



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW No. 16

REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, January 31 , 2024

9:30 AM

Council Chambers
Administration Building

#1	CALL TO ORDER		
#2	ADOPTION OF AGENDA		
#3	MINUTES	3.1 Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting minutes held Wednesday, October 25, 2023, to be adopted.	1
		3.2 Business Arising from the Minutes	
		3.3 Action Items	8
#4	DELEGATION		
#5	BUSINESS	5.1 Livestock Tax Deferral Response	9
		5.2 Weed Control Regulation	13
		5.3 Carcass Disposal Report	15
		5.4 Heavy Harrows Replacement	37
		5.5 Agricultural Emergency Response	40
		5.6 Managers Report	138

#6 MEMBERS REPORTS

- Chair Warren Wohlgemuth
- Vice Chair Bill Smith
- Councillor Dave Berry
- Member Joshua McMillan
- Member Dave Gibbard
- Member Jeff Laughlin
- Member Jake Drozda

#7 CORRESPONDENCE

144

#8 ADJOURNMENT

Minutes of a
REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16
Greenview Administration Building,
Valleyview, Alberta, on Wednesday, October 25, 2023

#1
CALL TO ORDER

Chair Warren Wohlgemuth called the meeting to order at 9:43 am

PRESENT

A.S.B. Member - Chair	Warren Wohlgemuth
A.S.B. Member – Vice Chair	Bill Smith
A.S.B. Member	Dave Berry
A.S.B. Member	Warren Wohlgemuth
A.S.B. Member	Joshua McMillan
A.S.B. Member	David Gibbard
A.S.B. Member	Jeff Laughlin

ATTENDING

Manager, Agriculture Services	Sheila Kaus
Recording Secretary	Brooke Kobe

ABSENT

#2
AGENDA

MOTION: 23.10.214 Moved by: MEMBER JEFF LAUGHLIN
That the Agricultural Service Board adopt October 25, 2023, Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda as amended.

CARRIED

#3.1
REGULAR
AGRICULTURAL
SERVICE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: 23.10.215 Moved by: MEMBER JOSHUA MCMILLAN
That the Agricultural Service Board adopt the August 23, 2023, Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3.2
BUSINESS ARISING
FROM MINUTES

3.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

5.3 POLICY 6308 CLUBROOT

#5.3
POLICY 6308
CLUBROOT

MOTION: 23.10.216 Moved by: MEMBER JOSHUA MCMILLAN
That the Agricultural Service Board recommend the Policy Review Committee approve the 2023 revisions to Policy 6308: Clubroot of Canola, as presented.

CARRIED

3.3
ACTION ITEMS

3.3 ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: 23.10.217 Moved by: DEPUTY REEVE BILL SMITH
That the Agricultural Service Board accept the Action Items, as amended.

- Keep Motion 21.12.143 on the Action Item List

CARRIED

RECESS @10:09
RECONVENE @10:19

**#5.0
BUSINESS**

5.0 BUSINESS

**#5.1
LIVESTOCK TAX
DEFERRAL**

5.1 LIVESTOCK TAX DEFERRAL

MOTION: 23.10.218 Moved by: COUNCILLOR DAVE BERRY

That the Agricultural Service Board approve the drafted "Greenview's Exclusion in the Livestock Tax Deferral for the 2023 Tax Year" for delivery to the Province of Alberta, the Government of Canada, and the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee, as amended.

- Inquire where the numbers are coming from.

CARRIED

**#5.2
AGRICULTURE
DISASTER**

5.2 AGRICULTURE DISASTER DECLARATION

MOTION: 23.10.219 Moved by: MEMBER JOSHUA MCMILLAN

That the Agricultural Service Board accept the report on the 2023 agronomic conditions in Greenview as not meeting the criteria set forth by the Rural Municipalities of Alberta for a municipal declaration of Agricultural Disaster as information, as presented.

CARRIED

**#5.4
MANAGERS
REPORT**

5.4 MANAGERS REPORT

MOTION: 23.10.220 Moved by: MEMBER JEFF LAUGHLIN

That the Agricultural Service Board accepts the Managers' report, as presented.

CARRIED

**#5.5
LETTER TO
VALLEYVIEW
GRAZING RESERVE**

5.5 LETTER TO VALLEYVIEW GRAZING RESERVE

MOTION: 23.10.221 Moved by: DEPUTY REEVE BILL SMITH

The Agricultural Service Board send a letter to the board and patrons of the Valleyview Grazing Reserve regarding challenges experienced while trying to assist with carnivore predation, including tampered sets and equipment.

CARRIED

**#6.0 CLOSED
SESSION
CLOSED SESSION**

6.0 CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: 23.10.222 Moved by: COUNCILLOR DAVE BERRY

That the meeting go to Closed Session, at 11:18 p.m. pursuant to Section 197 of the Municipal Government Act, 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, and Division 2 of Part 1 of the Freedom of Information and Protection Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter F-25 and amendments thereto, to discuss Privileged Information with regards to the Closed Session.

CARRIED

OPEN SESSION

MOTION: 23.10.223 Moved by: MEMBER JEFF LAUGHLIN
That, in compliance with Section 197(2) of the Municipal Government Act, this meeting come into Open Session at 11:56 a.m.

CARRIED

6.1 VET EQUIPMENT LEASE

#6.1
VET EQUIPMENT
LEASE

MOTION: 23.10.224 Moved by: DEPUTY REEVE BILL SMITH
That the Agricultural Service Board recommend council to review the vet equipment lease regarding the letter received from Dr. JM Pozniak.

CARRIED

#7 MEMBERS'
BUSINESS &
REPORTS

7.0 MEMBERS' BUSINESS & REPORTS

ASB MEMBERS
REPORTS

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

- Introduction

VICE CHAIR – DEPUTY REEVE BILL SMITH updated the Agriculture Service Board on her recent activities, which include;

- Introduction

COUNCILLOR DAVE BERRY updated the Agriculture Service Board on his recent activities, which include;

- Introduction

MEMBER JAKE DROZDA updated the Agriculture Service Board on his recent activities, which include;

- Introduction

MEMBER JOSHUA MCMILLAN updated the Agriculture Service Board on his recent activities, which include;

- Introduction

MEMBER DAVID GIBBARD updated the Agriculture Service Board on his recent activities, which include;

- Introduction

MEMBER JEFF LAUGHLIN updated the Agriculture Service Board on his recent activities, which include;

- Introduction

#6 MEMBER'S
BUSINESS AND
REPORTS

MOTION: 23.10.225 Moved by: MEMBER JEFF LAUGHLIN
That the Agricultural Service Board accepts the Member's reports as information.

CARRIED

#8
CORRESPONDENCE

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

- 7 20 2023 Additional Support for Producers - Ag Disaster
- 7 20 2023 Feed and Transportation Assistance Program for Ag Disaster

- 4056_001
- Additional Supports for Agricultural Producers - Special Areas July 5, 2023
- Map 1 7-day precipitation accumulations as of August 2, 2023
- Map 2 14-day precipitation accumulations as of August 2, 2023
- Map 3 60-day temperatures relative to normal as of August 2, 2023
- Map 4 90-day precipitation relative to normal as of August 2, 2023
- Map 5 90-day precipitation accumulation as of August 2, 2023
- Map 6 Soil Moisture reserves relative to normal as of August 2, 2023

ASB
CORRESPONDENCE

MOTION: 23.10.226 Moved by: MEMBER JEFF LAUGHLIN
That the Agricultural Service Board accepts the correspondence for information,
as presented.

CARRIED

#9
ADJOURNMENT

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: 23.10.227 Moved by: DEPUTY REEVE BILL SMITH
That this Agricultural Service Board meeting adjourn at 12:05 p.m.

CARRIED

MANAGER, AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

ASB CHAIR

Minutes of a
ORGANIZATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16

Greenview Administration Building,
Valleyview, Alberta, on Wednesday, October 25, 2022

1
CALL TO ORDER Manager, Agricultural Services, Sheila Kaus called the meeting to order at 9:31
am

PRESENT

A.S.B. Member - Chair	Warren Wohlgemuth
A.S.B. Member – Deputy Reeve	Bill Smith
A.S.B. Member – Councillor	Dave Berry
A.S.B. Member	Joshua McMillan
A.S.B. Member	David Gibbard
A.S.B. Member	Jeff Laughlin
A.S.B. Member	Jake Drozda
Manager, Agriculture Services	Sheila Kaus
Recording Secretary	Brooke Kobe

ABSENT

#2
AGENDA MOTION: 23.10. Moved by: DEPUTY REEVE BILL SMITH
That the Agricultural Service Board adopt the October 25, 2023 Organizational
Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda as presented.
CARRIED

#3.0
NOMINATION OF
CHAIR **NOMINATION FOR CHAIR**

Manager, Agricultural Services, Sheila Kaus, called for nominations for the
election of Agricultural Service Board Chair.

Bill Smith nominated Warren Wohlgemuth.

Manager, Agricultural Services, Sheila Kaus, called for a second time for
nominations for the election of Agricultural Service Board Chair.

None Heard

Manager, Agricultural Services, Sheila Kaus, called for a third time nominations
for the election of Agricultural Service Board Chair.

**CEASE
NOMINATIONS
FOR CHAIR**

MOTION: 23.10. Moved by: MEMBER JEFF LAUGHLIN
That the Agricultural Service Board cease nominations for the Agricultural Service Board Chair.

CARRIED

**APPOINTMENT OF
CHAIR**

MOTION: 23.10. Moved by: DEPUTY REEVE BILL SMITH
That the Agricultural Service Board appoints Warren Wohlgemuth as the Chair of the Municipal District of Greenview No. 16 Agricultural Service Board until the next annual Organizational Meeting.

CARRIED

Manager, Agricultural Services, Sheila Kaus declared **MEMBER WARREN WOHLGEMUTH** as the elected Chair of the Agricultural Service Board until the next Organizational Meeting and Chair Warren Wohlgemuth assumed the Chair. Manager, Agricultural Services, Sheila Kaus passed the meeting to Chair Warren Wohlgemuth.

**#4.0
NOMINATION OF
VICE-CHAIR**

NOMINATION FOR VICE-CHAIR

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

A.S.B. Member Dave Berry nominated Bill Smith

Chair Warren Wohlgemuth, called a second time for nominations for the election of Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chair.

None heard

Chair Chair Warren Wohlgemuth, called for a third time nominations for the election of Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chair.

None heard

**CEASE
NOMINATIONS
FOR VICE-CHAIR**

MOTION: 23.10. Moved by: COUNCILLOR DAVE BERRY
That the Agricultural Service Board cease nominations for the Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chair.

CARRIED

**APPOINTMENT OF
VICE-CHAIR**

MOTION: 23.10. Moved by: MEMBER JEFF LAUGHLIN
That the Agricultural Service Board appoint Bill Smith as the Vice-Chair of the Agricultural Service Board until the next annual Organizational Meeting.

CARRIED

Chair Warren Wohlgemuth declared Bill Smith as the Vice-Chair for the Agricultural Service board until the next Organizational Meeting.

#6
ADJOURNMENT

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: 22.10.118 Moved by: Dave Berry

That this Organizational Agricultural Service Board meeting adjourn at 9:39am

CARRIED

MANAGER, AGRICULTURE SERVICES

ASB CHAIR

3.3 Action Items - Agricultural Services Motion Tracker

No.	Motion	Assigned to	Status
MOTION: 21.12.143 December 13, 2021	Moved by: VICE CHAIR SHELLEY MORRISON that the Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council to postpone the Agricultural Plastics Recycle capital purchase project for 2022 and to be considered for 2023.	Sheila Kaus, Agricultural Services Manager	Postponed
MOTION: 22.07.78 July 27, 2022	Moved by: COUNCILLOR DAVE BERRY that the Agricultural Service Board approve the importing of Canada Thistle Stem Mining Weevils from the United States, to facilitate a locally available rearing site for eventual weevil distribution on acceptable sites throughout Greenview.	Sarah Cairns, Landcare Coordinator	In Progress
MOTION: 23.04.175 April 26, 2023	Moved by: MEMBER RICHARD BROCHU that the Agricultural Service Board recommend the draft Agricultural Education Grant Policy to the Policy Review Committee for consideration, as amended.	Sarah Cairns, Landcare Coordinator	Completed
MOTION: 23.04.180	Moved by: VICE CHAIR SHELLEY MORRISON that the Agricultural Service Board nominate a recipient for the Farm Family Award which will then be forwarded to Council for approval.	Sarah Cairns, Landcare Coordinator	Completed
MOTION: 23.08.210	Moved by: DEPUTY REEVE BILL SMITH The Agricultural Service Board directs Administration to write a letter regarding livestock disaster for tax deferral to the federal government and to write an RFD with criteria for agricultural disaster to Council, as well as straw and feed concerns, and large animal vet concerns.	Sheila Kaus, Agricultural Services Manager	Completed
MOTION: 23.10.217	Moved by: COUNCILLOR DAVE BERRY That the Agricultural Service Board approve the drafted "Greenview's Exclusion in the Livestock Tax Deferral for the 2023 Tax Year" for delivery to the Province of Alberta, the Government of Canada, and the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee, as amended.	Sheila Kaus, Agricultural Services Manager	Completed



REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT: **2023 Livestock Tax Deferral Response Letter**

SUBMISSION TO: AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION

MEETING DATE: January 31, 2024 CAO: MANAGER: SK

DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE DIR: MH PRESENTER: SK

STRATEGIC PLAN: Economy LEG:

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Provincial (cite) – N/A

Council Bylaw/Policy (cite) – N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board accept the response letter for the 2023 Livestock Tax Deferral, as presented.

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

On October 25, 2023, the Agricultural Service Board requested Administration to draft a letter regarding Greenview's exclusion in the Livestock Tax Deferral for the 2023 Tax Year. The letter was drafted and sent to Honourable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, on October 27, 2023.

Administration received a reply on November 29, 2023 that highlighted the provincial governments' advocacy on behalf of Alberta Agricultural Producers, but indicated that Greenview received normal to above average precipitation throughout 2023. This resulted in forage yields that failed to meet the 50% reduction in yield criteria for inclusion set by the federal government.

BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. The benefit of the recommended motion is that the Agricultural Service Board has acknowledged that the provincial government has heard their concerns regarding impacted livestock producers.
-

DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative #1: The Agricultural Service Board may choose 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):

- Letter: Greenview's Inclusion in the 2023 Livestock Tax Deferral Provision

RE: Greenview's Inclusion in the 2023 Livestock Tax Deferral Provision

AGRIC Minister <AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca>

Wed 11/29/2023 11:47 AM

To: Sheila Kaus <Sheila.Kaus@mdgreenview.ab.ca>

Cc: lawrence.macaulay@parl.gc.ca <lawrence.macaulay@parl.gc.ca>; Sebastien Dutrisac <sdutrisac@thcounty.ab.ca>; Stacey Wabick <Stacey.Wabick@MDGreenview.ab.ca>; Tyler Olsen <Tyler.Olsen@MDGreenview.ab.ca>

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.

Dear Warren Wohlgemuth:

Thank you for your October 27, 2023 letter requesting the Municipal District of Greenview be included in the 2023 Livestock Tax Deferral provision. I know this has been a difficult year and Alberta's producers have had to endure many challenges, including dry conditions, pests and wildfires.

As you mentioned in your letter, prescribed regions for the Livestock Tax Deferral are designated, on the advice of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to the federal Minister of Finance, when forage yields fall below 50 per cent of the long-term average as a result of drought or flooding in a particular year.

The Government of Alberta has worked with the federal government to identify regions in Alberta that are currently eligible for the 2023 provision. The preliminary list was based on spring moisture and summer rainfall data and on forage yield estimates. Final designations will follow the same consistent guidelines and will be released on [Canada's Livestock Tax Deferral Provision](#) webpage this December.

According to the precipitation data available through the Alberta Climate Information Service's [Alberta Climate and Atlas Maps](#), much of the Municipal District of Greenview experienced near normal to high accumulations of precipitation during the 2023 growing season. As a result, forage yields not meet the criteria for inclusion.

We will continue to advocate that all Alberta municipalities impacted by the dry conditions be included in the federal Livestock Tax Deferral. We want Alberta producers to have as many options as possible to help them manage their farming operations.

Additional business risk management programs are available through the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC), including [AgriStability](#). AgriStability is designed to protect producers against large declines in farming income for reasons such as production loss, increased costs, and market conditions. AgriStability responds to increased expenses, such as feed prices, and reduced income or reduced inventory values as compared to the producer's historical numbers.

For the 2023 program year, the AgriStability compensation rate was increased from 70 per cent to 80 per cent, making AgriStability even more responsive to farms experiencing a disaster. Additionally, the Government of Alberta reopened AgriStability for late participation until September 29, 2023, in recognition of the impacts of wildfires and extremely dry conditions on Alberta's producers during this growing season.

The Alberta government recognizes farming is not just a business – it's a way of life. We understand producers are concerned about protecting their farming operations and livelihoods, and we are working hard to ensure Alberta's agriculture industry is supported during these challenging times.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation

AR 84317

From: Sheila Kaus <Sheila.Kaus@mdgreenview.ab.ca>
Sent: November 2, 2023 3:50 PM
To: AGRIC Minister <AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca>
Cc: lawrence.macaulay@parl.gc.ca; Sebastien Dutrisac <sdutrisac@thcounty.ab.ca>; Stacey Wabick <Stacey.Wabick@MDGreenview.ab.ca>; Tyler Olsen <Tyler.Olsen@MDGreenview.ab.ca>
Subject: Greenview's Inclusion in the 2023 Livestock Tax Deferral Provision

CAUTION: This email has been sent from an external source. Treat hyperlinks and attachments in this email with care.

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached a letter from the Greenview Agricultural Service Board regarding a request to include Greenview in the 2023 Livestock Tax Deferral Provision. Should you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please feel free to reach out.

Regards,

Sheila Kaus

Sheila Kaus

Manager, Agricultural Services

Municipal District of Greenview No. 16 | Valleyview, Alberta T0H 3N0

Tel: [780-524-7600](tel:780-524-7600) | Fax: | Toll Free: [888-524-7601](tel:888-524-7601) | 24/7 Dispatch: [866-524-7608](tel:866-524-7608) | Direct: [1-780-524-7658](tel:1-780-524-7658)
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Thank you.



REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT: **Proposed Changes to the Weed Control Regulation**
SUBMISSION TO: AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION
MEETING DATE: January 31, 2024 CAO: MANAGER: SK
DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE DIR: MH PRESENTER: SK
STRATEGIC PLAN: Economy LEG:

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Provincial (cite) – N/A

Council Bylaw/Policy (cite) – N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board recommend Administration build a business case highlighting the potential impact to Greenview of hawkweed species additions to the prohibited noxious listing in the proposed Weed Control Regulation update.

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

On November 22nd, Administration attended a meeting with the Administration of Alberta Agricultural and Irrigation where proposed changes to the weed control regulation (WCR) were presented. Consultation regarding the proposed changes will begin in January of 2024, with ratification not anticipated until the 2025 control season.

Changes to the listing of regulated weed species still allow municipalities to elevate plants of concern to noxious or prohibited noxious status, but a municipality cannot de-elevate from the regulation. For that reason, Administration has focused on the proposed additions to the Prohibited Noxious listing.

The WCR has not been modified extensively since ratification in 2010. In that update, Orange Hawkweed was added as a prohibited noxious weed. Soon after, it was discovered that populations of Orange Hawkweed within Alberta were considerable, with eradication of the species from the province being unlikely. Due to the listing, municipalities are required to destroy populations to remain compliant with the Weed Control Act, adding to the operational budgets of municipalities. An additional finding after the 2010 update was that there were considerable populations of tall hawkweed, which remained unregulated but is a proposed addition to the prohibited noxious listing in this update of the WCR.

Administration noted species such as Yellow Devil Hawkweed, Tall Hawkweed and Common Hawkweed, all proposed as additions to the prohibited noxious listing, have been detected in Greenview in considerable populations. Tall Hawkweed is also prevalent in neighbouring municipalities. Discussion with Alberta Invasive Species Council revealed that populations of yellow devil and tall hawkweed are assessed as being beyond eradicable status in multiple municipalities in the Province.

BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. The benefit of the recommended motion is that the Agricultural Service Board will endorse Administration building a business case on behalf of Greenview regarding the proposed changes to the Weed Control Regulation in anticipation of consultation in January through April, 2024.

DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative #1: The Agricultural Service Board may choose 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):



REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT:	2024 Carcass Disposal Report	REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION	
SUBMISSION TO:	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD	CAO:	MANAGER: SK
MEETING DATE:	January 31, 2024	DIR:	PRESENTER: SK
DEPARTMENT:	AGRICULTURE	LEG:	
STRATEGIC PLAN:	Governance		

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Provincial: *Animal Health Act* R.S.A 2007, Chapter A-40.2, Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation 132/2014, Standard Specifications for Highway Maintenance, Edition 5 (2010)

Council Bylaw/Policy: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board accept the 2024 Carcass Disposal Report for information, as presented.

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Since early 2023, Administration has been in discussions with Alberta Transportation and Greenview Solid Waste to mitigate a roadkill and carcass dumping site in the Little Smoky area. In December, it was found that limitations due to regulations have made the proposed interment of roadkill at the Greenview Regional Landfill an unsuitable solution. On January 8th, Administration received a request from a board member to prepare a report on carcass disposal to initiate a discussion on the matter by the Agricultural Service Board.

In Alberta, there are five approved carcass disposal methods for livestock producers listed within the Disposal of Dead Animals regulation. These methods are burning/incinerating, burial, rendering, composting, and natural disposal. Alberta is the only provincial jurisdiction in Canada in which natural disposal is still an acceptable disposal method.

Four of these methods have listed advantages and disadvantages within the Livestock Mortality Management publication from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (2021) except natural disposal, which is listed with the following provision: "Disposal of carcasses by scavengers is a permitted method in Alberta but because of the very high probability of disease spread and of creating a public nuisance, this method is not recommended."

The requirements for natural disposal in an acceptable form includes many buffer zones from flowing water, property lines, provincial highways, and residences. Administration generated a mock-up situation to provide context. Using a single quarter sections dimensions, meeting the requirements for natural disposal are difficult.

Of note, the regulation specifies that it does not apply to wildlife as defined in the Wildlife Act, except in limited circumstances listed within the regulation. These circumstances do not extend to roadkill.

Looking into regulation or legislation in the disposal of roadkill from provincial highways revealed there are no requirements currently listed in the Standard Specification for Highway Maintenance, Edition 5. What is provided is that roadkill must be disposed of in an approved site, but no definition for an approved site, nor legislative or regulatory reference, is cited.

BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. The benefit of the recommendation is that the Agricultural Service Board will be informed on the acceptable methods of the disposal of dead animals, specifically pertaining to livestock, and that these requirements do not extend to wildlife.
-

DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. One disadvantage of the recommendation is that it provides no direction to the Board, instead serving as an opening point for general discussion by members.
-

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative #1: The Agricultural Service Board may choose to request Administration draft a Resolution for their consideration.

Alternative #2: The Agricultural Service Board may choose to request Administration to further investigate and report at a later date.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

There is no financial implication to the recommended action.

Direct Costs: N/A

Ongoing / Future Costs:

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 Service Board has made a recommendation, Administration will work towards fulfilling the motion on behalf of the Board.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation 132/2014, Highlighted
- Natural Disposal Mock-Up
- Natural Disposal Requirements
- Methods of Disposal



Province of Alberta

ANIMAL HEALTH ACT

DISPOSAL OF DEAD ANIMALS REGULATION

Alberta Regulation 132/2014

With amendments up to and including Alberta Regulation 228/2022

Current as of November 30, 2022

Office Consolidation

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Note

All persons making use of this consolidation are reminded that it has no legislative sanction, that amendments have been embodied for convenience of reference only. The official Statutes and Regulations should be consulted for all purposes of interpreting and applying the law.

(Consolidated up to 228/2022)

ALBERTA REGULATION 132/2014

Animal Health Act

DISPOSAL OF DEAD ANIMALS REGULATION

Table of Contents

1	Definitions
2	Application
Disposal of Dead Animals	
3	Owner's duties
4	Disposal by meat facility
5	Conditions respecting use of disposal methods
6	Diseased animals
7	Disposal in landfill
8	Burial
9	Burning
10	Composting in compost facility
11	Farm composting
12	Food for other animals
13	Rendering
14	Natural disposal
15	Method approved by Minister
16	Approval of disposal methods
17	Rendering plant
18	Disaster or emergency
General	
19	Transport of non-rendered dead animal
20	Diagnosis of animal diseases
21	Offences
22	Penalties
23	Repeal
24	Expiry
25	Coming into force

Definitions

1 In this Regulation,

- (a) “Act” means the *Animal Health Act*;
- (b) “composting”, in respect of a dead animal, means a managed process for aerobic decomposition of the dead animal;
- (c) “dead animal” means
 - (i) all or part of an animal that has died from a cause other than having been slaughtered or killed for
 - (A) human or animal consumption, or
 - (B) an animal product or animal by-product,
 - (ii) inedible offal, condemned material or waste material from an animal that was slaughtered or killed for
 - (A) animal consumption, or
 - (B) an animal product or animal by-product,and
 - (iii) inedible offal, condemned material or waste material from an animal processed at a meat facility;
- (d) “meat facility” means
 - (i) a meat facility within the meaning of the *Meat Inspection Act*, and
 - (ii) an establishment within the meaning of the *Meat Inspection Act* (Canada) in which animals are slaughtered;
- (e) “rendering plant” means a rendering plant within the meaning of the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada).

Application

2(1) This Regulation does not apply to wildlife as defined in the *Wildlife Act* or controlled animals as defined in the *Wildlife Act*, except

- (a) wildlife or controlled animals possessed by a person who is or was the holder of a zoo permit under the *Wildlife Act* relating to the wildlife or controlled animals,
- (b) wildlife possessed by a person who is or was the holder of a game bird farm permit under the *Wildlife Act* relating to the wildlife,

- (c) wildlife possessed by a person who is or was the holder of a temporary shelter permit under the *Wildlife Act* relating to the wildlife,
- (d) fur-bearing animals held by a person who is or was the holder of a licence under the *Fur Farms Act* relating to the fur-bearing animals,
- (e) wildlife or controlled animals possessed by a non-resident or non-resident alien who is or was the holder of an import permit under the *Wildlife Act* relating to the wildlife or controlled animals, and
- (f) wildlife processed at a meat facility.

(2) For greater certainty, nothing in this Regulation affects the operation of any other law, including, without limitation,

- (a) any law that requires an approval, consent, permit, licence or other authorization or document to be obtained for an activity relating to the disposal of a dead animal, or
- (b) any law that relates to a method of disposal, including without limitation, any law prohibiting or regulating the setting of fires.

Disposal of Dead Animals

Owner's duties

3(1) The owner of a dead animal shall dispose of the dead animal in accordance with this Regulation.

(2) In storing or disposing of a dead animal, the owner of the dead animal shall ensure that

- (a) the odours generated by the dead animal are minimized,
- (b) any run-on or run-off water at the site where the dead animal is located is minimized,
- (c) the risk of the spread of disease is minimized, and
- (d) the dead animal does not create a nuisance.

(3) The owner of a dead animal shall dispose of the dead animal within 7 days unless the owner stores the dead animal

- (a) outside during winter months when the ambient temperature is low enough to keep the dead animal completely frozen,

- (b) in a freezer unit, or
- (c) in accordance with the directions of the chief provincial veterinarian, an inspector appointed under section 6(2) of the Act or a veterinary inspector appointed under the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada).

(4) The owner of a dead animal shall comply with any direction of an inspector directing the owner to dispose of the dead animal.

(5) The owner of an animal that is euthanized with drugs or other chemical substances shall take steps to prevent scavengers from gaining access to the animal beginning at the time the drugs or other chemical substances are administered until the final disposal of the dead animal.

Disposal by meat facility

4 Subject to section 6 and the terms of any order made under section 18, an owner or operator of a meat facility shall dispose of a dead animal by a method

- (a) set out in section 7, 9(b), 10 or 13,
- (b) referred to in section 15 that is approved for use by owners or operators of meat facilities under section 16, or
- (c) authorized by the chief provincial veterinarian.

Conditions respecting use of disposal methods

5 An owner of a dead animal shall not dispose of a dead animal using a method referred to in section 8, 9(a), 11 or 14 unless

- (a) the owner had custody or care and control of the animal immediately before the animal's death, and
- (b) the owner is an owner of the land or premises on which the dead animal is disposed of.

Diseased animals

6(1) If a dead animal is known or suspected to have had a disease that is reportable under the Act but is not reportable under the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada), the owner of the dead animal shall dispose of the dead animal by a method provided for in this Regulation as directed by the chief provincial veterinarian or an inspector appointed under section 6(2) of the Act.

(2) If a dead animal is known or suspected to have had a disease that is not reportable under the Act but is reportable under the

Health of Animals Act (Canada), the owner of the dead animal shall dispose of the dead animal by a method provided for in this Regulation as directed by a veterinary inspector appointed under the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada).

(3) If a dead animal is known or suspected to have had a disease that is reportable under the Act and under the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada), the owner of the dead animal shall dispose of the dead animal by a method provided for in this Regulation as directed by

- (a) the chief provincial veterinarian or an inspector appointed under section 6(2) of the Act, or
- (b) a veterinary inspector appointed under the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada).

Disposal in landfill

7 Subject to section 6 and the terms of any order made under section 18, a dead animal may be disposed of in a Class I or Class II landfill as defined in the *Waste Control Regulation* (AR 192/96).

Burial

8(1) In this section, “provincial highway” means a provincial highway as defined in the *Highways Development and Protection Act*, but does not include a proposed highway.

(2) Subject to section 6 and the terms of any order made under section 18, a dead animal may be buried in a farm burial pit in accordance with subsections (3) to (6).

(3) A dead animal may be buried in a farm burial pit only if the bottom of the pit is at least one metre above the seasonal high-water table.

(4) One or more dead animals may be buried in a farm burial pit if

- (a) the total weight of the dead animals buried in the pit does not exceed 2500 kg, and
- (b) the pit
 - (i) is at least 100 m from any well or other domestic water intake, stream, creek, pond, spring, river, irrigation canal, dugout or other water source and the high-water mark of any lake,
 - (ii) is at least 25 m from the edge of any coulee or embankment,

- (iii) is at least 10 m from any other farm burial pit,
- (iv) is at least 100 m from any residence,
- (v) is at least 100 m from the boundary of any land owned or leased by a person other than the owner of the dead animal, unless the owner or leaseholder of the land has consented in writing to the pit being located closer to the boundary,
- (vi) is at least 300 m from any provincial highway, and
- (vii) is covered with
 - (A) a minimum of one metre of compacted soil, if no additional dead animals are to be buried in the pit, or
 - (B) a wooden or metal lid that is designed to exclude scavengers and quicklime is applied to the dead animal or animals in sufficient quantities to control flies and odour, if the weight limit established by clause (a) has not been reached and the owner intends to bury additional dead animals in the farm burial pit.

(5) For the purposes of subsection (4)(a), the total weight of dead animals is determined by adding the weight at the time of burial of each dead animal buried in the pit to the weight at the time of burial of each dead animal previously buried in the pit.

(6) One or more dead animals may be buried in a farm burial pit if

- (a) the total weight of the dead animals buried in the pit does not exceed 100 kg, and
- (b) the pit
 - (i) is at least 50 m from any well or other domestic water intake, stream, creek, pond, spring, river, irrigation canal or other water source and the high-water mark of any lake,
 - (ii) is at least 25 m from the edge of any coulee or embankment,
 - (iii) is at least 100 m from any residence situated on land owned or leased by a person other than the owner of the dead animal,
 - (iv) is at least 3 m from any other farm burial pit,

- (v) is covered with a minimum of one metre of compacted soil, and
- (vi) has not been used for the burial of a dead animal during the previous 5-year period.

(7) If authorized in writing by the chief provincial veterinarian or an inspector appointed under section 6(2) of the Act, one or more dead animals exceeding 2500 kg in total weight may be buried in a farm burial pit in accordance with any directions provided in the authorization.

Burning

9 Subject to section 6 and the terms of any order made under section 18, a dead animal may be burned in accordance with the applicable provisions in the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* and in the regulations or codes of practice under that Act relating to the burning

- (a) in an open fire, or
- (b) in an incinerator.

Composting in compost facility

10 Subject to section 6 and the terms of any order made under section 18, a dead animal may be disposed of by composting in a Class I compost facility as defined in the *Waste Control Regulation* (AR 192/96).

Farm composting

11(1) Subject to section 6, and the terms of any order made under section 18, a dead animal may be disposed of by composting

- (a) in an outdoor farm open compost pile
 - (i) that is
 - (A) at least 100 m from any well or other domestic water intake, stream, creek, pond, spring, river, irrigation canal, dugout or other water source and the high-water mark of any lake,
 - (B) at least 25 m from the edge of any coulee or embankment, and
 - (C) at least 100 m from any residence,

- (ii) that is designed in a manner that will exclude scavengers,
- (iii) that is at least 100 m from the boundary of any land owned or leased by a person other than the owner of the dead animal, unless the owner or leaseholder of the land has consented in writing to the outdoor farm open compost pile being located closer to the boundary,
- (iv) that is at least 300 m from any provincial highway, and
- (v) in which the dead animal or animals are covered with at least 60 cm of composting material,

or

- (b) in an indoor farm open compost pile that is located in a building that has
 - (i) an impervious floor, and
 - (ii) adequate drainage control to prevent the contamination of surface water or groundwater from the compost effluent.

(2) Where one or more dead animals are composted in an outdoor or indoor farm open compost pile,

- (a) the volume of the dead animal or animals in the compost pile must not exceed 25% of the total volume of the compost pile, and
- (b) material may not be removed from the compost pile until the dead animal or animals are composted to the extent that
 - (i) the generation of odours by the compost is minimized,
 - (ii) the compost will not contaminate surface water or groundwater,
 - (iii) the compost will not attract vectors of disease, and
 - (iv) the use of the compost will not cause or contribute to the spread of disease, cause scavenging or create a nuisance.

Food for other animals

12(1) Subject to section 6 and the terms of any order made under section 18, the owner of a dead animal may dispose of the dead animal by feeding it or allowing another person to feed it to an animal if the owner of the dead animal

- (a) knows that the dead animal
 - (i) did not have an infectious or contagious disease or a disease that is notifiable under the Act or reportable under the Act or the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada), and
 - (ii) was not euthanized with drugs or other chemical substances,

and

- (b) provides a written certificate to the owner of the animal to which the dead animal is being fed confirming that the dead animal did not have a disease referred to in clause (a) and was not euthanized as referred to in clause (a), where the dead animal is being fed to an animal that is not owned by the owner of the dead animal.

(2) No person shall feed a dead animal to a production animal as defined in the *Authorized Medicine Sales Regulation* if the feeding of the dead animal to the production animal would contravene the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada) or the regulations under that Act.

Rendering

13 Subject to section 6 and the terms of any order made under section 18, a dead animal may be disposed of by rendering at a rendering plant operated under a permit issued under the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada).

Natural disposal

14(1) In this section, “natural disposal”, in respect of a dead animal, means disposing of the dead animal in a manner that allows for scavenging.

(2) Subject to section 6 and the terms of any order made under section 18, a dead animal, other than inedible offal or condemned material, may be disposed of by natural disposal if

- (a) the animal is not known or suspected to have had an infectious or contagious disease or a disease that is

notifiable under the Act or reportable under the Act or the *Health of Animals Act* (Canada),

- (b) the dead animal was not euthanized with drugs or other chemical substances,
- (c) the total weight of the animals being disposed of at one site does not exceed 1000 kg,
- (d) there is a distance of at least 500 m between disposal sites, and
- (e) the dead animal is disposed of at a disposal site that
 - (i) is on property that is owned or leased by the owner of the dead animal and at least 100 m from the boundary of land owned or leased by a person other than the owner of the dead animal, unless the owner or leaseholder of the land has consented in writing to the disposal site being located closer to the boundary,
 - (ii) is at least 500 m from any well or other domestic water intake, stream, creek, pond, spring, river irrigation canal, dugout or other water source and the high-water mark of any lake,
 - (iii) is at least 25 m from the edge of any coulee or embankment,
 - (iv) is at least 400 m from any livestock facility, including a pasture, situated on land owned or leased by a person other than the owner of the dead animal,
 - (v) is at least 400 m from any residence,
 - (vi) is at least 400 m from any road, and
 - (vii) is at least 400 m from any
 - (A) park or recreation area as those terms are defined in the *Provincial Parks Act*,
 - (B) wilderness area, ecological reserve, natural area or heritage rangeland as those terms are defined in the *Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas and Heritage Rangelands Act*, or
 - (C) any other land intended for recreational use by the public.

Method approved by Minister

15 Subject to section 6 and the terms of any order made under section 18, a dead animal may be disposed of in a manner that has been approved by the Minister under section 16 if any terms or conditions imposed under that section are complied with.

Approval of disposal methods

16 The Minister may approve a method or methods for the disposal of dead animals in addition to the methods provided for under sections 7 to 14 and may, in the approval,

- (a) specify whether the method or methods are approved for use by owners or operators of meat facilities, and
- (b) impose any terms or conditions on the disposal of dead animals using the method or methods that the Minister considers appropriate.

Rendering plant

17 The owner or operator of a rendering plant shall ensure

- (a) that a dead animal rendered at the plant is subjected to such temperature and pressure as is necessary to render every portion of the carcass free from all viable pathogenic organisms, and
- (b) that microbiological quality assurance processes are in place to prevent the occurrence of viable pathogenic organisms.

Disaster or emergency

18(1) In the event of a disaster or emergency, including, without limitation, a flood, fire or outbreak of disease, the chief provincial veterinarian may, for the purposes of responding to and dealing with the effects of the disaster or emergency, make an order

- (a) in respect of any person or class of persons that for the period set out in the order
 - (i) exempts the person or class of persons from the application of this Regulation or any provision of this Regulation, or
 - (ii) varies the rules applicable to a method for the disposal of dead animals set out in this Regulation in respect of dead animals disposed of or to be disposed of by the person or class of persons,

or

- (b) in respect of any owner or class of owner of a dead animal or type of dead animal specified in the order that directs the owner or class of owner to dispose of the dead animal or a dead animal of that type in a manner or by a method specified in the order.

(2) A person or owner who is the subject of an order or is a member of a class of persons or owners that is the subject of an order under subsection (1)(a)(ii) or (b) shall comply with the order.

General

Transport of non-rendered dead animal

19 A person who transports, or prepares for transport, a dead animal that has not been rendered shall ensure that the dead animal is transported or prepared for transport in such a manner so as to prevent

- (a) any dissemination of pathogenic organisms into the environment from the leakage of blood or other body fluids of the dead animal, and
- (b) the contamination of food intended for consumption by humans or animals.

Diagnosis of animal diseases

20 Nothing in this Regulation prohibits the collection, shipment or transport of a dead animal as may be required by a registered veterinarian or the owner of the dead animal for the diagnosis of animal disease.

Offences

21 A person who contravenes or fails to comply with this Regulation is guilty of an offence.

Penalties

22(1) A person who is guilty of an offence under section 21

- (a) for a first offence, to a fine of not more than \$15 000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine of not more than \$1000 for each day or part of a day during which the offence continues after the first day, and
- (b) for a 2nd or subsequent offence,

- (i) to a fine of not more than \$30 000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine of not more than \$2000 for each day or part of a day during which the offence continues after the first day, or
 - (ii) to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year,
- or to both fines and imprisonment.

(2) A prosecution under subsection (1) may be commenced within 2 years of the commission of the alleged offence but not afterwards.

Repeal

23 The *Destruction and Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation* (AR 229/2000) is repealed.

Expiry

24 For the purpose of ensuring that this Regulation is reviewed for ongoing relevancy and necessity, with the option that it may be repassed in its present or an amended form following a review, this Regulation expires on September 30, 2028.

AR 132/2014 s24;228/2022

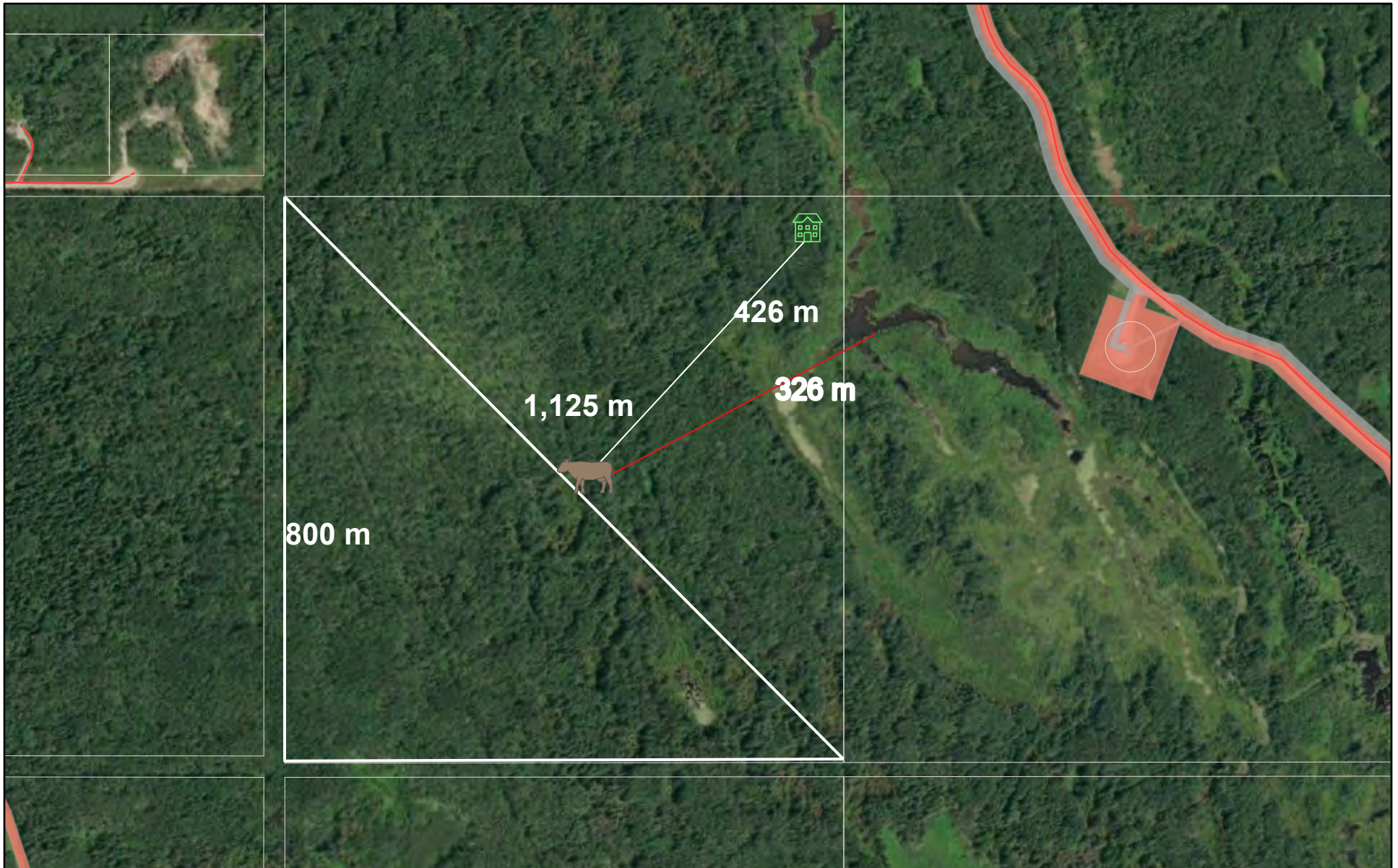
Coming into force

25 This Regulation comes into force on the coming into force of section 19 of the *Animal Health Amendment Act, 2009*.



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Natural Disposal Mock Up

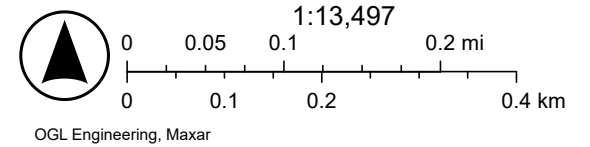


1/12/2024

- Cadaster_Short
- All_Roads
- Boundary
- Altalis DIDS
- CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCES LIMITED

- Other
- World Imagery
- Low Resolution 15m Imagery
- High Resolution 60cm Imagery

- High Resolution 30cm Imagery
- Citations
- 2.4m Resolution Metadata



**Requirements
for Natural
Disposal
Method in
the Disposal
of Dead
Animals
Regulation**

1. The animal is not known or suspected to have had an infectious or contagious disease or a disease that is notifiable under the Act or reportable under the Act or the Health of Animals Act (Canada),
2. The dead animal was not euthanized with drugs or other chemical substances,
3. The total weight of the animals being disposed of at one site does not exceed 1000 kg,
4. There is a distance of at least 500 m between disposal sites, and
5. The dead animal is disposed of at a disposal site that is on property that is owned or leased by the owner of the dead animal and at least 100 m from the boundary of land owned or leased by a person other than the owner of the dead animal, unless the owner or leaseholder of the land has consented in writing to the disposal site being located closer to the boundary,
6. Is at least 500 m from any well or other domestic water intake, stream, creek, pond, spring, river irrigation canal, dugout or other water source and the high-water mark of any lake,
7. Is at least 25 m from the edge of any coulee or embankment,
8. Is at least 400 m from any livestock facility, including a pasture, situated on land owned or leased by a person other than the owner of the dead animal,
9. Is at least 400 m from any residence,
10. Is at least 400 m from any road, and
11. Is at least 400 m from any; (A) park or recreation area as those terms are defined in the Provincial Parks Act, (B) wilderness area, ecological reserve, natural area or heritage rangeland as those terms are defined in the Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas and Heritage Rangelands Act, or (C) any other land intended for recreational use by the public.

Disposal of Dead Animals

Method	Advantages	Disadvantages
Burning/ Incineration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete reduction of volume 2. Rapid oxidation to carbon and water 3. Environmentally safe (may require an air permit) 4. Can dispose of mortalities as they are generated, therefore no temporary storage required 5. Residue from properly incinerated carcasses will not attract insects or rodents 6. System can be mobile or a co-op could be formed to purchase an incinerator to be shared between farms 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Major capital investment along with expensive fuel costs 2. Must be maintained (burners wear out and soot must be scrubbed out to prevent stackfires) 3. Ash has no fertilizer potential and there may be a trace of heavy metals from micronutrients fed to the animals 4. Safety hazards associated with high temperature incinerators
Burial	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inexpensive (if using your own equipment) 2. Biosecure (no trucks coming from other farms to pick up carcasses) 3. Convenient 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Difficult to impossible in winter 2. Can cause groundwater pollution 3. No burial sites where the bottom of the pit is less than 1 m (3.3 ft) above the seasonal high water table
Rendering	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The carcass is completely removed from the farm 2. The rendering process destroys most diseases 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pathogenic transmission during pick up and transportation is possible (care must be taken to prevent the pathogens from moving through the system) 2. Increasing cost due to reduced marketability of rendered products 3. Rendering services not available in the Peace Region
Composting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biosecure 2. Year-round use Livestock Mortality Management (disposal) 3. Relatively inexpensive 4. Environmentally sound 5. Value-added product to sell or use (sales regulated by the Fertilizer Act) 6. Best and recommended method to handle catastrophic losses 7. Heat of composting process kills most pathogens, weed seeds and insect larvae. 8. Scavengers do not bother actively heating compost 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. May be labour-intensive 2. Requires an impervious pad 3. Bin composting requires rot resistant walls and a cover to repel rain 4. Takes practice to develop the technique 5. Requires a carbon source
Natural Disposal	<p>Disposal of carcasses by scavengers is a permitted method in Alberta but because of the very high probability of disease spread and of creating a public nuisance, this method is not recommended</p>	

As taken from Livestock Mortality Management, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, May, 2021



REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT: Heavy Harrows Replacement
SUBMISSION TO: AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD **REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION**
MEETING DATE: January 31, 2024 **CAO:** **MANAGER:** SK
DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE **DIR:** **PRESENTER:** SK
STRATEGIC PLAN: Governance **LEG:**

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Provincial:

Council Bylaw/Policy: AG 09- Rental of MD Equipment, Policy 6320- Greenview Rental Equipment

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council the replacement of ASB0044 50' Heavy Harrows with Valmar at an upset limit of \$115,000.

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Greenview has a Rental Equipment Replacement Schedule and in 2024, 4 pieces of rental equipment are slated for replacement: 50' Heavy Harrows with Valmar Attachment in Valleyview, Boomless Sprayer in Valleyview, Boomed Sprayer in Valleyview, Post Pounder in Valleyview. As the costing provided in the scheduled replacement was dated, Administration sought comparable equipment to develop a costing that reflected known inflation issues related to Agricultural Equipment. Rough estimates for replacement are as follows:

- 50' Heavy Harrows: \$115,000

To inform the Agricultural Service Board as to the current maintenance costs for the Heavy Harrows, Administration performed an analysis of the past three years and calculated what those costs were per rental day.

Equipment		2021	2022	2023	TOTALS	Main \$ per day rented
50' Heavy Harrows	MAINT \$	\$9,839.05	\$1,095.00	\$507.28	\$11,441.33	\$173.35
	DAYS	21	22	23	66	

While the repairs on the heavy harrows were high in 2021, those repairs were a complete replacement of all the cracked hosing coupled with significant damages caused by one renter. Repairs since that time have been minor. Administration acknowledges that replacement of ASB 0044 has been pushed for two years to recoup the costs of the hose repair. In August of 2023, the ASB made the following recommendation to Council:

Motion: That the Agricultural Service Board recommends to Council the replacement of ASB0024 Post Pounder at an upset limit of \$25,000 and replacing Val mar attachment for 30' and 50' heavy harrows, and explore pricing on a bale hauler.

Administration included these recommendations in preparation of the 2024 Agricultural Services Capital Budget drafting and Council approved the purchase of a new post pounder and new valmar attachments for the heavy harrows.

During season end inspections in November, it became apparent that the wear on the heavy harrows is more substantial than when the assessment was performed in July in preparation of the 2024 Capital Budget drafting. While the valmar attachment is in good condition and operating well, the harrows itself pin pockets are worn out and there are stress fractures on welds. Additionally, the tines are in need of almost complete replacement. While the equipment would be more than adequate for a singular agricultural operations, the commercial use this unit sees is intense, and due to the wear, the unit is experiencing increased requirements of maintenance between each renter, reducing its availability. Administration strongly recommends replacement of this apparatus in 2024. Costs can potential be mitigated by using the current valmar unit instead of replacing this as well. ASB0044 has been in operation since 2014. Final budget adjustments will occur in April, and all requested adjustments must be submitted prior to February 16th for inclusion.

BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. The benefit of the recommendation is that the Agricultural Service Board will have made Administration aware of their thoughts as they relate to replacement of the 50' Heavy Harrows with a more accurate assessment of the condition of ASB0044.

DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. One disadvantage of the recommendation is the expense for the replacement of ASB0044 is \$115,000. Should the unit last 10 serviceable years, that purchase price could be amortized to \$11,500 per year.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative #1: The Agricultural Service Board may choose to make a request for Administration to postpone replacement of ASB0044.

Alternative #2: The Agricultural Service Board may choose to make a request for Administration to fulfill all scheduled replacement of the rental units.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

Replacement of ASB0044 without the valmar is anticipated to cost upwards of \$100,000. Administration has included a 15% buffer on this costing to allow for further equipment purchase price increases from when the previous estimate was obtained in July of 2023.

Direct Costs: N/A

Ongoing / Future Costs: Replacement of these units may mitigate maintenance expenses.

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 Service Board has made a recommendation, Administration will bring the recommendation to Council for consideration during budget adjustments.

ATTACHMENT(S):



REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT:	2023 Agricultural Emergency Response		
SUBMISSION TO:	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD	REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION	
MEETING DATE:	January 31, 2024	CAO:	MANAGER: SK
DEPARTMENT:	AGRICULTURE	DIR:	PRESENTER: SK
STRATEGIC PLAN:	Governance	LEG:	

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Provincial:

Council Bylaw/Policy:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board accept the report on the 2023 Agricultural Emergency Response for information, as presented.

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

On January 16th, Administration received a request to prepare a report on the response of the Agricultural Services Department to the 2023 Wildfires in Greenview to provide context to a discussion by the Agricultural Service Board.

In early May of 2023, in response to the dry conditions and the fire in Big Lakes County and Grande Prairie, Administration called to confirm the information in Greenview's VSI client records. During these phone calls, staff asked if the producer was currently calving, and where the herd was currently located. These calls were meant to be communicated as an update to VSI accounts to ratepayers, but it did occur that one of the staff members making phone calls told ratepayers this was being done in case of evacuation being necessary. This understandably alarmed ratepayers and apologies were extended to those impacted. When the calls took place, it was meant as a precautionary measure as fire had not yet threatened Greenview livestock producers. This information was then mapped in a GIS map to provide information, should it be required, as to the location of livestock within Greenview.

The heavy disc, cattle squeeze, cattle chute, and panel trailers were blocked off from regular rental to ensure availability for producers should the units be required for evacuation of livestock, with all units hooked up to trucks and ready to go. The water tank trailer plumbing was retrofitted to allow for use to soak bales or any other potential combustibles and was also blocked off from regular rental and hooked up to a truck. This was mirrored at the satellite rental locations, with Grovedale being the most heavily impacted at that time due to the proximity of the Grande Prairie fire.

Soon after, a fire was responded to in Sturgeon Lake. This changed the preparations of the department. Coordination with Big Lakes County resulted in each municipality choosing spray paint colours to make it

possible to separate Greenview and Big Lakes County livestock should fences be cut or burned. Agricultural Services purchased all spray paint and livestock marker available at Keddies in Grande Prairie and the hardware stores in Valleyview in green and blue to be available for producers should it be required. Construction panels were dismantled from the clubroot washing station by outdoor recreation and agricultural services staff and taken to the Valleyview Agricultural Society, who were housing pets from evacuated Sturgeon Lake residents.

Agricultural Services was contacted by the Manager of the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Program and was asked how the Province could assist. Premise ID data was requested and provided to further inform the geographic location of livestock and the permitting entry system that had been helpful in other fire emergencies was provided. Agricultural Services passed the permitting system onto the Director of Emergency Management and advised that due to calving, producers from evacuation order zones, if evacuations occurred, would require access to check cattle more than once a day and this would be due to where the producer is in their production season.

Agricultural Services mapped all livestock data, both Premise ID and VSI client data in a GIS map and made this available to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This was done to inform and provide context to the EOC as to the number of impacted livestock of any evacuation order zone or evacuation alert that was decided on. This also began the departments efforts to gather contact information for individuals that would be able to haul livestock out of fire areas and land that would be available to house evacuated livestock. These actions resulted in a resource list that livestock producers could use, should the need arise, that was made available by Emergency Communications. While well intended, the list of resources was difficult for producers to successfully use due to the extensive geographic area being impacted and many jurisdictions seeking to utilize a similar listing of resources.

During the evacuation order of the Little Smoky area, there was a jurisdictional hurdle for producers trying to access ranches to check on livestock. In an abundance of caution, RCMP requested a checklist of producers in the area to ensure entry requests were legitimate. Agricultural Services utilized the GIS map to generate a detailed list of those producers for the zone, confirming they had livestock operations within the evacuation order zone within 10 minutes of receiving the request due to the GIS map capabilities.

When evacuation alerts began to be put in place, Administration reached out to public lands to ask if any grazing leases would be made available for potentially evacuated livestock. Administration was advised that provincial grazing leases and reserves were in poor shape. There was little to no available forage and water resources were depleted. The provincial reserves and grazing leases were not a viable option.

After the emergency, Agricultural Services communicated with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency and coordinated a meeting for municipal agricultural departments to debrief on their experiences. The discussion of what went well, what can be improved and what would a department do in the event of another emergency, was facilitated by the Director of Emergency Management for Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. From this meeting, a checklist on reducing risk on acreages and in agricultural operations through application of Firesmart principles is being generated.

In early January, Agricultural Services was asked what they would like to include in a grant application specifically geared to emergency response. Agricultural Services proposed the development of an Agricultural

Wildfire Preparedness Plan for Greenview producers and ratepayers. The proposed idea would be 10 in-person sessions for farm and ranch producers to develop individualized wildfire preparedness plans, specific to their circumstances and operation. The first 5 sessions would be an introduction of the topic and facilitation of plan development. AEMA would be an ideal choice for facilitation with the Agricultural Services department in attendance for agricultural perspective and Greenview’s fire team as well. The next 5 sessions would be to finalize the plans. The document to build potential plans will be based on the 2019 British Columbia Ministry of Agricultural and Food document, “Farm and Ranch Wildfire Preparedness Workbook: Preparing and Responding to a Wildfire.” A guide for plan development was also generated and the Greenview Communications team has been consulted as to lead time and costs to prepare 500 physical copies of each document, as well as allowing for digital plans with fillable PDF versions of the documents. Permission to reproduce the document for Greenview’s purposes has been requested from the Government of British Columbia and the Director of Emergency Response for Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation is assisting with this process. Consultation with the Director revealed that the document was believed to be a solid and appropriate method to prepare Alberta producers, though shortening of the document may be advisable.

Administration has arranged for the Director of Emergency Management for Greenview and Greenview Fire Chief, Wayne Brown and the Director of Emergency Management for Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation to attend the February 28th meeting to engage in a productive discussion on potential paths forward for the Agricultural Services department in relation to Agricultural Emergency Preparedness and Response.

BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. The benefit of the recommendation is that the Agricultural Service Board will have the context to have a discussion on the department’s response to the 2023 Agricultural Emergency and can discuss their recommendations moving forward.

DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. There is no disadvantage to the recommended action.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative #1: The Agricultural Service Board may choose to make a request for Administration to postpone the delegations of the February 28th ASB Meeting to a later date, however, Administration is not recommending this as the 2024 fire season is anticipated to be active.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

The costing used for the grant application included:

Printing and Document Generation: \$10,000

Workshops and Plan Development Facilitation: \$25,000.

Direct Costs: Greenview has made a grant application for the proposed program, and it is not clear when results of the grant process will be known. Currently, this is an idea only.

Ongoing / Future Costs: It is not clear the frequency that will be required for this program in the future, thus it is difficult to provide context to ongoing or future costs.

STAFFING IMPLICATION:

Should the proposed program move forward, there would be a significant commitment of staff time to assisting producers in plan development as well as coordination and delivery of the meetings.

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 Service Board has made a recommendation, Administration will bring the recommendation to Council for consideration during budget adjustments.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Farm and Ranch Wildfire Preparedness Workbook: Preparing and Responding to a Wildfire.
- Farm and Ranch Wildfire Preparedness Guide: Preparing and Responding to a Wildfire.
- AEMA/Agricultural Fieldman Wildfire Debrief; Notes
- AEMA/Agricultural Fieldman Wildfire Debrief; Common Themes

Farm / Ranch Wildfire Plan Workbook

Preparing for and Responding to Wildfire

Funding for this project has been provided by the Governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The program is delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.

Opinions expressed in this document are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Governments of Canada and British Columbia or the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC. The Governments of Canada and British Columbia, and the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC, and their directors, agents, employees, or contractors will not be liable for any claims, damages, or losses of any kind whatsoever arising out of the use of, or reliance upon, this information.

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Contents

Part A: Before a Wildfire	1
1. Wildfire Threat	1
2. Agriculture Operation Information	1
3. Range Tenure Information	2
4. Emergency Contacts	2
5. Agriculture Operation Maps	6
6. Livestock Inventory	7
7. Livestock Location During Wildfire Season	7
8. Vehicles and Response Equipment/Resources	8
9. Water Sources	9
10. Risk Reduction – On Property	9
11. Risk Reduction – Range-Level Assets	11
12. Insurance	11
13. Backup Power	13
Part B: During a Wildfire	14
14. Information Sources	14
15. Decision Guide for Livestock Protection	16
16. Checklist for Sheltering Livestock in Barn	18
17. Checklist for Moving Livestock to On-Site Outdoor Location	18
18. Checklist for Relocating Livestock	19
19. Checklist for Opening Gates, Cutting Fences to Free Animals	20
20. Checklist to Create a Fire Break	21
21. Checklist to Deploy Sprinklers	21
22. Checklist for Operating Backup Generator	22
23. Checklist for Personal Evacuation	23
24. Checklist for Visitor and Employee Evacuation	24
Part C: After a Wildfire	27
25. Checklist for Damage Assessment	27
26. Checklist for Initiating Insurance or Other Loss Coverage	28
27. Checklist for Recovery	28
Part D: When Wildfire Plan is Complete	29
28. Finalizing, Storing and Sharing the Wildfire Plan	29
Appendix 1: Farm / Ranch Wildfire Plan Summary	31

Part A: Before a Wildfire

1. Wildfire Threat

- 1. Learn about the local wildfire threat (Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis and other publicly available mapping; and BC Wildfire Service information)
- 2. Is your property located in the wildland urban interface?
- 3. Is there a history of wildfires in the area and do you know what conditions tend to be predictors? (e.g., moisture and wind conditions)
- 4. Learn about general wildfire preparedness and how to determine the current fire [danger rating in your area](#). Learn more at Prepared BC: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc>
- 5. Go to FireSmart BC to learn how to make your home/property more resilient towards the threat of wildfire. Learn more at: <https://firesmartcanada.ca>

2. Agriculture Operation Information

Key information from your completed *Wildfire Plan* (indicated by an ☼) may be summarized in a separate *Wildfire Plan Summary* (see Appendix 1). This *Wildfire Plan Summary* may be used to initiate dialogue with key agencies (e.g. regional district, fire departments, BC Wildfire Service) in advance of the wildfire season and may assist to support identification and protection of your operation. The *Wildfire Plan Summary* may also be adapted for your use.

Key information about the Agriculture Operation includes the following:

☼ Agriculture Operation name		
Land classification on Property Assessment Notice:		Farmer ID card number:
☼ Parcel Identifier Number (PID):	☼ Folio Number:	☼ Premises ID number:
☼ Agriculture Operation physical address:		
Directions (nearest crossroad):		
☼ Owner name(s):		
Owner mailing address (if different than above):		
☼ Landline tel. number:	☼ Mobile tel. number:	☼ Email address:
☼ Lessee name(s):		

☛ Landline tel. number:	☛ Mobile tel. number:	☛ Email address:	
☛ Lessee mailing address (if different from above):			
☛ Number of individuals normally on the farm:	☛ Family:	☛ Staff:	☛ Tenants:
Other information:			

3. Range Tenure Information

[Skip to Section 4 if you do not have livestock on your property]

☛ Range Agreement Number:
☛ Range Tenure Location(s) (nearest cross roads, general location description):

4. Emergency Contacts

Complete and revise the table below with information relevant to your operation and local area.

Name / Organization	Telephone	Driver / Vehicle Information
Agriculture Operation Personnel		
☛ Manager(s) (other than owner, identify <u>local</u> contact available to attend):		Vehicle License Plate Number: Driver's License Number:
Staff:		Vehicle License Plate Number: Driver's License Number:
Property Lessee(s):		Vehicle License Plate Number: Driver's License Number:

Name / Organization	Telephone	Email / Website
☛ <i>Out-of-Region Contact:</i>		
Local Resources		
☛ <i>Water Purveyor/Authority (if not well-based):</i> ☛ <i>Emergency Contact:</i>		
<i>Electrician:</i>		
<i>Plumber:</i>		
<i>Fuel Dealer:</i>		
<i>Fencing Contractor:</i>		
<i>Feed Supplier:</i>		
<i>Veterinarian:</i>		
Relocation Resources [for Livestock and Pets]		
<i>Trucker / Livestock Hauler:</i>		
<i>Agriculture Association:</i>		
<i>Domestic / livestock Animal Rescue Organisations:</i>		
<i>Farm that may receive relocated livestock:</i>		
<i>Feedlot – holding:</i>		
<i>Friend / Neighbour:</i>		

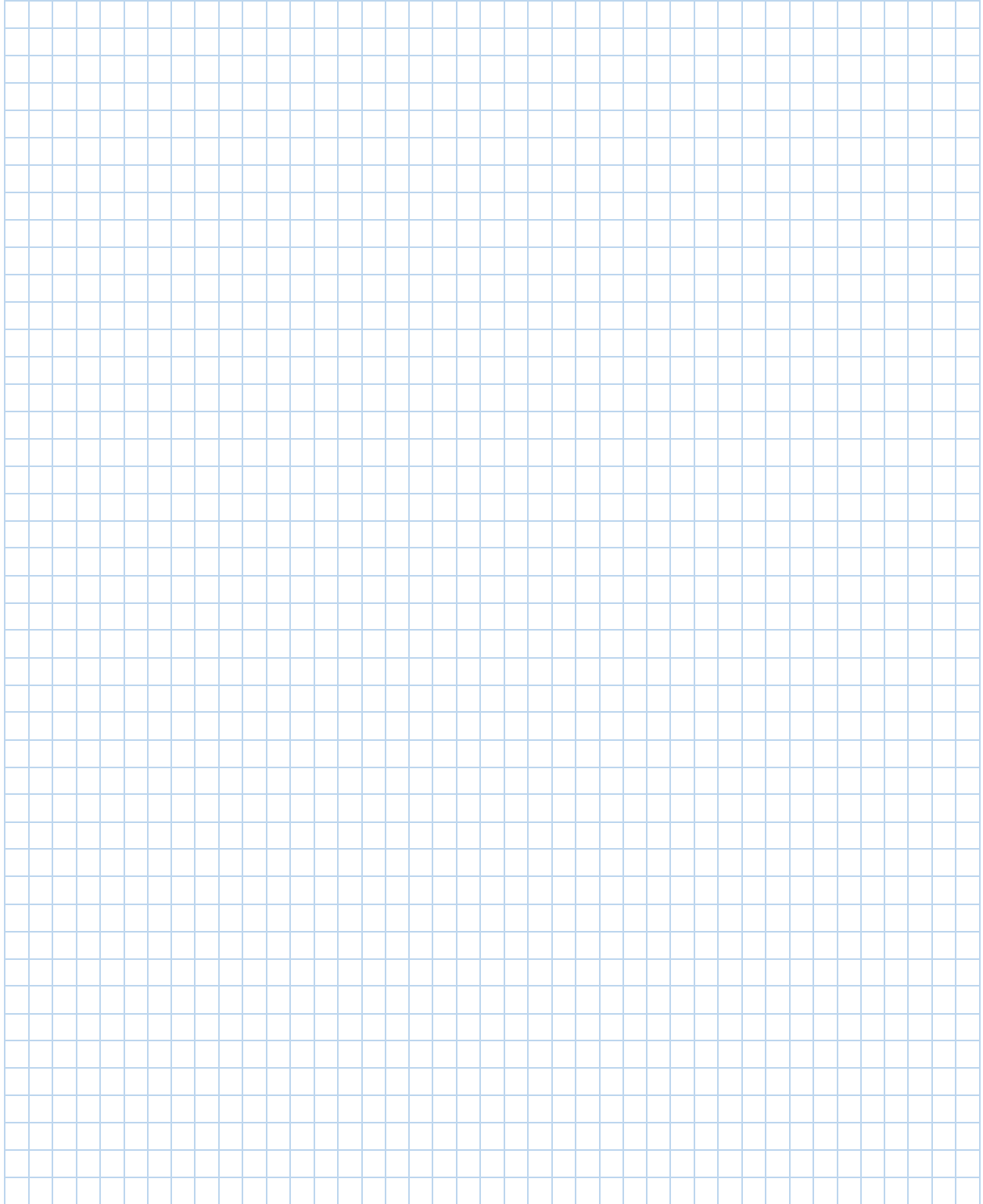
Name / Organization	Telephone	Email / Website
Friend / Neighbour		
Support Resources		
Regional District Emergency Management Information		
<i>Local Municipal Government</i> General Information		
<i>Ministry of Agriculture</i> ¹ Regional Agrologist Name:	AgriService BC: 1-888-221-7141 T: M:	www.gov.bc.ca/agriservicebc
<i>Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD)</i> ¹ Range Officer Name:	T: M:	
<i>BC Wildfire Service (BCWS)</i> ¹ Local Fire Zone Contact:		https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status
Industry and Community Support Resources		
<i>Agriculture Association:</i>		
<i>Tourism Industry Association of BC:</i>	T: 604-685-5956	http://www.tiabc.ca/contact-us/
<i>Local Community Group contact:</i>		

¹ Note that provincial government contacts can be verified and updated as necessary by consulting the BC Government Directory at: <http://dir.gov.bc.ca/>

Name / Organization	Telephone	Email / Website
<i>Friend / Neighbour:</i>		
<i>Faith-Based Organisation:</i>		
Risk Management		
<i>Insurance Agent:</i>		
Other		

5. Agriculture Operation Maps

The following maps support the Wildfire Plan for the agriculture operation. (Attach Maps to *Wildfire Plan Summary*)



6. Livestock Inventory

[Skip to Section 8 if you do not have livestock on your property. If you have pets that need to be considered in wildfire planning they may be listed below.]

Agriculture operations currently include the following animal types and numbers, with a range (i.e. minimum to maximum number of animals) shown for livestock numbers that vary throughout the year.

Livestock Type	Number on Agriculture Operation (min./max. number of animals if applicable)
Dairy, Lactating	
Dairy, Non-lactating	
Young Dairy Stock	
Bulls	
Cattle and type: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cow and Calf• Heifer• Steer• Mixed	
Water Buffalo	
Horses, Donkeys	
Sheep	
Goats	
Swine	
Llamas and Alpacas	
Poultry	
Other (e.g. mink, crickets, fish, etc.)	
Pets	

Refer to the attached list of animals by name, gender, and registration number.

7. Livestock Location During Wildfire Season

The location of livestock that are ranged both on-property and off-property on Crown range tenures will vary during wildfire season as follows:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expected livestock numbers by location during the early (May – June) and peak (July – September) fire seasons			
# of animals at the farm:		# of animals on Crown range tenure	
Early	Peak	Early	Peak
Cattle:		Cattle:	
Horses:		Horses:	
Other:		Other:	
Usual Turnout Date:		Usual Roundup Date:	

8. Vehicles and Response Equipment/Resources

The following vehicles and equipment are available for use during a wildfire:

Vehicle / Equipment Type	Number on Property (location)	Number Available Nearby (location)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tractor, Front-end Loader or Backhoe		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plow or other Implements		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Livestock Trailer		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utility Trailer		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passenger Car		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pickup Truck		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire Hose (m or ft)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Portable Water Pump		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sprinkler kit or other sprinklers (and roof ladders)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Sprinkler Gun		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Generator		

Vehicle / Equipment Type	Number on Property (location)	Number Available Nearby (location)
☒ Fire Equipment (e.g., extinguishers, hand tools)		
☒ First Aid Kit		
Personnel and certifications/training (S100 and other)		

9. Water Sources

The following water sources are available for use during a wildfire. Consider vulnerability to power outages and potential restrictions during wildfire.

☒ Water Source	☒ Capacity	☒ Powered (P) or Gravity Feed (GF) System	☒ On Property or Nearby (location)

10. Risk Reduction – On Property

10-1. Reduce Combustible Materials

The following list includes actions that should be taken before a wildfire threatens an agriculture operation.

- 1. _____.
- 2. _____.
- 3. _____.

10-2. Use Fire Resistant Materials

The actions listed below should be taken to increase fire resistant construction for structures (sheds and barns, specialty buildings, outbuildings and fencing).

- 1. _____.
- 2. _____.
- 3. _____.

10-3. Plan for Sprinkler Protection

A sprinkler system can be used to protect the agriculture operation, and should be established by taking the following steps.

- 1. Priority structures on the property to protect with sprinklers are as follows:
.
.
.
- 2. Sprinkler equipment that is available for prepositioning include:
.
.
.
- 3. Gather the equipment and set the sprinkler system in place to test the coverage and identify problems.
- 4. Mount the sprinklers in appropriate locations and connect to a water source.
If the roof is made of combustible material, such as wood, direct the sprinkler spray onto the roof. If the roof is metal, mount the sprinklers on a high point (such as the ridge) to create a high humidity zone around the building. When sprinklers remain on the ground, position them so their reach just wets the sides of the structure.
- 5. Test the system for 2-3 hours, if possible. The sprinklers should create a humid environment around the structure without allowing water to enter buildings.

- 6. Secure the water source, protect it against radiant heat, and remove nearby combustible materials. Consider water supply vulnerability and install water storage (e.g. cisterns) if possible.

- 7. Create simple instructions on how to set up and activate the sprinkler system in the Wildfire Plan, section 21: *Checklist to Deploy Sprinklers*.
Prepare a simple map showing how to lay out the sprinkler equipment and water delivery system in an emergency. Attach the map to the Wildfire Plan. The instructions and map will allow others to help with protection of the operation.

11. Risk Reduction – Range-Level Assets

[Skip to Section 12 if you do not have livestock on your property]

Priority-setting Guidelines

- 1. Identify the range assets critical to day-to-day operations and keeping animals safe and on the range.
 - a. _____.
 - b. _____.
 - c. _____.

- 2. The following FireSmart actions (including fuel reduction) are required to reduce risk to these assets:
 - Asset a: _____.
 - Asset b: _____.
 - Asset c: _____.

12. Insurance

Insurance coverage is an important step in managing risk before a wildfire event. Producers should ensure that they have appropriate coverage for their assets, such as livestock, crops (both in-progress crops and completed stock), buildings, equipment, and fences. In general, federal and provincial disaster management programs will only cover perils for which private coverage cannot be obtained. In addition to private commercial insurance, a suite of government supported risk management programs including crop production insurance are available to agriculture producers.

- 1. I meet with my insurance agent or broker or government program representative at least annually to review my coverage
- 2. I understand my policy and am aware of what is included and what is excluded.
- 3. My essential insurance information is recorded and available in event of wildfire emergency. Include private commercial insurance (e.g., farm, livestock, crop, business interruption) and government supported production insurance or other business risk management program you subscribe to.
- 4. I have photographs of the property and assets in their current state and condition taken annually from the same location/position and they are filed in a secure location (i.e., with insurance documents).

Record the essential information on commercial farm insurance in the spaces below.

<i>Policy Number</i>	
<i>Date of Purchase / Last Renewal</i>	
<i>Insurance Provider</i>	
<i>Agent Name, Organization</i>	
<i>Telephone Number, 24/7 Claims</i>	
<i>Key Coverages and Exclusions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• _____.• _____.• _____.

Record the essential information on additional commercial insurance and/or government supported insurance or business risk management program in the spaces below. Add another page as/if required.

<i>Policy Number</i>	
<i>Date of Purchase / Last Renewal</i>	
<i>Insurance Provider</i>	
<i>Agent Name, Organization</i>	
<i>Telephone Number, 24/7 Claims</i>	
<i>Key Coverages and Exclusions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• _____.• _____.• _____.

13. Backup Power

Some actions may be required before a wildfire to ensure backup power supply can keep critical equipment working in a prolonged power outage.

Note: Protect yourself and the community around you by ensuring that any generator backup systems are properly installed to ensure no feed-back into the power grid. Electrical systems must be wired to exclude regular electric power.

- 1. Identify the critical agriculture operations that depend on electrical power by priority.
 - a. _____.
 - b. _____.
 - c. _____.

- 2. Gather or acquire the power equipment needed to provide backup power, including electrical cords, fuel, lubrication, and filters for generators.
- 3. Set the backup generators in place and connect to the critical equipment that requires power. Confirm that the generator is disconnected from the power grid, to avoid back-feed.
- 4. Start the generator(s) to test the system for at least 1 hour, if possible. Confirm that the power loads are sufficient to operate the priority equipment. Note the fuel use rate and estimate how long system can provide power without service or refueling.
- 5. Create instructions on how to set up the backup power system in section 22 of the Workbook, *Checklist for Operating Backup Generator*. Prepare a diagram to show how and where the equipment should be laid out and connected in an emergency. Attach the map to the Wildfire Plan.

Part B: During a Wildfire

14. Information Sources

- 1. Learn about the wildfire situation. Note that data-based services such as text messaging, social media or email are less likely to experience major interruptions when phone lines are down.
- 2. Complete and revise the table below with information relevant to your local area.

Record the local radio news media stations for your operating area in the space below. Review and confirm official information sources annually.

<i>Regional District</i>	
Emergency Alert Website	
Emergency Twitter	
Emergency Operations Centre info line	
Regional Electronic Alert System (subscribe to any emergency alert system offered by your regional district)	
<i>Power</i>	
BC Hydro	1-888-769-3766, www.bchydro.com
Fortis BC	1-866-436-7847 (downed powerlines)
<i>BC Wildfire Service (BCWS)</i>	
BCWS Website	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status
Zone:	
BCWS Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/BCForestFireInfo/
BCWS Twitter	@BCGovFireInfo
<i>Local Radio News Media</i>	
CBC:	
Other:	
<i>Other</i>	
DriveBC	www.drivebc.ca
DriveBC Twitter	@DriveBC
Environment Canada	https://weather.gc.ca/warnings/index_e.html?prov=bc
BC Emergency Social Services	1-800-585-9559
Emergency Info BC	https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/
Emergency BC Twitter for alerts	@EmergencyInfoBC

2. Learn about the evacuation status. There are three phases of an evacuation:
- Evacuation Alert** – A warning is issued about an imminent threat to life and property. Moving livestock to safety is encouraged during the Evacuation Alert phase when time is available. People are asked to be ready to leave on short notice. This is also a good time to move children and the elderly to safety.
- Evacuation Order** – During an Evacuation Order, the local police of jurisdiction may strictly enforce traffic flows that move residents to safety.
- Evacuation Rescind** – An Evacuation Order is rescinded when it is determined to be safe for residents and livestock to return home.

The RCMP is responsible for implementing evacuation notification. They may use a variety of local resources to notify people of an evacuation.

15. Decision Guide for Livestock Protection

[Skip to Section 20 if you do not have livestock on your property]

The agriculture operation is prepared for the following response actions. Different animals may require unique response actions, depending on the situation, to achieve the lowest overall risk.

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE OPTIONS AT THE TIME OF A WILDFIRE EMERGENCY.

Option 1: Shelter livestock in barn. (see section 16)

Shelter-in-place is best for *(fill in type of animal)* _____ because:

- There is a barn on the farm where the animals will be safely removed from the danger (i.e., barn is protected by sprinklers).
- It would require the least amount of time.

Option 2: Move livestock to on-site outdoor location. (or alternate location on the range tenure) (see section 17)

Moving animals to an outdoor location (or alternate location on the range tenure) is best for *(fill in type of animal)* _____ because:

- There is a pasture on the range tenure where the animals will be safely removed from the danger (i.e., large field with food and water).
- We have sufficient time, personnel, and equipment to round up and move our animals to this area.

Option 3: Relocate livestock off site. (see section 18)

Relocating the *(fill in type of animal)* _____ is the best option because:

- We have located and prearranged an off-site relocation site.
- We can gather the animals into a safe location to be evacuated.
- We have or can arrange for trucks, trailers, drivers, and handlers, if necessary.
- We can arrange for feed, water, and veterinary care at the relocation site.

Option 4: Open gates and/or cut fences to free the animals IF SAFE TO DO SO. (see section 19)

Freeing the *(fill in type of animal)* _____ is only considered if:

- Livestock cannot be moved to a safer area.
- There is no danger to people or vehicular traffic from freeing the animals.
- We have the time and personnel to open gates and/or cut fences to allow the animals to avoid the wildfire.
- We will inform the local authority or Evacuation Notification Team (usually led by RCMP) of our decision to free the livestock.

Refer to the following checklists (checklists in sections 16 - 19 of the Workbook) for instructions on each appropriate action.

16. Checklist for Sheltering Livestock in Barn

The following steps should be taken if sheltering livestock in barn is selected.

- 1. Ensure there is sufficient time, personnel, and equipment to move livestock to a protected barn. Ask family members, neighbours, and others for help.
- 2. Move animals to one or more protected barn or other structures on the farm where the animals will be safe. A protected structure is one where:
 - Combustible materials have been removed around the structure
 - Fire resistant materials have been used in its construction
 - Sprinklers can offer protection from forest fire hazards
 - Water pumps for the sprinkler system have backup power
- 3. Ensure animals have access to food sources, clean water, and ample living space, and that support systems are connected to backup power.

17. Checklist for Moving Livestock to On-Site Outdoor Location

The following steps should be taken if moving animals to an outdoor location is selected.

- 1. Ensure there is sufficient time, personnel, and equipment to move livestock to a safe outdoor location on-site such as a pasture or other irrigated or heavily-grazed open area.
- 2. Move livestock to one or more open areas on the site where the animals will be safely away from the hazard. A safe outdoor area is one where:
 - The field has been recently irrigated
 - Fire breaks have been constructed
 - The field has been heavily grazed
 - Fencing is in place
- 3. Ensure animals have access to food sources, clean water, and ample living space.

18. Checklist for Relocating Livestock

Consider the actions below for relocating livestock during a wildfire emergency. Livestock should, as much as possible, not be moved during an Evacuation Order to keep roads clear for people. RCMP will only allow livestock movement if it does not interfere with the movement of people

1. If time is short, the priority animals for livestock relocation off-site are:

Type of Livestock:	Number:

2. Notify the primary site selected for receiving relocated livestock (consider a mutual aid agreement or memorandum of understanding).
- Name: _____.
 - Physical address: _____.
 - Phone number: _____.
 - Email address: _____.
3. Ensure all relocated animals have farm/owner identification, including just-in-time methods, for example paint on hooves, collaring, etc.
4. Ensure all biosecurity and disease control requirements for relocating your animals to the selected site are met, including documentation of required vaccinations.
5. Consult the Evacuation Notification Team (usually led by RCMP) or Regional District / Municipal EOC to determine routes that are safe to use. Record primary and alternate routes below.
- Livestock pick-up location on site: _____.
 - Primary route: _____.
 - Alternate route: _____.

- 6. Identify livestock haulers.
 - Hauler name: _____.
 - Hauler phone number: _____.
 - Email address: _____.

- 7. Identify any special challenges with assembling and loading your animals.

During emergencies, the primary responsibility for livestock protection lies with the individual producer and if they have the ability to relocate livestock themselves, they are encouraged to do so.

If a producer needs assistance with transporting farm business livestock during an Evacuation Alert (or Order if conditions permit), the local government that has issued the alert may be able to help. Funding assistance may be available. Contact the local Emergency Operations Call Centre and Ministry of Agriculture for current policy and procedures and any event-specific supports that may be available.

19. Checklist for Opening Gates, Cutting Fences to Free Animals

If animals are to be freed, consider the steps outlined below.

- 1. Carefully consider the risk to motorists on nearby roadways and other persons who may be harmed by freeing animals. It is possible to open fences in a way that directs animals away from roadways and populated areas.
Note: Protecting livestock is important, but public safety takes precedence.

- 2. Ensure all relocated animals have farm/owner identification, including just-in-time methods, for example paint on hooves, collaring, etc.

- 3. Open the gates indicated on the *Agriculture Operation Map*, especially noting:
 - a. _____.
 - b. _____.
 - c. _____.

- 4. Cut or open fences at the following locations to allow animals to avoid fire:
 - a. _____.
 - b. _____.
 - c. _____.

- 5. Notify the Evacuation Notification Team (usually led by RCMP) of the decision to free the livestock when evacuating.

20. Checklist to Create a Fire Break

If time allows creation of a fire break to protect agriculture operation structures, follow the instructions below.

- 1. The priorities for plowed or wetted fire breaks to protect structures are:
 - a. _____.
 - b. _____.
 - c. _____.

- 2. Consult the map showing which areas should be plowed or wetted down to create fire breaks.

21. Checklist to Deploy Sprinklers

If sprinklers are to be used to protect structures, follow the instructions below.

- 1. The priorities for deploying sprinklers to protect structures are:
 - a. _____.
 - b. _____.
 - c. _____.

- 2. Consult the map showing how to lay out the sprinkler equipment and water delivery system.

- 3. Secure the water source, protect it against radiant heat, and remove nearby combustible materials.
- 4. Activate pre-positioned irrigation systems and sprinklers on the property to help protect structures.

*Note: The Office of the Fire Commissioner recommends a wetting time of two hours prior to fire reaching the property for full saturation and effectiveness. **Sprinklers should not be turned on until necessary to conserve water for fire suppression.** Check with the local water authority regarding potential water use restrictions for sprinklers.*

22. Checklist for Operating Backup Generator

When electrical equipment needs backup support, follow the steps below.

- 1. The priorities for providing equipment with backup generator are:
 - a. _____.
 - b. _____.
 - c. _____.
 - d. _____.

- 2. Consult the instructions and map showing how to set out the generator and connections.
- 3. Ensure there is enough fuel to operate the generator for 3 days.
- 4. Secure the generator and fuel; protect them from radiant heat from possible fire sources. Remove nearby combustible materials.
- 5. Ensure backup generator systems are on automatic switch that turns off regular electric power when the generator system is on.

23. Checklist for Personal Evacuation

- 1. In addition to a Grab 'n Go Kit (a collection of essential personal items – see below), take the following items when evacuating:
 - a. Identification that includes a photo and address, such as a driver's licence. This will help producers obtain a permit if they are allowed to temporarily return to the agriculture operation to attend to essential services, including care for livestock and essential crop management.
 - b. Premise ID Number, if applicable.
 - c. A copy of the *Wildfire Plan*, including the livestock inventory and any other appended or accessory information.
 - d. Operation/farm related items
 - o Critical business documentation, building keys
 - o Employee records
 - o Tools and equipment for livestock handling, transport, care

- 2. Evacuate all personnel.
 - If an Evacuation Order is issued, ensure all personnel move to safety.
 - Family and staff can check with others by texting or emailing:
Cell _____ Email: _____.

- 3. I have assembled a Grab 'n Go Kit and know its location. (see below)

Suggested Personal Grab 'n Go Kit

(Personalize for your needs & keep with you at all times)

For more information see: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/build-an-emergency-kit-and-grab-and-go-bag>

- Bottled water
- Nutritious foods (dried fruits, granola bars, nuts, or beef jerky)
- Personal medications
- Personal toiletries
- Dust masks and gloves
- Family photos (recent)
- Personal papers (copies of insurance, emergency contacts, prescriptions & identification)
- Flashlight
- Radio
- Whistle
- Pocket knife
- Emergency blanket and garbage bags
- Extra pair of eye glasses
- Extra money, coins, phone cards
- Book and / or game

Suggested Car Kit

(At the beginning of wildfire season prepare your car kit and store it in your vehicle. Keep up car maintenance and fuel so you don't run out.)

- Bottled water
- Nutritious foods (dried fruits, granola bars, nuts, or beef jerky)
- Manual can opener
- Comfortable, sturdy walking shoes
- Warm blanket
- Heavy-duty work gloves (leather)
- Dust masks and gloves
- Change of clothing
- Road map & compass
- Duct tape and garbage bags
- First aid kit & manual
- Fire extinguisher
- Flashlight (+ extra batteries)
- Flares, candles w/matches & jar
- Ziplock bags, toilet tissue
- Hardhat
- Large, sturdy backpack
- Small tool kit
- Booster cables
- Deck of cards, good book

24. Checklist for Visitor and Employee Evacuation

[Skip to Part C if you do not receive significant numbers of visitors or do not have employees on your property that would be at risk during the wildfire season]

Before an Evacuation

- 1. Roles and Responsibilities** for implementing the evacuation plan are identified below. Contact information for designated individuals is included in *Section 4 – Emergency Contacts*.

Individual Name	Role	Responsibility
	<i>Primary Decision Maker / Coordinator:</i>	
	<i>Back-up Decision Maker / Coordinator:</i>	
	<i>Other:</i>	

2. The following **Communications Plan** outlines how communications should occur with the individuals or groups listed during a wildfire emergency.

Who to Communicate With	What to Communicate (and How)	Responsibility
<i>Employees</i>	Wildfire / evacuation status and procedures (e.g., meetings / verbal updates, plan review and discussion, evacuation plan copy and training provided at orientation)	
<i>Visitors</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildfire/ evacuation status and Public Safety Announcements as/if available (e.g., posted on site and on website) • Evacuation procedures (e.g., verbal directions, information, instructions, bulletins, evacuation map posted on site) 	
<i>Local Government Emergency Operations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evacuation status (monitor website minimum on a daily basis, receive email or social media notifications as/if available) • Seek information and guidance as/if required in support of decision making in advance of an evacuation order – during alert stage (e.g., direct communication with emergency operations as/if available) 	
<i>BC Wildfire Service</i>	Wildfire status, evacuation status, (monitor BCWS website minimum on a daily basis, receive BCWS social media updates)	
<i>Other</i>		

- 3. **Routes and Exits** from our operation, including all buildings and business sites where visitors and employees may be located at any given time have been identified and are indicated on an **evacuation map** (see map in section 5). Any special procedures required to ensure exit is unconstrained are identified.

Site or Building	Route / Exit	Special Procedures

- 4. Our post-evacuation assembly area as indicated on the evacuation map (see map in Section 5) is as follows:

- 5. Our system for accounting for personnel and visitors includes the following procedures (include a final property sweep):

- 6. Emergency shut-off procedures for utilities, equipment and processes are confirmed. The following must be shut-off prior to evacuating:

Utilities (*specify*): _____

Equipment (*specify*): _____

Processes (*specify*): _____

Other (*specify*): _____

- 7. Procedures for assisting visitors and employees with disabilities or mobility issues are as follows:

- 8. Employees are aware of the evacuation procedures and routes and these can be effectively communicated to visitors during an evacuation. Annual or periodic mock evacuations are recommended to test your system and train employees

During an Evacuation

- 1. Follow instructions provided by emergency officials.
- 2. Complete emergency shut-off procedures for utilities, equipment, and processes.
- 3. Take your individual Grab 'n Go Kits and critical business paperwork.
- 4. Assist individuals with mobility issues or disabilities.
- 5. Account for personnel and visitors after evacuating.

After Evacuation

Once the Evacuation Order is rescinded emergency officials (local government or Province) will advise when it is safe to return and if there are any special considerations to ensure the safety of visitors and staff at your operation.

Part C: After a Wildfire

25. Checklist for Damage Assessment

Once the evacuation order has been lifted and if damage is observed on the agriculture operation, consider these steps to limit further damage.

- 1. Check livestock that sheltered-in-place at the earliest possible opportunity, and provide for their needs with water, feed, and safety.
- 2. Inspect the agriculture operation for hazards and damage. Take care to avoid hazards, such as smoldering tree roots underground.

- 3. Contact insurance agent or broker (refer to the Guide *section 12, Insurance Information* and *section 26, Initiating Insurance of Other Loss Coverage* below).
- 4. Document any loss of livestock, buildings, fences, or equipment in writing, using the inventory to verify losses. Document salvaged items.
- 5. Take samples as required for laboratory assessment of damage (e.g., smoke taint of grapes).
- 6. Take photographs and video of any damage following a disaster to document the loss (ideally before and after taking any recovery action). Take photographs from the same location/position as your pre-event baseline photographs.
- 7. Secure the site.

26. Checklist for Initiating Insurance or Other Loss Coverage

- 1. Review insurance policy with the insurance agent or broker and report the damage/loss.
- 2. Review any government supported risk management program you have paid into or subscribed to with the government agent and report the damage/loss.
- 3. Assemble all required supporting documentation and complete and submit claims for losses.

27. Checklist for Recovery

The following steps should be taken to continue the disaster recovery process.

- 1. Work with neighbours to locate and identify loose animals in the area, and to return livestock that escaped or were treed.
- 2. Seek assistance from agriculture associations active in your area (refer to the Contact List in *Section 4*), and from the Regional Districts.
- 3. Work with neighbours to get the agriculture operation and the community operational as soon as possible.
- 4. Attend community recovery information sessions to find out about provincial measures that may assist the agriculture operation with disaster recovery.
- 5. If eligible, apply for Provincial Disaster Financial Assistance through Emergency Management B.C. Website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/disaster-financial-assistance>

- 6. If eligible, apply for BC Wildfire Service Fire Suppression Disturbance Rehabilitation for damages on private property as a direct result of fire suppression activities (contact local BCWS fire zone office).

Part D: When Wildfire Plan is Complete

28. Finalizing, Storing and Sharing the *Wildfire Plan*

- 1. Digital and hard copies of the completed Wildfire Plan (including maps and all relevant *Wildfire Plan* elements) have been made and stored in multiple locations. Specify the location, format (hard or digital copy below), and holder of the copy, as applicable):

Operation buildings (*specify*): _____

Personal vehicle (*specify*): _____

Grab n Go Kit (*specify*): _____

Off-site location (*specify*): _____

Cloud Storage (*specify username, password or individual with access*): _____

- 2. The *Wildfire Plan* has been reviewed with (*specify family members, employees, others*):

- 3. The separate *Wildfire Plan Summary* (Appendix 1) has been completed and shared with the following authorities or individuals (*specify name, title/organization, contact information, and date*):

Regional District/Local Government Emergency Management:

Fire Department:

BCWS:

Other:

-
4. The *Wildfire Plan* will be reviewed again and updated as significant changes occur and at minimum within one year by (specify date and assigned responsibility):
-

Appendix 1: Farm / Ranch Wildfire Plan Summary

Key information from your completed *Wildfire Plan* may be used as a *Wildfire Plan Summary* to summarize relevant information. This *Wildfire Plan Summary* may be used to initiate dialogue with key agencies (e.g. regional district, fire departments, BC Wildfire Service) in advance of the wildfire season and may assist to support identification and protection of your operation.

Some producers may want to adapt this *Wildfire Plan Summary* for their own purposes, and for different end-users such as employees, managers, owner, family, neighbours.

Note: If you completed the fillable PDF document, this information will auto-populate in the *Wildfire Plan Summary* below.

Farm / Ranch Wildfire Plan Summary

(Agricultural Operation Name)

Key Wildfire Plan information is current as of the last date revised: _____

List of Maps attached:

- Agriculture Operations Map
- Sprinkler Deployment Map
- Evacuation Routes Map
- _____
- _____

AGRICULTURE OPERATION INFORMATION AND EMERGENCY CONTACTS (Sections 2 and 4)		
Agriculture Operation name		
Parcel Identifier Number (PID):	Folio Number:	Premises ID number:
Agriculture Operation physical address:		
Owner name(s):		
Landline tel. number:	Mobile tel. number:	Email address:
Lessee name(s):		
Landline tel. number:	Mobile tel. number:	Email address:
Lessee mailing address (if different from above):		

<i>Manager(s) (other than owner, identify <u>local</u> contact available to attend):</i>			
<i>Landline tel. number:</i>	<i>Mobile tel. number:</i>	<i>Email address:</i>	
<i>Out-of-Region Contact:</i>			
<i>Landline tel. number:</i>	<i>Mobile tel. number:</i>	<i>Email address:</i>	
<i>Number of individuals normally on the farm:</i>	<i>Family:</i>	<i>Staff:</i>	<i>Tenants:</i>
RANGE TENURE INFORMATION (Section 3)			
<i>Range Agreement Number:</i>			
<i>Range Tenure Location(s) (nearest cross roads, general location description):</i>			
LIVESTOCK LOCATION DURING WILDFIRE SEASON (Section 7)			
Expected livestock numbers by location during the early (May – June) and peak (July – September) fire seasons			
<i># of animals at the farm:</i>		<i># of animals on Crown range tenure:</i>	
<i>Early</i>	<i>Peak</i>	<i>Early</i>	<i>Peak</i>
<i>Cattle:</i>		<i>Cattle:</i>	
<i>Horses:</i>		<i>Horses:</i>	
<i>Other:</i>		<i>Other:</i>	
<i>Usual Turnout Date:</i>		<i>Usual Roundup Date:</i>	

VEHICLES AND RESPONSE EQUIPMENT/RESOURCES (Section 8)			
Vehicle / Equipment Type		Number on Property (location)	Number Available Nearby (location)
Tractor, Front-end Loader or Backhoe			
Plow or other Implements			
Livestock Trailer			
Utility Trailer			
Passenger Car			
Pickup Truck			
Fire Hose (m or ft)			
Portable Water Pump			
Sprinkler kit or other sprinklers (and roof ladders)			
Irrigation Sprinkler Gun			
Generator			
Fire Equipment (e.g., extinguishers, hand tools)			
First Aid Kit			
WATER SOURCES (Section 9)			
Water Source	Capacity	Powered (P) or Gravity Feed (GF) System	On Property or Nearby (location)
WATER PURVEYOR AND EMERGENCY CONTACT (Section 4)			
<i>Water Purveyor/Authority (if not well-based):</i>			
<i>Emergency Contact:</i>		<i>Phone:</i>	<i>Email:</i>

Guide to completing a Farm/Ranch Wildfire Plan

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Opinions expressed in this document are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Governments of Canada and British Columbia or the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC. The Governments of Canada and British Columbia, and the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC, and their directors, agents, employees, or contractors will not be liable for any claims, damages, or losses of any kind whatsoever arising out of the use of, or reliance upon, this information.

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GUIDE
to completing a
Farm / Ranch Wildfire Plan

British Columbia

Version 3: November 10, 2019

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Disclaimer

The governments of Canada and British Columbia are committed to working with industry partners. *The Farm Ranch Wildfire Plan (Workbook and Guide)* have been prepared to serve as an aid for developing plans to avoid or mitigate adverse consequences that might occur for agriculture producers in the event of a wildfire.

Although every effort has been made to ensure that the information in these publications is correct, the Government of Canada, the BC Ministry of Agriculture, the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC, the BC Agricultural Research & Development Corporation, the Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund, the Regional District of Central Okanagan, and the BC Agriculture & Food assume no responsibility for the accuracy or reliability of the information or for any decisions arising from the information contained in these documents.

Digital Access to *Guide* and *Workbook*

A digital version of the *Workbook* and *Guide* can be downloaded at

Contents

Overview	1
Title Page and Header.....	2
Part A: Before a Wildfire	3
1. Wildfire Threat.....	3
2. Agriculture Operation Information	4
3. Range Tenure Information.....	5
4. Emergency Contacts	5
5. Agriculture Operation Maps	8
6. Livestock Inventory.....	14
7. Livestock Location During Wildfire Season.....	15
8. Vehicles and Response Equipment / Resources	15
9. Water Sources.....	16
10. Risk Reduction – On Property	16
11. Risk Reduction – Range Level Assets	19
12. Insurance Information.....	20
13. Backup Power	23
Part B: During a Wildfire.....	23
14. Information Sources	23
15. Decision Guide for Livestock Protection	24
16. Checklist for Sheltering Livestock in Barn.....	25
17. Checklist for Moving Livestock to On-Site Outdoor Location.....	26
18. Checklist for Relocating Livestock	27
19. Checklist for Opening Gates, Cutting Fences to Free Animals.....	28
20. Checklist to Create a Fire Break.....	29
21. Checklist to Deploy Sprinklers	29
22. Checklist for Operating Backup Generator.....	30
23. Checklist for Personal Evacuation	30
24. Checklist for Visitor and Employee Evacuation.....	31
Part C: After a Wildfire	34
25. Checklist for Damage Assessment	34
26. Checklist for Initiating Insurance or Other Loss Coverage	34
27. Checklist for Recovery.....	36

Part D: When Wildfire Plan is Complete..... 37
 28. Finalizing, Storing and Sharing the Wildfire Plan and Summary37

Part E: Additional Resources..... 38

Guide to Completing a Farm / Ranch Wildfire Plan

Overview

Creating a *Farm / Ranch Wildfire Plan*, or *Wildfire Plan*, is an essential step in preparing for a major wildfire event. A *Wildfire Plan* focuses on actions producers can take before, during, and after a wildfire to protect their operations and business.

An agriculture-specific *Wildfire Plan* could help you in many ways. Specifically, a *Wildfire Plan*:

- Helps producers make decisions now, while there is time to calmly consider options and collect specific information that may be difficult to obtain in a crisis.
- Informs family members, staff, neighbours, and first responders how they can help during a wildfire emergency.
- Helps producers intending to return to the agriculture operation during or after an evacuation order.
- Reduces harm to agricultural operations, assets, crops and livestock.
- Demonstrates “due diligence” when negotiating with insurance providers.

By using this *Guide* and the *Workbook* to complete a *Wildfire Plan*, producers are taking steps to protect themselves and to prepare for wildfire events where they may require assistance. This *Guide* and *Workbook* are suitable for use by all producer types – from livestock to mixed agriculture operations to vineyards, tree fruit and field crops. The *Workbook* also includes considerations for operations that have commercial production systems on-site and receive significant numbers of visitors to their facilities during wildfire season (wineries, agriculture operation gate sales, u-pick operations). Some content and sections are commodity-specific and should only be completed if applicable. All sections are included in one comprehensive *Workbook* for the benefit of producers who engage in more than one type of agricultural production.

The *Guide* and the *Workbook* work together to focus on the critical decisions and actions that should be addressed before a wildfire occurs. This *Guide* refers to specific parts of the *Workbook*.

Each recommended action is identified by a check box () in both the *Guide* and the *Workbook*. Place a check mark in the box as you complete each task. Once you have completed your *Workbook* it will become your *Wildfire Plan*. Retain this *Guide* to periodically update your *Wildfire Plan*.

The *Workbook* is available in both fillable PDF and Microsoft Word format, allowing producers to create a *Wildfire Plan* by filling in their specific information. Producers can then edit and print their own plans and update them regularly. Some customization may be required to meet individual producer needs and circumstances. For example, producers who manage multiple properties under different ownership or who own multiple parcels under varying management may wish to include a

summary of key information collated for all properties. Some producers may wish to incorporate more visuals or provide translation of critical information to address language barriers and make the Plan accessible to all personnel.

Note: If you completed the fillable PDF document, this information will auto-populate the Wildfire Plan Summary.

Key information from your completed *Wildfire Plan* may be used as a *Wildfire Plan Summary* provided in Appendix 1 of the *Workbook* for summarizing relevant information (indicated by a ☒). This *Wildfire Plan Summary* may be used to initiate dialogue with key agencies (e.g. regional district, fire departments, BC Wildfire Service) in advance of the wildfire season and may assist to support identification and protection of your operation.

Some producers may want to adapt this *Wildfire Plan Summary* for their own purposes, and for different end-users such as employees, managers, owner, family, neighbours.

Key Messages

A completed *Wildfire Plan* is the best way to mitigate and prepare for a wildfire event on or near the agriculture operation.

Producers are ultimately responsible for protecting their operations through planning and mitigation, and, as applicable, must consider employees, visitors and animals/livestock in planning for emergencies.

Government financial assistance only covers losses that are not commercially insurable.

Title Page and Header

Begin preparing a *Wildfire Plan* by adapting the Title Page contained in the *Workbook* to your specific circumstances. The Title Page should identify your agriculture operation (farm, ranch, vineyard, orchard, etc.). The agriculture operation name should be added to the Header so it appears at the top of each page.

Consider the following steps:

1. Include the agriculture operation name in the title on the Title Page, replacing the underline.
2. Add the date the plan was completed or updated to the bottom of the Title Page.
3. Add the agriculture operation name to the header at the top of Page 1 in the *Workbook*.

Part A: Before a Wildfire

1. Wildfire Threat

It is important to understand the wildfire threat to agricultural operations. Some regions of the province experience wildfires on a regular basis, and depending on the location of your operation, there may be specific considerations regarding the types of risks (e.g. fuel types, interface risks etc.). The wildland urban interface is defined as the area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

To learn more about wildfire hazards in the area, consider these actions:

1. Review the Provincial Strategic Threat Analysis fire threat map to determine local wildfire threat at:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/vegetation-and-fuel-management/fire-fuel-management/psta>
While this is a provincial scale map, any area in the vicinity of orange or red threat classes on the map should be considered an area of high threat to property and human safety.
2. Talk with your neighbours about wildfire events that have occurred in the area in the past. Knowing the local history is a good starting point. You can also work together to prepare.
3. Contact the BC Wildfire Service for more information on wildfire hazards in the area and check the BC Wildfire Service website (see link in Section 4 in the *Workbook* under *Support Resources*).
4. Review the following wildfire emergency preparedness resource with information links to track the latest wildfire conditions and the fire danger rating:
 - *Wildfire hazard in BC*: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/wildfire-situation/fire-danger>
 - Fire Danger class report - to find the fire danger rating near you see the provincial list at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/about-bcws/wildfire-response/fire-centres?keyword=Fire&keyword=centres>

2. Agriculture Operation Information

Basic information about the agriculture operation helps outside organizations provide the assistance that may be needed during a wildfire. Section 2 of the *Workbook* offers a simple table that can be used to record essential information about the agriculture operation and the people associated with it.

To assist with livestock relocation, if required, the regional district or local municipal government will need to confirm that the operations have “farm” classification under the BC Assessment Authority. Farm status may be easily proven with a Farmer ID Card and number. Similarly, a Premises ID number may also be used to verify livestock operations and their home premises (refer to Part E *Additional Resources* for more information on the voluntary Premises ID and the Farmer ID Card Programs). Ensure details are recorded accurately and printed clearly. Producers may later want to share this information via email, fax or photocopy during a wildfire emergency.

The above information may also be requested by the regional district or municipal government to assist with administration of a permitting system to allow producers access to an evacuation zone (subject to risk in order to perform livestock and crop management services essential to their operations). Depending on re-entry permitting protocols in place, if any, during an evacuation order, the license plate and drivers license numbers of the operation manager and staff may also assist in the administration and identification of permittees.

A Parcel Identifier or PID is a nine-digit number that uniquely identifies a parcel in the land title register of BC. The PID can be found on the tax assessment notice or through BC Assessment’s e-value BC website (<https://www.bcassessment.ca/>). This number could be helpful for responders to locate or reference an agriculture operation.

A Folio Number (or Role Number) is a number assigned to a property by the BC Assessment Authority for assessment administrative purposes. In the event of a wildfire emergency it is an important property identifier linking your property information to local government mapping. It can potentially be used by regional districts to identify your property in relation to a specific wildfire event and inform emergency operations. The Folio Number may also potentially link to your essential *Wildfire Plan* information as/if provided to the regional district in advance of the wildfire season.

Consider the following steps:

- 1. Record the essential information about the agriculture operation in section 1, *Agriculture Operation Information*.
- 2. Take photographs and video of important assets to document their existence and condition, noting the time and date the images were collected. For insurance purposes, it is important to photo-document annually from the same location/position.
- 3. Store essential operation records and images in a fire-resistant filing cabinet or at an off-site location. Consider backing up electronic files using cloud storage services in Canada.

3. Range Tenure Information

[Skip to Section 4 if you do not have livestock on your property]

For cattle/ranch operators with a Crown land range tenure, record the Range Agreement Number (inclusive of range use and grazing permits) and location of your tenure in relation to your farm/ranch base. The RAN number is a unique identifier for a Range Agreement (e.g., RAN077777). Multiple areas belonging to the same Range Agreement may have the same RAN number with unique block IDs.

For some ranchers, the tenure will be located adjacent to their farm/ranch (i.e., cattle may be ranged from the farm gate); for others, the tenure will be located a distance that requires hauling of cattle between the range and farm/ranch.

4. Emergency Contacts

An important step in preparedness is identifying people and organizations that can assist when needed. Creating a list now saves time during an emergency and allows a producer to quickly engage others in responding to a wildfire that threatens their agriculture operation.

Understanding the roles and responsibilities of emergency management and wildfire response agencies is key to determining which support resources to contact when, and for what information, before, during and after wildfire:

- **Regional district or local municipal government** – The local authority is responsible for the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), issuing evacuation alerts or orders and establishing protocols around entry to and control of evacuation zones. They will be the key contact for information, notifications and updates regarding threats and emergency status. They may be contacted in advance of the wildfire season to provide information on local water supply, evacuation routes, and may provide maps to assist you in pre-planning. You are encouraged to share relevant information from your completed *Wildfire Plan Summary*

(See Appendix 1 of the *Workbook*) with the local authority prior to wildfire season as it may be used to support emergency operations and response planning during a wildfire event. During an evacuation alert, they may be contacted regarding evacuation concerns and guidance specific to your operation. During an emergency, and particularly during an evacuation order, their focus is on public safety; however, they may engage agriculture specialists and provide logistical support to producers for livestock relocation. The local government also provides support in administration of disaster financial support during and after a disaster.

- **BC Wildfire Service (BCWS)** – Their focus is on wildfire response and they are the prime source of information for wildfire status updates. BCWS advises the local government on trigger points for evacuation alerts or orders and liaises with the EOC, other agencies and stakeholders as possible. Producers may contact the local BCWS in advance of wildfire season for guidance on mitigation and preparedness planning. After a wildfire you may contact the BCWS regarding compensation for suppression activities that have directly impacted your property.
- **Ministry of Agriculture** – Agriculture resource specialists assist the EOC or Provincial Emergency Operations Centre by invitation. They may inform producers during an emergency and work with private agriculture operation owners and animal owners in protecting and relocating livestock. They may be contacted by producers prior to wildfire season to provide information on government supported business risk management programs, current policies and procedures around disaster relief, and other relevant industry information to support pre-planning. They may be contacted during wildfire for information and logistical support.
- **Range Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development** – Range specialists assist the EOC by invitation to facilitate livestock relocation. They may liaise with range tenure holders and BCWS (situational) regarding fire response and suppression planning on Crown land. Producers may contact the local Range Specialist in advance of fire season to update their range tenure information. During and after wildfire, Range may be contacted for information and support regarding wildfire or suppression activities directly impacting Crown range tenure infrastructure or grazing.
- **Agriculture Associations and Animal Rescue Organizations** – Industry associations and support agencies share information and resources with their members and the public to support individual pre-planning and may provide information and support during wildfire, subject to resources and mandates. They may send representatives/specialists to support EOCs by invitation. Producers may contact their industry associations and other support agencies pre-season, during and after wildfire for information, support, training and resources.

Although mobile devices can carry important contact information, they may not always be available. A printed list of emergency contacts ensures ready access and allows others to assist in responding to a wildfire emergency. The *Workbook* suggests some common emergency contacts; include any additional contacts.

Take these steps to include emergency contacts in the *Wildfire Plan*.

- 1. Use section 4. *Emergency Contacts* in the *Wildfire Plan* to prepare a list of emergency contacts for the operation. Include the license plates and driver's licences of management and staff to facilitate passage at control points in the event of permitted entry during an evacuation order (subject to regional district permitting system used, if any). It is critical to provide a local manager/contact that can be available (to be onsite if necessary) during an emergency.

If water is purveyed to your property (e.g., you are not well-based) record the business name of the water purveyor/water authority (e.g., Irrigation District name or local government system) and an emergency contact.

- 2. Meet with your neighbours, local community group, farmer institutes, and agriculture associations each year to discuss available resources, equipment and space (for relocated livestock). Arrange text messaging, phone tree or other communication system among producers so you can help each other quickly in a wildfire emergency.
- 3. Conduct an annual check-in with each person or organization on the *Emergency Contacts* list to confirm the contact information is current.
- 4. Make several copies of the *Emergency Contacts* and keep them in different locations including a personal vehicle. Add key contacts to mobile phones.
- 5. If you are not currently a member of an agricultural association; become familiar with the organizations that may be able to provide support or act as communication liaisons during a wildfire event.

For small operators or hobby producers with livestock/domestic animals this may include animal rescue organizations such as BCSPCA, Animal Lifeline Emergency Response Team (ALERT the Canadian Disaster Animal Response Team (CDART), and BC Interior Horse Rescue Society.

A comprehensive list of provincial livestock-specific agriculture association contacts are provided on page 10 of the *Workbook Agriculture Appendix for BC Local Authority Emergency Plans* (https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/farm-management/emergency-management/relocation/900600-5_local_gov_em_plan_ag_appedix_workbook.pdf).

The Tourism Industry Association of BC (TIABC) has resources to assist producers in messaging to visitors and emergency planning.

5. Agriculture Operation Maps

Maps are essential for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from wildfire emergencies. Maps are also very useful for engaging agencies such as the local fire department, utility response teams, or the BC Wildfire Service.

Some producers may wish to sketch a simple map using graph paper. Paper maps may also be obtained from your local government office, such as the municipal or regional district office.

You can also create a map of your operation using regional district web map services. These GIS mapping functions can display a property and save a screen image to provide a base map. Visit your local regional district website (or contact your regional district) to see what map services are available:

The BC Assessment Authority offers property data, including basic maps. Producers can search for their properties by address, Roll Number, Plan Number, or PID at:

<https://www.bcassessment.ca/>

Readily available resources, like Google Earth (a free, downloadable program) allow producers to zoom in to every section of an agriculture operation, and to tag, label, and draw a boundary around a piece of property. To download Google Earth, see:

<https://www.google.com/earth/>

A range tenure holder may use their most current Range Use Plan map as a source for range-level *Wildfire Plan* mapping.

Actions for preparing a map (or multiple maps) for the *Wildfire Plan* include the following.

(Note: several map features listed below are described in greater detail in the subsequent sections of the *Guide*).

1. Obtain or create a base map of the agriculture operation, showing at least the following elements:
 - Property boundaries
 - Access roads (include local and unclassified roads) and evacuation routes off the agriculture operation site (ideally multiple routes off and away)
 - Surface water, including ponds and streams
 - Hydro lines

There may be value in creating one small scale map (larger geographic extent) to show the adjacent properties and access routes, as well as all property lines. A second or several large-scale map(s) (smaller geographic extent) may show details that are important to helping others protect your property and operations.

For range tenure holders, consider creating another smaller scale map to show the layout of your operations and tenure (home ranch and range) that includes roads and access points.

For producers with multiple satellite operations/ parcels, another smaller scale map will have value to show the layout of your satellite operations/ parcels (include roads and access points). For example, identify separate parcels under the same company that may be managed or operated by different family members or employees.

For agritourism operations and operations with visitors and/or employees at risk during wildfire season, create a separate evacuation plan map for use by you and your employees and for posting at your site as necessary.

Consider using the grid provided in the *Workbook* to sketch an outline of the property and key elements.

2. Add important operation and site features (and as applicable, range tenure features) to the map and label each item.

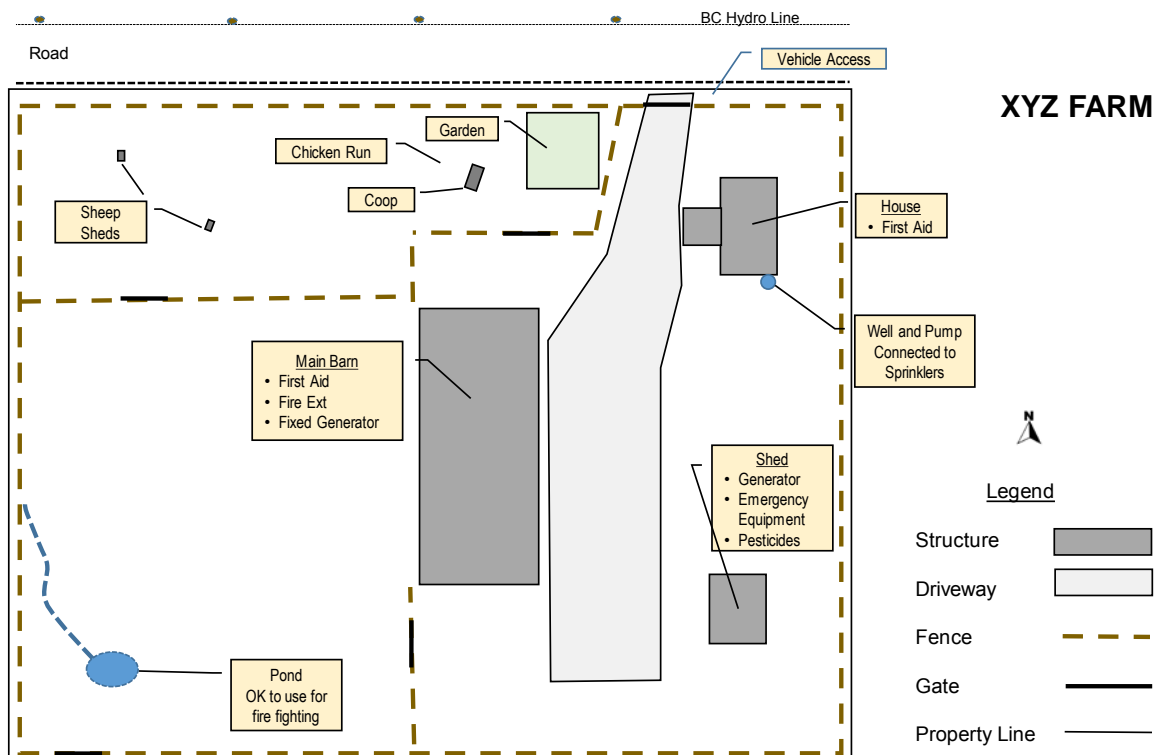
Include features and assets that you want to identify for outside suppression agencies; for protection from wildfire as well as for protection from the impacts of suppression activities such as machine fire guard construction.

Important operation and site features include:

- Fences.
- Gates and cattleguards.
- Structures, including main house, barns, and sheds, produce/inventory storage, sorting, packing, grading, processing buildings; farm market (on-site sales/retail, tasting facilities, restaurant) and other specialty buildings.
- Public parking and access areas.
- Pastures, corrals.
- Wells, tanks and pumps, standpipes, private water reservoirs (water hook-up locations for pump/sprinkler system).
- In-ground and above-ground irrigation systems (identified as gravity fed or powered).
- Water lines.
- Gas lines.
- Surface water that is suitable for fire suppression.
- Public reservoirs and other water sources available.
- Perennial crop production infrastructure (e.g. trellis systems).
- Access points to adjacent Crown land.
- Hazardous areas on the property, such as manure holding ponds and pesticide, fuel and chemical storage locations.

- 3. Identify structures to receive priority protection and rank their relative priority using either a colour coding or numbering system, from highest to lowest priority for protection (e.g., red=high, yellow=moderate and green=low priority or #1 highest to #3 lowest priority). Clearly indicate the ranking in the legend.
- 4. Show on the map the equipment and locations that could be useful in a wildfire, including:
 - Fire extinguishers.
 - First aid kits.
 - Sprinkler kits and setup locations.
 - Generators.
 - Animal loading areas.
 - Structures that may be used for sheltering livestock.
 - Tractor and plow implements, front-end loaders, excavators.
 - Hazard-reduced areas (cleared land), safe places to shelter livestock.
- 5. Include a legend to define any symbols on the map, and any priority ranking system used, as applicable. Add a North arrow and a map scale.
- 6. Make several copies of all maps and include one set in the *Wildfire Plan* in section 5, *Agriculture Operation Maps*.

Sample Agriculture Operation Map



Sample Tree Fruit Operation Map



Sample Map – Range Level Basemap

The range level basemap shows the layout of your ranch and tenure that includes roads and access points to your range.

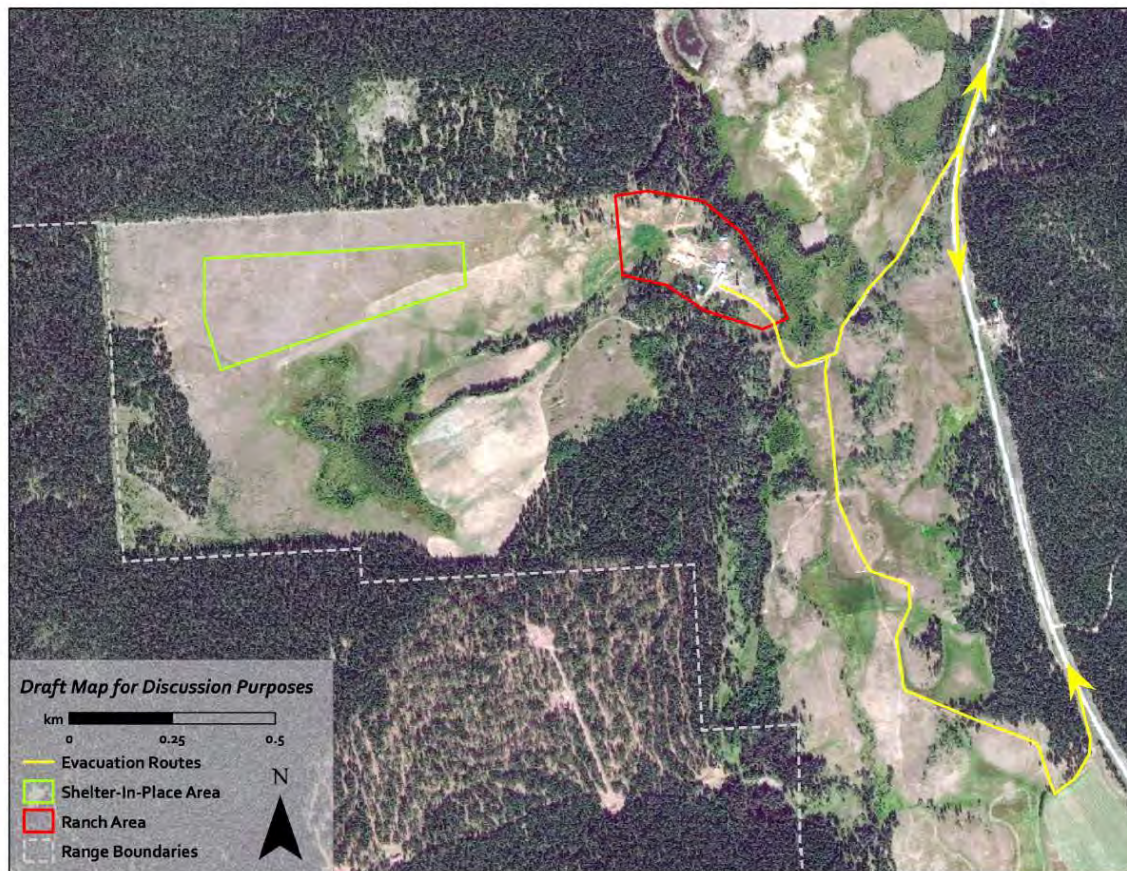


Sample Map – Sprinkler Setup Plan Map

The sprinkler set up map identifies water hookup locations and includes a sprinkler setup plan to be used in case of emergency.



Sample Map – Contingency Plan Map



6. Livestock Inventory

[Skip to Section 8 if you do not have livestock on your property. If you have pets that need to be considered in wildfire planning they may be listed in this section]

An up-to-date livestock inventory is especially important during a wildfire. An inventory will help producers manage decisions during response, such as whether to shelter-in-place or to relocate livestock, and can be used to inform others who offer help.

Also, loss compensation through commercial insurance or other program requires documentation of the animals on hand prior to impact.

Note: The operation may already have an inventory process that keeps the livestock information current, and this may change frequently for some producers. Consider adding a copy of your existing records as an appendix to your *Wildfire Plan*.

Some producers or hobby farmers may have pets or non-farm business livestock they may wish to inventory for wildfire protection planning purposes. It is not necessary to complete *Section 15 -*

Decision Guide for Livestock Protection. Section 15 is intended primarily for use by commercial livestock producers.

If you do not have a current inventory, consider these steps in preparing one:

- 1. Identify the current number of animals on the property by type, using section 6, *Livestock Inventory* of the *Workbook*.
- 2. Prepare a list of animals by name, gender, and registration number, and attach the list to the *Wildfire Plan*.
- 3. Ensure all animal identification records are secured in a fire-resistant filing cabinet or at an off-site location, and that records will be available when needed.

7. Livestock Location During Wildfire Season

If livestock are ranged at alternate locations during the wildfire season, including on the property and on a Crown range tenure, the expected livestock numbers by location will be valuable information for managing decisions during response, and for emergency responders in planning suppression operations on Crown land.

- 1. Identify the expected livestock numbers during the early and peak fire seasons by location (on property versus on Crown range tenure) as per usual turnout and roundup dates.

8. Vehicles and Response Equipment / Resources

Understanding the types of vehicles and special equipment that may be available in a wildfire emergency helps you plan for successful response. This equipment may help producers respond to small wildfire starts, relocate livestock to safety, operate water pumps and electrical equipment, or perform other functions that would safeguard the operation.

A complete inventory of equipment is imperative for insurance purposes. Use the *Workbook* to identify functions for equipment in the event that some responders are not familiar with the equipment.

The *Workbook* includes space to record vehicles and equipment on the property and with nearby neighbours. This list may also help producers share equipment among their neighbours during a wildfire.

Account for available vehicles and response equipment by following these steps:

1. Using section 8 of the *Workbook, Vehicles and Response Equipment*, include a list of personnel (including relevant certifications and training), livestock trailers, heavy equipment, and other equipment available from neighbours.
2. Discuss this list with neighbours to confirm the equipment and resources they may be able to share before and during wildfire.

9. Water Sources

Understanding the types of water sources that may be available for irrigation, sprinkler protection and to support fire response is important to safeguard the operation and activities essential to livestock and crop management during a wildfire. Examples of water sources include: surface water (ponds, streams), private reservoirs (manual or powered gates), wells, water tanks, and stand pipes.

Many different water systems exist in BC. In some regions water systems are centralized and in others, such as the Okanagan, there may be large numbers of independent water purveyors/ authorities that are not integrated. In some circumstances, producers may be entirely self sufficient for water supply. Water supply can be restricted and prioritized for use by response agencies during a wildfire event. Some water supply systems may also be vulnerable to power or internet outages or disruptions. Ensure you fully consider water supply and potential limitations and contact your water purveyor (if applicable). Prepare in advance and install cisterns or other water storage as required. Cisterns may be filled with rain water or waste water and should be kept filled during wildfire season.

Account for water available for fire response by following these steps:

1. Use section 9 of the *Workbook, Water Sources*, to include a list of water sources that are readily available on the property or nearby as a contingency, including both privately held and public resources that may be potentially accessed.
2. Discuss this list with neighbours and local water authorities/purveyors to confirm the availability of water sources before and during wildfire.

10. Risk Reduction – On Property

Producers can undertake many actions before a wildfire occurs to reduce the likelihood or impact of a wildfire on the property. It is important to understand how wildfire spread can impact agriculture operations in the following ways, besides flame contact:

- Sparks or ember showers may travel 2 km or more in advance of a wildfire.
- Radiant heat can ignite combustible or flammable materials (including structures or fuel storage) within 10 m, and potentially damage crops within an even greater distance.

10-1. Reduce Nearby Combustible Materials

Removing combustible vegetation and other materials around agriculture operation structures is one of the most effective ways of protecting the operation. Removing combustible materials around animal barns is especially important if the structure may be used to shelter livestock during a wildfire.

Consider risk to wood power poles and gas and power lines which are often surrounded by grass fuels. Preventative measures include underground propane lines, aluminum sheeting around wood poles to height of fuel and regular clearing of grass fuels under and around wood poles.

Reducing fuels is best done in advance of a fire so the debris may be removed from the area and disposed. A large operation may benefit from a wildfire risk assessment by a qualified expert. For more information on reducing combustible materials, see *The Home Owners FireSmart Manual*, at https://firesmartbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FireSmart_Begins_At_Home_Manual_2upv2.pdf For additional resources see also the FireSmart BC website at: www.firesmartbc.ca

FireSmart uses the concept of priority zones or FireSmart zones to determine where and how hazard assessment should be conducted and what actions should be undertaken. The first three priority zones are as follows:

- *Priority Zone 1a* -- 0 - 1.5 m from the structure. Non combustible material only.
- *Priority zone 1* – 1.5 - 10 m fuel free cleared zone around structures.
- *Priority zone 2* – 10 - 30 m out from structures where most flammable vegetation is removed. (fuels are reduced) to prevent ground fires spreading and moving up into crowns of trees.

Check the actions below to take before a forest fire strikes:

1. Prepare an aerial photo or map of the agriculture operation and draw lines that are about 10 meters and 30 metres around all structures.
2. Show on the map the combustible materials within 10 metres of structures that could be removed to reduce risks, including:
 - Trees and shrubs.
 - Packaging and pallets.
 - Pesticides or other hazardous material subject to volatilization and explosion.
 - Hay bales.
 - Woodpiles, deadfall.
 - Propane and other fuel tanks.
 - Other combustibles.
3. In the area between 10 meters and 30 meters around each structure, identify on the map the combustibles that could be removed, such as:
 - Trees to increase spacing (e.g. conifers which are much more combustible than deciduous trees).
 - Low branches that could allow ground fire to spread to the canopy.
 - Deadfall.

4. In the *Workbook* under 10-1 *Reduce Combustible Materials*, write down the actions that should be taken to remove combustible materials within 10 metres of structures, and between 10 m to 30 m. Options for reducing combustibles include:
- Remove trees, bushes and overhanging limbs within 10 m of buildings.
 - Thin trees to 3-6 m spacing.
 - Remove deadfall within 10 – 30 m of structures.
 - Clear vegetation from critical fence lines to 4 m.
 - Maintain 10 m fuel free buffer around corrals.
5. Dispose of cut vegetation safely, in compliance with local burning bylaws and approved disposal methods. Discuss with the regional district and local municipality any large-scale vegetation reduction efforts on the property to ensure you have the proper permits.

10-2 Use Fire Resistant Materials

Producers can reduce risk by increasing the amount of fire-resistant building materials used on structures on their property. Structures that rely on wood roof materials are especially vulnerable to wind-blown burning branches and radiant heat produced in a wildfire. Replacing wooden roof materials with asphalt shingles, clay tile, or metal materials increases fire resistance and reduces the chance of structure fire. The *FireSmart Begins at Home Manual* contains good advice on how a producer can increase fire resistance through the choice of building materials. This is available at: <https://firesmartbc.ca/resource-ordering-form/>

Consider the following actions to improve fire resistant construction:

1. Identify the roof and siding materials on all structures. Pay attention to barns and other structures that will be used for livestock shelter during a wildfire threat.
2. In the *Workbook* under 10-2 *Use Fire Resistant Materials*, record the actions that would improve the fire resistance of the exposed building materials. Some options for fire resistant construction include:
- Ensure buildings have metal, clay tile or asphalt roofs.
 - Ensure buildings have non-flammable siding (e.g., metal or concrete).
 - Close or screen eaves and vents with 3 mm mesh.
 - Replace wooden fence posts with metal.

10-3. Plan for Sprinkler Protection

If the agriculture operation contains flexible irrigation systems, sprinklers may provide additional structure protection. Fire brands and burning branches can travel more than 2 kms ahead of a wildfire. Just having green fields or a wet fuel break on the landscape around structures may not provide enough protection. Sprinklers help create a wet environment around individual buildings. Sprinkler systems are particularly important where animals will be sheltered, such as pastures or barns. More information is available through FireSmart: https://firesmartbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Factsheet_Sprinklers-and-FireSmart-principles.pdf

If sprinklers or hoses are limited, determine the priority of agriculture operation structures to protect ahead of time. Producers could put sprinkler equipment in place at the beginning of each fire season, or leave the system permanently installed. More information is available at: <https://firesmartbc.ca/resource-ordering-form/>

Be informed of local water supply vulnerabilities (see Section 9 above) and prepare accordingly. Contingency water supply for sprinklers may include on-site water storage (cisterns are highly recommended), private water sources, and surface water, as available.

Consider the following actions to set up the sprinkler systems for protection of agriculture operation:

- 1. Determine if existing sprinkler equipment is sufficient to create a humid envelope around all structures, or at least critical buildings, during wildfire.
- 2. Using section 10-3, *Sprinkler Protection* in the *Workbook*, identify the priorities of structures that should be protected by sprinklers.
- 3. For more information on setting up structural sprinklers, contact the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner, 250-952-4913, 1-888-988-9488, or email to OFC@gov.bc.ca.

The report *Cariboo-Chilcotin Agriculture/Wildfire Preparedness Project – Opportunities and Barriers to Wildfire Risk Mitigation* provides specifications for sprinkler kits, example schematic of components and layout, and 2016 sample cost estimates. See: <https://www.bcagclimateaction.ca/wp/wp-content/media/CB01-Wildfire-Preparedness-and-Mitigation-OpportunitiesBarriers2016.pdf>

The Union of BC Municipalities provides inventory specifications for Structural Protection Units intended for community use and deployment:

<http://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Services/Documents/structural-protection-units-technical-specifications.pdf>

- 4. Determine if the primary water supply is vulnerable (check with the local water purveyor if applicable) and have contingency water supply or storage (e.g., cisterns) in place for the sprinkler system. The volume of water required will depend on the size and number of buildings, surface area and duration of sprinkling. It is recommended to engage a fire protection professional if you have a large facility or complex protection needs.

11. Risk Reduction – Range Level Assets

[Skip to Section 12 if you do not have livestock on Crown range tenure]

Producers can undertake actions in advance to protect critical assets on Crown range tenure that are at risk of damage by wildfire or areas that may be important for emergency response. The primary action is fuel reduction, which requires careful consideration of the types and distribution of fuels and an understanding of various treatment options (including disposal of the fuel) and associated maintenance requirements. In almost all cases, the advice of a qualified professional will be required to develop smart fuel reduction prescriptions, as described below. Actions may include

the clearing of fuels from a fence right of way, or widening of the right of way, and maintaining fuel free buffers around corrals.

Range assets may include:

- Fencing.
- Corrals.
- Water developments (troughs).
- Evacuation routes.
- Safe spaces.
- Loading areas.

There are many opportunities for range tenure holders to cut trees in the vicinity of ranch infrastructure (for fuel management purposes) under different regulations such as the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Range Planning and Practices Regulations*. However; any cutting of timber under any regulation requires a permit approved by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development District Resource Manager. Fuel management on Crown land will generally require a detailed prescription to be developed by a qualified professional to ensure that all regulatory and permit requirements are met.

For further information and prior to engaging in fuel management on Crown land, consult with your local Resource Manager.

The Cariboo-Chilcotin Agriculture/Wildfire Preparedness Project – Opportunities and Barriers to Wildfire Risk Mitigation (<https://www.bcagclimateaction.ca/wp/wp-content/media/CB01-Wildfire-Preparedness-and-Mitigation-OpportunitiesBarriers2016.pdf>) may also be consulted for further information on proactive intervention to reduce wildfire risk on range lands.

Check the actions below to take before a wildfire strikes:

- 1. Identify areas critical to your day-to-day operations (e.g., corrals, loading areas) and fence lines that are most important to keeping your animals safe and on your range. Also identify areas that may be important for emergency response (e.g., safe spaces, evacuation routes).
- 2. Identify actions required to reduce fuels.

12. Insurance Information

Producers in BC have access to several approaches to insurance and managing financial losses due to the consequences of wildfire, as noted below. Refer to the specific links noted below for detailed program information.

Private Insurance

Insurance plays an important role in protecting the agriculture producer from low-probability, high-consequence disasters such as wildfires. Different types of private insurance are available to cover

losses to infrastructure (i.e., structures, fences, and equipment), crops, and livestock as well business/income interruption losses due to wildfire.

Farm insurance coverage likely includes the cost of relocating livestock in an emergency, both during transportation and at relocation sites, depending on the specific policy. Insurers will likely reimburse producers for transportation and other costs incurred by actively protecting their animals. Some insurers cover fences. In some cases, special additional coverage is required for livestock and fencing. Check with your agent or broker for details of specific infrastructure that is covered.

As an important step in managing risk, producers in BC should understand what is covered under their insurance policies and what may be excluded. For example, are your losses covered if livestock are harmed indirectly in a wildfire? Are both completed stock (harvested crop) and crops in progress (generally crops in the ground) insured? Does completed stock such as hay and feed need to be stored inside a structure to be covered by insurance? For tree fruit, grape/vineyard, and field crop producers, it is important to recognize how the different stages of production are covered under the insurance, from crops in the ground, to harvested, stored, processed and transported product. Crop insurance is available commercially and through the government supported *BC Production Insurance* (see federal/provincial programs below). For some producers, business interruption or loss of profit insurance may be beneficial.

Be aware that your ability to purchase additional coverage, obtain a new insurance policy, or to renew your policy may be limited if your operation is located within a specified distance of active wildfire. It is advised that you renew your insurance outside of fire season (during the fall and winter) to ensure that you are not in an active fire situation at the time of renewal. Do not underestimate replacement costs relative to the cost of insurance and communicate property improvements to your insurance broker as they occur to ensure they are covered. Talk with your insurance broker or agent at least annually to ensure you have adequate insurance specific to your operation and location.

Comprehensive and consistent photo documentation of assets beforehand is recommended annually at insurance renewal (or when you prepare and update your *Wildfire Plan*). Photo documentation of your assets in their current state and condition, from the same location/position, before and after an event, will go a long way to expediting and supporting an insurance claim.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada can help producers find available coverage for business losses through private insurance programs. Its member companies represent approximately 90% of the property and casualty insurance market in Canada. Their website is <http://www.IBC.ca/bc/>.

Federal/Provincial Government Risk Management Programs

The federal and provincial governments provide a suite of cost-shared risk management programs for the agricultural sector that provide protection against different types of income and production losses applicable to crop and livestock producers.

More information on these risk management programs is available at:

Business risk programs: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/programs-and-services/agricultural-business-management/business-risk-management-programs/?id=1490812852619>

Agriculture and Seafood programs: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs> - Government supported crop insurance (currently *BC Production Insurance*) covers crop losses due to wildfire including yield, quality and stock loss for a wide range of insurable crops.

Consider the following actions to ensure you have appropriate and adequate insurance and business risk management in place:

- 1. Review all commercial insurance and government supported insurance or risk management programs relevant to your operations in the context of the following:
 - local wildfire threat,
 - potential direct and indirect impacts of wildfire to your assets, and
 - anticipated realistic replacement costs and deductible limits.

- 2. Meet with your insurance agent or broker or program representative at least annually to review your coverage, including the following points:
 - a. Is the potential loss of livestock covered if animals are moved from the farm to a safe location due to the threat of a wildfire?
 - b. Are the costs of transportation, feed, water, and veterinary care for animals relocated during a wildfire emergency covered under the policy?
 - c. Does coverage include the costs of returning animals to the farm after the wildfire emergency has ended?
 - d. Does coverage include the costs of repairing fences and gates after damage due to wildfire?
 - e. Does the coverage include direct and indirect losses to crops, including yield, quality and loss of stock?
 - f. Does coverage include loss of harvested, stored, processed or transported crop products as well as crops in the ground?
 - g. Does coverage include losses due to prolonged power outage due to a primary emergency, such as a wildfire?
 - h. What infrastructure relevant to my operations is covered?
 - i. What steps should be taken when damage occurs?

Record the answers in the space provided for “*Key Coverages and Exclusions*” in section 12 of the *Wildfire Plan*.

- 3. Ensure you understand your policy and are aware of what is included and what is excluded.

13. Backup Power

Agriculture operations likely depend on electrical equipment that could be vulnerable to power interruption. Wildfires have the potential to trigger prolonged power outages locally or throughout the region. It is therefore wise for producers to anticipate prolonged outages and to take steps before disaster strikes to protect critical systems.

Essential agriculture operation systems requiring electrical power may include:

- Irrigation.
- Refrigeration equipment.
- Processing systems.
- Dairy milking systems.
- Feeding systems.
- Water pump.
- Sewer system.
- Freezers.

These actions are needed to set up the backup power systems for agriculture operation equipment:

1. Identify the available backup power supply equipment that could be used in a prolonged power outage.
2. Use the *Workbook* section 13, *Backup Power* to identify the priorities for agriculture equipment that should be supported by backup power systems.

Note: Protect yourself and the community around you by ensuring that any generator backup systems are properly installed to ensure no back-feed into the power grid. Electrical systems must be wired to exclude regular electric power.

Part B: During a Wildfire

14. Information Sources

One of the first steps in any emergency is to learn as much about the situation as possible from a credible source. In wildfire emergencies, local governments work closely with the BC Wildfire Service to contain and control wildfires, but fire behaviour can change rapidly. Factors that influence wildfires include winds, humidity, temperature, the types of vegetation being burned, and the slope of the land.

If a major wildfire threatens populated areas, the local government will consider issuing an Evacuation Alert, or an Evacuation Order. Here are some terms to know:

Evacuation Alert – Under an Evacuation Alert, people have time to collect their family members and personal items, and to prepare to move to a safe area. Producers may also have enough time to protect their agriculture operation and livestock. Some wildfires advance quickly and will not allow time for an Evacuation Alert.

Evacuation Order – If an Evacuation Order is issued, everyone must leave immediately. Producers may be able to leave livestock to shelter in barns or move them to open fields. The important thing is to quickly get everyone to safety. In some cases, producers may be allowed to return to their property for short periods to perform essential livestock and crop management services including attending to their animals, although this is not guaranteed.

Evacuation Rescind – A Rescind is issued when the Incident Commander determines it is safe for residents and livestock to return home. The local government will provide information to returning residents on potential hazards and safety precautions.

The status of the Evacuation will be communicated via the local news media, perhaps through an evacuation notification team, and the local government website (generally Regional District website). Social media may also be utilized when available and staffed. It is important to follow instructions and evacuate when ordered to do so. Life and safety is top priority and emergency responders will not be allowed to endanger their lives to rescue anyone who does not evacuate.

This section of the *Wildfire Plan* includes contact information for the current sources of information, including local media, the regional districts and BC Wildfire Service.

Use these steps to customize the *Workbook* for your information and authority sources (local and provincial) to ensure you will be able to stay up to date on the wildfire situation.

- 1. Use section 14, *Information Sources* in the *Workbook* to confirm the news and authority sources to consult in during a wildfire.
- 2. Check with your Regional District for any emergency notification systems currently in place and register if available.

15. Decision Guide for Livestock Protection

[Skip to Section 20 if you do not have livestock on your property]

The calm period before disaster strikes is a good time to explore some options for protecting livestock from a wildfire. Consider these four options in selecting the best way to protect the animals:

Option 1: Shelter livestock in barn. This option means keeping animals in a structure on the farm/operation, such as a barn, where they will be protected while personnel evacuate. This may be the best option if FireSmart measures, sprinklers

and other protections are in place at the time of the emergency.

Option 2: Move livestock to an on-site outdoor location. Under this alternative, some or all animals would be moved to a pasture, open field, or other outdoor area that would provide protection from the threat.

Option 3: Relocate livestock off site. Relocating livestock means moving them off the farm/operation and away from danger. In a situation where a wildfire threatens a large area, this may require moving animals out of the region.

Option 4: Free the animals. In some situations, it may be best to open gates and cut fence to allow animals the freedom to protect themselves. This may be the only option if there is no time for other options, it is safe to do so, and the freed animals would not endanger others, such as motorists on a roadway.

There are risks with all the options, but the producer should select the approach with the greatest chance of success, all things considered.

Section 15, *Decision Guide for Livestock Protection* of the *Workbook* should be used when a wildfire emergency presents itself. Producers may wish to adopt a different option for each type of animal. For example, cows may be allowed to shelter in barn, while horses are relocated.

Take these actions to ensure the *Wildfire Plan* reflects the available options for livestock protection.

1. Using section 15 of the *Workbook, Decision Guide*, confirm the options that are available for livestock protection during a wildfire emergency.
2. Refer to sections 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the *Workbook* to help determine viable alternatives for livestock protection.

16. Checklist for Sheltering Livestock in Barn

Sheltering animals in a barn means moving or confining the animals to a protected structure on the farm. This is a particularly important option for dairy herds and large poultry flocks that are difficult to relocate. Considering a wildfire threat, a protected barn or shed is one that has:

- Reduced combustible materials around 10 m from farm structures.
- Fire resistant materials.
- Sprinkler protection, with suitable water pumps and backup power.

Consider these actions to confirm that sheltering-in-barn would protect livestock.

- 1. Determine if there is a structure or site on the farm where animals will be protected from the wildfire.
- 2. Determine if animals that are sheltering in place will have access to food sources, water, and ample living space. **An evacuation order may be in place for many days, and producers may not be allowed to return even temporarily to tend to animals due to extreme risks.**
- 3. Identify any actions in section 16 of the *Wildfire Plan* that are needed in an emergency to shelter livestock in a barn.
- 4. Show on the map for the *Wildfire Plan* any structures that may be used for sheltering livestock.

17. Checklist for Moving Livestock to On-Site Outdoor Location

Depending on the farm layout, there may be an outdoor location where animals can escape the threat. Such protected areas may include a pasture that can be wetted with sprinklers, a heavily-grazed area, or a plowed field.

An outdoor area used to shelter animals should be:

- At least 0.5 ha (1 acre) in size.
- At least 100 m from nearest timber.
- Free of combustible fuels (mowed, grazed to stubble, plowed, or irrigated).
- Free of barbed-wire fence.
- Free of overhead powerlines or other falling hazards.
- Have enough water and feed for 3 days.
- Have more than one route in and out.

Confirm that moving animals to an open field would provide protection.

- 1. Determine if there is a site on the farm where animals can be moved to protect them from a wildfire.
- 2. Determine if the animals will have access to food sources, water, and ample living space.
- 3. Record the actions in section 17 of the *Wildfire Plan* that must be followed to move animals to an open area.

- 4. Show on the map for the *Wildfire Plan* all locations that may provide protection for outdoor animals.

18. Checklist for Relocating Livestock

Relocating animals off the farm may be appropriate, depending on characteristics of the wildfire, the level of preparedness, the type of animal, and the time available.

Identifying a “buddy farm” ahead of time is one of the most important steps in preparing for livestock relocation. A buddy farm is one that has agreed to receive and care for animals from the threatened property. Arranging for the trucks, trailers, drivers, and handlers needed to transport animals is also important to complete before an emergency strikes.

Note that the Evacuation Alert phase is the preferred time for relocating livestock, when time is available. During an Evacuation Order, the RCMP will strictly enforce traffic flows that prioritize the movement of residents to safety, and will only allow livestock movement if it does not interfere with the movement of people and emergency operations.

If relocating livestock is a potential option, complete the following actions:

- 1. Determine which animals are suitable for relocation, considering loading time requirement for different species. Record which animals should have priority for relocation in case time is short, using section 18, *Checklist for Relocating Livestock*.
- 2. Locate and prearrange one or more off-farm sites (including buddy farms) for the livestock. Include the name, address, and contact information for each location in the *Wildfire Plan*.

When identifying a buddy farm, it is important they be located in a different area not likely to be impacted by the same wildfire. To avoid confusion and misunderstanding, arrangements may be agreed to and documented in a mutual aid agreement or memorandum of understanding. Considerations include: channels of communication; extent/type of assistance to be provided; who will bear costs incurred; an annual site visit and review of emergency plans, animal inventory, and biosecurity requirements. ALERT (see Part E *Resources*) provides supports and tools to assist in pre-planning.

- 3. Select a method for quickly identifying farm animals that do not already have ear tags, brands, or other identifying marks. Some “just-in-time” methods include paint on hooves and collaring.
- 4. Determine transport equipment required to move selected animals, appropriate loading facilities, and ability to maneuver haulers in and around the farm.
- 5. Indicate on the *Agriculture Operation Map* the locations for loading the different types of animals.

- 6. If possible, identify the individuals or organizations that can haul the livestock to the off-property relocation sites, and turnaround time for multiple trips. Use section 18, *Checklist for Relocating Livestock* to record hauler contact information.
- 7. For each animal type, list the special feed, water, medications, and care that should be available at the relocation site. Indicate who will provide for these items.
- 8. Recognize special planning requirements for relocating certain livestock, especially poultry and milking herds. (e.g. buddy farm locations, milking capacity, transport challenges). Be aware of biosecurity and disease control requirements for relocating your animals to the selected off-farm site and ensure complete documentation of required vaccinations.
- 9. If government funded assistance will be required on an event specific basis, check with the local government Emergency Management and/or Ministry of Agriculture for current policy and procedures regarding pre-approval requirements prior to evacuation:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/business-market-development/emergency-management>

Note: During emergencies, the primary responsibility for livestock protection lies with the individual producer and if they have the ability to relocate livestock themselves, they are encouraged to do so. However, response costs incurred directly by the producer are not eligible for reimbursement.

BC government support for livestock relocation generally targets only commercial producers. Non-farm business livestock owners or producers with pets may obtain support from the Canadian Disaster Animal Response Team (CDART) or BCSPCA.

If relocating livestock during a wildfire is not possible, animals may still be adequately safeguarded by protecting structures ahead of time (e.g., FireSmart milking parlours).

19. Checklist for Opening Gates, Cutting Fences to Free Animals

In some situations, such as rapid wildfire spread, the best thing may be to free the animals to green space or pasture. Animals will most often seek safety if unconfined. The *Wildfire Plan* should identify if it is safe to free your animals and how to do so, such as where to open gates and to cut fences that direct animals away from roadways and populated areas.

Freeing animals may present risks to people nearby. The degree of risk depends on the location of the released livestock and proximity to busy roadways and routes that may be used for evacuation of people. Carefully evaluate these risks when considering the opening of gates and cutting of fences in a wildfire emergency, because you may be held responsible for damage caused by animals that are let free. The key test will be what a reasonable and prudent person would do with your experience and knowledge.

Note that emergency response crews should be informed if any large animals are freed, such as cattle and horses. They may be able to help protect the animals and other people from harm.

If freeing animals is a suitable option, consider the following actions.

- 1. Determine which gates should be opened, and indicate them on the *Agriculture Operation Map*.
- 2. Identify where fences may be cut or opened to allow animals to escape to pasture. Show these locations on the *Agriculture Operation Map*.

20. Checklist to Create a Fire Break

If time allows, agriculture operations will gain additional protection from fire breaks that impede the spread of ground-based fire. Using a tractor and plow implement, for example, producers can create a reduced-vegetation strip around the perimeter of the operation, or around structures. Be aware of underground service lines.

Consider the following actions to help with creating a fire break when needed.

- 1. Review the checklist in *Workbook* section 20, *Checklist to Create a Fire Break*, to ensure it describes the areas to be plowed.
- 2. Prepare a rough sketch of the areas to be plowed to provide fire breaks.

21. Checklist to Deploy Sprinklers

If sprinkler deployment is possible (from section 10-3), there are a few steps to take now to ensure the *Wildfire Plan* provides the proper guidance during a wildfire.

Consider the following actions to ensure the Plan assists with sprinkler activation.

- 1. Review the checklist in *Workbook* section 21, *Checklist to Deploy Sprinklers*, to ensure it includes all steps needed to quickly set the system in operation.
- 2. The best instructions are ones that have been tested. Take the time to set out the selected sprinkler systems and record the steps as if instructing someone who has offered to help.

22. Checklist for Operating Backup Generator

If alternate power systems are available on the property, prepare the instructions in section 22 of the *Wildfire Plan* to allow them to be set up and activated quickly.

Take these actions to include the proper instructions for operating backup generators.

- 1. Review the checklist in *Workbook* section 22, *Checklist for Operating Backup Generator*, to ensure it includes all steps needed for quick operation.
- 2. Test the instructions and ensure all the equipment can be easily located.
- 3. Ensure that grid-based electric systems are disengaged when the backup generator system is operational.

23. Checklist for Personal Evacuation

When the local government or Province issues an Evacuation Order, all persons must leave the defined area. Road access to the evacuated area will be secured by the RCMP and you will not be allowed to return without a permit. The *Wildfire Plan* should anticipate how separated family members and staff can check with each other once they have dispersed.

Evacuated persons are encouraged to register at a local Reception Centre, even if they do not need assistance. This can assist with family reunification, later emergency care, and current emergency information.

Use section 23, *Checklist for Personal Evacuation* to prepare a checklist of actions that should be taken before leaving the operation.

Consider the following actions to prepare for personal evacuation.

- 1. Consult the *Workbook* for contents of a home Grab 'n Go Kit. Make a list and assemble the items in a kit. Keep this kit in a vehicle or other location for ease of access, availability.
- 2. In addition to the Kit, prepare a list of operation/farm-related items that should be taken. Add these items to section 23 of the *Workbook*, *Checklist for Personal Evacuation*. Such items may include:
 - Handling equipment such as halters.
 - Cages.
 - Blankets.
 - Appropriate tools for each kind of animal.
 - Building keys, critical documentation.
 - Employee records.

- 3. Identify a single person outside the region that members of the family and staff can contact if they are separated during the evacuation.

24. Checklist for Visitor and Employee Evacuation

[Skip to Part C if you do not receive visitors / tourists or do not have employees on your property that would be at risk during wildfire season]

Visitor evacuation will primarily be a concern for agritourism operations or other agricultural operations that receive a significant number of visitors at any time during wildfire season. This may be applicable to operations with on-site wineries, restaurants, U-pick, on-site tours or accommodation, and farm gate or other retail sales.

Employee evacuation is an important consideration for all operations; but is of particular importance for agriculture operations with large numbers of full time or seasonal employees on site during the wildfire season. In some cases, these employees may also be residing on site.

If you employ out-of-province personnel, provide documentation to confirm their employment at your operation in order for them to be eligible to receive assistance from Emergency Social Services at evacuation reception centres. Keeping an employee list and employee identification records centralized and ready to grab and go is recommended.

- 1. Determine key roles and responsibilities for implementing the evacuation plan. This includes the primary and backup decision-makers/coordinators and roles for other participants appropriate to your operations. Ensure that contact information for designated individuals are included in Section 4 – *Emergency Contacts*. The decision maker/coordinator responsibilities will generally include the following:
 - Review and update the Evacuation Checklist annually.
 - Ensure all emergency evacuation roles are assigned and participants are informed/aware of their responsibilities.
 - Determine when/if to pre-emptively limit visitor access.
 - Initiate and coordinate evacuation.

- 2. Determine who to communicate with to keep employees and visitors informed during wildfire emergency as well as what information is required to be communicated and who is responsible. This will include monitoring relevant and reliable sources of information (See Section 14) to keep informed of latest developments with respect to local or nearby wildfire activity/threat, and evacuation alerts or orders to aid in decision making. The Tourism Industry Association of BC and Destination BC may have resources, updates, and links to share with visitors and to inform yourself (see Section E – *Resources*).

3. Identify any barriers to effective communication and develop appropriate modes and methods of communication:
- In the event of limited mobile phone reception, consider handheld satellite communications devices with 2-way text communication capability such as inReach.
 - In the event of language barriers (e.g., owner/operators, employees, and visitors with no English or English as a second language) create a user-friendly copy of the evacuation plan with visuals (map), clear instruction, and translation of essential information as required. (Translation services may be available from the local Immigrant Services Society).

4. Identify routes and exits from your operation, considering all buildings and business sites where visitors and employees may be located at any given time. Buildings or locations for visitors may include wine cellar, tasting room, restaurant, picnic area, parking lot, in-field tour, in-field picking, etc. Identify any egress constraints (single exit or egress road) and special procedures required to limit congestion and ensure safe exit (e.g. a pilot car and tag car process). Orderly exit and minimizing traffic jams is critical. Identify any challenging aspects such as locating and evacuating visitors and employees that are dispersed over a large site such as U-pick operations and orchards or vineyards. Make note of all roads, trails and gate locations. Consider designating a marshalling point before evacuating the property.

Contact the local Regional District if you need assistance in planning your evacuation route; particularly if access options are limited and you are in an area at risk of entrapment.

5. Identify a post-evacuation assembly area recognizing that this may be subject to change if your designated assembly area is inside the evacuation zone (i.e., emergency centre or designated safe zone such as a school ground or open public space safe from fire).
6. Develop a system for accounting for personnel and visitors which includes designating an individual or individuals responsible. The most effective system will depend on the size and complexity of your operation. Options include visitor and employee contact lists, as applicable. In some operations it may be difficult to control and track people coming and going. As a precautionary measure, consider limiting entry to parts of the property during the alert stage (recognize that alerts may, however, be in place for weeks).

Conduct a final property sweep at the time of evacuation to ensure no visitors or employees are missed.

- 7. Confirm emergency shut-off procedures for utilities, equipment and processes as applicable. Know where your electrical panel, gas and water shut-off valves are located and how to turn them off. Note, only a registered contractor can safely turn gas back on. Similarly, know the locations and shut-off procedures for any equipment or processes to be shut down before evacuating.
- 8. Confirm procedures for assisting visitors and employees with disabilities or mobility issues.
- 9. Ensure designated employees are aware of the evacuation procedures and routes and that these can be effectively communicated to visitors during an evacuation.

It is recommended that a mock evacuation be conducted annually or periodically subject to staff changeover and experience.

Wildfire evacuation training and hazard awareness for employees can be integrated into your regular worksite safety program (employee orientations, safety meetings, and training). Simplified, user-friendly versions of the evacuation plan may be distributed to employees at the time of orientation.

During an Evacuation

- 1. Follow instructions provided by emergency officials. These may be delivered via website, social media, notifications to site, etc.
- 2. Complete emergency shut-off procedures for utilities, equipment and processes.
- 3. Take your individual Grab 'n Go Kits and any critical paperwork. Keep copies of important records in a waterproof, fireproof and portable container. Emergency Management BC has a valuable checklist: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc>
- 4. Assist individuals with mobility issues or disabilities.
- 5. Account for personnel and visitors after evacuating including a final sweep of the property.

After Evacuation

Once the Evacuation Order is rescinded emergency officials (local government or Province) will advise when it is safe to return and if there are any special considerations to ensure the safety of visitors and staff at your operation.

Part C: After a Wildfire

25. Checklist for Damage Assessment

Once the danger has passed in an emergency, the local government or Province will rescind an Evacuation Order and allow residents to return to their homes and agriculture operations.

If the operation has suffered any damage, there are several actions that can be taken to reduce the impact and to speed recovery. This section of the *Wildfire Plan* contains reminders of things to do after an emergency.

The following steps will help clarify the actions to take in assessing damage after a wildfire event.

- 1. Consider the checklist shown in section 25 of the *Workbook, Checklist for Damage Assessment*, and make any revisions that would better suit your operation.

26. Checklist for Initiating Insurance or Other Loss Coverage

Major wildfire emergencies may have catastrophic consequences for an individual agriculture operation. Some damage may be unavoidable, regardless of the level of preparedness.

Producers in BC have access to several approaches to managing these financial losses, as previously noted in Section 12 and as noted below. These include:

Commercial Insurance (see Section 12 of this *Guide*)

Federal/Provincial Government Risk Management Programs

These include insurance and income protection programs as noted in Section 12. Currently, the *AgriRecovery* program provides a coordinated government framework for disaster relief on a case-by-case basis. Funding may be available for losses incurred during a declared disaster and not covered by other programs, and may be cost-shared between the provincial and federal governments. More information on this risk management program is available at:

<http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/?id=1398968999929>

(Note: government programs are subject to review and change; check with your local Ministry of Agriculture contact for the current program, see contact information in *Workbook* section 4.)

Provincial Disaster Financial Assistance

Under the *BC Emergency Program Act and Regulations*, producers may be eligible for disaster financial assistance for losses incurred in events declared a disaster and for which insurance was not available. For details, see the information from Emergency Management BC at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/disaster-financial-assistance>

BC Wildfire Service Fire Suppression Disturbance Rehabilitation

Sites impacted by fire suppression activities are required to be rehabilitated to ensure that the natural drainage patterns are maintained and fuel hazards are minimized. This includes mitigation of impacts to land features (i.e., watering holes, pastures) on private land. Producers may also be eligible for compensation for loss or damage to structures (i.e., buildings, fencing, waterlines) damaged as a direct result of fire suppression activities on private property. Contact the local BC Wildfire Service fire zone office for information (see contact information in *Workbook* section 4).

Some disaster relief programs are time limited and the funds available may be limited. Initiate a claim for assistance as soon as possible and within the program-specific application time limits following declared completion of the wildfire event.

Insurance, provincial risk management programs, and disaster financial assistance represent the last lines of disaster defence. Insurers and governments at all levels expect producers to take reasonable steps to protect their operations and livestock, and to not rely only on disaster recovery programs.

Risk reduction efforts, combined with a *Wildfire Plan* and insurance, provide the breadth of protection needed by producers and livestock owners in the Okanagan.

Use the following steps to initiate insurance and other loss coverage.

1. Review the basic insurance information for the agriculture operation in section 12, *Insurance Information*.
2. Contact insurance agent (or government program agent if you have paid into/subscribed to a business risk management program) to report the damage (refer to the *Guide* section 12, *Insurance Information*).

Remember that an insurance broker is an advisor to you and can explain things. On the other hand, an insurance adjuster works for the insurance company and is there to determine if and to what degree you are covered for damages they can verify. It is an important distinction to help you to direct your questions to the right individual.

- 3. Complete a thorough damage assessment (as per the *Workbook* and Section 25 of this *Guide*), keep accurate records (notes, receipts, photographs) and document the value of lost assets. Assemble all required supporting documentation and complete and submit claims for losses. Do not rush to settle an insurance claim; be aware that the real damage may not be apparent right away.

27. Checklist for Recovery

Recovering from a disaster, such as a wildfire, may take months or even years. Much depends on the extent of damage and the degree of collaboration that draws the community together. Disaster Recovery Planning support is available through the BC Agri-Business Planning Program. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/recovery-programs#business>

Following a significant disaster, the Regional Districts will continue to share information and coordinate resources within the region.

Follow these steps to consider the disaster recovery phase of a wildfire event, and the potential actions for the operation.

- 1. Review the actions in section 27 of the *Workbook, Checklist for Recovery*, and make any amendments and additions that suit the operation.
- 2. Speak with members of the farmer institutes and agriculture associations that support your agriculture commodity group within the region and enquire about their ability to assist in disaster recovery.
- 3. If your operation is damaged, consider reconstruction in ways that protects livestock and operations from future threats, such as including combustion resistant building materials for structures and fences.

Part D: When Wildfire Plan is Complete

28. Finalizing, Storing and Sharing the *Wildfire Plan* and Summary

Once all the steps are completed in preparing the *Wildfire Plan*, it is time to make sure the plan is available and will be used as designed.

Consider these steps in finalizing the *Wildfire Plan*:

- 1. Make sure all the critical elements of agriculture operation information (including maps and response plans) are included in the *Wildfire Plan*, both in the electronic file and a master paper copy.
- 2. Finalize the Table of Contents for the *Wildfire Plan*. Click on the Table and then on the tab “Update Table.”
- 3. Make multiple copies of the *Wildfire Plan*, and store copies in different locations around operation buildings, with one copy in a personal vehicle. Also, add an electronic copy to an off-site location, such as a family member or in Canadian cloud storage.
- 4. Ensure that all family members and personnel understand the contents of the *Wildfire Plan* and know where to find it. Talk it over with them so all understand the steps needed to protect the operation from a major wildfire emergency.
- 5. Complete the separate *Wildfire Plan Summary* (Appendix 1 of the *Workbook*)
The *Wildfire Plan Summary* may be used to initiate dialogue with key agencies (e.g. regional district, fire departments, BC Wildfire Service) in advance of the wildfire season and may assist to support identification and protection of your operation.

Because agriculture operations and contacts are likely to change over time, **it is important to review and update the *Wildfire Plan* at least once each year.** Revisit each section of this *Guide* to confirm essential information and your choices.

Part E: Additional Resources

The *Workbook* and *Guide* complement other wildfire and emergency guidelines, reports, and documents that may be of interest, accessed through the websites shown here.

- **Animal Lifeline Emergency Response Team (ALERT)** – A volunteer-based organization that provides emergency services for domestic animals and livestock in a disaster. Volunteers also support neighbourhood pre-planning and development of response kits, mutual aid agreements and other training and resources.

<http://alertcanada.org/>; 250-681-2198; info@alertcanada.org

- **BC Assessment Authority** – Administers tax assessments for all private properties in BC which are identified by Land Title PID and Folio Number.

Folio Number (or Assessment Roll Number) is a number assigned to private property for assessment administrative purposes normally printed in the top right corner of an *Assessment Notice*. For most properties one roll number is used for each specific property. It is possible that one property is comprised of several roll numbers, or one roll number can cover several properties. This number may also be as a spatial link to local government/regional district mapping.

<https://info.bcassessment.ca/About-Us/Glossary>

PID is a unique nine-digit number used to identify titled parcels of land in BC. The PID can be found on a property's tax assessment notice or through BC Assessment's e-value BC website. This number may be also be used as a spatial link with other government mapping.

<https://www.bcassessment.ca/>

- **BC Emergency Preparedness Tips** – The BC Ministry of Agriculture offers a 4-page guide on emergency preparedness for livestock and crop producers.

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/farm-management/emergency-management/factsheets/900_200-3_emergency_preparedness.pdf

- **BC Environmental Farm Plan** – The BC Agricultural Research and Development Corporation manages a program that enhances the sustainability of any farm.

www.bcac.bc.ca/ardcorp/program/environmental-farm-plan-program

- **BC Horse Council** – A membership-driven not-for-profit association representing the interests of the equine industry in all sectors throughout BC
Contact: Gord Mackenzie. BC Horse Council Aldergrove: 1-800-856-4302

- **BC Production Insurance** – This insurance is available through the BC government's Business Risk Management programs. Production insurance covers crop losses due to wildfire including yield, quality and stock loss (a wide range of crops are insurable).
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs>
- **BC Wildfire Service** – This website offers information about fire bans and current wildfire threats, including the Cowichan Valley region.
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status>
- **Business & Agriculture Recovery Programs** – Disaster Recovery Planning support through the BC Agri-Business Planning Program.
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/recovery-programs#business>
- **Business Insurance and Risk Management Tools for Agriculture.** This BC Ministry of Agriculture Factsheet No. 900.500-1 outlines business insurance and risk management tools for agriculture.
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/farm-management/emergency-management/factsheets/900500-1_business_insurance_and_risk_management_tools_for_agriculture_2015.pdf
- **Cariboo-Chilcotin Agriculture/Wildfire Preparedness Project – Opportunities and Barriers to Wildfire Risk Mitigation** – This report offers information on proactive intervention to reduce wildfire risk on rangelands (including treatment considerations and applicable regulations) and emergency planning measures such as sprinkler protection and backup power.
<https://www.bcagclimateaction.ca/wp/wp-content/media/CB01-Wildfire-Preparedness-and-Mitigation-OpportunitiesBarriers2016.pdf>
- **Canadian Disaster Animal Response Team (CDART)** – Three branches of this volunteer-based organization in BC provide preparation for and actual rescue and shelter of domestic animals in a disaster.
<http://www.cdart.org/>; info@cdart.org
- **Emergency Management Guidebooks for Producers** – The Ministry of Agriculture has prepared three emergency management guides for specific commodity groups and one for small mixed farms.
 - Beef – https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/farm-management/emergency-management/beef_emergency_management_guide.pdf
 - Dairy – https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/farm-management/emergency-management/dairy_emergency_management_guide.pdf
 - Pork – https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/farm-management/emergency-management/bc_pork_emergency_management_guide_march2015.pdf
 - Small Mixed Farms – https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/farm-management/emergency-management/900600-4_em_small_mixed_farm_guide.pdf

- **Farmer ID Card Program** – The BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) voluntary Farmer ID program provides access to coloured fuel, farmer only tax benefits, insurance and travel discounts and exclusive offers, industry alerts, and news. The Farmer ID is government recognized.

<https://www.bcac.bc.ca/about-farmer-id-card>

https://www.bcac.bc.ca/sites/all/themes/bcac/images/BCAC_FarmerIDcard_Sheet_FINAL.PDF

- **FireSmart BC** – This website offers extensive information on the FireSmart program - great on-line resource for British Columbians

www.firesmartbc.ca

- **Interior Horse Rescue Society** – This Kelowna-based non-profit society provides horse rescue and adoptions.

https://www.equinenow.com/farm/bc_interior_horse_rescue.htm; 250-575-2538

- **Livestock Relocation** – This Ministry of Agriculture site provides an overview of provincial supports for livestock relocation (including relevant policy, procedures and application for relocation assistance) as well as resources for non-farm business livestock owners at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/business-market-development/emergency-preparedness/livestock-relocation>

- **Planning for Livestock Relocation During an Emergency Factsheet** – This 2-page guide lists specific actions to take when considering livestock relocation.

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/farm-management/emergency-management/factsheets/91_900400-1_planning_for_livestock_relocation_during_an_emergency_july_2016.pdf

- **Premises ID** – The British Columbia Premises ID program links livestock and poultry to geographic locations and allows for rapid notification of livestock and poultry producers during emergencies. The Program was established to reduce the impact of livestock disease or natural disaster by gathering and organizing information about the location of animals, the types of animals at each location and how to contact those responsible for the health of those animals quickly. Registration is not mandatory and is applicable to producers that raise livestock or poultry or transport them to and from the premises. A premises is a parcel of land where animals, plants or food are grown, kept, assembled or disposed of and includes farms, stables, hobby farms, pastures and other places. For further information on the Program, eligibility and to register (online registration and paper form options), visit the following website:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/premises-id>

- **Workbook Agriculture Appendix for BC Local Authority Emergency Plans** – This Plan contains guiding policies, procedures and forms for local authorities coordinating agriculture emergency relocation support. Page 10 has a comprehensive list of agriculture associations and contacts.
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/farm-management/emergency-management/relocation/900600-5_local_gov_em_plan_ag_appedix_workbook.pdf
- **Tourism Industry Association of BC (TIABC)** – The TIABC and partners have developed an Emergency Preparedness Guide and plan workbook for tourism operators and provides a downloadable public service announcement
<https://www.tiabc.ca/tiabc-in-the-news/emergency-preparedness/>

2023 Spring & Summer Wildfires

After-Action-Review: Debrief Session Notes

Attendees

Mackenzie County	
County of Northern Lights	Blake Gaugler (?sp)
Northern Sunrise County	Trent Keller, Farrah Fischer
M.D. of Fairview	Kaitlyn McLachlan
County of Saddle Hills (Co-host)	Taryn McNaught
County of Grande Prairie	Simon Thon, Trecelle Hinze
Birch Hills County	
M.D. of Smoky River	Shane Steffey
Peavine Metis Settlement	
East Prairie Metis Settlement	
Big Lakes County	Dylan Fath, Shelley Henkel
M.D. of Greenview (Co-host)	Sheila Kaus
Sturgeon County	Tracy Berry (lives in Parkland)
Woodlands County	
Lac Ste. Anne County	Travis Wilson
M.D. of Lesser Slave River	Kendra Kozdroski
Parkland County	
Brazeau County	
Yellowhead County	Melissa Marquis, Jen Benson
Big Lakes County	
AEMA Field Officers (FO) Northwest	Chris Graham Alan Stebbing (not in attendance)
Agriculture and Irrigation - EMS	Brad Andres Katherine Altman

2023 Spring & Summer Wildfires

After-Action-Review: Debrief Session Notes

Session Roundtable Discussion Points/ Comments

- What are the access permits and how can they be used to control access
- FireSmart applications/ modules available and the Agriculture module
- How to manage recovery/ reclamation questions while the incident is still in response mode
- Insurance coverage limits and barriers for agriculture operations
- Managing damage assessment process when no response
- Residual effects and the invasive species that come in after the fire crews/ equipment exports
- Being moved into various ICS positions which detract from Agriculture
- Issues surrounding forcing evacuations when the community, who has responsibility, will not force the municipalities
- RCMP work/ contracted by the municipalities who they take direction from, which then in turn follows a national process. Therefore, when the national forces are brought in and they don't necessarily know what is happening in the local municipality and may not be up to speed on the process that the municipality is managing. Misunderstandings occur. This needs to be preplanned, safety briefing etc...
- FireSmart for agriculture; hobby farmers versus commercial/ full-time farmers and ranchers:
 - o Municipalities powers under the Act
 - o Issues about accurate livestock and poultry numbers, locations and specify numbers:
 - Species that must shelter in place
 - Species that react negatively to aircraft etc...
 - BioSecurity concerns
 - Forage considerations
 - Cattle run alleys in/ on side roads
- Clarity of what can be done (pulling the and how it can be requested)
- What does a State of Local Emergency mean, what does a Provincial State of Local Emergency mean and the powers that come with it.
- Updating PID numbers/ data to be part of the Municipalities' Livestock Emergency Response Plan and the type of help they may need which was captured in a data base. E.g. Grande Prairie, and Greenview (VIS = Veterinary Incentive Programs).
- ? work something through ABVMA to have local vets who are required to track specific medicines with PID numbers and submitting an update.... Need to renegotiate the PID Notice of Collection and Disclosure.
- Integrated municipal planning, which is "Regional IMT" and how they operate.
- ? why don't we expand the local grazing leases for emergency purposes
- ? provincial grazing reserves no longer being provincially managed but rather they are no run by not-for-profit boards. How does this get managed... remember the domino effects/ consequences
- ? price gauging and how to get it set.
 - o 35 Service Canada price gauging investigations into Ft. McMurray hotels

2023 Spring & Summer Wildfires

After-Action-Review: Debrief Session Notes

Session Parking Lot

- Self care
- ICS Training and agriculture applications
- Shelter in place Protocol
- Temporary Re-entry Permit process
 - Request Submitted → Intake Process → Assessment: Validate Requesters Reasons →
 - Assessment: Risks (Safe, Timeframe/ Window, Entry Plan) → Approval by Authorized Position →
 - Issue Permit → ? Notification to Personnel Resources at Check Points
- Coordination with RCMP/ Police
- Provincial/ Not for Profit Grazing Reserves being expanded to accommodate emergency
- Outdated Premises ID data
- Recovery/ Damage assessment, including “repurposing stage areas”, including invasive species
- Municipality responsibilities/ authorities under SOLE versus under Agriculture State of Emergency
- 75 head (cow/calf pairs with one bull and three transporters with 2 loads) = 7 hours
- Services that the Ag CMO can provide to a municipality in preparation and/or during an incident

2023 Spring & Summer Wildfires

After-Action-Review: Debrief Session Notes

Debrief Questions

1. *What went well?*

Example: AGI CMO was able to get the premises identification (PID) data out to community in a timely fashion.

Explain why it worked, was it planned or good luck.

Focus on what must be continued for future incidents.

- Agriculture being involved in the EOC from the beginning/ early.
- Unified command.
- PID livestock map.
- Structural protection and forest fighting was confusing when they got close together. They were not touching each others area WUI (Wildland Urban Interface).
- WUI: general public was confused and frustrated when the Wildfire/ Structural fire fighters came into contact as they determined who would take leads.
- Re-entry permits to come in and check on livestock / poultry.
- Lots of advance notice for rural evacuation zones.

From the individual worksheets

- Able to get the PID information in a timely fashion.
- Lucky that most people had not released livestock to grazing leases.
- Local emergency alert system (Vogent Alert).
- No local animal inventory so PID info helped us build an inventory in a matter of hours.
- Mapping of premises is vital.
- Working directly in the EOC with direct communication to the DEM.
- Need a concise livestock emergency plan.
- After 7 days things started to improve.
- Re-entry.
- Communication and tracking.
- Attitude of RCMP and Forestry staff; it took them awhile to realise that they had lots to learn.
- Finding areas to move livestock too.
- Having a Local Emergency Response Plan (LERP) in place.
- Contact information for producers.
- Involved immediately.
- Being in ECC/ICP with daily updates on fire status.
- Having an Ag rep close to call centre to deal with livestock issues.
- Processing permits with RCMP/ fire to allow access (if safe) to feed.
- Re-entry.
- Landowners working together.
- Provided EOC with a picture of livestock populations and ownership in a timely fashion.
- Just one home lost – no lives lost.
- Emergency alert updates.
- Social media updates from NSC-ECC.
- Townhall meeting at the same time daily online, recorded and posted on social media.
- Local radio: cost, time to get it out.
- Re-entry permits: 6/7 people on phones in Yellowhead County.

2023 Spring & Summer Wildfires

After-Action-Review: Debrief Session Notes

- No people died.
- Heard very few stories of animal casualties; probably some luck involved.
- Evac alerts via texts and radio; widespread and pretty accurate to areas. But traumatic because it repeated often (reset every 48 hours).

2023 Spring & Summer Wildfires

After-Action-Review: Debrief Session Notes

2. *What challenges did you face?*

Example: Insufficient resources (e.g. pasture to move livestock) access to an incident expanded and/or continued during the early Spring (dry season).

- Communications on personal responsibility as a citizen and farmer to deal with a natural disaster.
- Communications: not everyone has internet so it's not fully reliable/ accessible to all citizens. Door to door handed out status updates/ bulletins/ notification of process. One group has implemented a "Buoyant" alerting system needs to be reloaded every 30 days, if it hasn't been used. Daily town hall meetings at reception centre, on-line, hotel lobby at the same time. Keep updates concise/ notices at scheduled times with simplified language. Call list for checking in on people who entered evac/ control zone to check their livestock. Local radio in Fairview was giving bad information, no PSA's.
- Producer that refuses to leave because of livelihood tied into livestock (under insured, no insurance).
- Re-entry permits were unilaterally stopped for a day. No reason's given by the DEMs with no explanation given to the administration of the permit system.
- People who won't leave because they don't have insurance.
- FireSmart assessment on properties and the visible flags that they put up, once people are allowed back in they may complain and/or try to figure out why this is happening.
- Citizens learning and promoting how to work around the permit system.
- Fairview took inventory of the producers' resources/ infrastructure.

From the individual worksheets

- Need a dedicated Ag role in EOC.
- Livestock emergency plan was not used.
- 2: Communication: Issue with communication with rate payers about how to successfully shelter in place, at your own risk, don't get in the way.
- Communication.
- Difficult to create an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) due to outdated provincial resources.
- No direct fire experience.
- 3: Insufficient resources to support evacuation (e.g. cattle liners) and/or shelter in place.
- 3: Sourcing pasture to move livestock too. Everywhere to locate was dry.
- Being able to accommodate on short notice.
- Unrealistic expectations.
- 2: Coordination between municipalities.
- 3: RCMP not understanding the needs of producers.
- RE-entry permits were an issue in the beginning.
- Fire.
- People not understanding the agriculture way of life/ People need to understand livestock are treated as family to many. It's a life risk for many to leave animals.
- 2: Scope of incident, too many fires in province
- Wildfire Urban Interface (WUI) area.
- Lack of communication between EOC and departments.

2023 Spring & Summer Wildfires

After-Action-Review: Debrief Session Notes

- Who pays for what?
- Take care of me/ us.
- I'll take care of myself.
- Very little fencing in area.
- Province unable to assist / no resources available.
- Forest vs. Structural fires; had structural losses.
- Threats to workers.
- Challenges on personal opinion (stay/ evac) vs. preparedness (most people ready).
- Lack of foresight.
- Permit system.
- Lack of staff.
- Exhaustion.
- Farmer have equipment but who has experience.
- Ag is an after thought.
- People refusing to evacuate.
- People not taking it seriously.
- Short notice.
- People's personal opinions (e.g. oh were fine, it's far away).
- Lack of personal preparedness.

2023 Spring & Summer Wildfires

After-Action-Review: Debrief Session Notes

3. *What issues created “wicked problems” (complex issues that couldn’t be solved, or you got creative to address)?*
- Lack of trust in government. This has extended to the municipality level in which local ag staff have concerns about their own connection with citizens.
 - Rogue farmers that are just doing what they want and saying that no one will help them.
 - Cost of evacuating and/or returning livestock, price fixing.

From the individual worksheets

- Grazing leases: no information from provincial dept if livestock were on in place.
- Grazing leases: impossible to evacuate.
- Moving resources in/ or moving items out when there is no road access.
- Limited direction for how to effectively shelter in place; need provincial assistance for a plan.
- 2: The size/scope of the event.
- 3: Resources (feed, water, trucks etc...)
- Expectations.
- AEMA: they can help!!!
- A trigger for when evacuation is feasible versus when it is not.
- No provincial relocation plans.
- Forestry staff attitude: what they say goes.
- Wildfires.
- Isolation.
- People having capacity.
- Burnt property with chickens left behind that needed feed and water.
- Goat in truck.
- Relocation: financial support, place to move.
- 2: Remove/ alter road signs. Taking down detour signs.
- Heated discussions.
- Too much to fast; entire MD/County engulfed.
- Landfills for deadstock.
- Highway closure.
- Weather factors: hot and windy with changing directions.
- Not for profit grazing reserves agreement, awareness and cooperation.
- Structural fire fighters fighting grass and forest fire or backing off. Different equipment and strategy needed.
- People acting on their own.

2023 Spring & Summer Wildfires

After-Action-Review: Debrief Session Notes

4. *Where are there opportunities for improvement?*

- Meet with Fire Chiefs Association to educate them on the reality of agriculture.
- Waiver about First Responders not coming back and the potential of a fine; confirm that BC still has either of these in place.
- Clean up/ refine the Permit to Re-entry process; flush this out more.
- Farmers are starting to understand/ feel that they need to be self-sufficient.
- Municipalities being very clear about what you will cover and what you want.
- Provincial program with coverage for evacuation and return of livestock, consider having this as part of grazing reserves expanded.
- RMA Resolution 15-07F under Emergency Services (emailed to me).
- Municipality extension with ag stakeholders to bring awareness and help producers understand.
- FireSmart for acreages and farms to help make them resilient, shelter in place protocol based on species and/or production cycle. Shelter in Place technical information for producers. Include the importance of current PID data...
- Update the PID data for each person, with making the producer update/ create their account.
- Partner Stakeholders with pulling the emergency management (hobby farmers/ acreages versus agricultural business).

From the individual worksheets

- Training.
- 2: Communication.
- Resource pooling.
- How to share and prepare public about the plan for more cooperation.
- Shelter in place tools.
- Re-entry/ Shelter-in-place standards.
- Clarify specific livestock requirements to DEM, RCMP and Forestry.
- Sit down with CEO, Council with expectations.
- Mass Deadstock disposal.
- Contact when not in office.
- Presence in EOC.
- Livestock Evacuation Plan.
- The way Forestry and RCMP act.
- Understanding farmers.
- Interjurisdictional mutual aid.
- MD clear on what they will and won't do.
- Contact numbers for producers (not a landline).
- Tax info/ slip to fill out.
- AgriStability: not an uprising from public, insurable, not an event.
- Shelter in Place: livestock producers.
- Utilise right personal for the right job
- Personal preparedness/ info dissemination.
- Communication with rate payers.

2023 Spring & Summer Wildfires

After-Action-Review: Debrief Session Notes

- Knowledge of role/ coordination and training.
- Emergency plan/ information transfer to producers and rate payers.
- Inter-municipal agreements.
- Role of ASD in emergency.
- Multiple alerts for the same area; confusing people by giving impression there was new developments.
- Shelter in place documents.
- Bring retired people back in to assist.
- Personal preparedness.
- Disseminating the info to producers.
- Shelter in place protocols/ prep.
- Utilize personnel; why aren't Ag people put in more logical spots?

2023 Wildfire After Action Review with Ag Fieldmen

Common Themes

- Resident/Farmer/Agriculture Operation Manager issues.
 - Most farm operations have not heard of FireSmart or how an agriculture operation can be “FireSmarted”. This seems to be a failure of extension on the program, especially considering that most of the affected communities are inside the Forest Protection Area which would seem to make them the priority audience.
 - A lack of knowledge about how a farm should be prepared to “Shelter the Animals in Place” to enhance their survival and to encourage producers to follow evacuation orders. *This is something we would like to work with WUI, Fire Chiefs and Wildfire Operations to start development of.*
 - The word is out that failure to evacuate will not be enforced... and that it is unlikely that any structure protection or municipal fire resources will be dispatched to individual farms (they are surrounding larger communities and sub-divisions). Therefore, if you want to have your farm protected, you will need to do it yourself.
 - Most farmers have no clue what their community can or cannot do for them in an out-of-control fire situation. The communities have not articulated these roles and responsibilities in advance of events (could be done as part of their community engagement, resilience development or other programming).
 - Only one community that we could find, did a proactive announcement with their evacuation notice about what to do with livestock or livestock questions.... For rural municipalities this should be a mandatory component of their AB Emergency Alert notification. Even if it is nothing more than contact the community call centre.
 - One Agriculture Services staff member who also owns their own cattle identified that it took him 7 hours to evacuate 75 cows with their calves Highlights the fact that livestock evacuation is a very slow process and, in most cases, animals will have to left to “shelter-in-place”. Reinforces the need to have a shelter-in-place protocol.
 - With many communities having multiple or sequential emergency alerts, the importance of having a map of the evacuation zone embedded in the alert is critical. This is likely the main reference for people in a panic... it should include as much relevant information as possible. ***Note** I noticed that this improved as the event progressed.*

- Municipal Agriculture Services Team issues.
 - Ag Services staff played a variety of roles in their community emergency response, but only a few (3 – 4) identified that they were connected to their ECC to provide advice on the challenges for farmers and livestock when decisions were made on evacuation zones and the timings.
 - Only a few community agriculture staff are invited to ICS or other community training sessions, therefore more training slots for these staff will need to be added.
 - Only a couple of communities implemented temporary re-entry protocols to allow for animals to be fed and watered. The lack of these protocols likely exacerbated the reluctance of farmers to evacuate.
 - The event occurred in the spring when most cattle operations are in the middle of calving, and there is little to no new grass available in pastures. The risk of losing mothers and babies during relocation is too high, therefore, livestock relocation or shelter-in-place planning needs to understand this reality and adapt to the season.

2023 Wildfire After Action Review with Ag Fieldmen

Common Themes

- The time of year coincides with little to no native grass being available in emergency pastures. The result is that the only available feed is on the farm of origin.... They are stuck.
- Most of the smaller rural municipalities do not have any sort of livestock response annex to their community emergency plans.
- Overall community issues.
 - Without communities developing their livestock response annexes to the CEMP, they have not established relationships with resources in their area that could support rural residents and animal owners. E.g. The Association of Alberta Agriculture Societies created a summary sheet of where livestock (mostly horse owners) could be take for temporary sheltering. Each community should already have this as part of their CEMP for both humans and their companion animals like horses, but then expand it for the larger livestock groups.
 - The communities that have agriculture staff connected to their ECC's experienced fewer issues with farmer non-compliance or in getting support for temporary re-entry.
 - Each community CEMP should have a temp re-entry protocol embedded in it.... The community can control when it gets activated to ensure that the risk level is appropriate, but would also be useful for utility and other service providers who have been excluded from a specific part of a community.
 - RCMP (especially augmentees) and many Fire departments have a limited understanding of agriculture operations and farming, and this creates distrust of the first responders situational assessments. The reluctance to evacuate by farmers is only going to grow because of this spring's events. *We should sit down and discuss how to address this trend before the spring hazard season opens in the south (mid march normally).*



Manager’s Report

Department: Agricultural Services

Submitted by: Sheila Kaus

Date: 12/11/2023

Economy Goal 2- Create a Diverse Economy

While the control season has concluded for 2023, Administration continues with efforts to reach out to landowners with infestations of concern. With many of the infestations triaged through the control season, this allows administration to focus on the cases with reluctant landowners, or those that may be more receptive with a planned approach prior to field work. Currently, there are 47 cases of concern throughout rural Greenview and 12 cases of concern in urban Greenview. Administration will update how this approach works in the future.

Problem Wildlife Work Orders

File Status	Beaver- MD	Beaver- Ratepayer	Customer Service	Predation	Totals
In Queue	-	-	-	-	
Open	0	2	2	4	8
Closed	54	29	31	27	141
TOTALS	54	31	33	31	149

Due to the continued mild weather, the Problem Wildlife Team has been addressing additional beaver management areas on behalf of ratepayers. This has been challenging as the ice is not thick enough to walk on but is enough to impede trapping efforts. The team is considering winter trapping of these two sites to increase success. Currently, all but four open beaver work orders have been resolved. In total, 248 problem beavers have been removed and 35 dams have been removed through blasting, complimented by additional dams removed by heavy equipment. 8 coyotes have been removed from ratepayer lands with two sites being set for wolf trapping. The team is approaching other ratepayers who have had predation issues through 2023 to see if they require assistance.

VSI Quarterly Reports and Service Breakdown – 2023

Veterinary Services Incorporated (VSI) encourages livestock producers to access veterinary care and maintain herd health, protecting the economic viability of their livestock operation. Third quarter VSI totals were received November 1, 2023. There was a 81% increase in claims over the third quarter of 2022, bringing the annual increase to 32% for the three quarters. At the third quarter in 2022, 286 claims had been made while 339 claims have been made for the same time period in 2023. The 2023 Annual General Meeting took place in Peace River on November 3rd, at 10 am. The result was for member municipalities to anticipate a 5.5% increase to ABVMA recommended service pricing. With the strong increase for services provided to Greenview ratepayers through 2023 coupled with this increase, Administration is anticipating a budgetary adjustment being required in the spring of 2024.

	# Services	2023	2022	+/- (%)	2021
Total 1st Quarter	80	\$22,540.38	\$17,268.52	+30.01%	\$19,269.77
Total 2nd Quarter	190	\$41,281.84	\$33,563.50	+23.00%	\$33,953.33
Total 3rd Quarter	69	\$11,534.28	\$6,361.23	+81.00%	\$ 8,382.80
Total 4th Quarter			\$41,106.15		\$40,995.55
2023 Claims	339	\$75,266.50	\$98,299.40	+32.00%	\$102,601.45

Preg Checks: 3,562
 Semen Testing: 739
 C-Sections: 23
 Exams: 36

The Agricultural Equipment Rental Program contributes to the economic viability of agricultural producers by providing equipment for rent that is cost-prohibitive to purchase when measured against the frequency of use. Rental Equipment stands at 804.5 rental days up to November 29st, 2023. Due to the mild weather, rentals have remained steady.

The final Agricultural Extension Event of 2023 took place on November 23, 2023. The Land Rental and Lease Agreement Event, presented by the Farmers Advocate Office (FAO), had 22 people attend. It was a great event, featuring active discussion and everyone seemed to be pretty engaged. FAO provided a lot of handouts which was good for everyone to receive and see. FAO granted permission for the presentation and handouts to be sent to a couple people who could not attend the event. Administration asked about potentially doing an online webinar delivery in the spring so that more of Greenview is able to benefit from the presentation, and FAO was receptive to this idea.

Governance Goal 3- Improve Intermunicipal Relations

The Peace Region ASB Conference took place on October 26th in the hamlet of Brownvale in the Municipal District of Peace. Three resolutions were passed, all dealing with Livestock Production and new Provincial ASB Committee representatives were selected.

Governance Goal 4- Provide Good Governance

On November 22, Administration provided orientation to the new members-at-large for the Agricultural Service Board. The orientation was provided in a casual setting to encourage questions and the full-time staff were introduced to the new members.

Culture, Social & Emergency Services Goal 3- Improve Public Perception of Greenview

The Beautification team is still awaiting the arrival of snow in Grande Cache but have kept up with any pathways we maintain for ice building up and the small snow fall last week. The team has completed some small brushing and tree falling jobs along the current snow dump areas as there was some dead standing

hazard trees in the area and a clean-up of any hazard or low hanging branches.

In a collaborative initiative with Facilities Maintenance, the plant material for Greenview's winter barrels and baskets that were scheduled to be completed by December the 4th may be delayed. The vendor received the material later than anticipated but all barrels and baskets should be out no later than Friday, December 15th. The hanging basket greens will be dispersed as soon as possible after delivery.

Beautification has been busy with their fall maintenance and Christmas decoration work. Replacement lights have been ordered and in partnership with Economic Development, the team has begun an upgrade of the mostly handmade decoration with commercial decorations. This move will result in increased life of the decorations and improved safety parameters, as much of the inventory was mounted on rebar and other metal implements. In an additional joint deliverable, Beautification was able to assist Economic Development in the revitalization of Rocky the Ram.

Culture, Social & Emergency Services Goal 4- Support and Maintain Recreational Opportunities

The Outdoor Rink has maintained the drain plug, however, with the warm weather we are still not getting enough freezing for daily flooding. We are forecasted to have colder weather during the day and overnight starting Wednesday evening. Once that happens the hope is the team will begin daily floods to establish the rink. The tentative timeline is about 2 ½ -3 weeks before the rink is fully developed.



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW No. 16

Manager's Report

Department: Agricultural Services

Submitted by: Sheila Kaus

Date: 1/31/2024

While the control season has concluded for 2023, Administration continues with efforts to reach out to landowners with infestations of concern. With many of the infestations triaged through the control season, this allows administration to focus on the cases with reluctant landowners, or those that may be more receptive with a planned approach prior to fieldwork. Currently, there are 47 cases of concern throughout rural Greenview and 12 cases of concern in urban Greenview. Administration will update how this approach works in the future.

The small capacity spray system has been successfully moved from a single cab 2013 2-ton with 75,000 km onto the deck of a 2016 Crew Cab 2-ton truck with 17,500 km. The former small-capacity spray truck was slated for replacement in the 2024 budget year but had no mechanical issues. Agricultural Services worked with Operations and Facilities Maintenance, repurposing the current single cab 2-ton as a sanding truck for winter, but with the hitch deck under the sanding apparatus, maintaining the hauling capacity in the single cab enjoyed by three departments in summer. The crew cab 2-ton truck previously used for hauling was fitted with the small capacity spray system. This collaboration allowed Agricultural Services to manage current mileage, provide seasonal staff with a truck cab large enough to carry the required personal protective equipment, and maintain the hauling capabilities previously enjoyed with the crew cab two-ton. An additional scheduled replacement of a 20-year-old quad for spraying small areas was eliminated through collaboration with the Outdoor Recreation department, eliminating the need for the replacement.

The final Agricultural Extension Event of 2023 took place on November 23, 2023. The Land Rental and Lease Agreement Event, presented by the Farmers Advocate Office (FAO), had 22 people attend. It was a great event, featuring active discussion and everyone seemed to be pretty engaged. FAO provided a lot of handouts which were good for everyone to receive and see. FAO granted permission for the presentation and handouts to be sent to a couple of people who could not attend the event. Administration has scheduled an online webinar delivery on February 21st so that more of Greenview is able to benefit from the presentation.

Problem Wildlife Work Orders

File Status	Beaver- MD	Beaver- Ratepayer	Customer Service	Predation	Totals
In Queue	-	-	-	-	
Open	0	2	2	9	13
Closed	54	30	33	28	145
TOTALS	54	32	35	37	158

Due to the extended mild weather into December, the Problem Wildlife Team continued addressing additional beaver management areas on behalf of ratepayers past the typical seasonal conclusion. This has been challenging as the ice was not thick enough to walk on but is enough to impede trapping efforts. The team is considering winter trapping of these two sites to increase success, once the ice cover is thick enough. Currently, all but 2 open beaver work orders have been resolved. In total, 248 problem beavers were trapped and 35 dams were removed through blasting in 2023, complimented by additional dams removed by heavy equipment.

Currently, there are 9 active predation trapping sites the team has been monitoring. Since October, 3 wolves and 8 coyotes have been removed from the locations. The team has been challenged sourcing bait for the locations. With the mild weather, roadkill has been less frequent as the animals remain in the bush to graze instead of accessing ditches,

The “Squeal On Pigs” awareness campaign targeted at utility, forestry, and energy workers is set to kick off in the new year. The Communications department developed a sticker that allows workers to call up EDDMaps for quick reporting through a small QR code, and the sticker incorporates the provincial email where pictures can be sent.

The campaign is jointly promoted between Yellowhead County Woodlands County and Greenview, with the MD of Lesser Slave River, Big Lakes County, and Saddle Hills County having expressed interest. To facilitate more municipalities joining, Communications ensured that other municipalities would be able to order the same stickers.

Problem Wildlife has been working with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation at an active Wild Boar site in a County in the Northwest region of Alberta. This provides valuable insight into the pests’ behaviors for Greenview staff, as well as allowing a trial run of the trapping system. With the training and experience Greenview has invested in the problem wildlife team, Greenview is positioned to take a leading role on the wild boar file moving forward. Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation has requested that Administration refrain from any further capital expenditures related to Wild Boar as they intend to supply some resources to interested municipalities in the future.

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Greenview ratepayers through 2023 coupled with this increase, Administration is anticipating a budgetary adjustment being required in the spring of 2024.

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The Peace Region ASB Conference took place on October 26th in the hamlet of Brownvale in the Municipal District of Peace. Three resolutions were passed, all dealing with Livestock Production, and new Provincial ASB Committee representatives were selected. Robert (Bob) Chrenek from the County of Grande Prairie was elected as the Peace Region representative on the Provincial ASB Committee. The Provincial Conference took place on January 22-25. 7 resolutions were debated by delegates.

On November 22, Administration provided orientation to the new members-at-large for the Agricultural Service Board. The orientation was provided in a casual setting to encourage questions and the full-time staff were introduced to the new members.

In a collaborative initiative with Facilities Maintenance, the plant material for Greenview’s winter barrels and baskets that were scheduled to be completed by December the 4th may be delayed. The vendor received the material later than anticipated but all barrels and baskets should be out no later than Friday, December 15th. The hanging basket greens will be dispersed as soon as possible after delivery.

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REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT:	Correspondence		
SUBMISSION TO:	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD	REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION	
MEETING DATE:	January 31, 2024	CAO:	MANAGER: SK
DEPARTMENT:	AGRICULTURE	DIR: MH	PRESENTER: SK
STRATEGIC PLAN:	Level of Service	LEG:	

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Provincial (cite) – N/A

Council Bylaw/Policy (cite) – N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board accept the correspondence for information, as presented.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- AgriRecovery Program – Lac Ste. Anne County
- AgriRecovery Program – Yellowhead County
- ASEAB Letter to Minister MacAulay
- Drought Livestock Assistance Program – County of Minburn

UPCOMING EVENT(S):

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------|
| 1. Soils 101 Webinar | January 31 st | Online |
| 2. LARA Livestock Water Management Webinar | January 31 | Online |
| 3. NPARA Peace Agronomy Update | February 1 st | Fairview |
| 4. MNP Business Plan Bootcamp Webinar Series | February 6 th -March 26 th | Online |
| 5. PCBFA EFP and Grant Funding Seminar | February 7 th | Valleyview |
| 6. Does it Cost or Does it Pay? Webinar | February 7 th | Online |
| 7. Ranching Opportunities | February 8 th | Olds |
| 8. PCBFA Peace Beef Cattle Day | February 9 th | Grimshaw |
| 9. Holistic Management Canada Annual Conference | February 9 th – 11 th | Valleyview |
| 10. Farming Smarter Conference | February 14 th – 15 th | Lethbridge |
| 11. Land Rental and Lease Agreements Webinar | February 21 st | Online |
| 12. PRLI Below Ground Soil Health | February 22 nd | Fort St. John |
| 13. PRFA Webinar with Greg Judy | February 28 th | Online |
| 14. Alberta Beef Industry Conference | February 28 th -29 th | Calgary |

15. [Ladies Ranching Retreat](#)

February 29th

Spruce Grove

16. [Bridging the Gap: Farm Transition Workshop](#)

March 8th

Grande Prairie

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 events, seminars and conferences within the agricultural community throughout the Province.

DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

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

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.

Dear Reeve Blakeman:

Thank you for your November 3, 2023 letter inquiring about the AgriRecovery Program for the 2023 growing season. I know this has been a difficult year and Alberta's producers have had to deal with many challenges including dry conditions, pests and wildfires.

The federal government partnered with the Government of Alberta on the delivery of the [2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program](#) through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership AgriRecovery Framework. The funding for this joint AgriRecovery initiative is cost-shared, with the federal government providing \$99 million and Alberta providing \$66 million.

As of October 30, 2023, eligible livestock producers with grazing animals can apply for financial support of up to \$150 per head to cover losses incurred to manage and maintain their breeding herds. Application information is available on the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) website: <https://afsc.ca/income-stabilization/agrirecovery>.

AgriRecovery is intended to respond in situations where producers do not have the capacity to cover the extraordinary costs related to a disaster event (e.g., severe drought), even with the assistance available from other Business Risk Management programs such as AgriInsurance, AgriStability and AgriInvest.

The situation faced by producers in 2021 was different from 2023. Extremely dry conditions were more widespread in 2021, so there were no geographic restrictions on the AgriRecovery response for livestock producers that year. Even so, Alberta's government once again advocated for a province-wide program in 2023 without geographic eligibility, on the basis that applicants must demonstrate feed need and drought impact to be eligible for funding.

However, area-specific eligibility was a requirement set by the federal government as a condition of the program. My ministry and I have been fierce in negotiations, advocating to the federal government for our producers to receive timely

drought relief. Simply put, the federal government would not have provided its portion of this program's funding without area-specific eligibility requirements. The urgency for the program was clear. While Alberta fought against these conditions, after months of negotiations, we could not risk our producers being shorted on critical funding as they entered the winter months.

The 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program can address only the extraordinary costs related to the impact of extreme dry conditions that resulted in lost grazing days. By identifying municipalities with a severe drought (one in 10-year event) based on the Canadian Drought Monitor map, the program targets its financial resources to those producers who need it the most.

In addition to the 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has supported the industry during this challenging growing season by making several adjustments to the provincial programs and services available to producers, such as doubling the [Low Yield Allowance](#) threshold. A number of additional programs are also available through AFSC to help producers proactively protect their businesses.

AFSC offers a production-based Hay Insurance product, a [Moisture Deficiency Endorsement](#) and Moisture Deficiency Insurance for pasture that can be selected if specific coverage for lack of rainfall is desired. I would encourage producers in your county to discuss insurance options with their [local AFSC branch](#) to determine what would work best for their operations, as these insurance products are the first line of defense in any disaster situation. To keep products affordable, premiums are cost-shared by federal and provincial governments.

The [AgriStability](#) program exists to protect producers against large declines in farming income for reasons such as production loss, increased costs and market conditions. This program responds to increased expenses and reduced income or reduced inventory values as compared to the producer's historical data.

For the 2023 program year, the AgriStability compensation rate was increased from 70 per cent to 80 per cent, making AgriStability even more responsive to farms experiencing a disaster. Additionally, the Government of Alberta opened AgriStability for late participation until September 29, 2023, in recognition of the impacts of wildfires and extremely dry conditions on Alberta's producers during this growing season.

Other programs were also available, such as the Water Pumping Program, which enables producers to rent pipe and pumping equipment to fill dugouts from nearby water sources, and the Temporary Livestock Water Assistance program, which enables livestock and poultry producers affected by water shortage and drought conditions to receive streamlined support.

The Alberta government recognizes farming is not just a business – it's a way of life. We understand producers are concerned about protecting their farming operations and livelihoods, and we are working hard to ensure Alberta's agriculture industry is supported during these challenging times.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation



November 14, 2023

Sigurdson, RJ, Honorable
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Legislature Building 10800-97 Ave.
Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2R6

Minister Sigurdson;

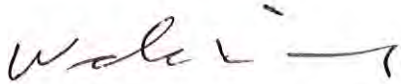
Yellowhead County Council and Agricultural Service Board would like to express our concern over the exemption of our area in both the 2023 AgriRecovery Program for livestock producers and the 2023 Canada- Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program.

The 2023 season has been extraordinarily hard for the producers of Yellowhead County. Low winter precipitation and no moisture mixed with hot weather in the spring caused severe drought conditions over most of Yellowhead County. This environmental condition resulted in widespread fires across our region. Residents were evacuated for days and weeks. Fires, evacuations, and road closures resulted in producers unable to get onto their land to seed or fertilize until late June. Once they returned, anything left could not be grazed because the fire took hundreds of kilometers of fencing in its path. June did bring much-needed precipitation; however, it came so fast and in such a short period that most of this precipitation resulted in overland flooding. These factors left our producers scrambling for sufficient feed and forage for the rest of the season.

Yellowhead County Council understands that the current methods of determining boundaries for such programs need to be standardized; however, it is also essential to evaluate these boundaries with ground truth perception before final decisions are made. The mapping/ boundary system that determines areas is the Canadian Drought Monitor and supplemented by weather stations across the province. The Canadian Drought Monitor has excluded central Alberta including Yellowhead County and deemed the area "not analyzed."

We implore you to consider the cumulative impacts of the shortage of feed, drought and fires our municipality has suffered when in discussions with the Provincial and Federal Government for both the 2023 AgriRecovery Tax Deferral Program for Livestock Producers and the 2023 Canada- Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program. These drought conditions are province-wide and have resulted in a lack of feed throughout Alberta, western provinces, and northern United States. Excluding Yellowhead County residents from these programs is unfair and causing them to make incredibly difficult decisions that will not only affect their operations and future but will also inevitably affect the stability of food production in this province.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wade Williams", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wade Williams, Yellowhead County Mayor

cc: Gerald Soroka, MP Yellowhead
Martin Long MLA, West Yellowhead
Shane Getson MLA, Lac Ste Anne- Parkland
Agricultural Services Boards of Alberta
Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)
Sebastian Durtisac, Chair, Provincial ASB Committee



Municipal District of Bighorn No. 8

No.2 Heart Mountain Drive, P.O. Box 310, Exshaw, Alberta T0L 2C0

Phone: (403) 673-3611 • Calgary Direct: (403) 233-7678

Fax: (403) 673-3895 • Email: bighorn@mdbighorn.ca

Website: www.mdbighorn.ca

December 4, 2023

Honorable Lawrence MacAulay
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Honorable Minister MacAulay:

Re: 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance program

It has come to our attention that the recently announced AgriRecovery program regarding drought assistance for livestock producers in Alberta excludes the Municipal District of Bighorn. We note that municipal jurisdictions on our south, east and northeast are included. It is our understanding that the Canada Drought Monitor as well as rainfall records from some weather stations impacted the decision.

Please provide for us the specific information that the Canada Drought Monitor used in concluding that our municipality, the Municipal District of Bighorn, did not experience a severe drought. Of interest would also be a list of weather stations and their rainfall amounts.

Kind regards,

Jackie Phillips

Chair of the Agricultural Services and Environmental Advisory Board
for the Municipal District of Bighorn

CC: Honorable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Jason Hale, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Blake Richards, MP Banff – Airdrie
Sarah Elmeligi, MLA Banff – Kananaskis
Paul McLauchlin, RMA President
Brenda Knight, ASB Provincial Committee Chair
Aaron Van Beers, Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen President
Agriculture Financial Service Corporation (AFSC)



COUNTY OF MINBURN NO. 27

P.O. Box 550
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www.MinburnCounty.ab.ca
E-Mail: info@minburncounty.ab.ca

November 27, 2023

Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Lawrence MacAulay
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Honourable Minister MacAulay:

Re: 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program

On behalf of the County of Minburn No. 27 Council I am writing to express our deep concern regarding our municipality's exclusion from the 2023 Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Program. The 2023 season has proven exceptionally challenging for livestock producers in our area, with low winter precipitation and minimal moisture throughout May and June resulting in severe drought conditions for forage crops and pasture.

While late-season rain in July and August did provide some relief for annual crops, it unfortunately came too late to salvage forage crops and pasture. This has left our producers struggling to secure sufficient pasture for the remainder of the season and facing a shortage of forage for the approaching winter. The adverse impact on our agricultural community is significant, with far-reaching consequences for both our livelihoods and the broader regional economy.

Our frustration stems from the observation that neighboring municipalities to the east and north of us have been included in the assistance program. Upon reviewing weather station data from the Alberta Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC), it is evident that many stations in these municipalities received nearly double the rainfall in May and June compared to our region. Despite these discrepancies, they were deemed eligible for assistance, while our municipality was excluded.

We acknowledge that the entire province is grappling with tight feed supplies for the upcoming winter season. However, the selective inclusion of certain municipalities in the assistance program, while excluding others facing similar or worse conditions, raises concerns about the fairness and equity of the decision-making process.

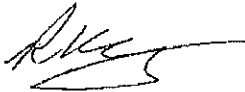
Honourable Minister Lawrence MacAulay
November 27, 2023
Page 2

Considering these circumstances, we kindly request that you consult with your provincial counterparts and reconsider the eligibility criteria for the program. Specifically, we urge you to consider including all municipalities within the Moderate Drought (D1) and Abnormally Dry (D2) areas, ensuring a more equitable distribution of support to those in need.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and your dedication to the well-being of Alberta's agricultural community. Your prompt consideration of our request is crucial in providing timely relief to our struggling producers.

Thank you for your understanding and commitment to addressing the challenges faced by our agricultural sector.

Sincerely,

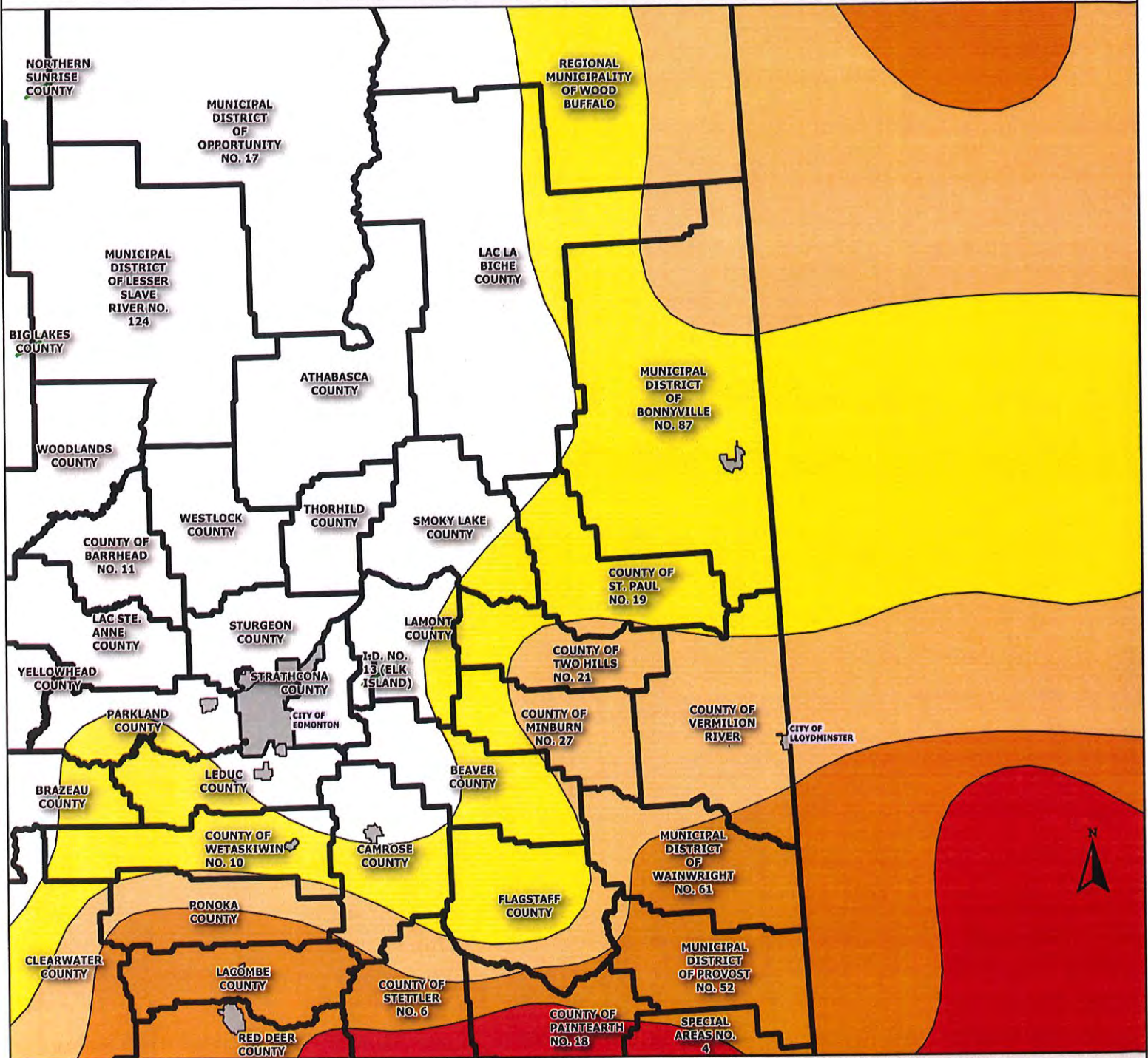


Reeve Roger Konieczny

CC: Shannon Stubbs, MP for Lakeland
Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville
Sebastian Durtisac, Chair, Chair ASB Provincial Committee
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)
Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)

Attachment: County of Minburn and Provincial Drought Map

Alberta - County of Minburn Drought October 2023



Legend

- D1 Moderate drought
- D2 Severe drought
- D0 Abnormally dry
- D3 Extreme drought

0 30 60 90 km



1:2,500,000

Projection: NAD 83 UTM Zone 12
Date: November 20, 2023
Cartographer: Frank Wu
Software: QGIS version 3.20

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COUNTY OF MINBURN NO. 27

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November 27, 2023

Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation RJ Sigurdson
131 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

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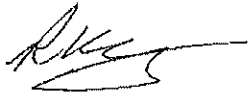
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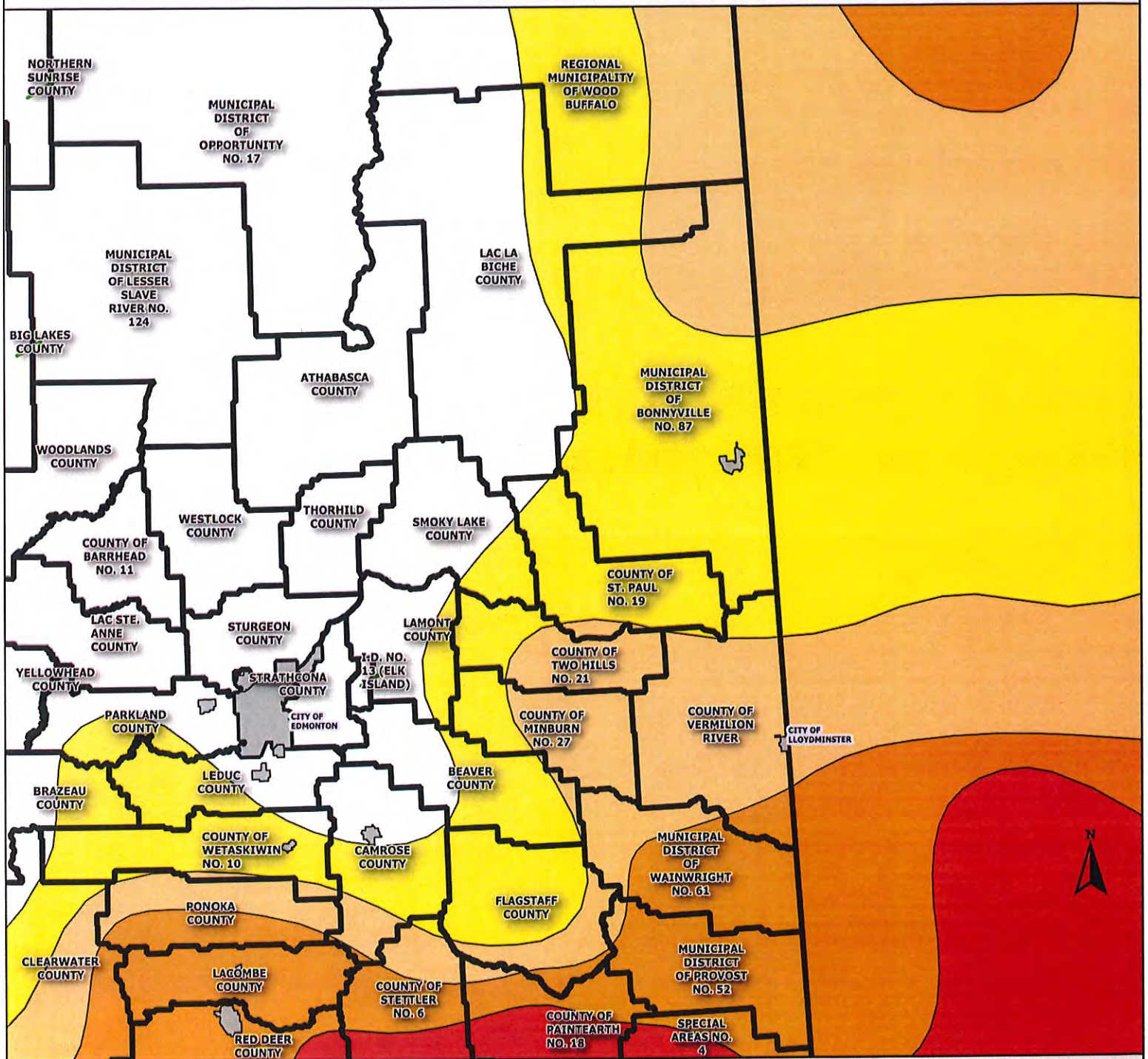


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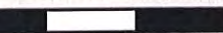
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