



# MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW No. 16

## REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

9:30 AM

Council Chambers  
Administration Building

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#1	CALL TO ORDER		
#2	ADOPTION OF AGENDA		
#3	MINUTES	3.1 Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting minutes held Wednesday, May 26 <sup>th</sup> to be adopted.	3
		3.2 Business Arising from the Minutes	
#4	DELEGATION		
#5	BUSINESS	5.1 Agricultural Plastic Recycling Program - 2022	8
		5.2 Unlegislated Agricultural Pests Bylaw	11
		5.3 Rural Acreage Owner Program (RAO Program) – 2022	16
		5.4 Elevation of Wild Caraway	23
		5.5 Farm Family Award Recognition	29
		5.6 Range and Pasture Herbicide Sales – 2022	32
		5.7 Agricultural Disaster	34
		5.8 Manager’s Report	90
#6	MEMBERS REPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chair Warren Wohlgemuth</li><li>• Vice Chair Stephen Lewis</li><li>• Reeve Dale Smith</li></ul>	

- Councillor Bill Smith
- Member Richard Brochu
- Member Larry Smith
- Member Mark Pellerin

#7 CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from MD of Ranchland to Coal Policy Review Committee Regarding Concerns Over Open Pit Mining
- ASB Provincial Committee Resolution Grading Response Requests for Input Into the New Agricultural Policy Framework
- Municipal District of Willow Creek Letter of Support to County of Grande Prairie
- Northern Sunrise County Letter of Support to Country of Grande Prairie
- AgForward Managing On-Farm Plastics
- Alberta Crop Report June 22
- Alberta Crop Report June 28
- Alberta Crop Report August 10
- Precipitation Report June 28 - July 4
- Precipitation Report July 1 – 4
- Precipitation Report July 1 – 8
- Precipitation Report July 5 – 8
- Precipitation Report Over Past 4 Days as of July 17
- Heat Report June 28 – July 4
- Heat Report July 7 – July 8
- Soil Moisture Reserves Relative to Normal as of July 17

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#8 ADJOURNMENT

Minutes of a  
**REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD**  
**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16**  
Greenview Administration Building,  
Valleyview, Alberta, on Wednesday, June 23, 2021

**# 1:** Chair Warren Wohlgemuth called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.  
**CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT**

A.S.B. Member – Chair	Warren Wohlgemuth
A.S.B. Member – Vice-Chair	Stephen Lewis
A.S.B. Member – Reeve	Dale Smith
A.S.B. Member – Councillor	Bill Smith (Teleconference)
A.S.B. Member	Larry Smith (Teleconference)
A.S.B. Member	Richard Brochu
A.S.B. Member	Mark Pellerin

**ATTENDING**

Manager, Agriculture Services	Sheila Kaus
Agriculture Supervisor Trainee	Kristin King
Beautification Coordinator	Jessica McCormick
Problem Wildlife Officer	Ben Brochu
Manager, Marketing & Communications	Stacey Sevilla
Executive Assistant, Community Services	Teresa Marin
Recording Secretary	Denise Baranowski

**ABSENT**

**#2:** MOTION: 21.06.59 Moved by: REEVE DALE SMITH  
**AGENDA** That the Agricultural Service Board adopt the June 23, 2021, Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda with the following additions;  
- 5.5 RFD – ASB Provincial Resolutions Grading

CARRIED

**#3.1 REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES** MOTION: 21.06.60. Moved by: VICE-CHAIRMAN STEPHEN LEWIS  
That the Agricultural Service Board adopt the minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Wednesday, May 26, 2021, with the following changes;  
- 3.4 Change “The Peace Country Beef” to “The Peace Country Beef and Forage Association”.

CARRIED

#3.2 REGULAR  
AGRICULTURAL  
SERVICE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES

**3.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Administration submitted a Request for quotations for a bale hauler. Members discussed quality comparison of two brands of balers.

Details are developing and ongoing with regard to the Agricultural Plastic Recycling Program.

#4.0  
DELEGATION

**4.0 DELEGATIONS**

#5  
BUSINESS

**5.0 BUSINESS**

**5.1 CLUBROOT OF CANOLA**

CLUBROOT OF  
CANOLA POLICY  
6308

MOTION: 21.06.61. Moved by: REEVE DALE SMITH

That the Agricultural Service Board recommends the amendments to Policy 6308: Clubroot of Canola to the Policy Review Committee, with the following revisions.

- Section 3.2 D - Change "must" to "should"
- Section 3.2 E - Change "must" to "should"

CARRIED

**5.2 SHELTERBELT PROGRAM – 2022**

SHELTERBELT  
PROGRAM - 2022

MOTION: 21.06.62. Moved by: MEMBER RICHARD BROCHU

That the Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council to direct administration to establish a cost recovery shelterbelt program for the 2022 calendar year.

CARRIED

**5.3 BEAVER HARVEST PROGRAM**

BEAVER HARVEST  
PROGRAM

MOTION: 21.06.63. Moved by: MEMBER RICHARD BROCHU

That the Agricultural Service Board accept the Beaver Harvest Program Report for information, as presented.

CARRIED

Chair Wohlgemuth recessed the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Chair Wohlgemuth reconvened the meeting at 10:45 a.m.



## 5.4 MANAGERS' REPORT

### MANAGERS' REPORT

MOTION: 21.06.64. Moved by: VICE-CHAIRMAN STEPHEN LEWIS  
That the Agricultural Service Board accept the Managers' report as presented.  
CARRIED

## 5.5 ASB PROVINCIAL RESOLUTIONS – GRADING

### ASB PROVINCIAL RESOLUTIONS - GRADING

MOTION: 21.06.65. Moved by: REEVE DALE SMITH  
That the Agricultural Service Board provide grades for the current level of response to the Provincial ASB Resolutions from the 2021 Provincial Conference to the ASB Provincial Committee as follows:

Resolution Number	Resolution Name	Grade
1-21	Weed Issues on Oil and Gas Sites in Rural Alberta	Unsatisfactory
2-21	Pesticide Container Collection Program	Unsatisfactory
3-21	An Effective Solution for Control of RGSquirrels in Alberta	Accept the Response
4-21	Registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine	Accept the Response
5-21	Fusarium Testing After Cleaning	Accept the Response
6-21	Agriculture Research Association Check Off Option	Unsatisfactory
8-21	Reinstating Provincial Agriculture Department Staff	Accept the Response
9-21	Protect Farmers Right to Farm Saved Seed	Unsatisfactory
10-21	Federal Fuel Charge	Accept the Response

CARRIED

### DOCUMENT – COMMODITY AND LIVESTOCK CHECK OFF DOLLARS RETURNED TO THE PRODUCER

MOTION: 21.06.66. Moved by: MEMBER MARK PELLERIN  
That the Agricultural Service Board direct administration to produce a document assisting interested producers with having commodity and livestock check off dollars returned to the producer.

CARRIED

### #6 MEMBERS' BUSINESS & REPORTS

## 6.0 MEMBERS' BUSINESS & REPORTS

### MANAGER AND ASB MEMBERS REPORTS

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

- No report

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

- No report

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

- No report

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

- No report

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

- No report

**VICE CHAIR STEPHEN LEWIS** updated the Agriculture Service Board on his recent activities, which include;

- No report

**MEMBER MARK PELLERIN** updated the Agriculture Service Board on his recent activities, which include;

- No report

**MEMBERS  
BUSINESS AND  
REPORTS**

**MOTION: 21.06.67.** Moved by: VICE-CHAIRMAN STEPHEN LEWIS

That the Agricultural Service Board accept the Members reports as information.

**CARRIED**

**#7  
CORRESPONDENCE**

**7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

**ASB  
CORRESPONDENCE**

**MOTION: 21.06.68.** Moved by: MEMBER LARRY SMITH

That the Agricultural Service Board accept the correspondence as information.

**CARRIED**

**#8  
ADJOURNMENT**

**8.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ASB  
ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: 21.06.69.** Moved by: COUNCILLOR BILL SMITH

That this Agricultural Service Board meeting adjourn at 11:56 a.m.

**CARRIED**

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MANAGER, AGRICULTURE SERVICES

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ASB CHAIRMAN

UNADOPTED



# REQUEST FOR DECISION

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SUBJECT: **Agricultural Plastic Recycling Program- 2022**  
SUBMISSION TO: AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD      REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION  
MEETING DATE: August 25, 2021      CAO:      MANAGER: SK  
DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE      GM: DM      PRESENTER:  
STRATEGIC PLAN: Level of Service      LEG:

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RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

**Provincial** (cite) – N/A

**Council Bylaw/Policy** (cite) – N/A

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RECOMMENDED ACTION:

**MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board approve the agricultural plastics recycling program in principle.**

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BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

In April, the Board hosted Cleanfarms as a delegation to learn more regarding the provincial Agricultural Recycling Pilot Project. The Board expressed a keen interest in this area of programming and Administration has been working towards presenting options for the Board’s consideration.

Administration approached Wheatland County for further information regarding an Agricultural Plastics Recycling program, as Wheatland County has been running a municipal program for several years. Wheatland stated that the program is not a large operational expenditure for the department, consisting of staff time and maintenance of the storage site. Currently, they roll on-farm and transport to their storage site. The storage site is out in the open and does not require a building if storage is less than a year in duration. Producers can drop off grain bags for rolling at transfer stations, and there is currently no fee charged for these services. The busiest times of year have been in the fall and during seeding. Since 2016, providing this service has incurred the following labour hours, including travel:

**2016** – 132 hours      **2017** – 322 hours      **2018** - 275 hours      **2019** – 323 hours      **2020** – 620 hours

**2021** from Jan-May – 103 hours.

Capital expenditures consisted of purchasing a grain bag roller, a bale picker truck and building a storage site. Wheatland did not have any involvement in creating the plastic recycling facility operated by a local Hutterite Colony within their municipality. Wheatland does not offer silage recycling due to contamination issues, but they act as a hub for neighbouring municipalities, collecting those agricultural plastics.

Through Administrations network, it was learned that while Greenview’s neighbouring municipalities are interested in agricultural plastics recycling, their needs are not high enough to initiate a program individually.

While these discussions are preliminary, should Greenview start a program, the potential exists for Greenview to act as a southeast Peace Region hub, like Wheatland.

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**BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. The benefit of the recommended action is that the Agricultural Service Board will be informed as to the possible options available to initiate an agricultural plastics recycling program for Greenview producers.
- 

**DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. There are no perceived disadvantages to the recommended motion.
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**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

**Alternative #1:** The Agricultural Service Board has the alternative to alter or deny the recommended motion.

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**FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:**

- Potential Capital Expenses: bale picker truck, trailer mounted grain bag roller

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**STAFFING IMPLICATION:**

Potential Staffing Implications: 0.01 – 0.5 FTE, with allowance for training, municipal size, and program launch.

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**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.

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**FOLLOW UP ACTIONS:**

There are no follow up actions to the recommended motion.

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**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- Example of a bale picker truck





# REQUEST FOR DECISION

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**SUBJECT:** Unlegislated Agricultural Pests Bylaw  
**SUBMISSION TO:** AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD      REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION  
**MEETING DATE:** August 25, 2021      CAO:      MANAGER: SK  
**DEPARTMENT:** AGRICULTURE      GM: DM      PRESENTER:  
**STRATEGIC PLAN:** Level of Service

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**RELEVANT LEGISLATION:**

**Provincial (cite) – ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL PESTS ACT, RSA 2000, Chapter A-8**

**Council Bylaw/Policy (cite) – N/A**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board recommend the proposed bylaw to the Policy Review Committee for consideration.**

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**BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:**

In June of 2020, the Alberta Government removed *Fusarium graminearum* from the *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act*. In response, a Peace Region intermunicipal committee was formed to draft a municipal bylaw to allow interested municipalities to continue surveillance, education, and active control measures to limit the pathogen's spread. The bylaw was meant to enable municipal inspectors access to fields to survey for disease, and if required, control infestations, similar in scope to the *Agricultural Pests Act*. This bylaw focused a lot of authority in the hands of the appointed Agricultural Fieldman instead of with Council.

Administration recommends a surveillance bylaw, based on the intermunicipal draft but removing the authority of the Agricultural Fieldman to determine included species, independent of Council. The bylaw will allow appointed inspectors the right to inspect as the *Agricultural Pests Act* does but would see Council create policy for the pests to be scouted for in Greenview. Should the Board be interested in scouting for diseases of economic concern within Greenview, Administration recommends the drafting of a surveillance policy focused on *fusarium graminearum*, *aphanomyces*, and *verticillium wilt*.

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**BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. The benefit of the Agricultural Service Board accepting the recommended motion is that the Board will protect agricultural production in Greenview from economically damaging but unlegislated agricultural pests.

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**DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

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

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**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

**Alternative #1:** The Agricultural Service Board has the alternative to alter or deny the recommended motion.

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**FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:**

Financial implications would include laboratory testing of suspected cases of pathogens. Council would set maximums through the budgetary process.

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**STAFFING IMPLICATION:**

There are no staffing implications to the recommended motion.

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**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT LEVEL:**

Greenview has adopted the IAP2 Framework for public consultation.

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**INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC IMPACT**

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---

**FOLLOW UP ACTIONS:**

There are no follow-up actions to the recommended motion.

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**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- Unlegislated Pest Bylaw Draft



## BYLAW NO. XX-XXXX

Being a bylaw of Greenview, in the Province of Alberta, for protecting the agricultural productivity of lands within Greenview.

WHEREAS, the Municipal Government Act Chapter M-26 as stated, in Part 2, Section 7 states that the Council of a municipality may make bylaws for the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property;

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta list specific concerns whose presence threatens the economic well-being and viability of the agricultural producers in Greenview;

WHEREAS, Greenview has deemed it expedient and in the public interest to ensure that pests, diseases, insects, plants or other organisms within the municipality not listed under the *Agricultural Pests Act*, *Weed Control Act*, or *Fisheries Act*, their Regulations are not allowed to establish or spread and do not impact the economic viability of local agricultural producers;

Now therefore, hereby enact as follows:

### 1.0 DEFINITIONS

- (a) “Injurious species” means an organism that causes economic or environmental harm, that is not a legislated species under the *Fisheries Act*, *Pest and Nuisance Regulation* or *Weed Control Regulation*, that has been deemed by Council to have the potential to adversely impact the agricultural productivity of land or livestock including the quality and marketability of crops or livestock;
- (b) “Inspector” means the Agricultural Fieldman appointed by Greenview, or such other person(s) appointed by Greenview to administer and enforce this Bylaw;
- (c) “Livestock” includes cattle, sheep, diversified livestock animals within the meaning of the *Livestock Industry Diversification Act*,
- (d) “Municipality or County” means Greenview or the area contained within the boundary thereof as the context requires;
- (e) “Municipal Government Act or MGA” means the Municipal Government Act of Alberta, Revised Statutes of Alberta Chapter M-26, the most current edition
- (f) “Council” means the council presiding for Greenview;
- (g) “Owner” means a Person who controls the property under consideration, holds themselves out as the person having the powers and authority of ownership or who at the relevant time exercises the powers and authority of ownership, and includes:
  - (i) The Person registered on title at the Land Titles Office;

## BYLAW NO. XX-XXXX

- (ii) A Person who is recorded as the owner of the property on the assessment roll of Greenview;
- (iii) A Person who has purchased or otherwise acquired the property and has not become the registered owner thereof; and
- (iv) A Person who is the occupant of the property under a lease, license, permit or other agreement;
- (h) "Property" includes any lands, buildings or structures, whether or not affixed to land;
- (i) "Person" includes an individual, a firm, partnership, joint venture, proprietorship, corporation, association, society or any other legal entity;
- (j) "Retailer" means any person or company who promotes, cleans or offers for sale or any service related to seed, plants or plant parts, livestock, soil or soil amendments or any other organism to an Owner that could be deemed to adversely impact agriculture in Greenview

### 2.0 AUTHORITY OF INSPECTORS

- 2.1 Within the boundaries of Greenview, the Inspector's powers will include:
  - (a) The right to enter onto any Property at any reasonable time to inspect and seek to identify the presence of any agricultural injurious species;
    - (i) The inspector shall not enter a private dwelling for inspection unless consent is granted by the Owner or written notice is given;
    - (ii) The inspector may be accompanied by a Peace Officer;
  - (b) To survey for or collect samples of seeds, plants or other substances or items from any Property and test or send such samples for testing to verify or determine the presence of any injurious species;
  - (c) To take such other reasonable steps as may be required to uncover and identify the presence of and to prevent the sale or importation of all applicable injurious species municipally addressed via Policy at any Retailer within Greenview.

### 3.0 OBSTRUCTION

- 3.1 No Person, whether or not they are the Owner or Retailer which is the subject of any inspection under this Bylaw, shall interfere with or attempt to obstruct an Inspector who is attempting to inspect, identify, or take possession of any injurious species or otherwise carrying out any duty under this Bylaw.

# BYLAW NO. XX-XXXX

## 4.0 SEVERABILITY

4.1 Should any section or part of this Bylaw be found to have been improperly enacted, for any reason, then such section or part shall be regarded as being severable from the rest of the Bylaw and the Bylaw remaining after such severance shall be effective and enforceable as if the section found to be improperly enacted had not been enacted as part of this Bylaw.

## 5.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

5.1 This bylaw shall have force and take effect upon third and final reading.

Read a first time this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Read a second time this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Read a third time this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

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Reeve

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Chief Administrative Officer

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Date of Final Signature



# REQUEST FOR DECISION

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SUBJECT: **Rural Acreage Owner Program - 2022**  
SUBMISSION TO: AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD      REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION  
MEETING DATE: August 25, 2021      CAO:      MANAGER: SK  
DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE      GM: DM      PRESENTER:  
STRATEGIC PLAN: Level of Service

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RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

**Provincial (cite) – ENVIRONMENTAL CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PESTICIDES, Made under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, RSA 2000, cE-12**

**Council Bylaw/Policy (cite) – N/A**

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RECOMMENDED ACTION:

**MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board accept inclusion of the Rural Acreage Owner Program development for the 2022 budget year.**

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BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

In 2015, Alberta Agriculture, working with the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman and Lakeland College, launched the Rural Acreage Owner program. This program allows acreage owners who have completed the approved Lakeland College course to access approved residual herbicides, through their municipality, for the purpose of controlling noxious and prohibited noxious weeds on their property. The cost of the course is \$75.00 per participant and the certificate is valid for 5 years.

Administration recommends launching a program for 2022 in which the department reimburses acreage owners the cost of taking the online Lakeland course. Landowners would be reimbursed upon presentation of the course completion certificate, which is a required step to participate in the Rural Acreage Owner program. Additionally, Administration would sell small amounts of the approved chemicals to participants in handheld, backpack, quad or small estate sprayers at-cost.

A budget of \$1,500 per year would sponsor 20 individuals to take the course. This budget should comfortably support the landowners interested in participating in the program. The program would not be available to hamlet or summer village landowners due to legislative limitations.

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BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. The benefit of the Agricultural Service Board accepting the recommended motion is that the ratepayers unable to purchase herbicide are empowered to control private land infestations.

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DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

**Alternative #1:** The Agricultural Service Board has the alternative to alter or deny the recommended motion.

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

An increase to operational budget of \$1,500 with no increase to the Agricultural Services budget.

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STAFFING IMPLICATION:

There are no staffing implications to the recommended motion.

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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

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ATTACHMENT(S):

- Rural Acreage Owner Program Pamphlet (2018)
- Rural Acreage Owner Herbicide Program, Legislative Update (2018)

## Course Content

### RAOPC for Weed Management:

- Chapter 1 - Overview of program, pesticide labels
- Chapter 2 - Pesticide poisoning and first aid
- Chapter 3 - Pesticide safety
- Chapter 4 - Environmental safety
- Chapter 5 - Integrated pest management
- Chapter 6 - Pesticide legislation
- Chapter 7 - Pesticide application and equipment calibration
- Chapter 8 - IPM for weed management

### RAOPC for Rodent Management:

- Chapter 1 - Overview of program, pesticide labels
- Chapter 2 - Pesticide poisoning and first aid
- Chapter 3 - Pesticide safety
- Chapter 4 - Environmental safety
- Chapter 5 - Integrated pest management
- Chapter 6 - Pesticide legislation
- Chapter 9 - Rodent management



## Information

For more information on the RAOPC for Weed Control, contact the participating municipalities:

County of Grande Prairie	780 532-9727
Rocky View County	403 520-1287
Yellowhead County	780 814-3935
Wetaskiwin County	780 352-3321
Clearwater County	403 845-4444
Camrose County	403 672-4765
MD of Lesser Slave River	1-866-681-3929
Athabasca County	780 675-2273
Parkland County	780 968-8467



For more information regarding the online training platform, please contact:  
Lakeland College 1 866 853 8646.

For more information regarding the overall training program please contact:  
Alberta Environment and Parks  
780 538-6460  
18.

pictures courtesy of Alberta Agriculture & Forestry

# Rural Acreage Owner Pesticide Certificate Program

Alberta Government



[www.lakelandcollege.ca](http://www.lakelandcollege.ca)

This program is a collaborative effort between  
Lakeland College, Alberta Environment and DUF\_g  
and dUfh[V]dU[h]b[ 'a i b]V[dU]h]Yg]hc Wfh]Zm  
Rural Acreage Owners.



## RAOPC for Weed Management

Rural acreage owner (RAO) is contacted by the municipality indicating they have noxious weeds\* on their pasture or non-turf areas.

The municipality authorizes the RAO to take this course.

RAO obtains an RAOPC for Weed Management, and contacts their municipality for more training.

Participating municipality sells/provides RAO with only enough specified herbicides to control the weeds in their pasture or non-turf areas.

RAO must contact municipality yearly for weed management options.

*\*as specified under the Weed Control Act.*

## RAOPC for Rodent Management

RAO completes the RAOPC for Rodent Management.

RAO buys Commercial class rodenticides from their Rodenticide vendor.



## Certificates available:

### RAOPC for Weed Management RAOPC for Rodent Management

This is a pilot program where Rural Acreage Owners\* residing in participating municipalities are authorized to use select Commercial class pesticides after successfully completing an online pesticide legislation and safety training.

*\*not available to individuals who's acreage is located in a specialized municipality, city, town or hamlet.*

## Participating municipalities

### Rural Acreage Owner Pesticide Certificate (RAOPC) Program

County of Grande Prairie  
Rocky View County  
Yellowhead County  
County of Wetaskiwin  
Clearwater County  
Camrose County  
MD of Lesser Slave River  
Athabasca County  
Parkland County



## Obtaining an RAOPC



### RAOPC for Weed Control:

- a) Rural Acreage Owner (RAO) contacts their municipality to ensure they can participate in the program.
- b) RAO registers for the RAOPC for Weed Control by calling Lakeland College at 1-866-853-8646
- c) Once registered, Lakeland College will email the RAO their username and password.
- d) RAO completes the online RAOPC course and passes the final exam.
- e) RAO prints their RAOPC certificate and contacts their municipality for additional training.

### RAOPC for Rodent Management:

- a) RAO registers for the RAOPC for Rodent Control by calling Lakeland College at 1-866-853-8646.
- b) Once registered, Lakeland College will email the RAO their username and password.
- c) RAO completes the online RAOPC course and passes the final exam.
- d) RAO prints their certificate and buys Commercial class rodenticides from their Rodenticide vendor.

## Rural Acreage Owner Herbicide Program

(Version 3, as of June 2018)

The Rural Acreage Owner Herbicide Program was initiated to ensure rural acreage owners (RAO) have access to select Commercial class herbicides to control Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds (as identified in the Weed Control Act).

A RAO Committee was formed to determine how to establish the RAO Herbicide Program. The committee included rural municipality Agricultural Fieldmen, Agricultural Service Board members, pesticide product registrant representatives, Lakeland College and Alberta Environment and Parks.

A RAO online course was developed and approved by the committee. Lakeland College offers the online course to Agricultural Fieldman approved RAO from their municipality.

As a result of a legislation change (effective June 7, 2018), Specialized Municipalities can now participate in the RAO program.

**Please also note that acreage owners residing within the limits hamlets, villages, towns or cities also cannot participate in this program.**

As approved by the committee, for municipalities to participate in the Rural Acreage Owner Program, the following must be met:

1. Municipalities must obtain a full vendor registration or at a minimum a Vendor Registration: restricted to sales of Specified Herbicides to Rural Acreage Owners. The vendor requirements and registration application form is available on our website at the following link:
  - a. Vendor requirements are specified at this link: <http://aep.alberta.ca/land/programs-and-services/pesticide-management/part-two-selling-and-buying-pesticides/default.aspx>
  - b. Vendor application form is at this link: <http://aep.alberta.ca/land/programs-and-services/pesticide-management/part-two-selling-and-buying-pesticides/application-forms.aspx>
2. Municipality sends an email to Vivianne Servant ([vivianne.servant@gov.ab.ca](mailto:vivianne.servant@gov.ab.ca)) indicating they want to participate in the program. After Vivianne retires, they would send an email to Devon Smiegielski ([devon.smiegielski@gov.ab.ca](mailto:devon.smiegielski@gov.ab.ca)) indicating they want to participate in the program. Vivianne or Devon will ensure the municipality holds the appropriate vendor registration and if they do, will authorize Lakeland College to add their municipality as a participating municipality in the program. This step is in place to prevent rural acreage owners from non-participating municipalities from taking the course and then requesting that their municipality provide them with herbicide.



3. Once approved by AEP, the municipality's Agricultural Fieldman (AF) must following the procedures below:
  - a. AF identifies prohibited noxious or noxious weeds in the RAO **pasture or non-cropland (ie. fenceline, gravel driveway)** and issues a weed notice or at least ensures that an inspection has occurred by an employee of the rural municipality and the following documented in writing:
    - i. name of landowner
    - ii. rural legal land description of their property
    - iii. type of noxious or prohibited noxious weed found in pasture or non-cropland
    - iv. size of the infestation
    - v. recommended herbicide (name and PCP #) and amount of herbicide required based on the size of the infestation
  - b. If weeds are present in turf, then the Ag. Fieldman would refer the RAO to an AWSA vendor who would sell the RAO a turf herbicide as specified in the [\*Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides\*](#).
  - c. If the weeds are found in pastures or non-cropland, once the weed notice is issued (or an inspection report is document as identified in 3 a.), the AF would identify to the RAO that they can obtain the RAO Herbicide Certificate by contacting LC at 1-866-853-8646 to register for the RAO course. Once they are registered, they will be provided with links and passwords by LC to complete the online course. A brochure has been developed for the Ag. Fieldman can provide to the RAO. The brochure also provides instructions to the RAO on registering and taking the RAO Herbicide Certificate course. Note that the Rodenticide Certificate course is not yet available.
  - d. Once RAO obtains certificate, they provide a copy to the AF.
  - e. The Fieldman can optionally conduct additional training, including identification and management of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds found on their acreage.
  - f. Once the Ag. Fieldman is satisfied that the acreage owner can identify and safely and effectively spray the weeds, they sign the RAO's certificate.
  - g. The Ag. Fieldman would do a. to e. (above) for each year of the RAO's 5 year certificate. To renew the RAO certificate, the RAO must retake the course every 5 years.
  - h. The AF determines which product can be used. They can choose from products that have one or both active ingredients below and **ensure the product is registered for the weed and for pasture and non-cropland areas** (depending on where weeds are located):
    - Aminopyralid (eg., Milestone)
    - Aminopyralid and Metsulfuron methyl (eg., Reclaim)
    - Metsulfuron methyl (eg., Escort)
  - i. The Ag. Fieldman determines the extent of the infestation in the pasture or non-cropland and calculates the amount of herbicide required (based on the product chosen). The AF

can sell or provide free of charge the specified herbicide to the RAO. The AF then adds only the required amount of herbicide to the RAO's sprayer or to a municipality rental sprayer (if service is offered) or adds the correct amount of herbicide to an empty container of the product selected. **NOTE: The municipality MUST NOT decant a small amount herbicide into any another container except a container that normally contains the product as this is an illegal activity under the *Pest Control Products Act*.**

- j. AF makes a record of the transaction as per the record keeping requirements specified in the [\*Pesticide \(Ministerial\) Regulation\*](#) as follows:
1. name and mailing address of the purchaser
  2. product name (including the Pest Control Act Registration number) and total quantity sold
  3. date of sale
  4. purchaser's:
    - a. Service Registration number and expiry date, or
    - b. Applicator Certificate number and expiry date, or
    - c. appropriately signed RAO certificate number and expiry date
  5. where the purchaser is a Commercial Agriculturalist or an rural acreage owner, the purchaser's legal land location or other means of confirmation that the individual is a bonafide farmer or rural acreage owner.
- k. RAO takes the spray equipment home and conducts the application. **NOTE: only the RAO that holds the certificate can pick up the product from the AF and conduct the application. In addition, the RAO certificate holder can only conduct the application ON THEIR OWN LAND.**

For more information or questions regarding the RAO program, please contact Vivianne Servant (780-538-8054) or Devon Smiegielski (780-538-6460).



# REQUEST FOR DECISION

---

**SUBJECT:** Elevation of Wild Caraway  
**SUBMISSION TO:** AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD  
**MEETING DATE:** August 25, 2021  
**DEPARTMENT:** AGRICULTURE  
**STRATEGIC PLAN:** Level of Service

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION**  
**CAO:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**GM:** DM  
**MANAGER:** SK  
**PRESENTER:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**RELEVANT LEGISLATION:**

**Provincial (cite) – WEED CONTROL ACT SA, 2008, Chapter W-5.1**

**Council Bylaw/Policy (cite) – N/A**

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board recommend the proposed bylaw to the Policy Review Committee for consideration.**

---

**BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:**

During routine right-of-way spraying, vegetation management staff noted significant infestations of Wild Caraway, *Carum carvi*, within Greenview. Notably, a section of the right-of-way a mile in length was sprayed to control a significant, municipal infestation. Localized patches of caraway were noted with assistance being offered to one concerned ratepayer.

Wild Caraway is a species of concern for Alberta Invasive Species Council, specifically in range and pasture, as it is unpalatable to livestock. The plant has been elevated to noxious status in multiple municipalities, including Brazeau County and Mountain View County. Administration recommends the ASB forward the drafted Weed Elevating Bylaw to the Policy Review Committee to include Wild Caraway as a noxious weed within Greenview.

---

**BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. The benefit of the recommended action is to encourage awareness and assist in keeping populations controllable.
- 

**DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. There are no perceived disadvantages to the recommended actions.
- 

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

**Alternative #1:** The Agricultural Service Board has the alternative to alter or deny the recommended motion.

---

---

**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):**

- Draft Bylaw XXX Letter to Minister
- Draft Wild Caraway Bylaw
- Wild Caraway, *Carum carvi*, Alberta Invasive Species Council Fact Sheet

INSERT DATE, 2021

Honourable Devin Dreeshen  
Minister, Agriculture and Forestry  
#423 Legislature Building  
10800 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T5K 2B6

**RE: Greenview BYLAW No. XXX**

Honourable Minister:

Enclosed you will find a copy of Bylaw No. XXX with which the Greenview asks to elevate certain plants to the Noxious category of the Weed Control Act, within our boundaries.

Bylaw No. XXX received 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> readings at the INSERT DATE regular Council meeting

According to the Weed Control Act, Weed Control Regulations Part 2, Section 9(4) 'A designation under this section is not effective unless it is approved by the Minister.'

Greenview Council hereby requests the Honourable Minister approve Bylaw No. XXXX

Please feel free to contact Ms. Sheila Kaus, Manager, Agricultural Services at 780-558-9333 or [sheila.kaus@mdgreenview.ab.ca](mailto:sheila.kaus@mdgreenview.ab.ca) should there be any questions on the particular species we are proposing to elevate with Bylaw No. XXXXX.

Sincerely,

Stacey Wabick  
Chief Administrative Officer  
780-524-7600  
[stacey.wabick@mdgreenview.ab.ca](mailto:stacey.wabick@mdgreenview.ab.ca)

Encl. Bylaw No. XXXXX

BYLAW No. XXXXX

**A BYLAW OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SMOKY RIVER NO. 130 IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO DESIGNATE PLANTS WITHIN GREENVIEW AS NOXIOUS WEEDS**

**WHEREAS** Greenview wishes to declare certain invasive plants as noxious within its boundaries to assist with control efforts on private and public lands, and

**WHEREAS** the Alberta *Weed Control Act* SA 2008 cW-5.1, *Weed Control Regulation* AR 19/2010 in Section 9 allows the Council of Greenview in the Province of Alberta to enact as follows:

**Noxious Designations**

1. The following plants shall be designated as noxious weeds within the boundaries of the Greenview:

- Wild Caraway (*Carum carvi*)

Received first reading this XX<sup>th</sup> day of XXXX, 20XX.

Received second reading this XX<sup>th</sup> day of XXXX, 20XX.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reeve

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

Received approval by the Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Honourable Minister Dreeshen

Received third reading and finally passed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20XX.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reeve

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer



# Wild Caraway

*Carum carvi*

**Provincial Designation:**  
Not Regulated\*

\*Noxious in several M.D./Counties



Alberta Sustainable Resource Development



Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

## Overview:

Wild caraway is a biennial plant, producing a low growing rosette of leaves in its first year of growth, and then a flowering stalk (bolt) in the second year – it can even bolt and flower a third year before dying. It develops a narrow, parsnip-like taproot with a black skin and white core. This is the same plant that produces the caraway spice used in rye breads and as an ingredient in some liquor. All parts of the plant are edible. Native to Eurasia, it has escaped cultivation as a spice crop in Canada.

## Habitat:

Wild caraway grows in a wide variety of soil types, pH, and climates. It will successfully reproduce under deciduous forest canopy but seems intolerant of complete shade. Bolt-ing plants can tolerate some spring flooding and seedlings can survive light frosts.

## Identification:

**Stems:** Are erect, branched, and grow 60

to 90 cm tall. There can be several stems per plant.

**Leaves:** Are alternate and very finely divid-ed (very carrot-like). The leaves of first-year rosettes can be very similar to yarrow, a native plant.

**Flowers:** Are white, but occasionally pink-ish, and occur in groups at the top of stems (compound umbels). Flowers hermaphro-ditic (having both male & female organs) and therefore self-fertile. Fruits (seeds) are crescent-shaped with ridges, and about 2 mm long.

## Prevention:

Wild caraway is very difficult to detect when not in flower. Learn to recognize Wild caraway rosettes – early detection provides the best chances for eradication.

## Control:

**Grazing:** It is not utilized by livestock and can quickly displace nearly all other vegeta-tion where infestations go uncontrolled. Infestations in forage crops have led to weed

seed dispersal in baled hay. Invasive plants should never be considered as forage.

**Cultivation:** Repeated cultivation before seed set are be effective. Hand pulling pre-bloom is also effective, especially in soft soils. After flowering the plants are very fragile and seeds are easily scattered – at this stage a plastic bag can be carefully placed over the mature plant, and closed tightly around the stem. Collected seed should be disposed of in landfill-bound garbage or thoroughly burned. Several years' effort is required to deplete the seed bank.

**Mechanical:** Repeated mowing is not effective, as plants re-bloom below cutting height.

**Chemical:** Currently no selective herbi-cides are registered for use on wild caraway. Always check product labels to ensure the herbicide is registered for use on the target plant in Canada by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. Always read and follow label directions. Consult your local Agricul-tural Fieldman or Certified Pesticide Dis-penser for more information.

*continued next page*



# Wild Caraway (Continued)

**Biological:** None researched to date.



Alberta Sustainable Resource Development



Alberta Sustainable Resource Development



Alberta Sustainable Resource Development



Alberta Sustainable Resource Development



Alberta Sustainable Resource Development





# REQUEST FOR DECISION

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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Farm Family Award Recognition</b>		
<b>SUBMISSION TO:</b>	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD	<b>REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION</b>	
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	August 25, 2021	<b>CAO:</b>	<b>MANAGER: SK</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	AGRICULTURE	<b>GM: DM</b>	<b>PRESENTER: KK</b>
<b>STRATEGIC PLAN:</b>	Level of Service	<b>LEG:</b>	

---

#### RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

**Provincial** (cite) – N/A

**Council Bylaw/Policy** (cite) – **Policy 6315: Farm Family Awards**

---

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

**MOTION: That the Agricultural Services Board authorize Administration to develop options to publicly highlight the past, present and future Greenview Farm Family Award recipients.**

---

#### BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Greenview has been a long-standing supporter of the BMO Farm Family Awards, with the first award recipient being in 1969, with a total of 19 recipients throughout the years. Historically, recipients were recognized annually, and in the year 2000, the term was changed to every other year. This season, Greenview had the honour of recognizing a local farm family for their contributions to the Greenview Agricultural community. Nominations have been extended to August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Administration recommends Greenview expand on this show of appreciation to include public recognition of the past, present and future Farm Family Award recipients through the establishment of a “Farm Family Award Wall of Fame.” The proposed Farm Family Award recognition could be comprised of both a physical location and a digital recognition space on the Greenview corporate website.

Greenview will demonstrate its ongoing commitment to the agricultural community and local farm families by showcasing award recipients.

---

#### BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. The benefit of the Agricultural Service Board accepting the recommended motion is that Farm Family Award recipients will be publicly and historically recognized.

---

#### DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

---

#### ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

**Alternative #1:** The Agricultural Service Board may alter or deny the recommended action.

---

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:**

Financial implications will be dependant on the Agricultural Service Boards decision.

---

**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:**

Once the Agricultural Services Board decides, Administration will move forward with developing options for consideration.

---

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- Historical List of Farm Family Award recipients

## Greenview Farm Family Award History

Family	Year
Not Selected	<b>2021</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>2019</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>2017</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>2015</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>2013</b>
Gerald & Esther Finster	<b>2011</b>
Ken & Laurie Rieger	<b>2009</b>
Danny and Lois Williams	<b>2007</b>
Everett and Joy Morrison Shelley Morrison	<b>2005</b>
Don & Shirley Penson	<b>2003</b>
Kelvin & Lori Tom & Debbie Airth	<b>2001</b>
Ken & Annette Mulligan & Family	<b>2000</b>
Steve & Luella Vetsch	<b>1999</b>
Eric & Irene Bowman	<b>1998</b>
Stan & Laurette Reimer	<b>1997</b>
Kevin & Karin Petryshen	<b>1996</b>
Larry & Donna Birch	<b>1995</b>
Armand & Bernadette Doucette	<b>1994</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1993</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1992</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1991</b>
Yelenik Family	<b>1990</b>

Family	Year
Andy Hunke Family	<b>1989</b>
Frank Stevenson Family	<b>1988</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1987</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1986</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1985</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1984</b>
Norm Adolphson	<b>1983</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1982</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1981</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1980</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1979</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1978</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1977</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1976</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1975</b>
The Garry C. Archibald Family	<b>1974</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1973</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1972</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1971</b>
No Nominee put forward	<b>1970</b>
Norman Adolphson	<b>1969</b>



# REQUEST FOR DECISION

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SUBJECT:	<b>Range and Pasture Herbicide Sales</b>	REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION	
SUBMISSION TO:	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD	CAO:	MANAGER: SK
MEETING DATE:	August 25, 2021	GM: DM	PRESENTER:
DEPARTMENT:	AGRICULTURE		
STRATEGIC PLAN:	Level of Service		

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#### RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

**Provincial** (cite) – Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticide *Made under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, RSA 2000, cE-12

**Council Bylaw/Policy** (cite) – N/A

---

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

**MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board accept the Range and Pasture Herbicide Sales report for information.**

---

#### BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

In April of 2021, the Nutrien Agricultural retailer in High Prairie was closed and the operations was shifted to a Falher location. This has led to a reduction of available agricultural retailers for livestock producers to access for range and pasture products.

Greenview has significant tall buttercup infestations in the Little Smoky area, most effectively addressed with range and pasture products. While most grain farmers can arrange for delivery of inputs, range and pasture products are bought in significantly smaller quantities and producers will need to travel an hour to Falher, an hour and forty-five minutes to Grande Prairie or almost two hours to Sangudo to source the required herbicides.

Should the Rural Acreage Owner Program move forward, Administration will have already obtained a vendor's license. With this vendor's license, Administration could act as a point of sale for range and pasture products to help facilitate weed control in Greenview. Producers would pay for their chemical prior to Administration placing the order and pick up of the herbicide would be on-delivery. This program could greatly increase the control achieved by producers managing range and pasture.

---

#### BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. The benefit of the Agricultural Service Board accepting the recommended motion is improved access to range and pasture herbicides for Greenview ratepayers.

---

DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

---

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

**Alternative #1:** The Agricultural Service Board has the alternative to vary or deny the recommended motion.

---

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

There are no financial implications to the recommended motion as the herbicide would be provided at-cost.

---

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): N/A



# REQUEST FOR DECISION

---

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Declaration of Agricultural Disaster</b>		
<b>SUBMISSION TO:</b>	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD	<b>REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION</b>	
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	August 25, 2021	<b>CAO:</b>	<b>MANAGER: SK</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	AGRICULTURE	<b>GM: DM</b>	<b>PRESENTER:</b>
<b>STRATEGIC PLAN:</b>	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 Declaration of Agricultural Disaster report for information, as presented.**

---

#### BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

On July 27<sup>th</sup>, at a regular meeting of Council, Greenview declared the municipality an Agricultural Disaster Area, joining twenty-six other municipalities throughout Alberta.

Precipitation values across Greenview's agricultural zone have soil moisture reserves rated as a 1 in a 50-year drought. While often misunderstood that these conditions will happen once every fifty years, this is a statistical term meaning that the lack of moisture the region is currently experiencing has a statistical probability of being met or exceeded on average once every fifty years. In a 1,000-year time frame, this would mean these conditions may occur twenty times.

Pastures and forage yields have been heavily impacted, with some producers already selling their breeding stock or trying to arrange supplemental feeding. The output on forage lands has been reduced, in some cases, by more than 75%.

In the Provincial Crop Report received by Greenview on July 30<sup>th</sup>, the average Peace Region crops rated “good to excellent” are standing at 18.1%. The five-year average for this period is 72%, while the ten-year standard is 66.7%.

---

#### BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. The benefit of the Agricultural Service Board accepting the recommended motion is that they are informed as to actions taken by Greenview Council on behalf of Greenview producers.

---

#### DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

**Alternative #1:** The Agricultural Service Board has the alternative to alter or deny the recommended motion.

---

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: N/A

---

ATTACHMENT(S):

- RMA Guide for Declaring Municipal Agriculture Disasters
- Agriculture Disaster Letter to Minister Dreeschen MD of Greenview
- Declaration Ag Disaster MD of Greenview
- Second Assessment
- Alberta Crop Report July 16, 2021
- Alberta Crop Report July 27, 2021
- Precipitation Report July 26
- Soil Moisture Reserves to 120 cm July 27, 2021
- Agriculture Disaster Letters To Minister Dreeschen from:
  - Clear Hills County
  - County of Paintearth
  - MD of Acadia
  - MD of Taber
  - Northern Lights

- Special Areas Board
- Wheatland County
- Yellowhead County
- Declaration of Agricultural Disaster Area for:
  - County of Grande Prairie
  - County of Newell
  - County of St. Paul
  - County of Stettler
  - Kneehill County
  - Lac Ste. Anne County
  - MD of Peace No. 135
  - MD of Smoky River
  - MD of Wainwright
  - Rocky View County
  - Smoky Lake





# A Guide for Declaring Municipal Agricultural Disasters in Alberta

Prepared by the Rural  
Municipalities of Alberta

# Contents

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## About This Guide

Steps used towards declaring a municipal agricultural disaster can bring awareness to a developing situation, inform residents, industry and provincial and federal governments and enable collaboration with impacted producer groups.

This guide is intended to be used as a tool to enable municipalities to use informed decision making process prior to making a formal declaration of agricultural disaster as conditions evolve. **Municipal declarations do not automatically trigger access to increased funding programs, provincially or federally.**

A number of elements drove the creation of this guide, including:

- Past drought and excessive moisture experiences impacting agricultural production and crop yields,
- 2015 drought which resulted in a provincial declaration and multiple municipal declarations,
- Discussion stemming from the provincial Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group (DEMAG) whose mandate is to provide advice and recommendations to complement government actions on drought and excessive moisture related issues affecting Alberta's agricultural producers in Alberta and to advise and provide recommendations to government on long-term strategies for mitigating the effects of drought and excessive moisture. More information regarding DEMAG is included in Appendix C.

## Purpose of the Guide:

The purpose of the Guide is to promote a consistent mechanism for data collection and monitoring to support municipal decision making to guide agricultural disaster declarations.

Through the use of information provided in the Guide, municipalities can bring awareness to a situation as it is developing and ensure all levels of government and local residents are aware of the situation, without immediately declaring it as a "disaster."

The use of this guide is intended as a source of information that will allow data comparisons within a municipality year after year.

The Guide provides:

- Directions for consistent and clear messaging
- Identification of tools available to arrive at condition statement
- Access to technical data to support condition statement
- Timeline documentation of conditions
- The ability to modify condition statements due to a change in conditions
- An explanation of the differences between a condition statement versus a provincial declaration of agricultural disaster
- A recommendation as to when a municipal declaration should be made

- A communications guide noting key parties to notify

## Condition Statement Tool Overview

The Condition Statement Tool is intended to provide a tracking mechanism that will enable data-driven municipal decision making where agriculture production is impacted by natural causes.

Utilizing data available through Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (ASFC) (ex. crop reports customized to the municipal level) and/or municipal resources such as agricultural fieldmen, the condition statement tool can be used to highlight and track the percentage of crops in poor condition. The use of a colour-coded chart demonstrates a snapshot of conditions at a given time, and includes identification of the size of area impacted (in hectares).

Municipalities are encouraged to attach a map highlighting the impacted area(s) where possible.

It is advisable to assess conditions through this tool every two to three weeks to monitor and document any changes prior to making a formal declaration. It is important to note that improved conditions can result in a declaration being lifted.

The Condition Statement Tool is available in Appendix A for use and a sample is provided below:

Date:	July 7, 2015					
Municipality:	County of RMA					
Total Area Impacted:	324 seeded hectares					
Map Included:	No					
Next Report Due:	July 21, 2015					
	Ranking	Drought	Excessive Moisture	Floods	Pests	Hail
Annuals Impacted (% rated poor):						
Cereals		13% poor				
Oil Seed					26% poor	
Others						
Perennials Impacted (% rated poor):						
Tame Hay				55% poor		

Tame Pasture						
Native Pasture						
Other: (please indicate)						

Legend: % of crop (in hectares) rated 'poor':

	0 – 10%	Crops near normal and above
	10% - 25%	Expected diminished crop yields
	25% - 50%	Pending disaster
	50% or higher	Definite disaster
	No impacts being experienced	

## Technical Information to Support Data

There are a number of tools available that supply data municipalities can use in assessing their local conditions and utilizing the condition assessment tool. Click on the hyperlinks provided for access to information.

### Agriculture and Forestry

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry houses significant data sources that municipalities can utilize, including:

- [Instructions for Accessing Precipitation Data from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry](#)
- [Agroclimatic Atlas Introduction](#)
- [Agroclimatic Atlas Maps](#)
- [Agriculture and Forestry Climate Services Staff Resources](#)

### Agriculture Financial Services Corporation ([AFSC](#))

AFSC can assist municipal districts and counties when they are experiencing drought or excessively wet conditions. AFSC provides information through the following mechanisms:

- *Crop Reports*: AFSC senior adjusters report on crop conditions every two weeks from emergence until harvest is complete. These reports provide information at the county or municipal district level and are available on the AFSC website. This information can be presented in more detail during severe dry or wet conditions, for example maps that show the percent of crops rated poor relative to previous years.

- *Insurance Program Response:* Detailed information on how AFSC's existing insurance products respond to a specific conditions are made available on the AFSC website. This would include options for putting crops to an alternate use when crops are deteriorating and there is a shortage of feed in an area.
- *AgriStability Response:* How AgriStability responds can be posted on the AFSC website along with procedures for obtaining an advance under this program.
- *AgriRecovery Process:* AFSC along with Agriculture & Forestry staff can provide municipalities with detailed information on what is required to trigger an AgriRecovery response.
- Information on accessing Environment Canada data:
  - [Instructions for Accessing Precipitation Data](#)
  - [Instructions for Accessing Historical Radar Data](#)

### **Municipal Information:**

- [RMA](#)
- Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen ([AAAF](#))

## **Government of Alberta Declaration**

### **The Role of AFSC**

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) is a provincial Crown corporation that provides farmers, agribusinesses and other small businesses with loans, crop insurance and farm income disaster assistance. AFSC expenditures are consolidated into the provincial budget and the provincial budgeting process includes requirements for ministries and Crown corporations to live within budgeted expenditures, meaning that departments or Crown corporations cannot spend more than what has been budgeted for.

AFSC forecasts annual revenues that will be gained through premiums and estimates expenditures to pay out indemnities. AFSC provides those budget estimates to the Government of Alberta for inclusion into the provincial budget. If indemnities exceed budget amounts, AFSC needs to access reserve funds and the remainder of premiums as expenditures. This requires a formal process through the Treasury Board.

### **Provincial Declaration**

In order to access additional funds the Government of Alberta must declare a disaster to access those funds for claim payments. This decision is made by Cabinet and is informed by data and analytical information provided by AFSC and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. This declaration triggers a financial transaction through the Treasury Board to enable AFSC access to reserve funds.

### **Municipal Role**

A common misperception is that a municipal declaration of an agricultural disaster will influence a provincial declaration or access to funding supports. This is simply not the case. Municipal declarations

bring awareness to an issue in a specific area of the province, but they do not trigger a provincial declaration or access to any funding to support the issue.

Municipalities can work with their local agriculture industries or industry/producer organizations to communicate concerns and assess challenges being experienced.

### **Municipal Communications Process**

The RMA assists AFSC and the Government of Alberta in distributing information to municipalities and Ag Service Board members. Providing a central communication hub for information sharing improves understanding of the challenges being experienced and connecting impacted municipalities with appropriate resources and support.

Before a municipality formally declares a state of agriculture disaster, a number of questions should be considered to enable consistent and thorough communications. These include:

- Does the state of agricultural disaster cover the entire area or just a region within the municipality?
- Does the agriculture disaster cover all agriculture in the municipality or only certain commodity products?
- Has the municipality used AFSC data for the local area to assess the level of impact being experienced?
- Has the municipality contacted producer groups and associations to discuss impacts being experienced?
- Does the municipality have data to support this decision (ex. completed condition assessment tool(s) and municipal mapping)?

Once a declaration of agriculture disaster has been made, the municipality should provide information regarding the details of the agriculture disaster to the following organizations for access to consistent information:

- Government of Alberta (Agriculture and Forestry)
- AFSC
- RMA

## Appendix A: Condition Statement Tool

Utilizing data available through Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (ASFC) (ex. crop reports customized to the municipal level) and/or municipal resources such as agricultural fieldmen, the condition statement tool can be used to highlight and track the percentage of crops in poor condition.

The use of a colour-coded chart demonstrates a snapshot of conditions at a given time, and includes identification of the size of area impacted (in seeded hectares where applicable).

Municipalities are encouraged to attach a map highlighting the impacted area(s) where possible. It is advisable to assess conditions throughout the growing season to monitor and document any changes.

Date:						
Municipality:						
Total Area Impacted:						
Map Included:						
Next Report Due:						
	Ranking	Drought	Excessive Moisture	Floods	Pests	Hail
Annuals Impacted (% rated poor):						
Cereals						
Oil Seed						
Others						
Perennials Impacted (% rated poor):						
Tame Hay						
Tame Pasture						
Native Pasture						
Other: (please indicate)						



Legend: % of crop (in hectares) rated 'poor':

	0 – 10%	Crops near normal and above
	10% - 25%	Expected diminished crop yields
	25% - 50%	Pending disaster
	50% or higher	Definite disaster
	No impacts being experienced	

## Appendix B: Municipal Agricultural Disaster Declaration Template

### Municipal Agricultural Disaster Declaration

(attach all relevant data and completed condition statements to support declaration)

<b>Municipality:</b>	
<b>Type of Agriculture Disaster:</b>	[Type of disaster experienced and impact, such as drought conditions impacting 60% of cereal yields]
<b>Stages of Disaster Declaration:</b>	[Document the stages on the spectrum of the agriculture disaster and, as best as possible, the dates at which each stage was met]
<b>Data to support:</b>	[Insert or reference the data used to justify the state of agriculture disaster]
<b>Level of impact:</b>	[Describe the areas and commodity types impacted by the agriculture disaster]
<b>Communication process:</b>	[Outline the stakeholders to be contacted by the municipality following the declaration of agriculture disaster including Government of Alberta ministries, AFSC, RMA, and producer associations]
<b>Other information:</b>	

## Appendix C: Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group

The Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group (DEMAG) is comprised of appointed representatives of key stakeholder agencies:

- Agri-Environmental Services Branch of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC)
- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
- Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)
- Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (RMA)
- Alberta Environment and Parks
- Crop sector
- Irrigated Crop sector
- Livestock sector
- Wildrose Agricultural Producers Association

Mandate:

- To provide consistent and consolidated advice and recommendations to complement government actions on drought and excessive moisture related issues affecting the agricultural producers in Alberta.
- To advise and provide recommendations to government on long-term strategies for mitigating the effects of drought and excessive moisture.

Key Duties and Responsibilities of DEMAG:

- Facilitate two-way communication that is effective, timely, respectful and clear.
- Recommend extension activities and provide input to drought and excessive moisture related and related risk management information for key stakeholder groups.
- Serve as a formal communication connection between industry and government, and from government back to industry.
- Provide recommendations and policy advice to the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry for effective, fiscally responsible drought and excessive moisture preparedness, monitoring and reporting, and response actions.
- Actively participate in long-term strategic planning for future drought conditions in Alberta; for example, long-term water management and production/crop choices.
- Work with industry organizations to identify how to best assist producers in preparing for and coping with drought and excessive moisture, and develop these discoveries into recommendations.
- Oversee the implementation of the Agriculture Drought Risk Management Plan (ADRMP), and provide advice on and input during the ADRMP's review and evaluation.

## Acknowledgments

The RMA would like to thank the following organizations for their contributions in developing this guide:

- Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
- Alberta Association Agriculture Fieldmen
- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry



# MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW

July 28, 2021

Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry  
229 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 2B6

Attention: Honourable Devin Dreeshen

## **RE: GREENVIEW DECLARES A MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER**

During the regularly scheduled Council Meeting held July 27, 2021, Greenview Council declared the municipality an Agricultural Disaster Area.

The consistently high heat, heavy winds, and lack of moisture have impacted crop and livestock producers within multiple areas of Greenview. Outright crop failures have occurred while other crops are prematurely ripening, with producers anticipating poor crop yield and quality.

Pastures and forage yields have been heavily impacted, with some producers already selling their breeding stock or trying to arrange supplemental feeding. The output on forage lands has been reduced, in some cases, by more than 75%.

In the latest Provincial Crop Report received by Greenview, the average Peace Region crops rated “good to excellent” are standing at 18.1%. The five-year average for this period is 69.9%, while the ten-year average is 67.2%. After multiple challenging years, Greenview was initially happy to see commodity prices rise this spring, hoping for a bountiful year for our producers. That early promise has not been realized, developing into another tough year after several difficult harvests. We cannot help but ask, how much longer can many of our local producers continue, with little to see for their efforts?

Greenview producers need insurance adjusters in the field to assess crops now. Timely inspections could increase potential feed sources for our livestock producers, as grain producers choose alternative uses for unsalvagable crops. We strongly recommend Greenview be included in the regions receiving designation for livestock tax deferral and request the Ministry lobby the federal government on behalf of livestock producers on this issue.

Respectfully,

Dale Smith  
Reeve of Greenview



# MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW

July 29, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Greenview Declares Agricultural Disaster**

(Valleyview, AB) – Greenview Council declared an Agricultural Disaster at the Regular Council Meeting on July 27, 2021.

Greenview Council made this declaration to address and bring attention to the consequential drought conditions that have significantly impacted Agricultural Producers within multiple areas of Greenview. Greenview spans a large geographical area, and while crop conditions vary throughout the municipality, some areas are seeing alarming impacts on their yields.

A prolonged record-breaking heatwave peaked at the end of June and continued into early July, delivering consistently high heat, heavy winds, and a significant lack of moisture. These conditions combined have impacted crop and livestock producers across areas of Greenview.

Agriculture Producers in Greenview are faced with crop failures in addition to premature ripening of crops, with producers anticipating poor yield and quality. Pastures and forage yield have been heavily impacted, with some producers already selling their breeding stock or trying to arrange supplemental feeding. Some local producers are seeing a reduction of as much as 75%, affecting harvest on forage lands.

Reeve Dale Smith has been meeting with local producers and is concerned. “Greenview Council recognizes the concerns and hardships of our local agricultural producers.” He added, “Declaring an agricultural disaster raises awareness of the conditions and adversities faced by some in our agricultural community and shows our support.”

Greenview Council strongly urges the provincial ministry to lobby the federal government on behalf of Alberta livestock producers to include Greenview in the list of municipalities receiving an early designation of livestock tax deferral.

-30-

**Media inquiries may be directed to:**

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[stacey.sevilla@mdgreenview.ab.ca](mailto:stacey.sevilla@mdgreenview.ab.ca)


Web: [www.mdgreenview.ab.ca](http://www.mdgreenview.ab.ca)

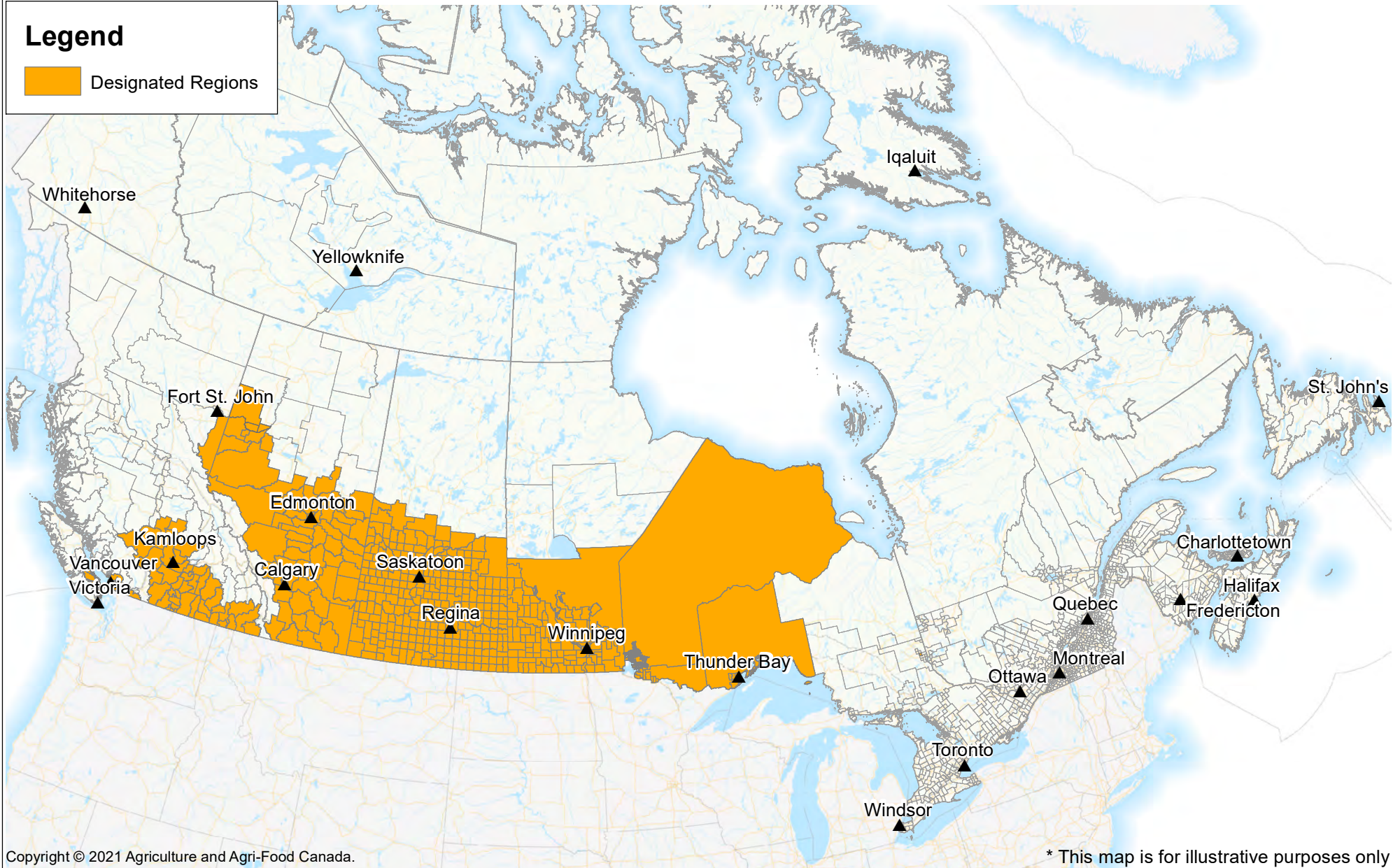




# 2021 Livestock Tax Deferral Assessment - Designated Regions

## Legend

 Designated Regions



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\* This map is for illustrative purposes only

Prepared by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's National Agroclimate Information Service (NAIS)

Created: 08/03/2021  
[www.agr.gc.ca/drought](http://www.agr.gc.ca/drought)



# Alberta Crop Report



## Crop Conditions as of July 13, 2021

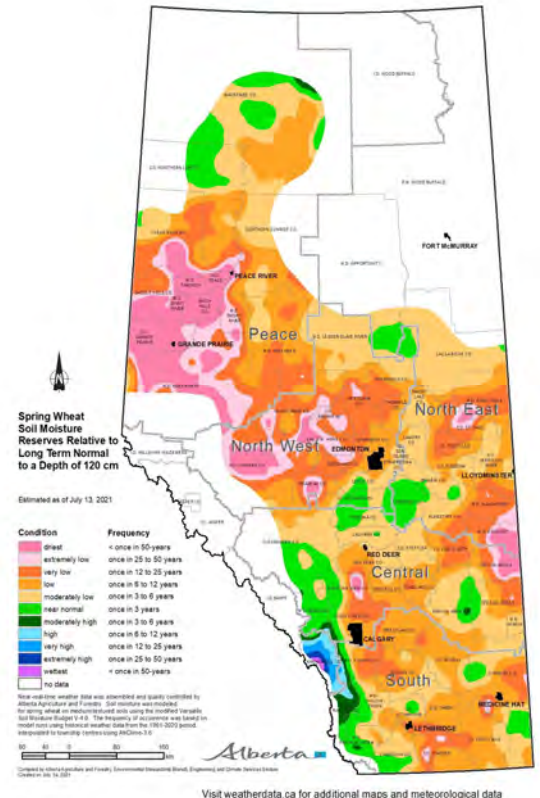
The prolonged record-breaking heat that peaked at the end of June and continued into early July brought extremely warm air and drying winds across the province. The high temperatures either advanced the stage of crop development rapidly or stagnated some crops. Additionally, precipitation was limited over the past two weeks. Some areas have received moisture in the form of thunderstorms, while many others have not. This deteriorated crop growing conditions across the province and reduced yield potential. Crops and forages in most areas are in need of immediate moisture and cooler temperatures to make any recovery.

Compared to the previous report (conditions as of June 28), provincial crop growing conditions dropped 32 per cent and are now rated as 37 per cent good to excellent, below the provincial 5-year average of 74 per cent and the 10-year average of 73 per cent (See Table 1). Crop growing condition ratings dropped for all regions, with the North East Region deteriorating the most (down 50 per cent), followed by the Peace (down 48 per cent) and North West Region (down 45 per cent). Conditions deteriorated 18 per cent in the Central Region and 16 per cent in the South Region. Regionally, crop growing conditions are currently the best in the Central Region, with 59 per cent of all crops rated as good or excellent, while the worst conditions are reported in the Peace and North West Regions where crop conditions are rated at 18 and 27 per cent good or excellent, respectively. About 33 per cent of crops in the South and 35 per cent in the North East Region are rated as good or excellent.

**Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of July 13, 2021**

	Per cent rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	34.3%	55.7%	42.5%	27.6%	16.5%	38.8%
Durum Wheat	31.7%	42.5%	---	---	---	33.2%
Barley*	31.0%	66.4%	32.7%	29.2%	19.7%	41.4%
Oats*	35.1%	53.5%	30.3%	24.6%	31.7%	33.9%
Canola*	30.1%	61.1%	28.2%	24.1%	16.3%	32.6%
Dry Peas*	33.1%	57.7%	32.6%	32.5%	22.8%	35.5%
Mustard	41.3%	43.7%	---	---	---	42.0%
Flax	37.0%	27.6%	---	---	---	30.8%
Potatoes	70.5%	90.9%	---	100.0%	---	73.4%
Chickpeas	14.0%	50.0%	---	---	---	15.6%
Lentils	27.0%	55.0%	---	---	---	30.8%
<b>All Crops, July 13</b>	<b>33.4%</b>	<b>59.4%</b>	<b>34.6%</b>	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>18.1%</b>	<b>36.6%</b>
<b>Major Crops (*), July 13</b>	<b>32.3%</b>	<b>60.2%</b>	<b>34.5%</b>	<b>26.6%</b>	<b>18.1%</b>	<b>36.5%</b>
<b>All Crops, June 28</b>	<b>48.9%</b>	<b>77.2%</b>	<b>84.3%</b>	<b>71.7%</b>	<b>65.8%</b>	<b>68.3%</b>
<b>5-year (2016-2020) Avg</b>	<b>67.2%</b>	<b>78.7%</b>	<b>83.0%</b>	<b>68.7%</b>	<b>69.9%</b>	<b>74.1%</b>
<b>10-year (2011-2020) Avg</b>	<b>72.3%</b>	<b>75.1%</b>	<b>78.6%</b>	<b>68.2%</b>	<b>67.2%</b>	<b>73.4%</b>

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



The year over year precipitation deficits now exceed 1 in 50 year lows in some areas. For many of these areas, deficits started accumulating in July 2020, as wet spring weather was replaced with a drying trend which ran through fall and winter. It eased off in spring 2021, but has since returned. The lack of moisture, coupled with the effects of the intense heat have been amplified and taken its toll on soil moisture reserves (see the map on the previous page). Provincial surface soil moisture ratings (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) are rated at 42 (36) per cent poor, 35 (38) per cent fair and 23 (26) per cent good.

Concern over the lack of pasture is rising. Pasture growing conditions are poor and fields are turning yellow or brown, with little re-growth. Some producers are silaging their cereals or pulses, in order to salvage some crops. First cut hay yields were below average and the second cut is not promising, as fields are in need of immediate rain. First cut dryland hay is 82 per cent complete across the province, significantly ahead of the 5-year average of 37 per cent. The estimated yield for dryland hay is 1.1 tons per acre (below the 5-year average of 1.5 tons per acre), with quality rated as 55 per cent good to excellent, compared to the 5-year average of 69 per cent. For irrigated hay, first cut is 91 per cent complete (ahead of the 5-year average of 78 per cent), with yield at 2.1 tons per acre, below the 5-year average of 2.4 tons per acre. Quality is rated as 65 per cent good to excellent, compared to the 5-year average of 84 per cent. Pasture conditions (tame hay numbers shown in the brackets) across the province are now reported as 35 (39) per cent poor, 38 (36) per cent fair and 27 (25) per cent good (see Table 2).

**Table 2: Pasture Growth Conditions as of July 13, 2021**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	28.2%	52.6%	18.2%	1.0%
Central	22.6%	24.7%	52.5%	0.2%
North East	51.2%	24.4%	24.1%	0.3%
North West	52.0%	41.7%	6.3%	0.0%
Peace	52.4%	40.6%	7.0%	0.0%
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>34.6%</b>	<b>37.9%</b>	<b>27.0%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
5-year (2016-2020) Avg	11.1%	21.7%	50.4%	16.8%
10-year (2011-2020) Avg	12.4%	20.0%	48.6%	19.0%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

## Regional Assessments:

### Region One: South (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- The extreme heat caused crops to quickly advance development. Although the heat was followed by cooler temperatures in the region and rain in some areas, the moisture was not enough to alleviate dry conditions. Crops have generally stunted and are forming small heads and pods. Early seeded crops have suffered the worst. Even irrigated crops have been impacted by the high temperatures, keeping their yield potentials below average. Hailstorms were reported on July 5 and 11 in some counties, causing heavy to moderate damage in some areas. Gopher's infestation is becoming a concern in some areas.
- Crop development in the region is slightly ahead of normal. Spring cereals are mostly in the flowering stage of development and fall seeded crops are finishing the milk development stage. About 81 per cent of canola and 35 per cent of dry peas are now in flower, while 16 per cent of canola and 65 per cent of dry peas are in the podding stage.
- Hot dry conditions have allowed first cut haying to progress quickly, but with poor yields. Currently, dryland haying is 90 per cent complete, ahead of the 5-year average of 73 per cent. Irrigated hay is 95 per cent complete, compared to the 5-year average of 85 per cent. Dryland and irrigated yields (5-year averages shown in the brackets) are estimated at 0.9 (1.1) and 2.2 (2.4) tons per acre, respectively. Hay quality is rated at 62 per cent poor or fair and 38 per cent good or excellent for dryland, and 36 per cent poor or fair and 64 per cent good or excellent for irrigated. Tame hay growing conditions are now reported as 24 per cent poor, 55 per cent fair, 20 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent.

- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 37 (38) per cent poor, 46 (45) per cent fair, 16 (16) per cent good and 1 (0) per cent excellent.

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

- The heat wave took a toll on crops, hay and pastures. Rain showers brought moisture to most parts of the region and cooler weather, which came later, helped to revive some crops and forages. Even so, yield loss is expected. More moisture is needed to help fill out crops, and also for second cut hay. Some producers in drier areas are in process of making silage or green feed for their cereals. Some areas have had hail with moderate to severe damage. Gopher's infestation is becoming a concern in some areas.
- Spring cereals are in the head emergence stage of development and fall seeded crops are in the milk development stage. About 86 per cent of canola and 47 per cent of dry peas are now in flower, while six per cent of canola and 23 per cent of dry peas are in the podding stage.
- About 73 per cent of dryland and 60 per cent of irrigated haying is complete, compared to their respective 5-year averages of 36 and 21 per cent. Dryland and irrigated yields (5-year averages shown in the brackets) are estimated at 1.4 (1.4) and 2.0 (2.2) tons per acre, respectively. Hay quality is rated at 34 per cent poor or fair and 66 per cent good or excellent for dryland, and 30 per cent poor or fair and 70 per cent good for irrigated. Tame hay conditions are now reported as 26 per cent poor, 27 per cent fair and 47 per cent good.
- Surface and sub-surface soil moisture are both rated at 26 per cent poor, 28 per cent fair and 46 per cent good.

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

- Recent hot windy weather has advanced crop development and deteriorated crop conditions, impacting yield potential. Some areas have now received rain, improving crop conditions, while other areas remain dry. Rain and moderate temperatures are needed to salvage some crops. Hail damage was reported in some areas. Gopher's infestation is becoming a concern in some areas.
- Crop development is slightly ahead, with spring cereals mostly at the beginning of the flowering stage of development and fall seeded crops at the dough development stage. About 60 per cent of canola and 31 per cent of dry peas are in flower, while 35 per cent of canola and 69 per cent of dry peas are already in the podding stage.
- Haying is advanced and 80 per cent complete, compared to the 5-year average of 14 per cent. Hay yield is estimated at one ton per acre, below the 5-year average of 1.5 tons per acre. First cut quality is rated at 21 per cent poor or fair and 79 per cent good or excellent. Tame hay conditions are rated as 63 per cent poor, 24 per cent fair and 13 per cent good.
- Surface soil moisture is reported (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 57 (42) per cent poor, 25 (33) per cent fair and 18 (25) per cent good.

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

- Extreme heat, warm winds and very little precipitation have impacted crop conditions for most parts of the region, as crops are burning and not filling out very well. Cooler weather and rainfall will help to moderate any crop damage, but yields are expected to be less than normal for most areas. Some hail damage was reported in the region. Spring cereals are mostly at the end of the head emergence stage of development, slightly ahead of normal. About 73 per cent of canola and 63 per cent of dry peas are in flower, while 13 per cent of canola and 33 per cent of dry peas are in the podding stage.
- As a result of the dry conditions, haying is 91 per cent complete, significantly ahead of the 5-year average of 29 per cent. Yield is estimated at 1.2 tons per acre, compared to the 5-year average of 2.1 tons per acre. Hay quality is rated as 35 per cent poor or per cent fair and 65 per cent good or excellent. Tame hay conditions are now rated as 44 per cent poor, 40 per cent fair and 16 per cent good.
- Surface soil moisture is reported (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 53 (34) per cent poor, 38 (47) per cent fair and 9 (19) per cent good.

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

- The extreme heat has rapidly advanced growth for both cereals and canola. In some parts of the region, isolated showers brought limited amount of moisture to fields, but was not enough to have a positive impact. Crops are now showing signs of extreme stress as a result of high temperatures and lack of moisture. Grasshopper's infestation in the region is becoming a concern.
- Crop development is significantly ahead of normal in the region, with most of the cereals in the flowering stage. About 76 per cent of canola and 50 per cent of dry peas are in flower and the rests are in the podding stage.
- About 81 per cent of haying is complete, ahead of the 5-year average of 26 per cent, with yield reported at 0.8 ton per acre, below the 5-year average of 1.4 tons per acre. Hay quality is rated at 78 per cent poor or fair and 22 per cent good or excellent. Tame hay growing conditions are reported as 46 per cent poor, 34 per cent fair, 18 per cent good and 2 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 58 (39) per cent poor, 32 (41) per cent fair and 10 (20) per cent good.

## Contact

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry  
Intergovernmental and Trade Relations Branch  
Statistics and Data Development Section  
July 16, 2021

Ashan Shooshtarian  
Crop Statistician  
Phone: 780-422-2887  
Email: [ashan.shooshtarian@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ashan.shooshtarian@gov.ab.ca)

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# Alberta Crop Report



## Crop Conditions as of July 27, 2021

NOTE – Crop Reports will be released bi-weekly in July and August

Alberta's weather has continued to be warm and dry in many areas. The daytime highs in the last two weeks have ranged between the mid-to-high 20s to the low 30s. This, in combination with the lack of precipitation, has led to continued deterioration of annual and perennial crops. The areas south of Red Deer have received 15 mm or less rain in the past two weeks (green, yellow and pink areas on map). The moisture that fell in the areas north of Red Deer will help fill the heads/pods that are already there, but has come too late for many annual crops.

Annual crop conditions have declined compared to the last report, with now only 20 per cent of the annual crops rating good or excellent. This represents a 17-point drop in the last two weeks and is over 50 points below the five- and 10-year average of 71 per cent (Table 1). The Central region experienced the most significant reduction with a 43-point decline, followed by the South, North East, and North West, which are all experiencing close to a 10-point decline. The Peace region fared the better with less than a five-point decrease. The forecasted high temperatures for the upcoming week are expected to impact these ratings further. Crop staging for spring cereals is mid-way through the milk stage while fall cereals are in the hard dough, as compared to the five-year averages of completed flowering and soft dough respectively. Oilseeds are 79 per cent podding, well ahead of the five-year average of 43 per cent, while dry peas are at 97 per cent podding, well ahead of the five-year average of 77 per cent.

**Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of July 27, 2021**

	% Rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	21.5%	17.2%	28.1%	22.3%	13.7%	21.6%
Durum Wheat	22.7%	13.5%	---	---	---	21.5%
Barley*	23.1%	12.6%	17.4%	18.9%	16.0%	17.8%
Oats*	25.2%	14.5%	19.1%	16.7%	27.5%	19.6%
Winter Wheat	42.6%	25.4%	90.0%	46.4%	---	41.8%
Mixed Grain	30.0%	15.1%	34.0%	23.3%	---	18.2%
Canola*	22.1%	17.7%	15.4%	16.4%	13.3%	16.8%
Dry Peas*	19.5%	16.2%	15.9%	16.9%	20.4%	18.2%
Lentils	20.5%	20.0%	---	---	---	20.5%
Chickpeas	11.9%	10.0%	---	---	---	11.8%
Mustard	31.7%	18.7%	---	---	---	27.9%
Flax	31.2%	10.0%	33.7%	---	---	29.7%
Potatoes	51.9%	0.9%	---	87.0%	---	51.8%
All Crops	23.7%	16.1%	20.7%	19.6%	15.0%	19.7%
Major Crops (*)	21.7%	16.2%	20.6%	18.8%	15.0%	18.8%
July 13, 2021	33.4%	59.4%	34.6%	26.9%	18.1%	36.6%
Last Year	87.7%	92.5%	79.7%	35.4%	60.8%	77.5%
5-year (2016-2020) Avg.	59.6%	75.1%	83.3%	62.9%	72.0%	70.8%
10-year (2011-2020) Avg.	67.9%	73.4%	78.9%	65.1%	66.7%	71.4%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Early dryland estimates are in. Provincially, these estimates are 42 points below the five- and 40 points below the 10-year averages based on the current conditions (Table 2). These estimates are based upon extremely limited information at this time and will be updated bi-weekly. Regionally the estimates range from 30 to 50 per cent below the average of the past five and 10 years.

**Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates (Major Crops) as of July 27, 2021**

	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	19.9	26.2	32.9	43.5	30.4	29.5
Barley	21.9	48.4	40.0	40.8	24.6	36.3
Oats	23.9	42.1	46.5	59.8	38.1	46.7
Canola	19.1	25.3	24.9	30.2	25.3	24.9
Dry Peas	19.4	20.8	22.9	25.4	26.9	22.4
5-year Index	50.2%	53.4%	58.8%	68.9%	66.4%	57.8%
10-year Index	48.5%	56.5%	64.1%	70.6%	67.5%	59.9%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

The warm dry conditions have allowed harvest of the first-cut hay to be close to wrapping up with 97 per cent dryland acres baled, 32 points ahead of the five-year average, and 100 per cent of the irrigated acres have been baled, 6 points ahead of the five-year average.

Reported yields are well below normal with first-cut hay averaging 1.0 tons per acre, compared to the five-year average of 1.5 tons per acre. Irrigated first-cut yields down slightly at 2.1 tons per acre compared to the five-year average of 2.4 tons per acres.

Pasture has also been affected. Provincially, over 50 per cent of the pasture acres are rated as poor. The low hay yields, poor pasture conditions and overall condition of spring-seeded crops has resulted in many reports of grain crops being pastured or cut for silage.

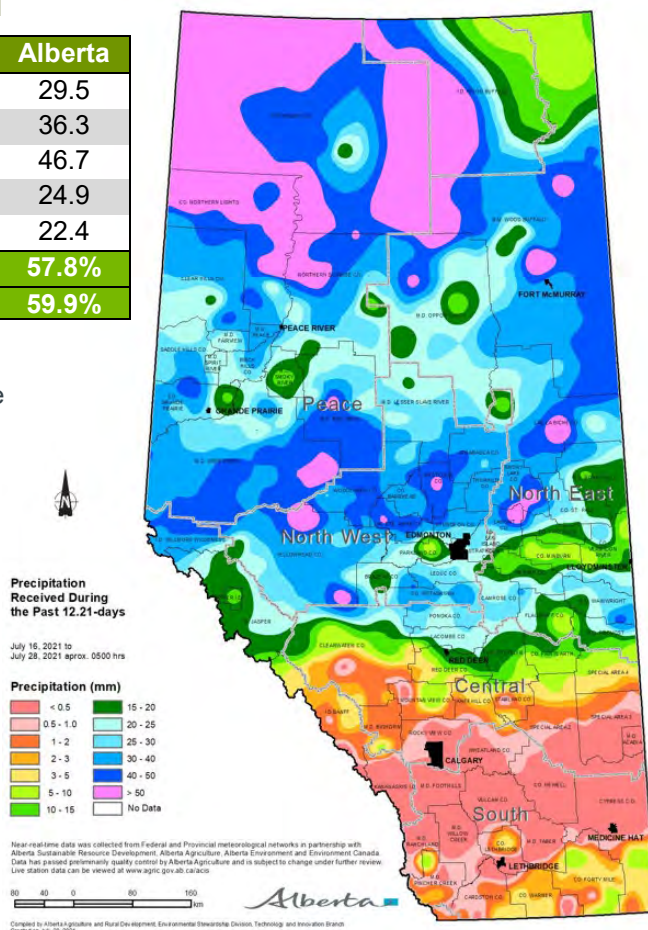
## Regional Assessments:

### Region One: South (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- High temperatures and lack of any notable rainfall in the region this week continue to take a toll on dryland crops.
- Overall, crop conditions are 36 per cent, below the five-year average of 60 per cent good or excellent. Conditions rating for sugar beets are 79 per cent, potatoes 52 per cent, and dry beans at 95 per cent good or excellent.
- Crop stages for spring cereals are mostly in the mid to late milk stage, while fall-seeded cereals are entering the ripening stage. Canola is over 83 per cent podding and pulses are over 95 per cent podding.
- Pasture is currently rated as 51 per cent poor, 32 per cent fair, 16 per cent good, and 1 per cent excellent.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 99 per cent completed with estimated yields of 0.8 ton per acre and quality rated as 33 per cent good or excellent. First-cut irrigated hay is 100 per cent complete with estimates of 2.2 ton per acre yields, and 58 per cent rated as good or excellent quality. Second-cut irrigated hay is six per cent complete with 1.9 ton per acre yield estimates and quality ratings are at 54 per cent good or excellent.

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

- Hail, sometimes severe, accompanied rain in the northern and western parts of region. Extreme hot and dry conditions continue in the south and eastern parts of the region.
- Overall, crop conditions are 59 per cent, below the five-year average of 75 per cent good or excellent.



- Crop stages for spring cereals are mostly in the early to mid-milk stage, while fall-seeded cereals are in the soft to hard dough stage. Canola is 75 per cent podding and pulses are at least 90 per cent podding.
- Pasture is currently rated as 39 per cent poor, 36 per cent fair, and 25 per cent good.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 96 per cent completed with estimated yields of 1.2 ton per acre and quality rated as 54 per cent good or excellent. First-cut irrigated hay is 100 per cent complete with estimates of 2.0 ton per acre yields, and 70 per cent rated as good or excellent quality. Second-cut irrigated hay has not started.

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

- Scattered rains over parts of the region will help fill the crops. Bonnyville, St. Paul, and Wainwright areas also reported smoke and cool temperatures slowing crop advancement.
- Overall, crop conditions are 63 per cent, below the five-year average of 83 per cent good or excellent.
- Crop stages for spring cereals are mostly in the early to mid-milk stage, while fall-seeded cereals have started to ripen. Canola is 73 per cent podding and dry peas have finished podding.
- Pasture is currently rated as 67 per cent poor, 18 per cent fair, and 15 per cent good.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 95 per cent completed with estimated yields of 0.9 ton per acre and quality rated as 78 per cent good or excellent.

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

- Sporadic rain was received throughout the region this week, which will help fill the existing heads and pods.
- Overall, crop conditions are 43 per cent, below the five-year average of 63 per cent good or excellent.
- Crop stages for spring cereals are mostly in the mid to late milk stage, while fall-seeded cereals are in the early to soft dough stage. Canola is 70 per cent podding and dry peas are 94 per cent podding.
- Pasture is currently rated as 44 per cent poor, 44 per cent fair, and 12 per cent good.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 99 per cent completed with estimated yields of 1.2 ton per acre and quality rated as 58 per cent good or excellent.

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

- Isolated showers and smoke was common throughout region. The showers are helping to fill out the canola and cereal crops.
- Overall, crop conditions are 57 per cent, below the five-year average of 72 per cent good or excellent.
- Crop stages for spring cereals are mostly in the mid to late milk stage, canola is 93 per cent podding and dry peas have finished podding.
- Pasture is currently rated as 63 per cent poor, 32 per cent fair, and 5 per cent good.
- First-cut dryland hay is reported as 97 per cent completed with estimated yields of 0.8 ton per acre and quality rated as 20 per cent good or excellent.

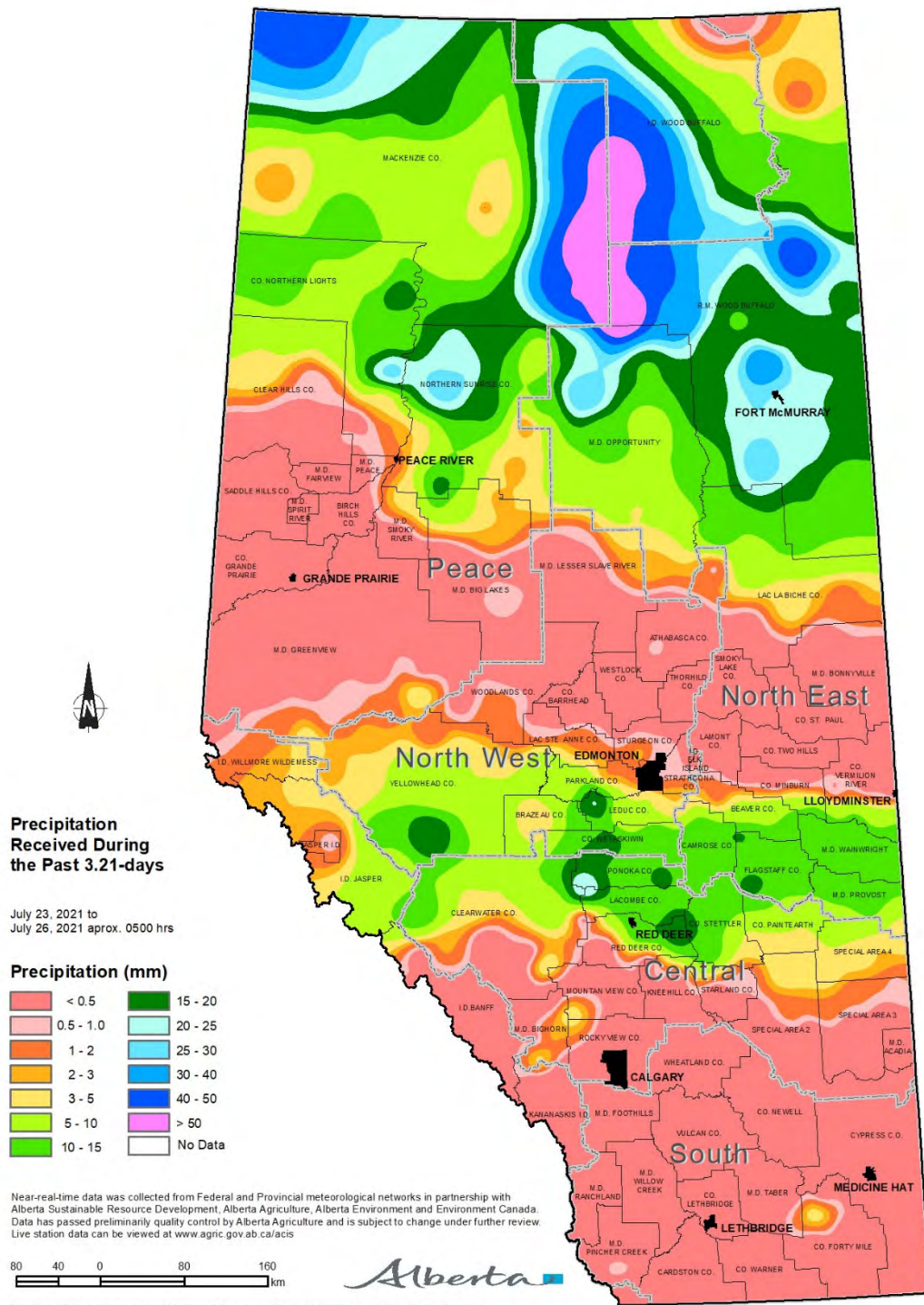
## **Contacts**

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

**July 30, 2021**

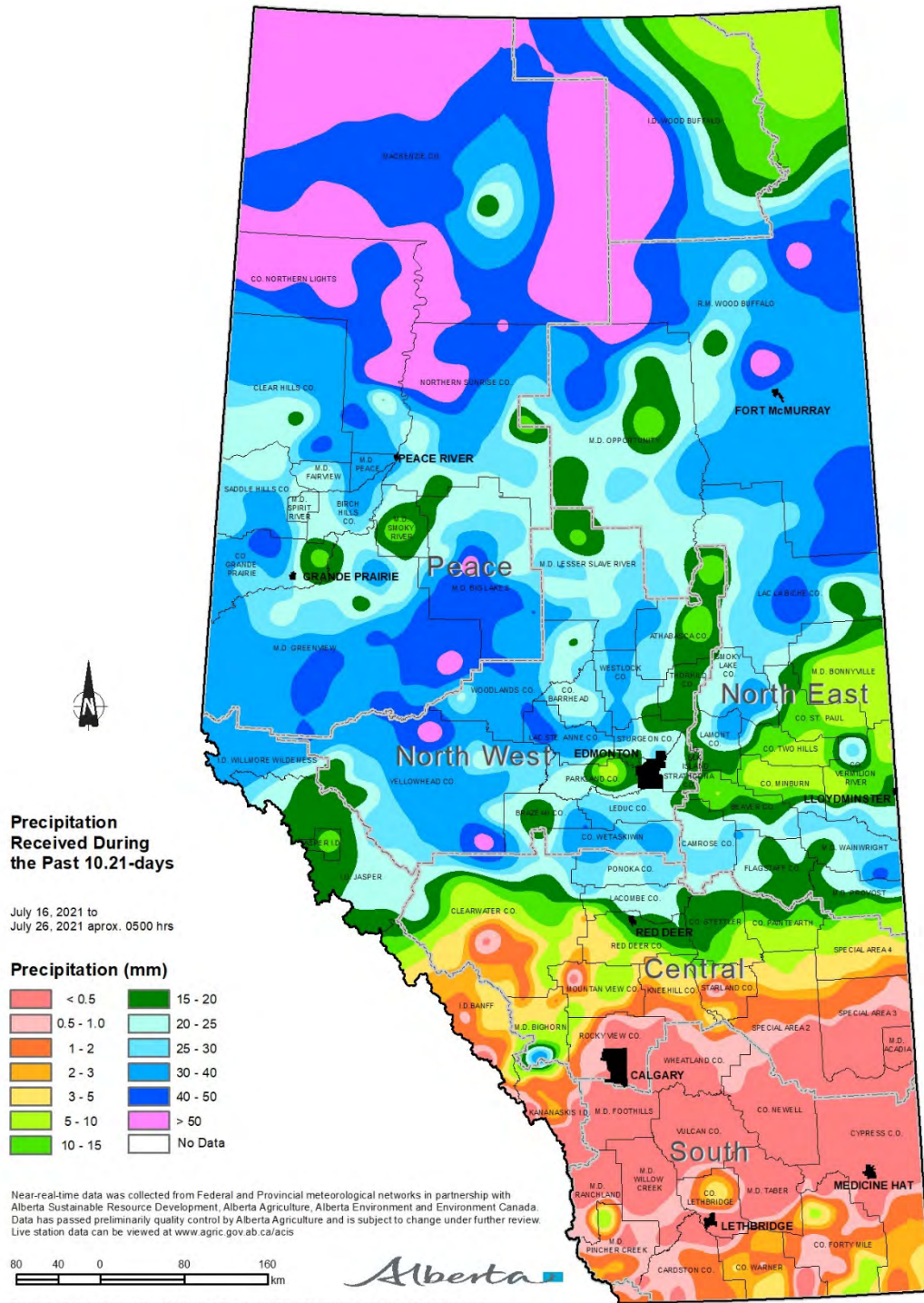
Jackie Sanden – Product Coordinator  
Ken Handford – Product Development Analyst  
Email: [MediaInquiry@afsc.ca](mailto:MediaInquiry@afsc.ca)

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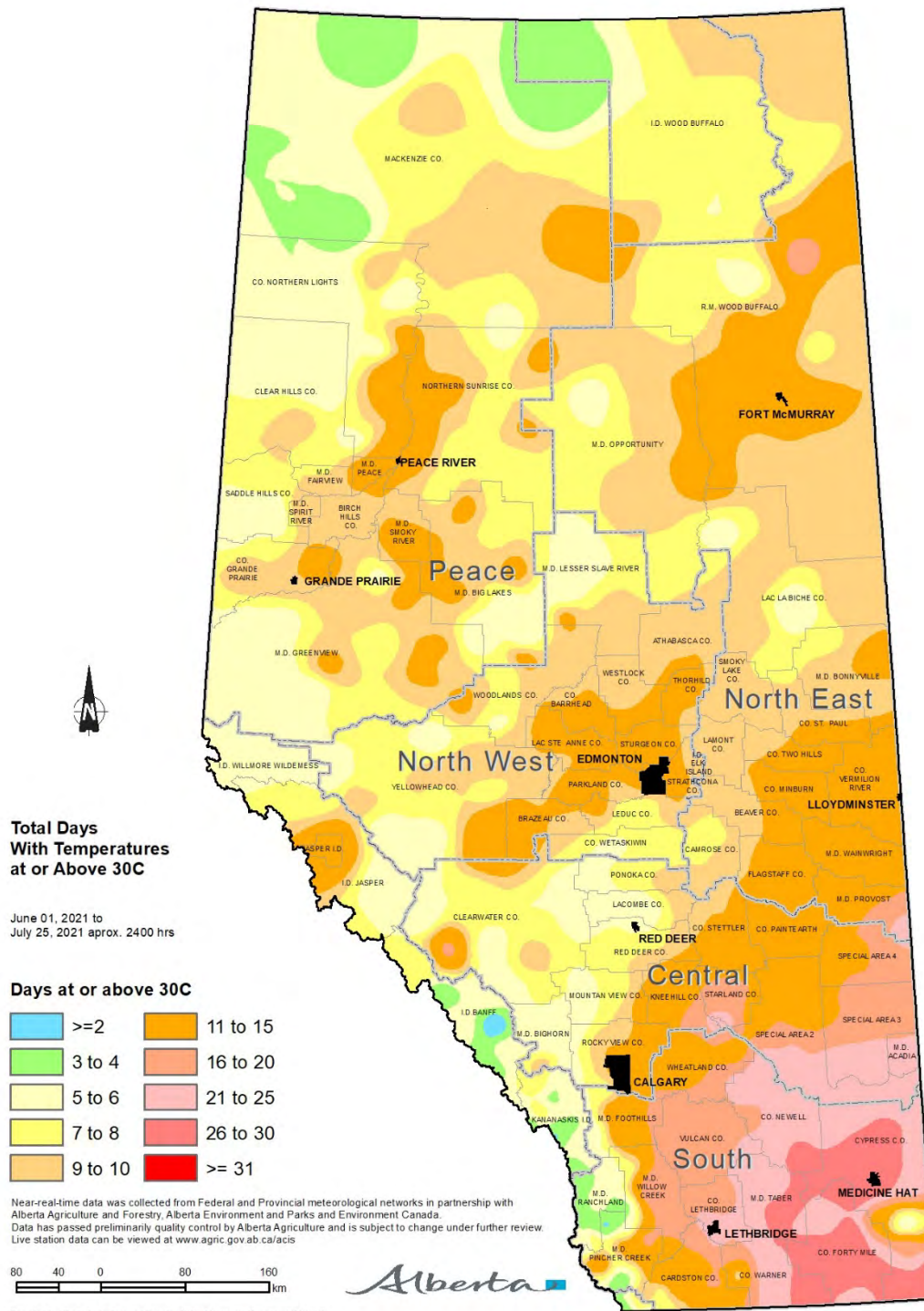


Visit [weatherdata.ca](http://weatherdata.ca) for additional maps and meteorological data





Visit [weatherdata.ca](http://weatherdata.ca) for additional maps and meteorological data



Visit [weatherdata.ca](http://weatherdata.ca) for additional maps and meteorological data

## **Synopsis.**

Over the past week, repeated showers have helped alleviate moisture stress across most parts of the province, north of a line running east to west through Red Deer. This past weekend many areas north of the Red Deer “line” and south of the Yellowhead highway received upwards of 10 mm moisture in widespread thunderstorms. One exception does exist and that is for parts of the North East Region, where conditions remain extremely dry, with recent rains totaling less than 5 mm. Given that most of the rains were due to thunderstorms, there will be some that did not receive any moisture.

### **3-day precipitation accumulations from July 23<sup>rd</sup> to 5:00am on July 26<sup>th</sup> (map 1)**

Since Friday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, precipitation fell throughout a wide belt of land lying roughly south of the Yellowhead Highway and north of the line between Red Deer and Consort with many stations reporting over 10 mm of rain. Similarly much of the north-half of the Peace Region received additional moisture, ranging from 5 to 25 mm. In contrast, much of the southern Peace Region and areas north of the Yellowhead Highway did not receive rain. The same is true for most areas south of the Red Deer line.

In contrast large parts of Southern Alberta has been experiencing very warm days and have received very little moisture. Rain is very much needed here now.

### **10-day precipitation accumulations from July 16<sup>th</sup> to 5:00am on July 26<sup>th</sup> (map 2)**

Since July 16<sup>th</sup>, most lands north of Red Deer have received at least 20 mm of rain, with the exception of a dry pocket of land in the North East Region where only 5 to 10 mm has fallen. Unfortunately southern Alberta has remained dry and warm.

### **Total number of days above 30C since July 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 (map 3)**

Between June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, and July 25<sup>th</sup>, much of the eastern-half of southern Alberta has experienced more than 21-days where day time maximum temperatures met or exceeded 30C. Currently Medicine Hat has 30 days of 30C or more. Further north, most of Alberta’s agricultural areas have seen more than 10-days in the 30+C range, with localized counts exceeding 11 days around Edmonton, the Lloydminster area and through parts of the Peace Region. Historically in these areas looking back as far as 1901, the hotter years on record typically experience up to 15 days of above 30 C. According to records for the Dunvegan station, located in the central Peace Region, one of the hotter years was 1926, where 26 days recorded temperatures at or above 30C and 41 days above 28C.

## **Perspective**













Above seasonal temperatures have prevailed across most of the province, with many areas experiencing several days above 30C. This along with brisk winds, at the height of the growing season, has led to above average plant water demand, leaving many lands in a state of moisture stress. Low soil moisture reserves along with well below average rainfall for the growing season has left many areas in immediate need of moisture.

Recent moisture across much of the north-half of the province will be enough to sustain growth in the immediate days ahead, but more rain will be needed in these areas soon, particularly as temperatures are expected to be in the upper 20’s to lower 30’s later this week. Lands through parts of the North East Region are an exception and these areas are suffering deep moisture deficits.



# Spring Wheat Soil Moisture Reserves Relative to Long Term Normal to a Depth of 120 cm

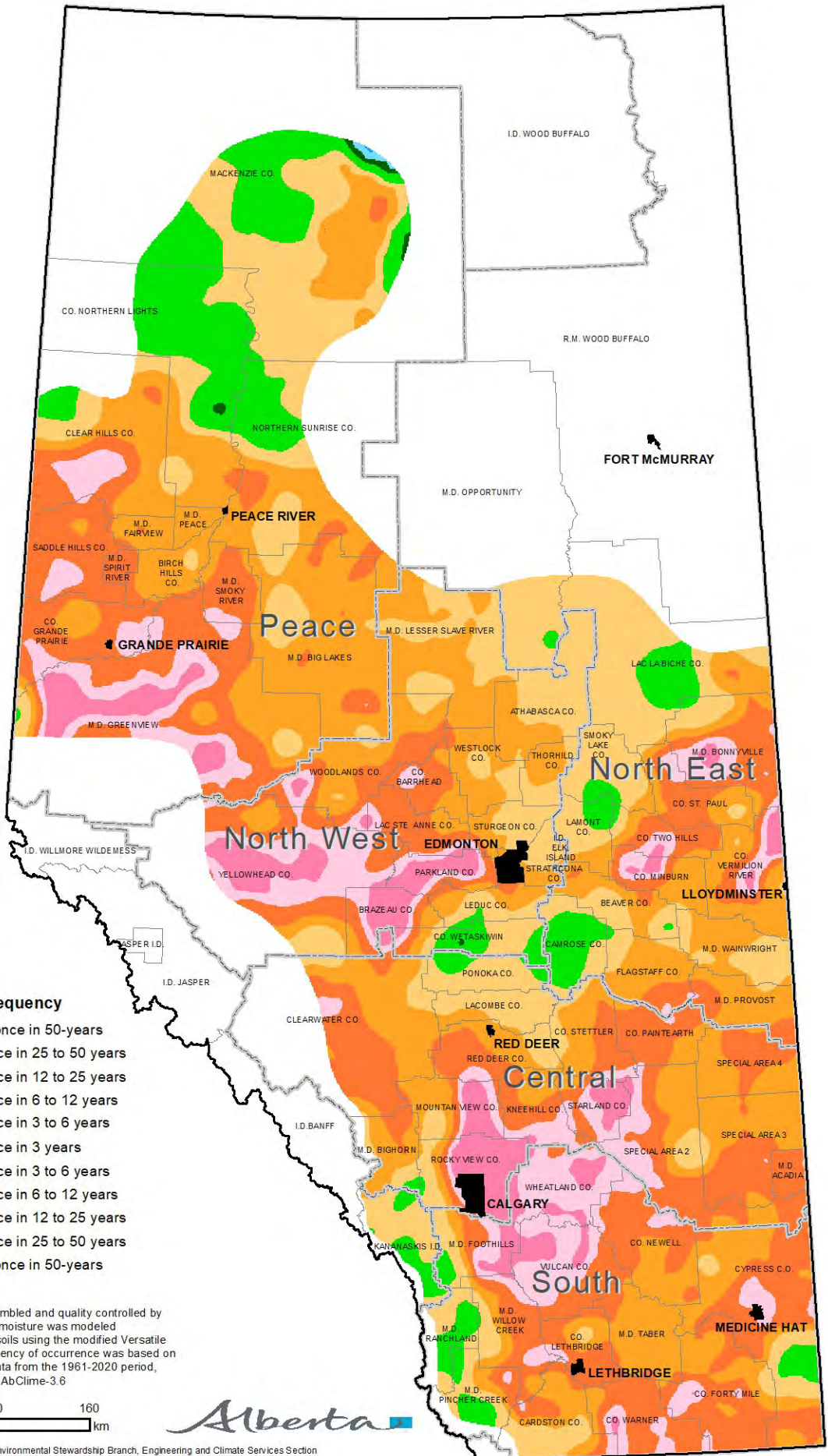
Estimated as of July 27, 2021

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

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. Soil moisture was modeled for spring wheat on medium textured soils using the modified Versatile Soil Moisture Budget V-4.0. The frequency of occurrence was based on model runs using historical weather data from the 1961-2020 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClime-3.6



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Environmental Stewardship Branch, Engineering and Climate Services Section  
Created on July 28, 2021





File No. 63-10-02

August 11, 2021

Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry  
229 Legislature Building  
10800-97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 2B6

Attention Honourable Devin Dresshen

**RE: Declaration of Agricultural Disaster – Clear Hills County**

Clear Hills County Council declared an Agricultural Disaster on August 10, 2021, due to the widespread drought conditions.

Clear Hills County, like other Alberta municipalities have experienced prolonged hot weather and lack of precipitation in the 2021 growing season. These drought conditions have significantly impacted agricultural producers in the County, with some areas seeing alarming reductions in yield in both crops and forage. Most crops are in poor condition, have stopped growing and are ripening prematurely. Hay yields are less than 50% of normal and pasture lands are depleted; additionally, grasshopper numbers are significantly up, and this is further depleting crops, hay, and pastures.

This declaration is being made to bring awareness to the difficult situation our producers are facing. The impact of this drought has hit crop producers and livestock producers alike. The lack of feed has already resulted in some cattle farmers reducing their cattle herd sizes, and others considering it, as they are unable to secure the feed they will need, and we welcomed the news of the doubling of the low yield threshold to allow some crops to be salvaged for feed. We look forward to the details on the AgriRecovery program.

Thank you for your continued advocacy for Alberta producers dealing with these devastating conditions, and your work with the Federal government to implement initiatives to protect the stability of the Alberta agricultural industry.

Sincerely,

Amber Bean  
Reeve

Cc: Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Todd Lowen, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Central-Peace Notley  
Darryl Kay, CEO, Agricultural Finance Services Corporation  
Paul McLauchlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta  
Provincial Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group

July 28, 2021

Minister Of Agriculture and Forestry  
Office of the Minister  
Agriculture and Forestry  
229 Legislature Building  
10800-97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Via Email

Dear Minister Dreeshen,

**Re: Declaration of Agricultural Disaster – County of Paintearth No. 18**

On July 28, 2021, the County of Paintearth No. 18 has declared a Municipal Agricultural Disaster.

Agricultural producers have been experiencing widespread drought conditions and prolonged heat across the County. When you look at the lack of spring runoff that happened, the extreme heat in June and July and the lack of moisture, when you combine all those things you get an Agricultural Disaster.

With the state of crops, hay being well below normal, degrading of pastures and water being scarce for livestock in some cases this is the reason why the County has declared an Agricultural Disaster.

Your comments in the July 26, 2021, article "Putting Poor Crops to Good Use" of Agri-News stated that "Alberta's hardworking farmers and ranchers have been hit with dry conditions that threaten their livelihoods. We will do everything we can to help Alberta's agriculture industry make the best of a terrible situation. We've heard industry's call for help, and this change will help farmers and ensure some good can come out of these crops." We look forward to hearing more details as they happen.

Yours truly,

COUNTY OF PAINTEARTH NO. 18



Stan Schulmeister  
Reeve

cc: Rick McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Nate Horner, MLA; Associate Minister of Rural Economic Development  
Damien Kurek, Member of Parliament for Battle River – Crowfoot  
Paul McLaughlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta  
Local Municipalities





July 26, 2021

## Municipal District of Acadia, No. 34

Administration Office  
md34@mdacadia.ab.ca  
www.mdacadia.ab.ca

Box 30  
Acadia Valley, Alberta  
T0J 0A0

Tel: (403) 972-3808  
Fax: (403) 972-3833

Minister of Agriculture and Forestry  
Office of the Minister  
Agriculture and Forestry  
229 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Dreeshan,

**RE: Declaration of Agricultural Disaster – Municipal District of Acadia No. 34**

On July 26, 2021 the Municipal District of Acadia No. 34 declared an Agricultural Disaster due to ongoing drought conditions.

The purpose of this declaration is to address and draw attention to the significant drought conditions impacting agricultural producers across the entirety of the MD of Acadia. These extended moisture deficits have affected all agricultural product segments. The situation is made more dire by the lack of spring runoff combined with the extreme temperatures that were experienced throughout June.

While the producers within the MD of Acadia have become accustomed to being in one of the hottest and driest parts of the province, the conditions experienced so far this year have been uncharacteristically severe. The severity of this can be reinforced by looking at some of the climatic data for the region, in addition to the data that has been pulled from Alberta Crop Reports regarding the health of crop within the region.

In addition to the impacts on crops, the extreme conditions have a negative impact on livestock producers as well as the health of pastures has degraded, and the lack of moisture has meant that some dugouts are at a lower level than normal, or empty.

We are pleased to have seen the announcement made on July 22, 2021 regarding the doubling of the low yield threshold to allow some crops to be salvaged. While this is welcome news, there are still concerns around the stability of our key industry, and look forward to the details of the AgriRecovery program.

Sincerely,

Peter Rafa  
Reeve

cc. Nate Horner, MLA; Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Damien Kurek, Member of Parliament for Battle River – Crowfoot  
Darri Kay, CEO, Agriculture Finance Services Corporation  
RMA  
Local municipalities



August 16, 2021

Minister of Agriculture and Forestry  
Office of the Minister  
Agriculture and Forestry  
229 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Dreeshen,

**RE: Declaration of Agricultural Disaster – Municipal District of Taber**

On August 11, 2021, the Municipal District of Taber declared an Agricultural Disaster due to the ongoing drought conditions and extreme high temperatures.

This declaration was made to address the severe drought conditions that are negatively impacting local agricultural producers in all regions of the Municipality. Extended moisture deficiencies combined with no snow during the winter months leading to a lack of spring runoff and extensive and prolonged heat has drastically deteriorated all segments of agricultural production.

According to Alberta Crop Reports, crop growing conditions and yields have significantly decreased in comparison to previous years. Soil moisture throughout the district continues to be low, making crop recovery unlikely.

In addition to the impacts on crops, livestock producers are similarly being negatively impacted by the drought. Continued high temperatures have depreciated the health of pastures as well as their regrowth potential, and the lack of moisture has reduced dugout levels substantially.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Merrill Harris".

Merrill Harris  
Reeve  
Municipal District of Taber





COUNTY OF  
**Northern Lights**

#600, 7th Ave NW, PO Box 10, Manning AB T0H 2M0  
Phone 780-836-3348 Fax 780-836-3663  
Toll Free 1-888-525-3481

---

August 10, 2021

63.01.00

Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

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

Honourable Ministers:

**Re: State of Agriculture Disaster**

This letter brings to your attention that the County of Northern Lights has declared an Agriculture Disaster following the motion, 312/10/08/21, made the 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021.

The County of Northern Lights is experiencing harsher than average agricultural conditions. Our area has seen severe drought early in the growing season and tough financial conditions are mounting after three consecutive disaster years. Yields will be well below average, feed will be difficult and expensive to source due to the widespread drought across Western Canada and the Northern Plains of the United States. Feed alternatives will also be costly and extremely hard to source due to record high grain prices and over-contracting.

At this time, the County of Northern Lights would request that our municipality be added as a prescribed region for the 2021 Livestock Tax Deferral. We believe being added to the list early will help producers plan for winter and possibly offer some mental health relief.

We also would like to offer our gratitude for the request to initiate AgriRecovery and await the details for this program; however, we feel this subsidy will further increase feed prices and merely buffer the hit producers will receive on culled animals.

We appreciate the effort put forth so far and look forward to updates on further programing. Thank you.

.....2

August 11, 2021  
Page 2

Sincerely,



Terry Ungarian  
Reeve  
County of Northern Lights

Cc: Jason Kenny, Premier  
Chris Warkentin, MP Peace River  
Dan Williams, MLA for Peace River  
Lance Ouellet, North Peace Applied Research Association  
Tom Burton, Director—District 4 RMA (via email)  
Jane Fulton, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President AAAF  
ASB's of the Peace Region



## Special Areas Board

ALBERTA MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

212 – 2<sup>ND</sup> Avenue West, Box 820, Hanna, Alberta, Canada T0J 1P0 Phone: (403) 854-5600 Fax: (403) 854-5527

July 23, 2021

Minister of Agriculture and Forestry  
Office of the Minister  
Agriculture and Forestry  
229 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Dreeshen,

**Re: Declaration of Agricultural Disaster – Special Area No. 2, 3, & 4**

On July 23, 2021, the Special Areas Board declared an Agricultural Disaster.

This declaration was made to address and draw attention to the significant widespread drought conditions which are impacting agricultural producers in the Special Areas. All segments of agricultural product are being affected by extended moisture deficiencies, especially in conjunction with lack of spring runoff and extreme temperatures.

The Special Areas is no stranger to dry and challenging conditions; however, the conditions being seen throughout the region this year are uncharacteristically severe. Long term moisture deficiencies, along with extreme temperatures, have resulted in widespread annual and perennial crop failures, stock water shortages, and degrading pastures. These conditions have been exacerbated by the delay in AFSC in allowing producers to repurpose standing crops for cattle feedstocks without undue penalty. Your recent statement directing AFSC to provide flexibility to producers to help address forecasted feed shortages was very much appreciated by the Board and producers in our region.

Thank you for your continued advocacy for Albertan producers dealing with these devastating conditions, including your work with the Federal government towards implementing an AgriRecovery initiative.

Best regards,



Jordon Christianson,  
Chair, Special Areas Board

- c. Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Nate Horner, MLA; Associate Minister of Rural Economic Development  
Damien Kurek, Member of Parliament for Battle River – Crowfoot  
RMA  
Local municipalities



## Office of the Reeve

July 27, 2021

Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry  
229 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 2B6

Via email: [AF.minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AF.minister@gov.ab.ca)

Attention: Honourable Devin Dreesen

### **RE: WHEATLAND COUNTY DECLARES A MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER DUE TO DROUGHT**

In response to widespread drought conditions, Wheatland County has declared a Municipal Agricultural Disaster effective July 27, 2021.

Low growing season moisture, coupled with long periods of heat and wind, have significantly depleted soil moisture reserves. These conditions have severely impacted all segments of agricultural production within Wheatland County.

This declaration is being made to bring awareness to the difficult situation our producers are facing and will continue to face in the coming weeks and months. Wheatland County appreciates your commitment to work with farmers, ranchers, commodity groups, and other government agencies to initiate a regional AgriRecovery support program.

Wheatland County understands the importance of our agriculture industry not only to our municipality and province, but the entire country and globally. It is our hope to be able to participate in the implementation of a recovery program that will effectively support our producers through this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Amber Link – Reeve  
Wheatland County

Matthew Boscarol, MES, MCIP, RPP, CLGM  
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Wheatland County

- cc. Hon. Martin Shields, MP, Bow River, Alberta ([Martin.Shields@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Martin.Shields@parl.gc.ca))  
Hon. Ric McIver, Alberta Minister of Municipal Affairs ([minister.municipalaffairs@gov.ab.ca](mailto:minister.municipalaffairs@gov.ab.ca))  
Angela Pitt, MLA, Airdrie-East ([Airdrie.East@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Airdrie.East@assembly.ab.ca))  
Joseph Schow, MLA, Cardston-Siksika ([Cardston.Siksika@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Cardston.Siksika@assembly.ab.ca))  
Leela Sharon Aheer, MLA, Chestermere-Strathmore ([Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca))  
Nathan Cooper – MLA, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills ([OldsDidsbury.ThreeHills@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:OldsDidsbury.ThreeHills@assembly.ab.ca))  
Paul McLauchlin - President, RMA ([pmclauchlin@rmaalberta.com](mailto:pmclauchlin@rmaalberta.com))  
Shannon Marchand - Interim Board Chair, AFSC ([shannon.marchand@gov.ab.ca](mailto:shannon.marchand@gov.ab.ca))  
Council, Wheatland County





July 27, 2021

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

Dear Minister Dreeshen:

**RE: YELLOWHEAD COUNTY AGRICULTURE DISASTER**

At a regularly scheduled meeting on July 27, 2021, Yellowhead County Council declared Yellowhead County an Agriculture Disaster Area, affecting all producers within its boundaries.

Yellowhead County, like other municipalities throughout the province, has experienced severe heat and lack of moisture across its geography in the 2021 growing season. As a result, crop yields are significantly impacted as follows:

1. Greater than 50% of crops are in poor condition.
2. Crops are premature.
3. Hay yields per acre are reduced to less than 25% of normal.
4. Some crops have ceased growing and will not mature for harvest.
5. Pasture lands are depleting, as there is no forage regrowth.

Although precipitation from now to the end of the season would help pasture land, no amount of rainfall at this point will restore crops or hay yields to a reasonable level for 2021. As a result, cattle producers throughout the County are unable to secure the feed they will require; and a feed shortage will result in both higher feed costs and, potentially, a necessary reduction in cattle herd sizes.

Conditions have already created negative financial impacts on Yellowhead County producers, with the majority experiencing increased costs and workloads coupled with decreased revenues. This is the case now, regardless of any worsening or improvement of the situation as the season progresses.

.../2

With our declaration, Yellowhead County Council respectfully requests that the Government of Alberta follow suit to provide aid to agriculture producers. Considering the severity of the difficulties Yellowhead County producers are experiencing now, any assistance that the Province can provide would contribute to producer sustainability in 2021 and, more importantly, in the longer term.

Sincerely,



Jim Eglinski, Mayor  
Yellowhead County

Att:

Cc: Hon. Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta  
Gerald Soroka, MP, Yellowhead  
Martin Long, MLA, West Yellowhead  
Shane Getson, MLA, Lac Ste Anne Parkland  
Agricultural Service Boards  
Provincial Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group (DEMAG)





# County declares Agricultural Disaster

Posted on Monday, July 26, 2021

County Council has declared an agricultural disaster in the County of Grande Prairie. This year marks the fourth straight year of difficult conditions for local agricultural producers.

Prolonged drought conditions have greatly reduced crop yields.

“County Council recognizes that these drought conditions are causing hardships for our agricultural community across the region,” said Reeve Beaupre. “Through this declaration, Council wishes to bring attention to the devastating conditions impacting crop and livestock producers and request more support for them.”

With low levels of precipitation this season combined with an intense heat wave over the past weeks, crop conditions are poor.

The County of Grande Prairie has received about half the amount of rainfall compared to a typical year, leading to limited moisture in the soil despite recent rain. Hay crops are yielding only 20 to 30 per cent of average at this point in the season. Barley crops are in very poor condition, with canola and wheat faring only slightly better. Overall, crop yields are expected to be significantly reduced.

“The effects of a difficult growing season are felt across our communities,” said Reeve Beaupre. “The County is joining other municipalities across Western Canada with this declaration in the hope that the Provincial and Federal governments will take a collaborative approach to supporting the industry and individual producers.”

The County of Grande Prairie previously declared an agricultural disaster in 2019 when excessive rainfall and cool weather delayed production and led to poor quality crops.

-30-

**Media Contact:**

Leanne Beaupre  
Reeve  
780-814-3121

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**County of Grande Prairie**

Administration Building

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T8X 5B2

Phone: [780-532-9722](tel:780-532-9722)

Fax: [780-539-9880](tel:780-539-9880)

Email: [info@countygp.ab.ca](mailto:info@countygp.ab.ca)

**Regular Hours**

Our office is open:

Monday to Friday

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. CLOSED

- -





COUNTY OF  
NEWELL

For Immediate Release

## County of Newell Declares Agricultural Disaster for Drought

**August 5, 2021** – Due to the prolonged drought conditions, County of Newell Council declared an Agricultural Disaster for Drought during today’s Council meeting. This declaration was made to address and draw attention to the significant widespread drought conditions which are impacting agricultural producers in the County of Newell.

The County of Newell is no stranger to dry and challenging conditions; however, the conditions being seen throughout the region this year are uncharacteristically severe. Low soil moisture in the spring, lack of seasonal rain, and the prolonged heat wave in June and July have amplified the challenges farmers and ranchers are now facing. These drought conditions are affecting pasture conditions, access to water and reduced dryland forage and crop yields.

The County of Newell recognizes the importance of our agriculture industry not only to our municipality and province, but the country and globe. It is our hope to effectively support our producers during this difficult time.

Molly Douglass - Reeve  
County of Newell

183037 RR145 (Box 130), Brooks, AB T1R 1B2  
Phone: 403-362-3266  
Fax: 888-361-7921  
Email: [administration@newellmail.ca](mailto:administration@newellmail.ca)  
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Check us out on social media



# COUNTY OF ST. PAUL

5015 – 49 Avenue, St. Paul, Alberta, T0A 3A4

phone: 780-645-3301

www.county.stpaul.ab.ca



*Our Mission - To create desirable rural experiences*

## Media Release

### For Immediate Release

**Date: July 27, 2021**

**Contacts: Cliff Martin, Chair, Agricultural Service Board, phone: 780-614-1551**

**Stephen Upham, Reeve, phone: 780-614-5107**

**Keith Kornelsen, Agricultural Fieldman: 780-645-0154**

### **County of St. Paul declares ‘State of Agricultural Disaster**

St. Paul, AB – The St. Paul County has declared a local ‘State of Agricultural Disaster’ on July 27, 2021 due to the hardship weather conditions and drought have placed on local farmers.

An Agricultural Disaster Declaration can be used by municipalities to bring awareness to issues surrounding excessive moisture and drought which are having an impact on agricultural production.

St. Paul County Council has issued the declaration of Agricultural Disaster to encourage the Provincial and Federal Governments to initiate necessary programs that can provide relief to local producers, and that it is done in a timely manner.

Conditions in the County have been extremely hot and dry over the last few weeks. These conditions have seen hay crop yield averages drop to 25 to 50% of normal and the County is expecting to see the same drop in crop yields because of the drought.

Soil moisture reserves are extremely low in most parts of the County and without moisture, there could be some total crop failures. With pastures also affected by the weather producers will be struggling to find feed for their livestock to carry them to the following year. The last time the County of St. Paul declared an Agricultural Disaster was November 26, 2019 due to unharvested acres of crop land.

The County Council is aware of the hardships facing County producers because of weather conditions, and it is raising awareness of the problems facing agriculture in the County of St. Paul. When our agriculture industry suffers all of our communities suffer.

Municipal declarations do not automatically trigger access to increased funding programs, provincially or federally. A Provincial declaration is necessary to trigger claim payments through the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation.

The County of St. Paul will notify Provincial and Federal Governments of the State of Agricultural Disaster and request a disaster recovery program be set up to address this agricultural disaster.

Producers are encouraged to contact the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation at 1.877.899.2372 or visit their website -- [www.afsc.ca](http://www.afsc.ca) -- for the most updated information.

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) has produced 'A Guide for Declaring Municipal Agricultural Disasters in Alberta' which is a tool to enable municipalities to have informed decision-making processes prior to making a formal declaration of agricultural disaster. This tool looks at not only current conditions but past experiences and evolving conditions as well that have had an impact on agricultural production and crop yields. It also provides background on the role that various levels of government play during a declaration of disaster.



# County of Stettler No. 6

Box 1270  
6602 – 44 Avenue  
Stettler, Alberta T0C 2L0  
T:403.742.4441 F: 403.742.1277  
[www.stettlercounty.ca](http://www.stettlercounty.ca)

August 11, 2021

## **RE: Declaration of Agricultural Disaster**

During the August 11, 2021 County of Stettler Council meeting, a motion passed to declare an Agriculture Disaster in the County of Stettler No. 6.

This declaration was made to bring attention to the widespread drought conditions we are experiencing throughout our County. With the lack of snow pack, spring runoff, and spring and summer rainfall, it has been extremely difficult for producers. The recent heat waves did not help our situation along the way.

Administration for the County of Stettler has been closely monitoring the weather, crops, pastures, and feed supplies, and has now reviewed all reporting data and information provided to us by Agro-meteorology Applications and Modelling Unit under Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. We are firmly resolved that it is time for the County of Stettler to declare an Agricultural Disaster.

It is the view of the County that all commodities are covered in the declaration. When following the RMA guide to declaring agriculture Disaster, commodities on average are well below normal.

Sincerely,

Larry Clarke  
REEVE

LC/nt/qb

CC: Honourable Nate Horner, MLA for Drumheller-Stettler and Associate Minister of Rural Economic Development

Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Honourable Damien Kurek, Member of Parliament for Battle River-Crowfoot

Daniel Graham, Agriculture Financial Services Corporation  
Paul McLaughlin, Rural Municipalities of Alberta  
Jamie Wuite, Government of Alberta Drought and Excessive Moisture Advisory Group



August 17, 2021

News Release

**DECLARATION OF AGRICULTURAL DISASTER – KNEEHILL COUNTY**

At the August 17th, 2021, Council Meeting, Kneehill County Council moved to declare an Agricultural Disaster for Kneehill County.

This declaration was made in response to record low precipitation levels, coupled with a prolonged heatwave during the 2021 growing season which has compounded drought conditions across the entirety of Kneehill County, impacting producers from all agriculture sectors.

Provincial moisture and crop data, in addition to local data from producers, contributed to this declaration. Annual and perennial crops have suffered severe yield and quality impacts due to extreme environmental conditions. Livestock producers have reported poor pasture quality with little to no regrowth and are struggling to secure adequate stock water supplies, as surface water sources and watersheds in Kneehill County have also been impacted by the intense hot and dry conditions.

This declaration is being made to bring awareness to the difficult situation livestock and grain producers are facing and will continue to face in the coming weeks and months.

While municipal declarations of agricultural disasters do not automatically trigger access to increased funding programs, Kneehill County understands the importance of our agriculture industry and is committed to working with all levels of government to pursue support for livestock and grain producers throughout this difficult time.

For more information on this declaration, please contact Kneehill County Agriculture Services at 403-443-5541.

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# LAC STE. ANNE COUNTY DECLARES STATE OF AGRICULTURAL DISASTER

## Record-breaking heat and drought conditions in the region affect crops and livestock feed.

**Sangudo, Alberta, Thursday, July 22, 2021** – In response to prolonged drought conditions that have resulted in excessively low crop yields and reduced sources of feed, County Council declared a State of Agricultural Disaster at its July 22 County Council meeting. Much of the County has been dry since last summer, and winter snow cover was light. Without soil moisture in the spring, producers look to seasonal rainfall to keep crops and pastures healthy.

Lack of seasonal rain, combined with the prolonged heat wave in June and July, amplified the problems farmers and ranchers are now facing. Conditions in the region have deteriorated to the point that producers have been forced to begin reducing generational herds during what is normally the height of grazing season. Where hay *can* be sourced, most of it is priced well above historic market value — with prices continuing to trend upward.

***“Council sees first-hand the extreme hardships our producers are facing,” shared Lac Ste. Anne County Reeve Joe Blakeman. “We are seeing complete dispersals of historic herds because there’s nothing to feed them. This is the fourth year in a row of less-than-ideal conditions for regional producers — and by the looks of it, the most devastating.”***

Declaration of a State of Agricultural Disaster is designed to heighten awareness and collaboration among producers, industry, and provincial and federal governments. The County joins a growing number of rural municipalities in Western Canada that have declared states of emergency in an effort to draw political attention to the critical conditions of fields, pastures, and the availability of livestock feed.

***“The County will work with the Government of Alberta and related stakeholders in the coming weeks to explore potential support options for area producers,” continued Reeve Blakeman. “It is Council’s hope that, through this declaration and our ongoing advocacy efforts, we can shine a spotlight on this critical issue and encourage other levels of government to provide support where possible.”***

In addition to potential supports at the provincial level such as tax incentives or payment deferrals, the Government of Alberta has requested support from the federal government. On July 15, Alberta’s Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Devin Dreeschen released a statement indicating that he is pushing for activation of the federal AgriRecovery program. AgriRecovery funds can help offset the cost of uninsurable added expenses, like temporary fencing around fields so cattle can graze on crops that are not worth harvesting.

***“The details of an AgriRecovery program are still being developed with industry and we will work with our provincial and federal counterparts to ensure that Alberta’s farmers and ranchers are supported,” stated Minister Dreeschen.***

Lac Ste. Anne County last declared a State of Agricultural Disaster in August of 2019 due to excessive rainfall and overland flooding. For further updates on this evolving matter, please visit [LSAC.ca/agriculture](https://LSAC.ca/agriculture).

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**Media Contact:**  
Joe Blakeman | Reeve  
Lac Ste. Anne County

TEL 780.918.1916  
[jblakema@LSAC.ca](mailto:jblakema@LSAC.ca)





P.O. Box 34  
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T0H 0E0

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Fax: (780) 338-2222  
Email: [info@mdpeace.com](mailto:info@mdpeace.com)

August 11, 2021

### **Declaration of Agricultural Disaster for the Municipal District of Peace No. 135**

On August 10, 2021, the Municipal District of Peace No. 135 Council declared a state of Agricultural Disaster for the Municipal District of Peace. All segments of agricultural production within the Municipal District of Peace are being affected by severe drought conditions.

Low soil moisture in the spring, lack of seasonal rainfall, a prolonged record-breaking heatwave in June and July, heavy wind and grasshopper infestation have impacted all sectors of agricultural production. Agricultural producers in the municipality are faced with more than 60 % and 55 % loss of cereal and canola yields, respectively. Hay or pasture yields have been reduced to 20 % or less than normal.

The Municipal District of Peace has issued this declaration to encourage the Provincial and Federal Governments to expedite the initiation of all programs required to address the drought situation that has a significant negative impact on our all agricultural industry.

The Municipal District of Peace Council recognizes the importance of agriculture to our municipality. For further information on the Agricultural Disaster, don't hesitate to contact the Manager of Ag Services, Municipal District of Peace at 780-338-3845.

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SMOKY RIVER #130



### DECLARATION OF AGRICULTURAL DISASTER

At their August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Council meeting, M.D. of Smoky River Council moved unanimously to declare an agricultural disaster in the M.D. of Smoky River.

The M.D. of Smoky River makes this declaration to raise awareness of the dire circumstances being faced by the majority of our agricultural producers, whether they be crop, livestock or crop/livestock producers. The circumstances which have led to this declaration are a combination of excessive heat, insufficient moisture and thick smoke which have all combined to severely stress the area's crops, hay and pasture.

Although some areas of the M.D. have not been as severely affected, the expectation is that grain, oilseed, pulse and hay crops have or will all yield less than 50% of the 5 year average for the area. Pastures have experienced very little regrowth and the majority of livestock producers will have insufficient stored feed to carry their herds through the 2021/22 winter.

The M.D. of Smoky River issues this declaration to encourage the Provincial and Federal Governments to expedite the initiation of Any and All Programs that may help mitigate the negative impact on our agricultural producers.

To add further voice to the recommendations already put forward by the many Alberta Municipalities which have already declared agricultural disaster, and to offer other thoughts on programs and actions that might be considered, we respectfully ask for consideration of:

- Immediate inclusion of the M.D. of Smoky River in the Livestock Tax Deferral program
  - Additionally, consideration should be given to expand on this program, that the tax deferral be expanded i.e. to allow the deferral for up to 5 years due to the amount of time required to rebuild a herd
  - Ability to defer up to 90 percent of the income for any amount of breeding stock herd reduction
- A further extension to the AgriStability deadline would be of major assistance. Although the deadline was already extended to June 30, a further extension could spur renewed interest in the program. An extension could be tied to a requirement to remain in the program for a minimum number of years.
- Increasing the payout benefit from AgriStability from 70% to 80% or 85% of reference margin would make a significant improvement to the program vis a vis increasing the much needed payment to participants.

- Expediting the processing of payments by AFSC and any Federal programs would assist producers hugely as they will be encountering significant financial hardships with many payments to be made in the fall on equipment, land, rent and inputs. A quick review, perhaps with advance payment options to help get money flowing as quickly as possible.
- Negotiating with the Cash Advance bodies CCGA, Feeders Association of Alberta and FarmCash to allow some of the payments being made to go directly to the farmer rather than to paying out interest free cash advances would also be beneficial. The intention of the Advance is to ensure producers do not have to make hurried crop marketing decisions, but if all program monies go to paying out advances, producers will have to take the limited crop they have and sell it as quickly as they can to ensure some cash flow.

M.D. of Smoky River Council greatly appreciates the steps taken by the Federal and Provincial Agriculture Ministers to date, including the doubling of the threshold by AFSC to the Low Yield Allowance program. M.D. of Smoky River Council and producers sincerely hope that discussions regarding AgriRecovery lead to much needed support for our producers, and that a program is implemented as expediently as possible.

Questions regarding these suggestions or the declaration of agricultural disaster may be directed to myself or the M.D. of Smoky River's Agricultural Fieldman – Normand Boulet, CCA, 780-837-0043  
[asb@mdsmokyriver.com](mailto:asb@mdsmokyriver.com)



Robert Brochu  
Reeve and A.S.B. Chair  
[rbrochu@mdsmokyriver.com](mailto:rbrochu@mdsmokyriver.com)  
780-837-0522



## **DECLARATION OF MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER DUE TO DROUGHT**

On July 20, 2021, the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 Council declared a state of Agricultural Disaster for the Municipal District of Wainwright. This declaration was made to address and draw attention to the significant wide spread drought conditions that have and continue to negatively impact and affect our agricultural producers. All segments of agricultural production within the M.D. of Wainwright are being affected by the devastating drought conditions.

The M.D. of Wainwright has issued this declaration to encourage the Provincial and Federal Governments to expedite the initiation of **All Programs** required to address the critical drought situation that has had significant negative impact on our agricultural industry and the crops and food that they produce.

### **Municipal District of Wainwright Declares State of Agricultural Disaster**

At the July 20, 2021 Regular Council meeting, it was moved that:

Motion # 204.21 “Moved that the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 formally declare an Agricultural Disaster for the Municipal District of Wainwright due to the extreme lack of rainfall and drought conditions and have administration draft a Municipal Agricultural Disaster Declaration for submission to the Province of Alberta.”

For further information regarding this Agricultural Disaster Declaration please contact the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 at (780)842-4454. For further insurance or Agricultural Disaster program information contact AFSC at 1-877-899-2372 or at their website [www.afsc.ca](http://www.afsc.ca).

# NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## County Declares Agricultural Disaster

**August 3, 2021** – Due to prolonged drought conditions, Rocky View County Council declared a municipal agricultural disaster today. “This declaration highlights how one of the worst growing seasons in recent memory has created a very difficult time for our producers,” said Reeve Dan Henn.

Low soil moisture in the spring, lack of seasonal rain, and the prolonged heat wave in June and July have amplified the challenges farmers and ranchers are now facing. The east side of the County is experiencing particularly low soil moisture reserves, with much of the area seeing a once in 25-50 year low. The remainder of the County falls between very low “once in 12-25 years” to moderately low “once in 3-6 years” soil moisture reserves. A small portion of land on the western border has near normal levels.

These conditions have resulted in reduced sources of feed and projected low crop yields in the County. More than 50 per cent of pastures and crops across the County are currently rated as poor, with condition and quality tracking well below the five- and 10-year averages. Producers are expecting to see up to a 50 per cent reduction in yield for canola, wheat, and barley.

“Rocky View County recognizes the importance of agricultural production to the economy and stands with local producers during this difficult time. We will continue to advocate for relief measures at the provincial level and will support producers in accessing any recovery and assistance programs that become available,” said Henn.

— 30 —

Contact: Marketing & Communications  
[media@rockyview.ca](mailto:media@rockyview.ca)

# NEWS RELEASE



## DECLARATION OF A MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Smoky Lake County Council unanimously declared a Municipal Agricultural Disaster for Smoky Lake County. This declaration was made to call attention to the severe drought conditions seen throughout the County. This declaration is to bring awareness to the widespread drought conditions, low growing season moisture paired with long periods of heat and wind. As stated in the RMA Guide for Declaring Municipal Agricultural Disasters, 'Municipal declarations do not automatically trigger access to increased funding programs, provincially or federally.' Please visit the link below to view the most up-to-date weather maps for Alberta. Producers are encouraged to consult AFSC or visit their website for updated information on assistance programs.

<http://agriculture.alberta.ca/acis/climate-maps.jsp>

[www.afsc.ca](http://www.afsc.ca)





## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW No. 16

# Manager's Report

**Department:** Agricultural Service Board

**Submitted by:** Sheila Kaus, Manager, Agricultural Services

**Date:** 8/25/2021

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Administration is pleased to report that all privately held land has been inspected for weed infestations for the first time since 2014, with return inspections and contact completed in areas of concern. The process followed this year involved a great deal of speaking with landowners, offers of assistance and advice, and gathering contact information to ease inspections in the future. The data collected will be used to begin contact with landowners with infestations of concern and early-season weed species over the winter months.

90% of rotational spraying has been completed by the crew, though the water ban in Valleyview has slowed progress. Due to the ban, staff will be focusing on permanent brush control in support of operations, the Forestry Trunk Road, and trouble areas in DeBolt. Recently, Administration identified a permanent water point in DeBolt, which will add to 2022 departmental efficiencies.

Different methods the department can assist Greenview residents became apparent due to the increased contact with landowners. After numerous calls regarding the rate of application for herbicides, Administration created a calculator that landowners can use to determine how much herbicide and surfactant are needed, depending on the capacity of the spray tank. To address calibration concerns, Administration reached out to the Ministry of Agriculture in Ontario to utilize Ontario's independent sprayer calibration calculator. The Ministry granted permission, and Administration will be working towards publicizing these calculators to the benefit of our residents in the coming months.

Clubroot and Blackleg inspections have been completed, with 515 canola fields inspected over five days. This accomplishment allowed Administration to inform producers of test results before harvest, a key tactic in reducing the pathogen's spread. Inspectors identified minor cases of blackleg and four clubroot positive fields. Pest notices were hand-delivered for the clubroot positive fields, providing the opportunity for producers to ask questions and discuss the pest with Administration. With the change in Greenview Policy 6308- Clubroot of Canola, ten previously identified positive fields move from a three-year break to a two-year

break due to low spore loads. Three areas identified in 2021 surpassed the low spore load threshold, resulting in a 1-4 rotational pest notice. One field had disease occurrence under 2%, resulting in a 1-3 rotation pest notice

Agricultural Services completed five (5) provincial canola samplings and four (4) grain samplings for research projects and continued clubroot spore research in partnership with municipalities around the province. Bertha Army Worm survey numbers have not approached the economic threshold to this point. Grasshopper surveys have been completed, with unexpectedly low numbers found. Administration is working with Alberta Agriculture to determine what has impacted the populations.

In working with a subject matter expert, a tree inventory has been compiled in Grande Cache to assist the Beautification team in planning for care, maintenance, and replacement in the future. The report will provide further information about the monetary value of the trees, carbon sequestration benefits, and potential conflicts with utilities and municipal infrastructure. Beautification is looking into the feasibility of installing a species test plot for Grande Cache residents to select species for residents' yards and municipal areas properly.

The feasibility of a booklet form publication supporting the potential shelterbelt program and assisting with best practices for large calliper landscape trees is being investigated. Such a document would be a valuable addition to Greenview resources. Similar to the “Gardening Resources” booklet generated in June, the proposed shelterbelt and tree care booklet would help ratepayers interested in planting and caring for trees and shelterbelts.

For the first time since 2011, the Greenview Farm Family award has been to a Greenview Agricultural Producer. Jerome and Liz Isaacs – Harper Creek Agro has been selected. Administration would like to thank the Agricultural Service Board and Council for ensuring farm families are recognized for their contributions to Greenview Communities.

Rental Equipment stands at 290 rental days for 2021

Up to August 6<sup>th</sup>, 39 wolves have been submitted for incentive, totalling \$11,700, and 430 beavers have been submitted for incentive, totalling \$12,900.

**Problem Wildlife Work Orders**, up to August 4<sup>th</sup>

File Status	Beaver- MD	Beaver- Ratepayer	Customer Service	Predation	TOTAL
Open					0
Monitor	6	7			13
Closed	9	15	8	3	35
<b>TOTALS</b>	15	22	8	3	48

**VSI Quarterly Reports and Service Breakdown- 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter**

	# Services	2021	2020	+/- (%)
<b>Total 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter</b>	99	\$19,269.77	\$21,172.35	-8.99%
<b>Total 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</b>	231	\$33,953.33	\$36,569.40	-7.15%
<b>2021 Claims</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>\$53,223.10</b>	<b>\$57,741.75</b>	<b>-7.83%</b>

**Semen Testing:** 309 claims; \$12,802.36

**Preg Checks:** 1382 claims; \$3,869.60

**Calvings:** 14 claims; \$3,714.05

**C-Sections:** 8 claims; \$2,179.20

**Exams:** 67 claims; \$3,147.65



# REQUEST FOR DECISION

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SUBJECT:	<b>Correspondence</b>		
SUBMISSION TO:	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD	REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION	
MEETING DATE:	August 25, 2021	CAO:	MANAGER: SK
DEPARTMENT:	AGRICULTURE	GM:	PRESENTER:
STRATEGIC PLAN:	Level of Service	LEG:	

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#### RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

**Provincial** (cite) – N/A

**Council Bylaw/Policy** (cite) – N/A

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#### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

**MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board accept the correspondence as information.**

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#### ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Letter from MD of Ranchland; Concern for open pit coal mining in the eastern Rockies.
2. ASB Provincial Committee; Resolution grading response, requests for input into the new Agricultural Policy Framework; an agreement between the federal government and all Provinces.
3. MD of Willow Creek; letter of support to County of Grande Prairie letter regarding Provincial Downloads
4. Northern Sunrise County; letter of support to County of Grande Prairie letter regarding Provincial Downloads
5. AgForward; Managing On-Farm Plastics
6. June 22 Crop Report
7. June 28 Crop Report
8. Precipitation Reports, Soil Reserves, Heat, Rainfall over 7 days - June 28-July 17

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#### BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. The benefit of the Agricultural Service Board accepting the recommended motion is that the Board will be made aware of the correspondence received within the agricultural community throughout the Province.

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#### DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

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#### ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

**Alternative #1:** The Agricultural Service Board has the alternative to alter or deny the recommended motion.

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**FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:**

There are no financial implications to the recommended motion.

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**STAFFING IMPLICATION:**

There are no staffing implications to the recommended motion.

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**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.

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**FOLLOW UP ACTIONS:**

There are no follow up actions to the recommended motion.

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# MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF RANCLAND NO. 66

P.O. Box 1060, NANTON, ALBERTA T0L 1R0 • Ph. 403-646-3131 Fax 403-646-3141

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June 10, 2021

Ron Wallace  
Chair, Coal Policy Committee

## **Re: Concerns for Open Pit Coal Mining in the Eastern Rocky Mountains**

To Committee Members,

The MD of Ranchland Agricultural Service Board wishes to express its concerns regarding the proposed construction of open pit coal mines in the Eastern Rocky Mountains, including loss of water quality, rangelands, and livelihoods.

Water quality and contamination is a major concern of ours. Toxic byproducts of open pit mines leach into surrounding water supplies, impacting water quality for not only our residents but many in southern Alberta. Evidence of extensive municipal water contamination in areas surrounding Teck Corporation's Elk Valley mines can already be found in British Columbia. Establishing these open pit coal mines in the Eastern Rockies is sentencing our residents and numerous Albertans to irreversible water quality issues.

Another concern is loss of our rangelands. The areas planned for mining are home to countless native species, including species at risk such as bull and cutthroat trout, grizzly bears, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats. Native species are slow to recolonize disturbed areas and instead invasive species take over. Animals rarely return to inhabit an area that has changed so drastically from human influence. Constructing open pit mines means more loss of rangelands, habitats, and native organisms.

Many of our residents derive their livelihoods by grazing livestock on lands proposed for/impacted by coal mines. This area boasts some of the best quality grazing lands in the province. Our producers use them responsibly and have demonstrated decades of environmental stewardship. In addition, these lands are popular areas for recreation and tourism. Both residents and visitors alike would be devastated by the creation of open pit mines.

Just because establishing open pit coal mines is "not an unlawful decision" does not make it a good decision. These are some of the most environmentally sensitive areas of the province. Implementing these mines would cause permanent, irreversible damage to the environment and the livelihoods of our residents. Our concerns deserve to be heard.

Though there may be economic benefit to allowing these mines, the environmental and social costs are simply too high. On behalf of members of the Agricultural Service Board, the residents of our community, and citizens across Alberta, do not build open pit coal mines in the Eastern Rocky Mountains.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jody Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jody Wilson**  
**Agricultural Service Board Chairperson, Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66**

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**Cc: Sonya Savage, Minister of Energy**  
**Devin Dreesen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry**  
**Jason Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks**  
**Roger Reid, MLA Livingstone-Macleod**  
**Provincial Agricultural Service Boards**

**From:** [Aimee Boese](#)  
**To:** [Aimee Delaney](#); [Ashley Stewart](#); [Bettina van Nieuwerkerk \(bvann@clearwatercounty.ca\)](#); [Blaine Welsh](#); [Bowen Clausen](#); [Brian Hawkings](#); [Chad Verpy](#); [Chris Chrenek](#); [Cody McIntosh](#); [Corey Stuber \(cstuber@county.camrose.ab.ca\)](#); [Dara Kudras](#); [Delaney McNaughton](#); [Dion Burlock](#); [Fallon Sherlock](#); [Gary Lewis](#); [Harry Brook](#); [Jalene Makus](#); [James Albers](#); [Jane Fulton](#); [Jeff Cosens](#); [Jeff Fleischer](#); [Jeff Guidolin](#); [Jesse Crandall](#); [Jordon Smith](#); [justinbabcock](#); [Kelsey Fenton](#); [Ken Lewis](#); [Kendra Tippe](#); [Kevin MacDonald \(kmacdonald@county.camrose.ab.ca\)](#); [Kristyn Smigelski](#); [Laura Poile](#); [Marty Winchell](#); [Matt Martinson](#); [Quinton Beaumont](#); [Rocky Williams](#); [Roland Krusi](#); [Ross Chudleigh](#); [Ryan Hallet](#); [Shelby Sherwick](#); [Stephen Majek](#); [Tess Krause](#); [Tori Adolf](#); [Trevor Kerr](#); [Aimee Boese](#); [Amanda Kihn](#); [Austin Borysiuk](#); [Brett Weeks](#); [Caitlin Wolf](#); [Carleigh McMullin](#); [Cathie Erichsen-Arychuk](#); [Darin Beckett](#); [Darwin Ullery](#); [Elden Kozak](#); [hmusterer](#); [Jacob Marfo](#); [James Schwindt](#); [Janice Boden](#); [Jessica Robley](#); [Keith Kornelsen](#); [Matt Janz](#); [Mike Bates](#); [Mike Penner](#); [Sara Miller](#); [Shane GGreschuk](#); [Terr Eleniak](#); [Warren Leister](#); [aaron](#); [Alyssa Hutchings](#); [Angela Veenstra](#); [Aren Skogstad](#); [Brad Belanger](#); [Brendan deMilliano](#); [Clarence Dowhan](#); [Corbyn Pankonin](#); [Dawn Fortin](#); [Dawn Phillips](#); [Dawnia McCann](#); [Don Medcke](#); [Elise Graham](#); [Erin McAdam](#); [Garrett Broadbent](#); [Jacolyn Tigert](#); [James Aitken](#); [James Leskiw](#); [Jennifer Benson](#); [Jessica Stambulic](#); [Jodi McDonald](#); [Joel Gould](#); [John McGladdery](#); [Kyle Meunier](#); [Laura Duncan](#); [Melissa Marquis](#); [Patricia O'Neil](#); [Rebecca Bush](#); [Sarah Kassian](#); [Shayne Steffen \(ssteffen@sturgeoncounty.ca\)](#); [Sheila Kaus](#); [Shelayne Hofman](#); [Stacy Berry](#); [Tara McGinn](#); [Victoria Dubord](#); [Warren Noga](#); [Amanda Ouellett \(amandao@birchhillscounty.com\)](#); [Audrey Bjorklund](#); [Becky Devaleriola](#); [Blake Gaugler](#); [Dave Berry](#); [Dessa Nicholson](#); [Fred Sawchuk](#); [Grant Smith](#); [Greg Coon](#); [Jennifer White](#); [Jill Henry](#); [Kathrin Langlois](#); [Kendra Kozdroski](#); [Kim Robson](#); [Kristin King](#); [Landon Driedger](#); [Marny Kenney](#); [Nancy Mayo](#); [Nasar Iqbal](#); [Norm Boulet](#); [Quentin Bochar](#); [Riley Nooy](#); [Sebastian Dutrisac](#); [Sheila Kaus](#); [Sonja Raven](#); [Stephanie Soucy](#); [Terrence Peever](#); [Tracelle Hinze](#); [Trent Keller](#); [Bill Hnatiuk](#); [Braiden Bodin](#); [Bree Webb](#); [Caleb Scott](#); [Carla Preachuk](#); [Catherine Christensen](#); [Cathy Preston](#); [Don Hogan](#); [Doug Jensen](#); [Gary Murray](#); [Gary Secrist](#); [George Bloom](#); [Harold Forrest](#); [James Meeks](#); [Jason Bullock](#); [Jason Regehr](#); [Jeff Porter](#); [Jesse Williams](#); [Jordan Hoffman](#); [Jorden Holst](#); [Justine Comeau](#); [Kali Richardson](#); [Kaylee Dick](#); [Kelly Malmberg](#); [Kennedy Fanrick](#); [Kevin Jesske](#); [Lindsey Davidson](#); [Lisa Sulz](#); [Rick Niwa](#); [Rod Foggin](#); [Russel Muenchrath](#); [Shane Poulsen](#); [Shayna Joes](#); [Stephen Bevans](#); [Terry Mrozowich](#); [Terry Olson](#); [Todd Green](#); [Will Schaap](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Resolution Grading  
**Date:** July 5, 2021 4:18:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please see the message from Linda below and respond directly to her with questions.

Aimee Boese  
Agricultural Fieldman  
Beaver County  
Box 140  
Ryley, AB TOB 4A0  
Direct: 825-385-0063  
Office: 780-663-3730

[www.beaver.ab.ca](http://www.beaver.ab.ca)



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**From:** ASB Committee <asbprovcommittee@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 05, 2021 9:42 AM  
**To:** Aimee Boese <aboese@beaver.ab.ca>  
**Subject:** Resolution Grading

Hi Aimee,  
Would you please send out the following email to the AAAF?

Thank you to the following ASBs for participating in this year's resolution process.

Brazeau  
 Camrose  
 Cypress  
 Foothills  
 Greenview  
 Kneehill  
 Leduc  
 Mountain View  
 Newell  
 Northern Sunrise  
 Red Deer  
 Rocky View  
 Smoky Lake  
 Smoky River  
 Spirit River  
 Sturgeon County  
 Taber  
 Vermillion River  
 Warner  
 Willow Creek  
 Woodlands

The ASB programs are being recognized as an important source of grassroots feedback and important partners in reaching farm clients by the Ministry. Your participation in this process helps to guide the ASBPC in our advocacy efforts.

The participation in the grading is essentially the same as last year.

<b>Region</b>	<b>No. of ASBs Responding</b>	<b>% of Region Responding</b>
South	6	33%
Central	5	36%
Northeast	2	18%
Northwest	4	31%
Peace	4	31%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>30%</b>

The next step is to compile all of the responses and comments, and arrange to meet with the Ministers to discuss further. The ASBPC has a meeting scheduled on July 27 with Minister Nixon, AEP and hopes to meet with Minister Dreeshen before the 2021 Report Card comes out on Aug 31.

Please think about the 2022 resolutions, and remember that the Province is looking for feedback on the new Ag Policy Framework that will replace the existing CAP in April 2023. The ASB blog post contains links to both the

Provincial and the Federal Ag Policy Framework engagements for any ASBs that wish to distribute them to their farm clients, or participate as a board. Outside of these direct engagements, the ASB resolution process can also be used to advocate for programs that meet the needs of farmers or address issues in your area.

--

Linda Hunt  
Executive Assistant  
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee  
PH: 780-678-5984

Website: [www.agriculturalserviceboards.com](http://www.agriculturalserviceboards.com)



# Municipal District of Willow Creek

Office of the Administrator

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Claresholm Industrial Area  
Box 550, Claresholm Alberta T0L 0T0

Office: (403) 625-3351  
Fax: (403) 625-3886  
Shop: (403) 625-3030  
Toll Free: 888-337-3351

June 17, 2021

The Honourable Devin Dreeshan  
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry  
229 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Dreeshan,

The Agricultural Service Board for the Municipal District of Willow Creek is writing this letter in support of the letter dated May 14, 2021 from the County of Grande Prairies' Council and Agricultural Service Board. The many points brought forward by Reeve Beaupre relating to the increased workload on our local Agricultural Service Boards are not fictitious. Starting with the loss of our District Agriculturists decades ago, downloading of services once provided by the Province has not stopped. Research Facilities closing more recently has increased the pressure on our Fieldmen. All this is asked of us with less support money in return.

We realize the financial challenges that the Province faces but, remember, throughout the pandemic Agriculture has remained the strongest industry. It would bode well for the Province to support, to the utmost, the producers and their Agricultural Service Boards so this strength can continue successfully into the future.

Sincerely,

Ian Sundquist,  
Agricultural Service Board Chairman,  
Municipal District of Willow Creek

CC: Provincial ASB's  
County of Grande Prairie Council



July 9, 2021

The Honourable Devin Dreesen  
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry  
229 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Dreesen,

RE: Reduced Municipal Funding

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) of Northern Sunrise County is writing this letter supporting the letter dated May 14, 2021, from the County of Grande Prairies' Council and ASB. Reeve Beaupre has made some excellent points related to the increased workload on our local ASBs.

Downloading of services by the province to the municipalities has been a trend for several years. Municipalities have not realized funding for these services; an excellent example is a reduction in the ASB grant. In addition to this shortcoming, your government has cut support staff which were a great resource to the industry, municipalities, and the Alberta producer. This has increased the pressure on the Agricultural Fieldmen and staff at the provincial and municipal levels.

The province is facing financial challenges. As the Minister of Agriculture, we are confident that you realize that Agriculture has been the backbone of the province and, as an industry, has supported and led the province through the recent pandemic. Municipalities and ASB's have been a substantial contributor to the success of the agricultural industry in Alberta. Decreasing provincial support while downloading services will eventually lead to the inability of some municipalities to provide those services and the erosion of the Agricultural Industry in Alberta.

Sincerely,

Dan Boisvert, Chair  
Agriculture Service Board, Northern Sunrise County

Cc: Carolyn Kolebaba, Northern Sunrise County, Reeve  
Cindy Millar, Northern Sunrise County, Chief Administrative Officer  
Corey Beck, Chair, Provincial Agricultural Service Board  
Peace Region Agricultural Service Board Chairs





# Ag Forward: managing on-farm plastics



## Can the Ag Sector Achieve Zero Plastic Waste on the Farm?

July, 2020

Modern farming utilizes technologies and innovative products that can help farmers operate efficiently with a goal of higher productivity yields in both crops and livestock.

Some of these tools are well known in today's farming operations and include items made of plastic, such as grain bags and baler twine, as well as plastic containers – jugs, drums and totes – that are used to deliver products such as pesticides and fertilizers. While these are convenient and sometimes essential tools around farms, they can be difficult to manage when they are empty. However, innovative ideas from industry and farmers can lead to better outcomes for managing these materials.

Waste analysis studies in the province estimate that Alberta farmers generate just over 14,000 tonnes of various types of ag plastic annually, which is about the same as Saskatchewan, and includes containers, grain bags, plastic baler twine, bale wrap, silage bags and bunker covers.

Many farmers have shared their preference for options that avoid 'use and discard' practices, but admit they are challenged to find alternatives. More

and more, they look to the manufacturers of these products and packaging to offer solutions to the mounting volume of plastics used to deliver crop input products or to store and preserve harvested crop and livestock fodder.

Attitudes about managing these used materials are shifting not only on the farm, but within ag industry circles, as well. Many manufacturers of ag products using plastics fund recycling programs available to farmers through Cleanfarms programs to advance the circular economy for plastics. The circular economy considers all aspects of the product design to minimize unnecessary products, and design materials that can be reused or recycled, keeping them in the economy and out of the environment. The Government of Alberta has already committed to advancing a circular economy for all plastics in the province.



Ultimately, the goal is to achieve zero plastic waste in the agricultural sector meaning that for farmers, these materials can be used efficiently, never becoming waste, which contributes to positive on-farm stewardship.



Davin Johnson, Alberta Program Advisor  
[johnsond@cleanfarms.ca](mailto:johnsond@cleanfarms.ca) | 403-942-6012



The pilot project is led by the multi-stakeholder Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group; funds were granted by the Government of Alberta and are administered by Alberta Beef Producers.

  @cleanfarms | [Cleanfarms.ca](https://www.Cleanfarms.ca)



*Filling a grain bag at the end of harvest season in Alberta*

“The impact for Alberta farmers is two-fold. We can operate our farms with less clutter, keeping both the outbuilding areas and the land free of plastic materials and we can contribute to a more sustainable, environmentally responsible farm operation for ourselves and our families. Recycling

programs are a significant step in protecting the future in the ag sector,” said Dean Hubbard, an Alberta wheat farmer and APRG member.



### Find out more:

- ✦ [Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recycle-It!](#)
- ✦ [View published and upcoming editions](#)

**Upcoming edition:** A look at how ag plastics recycling works in Alberta – the challenges and opportunities

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*[Cleanfarms](http://cleanfarms.ca) is an agricultural industry stewardship organization that contributes to a healthier environment and a sustainable future for Canadian agriculture by developing and operating programs across Canada specifically for farmers that collect used ag plastics for recycling, as well as other ag-related used and unwanted materials for recycling or safe disposal. [cleanfarms.ca](http://cleanfarms.ca)*

*The [Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group](http://aprg.ca) (APRG) was formed in 2017 and comprises more than 20 organizations representing agricultural producers, retailers, manufacturers, municipalities, non-profits and others. The group is committed to finding solutions to manage agricultural plastics. [aprg.ca](http://aprg.ca)*

# Alberta Crop Report



## Crop Conditions as of June 22, 2021 (Abbreviated Report)

Showers over the past week maintained soil moisture through the middle third of the province and improved soil moisture for much of the Peace Region. Meanwhile, precipitation was very limited in the South Region. Currently, soil moisture levels across the province vary (See map). Soil moisture levels through much of the South Region are estimated to contain 20-40 mm of water available for plant growth. In the Central Region, soil moisture levels range from 20-40 mm of water available for plant growth in the southern parts of the region to 120-140 mm in the northern and western areas. Across the North East and North West Regions, plant available moisture is estimated at minimum 60-80 mm, with large areas containing 120-140 mm of plant available moisture. For the Peace Region, soil moisture levels are limited to 40-60 mm of plant available water in the central Peace and increase through the western and southern areas to above 120 mm.

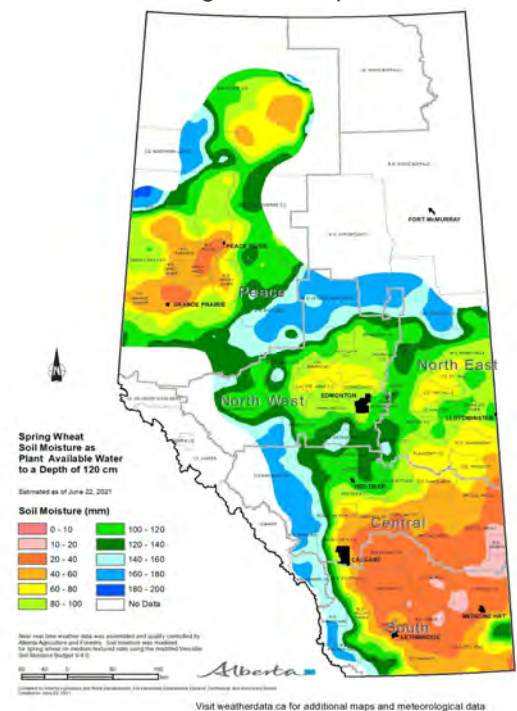
Provincial surface soil moisture (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) was rated at 12 (10) per cent poor, 28 (27) per cent fair, 47 (47) per cent good and 12 (15) per cent excellent, with 1 (1) per cent excessive. However, there is a heat wave in the forecast for the province, following by severe thunderstorm activities, with very little certainty in timing, areas affected and severity. Impending hot temperatures could use up moisture reserves and cause negative impacts on crops and forages across the province, especially in the South and Peace Regions.

Provincially, 80 per cent of crops are rated in good or excellent condition, slightly above the 5-year average of 78 per cent and the 10-year average of 75 per cent (See Table 1). Regional growing condition ratings dropped from a week ago in all regions but the North East Region, where it remained unchanged, and the Peace Region, where it improved by three per cent. Compared to the regional 5-year averages, crop conditions are better than normal in all regions, except for the South, where crops are under critical moisture stress.

**Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of June 22, 2021**

	Per cent rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	62.0%	85.4%	92.1%	93.4%	76.6%	<b>81.4%</b>
Barley	63.8%	85.6%	90.5%	92.9%	73.1%	<b>79.4%</b>
Oats	68.6%	80.9%	89.2%	92.0%	74.1%	<b>84.2%</b>
Canola	63.1%	86.7%	85.3%	86.2%	75.4%	<b>80.0%</b>
Dry Peas	67.5%	85.5%	93.4%	94.4%	77.2%	<b>79.7%</b>
Major Crops, June 22	63.5%	85.8%	88.7%	90.3%	75.8%	<b>80.4%</b>
Major Crops, June 15	66.4%	88.8%	88.6%	95.4%	73.1%	<b>82.0%</b>
Major Crops, Last Year	77.3%	95.6%	85.1%	48.1%	72.3%	<b>79.3%</b>
5-year (2016-2020) Avg	74.7%	80.3%	85.4%	75.0%	71.9%	<b>78.4%</b>
10-year (2011-2020) Avg	74.3%	73.0%	80.9%	71.6%	69.5%	<b>74.7%</b>

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Hay and pasture growing conditions remain variable across the province. Forages are in good condition in most areas of the Central, North East and North West Regions, while in the South Region they are under stress from dry conditions. Pasture and tame hay growing conditions for the Peace Region improved from a week ago, but still are not in good shape. Lack of moisture coupled with hot temperatures in the forecast could be detrimental. Provincial pasture conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are now reported as 9 (10) per cent poor, 34 (31) per cent fair, 51 (51) per cent good and 6 (8) per cent excellent (see Table 2).

**Table 2: Pasture Growth Conditions as of June 22, 2021**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	14.5%	50.3%	34.2%	1.0%
Central	8.0%	17.8%	61.4%	12.9%
North East	2.3%	29.5%	60.7%	7.4%
North West	0.0%	14.4%	80.2%	5.4%
Peace	14.1%	44.2%	35.8%	6.0%
Alberta	9.2%	33.8%	50.7%	6.3%
5-year (2016-2020) Avg	6.9%	20.2%	55.6%	17.2%
10-year (2011-2020) Avg	11.3%	21.3%	52.3%	15.2%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

## Regional Assessments:

### Region One: South (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Localized showers over the past week brought 5-10 mm of precipitation to the western parts of the region, with a small area in the southwest receiving up to 20-30 mm, while the eastern half of the region didn't receive any moisture. As a result of the combination of the heat and lack of moisture, more crops are now showing moisture stress that can potentially impact yields in the region.
- About 58 per cent of crops in the region are now rated in good condition with only five per cent rated as excellent. Most spring seeded cereals are in the stem elongation stage of development, slightly behind normal.
- Surface and sub-surface soil moisture reserves depleted significantly by 17 and 20 per cent respectively from a week ago. Sub-surface soil moisture is rated at 19 per cent poor, 52 per cent fair, 28 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent.
- Pastures and dryland hay fields are under stress in the hot dry conditions. Pasture growing conditions (tame hay shown in parentheses) are reported as 15 (16) per cent poor, 50 (46) per cent fair, 34 (36) per cent good and 1 (2) per cent excellent.

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

- Crops are developing nicely in most areas, but conditions vary across the region. Counties in the north and west parts of the region received good moisture to keep crops and forages healthy and green, while dry weather persists in the southern and eastern counties. With more heat in the forecast, moisture is needed to maintain yield. Spraying is about to finish and first cut haying has started. Hail was reported in some areas with minor to heavy damage, depending on the area.
- About 71 of crops in the region are rated in good condition with 15 per cent rated as excellent. Most spring seeded cereals are at the end of the tillering stage of development, slightly behind normal.
- Soil moisture reserves are variable across the region. Sub-surface soil moisture is rated at 10 per cent poor, 15 per cent fair, 49 per cent good and 25 per cent excellent, with 1 per cent excessive.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay shown in parentheses) are reported as 8 (6) per cent poor, 18 (15) per cent fair, 61 (59) per cent good and 13 (20) per cent excellent.



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

- Precipitation received over the past couple of weeks followed by the warm weather this past week promoted good growth conditions for both crops and forages. Some producers have started first cut haying, trying to capitalize on the forecasted heat, while most producers are waiting for July to begin haying.
- About 79 per cent of crops in the region are rated in good condition, with another 10 per cent rated as excellent. Most spring seeded cereals are either finishing the tillering stage of development or are beginning the stem elongation stage, on par with normal.
- Surface soil moisture reserves declined by nine per cent from a week ago, while sub-surface soil moisture remained unchanged. Sub-surface soil moisture is rated at 6 per cent fair, 57 per cent good and 36 per cent excellent, with 1 per cent excessive.
- Pasture and forage fields are generally looking good. Pasture growing conditions (tame hay shown in parentheses) are reported as 2 (16) per cent poor, 30 (41) per cent fair, 61 (40) per cent good and 7 (3) per cent excellent.

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

- Growing conditions are generally good in the region, with lower lying areas and heavy soil spots showing signs of high moisture stress. Hay and pasture fields have benefited from the recent moisture, but could use more, as heat in the forecast could provide stress.
- About 68 per cent of crops in the region are rated in good condition, with another 22 per cent rated as excellent. Stages of development vary across the region, mainly due to the dry start for crops. Canola fields are in different stages, ranging from the low leaf to the rosette stages. Spring seeded crops are mostly in the tillering stage of development, behind normal.
- Both surface and sub-surface soil moisture reserves improved from last week, by six and four per cent, respectively. Sub-surface soil moisture is rated at 2 per cent fair, 87 per cent good and 10 per cent excellent, with 1 per cent excessive.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay shown in parentheses) are reported as 0 (1) per cent poor, 14 (17) per cent fair, 80 (77) per cent good and 6 (5) per cent excellent.

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

- Most parts of the region received at least 10-15 mm of rain over the past week, except for the southwestern areas which remained dry. However, the moisture was not enough to change the situation for the central Peace, which still needs moisture. Forecasted record-breaking high temperatures are concerning to producers, especially for those in the drier areas.
- About 68 per cent of crops in the region are rated in good condition, with another 8 per cent rated as excellent. Spring seeded cereals are in the tillering stage of development, which is on par with the regional norm.
- Moisture received in the region improved both surface and sub-surface soil moisture reserves by 19 and nine per cent respectively. Sub-surface soil moisture is rated at 11 per cent poor, 46 per cent fair, 39 per cent good and 4 per cent excellent.
- Pasture and tame hay growing conditions are reported as 14 per cent poor, 44 per cent fair, 36 per cent good and 6 per cent excellent.

## Contact

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry  
Intergovernmental and Trade Relations Branch  
Statistics and Data Development Section  
June 25, 2021

Ashan Shooshtarian  
Crop Statistician  
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# Alberta Crop Report



## Crop Conditions as of June 28, 2021

NOTE – Crop Reports will be released bi-weekly in July and August

The effects of favourable spring seeding conditions are now evident in the current crop staging. Cereal crop development is averaging early flag leaf stage and very much in line with long-term averages for Alberta. Oilseed and pulse crops are ahead of the norm with 66 per cent in rosette, or seven to 12 node stage, compared to the five- and 10-year averages of 57 and 59 per cent respectively. Oilseed and pulse crops now flowering average 22 per cent compared to the five- and 10-year averages of 11 and 12 per cent.

Prolonged periods of heat with little moisture are taking a toll on crop conditions. The provincial crop condition rating declined 13 percentage points from the last full report on June 15 to 68 per cent rated as good to excellent, compared to the five-year average of 76 per cent, and the 10-year average of 74 per cent (Table 1). South and North West have seen more significant changes, at over 20-point declines, while Central, North East and Peace regions fell to a lesser degree compared to two weeks ago. This week's provincewide heat wave is expected to impact these ratings further.

**Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of June 28, 2021**

	% Rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	47.2%	74.7%	88.1%	71.4%	69.4%	70.8%
Durum Wheat	46.7%	58.0%	---	---	---	48.2%
Barley*	50.1%	82.5%	85.0%	70.0%	58.7%	69.5%
Oats*	50.2%	66.5%	83.5%	69.7%	61.5%	70.2%
Winter Wheat	53.6%	58.3%	90.0%	93.0%	---	54.6%
Mixed Grain	20.0%	79.3%	100%	63.2%	---	77.1%
Canola*	51.0%	79.3%	80.2%	71.1%	66.2%	71.1%
Dry Peas*	49.4%	77.3%	89.3%	82.9%	62.4%	67.1%
Lentils	35.5%	70.0%	---	---	---	40.1%
Chickpeas	23.3%	80.0%	---	---	---	25.9%
Mustard	54.7%	70.0%	---	---	---	59.3%
Flax	45.4%	56.4%	96.7%	---	---	53.8%
Potatoes	80.0%	91.5%	100%	100%	---	81.9%
<b>All Crops</b>	<b>48.9%</b>	<b>77.2%</b>	<b>84.3%</b>	<b>71.7%</b>	<b>65.8%</b>	<b>68.3%</b>
<b>Major Crops (*)</b>	<b>49.2%</b>	<b>78.1%</b>	<b>84.3%</b>	<b>71.7%</b>	<b>65.8%</b>	<b>70.3%</b>
<b>June 15, 2021</b>	<b>69.6%</b>	<b>88.4%</b>	<b>88.7%</b>	<b>95.3%</b>	<b>73.1%</b>	<b>81.7%</b>
<b>Last Year</b>	<b>81.7%</b>	<b>95.1%</b>	<b>83.8%</b>	<b>46.9%</b>	<b>68.0%</b>	<b>79.7%</b>
<b>5-year (2016-2020) Avg.</b>	<b>71.8%</b>	<b>78.3%</b>	<b>84.9%</b>	<b>71.5%</b>	<b>70.4%</b>	<b>76.2%</b>
<b>10-year (2011-2020) Avg.</b>	<b>74.6%</b>	<b>75.5%</b>	<b>76.9%</b>	<b>69.1%</b>	<b>71.0%</b>	<b>74.3%</b>

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Hay harvest has begun with 28 per cent of dryland acres, and 46 per cent of irrigated hay now baled in Alberta. Dryland condition is rated 53 per cent good and 16 per cent excellent, with irrigated hay in better shape at 61 per cent good, with 8 per cent excellent. Yields are averaging 1.2 tons per acre on dryland, slightly behind the five-year average of 1.3 tons per acre. Irrigated yields are estimated at 2.1 tons per acre while the five-year average is 2.4. Both yields and conditions are lower in both South and Peace regions resulting from limited precipitation.

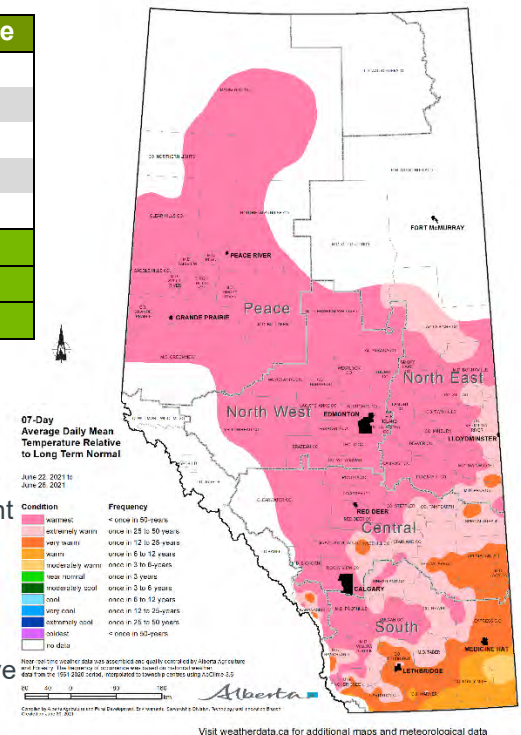


**Table 2: Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of June 28, 2021**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	38.1%	43.1%	17.3%	1.5%	---
Central	22.2%	19.6%	53.6%	4.6%	---
North East	4.8%	42.6%	50.3%	2.1%	0.2%
North West	24.6%	58.7%	16.7%	---	---
Peace	14.7%	43.3%	41.2%	0.8%	---
Average	23.4%	38.7%	35.6%	2.2%	0.0%
5-year (2016-2020) Avg.	4.8%	19.7%	46.6%	24.3%	4.7%
10-year (2011-2020) Avg.	7.6%	16.0%	42.7%	29.0%	4.7%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Soil moisture conditions have dropped from last week as a result of the extended period of hot, dry conditions around the province. Surface soil moisture (last week in brackets) is 23 (12) per cent rated as poor, 39 (28) per cent fair, 36 (47) per cent good, 2 (12) per cent excellent with 0 (1) per cent rated as excessive (Table 2). Sub-surface soil moisture (last week in brackets) is currently estimated at 16 (10) per cent poor, 35 (27) per cent fair, 41 (47) per cent good, and 8 (16) per cent excellent. The average daily mean temperatures for the week ending June 28 have been a once-in-50-year event for most of the province (see dark pink on Map).



## Regional Assessments:

### Region One: South (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Crop conditions within the South region are estimated at 49 per cent good or excellent, and are noticeably lower than the five-year average of 72 per cent and 10-year average of 75 per cent. The extremely warm temperatures and lack of moisture are taking a toll on all dryland crops.
- Spring-seeded cereals are mid-way through the boot stage, with winter cereals now flowering. Well over half of the oilseed and pulse crops are in the rosette stage, with over 30 per cent starting to flower.
- Surface soil moisture ratings decreased by four points over the last week to 19 per cent rated good or excellent. Sub-surface soil moisture decreased by six points over last week to 23 per cent rating good or excellent.
- First-cut haying is underway with over 40 per cent of dryland acres and over half of irrigated acres now completed. Dryland yields (irrigated in parenthesis) are estimated at 0.9 (2.2) tons per acre and 54 (64) per cent rated good or excellent quality. Pasture growth (tame hay shown in parenthesis) is rated as 18 (20) per cent poor, 52 (48) per cent fair, 29 (30) good, and 1 (2) per cent excellent.

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

- Crop conditions in Central region are estimated at 77 per cent good or excellent, and on par with both the five-year and 10-year average. The extremely warm temperatures and lack of moisture are taking a toll on all dryland crops.
- Spring-seeded cereals are in the early stem elongation stage, with winter cereals now nicely into flowering. Oilseed and pulse crop development is variable, with the majority of acres in the rosette stages, rapidly moving into flowering.
- Surface soil moisture ratings decreased by 18 points over the last week to 58 per cent rated good or excellent. Sub-surface soil moisture decreased by 14 points over last week to 60 per cent rating good or excellent.
- First-cut haying is underway with over one third of dryland acres and over five per cent of irrigated acres now completed. Dryland yields (irrigated in parenthesis) are estimated at 1.6 (1.9) tons per acre and 89 (100) per cent rated good or excellent quality. Pasture growth (tame hay shown in parenthesis) is rated as 11 (11) per cent poor, 26 (27) per cent fair, 59 (54) good, and 4 (8) per cent excellent.

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

- Crop conditions within the Central region are estimated at 84 per cent good or excellent, and on par with the five-year average of 85 per cent but behind the 10-year average of 77 per cent. The extremely warm temperatures and lack of moisture are taking a toll on all dryland crops.
- Spring-seeded cereals are in the early boot stage; while fall-seeded crops are now in the early milk stage. Canola has close to 70 per cent in the rosette stage, with peas close to 85 per cent in the rosette stage.
- Surface soil moisture ratings decreased by 29 points over the last week to 52 per cent rated good or excellent. Sub-surface soil moisture decreased by 13 points over last week to 80 per cent rating good or excellent.
- First-cut haying is just underway in the region with six per cent of dryland acres now completed. Dryland yields are estimated at 1.2 tons per acre and 93 per cent rated good or excellent quality. Pasture growth (tame hay shown in parenthesis) is rated as 6 (17) per cent poor, 32 (44) per cent fair, 55 (37) good, and 7 (2) per cent excellent.

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

- Crop conditions within the North West region are estimated at 72 per cent good or excellent, and on par with the five-year average and slightly ahead of the 10-year average of 69 per cent. The extremely warm temperatures and lack of moisture are taking a toll on all dryland crops.
- Spring-seeded cereals are in the late stem elongation stage, while canola and peas are over 70 per cent in the rosette stage.
- Surface soil moisture ratings decreased by 80 points over the last week to 17 per cent rated good or excellent. Sub-surface soil moisture decreased by 51 points over last week to 46 per cent rating good or excellent.
- First-cut haying is over a quarter of dryland acres now completed. Dryland yields are estimated at 1.1 tons per acre and 72 per cent rated good or excellent quality. Pasture growth (tame hay shown in parenthesis) is rated as 3 (8) per cent poor, 58 (53) per cent fair, 37 (38) good, and 2 (1) per cent excellent.

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

- Crop conditions within the Peace region are estimated at 66 per cent good or excellent, lower than the five-year average of 70 per cent and 10-year average of 71 per cent. The extremely warm temperatures and lack of moisture are taking a toll on all dryland crops.
- Spring-seeded cereals are in the early stem elongation stage, while canola and peas are near 80 per cent in the rosette stage.
- Surface soil moisture ratings decreased by 10 points over the last week to 42 per cent rated good or excellent. Sub-surface soil moisture decreased by 5 points over last week to 47 per cent rating good or excellent.
- First-cut haying well underway with 20 per cent of dryland acres now completed. Dryland yields are estimated at 0.9 tons per acre and 43 per cent rated good or excellent quality. Pasture growth (tame hay shown in parenthesis) is rated as 18 (15) per cent poor, 43 (42) per cent fair, 37 (39) per cent good and 2(4) per cent excellent.

## **Contacts**

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**July 2, 2021**

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# Alberta Crop Report



## Crop Conditions as of August 10, 2021

NOTE – Crop Reports will be released bi-weekly in July and August

Over the past two weeks, low to moderate amounts of moisture were received through widespread thunderstorms across the province, with the exception of last week's general rains over southern parts. Rain was welcome in the areas where it was received, particularly for hay and pasture fields. However, it might be late for most annual crops. Temperatures over this period remained in the mid to high 20s across all regions. Overall, precipitation accumulations tended to be highly variable throughout most parts of the province (see the map).

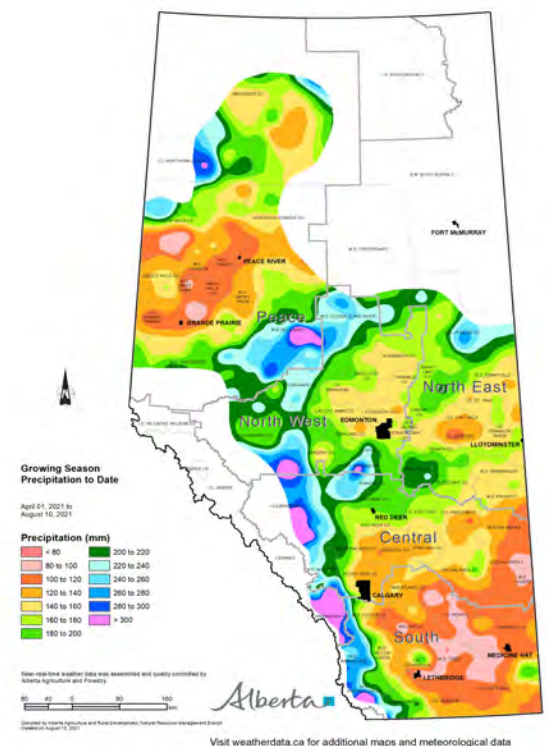
Crop development was accelerated by the heat wave over the months of June and July. Spring seeded cereals across the province are mostly in the dough development growth stage, while all dry peas, 97 per cent of canola and more than 95 per cent of lentils and chickpeas are in the podding stage.

Crops still look weak in many areas with small head sizes and unfilled kernels. Provincial crop condition ratings declined slightly from the previous crop report (conditions as of July 27). Currently, 18 per cent of crops in Alberta are in good or excellent condition, compared to the 5-year average (2016-2020) of 69 per cent (see Table 1). Compared to the previous crop report, growing condition ratings dropped for all regions, with the North West Region deteriorating the most (down three per cent), followed by the Peace and Central Regions (down two per cent). Conditions deteriorated marginally (by one per cent) in the South and North East Regions.

**Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of August 10, 2021**

	Per cent rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	22.6%	12.0%	27.6%	19.9%	11.2%	19.9%
Durum Wheat	20.5%	10.0%	---	---	---	19.1%
Barley*	22.0%	14.1%	13.1%	16.2%	15.2%	16.7%
Oats*	23.9%	14.3%	19.7%	15.1%	28.2%	19.3%
Canola*	19.8%	15.6%	15.5%	14.5%	11.6%	15.4%
Dry Peas*	20.2%	13.4%	13.1%	13.7%	19.3%	16.9%
Mustard	30.1%	20.0%	---	---	---	27.1%
Flax	30.0%	10.0%	40.5%	---	---	29.8%
Potatoes	51.9%	---	100.0%	85.7%	---	51.7%
Chickpeas	11.0%	20.0%	---	---	---	11.4%
Lentils	19.2%	26.1%	---	---	---	20.1%
<b>All Crops, Aug 10</b>	<b>22.8%</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	<b>19.9%</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	<b>13.3%</b>	<b>18.2%</b>
<b>Major Crops (*), Aug 10</b>	<b>21.4%</b>	<b>13.8%</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>16.6%</b>	<b>13.3%</b>	<b>17.4%</b>
<b>All Crops, July 27</b>	<b>23.7%</b>	<b>16.1%</b>	<b>20.7%</b>	<b>19.6%</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>19.7%</b>
<b>5-year (2016-2020) Avg</b>	<b>57.5%</b>	<b>74.8%</b>	<b>81.0%</b>	<b>58.2%</b>	<b>71.1%</b>	<b>69.0%</b>
<b>10-year (2011-2020) Avg</b>	<b>66.2%</b>	<b>73.2%</b>	<b>77.4%</b>	<b>62.0%</b>	<b>64.5%</b>	<b>69.9%</b>

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Harvest is advanced in all regions and operations have begun for fall-seeded crops, pulses and some early-seeded spring cereals. Provincially, 62 per cent of fall rye, 44 per cent of winter wheat, 32 per cent of lentils, 19 per cent of dry peas and 14 per cent of both durum wheat and triticale are now in the bin, accounting for about four per cent of all crops. About one per cent of crops across the province have been swathed and 95 per cent is still standing.

Average yields are below both the 5-year and 10-year averages in all regions. Provincially, the estimated dryland 5-year yield index is 58.7 per cent, indicating that provincial yields are estimated to be below the 5-year averages by 41 per cent (See Table 2). The 5-year yield index is the best in the North West Region (reporting yields 28 per cent below the 5-year averages), followed by the Peace Region (estimating 32 per cent below the 5-year averages). The lowest yields have been reported in the South Region, where yields are 51 per cent below the 5-year averages. Please note that these estimates are preliminary and subject to change, but they will be updated bi-weekly.

**Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates as of August 10, 2021**

	Estimated Yield (bushel/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	18.8	29.0	31.5	43.3	34.4	29.9
Barley	20.8	51.9	38.5	41.8	27.7	37.2
Oats	21.0	47.5	45.6	52.0	45.9	46.9
Canola	17.5	27.1	24.1	32.6	23.5	24.7
Dry Peas	18.8	23.3	22.7	23.1	31.1	23.4
5-year Yield Index	48.5%	58.7%	56.2%	71.9%	67.7%	58.7%
10-year Yield Index	46.0%	61.9%	61.2%	72.4%	70.5%	60.6%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Pasture growing conditions across the province remains poor. Some pastures are so “burnt” and dried out from the earlier hot and dry conditions in the year that recent precipitation was not enough to benefit them. Rainfall before the fall is needed to ensure average growth next year. In response to feed shortage as a result of hot dry conditions, producers are taking cereals and pulses for silage, greenfeed or pasturing them. Pasture conditions (tame hay numbers shown in the brackets) across the province are now reported as 52 (51) per cent poor, 30 (32) per cent fair, 17 (16) per cent good and 1 (1) per cent excellent.

First cut haying is virtually complete across the province, significantly ahead of the 5-year average of 85 per cent. There will not be any second cut in many areas, due to little re-growth. Yield for first cut dryland hay is estimated at one ton per acre (below the 5-year average of 1.5 tons per acre), with quality rated as 17 per cent poor, 34 per cent fair, 36 per cent good and 13 per cent excellent. For irrigated hay, yield is reported at 2.1 tons per acre, below the 5-year average of 2.4 tons per acre. Quality is rated as 4 per cent poor, 35 per cent fair, 55 per cent good and 6 per cent excellent.

## Regional Assessments:

### Region One: South (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Warm dry conditions continued in the region, with rain bringing moisture in some areas. Harvest in most areas has started and is ahead of normal, with several fields being cut for greenfeed.
- About 12 per cent of crops are now in the bin (compared to the 5-year average of six per cent) and another two per cent are swathed. Nearly 73 per cent of fall rye, 44 per cent of winter wheat, 40 per cent of dry peas and 30 per cent of lentils are now in the bin.
- First cut haying operations for both dryland and irrigated land are virtually complete. Average yield on dryland is estimated at 0.8 ton per acre, below the 5-year average of 1.1 tons per acre and is 2.2 tons per acre on irrigated land, lower than the 5-year average of 2.4 tons per acre. Of first cut hay, about 65 per cent of dryland hay and 40 per cent



of irrigated hay is rated as poor or fair quality. Second cut haying operations is currently underway only in irrigated fields, with 33 per cent completed at 1.7 tons per acre yield.

- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are now reported as 53 (47) per cent poor, 31 (36) per cent fair, 15 (17) per cent good and 1 (0) per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 50 (55) per cent poor, 37 (35) per cent fair, 12 (10) per cent good and 1 (0) per cent excellent.

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

- Scattered showers and moderate temperatures in the central and northwestern parts of the region improved soil moisture and were beneficial to fill what is left of crops. Hail was reported in some counties.
- About four per cent of crops have been combined in the region (compared to the 5-year average of less than one per cent), with another one per cent swathed, while 95 per cent of crops are still standing. Almost 48 per cent of winter wheat, 19 per cent of fall rye, 17 per cent of dry peas and 44 per cent of lentils are now in the bin.
- Producers wrapped up first cut hay and second cut is underway, ahead of normal. For first cut hay, average yield is estimated at 1.2 and two tons per acre, respectively for dryland and irrigated (both below the 5-year averages). Quality is rated as 54 per cent good to excellent for dryland hay and 70 per cent good for irrigated.
- Pastures are becoming depleted, but hay and pasture growing conditions improved from the last report. Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are reported as 39 (41) per cent poor, 28 (28) per cent fair, 32 (29) per cent good and 1 (2) per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 44 (37) per cent poor, 29 (32) per cent fair and 27 (31) per cent good.

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

- Dry conditions persist, particularly in the southeastern parts, while localized showers helped moisture conditions in other counties.
- Over the past five years, no crops were harvested at this time, while all winter wheat, 93 per cent of fall rye and eight per cent of dry peas are now in the bin. Overall, nine per cent of crops have been combined in the region and 91 per cent still standing.
- First cut haying is 99 per cent complete, much ahead of the 5-year average of 79 per cent completed at this time. Yield is reported at 0.9 ton per acre, below the 5-year average of 1.7 tons per acre and quality is rated as 23 per cent poor and fair, 24 per cent good and 53 per cent excellent. Second cut hay is also under-way.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are reported as 72 (78) per cent poor, 18 (18) per cent fair and 10 (4) per cent good.
- Surface soil moisture is reported (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 62 (47) per cent poor, 24 (33) per cent fair and 14 (20) per cent good.

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

- Scattered rain storms over the past two weeks deposited some moisture in most parts of the region. Some crops were hit with hail, losing their potential yields. Currently, about one per cent of all crops are in the bin and 99 per cent are still standing, while many crops are expected to be harvested for feed.
- First cut haying is virtually complete and second cut haying progress varies. The yield for first cut hay is reported at 1.3 tons per acre, below the 5-year average of two tons per acre. Quality is estimated at 43 per cent poor or fair, 42 per cent good and 15 per cent excellent.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are reported as 41 (38) per cent poor, 52 (44) per cent fair and 7 (18) per cent good.

- Surface soil moisture is reported (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 31 (15) per cent poor, 41 (50) per cent fair and 28 (35) per cent good.

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

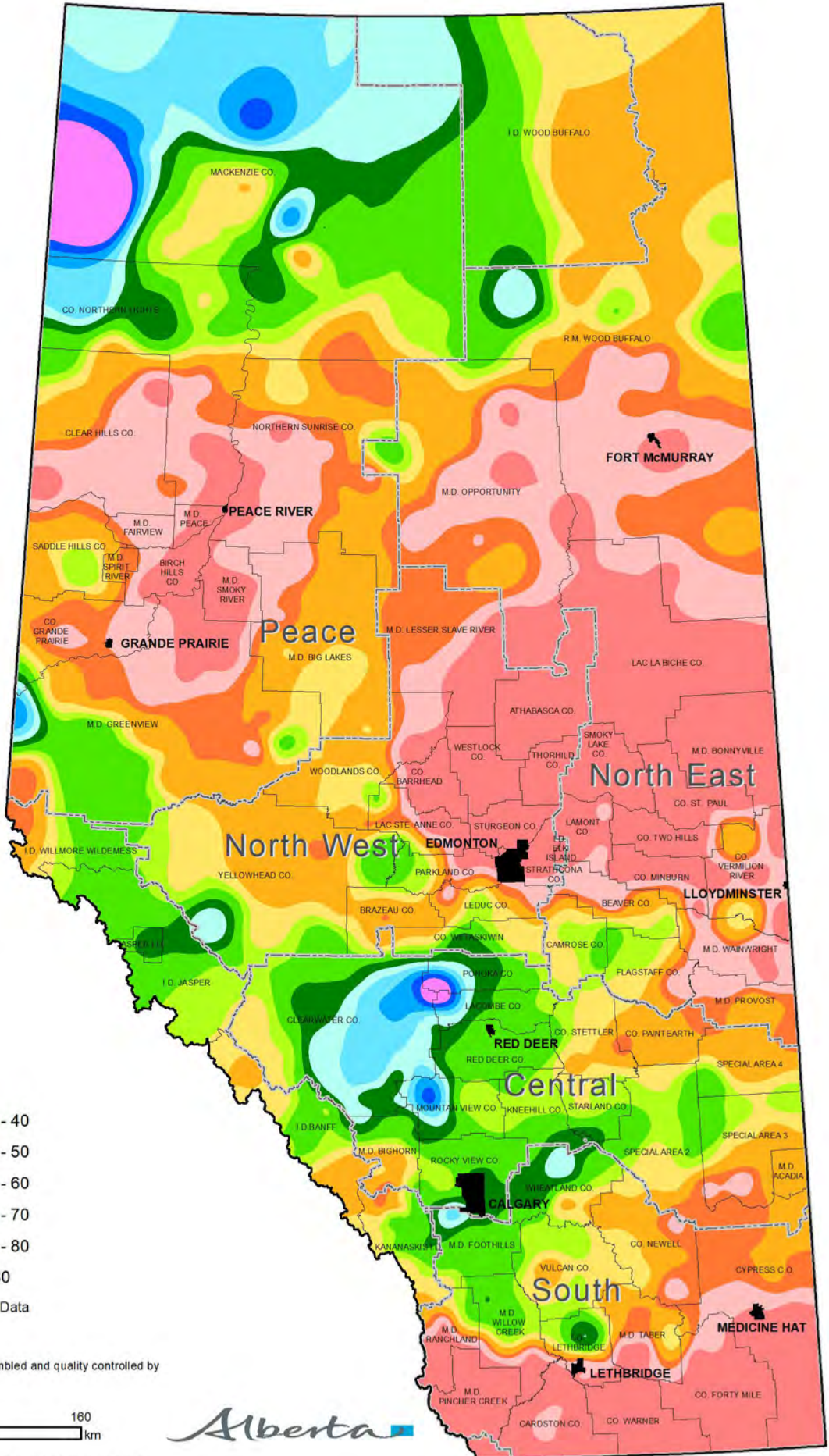
- Spotty showers were reported for the region over the past two weeks, with temperatures mostly in mid 20s. Harvest of dry peas has started and combining cereals will be starting soon, but canola needs more time. Overall, less than one per cent of all crops in the region are now in the bin.
- First cut haying operations are now 99 per cent complete with the average yield estimated at 0.7 ton per acre, below the 5-year average of 1.5 tons per acre. Quality is rated as 34 per cent poor, 44 per cent fair, 18 per cent good and 4 per cent excellent.
- Pasture growing conditions (tame hay conditions shown in brackets) are reported as 66 (62) per cent poor, 31 (35) per cent fair and 3 (3) per cent good.
- Surface soil moisture is rated (sub-surface soil moisture ratings shown in brackets) at 46 (42) per cent poor, 40 (41) per cent fair, 12 (15) per cent good and 2 (2) per cent excellent.

## Contact

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry  
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**August 13, 2021**

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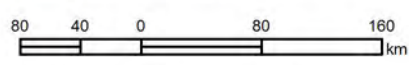
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June 28, 2021 to July 04, 2021

**Precipitation (mm)**

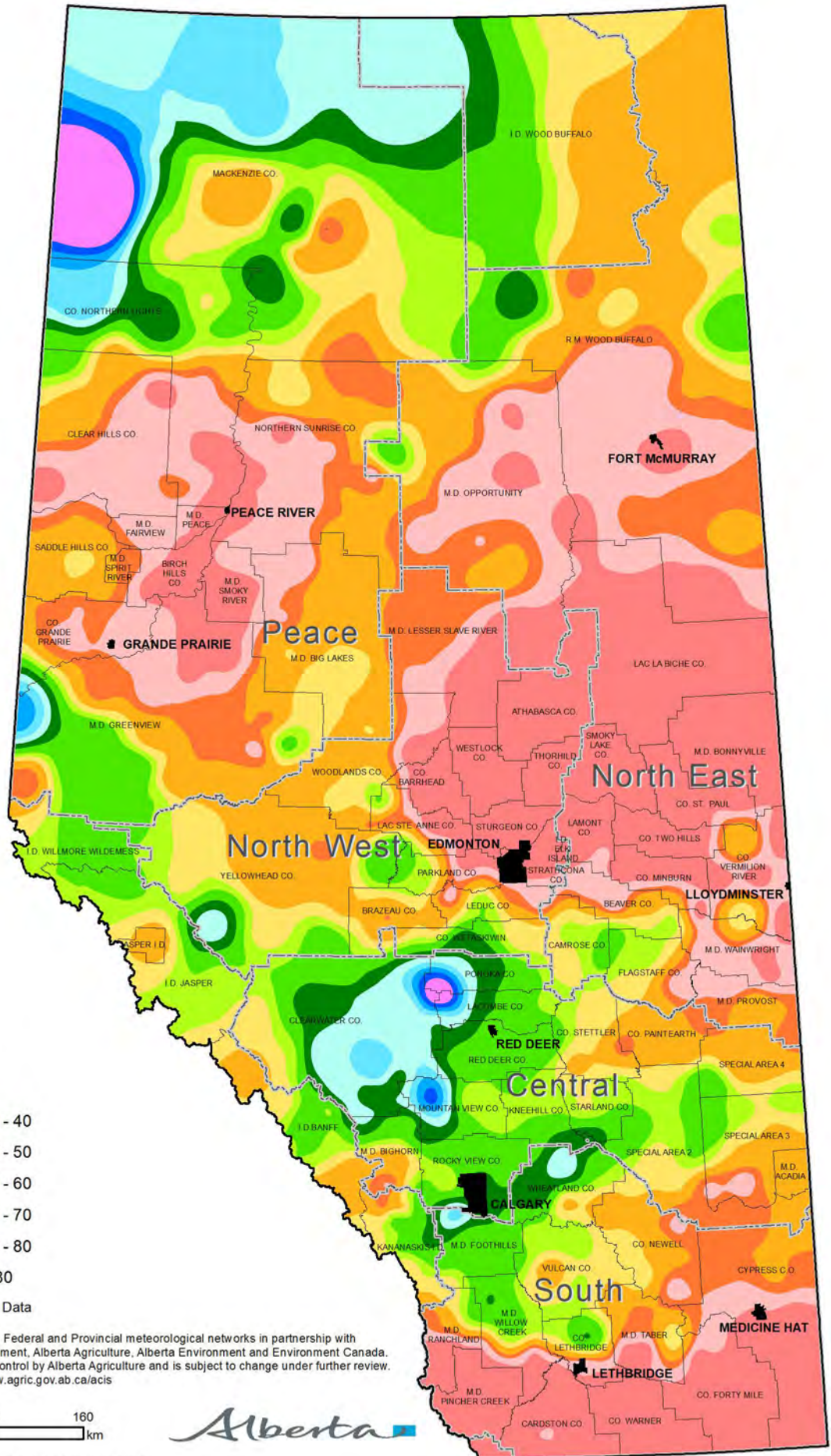
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	10 - 15		70 - 80
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	20 - 30		No Data

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



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on July 05, 2021





**Precipitation Received During the Past 4-days**

July 01, 2021 to July 04, 2021 approx. 2400 hrs

**Precipitation (mm)**

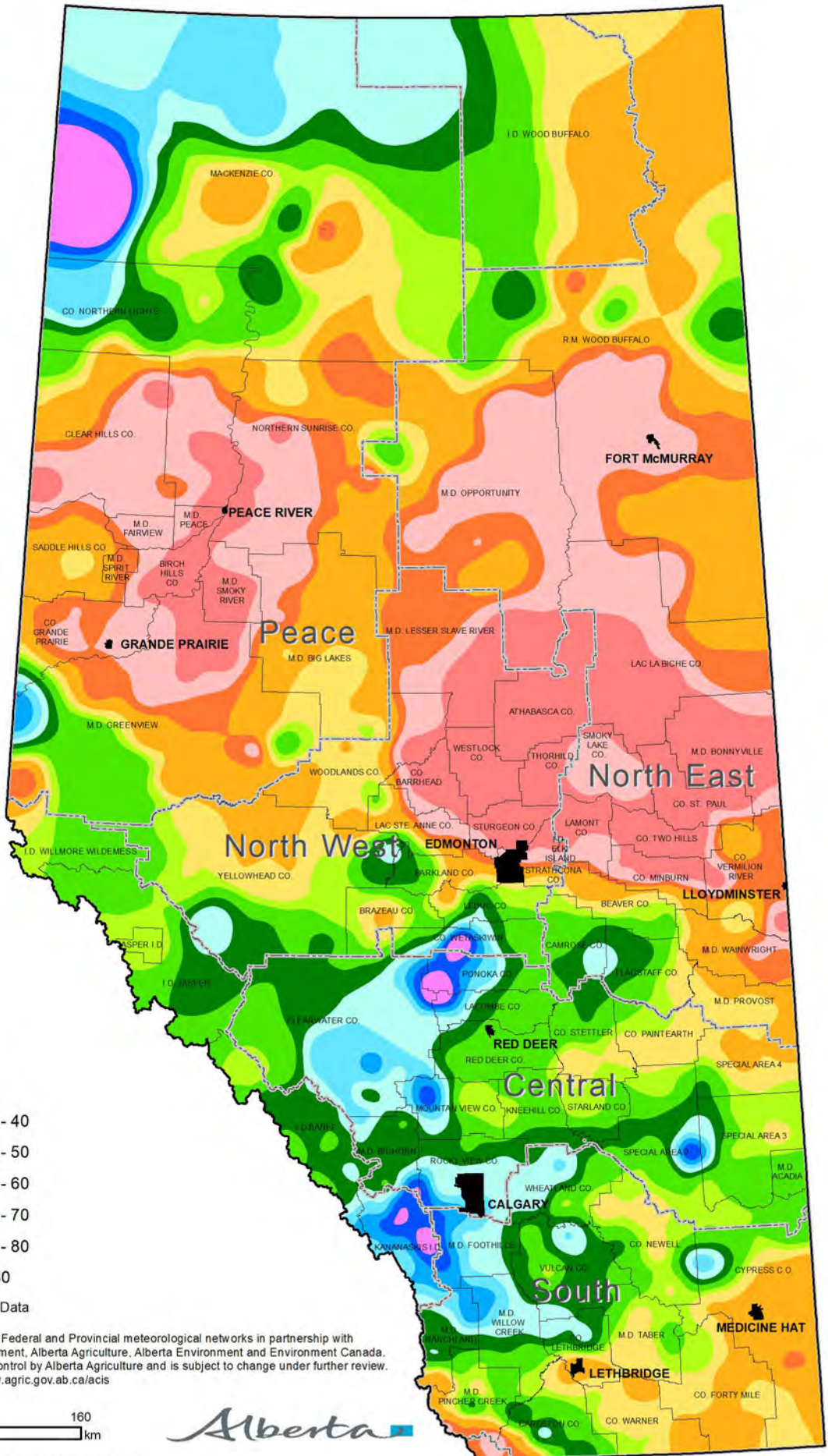
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	10 - 15		70 - 80
	15 - 20		> 80
	20 - 30		No Data

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/acis](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/acis)



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on July 05, 2021





**Precipitation Received During the Past 8-days**

July 01, 2021 to July 08, 2021 approx. 2400 hrs

**Precipitation (mm)**

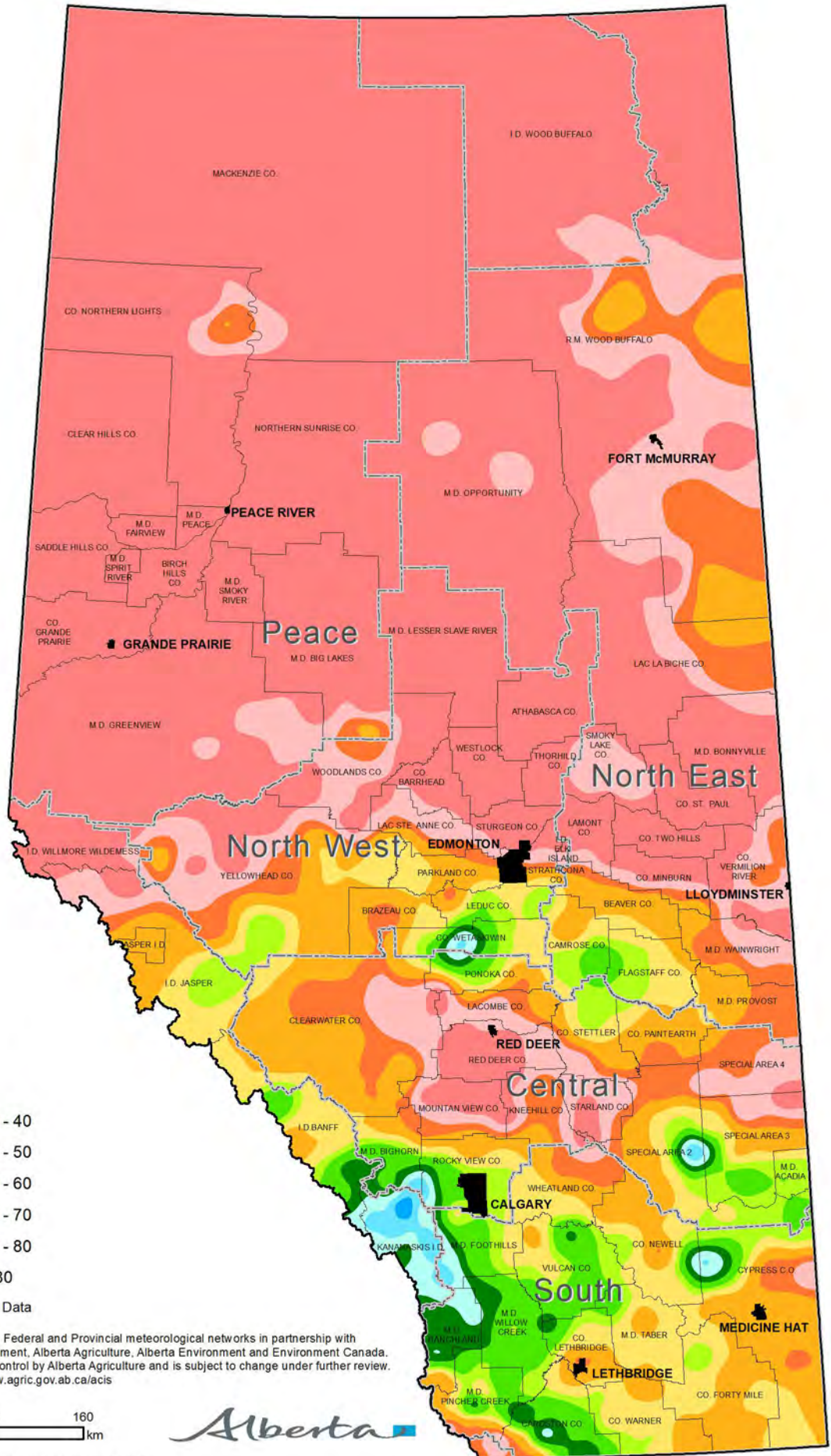
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	10 - 15		70 - 80
	15 - 20		> 80
	20 - 30		No Data

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/acis](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/acis)



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on July 09, 2021





**Precipitation Received During the Past 4-days**

July 05, 2021 to July 08, 2021 approx. 2400 hrs

**Precipitation (mm)**

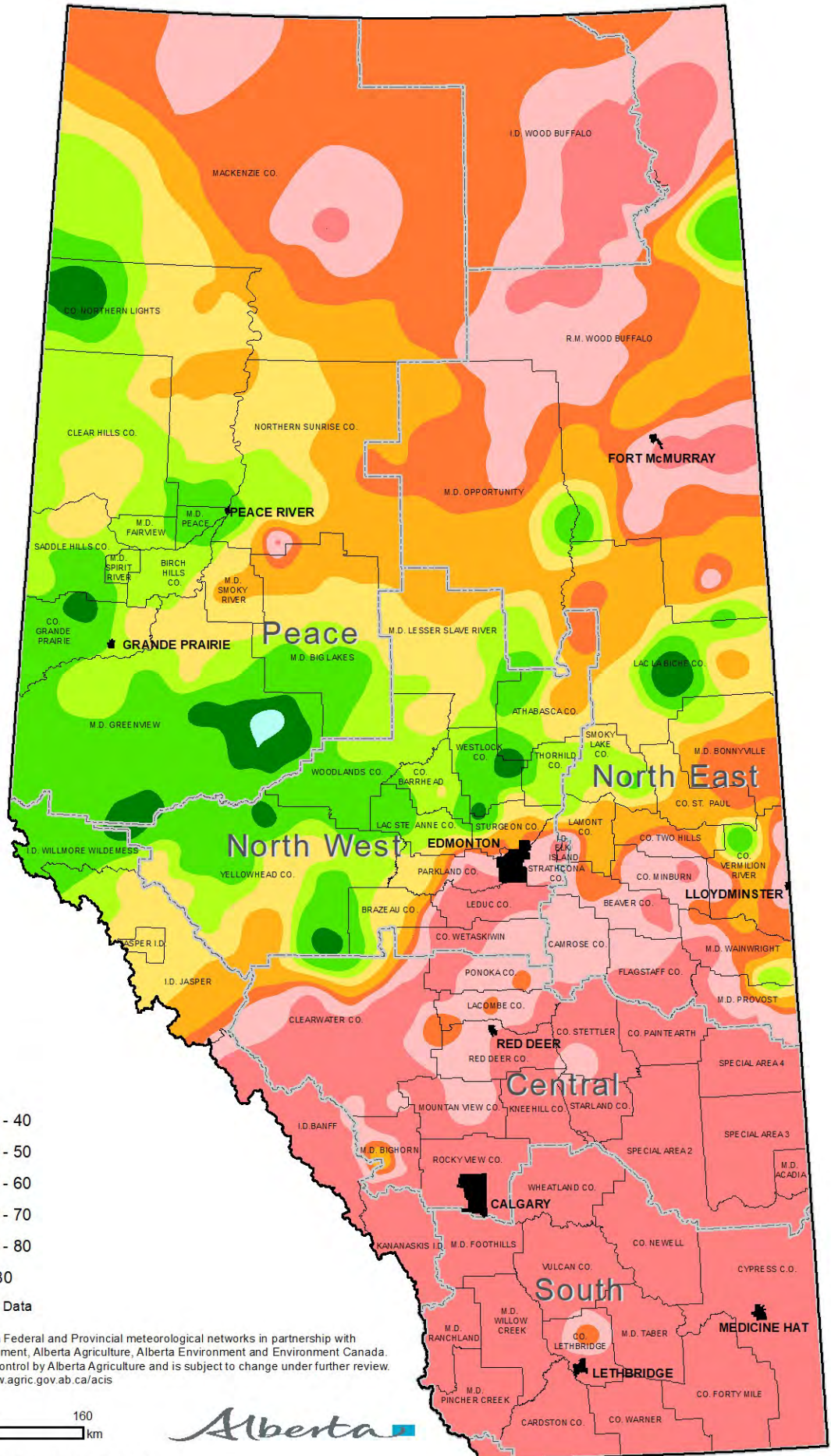
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	10 - 15		70 - 80
	15 - 20		> 80
	20 - 30		No Data

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/acis](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/acis)



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on July 09, 2021





**Precipitation Received During the Past 4-days**

July 14, 2021 to July 17, 2021 approx. 2400 hrs

**Precipitation (mm)**

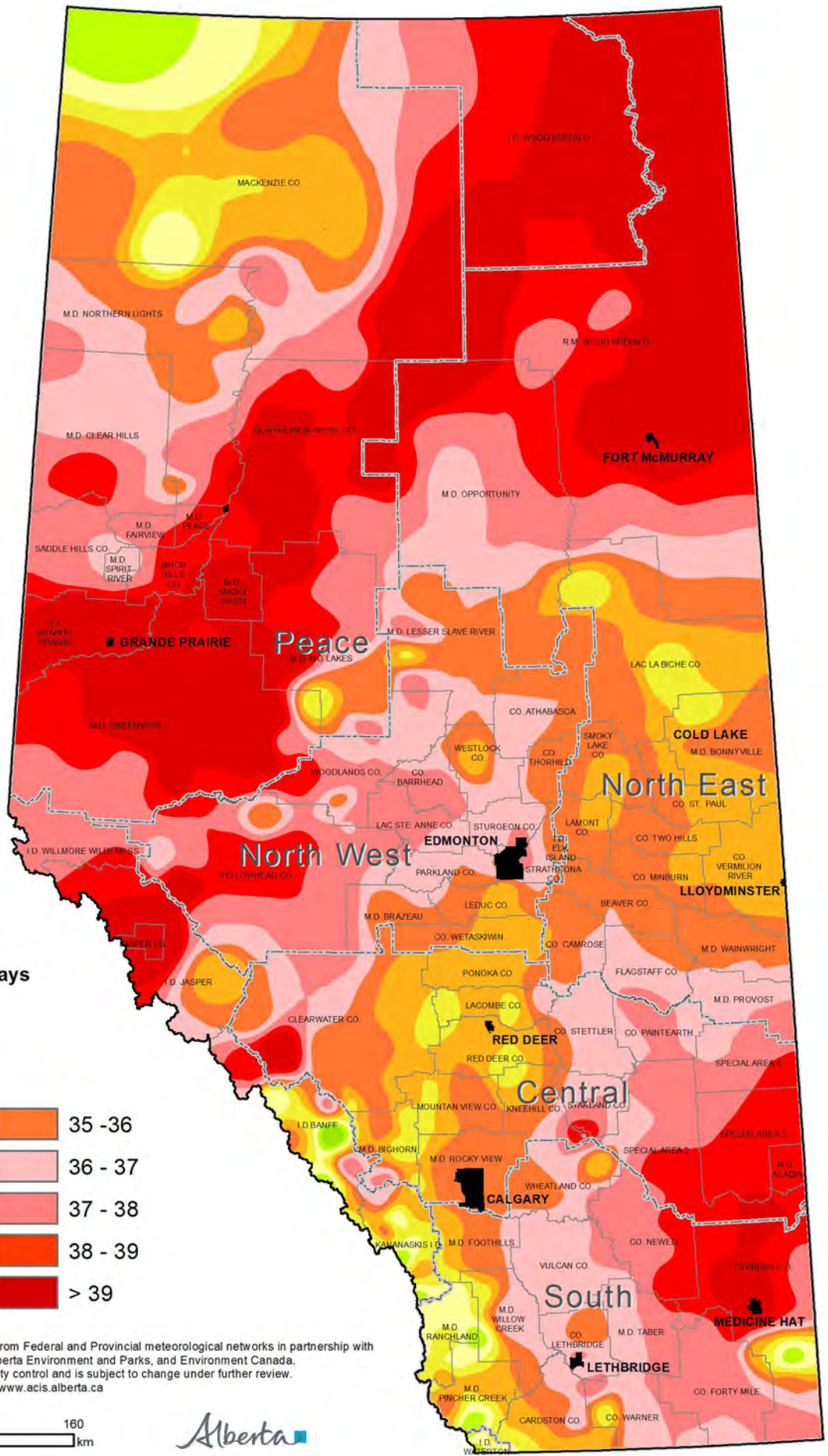
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	15 - 20		> 80
	20 - 30		No Data

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/acis](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/acis)



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on July 18, 2021





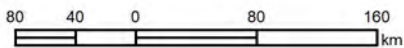
**Highest Recorded Temperature During the Past 7-days**

June 28, 2021 to July 04, 2021 aprox. 2400 hrs

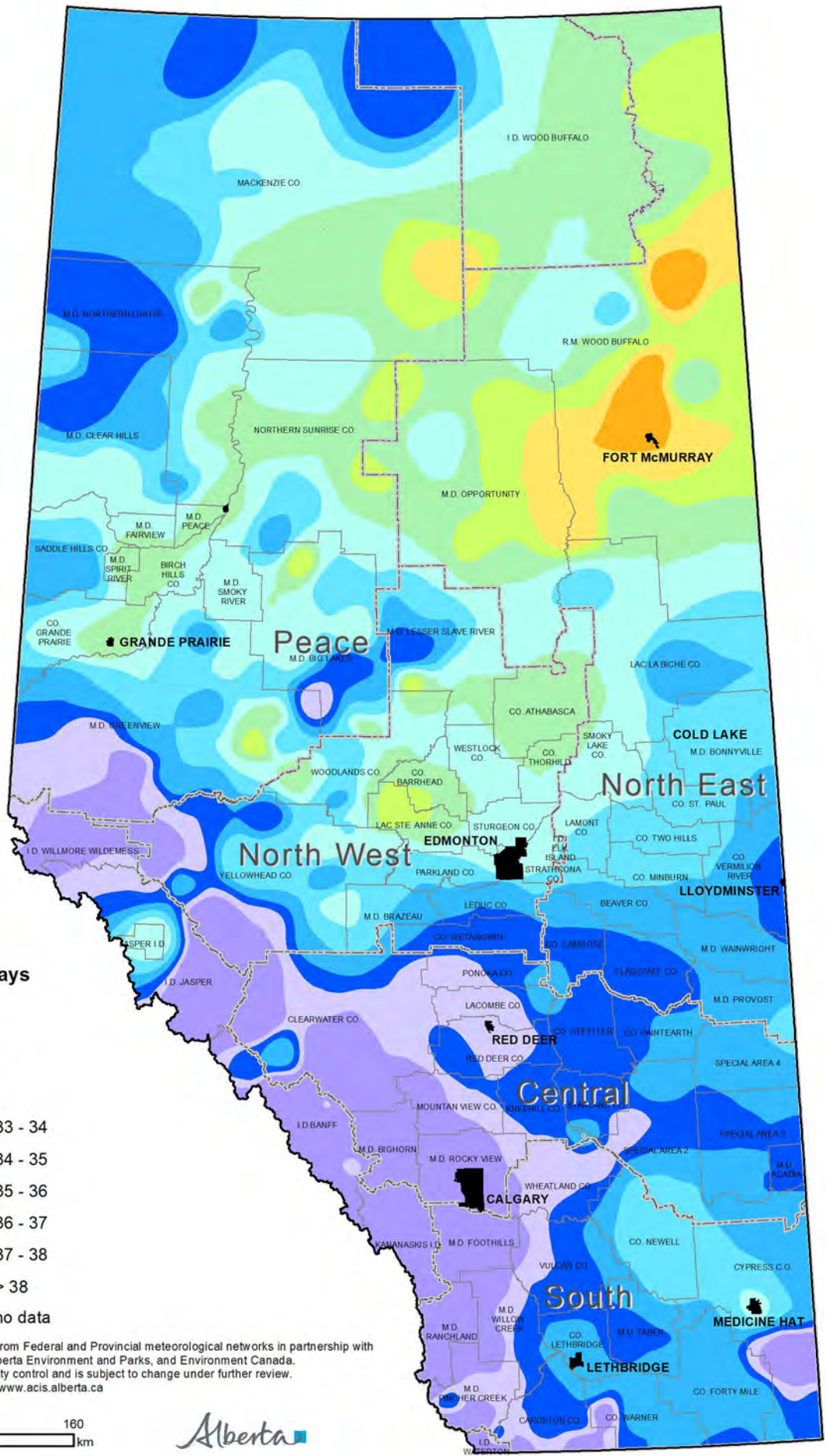
**Degree Celsius**

	< 31		35 - 36
	31 - 32		36 - 37
	32 - 33		37 - 38
	33 - 34		38 - 39
	34 - 35		> 39

Near-real-time data was collected from Federal and Provincial meteorological networks in partnership with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks, and Environment Canada. Data has passed preliminary quality control and is subject to change under further review. Live station data can be viewed at [www.acis.alberta.ca](http://www.acis.alberta.ca)







**Highest Recorded Temperature During the Past 2-days**

July 07, 2021 to  
July 08, 2021 aprox. 2400 hrs

**Degree Celsius**

	< 27		33 - 34
	27 - 28		34 - 35
	28 - 29		35 - 36
	29 - 30		36 - 37
	30 - 31		37 - 38
	31 - 32		> 38
	32 - 33		no data













Near-real-time data was collected from Federal and Provincial meteorological networks in partnership with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks, and Environment Canada. Data has passed preliminary quality control and is subject to change under further review. Live station data can be viewed at [www.acis.alberta.ca](http://www.acis.alberta.ca)





# Spring Wheat Soil Moisture Reserves Relative to Long Term Normal to a Depth of 120 cm

Estimated as of July 17, 2021

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

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. Soil moisture was modeled for spring wheat on medium textured soils using the modified Versatile Soil Moisture Budget V-4.0. The frequency of occurrence was based on model runs using historical weather data from the 1961-2020 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClime-3.6



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Environmental Stewardship Branch, Engineering and Climate Services Section  
Created on July 18, 2021

