MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16

REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, May 29 , 2024 | 9:30 AM | Council Chambers, Administration Building

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#1 CALL TO ORDER

#2 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#3 MINUTES

3.1 Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting minutes held Wednesday, April 24, 2024, to be adopted. 1

3.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

3.3 Action Items 6

#5 BUSINESS

5.1 Alberta Invasive Species Council 7

5.2 Avian Flu in Cattle 25

5.3 Carcass Disposal Resolution 66

5.4 Managers Report 72

#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

- Alberta Crop Reports
- Integrity in the Pesticide Regulatory System
- Health Canada Letter
- ASB Letter to Health Canada
- May 3rd Moisture Updates
- May 20th Moisture Updates
- Yellowhead County Letter

1. PCBFA Holistic Management Tour & Farm Succession Planning
2. PRFA Annual Summer Tour
3. Invasive Species on a Global Scale Webinar
4. AgricultHER School
5. Alberta Range Stewardship Course
6. Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women
7. AgSmart

#9 ADJOURNMENT

Minutes of a
REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16
Greenview Administration Building,
Valleyview, Alberta, on Wednesday, April 24, 2024

#1 CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Reeve Bill Smith called the meeting to order at 9:30 am

PRESENT

A.S.B. Member – Deputy Reeve	Bill Smith
A.S.B. Member	Dave Berry
A.S.B. Member	Josh McMillan
A.S.B. Member	David Gibbard
A.S.B. Member	Jeff Laughlin
A.S.B. Member	Jake Drozda

ATTENDING

Manager, Agriculture Services	Sheila Kaus
Recording Secretary	Brooke Kobe

ABSENT

Warren Wohlgemuth

#2 AGENDA

MOTION: 24.04.36 Moved by: DEPUTY REEVE BILL SMITH
That the Agricultural Service Board adopt April 24, 2024, Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda as amended.

Jake Drozda requested to add **5.4 Water Point Discussion** to the Agenda

CARRIED

#3.1 REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: 24.04.37 Moved by: MEMBER JOSHUA MCMILLAN
That the Agricultural Service Board adopt the March 27, 2024, Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda as presented.

CARRIED

#3.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

3.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

#3.3 ACTION ITEMS

3.3 ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: 24.04.38 Moved by**:** MEMBER JEFF LAUGHLIN
That the Agricultural Service Board accept the Action Items, as presented.

CARRIED

#4.0 DELEGATE

4.0 DELEGATE

4.1 2023 ALBERTA WILDFIRE RATEPAYER AGRICULTURAL DAMAGES

4.1 ALBERTA WILDFIRE RATEPAYER AGRICULTURAL DAMAGES

MOTION: 24.04.39 Moved by: MEMBER DAVID GIBBARD
That the Agricultural Service Board accept the presentation on the 2023 Alberta Wildfire Ratepayer Agricultural Damages for information, as presented.

CARRIED

MOTION: 24.04.40 Moved by: MEMBER JEFF LAUGHLIN
The Agricultural Service Board request that Administration draft an ASB resolution on 2023 Alberta Wildfire Ratepayer Agricultural Damage presentation.

CARRIED

MOTION: 24.04.41 Moved by: MEMBER DAVID GIBBARD
The Agricultural Service Board request that Administration arrange for the 2023 Alberta Wildefire Ratepayer Agricultural Damage presentation to be included in a future Committee of the Whole. Invite Public lands, Alberta Forestry and Minister Todd Loewen to do a follow up presentation.

CARRIED

4.2 AGRICULTURAL LIME APPLICATION & WEED SEEDS

4.2 AGRICULTURAL LIME APPLICATION & WEED SEEDS

MOTION: 24.04.42 Moved by: COUNCILLOR DAVE BERRY
That the Agricultural Service Board accept the presentation on Agricultural Lime Application and Weed Seeds for information, as presented.

CARRIED

RECESSED @11:04
READJOURNED @11:10

JEFF LAUGHLIN ABSENT @11:10

#5.0 BUSINESS

5.0 BUSINESS

5.1 2024 DROUGHT & LIVESTOCK DEFFERAL CRITERIA & AGRISTABILITY

#5.1 2024 DROUGHT & LIVESTOCK DEFFERAL CRITERIA & AGRISTABILITY

MOTION: 24.04.43 Moved by: MEMBER JOSHUA MCMILLAN
That the Agricultural Service Board request Administration to amend the following in the drafted resolution "Drought and Livestock Tax Deferral Criteria and AgriStability" and bring the draft back to the May 29th, 2024 ASB meeting.

CARRIED

5.2 CANCELLATION OF FARM FAMILY AWARDS PROGRAM 2024

#5.2 CANCELLATION OF FARM FAMILY AWARDS PROGRAM 2024

MOTION: 24.04.44 Moved by: MEMBER JOSHUA MCMILLAN
That the Agricultural Service Board request Administration explore replacement of the Farm Family Awards with a Greenview specific option to present to the Board at the July, 2024 Agricultural Service Board meeting.

CARRIED

5.3 MANAGERS REPORT

#5.3 MANAGERS REPORT

MOTION: 24.04.45 Moved by: COUNCILLOR DAVE BERRY
That the Agricultural Service Board accepts the Managers' report, as presented.

CARRIED

5.4 WATER POINT DISCUSSION

#5.4 WATER POINT DISCUSSION

MOTION: 24.04.46 Moved by: MEMBER JAKE DROZDA
The Agricultural Service Board recommend that council considered after hours or emergency water point account access available.

DEFFERED

6.0 CLOSED SESSION

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: 24.04.47 Moved by: MEMBER DAVID GIBBARD
That the meeting go to Closed Session, at 00:00 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: 24.04.48 Moved by: COUNCILLOR DAVE BERRY
That, in compliance with Section 197(2) of the Municipal Government Act, this meeting come into Open Session at 12:25 p.m.

CARRIED

6.1 GREENVIEW VETERINARY CLINIC EQUIPMENT LEASE

#6.1 GREENVIEW VETERINARY CLINIC EQUIPMENT LEASE

MOTION: 24.04.49 Moved by: DAVE BERRY
That the Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council to settle the Greenview Veterinary Clinic equipment lease as proposed by the current proprietor, through communications March 5, 2024.

CARRIED

JAKE DROZDA ABSENT @12:02 p.m.

#7 MEMBERS' BUSINESS & REPORTS

7.0 MEMBERS' BUSINESS & REPORTS

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

- Absent

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

- Grovedale – dry spells
- Grizzley bear reports in Grovedale

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

- Ridge Valley Fire
- Kochia – Alberta Transportation
- Herbicide Signage on Spray Trials
- Council did approve the destruction of crops preparatory to weed notice

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

- Absent

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

- Alberta Transportation – Carcass Disposal

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

- Problem Wildlife recognition
- Avian Flu discussion – How to prevent. Sheila will bring a report to the next meeting

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

- Absent

#6 MEMBER'S BUSINESS AND REPORTS

MOTION: 24.04.50 Moved by: MEMBER DAVID GIBBARD
That the Agricultural Service Board accepts the Member's reports as information.

CARRIED

#8 CORRESPONDENCE

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE

ASB CORRESPONDENCE

MOTION: 24.04.51 Moved by: MEMBER DAVID GIBBARD
That the Agricultural Service Board accepts the correspondence for information, as presented.

CARRIED

#9 ADJOURNMENT

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: 24.04.52 Moved by: MEMBER DAVID GIBBARD
That this Agricultural Service Board meeting adjourn at 12:37 p.m.

MANAGER, AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

ASB CHAIR

3.3 Action Items - Agricultural Services Motion Tracker

No.	Motion	Assigned to	Status
MOTION: 22.07.78 July 27, 2022	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 24.01.08 January 31, 2024	That the Agricultural Service Board request administration to bring back draft resolutions for the Agricultural Service Board consideration regarding all carcass removal.	Sheila Kaus, Agricultural Services Manager	Completed
MOTION: 24.02.18 February 28,2024	That the Agricultural Service Board request administration to move forward with amendments to the "Shelter-In-Place" document and the "Wildfire Preparedness Workbook", and release as soon as practicable.	Sheila Kaus, Agricultural Services Manager	Completed
MOTION: 24.03.31 March 27, 2024	That the ASB recommend to Council the replacement of the valmar attachment on ASB0043 at an upset limit of $25,000, to come from the 2024 Capital Budget.	Sheila Kaus, Agricultural Services Manager	Completed
MOTION: 24.04.40 April 24, 2024	The Agricultural Service Board request that Administration draft an ASB resolution on 2023 Alberta Wildfire Ratepayer Agricultural Damage presentation.	Sheila Kaus, Agricultural Services Manager	In Progress
MOTION: 24.04.41 April 24, 2024	The Agricultural Service Board request that Administration arrange for the 2023 Alberta Wildfire Ratepayer Agricultural Damage presentation to be included in a future Committee of the Whole. Invite Public lands, Alberta Forestry and Minister Todd Loewen to do a follow up presentation.	Sheila Kaus, Agricultural Services Manager	Completed
MOTION: 24.04.44 April 24, 2024	That the Agricultural Service Board request Administration explore replacement of the Farm Family Awards with a Greenview specific option to present to the Board at the July, 2024 Agricultural Service Board meeting.	Sarah Cairns, Landcare Coordinator	In Progress
MOTION: 24.04.49 April 24, 2024	That the Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council to settle the Greenview Veterinary Clinic equipment lease as proposed by the current proprietor, through communications March 5, 2024.	Sheila Kaus	Completed

REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT:	**2024 Alberta Invasive Species Council Funding and Grant Application**		
SUBMISSION TO:	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD	REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION	
MEETING DATE:	May 29, 2024	CAO:	MANAGER: SK
DEPARTMENT:	AGRICULTURE	DIR:	PRESENTER: SK DW
STRATEGIC PLAN:	Environment	LEG:	

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:
Provincial: N/A

Council Bylaw/Policy: **N/A**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
MOTION 1: That the Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council the approval of a requested $2,500 increase to the Alberta Invasive Species Councils 2024 funding to a total of $7,500 to come from the Agricultural Services operational budget.

MOTION 2: That the Agricultural Service Board request Administration provide the Alberta Invasive Species Council with the drafted letter of support for the 2024 Environmental Damages Fund grant application, as presented.

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

In 2023, the process for requesting funding from Greenview for Non-Profit Societies changed. The applications are handled administratively by the Community Services Coordinators with all applications now being reviewed by Greenview Council prior to fulfillment. Upon receiving the 2024 funding request from the Alberta Invasive Species Council, the Coordinators let Agricultural Services know that there was an increase of $2,500 to the annual request for a total of $7,500.

Greenview has been a chief sponsor of the Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC) since 2013, when sponsorship was first sought by the organization. Since that time, Greenview Agricultural Services has included $5,000 in funding annually for the organization, with no requests for an increase having been received until now. Greenview benefits greatly from the efforts of the organization, with the following specific examples:

1. Delivery and partnering on extension events in Greenview,
2. Production, printing, and distribution of the Alberta Invasive Plants Guide, used extensively in Greenview,
3. Generation of fact sheets on specific weeds to inform Greenview ratepayers,

4. “Squeal on Pigs” programming,
5. “Weed Free Forage” programming, including training of field staff to deliver program,
6. Connection to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada biocontrol agents and dispersal program with annual sign-up,
7. Assistance in implementing “Play, Clean, Go” boot brush signage for trails in the Grande Cache Area.

AISC is attempting to increase the reach of the Organization in Alberta, with hopes of a team member addition for the northwest. In thinking about 2025 funding, this may be an organization the Board may be interested in increasing annual funding for.

On May 8th, the Executive Director of AISC reached out to Greenview Agricultural Services regarding participation in a grant application to the Environmental Damages Fund. A federal program, the fund receives money from fines, penalties, court orders and voluntary payment for environmental violations. This fund invests in projects falling into the following categories:

- Restoration
- Environmental Quality Improvements
- Research and Development
- Education and Awareness

The proposed project is aimed at protecting bull trout and westbank cutthroat trout populations and habitat in the Eastern Slopes of Alberta from the impact of aquatic invasive species. While the project is heavily slanted to prevent the introduction of whirling disease to these ecosystems, the mitigation would also prevent the introduction of such invasives like rock snot. Rock snot, also known as didymo, is an algae that thrives in fast moving streams. The algae coats the bottom of rivers and streams, reducing access for insects to lay their eggs and for trout to eat those insects, a large part of their diet. Additionally, the rock snot makes good habitat for the tubifex worm, a required species in the parasite causing whirling diseases life cycle, Whirling disease is a threat to eastern slope fish populations, and Greenview has a number of bull trout habitat that could be impacted. Further, whirling disease can be transported between waterbodies on uncleaned kayaks and other watercraft, as well as angling waders as a spore.

CD3 units would be placed at locations determined by Outdoor Recreation and would result in no operational or capital budget impact, as they would be managed by AISC for the first five years. After that time, Greenview would take over maintenance of the units, at a cost of approximately $700 per unit. After consulting with Outdoor Recreation, a total of 6 units have been requested to be included in the grant application for Greenview. Installation of these units would provide recreators the ability to clean equipment prior to entering the waterbody and protect Greenview’s outdoor recreation assets from invasive species threats that could undermine Council’s Strategic Plan.

BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. The benefit of the recommended action is that the Agricultural Service Board will have increased the 2024 funding of a key organizational partner, in an amount that can be accommodated through budgetary variance as opposed to a budget increase.

2. The benefit of the second motion is that while a letter of support will be provided, it does not translate into Greenview being beholden to participate.

DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. The disadvantage to the recommended motion is that while the requested funding increase can be managed through budgetary variance, it is still an increase over the budgeted amount and will impact future operational budgets.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative #1: The Agricultural Service Board may choose to accept the report for information, however, Administration is not recommending this action as the grant application would be in furtherance of Councils Strategic Plan and the increase requested is minimal.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

The financial implications of the recommended action are an operational budget increase of $3,000, commencing in 2030.

STAFFING IMPLICATION:

The staffing implication is unclear at this time but the units require minimal maintenance.

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:

Should the Board accept the recommended action, Administration will send the drafted letter to AISC and communicate to the Community Service Coordinators that the Board is in support of the $2,500 increase to AISC 2024 funding.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- AISC EDF Eastern Slopes - ASB

- CD3 System Annual Cost
- Invasive Species Prevention Product

Sheila Kaus
Manager, Agricultural Services
Municipal District of Greenview
PO Box 1079
sheila.kaus@mdgreenview.ab.ca
780-558-9333

May 29th, 2024

Environmental Damages Fund
Winnipeg, Manitoba, T3C1M8

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Greenview Agricultural Service Board, I am writing to express the Boards full support for the grant application submitted by the Alberta Invasive Species Council for the Environmental Damages Fund. The proposed project to protect fish and fish habitat along the eastern slopes of Alberta by preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species is of paramount importance to our ecosystem's health and sustainability.

While unique to Alberta, municipal Agricultural Service Boards are tasked with enforcing the Weed Control Act and Agricultural Pest Act, both pieces of legislation with invasive species management at its heart. As such, the Board has developed a strong relationship with the Alberta Invasive Species Council and works in partnership with the Council on the shared goals of prevention, mitigation, and control of invasive species within Greenview.

As an advocate for environmental conservation and stewardship, the Board deeply appreciates the proactive approach taken by the Alberta Invasive Species Council in addressing the threats posed by invasive species to our native ecosystems. The eastern slopes of Alberta harbor diverse aquatic habitats that are crucial for sustaining populations of native fish species including westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout. However, these habitats are increasingly vulnerable to the encroachment of invasive species, which can have devastating impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem integrity.

The proposed project's focus on research and prevention and mitigation strategies aligns perfectly with the principles of effective invasive species management. By implementing targeted measures to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species, the Alberta Invasive Species Council aims to safeguard the ecological integrity of the eastern slopes and protect fish and fish habitat.

Furthermore, the Board commends the collaborative approach outlined in the grant application, which involves engaging local communities, stakeholders, and government agencies in invasive species management efforts. Building partnerships and fostering collective action are essential components of successful conservation initiatives, and we are confident that the Alberta Invasive Species Council possesses the expertise and dedication necessary to effectively execute the proposed project.

In conclusion, we wholeheartedly endorse the grant application submitted by the Alberta Invasive Species Council for the Environmental Damages Fund. By investing in proactive measures to prevent

the introduction and spread of invasive species, we can protect our precious natural resources for future generations to enjoy. We urge the grant review committee to give full consideration to this worthy project, recognizing its significance in preserving the ecological health of the eastern slopes of Alberta.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Sheila Kaus

cc: Warren Wohlgemuth, Chair, Greenview Agricultural Service Board
Megan Evans, Executive Director, AISC
Stacey Wabick, CAO of Greenview
Tyler Olsen, Reeve of Greenview
Michelle Honeyman, Director, Community Services

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SALES CONTACT:

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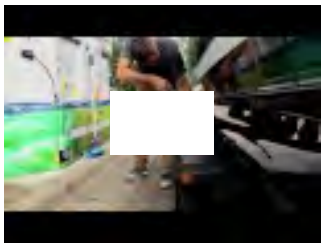

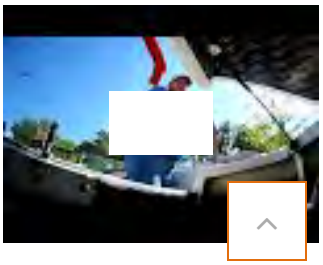

Boat Pontoon Boat Cruiser Boat

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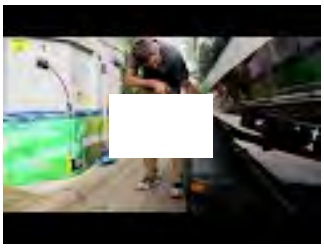

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REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT:	**2024 Avian Flu in Cattle**		
SUBMISSION TO:	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD	REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION	
MEETING DATE:	May 29, 2024	CAO:	MANAGER: SK
DEPARTMENT:	AGRICULTURE	DIR:	PRESENTER: SK
STRATEGIC PLAN:	Economy	LEG:	

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:
Provincial:

Council Bylaw/Policy:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board accept the report on 2024 Avian Flu in Cattle for information, as presented.

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

On March 22, 2024, in response to concerns expressed by dairy producers in the US related to dead birds found on their operations, the US Department of Agriculture; Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service began testing dairy cattle for H5N1, the Highly Pathogenic Avian Flu (HPAI). On March 28th, the Service announced they had confirmed HPAI infection of dairy cattle in Texas and Kansas. These results led to a rapid expansion of testing in the US dairy herd, with 9 states now reporting positive results.

Similar to Canada, US dairy producers are required to only send milk into the supply chain from healthy animals, disposing of milk from downer animals, to ensure accidental introduction of a pathogen through the food supply does not occur. Further, the pasteurization process effectively removes any bacteria or viruses within the milk supply and thus the Food and Drug Administration in the US is confident that HPAI will not be introduced into the milk supply.

While beef cattle have not had any positive test results in the US Department of Agriculture; Food Safety and Inspection Service has conducted testing on ground beef testing. Ground beef samples were inoculated with a very high concentration of the H5N1 virus. No virus remained in the ground beef after being cooked to 145- and 160-degrees Fahrenheit. To date. No H5N1 infections have been confirmed in American beef cattle.

Administration contacted the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian to enquire as to what steps Alberta has taken. Alberta is deferring to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to avoid duplication of efforts. The CFIA has tested 142 commercial milk lots and has not detected HPAI in any of the tested lots. Veterinarians' have been advised as to what symptoms to be on the lookout for in cattle as signs of infection. These include:

- sudden decrease in milk production
- colostrum-like consistency of milk
- negative or trace positive California Mastitis Test (CMT) result
- decreased feed intake
- decreased rumen motility
- respiratory signs, including clear nasal discharge
- sometimes fever

While cattle that are infected can become quite ill, the infection has not been proving lethal. To date, CFIA has not tested the Canadian beef cattle herd.

BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. The benefit of the recommended action is that the Agricultural Service Board will be informed as to current efforts by CFIA to detect H5N1 infection in dairy cattle.

DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. There is no disadvantage to the recommended motion.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative #1: The Agricultural Service Board may choose to request Administration stay apprised of the situation and inform the Board should the situation change.

ALTERNATIVE OR ADDITIONAL MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board request Administration stay apprised of the H5N1 infection in Canadian dairy and/or beef cattle herds and inform the Board should the situation change.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

There are no financial implications to the recommended action.

STAFFING IMPLICATION:

There is no staffing implication to the recommended action.

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 Board has made a decision Administration will follow the request.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- HPAI in Cattle - CFIA
- HPAI in Livestock – CFIA
- H5N1 Beef Safety Studies – USDA; Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Updates on HPAI - FDA

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in cattle: Guidance for private veterinarians

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in cattle: Guidance for private veterinarians – PDF (1,062 kb)

The following guidance serves as a reference for private veterinarians to collect and submit samples for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in dairy cattle, both for suspect and non-clinical animals. It also includes information on reporting requirements for suspect cases of HPAI in cattle.

HPAI is a federally reportable disease in any species. If you suspect HPAI in cattle, report it to your local CFIA district office.

HPAI is also reportable in some provinces and territories. Find provincial/territorial reporting requirements and contact information in the appendix.

On this page

- Checklist for sampling and testing for HPAI in cattle with and without clinical signs

- Eligibility for testing
- Collecting and submitting samples
- Sampling guidance
- CFIA's response to a suspect case report
- Results
- CFIA's response to a positive case
- Additional information
  - Transmission
  - Personal safety
  - Biosecurity
- Appendix
- Related links

Checklist for sampling and testing for HPAI in cattle with and without clinical signs

If you suspect HPAI in cattle:

- report suspicion to your local CFIA district office and province when applicable (see provincial and territorial reporting requirements and contact information)
- collect either milk samples from lactating animals and/or nasal swabs from non-lactating animals
- submit samples to an approved Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Network (CAHSN) laboratory as directed by your district office
- results are reported by your CAHSN lab
- non-negative results at a CAHSN lab will be sent to the CFIA's National Centre for Foreign Animal Diseases for confirmatory testing

Testing cattle with no clinical signs (lactating cows only):

- there is no reporting requirement when HPAI is not suspected
- collect milk samples from lactating dairy cows
- submit samples to an approved CAHSN laboratory as directed by your district office
- results are reported by your CAHSN lab
- non-negative results at a CAHSN lab will be sent to the CFIA's National Centre for Foreign Animal Diseases for confirmatory testing

Clinical signs of HPAI in cattle

Based on the recent detections in the United States (US), affected dairy cattle are most commonly in the second lactation or greater and >150 days in milk. There have been no reports of HPAI in beef cattle at this time. Clinical signs of HPAI infections that have been reported in dairy cattle in the US include:

- sudden decrease in milk production
- colostrum-like consistency of milk
- negative or trace positive California Mastitis Test (CMT) result
- decreased feed intake
- decreased rumen motility
- respiratory signs, including clear nasal discharge
- sometimes fever

Veterinarians are required to contact their local CFIA district office, and where required, the provincial or territorial Chief Veterinary Officer, if they highly suspect an HPAI infection in cattle. Criteria that contribute to a high level of suspicion include:

- clinical presentation consistent with the signs described above, without an alternative diagnosis

- recent introductions into the herd
- the discovery of dead or neurologic animals (for example wild birds, raccoons, cats) on the premises, and/or
- potential for feed or water contamination by wild birds

Eligibility for testing

For non-clinical animal sampling: only lactating dairy cattle are eligible for testing. Dairy calves, heifers and dry cows are not eligible for testing at this time.

For suspect HPAI cases: samples may be submitted from lactating dairy cows as well as non-lactating dairy cattle (dairy calves, heifers, and dry cows).

Collecting and submitting samples

Private veterinarians are responsible for sample collection both for suspect cases and in cattle with no clinical signs. Private veterinarians may send samples to a CAHSN laboratory that is approved to test samples in domestic animals. These are the same laboratories that have been testing poultry samples during the current H5N1 HPAI outbreak. For more information on approved CAHSN laboratories, contact your local CFIA district office.

Sampling guidance

When HPAI is suspected

For herds where HPAI is suspected, include samples from up to 10 clinically affected animals. For lactating animals, only a milk sample is required: aseptically collect up to 10 ml total sample volume from all 4 quarters into a sterile plastic specimen container with a secure lid (for example screwed).

If milk is not available (non-lactating animal) but HPAI is suspected, submit a nasal swab: a single sterile swab (synthetic fiber swabs only) may be used to sample both nostrils. Ensure the mucosa in the nasal passage is brushed firmly with the swab. After both nasal passages have been sampled, the swab is gently agitated in Universal Transport Medium (UTM). **Do not** leave the swab in the UTM but instead swirl the swab into the UTM tube and thoroughly squeeze out the fluid against the side of the tube and discard the swab.

When there are no clinical signs

At this time, when there are no clinical signs, only lactating animals are eligible for testing. Submit a milk sample: Aseptically collect up to 10 ml total sample volume from all 4 quarters into a sterile plastic specimen container with a secure lid (for example screwed). Cows shed the highest level of virus in their milk, which makes milk the ideal sample to test. Some cows that test positive on a milk sample will test negative on a nasal swab, so both samples are not required.

Samples must be refrigerated until they are submitted to the lab. Each sample must be individually labeled with the animal identification number.

CFIA's response to a suspect case report

CFIA will collect basic information including premises location, species/signalment/history of suspect animal(s), presence of other livestock species on the premises and reason for HPAI suspicion. CFIA may share this information with the Chief Veterinary Officer in your province or territory.

CFIA staff will provide guidance on sampling and information on where to submit samples for testing.

For the most up-to-date information on HPAI in livestock in Canada, refer to Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in livestock.

Results

Results are reported back to the submitting veterinarian by the CAHSN lab. Samples returning non-negative results are forwarded to the CFIA's National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease for confirmatory testing.

Understanding negative test results

The HPAI screening test is a PCR (polymerase chain reaction). A negative test indicates no detection of influenza A virus in the sample. A negative test on a cow with no clinical signs typically means no HPAI infection.

Rarely, a false negative result occurs when the cow is infected, but HPAI is not detected by the test. Possible causes may include poor sampling technique, or if the cow is not yet shedding high levels of HPAI virus, for instance if the cow was infected very recently.

CFIA's response to a positive case

CFIA's response to detections of HPAI in cattle differs from the leading role CFIA plays for HPAI detections in domestic birds. Currently, CFIA's role for HPAI in cattle continues to be one of science advice, diagnostic support and international reporting. The CFIA collaborates with the provinces, territories and industry to promote consistency in support of the management of this disease.

Together with the provinces, territories and industry, the CFIA works to reduce the risk of HPAI transmission from an affected farm to other premises by recommending that:

- personal safety and on-farm biosecurity measures are observed as noted below
- cattle movement (particularly lactating cattle) onto and off the premises is stopped or limited until the herd has been cleared from the disease
- all milk from clinically affected animals does not enter the bulk tank and undergoes an inactivation process if fed to other animals
- all milk from the bulk tank goes for pasteurization
- epidemiological information pertaining to the infected herd is collected; and
- local public health authorities are involved to further assess any potential human health risk

For more information about the response in your province or territory, read the provincial and territorial reporting requirements and contact information.

The CFIA will continue to reassess its position as new information becomes available.

Additional information

Transmission

Epidemiologic and genomic analysis suggests a single spillover event from wild birds with subsequent cow-to-cow transmission. Evidence suggests cow-to-cow transmission may occur through milk via fomites. However, other means of transmission are being considered. Non-clinical animals can also shed the virus in their milk, indicating that testing lactating animals pre-movement is valuable in reducing between-farm disease transmission risk. Many herds infected with HPAI have a history of introduction of new animals from an affected area or herd.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports lateral transmission from affected dairy herds to nearby poultry flocks based on epidemiologic and genomic analysis. Transmission is suspected to be via fomites (humans and/or equipment).

Personal safety

Avian influenza viruses, such as the highly pathogenic A(H5N1) currently circulating in wild birds in Canada, can, on rare occasions, cause disease in humans. Canada has never reported a locally acquired case of HPAI A(H5N1) in a person and the risk of avian influenza transmission to humans remains low.

People in contact with animals, including cattle and animal products, suspected or confirmed to be infected with avian influenza, or those exposed to highly contaminated environments, should take extra

precautions to protect themselves by wearing personal protective equipment (PPE). This includes face masks, non-ventilated goggles, gloves, coveralls and boots. Boots, coveralls and other reusable PPE should be fully cleaned and disinfected between farms. Disposable gloves and face masks should be discarded on farm in a sealed bag.

The Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) webpage has more information for people in contact with potentially infected animals or heavily contaminated environments: Infection prevention recommendations for individuals involved in animal outbreak situations.

Additionally, PHAC has partnered with the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety to provide advice on how to protect against avian influenza at work. For more information, please visit: How to Protect Yourself from Avian Influenza A(H5N1) at Work.

Additional information on avian influenza A (H5N1) in people is available from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Biosecurity

To prevent exposure and spread of HPAI in cattle, producers and veterinarians should continue to follow good biosecurity measures, such as those outlined in the National Biosecurity Standards (Animal biosecurity). Dairy producers are required to adhere to biosecurity plans outlined in Dairy Farmers of Canada's proAction program.

In addition to emphasizing the value of good routine biosecurity practices to their clients, veterinarians are encouraged to highlight the following:

- to prevent HPAI introduction onto a farm:
    - avoid bringing new animals onto the farm

- if new animals must be added to a herd, or if animals have had contact with animals from other herds (for example show or sale yard), isolate and monitor for 30 days
- completely clean and disinfect the livestock trailer if moving cattle from other herds
- minimize and restrict wildlife access to cattle and their environment including feed and water sources

- in addition to the list above, for herds where HPAI is suspected in cattle:
  - take personal safety precautions as outlined above
  - re-enforce good milking practices, such as equipment disinfection and milking sick or new cattle separately or last
  - isolate sick cattle from the herd
  - avoid housing multiple species together

    Where other species are kept on the same premises, particularly birds or pigs, emphasize the need for heightened biosecurity measures between different species on the farm

  - limit animal movements as much as possible within and off the farm
  - do not consume raw milk or feed it to other animals on farm

For further information on biosecurity practices to keep livestock safe, contact your provincial/territorial Chief Veterinary Officer.

Appendix – Provincial and territorial reporting requirements and contact information

Provinces and territories where HPAI in cattle is a reporting requirement

British Columbia

BC Chief Veterinary Officer

(604) 556-3003

Chief.Veterinarian@gov.bc.ca

Saskatchewan

Dr. Wendy Wilkins

(306) 798-0253

wendy.wilkins@gov.sk.ca

Manitoba

Manitoba Chief Veterinary Officer

(431) 323-5638

cvo-eoc@gov.mb.ca

Ontario

Dr. Greg Worley

(519) 826-3577

Greg.Worley@ontario.ca

Quebec

1 844 ANIMAUX (1 844 264-6289)

animaux@mapaq.gouv.qc.ca

Newfoundland and Labrador

Dr. Beverly Dawe

(709) 637-2042

beverlydawe@gov.nl.ca

Yukon

Dr. Mary Vanderkop

(867) 456-5582

mary.vanderkop@yukon.ca

Provinces and territories where HPAI in cattle is not a reporting requirement

Alberta

Alberta Chief Veterinary Officer

(780) 427-3448

Chief.Prov.Vet@gov.ab.ca

New Brunswick

Dr. Nicole Wanamaker

(506) 433-0493

nicole.wanamaker@gnb.ca

Nova Scotia

Dr. Wilma Schenkels

(902) 890-2941

Dr.Wilma.Schenkels@novascotia.ca

Prince Edward Island

Dr. Jill Wood

(902) 370-4923

jswood@gov.pe.ca

Northwest Territories

Dr. Naima Jutha

(867) 767-9237 ext. 53232

Naima_Jutha@gov.nt.ca

Nunavut

N/A

Related links

- Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System – Dairy
- Animal Health Canada Update – US Detections of H5N1 in Dairy Cattle
- Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners
- World Organisation for Animal Health
- Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in livestock
- Public Health Agency of Canada – Guidance on human health issues related to avian influenza in Canada (HHAI)
- United States Department of Agriculture – Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Detections in Livestock

- ○ There was an error or something **didn't work**
- ○ Other reason

Please provide more details

You will not receive a reply. Don't include personal information (telephone, email, SIN, nancial, medical, or work details).

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Date modified:

2024-05-16

Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in livestock

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has not been detected in dairy cattle or other livestock in Canada.

We are monitoring this rapidly evolving situation closely and taking proactive measures by testing commercial milk to look for viral fragments of HPAI. Updates will be made as new information becomes available.

HPAI is not a food safety concern and the risk of transmission to humans remains low.

On this page

- What the U.S. Department of Agriculture found
- What consumers need to know
- What producers can do
- What veterinarians can look for
- How we respond to detections in cattle versus poultry
- Trade implications
- Related links

What the U.S. Department of Agriculture found

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has detected highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in unpasteurized milk from dairy cattle in some areas of the United States.

Affected cows are showing clinical signs that include a decrease in milk production, thicker consistency milk and a decrease in feed consumption.

Affected cows appear to recover after a period of illness. It is suspected that wild birds may have initially introduced the virus, however, infected cattle without clinical signs of illness may be spreading the disease.

Learn more about the HPAI detections in livestock from the USDA Animal Health Inspection Service.

What consumers need to know

Pasteurized cow's milk and milk products remain safe to consume. Milk from dairy cows in Canada must be pasteurized before sale.

Pasteurization kills harmful bacteria and viruses (including influenza) while retaining the nutritional properties of milk. Pasteurization ensures the milk we drink is safe.

There is also no evidence to suggest that eating thoroughly cooked beef could transmit avian influenza to humans. All evidence to date indicates that thorough cooking will kill the virus.

Safe food handling practices, such as handwashing and keeping meat products separate from other food products to avoid cross contamination should be followed.

What producers can do

Producers should take extra precautions to protect themselves and their herd. Learn more about personal safety.

To protect their herd, producers may help prevent the spread of disease by:

- monitoring cattle for clinical signs, including a sudden decrease in milk production, thicker consistency milk, and decreased feed intake
- contacting your veterinarian for any suspected cases
- practising good biosecurity measures
- contacting your provincial or national associations for any enhanced biosecurity protocols that may be available

Read more information about animal biosecurity, that includes:

- animal-specific standards
- protocols
- practices
- a self-assessment checklist

What veterinarians can look for

Veterinarians are encouraged to contact their local CFIA animal health office if they suspect HPAI infection and consult the Guidance for private veterinarians.

How we respond to detections in cattle versus poultry

Our response to detections of HPAI in cattle is different from detections in domestic birds. Although the virus is the same, cattle respond differently to the virus.

HPAI spreads rapidly between birds and leads to high mortality rates. This represents significant health risks in birds, resulting in negative impacts to trade of live poultry and poultry products. Cattle show milder signs, with only a small proportion of the herd being affected. Cattle typically recover within 1 to 3 weeks.

No cows have died from this virus so far and there are no impacts to trade of live cattle or their products. Our role in HPAI in cattle is to provide scientific guidance and diagnostic assistance and to report internationally.

Consult the CFIA's response to a positive case section in the Guidance for private veterinarians.

Trade implications

The World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH) does not recommend restrictions on the movement of healthy cattle and their products at this time. Refer to High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in Cattle.

Practising good biosecurity is key to helping prevent disease.

For the importation of live cattle, the CFIA has current import controls in place, including import permits, export certification and veterinary inspection of imported cattle.

As of April 29, 2024, Canada requires testing for HPAI with negative result on imported lactating dairy cattle from the U.S. For more information, see Notice to industry: Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI or H5N1) in dairy cattle in the United States of America.

We will continue to closely monitor the evolving situation and will consider any additional measures, as necessary.

Related links

- The Government of Canada provides an update on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
- World Organisation for Animal Health Statement – HPAI in cattle
- Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System – Dairy
- Animal Health Canada Update – US Detections of H5N1 in Dairy Cattle
- Public Healthy Agency of Canada – Avian influenza A(H5N1): Symptoms and treatment
- Guidance on human health issues related to avian influenza in Canada
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza in cattle: Guidance for private veterinarians

Date modified:
2024-05-14

Updates on H5N1 Beef Safety Studies

Last Modified: May 16, 2024

What's New

May 16, 2024

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and Agricultural Research Service (ARS) are announcing results from the ground beef cooking study. The study was conducted to determine the effectiveness of cooking related to H5N1 and beef. Ground beef patties were inoculated with a very high concentration of an H5N1 virus surrogate. The ground beef patties did not previously contain any virus particles prior to inoculation for the purposes of the study. No virus remained in burgers cooked to 145 and 160 degrees Fahrenheit. These results validate that FSIS' recommended cooking temperatures are sufficient to kill H5N1 in meat.

May 1, 2024: USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced results from its testing of retail ground beef. FSIS collected 30 samples of ground beef from retail outlets in the states with dairy cattle herds that had tested positive for the H5N1 influenza virus at the time of sample collection. The samples were sent to APHIS' National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) for PCR testing. On May 1, NVSL reported that all samples tested negative for H5N1. These results reaffirm that the meat supply is safe.

Background

USDA is confident that the meat supply is safe. USDA has a rigorous meat inspection process, where USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) veterinarians are present at all federal livestock slaughter facilities. FSIS inspects each animal before slaughter, and all cattle carcasses must pass inspection after slaughter and be determined to be fit to enter the human food supply.

While we have multiple safeguards in place to protect consumers, we recommend consumers properly handle raw meats and cook to a safe internal temperature. Cooking to a safe internal temperature kills bacteria and viruses in meat. Specific recommendations are available online at: Safe Minimum Internal Temperature Chart | Food Safety and Inspection Service (usda.gov) .

Ongoing Research

To verify the safety of the meat supply in the context of H5N1, USDA's FSIS, APHIS, and Agricultural Research Service (ARS) are working on three separate beef safety studies related to avian influenza in meat from dairy cattle. These studies are taking place in the interest of scientific inquiry and reaffirm consumer confidence.

1. **Samples of ground beef obtained at retail in the affected States:** Final results were posted on May 1, 2024. Samples were collected at retail outlets in the States in which dairy cattle herds have tested positive for H5N1 influenza virus. The samples were analyzed by APHIS using polymerase chain reaction (PCR), to indicate whether any viral particles were present. **No virus particles were found to be present**.

2. **Beef muscle sampling of cull dairy cows condemned at select FSIS-inspected slaughter facilities:** FSIS has completed collection of muscle samples at FSIS-inspected slaughter facilities from cull dairy cattle that have been condemned for systemic pathologies. The samples are currently being analyzed by APHIS using PCR to determine presence of viral particles. The results are forthcoming and will be posted as soon as they become available.
3. **Ground beef cooking study:** Final results were posted on May 16, 2024. ARS inoculated a very high level of a HPAI virus surrogate into 300 grams ground beef patties (burger patties are usually 113 grams) to determine whether FSIS recommended cooking temperatures are effective in inactivating H5N1 virus The burger patties were then cooked to three different temperatures (120, 145 and 160 degrees Fahrenheit), and virus presence was measured after cooking**. There was no virus present in the burgers cooked to 145 (medium) or 160 (well done) degrees, which is FSIS' recommended cooking temperature. Even cooking burgers to 120 (rare) degrees, which is well below the recommended temperature, substantially inactivated the virus.**

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Updates on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a disease that is highly contagious and often deadly in poultry, caused by highly pathogenic avian influenza A (H5) and A (H7) viruses; it is also known as bird or avian flu. HPAI viruses can be transmitted by wild birds to domestic poultry and other bird and animal species. Although bird flu viruses do not normally infect humans, sporadic human infections have occurred. It is important to note that "highly pathogenic" refers to severe impact in birds, not necessarily in humans.

Ongoing Work to Ensure Continued Effectiveness of the Federal-State Milk Safety System

What's New | Previous Updates

Background | U.S. Agency Response | Testing Results | Additional Resources

What's New

May 20, 2024

In our May 10 update, we announced that all 297 samples from the FDA's initial survey of retail dairy products were found to be negative for viable Highly Pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza (H5N1 HPAI) virus. Today, for continued transparency, the FDA is providing additional information on our retail sample survey (see Testing Results).

Previous Updates

May 10, 2024

The FDA, alongside our federal and state partners, is continuing to take a stepwise approach to our scientific analysis of commercial milk safety during the first-of-its-kind detection of HPAI H5N1 in dairy cattle. While our initial assessment of the milk safety system continues to be affirmed by sampling and testing of retail dairy products, there remain a number of collective activities being undertaken to ensure the continued effectiveness of the federal-state milk safety system. The FDA will continue to follow a sound scientific process to inform the agency's public health decisions related to food safety.

Last week we announced preliminary results of a study of 297 retail dairy samples, which were all found to be negative for viable virus. The FDA is today announcing that all final egg inoculation tests associated with this retail sampling study have been completed and were also found to be negative for viable HPAI H5N1 virus. These confirmatory test results mark the completion of our laboratory research efforts related to these 297 retail dairy samples. Additional sampling and other surveillance activities will continue.

While our retail sampling test results to date are clear about the safety of the commercial milk supply and representative of real-world scenarios, additional scientific work is being undertaken to validate the criteria for pasteurization relative to the HPAI H5N1 virus and will include tests using pasteurization equipment typically used by milk processors. Today, we'd like to share more about our additional research efforts.

The established pasteurization process set forth in federal regulation (21 CFR 1240.61) and the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) provides specific temperature and time requirements (https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-21/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-131) for effective elimination of known pathogens in the milk supply. To further validate pasteurization effectiveness against this recently detected virus, the FDA previously noted it was testing samples of pooled raw milk routed for commercial processing to characterize potential virus levels that the pasteurization process must eliminate. Our pasteurization

study is designed to better replicate real-world conditions to deliver the pasteurization treatment parameters set forth in the CFR and PMO, and to assess their effectiveness in inactivating HPAI H5N1 in bovine milk and other dairy products.

The results from this study will help further the FDA's understanding of pasteurization efficacy against anticipated concentrations of virus under real-world processing conditions. The pasteurization study is ongoing and we anticipate making preliminary results available in the near future.

Today, the agency is also announcing an additional $8 million is being made available to support its ongoing response activities to ensure the safety of the commercial milk supply. This funding will support the agency's ability to validate pasteurization criteria, conduct surveillance at different points in the milk production system, bolster laboratory capacity and provide needed resources to train staff on biosecurity procedures.

Additionally, these funds will help support HPAI H5N1 activities in partnership with state co-regulatory partners, who administer state programs as part of the federal/state milk safety system. It may also allow the FDA to partner with universities on critical research questions.

To date, the totality of evidence – including studies on the effectiveness of pasteurization against multiple pathogens, recent studies on the effectiveness of pasteurization of HPAI H5N1 in eggs at lower temperatures than generally used in dairy products, negative retail sample results to date, and real-world evidence from the last 100 years of the PMO — continues to indicate that the commercial milk supply is safe.

At the same time, the FDA also continues to advise against the consumption of raw milk (milk that has not been pasteurized). The FDA and CDC have long standing information regarding the increased risk of foodborne illness associated with numerous pathogens that may be present in raw milk. This increased risk exists for both humans and other animals that might drink raw milk. Additional guidance on raw milk and milk handling can be found on our website (/food/resources-you-food/raw-milk).

We are committed to continuing to initiate, support, and collaborate on research and surveillance of milk production, processing, and pasteurization to further our public health goals.

May 1, 2024

The FDA is announcing an additional set of results from our national commercial milk sampling study underway in coordination with USDA. The study includes 297 total retail dairy samples. New preliminary results of egg inoculation tests on a second set of 201 quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR)-positive retail dairy samples, including cottage cheese and sour cream, in addition to fluid milk, show that pasteurization is effective in inactivating HPAI H5N1.

This additional preliminary testing did not detect any live, infectious virus.

In addition to preliminary results released late last week on an initial set of 96 retail milk samples, these results reaffirm our assessment that the commercial milk supply is safe.

To ensure the safety of milk-derived products for our youngest populations, the FDA also tested samples of retail powdered infant formula and powdered milk products marketed as toddler formula. All qRT-PCR results of formula testing were negative, indicating no detection of HPAI H5N1 viral fragments or virus in powdered formula products so no further testing was required for these samples. The FDA is continuing to identify additional products that may be tested.

The FDA is also continuing to test samples of pooled raw milk that has been routed to pasteurization and processing for commercial use. This will be used as a basis to characterize potential virus levels that pasteurization may encounter – and will be used to inform studies to further validate pasteurization.

As this situation evolves, the FDA will continue to consider all ongoing scientific research related to the effectiveness of pasteurization for HPAI in bovine milk. We are also committed to continued surveillance of milk production, processing and pasteurization to help ensure the safety of the milk supply. Our state partners are integral to this process, and we are working with them on a continual basis. We will also continue working with our state co-regulators on managing this emerging disease.

The FDA continues to advise strongly against the consumption of raw milk and recommends that industry does not manufacture or sell raw milk or raw milk products.

April 26, 2024

The FDA has received additional results from an initial limited set of geographically targeted samples as part of its national commercial milk sampling study underway in coordination with USDA. The FDA continues to analyze this information; however, preliminary results of egg inoculation tests on quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR)-positive retail milk samples show that pasteurization is effective in inactivating HPAI.

This additional testing did not detect any live, infectious virus. These results reaffirm our assessment that the commercial milk supply is safe.

In addition, several samples of retail powdered infant formula were tested, as well as powdered milk products marketed as toddler formula. All qRT-PCR results of formula testing were negative, indicating no detection of viral fragments or virus in powdered formula products.

The FDA is further assessing retail samples from its study of 297 samples of retail dairy products from 38 states. All samples with a PCR positive result are going through egg inoculation tests, a gold-standard for determining if infectious virus is present. These important efforts are ongoing, and we are committed to sharing additional testing results as soon as possible. Subsequent results will help us to further review our assessment that pasteurization is effective against this virus and the commercial milk supply is safe.

Epidemiological signals from our CDC partners continue to show no uptick of human cases of flu and no cases of HPAI H5N1, specifically, beyond the one known case related to direct contact with infected cattle.

April 25, 2024

Today, the FDA received some initial results from its nationally representative commercial milk sampling study. The agency continues to analyze this information; however, the initial results show about 1 in 5 of the retail samples tested are quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR)-positive for HPAI viral fragments, with a greater proportion of positive results coming from milk in areas with infected herds. As previously noted and outlined in our summary below, qRT-PCR-positive results do not necessarily represent actual virus that may be a risk to consumers. Additional testing is required to determine whether intact pathogen is still present and if it remains infectious, which would help inform a determination of whether there is any risk of illness associated with consuming the product. The FDA is further assessing any positive findings through egg inoculation tests, a gold-standard for determining if infectious virus is present. Early work by NIH-funded investigators indicates an absence of infectious virus in their studies of retail milk. To date, the retail milk studies have shown no results that would change our assessment that the commercial milk supply is safe. Epidemiological signals from our CDC partners continue to show no uptick of human cases of flu and no cases of HPAI H5N1, specifically, beyond the one known case related to direct contact with infected cattle. These important efforts are ongoing, and we are committed to sharing results from both the qRT-PCR and egg inoculation tests as soon as possible.

Background

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), along with state partners, continue to investigate (https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock) an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus impacting dairy cows in multiple states. Infection with the virus is causing decreased lactation, low appetite, and other symptoms in affected cattle.

The FDA and USDA have indicated that based on the information currently available, our commercial milk supply is safe because of these two reasons:

1) the pasteurization process and

2) the diversion or destruction of milk from sick cows.

The pasteurization process has served public health well for more than 100 years. Pasteurization is a process that kills harmful bacteria and viruses by heating milk to a specific temperature for a set period of time to make milk safer. Even if virus is detected in raw milk, pasteurization is generally expected to eliminate pathogens to a level that does not pose a risk to consumer health. However, pasteurization is different than complete sterilization; sterilization extends shelf life but is not required to ensure milk safety. While milk is pasteurized, not sterilized, this process has helped ensure the health of the American public for more than 100 years by inactivating infectious agents.

Nearly all (99%) of the commercial milk supply that is produced on dairy farms in the U.S. comes from farms that participate in the Grade “A” milk program (/food/guidance-documents-regulatory-information-topic-food-and-dietary-supplements/milk-guidance-documents-regulatory-information) and follow the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (/food/milk-guidance-documents-regulatory-information/pasteurized-milk-ordinance-centennial) (PMO), which includes controls that help ensure the safety of dairy products. Pasteurization and diversion or destruction of milk from sick cows are two important measures that are part of the federal-state milk safety system.

U.S Agency Response

There are a number of collective activities being undertaken to ensure the continued effectiveness of the federal-state milk safety system. In addition to these specific research activities, the FDA is collaborating closely with CDC's (https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm) food safety group, as well as its surveillance

team that's monitoring emergency department data and flu testing data for any unusual trends in flu-like illness, flu, or conjunctivitis. To date, surveillance systems do not show any unusual trends or activity.

As noted by USDA (https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/hpai-dairy-faqs.pdf) and some press reports from the World Health Organization (WHO) and other sources, the presence of the virus has been detected in raw milk. Based on available information, pasteurization is likely to inactivate the virus, however the process is not expected to remove the presence of viral particles. Therefore, some of the samples collected have indicated the presence of HPAI using quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR) testing.

During the course of the outbreak, the FDA has been evaluating milk from affected animals, in the processing system, and on the shelves. We are completing a large representative national sample, to better understand the extent of these findings. Because qRT-PCR findings do not represent actual virus that may be a risk to consumers, the FDA is further assessing any positive findings through egg inoculation tests, a gold-standard for determining viable virus. To date, we have seen nothing that would change our assessment that the commercial milk supply is safe. Results from multiple studies will be made available in the next few days to weeks.

Sound science is critical to informing public health decisions like those made by the FDA related to food safety and we take this current situation and the safety of the milk supply very seriously. We recognize the importance of releasing further, actionable information.

Review of Available Data

Given that the detection of H5N1 in dairy cows is a novel and evolving situation, no studies on the effects of pasteurization on HPAI viruses (such as H5N1) in bovine milk have previously been completed although considerable scientific literature is available that has informed our current understanding.

The established pasteurization process set forth in the PMO provides specific times and temperature requirements [i] for effective pasteurization of known pathogens in the milk supply. Data from previous studies [ii, iii], that serve as the underpinnings of the FDA's current milk supply safety assessment show that pasteurization is very likely to effectively inactivate heat-sensitive viruses, like H5N1, in milk from cows and other species. Additionally, data [iv, v, vi] shows thermal inactivation of HPAI (H5N1) has been successful during the pasteurization process for eggs, which occurs at lower temperatures than what is used for milk.

Ongoing Research

U.S. government partners have been working with deliberate speed on a wide range of studies looking at milk along all stages of production -- on the farm, during processing and on shelves -- using well- established methodologies used previously to confirm pasteurization effectiveness for known pathogens.

This work is a top priority, and we are proceeding in an efficient, methodical, and scientific fashion to ensure the continued effectiveness and safety of the federal-state milk safety system.

Laboratory benchtop tests are the first part of this ongoing work. This includes testing laboratory generated samples inoculated with high levels of a recently isolated and closely related avian flu virus and samples of raw, unpasteurized milk directly from cows in affected herds with and without symptoms to understand how, and at what levels, heat treatment (pasteurization) inactivates the virus.

While this information is important, this testing alone cannot provide a complete picture as these samples are not representative of what we would expect to see in the real-world from milk routed to pasteurization and processing for commercial use.

In addition to lab testing, a critical step in the scientific confirmation process includes testing of milk that is representative of real-world scenarios in which milk is typically pooled in large amounts from numerous healthy cows from numerous farms before pasteurizing and processing.

Work is underway to test samples of milk in systems that represent current industry practices using the range of temperature and time combinations that are used in pasteurization processes.

Additional analysis is underway of milk on store shelves across the country in addition to work to evaluate any potential differentiation for various types of dairy products (e.g., whole milk, cream).

We are aware that universities or other entities are conducting work in this area, particularly universities and consortia supported by the National Institutes of Health. We look forward to reviewing all results generated from various scientific studies, testing methods and the product(s) used as we continue assessing all the data and information available. We are committed to collaborating with the broad community to come to sound scientific conclusions regarding this situation -- which it’s important to understand takes time.

Precautions for Raw Milk

The FDA has a long-standing recommendation (https://www.fda.gov/food/milk-guidance-documents-regulatory-information/questions-and-answers-regarding-milk-safety-during-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-hpai-outbreaks#rawmilkcheese) to consumers not to consume raw milk (milk that has not been pasteurized). Because of the limited information available about the possible transmission of H5N1 virus via raw milk, the FDA continues to recommend that industry does not manufacture or sell raw milk or raw milk products, including raw milk cheese, made with milk from cows showing symptoms of illness, including those infected with avian influenza viruses or exposed to those infected with avian influenza viruses.

Importantly, the FDA has also recommended (https://www.fda.gov/food/milk-guidance-documents-regulatory-information/questions-and-answers-regarding-milk-safety-during-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-hpai-outbreaks#industry) producers take precautions when discarding milk from affected cows so that the discarded milk does not become a source of further spread. Producers should consult with their state regulatory authorities for specific recommendations or requirements; however, such precautions should include heat treatment, pasteurization or its equivalent, of discarded milk prior to dumping in lagoons or application of waste solids and ensuring biosecurity around lagoons (e.g., ensuring that animals and birds do not have access to lagoons). Any raw milk or raw milk products from exposed cattle that are fed to calves (or to other animals, such as farm cats) should be heat treated or pasteurized.

Conclusion

The PMO and pasteurization continue to provide important measures to assure milk safety. Given this is the first time we have seen this virus affect cows, these are the first studies that have been initiated to look at the effectiveness of pasteurization on HPAI viruses such as H5N1 in bovine milk.

As previously noted, the FDA is collaborating closely with CDC's (https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm) food safety group, as well as its surveillance team that's monitoring emergency department data and flu testing data for any unusual trends in flu-like illness, flu, or conjunctivitis. To date, surveillance systems do not show any unusual trends or activity. Only one associated human case (https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2024/p0401-avian-flu.html) from a person exposed to infected cows has been linked with this outbreak in dairy cows to date and CDC says risk to the general public remains low.

The FDA and USDA are working closely to collect and evaluate additional data and information specific to H5N1 in dairy cattle and to support state counterparts as this emerging disease in dairy cattle is managed. These important efforts are ongoing, and we

are committed to sharing results as soon as possible. In the meantime, the FDA and USDA continue to indicate that based on the information we currently have, our commercial milk supply is safe.

Footnotes

i. 21 CFR part 131 -- milk and cream. (n.d.). https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-21/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-131 (https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-21/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-131)

ii. Pitino, M. A., O'Connor, D. L., McGeer, A. J., & Unger, S. (2021). The impact of thermal pasteurization on viral load and detectable live viruses in human milk and other matrices: a rapid review. Applied Physiology Nutrition and Metabolism, 46(1), 10–26. https://doi.org/10.1139/apnm-2020-0388 (https://doi.org/10.1139/apnm-2020-0388) (http://www.fda.gov/about-fda/website-policies/website-disclaimer)

iii. Jay, J. M., Loessner, M. J., Golden, D. A., & Keller, H. B. (2005). Food Protection with High Temperatures. In Modern Food Microbiology (pp. 415–441). https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/0-387-23413-6_17 (https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/0-387-23413-6_17) (http://www.fda.gov/about-fda/website-policies/website-disclaimer)

iv. Chmielewski, R. A., Beck, J. R., & Swayne, D. E. (2011). Thermal inactivation of avian influenza virus and Newcastle disease virus in a fat-free egg product. Journal of Food Protection, 74(7), 1161–1169. https://doi.org/10.4315/0362-028x.jfp-10-415 (https://doi.org/10.4315/0362-028x.jfp-10-415) (http://www.fda.gov/about-fda/website-policies/website-disclaimer) https://doi.org/10.4315/0362-028x.jfp-10-415 (https://doi.org/10.4315/0362-028x.jfp-10-415) (http://www.fda.gov/about-fda/website-policies/website-disclaimer)

v. Chmielewski, R. A., Beck, J. R., & Swayne, D. E. (2013). Evaluation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's egg pasteurization processes on the inactivation of high-pathogenicity avian influenza virus and velogenic Newcastle disease virus in processed egg products. Journal of Food Protection, 76(4), 640–645. https://doi.org/10.4315/0362-028x.jfp-12-369 (https://doi.org/10.4315/0362-028x.jfp-12-369) (http://www.fda.gov/about-fda/website-policies/website-disclaimer)

vi. Chmielewski, R. A., Beck, J. R., Juneja, V. K., & Swayne, D. E. (2013). Inactivation of low pathogenicity notifiable avian influenza virus and lentogenic Newcastle disease virus following pasteurization in liquid egg products. Lebensmittel-Wissenschaft Und Technologie [Food Science and Technology], 52(1), 27–30. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lwt.2013.01.002 (https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lwt.2013.01.002) (http://www.fda.gov/about-fda/website-policies/website-disclaimer)

Testing Results

In our May 10 update, we announced that all 297 samples from the FDA's initial survey of retail dairy products were found to be negative for viable Highly Pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza (H5N1 HPAI) virus. Today, for continued transparency, the FDA is providing additional information on our retail sample survey.

The samples taken as part of this survey were collected at retail locations in 17 states by milk specialists in the FDA's Office of Regulatory Affairs. USDA Agricultural Research Service's U.S. National Poultry Research Center (ARS) analyzed these samples using stepwise, scientific methods. This testing included first conducting quantitative real time polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR) screening to determine if any of the retail samples contained H5N1 viral nucleic acid. The samples that were found to contain viral nucleic acid during qRT-PCR screening were followed with gold-standard egg inoculation testing conducted by ARS to determine if they contained live virus. None of the samples were positive for live virus. ARS scientists are currently obtaining peer review of their analysis as a first step to publishing these results.

While the FDA collected the 297 samples at retail locations in 17 states, these retail samples represent products produced at 132 processing locations in 38 states. The information in the first chart below shows the state in which the product was processed. Because the intent of our study was to assess a variety of products, samples were selected to be representative of processors in states that have been reported to have impacted dairy cattle and those that have not. Of note, the location of where milk was processed does not indicate where the milk was produced. This is because milk could be produced from cows on a farm or farms a few states away, processed (pasteurized) in a different state, and then be available for purchase in yet another state.

The charts below provide additional details on the samples taken as part of our survey of retail dairy products.

As noted previously, qRT-PCR-positive results do not necessarily represent live virus that may be a risk to consumers. Therefore, viability testing by egg inoculation was performed on the qPCR samples that were positive for viral nucleic acid. All of these samples did not detect any viable virus. If samples tested by qRT-PCR were negative, no further testing was performed since those samples did not contain HPAI viral nucleic acid. These findings further support our assessment that the milk safety system including pasteurization is effective against this virus and that the commercial milk supply remains safe.

Retail samples were collected between April 18-22 and represent a snapshot in time. This testing did not detect any live, infectious virus.

Table 1: Breakdown of Retail Sample Results by State Where Milk Was Processed

State Where Milk Was Processed (May Not Relate to Where Milk Was Produced)	Detection of Live Virus in Retail Product(s)	Number of Retail Product Samples Tested	Retail Product Samples Negative for Viral RNA (qRT-PCR Screening -)	Retail Product Samples Positive for Viral RNA (qRT-PCR Screening +)	Retail Product Sample Results for Live Virus (Viability Testing by Egg Inoculation)
AR	No	5	0	5	0
AZ	No	5	4	1	0
CA	No	21	21	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
CO	No	8	5	3	0
CT	No	2	2	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
FL	No	10	9	1	0
GA	No	8	8	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
IA	No	11	11	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
ID	No	4	4	0	Not performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
IL	No	5	5	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
IN	No	9	8	1	0
KS	No	7	1	6	0
KY	No	4	1	3	0
MA	No	4	4	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
ME	No	2	2	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
MI	No	13	9	4	0
MN	No	16	13	3	0

State Where Milk Was Processed (May Not Relate to Where Milk Was Produced)	Detection of Live Virus in Retail Product(s)	Number of Retail Product Samples Tested	Retail Product Samples Negative for Viral RNA (qRT-PCR Screening -)	Retail Product Samples Positive for Viral RNA (qRT-PCR Screening +)	Retail Product Sample Results for Live Virus (Viability Testing by Egg Inoculation)
MO	No	10	7	3	0
NC	No	5	4	1	0
ND	No	2	2	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
NE	No	3	3	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
NH	No	1	1	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
NJ	No	3	3	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
NV	No	4	4	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
NY	No	38	38	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
OH	No	8	5	3	0
OK	No	12	2	10	0
OR	No	10	10	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
PA	No	2	2	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
SC	No	3	0	3	0
TN	No	3	3	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
TX	No	26	13	13	0
UT	No	5	5	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
VA	No	6	6	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
VT	No	2	2	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
WA	No	8	8	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)

State Where Milk Was Processed (May Not Relate to Where Milk Was Produced)	Detection of Live Virus in Retail Product(s)	Number of Retail Product Samples Tested	Retail Product Samples Negative for Viral RNA (qRT-PCR Screening -)	Retail Product Samples Positive for Viral RNA (qRT-PCR Screening +)	Retail Product Sample Results for Live Virus (Viability Testing by Egg Inoculation)
WI	No	11	11	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)
WV	No	1	1	0	Not Performed (Negative qRT-PCR)

Table 2: Breakdown of Retail Sample Results by Product Type

Product Category	Number of Retail Product Samples	Detection of Live Virus in Retail Product	Retail Product Samples Negative for Viral RNA (qRT-PCR Screening -)	Retail Product Samples Positive for Viral RNA (qRT-PCR Screening +)	Percent of Retail Product Samples Positive for Viral RNA (via qRT-PCR screening)	Retail Product Sample Results for Live Virus (Confirmatory Virus Culture)
Skim Milk	36	No	32	4	11.1%	0/4
1% Milk	28	No	19	9	32.1%	0/9
2% Milk	58	No	42	16	27.6%	0/16
Whole Milk	68	No	52	16	23.5%	0/16
Cottage Cheese	21	No	20	1	4.8%	0/1
Cream	17	No	14	3	17.6%	0/3
Half and Half	25	No	19	6	24.0%	0/6
Sour Cream and Similar	30	No	25	5	16.7%	0/5
Yogurt	14	No	14	0	0	NA
Total	**297**	**None**	**237**	**60**	**20.2%**	**0/60**

This retail sampling study was designed to assess the effectiveness of the PMO milk safety system; it was not designed to assess the prevalence of H5N1 in dairy herds. It is important to underscore that milk purchased for the retail study in a particular state does not mean

that it was produced or processed in that state. Commercial milk is typically pooled from many dairy farms, pasteurized in bulk and distributed to a variety of states. Even if a sample was collected in one particular state, the milk in a consumer package could have come from cows on several farms located in several states, pasteurized in a different state from the states where the milk was produced, and available for purchase in yet another state.

To further validate pasteurization effectiveness against the recently identified H5N1 virus, we are undertaking a pasteurization study designed to better replicate real-world conditions. Preliminary results from this work are expected in the near future.

Data Considerations

Multiple tests are used to assess the safety of food items. Understanding how and why different methodologies are used and work, as well as how results fit into the larger picture, is critical to interpret any findings.

- **Quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR)** is a screening tool used to determine the presence or absence of an organism's genetic material in a sample. A positive qRT-PCR means that the genetic material from the targeted pathogen was detected in the sample, but that does not mean that the sample contains an intact, infectious pathogen. That's because qRT-PCR tests will also detect the residual genetic material from pathogens killed by heat, like pasteurization, or other food safety treatments. **Importantly, additional testing is required to determine whether intact pathogen is still present and if it remains infectious, which determines whether there is any risk of illness associated with consuming the product.**
- **Embryonated Egg Viability Studies** are considered the "gold standard" for sensitive detection of active, infectious virus. These studies are one of the types of additional tests necessary following PCR testing. These studies are done by injecting an embryonated chicken egg with a sample and then evaluating to see whether any active virus replicates. While this provides the most sensitive results, it takes a longer time to complete than other methods.
- **Madin-Darby Canine Kidney (MDCK) Cell Culture** is different type of additional test used following PCR testing to detect live, infectious virus. This is done by injecting a sample into specific tissue cells to determine whether any live virus is present and replicates. This method can usually be done more quickly than embryonated egg viability studies, but it is not as sensitive and may provide false negative results when the amount of virus in the sample is very low.

Additional Resources

- Questions and Answers Regarding the Safety of Eggs During Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Outbreaks (/food/egg-guidance-regulation-and-other-information/questions-and-answers-regarding-safety-eggs-during-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-outbreaks)
- Questions and Answers Regarding Milk Safety During Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Outbreaks (/food/milk-guidance-documents-regulatory-information/questions-and-answers-regarding-milk-safety-during-highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-hpai-outbreaks)
- Influenza Diagnostic Tests (/medical-devices/in-vitro-diagnostics/influenza-diagnostic-tests)

Was this helpful? Yes No

REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT:	**2024 Carcass Disposal Resolution**		
SUBMISSION TO:	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD	REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION	
MEETING DATE:	May 29, 2024	CAO:	MANAGER: SK
DEPARTMENT:	AGRICULTURE	DIR:	PRESENTER: SK
STRATEGIC PLAN:	Governance	LEG:	

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 provide Administration the following edits to the 2024 Carcass Disposal Resolution, and request Administration return with the updated draft to the June 26th ASB meeting:

1.
2.
3.

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.

Upon presentation of this report, the Agricultural Service Board made the following motion ON January 31st, 2024:

MOTION That the Agricultural Service Board request administration to bring back draft resolutions for the Agricultural Service Board consideration regarding all carcass removal.

BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. The benefit of the recommendation is that the Agricultural Service Board will have reviewed the draft resolution and provided Administration feedback well in advance of the resolution deadline.

DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. There is no disadvantage to the recommended motion.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative #1: The Agricultural Service Board may choose to request Administration scrap the drafted resolution and find a different approach to the issue.

ALTERNATE MOTION: That the Agricultural Service accept the resolution draft for information and request Administration and request Administration re-draft the resolution with the following approach;

1.
2.
3.

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):

- Roadkill Carcass Disposal – DRAFT
- CWD Wild Cervids, Alberta - 2023

RESOLUTION XX
Roadkill Carcass Disposal

WHEREAS the Disposal of Dead Animals Regulation outlines approved carcass disposal methods for livestock, stating that “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.”;

WHEREAS the regulation specifies that it does not apply to wildlife as defined in the Wildlife Act;

WHEREAS the Standard Specification for Highway Maintenance, Edition 5 provided highway maintenance contractors with a requirement that roadkill must be disposed of in an approved site, but no definition of what an approved site is, nor legislative or regulatory reference, is cited;

WHEREAS Highway Maintenance Contractor carcass disposal sites are easily accessible to the public and become utilized for the disposal of dead livestock and roadkill, through scavenger disposal;

WHEREAS the proximity of these disposal sites to active livestock production increases the impact of predators on the operation by providing a plentiful and easily accessible food source during winter scarcity;

WHEREAS this disposal method results in the high probability of disease spread through the landscape, including but not limited to chronic wasting disease and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), both prion diseases that are resistant to environmental degradation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Transportation amend the Standard Specification for Highway Maintenance to require contractors to maintain controlled access to carcass disposal sites, the composting of roadkill carcasses, and that the site be a minimum of 8 kilometers from an active livestock operation.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Greenview #16
MOVED BY: _____
SECONDED BY: _____
CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____
STATUS: Regional
DEPARTMENT: Alberta Transportation, Alberta Agriculture, and Irrigation

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since early 2023, Greenview has been in discussion with Alberta Transportation to address a roadkill carcass disposal site that has been identified as a contributor to predation of livestock in the vicinity of the site. While located on crown land, the site is adjacent to livestock operations and has no controlled access. The location is being utilized by the public for disposal of dead livestock, equine, as well as roadkill.

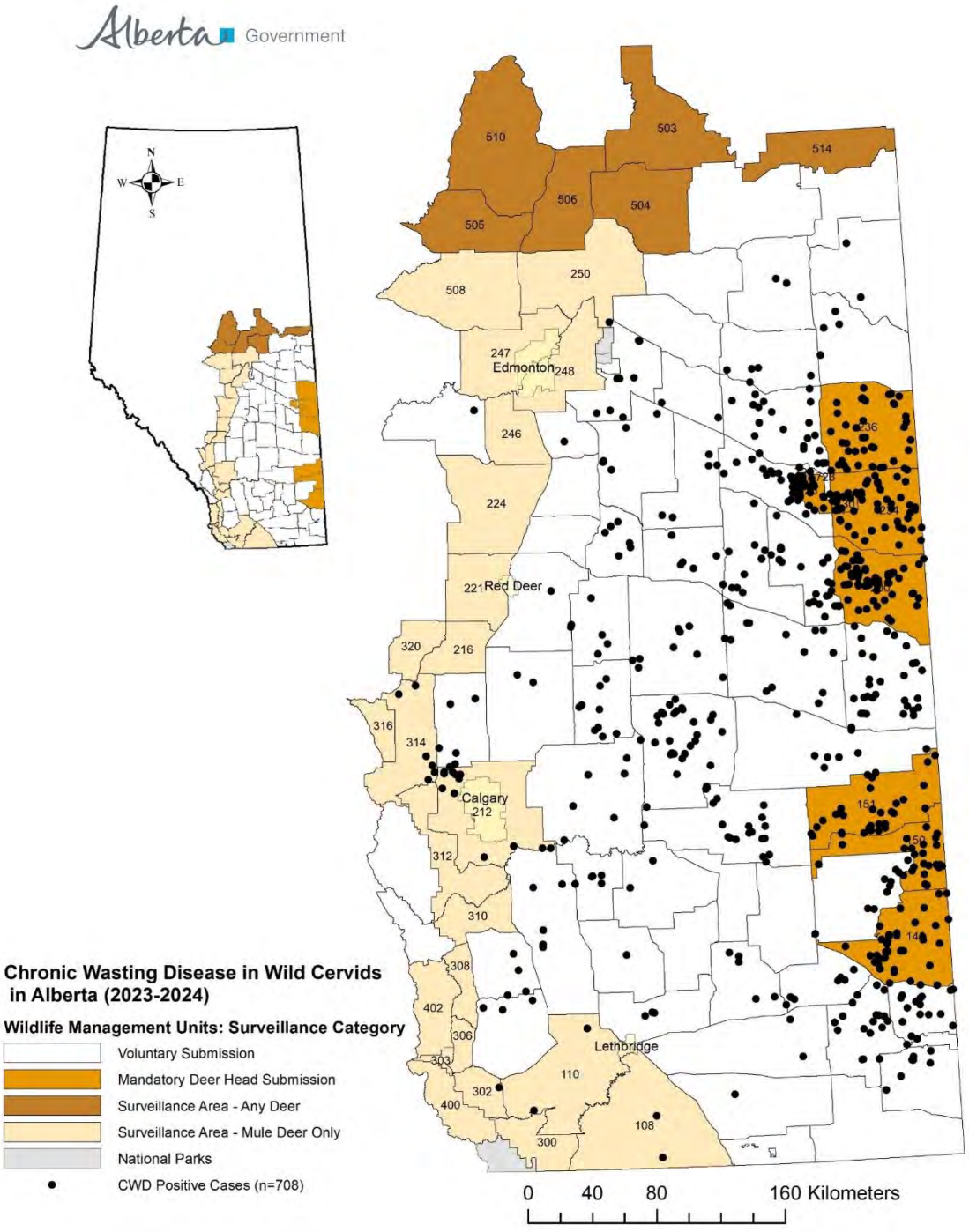
Through these discussions, we found that this is an acceptable disposal method for Alberta Transportation throughout the province, as Highway Maintenance Contractors seek roadkill carcass disposal sites that are central to their operations and low cost. Unfortunately, these sites are not controlled access and the challenges seen in Greenview are mirrored in other locations. We believe this is an oversight that we wish to bring to the attention of both ministries.

The municipal concern for this practice is twofold. Firstly, easily accessible food sources in harsh winter months artificially support predator populations, removing the population control factor of scarce food. Secondly, with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) spreading throughout Alberta, representing a threat to Alberta Elk producers, as well as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), both prion diseases that are resistant to environmental degradation. Additionally, this biosecurity concern could extend to Foot and Mouth Disease, African Swine Fever, Porcine Endemic Diarrhea, and a host of other contagions.

It is in the interest of the Provincial Government to address these biosecurity risks in the interest of preventing a costly livestock emergency, also representing a potential threat to the livelihoods of Alberta livestock producers.

Chronic Wasting Disease in Wild Cervids - Alberta

2023 Surveillance Season (FINAL)



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16

Manager's Report

Department: Agricultural Services

Submitted by: Sheila Kaus

Date: 5/29/2024

Governance- Goal 2; Provide quality municipal services

On April 29th, the Agricultural Service Board meeting took place and the Board heard from an Agricultural Producer impacted by the 2023 wildfires. This resulted in the Board requesting Administration to arrange for the ratepayer to present at an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting. The ratepayer presented to the Committee on May 21st, with a request to support addressing the current policies of Alberta Wildfire that prevent producers from reclaiming fireguards that were required on their privately owned land. Administration will be working on this matter into the future.

Environment- Goal 3; Create a balance between development and natural resources

While we have enjoyed some moisture, the department took the initiative to arrange an alternate water point for the early season tall buttercup control along fence lines in the Little Smoky area. Environmental Services has consented for crews to fill up at the Little Smoky water point, maintaining an air gap, to avoid negative comments if the teams were to fill in Valleyview considering the water restrictions. This will allow the planned fence line concentration for this season to move forward without water shortage impacts.

Managed weed infestations have begun to be updated for the 2024 season in the privately held areas and within crown lands with lease dispositions. 100 infestations have been visited and the current status of the infestation updated. Some early season wins have been realized regarding Common Tansy control by oil and gas lease holders in agricultural lands in the Grovedale area. It is hoped this strong beginning results in improved control from those oil and gas companies, addressing an issue within Grovedale that has vexed landowners.

Problem Wildlife Work Orders

File Status	Beaver- MD	Beaver- Ratepayer	Customer Service	Predation	Totals
In Queue	-	-	-	-	
Open	7	11	1	5	24
Closed	1	3	4	7	15
TOTALS	**8**	**14**	**5**	**12**	**39**

The problem wildlife team has been keeping up on problem beaver removal with 120 having been removed from trouble areas. The team is hoping to remove some dams in the last week of May, now that the fire ban has been lifted.

Coyotes having been causing some livestock producers grief and as a result, the team has removed 5 problem coyote. These areas continue to be monitored.

In The last week, the Landcare Coordinator presented the Classroom Agriculture Program in Grande Cache to 66 students. There were two grade 5 classes and one grade 4 class. This was the first year that grade 5's have been allowed into the program, so a new presentation was created for them, and everyone received goodie bags at the end of the day. Timing for the Classroom Agriculture program and the Predation presentation to address bear concerns was tight and the Landcare coordinator was held up behind a roadblock on highway 40 due to a fire. In an excellent example of teamwork, the Grovedale Community Services Coordinator and Problem Wildlife Officer were able to set up the hall, get snacks and coffee, and get the event on its feet so it continued on schedule. There were 7 people there and it was a really good, informative presentation with lots of group questions and engagement. The annual Tree Workshop with Toso Bozic was hosted in Valleyview and 15 people attended.

Economy- Goal 2; Create a diverse economy

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. The first quarter financials were received on May 1st and for the quarter, there was a 7.53% drop in the total charges when compared to the 2023 fiscal year.

	# Services	2024	+/-(%)	2023
1st Quarter	84	$20,760.79	-7.53	$22,540.38
2nd Quarter				$41,281.84
3rd Quarter				$11,534.28
4th Quarter				$49,639.40
TOTAL Claims	**84**	**$20,760.79**	**-7.53**	**$124,905.90**

C-Sections: 6
Preg Checks: 1195
Semen Tests: 188

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 180 rental days up to May 23rd, without rental days from the satellite locations. Multiple pieces of equipment have been prebooked into June and maintenance of the equipment has been occurring regularly. The implement caddy, purchased to facilitate ratepayers use of the three-point hitch equipment, has now been used 5 times, with ratepayers happy with the unit. The implement worked smoothly, and it's expected that the equipment it's used to haul will become quite popular. Administration worked with the Communications team to have a social media post for awareness.

REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT:	**Correspondence**		
SUBMISSION TO:	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD	REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION	
MEETING DATE:	May 29, 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):

- Alberta Crop Reports
- Integrity in the Pesticide Regulatory System
- Health Canada Letter
- ASB Letter to Health Canada
- May 3rd Moisture Updates
- May 20th Moisture Updates
- Yellowhead County Letter

UPCOMING EVENT(S):

1.	PCBFA Holistic Management Tour & Farm Succession Planning	June 7th	Baytree
2.	PRFA Annual Summer Tour	June 13th	Dawson Creek
3.	Invasive Species on a Global Scale Webinar	June 13th	Online
4.	AgricultHER School	June 18th	Goodfare
5.	Alberta Range Stewardship Course	July 17-28th	Consort
6.	Southern Alberta Grazing School for Women	July 24th & 25th	Seven Persons
7.	AgSmart	July 30th & 31st	Olds

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.

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of May 7, 2024

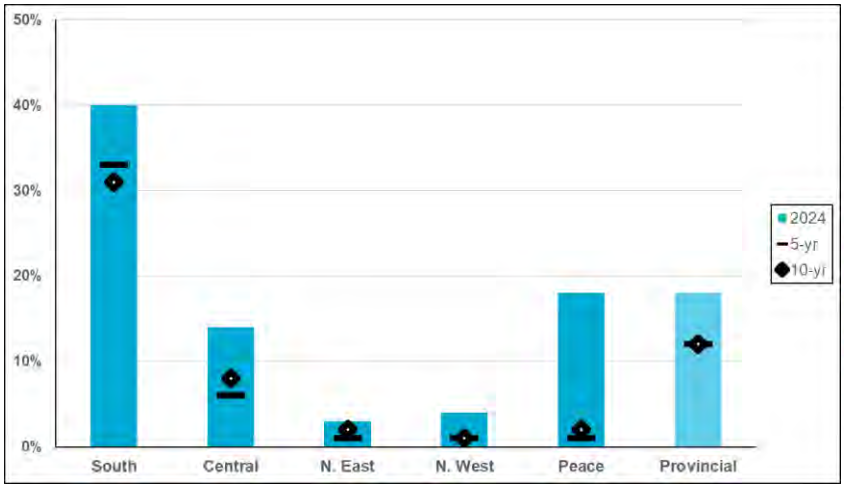
Warmer than normal temperatures over much of the province has provided an opportunity for an early start to the 2024 crop year. As of this first report, 18 per cent of all crops provincially have been seeded, which is ahead of both the five-year and 10-year averages of 12 per cent (see Table 1). Seeding progress is ahead of the five-year average in all regions (see Figure 1), with the Peace Region, the Central Region, and the South Region the furthest ahead of normal. Reports suggest that seeding began in the province in mid-April and note that, while soil temperatures remain cool, recent operations are motivated by anticipated widespread rains across the province this week, followed by warmer temperatures next week.

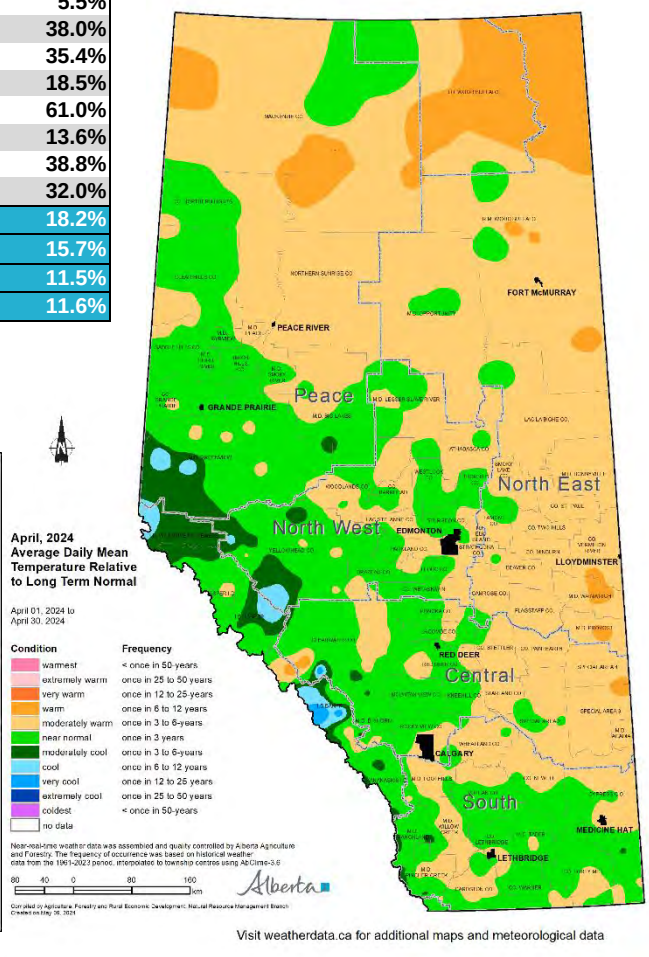
Table 1: Alberta Seeding Progress as of May 7, 2024

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	47.1%	25.8%	4.3%	10.0%	24.0%	**23.0%**
Durum	55.1%	0.9%	-	-	-	**46.6%**
Barley *	43.7%	10.7%	1.0%	0.3%	13.1%	**18.9%**
Oats *	36.9%	9.1%	0.0%	0.0%	9.8%	**5.0%**
Canola *	11.7%	1.1%	0.0%	0.2%	16.7%	**5.5%**
Dry Peas *	54.5%	36.2%	35.8%	19.0%	20.3%	**38.0%**
Mustard	35.4%	-	-	-	-	**35.4%**
Flax	22.3%	25.3%	0.0%	-	-	**18.5%**
Potatoes	65.0%	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	**61.0%**
Chickpeas	13.6%	-	-	-	-	**13.6%**
Lentils	38.7%	40.0%	-	-	-	**38.8%**
Corn	45.0%	19.0%	-	-	-	**32.0%**
All Crops, May 7	39.5%	14.1%	2.7%	3.8%	18.3%	18.2%
Major Crops (*), May 7	36.7%	14.1%	2.7%	3.9%	18.3%	15.7%
5-year (2019-23) Avg	33.0%	5.6%	1.3%	1.0%	0.9%	11.5%
10-year (2014-23) Avg	30.6%	8.2%	1.6%	1.4%	1.9%	11.6%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Figure 1: Provincial and Regional Seeding Progress as of May 7, 2024





Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Initial regional growth conditions for pasture and tame hay fields are notably higher in the South and Central regions of the province. Provincial pasture (tame hay) growth conditions are reported as 20 (20) per cent poor, 45 (53) per cent fair, 34 (26) per cent good and 1 (1) per cent excellent (see Table 2). Regional ratings of good to excellent pasture (tame hay) growth conditions are 45 (45) per cent for the South Region, 43 (49) per cent for the Central Region, 24 (19) per cent for the North East Region, 0 (0) per cent for the North West Region, and 15 (15) per cent for the Peace Region.

Table 2: Pasture Growth Conditions as of May 7, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	16.0%	38.9%	43.6%	1.6%
Central	19.1%	38.2%	42.7%	0.0%
North East	24.9%	51.0%	20.0%	4.1%
North West	25.9%	74.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Peace	27.1%	58.3%	14.6%	0.0%
Alberta	**20.1%**	**45.2%**	**33.5%**	**1.2%**
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	**25.5%**	**35.8%**	**35.9%**	**2.8%**
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	**20.5%**	**31.0%**	**43.6%**	**4.9%**

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Recent precipitation has resulted in a difference between the ratings for surface soil moisture and the ratings for sub-surface moisture in soil below six inches. Provincial surface soil moisture ratings (sub-surface soil moisture ratings) are reported as 8 (18) per cent poor, 28 (31) per cent fair, 55 (46) per cent good, 8 (5) per cent excellent, and 0 (0) per cent excessive. Regional ratings of good to excellent surface soil moisture (sub-surface moisture) are 60 (36) per cent in the South Region, 58 (50) per cent in the Central Region, 76 (63) per cent in the North East Region, 84 (58) per cent in the North West Region, and 47 (72) per cent in the Peace Region.

Table 3: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of May 7, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	7.7%	32.6%	54.3%	5.4%	0.0%
Central	10.1%	32.2%	46.5%	11.0%	0.2%
North East	5.4%	16.1%	64.0%	11.8%	2.6%
North West	0.8%	13.6%	78.2%	6.1%	1.3%
Peace	10.8%	41.8%	42.4%	5.0%	0.0%
Alberta	**7.5%**	**28.3%**	**55.3%**	**8.2%**	**0.7%**
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	**11.9%**	**27.5%**	**44.0%**	**14.6%**	**1.9%**
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	**8.1%**	**22.0%**	**42.1%**	**22.9%**	**4.9%**

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

This year, spring conditions have reduced the impact of soil erosion due to water runoff while slightly increasing wind erosion. Soil erosion in the province due to water runoff (five-year average) was reported as 44 (35) per cent none, 52 (54) per cent light, 4 (11) per cent moderate and 0 (0) per cent heavy. Soil erosion in the province due to winds (five-year average) was reported as 31 (38) per cent none, 46 (45) per cent light, 23 (16) per cent moderate and 0 (1) per cent heavy.

Provincially, 58 per cent of responses indicated that forage reserves are adequate to surplus, below the five-year average of 74 per cent. For feed grain reserves, 68 per cent of provincial responses indicate that reserves are adequate to surplus, lower than the five-year average of 83 per cent.

Regional Assessments:

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

- Seeding progress for all crops (major crops) is 40 (37) per cent complete, compared to the five-year average of 33 (29) per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture is 25 per cent poor, 39 per cent fair, 28 per cent good, 8 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Reported conditions of fall-seeded crop are 7 per cent poor, 34 per cent fair, 50 per cent good, and 9 per cent excellent.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 12 per cent poor, 43 per cent fair, 43 per cent good, and 2 per cent excellent.

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

- Seeding progress for all crops (major crops) is 14 (14) per cent complete, compared to the five-year average of 6 (5) per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture is 20 per cent poor, 31 per cent fair, 48 per cent good, 2 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Reported conditions of fall-seeded crop are 3 per cent poor, 20 per cent fair, 72 per cent good, and 5 per cent excellent.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 14 per cent poor, 37 per cent fair, 49 per cent good, and 0 per cent excellent.

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

- Seeding progress for all crops (major crops) is 3 (3) per cent complete, compared to the five-year average of 1 (1) per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture is 13 per cent poor, 24 per cent fair, 59 per cent good, 4 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 21 per cent poor, 61 per cent fair, 16 per cent good, and 2 per cent excellent.

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

- Seeding progress for all crops (major crops) is 4 (4) per cent complete, compared to the five-year average of 1 (1) per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture is 12 per cent poor, 30 per cent fair, 55 per cent good, 3 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 28 per cent poor, 72 per cent fair, 0 per cent good, and 0 per cent excellent.

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

- Seeding progress for all crops (major crops) is 18 (18) per cent complete, compared to the five-year average of 1 (1) per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture is 5 per cent poor, 23 per cent fair, 66 per cent good, 6 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 25 per cent poor, 59 per cent fair, 15 per cent good, and 0 per cent excellent.

Contact

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
Product Innovation Department
Insurance Products and Product Innovation Unit

Geoff Backman - Product Coordinator
Manglai - Product Coordinator
Email: mediainquiry@afsc.ca

Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen and AFSC staff for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program. Agriculture and Irrigation compiles the climate map.

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of May 14, 2024 (Abbreviated Report)

Reports suggest that significant precipitation fell on the majority of areas in the South, Central, and North East regions last week. Despite creating seeding delays, the precipitation was welcomed and has notably improved growing conditions. Areas in the Peace and North West regions received significantly lower or no rainfall last week allowing seeding progress to continue uninterrupted. Provincial seeding progress of major crops is reported at 33 per cent, ahead of the five-year historical average of 28 per cent for this week (see Table 1). Seeding progress of major crops remains ahead of the five-year average in all regions, with the exception of the South Region (see Figure 1), with the Peace Region and North West Region the furthest ahead of average.

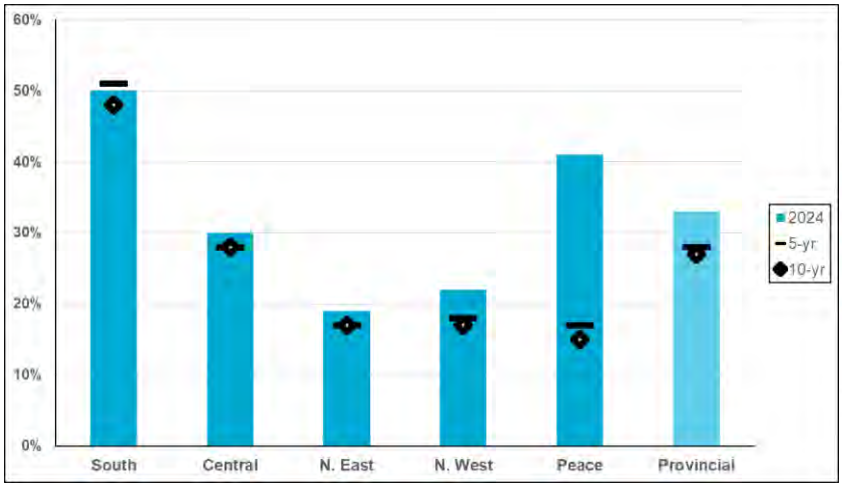
Emergence of major crops across the province is reported at 6 per cent, ahead of both the five and 10-year average of 3 per cent. Regional emergence of major crops is reported at 15 per cent for the South Region, 4 per cent for the Central Region, 2 per cent for the North East Region, 1 per cent for the North West Region and 5 per cent for the Peace Region.

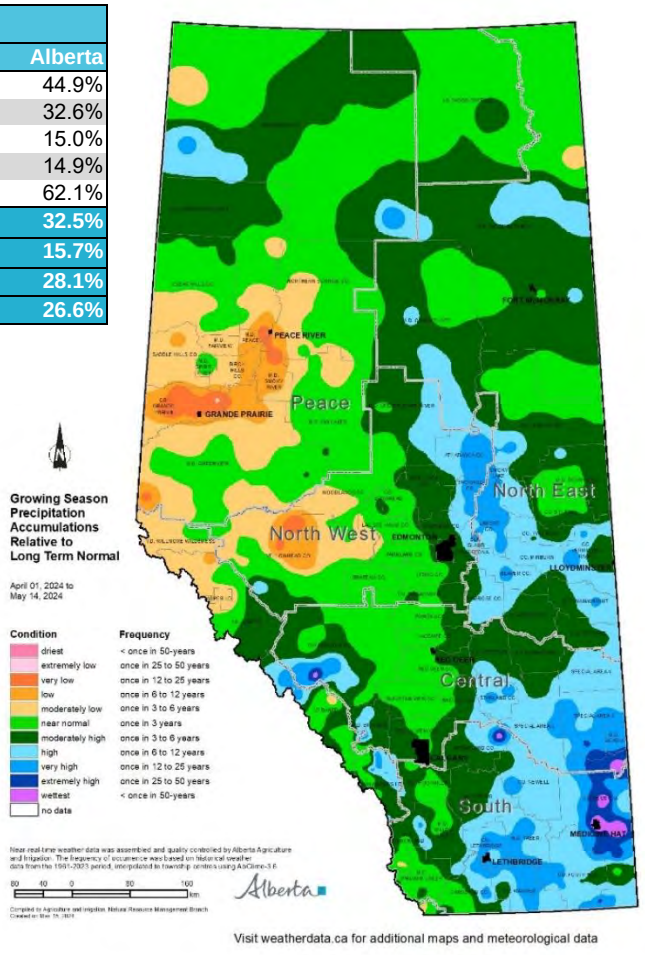
Table 1: Alberta Major Crop Seeding Progress as of May 14, 2024

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	56.2%	46.9%	31.3%	40.3%	53.6%	44.9%
Barley *	60.0%	22.5%	8.0%	19.9%	29.0%	32.6%
Oats *	41.4%	18.5%	4.8%	9.2%	27.6%	15.0%
Canola *	21.7%	10.0%	4.8%	6.1%	35.9%	14.9%
Dry Peas *	70.8%	50.9%	75.8%	60.1%	45.6%	62.1%
Major Crops (*), May 14	50.2%	29.5%	18.9%	21.9%	40.7%	32.5%
Major Crops (*), May 7	36.7%	14.1%	2.7%	3.9%	18.3%	15.7%
5-year (2019-23) Avg	51.3%	28.3%	17.1%	17.8%	17.2%	28.1%
10-year (2014-23) Avg	48.3%	28.2%	16.9%	16.5%	14.6%	26.6%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Figure 1: Provincial and Regional Seeding Progress as of May 14, 2024





Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Recent precipitation improved surface soil moisture ratings in all regions of the province except the Peace. Provincial surface soil moisture good-to-excellent ratings are reported as 72 per cent, above the five-year average of 58 per cent and the 10-year average of 63 per cent. Regional surface soil moisture good-to-excellent ratings (change from last week) are reported at 75 (+16) per cent in the South Region, 64 (+6) per cent for the Central Region, 88 (+12) per cent for the North East Region, 86 (+2) per cent for the North West Region, and 42 (-6) per cent for the Peace Region.

Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of May 14, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	1.7%	22.6%	61.7%	13.5%	0.5%
Central	4.3%	31.9%	50.0%	13.5%	0.3%
North East	0.2%	9.5%	64.5%	23.4%	2.4%
North West	0.0%	11.2%	65.6%	20.2%	3.0%
Peace	14.4%	44.1%	39.7%	1.8%	0.0%
Alberta	**3.3%**	**23.8%**	**57.0%**	**14.8%**	**1.0%**
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	**11.5%**	**29.0%**	**43.9%**	**14.2%**	**1.4%**
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	**8.9%**	**24.9%**	**41.0%**	**21.5%**	**3.7%**

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Sub-surface soil moisture ratings also improved across much of the province over the past week. Provincial sub-surface moisture good-to-excellent ratings were reported as 58 per cent, which is between the five-year average of 56 per cent and the 10-year average of 63 per cent. Regional sub-surface soil moisture good-to-excellent ratings (change from last week) are reported as 50 (+14) per cent in the South Region, 54 (+4) per cent for the Central Region, 71 (+9) per cent for the North East Region, 58 (+1) per cent for the North West Region, and 68 (-4) per cent for the Peace Region.

Growth conditions for pasture this week are notably higher across the province, with provincial good-to-excellent growth conditions reported as 53 per cent, ahead of the five-year average of 46 per cent. Regional pasture good-to-excellent growth conditions (change from last week) are reported as 59 (+14) per cent for the South Region, 60 (+17) per cent for the Central Region, 50 (+26) per cent for the North East Region, 33 (+33) per cent for the North West Region, and 31 (+17) per cent for the Peace Region.

Table 3: Pasture Growth Conditions as of May 14, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	6.6%	34.5%	52.4%	6.5%
Central	10.4%	30.1%	58.3%	1.2%
North East	1.2%	48.9%	43.8%	6.1%
North West	13.4%	54.1%	32.5%	0.0%
Peace	18.0%	50.8%	31.2%	0.0%
Alberta	**8.5%**	**38.2%**	**49.7%**	**3.6%**
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	**19.8%**	**33.8%**	**43.2%**	**3.2%**

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Tame hay growth conditions were also reported as improved, with a provincial good-to-excellent rating of 47 per cent which is higher than the five-year average of 43 per cent. Regional tame hay good-to-excellent growth conditions (change from last week) are reported as 60 (+15) per cent for the South Region, 67 (+19) per cent for the Central Region, 35 (+16) per cent for the North East Region, 33 (+33) per cent for the North West Region, and 31 (+16) per cent for the Peace Region.

Regional Assessments:

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

- Seeding progress for major crops is 50 per cent complete, compared to the five-year average of 51 per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture is 11 per cent poor, 39 per cent fair, 39 per cent good, 11 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Reported conditions of fall-seeded crop are 2 per cent poor, 25 per cent fair, 56 per cent good, and 17 per cent excellent.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 6 per cent poor, 34 per cent fair, 53 per cent good, and 7 per cent excellent.

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

- Seeding progress for major crops is 30 per cent complete, compared to the five-year average of 28 per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture is 17 per cent poor, 29 per cent fair, 48 per cent good, 6 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Reported conditions of fall-seeded crop are 1 per cent poor, 14 per cent fair, 75 per cent good, and 10 per cent excellent.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 9 per cent poor, 24 per cent fair, 65 per cent good, and 2 per cent excellent.

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

- Seeding progress for major crops is 19 per cent complete, compared to the five-year average of 17 per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture is 7 per cent poor, 21 per cent fair, 59 per cent good, 12 per cent excellent, and 1 per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 2 per cent poor, 64 per cent fair, 31 per cent good, and 4 per cent excellent.

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

- Seeding progress for major crops is 22 per cent complete, compared to the five-year average of 18 per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture is 12 per cent poor, 30 per cent fair, 46 per cent good, 12 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 11 per cent poor, 56 per cent fair, 33 per cent good, and 0 per cent excellent.

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

- Seeding progress for major crops is 41 per cent complete, compared to the five-year average of 17 per cent.
- Reported sub-surface moisture is 5 per cent poor, 27 per cent fair, 64 per cent good, 4 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 19 per cent poor, 50 per cent fair, 31 per cent good, and 0 per cent excellent.

Contact

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
Product Innovation Department
Insurance Products and Product Innovation Unit

Geoff Backman - Product Coordinator
Manglai - Product Coordinator
Email: mediainquiry@afsc.ca

Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen and AFSC staff for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program. Agriculture and Irrigation compiles the climate map.

2024 Alberta crop reporting calendar

Release dates

The crop report is produced by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) in partnership with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) on an alternating basis.

Survey number	Survey date (conditions as of)	Crop report public release by approximately 1:30 p.m.
Report 1	Tuesday, May 7	Friday, May 10 (AFSC)
Report 1 abbreviated	Tuesday, May 14	Friday, May 17 (AFSC)
Report 2	Tuesday, May 21	Friday, May 24 (AGI)
Report 2 abbreviated	Tuesday, May 28	Friday, May 31 (AGI)
Report 3	Tuesday, June 4	Friday, June 7 (AFSC)
Report 3 abbreviated	Tuesday, June 11	Friday, June 14 (AFSC)
Report 4	Tuesday, June 18	Friday, June 21 (AGI)
Report 4 abbreviated	Tuesday, June 25	Friday, June 28 (AGI)
Report 5	Tuesday, July 2	Friday, July 5 (AFSC)
Report 5 abbreviated	Monday, July 9	Friday, July 12 (AFSC)
Report 6	Tuesday, July 16	Friday, July 19 (AGI)
Report 6 abbreviated	Tuesday, July 23	Friday, July 26 (AGI)
Report 7	Tuesday, July 30	Friday, Aug. 2 (AFSC)
Report 7 abbreviated	Tuesday, Aug. 6	Friday, Aug. 9 (AFSC)
Report 8	Tuesday, Aug. 13	Friday, Aug. 16 (AGI)
Report 8 abbreviated	Tuesday, Aug. 20	Friday, Aug. 23 (AGI)
Report 9	Tuesday, Aug. 27	Friday, Aug. 30 (AFSC)
Report 9 abbreviated	Tuesday, Sep. 3	Friday, Sep. 6 (AFSC)
Report 10	Tuesday, Sep. 10	Friday, Sep. 13 (AGI)
Report 10 abbreviated	Tuesday, Sep. 17	Friday, Sep. 20 (AGI)
Report 11	Tuesday, Sep. 24	Friday, Sep. 27 (AFSC)
Report 11 abbreviated	Tuesday, Oct. 1	Friday, Oct. 4 (AFSC)
Report 12	Tuesday, Oct. 8	Friday, Oct. 11 (AGI)
Report 12 abbreviated	Tuesday, Oct. 15	Friday, Oct. 18 (AGI)
Report 13 *	Tuesday, Oct. 22	Friday, Oct. 25 (AFSC)
Report 13 abbreviated *	Tuesday, Oct. 29	Friday, Nov. 1 (AFSC)
Report 14 *	Tuesday, Nov. 5	Friday, Nov. 8 (AGI)

**as needed*

NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

Bag 1300, 135 Sunrise Road
Peace River, AB
T8S 1Y9
northernsunrise.net

February 12, 2024

The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay
Minister of Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
1341 Baseline Rd Ottawa, ON
K1A 0C5

The Honourable Mark Holland
Minister of Health Canada
Address Locator 1801B, Ottawa, ON
K1A 0K9

To the Honourable Ministers Lawrence MacAulay and Mark Holland:

RE: Maintaining the Integrity of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has been long known as a robust and scientifically backed regulatory system that promotes sustainable pest management, which is critical for the agricultural industry.

However, there remains misinformation and misunderstanding surrounding the safety of some products. It's crucial that decisions or actions related to product regulation are well-informed, ethical, and in the industry's best interest. This should be based on relevant scientific research rather than influenced by peer pressure, public opinion, or political interference.

Upon the release of the Private Member's Bill C-287 amending the *Pest Control Act* to prohibit glyphosate, the Northern Sunrise County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) would like to echo the concerns raised by Big Lakes County ASB, in their letter dated October 6th, 2023, that the integrity of the PMRA can be threatened, when mis-aligned amendments are proposed by individuals with authority. These decisions could have extensive damaging impacts on the industry in terms of production. Any suggested amendments must remain scientifically based to ensure the integrity of the PMRA that plays such a large role in the success of our Canadian agricultural industry. We ask that this mandate be affirmed by both the Ministry of Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada and Health Canada.

Sincerely,

C Williams

Corinna Williams, Chairperson
Agricultural Service Board
Northern Sunrise County

Bag 1300, 135 Sunrise Road
Peace River, AB
T8S 1Y9
northernsunrise.net

CC:

RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation
Dan Williams MLA Peace River
Paul McLauchlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)
Northern Sunrise County Council
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen

Health Canada / Santé Canada

Pest Management Regulatory Agency / Agence de réglementation de la lutte antiparasitaire

Council Agenda	✓
File Copy	
[illegible]	
CAO	
Agricultural Services	✓
Community Services	
Engineering	
Finance	
Legislative Services	
Planning & Dvpmt	
Protective Services	
Public Works	
Other:	

April 15, 2024

Corinna Williams, Chair
Agricultural Service Board
Northern Sunrise County
135 Sunrise Road
Bag 1300
Peace River AB T8S 1Y9

Dear Corinna Williams:

On behalf of the Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health, I am responding to your letter dated February 12, 2024, on maintaining the integrity of Canada's pesticide regulatory system. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us on private Members' bill C-287 which proposes amendments to the Pest Control Products Act to prohibit glyphosate.

In Canada, there are different ways in which bills can be introduced to Parliament, one of which is private Members' bill. Private members' bills are sponsored by private members' and like any bill must undergo legislative process and be passed in both the House of Commons and Senate in order to become law. More information about this process can be found on the Parliament of Canada's Legislative Process website. https://www.ourcommons.ca/procedure/our-procedure/LegislativeProcess/c_g_legislativeprocess-e.html).

Please rest assured that Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) regulatory process remains science based. We are aware of Bill C-287 proposed by Ms. Jenica Atwin, Member of Parliament for Fredericton, and are currently monitoring its progress through the House of Commons.

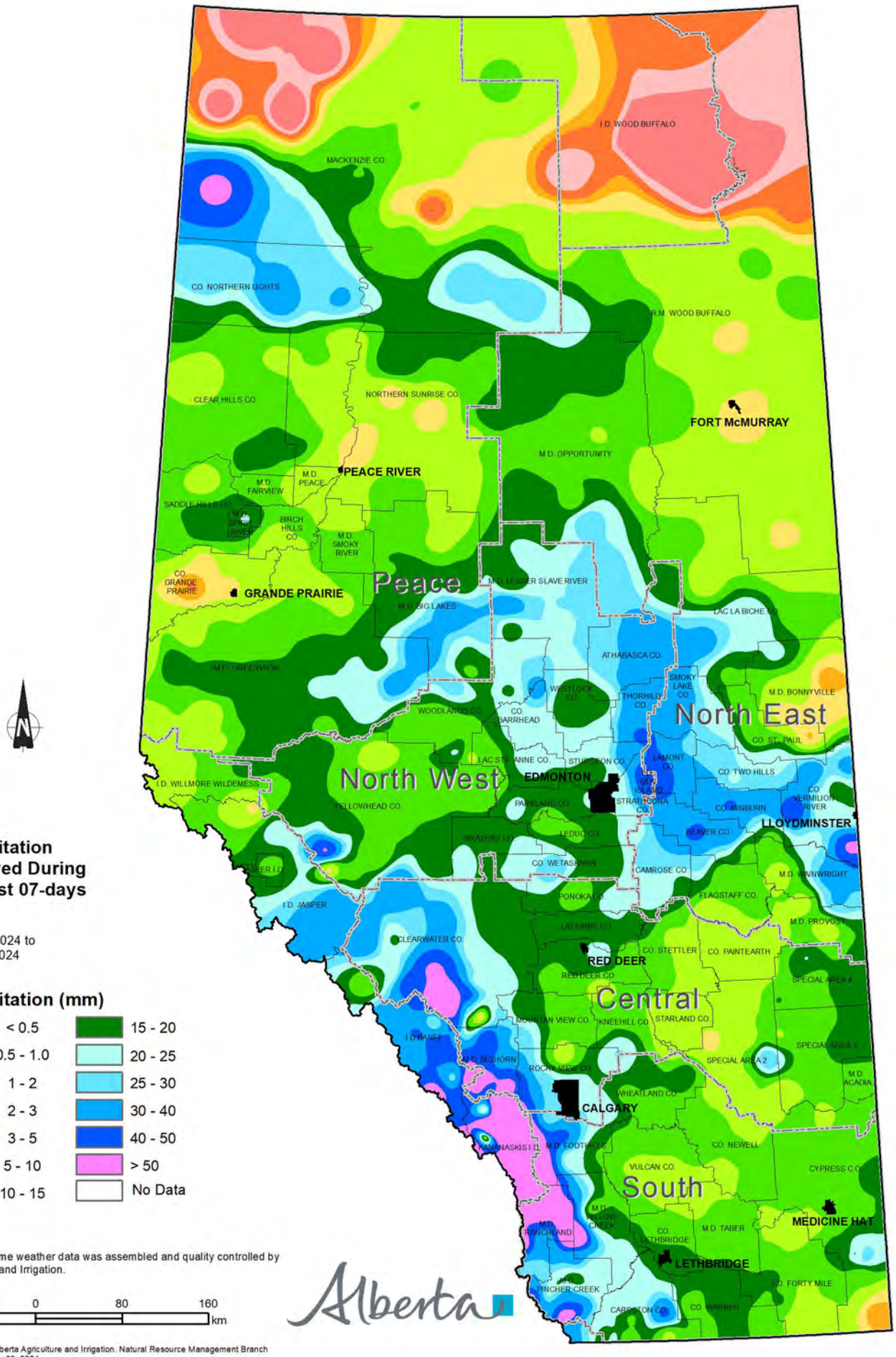
Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

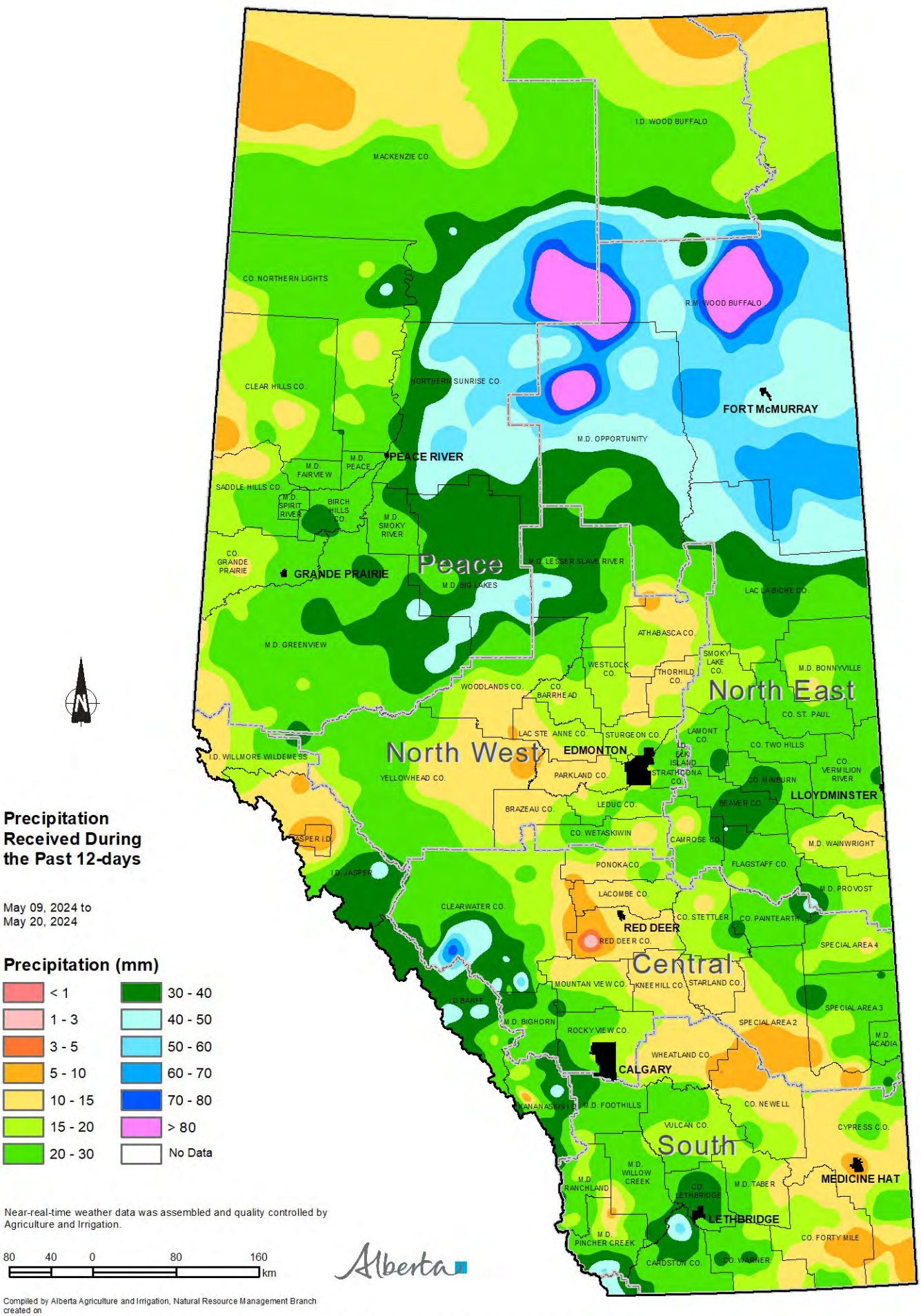
Digitally signed by Bissonnette, Frederic
DN: C=CA, O=GC, OU=HC-SC, CN ="Bissonnette, Frederic"
Date: 2024.04.15 09:42:39-04'00'

Frédéric Bissonnette
Senior Director General
Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Health Canada

Canada 2 Constellation Drive Woodline Bldg. Nepean Ontario K1A 0K9



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data



Precipitation Received During the Past 12-days

May 09, 2024 to
May 20, 2024

Precipitation (mm)

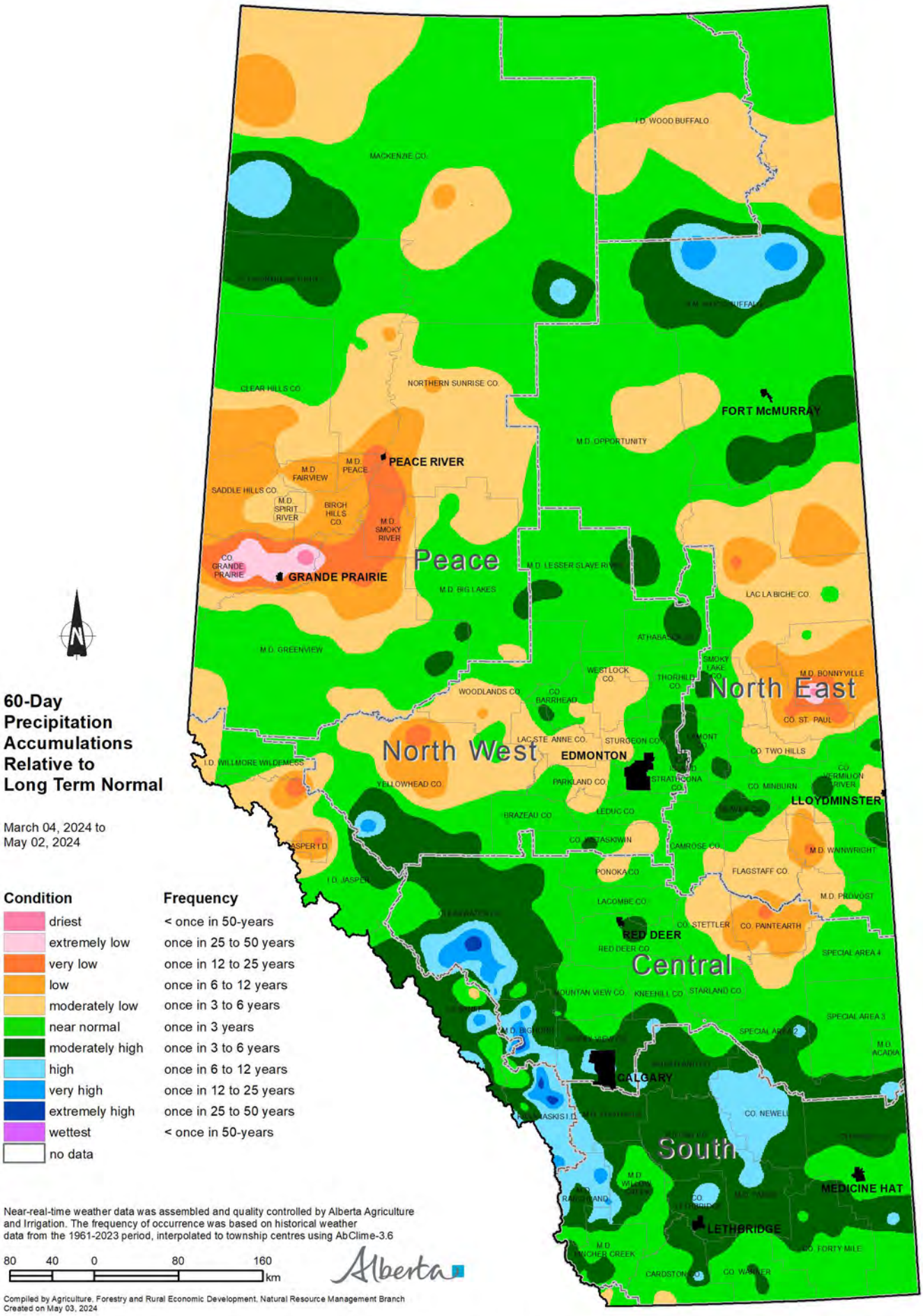
< 1	30 - 40
1 - 3	40 - 50
3 - 5	50 - 60
5 - 10	60 - 70
10 - 15	70 - 80
15 - 20	> 80
20 - 30	No Data

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

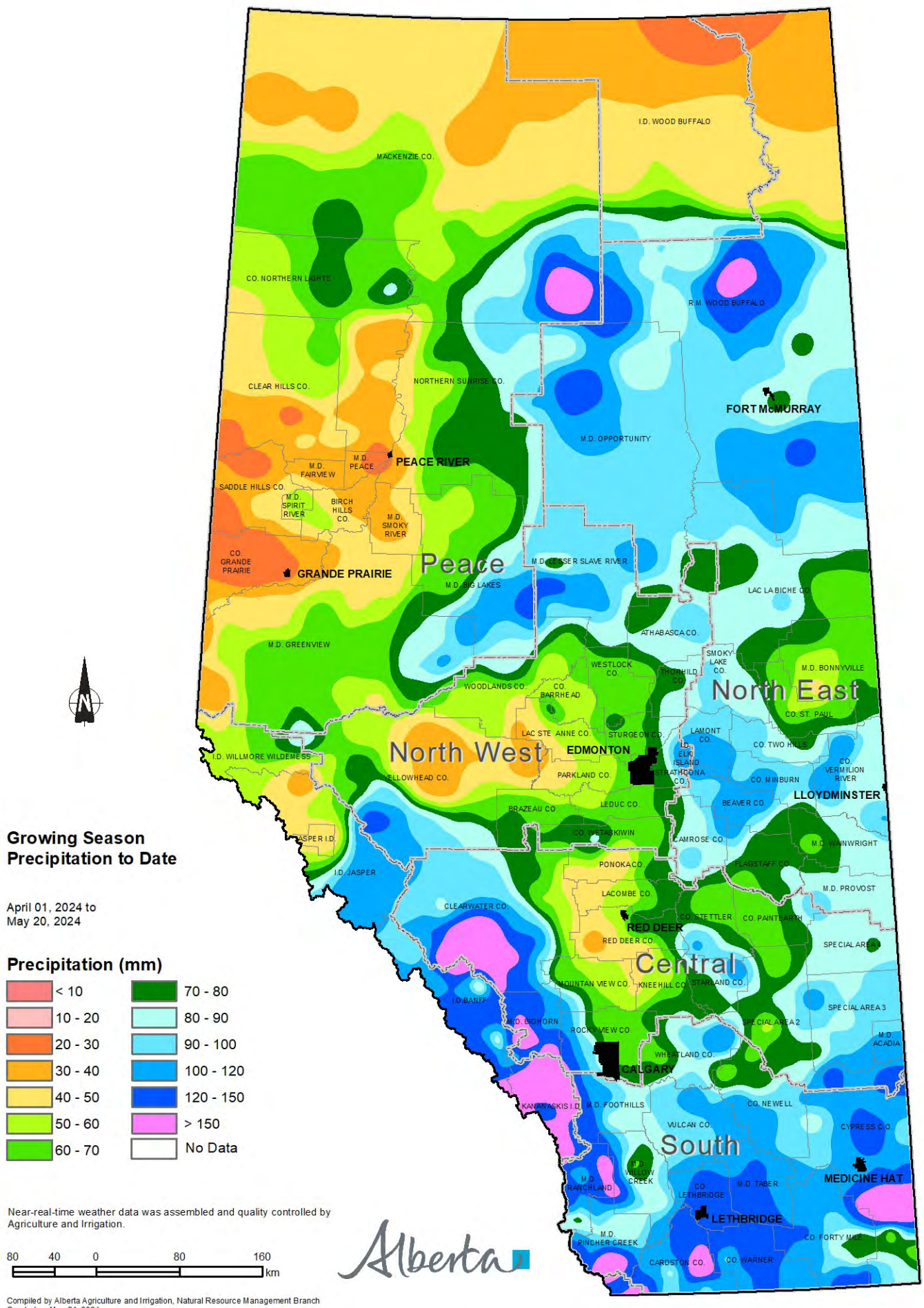
80 40 0 80 160 km

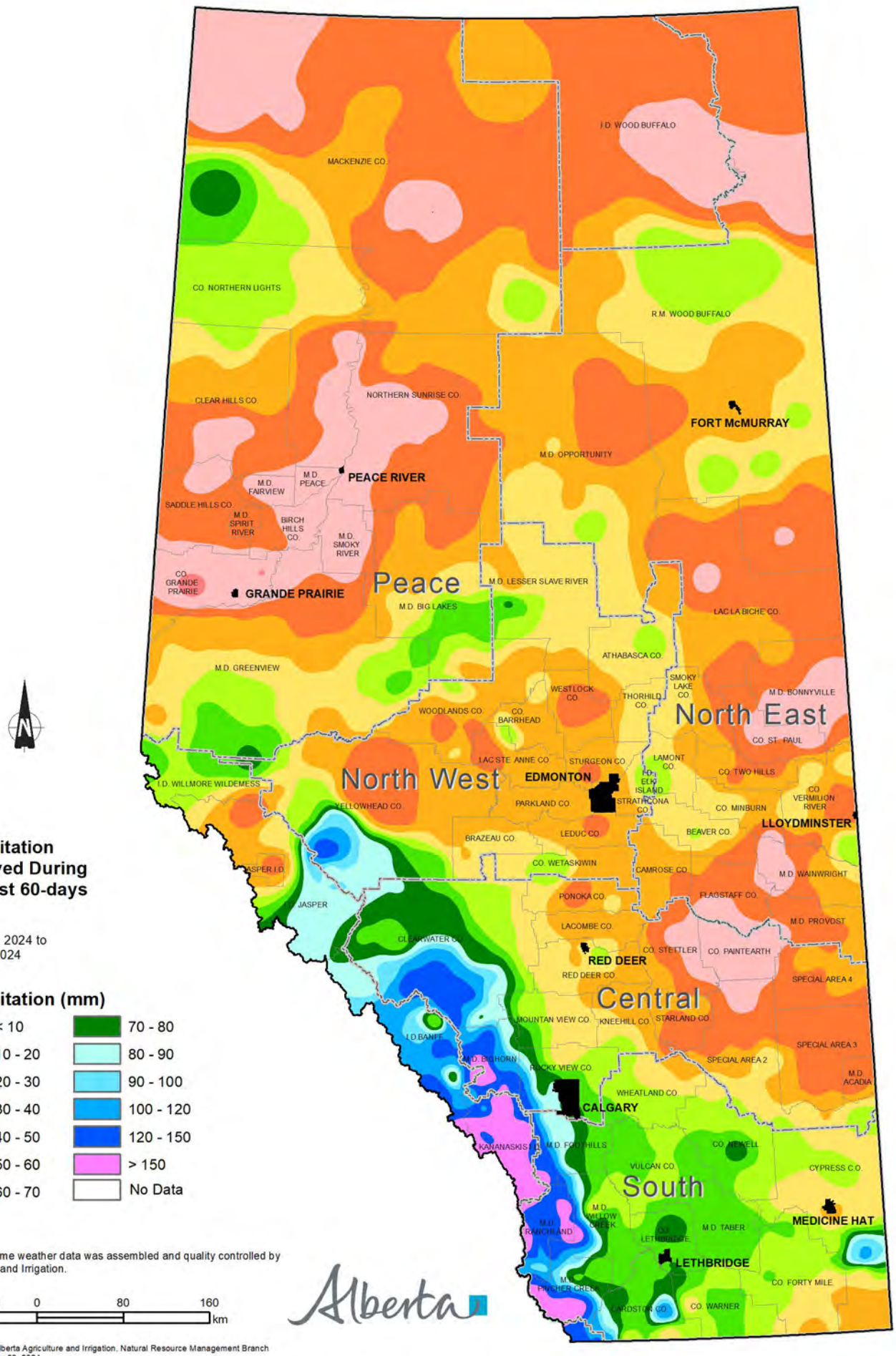
Alberta

Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch created on



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data


Growing Season
Precipitation to Date
April 01, 2024 to
May 20, 2024
Precipitation (mm)
< 10
10 - 20
20 - 30
30 - 40
40 - 50
50 - 60
60 - 70
70 - 80
80 - 90
90 - 100
100 - 120
120 - 150
> 150
No Data
Peace
North West
North East
Central
South
I.D. WOOD BUFFALO
MACKENZIE CO.
CO. NORTHERN LIGHTS
R.M. WOOD BUFFALO
CLEAR HILLS CO.
NORTHERN SUNRISE CO.
FORT McMURRAY
M.D. OPPORTUNITY
M.D. PEACE
PEACE RIVER
M.D. FAIRVIEW
SADDLE HILLS CO.
M.D. SPIRIT RIVER
BIRCH HILLS CO.
M.D. SMOKY RIVER
CO. GRANDE PRAIRIE
GRANDE PRAIRIE
M.D. LESSER SLAVE RIVER
M.D. BIG LAKES
LAC LA BICHE CO.
ATHABASCA CO.
M.D. GREENVIEW
SMOKY LAKE CO.
WESTLOCK CO.
THORHILD CO.
M.D. BONNYVILLE
WOODLANDS CO.
CO. BARRHEAD
CO. ST. PAUL
LAC STE. ANNE CO.
STURGEON CO.
LAMONT CO.
CO. TWO HILLS
I.D. WILLMORE WILDERNESS
EDMONTON
I.D. ELK ISLAND
STRATHCONA CO.
CO. VERMILION RIVER
YELLOWHEAD CO.
PARKLAND CO.
CO. MINBURN
LLOYDMINSTER
BRAZEAU CO.
LEDUC CO.
BEAVER CO.
ASPER I.D.
CO. WETASKIWIN
CAMROSE CO.
M.D. WAINWRIGHT
I.D. JASPER
PONOKA CO.
FLAGSTAFF CO.
M.D. PROVOST
LACOMBE CO.
CLEARWATER CO.
CO. STETTLER
CO. PAINTEARTH
RED DEER
RED DEER CO.
SPECIAL AREA 4
MOUNTAIN VIEW CO.
KNEE HILL CO.
STARLAND CO.
I.D. BANFF
SPECIAL AREA 3
M.D. BIGHORN
ROCKY VIEW CO.
SPECIAL AREA 2
M.D. ACADIA
WHEATLAND CO.
CALGARY
KANANASKIS I.D.
M.D. FOOTHILLS
CO. NEWELL
VULCAN CO.
CYPRESS CO.
M.D. RANCHLAND
M.D. WILLOW CREEK
CO. LETHBRIDGE
M.D. TABER
MEDICINE HAT
LETHBRIDGE
M.D. PINCHER CREEK
CO. FORTY MILE
CARDSTON CO.
CO. WARNER
Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation.
80 40 0 80 160
km
Alberta
Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on May 21, 2024



Precipitation Received During the Past 60-days

March 04, 2024 to
May 02, 2024

Precipitation (mm)

< 10	70 - 80
10 - 20	80 - 90
20 - 30	90 - 100
30 - 40	100 - 120
40 - 50	120 - 150
50 - 60	> 150
60 - 70	No Data

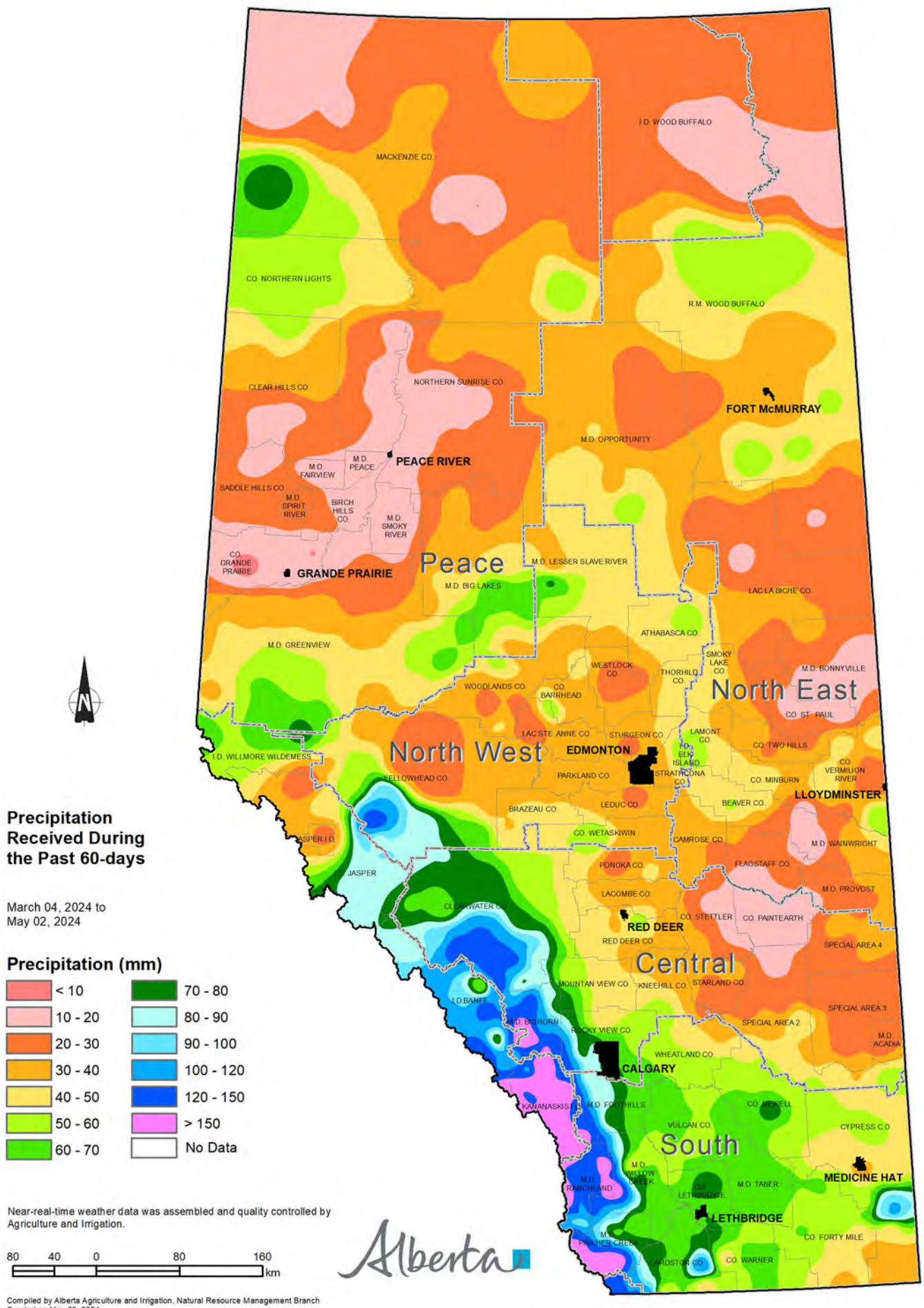
Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation.

80 40 0 80 160 km

Alberta

Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on May 03, 2024

Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data



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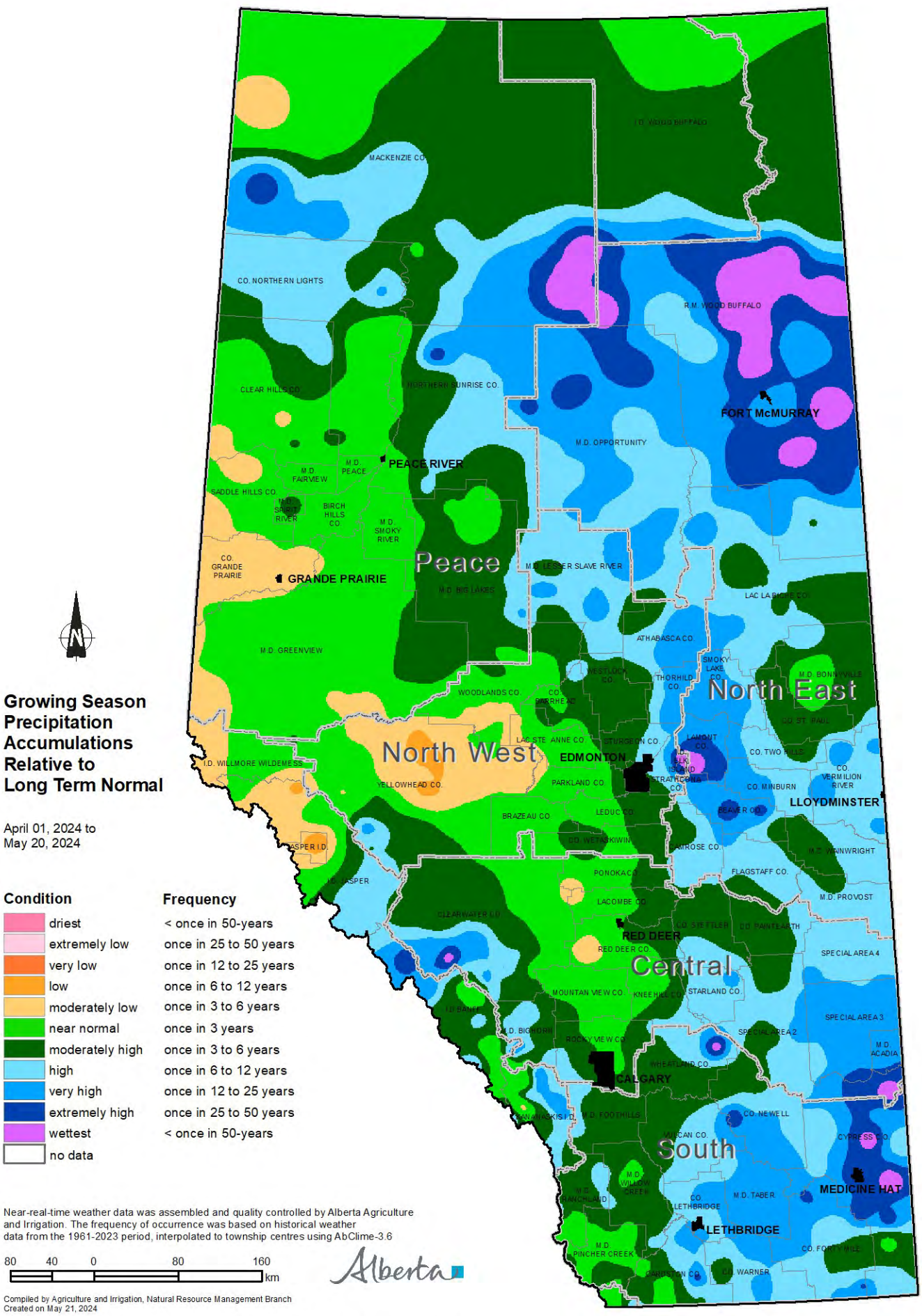

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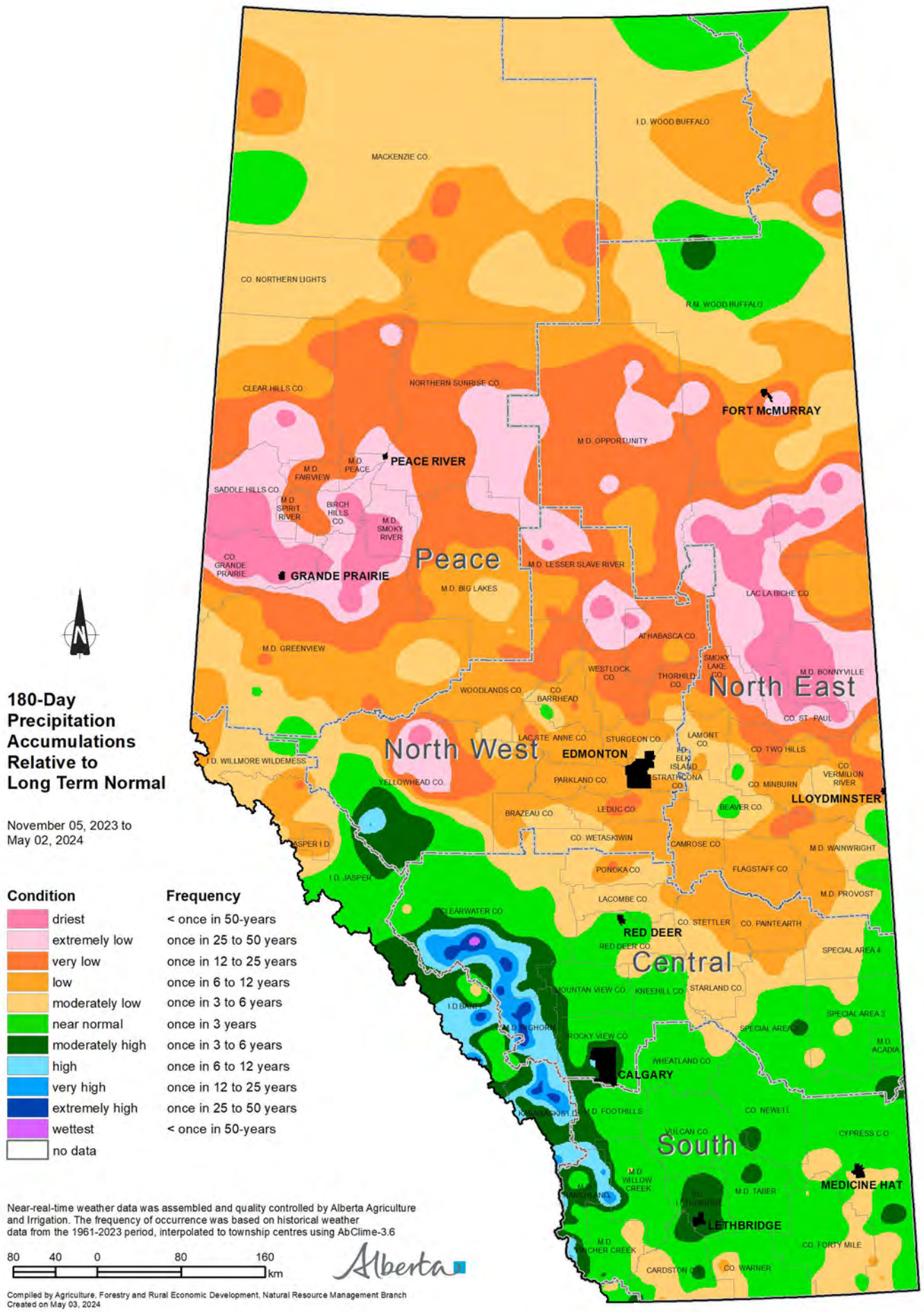

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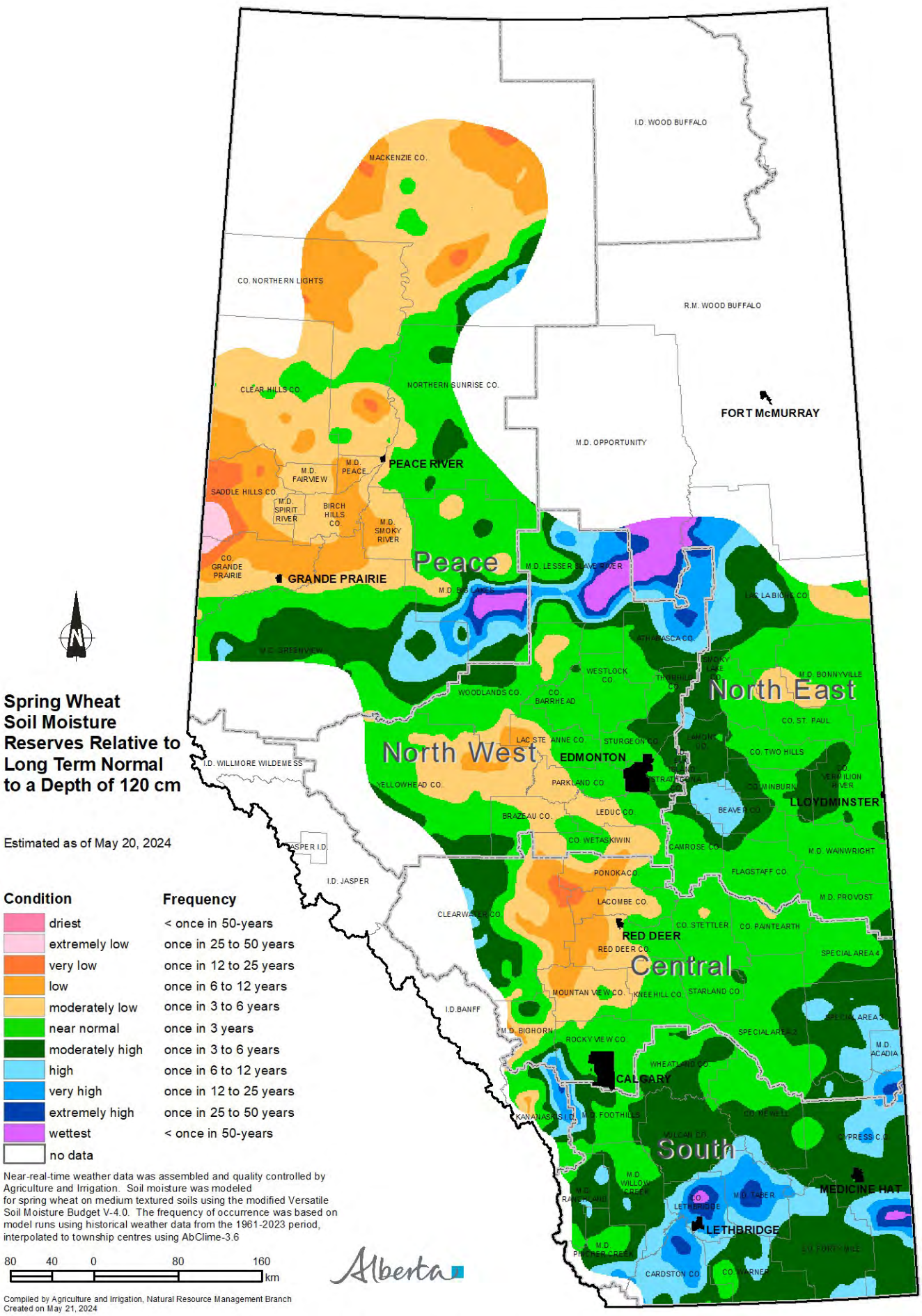
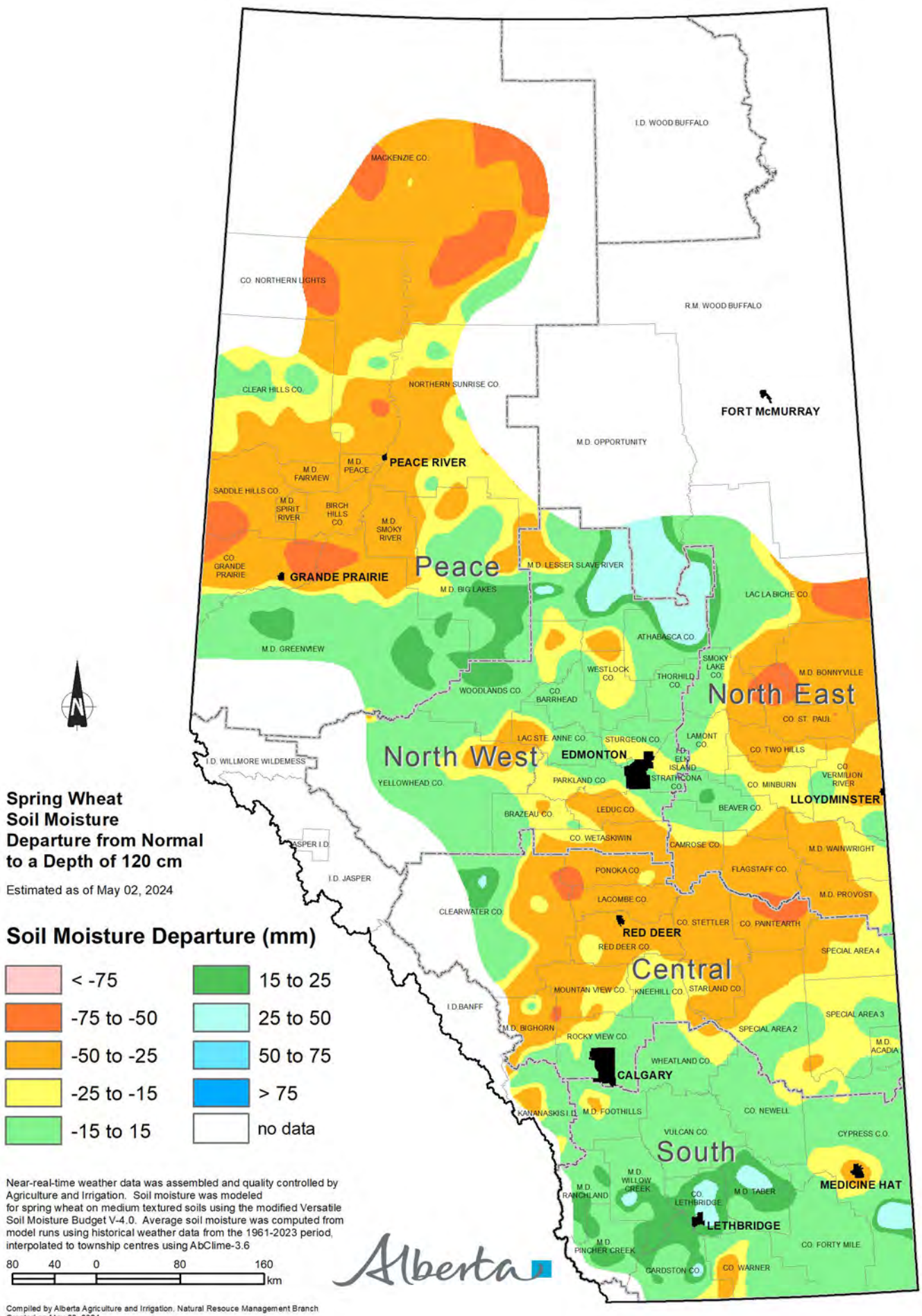

Spring Wheat
Soil Moisture
Reserves Relative to
Long Term Normal
to a Depth of 120 cm
Estimated as of May 20, 2024
Condition
Frequency
driest
< once in 50-years
extremely low
once in 25 to 50 years
very low
once in 12 to 25 years
low
once in 6 to 12 years
moderately low
once in 3 to 6 years
near normal
once in 3 years
moderately high
once in 3 to 6 years
high
once in 6 to 12 years
very high
once in 12 to 25 years
extremely high
once in 25 to 50 years
wettest
< once in 50-years
no data
Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Soil moisture was modeled for spring wheat on medium textured soils using the modified Versatile Soil Moisture Budget V-4.0. The frequency of occurrence was based on model runs using historical weather data from the 1961-2023 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClime-3.6
80 40 0 80 160
km
Compiled by Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on May 21, 2024
Alberta
Peace
North West
North East
Central
South
FORT McMURRAY
PEACE RIVER
GRANDE PRAIRIE
EDMONTON
LLOYDMINSTER
RED DEER
CALGARY
LETHBRIDGE
MEDICINE HAT
I.D. WOOD BUFFALO
R.M. WOOD BUFFALO
MACKENZIE CO.
CO. NORTHERN LIGHTS
NORTHERN SUNRISE CO.
CLEAR HILLS CO.
M.D. OPPORTUNITY
M.D. FAIRVIEW
M.D. PEACE
SADDLE HILLS CO.
M.D. SPIRIT RIVER
BIRCH HILLS CO.
M.D. SMOKY RIVER
CO. GRANDE PRAIRIE
M.D. LESSER SLAVE RIVER
M.D. BIG LAKES
M.D. GREENVIEW
ATHABASCA CO.
WESTLOCK CO.
WOODLANDS CO.
CO. BARRHEAD
THORHILD CO.
SMOKY LAKE CO.
M.D. BONNYVILLE
CO. ST. PAUL
LAC STE. ANNE CO.
STURGEON CO.
LAMONT CO.
CO. TWO HILLS
I.D. WILLMORE WILDERNESS
YELLOWHEAD CO.
PARKLAND CO.
STRATHCONA CO.
CO. MINBURN
CO. VERMILION RIVER
BRAZEAU CO.
LEDUC CO.
BEAVER CO.
CO. WETASKIWIN
CAMROSE CO.
M.D. WAINWRIGHT
JASPER I.D.
I.D. JASPER
PONOKA CO.
FLAGSTAFF CO.
M.D. PROVOST
LACOMBE CO.
CLEARWATER CO.
CO. STETTLER
CO. PAINTEARTH
RED DEER CO.
SPECIAL AREA 4
MOUNTAIN VIEW CO.
KNEEHILL CO.
STARLAND CO.
I.D. BANFF
M.D. BIGHORN
ROCKY VIEW CO.
SPECIAL AREA 3
SPECIAL AREA 2
M.D. ACADIA
WHEATLAND CO.
KANANASKIS I.D.
M.D. FOOTHILLS
CO. NEWELL
CYPRESS CO.
M.D. WILLOW CREEK
M.D. RANCHLAND
CO. LETHBRIDGE
M.D. TABER
M.D. PINCHER CREEK
CO. FORTY MILE
CARDSTON CO.
CO. WARNER


Spring Wheat
Soil Moisture
Departure from Normal
to a Depth of 120 cm
Estimated as of May 02, 2024
Soil Moisture Departure (mm)
< -75
-75 to -50
-50 to -25
-25 to -15
-15 to 15
15 to 25
25 to 50
50 to 75
> 75
no data
Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Soil moisture was modeled for spring wheat on medium textured soils using the modified Versatile Soil Moisture Budget V-4.0. Average soil moisture was computed from model runs using historical weather data from the 1961-2023 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClime-3.6
80 40 0 80 160
km
Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resouce Management Branch
Created on May 03, 2024
Alberta
Peace
North West
North East
Central
South
I.D. WOOD BUFFALO
MACKENZIE CO.
CO. NORTHERN LIGHTS
R.M. WOOD BUFFALO
CLEAR HILLS CO.
NORTHERN SUNRISE CO.
FORT McMURRAY
M.D. OPPORTUNITY
PEACE RIVER
M.D. PEACE
M.D. FAIRVIEW
SADDLE HILLS CO.
M.D. SPIRIT RIVER
BIRCH HILLS CO.
M.D. SMOKY RIVER
CO. GRANDE PRAIRIE
GRANDE PRAIRIE
M.D. LESSER SLAVE RIVER
M.D. BIG LAKES
LAC LA BICHE CO.
M.D. GREENVIEW
ATHABASCA CO.
SMOKY LAKE CO.
WESTLOCK CO.
THORHILD CO.
M.D. BONNYVILLE
WOODLANDS CO.
CO. BARRHEAD
CO. ST. PAUL
LAC STE. ANNE CO.
STURGEON CO.
LAMONT CO.
EDMONTON
CO. TWO HILLS
I.D. WILLMORE WILDERNESS
YELLOWHEAD CO.
PARKLAND CO.
STRATHCONA CO.
CO. MINBURN
CO. VERMILION RIVER
LLOYDMINSTER
BRAZEAU CO.
LEDUC CO.
BEAVER CO.
JASPER I.D.
CO. WETASKIWIN
CAMROSE CO.
M.D. WAINWRIGHT
I.D. JASPER
PONOKA CO.
FLAGSTAFF CO.
M.D. PROVOST
CLEARWATER CO.
LACOMBE CO.
CO. STETTLER
CO. PAINTEARTH
RED DEER
RED DEER CO.
SPECIAL AREA 4
MOUNTAIN VIEW CO.
KNEEHILL CO.
STARLAND CO.
I.D. BANFF
SPECIAL AREA 3
M.D. BIGHORN
ROCKY VIEW CO.
SPECIAL AREA 2
M.D. ACADIA
WHEATLAND CO.
CALGARY
KANANASKIS I.D.
M.D. FOOTHILLS
CO. NEWELL
VULCAN CO.
CYPRESS CO.
M.D. WILLOW CREEK
M.D. RANCHLAND
CO. LETHBRIDGE
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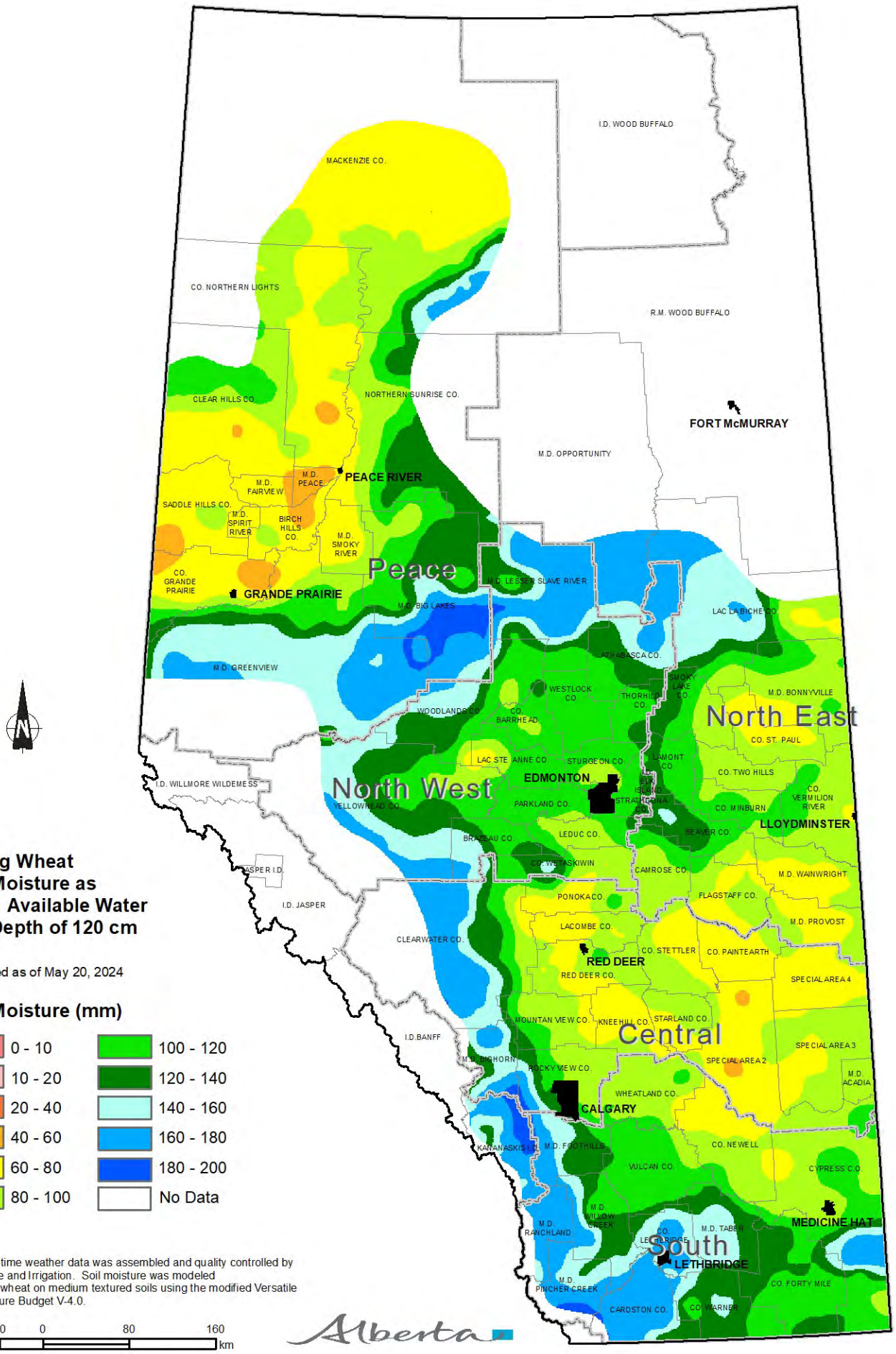
MEDICINE HAT
LETHBRIDGE
M.D. PINCHER CREEK
CO. FORTY MILE
GARDSTON CO.
CO. WARNER


I.D. WOOD BUFFALO
MACKENZIE CO.
CO. NORTHERN LIGHTS
R.M. WOOD BUFFALO
CLEAR HILLS CO.
NORTHERN SUNRISE CO.
FORT McMURRAY
M.D. OPPORTUNITY
M.D. PEACE
PEACE RIVER
M.D. FAIRVIEW
SADDLE HILLS CO.
M.D. SPIRIT RIVER
BIRCH HILLS CO.
M.D. SMOKY RIVER
Peace
CO. GRANDE PRAIRIE
GRANDE PRAIRIE
M.D. LESSER SLAVE RIVER
M.D. BIG LAKES
LAC LA BICHE CO.
M.D. GREENVIEW
ATHABASCA CO.
WESTLOCK CO.
SMOKY LAKE CO.
THORHILD CO.
M.D. BONNYVILLE
North East
WOODLANDS CO.
CO. BARRHEAD
CO. ST. PAUL
LAC STE. ANNE CO.
STURGEON CO.
LAMONT CO.
CO. TWO HILLS
EDMONTON
I.D. WILLMORE WILDERNESS
North West
YELLOWHEAD CO.
PARKLAND CO.
STRATHCONA CO.
CO. MINBURN
CO. VERMILION RIVER
LLOYDMINSTER
BRAZEAU CO.
LEDUC CO.
BEAVER CO.
CO. WETASKIWIN
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FLAGSTAFF CO.
LACOMBE CO.
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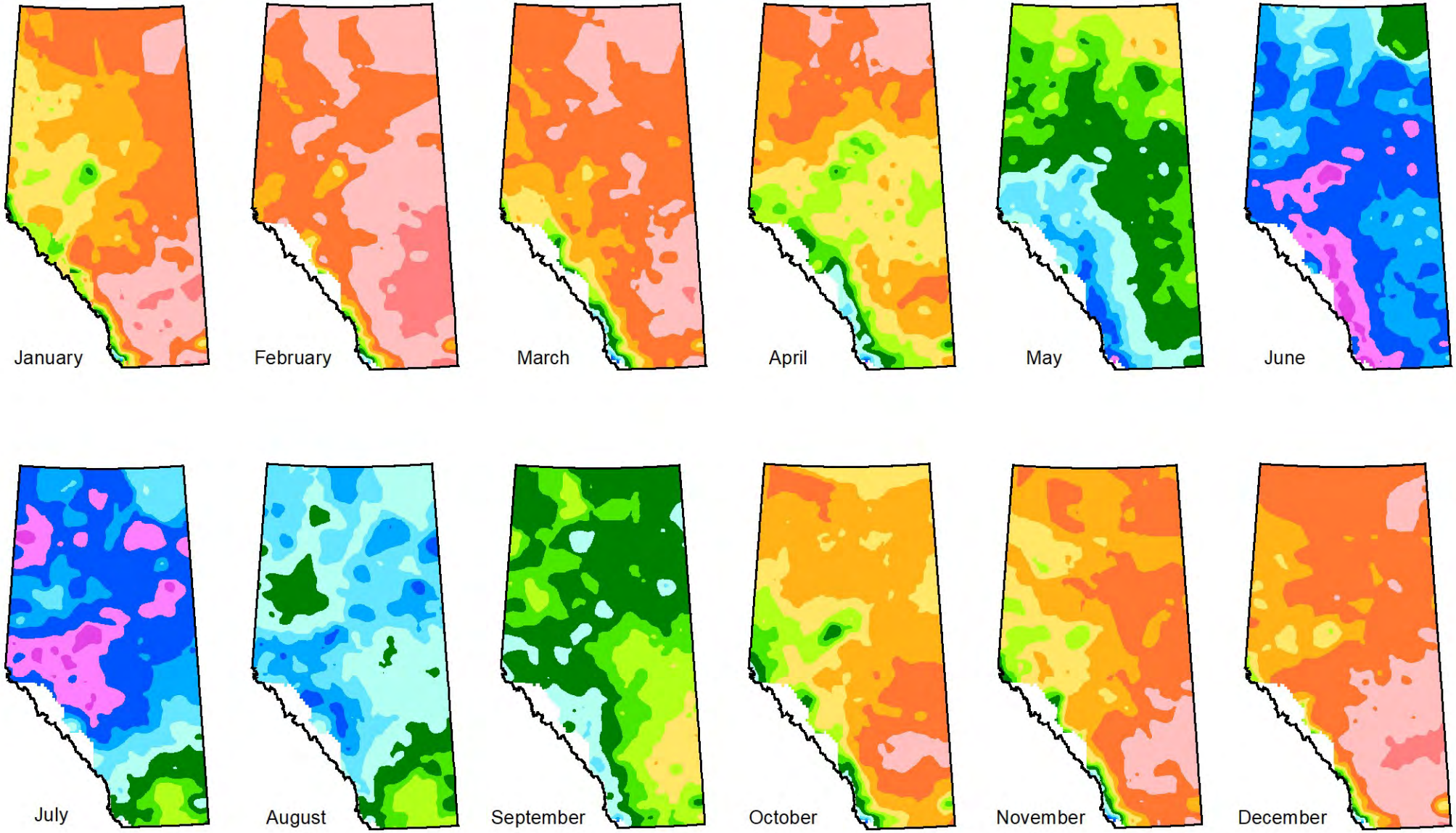
CLEARWATER CO.
CO. STETTLER
CO. PAINTEARTH
RED DEER
RED DEER CO.
SPECIAL AREA 4
MOUNTAIN VIEW CO.
KNEEHILL CO.
STARLAND CO.
Central
I.D. BANFF
M.D. BIGHORN
SPECIAL AREA 3
SPECIAL AREA 2
ROCKY VIEW CO.
M.D. ACADIA
WHEATLAND CO.
CALGARY
KANANASKIS I.D.
M.D. FOOTHILLS
CO. NEWELL
VULCAN CO.
CYPRESS CO.
M.D. WILLOW CREEK
M.D. RANCHLAND
CO. LETHBRIDGE
M.D. TABER
MEDICINE HAT
South
LETHBRIDGE
M.D. PINCHER CREEK
CO. FORTY MILE
CARDSTON CO.
CO. WARNER
Spring Wheat
Soil Moisture as
Plant Available Water
to a Depth of 120 cm
Estimated as of May 20, 2024
Soil Moisture (mm)
0 - 10
10 - 20
20 - 40
40 - 60
60 - 80
80 - 100
100 - 120
120 - 140
140 - 160
160 - 180
180 - 200
No Data
Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Soil moisture was modeled for spring wheat on medium textured soils using the modified Versatile Soil Moisture Budget V-4.0.
80 40 0 80 160
km
Alberta
Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Stewardship Division, Technology and Innovation Branch
Created on May 21, 2024



Normal Monthly Precipitation Accumulations

1991-2020

Weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture Forestry and Rural Economic Development then interpolated to township centres using AbClime-3.6

Compiled by Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on March 29, 2022

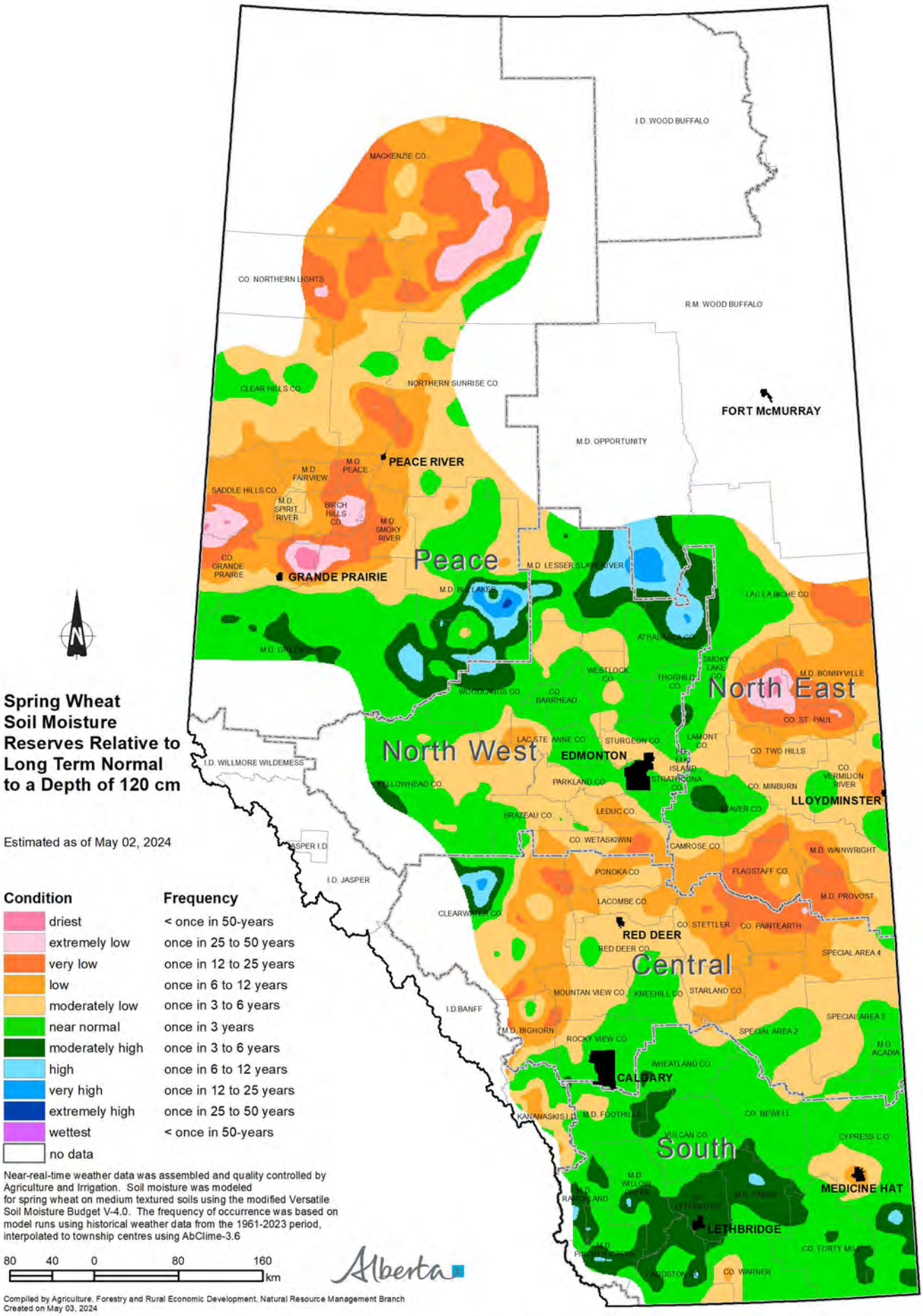
Precipitation (mm)

< 10	30 to 35	70 to 80
10 to 15	35 to 40	80 to 100
15 to 20	40 to 50	100 to 120
20 to 25	50 to 60	> 120
25 to 30	60 to 70	no data

N
W E
S

0 155 310 620
Km

Alberta



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Yellowhead County

May 23, 2024

The Honorable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation
Executive Branch 131 Legislature Building
10800- 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

To the Honorable RJ Sigurdson:

RE: Review of the Weed Control Act of Alberta

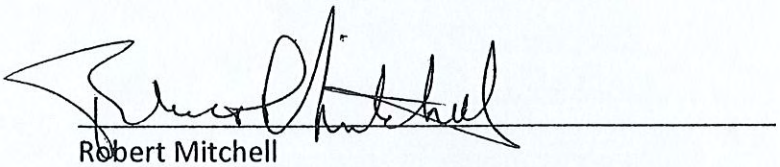
Yellowhead County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) wish to raise concerns over the 2024 Review of the Weed Control Regulations (WCR). While Yellowhead County fully supports the concerns raised by Saddle Hills County and the Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26, it also emphasizes its own reservations about the Weed Control Act (WCA). The WCA is overdue for review, and without addressing current concerns within the Act, any regulation changes would be ineffective.

The last assessment of the Weed Control Act of Alberta took place in 2008. Within this Act, terms like "willfully obstructing access" lack defined procedures for field personnel to address actions taken by landowners. While certain sections of the Act outline explicit procedures, such as giving notice before entering a building, still others lack clarity. Another issue with the current Act pertains to its handling of offences and penalties. As a result, municipalities must create bylaws specifying offences and penalties. Although fines are permissible for offences, the Act fails to provide guidance for their administration. As a result, municipalities must create bylaws specifying offences and penalties, complicating enforcement by bylaw officers. This convoluted system hampers agriculture field personnel from fulfilling their legislated duties as described by Agricultural Service Board Act.

These are two instances where the current Act falls short, preventing a Fieldman from fulfilling their legislated responsibilities. Without clearer clauses and comprehensive procedures, the Act's effectiveness is compromised, leading to increased inspection and enforcement costs for municipalities. This in turn, leads to less-than-ideal compliance, this issue exits regardless of the species or designations listed in the regulations

Yellowhead County extends its gratitude to the ministry for its ongoing efforts to update this legislation and ensure its utmost effectiveness in safeguarding agricultural lands in the province from invasive species.

Regards,



Robert Mitchell
Agricultural Service Board Chair

Cc:
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen
Agricultural Services Boards