government in Clearwater is “cautiously optimistic” about the future potential of oil and gas revenues.

Both Brazeau and Clearwater counties sit above the [Duvernay](#), a geologic formation rich in shale gas. A growing demand for the resource in recent years has led to a boom of activity in the region.

But the gas boom hasn't meant a windfall for many other parts of rural Alberta, where local governments are left holding the bag for profiteering companies that have come and gone.

‘No mechanism’ to collect from delinquent companies

When it comes to issues with oil and gas companies not being able to — or otherwise neglecting — to pay rural tax bills, Govenlock said the small rural municipalities are “caught in the middle.”

And there's a frustrating lack of tools available to rural municipalities to recover costs from delinquent companies.

“If they go into receivership, there’s no mechanism in place provincially to allow municipalities to be on the priority list to collect from the assets these guys had,” Govenlock said.

That means, once again, the small local government is left with a big hole in their budget where tax revenues were supposed to be.

Beattie of Mountain View County said there seems to be a different set of rules when it comes to oil and gas companies.

Municipalities are equipped to deal with evasion when it comes to personal taxes, he said.

“If you don’t pay your income taxes, we know that the CRA will clearly be knocking at your door very quickly.”



Oil infrastructure no longer in use in a farmer's field, near Fairview, Alta., on Tuesday, July 23, 2019. Photo: Amber Bracken / The Narwhal

But municipalities do not have the same authority when it comes to the oil and gas sector.

“There’s no mechanism in place to force these guys to pay their tax arrears,” Govenlock said, “Unlike a normal residential or commercial property that goes into arrears where we can seize assets and post them for sale.”

“How do I feel about people who walk away from legitimate costs and legitimate bills? I don’t have much respect for people like that,” Beattie said, adding companies need to be “made responsible — just as every other citizen is — to pay their taxes.”

Government aid adds to controversy

In July, the UCP government announced a new program to cut the taxes some gas companies pay to rural municipalities and said it would, in a roundabout way, foot the bill.

Under the province’s [shallow gas relief program](#), announced in July, companies will get a 35-per-cent cut on taxes on shallow gas wells and pipelines for the 2019 tax year.

This, of course, means rural municipalities will collect less tax revenue. In turn, the Government of Alberta will reduce the amount of education tax the rural municipality has to pay, by the amount forfeited in gas tax. Under the current system, municipalities have to pay the education tax to the government, regardless of whether they were able to collect it.

The government estimates it will be indirectly footing the bill for \$20 million in taxes for these companies.

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Energy did not respond to requests for an interview.

The news adds to Beattie’s worry about the budget shortfall his county will face when this temporary measure is expected to end next year.

“We don’t believe [reducing] municipal taxes is the route to save the shallow gas industry,” he told The Narwhal. “I think everyone would say ‘oh my taxes are too high,’ without realizing the services that come with them.”

Under the province’s relief program, Beattie said, “everyone else will pay and the shallow gas guys won’t. They’ll get the services but they’ll be paying less.”

Govenlock of Woodlands County, where companies were behind on \$4.5 million in tax payments last year, told The Narwhal the province’s shallow gas relief program won’t help his community, where “a very, very small percentage” of wells qualify under the program.

The government describes [15 counties](#) of Alberta’s more than 60 rural municipalities where the relief program will be most applicable — and Woodlands is not one of them.

Under the program, only companies behind on payments on shallow gas activity would qualify — in other words, any oil company, or companies active in deep hydraulic fracturing won't receive any relief.

Neither then, will the counties that have to remit taxes — on behalf of delinquent companies that don't qualify — to the provincial government.

“If we don't get paid [by oil and gas companies], we still have to pay the province,” Govenlock said.

“That's a real slap in the face to have to pay someone else's debt.”

This article is part of a collaboration between The Narwhal, the Corporate Mapping Project, Publish What You Pay Canada and the Natural Resource Governance Institute. The Corporate Mapping Project is jointly led by the University of Victoria, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and Parkland Institute. This research is supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

How did we calculate our data?

The Narwhal analyzed 2018 data obtained through the Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act by looking at taxes that oil and gas companies reported paying to 63 rural municipalities in Alberta. Data was retrieved from Resourceprojects.org and converted from USD to CAD using the exchange rate listed on the website, 0.778629.

We added up the payments reported in each rural municipality to obtain the total amount of tax oil and gas companies had reported paying in each region.

Of those 63 rural municipalities, we found that 41 received more than \$2 million in taxes reported by oil and gas companies. The payments reported reflect not what was owed to each rural municipality, but only the amount companies have reported to have actually paid.

We then compared the amount of tax revenue reported through the act with the actual net tax reported in the 2018 financial statements of each rural municipality. This allowed us to calculate an approximate portion of available tax revenue that is derived from oil and gas companies.

This resulted in an estimated reliance on oil and gas taxes. In some cases, the actual portion of tax revenues that are composed of oil and gas tax payments may be different from what was calculated, in part because the data does not include taxes that were assessed but not paid.

Actual net tax revenues were chosen as the numbers represents the amount of tax revenue available for spending — after requisitions and any other revenue sharing — and because the figure was consistently reported across all financial statements we examined. (Net tax revenues do not include what are known as well-drilling taxes, optional one-time charges levied on companies drilling new wells. Our analysis found a relatively small handful of rural municipalities listed this type of tax on their financial statements.)

PUBLISHED BY

Sharon J. Riley

Sharon is The Narwhal's Alberta-based investigative journalist. Her essays, interviews and long-form nonfiction have also been published by The Walrus,...

Presented by Land Stewardship Centre

STEWARDS IN MOTION

GRANT WRITING Workshop

For community stewardship groups

*Free to
attend*

*Valuable
info*

*Industry
experts*

NOVEMBER 7@9AM

BOOST YOUR GROUP'S FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

+CREATING STRONG PROPOSALS +WORKING
COLLABORATIVELY +HARNESSING VOLUNTEER POWER
+BUILDING FUNDER RELATIONSHIPS

ROYAL MAYFAIR GOLF CLUB

9450 Groat Road Northwest, Edmonton

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/stewards-in-motion-tickets-74185610157>



THE PEST INSIDER

October 2019

Alberta's Pest Control Officers

As a pest control officer in Alberta, there are a few things we suggest you have and know. For most of you, this is merely a reminder and refresher of our training courses offered periodically.

1. You should have a knowledge of how and why Alberta has been able to maintain a rat-free status for over 68 years.

- A. We started our rat program in 1950 before rats had a chance to get established in the province. Without a population of rats in the [province](#) we only have to eradicate rats as they migrate or hitch a ride into Alberta from other jurisdictions.
- B. Overland migration (rats traveling from one building, farm or feed stack several miles to another) is possible only from the east. Remember, rats cannot live in Alberta's environment without human food or garbage and human shelter.
 - I. Our north is too cold for rats to live and prosper.
 - II. West is too mountainous for rats; they perish without human food and shelter.
 - III. The south is too sparsely populated with people; terrain is either mountains open prairie with not enough continuous human food and shelter.
 - IV. Our Eastern border has the famous **Rat Control Zone** where professional pest control specialists check every building, farm, feed stack, bin, and residence that has any possible rat habitant in the first 29 km's west from the Saskatchewan border. When rat activity is found, rat control is implemented.
- C. Inside the Province of Alberta [The Agricultural Pest Act](#) requires every county, city, town, or municipality to name a pest control officer (PCO), who must respond to any rat reports or sighting. These PCOs take action to eradicate a confirmed rat sighting. A PCO can ask for assistance with the rat control when needed. Most often these confirmed rat reports are single rats that are displaced, lost, hungry and succumb to control measures quite easily or are killed by a dog, cat or bus. It is the PCO's responsibility to inspect the site for rat activity to ensure there is not more than one rat and the reported rat is eradicated.

2. Alberta has a 24 –hour hotline to report a rat sighting, **310-RATS**. Reported rat sightings are followed up with a PCO inspection when warranted. About two rat sightings a month are confirmed Norway or Roof rats. We get about three to four rat infestations a year, mostly in the Rat Control Zone.

3. "Rat-free" means we have no permanent breeding population of rats in Alberta. At any point in time, Alberta may not be rat-free until we eradicate the reported rats. Then we are rat-free until the next confirmed rat sighting.

4. County, municipal, city, or town PCO'S should have or be ready to purchase necessary Rat Control Equipment as listed below.

1. Rat snap trap	\$5	Suggest a trapper T-Rex
2. Rat bait station	\$20	A Tier 1 bait box (locked, pet proof, outdoor rated)
3. Rat bait anticoagulant	\$5	Single feeding bait suggested

For \$30, you can have the necessary equipment to handle most rat sightings.

“Today coming to work, I saw one of those, only in New York scenes, it was a rat who, had passed out, after choking on a pretzel” – D. Letterman

In This Issue

- Alberta's Pest Control Officers
- Northern Pocket Gopher
- Alberta Rat Update
- Wild Boar Update
- New Ekomille Rat

Some PCO's who live close to a hardware store that handles rat control supplies may prefer not to have the material in their offices or warehouses and purchase supplies when needed, especially if you average one complaint every five years or so. It should be noted that it is the **property owners' responsibility to control rats on their own property**. However, many may not know where to get the proper rat control supplies or how to properly use them. Often the rat is not on their property but in the city or alleyway. For Alberta to most efficiently remain rat-free, assisting property owners with rat control is a good idea.



We are extremely grateful for the many dedicated and excellent PCO's. Alberta couldn't remain rat free without you!! **Thanks!**

Northern Pocket Gopher

Large mounds of fresh earth in forage, pastures, crops, lawns and gardens are an annoyance to landowners but become a real pest problem for hay producers. Many Albertans have never seen one of these small gophers responsible for the mounds of dirt as these rodents seldom come above ground. These dirt pile culprits are usually misidentified as moles. We don't have any species of moles in Alberta, so tunneling, dirt piles, and mounds in fields and yards are a result of a Northern Pocket gopher invasion.

The Northern pocket gopher should not be confused with our better known "gopher," the Richardson's Ground Squirrel (RGS). The pocket gopher gets its name from cheek pouches or pockets that are used for carrying food and nesting materials. They rarely come above ground in the day

light but will occasionally venture out at night to forage close to their hole, and some will fall prey to predators. House cats and owls often prey on the pocket gopher as well as coyotes, foxes and weasels. House cats are notorious for bringing home a pocket gopher, which is then identified by a landowner as a rat. Since both pocket gophers and rats are seldom seen by residents of Alberta they often are misidentified.

The main features that distinguish the pocket gopher from a rat are its shorter tail and large clawed front feet. Pocket gophers are approximately 15 cm in length with a short, lightly furred tail. They are usually brownish-grey in color and have soft fine fur. The front paws have large claws that are used for excavating dirt. They have large incisor teeth and lips that can close behind the teeth to keep dirt out of its mouth while digging.

Often when a pocket gopher carcass shows up at a residence, it is mistaken for a Norway rat and reported to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's (AF) 310-RATS line. AF staff respond to many such calls in the spring, summer and fall when pocket gophers venture above ground. Unlike the RGS, pocket gophers don't hibernate and stay active all winter. Dirt casing under snow banks are a result of pocket gopher winter activity.



Short tail in relation to 15 cm body length



Check pouches: Sharp claws

Trapping

Trapping is a safe, effective method to control pocket gophers in your yard or in small fields. Large areas of infestation are too time-consuming to control pocket gophers with traps. Several types and brands of pocket gopher traps are available.

To set traps:

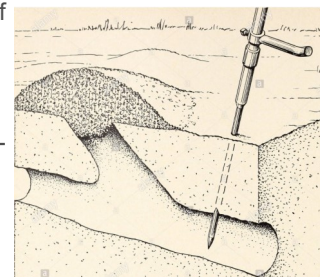
Locate the main tunnel with a probe. The dimple in a mound is the entrance to the tunnel. Use a shovel or garden trowel to open the tunnel wide enough to set a trap; set trap as per the directions given. Prevent light from entering the burrow by covering the opening around the trap with soil, sod or cardboard. Fine soil can be sifted around the edges to ensure a light-tight seal. If too much light enters, the pocket gopher may plug the burrow with soil, filling the traps and making them ineffective. Leave the air hole open at the back of the trap. Check traps often and reset them when necessary. If a pocket gopher is not caught within three days, reset the traps in a different location.



Dimple in mound

Probing for Burrows

Successful trapping depends on accurately locating the pocket gopher's main burrow. To locate the burrow, you need to use a probe. Probes are commercially available or can be constructed from a pipe and metal rod. An enlarged tip that is wider than the shaft of the probe is an important design feature that increases the ease of locating burrows. Locate areas of recent activity where fresh mounds with dark, moist soil exists. Fresh mounds that are visible above ground are the plugged openings of lateral tunnels. The main burrow can be found by probing about 25 cm's (10 inches) from the plugged side of the mound (i.e., dimple side of mound). It is usually located 15 to 30 cm's (6 to 12 inches) deep. When the probe penetrates the burrow, there will be a sudden, noticeable drop of about five cm's (2 inches). You may have to probe repeatedly to locate the main burrow.



Poisoning

There are several poisons registered for controlling the Northern Pocket Gopher. Rozol and Ground Force are anticoagulants, Rodent Pellets are a Zinc Phosphide product, and SARM has a RTU strychnine registered for pocket gopher control. Limited success has been found with these poisons mostly due to palatability. Pocket gophers eat roots and limited amounts of forage around their hole and don't eat cereal grains or extruded pellets very readily. Consequently finding a supplier handling pocket gopher poisons for sale in Alberta is difficult. Poisons are administered by a hand probe or through a burrow builder machine pulled by a tractor. Since control has been so poor in the past; these devices are not readily available here in Alberta.

The trapping and probing section was courtesy of Strathcona County

Alberta Rat and Pest Update

This past summer was relatively slow with confirmed rat reports. We had one live roof rat picked up at a residence in Calgary in July and two roof rats confirmed in Medicine Hat in September. All reports turned out to be single rat imports and were disposed of quickly. This quarter we had our first rat infestation within the province since the Bon Accord infestation in 2015. A Paper recycling plant in Calgary had a small infestation this summer that was quite elusive to eradicate. Paper recycling plants are difficult to determine and find rat activity in the mounds of loose paper and baled paper in a large warehouse. Since truck loads of paper brought in from everywhere including other provinces has some pizza, hamburger, and fast food leftovers scattered throughout it is hard to identify the food source and place suitable baits for rats. Once the nest site was located the roof rats readily took our soft pac baits, especially with a smear of peanut butter on the pac. We also resorted to water baits to ensure the eradication. We are not positive on the number of rats destroyed but at least 6 rat carcasses were eliminated. We suspect there were more rats destroyed, but not discovered in the maze of paper. Rat activity at the site has now ceased. Baits will be maintained indefinitely as paper recycling plants that accept paper from out of province are a risk for reintroduction of a dispersing rat.



Agriculture and Forestry is having two urban **rat control seminars** this fall to help PCO's identify and handle rat complaints in their jurisdictions. Recently we had a situation where the City and the County PCO's were not equipped to handle a rat report. We want to train up all our staff to be ready when the call comes. It is understandable that PCO's who don't get a call one year to the next can be caught off guard in rat control. On **Oct. 24** at 10:00 AM in the Provincial building in Airdrie (97 East Lake Ramp NE) and on **Nov. 13** at 10:00 AM at the Vegreville Ag. Society (4753 45 Ave) we will have a 2 hour training in rat control with updates on our wild boar program. There is no cost and all PCO's are invited, we just ask you to send us an email to phil.merrill@gov.ab.ca if you plan on attending.

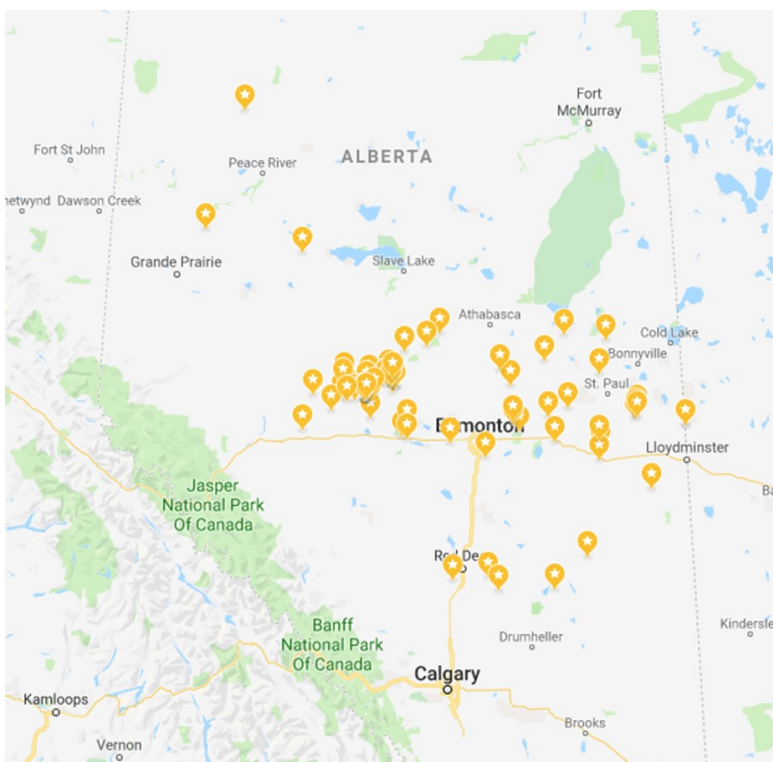
Wild Boar Update

Agriculture and Forestry’s Wild Boar Eradication project has teamed up with the Environment and Parks Conservation K9 Unit. Three detection dogs have been trained to locate wild boar scat. Recent field trials have shown that this is a very effective means to survey an area for the presence of wild boar. The dogs will be particularly valuable when doing post-eradication monitoring to help maintain an area to be free of wild boar.

Environment and Parks biologists are also evaluating the use of eDNA as another tool to detect wild boar presence. Water samples are taken in areas suspected of wild boar infestation. The water samples can then be analyzed to detect different species that came in contact with that particular water body. In this case the analysis targets wild boar DNA. This technique has proven valuable in other jurisdictions and will further complement our ability to monitor areas for wild boar infestation.

We are mapping each wild boar occurrence to get a better idea of the extent and scope of wild boar infestations in the province. Please advise your producers that they can call 310-FARM to make a wild boar report or get more information concerning wild boar in Alberta.

Please continue to send reports of wild boar at-large conflicts or sightings to the Wild Boar At-Large Eradication Project lead, Perry Abramenko at 403-627-1177 or email at perry.abramenko@gov.ab.ca.



Map of Reported Wild Boar Sightings in Alberta

New York City's new Ekomille rat trap: A humane and safe rat control solution

New York City is employing the new rat control trap "Ekomille" to try to reduce rat populations in their city. The trap uses no poisons or harmful substances. Rats are attracted to the smell of natural food, then a sensitive mechanism drops the rat into a reservoir of vinegar or alcohol. The trap can be set to allow the rats to feed and get used to eating in the trap before the trip mechanism is activated. Up to 80 rats can be captured before the trap has to be reset. Rats die humanely in a pickle solution.

Ecologically friendly and safe, Ekomille was developed as an organic pest control device from South Africa. Rat Trap Incorporated sell these traps for about \$400 each.

NYC seems to be the never ending jurisdiction that continually fights the rat with limited success. They have been famous for their rat population and even though it was reported there were more rats in NYC than people, the population of rats being estimated at no more than three million would mean rats are outnumbered three to one. The city famous for the pizza thief rat has decided to try a pilot project with the Ekomille rat trap in the Bronx. If it works out they intend to expand the use throughout the city.

NYC has tried many different attacks on the rat. Last year, the Pest Insider reported NYC's pilot project of Dry Ice being placed down rat burrows as a rat control measure to eradicate rat populations. This has been met with limited success. NYC was considering turning loose hundreds of feral cats to reduce rat numbers. With the help of video trail cameras in the City of Chicago, very few encounters were seen between rats and cats. And after reams of video footage only one cat was ever seen killing a rat. Most cats avoided encounters with the rat, as a viscous rat appears to not be easy prey for a house cat. The only reduction in populations when feral cats are released were found in song birds.

Several years back SenesTech sold NYC an expensive trial of a city-wide scale of rodent contraception. Our October 2016 Pest Insider has information on ContraPest, the pink liquid for sterilizing rats sold by the Arizona company SenesTech. Again success has been limited in reducing NYC's rat populations with contraceptives.

NYC has also tried to get rid of rats by using Mint-X rodent-repelling trash bags. This multi-million dollar venture would have been better spent in improving the handling of domestic garbage quicker and more efficiently rather than trying to protect garbage with plastic.

Each year the number of rat reports in NYC seem to soar with a 38 per cent [increase in sightings since 2014](#) . New York's attempts to curb the complaints seems to do nothing more than spur a healthy industry of rat [entrepreneurs](#) . Let's hope this Ekomille trap is a rat-control success.



ECOMILLE the Eco friendly humane and safe rat trap

Contact Us

310-RATS (7287)

OR

310-FARM (3276)

Phil Merrill

Provincial Rat and Pest Specialist

Work: 403-381-5856

Cell: 403-308-0960

Email: phil.merrill@gov.ab.ca

Perry Abramenko

Assistant Rat and Pest Specialist

Work: 403-627-1177

Cell: 403-330-8441

Email:

perry.abramenko@gov.ab.ca





AFAC Update

Our monthly e-newsletter will give you a quick look at what's kept us busy in the last month and what's coming up. If there's information you would like to see included or if you have any questions about our activities, please let us know! info@afac.ab.ca

In this issue

Executive Director's Update
Communications Coordinator's Update
Extension Coordinator's Update
Marketing & Communications Update
ALERT Line
Events Calendar

Annemarie's Update

Happy Thanksgiving weekend everyone!

Fall is my favourite time of year- even though it usually only lasts about eight days in Alberta! I know it is a busy time for many of you and the recent snow and cold temperatures create stress and anxiety for many. That only increases the importance of weekends like Thanksgiving, encouraging us to make some time to spend with family and friends.

We were sorry to postpone our November **Advisory Council** meeting, but the mental health workshop being developed specifically for the ag sector isn't ready yet, and we didn't want to go ahead without it. We are hoping to have a new date for the Mental Health Advisory Council meeting early in 2020.

The Council meeting is just one of the events we hold during the year. I feel these are among the most important things we do, because they give us a chance to connect with our members and partners in the industry, share new information and hear from you- our stakeholders- about the latest issues, advances and wins. Our events bring diverse groups and sectors together to discuss common issues, and allow us time to connect with you in-person.

The [Livestock Care Conference](#) planning is well underway and it is the keystone event of our year. Industry panels, workshops and expert speakers come together to enrich our understanding of livestock care and, as importantly, provide tools to support producers in caring for themselves. The student mentorship program is fuelled by industry sponsorship and continues to grow every year. I hope you will add March 18 and 19 to your calendars.

The **Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue (TLAER)** training sessions are coming back to Alberta in 2020. The team is working to bring Rebecca Gimenez Husted back to run three two-day workshops at the end of March in North, Central and South locations. If there is enough interest, plans to bring her back in the fall for the advanced three-day workshop are also under consideration.

Best wishes for a safe, productive and healthy autumn.

[Annemarie Pedersen](#)

Kristen L's Update

What a September it has been!

We have some exciting projects happening this fall with students from NAIT and Mount Royal University. For their Capstone Projects, these students will be working on website updates, an ALERT Line database, and our communications strategy. We are very excited to be partnering with these institutions and working with these passionate students!

Our post-secondary tour has started! The tour takes us to post-secondary agriculture classrooms from Fairview to Lethbridge, and allows us to share with 100's of students the values of livestock care, introduces them to our student scholarship and mentorship program at the Livestock Care Conference and is our primary recruitment tool for ag volunteers for our booth later in the year.

Stay up-to-date on our social media channels to check out where we will be going and who we will be speaking and if you're interested in having AFAC come and speak to your class or organization please [send us an email](#) for more information!



SAVE THE DATE

March 18 & 19, 2020 | Olds, AB

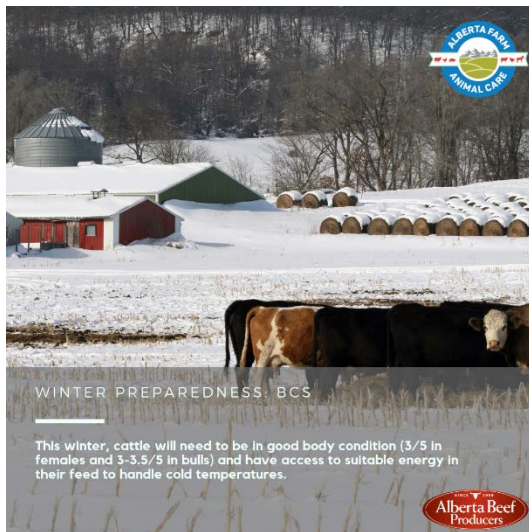
Save the dates have officially been sent out so mark your calendars for March 18 & 19, 2020 for the Livestock Care Conference! We are so excited to share the amazing speakers, sponsors, and workshop we are planning so keep an eye out for more information.

Kristen Lepp

Melissa's Update

I hope you've been watching AFAC's social media channels! Concerns over feed shortages going into winter prompted us to post important information on preparing for winter feeding. We created posts for beef, dairy, small ruminants,

bison, and equines. I was also interviewed on the topic recently for [Prime Time Local](#) news in Lloydminster (story at 11:40) if you are interested in more details.



I have been preparing a CAP project proposal for AFAC and hope that it will be successful in the coming months. I have also been putting the finishing touches on a report from the Cattle Transportation Roundtable. The report will be available on our [website](#) shortly. Also, the Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue workshop planning is in full swing for this spring.

Keep your eyes open for our October Insights Newsletter! This issue will focus on layers, swine, and beef cattle. I hope you enjoy the articles and learn something new!

Finally, our post-secondary tour started in September. I gave a talk to students at the Grande Prairie Regional College and look forward to more in October.

Melissa Moggy

Kaylee's Update

With September off to a busy start, my first month with AFAC has been a blur learning about everything AFAC. Jumping in with both feet, I've started to assist with plans for the Livestock Care Conference in 2020. To keep us getting better and better, we need your feedback! We'll be reaching out to our former sponsors and supporters for feedback on what we can do to make 2020 an even better experience.

With the excellent teamwork of AFAC, we are in the midst of transition to a virtual office model. This of course means going through archives and old documents, and finding some real gems! Keep an eye out on our social media for some interesting Throwback Thursday posts as we share some of our founding newsletters and updates from the '90s.



The snow and dropping temperatures highlighted the importance of our September social media theme of Winter Feed, with producers and public reaching out for more information. With the potential of feed shortages and a harsh winter this year, keep watch for our upcoming posts on Water Quality and Cold Weather Stress as we look to help producers prepare for, and hopefully prevent, a difficult winter.

Keep warm,

ALERT Line

The [ALERT Line](#) is an anonymous, producer-helping-producer call line. If you are ever concerned about the care or condition of livestock, call **1-800-506-2273**

There have been 11 calls in the month of September on the ALERT Line. One call was passed to the SPCA, four calls passed to the RCMP, two calls were found to be unfounded upon investigation, two calls were for information, one call for emergency trailering due to accident, and one call is still pending and being monitored.

Cases:

Bison: 1

Beef cattle: 3

Horse: 3

Pig: 1

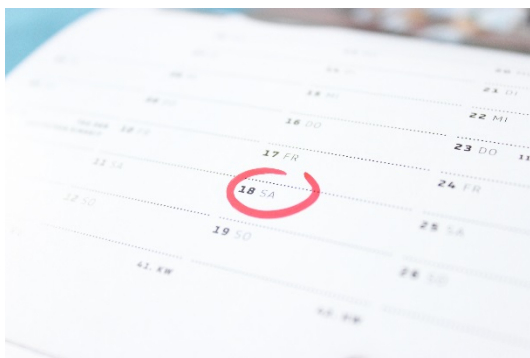
Poultry: 2

Sheep: 1

Common concerns were lack of feed, animal(s) in distress, and livestock at large.

Just a reminder that if you see livestock on a major road or highway please call your local RCMP detachment as they are a human safety hazard. Dead animals or cases of extreme neglect or distress, please call the Alberta SPCA. For animal care concerns, questions, or to access an Emergency Livestock Handling Equipment Trailer you can call the ALERT Line at 1-800-506-2273.

If in doubt about who to call, check out the [infographic](#) and further details on our website.



Upcoming industry events

[Alberta Sheep Breeders Symposium](#)

October 17-19, 2019

Red Deer, AB

[Fall and winter feeding strategy: AAF](#)

[Webinar](#)

Oct 24, 2019

[Check out our blog](#)



Copyright © 2018, All rights reserved.

www.afac.ab.ca

Our mailing address is:

PO Box 5201 #5 112 Centre Street

High River T1V 1M4

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Building knowledge and capacity in ecosystem services
and biodiversity markets across Alberta.

Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Network NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2019



ECOSYSTEM SERVICES + BIODIVERSITY NETWORK
Grassland Conservation Markets Symposium



**Grassland Conservation
Markets Symposium**

**NOVEMBER 19 & 20 2019
CALGARY, ALBERTA**

Register HERE



The Grassland Conservation Market Symposium will result in a partnership of the willing to establish Canada's first Prairie Grassland Conservation Marketplace



November 19 & 20, 2019 Deerfoot Inn, Calgary,
Alberta Canada

The Grassland Conservation Markets Symposium will result in a partnership of those willing to establish Canada's First Prairie Grassland Conservation Marketplace.

REGISTER HERE



Explore our Website

ecoservicesnetwork.ca

is a central source for knowledge and information around ecosystem services and biodiversity markets. Browse our resource section and learn about how the ESN is building capacity in ES and Biodiversity Markets.

Explore our Website

SAVE THE DATE!




The poster features a green circle with the text "Biodiversity Offsets" and three circular images: a lake with mountains, a snowy mountain peak, and a marmot. Text on the poster includes "WESTERN CANADIAN FORUM ON LAND USE AND PLANNING AND BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS", "SAVE THE DATE", "AlbertaLandInstitute.ca/LandUse", "UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA Alberta Land Institute", "ALBERTA INNOVATES", and "PRESENTED BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT OUR PREMIER PARTNER".



Follow us on
Twitter
@EcoservicesA
B

[Follow](#)

Keep your eye on [AlbertaLandInstitute.ca/LandUse](https://albertalandinstitute.ca/landuse)
Registration + Program Information is Coming
Soon!



The Benefits of Green Infrastructure

Up on the Blog: The Benefits of Green Infrastructure

Grey Infrastructure continues to have its place in a community to ensure the good quality of drinking water and to manage the treatment of high volumes of water. However, we are beginning to see a shift to more nature-based solutions because of the multiple benefits they offer to a community. In this blog, learn about what green infrastructure is, why it's important and 3 examples of green infrastructure and their benefits.

[Read the Blog](#)

Copyright © 2019 Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Network, All rights reserved.

This email is to keep working group members informed of ESB Network newsletter updates

Questions? Contact us:

Elisa Valade (Stakeholder Engagement, Outreach + Communication)

elisa@landstewardship.org

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)



[View this email in your browser](#)



TOGETHER. SHAPING THE FUTURE.

Research drives change and continuous improvement in how livestock are cared for. In Canada we have a strong contingent of dedicated researchers, providing a multidisciplinary approach to livestock welfare research. **INSIGHTS** provides information on livestock welfare and reports on research, initiatives and issues.

Education Outreach for Outdoor Small Lot Pork Producers

Dr. Kelsey Gray DVM, Prairie Swine Health Services

In British Columbia (B.C.), there are over 1500 outdoor small lot pig producers and this is expanding in Alberta and across Canada. This type of production is growing as “farm-to-fork” movements and eating local are increasing in popularity. As this group grows, we recognize that there is a gap in knowledge about raising pigs safely, humanely, and efficiently outdoors.

In 2019, the BC Pork Producers Association (BCPPA) received funding from BC’s Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF) and from the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Program to create a comprehensive educational package of best management practices tailored to small lot, outdoor pig producers. I am very proud to announce that Prairie Swine Health Services was selected to work with the BCPPA and the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture to develop resource materials for this program. The program will include a resource binder, 6 one-day work shops in B.C, online presentation slides and material.

Although the focus is in B.C., it is hoped that the material will be welcomed in other regions across Canada.

There are three critical components to the program. The first is educating producers about pig health and husbandry. Some producers are farming pigs for the first time ever. We want to teach them how to feed pigs, how to house pigs, and how to recognize clinical disease. New pig producers may not be aware that pigs are susceptible to sun burns, that they cannot sweat and need pools to cool off in, or that pigs raised outdoors are prone to parasitic diseases.

A second component of the program is about regulation around possessing pigs. New producers may be unaware of the Canadian PigTRACE program. This is a federally regulated program that tracks pig movement within Canada for emergency planning, preparedness, and response. Every single pig in Canada must be registered with this program. Registration is free and involves getting a premises identification number, then registering with PigTRACE, and reporting and recording all pig movements within 7 days.



Lastly, the program aims to raise awareness about national and international affairs in the swine industry. For example, African Swine Fever (ASF) is a devastating disease that, although it does not harm humans, can cause 100% mortality in pigs. There is a huge risk of introducing ASF by illegally feeding meat scraps to pigs, which some new producers may be unaware of. This disease is rapidly spreading across Asia and parts of Europe and would cause massive animal welfare issues and trade restriction on our pork sector if it were to come to Canada. Our goal is to make sure ALL pig producers, small or large, raise pigs responsibly and do their part to protect our Canadian pig herd.

On behalf of everyone in the swine industry, I want to express appreciation to the B.C.'s Investment Agricultural Foundation (IAF) and B.C. AGRI's Biosecurity and Disease Surveillance CAP Fund for funding this project. It is a great contribution to the industry.

Practical Ways to Decrease Antibiotic Usage in the Cattle Industry!

By Roy Lewis DVM

The livestock industry is coping very well and making great strides with addressing the topic of decreasing antimicrobial usage which indirectly helps with antimicrobial resistance. From veterinarians setting the example and producers from the cow-calf sector to the feedlot implementing effective coping strategies, huge progress is being made. There are management changes which can be made to minimize disease incidence. The policymakers can also look at ways to increase research in antimicrobials or alternative treatment methods. Monitoring and surveillance of drug resistance such as the Task Force headed by the veterinary colleges to look at the evolution of antibiotic resistance has been formed. What can you do today as a cattle producer in whichever segment of the cattle industry you are involved in? This article will address changes you can make to hopefully decrease disease incidence and therefore the need for more antimicrobial usage in your calves.

You as producers need to develop strategies and herd health measures with your veterinarians and nutritionists to maximize resistance in the calves. Proper and complete vaccination protocols at the appropriate times coupled with proper nutrition and parasite control maximizes protection. Knowledge of the diseases prevalent in your area and using these vaccines at the recommended age on non-stressed cattle should also increase protection. True preconditioning programs, where calves are immunized before weaning and then weaned either using fenceline weaning or two-stage weaning have shown the best results at reducing respiratory morbidity. This takes extra effort and cost from the cow-calf producer but is the right thing to do. The preconditioning program took off in the 1980s but soon fizzled as producers did not realize benefits financially from doing it. With true preconditioning programs, treatment drugs are substantially reduced, and metaphylactic drugs can be avoided in most cases. This only works well if cattle are then directly shipped from farm to feedlot and not co-mingled with other producers' calves.

Remember that vaccinating is not a 100% guarantee that calves are not going to get sick. Vaccines in general when boosted provide good protection to 90% or so of the calves. The exposure level, stress the calves are under, transportation distance, feed changes, handling stresses, and ability to find feed and water in a new pen all contribute to the morbidity level. The morbidity level coupled with the identification and early detection of disease determines how many antimicrobials are used.

Vaccines are improving in their spectrum of protection, length of protection, and quickness of protection all the time. Most research and effort is against protection of respiratory disease. This is where most antimicrobials are used. There is no doubt in the beef production chain that the first one to two months after arrival at the feedlot is where most antimicrobials are used. Preventing disease has been the focus of research. There has been more intranasal vaccines which give local immunity in the windpipe and

nasopharynx. This occurs very rapidly. Some are developed for respiratory viruses and others for the respiratory bacteria. This quicker protection should also cut down on the incidence of respiratory disease. Whenever vaccinating make sure and store properly (keep refrigerated until use), rehydrate and use modified vaccines within one hour, give in the proper locations, and have epinephrine on hand in case of a rare allergic reaction. Proper application of vaccines means the herd will be better immunized and require less antibiotic treatment.



There are many alternative products to antibiotics and whether they be the NSAID's (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory's), probiotics, electrolyte solutions such as distress, essential oils or gases such as nitric oxide to treat respiratory disease each one needs to be considered by your veterinarian on its own merits. There is no doubt that NSAIDs are prescribed by most veterinarians these days as an adjunct therapy for most infections and inflammatory conditions such as respiratory disease. Early detection methods such as thermography, monitoring movement or activity, as well as a stethoscope coupled to a computer program (whisper technology) may go a long way towards detecting clinical cases of respiratory disease earlier. This may change the type and duration of antibiotics necessary.

A proper and timely diagnosis is essential for antimicrobials to work. Infections that are acted on too slowly require more antibiotics and if treating the wrong condition antibiotics could be used with poor results. The best example to me is dealing with lameness in the feedlot which has become the second most treated condition in many feedlots. A true footrot responds very favourably to many antibiotics whereas a sole abscess may need to be pared out or a sprain-strain may need time rather than antibiotics. You must assess each medical case with the question: "Do I really need antibiotics?" If in doubt, your veterinarian can provide guidance and protocols for specific disease conditions. Localized abscesses for instance if lanced, drained, and flushed may or may not need antibiotic treatment. Ask your veterinarian if a lack of response to antibiotics or recurrent cases may require a culture of the organism to reveal a resistance pattern. We often see resistance to families of antibiotics so defaulting to a secondary treatment with a very similar antibiotic may not be the right answer.

In the future, more direct shipping of loads of cattle from the ranch to the feedlot can minimize our treatments greatly. Satellite and video auctions are ways to get this done and subsequently cut overhead costs and deliver a healthier product to the feedlot operator while minimizing transportation and the stress of co-mingling. Calves will get on feed quicker, and one has an exact description of their vaccination and treatment history. That is valuable information to know. All sectors of the cattle industry need to work together to maintain a healthy meat protein source for consumption. Antibiotics will always need to be used to some extent, but some of these management changes can minimize their usage and save them for the cases that are life-threatening. If we work together to use prevention strategies such as vaccinating, getting a proper diagnosis, and using approved antimicrobials for cattle things will improve. Cattle will be healthier and grow better, and Canadian beef will continue to have a high level of quality and safety.

The impact of infrared beak treatment on the production, behaviour, and welfare of layer pullets and hens

Sarah Struthers and Karen Schwean-Lardner

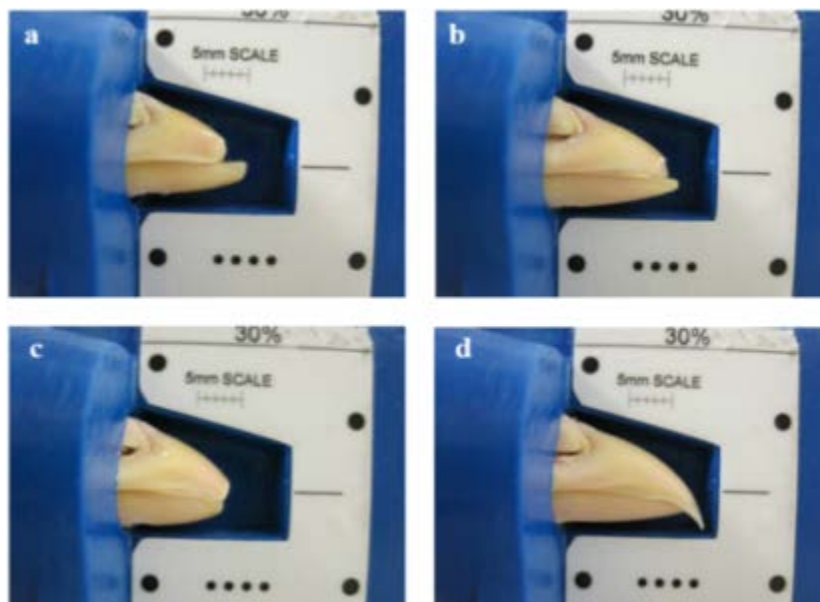
Department of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Saskatchewan

Beak treatment of laying hens is an important management practice as it is one of the most effective methods of controlling or eliminating cannibalism within egg-production flocks. Infrared beak treatment (IRBT) is the most commonly used methodology in Canada, and the available literature shows that IRBT has less of a negative impact on production and welfare than with other methodologies.

It is unclear what the “ideal” beak shape is for beak treated birds and it has been suggested that any shape other than a flush beak is a “severe abnormality”. However, no research to this point has studied how different beak shapes impact birds. The objective of this project was to examine how IRBT and differences in post-treatment beak shape affect the productivity and welfare of egg-production pullets and hens.

Four beak shapes were studied. Three of these beak shapes were created by adjusting the settings on the IRBT equipment prior to treatment on day of hatch. The shapes included a shovel beak, a step beak,

and a flush beak. The fourth group was an untreated beak control group.



Beak shapes used in this research: shovel beak (a), step beak (b), flush beak (c), and control beak (d)

Pullet body weight and feed intake were not affected by IRBT overall, nor by the specific beak shapes. Beak treated pullets appeared to have lower water intake than control pullets; however, differences were minor in nature and did not result in reduced growth. It is possible that the differences were due to spillage and/or play behaviour rather than more water consumed. During the laying period, IRBT did not have an effect on hen body weight, feed intake, or egg production.

One of the primary concerns with beak treatment is that it may result in pain post-treatment. Beak treated pullets used the same amount of force as control pullets when pecking at food objects, suggesting that treated pullets were not in pain following IRBT.

Feather cover was improved in beak treated hens (important for protection from scratches and in body temperature regulation). IRBT also helped reduce damage to the comb (indicative of aggressive damage) and mortality due to cannibalism compared to hens that had untreated beaks. This is important with regards to welfare, as it suggests that beak treated hens were subjected to less feather pecking, aggression, and pain.

In conclusion, this research illustrates how during early life, pullets are able to adapt to the change in beak

shape and maintain their ability to feed, drink, and peck. This research benefits the Canadian poultry industry as it helps further establish the importance of the beak treatment of laying hens and highlights the improvement in welfare that IRBT brings (reductions in mortality and aggressive damage). As commercial egg-production systems continue to switch from conventional cages to more extensive forms of housing, the need for IRBT to help prevent and control cannibalism within laying hen flocks may become even more important.

Sarah Struthers completed this project for her MSc in September 2018. She is currently working as a Research Technician in Dr. Schwean-Lardner's lab and will be relocating to Scotland in September to start a PhD in poultry genetics and welfare.



This research was supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Council, the Canadian Poultry Research Council, the Saskatchewan Egg Producers, and Clark's Poultry Inc.



Copyright © 2019, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

PO Box 36044 RPO Lakeview
Calgary, AB T3E 7C6

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



October Forage Facts is Hot Off the Press!

In this issue:

- Introducing our New Interim Manager!
- Interpreting Your Feed Test
- Upcoming Events
- and More!

Please click [here](#) or the below picture for the full newsletter.

Forage Facts

Published by the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association

October 2019, Volume 16, Issue 177



Warm Welcome to Our New Interim Manager!

By: Chelsey Hostettler

Follow Us!



Follow Us and Stay Up-To-Date With Everything PCBFA!



The hide from one cow can make:
144 baseballs,
20 footballs, or
12 basketballs

Hello! I'm excited to jump into my new role of interim manager at PCBFA. There will be a transition period as I try to fill the shoes of Liisa Jeffrey while she starts her maternity leave in November. I am truly looking forward to stepping up to the challenges that are coming my way. It's exciting to be part of an association that has established deep roots in the Peace Country. Working for PCBFA really reflects my personal goal and vision to be part of a team that is passionate about building innovative practices for farmers and ranchers, an integral way of life for our rural communities.

I grew up on a seed farm near New Norway, Alberta where I was responsible for maintaining several hundred laying hens and all other associated farm chores (too many to list here). I believe it's a true sense of pride when you can say you were raised on a farm. And now I want my family to have those special farm experiences I had when I was a child.

Following high school, I attended the University of Alberta to receive my Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering. I worked in the oil and gas industry for nearly 5 years across Alberta and decided with my husband, Thomas, that we would love to raise our family in a small town surrounded by a supportive

community. We moved to Fairview and established a family farm partnership then soon followed our two young girls (Rosa, 3 yrs and Heidi, 1 yr).



Seeing what it takes to be a farmer in the 21st century I've come to realize that your knowledge base is as wide as ever. The 'millennial' farmer must now utilize technology in ways that adapt farming practices to ensure the consumer can trust products found in the market. Yes, I am a millennial! But I'm the type of person that will work tirelessly in representing PCBFA. I see my passion for growing food for our family, environmental awareness and rural community, as principles that embodies the PCBFA.

Please feel free to say hi and share a story or two. I'm always interested in hearing about weather frustrations, harvest woes or flawless hay-ing operations.



VALLEYVIEW FEED TEST DROP OFF

Need to Ship Feed Samples?

PCBFA staff will be in Valleyview Thursday, October 3rd! If you would like to ship out feed samples with us, please have them to the MD of Greenview Field Services

Office by 2pm.

Stay tuned for more Drop Off locations.



East Peace Beef Cattle Evening

East Peace Beef Cattle Evening

Join us for the evening of October 16th in Valleyview as we talk herd health, nutrition rules of thumb, and pasture herbicides.

[Click Here for more info or to Register.](#)



On-Farm Alternative Energy Workshops

Join us October 23rd in High Prairie, or October 24th in Gordondale for our On-Farm Alternative Energy Workshops! Learn about on-farm solar and geothermal solutions!

[Click Here for more info or to Register.](#)

SOLD OUT!



WESTERN CANADA
Conference on Soil Health



Our Future is in the Soil

DECEMBER 10, 11 & 12, 2019!

EDMONTON, AB

www.ABSoilGrazing.com

Western Canada Conference on Soil Health & Grazing is SOLD OUT!

Never fear - there is still a chance to get a pass for this premier soil health conference! Click the link below to get your name on the Waitlist!

[Click Here for more info or to Register.](#)



Peace Country Beef & Forage Association
Agricultural Scholarship

Our Agricultural Scholarship is back open to Peace Regional Grade 12 & Post
Secondary Students pursuing an education in Agriculture!

[Click Here for more info or to Register.](https://peacecountrybeef.ca/scholarships)



Bioswales: Great for the water system, great for the community

**Wellington Resource Centre
10407 - 97 Street, Clairmont
October 22, 2019
6:00- 9:30 PM**

Come learn the benefits of the installation of bioswales within your community! Snacks will be provided. Call to register by contacting 780-532-9727 or via the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/community-bioswale-workshop-tickets-70925396771>



Bioswale Information Session

Join the County of Grande Prairie, and Cows & Fish for an information session on Bioswales October 22nd in Clairmont

[Click Here for more info or to Register.](#)

Water Well Management for Well Owners

**WORKING
WELL**

Clean water.
Well protected.

Working Well Workshop

Join the County of Grande Prairie for a Working Well Workshop on October 30th in Wembly.

[Click Here for more info or to Register.](#)



Copyright © 2019 Peace Country Beef & Forage Association, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Box 3000
Fairview, AB
T0H 1L0

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

The Back Forty

October, 2019

ISSUE No. 89

SARDA
AG RESEARCH



The Process

What is involved in completing a simple trial.

Page 3

County of Grande Prairie Corner

News from the County Agriculture Department

Page 11

Worry Free Crop Storage

Wet conditions at harvest and multi-staged crops are potential ingredients for storage problems

Page 16

You are in Bear Country

Fall is a particularly dangerous time as bears are preparing for winter

Page 19

Table of Contents

The Process	Page 3
This is a great time to tell you all that is involved in completing a simple trial.	
County of Grande Prairie Corner	Page 11
News from the County Agriculture Department	
Events	Page 12
Find the events happening in your area and that may be important for your farm operation	
Buyer Beware	Page 15
Purchasing hay and feed from off the farm comes with its own risks and challenges	
Worry Free Crop Storage	Page 16
Wet conditions at harvest and multistaged crops are potential ingredients for storage problems.	
You are in Bear Country	Page 19
Fall is a particularly dangerous time as bears need to consume as many calories as possible in preparation for hibernation during the winter.	
Caught in Grain	Page 20
People who work with grain – loading it, unloading it, and moving it from bin to bin – need to know about the hazards of flowing grain and how to prevent a grain entrapment situation.	

ON THE COVER



Hard at work combining pea variety trials and collecting subsamples.

The majority of the plot harvest is collected in the tank on the combine to be disposed of and a representative subsample is collected, tagged and processed. The results from this particular trial will be analysed and the results combined with the results of similar trials province-wide, then published in the Seed.ca Guide.

The Process

Have you ever wondered why it takes SARDA so long to do its plot work? Why do we need so many workers and what the heck are we doing out there? The plots are only small. Harvest is upon us and I thought it would be a great time to tell you what is involved in completing a simple trial.

The first action in any successful trial is site selection. Landowners are contacted to ensure that they are agreeable to having plots on their land. Potential fields are scouted and assessed for location, slope, soil type and cropping history. The potential site location should not be in the headlands and should allow for the land owner to easily operate equipment around the area. It is also very desirable to be away from trees and wetlands which are often home to local wildlife. SARDA trial areas are on the highest productive land available as this encourages the expression of the desired genetics or treatment. Once a location is chosen, the area is flagged and composite soil samples are taken on the area to determine fertility requirements and ensure the site is free from any soil borne diseases. Protocols of the trials planned for the area are reviewed to ensure there are no special requirements. Residue issues are eliminated and appropriate pre-seed burn-offs are applied.



Fertilizer components

During the time the site is being prepared, a lot of work is going on in the office and the shop. Seeding maps are created for the sites and each trials. Fertility rates are calculated and blends created. Seed is acquired, germination tested, treated if required, weighed and packaged. The weight of each seed package is calculated by using the plot size, desired plant density, the thousand kernel weight (TKW) and the germination. Fertilizer package weights are usually determined based on plot size and the protocols of the trial that indicate the fertilizer rates to be used. Packages are sorted and placed in boxes according to the order they will be seeded in the field. For trials that are not assessing fertility, we are able to use a common blend and apply it using



Residue Management



Seed Drill

SARDA News



Seed and Fertilizer Envelopes

the fertilizer boxes on the drill. For those trials that are assessing fertility treatments, the fertilizer components are weighed individually and placed into fertilizer envelopes that will be applied using the cones on the seed drill. Throughout the entire process of package preparation, everything is checked and rechecked to ensure that they are prepared in accordance to the trial protocols. All data are recorded and entered into the computer.



Adding Seed to Cone



Seeding



Checking the Drill

So now the seed, fertilizer and sites are prepared, it is time to load the freshly serviced and calibrated seeding equipment to the site. The drill is unloaded from the trailer, the seed and fertilizer loaded, settings adjusted and staff directed to their positions. It takes several staff to seed a trial. One staff member is in charge of checking the trial protocols, the seed and/or fertility packages, the settings on the seed drill and the location within the site where the trial is slated to be seeded. Weather and temperature information is recorded. One staff is required to drive the tractor and one or two staff are placed on the drill to add the different packages to the cones. One staff walks beside the drill and calls out when to trip the control to add the seed and/or fertilizer. To start seeding, the unit is lined up to seed the guard and the operation

SARDA News

commences. After the first plot is seeded, seed placement is assessed for depth, coverage and packing pressure. Settings are fine-tuned on the drill. The seeding operation continues. SARDA uses RTK technology to align and space the plots to an accuracy of less than one inch variance. After seeding each trial, stakes are added to ensure people know what is seeded and where the alleys are to be put. Before each trial, all settings are checked, recorded and the new trial inputs loaded.

Guards are seeded before and after each trial ensuring separation and to protect the end plots from edge effects of climate. They are the same crop as the trials and are usually unlabeled. These guards are used all season long to test or set equipment, and stage crops.

Once the seeding is completed, many trials call for plant counts to assess germination and plant stand density. With some trials, plants will need to be counted several times during the season. In this picture, summer staff are counting newly germinated plants in the plots.

The best, recommended agronomic practices are used to grow the crops. Herbicide, insecticide, fungicide and desiccant treatments are applied according to need and manufacturers' labels. The sprayer used is the one best suited to the job. For specific plot sized treatments, we are able to use either the spider sprayer or hand sprayers. The staff walk to the "beat" of a metronome. Other data collected may include, biomass, root length and density, plant height, lodging, maturity, nodules in legumes, etc.



Truck Sprayer



Spider Sprayer



Hand Sprayer



Plant Counts

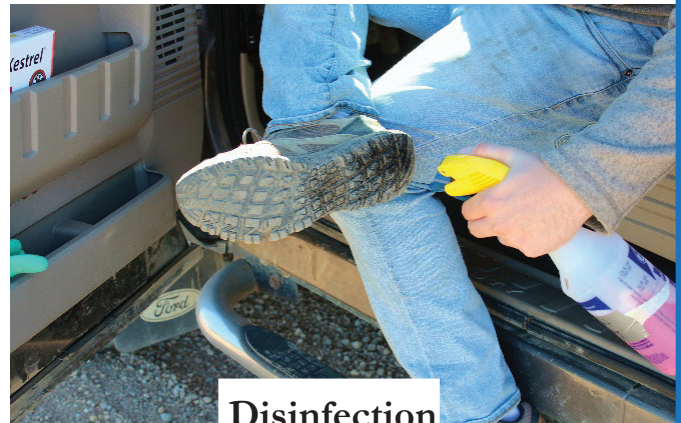
SARDA News

In addition to maintaining the plots, all sites need maintenance which includes, seeding between the plots, mowing several times per season, and labelling and signing the different plots and trials. Sites are open to the public throughout the season and people are encouraged to visit and view the trials.



During all operations on the sites, a strict biosecurity protocol is adhered to. Equipment is washed and disinfected after every operation. If the site is wet, operations are postponed until mud is not an issue if at all possible while protocols are followed. Staff use the same work boots all summer which are cleaned and disinfected regularly. Disposable booties are supplied to all visitors at the sites.

Like all farmers, we look forward to harvest. In late summer, maturities of the various crops are assessed and desiccation commences. When ready, the combine is loaded and taken to the



Disinfection



site. Once again the guards are used to set and calibrate the equipment. The combine is specialized. Not only is it extremely small as compared to the units used by the producers of the area, it also has the ability to weigh the yield from each plot, separate a representative sample, and take the moisture of the samples. After each plot, the combine cycles through an air cleaning cycle to ensure there is no mixing of samples. Information is saved to a tablet which is downloaded to the computers at the office. The subsamples are loaded into the mobile lab and returned to the shop located in Falher.

Once at the shop, they are loaded into the racks in the drying room, where the moisture content will be reduced and equalized. A montage of photos taken during the harvest of the Regional Variety Trial of field pea is on the next page.

SARDA News



Combining



Collecting samples



Samples



Mobile lab



Drying room

SARDA News

Once samples are ready to come out of the drying room, they are processed as per the trial protocols. This may include; cleaning the samples, dry weights, bushel weights, TKW's, protein levels, and grades. Some trials require small samples to be sent to the trial coordinator and we often keep samples until we ensure all protocols are completed. The data of these samples can also be retested if there is a problem with the data.

Once all the data is collected, it is time for the statisticians to review the trial data. They look to see that the data is "good" and identify any trends or conclusions. Many trials are completed

in other locations and over a number of years. Comparisons of data can prove or disprove the theory that the trial was set up to test. More data means the more likely the conclusions are factual.

SARDA Ag Research works hard to build and maintain its reputation for doing great research. This means all operations are checked and rechecked, records are maintained and results are sent to customers in a timely fashion. The staff and Board are proud of the work the association does.

by Shelleen Gerbke, P.Ag. SARDA



SARDA AGM & Extension Event

**February 20
2020**

www.sarda.ca

Next Level Farming



Lunch included

- ◆ Important weather factors for 2020 not named El Nino!
- ◆ Water Management
- ◆ 2019 Insect update
- ◆ The right place at the Right Time: 4R Nutrient Management and Variable rate technology
- ◆ and more.....

To Register: www.albertawheat.com/media/events

AWC - Region 5

ABC - Region 6

APG - Zone 4

November 20, 2019

8:30 to 3:30

Falher Regional Recreation Complex



Alberta Barley



ALBERTA CANOLA

Powering Your Profits 2019

Your Alberta Canola Director is hosting a one day workshop with agronomy, marketing and farm management information

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, November 26 - Manning

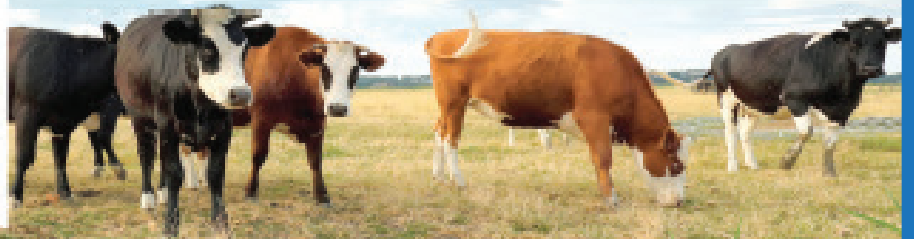
Wednesday, November 27 - High Prairie

Thursday, November 28 - Grande Prairie

visit albertacanola.com/PYP for all the details

DEC. 4, 2019

AgSafe
ALBERTA



FARM & RANCH SAFETY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

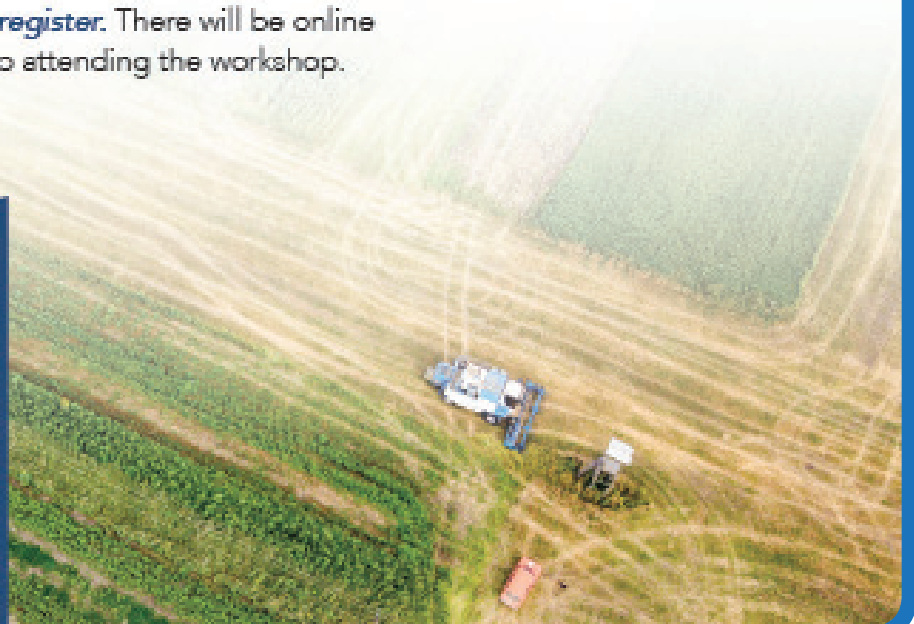
8:30 am | 701 Main St. Falher, AB | **Registration Fee of \$20**
(MD of Smoky River Building, AFSC Conference Room)

The workshop will cover all the components of a Farm Safety Plan including Hazard Assessment, Emergency Response, Training, Inspections and more.

E-mail info@agsafeab.ca to register. There will be online modules to complete prior to attending the workshop.

The Alberta FarmSafe Plan binder and workbook will be distributed to participants at the workshop

AGSAFEAB.CA



County of Grande Prairie Corner

Greetings from the County of Grande Prairie. As much of the Peace Region has experienced, we have just come through a very challenging summer. Harvest is underway, although very slowly, as many of the cereal crops are still not quite ready. The lack of heat has put a serious damper on crop progression. The amount of moisture coupled with the cool conditions saw herbicide application take far longer than usual to take effect. This was of course very challenging for our weed control efforts. Soft shoulders made mowing difficult, so everything seemed to take a lot longer this year. Thankfully, we had some great staff, and they have worked very hard to help us get as far as we did this year.

Clubroot sampling is ongoing again this year, with approximately 100 fields expected to be sampled. In 2018 we sampled well over 100 fields, with all samples negative for clubroot. Given that clubroot is now in the Peace, the County continues to be vigilant, and encourages our producers to take appropriate measures to protect themselves from this harmful disease. For more information, please contact Sonja Raven at sraven@countygp.ab.ca or 780-532-9727.

We are currently looking for our 2020 Farm Family and will be accepting nominations until December 13th. If you know of a deserving County of Grande Prairie Farming Family, please check our website, or call our office at 780-532-9727 to get an application.

Do you know what a bioswale is? The County of Grande Prairie recently installed one near Lakeview Seniors Residence in Clairmont. A bioswale is designed to effectively move storm water runoff into the storm water system, while filtering out pollutants and debris. They are complex systems for drainage and filtration, and can be very effective at ensuring stormwater goes where it is supposed to, and contaminants are removed. There will be 2 public information sessions held to talk about what

a bioswale is and how they work on October 23rd, 2019. The first one will be from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm at the Clairmont Lakeview Seniors Residence and the second one will be from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm at the Wellington Center in Clairmont. To register for the event, please contact Jill Henry at 780-532-9727 or jhenry@countygp.ab.ca. There is no cost to attend.

The County Agriculture department will also be hosting a Working Well Workshop on October 30, 2019 at the Phillip J Currie Dinosaur Museum Theatre from 6:30-9:30 pm. Please contact Jill Henry at jhenry@countygp.ab.ca or 780-532-9727 to register. There is no cost for this workshop. Wishing you all a successful harvest, and hoping for some warmer fall weather!

*by Sona Raven, AF
County of Grande Prairie*

**Bioswales: Great for the water system,
great for the community**

Emergency Control Centre
10808 100 Avenue, County of Grande Prairie
Community Services Building, Clairmont
October 23, 2019
8:30 AM-1:00 PM

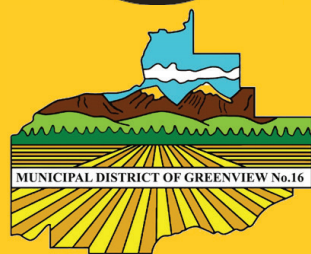
Come learn the benefits of the installation of bioswales within your community! Lunch will be provided. Call to register by contacting 780-532-9727 or via the link below:
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/bioswale-information-workshop-tickets-70931075757>










October 30th
6:30 pm—9:30 pm
Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum
Please Pre-Register
Contact Jill Henry
780-532-9727 or jhenry@countygp.ab.ca

WORKING WELL
Clean water.
Well protected.

ALIDP
Alberta Land Use
Initiative
Supporting
the Project
Partnership

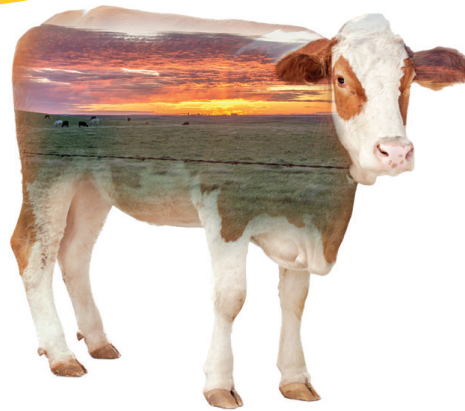
Alberta
Government



	Event Name	Location	Time	Date	Cost	Comments
	Clean Farms - dispose of unwanted pesticides	St.Isidore Coop, Falher	9:00am-4:00pm	October 17	Free	Visit www.cleanfarms.ca or call 780-837-2205
	Farm Tax Update & Legal Update	Webinar	6:30 am - 4:00 pm	October 17	\$339	Visit www.cafanet.ca
	Bioswales: Great for the water system, great for the community	Community Services Building, Clairmont	8:30 am-1:00pm	October 23	FREE	Event registration at https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/bioswale-information-workshop-tickets-70931075757
	Forest Fires, the Watershed & Source Water	Montrose Cultural Center, Grande Prairie	2:00 pm	October 30	\$20	Visit mightypeacewatershedalliance.org for more information and to register
	Working Well Workshop	Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum, Grande Prairie	6:30 -9:30	October 30	FREE	Contact Jill Henry at 780-532-9727 for more information and to register
	Next Level Farming, Producers Meeting	Regional Recreation Complex, Falher	9:00 - 5:00	November 20	FREE	Visit www.albertawheat.com for more information
	Powering your Profits	3 locations	9:00 am - 3:30 pm	November 26-28	FREE	Visit www.albertacanola.com for more information
	Argentina Ag & Siteseeing Tour	Argentina		Nov 21-Dec 3	\$4372	Contact www.peacecountrybeef.ca for the full itinerary and more details
	AgSafe Workshop	AFSC Conference Room, Falher	8:30 - 4:30 pm	December 4	\$20	Visit sarda.ca for more information
	Western Canada Conference on Soil Health & Grazing	Double Tree West Edmonton Hotel, Edmonton	TBA	Dec 10-12	TBA	Visit peacecountrybeef.ca for more information or call 780-835-6799



To view a complete list of events
www.sarda.ca



Bring home peace of mind with WLPIP

Cattle markets are unpredictable. WLPIP can help you manage price, basis and currency risk at every stage of production. Take the next step and protect your business from the unknowns with livestock price insurance

Contact AFSC about options available to you.

WLPIP.ca • 1.877.899.AFSC (2372) • @AFSC_AB



HOTLINE
for INCIDENT ASSISTANCE
1-833-9AGSAFE
 (1-833-924-7233)

If your farm or ranch falls under the jurisdiction of Alberta Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) legislation and you experience a serious incident, **AgSafe Alberta** is available 24/7 to provide you with support. Your call is connected directly to an AgSafe representative.

Support includes:

- On-site or over-the-phone assistance
- Working through stop work/use orders or demands issued by OHS
- Information on applicable reporting requirements
- Information on return-to-work programs for injured workers

When should you call the HOTLINE?

- You've had a serious incident occur on your farm or ranch, including: injury, illness, property damage, near misses
- OHS has arrived on your farm or ranch to perform an inspection or investigation
- You're unsure of the reporting requirements for OHS in Alberta

Call 911 in the event of a life-threatening emergency.

For livestock emergencies — contact **Alberta Farm Animal Care** at 1-800-506-2273.

For spills, releases, or environmental contamination — contact **Alberta Environment or Transportation and Dangerous Goods** at 1-800-222-6514.

Buyer Beware

The quality and quantity of forage in Alberta, really Western Canada and below the 49th parallel, is extremely varied. Some producers have all they need, some are looking to buy and others have feed to sell. Those producers looking to buy forage feed need to be aware of the unwanted or unexpected plants they may be introducing to their farm or ranch through their purchases. It is very important to know what you're buying.

Not all plants are alike. Some plants are beneficial to the farm while others could cause big headaches. A producer may be willing to accept some plants while others are ones that are simply not acceptable. Weeds fall into three categories; common, noxious and prohibited noxious. The latter two categories could create long term problems for control.

It is important for the person growing the forage to know what is growing in the field when the forage is cut and baled. It is also important for the buyer to ask what possible weeds could be in the forage before buying it and introducing it to the land.

If the forage is being bought from the neighbor across the fence, chances are, the weed species are close to the same. Wildlife are a very effective way of spreading seeds throughout the countryside.

If the feed is coming from a significant distance, the weed issues in one area could be very different than the weeds in another and by moving the forage in, weed problems are introduced.

Where the feed is fed during the winter also affects the decision. If the feed is going to be fed on perennial or native grasslands, the weed issue is even more important. The cost of introducing a problem weed to that area could mean the elimination of beneficial plants such as alfalfa, clovers, vetches that are killed or injured if herbicides are required to control the weed(s).



Utilizing the feed on land that will be tilled in the spring MAY reduce the concern and how the field is managed later will be very important.

A feed sample does not identify any of the plant species in the feed. There have been lots of articles about feed testing and that a visual appraisal does not tell the whole story; well this is a situation where a feed analysis won't tell the whole story either. The only way to know what might be in the forage feed is to visually look for weeds or develop a rapport with the seller and feel comfortable enough to take their word.

Don't expect rumen digestion, ensiling or composting to eliminate the weed issues. While these processes may reduce the number of viable seeds, they don't guarantee the elimination of seeds that will germinate and create future problems. As a final note, be sure to get an accurate weight on the bales, especially if they are being priced by the bale and not weighed and sold by the tonne.

*Andrea Hanson
Beef Extension Specialist
Airdrie. Sept 17, 2019.*

Worry Free Crop Storage

“Warm or wet conditions at harvest and multi-staged crops are potential ingredients for storage problems,” says Harry Brook, crop specialist at the Alberta Ag-Info Centre. “You have spent a lot of money and time getting the harvest in the bin. Take the time to monitor the stored grain’s condition and cool those bins down. Don’t get an unpleasant surprise when selling the grain with discounts or by being rejected for heated grain or insect problems.”

Brook says producers should clean up spilled grain from around their bins to prevent those piles from becoming breeding sites for beetles.

“Most empty grain bins will have some form of insect or mites feeding on the cereal crop residue. These bins need to be swept or vacuumed out with the debris being either burned or buried.”

“Malathion can be sprayed into a bin to control insects in the nooks and crannies feeding on crop debris, but only in those bins that will be used to store cereals. It is forbidden to use malathion in bins used to store oilseeds. Empty bins can also be treated with diatomaceous earth prior to storing all crops. Diatomaceous earth can also be added to the crop as the bin is filling as a preventative measure.”

Storing the crop is risky, especially with hot or damp grain, says Brook. “Safe storage is a combination of both the temperature of the grain and its moisture level when stored. Figure 1 shows the relationship between percent moisture, grain temperature and

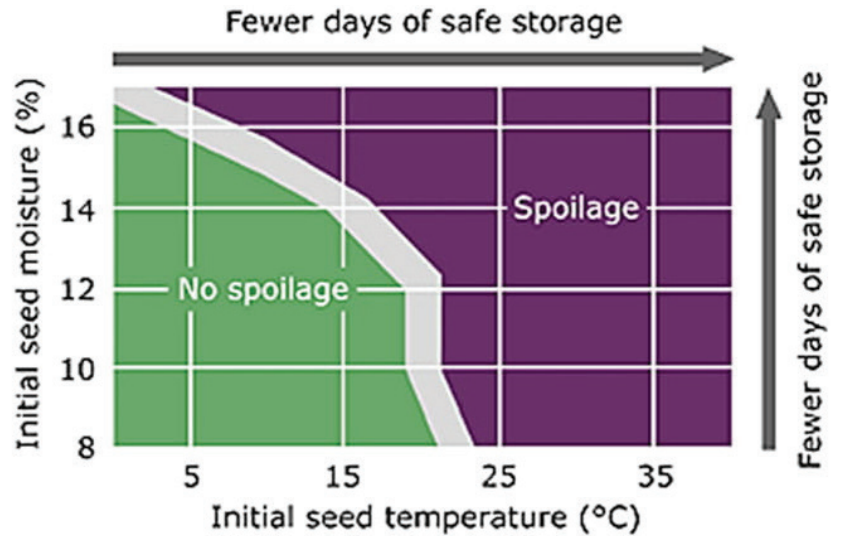


Figure 1 Oats

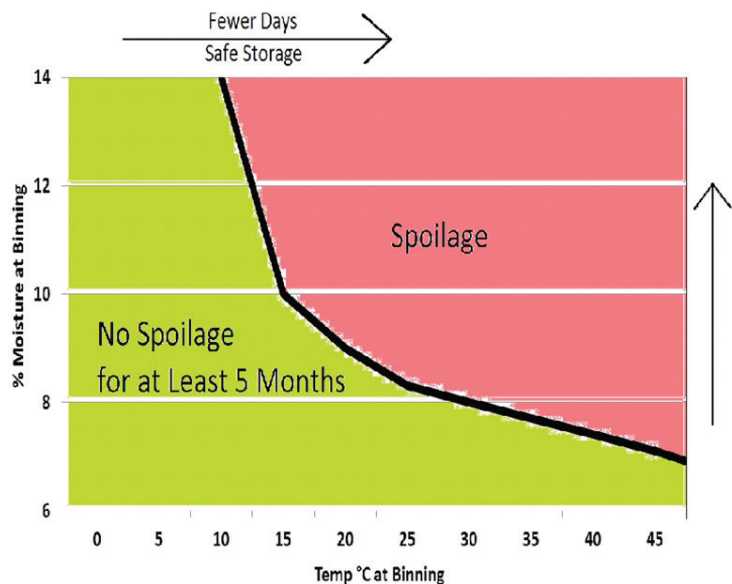


Figure 2 Canola

days of safe storage for oats. All cereals show similar relationships between temperature, moisture and safe storage. Figure 2 is for canola.

“Be warned that deterioration can start to occur before the time expires,” he says. “It still has to be either dried or aerated. Grain aeration is best used in the fall to cool the crop temperatures down, allowing crop to be safely stored over the winter.”

It should be stressed that the average moisture content throughout the grain bin does not determine how long cereal grains can be stored. Spoilage may occur at isolated locations in the bin where grain moisture is high. Grain stored in a bin at a relatively low average moisture content of 13%, but with the moisture content ranging between 10% and 16%, is not safe for long-term storage because of the excessive moisture content (16%) of part of the grain.

More dried grain goes out of condition because grain temperatures are not controlled than for any other reason. Improper control of the temperature inside the bin causes moisture to move or migrate from one part of the grain mass to another, where the moisture can accumulate and cause grain spoilage problems. Drying via aeration requires warmer temperatures

and low humidity, which are often lacking in the fall.

“Fall temperatures will continue to drop, lengthening the time it takes to bring moisture levels down,” he explains. “Even dry, hot grain placed in a bin creates moisture migration. It takes time for grain to stop respiring and moisture to equalize in the bin.”

“The hot grain or oilseed creates circulation in the bin. Cold air outside will cool the grain against the bin sides and moisture will move down the outsides of the bin then come up the middle. If there is any place for the moisture to accumulate, it will be just below the top, middle of the bin. Green seed or immature seed in the bin may also contain more moisture and add to the problem. This is why it is imperative when harvesting hot grain to cool it

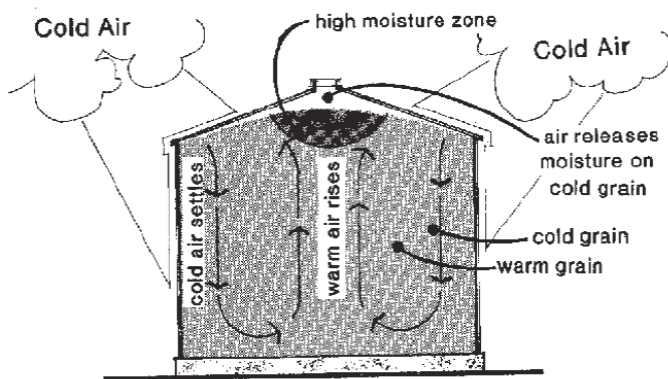


Figure 3 Moisture Migration in Cold

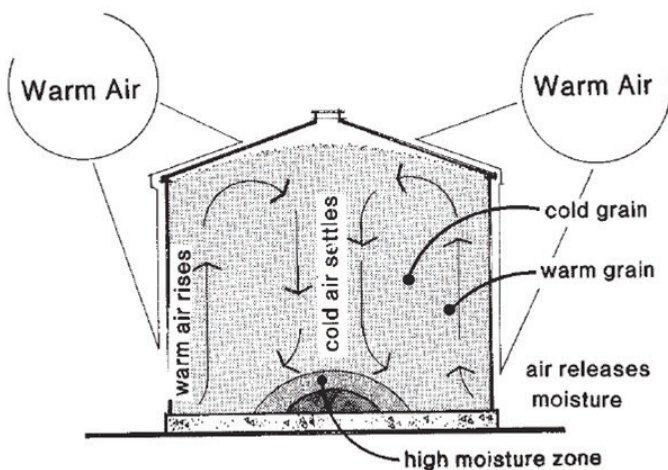
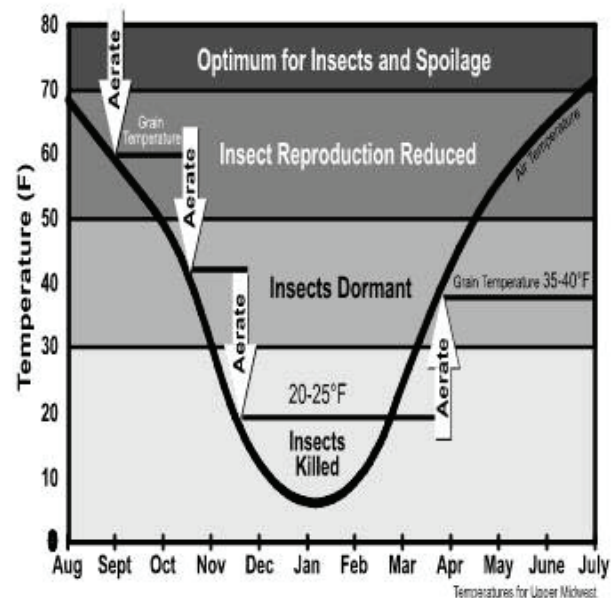


Figure 4 Moisture Migration in Warm

Cool Grain to Prevent Storage Problems



* Prevent crusting due to moisture migration by cooling grain to within 15°F of average outdoor temperatures.
 * Cooling grain by 10°F doubles its allowable storage time
 Dr. Kenneth J. Helming, PI
 NDSU Extension Service

quickly. Aeration under hot harvest temperatures is important to get the grain or oilseed temperature down to a safe storage level.”

The quality of grain cannot be improved during storage. Grain improperly harvested and dried will remain of low quality no matter how well it is stored. In cereal grains loss in quality and quantity during

storage is caused by fungi, insects, rodents and mites. Respiration may, in certain cases, contribute to a loss of dry matter during grain storage. However, the losses due to respiration are minor compared to those caused by living organisms.

Fungi (molds) are the major cause of spoilage in grain. Losses caused by fungi in cereal grains are related to (1) a decrease in germination, (2) discoloration of the seed, (3) heating and mustiness, (4) biochemical changes, (5) possible production of toxins, and (6) loss in dry matter. All these changes may occur without the mold becoming visible to the naked eye.

Insect infestations in storage can come from grain residues in combines, handling equipment, and from old grain left in storage. Correctly drying, aerating and managing stored grain will minimize the risk of insect infestation and damage. Insect activity goes with moisture accumulation and grain heating.

Most dry grain will form a peak at an angle of 16° - 20° when centre filling without a distributor. Although it is tempting to store those extra bushels, keep in mind they interfere with uniform aeration and add to the moisture migration problem.

Peaking also makes it difficult and dangerous to enter the bin for observation. Because of dust and high temperatures during the summer, never enter

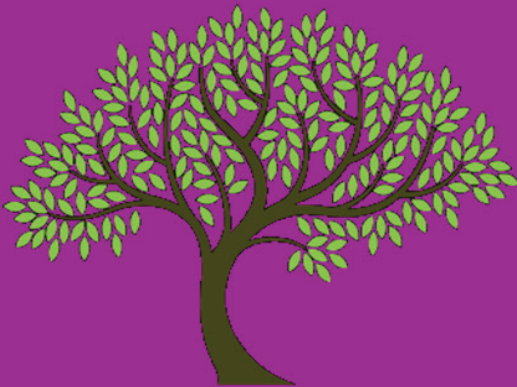
the small space between roof and grain. Shifting grain may block the exit.

If the grain has peaked when filling the bins at harvest, remove the grain in the peak immediately for long-term storage. Lowering the centre cone of the bin improves air flow through the centre, and probing and sampling are made easier and safer.

Installing temperature sensors in bins are a well accepted practice and can accurately monitor grain in storage, but as with all mechanical options, they have been known to fail. They are no replacement for periodical checking of the grain bins.

Harvest is late this year so the pressure will be on to get the crop off the field and into the bins. Paying close attention to the quality, and condition of the crop will give you clues as to the issues you may encounter this year with your stored crops. Keep records and representative samples of the grain in each bin. Not only will this help with assessing the bins that are at the most risk of losing crop quality in storage but it will also give you a sample to use for marketing purposes.

excerpts from [Agdex 736-13](#), [Ohio State University Extension](#), [Canadian Grain Commission](#), [North Dakota State University Agriculture and University Extension](#), [Penn State University Extension](#).



Build a Legacy!

Give a gift that benefits your Agricultural Community. SARDA Ag Research is a producer directed, not for profit organization whose vision is to own an Advanced Agricultural Resource Center of Excellence. Build your legacy. Call Vance at 780-837-2900. Tax deductible benefits available.

You are in Bear Country!

Bears can become human-habituated or food conditioned and may become a threat to human safety. These bears may have to be relocated or euthanized.

Bear signs include tracks, scat, rolled logs and rocks, torn stumps, diggings, and rubbed, chewed, or claw-marked trees. Bears are omnivores, eating both plant and animal food. They are opportunistic feeders that will eat almost anything – from toothpaste to ground squirrels. They will scavenge and seek out all potential food sources. They have an acute sense of smell and they rely heavily on that sense to find food and other animals. Bears are often interested in petroleum-based products, such as fuel, oil, and jerry cans as well as garbage, carcass pits, berry patches and granaries.

These animals can consume up to 25,000 calories/day and are continuously driven to locate new food sources. Fall is a particularly dangerous time as bears need to consume as many calories as possible in preparation for hibernation during the winter. Be cautious when working or walking around cereal crops, such as wheat, oats and barley, especially at dusk and dawn. Bears are most active at that time. Clean all spilled and waste grain as soon as possible. If spillage is unavoidable, locate storage facilities away from areas of human use and bear habitat. Consider seasonal electric fencing or install alarm systems in areas with valuable products or those at high risk of bearhuman encounters.

Each bear has a unique personality, and their reactions to humans are not predictable. All bears have a “personal space” and feel scared or threatened when this space is invaded. If there are cubs in the area, move away from the area immediately. Make every effort to leave the bear an escape route. Back away slowly, talk softly and don't look a bear directly

Due to their ability to travel long distances and their need for large spaces, bears can be seen outside of their typical range.



In an emergency situation, call Report A Poacher at 1-800-642-3800. Report all grizzly bear sightings to Fish and Wildlife by calling 310-0000.

in the eye. In an encounter with a non-charging bear or a bear with cubs, you should appear passive. Do not raise your voice. If your vehicle is nearby, get in as quickly as possible. Never run. You can not outrun a bear, and running may excite the bear and trigger an attack. Climbing a tree is an option but offers no guarantee of safety. Black bears are excellent climbers, and grizzlies have also been known to climb trees.

Excerpts from [Alberta Bear Smart](#) publications

Caught in Grain

Grain entrapment is too common on today's farms. People who work with grain – loading it, unloading it, and moving it from bin to bin – need to know about the hazards of flowing grain and how to prevent a grain entrapment situation. People can become caught or trapped in grain in three different ways: the collapse of bridged grain, the collapse of a vertical wall of grain, and entrapment in flowing grain. Moving or flowing grain is involved in all three.

1. The Collapse of Bridged Grain

Grain can become bridged when it is moldy, high in moisture content, or in poor condition. The kernels stick together and form a crust which may be self-supporting. This gives a false indication that it is safe to stand on the surface of the grain. The worker cannot tell if there is grain under the crust or not.

A hollow cavity will form under crusted grain when some of the grain has been removed from the bin. The surface over this cavity is not strong enough to support the weight of a person. As the person walks onto the grain, the bridge of crusted grain will collapse. The victim instantly falls into the cavity along with the grain and is usually buried under several feet of grain. It will be very difficult to determine exactly where the victim is. (See Figure 1.)

Safety Precautions:

- Is the grain bridged? Stop the auger and do not go in the bin. Instead, look for a funnel shape at the surface of the grain mass after some grain has been removed. If the surface of the grain appears to be undisturbed and has not funneled down toward the auger, then it has bridged and there is a cavity under the surface. The cavity will be equal in volume to the grain removed from the bin.
- Do not enter the bin to break the bridge loose or attempt to stand on the grain. From outside of the bin, use a pole or other object to break the bridge, causing it to collapse. Tie the pole or

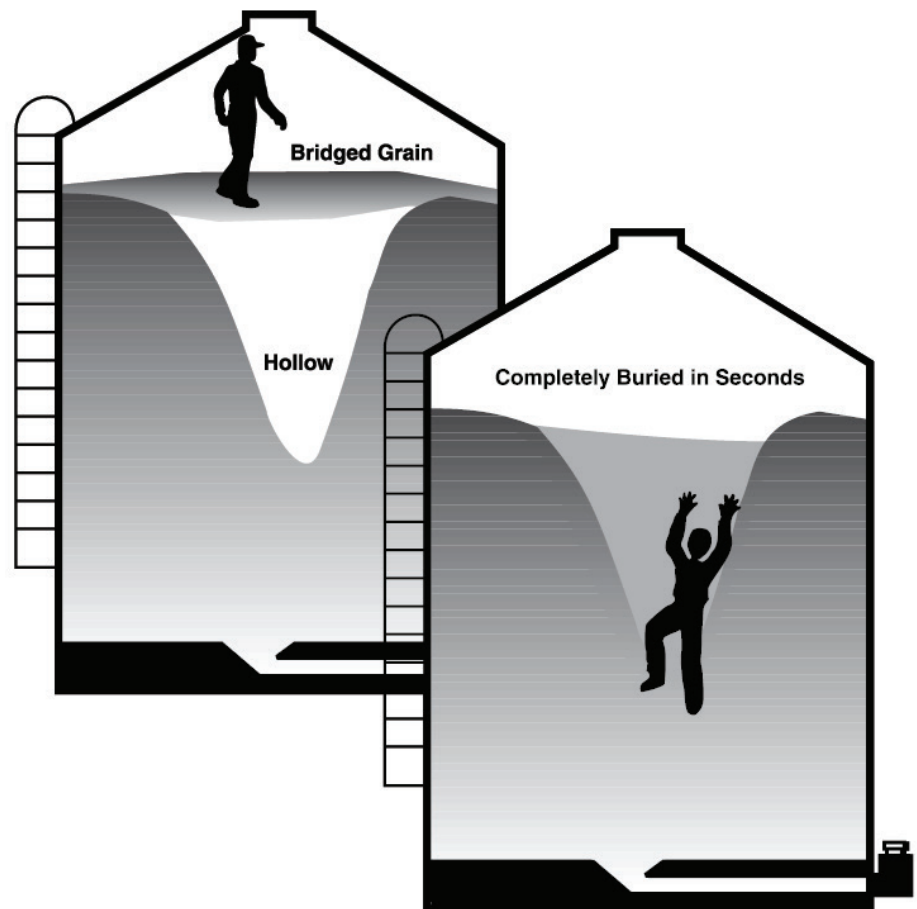


Figure 1. A hollow may develop under crusted grain when grain is removed from the bin, forming a bridge of grain. When the bridge collapses under your weight, you will be buried in seconds.

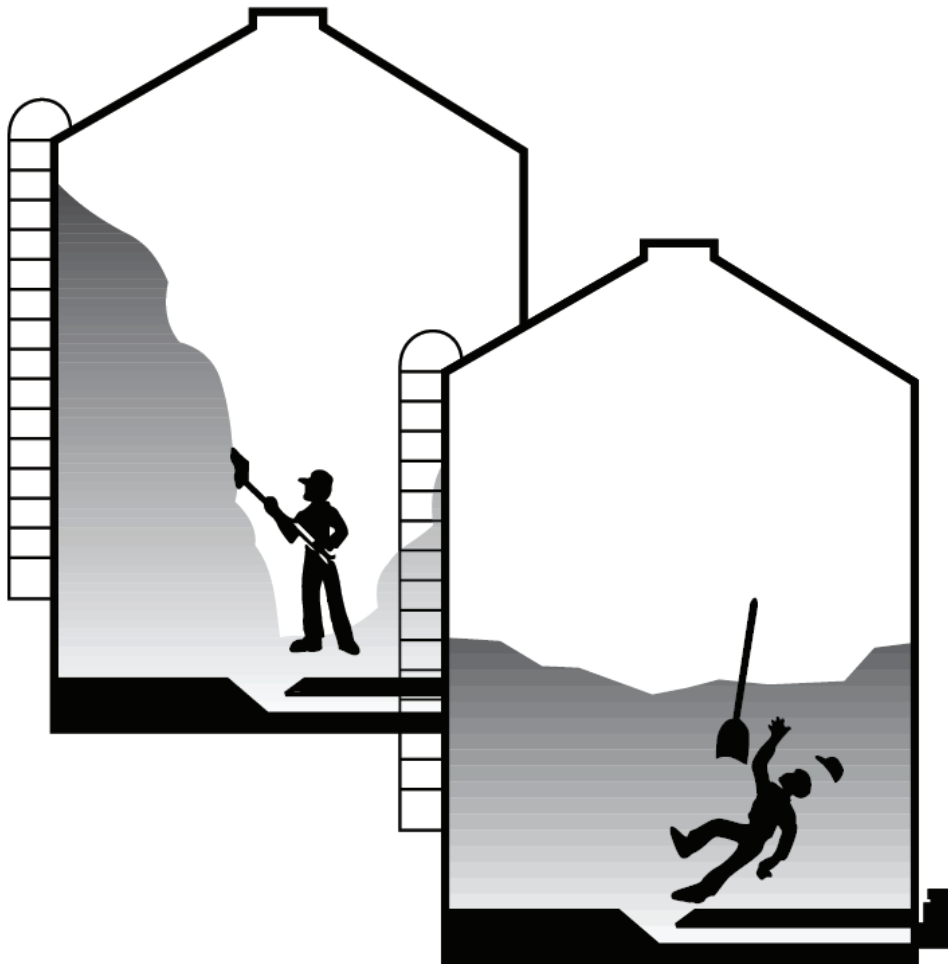
other object to a rope which is tied to the bin so you can retrieve it if you drop it.

- If the surface is disturbed and shows evidence of the grain flowing down to the auger, then a chunk of crusted grain has probably moved down to the auger and blocked off the flow of grain. This situation is dangerous if you enter the bin, because the grain at the top of the funnel will break loose and avalanche down.
- Prevent grain bridging by storing grain in good condition and avoiding spoilage, which leads to crusted grain.

2. Collapse of a Vertical Mass of Grain

Grain can “set up” in a large mass against the bin wall or in various formations when it has been stored while in poor condition. The mass of grain can collapse and “avalanche” down on workers who attempt to break it loose with shovels or other objects. There will be no warning when it breaks loose and cascades down. The impact will knock workers off their feet, burying them in various positions. Individuals working in the bin can be buried almost instantly.

If secondary avalanches are possible, it will be very risky for rescue personnel to dig out the worker. The rest of the grain will have to be stabilized or knocked down so it is safe for rescue personnel to work. (See Figure 2.)



Safety Precautions:

- Do not enter a bin and try to break down grain which has “set up” in a large mass.
- Attempt to break up the grain mass either from the top of the bin with a long pole on a rope, or from outside of the bin, through the door, with a long pole. Entering the bin to do this work can cost you your life!
- Expect, and be prepared for, the grain mass to break free at any time and to cascade down.
- Prevent grain from “setting up” in the bin by storing grain in good condition and avoiding spoilage which leads to this problem.

Figure 2. Grain may stick together when stored in poor condition. After some of the grain has been removed, some of it may remain stuck together in a large pile or lump. Breaking it loose can be very risky. You may be buried in seconds when it cascades down.

3. Flowing Grain

Flowing grain will not support the weight of a person. It will pull a person down and into the grain mass as it flows. The “suction” action is strong enough that a person cannot “swim,” climb, or walk against it and get out. As grain flows out of a bin the victim will be pulled down and under very quickly with little or no time to react. (See Figure 3.)

A person cannot be pulled from flowing grain without risk of injury to the spinal column if the grain is at waist level or higher. The grain will have a very strong grip on the body. Research has shown that up to 400 pounds of pull is required to extract a body from waist-deep grain.* That is more than enough force to permanently damage the spinal column. (See Figure 4.)

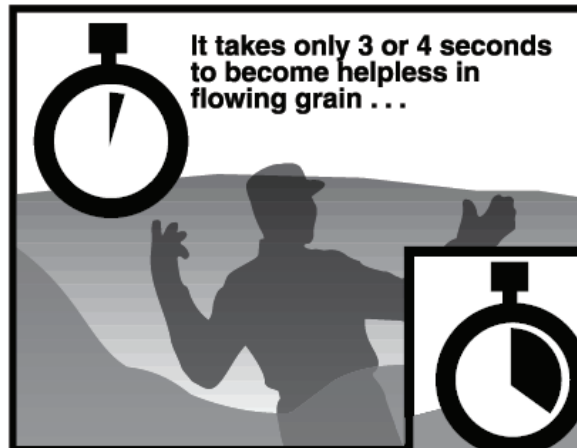


Figure 3. Flowing grain can exert a tremendous pull on a body caught in the flow. You will be helpless within three to four seconds. In 20 seconds or less, you can be completely buried.

Dangerous flowing grain situations are: grain flowing downward in a bin; grain flowing downward out of a rail car, truck or wagon box; and grain flowing downward in an auger-pit. Workers should not enter any of these containers when the grain is flowing.

Safety Precautions:

- Children should not be permitted to work or play in an area where there is flowing grain. It is an attractive nuisance and is dangerous to people of all ages, especially children.
- All workers involved in situations where there is flowing grain should be warned to stay out of the grain.
- Warning decals should be placed at all bin entrances, on all rail cars, truck and trailer boxes used for grain hauling, and on all gravity discharge wagons.
- Never enter a grain bin without stopping the auger first and then using “lock-out/tag-out” procedures to secure it. Use a key type of padlock to securely lock the switch for the auger in the off position. Attach a tag to the locked switch so that other people involved can positively identify it.
- Never enter a grain bin alone; have at least two people at the bin to assist in case problems arise. Use a safety harness or safety line when entering the bin.
- Install a permanent life-line hanging from the center of the bin for a person to grab on to. Tie slip-reducing knots about one foot apart along the life-line. A life-line in a grain bin does not make it safe to enter the bin and should not lead workers to taking undue risks because of a false sense of security. Life-lines are commercially available through safety equipment retailers.
- Control the access to grain storage facilities to prevent grain entrapments.

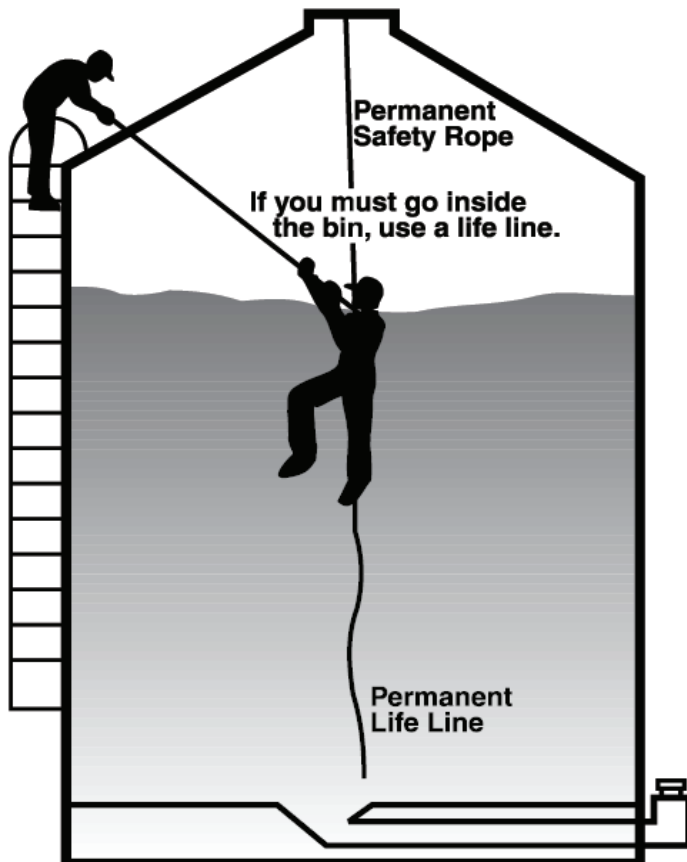


Figure 4. Use a life line if you must enter a grain bin! Always stop the machinery, first! Remember, a life line improperly used can cause injury to the spinal column. Install a permanent life line in each bin.

Caught in the Grain

North Dakota State University

Revised by Kenneth Hellevang, Agricultural Engineer

<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/crops/caught-in-the-grain>

Rescue Procedures

- Shut off all grain-moving machinery. Stop the flow of grain!
- Contact the emergency rescue service or local fire department.
- If possible, ventilate the bin using the aeration or drying fan.
- Protect the rescue workers; be sure the power to the auger is locked out, and use safety lines and respiratory protection.
- Work in such a way that additional grain pressure is not exerted on the victim.
- Use retaining walls around the trapped person. Form retaining walls with plywood, sheet metal, or other structural materials to keep grain from flowing to the victim.
- Remove grain from around the victim using shovels, buckets or a vacuum.
- Cut at least 2 holes in bin sides to drain grain away from the victim if the person is completely submerged. Cut at least two V-shaped or U-shaped holes on opposite sides, or more holes equally spaced around the bin, using a cutting torch, metal-cutting power saw, or air chisel. The bin will collapse if it is not evenly unloaded.
- Apply care to the victim as soon as possible, providing breathing assistance, maintenance of body temperature, and emotional support. Plan ahead for victim removal procedures.
- Don't give up when conditions appear to be grim. People have survived submersion in grain for up to two hours; sometimes the victim can still breathe while buried in the grain.

Never give up!

October 17, 2019

St. Isidore Coop
Falher
780-837-2205


cleanfarms
PEACE REGION



OBSOLETE COLLECTION CAMPAIGN 2019

Subscribe to receive
the latest news and
notifications



This publication made possible in part by:

