MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16

REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, March 25, 2020 | 9:30 AM | Council Chambers, Administration Building

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#1	CALL TO ORDER		
#2	ADOPTION OF AGENDA		
#3	MINUTES	3.1 Organizational Agricultural Service Board Meeting minutes held Wednesday, February 26, 2020 to be adopted.	3
		3.2 Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting minutes held Wednesday, February 26, 2020 to be adopted.	6
		3.3 Business Arising from the Minutes	
#4	DELEGATION	4.1 Mark Heckbert, Fish and Wildlife Policy Manager & Mike Russell, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Environment and Parks	
		4.2 Dr. Kim Stanford, Beef Research Scientist, Livestock System Section, Agriculture & Forestry.	
		4.3 Greenview Environmental Services	
#5	BUSINESS		
		5.3 Managers' Report	10
#6	MEMBERS BUSINESS & REPORTS	• Chairman Warren Wohlgemuth • Reeve Dale Smith • Councillor Bill Smith • Member Richard Brochu • Vice-Chair Stephen Lewis • Member Larry Smith	

#7 CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter to Minister Dreeshen – ASB Grant Funding
- Birch Hills County Response Letter for Fusarium Graminearum
- Response Letter to Clubroot Funding
- SARDA: Back Forty Newsletter

#8 ADJOURNMENT

Minutes of a

ORGANIZATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16

Greenview Administration Building,

Valleyview, Alberta, on Wednesday, February 26, 2020

 # 1
CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Manager, Agricultural Services, Dave Berry called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

PRESENT

A.S.B. Member	Warren Wohlgemuth
A.S.B. Member – Reeve	Dale Smith
A.S.B. Member	Richard Brochu
A.S.B. Member	Larry Smith
A.S.B. Member	Stephen Lewis

ATTENDING

Assistant Manager, Agriculture Services	Dave Berry
Agriculture Supervisor Trainee, Agriculture Services	Kristin King
Chief Administrative Officer	Denise Thompson
Recording Secretary	Amanda Stroebel

ABSENT

A.S.B. Member – Councillor	Bill Smith
Manager, Agriculture Services	Quentin Bochar

#2
AGENDA

MOTION: 20.02.01. Moved by: REEVE DALE SMITH

That the Agricultural Service Board adopt the February 26, 2020 Organizational Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda as presented.

CARRIED

#3
NOMINATION OF CHAIR

Assistant Manager, Agricultural Services, Dave Berry, called for nominations for the election of Agricultural Service Board Chairman.

Steven Lewis nominated Warren Wohlgemuth.

Assistant Manager, Agricultural Services, Dave Berry, called a second time for nominations for the election of Agricultural Service Board Chairman.
None were heard.

Assistant Manager, Agricultural Services, Dave Berry, called for a third time nominations for the election of Agricultural Service Board Chairman.

None were heard.

UNADOPTED

CEASE NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRMAN

MOTION: 20.02.02. Moved by: REEVE DALE SMITH

That the Agricultural Service Board cease nominations for the Agricultural Service Board Chairman.

CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

MOTION: 20.02.03. Moved by: REEVE DALE SMITH

That the Agricultural Service Board appoint Warren Wohlgemuth as the Chairman of the Municipal District of Greenview No. 16 Agricultural Service Board until the next annual Organizational Meeting.

CARRIED

Assistant Manager, Agricultural Services, Dave Berry declared MEMBER WARREN WOHLGEMUTH as the elected Chairman of the Agricultural Service Board until the next Organizational Meeting and Warren Wohlgemuth assumed the chair. Asst. Manager, Agricultural Services, Dave Berry passed the meeting to Chairman Warren Wohlgemuth.

#4.0 NOMINATION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

NOMINATION FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN

Chairman Warren Wohlgemuth, called for nominations for the election of Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chairman.

Stephan Lewis nominated Richard Brochu. Richard Brochu declined the nomination.

Richard Brochu nominated Stephan Lewis for Vice-Chair.

Chairman Warren Wohlgemuth, called a second time for nominations for the election of Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chairman.
None were heard.

Chairman Warren Wohlgemuth, called for a third time nominations for the election of Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chairman.
None were heard.

CEASE NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN

MOTION: 20.02.04. Moved by: REEVE DALE SMITH

That the Agricultural Service Board cease nominations for the Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chairman.

CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

Chairman Warren Wohlgemuth declared Stephan Lewis as the Vice-Chairman of the Agricultural Service Board until the next Organizational Meeting.

UNADOPTED

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

MOTION: 20.02.05. Moved by: REEVE DALE SMITH
That the Agricultural Service Board appoint Steven Lewis as the Vice-Chairman of the Agricultural Service Board until the next annual Organizational Meeting.

CARRIED

#5 MEETING DATES

2020 MEETING DATES

MOTION: 20.02.06. Moved by: VICE-CHAIR STEPHEN LEWIS
That the Agricultural Service Board hold the following Regular Scheduled Meetings for the Agricultural Service Board.

March 25, 2020
April 29, 2020
May 27, 2020
June 24, 2020
July 29, 2020
August 26, 2020
September 30, 2020
October 28, 2020
November 25, 2020
December 16, 2020

CARRIED

#6 ADJOURNMENT

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: 20.02.07. Moved by: MEMBER RICHARD BROCHU
That this Organizational Agricultural Service Board meeting adjourn at 9:40 a.m.

CARRIED

MANAGER, AGRICULTURE SERVICES

ASB CHAIRMAN

UNADOPTED

Minutes of a
REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16
Greenview Administration Building,
Valleyview, Alberta, on Wednesday, February 26, 2020

 # 1 CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Warren Wohlgemuth called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

PRESENT

A.S.B. Member	Warren Wohlgemuth
A.S.B. Member – Reeve	Dale Smith
A.S.B. Member	Richard Brochu
A.S.B. Member	Larry Smith
A.S.B. Member	Stephen Lewis

ATTENDING

Assistant Manager, Agriculture Services	Dave Berry
Agriculture Supervisor Trainee, Agriculture Services	Kristin King
Chief Administrative Officer	Denise Thompson
Assistant, Chief Administrative Officer	Stacey Wabick
Recording Secretary	Amanda Stroebel

ABSENT

A.S.B. Member – Councillor	Bill Smith
Manager, Agriculture Services	Quentin Bochar

#2 AGENDA

MOTION: 20.02.08. Moved by: REEVE DALE SMITH
That the Agricultural Service Board adopt the February 26, 2020 Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda as presented.

CARRIED

#3 MINUTES

3.1 REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

#3.1 REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: 20.02.09. Moved by: REEVE DALE SMITH
That the Agricultural Service Board adopt the minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Wednesday, October 30, 2019 as presented.

CARRIED

#3.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

3.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

-Regional Supervisor for Fish and Wildlife attending March 25th meeting.
-Requested update on the Clubroot.

#4.0 DELEGATION

4.0 DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations present.

UNADOPTED

#5 BUSINESS

5.1 AGRICULTURE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION GRANT STIPULATIONS

GRANT MONIES/ WORKSHOP RATION PEACE COUNTRY BEEF AND FORAGE ASSOCICATION

MOTION: 20.02.10. Moved by: MEMBER RICHARD BROCHU
That the Agriculture Service Board recommend to Council that for every $10,000 of grant monies received, Peace Country Beef and Forage Association will host initiatives or workshops within the Municipal District of Greenview No. 16 boundaries, equalling 4 initiatives and workshops for the 2020 year, to represent the requested amount of $45,000.

CARRIED

GRANT MONIES/ WORKSHOP RATION SMOKEY APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEMONSTATION ASSOCIATION

MOTION: 20.02.11. Moved by: REEVE DALE SMITH
That the Agriculture Service Board recommend to Council that for every $10,000 of grant monies received, Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association will host initiatives or workshops within the region for the 2020 year, to represent the requested amount of $60,000.

CARRIED

5.2 SUPPORT OF FUSARIUM GRAMINIEARUM REMAINING ON THE PEST AND NUISANCE REGULATION

LETTER OF SUPPORT

MOTION: 20.02.12. Moved by: VICE-CHAIR STEPHEN LEWIS
That the Agricultural Service Board request Administration to draft a letter to Minister Dreeshen to support *fusarium graminearum* remaining on the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation.

CARRIED

CAO Denise Thompson vacated the meeting at 10:11 am.

MANAGERS REPORT

5.3 MANAGERS REPORT

MOTION: 20.02.13. Moved by: MEMBER RICHARD BROCHU
That the Agricultural Service Board accept the Managers' report as information.

CARRIED

Reeve Dale Smith vacated the meeting 10:47 am.

Chairman Warren Wohlgemuth recessed the meeting at 10:49 am.
Chairman Warren Wohlgemuth reconvened the meeting at 11:00 am with Reeve Dale Smith in attendance.

UNADOPTED

#6 ASB MEMBERS' BUSINESS & REPORTS

6.1 ASB MEMBERS' BUSINESS & REPORTS

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

- Soil Conference - Rycroft
- Soil Conference - Edmonton
- Farm Tech Conference - Edmonton

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

- Clubroot Workshop – Grande Prairie
- Peace Country Beef and Forage

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

- Nothing to report.

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

- Seed Cleaning Plant meeting.
- Annual VSI Meeting.

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

- Soil Conference - Edmonton
- ASB Provincial Conference - Banff
- Clubroot Workshop – Grande Prairie

MOTION: 20.02.14. Moved by: MEMBER LARRY SMITH
That the Agricultural Service Board receive the ASB Members business and reports, as presented.

CARRIED

#7 CORRESPONDENCE

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

ASB CORRESPONDENCE

MOTION: 20.02.15. Moved by: MEMBER RICHARD BROCHU
That the Agricultural Service Board accept the correspondence as presented.

CARRIED

#8 ADJOURNMENT

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

UNADOPTED

MOTION: 20.02.16. Moved by: MEMBER LARRY SMITH
That this Agricultural Service Board meeting adjourn at 11:30 a.m.
CARRIED

MANAGER, AGRICULTURE SERVICES

ASB CHAIRMAN

UNADOPTED

M.D. of Greenview Agricultural Services
Department Activity Report

For the Period: February 2020 – March 2020

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

Weeds	8
Pests	12
Trees	0
Workshops	13
Wetlands	0
Rentals	17
Equipment Purchasing	7
Extension	26
Employment	2
VSI	5
Beautification	0
Miscellaneous	33
TOTAL ENQUIRIES	**123**

MEETINGS / CONFERENCES / TRAINING

Manager Agriculture Services

Asst. Manager Agriculture Services

- Feb 21 – Wolf Valleyview
- Feb 21 – Met with SLT
- Feb 24 – inspect wash unit at Star Fab prior to delivery
- Feb 26 – ASB
- Feb 27 – Skip level meeting
- Feb 27 – Delivered Seed Plant bank statements to Sylvain and Co. for review
- Feb 28 – received delivery of Wash Unit from star Fab
- March 2 – met with Gm and Fac. Maint.Mgr - Re building renos
- March 2 – met with Environmental Services Staff re - deadstock disposal options
- March 2 – travel to Grande Cache
- March 3 – Seasonal Interviews Grande Cache
- March 5-6 – Beef Conference Red Deer
- March 9 – Valleyview seasonal interviews
- March 10 – Seed Plant Shareholders meeting (not enough for quorum)
- March 11 – Trade show set up GP
- March 12 – Trade Show GP
- March 13 – Trade Show cancel – tear down

- March 16 – Seasonal Interview Valleyview
- March 16 – Mgrs Covid meeting
- March 17 – Valleyview wolf
- March 17 – Seed Plant Shareholder meeting #2
- March 18 – jockey equipment from Grovedale to Valleyview

Agriculture Supervisor Trainee Agriculture Services

- March 12, 2020 Peace Country Classic Agri-Show (Cancelled after first day
- March 20, 2020 ASB Grant Application Webinar
- March 20, 2020 Meeting on Deadstock – Donna Cross
- March 20, 2020 Meeting of the Minds – SARDA (webinar)

GC Beautification Coordinator Agriculture Services

- Feb 26, 2020 – Pesticide Applicator Exam

Wetlands Coordinator Agriculture Services

STAFFING

Reviewing resumes and conducting interviews. Hiring 3 new beautification staff in Grande Cache, 2 Veg Tech for Valleyview

RESOURCES, EQUIPMENT, AND FACILITIES

The Agriculture Department started the move to the new building in mid-December, we are approximately 50% moved. There are still two sheds, the chem shed and the last of the supplies to be moved. Vehicles and some of the rental equipment has been moved over to the yard site.

BUDGET

The draft Capital and Operational Budgets have been presented to Council for their consideration.

EXTENSION EVENTS

Currently planning a number of events for 2020 and will keep the ASB updated as dates and locations are finalized.

- Canning and Food Preparation, Valleyview – September 6, 2020
- Canning and Food Preparation, Grande Cache – September 9, 2020

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

Please see following list of events (year):

Date	Workshop	Location
January 7-9, 2020	Banff Pork Seminar	Banff, AB
January 7-8, 2020	Agronomy Update 2020	Red Deer, AB
January 14, 2020	2020 Peace Agronomy Update	Fairview, AB
January 16, 2020	Veterinary Insights Across Canada	Webinar
January 18, 2020	Ladies Livestock Lessons	Cremona, AB
January 23-24, 2020	You Can Get There From Here – Farm Financial Management Seminar	DeBolt, AB
January 31-February 2, 2020	2020 Organic Alberta Conference	Camrose, AB
February 5, 2020	Peace Region Clubroot Response Workshop	Grande Prairie, AB
February 12, 2020	Peace Country Beef Cattle Day	Grimshaw, AB
February 13, 2020	Assessing Winter Kill	Webinar
February 19, 2020	Making the Grade	Grande Prairie, AB
February 20, 2020	SARDA AGM & Extension Event	Girouxville. AB
February 20, 2020	Agriculture Strategies for Producers	Sexsmith, AB
February 21, 2020	Coyote Skinning and Pelt Preparation Workshop **Cancelled**	Agriculture Services, Valleyview
February 22, 2020	PCBFA Annual General Meeting	Fairview, AB
February 22-23, 2020	Young Agrarians Peace Country Winter Mixer	Grande Prairie, AB
February 24, 2020	Soil Health Mini Conference	Fairview, AB
February 25, 2020	Cattle & Grain Market Outlook	Saddle Hill County, AB
February 25, 2020	AgSafe: Farm & Ranch Safety	Valleyview, AB

	Workshop **Cancelled**	
February 25, 2020	Canadian Forage Seed Conference	Edmonton, AB
February 26, 2020	Environmental Farm Plan & CAP Grant Workshop	Saddle Hills County, AB
February 27, 2020	CAP Efficient Grain Dryer Program Workshop	Spirit River, AB
February 27, 2020	Market Outlook	Webinar
February 27-28, 2020	Farm to Market to Table	Nisku, AB
March 4-6, 2020	Alberta Beef Industry Conference	Red Deer, AB
March 5, 2020	Planning your 2020 Cocktail Cover Crop	St. Isidore, AB
March 5, 2020	Alberta Food Regulation for Farmers' Market Managers and Vendors	Webinar
March 5, 2020	Finding Acres to Run Cattle: Creative Thinking	Webinar
March 6, 2020	AHEM – Serious Animal Disease Emergencies	Red Deer, AB
March 10-13, 2020	Western Canadian Dairy Conference	Red Deer, AB
March 12, 2020	Prevent External Parasites	Webinar
March 12, 2020	Utilizing Annuals: Cocktail Crops	Webinar
March 14, 2020	United Beekeepers of Alberta: AGM and Conference	Spruce Grove, AB
March 17, 2020	2020 Livestock Care Conference	Online
March 19, 2020	Dugout & Farm Water Management	Cancelled
March 19, 2020	Utilizing Annuals: Corn	Webinar
March 20, 2020 **POSTPONED**	~~Organic No-Till: Myth or Reality?~~	Hines Creek, AB
March 24-25, 2020	~~AISC 2020 Conference~~	**CANCELLED**
March 25, 2020	Sprouting Technology	Webinar

March 24-26, 2020	~~Deadstock Disposal and Predation Management Workshop~~	**CANCELLED**
March 26, 2020	FCC Young Farmer Summit	Grande Prairie, AB
March 27, 2020 **POSTPONED**	~~PCBFA: An Afternoon with Akim~~	High Prairie, AB
March 28, 2020 **POSTPONED**	~~2020 Alberta Native Plant Council Workshop and AGM~~	Peace River, AB
April 2, 2020	Finance Options for Small Scale Food Businesses	Webinar
April 16, 2020	Alternative Market Channels to Retail and Food Service	Webinar

PROGRAMS

- **VETERINARY SERVICES INCORPORATED**

Five (5) new card has been issued.

PEST AND NUISANCE CONTROL

To date, 58 wolves have been presented for payment. Total 2019 incentive expenditures: $17,400.00

YEAR	WOLVES	AMOUNT
2018	90	$27,000.00
2019	56	$16,800.00
2020	58	$17,400.00
Total	204	$61,200.00

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 0 times and visit some farm/ranch operations, and has provided advice and information to the ratepayers. Have also had discussions with another 5 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 0 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 0 new requests for assistance with other problem wildlife species problems (Skunks). There has been 0 pests removed and 0 traps rented. Have also had discussions with another 0 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 42 new requests (6 rate payers, 16 infrastructure) for assistance with beaver caused flooding issues (infrastructure) including multiple days to open up culverts and remove dams. There has been 8 locations that have had the use of explosives to open up dams. There has been 153 beavers removed to date.

WILD BOAR BOUNTY

There have been 0 sets of Wild Boar ears turned in. Total 2020 incentive expenditures $0.00.

Education Opportunities

- **RENTAL EQUIPMENT**

Rentals is moderately busy at this time of year dependent on the weather, there have been 35 pieces of Equipment rented for 2020. The Valleyview Bale Hauler is out of service for repairs, other repairs are being made at the FSO shop as we can.

- Loading chute and grain vac going out. Brought Grovedale panel trailer to Valleyview for an event.

➢ VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The program has sprayed approximately 0 Km (0%) of Greenview roads for 2020. The areas to be sprayed this year are Wards 1, 2 ,6 and 7.

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 0 Ha requiring approximately 0 hours of spray time (includes: landfill, transfer station sites, private land spraying, fence line program, Grande Cache Coops/Enterprises. Etc.) for 2020.

BRUSH SPRAYING

The program has sprayed approximately 0 Ha of brush for 2020. Have received new maps from Operations and will continue spraying brush.

HAMLET SPRAYING

The program has sprayed approximately 0 Ha of Parks/Alleyways/Open Spaces for 2020.

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

0 agreements have been signed to date for 2020.

SPRAY EXEMPTION AGREEMENTS

0 agreements have been received so far Deadline of April 30, 2020.

BUTTERCUP/BURDOCK INCENTIVE PROGRAM

0 agreements have been signed to date for 2020.

WEED CONTROL

White Zone

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

Greenzone

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

Hamlets

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

Weed/Pest inspection program is being reviewed and enhancements to the implementation of the program are being considered.

AG Mobile – Inspection documentation program is still being worked on by Munisight.

- 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 and we are waiting on results from the 2019 season.

  Pathotype results:

  2017 - 3H
  2018 - 3H
  2019 – Still awaiting results

# Inspected	Suspect	Confirmed	Letter to Adjacent LandOwners	Phone Calls

SEED CLEANING PLANT

- Held Shareholders meeting March 17. Elected directors and made motion to give direction for closure.

GC BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM

- Flowers/Trees
  - working on plant material RFQs for 2020 season

- Mowing

- Vegetation Control
  - N/A.

- Miscellaneous
  - In process of removing Christmas decorations/lights form Rocky the Ram Park. (Due to colder conditions mixed with a 'melt & thaw' we are limited to what can be removed without damage being done)-Also have help from Operations when needed-
  - Continuous studying for exam-Feb. 26th
  - Working on an Inventory of all Equipment, tools, PPE, chemicals, etc.

- Christmas Decorations for Hamlet Area

- Snow Removal
  - Regular snow removal throughout parks and salting if needed.
  - Successfully plugged drain and started the flooding process for the outdoor rink (in collaboration with the Operations Dept.)
  - Warm weather has slowed down this process but will continue when it cools down again.

<u>WETLANDS/ALUS/WATERSHEDS</u>

A16

CLEAR HILLS COUNTY

File No. 63-02-02

February 25, 2020

SCANNED
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW No. 16
RECEIVED
MAR - 3 2020
VALLEYVIEW

Honorable Minister Devin Dreeshen
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
229 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Subject: Agricultural Service Board Grant

Dear Honorable Minister, Devin Dreeshen,

The Agricultural Service Board Grant has long been a stable source of funding for the agricultural programs of municipalities across the province. The Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee has indicated that under the new Provincial budget, both streams of this grant, Environmental and Legislative, could be in question.

These grants help to fund a significant portion of our agricultural programs, including administration, compliance, and enforcement of the Agricultural Service Board Act, Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pests Act, Soil Conservation Act, and the Animal Health Act.

In late 2018 and early 2019, a review of the Agricultural Service Board program was conducted by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. All Agricultural fieldmen were surveyed, and face to face meetings with Agricultural Service Board members were held across the province. This was a comprehensive review, that included key stakeholders.

There were several recommendations that came out of the review, one of which stated: "It is recommended that Agriculture and Forestry extend secure, sustainable funding for the ASB grant program from a three to a five year term."

We did hear at the ASB Conference that the Ministry is open to the idea of a five year term on the grant, and that is encouraging news, however, we have yet to hear what funds have been allocated to the program. Usually by this time of year, the County has applied for the funding and have been approved and are awaiting transfer of funds. To this point this year, municipalities haven't received any information on the application process, if both streams are available, and if so the potential funding levels. This will make planning our agricultural programs a challenge, as the funding partially dictates how many seasonal staff we can afford to hire. Advertising for these seasonal staff should be happening now, in order to attract qualified candidates for the upcoming season.

Clear Hills County Council would like to reinforce with the Minister, how critical the amount and the timing of this funding is to our municipality.

Thank you in advance for your diligent consideration in this matter.

Yours truly,

Miron Croy, Reeve
Clear Hills County

cc: Todd Loewen, MLA Dunvegan-Central Peace – Notley
Peace Region Agricultural Service Boards

Box 240, Worsley, Alberta T0H 3W0 Telephone 780/685-3925 Fax 780/ 685-3960 Email info@clearhillscounty.ab.ca

"Clearly an Area of Opportunity"

March 5, 2020

Honorable Minister Devin Dreeshen
Minister, Agriculture and Forestry
229 Legislature Building
10800-97 Ave
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Honorable Minister Dreeshen;

RE: RESPONSE LETTER TO MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SPIRIT RIVER

The Birch Hills County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) met on February 27, 2020 and reviewed your January 29, 2020 letter of response sent to Mr. Nick VanRootselaar, Agricultural Service Board Chair for the M.D. of Spirit River which was shared with all Peace Region ASBs. The letter of response has raised several areas of concern by our Board regarding the status of Fusarium Graminearum (Fg) in Alberta.

Our first concern of many, is with the statement that "At the Minister's third roundtable on Fusarium, stakeholders in attendance reached a consensus to support removal of Fg from the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation (PNCR)". It is our understanding that all stakeholder meetings which involved the Provincial ASB Committee or the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman (AAAF), consensus was to keep Fg on the PNCR. If a "third Roundtable' discussion involved consensus on Policy change, then this raises immediate and serious concerns as to the clarity of whether the policy changes discussed where provincial or municipal in nature. Section 2 of the Province's *Agricultural Service Board Act* list the duties of an ASB, and includes the promotion and development of agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality, then it is not up to the delegates around that table to dictate services levels and program expectations within municipal policies. Following the roundtables, a few delegations attended discussions with the ASB provincially and regionally. No other roundtable occurred after these to discuss results of those meetings.

The fact that Fg has become prevalent in some parts of the province, does not indicate that Agricultural regulation has become ineffective and unnecessary. The Agricultural Pests Act (APA) and PNCR give municipalities great latitude in how they should enforce the Act, and Section 6 dictates that a local authority shall take active measures to prevent the establishment of, or prevent the establishment of or control or destroy, pests in the municipality. Section 22 of the APA states that no person shall for propagation purposes acquire, sell, distribute or use root, tuber or other vegetable material containing a pest. Section 4 of the PNCR empowers an inspector to allow importing, purchasing, selling and planting of an infested item – this exemption could be used by a person wishing to seed infested seed i.e. to propagate better varieties even if they were infested with Fg.

Section 5 (2) of the APA dictates that an owner or occupant of land or property…shall take active measures to (c) *"destroy any crop, vegetation of other matter that contributes or may contribute to the maintenance or spread of a pest on or in the land, property or livestock."* Therefore under the APA, it is illegal to grow any crop or livestock that could be fed upon by grasshoppers (which means all crops, pasture, hay, gardens, lawns…) or which might maintain a pest, so no canola (clubroot, virulent blackleg), grasses and cereals of any kind (Fg et al). As part of enabling legislation, Section 22 or Section 5(2) of the APA is not being applied to all incidents, therefore it is not necessary to remove Fg from the PNCR as it is only municipal policy that determines what sections of the APA are applicable.

Local municipalities, ASBs and Agricultural Fieldman continue to take "active measures' as they are appropriate for the agricultural industry, which has significantly reduced the impact of pests such as Fg greatly enhancing the economic advantage of Alberta's producers, who are able to grow cereal crops such as wheat, malt barley, and durum with a significantly lower incidence of Fg. Thus, removing it from the APA and PNCR would not be in the best interest of Alberta's producers or the agricultural industry. A thorough review and modernization of the APA and PNCR is long overdue and has been tabled for a decade.

It is worthy to note that surveillance and extension activities which you allude to rely strongly on the excellent partnership your department has with ASB's and the AAAF. The Provincial ASB Committee and the AAAF have and will always make themselves available to you and your staff for discussions regarding the Agricultural Acts empowering Municipalities, ASB's and Agricultural Fieldman; the *ASB Act*, *Weed Control Act, APA and Soil Conservation Act* and their regulations. We remain your devoted stakeholders and partners, ready to advise in matters of mutual concern to promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer (A.S.B Act Section, 2, (d).)

Feel free to contact our Agricultural Fieldman, Amanda Ouellet, with any questions. Amanda can be contacted at as amandao@birchhillscounty.com 780-402-9259.

Sincerely,

Gerald Manzulenko
Reeve
Birch Hills County

Mel Duvall
Chair
Birch Hills County Agricultural Service Board

Cc: Birch Hills County Council
Provincial ASB Committee
Peace Region ASB
AAAF Executive
Mr. Todd Loewen, MLA for Central Peace-Notley

A 16

AR-69429

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
OF GREENVIEW NO. 16
RECEIVED
DEC 12 2019
VALLEYVIEW

ALBERTA
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Office of the Minister
MLA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake

DEC 06 2019

Mr. Allen Perkins
Chair, Agricultural Services
MD of Greenview #16
Valleyview Administration Building
4806-36 Avenue, PO Box 1079
Valleyview, AB T0H 3N0

Dear Mr. Perkins:

Thank you for your November 4, 2019, letter regarding the University of Alberta and Alberta Canola Producers Commission Clubroot Pathotyping grant application. I appreciate receiving feedback from Agricultural Service Boards on agricultural issues of importance to their areas.

Agriculture and Forestry (AF) has a mandate to monitor regulated pests like *Plasmodiophora brassicae*, the causal agent of clubroot. AF conducts clubroot surveillance activities in collaboration with stakeholders, such as rural municipalities, Applied Research Associations, the canola industry, and the University of Alberta. The recent profiling of virulent pathotypes of clubroot for which current sources of resistance are not effective, and the development of the Canadian Clubroot Differential Set are both positive examples of results delivered through effective collaboration. A significant portion of this work took place in AF facilities located at the Crop Diversification Centre North in Edmonton.

AF recently provided $1.1 million for two projects at the University of Alberta via the Strategic Research and Development Grant Program to support further research on management options (i.e. resistance testing, rotations, liming, weed implications, impact of inoculum pressure) and pathotyping via the development of a polymerase chain reaction-based assay.

In addition, through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Plant Health Surveillance Program, AF has approved a project supporting clubroot surveillance activities in six counties and municipal districts in the northeast region, and is currently considering a second project supporting clubroot surveillance activities by thirteen counties and municipal districts in the Peace Region.
Through grants, a dedicated AF monitoring/surveillance program, and a Level Two Diagnostics Lab, I am confident my Ministry provides considerable support for the crop community in the area of crop assurance. However, if you have further questions, I encourage you to speak with Tanya Warren, Crop Assurance Extension Specialist, at 780-643-9486 or Tanya.warren@gov.ab.ca for CAP funding related questions, and Dr. David Feindel, Director of Plant and Bee Health Surveillance, at 780-422-4911 (both numbers toll-free by first dialing 310-0000) or david.feindel@gov.ab.ca for any surveillance-related questions.

.../2

229 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada Telephone 780-427-2137 Fax 780-422-6035

Printed on recycled paper

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Honourable Devin Dreeshen
Minister, Agriculture and Forestry

cc: Dr. David Feindel, Director, Plant and Bee Health Surveillance
Tanya Warren, Crop Assurance Extension Specialist

The Back Forty

February, 2020
ISSUE No. 91

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Contact SARDA 780-837-2900 or www.sarda.ca

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ON THE COVER

SARDA AG RESEARCH

Canola, pulse, novelty crop site 2019
NW 9-77-20 W5th

2019 Research Summary

SARDA Ag Research does a large number of research trials each year. Varieties trials often have no completion date because they are repeated each year. The number of treatments / varieties may vary each year. Reports on these trials are prepared annually.

Other trials have completion dates which often reflects their funding cycle. This completion date indicates if the trial will be ongoing in the coming year and when a person can expect to see a final report.

The following table lists the reasearch trials that were completed in 2019, and which trials can be expected in 2020. At this time of the year, SARDA has a number of researchers looking to have trials entered into our program. Arrangements are being made as to which trials will be added to the list in 2020.

Reseach Project	Last Year of Trial	# Treatments	# Trials	Description
Deep Banding	2020	27	1	Effects of one time deep banding versus annual shallow banding (current practice) of immobile nutrients (P, K, Cu) over a 3 year period on peas, wheat and canola
SARVT (Smoky Applied Regional Variety Trials)	N/A	74	6	Local variety trials using varieties commonly grown in the peace region of Alberta. 2019 trials consisted of CWRS Wheat (21 trts), CWHWS Wheat (3 trts), Oats (5 trts), Yellow Peas (8 trts). All trials replicated in two locations.
RVT (Regional Variety Trial)	N/A	226	16	Variety trials administered by Alberta Agriculture that are done throughout the province. 2019 trial consisted of Wheat, barley, oats, green peas, yellow peas, fababeans and flax
RST (Regional Silage Trials)	N/A	37	4	Silage variety trials consisting of barley, oats, wheat + triticale and cereal pea mixtures.
Faba bean Fungicide	2020	16	1	To optimize faba bean production and yield through the use of different fungicides to control Chocolate spot (Botrytis sp) and Ascochyta blight in four Alberta soil zones
Faba bean Herbicide	2020	24	1	2 year trial-To determine the effect of select herbicide residues from preceding cereal crops on the following faba bean crop. 7 in wheat crop spray application treatments and 16 pre-seeding fababean spray applications.

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Reseach Project	Last Year of Trial	# Treatments	# Trials	Description
CPT (Canola Performance Trials)	N/A	37	2	The goal of the CPT is to evaluate currently available commercial canola seed varieties available to farmers
Industrial Hemp Variety	N/A	15	1	Comparison of industrial hemp seed and fiber varieties
Industrial Hemp Fertility	2021	20	1	Determine response to fertilizer types, rates, and timing for optimum fiber, grain and cannabinoid yields
Industrial Hemp Date & Rate	2021	18	1	Determine optimum seeding rate and planting date for maximum grain production and weed management.
Quinoa Herbicide	2019	7	1	Determine quinoa response levels to herbicides
Quinoa Fertility	2019	8	1	Determine optimal nitrogen rates for a quinoa crop
Novelty Crop Sequencing	2022	64	2	Determine the effects of a preceding crop using a set of zone specific staple crops and selected novel crops. This information will help producers make decisions on where to fit the novel crops they introduce into their crop rotation
Wheat Protein	N/A	9	2	To demonstrate the best N fertilizers type and rate combinations for maximizing protein content and yield in spring wheat
Ultra Early Wheat	N/A	12	1	Determine how seeding spring wheat earlier than the current recommended dates effects maturity and yield
Oat beta-glucan content	N/A	12	1	To investigate the impact of genotype and growing condition on the yield and B-Glucan content of milling oat varieties in Northern Alberta
Timothy (herbicide)	2021	7	1	Done in conjunction with Calvin Yoder (AB Ag), to determine effects of herbicide for minor use registration
Alsike Clover (Herbicide)	2021	7	1	Done in conjunction with Calvin Yoder (AB Ag), to determine effects of herbicide for minor use registration

SARDA News

Reseach Project	Last Year of Trial	# Treatments	# Trials	Description
Red Clover (Herbicide)	2021	7	1	Done in conjunction with Calvin Yoder (AB Ag), to determine effects of herbicide for minor use registration
Smooth Bromegrass (Herbicide)	2021	7	1	Done in conjunction with Calvin Yoder (AB Ag), to determine effects of herbicide for minor use registration
Creeping Red Fescue (Herbicide)	2021	7	1	Done in conjunction with Calvin Yoder (AB Ag), to determine effects of herbicide for minor use registration
Timothy (PGR)	2021	7	1	Done in conjunction with Calvin Yoder (AB Ag), to determine the level of benefit provided from PGR use
Alsike Clover (PGR)	2021	7	1	Done in conjunction with Calvin Yoder (AB Ag), to determine the level of benefit provided from PGR use
Creeping Red Fescue (PGR)	2021	10	1	Done in conjunction with Calvin Yoder (AB Ag), to determine the level of benefit provided from PGR use
Smooth Bromegrass (PGR)	2021	7	1	Done in conjunction with Calvin Yoder (AB Ag), to determine the level of benefit provided from PGR use

Forage Seed Plot 2019

The Missing Link

Alberta's twelve research associations cover the farming communities throughout the province. They are directed by local producers and are diverse in their projects and goals. While the associations are all different, they all work with primary producers to improve agricultural practices for short term and long term sustainability locally and throughout the province.

Research associations have their own specialties or areas of expertise. Many of the associations are specialists in forage, grazing and livestock management, many are specialists in crop production for seed and feed and some also have expertise in soils. Others are located in mixed farming areas and have programs that deal with several areas of expertise. All use workshops, tours, seminars, demonstrations, conferences, websites, social media and one-on-one consultations to extend information to the industry. Local producers and industry gain access to unbiased, tested information relevant to their area and conditions. These associations collaborate with each other and many other industry players to carry out programs dedicated to solving issues of their local producers.

In many cases, research associations provide that link between the pure science research of universities and governments to actual on-farm use by primary production. An example of this would be the mapping of the Canola genome done at the University of Saskatchewan in 2019, which will be used by industry to create new varieties with unique characteristics. These new varieties will be tested by research associations to determine their productivity under local conditions. If they successfully compete with the varieties favored in the area, these varieties may be selected for use by primary producers. Producers have the opportunity to see new varieties that may have the unique genetics to withstand blackleg, for example, produced under local conditions prior to making the investment into new seed. The quality of the research carried out by the associations is as high as anywhere else and many of the associations are producing peer reviewed scientific papers.

Research associations also provide that third party, unbiased, testing of new products. In the cropping world, each year new products and new techniques become available to producers. Some require huge outlays of money, but do they really give that return on investment and profit within the different regions of Alberta? New practices, diverse rotations, cocktail crops and soil health are currently a focus for many associations.

SARDA News

Many farming products and practices are being used in other areas in the world and could have benefits in Alberta, or are being promoted by agricultural suppliers but need to be tested under regional conditions. Research associations are able to do the testing locally and make recommendations on if the practice or product will potentially work on your farm. Producers are able to access this information and adopt those practices that have the most potential to be successful on their farms without huge financial or environmental risks.

Research associations benefit producers across the province by providing information and doing local research that emulates local farming practices. These groups are producer directed and answer many of the questions that are important to producers. Producers can access the locally produced research. Research institutions and industry look to research associations to understand the issues that are plaguing primary producers and to have their research tested under local production methods. May be it is fitting to say research associations are the "Missing Link".

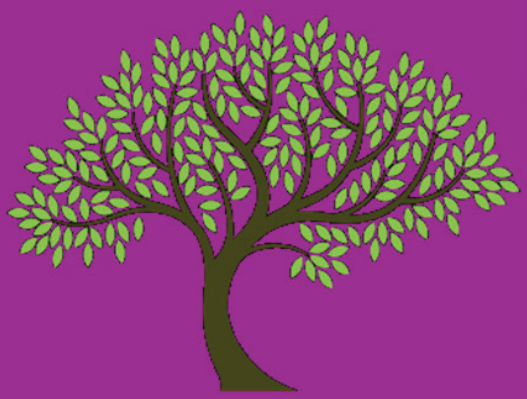
By Shelleen Gerbig, P.Ag., SARDA

SARDA
AG RESEARCH

Now Hiring!

Research Agrologist

Summer Research Technicians



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.

Wanted: Passionate, Dedicated, Entrepreneurial, Agricultural Producers

Wanted: Passionate, Dedicated, Entrepreneurial, Agricultural Producers to be the voice for unbiased Agricultural research.

SARDA Ag Research is a Not-for-Profit organization which celebrated 30 years of service to Agricultural Producers in 2016. With the new year behind us, our focus is our up-coming Annual General Meeting.

Of the thirteen (13) Directors on the Board, nine (9) are agricultural producers and five (5) are representatives appointed by their respective municipal councils. Each year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), three directors are elected to the Board for a three year term. Supported by and operating in five Municipalities in the Peace Region, the Board is held accountable to the membership through its Policies.

In 2020, we will require three (3) agricultural producer Directors. Our Board is strongest when our Directors originate from within each of the Municipalities we serve (MD Smoky River, Big Lakes County, Northern Sunrise County, MD of Greenview and County of Grande Prairie). Two (2) of the current directors have agreed to let their names stand for another term. One has opted to remove himself from the Board but is currently looking for a replacement. There is no need to avoid attending this SARDA event as normally, the Board has found its own replacements. However, nominations are accepted from the floor if the membership desires it.

SARDA Ag Research has four committees, who, depending on their purpose, may meet up to 4 times per year and the full board meets approximately 4-5 times per year.

As members of the Board, Directors have four responsibilities:

1. to establish the guiding principles and policies for the organization;
2. to delegate responsibility and authority to those who are responsible for enacting the principles and policies;
3. to monitor compliance with those guiding principles and policies;
4. to ensure that staff, and board alike are held accountable for their performance.

Operating under the Policy Board Model requires a high level of attention to policies and guiding principles (vision and mission) as well as trust and confidence in the General Manager. On behalf of the ownership, the board has total authority over the organization and total accountability for the organization. The board relies on others to carry out the work, that is, to exercise most of the authority and to fulfill most of the accountability. This dependence on others requires the board to give careful attention to the principles of sound delegation.

The board speaks authoritatively through official motions at a properly constituted meeting. Individual board member statements have no authority. The board speaks with one voice or not

SARDA News

at all. The "one voice" principle makes it possible to know what the board has said, and what it has not said. "One voice" does not require unanimous votes but it does require all board members, even those who lost the vote, to respect the decision that was made. Board decisions can be changed by the board, but never by board members.

SARDA Ag Research is impactful to the economy of the municipalities we operate in: to any producer who accesses our educational/financial information via direct staff contact or the internet, as well as the jobs and expenditures of SARDA itself.

If you are interested in becoming involved with a dynamic, visionary group of individuals whose primary focus is betterment of the local agricultural sector, please contact us through our website www.sarda.ca, by calling our manager, Vance Yaremko @ 780-837-2900, approaching any of the current Directors (listed on the website) or by contacting me personally at 780-837-1884.

Michel Benoit, Board Chairman
Audrey Gall, NSC municipal representative

2019 Trade Show

What to do when Burning Residual Crop

The fall of 2019 has been dubbed the "fall from hell". A large amount of crop remains unharvested which will mean additional spring workloads for producers in a very short seeding season. Not only do producers need to deal with the crops in the field, in many situations, fertilizers that are normally added in the fall, need to be added in the spring. At this time, it is unknown if the crop, when harvested will be saleable. The quality of the grain is in question and it may be contaminated with the feces of wild life and rodents. The residual crops and its straw on the land can become a liability to producers and it may be that burning that residue begins to look favorable.

Producers are very aware of the many downsides of burning. Not only do producers lose the benefits of the nutrients in the residue, they also lose the protection of crop residues provided to the soil. They open themselves up to risks of uncontrolled fires, which can endanger life and property. Smoke from burning causes visibility issues and health risks. The resulting bare soil is much more susceptible to erosion from wind, water and tillage. Compaction issues and crusting when establishing new crops also become more of an issue when soil fiber is reduced as in the case of burning.

Producers commonly have one eye trained on the sky, watching the weather and hoping for favourable conditions. This spring, things will be no different, however the importance of good weather may be more important than ever. Most producers intend to harvest the crops left out over the winter. But if the spring is late and the weather's uncooperative, burning the crop to clear the land may become a reasonable option. If a producer cannot prepare the land and seed the new crop in a timely fashion, the harvest of that same crop, may once again be late which leaves it at a much greater risk of being poor quality and left out overwinter.

Many municipalities have restrictions on burning, and it may be that you will require a permit. Even if you think a permit is not required, it is advisable to contact your local municipality and fire department. Both entities will have some suggestions to reduce the risk of the fire becoming out of control, such as preparing fire guards and having fire containment supplies on hand. Public

A disc is an effective way to create a fire guard

often contacts the fire departments when they see large amounts of smoke. If the fire department already knows that a producer is planning to burn residues, they can confirm that is happening, and prevent a trip to the site, which leaves them open to respond to more serious emergencies. Fire Departments and municipalities may also be able to supply traffic signs to indicate smoke hazards.

Another very important consideration for producers wanting to burn crop and residues, is that they must contact AFSC if the crop is insured. AFSC requires an inspection of the crop prior, anytime the end use of the crop is changed. This also holds true if you decide to bale or silage the crop or even if you decide to turn out grazing livestock onto the crop. It may also be prudent to contact any creditors that may have a lien on that crop and advise them of the situation.

A selection of hand tools useful to control burning

Burning crop and crop residues is never a desirable option, but if you decide that this is something you need to do in the spring, please remember these key items:

1. Contact AFSC to have an inspection on the crop prior to burning.
2. Contact your local municipality to see if burning permits are required.
3. Let the fire department know of your plans
4. Prepare a fire guard around the property you will be lighting on fire and put up any required signs.
5. Have equipment on hand to prevent uncontrolled burning.
6. Burn during the day as wind currents are usually greater but not too great, which reduces smoke issues.
7. Monitor the burn site until all fire is extinguished.
8. Be a good neighbor. Let your neighbors know, so that they can leave the area if there are any health issues or discomfort.

by Shelleen Gerbig, P.Ag., SARDA Ag Research

	Event Name	Location	Time	Date	Cost	Comments
	Making the Grade	Grande Prairie Regional College, Grande Prairie	9:00am-4:00pm	February 19	$100	Visit https://events.albertacanola.com/mtg20/428611?ref=wheat
	SARDA AGM and Extension Event	Girouxville Community Hall, Girouxville	8:30 am - 1:30 pm	February 20	FREE	Visit www.sarda.ca or phone 780-837-2900
	Agriculture Strategies for Producers	Sexsmith Civic Center, Sexsmith	9:30 am-4:30pm	February 20	FREE	Event registration at https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/agriculturestrategies-for-producers-talk-moreask-more-listen-more-tickets-
	Coyote Skinning and Pelt Preparation	MD of Greenview Agricultural Services Bldg, Valleyview	9:00 am	February 21	$20	Visit https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/coyote-skinning-and-pelt-preparationworkshop-tickets-87816303929
	Peace Country Winter Mixer	Tamarack Camp, Grande Prairie	8:30 am	February 22-23	$80	Visit https://youngagrarians.org/peace-country-mixer-2020/ for more information and to register
	PCBFA Annual General Meeting	Dunvegan Inn and Suites, Fairview	3:30 - 9:00	February 22	$75	Visit https://www.peacecountrybeef.ca/agm for more inforamtion and to register
	Soil Health Mini Conference	Dunvegan Inn and Suites, Fairview	9:30 am - 4:00 pm	February 24	$100	Visit https://www.peacecountrybeef.ca/mini-conference for more information and to register
	Canadian Forage Seed Conference	Edmonton	8:00 am	February 25-26	$250	Visit http://www.peaceforageseed.ca/fsconference/index.html for more information and to register
	Plant Health Summit	Saskatoon	8:30 am	February 25-26	$139	Visit https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/planthealth-summit-tickets-61329931682 to register

Visit www.sarda.ca for Much More

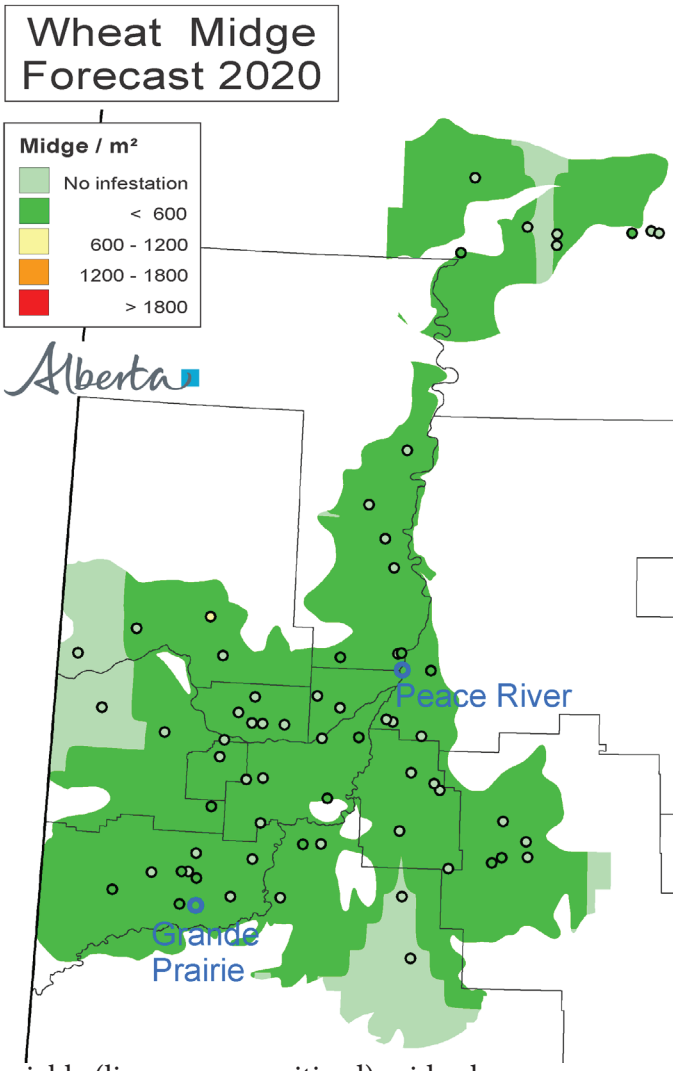
The wheat midge forecast for 2020

The wheat midge forecast for 2020 shows an overall low but increasing level of wheat midge across Alberta. There is very little risk of midge in the Peace Region, with the low level of midge found still being found in the annual survey. Individual fields or small pockets of wheat midge may still exist so it is important to remain vigilant. The midge population in central Alberta east of Edmonton has increased this year and there are some fields that have a high risk going into the 2020 crop year. In both the Peace and central Alberta the use of midge tolerant wheat may be preventing build up of the population.

Wheat midge in both areas will remain a concern in individual fields, especially if there is late seeding and higher than average rainfall in the spring. Areas west and south of Edmonton have also seen individual fields with midge numbers at levels of concern as far south as Red Deer County. The population remains low in southern Alberta with just a few fields with midge concerns. These can easily be dealt with by rotating field of concern out of wheat.

Over the past several years the field to field variation has been very considerable throughout the province. Individual fields throughout Alberta may have economic levels of midge. Each producer needs to assess their risk based on indicators specific to their farm. Specifically, producers should pay attention to midge downgrading in their wheat samples and use this as an indication of midge risk in their fields.

The 2019 fall survey included wheat growing areas throughout Alberta. In total 308 samples were taken from 64 counties. The survey involves taking soil samples from wheat fields after harvest using a standard soil probe. Larval cocoons are washed out of the soil using a specialized series of screens. Larvae are counted, and then dissected to determine if they are parasitized. The midge density displayed on the forecast map is based on viable (live, non-parasitized) midge larvae.



This forecast is not intended to take the place of individual field monitoring. The forecast for Alberta shows areas of risk for midge damage in 2020. It is important to note that over such a wide range, populations in individual fields can be and often are highly variable. Producers should plan to monitor their fields when the midge adults are flying and their wheat is in the susceptible stage. In all areas of the province growers are urged to monitor their wheat fields from wheat head emergence to anthesis for the presence of midge adults. Regular field scouting on multiple nights in succession is important in

understanding the population in a particular field.

Although a number of factors influence the overwintering survival of the midge, the survey and map provide a general picture of existing densities and the potential for infestation in 2019. Weather conditions, specifically temperature and moisture will ultimately determine the extent and timing of midge emergence during the growing season. Temperature and wind also play critical roles in egg laying activities of the adult female wheat midge. The level of damage from wheat midge is determined by the synchrony of wheat midge emergence and wheat and the number of wheat midge present. Look for the results of our wheat midge pheromone trapping in June and July to help track adult midge emergence.

Parasitism of midge larvae by a small wasp species (Macroglens penetrans) has been important in keeping wheat midge populations below the economic threshold in many areas. These beneficial wasps tend to thrive in warm, dry conditions. Parasitoid populations increase and decrease with changes in the midge population and are very important in moderating population levels in Alberta.

It is important to understand that once midge has established in an area it unlikely to ever completely disappear. Low lying and moist areas in a field provide a refuge, enabling the population to survive even when conditions are not favorable in the rest of the field. These low population levels, however, also help sustain a population of natural enemies.

The wheat midge survey was conducted by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry with assistance from:

- Battle River Research Group
- Northern Peace Applied Research Association
- Farming Smarter
- Lakeland Applied Research Association
- Mackenzie Applied Research Association
- Mountain View County
- SARDA Ag Research
- County of Two Hills
- Parkland County
- MD Wainwright
- Chinook Applied Research Association

Our map was produced by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatoon SK. Thank you David Giffen for the construction of the map. Thank you to Shelley Barkley, AAF for the washing and processing of the soil.

Updates of current conditions and wheat midge emergence will be available through the Ag-Info Centre (310 FARM) during the 2020 growing season.

Natural land: Lost opportunity, or valuable resource?

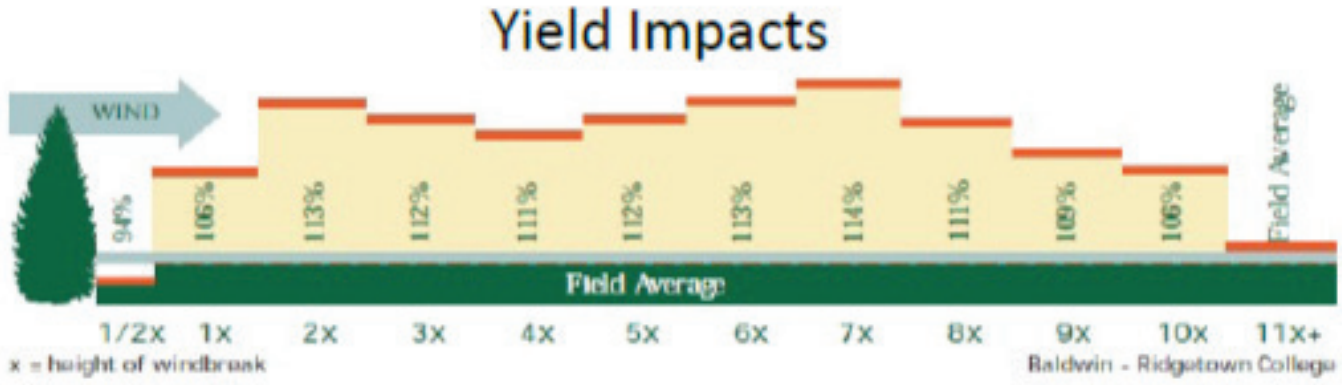
Are those old fencerows, tree bluffs, wetlands, and shelterbelts an opportunity to farm more acres? Before you clear and remove them, stop and consider their value to crop production.

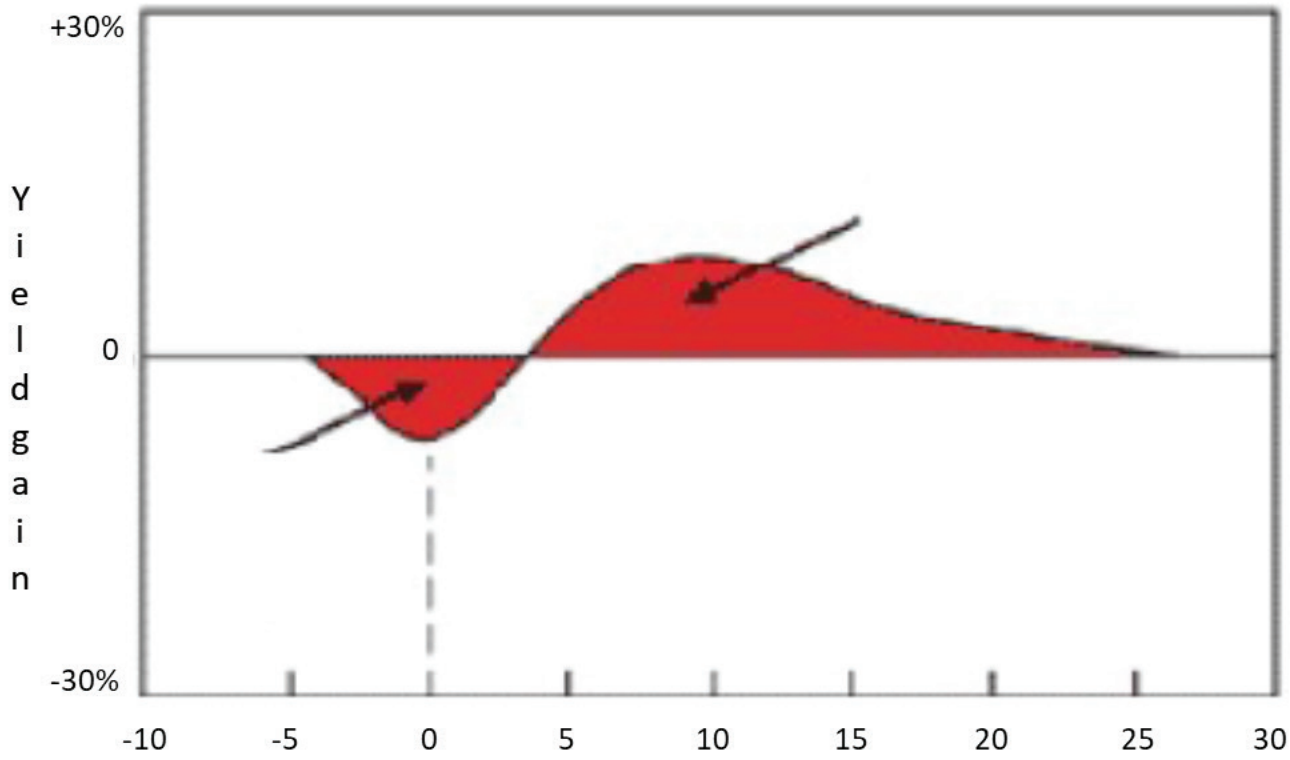
The desire to remove these areas is well understood: many times, they're in the way. Especially isolated tree bluffs and wetlands. As equipment gets larger and wider, it becomes more and more difficult, and less efficient to farm around these areas. As well, old shelterbelts and fencerows prevent consolidation of neighbouring properties when they're acquired, and are difficult to manage as they mature. And lastly, as farmland becomes more and more valuable, it is often more economical to farm more of the land a producer already owns simply by removing trees or water and farming through it.

In spite of the fact that there is an area of reduced yield immediately adjacent to shelterbelts, ditches and tree bluffs, there are data going back at least 50 years demonstrating the net positive effect on yield they have. Indeed, this relationship is well documented across Canada as a means of increasing net yield, by managing wind and water.

Recent research, however, has begun to show that this yield relationship exists for not just shelterbelts but all of the natural and uncultivated spaced listed above – fencerows, ditches, tree bluffs, and wetlands. Work in northern Alberta showed that the presence of these uncultivated spaced within 750 meters of crop had a strong positive effect on Canola yield… in fact, more than enough to compensate for the opportunity cost of growing trees and shrubs rather than crops.

This is part of a larger global body of literature which shows the same effect. Currently in Western Canada, several producer and government-funded project are underway to put a dollar value on these uncultivated




+30%
0
-30%
Yield gain
-10
-5
0
5
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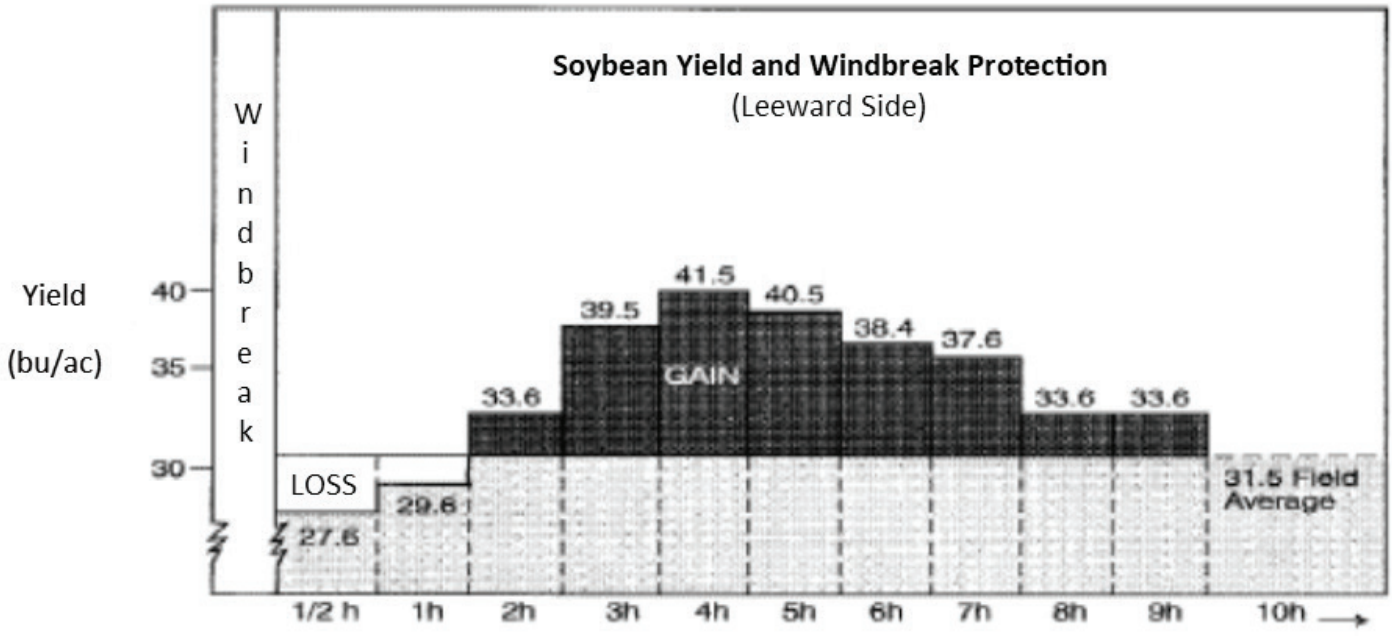
25
30
Distance from windbreak (in windbreak heights)

(Cleugh, 1997)


Soybean Yield and Windbreak Protection
(Leeward Side)
Windbreak
Yield
(bu/ac)
40
35
30
LOSS
27.6
29.6
33.6
39.5
41.5
40.5
38.4
37.6
33.6
33.6
GAIN
31.5 Field Average
1/2 h
1h
2h
3h
4h
5h
6h
7h
8h
9h
10h
Distance from Windbreak
h=height of trees

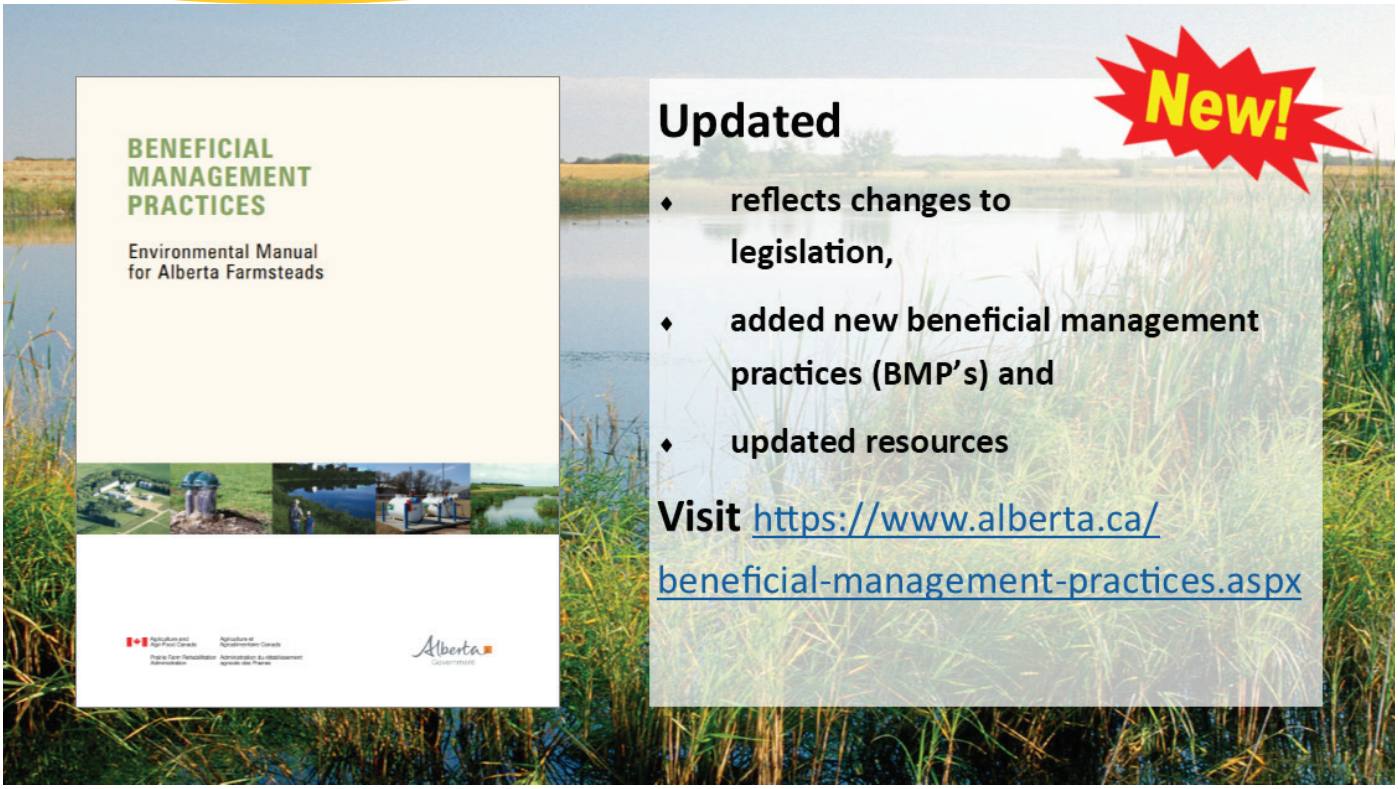
areas. Once again, the preliminary analysis shows this same yield relationship to all crops in rotation. Rather than viewing these areas as unproductive, we hope that producers and landowners will recognize the value that these spaces provide to their own bottom line – generating more profit, from fewer acres, and requiring fewer applications of costly pesticides. And perhaps most interesting, is that we also see canola oil content increase in the 15-200 meter range from these spaces. There did not seem to be any effect on weed abundance or diversity, indicating that these spaces are not offering sanctuary to weedy plants.

These projects, one being conducted by the University of Calgary, the other by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Indian Head SK, have also begun to evaluate quality parameters as well. Soil health as measured by microbial biomass in substantially increased near these natural or uncultivated spaces. There is also a dramatically increased abundance and diversity of hundreds of species of beneficial insect and natural enemies of crop pests.

The presence of these insects results in increased pollination efficiency of crops like canola by native pollinators, such as bumblebees and other solitary bees, hoverflies, and many other nectar-feeding insects. We also see increased predation of pest species by predators like ground beetles, spiders, and lady beetles. This can be very effective; carabid beetles (a family of ground beetles)for example have a strong affinity for feeding on many pest species such as cutworms and diamondback moths, and larger species can consume several worms per day (see photo). Finally, parasitism of many of these same pest species by parasitic wasps that live in these areas can keep pest populations from exceeding threshold levels. This can be a particularly horrific manner of control, and I encourage you to see the damage they do to pest species for yourself (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6dVAy8aCsU).

Once again, this is not meant to remove productive cropland from production, but rather to re-assign poorer quality land into a crop yield enhancement. Here are a few suggestions of ways to make this happen:

- Preserving fencerows and road allowances in a weed-free state
- Maintaining or planting shelterbelts . Alberta Agriculture and Forestry maintains a valuable resource with the Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society https://www.awes-ab.ca/
- Identifying saline, poor quality, or otherwise non-profitable acres and planting them to a forage. Ducks Unlimited Canada offers substantial resources to aid in the cost of this planting https://www.ducks.ca/resources/landowners/forage-program/
- "Squaring" off field edges, to eliminate implement overlap. Rather than having fields with an inefficient partial-pass, widen the field edge with weed-free grasses or forages to ensure an even number of field passes
- Planting grass into erodible water ways and water runs within a field
- Planting a "sanitation and loading zone" at the compacted field entrance. (This also can be a viable patch management strategy for clubroot management – a grassed area where equipment can be cleaned)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Wetlands in Alberta

Wetlands are Alberta's most complex and diverse ecosystems, covering approximately 20 percent of Alberta's landscape. Wetlands are valued for serving essential ecological and societal functions that include maintaining water supply and supporting native biota. However, wetlands had historically been viewed as a hindrance to Alberta's settled areas in development, industry, and infrastructure. Such a hindrance should simply be ploughed, drained, or modified. As a result, drastic wetland losses have occurred in Alberta because many weren't aware about the ecosystem services and other environmental benefits wetlands offer.

Society's attitude has shifted with new scientific knowledge, and federal/provincial funds and programs have helped to ensure land improvements for wetlands. With new awareness in Alberta came a new provincial wetland policy in 2013 (Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development) aimed at balancing resource development with wetland preservation. Yet, wetland management in Alberta's settled areas (known as the White Area) can be challenging due to how policies are constructed and implemented, and several criticisms to the new policy have been raised. Understanding wetland significance and exposing the gaps in the wetland policy may help to avoid short-sighted land-use decisions in Alberta's White Area.

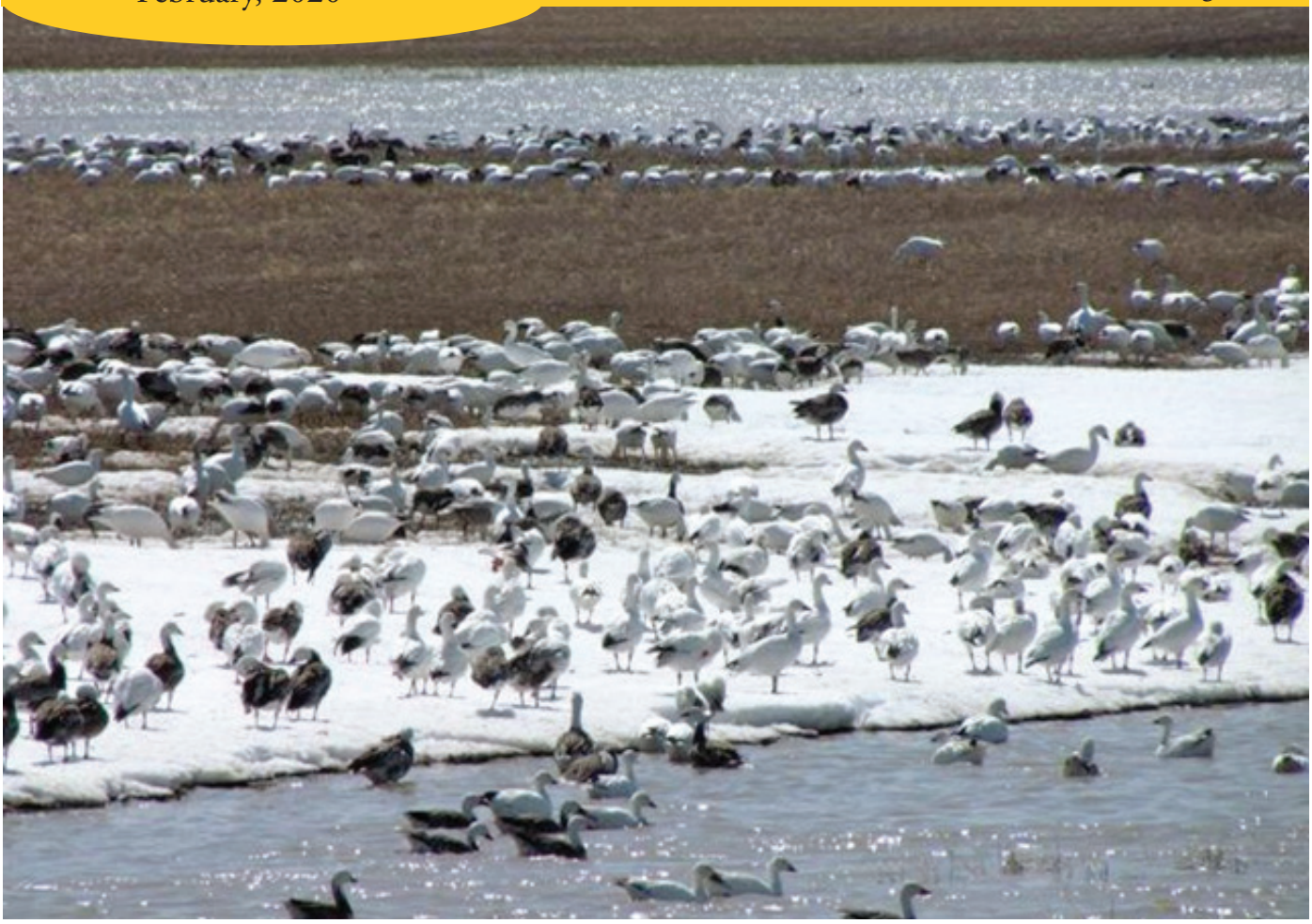
Mineral wetlands (marshes, swamps, and shallow open water) are the primary category of wetlands that occur in Alberta's White Area. The White Area covers 39 percent of Alberta's southern landscape and constitutes privately owned land for settlement and agricultureMost of Alberta's White Area is situated in the Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) where glacial retreat and scouring left millions of isolated "potholes" (also known as shallow open water wetlands).

Mineral wetlands in the PPR serve a variety of ecosystem services. They can remove excessive nutrients from agricultural practices, reduce costs for water treatment, store water during high precipitation, and gradually supply water to other habitats downstream. Wetlands also provide nesting grounds for nearly eight million waterfowl and 20 million shorebirds in Alberta alone; they serve as spawning areas for fish; they sustain more than 20 rare plant species. Wetland value in Alberta also includes recreation, education, and cultural significance to many Indigenous groups. In an economic sense, every dollar spent on wetland retention yields about $7.70 in wetland ecosystem services, such as flood control.

If wetlands are lost or disturbed, they can experience altered hydrology, increased nutrient and pollution runoff, increased risk of introduced species, and enhanced habitat fragmentation. So, while it may seem lucrative to impact a wetland in a short-term sense, there are incentives to preserve wetlands to achieve long-term benefits.

Due to wetland destruction throughout the 20th century, nearly 64 percent of wetlands in Alberta's settled areas no longer exist. Rapid urban sprawl is one cause of wetland destruction in the White Area. This rapid expansion has created wetland losses as high as 90 percent in Calgary and 80 percent in Edmonton. Agricultural practices also have contributed to wetland destruction from tilling, draining, and ploughing – all practices intended to expand the productive agricultural land base. But, as Locky showed in a 2011 study, private lands have lost nearly 40 to 60 percent of wetlands and suffered ecosystem damage as a result of these practices.

Alberta's Wetland Policy was released in 2013 and after staged implimentation was in full effect in the White zone by June, 2015 and in the green zone by July, 2016. The policy is aimed at conserving and restoring wetlands in areas that have experienced high losses while still allowing for growth and development. The policy manages wetlands by



avoiding, minimizing, and if required, replacing lost wetland value.

While avoidance of wetlands is desired with any development project, if the develpoer can document how they have attempted to avoid and minimize the loss of wetland area and value, the Water Act approoval in unlikely to be denied. A replacement model has struggled to succed. Funds are paid into a program that is supposed to be used to restore or create new wetlands. These funds are accumulating. Creating more awareness around wetland importance and value needs to be spread throughout government, industries, and communities to empower local action for wetland avoidance.

Another needed area of improvement for the wetland policy is for the government to create a straightforward means for Alberta's producers/landowners to improve their wetland stewardship. Confusion arises among landowners about what differentiates a wetland from a "low spot" and what kind of activities on their land is governed by wetland legislation. Education and improving communication between landowners and the province are good starting points. This is vital since the wetland policy in the White Area will not accomplish its goals without positive contributions from Alberta's producers/landowners.

Alberta also needs to better acquaint landowners with the benefits of retaining and restoring wetlands and increase financial support programs. Indeed, there are costs for producers to retain wetlands, such as potentially over-seeding and over-watering areas to avoid wetlands. Bringing awareness about ecosystem services and emphasizing the producer's role in promoting a sustainable landscape certainly would be beneficial.

excerpts from "Alberta's Wetland Policy in the White Area: Shortcomings and Future Directions" by T.Bujaczek, May 2019

Canola call option strategy

"Many producers are currently storing canola, waiting for a higher price," explains Blue. "While waiting for a more attractive price for canola, a strategy that some producers use is to sell call options."

He says that canola remains as the only crop to have a functioning futures and options market trading in Canadian dollars. Access to the futures and options market can be either direct through an account with a futures brokerage firm, or indirect with a grain company that has a futures account.

"A grain company may offer futures and options related contracts to producers, and those contracts are usually offered as part of a physical delivery contract."

"Call options are tradeable each day that the canola futures market is open. Like futures, there is a seller for every buyer at a common price to have a trade occur. The buyer of a call option pays a fee – the premium – to purchase the right to buy canola futures at a certain price – the strike price – anytime during the option life."

"The seller of the call option collects a premium in exchange for providing the option buyer the right to buy futures at that certain price. The risk of the option buyer is just the premium paid plus some commission."

"The risk of the call option seller is that the futures price moves higher than the strike price by more than the premium collected. Each option is specific to a certain futures month and has a pre-defined expiry date."

"A producer has sold and delivered half of the 2019 produced canola, does not need cash flow in the short term, believes that the canola futures and/or basis levels will improve after February, has a futures account and the balance of the canola will store safely. The July canola futures price is $490 per tonne."

He says that, although any of the options would be considered, the producer sells one or more 20 tonne July 510 call options and collects $6.50 per tonne.

"The July canola options expire on June 26. Meanwhile, the producer could remove the call option by buying that 510 call option in the market at any time. However, if the July 510 call option is held until expiry and if, at that time, the July futures price is less than $510 per tonne, that 510 call option will expire worthless and the producer keeps the $6.50 premium, minus broker commission." That premium collected adds to the eventual selling price of the canola.

"If the futures price at option expiry is above $510 per tonne, then the producer would be assigned a sell futures position at $510 per tonne, and still keep the $6.50 premium collected. The sell futures position that just replaced the call option could then be considered a futures hedge at $516 per tonne, considering the collected premium."

"The newly created futures position would at some point be removed by buying July canola futures. Subject to the basis level, the result would be a much higher price than back in January, and some payment for storing the canola was obtained by collecting the option premium."

"Sometimes this strategy is termed 'selling a covered call,' covered in the sense that the physical canola backs up the strategy. An option with a shorter life may have been used instead of the July option."

He adds that in a carrying charge market – for example, higher futures prices in forward months – as the futures carrying charge is eroded away with time passing, the likelihood is greater of the 'short' call losing premium or expiring.

"In summary, the covered call strategy is a method of being paid to store canola while retaining the right to shop the market for the strongest basis for pricing the physical canola."

By Neil Blue, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

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