

AGENDA
NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
JUNE 19, 2026
NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBER
9:00 AM

Page

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
3. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**
4. **BOARDS & COMMITTEES MEMBER CODE OF ETHICS & GUIDING PRINCIPLES**
[Policy 1.18 Board Committee Member Code of Ethics and Guiding Principles - for Board Completion](#)
5. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - 10 - 12 5.1 Stock Talk
 - [Project Information](#)
 - [B458/24 Land Use Bylaw \(Online Link\)](#)[April 9, 2026 Stock Talk Notes](#)
[Policy 2.12 Right to Farm](#)
 - 13 - 16 5.2 Right of Way Management Discussion & Vegetation Management Agreement Proposed Update
[Policy 2.9 Municipal Rights-of-Way and Road Allowances - 2026 Edits](#)
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 17 - 57 6.1 10:00 a.m. with Liisa Jeffrey, Executive Director, Peace Country Beef & Forage Association (PCBFA) RE: Quarterly Update
[2025 PCBFA Agricultural Service Board Presentation - Northern Sunrise](#)
[PCBFA 2025 Project List](#)
[PCBFA 2025 Extension Event Summary](#)
[PCBFA 2026 Project List](#)
[PCBFA Quarterly ASB Update - Jan - March 2026](#)
 - 6.2 10:30 a.m. with Trevor Wallace, Agricultural Meteorology Manager, Agriculture & Irrigation RE: Weather Station Verbal Discussion

NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD AGENDA

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- 58 6.3 Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC) 2026 Strategic Planning Survey ****Due July 15, 2026****
[Survey Information & Link](#)
- 59 - 75 6.4 Policies for Review
[Policy 2.1 Clubroot of Canola - 2026 Edits](#)
[Policy 2.2 Fusarium Gramanearum Zero Tolerance - 2026 Edits](#)
[Policy 2.4 Grasshoppers - 2026 Edits](#)
[Policy 2.6 Virulent Blackleg - 2026 Edits](#)
[Policy 2.7 Weed Control - 2026 Edits](#)
[Policy 2.11 Pest Control - 2026 Edits](#)
- 6.5 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Consultation on the 2026 Next Policy Framework ****Due June 30, 2026****
 • [Survey Link](#)
- 76 - 112 6.6 2026 Resolution Grading ****Due June 30, 2026****
[2026 Resolution Response Grading Report](#)
7. **CORRESPONDENCE**
- 113 - 114 7.1 On-Farm Slaughter Operations
[Vic Toutant, Agricultural Service Board Chairperson, Lac La Biche County, March 2, 2026 RE: Letter of Concern to the Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation](#)
- 115 - 116 7.2 Federal Funding Cuts - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
[Jordon Northcott, Reeve & Aaron Terpsma, Agricultural Service Board Chairperson, Clearwater County, March 9, 2026 RE: Letter of Concern to the Minister of Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada](#)
- 117 - 118 7.3 Proposed Amendments to the Federal Traceability Regulation
[Ryan Ratzlaff, Reeve, Municipal District of Greenview No. 16, March 24, 2026, RE: Letter of Concern to the Minister of Health](#)
- 119 - 120 7.4 Kochia Management - Peace Region Collaboration Request
[Dave Gibbard, Agricultural Service Board Chairperson, Municipal District of Greenview No. 16, May 14, 2026 RE: Regional Collaboration Request - Proactive Kochia Management in the Peace Region](#)
8. **AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN'S REPORT**
- 121 - 122 8.1 Agricultural Services Department Updates
[May - June 10 Updates](#)

9. INFORMATION

- 9.1 Agriculture Information Links
[AgMatters Sign-Up Link](#)
[Alberta Agri-News](#)
[Alberta Climate Information Service \(ACIS\)](#)
[Alberta Crop Report](#)
[Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network](#)
- 123 - 128 9.2 Agricultural Research Centre Closures - Response Letters
[Lacombe Research and Development Closure Letter - Northern Sunrise County](#)
[R. Kabongo, Executive Correspondence Officer, Office of the Prime Minister, March 17, 2026](#)
[Andrew Goldstein, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, March 17, 2026](#)
[The Honourable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation, March 25, 2026](#)
- 129 - 130 9.3 2025 Plant Disease Survey Results
[2025 Northern Sunrise Crop Disease Surveys](#)
- 131 - 133 9.4 Veterinary Services Incorporated (V.S.I.)
[Northern Sunrise County 2026 Quarterly Report - First Quarter](#)
- 134 - 143 9.5 Wild Boar Update
[March 2026 Wild Boar Update](#)
[April 2026 Wild Boar Update](#)
- 144 - 145 9.6 Bill 22 Animal Protection Act Updates
[Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian, Agriculture & Irrigation, April 9, 2026 RE: Bill 22: the Animal Protection Amendment Act Update](#)
[Fact Sheet](#)
- 9.7 [Video Ante-Mortem Inspection \(VAMI\) program](#)
A program that allows a government-authorized inspector to conduct an ante-mortem inspection remotely using video, enabling humane on-site slaughter in situations where transport is not possible or would cause additional distress.
- 9.8 [Agroclimate Impact Reporter](#)
The Agroclimate Impact Reporter (AIR) is an online survey designed for the collection and reporting of weather and climate

impacts on-farm operations across Canada.

- 9.9 Rural Alberta Producer Survey
 - [Online Survey Link](#)

- 146 - 148 9.10 ALUS Advocacy Campaign
[Christine Campbell, ALUS Senior Hub Manager \(West\), May 25, 2026 RE: ALUS Municipal Advocacy Campaign](#)

- 149 9.11 Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) Weed Management for Regulated Well & Facility Sites
[Alberta Energy Regulator: Weed and Agricultural Pest Compliance Information](#)

- 150 9.12 SARDA Ag. Research 40th Anniversary & Agricultural Showcase - August 5 & 6, 2026, Donnelly, AB
[Event Poster](#)

- 10. **CLOSED MEETING**

- 11. **SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING**

- 12. **ADJOURNMENT**

**POLICY 1.18
BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBER CODE
OF ETHICS & GUIDING PRINCIPLES**



**NORTHERN SUNRISE
COUNTY**

Department: Administration

Date Approved: July 23, 2024

Rescinds: 515/08/09/22

Council Res. No: 454/07/23/24

PURPOSE

To establish a Code of Ethics & Guiding Principles for members appointed by Council to Northern Sunrise County Boards and Committees.

SCOPE

This policy applies to members appointed by the Northern Sunrise County Council to the following Boards and Committees:

- Agricultural Service Board
- Bursary Review Committee
- Economic and Tourism Development Committee
- Family & Community Support Services Committee
- Intermunicipal Subdivision and Development Appeal Board
- Intermunicipal Weed & Pest Appeal Board
- Municipal Planning Commission
- Regional Assessment Review Board
- Watershed Advisory Committee
- Youth Council Advisory Committee

POLICY

1. Upon the appointment of Board and Committee members at Council's annual organizational meeting, the first order of business for every Board and Committee shall be the ratification of the Northern Sunrise County Board and Committee Member Code of Ethics as set out in 'Schedule A' of this policy, which constitutes part of this policy.
2. Upon ratification of the Board and Committee Member Code of Ethics at the first meeting of the Board or Committee following the organizational meeting, the second order of business shall be the signing of the Public Member's Statement as set out in 'Schedule B' of this policy, which constitutes part of this policy.
3. Should a public member choose not to sign the Public Member's Statement, the Chief Administrative Officer will notify Council of such.

4. Any Board or Committee member who is absent, without notice, from three (3) scheduled meetings of the Board or Committee may be removed, by a motion from Council, upon request from the Board or Committee. The Board or Committee must write a letter to Council outlining the request for the removal of the Board or Committee member.



Reeve



Chief Administrative Officer

Policy 1.18 'Schedule A'

Board and Committee Member Code of Ethics & Guiding Principles

The proper operation of democratic local government requires that persons appointed by Northern Sunrise County Council to its Boards and Committees be independent, impartial, and duly responsible through Council to the people of Northern Sunrise County.

Accordingly, it is the purpose of this Code of Ethics to outline certain basic rules for persons appointed to Boards and Committees so that they may carry out their entrusted duties with impartiality and dignity, recognizing that the function of Board or Committee members is, at all times, service to their community and the public.

To further these objectives, certain ethical principles should govern the conduct of persons appointed to Boards and Committees in order that they shall maintain the highest standards in public office and faithfully discharge their duties.

Persons appointed to the *(name of Board or Committee)* shall:

1. Govern their conduct in accordance with the requirements and obligations set out in the municipal legislation of the Province of Alberta and the bylaws and policies of Northern Sunrise County.
2. Not use confidential information for the personal profit of themselves or any other person.
3. Not communicate confidential information to anyone not entitled to receive it.
4. Not use their position to secure special privileges, favours, or exemptions for themselves or any other person.
5. Disclose the general nature of any pecuniary (financial) interest in any matter coming before the Board or Committee, if that interest is not a common interest held by other members of the body and abstain from any discussion or voting on the issue.
6. Preserve the integrity and impartiality of their Board or Committee and of County Council.
7. For a period of twelve months after leaving a Board or Committee abide by the Code of Ethics listed above, except those related to confidential information which shall apply in perpetuity.
8. Ensure all decisions of the Board or Committee are undertaken during a Board or Committee meeting using information presented before the entire Board or Committee.

The Committee members are also committed to respectful interactions and consensus decision-making. To that end, Committee members work within the spirit of the principles outlined below.

Guiding Principles

Respect

- Show courtesy and appreciation for people and for their point of view both within and outside meetings;
- On important issues, balance one's efforts to understand other Committee members and to make oneself understood;
- Accept that the committees are established for a variety of purposes and that the Committee may not be able to fulfill every request that is made by Committee members or from individuals outside the Committee

Openness and Honesty

- Share information in a timely, understandable and accessible manner.

Co-operation

- Make positive contributions to the goals of the (*name of Board or Committee*), including:
 - Regularly attending meetings;
 - Providing active assistance on Committee tasks;
 - Actively participate in meeting discussions;
 - Contributing in a positive manner.

Accountability

- Follow through on commitments;
- Refrain from speaking on behalf of the organization unless authorized to do so by the Committee;
- Disclose one's involvement with other organizations, businesses or activities where such involvement might be viewed as a conflict of interest.

Commitment

- Refrain from disclosing or discussing differences of opinion on the Committee outside of Committee meetings, as well as the views of individuals that were shared in the context of Committee discussions (unless the individual has provided consent for the view to be shared);
- Once made, support and defend Committee decisions, even if one's own view is a minority one.

Persons appointed to Boards or Committees should not assume that any unethical activities not covered by or specifically prohibited by this Code of Ethics & Guiding Principles, or by any legislation, are therefore condoned. If in doubt about actions they may be contemplating, appointees are encouraged to seek advice from the Chair of their Board or Committee or from the Chief Administrative Officer of Northern Sunrise County.

Members of the (*name of Board or Committee*) agree to uphold this Code of Ethics & Guiding Principles and to govern their actions accordingly.

Adopted by resolution this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Chair of Board or Committee

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Policy 1.18 'Schedule B'

Board and Committee Member Code of Ethics & Guiding Principles

Public Member's Statement

I, (name of Board/Committee member), agree to be bound by the Northern Sunrise County Board/Committee Member Code of Ethics & Guiding Principles as set out in Policy 1.18 and approved by the (name(s) of Board/Committee). Furthermore, I agree to diligently, faithfully, and to the best of my ability, fulfill my duties as a Board/Committee member for Northern Sunrise County.

Board/Committee Member

Date

**Northern Sunrise County Agricultural Service Board Stock Talk - April 9, 2026
Hosted by the Intensive Livestock Working Group (ILWG)**

Project Objective:

In their 4th year of a 5-year project, the ILWG has been working to bridge gaps between agricultural producers (specifically livestock) and municipalities for the protection and sustainability of the agricultural industry.

Several concerns have been noted by the ILWG throughout the project, including:

- Rural infrastructure, road use, limited provincial funding
- Land use bylaws that contain agricultural exclusion zones, but not “inclusion” zones to ensure protection of productive agricultural lands
- Regulations for dust and noise
- Water availability, quality, and accessibility
- Public misconceptions on animal husbandry

Recommendation from the ILWG:

- Ensure Agricultural Service Board (ASB) involvement during Land Use Bylaw planning/updates for an agricultural lens
 - o These development plans should follow the minimum standards for livestock operations as outlined in the Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA)
 - The Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) handles confined feeding operations (CFOs) approvals; however, they typically follow the municipalities regulations for agricultural practices set in land use bylaws and municipal development plans. If the municipality's regulations differ from AOPA it can cause challenges for the industry to receive approval.
- Road infrastructure and use
 - o A “Rural Road Committee” has been established to provide a framework by 2027 for better collaboration of agricultural and municipality needs
 - Some suggested ideas include reducing road speed limits rather than road bans
- Increased public education on rural living
 - o Could be education materials added to tax notices, real estate pamphlets, school programs, etc.
- Establish a “right to farm” group made up of individuals working in the agricultural industry
 - o Ponoka County has a right to farm group that sends at least one member to every council meeting which helps to ensure an agricultural lens is considered during decision making

POLICY 2.12
Right to Farm



NORTHERN SUNRISE
COUNTY

Department: Agricultural Services

Date Approved: August 27, 2019

Rescinds: 971/11/24/14

Council Res. No: 613/08/27/19

PURPOSE:

To acknowledge existing provincial legislation, the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act* of Alberta (R.S.A. 2000 Chapter A-7), and further ensure there is a clear support established for the agricultural operations in Northern Sunrise County's daily function to prevent adverse impacts from neighbouring residents, interest groups, and industry.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all agricultural operations of Northern Sunrise County who conduct agricultural activities within its boundaries.

DEFINITIONS:

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. "Act" means the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act*.
2. "Agricultural operation" means an agricultural activity conducted on agricultural land for gain or reward or in the hope or expectation of gain or reward, and includes:
 - a. the cultivation of land,
 - b. the raising of livestock, including domestic cervids within the meaning of the *Livestock Industry Diversification Act* and poultry,
 - c. the raising of fur-bearing animals, pheasants or fish,
 - d. the production of agricultural field crops,
 - e. the production of fruit, vegetables, sod, trees, shrubs and other specialty horticultural crops,
 - f. the production of eggs and milk,
 - g. the production of honey,
 - h. the operation of agricultural machinery and equipment,
 - i. the application of fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, fungicides and herbicides, including application by ground and aerial spraying, for agricultural purposes,
 - j. the collection, transportation, storage, application, use, transfer and disposal of manure, composting materials and compost, and
 - k. the abandonment and reclamation of confined feeding operations and manure storage facilities.
3. "Agricultural Services staff" means County employees responsible for the administration of the *Agricultural Service Board Act*.

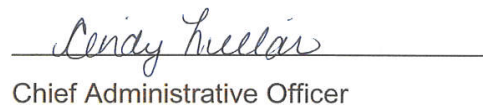
4. "Generally accepted agricultural practices" refers to a practice that is conducted in a manner consistent with appropriate and accepted customs and standards as established and followed by similar agricultural operations under similar circumstances, and without restricting the generality of the foregoing and includes the use of innovative technology used with advanced management practices.

GUIDELINES:

1. Northern Sunrise County acknowledges existing provincial legislation, the *Agricultural Operation Practices Act*, and further demonstrates its support for agriculture, ensuring farmers and ranchers have the continued right to engage in "generally accepted agricultural practices", without unnecessary restrictions imposed upon their operations.
2. Other Northern Sunrise County policies will abide by the intent of this policy and the *Act* it is based upon.
3. Agricultural Services staff will provide appropriate information to owners and operators of agricultural operations and residents to support this policy.
4. Agricultural Services staff will:
 - a. provide owners and operators of agricultural operations with information on beneficial management practices to assist in minimizing any potential nuisance complaints.
 - b. provide residents with information on generally accepted agricultural practices to assist in minimizing adverse impacts on agriculture.
 - c. maintain open communications with Government of Alberta departments to ensure referral of complaints to appropriate agencies.
5. As Northern Sunrise County policies are reviewed, adherence to the intent of this policy will be considered and incorporated whenever possible.



Reeve



Chief Administrative Officer

POLICY 2.9
Municipal Rights-of-Way and
Road Allowances



NORTHERN SUNRISE
COUNTY

Department: Agricultural Services

Date Approved: ~~February 8, 2022~~

Rescinds: ~~056/01/26/21~~

Council Res. No: ~~116/02/08/22~~

PURPOSE:

To ensure there is a clear guideline established for the manageable municipal rights-of-way and road allowances to prevent the destruction of or obstruction to County property, and to allow Agricultural Services and Public Works personnel to complete vegetation management programs in accordance with County policy.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to the use of manageable municipal rights-of-way and road allowances. Utility areas beyond the sharp edge of the backslope are excluded from this policy.

DEFINITIONS:

County

Refers to the municipality of Northern Sunrise County.

Land Clearing

Land clearing is the process of removing trees, stumps, brush, stones, and other obstacles from an area.

Manageable Municipal Rights-of-Way

Any right-of-way that includes a developed municipal road, drainage ditches and/or a municipal reserve.

Obstructions

Any physical object used to limit the public's use of road allowance; including, but not limited to, fences, gates, hay bales, vehicles, equipment, logs, brush and rocks.

Road Allowances

Any developed, theoretical or undeveloped road allowances within Northern Sunrise County.

GUIDELINES:

1. The public can access road allowances located within the County at their own risk.
2. Landowners adjacent to road allowances should be aware that public usage is allowed and may occur. Any attempt by landowners to use road allowances for personal gain is at their own risk and the County takes no responsibility for any damages resulting from usage of the road allowances.
3. Areas on a 20 meters manageable municipal right-of-way will have vegetation maintenance done on up to 6 meters on both sides of the road surface. (Schedule A)

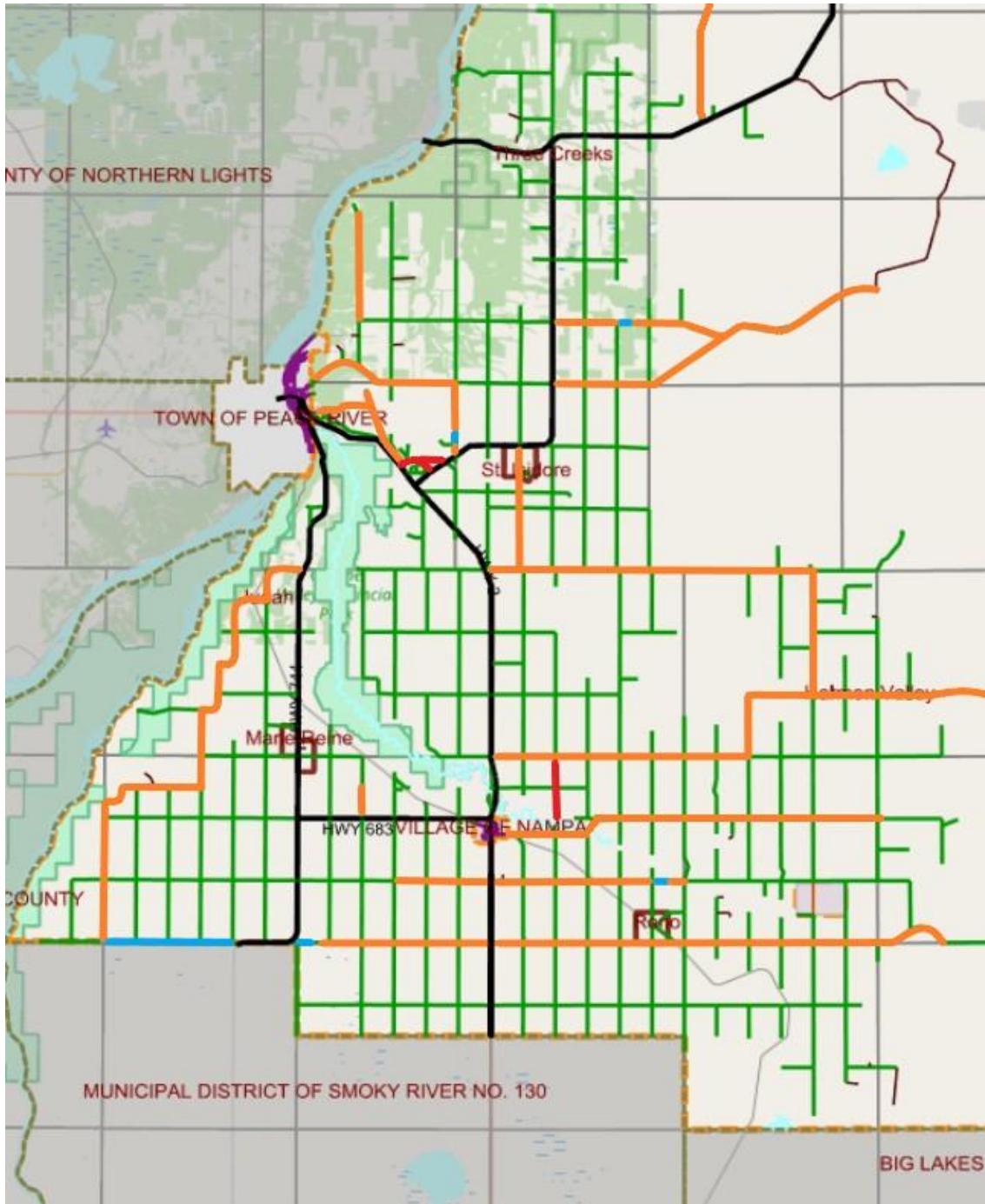
4. Areas on a 25 meters manageable municipal right-of-way will have vegetation maintenance done on up to 6 meters on one side and up to 10 meters on the other side of the road surface. (Schedule A)
5. Areas on a 30 meters manageable municipal right-of-way will have vegetation maintenance done on up to 10 meters on both sides of the road surface. (Schedule A)
6. Areas on a 40 meters manageable municipal right-of-way will have vegetation maintenance done on up to 15 meters on both sides of the road surface. (Schedule A)
7. Growing, harvesting and cultivation of crops shall not occur within the manageable municipal rights-of-way.
8. Any crops found within the manageable municipal rights-of-way may be removed as part of the County's regular rights-of-way maintenance programs, in a manner deemed acceptable by the Agricultural Fieldman or the Director of [Public Works Operations and Infrastructure](#).
9. Any losses or expenses incurred by the landowner as a result of the crop being removed will be borne by the landowner adjacent to the area.
10. Any subsequent losses by the landowner, due to the method of removal, will be the responsibility of the landowner adjacent to the area.
11. Any cost from damage to the vegetation or restoration of vegetation in the manageable municipal rights-of-way will be borne by the landowner.
12. Any vegetation management on private land for vegetation control performed by the County along the manageable municipal rights-of-way must have the agreements of the attached "Schedule B" filled out.
13. No obstructions to road allowances are permitted. No land clearing is allowed in road allowances except as authorized in writing by the County. In the event that the County becomes aware of either operation, they will be corrected, and the cost charged back to the persons responsible.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer



Policy 2.9 Municipal Rights-of-Way and Road Allowances
Schedule A



20m ROW in Green 25m ROW in Blue AB Highways
30m ROW in Orange 40m ROW in Red in Black



NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT RELEASE

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case #: _____

Fence Line Agreement

Initial _____

I hereby grant permission for Northern Sunrise County to control regulated weeds by applying residual herbicide, mowing, or by other methods **within the perimeter of the listed property, including the fence line and headlands**, and adjacent Municipal right-of-way.

Northern Sunrise County may conduct regulated weed management within the perimeter of the listed property, including fence lines and up to any existing cultivated field headlands.

Private Land Agreement

Initial _____

I hereby grant permission for Northern Sunrise County to control regulated weeds to a maximum area of two acres, by applying residual herbicide, mowing, or by other methods **within the listed property.**

Brush Control Agreement

Initial _____

I hereby grant permission for Northern Sunrise County to control brush, by applying residual herbicide, mowing, or by other methods, **adjacent to County infrastructure of the listed property.**

I hereby declare by signing this form that I understand that vegetation management will be conducted only if time and weather conditions permit, with the knowledge that priority is always given to the County's road right-of-way program. Services outlined in this agreement shall not be billable. This signed agreement shall include permission for Northern Sunrise County to enter the listed property for the purpose of performing such related work.

I understand that herbicides may be applied for the purpose of this request. I understand herbicides applied contain low toxicity and that the residual effects may restrict the growth of certain plants and crops for several years. I hereby declare that I understand the effects and I agree to save harmless and indemnify Northern Sunrise County, its employees and agents, from and against all actions, suits, claims and demands arising in any manner whatsoever from activities associated with said vegetation control work.

I understand that brush control will only be completed when it impedes County infrastructure such as sightlines or drainage.

I understand that amendments to land ownership or occupancy must reported to the County. Amendments discovered by the County will render this agreement thereto, null and void.

The property I wish to have maintained:

LEGAL: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ - W5 If applicable, SUBDIVISION (LOT: _____ BLOCK: _____ PLAN: _____)
Quarter Section Township Range Meridian

NOTES: _____
i.e. Property access, area of concern, etc.

Landowner Name (Print)

Date

X _____
Signature of Landowner / Registered Occupant

Mailing Address

Northern Sunrise County Approval

Telephone Email

Peace Country Beef & Forage Association

WWW.PEACECOUNTRYBEEF.CA

→ 2025



Our Vision

Our vision is to collect and provide innovative and credible information to our members.

Our Values

- P** Our team approaches every task with fervent dedication and unwavering commitment, fueled by a deep passion for our mission. We enjoy supporting **passionate** members, producers, and directors too!
- C** We foster a **collaborative** environment where diverse perspectives converge, inviting each stakeholder to contribute their unique insights for collective success.
- B** Our endeavors are driven by the belief that every action we take should lead to **beneficial** outcomes, enriching the farms, livestock and families of those we serve.
- F** Embracing innovation and foresight, we strive to pioneer solutions that propel us towards a brighter future, guided by our **forward-thinking** approach.
- A** We hold ourselves **accountable** to the highest standards of integrity and transparency, cultivating trust and reliability in all our interactions.

Meet Our Team



Liisa Jeffrey



Alaina Archibald



Dr. Akim Omokanye



Dr. Blasius Azuhnwi



Dr. Hayford Gyamfi



Cameron Bilodeau



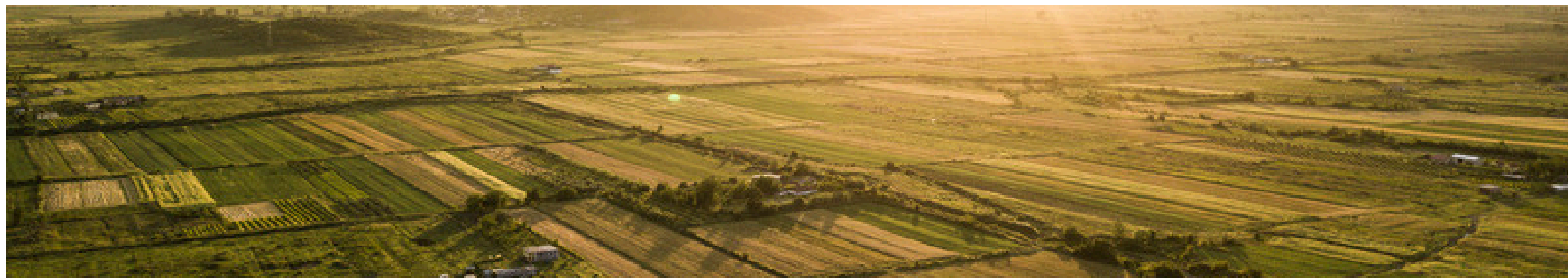
Myah Weenink



Parteek Bhardwaj



2025 Extension Summary



In 2025, PCBFA is pleased to highlight the breadth of activity achieved. We hosted or participated in 38 extension events across the Peace Region. These events reflect our continued commitment to advancing research, sharing practical knowledge, and strengthening connections with producers to support the long-term sustainability and success of the beef and forage industry.

2025 Extension in Your Area



North Peace Beef Cattle Day, Peace River

On February 5 we had a fantastic event at the Chateau Nova in Peace River focusing on Beef Cattle production in the Peace. With a line up of fantastic speakers including Kevin Elmy, Dr. Blasius Azuhnwi, Dr. Will Lillico, Dr. Erik Burrow and Dr. Bart Lardner, the crowd of 35 left feeling very satisfied.



2025 Extension in Your Area



PRLI Below Ground Conference

The Below Ground Soil Health Conference was a full event focused on water management and soil health in the Peace Region. The event featured expert panels, breakout sessions on plant stimulants, intercropping, and water quality, and concluded with strategies to improve soil water-holding capacity.



2025 Extension in Your Area



Wetlands Workshop

PCBFA co-hosted the Wetlands Workshop, with Ducks Unlimited and partner organizations. With 30 participants, the event began with a classroom session, followed by a visit to a wetland site. The workshop focused on the importance of wetlands, their conservation, and their role in agricultural landscapes. PCBFA joined with a booth at the entry, sharing materials and networking with attendees. Due to the Junior Agrarian program scheduled the following day, PCBFA participated in only the first day.



Peace River Public Library Presentations

With 3 in-person attendees and 652 folks joining online, Dr. Akim Omokanye delivered an engaging presentation on soil health, covering topics from farming to gardening demographics.

We then returned on July 30, where Dr. Hayford Gyamfi gave a presentation on silvopastoral grazing methods. 5 people attended in-person, and 460 tuned in online.

2025 Extension in Your Area



Farm Tours

On August 15, we hosted a tour through the MD of Peace, stopping at two different farms.

The day began with a sod seeding site visit at Paul and Lori Kinnee's farm, where a small group of eight, Dr. Bart Lardner (USask), and the Kinnees walked through the trial site. The group also viewed a nearby vetch crop.

Later in the day, PCBFA hosted the Extended Grazing Tour at Kyle Davies' farm. A total of 10 people attended and while attendance was modest, the conversations were rich. Both in the morning and afternoon, Dr. Bart and Dr. Hayford shared valuable insights, engaging producers in thoughtful discussions.

2025 Extension Highlights



Junior Agrarian Program

In 2024, we launched our first-ever kids program, Junior Agrarians. We welcomed a group of enthusiastic children to the Research Farm every Thursday in July, and we were thrilled to bring it back again in 2026.

Participants engaged in various topics including water and farm safety, understanding and identifying plant stages, the environmental impacts of agriculture, invasive species, weed and plant ID, working alongside nature, public speaking, and more.

Participants were assigned crops found at the Research Farm to study throughout the program and wrapped up their time with us by giving an Oral Presentation at our annual Field Day for all those present.

2025 Extension Highlights

Northern Women in Agriculture Conference

The 2nd Annual Northern Women in Agriculture Conference was held in Fairview and welcomed around 90 attendees from across Alberta and Northern British Columbia, sparking insightful discussions and meaningful connections. This event has sold out 2 years running, continues to receive amazing feedback, and was held again **February 19-20th, 2026**



Other Services

We continue to take great pride in our ongoing commitment to sharing valuable information with producers in the Peace Region and beyond. Our offerings include the Feed Testing Program, Soil Testing Program, and consulting services for producers, among others. We also continue to provide monthly newsletters and a biannual magazine, alongside various other accredited publications. We remain dedicated to delivering credible and reliable information to producers as we work towards enhancing agricultural sustainability, one farm at a time.



New Service!

Wintex 3000 mobile soil sampling service for producers

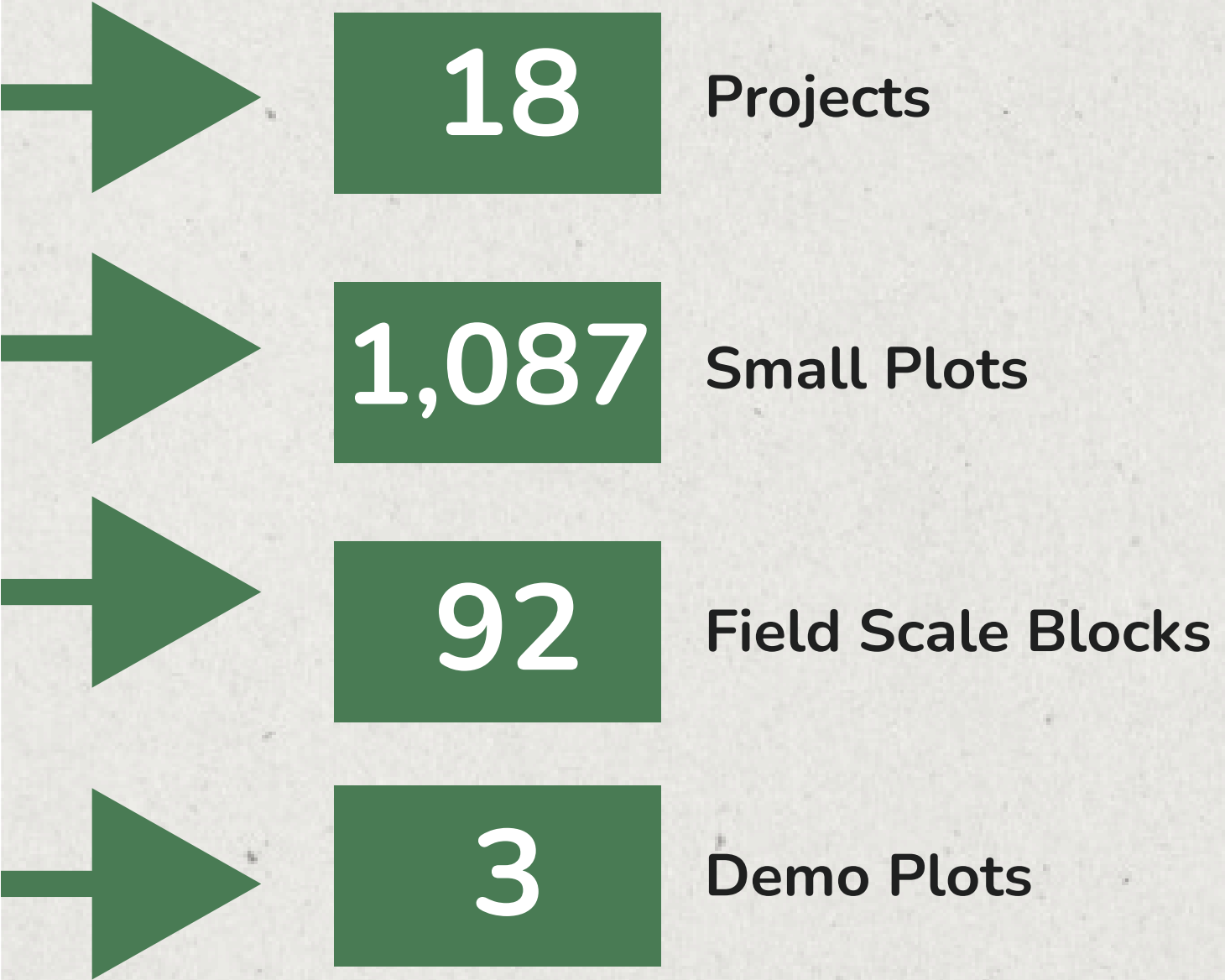


2025 Research Summary




2025 PCBFA Research Projects

The Peace Country Beef & Forage Association had a productive year in **2025**, with a multitude of projects throughout the Peace.



Project Focus Points

- Forage Production
- Grain Production
- Soil Health
- Water Use Efficiency
- Animal Welfare & Performance
- Economic Analyses
- Environmental Impacts



Rejuvenation of Saline Soils with Saline Tolerant Forages (2024- 2027)

Collaborator: University of Saskatchewan

Objective

Test the suitability of recently released salt tolerant Wheat Grass in reclaiming saline soils

Treatment	Species	Seeding rate (lbs/ac)
T1 (Control)	Carlton Smooth Bromegrass	6
	Halo 2 Alfalfa	5
T2	Revenue Slender Wheatgrass	4
	Carlton Smooth Bromegrass	4
	Halo 2 Alfalfa	3
T3 Nutrien Ag SalineMaster Blend	AC Saltlander Green Wheatgrass	10
	Barolex Tall Fescue	
	AC Rocket Smooth Bromegrass	
	Revenue Slender Wheatgrass	
T4	CDC Salt King Hybrid Wheatgrass	6
	Halo 2 Alfalfa	4.5
T5 All Grass Blend	Courtney Tall Fescue	4
	CDC Salt King Hybrid Wheatgrass	4
	AC Renegade Crested Wheatgrass	4

What we are monitoring

- Baseline soil samples (2024)
- Stand establishment
- Persistence of seeded forages
- Forage yield and quality

Rejuvenation of Saline Soils with Saline Tolerant Forages (2024- 2027)

Some Results



- Patchy establishment was noticed 30 days after seeding in 2024 **(4a)**
- Plots benefited from early spring moisture in 2025 **(4b)**
 - Forage yields of 1.5 - 2 bales/ac
 - % of seeded forages just 25%
 - CDC Salt King Grass persisted the most
 - Alfalfa completely disappeared in stand
- Foxtail Barley weed invaded plots after the 2025 harvest **(4c)**
- Future plans - Continue monitoring plots in 2026 and 2027

Sod Seeding of Legumes to Improve Forage Production, Forage Quality, and Soil Benefits (2023 - 2027)

Collaborators: University of Saskatchewan, Peace Region Living Lab (PRL)

Objective

Establish legumes in degraded & grass-dominated pastures to improve forage yield, quality and soil health

T1 – AC Yellowhead Alfalfa at 10 lbs/ac

T2 – Spredor Alfalfa (50%) + AAC Glenview Sainfoin (50%), both at 27.5 lbs/ac

T3 – Spredor Alfalfa (50%) + Cicer Milkvetch (50%), both at 13 lbs/ac

T0 – Control (no seeding of a grass-dominated pasture – left as it was)

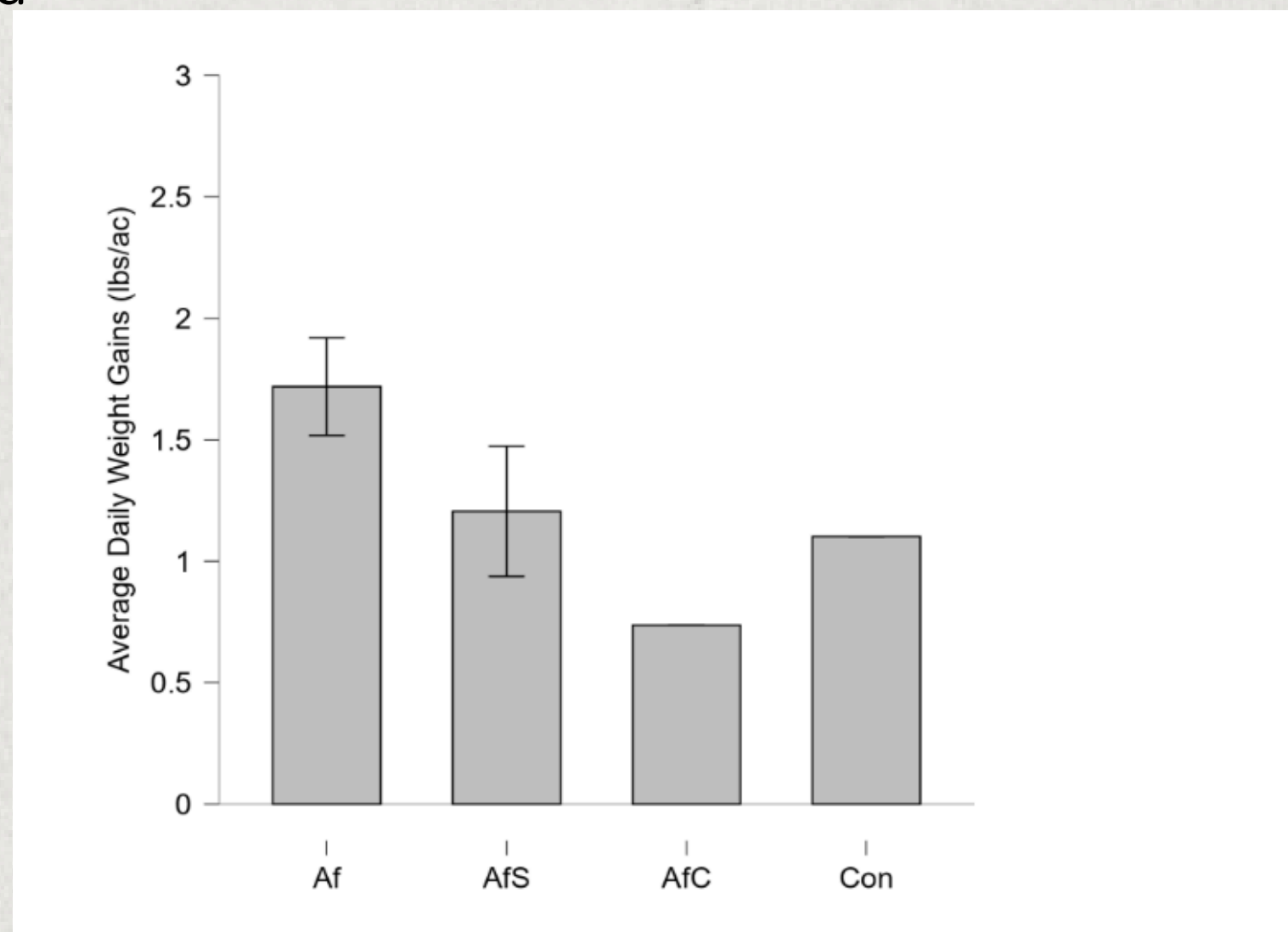
What we are monitoring

- *Baseline Data (2024)*
 - Soil physical and chemical properties
 - Forage yield, botanical composition
- *Grazing phase in 2025*
 - Animal performance (Average Weight Gain)



Sod Seeding of Legumes to Improve Forage Production, Forage Quality, and Soil Benefits - Some Results

- Soil bulk density & water infiltration were unchanged by treatments
- Forage yields increased 2-3 times (2023 to 2025)
- % of legumes in the stand increased by almost 70 - 90% from 2024 to 2025
- Legume seeding improved pasture quality
- Animal performance (Average Daily Gain - ADG) varied between treatments
 - **Alfalfa** had the highest ADG (1.7 lbs/day)
 - **Check** outperformed **Alfalfa + Cicer Milkvetch**
- **Plan:** Continue with data collection in 2026



Average Daily Weight Gains

Enhancing Agroecosystem Services in the Peace Region (2022-2027)

Peace Region Living Lab

A federally supported **5-year project** (2022-2027) testing innovative **Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)** on farms across the Peace

PCBFA is monitoring **12 producer sites** in the Peace.



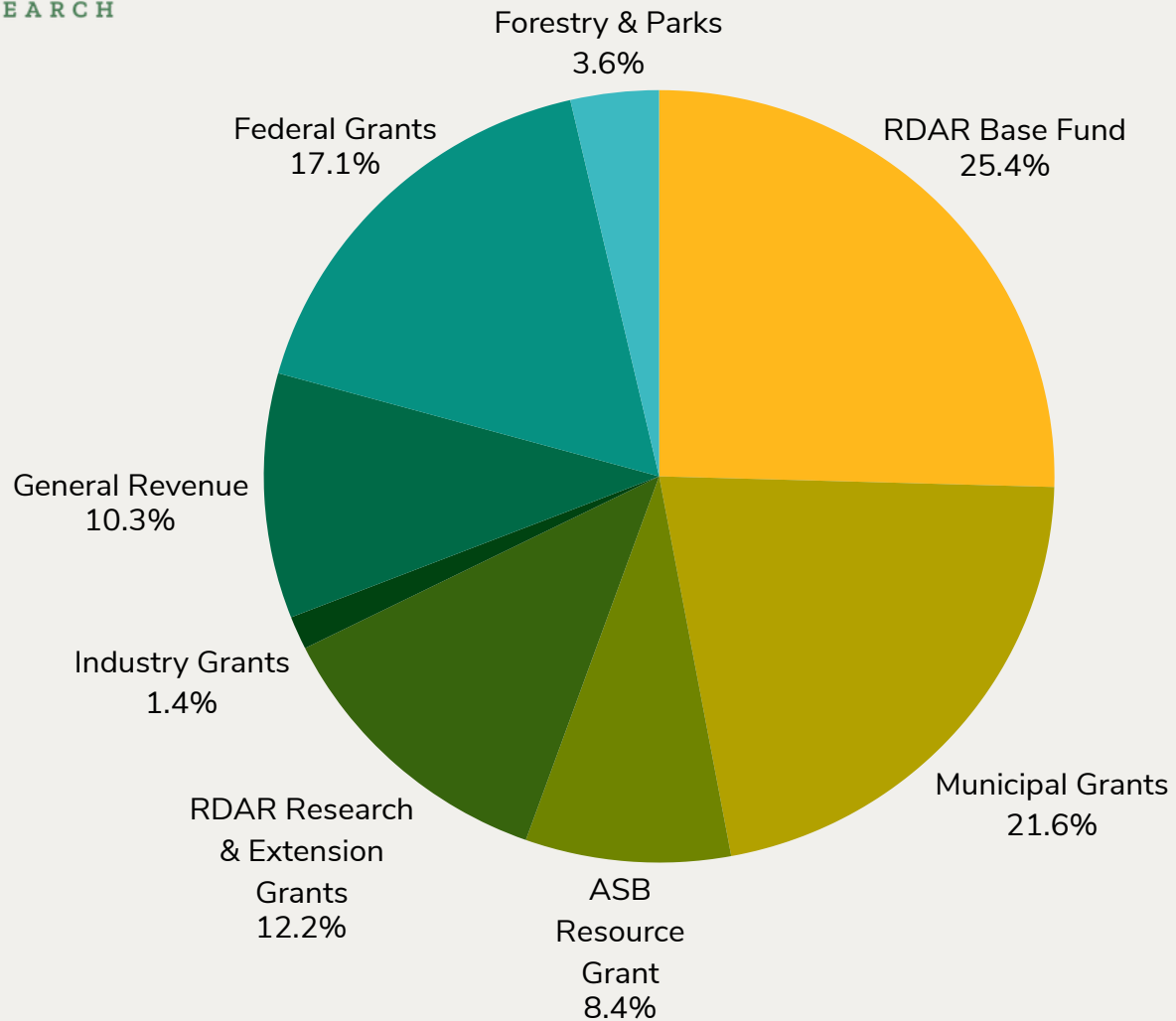
2024-25 Financial Summary





PCBFA Revenue Breakdown

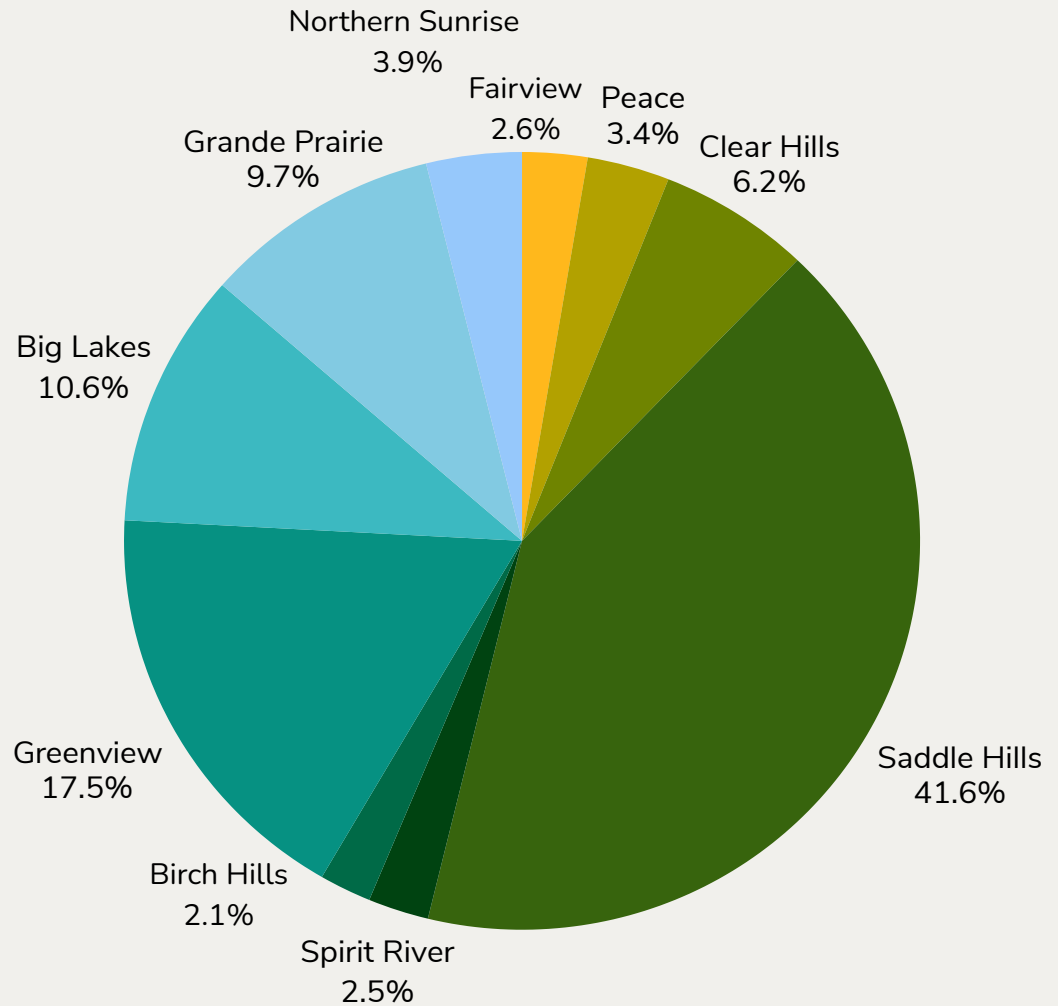
2024-2025 - Total \$1,310,348





PCBFA Municipal Funding Breakdown

2024-2025 - Total \$283,569

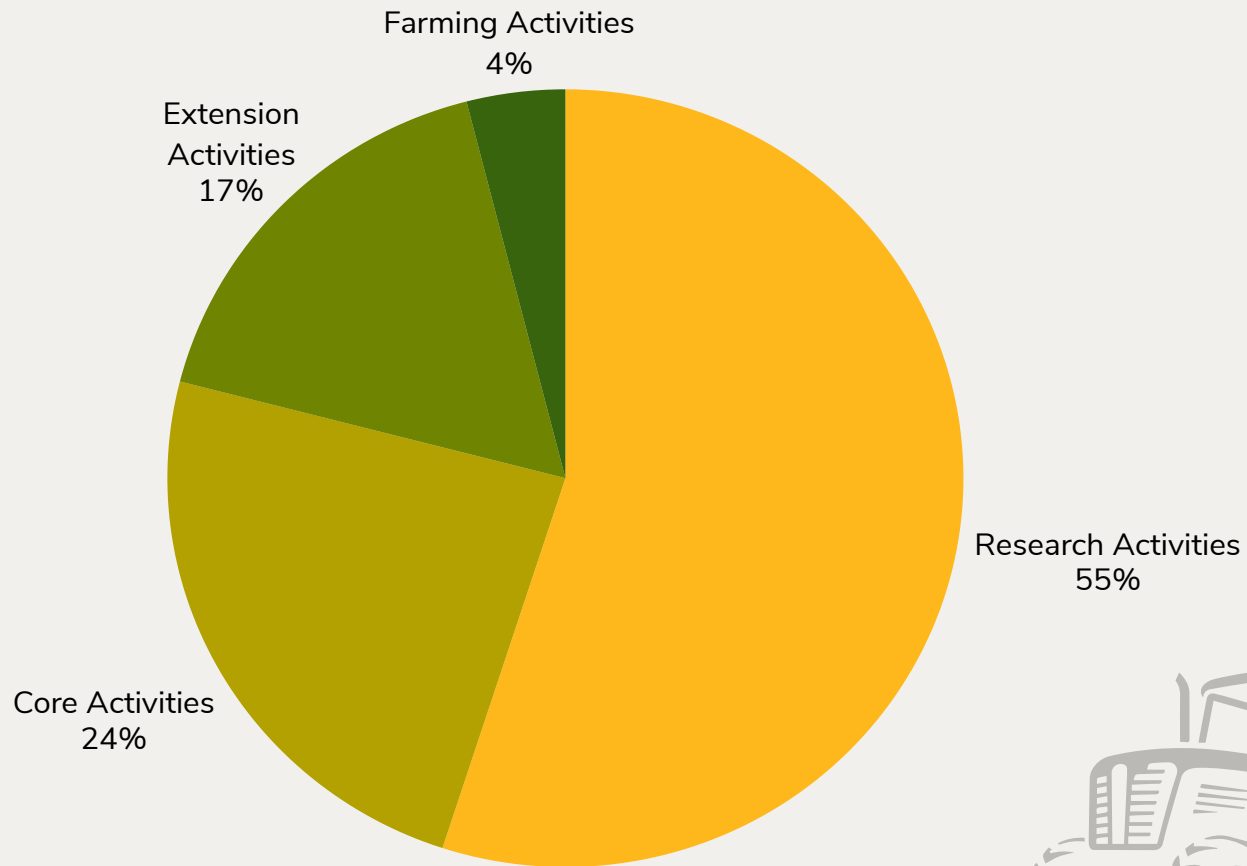


Municipal funding chart includes cash contributions only.



PCBFA Expense Breakdown

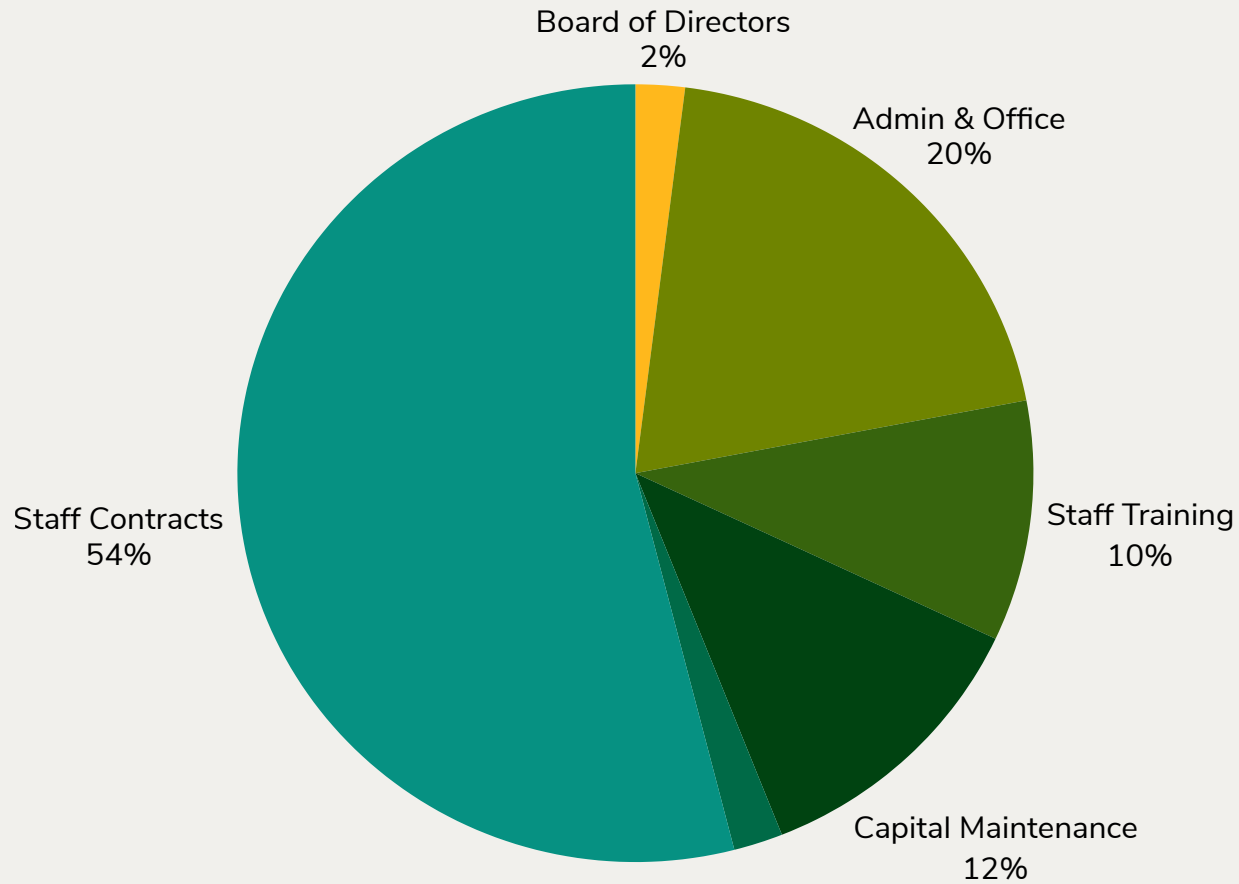
2024-2025 - Total \$1,287,089





PCBFA Core Expenses

2024-2025 - Total \$308,901





Our Partnership

Municipal Funding:

- Crucial to Our Survival
- Base Funding
- Leverage for matching

The Role of PCBFA:

- Bridge between academia and producers
- Forage research
- University-level research
- Forage specialists



2026-2029 Strategic Plan

Key Focus Points:

- Putting the beef back into PCBFA
- Timely and easy to consume research findings
- Producer ROI
- Improving 1:1 consultations
- Increasing 'home-grown' knowledge

Thank You



**NORTHERN SUNRISE
COUNTY**



**Peace Country Beef & Forage Association
Applied Research
2025 Research Project List**

#	Full Title of Project	Duration	Funder	Scale	MD/County	Location	Producer	# Treatments	# Plots
1	Evaluation of Early Seeded Multiple-Cut Winter Cereals for Livestock Feed as a Drought Management Strategy in Alberta	2024-2026	RDAR (LARA)	SP	MD of Fairview	Fairview Research Farm	N/A	10	40
2	Effect of Plant Biostimulants on Crop Production and Soil Health	2023-2026	PRLL	SP	MD of Fairview	Fairview Research Farm	N/A	8	32
3	Exploring the Effects of Penegetic Products on Crop Production and Soil Health	2023-2025	Gouw Naturals	LP	MD of Fairview	Fairview Research Farm	N/A	5	10
4	Longevity and Ecosystem Services of Perennial Forage Stands	2024-2026	Rangeland Sustainability Program / RDAR	SP	MD of Fairview	Fairview Research Farm	N/A	86	344
					MD of Greenview	DeBolt	Mark Pellerin	45	180
5	Liming Effects on Forage Sustainability and Economics	2024-2026	Rangeland Sustainability Program	FS	County of Grande Prairie	Sexsmith	James Bozarth	4	12
6	Forage Production & Ecosystem Services of Silvopastures	2024-2026	Rangeland Sustainability Program	FS	Big Lakes County	High Prairie	Kelvin & Marianne Krahn	3	9
7	Rejuvenation of Saline Soils with Saline Tolerant Forages	2024-2027	RDAR (USask)	SP	MD of Peace	Brownvale	Randy Alexander	5	20
8	Varieties of Grain Crops for Saddle Hills (Oats, Barley, Wheat, Field Peas, Canola)	2023-2025	Saddle Hills County	SP	Saddle Hills County	Fourth Creek	Conrad Dolen	62	248
9	Field Scale Evaluation of Methods of Perennial Rejuvenation: Reseeding Pasture Stands	2023-2025	Saddle Hills County	FS	Saddle Hills County	Bonanza	N/A	5	15
10	Field Scale Evaluation of Methods of Perennial Rejuvenation: Reseeding Hayland	2023-2025	Saddle Hills County	FS	Saddle Hills County	Spirit River	N/A	5	15
11	Sod Seeding of Legumes to Improve Forage Production, Forage Quality and Soil Benefits	2023-2026	BCRC and PRLL (USask)	FS	MD of Peace	Brownvale	Paul Kinnee	4	8
12	Warm-Season Grasses in Cover Crop Polyculture Mixes: Enhancing Resilience in Forage Cropping Systems	2025-2028	RDAR	SP	MD of Fairview	Fairview Research Farm	N/A	10	40
13	Assessing the Potential of a New Forage Wheat Variety in Forage Production Systems in the Peace Region	2025	Nutrien Ag	SP	MD of Fairview	Fairview Research Farm	N/A	12	48
14	Alberta Cereal Silage Variety Testing Project - "The Need for Feed 2.0"	2025	RDAR (WCI)	SP	MD of Fairview	Fairview Research Farm	N/A	17	51
15	Peace Region Silage Cocktail Demo	2025	PCBFA	SP	MD of Fairview	Fairview Research Farm	N/A	9	36
16	Demonstrating the Newest Pod-Shatter Resistant Canola Varieties	2024-2026	PCBFA	SP	MD of Fairview	Fairview Research Farm	N/A	24	48

17	Covers & Co Demonstration	2025	Covers & Co and PCBFA	FS	MD of Fairview	Fairview Research Farm	N/A	1	
18	Enhancing Agroecosystem Services in the Peace Region (Peace Region Living Lab)	2022-2026	PRL	FS	MD Fairview (2)	Fairview	Garth Shaw	11	22
						Bluesky	Fritz Hostettler		
					MD of Peace (1)	Brownvale	Kyle Davies		
					Saddle Hills County (3)	Fourth Creek	Conrad Dolen		
						Savanna	James Yuha		
						Baytree	Dan Martin		
					County of Grande Prairie (4)	Goodfare	Donovan Kitt		
						Goodfare	Clay & Ash Armstrong		
						La Glace	Russel Johnson		
						Teepee Creek	Mack Erno		
Clear Hills County (1)	Hines Creek	Brent Kobbert							

SP SP = Small Plot
 LP LP = Large Plot
 FS FS = Farm Scale



January 9 & 10

Peace Beef Congress, Grande Prairie

A few members of the PCBFA team attended the Peace Beef Congress Cattle Show and Trade Show in Grande Prairie. While the walkthrough rate was lower than anticipated, the meaningful conversations held provided valuable insights and fostered mutual understanding between attendees and the PCBFA team.

February 5

North Peace Beef Cattle Day, Peace River

On February 5 we had a fantastic event at the Chateau Nova in Peace River focusing on Beef Cattle production in the Peace. With a lineup of fantastic speakers including Kevin Elmy, Dr. Blasius Azuhwi, Dr. Will Lillico, Dr. Erik Burrow and Dr. Bart Lardner, the crowd of 35 left feeling very satisfied.

February 12

EFP Workshop, Fairview

With 14 attendees, participants worked through the first two chapters of their EFP workbook with a trained technician, learning about environmental risk assessments and funding opportunities. The session provided hands-on guidance for starting or renewing EFPs, followed by a networking lunch.

February 13

AgTalk with Akim, Fairview

With 7 attendees, the intimate, coffee-shop-style discussion covered key topics for the 2025 farming season, forage focused, giving the producers the opportunity to ask questions in a relaxed setting.

February 14

AgTalk with Akim, Nampa

With 7 attendees, the intimate, coffee-shop-style discussion covered key topics for the 2025 farming season, alternative grazing methods, beef cattle nutrition and more!

February 20 & 21

Northern Women in Ag Conference, Fairview

Northern Women in Agriculture welcomed around 90 attendees from across Alberta and Northern British Columbia, sparking insightful discussions and meaningful connections. The event received amazing feedback.

February 26-27

PRLI Below Ground, Grimshaw

The Below Ground Soil Health Conference was a full event focused on water management and soil health in the Peace Region. The event featured expert panels, breakout sessions on plant stimulants, intercropping, and water quality, and concluded with strategies to improve soil water-holding capacity.

March 5

Soil Health Seminar, Grande Prairie

The Soil Health Seminar brought together 36 attendees from across Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and even Germany. The event featured expert discussions on soil fertility, plant diversity, and profit vs. production farming, along with insights on cover crop research. Attendees engaged in valuable conversations, making it a successful gathering of agricultural professionals.

March 6 - 8

Peace Country Classic, Grande Prairie

PCBFA had a great time at the Peace Country Classic Agri-Show, at Evergreen Park. We connected with around 200 people, had insightful conversations, and welcomed new members to our community. It was a fantastic opportunity to engage with producers and industry professionals while promoting sustainable agriculture!

March 14

EFP Workshop #2, Fairview

8 producers attended the third Environmental Farm Plan Workshop to begin or update their EFPs with guidance from a trained technician. The session covered environmental risk assessments and funding opportunities. Lunch was provided, and the event was free to attend.

March 26 - 28

SARDA Trade Show

We were pleased to attend the SARDA Trade Show in Falher, where we connected with a diverse group of attendees throughout the day. The event was well-organized and offered a great platform to engage with producers, industry partners, and community members. We had many valuable conversations, shared information about our work, and gained insights into local interests and needs.

April 12

Clear Hills County Trade Show

We attended the Clear Hills County Trade Show, engaging with a total of 87 individuals throughout the day. The event provided an excellent opportunity to connect with community members, showcase our services, and build awareness. Conversations ranged from general inquiries to more in-depth discussions about our work, reflecting strong community interest and support. Overall, it was a successful day of outreach, networking, and local engagement.

April 9

EFP Workshop #3, Fairview

9 producers attended the third Environmental Farm Plan Workshop to begin or update their EFPs with guidance from a trained technician. The session covered environmental risk assessments and funding opportunities. Lunch was provided, and the event was free to attend.

April 17

EFP Workshop #4, High Prairie

4 producers attended the fourth Environmental Farm Plan Workshop in High Prairie, offered in partnership with Big Lakes County, to begin or update their EFPs with guidance from a trained technician. The session covered environmental risk assessments and funding opportunities. Lunch was provided, and the event was free to attend.

May 28

Pasture Calving Tour & BBQ, Bay Tree

With over 40 attendees, this well-received event drew participants from both Alberta and British Columbia. Dan led the tour, sharing insights on rotational grazing—its benefits, applications, and importance in sustainable livestock production. Dr. Hayford and Dr. Blasius followed with an overview of the Living Lab project currently underway in Dan's field, ending with an engaging Q&A session. A BBQ lunch, generously hosted by Dan with support from PCBFA, rounded out the day. Attendees appreciated the opportunity to witness effective, modern agriculture in action.

June 21st - AgricultHER School @ Blazin J Simmentals (Lind Family Farm), Sunset House

With 29 participants, this women-focused event offered a full day of learning, sharing, and support. The day began with coffee and breakfast, followed by a farm tour of Blazin J Simmentals. The group returned by noon for lunch, ready to dive into the afternoon sessions. After lunch, attendees enjoyed several presentations: a veterinary talk by Dr. Josee Marcoux, a producer panel discussion, a mental health session with Amanda Rae, and a marketing presentation led by Amy Hay. The event wrapped up with door prizes, supper, and heartfelt thanks to the hosts. Emceed by Alaina, the day received great feedback from attendees who appreciated both the content and the community atmosphere.

June 25th - NWP Farm Tour, Fairview

With 7 attendees and PCBFA staff, the NWP Farm Tour offered a hands-on look at Northwestern Polytechnic's agriculture program. The visit began with a program overview, followed by time in the simulator lab where attendees had the chance to try the tractor or combine mode. The group also worked with a calving dummy used for training students in assisted calving, getting a bit of hands-on experience in the process. A tour of the college's farm and ag facilities followed, where participants learned about biosecurity practice and had the chance to ask questions. It was an informative and engaging afternoon for all.

July 9, 16, 23 - Junior Agrarians, Fairview

PCBFA's second Junior Agrarians program ran over three Wednesdays, engaging 8 youth in agriculture through hands-on learning. Activities included garden data collection, farm safety, riparian and insect ID, public speaking, and ag and animal themed storytelling. A visit to Northwest Polytechnic featured tractor simulation, biosecurity games, crop ID, and animal science demos. The program concluded with field insect collection, story preparation, and fun wrap-up activities including horse brushing, a scavenger hunt, and a water game. Final presentations were delivered at our Field Day on July 31.

July 10, Hawkview Tour, Fairview

Dr. Blasius Azuhwi, Dr. Akim Omokanye, and Dr. Hayford Gyamfi guided approximately 50 attendees through PCBFA's canola demo plots. The extension team also set up a booth with a boot wash station for biosecurity and provided door prizes for two visiting groups.

July 15, Wetlands Workshop, MD of Peace

PCBFA's Extension Coordinator attended Day 1 of the two-day Wetlands Workshop, hosted by Ducks Unlimited and partner organizations. With 30 participants, the event began with a classroom session, followed by a visit to a wetland site. The workshop focused on the importance of wetlands, their conservation, and their role in agricultural landscapes. PCBFA joined with a booth at the entry, sharing materials and networking with attendees.

July 16, Peace River Library Presentation, Peace River

With 3 in-person attendees and 652 folks joining online, Dr. Akim Omokanye delivered an engaging presentation on soil health, covering topics from farming to gardening demographics. Attendees at the library were enthusiastic and asked several questions during the Q&A. Although the in-person turnout was small, the organizer received positive feedback from online viewers and was pleased with the quality of the information shared. Four PCBFA staff attended, including Akim, to support the event and increase awareness. The recorded livestream is available on Facebook for those who missed it.

July 19, Fairview Rodeo Parade, Fairview

PCBFA had a successful showing at the Fairview Rodeo Parade, earning 2nd place for our decorated float. Ten staff members participated. The float featured music and decorations, creating a lively atmosphere as the team handed out candy to kids along the parade route. It was a fun day of community engagement and celebration.

July 19 & 20, Fairview Rodeo, Fairview

PCBFA staff attended the Fairview Rodeo over both days in shifts, setting up their own booth and also helping supervise the Fairview Rodeo Committee's merchandise table. To keep younger visitors engaged, PCBFA organized a fun scavenger hunt for kids. The event was a great opportunity to connect with the community and support local festivities.

July 30, Peace River Library Presentation, Peace River

Dr. Hayford Gyamfi delivered an insightful presentation on silvopastures and agroforestry grazing systems at the Peace River Library. Five people attended in person, and 460 online. The session explored how producers can make better use of forested areas for grazing while protecting long-term forest health. Topics included managing tree and forage balance, preventing overgrazing, and the benefits of integrating trees into livestock systems. The presentation sparked great questions and meaningful discussion, and attendees appreciated the opportunity to learn more about sustainable land use.

July 31, 11th Annual Field Day at the Fairview Research Farm, Fairview

Sunny skies and a strong community spirit set the tone for PCBFA's Annual Field Day, which brought together 186 people from across the Peace Region for a day full of connection, learning, and celebration. From the moment guests arrived, there was something for everyone: wagon rides through the research plots, a lively petting zoo, scavenger hunts, and a fishpond for the kids. Young visitors also enjoyed digging into the sandbox. There were free seeds from past research trials. People enjoyed posing at the DIY photo booth decked out with PCBFA flair. Every child went home with a small goodie bag, filled with fun takeaways to remember the day.

A steady crowd enjoyed the food truck and cold drinks in the beer garden, while live music added a relaxed, festive feel. Booths were buzzing with conversation, and more than 20 door prizes were drawn throughout the day. Presentations from the Junior Agrarians brought a special touch of pride, as did seeing all PCBFA Staff and Board of Directors present to celebrate the year's accomplishments. Even with the heat, the day was filled with laughter, curiosity, and plenty of smiles. It was a true reflection of what PCBFA is all about: collaboration, community, and a shared passion for agriculture.

August 5, Nutrien Tour, Fairview

PCBFA welcomed Nutrien Ag Solutions representatives to tour the research plots. While the day's activities were primarily led by the Nutrien team, PCBFA prepared a boot wash station and assisted as needed during the field demonstrations. Staff members, including Akim and Blasius, were present to support the visit. Nutrien representatives expressed satisfaction with the plots and discussed the possibility of bringing producers to the site in the future to showcase the work being done.

August 6, Big Lakes County Consultation Day, High Prairie

PCBFA hosted a one-on-one consultation day with two producers in attendance, along with a representative from Big Lakes County. Although turnout was smaller than anticipated, the two-hour session was filled with productive discussion. Participants asked thoughtful questions, received tailored advice, and provided valuable

feedback for future planning. Coffee and donuts added to the welcoming atmosphere, and those present expressed satisfaction with the consultations.

August 7, Saddle Hills County Project Tour (Fourth Creek)

The Saddle Hills County Research Projects Tour saw strong attendance, with around 19 producers joining PCBFA staff, and representatives from Saddle Hills County and RDAR, bringing total participants to just over 30. The day began at the Hayland Rejuvenation site, where attendees explored the different rejuvenation methods being trialed. The group then travelled to the Crop Variety Trial site, where Dr. Blasius Azuhnwi, project lead, and Dr. Akim engaged producers in discussion about the work being done. Guest speaker Megan Thebeau of Brett Young spoke about canola, including crop diseases and other key considerations for the crop. Despite a light rain, participants enjoyed a complimentary supper from the food truck, networking, and engaging discussions that wrapped the day up on a positive note.

August 15, PRLT Tour + Sod Seeding Site Visit, Brownvale

The day began with a sod seeding project site visit at Paul and Lori Kinnee's farm, where a small group of eight (five PCBFA staff members, Dr. Bart, and Paul and his son) walked through the trial site. The group also viewed a nearby vetch crop. Later in the day, PCBFA hosted the Extended Grazing Tour at Kyle Davies' farm. A total of 10 people attended, including PCBFA staff, Dr. Bart, Dr. Hayford, Kyle, and three producers. While attendance was modest, the conversations were rich. Both in the morning and afternoon, Dr. Bart and Dr. Hayford shared valuable insights, engaging producers in thoughtful discussions. Though the crops on site were under stress, this became a practical learning moment, a reminder that agriculture doesn't always show perfect results, but there is always something to learn.

August 26, RCMP Musical Ride, Fairview

PCBFA supported the RCMP Musical Ride and the Fairview Agricultural Society by providing our truck and flat deck trailer for the opening band. Alaina transported the equipment to the event, representing PCBFA with her usual professionalism and willingness to support wherever needed.

August 28, DeBolt Plot Tour, DeBolt

PCBFA welcomed 22 people including staff and guest speaker Grant Lastiwka, to the DeBolt Plot Tour. Despite the hot weather, the group toured perennial legume and grass plots, with discussions focused on plant mixtures, what works best, and why. The event ran overtime due to the many questions and conversations, highlighting the value producers found in the tour. Attendees also received the first copies of PCBFA's 2024 Annual Report, and a door prize was awarded as the day wrapped up. Guests joined us from the MD of Fairview, County of Grande Prairie, and MD of Greenview.

September 5, Cattle Market Evening, Rycroft

The Cattle Market Evening brought together 43 attendees for a night of food, discussion, and learning. The evening began with a producer panel where local producers shared their challenges, how they are adapting, and answered audience questions about marketing. After supper, keynote speaker Brian Perillat delivered an

in-depth presentation on cattle markets, sparking strong interest and discussion that carried throughout the session. The event concluded with a door prize draw and a gift to our guest speaker.

October 15 – Big Lakes County Consultation Day (High Prairie)

October 22 - Rangeland & Holistic Management Seminar (High Prairie)

PCBFA welcomed 34 participants for an evening of learning and discussion. The event opened with updates and funding information from Big Lakes County, followed by a presentation from Dylan Fath, a Government of Alberta representative, on rangeland health and management practices. Dr. Hayford Gyamfi then spoke on PCBFA's Silvopastoral Project, sharing insights from the second year of research. After a networking supper, Bluesette Campbell, owner of BC Ranch Inc., wrapped up the evening with a talk on holistic management practices and practical strategies for improving soil health and profitability. Attendees also received copies of From the Roots Up magazine.

November 5 - Wintering Cattle in the Peace Seminar

PCBFA hosted the Wintering Cattle in the Peace Seminar with 21 attendees, including the speakers and PCBFA staff. The evening featured presentations on animal diseases, biosecurity, and breeding practices from a veterinarian, cover crops from PCBFA staff, and animal nutrition from a livestock nutritionist. Attendees enjoyed a networking supper, door prizes provided by BCRC, and speaker appreciation gifts from PCBFA. Participants left satisfied with the information shared and received copies of From the Roots Up Magazine.

November 6 - EFP Workshop #5

Despite heavy snowfall, 3 of the 5 registered participants attended the final EFP Workshop. Attendees appreciated the one-on-one support and were able to make significant progress on their workbooks and understand the full EFP process. Lunch was provided by PCBFA, and the registered technician traveled from High Prairie to assist. Participants left feeling less stressed and grateful for the guidance received.

Nov 29 – PCBFA Annual General Meeting (Fairview)

PCBFA's Annual General Meeting brought together 63 attendees, including staff, board members, sponsors, ASB members, and producers from across the region. The evening started with membership renewals and a warm welcome at the door, followed by a steady stream of event prizes donated by board members and community supporters. Many attendees went home with a prize, which added a fun, engaging element throughout the evening.

The formal program began at 4:00 PM with the Business Meeting, including the approval of previous minutes and the new agenda. This was followed by Acknowledgements and Awards, recognizing contributions made over the past year. Afterward, everyone enjoyed a well-received supper at 5:30 PM, giving plenty of time for networking and conversation.

After supper, the Annual Review provided a comprehensive look at PCBFA's work. Dr. Blasius and Dr. Hayford shared updates from the research side, highlighting results from ongoing and completed projects.

Alaina presented the extension overview, and Liisa followed with the Executive Director report, giving a full picture of organizational achievements and priorities.

The evening closed with the 7:30 PM keynote presentation by Bryan Zwack, who delivered practical insights related to swine/beef production, profitability, and industry trends. His talk wrapped up the AGM on an informative and engaging note.

Dec 3 - Ranching For Profit Workshop

PCBFA partnered with NPARA to host the Ranching for Profit Workshop in Berwyn, which reached full registration with over 55 participants. The day-long session featured Dallas Mount and covered topics such as economics, finance, succession planning, and practical management strategies for ranching businesses. Participants enjoyed lunch together and shared very positive feedback, noting that they gained valuable tools and new ideas to take back to their operations.



Peace Country Beef & Forage Association
Applied Research
2026 Research Project List

#	Full Title of Project	Duration	Funder	Scale	MD/County	Location (i.e. nearest town)	Producer Collaborator (if applicable)	# Treatments	# Plots
1	Evaluation of Early Seeded Multiple-Cut Winter Cereals for Livestock Feed as a Drought Management Strategy in Alberta.	2024-2026	RDAR (LARA)	SP	MD of Fairview	Fairview Research Farm	N/A	10	40
2	Effect of Plant Biostimulants on Crop Production and Soil Health	2023-2026	PRL	SP	MD of Fairview	Fairview Research Farm	N/A	8	32
3	Longevity and Ecosystem Services of Perennial Forage Stands	2024-2026	Rangeland Sustainability Program / RDAR	SP	MD of Fairview	Fairview Research Farm	N/A	86	344
					MD of Greenview	DeBolt	Mark Pellerin	45	180
4	Liming Effects on Forage Sustainability and Economics	2024-2026	Rangeland Sustainability Program	FS	County of Grande Prairie	Sexsmith	James Bozarth	4	12
5	Forage Production & Ecosystem Services of Silvopastures	2024-2026	Rangeland Sustainability Program	FS	Big Lakes County	High Prairie	Kelvin & Marianne Krahn	3	9
6	Rejuvenation of Saline Soils with Saline Tolerant Forages	2024-2027	RDAR (USask)	SP	MD of Peace	Brownvale	Randy Alexander	5	20
7	Sod Seeding of Legumes to Improve Forage Production, Forage Quality and Soil Benefits	2023-2026	BCRC and PRL (USask)	FS	MD of Peace	Brownvale	Paul Kinnee	4	8
8	Warm-Season Grasses in Cover Crop Polyculture Mixes: Enhancing Resilience in Forage Cropping Systems	2025-2028	RDAR	SP	MD of Fairview	Fairview Research Farm	N/A	10	40
9	Assessing the potential of a new forage wheat variety in forage production systems in the Peace Region	2025-2026	Nutrien Ag	SP	MD of Fairview	Fairview Research Farm	N/A	12	48

10	Alberta Cereal Silage Variety Testing Project - "The Need for Feed 2.0"	2025-2027	RDAR (WCI)	SP	MD of Fairview	Fairview Research Farm	N/A	17	51
11	Enhancing Agroecosystem Services in the Peace Region (Peace Region Living Lab, PRL)	2022-2026	PRL	FS	MD Fairview (2)	Fairview	Garth Shaw	12	24
						Bluesky	Chelsey & Thomas Hostettler		
					MD of Peace (2)	Brownvale	Kyle Davies		
						Brownvale	Paul Kinnee		
					Saddle Hills County (3)	Fourth Creek	Conrad Dolen		
						Savanna	James Yuha		
						Baytree	Dan Martin		
					County of Grande Prairie (4)	Goodfare	Donovan Kitt		
						Goodfare	Clay & Ash Armstrong		
						La Glace	Russel Johnson		
	Teepee Creek	Mack Erno							
	Clear Hills County (1)	Hines Creek	Brent Kobbert						
12	Rejuvenating Rangelands with Plant Biostimulants	2026-2028	RSP	FS	Clear Hills County		Ray Nikiforuk	6	12
					Clear Hills County		Christine & Wally Lentz	6	12



**Peace Country Beef & Forage Association
Quarterly Ag Service Board Report
January – March 2026**

Operational Updates

We are pleased to announce that our new 2026-2029 PCBFA Strategic Plan has been approved by the board, pending ratification of the accompanying budget. We will be sharing strategic planning documents in the coming months.

Research Program

Much of this quarter was spent working on project reports and submitting proposals for new projects to begin in 2026 and 2027. Accompanying this report is a list of confirmed 2026 research projects.

Extension Program

Between January and March, we hosted or participated in the following events:

- January 12th, 2026 – Double Your Harvest with Perennial Cereals Webinar (Online)
- January 27th, 2026 – PCBFA presentation at Nutrien Ag Solutions Event (Fairview)
- January 29th, 2026 – North Peace Beef Cattle Day (Peace River)
- February 19th & 20th – 3rd Annual Northern Women in Agriculture Conference (Fairview)
- February 25th & 26th – Below Ground Soil Health Conference (Dawson Creek)
- March 5th, 2026 – Soil Health Webinar (Online)
- March 10th – Soil Health Seminar (Tangent)
- March 11th – PRL Focus Group (La Glace)
- March 12th-14th – Peace Country Classic Agri-Show (Grande Prairie)
- March 25th – EFP Workshop (Fairview)
- March 27th & 28th – Northern Link Trade Show (Fairview)

Upcoming Events:

June 12th – Silvopasture Project Tour (High Prairie)

June 27th – AgricultHER School (Woking)

July – Junior Agrarians Program (Fairview)

July 25th – 12th Annual Field Day at the Fairview Research Farm

For more information on our upcoming events, please reach out to alaina@pcbfa.ca or visit www.peacecountrybeef.ca/upcoming-events.



Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

May 29, 2026

ASBPC 2026 Strategic Planning Survey Open June 1-15

The Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee is beginning a strategic planning process in 2026 and is seeking input from ASB members, municipal councillors, Agricultural Fieldmen/AAAF members, GOA ASB Program staff, RMA, and related stakeholders.

The survey is intended to gather individual perspectives on the role of ASBs, the role of ASBPC, ASB and municipal council alignment, communication, and opportunities to strengthen collaboration across Alberta's ASB system.

The survey is not a vote and is not intended to create formal municipal or ASB positions. Results will be summarized for ASBPC by June 30 and will help inform an in-person strategic planning session planned for July or August 2026.

Survey link: [ASBPC 2026 Strategic Planning Survey – Fill out form](#)



On behalf of the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Hunt".

**Linda Hunt, PAg.
ASBPC Executive Assistant**

POLICY 2.1
CLUBROOT OF CANOLA



**NORTHERN SUNRISE
COUNTY**

Department: Agricultural Services

Date Approved: ~~July 14, 2020~~

Rescinds: ~~287/04/21/20~~

Council Res. No: ~~480/07/14/20~~

PURPOSE

To ensure that Clubroot of Canola establishment is prevented under the *Agricultural Pests Act* of Alberta (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter A-8), the *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation* (184/2001) and/or ~~Bylaw~~ the County's B379/20-Prohibited and Noxious Species Bylaw.

SCOPE

Northern Sunrise County recognizes that Clubroot of Canola is a pest under the *Agricultural Pests Act* of Alberta and/or a prohibited species under ~~the County's Bylaw's B379/20~~ Prohibited and Noxious Species Bylaw. Northern Sunrise County further recognizes that it is beneficial to the County to implement measures to Control and promote proper management of the disease within the boundaries of Northern Sunrise County, for the protection of agricultural productivity.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. *Agricultural Pests Act* - the *Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta* (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter A-8) and the *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation* (184/2001) including any amendments or successor legislation thereto.
2. Bylaw – Northern Sunrise County ~~Bylaw B379/20~~-Prohibited and Noxious Species Bylaw.
3. Control - managing the spread of the disease to a level that does not hinder production or infest any land that isn't infested.
4. Infestation - any property containing Clubroot of Canola.
5. Notice - a "Notice to Control Pests" is a legally binding document demanding compliance by a specified deadline and outlining acceptable Clubroot of Canola Control options.
6. Pest Inspectors - Inspectors appointed by Northern Sunrise County or by the Minister to carry out the *Agricultural Pests Act*, the regulations, and the Bylaw.
7. Reported Field - any field for which a complaint is received as having any symptoms of Clubroot of Canola.

POLICY

1. Pest Inspectors shall attempt to conduct a pest inspection on all Reported Fields within 3 working-business days of receipt of the report/complaint.

2. Infestation complaints may be submitted, verbally or in writing, to the Agricultural Services Department. The complainant's name shall not be released unless so demanded by a court of law.
3. All Infestations observed during inspections of private or public lands shall, through cooperation or enforcement, be Controlled by the registered landowner(s) or registered occupant(s).
4. Pest Inspectors shall issue Notices as per the Pest I.N.S.P.E.C.T. Matrix and County procedures when a lab test confirms the Infestations as Clubroot of Canola.
5. Pest Inspectors shall attempt to contact the registered landowner(s) at their residence and correspondence shall be mailed to landowner(s).
6. Pest Inspectors shall enforce a Notice as per the *Agricultural Pests Act* and/or ~~if~~ the landowner(s) or registered occupant(s) is/are unwilling to take measures to Control the Infestation.
7. To maintain an awareness of Clubroot of Canola, the County staff shall inform (as needed) the stakeholders by:
 - a. Maintain information as handouts and annually print info in the County newsletter;
 - b. Inform County based Seed Outlets of our County policy and concerns and request that all seed preferably not be brought into the area from infested areas;
 - c. Keep Agricultural Service Board members and County staff as ambassadors to refer County residents to information on Clubroot of Canola;
 - d. Conduct an annual inspection and enforcement as per Agricultural Services Department procedure ~~2.1~~;
 - e. Advocate to producers to use a clubroot resistant canola variety and to use a 1 in 4-year crop rotation.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

POLICY 2.2
FUSARIUM GRAMINEARUM ZERO
TOLERANCE



NORTHERN SUNRISE
COUNTY

Department: Agricultural Services

Date Approved: ~~August 24, 2021~~

Rescinds: ~~480/07/14/20~~

Council Res. No: ~~557/08/24/21~~

PURPOSE

To ensure that Fusarium Graminearum establishment is prevented under the Prohibited and Noxious Species Bylaw, as well as to maintain a zero tolerance policy of the disease.

SCOPE

Northern Sunrise County recognizes that Fusarium Graminearum is a prohibited species under the County's Prohibited and Noxious Species Bylaw. Northern Sunrise County further recognizes that it is beneficial to the County to clearly define actions that are required to prevent the establishment of Fusarium Graminearum, for the protection of agricultural productivity.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. Bylaw – Northern Sunrise County Prohibited and Noxious Species Bylaw
2. Control – to manage the disease to a zero tolerance level.
3. Infestation – any property containing Fusarium Graminearum.
4. Notice – a “Notice to Control Pests” is a legally binding document demanding compliance by a specified deadline and outlining acceptable Fusarium Graminearum Control options.
5. Pest Inspectors – Inspectors appointed by Northern Sunrise County or by the Minister to carry out the *Agricultural Pest Act* and the regulations.
6. Reported Field – any field for which a complaint is received as having any symptoms or signs of Fusarium Graminearum.

POLICY

1. Pest Inspectors shall attempt to conduct a pest inspection on all Reported Fields within 3 working-business days of receipt of the report/complaint.
2. Infestation complaints may be submitted, verbally or in writing, to the Agricultural Services Department. The complainant’s name shall not be released unless so demanded by a court of law.
3. The Pest Inspectors shall issue Notices as per the Pest I.N.S.P.E.C.T. Matrix and County procedures when a lab test confirms the Infestation as Fusarium Graminearum.
4. The Pest Inspectors shall attempt to contact landowners at the residence of occupied properties. Notices shall be delivered as per the Bylaw.
5. The County will:

- a. Maintain information as handouts and annually print information in the county newsletter.
- b. Inform County based Seed Outlets of our County policy and concerns and request that cereal seed not be brought into the area from infested areas.
- c. Assign the Agricultural Service Board members to advocate to County producers on Fusarium Graminearum prevention and management by:
 - i. Encouraging that all cereal seed should be treated with a registered fungicide that includes the genus Fusarium on the label list of controlled fungi.
 - ii. Promoting the reimbursement program so cereal grain seeds are tested for Fusarium Graminearum by a designated laboratory.
- d. Campaign local seed cleaning plants to set and follow policies and to accept only cereal grains that are tested for Fusarium Graminearum.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

POLICY 2.4 Grasshoppers



**NORTHERN SUNRISE
COUNTY**

Department: Agricultural Services

Date Approved: ~~July 14, 2020~~

Rescinds: ~~262/03/26/19~~

Council Res. No: ~~480/07/14/20~~

PURPOSE

To achieve a level of grasshopper Control on public and private land that follows reasonable agronomic practices.

SCOPE

Under the authority of the *Agricultural Pests Act* and/or County Bylaw ~~B379/20~~, agricultural operators will be encouraged to perform some type of grasshopper control on their property when the economic threshold levels established by the Government of Alberta ~~is~~are exceeded, to minimize crop yield reductions.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. *Agricultural Pests Act* – the *Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter A-8) and the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation (184/2001)* including any amendments or successor legislation thereto.
2. Bylaw – Northern Sunrise County ~~Bylaw B379/20~~ Prohibited and Noxious Species Bylaw.
3. Control – to delay or impede the movement of grasshoppers to/from surrounding land in agricultural production.
4. Infestation – any property containing Red Legged, Bruners, Two Stripe, Packard, Migratory and/or Clearwing grasshoppers significantly above the economic threshold.

POLICY

1. The County will maintain information on pest species and various methods of Control.
2. Any County resident applying an insecticide adjacent to a County roadside ditch must receive the Agricultural Fieldman's permission to spray the roadside ditch.
3. A landowner/renter authorized to apply insecticide for grasshopper Control in a County road ditch may be compensated for out of pocket expenses as mutually agreed to with the Agricultural Fieldman. The rate will be established annually by Council.
4. Agricultural Service Department staff will perform grasshopper counts as required by the Government of Alberta.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

POLICY 2.6
VIRULENT BLACKLEG



NORTHERN SUNRISE
COUNTY

Department: Agricultural Services

Date Approved: ~~July 14, 2020~~

Rescinds: ~~287/04/21/20~~

Council Res. No: ~~480/07/14/20~~

PURPOSE

To ensure that Virulent Blackleg of Canola is managed and Controlled under the *Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta* (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter A-8), the *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation* (184/2001) and/or the County's Bylaw B379/20 Prohibited and Noxious Species Bylaw.

SCOPE

Northern Sunrise County recognizes that Virulent Blackleg of Canola is a pest under the *Agricultural Pests Act* of Alberta and/or a prohibited species under Bylaw B379/20 Prohibited and Noxious Species. Northern Sunrise County further recognizes that it is beneficial to the County to implement measures to Control and promote proper management of the disease within the boundaries of Northern Sunrise County, for the protection of agricultural productivity.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. *Agricultural Pests Act* - the *Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta* (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter A-8) and the *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation* (184/2001) including any amendments or successor legislation thereto.
2. Bylaw – Northern Sunrise County Bylaw B379/20 Prohibited and Noxious Species Bylaw
3. Control - managing the spread of the disease to a level that does not hinder production or infest any land that isn't infested.
4. Infestation - any property containing Virulent Blackleg of Canola.
5. Notice - a "Notice to Control Pests" is a legally binding document demanding compliance by a specified deadline and outlining acceptable Virulent Blackleg of Canola Control options.
6. Pest Inspectors - Inspectors appointed by Northern Sunrise County or by the Minister to carry out the *Agricultural Pests Act*, the regulations and the Bylaw.
7. Reported Field - any field for which a complaint is received as having any symptoms of Virulent Blackleg of Canola.

POLICY

1. Pest Inspectors shall attempt to conduct a pest inspection on all Reported Fields within 3 working-business days of receipt of the report/complaint.

2. Infestation complaints may be submitted, verbally or in writing, to the Agricultural Services Department. The complainant's name shall not be released unless so demanded by a court of law.
3. All Infestations observed during inspections of private or public lands shall, through cooperation or enforcement, be Controlled by the registered landowner(s) or registered occupant(s).
4. Pest Inspectors shall issue Notices as per the Pest I.N.S.P.E.C.T. Matrix and County procedures when a lab test confirms the Infestations as Virulent Blackleg.
5. Pest Inspectors shall attempt to contact the registered landowner(s) at their residence and correspondence shall be mailed to landowner(s).
6. Pest Inspectors shall enforce a Notice as per the *Agricultural Pests Act* and/or the Bylaw, if the landowner(s) or registered occupant(s) is/are unwilling to take measures to Control the Infestation.
7. To maintain an awareness of Virulent Blackleg, the County staff shall inform (as needed) the stakeholders by:
 - a. Annually printing info in the county newsletter and maintain information as handouts;
 - b. Informing County based Seed Outlets of our County policy and concerns and requesting that canola seed not be brought into the area from infested areas, if possible;
 - c. Keeping Agricultural Service Board members and County staff as ambassadors to refer County residents to information on Virulent Blackleg.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

POLICY 2.7
Weed Control



**NORTHERN SUNRISE
COUNTY**

Department: Agricultural Department

Date Approved: ~~July 14, 2020~~

Rescinds: ~~034/01/14/20~~

Council Res. No: ~~480/07/14/20~~

PURPOSE

To ensure that Prohibited Noxious Weeds are Eradicated, and Noxious Weeds are Controlled under the *Weed Control Act* of Alberta (S.A. 2008, Chapter W-5.1), the *Weed Control Regulation* (19/2010) and/or the County's ~~Bylaw B379/20~~ Prohibited and Noxious Species ~~Bylaw~~.

SCOPE

Northern Sunrise County recognizes that several introduced plant species have been designated as Noxious or Prohibited Noxious under the *Weed Control Act* of Alberta and/or the County's ~~Bylaw B379/20~~ Prohibited and Noxious Species ~~Bylaw, Noxious Weed Designation (Kochia) Bylaw, and Prohibited Noxious Weed Bylaw~~. Northern Sunrise County further recognizes that it is beneficial to the County to implement measures to prevent the establishment of and/or to Control the spread of alien plant species, on all public and private lands within the boundaries of the County, for the protection of agricultural productivity and the preservation of the natural environment.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. Compliance Letter – a forceful reminder letter requesting compliance by a specific deadline, and warning of potential issuance of an Inspector's Notice and enforcement for failure to comply. The Compliance Letter has evidentiary value in support of an Inspector's due diligence in the event enforcement becomes necessary.
2. Bylaw – Northern Sunrise County ~~Bylaw B379/20~~ Prohibited and Noxious Species, ~~Noxious Weed Designation (Kochia), and Prohibited Noxious Weed Bylaws~~.
3. Control – to inhibit the growth or spread of a plant.
4. Eradicate – destroy all parts of a plant and render reproductive parts of a plant non-viable.
5. Information Package – A package with evidentiary value in support of an Inspector's due diligence.
6. Notice – a legally binding document demanding compliance by a specified deadline and outlining acceptable weed control options.
7. *Weed Control Act* – the *Weed Control Act* of Alberta (S.A. 2008 Chapter W-5.1) and the *Weed Control Regulation* (19/2010).

8. Weed Inspectors – Inspectors appointed by Northern Sunrise County or by the Minister to carry out the *Weed Control Act*, the regulations, and the Bylaw.

POLICY

1. Weed Inspectors shall attempt to investigate within 3 ~~working-business~~ days of receipt of a weed report or complaint.
2. Weed complaints may be submitted, verbally or in writing, to the Agricultural Services Department.
3. Inspectors appointed under the *Weed Control Act* shall encourage voluntary compliance with the requirements of the *Act*.
4. All Prohibited Noxious Weeds observed during inspections of private or public lands shall, through cooperation or enforcement, be Eradicated by the registered landowner or occupant.
5. All Noxious Weeds observed during inspections of private or public lands shall, through cooperation or enforcement, be Controlled by the registered landowner or occupant.
6. An appointed Inspector shall issue and enforce such Notices as required by the *Weed Control Act* and/or Bylaw.
7. Weed Inspectors shall attempt to contact landowners at the residence of occupied properties. Information Packages and/or Compliance Letters shall be delivered to registered landowners where the Weed Inspector has identified a weed problem.
8. The attached “Schedule A” contains a list of weed species declared as Noxious or Prohibited Noxious under the Weed Control Act, the Weed Control Regulation and the Bylaw and shall be considered part of this Policy.
9. Scentsless Chamomile has been elevated to Prohibited Noxious under ~~municipal-County~~ bylaw, and Agricultural Services department personnel shall comply with eradication measures mandated by the Weed Control Act and/or the Bylaw.
- ~~10.~~ Glyphosate Tolerant Alfalfa has been deemed a Prohibited Noxious Species under ~~the~~ County Bylaw and shall be dealt with accordingly.
- ~~10-11.~~ Kochia has been elevated to Noxious under County bylaw, and Agricultural Services department personnel shall comply with control measures mandated by the Weed Control Act and/or the Bylaw.
- ~~11-12.~~ Once the appeal period has expired as stated in the Weed Control Act and/or the Bylaw, the Agricultural Service Department is authorized to destroy or take any action on up to 160 acres of crop, that the Agricultural Fieldman determine is necessary to fulfil the requirements stated on the Notice that has not been complied with.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

POLICY 2.7 WEED CONTROL – SCHEDULE A (PART I)
Schedule AR 19/2010 WEED CONTROL REGULATION

The following plants are designated as Prohibited Noxious weeds in Alberta:

[amaranth, Palmer — *Amaranthus palmeri* S. Watson](#)
[autumn olive — *Elaeagnus umbellata* Thunb.](#)
[balsam, Himalayan — *Impatiens glandulifera* Royle](#)
[barberry, common — *Berberis vulgaris* L.](#)
[bartsia, red — *Odontites vulgaris* Moench](#)
[buckthorn, common — *Rhamnus cathartica* L.](#)
[cinquefoil, sulphur — *Potentilla recta* L.](#)
[crupina, common — *Crupina vulgaris* Pers. ex Cass.](#)
[dyer's woad — *Isatis tinctoria* L.](#)
[Eurasian water milfoil — *Myriophyllum spicatum* L.](#)
[flowering rush — *Butomus umbellatus* L.](#)
[garlic mustard — *Alliaria petiolata* \(M. Bieb.\) Cavara & Grande](#)
[goatgrass, jointed — *Aegilops cylindrica* Host](#)
[hawkweed, common — *Hieracium lachenalii* Suter*](#)
[hawkweed, European — *Hieracium sabaudum* L.*](#)
[hawkweed, polar — *Hieracium atratum* Fr.*](#)
[hawkweed, smooth — *Hieracium laevigatum* Willd.*](#)
[hawkweed, spotted — *Hieracium maculatum* Schrank*](#)
[hawkweed, wall — *Hieracium murorum* L.*](#)
[hoary alyssum — *Berteroa incana* \(L.\) DC.](#)
[hogweed, giant — *Heracleum mantegazzianum* Sommier & Levier](#)
[iris, pale yellow — *Iris pseudacorus* L.](#)
[jimsonweed — *Datura stramonium* L.](#)
[knapweed, Russian — *Rhaponticum repens* \(L.\) Hidalgo](#)
[knotweed, giant — *Reynoutria sachalinensis* \(F. Schmidt\) Nakai](#)
[knotweed, hybrid Japanese — *Reynoutria* × *bohemica* Chrtk & Chrtková](#)
[knotweed, Japanese — *Reynoutria japonica* Houtt.](#)
[loosestrife, purple — *Lythrum salicaria* L.](#)
[medusahead — *Taeniatherum caput-medusae* \(L.\) Nevski](#)
[nutsedge, yellow — *Cyperus esculentus* L.](#)
[phragmites, invasive — *Phragmites australis* \(Cav.\) Trinius ex Steud. ssp. australis](#)
[puncturevine — *Tribulus terrestris* L.](#)
[Queen Anne's lace — *Daucus carota* \(L\) ssp. *carota*](#)
[ragwort, tansy — *Jacobaea vulgaris* Gaertn.](#)
[rue, African — *Peganum harmala* L.](#)
[rush skeletonweed — *Chondrilla juncea* L.](#)
[saltcedar — *Tamarix ramosissima* Ledeb.](#)
[saltlover — *Halogeton glomeratus* \(M. Bieb.\) C.A. Mey.](#)
[St John's-wort, common — *Hypericum perforatum* L.](#)
[starthistle, yellow — *Centaurea solstitialis* L.](#)
[swainsonpea, alkali — *Sphaerophysa salsula* \(Pall.\) DC.](#)
[swallowwort, black — *Vincetoxicum nigrum* \(L.\) Moench](#)
[swallowwort, pale/European — *Vincetoxicum rossicum* \(Kleopow\) Barbar.](#)
[tamarisk, Chinese — *Tamarix chinensis* Lour.](#)
[tamarisk, smallflower — *Tamarix parviflora* DC.](#)
[thesium, field — *Thesium ramosum* Hayne.](#)

thistle, marsh — *Cirsium palustre* (L.) Scop.
thistle, nodding — *Carduus nutans* L.
thistle, plumeless — *Carduus acanthoides* L.
ventenata — *Ventenata dubia* (Leers) Coss. & Durieu
waterhemp, tall — *Amaranthus tuberculatus* (Moq.) J.D. Sauer.
*and all hybrids thereof

~~autumn olive — *Elaeagnus umbellata* Thunb.~~
~~balsam, Himalayan — *Impatiens glandulifera* Royle~~
~~barberry, common — *Berberis vulgaris* L.~~
~~bartsia, red — *Odontites vernus* (Bellardi) Dumort~~
~~buckthorn, common — *Rhamnus cathartica* L.~~
~~cinquefoil, sulphur — *Potentilla recta* L.~~
~~erupina, common — *Crupina vulgaris* Pers. ex Cass.~~
~~dyer's woad — *Isatis tinctoria* L.~~
~~Eurasian water milfoil — *Myriophyllum spicatum* L.~~
~~flowering rush — *Butomus umbellatus* L.~~
~~garlic mustard — *Alliaria petiolata* (M. Bieb.) Cavara & Grande~~
~~goatgrass, jointed — *Aegilops cylindrica* Host~~
~~hawkweed, meadow — *Hieracium caespitosum* Dumort.~~
~~hawkweed, mouse ear — *Hieracium pilosella* L.~~
~~hawkweed, orange — *Hieracium aurantiacum* L.~~
~~hoary alyssum — *Berteroa incana* (L.) DC.~~
~~hogweed, giant — *Heracleum mantegazzianum* S. Ommier & Levier~~
~~iris, pale yellow — *Iris pseudacorus* L.~~
~~knawweed, bighead — *Centaurea macrocephala* Puschk. ex Willd.~~
~~knawweed, black — *Centaurea nigra* L.~~
~~knawweed, brown — *Centaurea jacea* L.~~
~~knawweed, diffuse — *Centaurea diffusa* Lam.~~
~~knawweed, hybrid — *Centaurea x psammogena* Gayer~~
~~knawweed, meadow — *Centaurea x moncktonii* C. E. Britton~~
~~knawweed, Russian — *Rhaponticum repens* (L.) Hidalgo~~
~~knawweed, spotted — *Centaurea stoebe* L. ssp. *micranthos* (Gugler) Hayek~~
~~knawweed, squarrose — *Centaurea virgata* Lam. ssp. *squarrosa* (Willd.) Gugler~~
~~knawweed, Tyrol — *Centaurea nigrescens* Willd.~~
~~knotweed, giant — *Fallopia sachalinensis* (F. Schmidt Petrop.) Ronse-Deer.~~
~~knotweed, hybrid Japanese — *Fallopia x bohémica* (Chrték & Chrtková) J. P. Bailey~~
~~knotweed, Japanese — *Fallopia japonica* (Houtt.) Ronse-Deer.~~
~~loosestrife, purple — *Lythrum salicaria* L.~~
~~medusahead — *Taeniatherum caput-medusae* (L.) Nevski~~
~~nutsedge, yellow — *Cyperus esculentus* L.~~
~~puncturevine — *Tribulus terrestris* L.~~
~~ragwort, tansy — *Jacobaea vulgaris* Gaertn.~~
~~rush skeletonweed — *Chondrilla juncea* L.~~
~~saltcedar — *Tamarix ramosissima* Ledeb.~~
~~saltlover — *Halogeton glomeratus* (M. Bieb.) C.A. Mey.~~
~~St John's wort, common — *Hypericum perforatum* L.~~
~~starthistle, yellow — *Centaurea solstitialis* L.~~
~~tamarisk, Chinese — *Tamarix chinensis* Lour.~~
~~tamarisk, smallflower — *Tamarix parviflora* DC.~~

~~thistle, marsh — *Cirsium palustre* (L.) Scop.~~
~~thistle, nodding — *Carduus nutans* L. thistle, plumeless — *Carduus acanthoides* L.~~

POLICY 2.7 WEED CONTROL – SCHEDULE A (PART II)
Schedule AR 19/2010 WEED CONTROL REGULATION

The following plants are designated as Noxious weeds in Alberta:

baby's-breath, common — *Gypsophila paniculata* L.
bindweed, field — *Convolvulus arvensis* L.
blueweed — *Echium vulgare* L.
brome, downy — *Bromus tectorum* L.
brome, Japanese — *Bromus japonicus* Houtt.
burdock, great — *Arctium lappa* L.*
burdock, lesser — *Arctium minus* (Hill) Bernh.*
burdock, woolly — *Arctium tomentosum* Mill.*
buttercup, tall — *Ranunculus acris* L.
chamomile, scentless — *Tripleurospermum inodorum* (L.) Sch. Bip.
clematis, yellow — *Clematis tangutica* (Maxim.) Korsh.
cockle, white — *Silene latifolia* Poir.
daisy, oxeye — *Leucanthemum vulgare* Lam.
dame's rocket — *Hesperis matronalis* L.
hawkweed, kingdevil — *Pilosella floribunda* (Wimm. & Grab.) Fr.*
hawkweed, meadow — *Pilosella caespitosa* (Dumort.) P.D. Sell & C. West*
hawkweed, mouse-ear — *Pilosella officinarum* F.W. Schultz & Sch. Bip.*
hawkweed, orange — *Pilosella aurantiaca* (L.) F.W. Schultz & Sch. Bip.*
hawkweed, queendevil — *Pilosella praealta* (Vill. ex Gochnat) F.W. Schultz & Sch. Bip.*
hawkweed, tall — *Pilosella piloselloides* (Vill.) Soják*
hawkweed, whiplash — *Pilosella flagellaris* (Willd.) Arv.-Touv.*
hawkweed, yellowdevil — *Pilosella glomerata* (Froel.) Fr.*
henbane, black — *Hyoscyamus niger* L.
hoary cress, globe-podded — *Lepidium appelianum* Al-Shehbaz
hoary cress, heart-podded — *Lepidium draba* L.
hoary cress, lens-podded — *Lepidium chalepense* L.
hound's-tongue — *Cynoglossum officinale* L.
knapweed, bighead — *Centaurea macrocephala* Muss. Puschk. ex Willd.*
knapweed, black — *Centaurea nigra* L.*
knapweed, brown — *Centaurea jacea* L.*
knapweed, diffuse — *Centaurea diffusa* Lam.*
knapweed, hybrid — *Centaurea × psammogena* Gáyer*
knapweed, meadow — *Centaurea × gerstlaueri* Erdner*
knapweed, spotted — *Centaurea stoebe* L. ssp. *australis* (Pančić ex A. Kern.) Greuter*
knapweed, squarrose — *Centaurea virgata* Lam. ssp. *squarrosa* (Willd.) Gugler*
knapweed, Tyrol — *Centaurea nigrescens* Willd.*
mullein, common — *Verbascum thapsus* L.
pepper-grass, broad-leaved — *Lepidium latifolium* L.
scabious, field — *Knautia arvensis* (L.) Coult.
spurge, leafy — *Euphorbia virgata* Waldst. & Kit.
tansy, common — *Tanacetum vulgare* L. thistle, Canada — *Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop.
toadflax, Dalmatian — *Linaria dalmatica* (L.) Mill. toadflax,

yellow — *Linaria vulgaris* Mill.
*and all hybrids thereof
baby's-breath, common — *Gypsophila paniculata* L.
bellflower, creeping — *Campanula rapunculoides* L.
bindweed, field — *Convolvulus arvensis* L.
blueweed — *Echium vulgare* L.
brome, downy — *Bromus tectorum* L.
brome, Japanese — *Bromus japonicus* Thunb.
burdock, great — *Arctium lappa* L.
burdock, lesser — *Arctium minus* (Hill) Bernh.
burdock, woolly — *Arctium tomentosum* Mill.
buttercup, tall — *Ranunculus acris* L.
chamomile, scentless — *Tripleurospermum inodorum* (L.) Sch.Bip.
clematis, yellow — *Clematis tangutica* (Maxim.) Korsh.
cockle, white — *Silene latifolia* Poir. ssp. *alba* (Miller) Greuter & Burdet
daisy, oxeye — *Leucanthemum vulgare* Lam.
dame's-rocket — *Hesperis matronalis* L.
henbane, black — *Hyoscyamus niger* L.
hoary-cress, globe-podded — *Lepidium appelianum* Al-Shehbaz
hoary-cress, heart-podded — *Lepidium draba* L.
hoary-cress, lens-podded — *Lepidium chalepense* L.
hound's-tongue — *Cynoglossum officinale* L.
mullein, common — *Verbascum thapsus* L.
pepper-grass, broad-leaved — *Lepidium latifolium* L.
scabious, field — *Knautia arvensis* (L.) Coult.
sow-thistle, perennial — *Sonchus arvensis* L.
spurge, leafy — *Euphorbia esula* L.
tansy, common — *Tanacetum vulgare* L.
thistle, Canada — *Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop.
toadflax, Dalmatian — *Linaria dalmatica* (L.) Mill.
toadflax, yellow — *Linaria vulgaris* Mill.

POLICY 2.11
Pest Control



**NORTHERN SUNRISE
COUNTY**

Department: Agricultural Services

Date Approved: July 14, 2020

Rescinds: ~~262/03/26/19~~

Council Res. No: ~~480/07/14/20~~

PURPOSE

To ensure that Pests are dealt with in accordance with the *Agricultural Pests Act* of Alberta (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter A-8), the *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation* (184/2001) and/or the County's ~~Bylaw B379/20~~ Prohibited and Noxious Species Bylaw.

SCOPE

Northern Sunrise County recognizes its duty in the prevention of the establishment of, the Control of, and the destruction of pests under the *Agricultural Pests Act* of Alberta and/or the County's ~~Bylaw B379/20~~ Prohibited and Noxious Species Bylaw. Northern Sunrise County further recognizes that it is beneficial to the County to implement measures to prevent the establishment of, and/or the Control and destruction of pests, on all public and private lands within the boundaries of Northern Sunrise County, for the protection of agricultural productivity and the preservation of the natural environment.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. *Agricultural Pests Act* – the *Agricultural Pests Act* of Alberta (R.S.A. 2000 Chapter A-8) and the *Pest and Nuisance Control Regulations* (184/2001).
2. Bylaw – Northern Sunrise County Bylaw B379/20 Prohibited and Noxious Species Bylaw.
3. Compliance Letter – a forceful reminder letter requesting compliance by a specific deadline, and warning of potential issuance of an Inspector's Notice and enforcement for failure to comply. The Compliance Letter has evidentiary value in support of an Inspector's due diligence in the event enforcement becomes necessary.
4. Control – to inhibit the growth or spread of pests.
5. Eradicate – destroy a pest and minimize the establishment and spread.
6. Infestation – an intrusion of a pest on any personal property and/or vegetation and/or livestock.
7. Information Package – a package with evidentiary value in support of an Inspector's due diligence.
8. Notice – a legally binding document demanding compliance by a specified deadline, and outlining acceptable pest Control options.

9. Pest – means an animal, bird, insect, plant or disease declared to be a pest under Schedule A.
10. Pest Inspectors – Inspectors appointed by Northern Sunrise County or by the Minister to carry out the *Agricultural Pests Act*, the regulations, and the Bylaw.

POLICY

1. Pest Inspectors shall attempt to conduct an investigation within 3 ~~working business~~ days of receipt of a Pest report or complaint.
2. Pest complaints may be submitted, verbally or in writing, to the Agricultural Services department. The complainant's name shall not be released unless so demanded by the Court of Queen's Bench.
3. All Pests observed during inspections of private or public lands shall, through cooperation or enforcement, be Controlled by the registered landowner or occupant (prevent proliferation and propagation through other means).
4. Inspectors appointed under the *Agricultural Pests Act* shall encourage voluntary compliance with the requirements of the *Act*, and shall as a last resort, take action and/or impose penalties as required by the *Act*, upon the landowner or occupant in the event that declared Pest species infest public or private lands unabated.
5. Pest Inspectors may issue and enforce such Notices as required by the *Agricultural Pests Act*, when the Inspector is of the opinion that the property may contain a Pest and the landowner or occupant is unwilling to take measures to Control or Eradicate the Infestation.
6. Pest Inspectors shall attempt to contact landowners at the residence of occupied properties. Information Packages and/or Compliance Letters shall be mailed to all owners, registered occupants of land, material and/or livestock where the Pest Inspector has identified a Pest problem.
7. ~~The attached "Schedule A" contains a list of~~ Pest species declared under the *Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta* (R.S.A. 2000 A-8), the *Agricultural Pest Regulation* (184/2001) and/or ~~the County~~ Bylaw and shall be considered part of this Policy.
8. Policy 2.1 Clubroot of Canola, Policy 2.2 Fusarium Graminearum Zero Tolerance, Policy 2.4 Grasshoppers, Policy 2.6 Virulent Blackleg or any other pest specific County policy supersedes Policy 2.11 Pest Control.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

Schedule A

Part 1

Animals, birds, insects, plants and diseases
declared to be pests throughout Alberta

Africanized bee — *Apis mellifera adansonii*
Bacterial ring rot — *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *sepedonicus*
Blackleg of canola — *Leptosphaeria maculans*
Chalkbrood — *Ascospaera aggregata*
Clubroot — *Plasmodiophora brassicae*
Columbia River root knot nematode — *Meloidogyne chitwoodi*
Dutch elm disease — *Ophiostoma ulmi* and *Ophiostoma nova-ulmi*
Dwarf bunt — *Tilletia controversa*
European elm bark beetle — *Scolytus multistriatus*
Fireblight and the causal bacterium — *Erwinia amylovora*
Flag smut of cereals — *Urocystis agropyri*
Fusarium head blight — *Fusarium graminearum*
Golden nematode — *Globodera rostochiensis*
Grasshopper (Locustidae)
Gypsy moth — *Lymantria dispar*
Head smut of corn — *Spacelothecia reiliana*
Karnal bunt — *Tilletia indica*
Lesser grain borer — *Rhyzopertha dominica*
Native elm bark beetle — *Hylurgopinus rufipes*
Norway rat and any other rat species or strain derived from the
genus *Rattus*
Potato wart — *Synchytrium endobioticum*
Rabies — Rhabdoviruses
Stem and bulb nematode — *Ditylenchus dipsaci*
Warble fly — *Hypoderma*
White rot of onions — *Sclerotium cepivorum*

(2) Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) is declared to be a pest where it is at large in Alberta.

AR-184/2001-s2;150/2003;56/2007;64/2008;126/2016

June Package: 2026 Resolution Grading

Please find attached the 2026 Resolution Response Report and grading package for review by individual Agricultural Service Boards or regions. This package includes the responses received to date, ASBPC's initial grading, and comments intended to support local and regional discussion. The resolution process continues to demonstrate its value as a practical, grassroots mechanism for bringing forward issues that matter to producers, municipalities, and Alberta's agriculture industry. While not every response fully resolves the issue raised, the process is clearly influencing important conversations. Progress has been made on several files, including emergency access to 2% liquid strychnine through fall 2027, the pause on proposed livestock traceability changes, continued provincial advocacy on CFIA and PMRA reform, and active policy discussions on rural water connectivity, rat control modernization, and on-farm meat processing. These outcomes reflect the strength of the ASB system and the value of thoughtful, well-grounded engagement from across the province.

ASBs and regions are encouraged to use this package as a tool for strategic discussion. In addition to grading the responses, please consider what the responses mean for your region, whether further advocacy or information-gathering is needed, and what future resolutions may need to be developed. Completed grading sheets must remain in Excel format and be returned by **June 30** in order to be included in the **Report Card on the Resolutions**, which will be distributed by **September 1**.

For regions completing a collective regional grade, please note that your region can be selected at the bottom of the drop-down menu in the grading sheet. An attendance sheet identifying which municipalities participated in the regional grading discussion must also be submitted. Individual ASBs may still submit their own grading sheet if they wish to register a grade that differs from the collective regional grade.

Thank you for the time, care, and practical perspective you bring to this process. Your engagement helps ensure that ASB resolutions remain grounded in regional realities and continue to support informed, constructive conversations on behalf of Alberta's agriculture industry.

Linda Hunt, Pag.
ASBPC Executive Assistant

DEFINITION OF TERMS

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

Responded

The response addresses the request in the resolution. ASBs are encouraged to comment with their opinion about the response in the "comments" section of the grading sheet.

Responded in Part

The response addresses some of the resolution, but does not address the full request. ASBs are encouraged to comment about their opinion on the response in the "comments" section of the grading sheet.

Did Not Address the Resolution

The response does not address the request, and requires further engagement to clarify the request. Follow up is required to solicit information for the Provincial ASB Committee to make an informed decision on how to proceed.

No Response

The resolution did not receive a response

Resolution Table (ASBPC initial grades)

RESOLUTION	GRADE
RESOLUTION 1-26: EMERGENCY REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL (RGS) CONTROL	In Part
RESOLUTION 2-26: EXEMPTION OF AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT FROM CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1999 EMISSION LIMITS	Responded
RESOLUTION 3-26: MARKED FUEL PROGRAM REVIEW	WITHDRAWN
RESOLUTION 4-26: RURAL WATER DISTRIBUTION AND CONNECTIVITY FUNDING	Responded
RESOLUTION PC1-26: MODERNIZING ALBERTA'S RAT CONTROL PROGRAM	In Part
RESOLUTION PC2-26: ON-FARM MEAT PROCESSING	Responded
RESOLUTION PC3-26: LEGAL ENTITY ALIGNED WITH ASBs	DEFEATED
RESOLUTION PC4-26: URGENT REFORMS TO CFIA AND PMRA	In Part
RESOLUTION E1-26: VACANT BIOLOGICAL CONTROL SCIENTIST POSITION	No Response
RESOLUTION E2-26: LIVESTOCK TRACEABILITY UPDATE CONCERNS	In Part

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RESOLUTION 1-26: EMERGENCY REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL (RGS) CONTROL

WHEREAS 2% liquid strychnine has proven the most effective tool in managing Richardson's ground squirrels in the prairie provinces since about 1928;

WHEREAS to help maintain a level of Richardson's ground squirrel infestation below economic threshold as part of an integrated pest management plan;

WHEREAS there is still no other product available that is as effective as 2% liquid strychnine; and

WHEREAS when handled and used according to label, the off-target impacts have been minimal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Health Canada, work with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) and make 2% liquid strychnine available to farmers/ranchers for the 2026 season and beyond.

SPONSORED BY: Foothills County
STATUS: Provincial and Federal
DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada,
Health Canada,
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation,
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

RESPONSES

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION:

On October 1, 2025, the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan jointly submitted an Emergency Use Registration (EUR) request to the PMRA to approve the use of 2% liquid strychnine to control RGS. This request was [denied](#) by the PMRA, disappointing farmers and rural communities. Following this, on February 2, Minister Sigurdson and Minister Marit of Saskatchewan sent a joint letter advocating for the PMRA to reconsider this decision. This is further backed by Premier's Smith's February 12 joint letter with Saskatchewan Premier Moe advocating directly to Prime Minister Carney to grant an immediate 3-year exemption for the use of strychnine. An immediate decision is required to enable access to the product this spring to set our producers up for a successful 2026 growing season.

Alberta remains deeply concerned about the impact of RGS on the province's agricultural sector and is committed to identifying effective management solutions. Alberta continues to advocate for the federal government to provide access to strychnine as an important part of integrated pest management control plans for this pest.

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA:

No response

PESTICIDE MANGEMENT REGULATORY AGENCY:

No response

RESPONSE HEALTH CANADA:

No response

SUMMARY

Overall Assessment: partially met

- Strong advocacy actions taken
Alberta clearly worked with Saskatchewan, submitted an Emergency Use Registrations (EUR), and escalated through ministers and premiers—this aligns well with the request to work with other governments and PMRA.
- Continued commitment and pressure
Ongoing advocacy and recognition of strychnine as part of IPM shows the issue remains a priority.
- Request for “available for 2026 and beyond”
Current access ends November 2027 with no firm commitment to make it available in the future. Political environment may not be as favorable in the future.
- No indication that regulators are working on making the process for EUR better.

Key Observations

The response shows Alberta is dependent on federal approval (PMRA/Health Canada/AAFC), with no confirmed resolution or access secured. Process remains arbitrary and political.

Bottom line:

Alberta made meaningful efforts and advocacy, but since availability has not yet been achieved, the resolution is only partially met (good effort, limited results so far).

INITIAL GRADE ASBPC

RESPONDED

ASBPC COMMENTS

The resolution was graded Responded in Part because Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation provided a substantial response and the requested emergency registration was achieved, but the federal bodies did not send formal responses and the long-term availability component of the request has not been met.

In short: the committee recognized the meaningful outcome and provincial effort, but because not all addressees responded and long-term availability is unresolved.

RESOLUTION 2-26: EXEMPTION OF AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT FROM CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1999 EMISSION LIMITS

WHEREAS Concerns have been raised about the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of current Government of Canada emissions controls on diesel vehicles and machinery, specifically the use of Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF);

WHEREAS Producers in Alberta face expensive repairs and more costly down time dealing with Diesel Exhaust Fluid and cold temperatures;

WHEREAS Producers in Alberta need to stay competitive in the international markets; and

WHEREAS The net environmental benefit of DEF is negligible when considering the environmental impact of break downs, down time, and reduced longevity of equipment.

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

That Agriculture and Agri Food Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, and Alberta Environment work with the Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada to exempt agricultural equipment and vehicles from emission limits for nitrogen oxides (NOx) so that the waste of maintaining diesel exhaust fluid and selective catalytic reduction systems can be eliminated.

SPONSORED BY: Foothills County

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri Food Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

RESPONSES

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION:

Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) has heard from producers and ASBs about Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) use in farm machinery – in particular, concerns related to:

- crystallization and freezing in cold conditions;
- contamination and product degradation;
- sensor and component failures leading to downtime; and
- storage and handling difficulties.

Producers report these complications can lead to significant repair bills – sometimes amounting to thousands or even tens of thousands of dollars – along with lost productivity during critical operating windows. These costs have a real impact on farm profitability.

The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA) is federal legislation focused on preventing pollution and protecting the environment and human health to support sustainable development.

- It enables regulations for on-road and off-road vehicles and emission standards for engines to reduce hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides (NO_x), particulate matter and other air pollutants listed in Schedule 1 of the Act.
- It enables regulating greenhouse gas emissions from passenger automobiles and light trucks, and from heavy-duty vehicles and engines.
- DEF enables diesel engines to comply with emission standards by converting NO_x into harmless nitrogen and water.
- Federal emission regulations may have unintended impacts on producer profitability, including operational challenges for producers.

As CEPA is federal legislation, provinces do not have authority to grant DEF exemptions. No Canadian province has received a DEF exemption to date.

Alberta is committed to bringing forward producer concerns in ongoing discussions with federal counterparts and looking at ways to conduct a thorough assessment of potential agricultural exemptions so that actions are supported by evidence and reflect the realities farmers face.

RESPONSE ECCC: (May 14)

Minister of the Environment,
Climate Change
and Nature



Ministre de l'Environnement,
du Changement climatique
et de la Nature

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0H3

Mr. Rob Siewert
Chair, Provincial Committee
Agricultural Service Boards Provincial Committee
c/o Ms. Dawn Fortin
Secretary
asbpc_ea@agriculturalserviceboards.com

Dear Mr. Siewert:

Thank you for your correspondence of February 13, 2026, enclosing Agricultural Service Boards' Resolution 2-26 that requests an exemption from emission requirements related to diesel exhaust fluid under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*. I regret the delay in responding.

As you know, off-road diesel engines installed in agricultural tractors are subject to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* and the [Off-road Compression-Ignition \(Mobile and Stationary\) and Large Spark-Ignition Engine Emission Regulations](#) (CI-LSI Regulations). The CI-LSI Regulations support Canada's commitment to improving air quality by reducing emissions associated with fuel combustion and evaporation, which can result in the formation of ground-level ozone and smog and contribute to adverse environmental and human health impacts.

Federal emissions regulations generally apply to products manufactured in Canada (prior to first retail sale) or imported into the country. Engines subject to the CI-LSI Regulations must, at the time of importation, meet the emission standards that applied at the time of their manufacture.

Current emission standards for compression-ignition (diesel) engines are aligned with those of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which reflect the Tier 4 final standards. The CI-LSI Regulations do not require the use of specific technology (such as the use of diesel exhaust fluid) to meet the prescribed emission standards. These emissions standards are performance-based, and manufacturers are responsible for selecting the necessary and feasible technology to ensure their products comply.

.../2

Canada

- 2 -

Only the Governor in Council may, by order, grant a time-limited exemption to a company for a specific product. The requirements to apply for an exemption are set out in section 52 of the CI-LSI Regulations. Exemptions apply only to specific engines from an individual regulated company and cannot be granted for a broad class of products or for a specific region of the country.

Regulation of emissions from vehicles and engines is a shared responsibility between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Requirements or restrictions related to the use or modification of vehicles or engines after first retail sale are generally addressed under provincial/territorial, Indigenous, or municipal jurisdiction.

If you would like more information on federal vehicle and engine emission standards or the exemption process, please contact Mr. Stéphane Couroux, Executive Director for Environment and Climate Change Canada's Transportation Division, at infovehiculeetmoteur-vehiculeandengineinfo@ec.gc.ca. Additional technical data and case studies would be welcome to support further analysis.

I appreciate your taking the time to share the perspectives of the Agricultural Service Boards. Please accept my best regards.

Yours truly,



The Honourable Julie Dabrusin, P.C., M.P.

RESPONSE ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS:

Resent request April 30, No Response

RESPONSE AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA:

No Response

SUMMARY

Overall Assessment: core request not supported

- Neither response commits to or enables an exemption from NO_x emission limits for agricultural equipment. Both maintain the current regulatory framework.

Key Observations

- Jurisdictional limitation emphasized (AGI)
AGI clearly states that emissions standards fall under federal authority (CEPA) and provinces cannot grant exemptions, limiting Alberta's ability to fulfill the request.
- Issue acknowledged but no concrete action (AGI)
AGI recognizes producer concerns and cost impacts of DEF systems and commits only to ongoing discussions and assessment, not action or timelines.
- Federal response reinforces status quo (ECCC)
ECCC emphasizes that emission standards are required for environmental and health reasons, and regulations are performance-based, not tied to specific technologies like DEF.
- Exemption mechanism does not fit the request (ECCC)
Federal rules only allow case-by-case, time-limited exemptions for specific engines/companies, not a broad agricultural exemption, making the resolution's ask impractical under current legislation.
- No commitment to collaborate toward exemption
Neither response demonstrates meaningful progress toward intergovernmental work to secure a sector-wide exemption, which was central to the resolution.

Bottom line

While AGI acknowledges producer concerns and ECCC explains the regulatory framework, neither response advances or enables the requested exemption, and existing federal rules effectively preclude the outcome sought.

INITIAL GRADE ASBPC:

RESPONDED

ASBPC COMMENTS

The resolution was graded Responded because the ministries directly addressed the request, clearly explained the legal and jurisdictional constraints, and set out why the requested blanket agricultural exemption cannot be granted under current law, even though the committee is dissatisfied with the outcome.

RESOLUTION 4-26: RURAL WATER DISTRIBUTION AND CONNECTIVITY FUNDING

WHEREAS Alberta is experiencing prolonged drought conditions, leaving both agricultural producers and rural residents without reliable access to water;

WHEREAS Existing federal and provincial programs fund treatment plants and transmission mains but provide inadequate support for the distribution and service connections that directly reach farms and households;

WHEREAS This funding gap creates affordability barriers, leaves regional transmission systems underutilized, and undermines agricultural production, public health, and rural sustainability;

WHEREAS bridging the gap between funded transmission projects and user connections will maximize the value of federal and provincial investments, reduce long-term operating and maintenance costs, and reduce public health risks associated with private wells of uncertain quality; and

WHEREAS Other jurisdictions have implemented grant or cost share programs to assist property owners with service lateral costs and on lot infrastructure, resulting in improved uptake of centralized services and stronger outcomes for rural residents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

The Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta expand water infrastructure funding to include distribution and service connections for farms, rural residences, and small communities through an equitable cost-sharing program.

SPONSORED BY: County of Stettler No. 6

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors
Alberta Affordability and Utilities
Alberta Infrastructure
Canada Housing and Infrastructure

RESPONSES

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION:

The Government of Alberta continues to support rural and regional water infrastructure through existing grant programs, including the Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership and the Water for Life program. These programs are

designed for smaller municipalities and regional water commissions serving populations under 45,000. The programs help ensure that rural communities have reliable drinking water and wastewater systems.

- Recently, AGI has been working closely with Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC) to identify gaps in the current water-infrastructure programs and to support TEC's work on a potential integrated water program. To help shape this work, TEC surveyed municipalities and regional partners in August 2025 to gather perspectives on both the existing programs and what an integrated approach could look like. TEC is responsible for delivering the current water-infrastructure programs, and any future changes or announcements regarding an integrated water program would come from them.
- Water co-ops also play an essential role in providing reliable water services to farms and rural residences, particularly in areas that are not served by municipal systems. Affordability and Utilities supports the development, operation, governance, and long-term sustainability of rural water co-operatives across the province. The Rural Water Program also provides important support for water co-op systems that benefit rural communities.
- In addition to these municipal programs, AGI and the federal government support agricultural producers directly through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership Water Program. This program provides 50 per cent cost-share funding, up to \$10,000 per water-source development, and up to \$20,000 total for new water-source projects over the program term (April 2023-March 2028). Eligible projects include tie-ins to multi-user water pipelines, improving water security for farm operations.
- AGI is mandated with completing ongoing irrigation modernization commitments and exploring opportunities to further invest in irrigation expansion and water-storage infrastructure.
- Through the Irrigation Rehabilitation Program, AGI provides annual funding to irrigation districts to support upgrades and repairs to conveyance systems. These improvements help ensure efficient, reliable, and secure water delivery across irrigation districts – benefits that extend to rural communities and agricultural users alike.

FURTHER RESPONSE REQUESTED:

AGRIC Minister<AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca>
ASBPC Executive
TEC Minister <Transportation.Minister@gov.ab.ca>
Tue 5/12/2026 10:30 AM

Dear Rob Siewert:

Thank you for your letter from the ASB Provincial Committee requesting clarification regarding the "Integrated Water Program."

Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC) is mandated with development of an integrated water program that facilitates increased water treatment and distribution for residential, industrial and agricultural water use across Alberta. Inquiries can be directed to Nikolai Thomas, Director of Grant Administration, at Nikolai.Thomas@gov.ab.ca.

Agriculture and Irrigation staff participate in TEC-led multi-departmental discussions about Government of Alberta programs that support various types of water users in the province. These discussions enhance collaboration and contribute to effective and efficient delivery of Alberta government programs.

Agriculture and Irrigation will continue to engage in discussions as requested and identify opportunities to further support agricultural water users.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation
AR89877

RESPONSE TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC CORRIDORS:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee regarding Resolution 4-26, passed at the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference on January 21, 2026. We appreciate you bringing forward the perspectives of agricultural municipalities and producers from across Alberta.

The Government of Alberta recognizes access to reliable and safe water is essential to the long-term sustainability of agriculture, rural residences, and small communities. We understand the intent of the resolution is to seek expanded provincial support for water distribution infrastructure and service connections through an equitable cost-sharing approach.

At present, provincial water infrastructure funding programs are designed primarily to support regional and municipal-scale systems which deliver broad public benefit, with eligibility criteria focused on core infrastructure rather than private service connections. These criteria help ensure funding is allocated in a manner which balances demonstrated need, fiscal responsibility, and consistency across the province.

We acknowledge the ongoing challenges faced by rural landowners and agricultural operations in securing affordable access to water infrastructure.

The Government of Alberta continues to work with municipalities, regional water commissions, and stakeholders to explore opportunities to improve regional collaboration, optimize existing systems, and consider future program design improvements where feasible.

We appreciate the Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee's advocacy on behalf of Alberta's agricultural community and thank you for sharing this resolution. Your input helps inform ongoing discussions related to rural infrastructure needs and long-term water sustainability.

FURTHER RESPONSE REQUESTED APRIL 30:

NO RESPONSE

RESPONSE AFFORDABILITY AND UTILITIES:

Resent request April 30 - no response

RESPONSE ALBERTA INFRASTRUCTURE:

Resent request April 30 – no response

RESPONSE CANADA HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE:

No response

SUMMARY

Overall Assessment : Partially met (acknowledgement and incremental support, but no expansion to requested scope)

- Existing funding and programs confirmed (AGI)
- Recognition of rural needs and gaps (AGI & TEC)

Key Observations

- Work underway on future program design (AGI & TEC)
Government is exploring an “integrated water program” and reviewing existing programs to identify gaps and improve coordination.
- Ongoing interdepartmental collaboration (AGI follow up)
AGI confirms it is participating in cross-government discussions led by TEC to improve water program delivery.

- No commitment to expand funding to service connections
None of the responses commit to including distribution and on-farm/service connections—the core ask of the resolution.
- Programs still focused on municipal/regional infrastructure (TEC)
Current funding eligibility remains focused on large-scale systems, not farm-level or rural connection costs.
- No clear cost-sharing expansion or new funding announced
While some cost-share programs exist, there is no new equitable cost-sharing model addressing the specific gap identified.
- Future work is exploratory, not actionable
The integrated water program is still in development, with no defined timelines, scope, or confirmed outcomes tied to the resolution.

Bottom line

The responses acknowledge the issue and point to existing supports and ongoing planning, but do not deliver or commit to the requested expansion of funding to include distribution and service connections, resulting in a partially met outcome with limited tangible progress so far.

INITIAL GRADE ASBPC:

RESPONDED

ASBPC COMMENTS

The resolution was graded Responded because the ministries provided clear responses, acknowledged the gaps, and described ongoing program development and coordination, even though they did not commit to the specific expanded funding model requested.

RESOLUTION PC1-26: MODERNIZING ALBERTA'S RAT CONTROL PROGRAM

WHEREAS: the current Rat Program in Alberta was designed in the 1950s and may not fully address the realities of modern pest (rat) management, with emerging challenges both inside and outside the established rat control zone;

WHEREAS: recent years have seen increased rat activity in urban municipalities and regions outside the traditional control zone, with increased and new pathways for rat spread and heightened risk to agricultural and urban infrastructure;

WHEREAS: public awareness efforts, while improved through initiatives like the "Rat on Rat" campaign, require further expansion to ensure both rural and urban Albertans are informed and vigilant;

WHEREAS: an effective provincial strategy depends on the collaborative efforts of the Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs), Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA), Alberta Municipalities (AM), the Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC), the Government of Alberta (GOA), First Nations and Métis communities (FNM), and the support of surrounding jurisdictions;

WHEREAS: there are identified gaps in training for municipal and pest control staff, particularly regarding rat identification, management, and reporting;

WHEREAS: effective rat management requires current data, including accurate mapping and tracking of high-risk sites such as landfills, recycling facilities, and rail yards, which are currently lacking a comprehensive, province-wide inventory.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation perform a full strategic review and modernization of Alberta's Rat Program, ensuring its effectiveness and responsiveness to current and emerging pest management challenges throughout the province;

FURTHER BE IT

RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Province of Alberta include the creation of a working group composed of members from ASBs, Rural Municipalities of Alberta, AM, AISC, GOA ministries, FNM and adjacent jurisdictions to provide direction and recommendations to the GOA for the modernization of Alberta's Rat Program

SPONSORED BY: ASBPC

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Environment and Protected Areas,
Infrastructure, Transportation and Economic Corridors

RESPONSES

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION:

- A comprehensive review of the Rat Control Program is being considered for summer 2026 to identify modernization opportunities and ensure long-term program sustainability.
- Alberta has operated the Rat Control Program since 1950 with the goal of preventing rats from establishing resident populations within our borders. While rats do occasionally enter the province, “rat-free” means they are detected quickly and eradicated before they can reproduce. Under the *Agricultural Pests Act*, landowners are responsible for controlling rats on their property, while municipalities oversee eradication efforts locally. The province supports this work through coordination, technical expertise, and emergency response when infestations occur.
- A critical component of our prevention efforts is the 600-kilometre Rat Control Zone along Alberta’s eastern border. Municipal and provincial officers conduct routine inspections in this area and implement targeted control measures to ensure Alberta remains rat-free. Every reported sighting is investigated, and more than one rat is considered an infestation requiring immediate action. This coordinated system is recognized internationally and remains foundational to protecting farms, infrastructure, and stored feed supplies across Alberta.
- In 2023, the program was strengthened to address rising pressures on pest-prevention systems. Enhancements included increased funding for bait and equipment, the creation of the Assistant Rat and Pest Specialist position, and support for the Alberta Invasive Species Council’s “Rat on Rats!” public awareness campaign. Since June 2024, the Assistant Specialist proactively inspects recycling and waste-handling facilities – locations that can unintentionally transport rats into the province.
- Alberta’s rat-free status continues to protect rural communities from extensive property damage, contamination and economic losses that other jurisdictions experience as a result of established rat populations.
- Alberta’s success in staying rat-free is a shared success, achieved through the partnership between producers, municipalities and the province. Prompt reporting of sightings, cooperation with inspections and on-farm prevention measures remain vital to maintaining this unique advantage.
- Please continue to report any suspected rat sightings immediately so we can act quickly to protect our farms and communities.

RESPONSE EPA:

Resent request April 30 – no response

RESPONSE TEC:

Regarding PC1-26, Alberta's rat control program is not under the jurisdiction of Transportation and Economic Corridors. However, my colleague the Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, will be able to provide a response on this topic.

SUMMARY

Overall Assessment: Partially met (review planned, but key elements not fully addressed)

- Commitment to a program review (AGI)
Agriculture and Irrigation indicates a comprehensive review of the Rat Control Program is being considered for summer 2026, directly aligning with the request for modernization.
- Recognition of program importance and ongoing improvements (AGI)
The response highlights recent enhancements (funding, staffing, inspections, public awareness) and affirms continued commitment to maintaining Alberta's rat-free status.
- Acknowledgement of collaborative model (AGI)
The existing program already involves producers, municipalities, and the province, reflecting some level of multi-stakeholder coordination.

Key Observations

- No commitment to establish a formal working group
The response does not address or commit to creating the requested multi-stakeholder working group (ASBs, RMA, AM, AISC, FNM, etc.), which was a key element of the resolution.
- Review is proposed, not confirmed or scoped
The review is only "being considered", with no defined scope, timeline, or deliverables, limiting confidence in follow-through.
- No response to cross-ministry training/awareness ask
There is no mention of improving awareness among government staff (e.g., inspections, transportation, facilities), which was a specific additional request.

- TEC response does not contribute
Transportation and Economic Corridors indicates the issue falls outside its jurisdiction, providing no substantive input toward the resolution.

Bottom line

The responses partially address the resolution by signaling a potential program review and demonstrating ongoing program strength, but they do not commit to key structural changes (working group, cross-ministry approach, defined modernization plan). The outcome is progress in intent, but limited action on the full scope of the request.

INITIAL GRADE ASBPC

RESPONDED IN PART

ASBPC COMMENTS

The resolution was graded Responded in Part because Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation signaled intent to review the program and recognized its importance but did not commit to the formal collaborative structures or cross-ministry approach requested, and other ministries did not substantively engage with their potential roles.

Keeping the rat free status of Alberta saves every Albertan the added costs associated with rat control which in every other part of Canada is built into the cost of doing business. This is part of the Alberta advantage, and the data is showing that the current Rat Control Zone is effective for the movement of Norway rats from agricultural practices along the eastern border and that confirmed cases of Roof Rats in urban settings are on the rise. Clearly it is a cross ministry effort that is needed to keep the rat free status, and so the letters of request specifically asked that ministries work together to educate and increase awareness of the rat free status, where to report and how to identify rats with staff and the public they work with.

RESOLUTION PC2-26: ON-FARM MEAT PROCESSING

WHEREAS: the On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) program, introduced in 2020, provides critical opportunities for small-scale livestock producers in Alberta to enhance local food systems, and support economic diversification through direct-to-consumer sales and custom slaughter services for household use;

WHEREAS: regulatory changes implemented on July 2, 2025, including annual slaughter weight limits of approximately 5,000 lbs live weight and restrictions on co-ownership based on animal size, have introduced uncertainty and potential barriers that could reduce viability for small processors by up to 70% in revenue;

WHEREAS: the government's pause on the regulatory changes, following immediate stakeholder concerns about unintended consequences, highlights the program's vulnerability to abrupt policy shifts and the importance of responsive governance in supporting rural agriculture;

WHEREAS: the subsequent online survey and engagement process for OFSO holders and stakeholders, conducted from August 25 to September 22, 2025, aimed to gather input on reducing foodborne illness risks and assessing long-term impacts, but has yet to yield publicly announced outcomes as of December 2025, contributing to ongoing anxiety among small processors;

WHEREAS: the lack of timely updates following the consultation period underscores the need for more transparent and comprehensive evaluations to address persistent red tape, such as stringent licensing prerequisites (e.g., food safety modules, onsite assessments, water testing, zoning compliance, and quarterly reporting), which may disproportionately burden local small processors and hinder their ability to operate efficiently;

WHEREAS: a thorough economic evaluation is essential to quantify the financial impacts of existing barriers and regulatory uncertainties on small processors, including potential revenue losses, investment deterrence, and contributions to Alberta's rural economy, with the explicit goal of streamlining processes, reducing red tape, and fostering sustainable growth in the local meat production sector.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation initiates a comprehensive, transparent, and timely reviews of the On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) program—including all regulatory changes, licensing requirements, and enforcement measures—be conducted with meaningful stakeholder input, with the aim of minimizing administrative burdens and financial uncertainty for small-scale processors.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation reduce unnecessary red tape and ensure that regulatory policies do not disproportionately hinder small, rural operators and supports long-term viability, economic sustainability, and growth of Alberta's local meat production while simultaneously meeting traceability and safe food safety requirement.

SPONSORED BY: ASBPC

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation,

RESPONSE

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION:

- The OFSO program was introduced in July 2020 to increase access to local meat. All meat resulting from slaughter under an OFSO licence is uninspected. Therefore, this meat cannot be sold, gifted, bartered or otherwise transferred. It must be returned to the owner(s) of the animal for consumption by their households only.
- In 2024, AGI updated OFSO pre-licensing requirements to support operator compliance and increase consumer confidence. The updates require applicants to successfully complete testing requirements for food safety and water potability, as well as participate in a pre-licensing onsite assessment.
- Pre-licensing requirements are foundational food safety and risk-management practices. These requirements are streamlined, low-cost, and designed to prevent far more serious issues that would create real burdens for small producers. They also protect public health, reduce liability for operators and ensure the OFSO program remains credible and sustainable without adding unnecessary administrative steps.
- In July 2025, the Government of Alberta proposed an annual uninspected slaughter limit of 5,000 pounds for new OFSO licences.
- An annual uninspected slaughter limit was proposed in response to complaints that some OFSOs were slaughtering large numbers of animals, creating concerns about food safety, animal welfare and safe disposal of waste. Introducing limit to control growth in uninspected meat was intended to help minimize the risk of foodborne illness outbreaks and maintain Alberta's reputation as a safe source of high-quality meat.
- The implementation of proposed slaughter limits for new OFSO licences was paused to further engage with licence holders who expressed concern about business impacts. During consultation with OFSO licence holders, commodity groups and the Alberta Meat Facilities Association, AGI collected valuable input that will be used to consider potential improvements to the OFSO program.

- Proposed annual slaughter limits would apply only to uninspected on-farm slaughter and meat processing activities – not to meat products available for sale from local inspected slaughter and meat processing operations. Farmers can continue to sell unlimited amounts of local, inspected meat through their farm shops and various other retail locations throughout the province, provided they have the appropriate licence.
- Alberta has 117 provincially licensed and inspected small-scale abattoirs. The Government of Alberta maintains a [Directory of licensed slaughter operations](#) to help customers find a local abattoir that sources animals from Alberta producers.
- AGI is considering ongoing improvements to the OFSO program to support local food security and create opportunities for small farmers while enhancing the safety of Alberta's meat supply.
- Alberta continually strives to reduce regulatory red tape.

SUMMARY

Overall Assessment: Partially met (engagement and adjustments underway, but no full review or clear red-tape reduction)

- Stakeholder engagement demonstrated
AGI paused proposed slaughter limits and engaged with licence holders and industry groups, indicating meaningful consultation is occurring.
- Ongoing program improvements considered
The ministry notes it is considering improvements to the OFSO program, suggesting openness to modernization.
- Recognition of balancing safety and viability
The response emphasizes maintaining food safety, public confidence, and program credibility, while also supporting local food security and small producers.

Key Observations

- No commitment to a comprehensive, transparent review
There is no clear commitment to a full, formal review of the OFSO program (scope, timeline, or process), which is the primary ask.
- Limited evidence of red tape reduction
While AGI states requirements are “streamlined” and claims ongoing efforts to reduce red tape, no concrete changes or reductions are identified.
- Regulatory approach largely maintained
The response defends current and proposed requirements (e.g., pre-licensing rules, slaughter limits) rather than clearly reducing administrative burden.

- Financial uncertainty concerns not directly addressed
Although consultation occurred, the response does not outline specific measures to reduce cost impacts or financial risk for small operators.

Bottom line

The response shows some responsiveness through consultation and willingness to adjust proposals but does not commit to the comprehensive review or meaningful regulatory relief requested, resulting in a partially met outcome with modest progress but limited structural change.

INITIAL GRADE ASBPC

RESPONDED

ASBPC COMMENTS

The resolution was graded Responded because the ministry directly addressed the issues raised, outlined current policy and consultation efforts, and explained its reasoning, despite not committing to the level of red tape reduction or structural change that some committee members would prefer.

RESOLUTION PC4-26: URGENT REFORMS TO CFIA AND PMRA

WHEREAS: during a meeting with the Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, it was noted that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) are not legally enabled to respond to feedback from Canadians, leading to a lack of accountability in their decision-making processes;

WHEREAS: provincial discussions are underway regarding the potential relocation of CFIA and PMRA from Health Canada back to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to better align with agricultural needs and improve responsiveness;

WHEREAS: verifiable case studies from Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs), including examples from poultry and cervid sectors, demonstrate how CFIA's delays in de-population decisions cause significant business disruptions, increased anxiety among farmers and workers, and animal welfare concerns without consideration for practical on-farm impacts;

WHEREAS: the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Working Group on Pesticides Management report explicitly states that PMRA is not legally able to respond to industry feedback, and there are recommendations under discussion at the FPT level for improving CFIA operations;

WHEREAS: in the beekeeper sector, independent peer reviews of CFIA risk assessments revealed biases that were disregarded as "out of scope," while paradoxical policies allow imports of diseased bees from jurisdictions like Italy, New Zealand, and Australia, but restrict disease-free imports from the United States, highlighting the need for mechanisms to address industry concerns and ensure practical, evidence-based mandates;

WHEREAS: a thorough economic evaluation is essential to quantify the financial impacts of existing barriers and regulatory uncertainties on small processors, including potential revenue losses, investment deterrence, and contributions to Alberta's rural economy, with the explicit goal of streamlining processes, reducing red tape, and fostering sustainable growth in the local meat production sector.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Government of Canada to urgently implement changes to the mandates, processes, and accountability structures of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), including enabling legal authority to meaningfully consider and respond to feedback from industry stakeholders and Canadians;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

that the Government of Canada immediately move CFIA and PMRA from Health Canada back under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to restore alignment with agriculture and improve responsiveness, and that both agencies be legally required to factor in practical on-farm realities, business disruptions, animal welfare, and scientific evidence when making decisions.

SPONSORED BY: ASBPC

STATUS: Provincial, Federal

DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada,
Health Canada, Prime Minister's Office

RESPONSES

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION:

- The Government of Alberta will continue to advocate to the federal government for policy decisions and actions to consider the economic and regional impact to agriculture. Alberta's commitment to agriculture first does not stop at the provincial border.
- The province has long been advocating for improvements to processes and accountability structures of both the CFIA and the PMRA, including for the transfer of the CFIA and PMRA back under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.
- Ensuring PMRA and CFIA regulatory decisions are transparent, responsive, and aligned with the needs of those they impact; for example, pushing PMRA to consider economic risk assessments when making decisions on the continuity of vital chemicals to the agricultural industry.
- This is an ongoing effort that we continue to push at meetings between the [Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Agriculture](#). As a result of Alberta's, and other provinces advocacy, the CFIA is currently under a [regulatory red tape reduction review](#) which is in progress.

RESPONSE AAFC:

No response

RESPONSE HEALTH CANADA:

No response

RESPONSE PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE:

No response

SUMMARY

Overall Assessment: Partially met (strong advocacy alignment, but no direct authority or confirmed outcomes)

- Active provincial advocacy to federal government
Alberta confirms it is actively advocating for changes to CFIA and PMRA mandates, processes, and accountability, aligning directly with the resolution's first clause.
- Support for structural change (agency alignment)
The province explicitly supports moving CFIA and PMRA back under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, consistent with the resolution request.

Key Observations

- Push for more responsive, practical decision-making
Alberta is advocating for greater transparency, responsiveness, and inclusion of economic impacts and agricultural realities in regulatory decisions.
- Evidence of ongoing national-level engagement
The issue is being raised through federal–provincial–territorial minister meetings, and some progress is noted (e.g., CFIA red tape reduction review underway).
- No direct federal commitment or outcome achieved
The response reflects advocacy only—no confirmation that the federal government will implement the requested reforms.
- Limited detail on stakeholder accountability mechanisms
While broader improvements are supported, there is no clear commitment to legal or structural changes ensuring stakeholder input is formally required.
- No timeline or defined reform process
Actions remain ongoing and undefined, with no clear roadmap for achieving the requested changes.

Bottom line

The response shows strong alignment in intent and advocacy, including support for major structural changes and improved regulatory responsiveness. However, because authority rests with the federal government and no concrete reforms are confirmed, the resolution is partially met—good alignment, but limited tangible results to date.

INITIAL GRADE ASBPC

RESPONDED IN PART

ASBPC COMMENTS

The resolution was graded Responded in Part because Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation showed strong alignment and active advocacy on the requested reforms, but the federal decision-makers did not respond directly and no concrete federal commitments or implemented reforms matching the resolution's full scope were confirmed.

RESOLUTION E1-26: VACANT BIOLOGICAL CONTROL SCIENTIST POSITION

WHEREAS: In 2008 the Canadian Food Inspection Agency estimates the economic cost of invasive plant species in Canada is \$2.2 billion annually.¹

WHEREAS: In 2022 the Alberta Invasive Species Council updated estimated the cost of invasive species to Albertans at \$2.1 billion annually.²

WHEREAS: Biological control is a critical tool for managing established invasive plants, particularly in natural landscapes or where chemical and mechanical controls are impractical, cost-prohibitive, or ineffective.

WHEREAS: The Lethbridge Research and Development Centre houses a state-of-the-art quarantine facility specifically designed for rearing and evaluating biocontrol agents.

WHEREAS: The recent retirement of the Weed Biological Control Entomologist Research Scientist, working at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Lethbridge Research and Development Centre has left this pivotal position vacant, halting Canada's capacity to evaluate and approve new weed biological control agents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to immediately fill the vacant Research Scientist - Weed Biological Control position at the AAFC Lethbridge Research and Development Centre, to restore Canada's critical capacity for biocontrol research and protect producers and land managers from the impacts of invasive species.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

RESPONSE

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA:

No response

SUMMARY

- Coordinate a letter writing campaign to MPs and Federal/provincial government about this concern. Letters to the staffing decision makers as well.

INITIAL GRADE ASBPC

NO RESPONSE

ASBPC COMMENTS

The resolution was graded No Response because no written reply was received from the responsible federal body, and the committee does not yet have any official information on the status of the position. Further discussion on who to engage with further given the current work being done and the recommendations from the Standing Committee on Agriculture to halt and reverse the planned shutdowns, recognizing that many of the research staff have opted to leave the centres so there maybe an opportunity to fill a position.

RESOLUTION E2-26: LIVESTOCK TRACEABILITY UPDATE CONCERNS

WHEREAS: the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has proposed amendments to Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations (Identification and Traceability) to expand species coverage, require enhanced movement reporting, premises identification, and digitized record-keeping;

WHEREAS: the stated objective of these amendments is improved disease control and outbreak response, yet significant concerns remain regarding increased workload, cost, and on-farm practicality, particularly in the absence of a clearly defined gap in the existing system;

WHEREAS: Canada's 59 beef trading partners, including the United States, have not raised concerns regarding Canada's traceability system that would threaten market access;

WHEREAS: CFIA engagement on traceability has occurred intermittently since 2013, but formal public input was limited to a 90-day consultation in 2023, generating only 778 submissions nationwide, and the finalization of the regulations has since been paused (as of January 10, 2026) to address stakeholder concerns;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST:

The Government of Canada, specifically the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the Government of Alberta suspend the implementation of additional mandatory livestock traceability regulations under Part XV for a minimum three years, and until a comprehensive risk assessment is completed that fully evaluates the impacts on small-scale and mixed farming operations, as well as the broader downstream effects on rural communities.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST:

The Government of Canada, specifically the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the Government of Alberta maintain the pause on the proposed Part XV amendments until regionally representative consultations are completed and producer feedback is incorporated into any revised regulatory framework.

SPONSORED BY: County of Stettler No. 6

DEPARTMENTS: Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation; Alberta Public Safety & Emergency Services, Alberta Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction, AAFC, CFIA, Prairies Economic Development Canada, and Public Health Agency of Canada.

RESPONSES

RESPONSE ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION:

Resolution E2-26: Livestock Traceability Update Concerns

- Due to the deep concerns shared with me by livestock producers and the overall industry, I felt it was necessary to request an immediate pause to the current suite of changes. On January 9, 2026, I also released a [statement](#) asking the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to take the necessary steps to engage the industry and ensure the changes will not continue to set the industry up for failure and further erode the ability for the Alberta beef industry to compete on the global stage.
- On January 10, 2026, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) confirmed it will pause the publication of traceability regulations to better hear and consider producer concerns.
- While the Government of Alberta supports the importance of maintaining strong export markets and a trusted traceability system, it is essential that federal regulatory changes are practical and supports producers' competitiveness.
- Alberta government remains committed to enhancing traceability outcomes without imposing an undue administrative burden on producers. We will continue to work constructively with our federal partners and industry leaders to find practical solutions that support the long-term success and competitiveness of Alberta's beef industry.
- Agriculture and Irrigation will continue working with industry groups and representative organizations to understand the diverse perspectives of producers.

RESPONSE ALBERTA PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY SERVICES:

No response

RESPONSE SERVICE ALBERTA AND RED TAPE REDUCTION:

No response

RESPONSE AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA:

No response

RESPONSE CANDIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY:

No response

RESPONSE PRAIRIES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CANADA:

No response

RESPONSE PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA:

No response

FURTHER RESPONSE REQUESTED TO ABP AND CCA:

The ASB Provincial Committee reached out to the Canadian Cattle Association and the Alberta Beef Producers to inquire what actions that they taken and any responses they may have received to their similar resolutions.

ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS RESPONSE:

From Mark Lyseng <MarkL@AlbertaBeef.org>

Date Tue 5/5/2026 9:46 AM

To ASBPC Executive <ASBPC_EA@agriculturalserviceboards.com>

Hi Linda,

Hope all is well.

Through our recent producer meetings, we received a range of resolutions related to traceability. These reflected a variety of perspectives, with differing levels of alignment and detail.

The delegate body determined that these would benefit from further review, and as such, they have been referred to a working group to assess and help inform a path forward. That group is currently being established.

I'll keep you updated as things progress.

Here is the resolution:

Whereas the CFIA has proposed several new regulations and amendments to Animal Traceability in Canada.

Whereas statements have come forward with concerns which included but were not limited to issues around the new regulations, concerns over CFIA, its mandate, enforcement and overreach

Whereas Alberta Beef Producer's mandate is to represent all Alberta beef producers, from smaller or "lifestyle" producers who pay-check off to multi-million dollar operations.

Whereas Alberta Beef Producers has an existing policy (Section 24) regarding traceability.

Be it Resolved

Alberta Beef Producers defer all passed resolutions regarding traceability to the Board so that a working committee can be created to better understand producers concerns around the new regulations, investigate the value of animal movement traceability and clarify the CFIA's role and past actions to ensure that ABP policy aligns with the majority of Alberta producers' desired outcomes.

That Alberta Beef Producers requests that CFIA pause implementing or publishing any new regulations until the outcomes of the working group have been presented to the ABP board and communicated through its national partners.

Regards,
Mark Lyseng
Government Relations & Policy, Lead
www.albertabeef.org

CANADIAN CATTLE ASSOCIATION:

NO RESPONSE

SUMMARY

Overall assessment: Partially met (pause achieved, but limited on timelines, analysis, and formal consultation framework)

- Pause on regulatory implementation achieved (AGI)
Alberta requested a pause, and CFIA confirmed it would pause publication of the traceability regulations—directly aligning with the core ask to halt implementation.
- Advocacy for producer concerns and consultation (AGI & ABP)
Both AGI and ABP emphasize the need to hear producer concerns and engage stakeholders before moving forward.
- Recognition of impacts on producers
AGI acknowledges the importance of ensuring regulations are practical and do not undermine competitiveness, while ABP highlights diverse producer concerns requiring further review.
- Industry-led review process initiated (ABP)
ABP is forming a working group to assess traceability concerns, which supports the resolution’s intent for further analysis and stakeholder input.
- Alignment on maintaining pause until further work is done (ABP)
ABP explicitly supports pausing new regulations until their review is complete, reinforcing the resolution’s second clause.

Key Observations

- No commitment to a defined 3-year suspension (AGI)
While a pause exists, there is no commitment to a minimum three-year suspension, which was explicitly requested.

- No comprehensive risk assessment framework identified
Neither response commits to a formal, comprehensive risk assessment evaluating impacts on small or mixed operations and rural communities.
- Consultation process not clearly defined or guaranteed
Engagement is mentioned, but there is no structured, regionally representative consultation plan or assurance that feedback will be formally incorporated.
- Unclear long-term regulatory direction
AGI signals continued work with federal and industry partners but does not define what a revised framework will look like or how concerns will change outcomes.

Bottom line

The responses successfully achieved a pause and demonstrate alignment on the need for consultation and further review, particularly with ABP initiating an internal working group. However, they do not fully meet the resolution's key requirements—specifically a guaranteed multi-year suspension, a formal risk assessment, and a clearly defined consultation and revision process—resulting in a partially met outcome with meaningful progress but incomplete follow-through.

INITIAL GRADE ASBPC

RESPONDED IN PART

ASBPC COMMENTS

The resolution was graded Responded in Part because Alberta and industry organizations have acknowledged concerns, achieved a pause in implementation, and initiated further work, but there has been no federal response confirming the longer-term suspension, risk assessment, or specific revised framework requested in the resolution.

Alberta Beef Producers committed to keeping the ASBPC in the loop on the actions they are taking, and there was a decision to reach out to the other commodities that are impacted by the traceability discussion (sheep and goats) for a more comprehensive understanding of the situation.



March 2, 2026

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

Sent via email to: 310farm@gov.ab.ca

RE: Proposed Changes to the On-Farm Slaughter Operation Licensing Program

Dear Minister Sigurdson,

Lac La Biche County wishes to provide input regarding the proposed amendments to the On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) Licence program, and the potential impacts these changes may have on local producers.

The OFSO program plays an important role in supporting agricultural operations throughout our region. Producers have invested substantial time, resources, and capital into establishing on-farm slaughter facilities that meet regulatory requirements. Any changes that affect the long-term viability of these operations are therefore of significant concern. In particular, the previously proposed annual slaughter limit of 5,000 pounds raised questions about whether the program would remain practical or economically feasible for many licence holders. Such limitations risk undermining the program's original objective of strengthening local food systems and improving access to locally produced meat.

While we acknowledge the Government of Alberta's efforts to gather feedback through a producer survey, some licence holders have expressed concern that the survey may not have fully captured the operational realities and challenges faced by those participating in the OFSO program.

Lac La Biche County is strongly committed to supporting local agriculture and maintaining a regulatory environment that allows rural producers to plan and operate with confidence. In light of these concerns, we respectfully encourage the Government of Alberta to engage directly with OFSO licence holders and relevant stakeholder groups prior to implementing any further program changes.

.../2

Page 2
Honourable Minister RJ Sigurdson

Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective on this matter.

Sincerely,



Vic Toutant
Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Chairman

cc: The Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta
The Honourable Laila Goodridge, M.P., Fort McMurray – Cold Lake
The Honourable Brian Jean, Minister of Energy and Minerals and MLA for Fort
McMurray – Lac La Biche
Lac La Biche County Council
Agricultural Service Board, Lac La Biche County
Agricultural Service Boards Provincial Committee
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen
Manny Deol, Chief Administrative Officer, Lac La Biche County



The Honourable Heath MacDonald
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
1341 Baseline Road, Tower 7
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C5

Re: Federal Funding Cuts to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

On behalf of Clearwater County Council and the Clearwater County Agricultural Service Board, we are writing to express our serious concern regarding the recent federal funding cuts to agricultural research facilities, and in particular the closure of the Lacombe Research Centre.

Canada's agriculture sector is currently operating in an increasingly uncertain global environment, challenged by strained relationships with key trading partners, volatile commodity prices, climate variability, and rising international competition. In this context, the potential loss of the Lacombe Research Centre risks weakening the sector's ability to remain competitive, innovative, and resilient at a time when these attributes are more critical than ever.

Farmers must continually adapt to changing market conditions, evolving customer expectations, and emerging production and environmental risks. Scientific research is paramount to enabling producers not only to survive, but to thrive, and to reduce vulnerability and instability across the agricultural industry. Publicly funded research plays a vital role in providing practical, regionally relevant solutions that individual producers and the private sector cannot generate alone.

Canada's reputation as a reliable, high-quality agricultural exporter has been built over decades through sustained investment in publicly funded scientific research. This research has driven productivity and profitability while maintaining a strong focus on sustainability. At Lacombe, this includes critical work in crop and livestock genetics, soil health, disease and pest resistance, and environmental stewardship. Competing agricultural nations continue to invest heavily in research and innovation to secure productivity gains and export markets. It is essential that Canada does not fall behind and shift from a position of leadership to one of catch-up.

Maintaining agricultural research capacity at Lacombe is a strategic investment in regional economic stability, rural communities, and Canada's long-term food security and export success. The Lacombe Research Centre has been in operation for over a century, and the benefits of its research are cumulative, often taking decades to fully realize. The work conducted at this site cannot be easily replicated elsewhere, and the loss of long-term trials currently underway would be devastating. Once research capacity, expertise, and long-term data sets are lost, the impacts extend far beyond short-term budget considerations and are felt across generations of producers.

As an Agricultural Service Board, we see firsthand how federal research supports on-farm decision-making, extension services, and innovation at the local level. We respectfully urge the Government of Canada to reconsider the proposed funding cuts and potential closure of the Lacombe Research Centre, and to engage meaningfully with municipalities, Agricultural Service Boards, producers, and research partners when assessing regional impacts.


We believe strongly that continued investment in agricultural research is essential to ensuring a resilient, competitive, and sustainable agricultural sector for Canada.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would welcome the opportunity to participate in further discussion on how federal, provincial, and municipal partners can work together to protect this critical research capacity.

Sincerely,

X 

Aaron Terpsma
Chairperson, Clearwater County ASB

X 

Jordan Northcott
Reeve, Clearwater County

C.C.

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta, E.C.A., M.L.A.
The Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, E.C.A., M.L.A.
The Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of Assisted Living and Social Services, E.C.A., M.L.A.
Tanya Day, Ministerial Liason for Health Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Paul Mackinnon, CFIA President
Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman



Municipal District of **GREENVIEW**

March 24, 2026

Honourable Marjorie Michel
Minister of Health
Health Canada
Address Locator 0900C2
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Attention: Minister of Health

Re: Council Concerns with Proposed Amendments to the Traceability Regulation

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Council of the Municipal District of Greenview, we are writing to formally express concern regarding the proposed amendments to the federal Traceability Regulation, particularly as they relate to mandatory reporting timelines, reliance on digital reporting systems, and the resulting impacts on livestock producers operating in northern and rural regions.

The Municipal District of Greenview is a large, predominantly rural municipality in northwestern Alberta with a strong livestock production base. Council is concerned that the proposed amendments do not adequately account for the realities faced by producers in regions where reliable internet and cellular connectivity remain limited or unavailable. Many livestock operations within Greenview are located in remote areas where consistent access to broadband services does not exist, and producers may only have periodic connectivity.

The proposed seven day reporting deadline presents a serious compliance challenge under these conditions. Council is concerned that producers may face enforcement risks or administrative penalties despite making reasonable efforts to comply, simply because of infrastructure limitations beyond their control. Regulatory requirements that rely heavily on timely electronic reporting must reflect current rural connectivity and availability to be both fair and workable.

Council is also concerned about the cumulative impact the proposed amendments will have on the cost of production for livestock producers. Additional administrative requirements, increased record-keeping, investments in technology, potential reliance on third-party service providers, and added labour demands will all contribute to higher operating costs. These added pressures come at a time when producers are already managing rising input costs,

market uncertainty, and narrow margins. For many family-run operations, the financial and administrative burden associated with the proposed changes is significant.

Greenview Council supports the underlying objectives of traceability, including food safety, animal health, and system integrity. However, Council believes these objectives can only be achieved through regulations that are practical, regionally appropriate, and sensitive to the operational realities of northern and rural producers.

Accordingly, Council respectfully urges the federal government to reconsider aspects of the proposed amendments and to incorporate greater flexibility for regions with limited connectivity. This may include extended reporting timelines, alternative or offline reporting mechanisms, or regional accommodations where digital infrastructure does not support the proposed requirements.

Thank you for considering the concerns of Greenview Council and the livestock producers we represent. We would welcome the opportunity to provide further input or participate in continued discussions as these regulatory amendments are considered.

Respectfully,



Ryan Ratzlaff
Reeve
Municipal District of Greenview

cc: Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen
Alberta Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Local Members of Parliament
RMA



May 14th, 2026

Attention: Peace Regional Agricultural Service Boards

RE: REGIONAL COLLABORATION REQUEST – PROACTIVE KOCHIA MANAGEMENT IN THE PEACE REGION

Dear Agricultural Service Board Chairs and Managers,

The Municipal District of Greenview No. 16 is writing to request discussion among Peace Region Agricultural Service Boards regarding a coordinated, proactive approach to the management of kochia (*Bassia scoparia*).

Kochia occurrence and infestation levels across much of the Peace Region are currently relatively low, creating an opportunity to focus on prevention, early detection, and consistent management before the species becomes more established and increasingly costly to control.

In recognition of this risk, Greenview elevated kochia to noxious status in 2022 as a preventative measure. This local designation has increased awareness and ensured kochia is consistently included within municipal inspection and communication activities, supporting early identification and timely control while populations remain limited.

It is also recognized that inspection for kochia is not currently a priority in all Peace Region municipalities, reflecting local conditions and program focus. In this context, Greenview wishes to encourage regional discussion on whether individual municipalities across the Peace Region may wish to consider elevating kochia to noxious status within their own jurisdictions. While such decisions rest with each municipality, broader uptake could help establish a shared regional priority, improving awareness, inspection focus, and coordination across municipal boundaries.

While municipalities will continue to manage kochia in ways that reflect local priorities, a regionally aligned approach, achieved through individual municipal action, could strengthen consistency and long-term effectiveness, particularly given kochia's ability to spread along transportation corridors and disturbed sites.

Greenview is interested in exploring collaboration options that may include:

- Prevention-focused and early-season management approaches
- Regional discussion on municipal elevation of kochia to noxious status as an inspection and awareness tool
- Alignment of messaging for high-risk areas such as roadways and industrial lands
- Consistent education and information-sharing on best practices

Greenview is seeking feedback on interest in further regional dialogue and whether members see value in individual municipal elevation of kochia to noxious status as part of a coordinated regional approach to prioritizing the species for awareness, inspection, and control.

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to continued collaboration in supporting sustainable agriculture across the Peace Region.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Gibbard", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dave Gibbard
Chair
Greenview Agricultural Service Board

To: Agricultural Service Board
From: Jason Oakley, Agricultural Services & Utilities Manager
Date: June 19, 2026
RE: Ag Services Update: May-June 10, 2026

Orientation

- General seasonal orientation completed. Crews getting into field.

Environmental Programming Report

- ALUS project monitoring ongoing.
- Planting with Tree Canada - 15 projects in the County and 166,095 seedlings.
- Shelterbelt program - ~4,500 seedlings dispersed

Weed and Pest Inspection

- Inspectors appointed under the Weed Control and Pest Act.
- Training completed, phone calls to residents informing them of upcoming inspections and new rotation.
- Inspections have begun for the Three Creeks area.

Integrated Vegetation Management

- Large mower training completed and mowing started (weather dependent).
- UTV and authorized assistant training completed, May 11 and 15, respectively.
- Small area herbicide application has begun (weather dependent).
 - Bare ground herbicide application completed.

Public Area Maintenance

- Site inspections completed.
- Mowing commenced (weather dependent).

General Labour

- Harmon Valley Park and Murphy Flats maintenance are completed weekly with garbage pickup.

Other Items

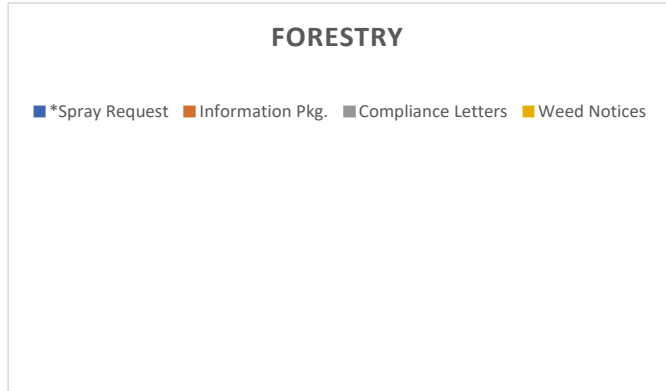
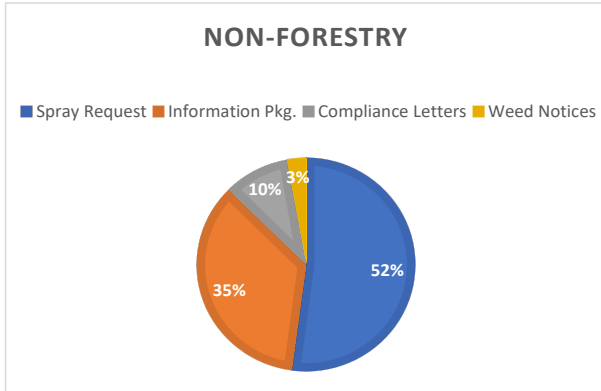
- ASB grant reporting for 2025 submitted

Weed Inspections

463

Last updated:

June 10, 2026



NON-FORESTRY		INSPECTIONS	
Communication		Month	2026
Spray Request	75	MAY	319
Information Pkg.	51	JUNE	144
Compliance Letters	14	JULY	0
Weed Notices	4	AUGUST	0
Total	144	Total	463

FORESTRY		INSPECTIONS	
Communication		Month	2026
*Spray Request	0	MAY	0
Information Pkg.	0	JUNE	0
Compliance Letters	0	JULY	0
Weed Notices	0	AUGUST	0
Total	0	Total	0

*Forestry spray request consists of agreements with Provincial entities & County roads.

Vegetation Management

46

Last updated:

June 10, 2026

HERBICIDE APPLICATIONS

Type	Sites	Area	
Spray Requests	12	0.21	ha
Bare Ground	34	6.11	ha
Alberta Transportation	0	0.00	ha
Roadside Mowers	0	0.00	ha
Other	0	0.00	ha
Total	46	6.3163	ha

HERBICIDE APPLICATION BY METHOD

Type	Sites	Area	
UTV Spraying	33	3.72	ha
Roadside (Truck)	13	1.94	ha
Backpack	0	0.66	ha
Handpicking	N/A	0.00	bags
Wetblade (Tractors)	0	0.00	ha
Landowner Managed (no h	0	0.00	sites
Total	46	6.3163	ha

Pending Spray Requests

63.00

*This total of sites includes multiple trips to complete the spray request

Pest Inspections

0

Last updated:

June 10, 2026

Pest Survey

Type	
Clubroot	0
Virulent Blackleg	0
Fusarium	0
Total	0



March 12, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Right Honourable Heath MacDonald
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
1341 Baseline Road Tower 7, Floor 8
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5

RE: Request to Reverse Closure of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre

The Northern Sunrise County Agricultural Service Board echoes the concerns expressed in the letter dated February 25, 2026, from the Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC) urging reconsideration of the decision to close the Lacombe Research and Development Centre.

We have profound concerns regarding the closure of a federal research institute with 119 years of agriculture innovation and scientific advancement. Closing this facility risks the loss of decades of institutional knowledge, established research programs, and the collaborative networks built with universities, producers, and industry partners. Agriculture research is critical to advancing innovation, promoting environmental stewardship, and driving economic development to ensure the long-term sustainability and competitiveness of the Canadian agriculture industry. The closure of such a facility represents a significant loss to national research capacity in areas vital to food security and climate resilience. Once dismantled, these capabilities are extremely difficult and costly to rebuild. Maintaining a strong Canadian research infrastructure is an investment in the future of Canada's agriculture sector and its global competitiveness. The innovations and knowledge generated in an evolving world will shape the productivity, sustainability, and resilience of our industry for decades to come.

We strongly encourage the Government of Canada to consider alternative options to safeguard the research partnership in Lacombe and other federal research institutes, which are essential to the long-term stability and success of Canada's agriculture sector.

We respectfully urge the Government of Canada to:

1. Pause and reconsider the closure of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre.
2. Preserve critical capacity in forage breeding, feed efficiency selection, carcass grading, and food safety research.
3. Protect long-term data sets and ensure completion of producer-funded projects.
4. Engage directly with provincial, municipal, and industry partners to explore collaborative solutions that maintain national research capacity.





Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Lavoie', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Simon Lavoie, Chairperson
Agricultural Service Board
Northern Sunrise County

CC: Claude Rodrigue, Reeve
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen
Honourable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation



Northern Sunrise County is a supportive
community where people can grow,
prosper, and belong.
We've got it all!

March 17, 2026

Dear Mr. Lavoie:

On behalf of the Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated March 12, 2026, regarding the Lacombe Research and Development Centre.

Please be assured that your communication, offered on behalf of the Northern Sunrise County Agricultural Service Board, has been received and carefully read.

As you have also addressed your letter to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Honourable Heath MacDonald, the Prime Minister will leave your remarks on this matter to be considered by the Minister.

Thank you for writing.

R. Kabongo

Executive Correspondence Officer / Agente de la correspondance

Executive Correspondence Services / Services de la correspondance de la haute direction

March 17, 2026

Simon Lavoie
Chairperson
Northern Sunrise County Agricultural Service Board
c/o Katie Bartman
kbartman@northernsunrise.net

Dear Simon Lavoie:

I am writing in response to your email to the Honourable Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, co-addressed to the Right Honourable Mark Carney, regarding Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) reductions under the Government of Canada's Comprehensive Expenditure Review. Please be assured that your comments have been brought to Minister MacDonald's attention. I appreciate the opportunity to reply.

Like other departments across the Government of Canada, AAFC was asked to identify savings to reduce costs over three years. This review of spending reflects a focus on returning to core responsibilities and the need to balance fiscal discipline, quality service delivery for Canadians and economic growth. This includes spending less on the day-to-day running of government by reconsidering programs and activities for alignment and efficiency.

The difficult decision to close three research and development centres and four satellite research farms means AAFC can continue delivering impactful science while operating at fewer locations. This decision was made for greater cost efficiency and to sustain investment in developing innovations that strengthen the agriculture and agri-food sector and help grow the economy.

Even with these changes, AAFC will remain the largest agricultural science organization in the country and every province will continue to have at least one research and development centre and research farmland addressing regional and national priorities. The remaining centres and sites will continue to advance strategic and high-impact science with a focus on areas such as crops and horticulture, animal production, food processing, biodiversity and environmental sustainability.

We will also continue to strengthen collaborations with industry, governments, academia and other key stakeholders, in Canada and internationally, to advance our shared science and research priorities.

Thank you for taking the time to write on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew Goldstein
Associate Assistant Deputy Minister
Science and Technology Branch
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada

March 25, 2026

Dear Simon Lavoie:

Thank you for copying me in your letter to federal officials regarding the federal decision to close several agricultural research centres across the country, including the Lacombe Research and Development Centre here in Alberta. I am pleased to respond.

Agricultural research centres play a vital role in advancing livestock innovation, crop science and value-added processing. For decades, the Lacombe Research and Development Centre has supported producers across the Prairies, contributing to the strength of Alberta's agri-food sector.

The federal decision to close many of the Government of Canada's research centres will no doubt affect both crop and animal sectors profoundly. This is why I wrote to the federal minister, expressing Alberta's concerns and emphasizing our willingness to work constructively on finding ways to optimize Canada's agricultural research landscape, without causing any harmful gaps in the sector.

On February 10, 2026 a motion was passed by the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food to hold an emergency inquiry into the closure of the Lacombe Research Centre. Since then, industry leaders and elected officials from across the country have been invited to provide testimony on this closure. Three such hearings have occurred and the broadcasts can be found at ourcommons.ca/committees.

I had the privilege of appearing at the March 10 Committee hearing to highlight the crucial role the Lacombe Research Centre plays in developing innovations that improve yields, mitigating the effects of disease and drought, and reducing emissions as well as protecting the food chain against food-borne illnesses. I emphasized how agricultural research is not discretionary spending but strategic investment to maintain Alberta's reputation for high quality, sustainable and safe food production – both domestically and internationally.

My priority is ensuring Alberta's producers continue to have access to the research, innovation and technical support they require to remain competitive. In an ever-changing landscape, it is crucial that we continue to innovate to improve resilience and food safety so that we can maintain our world-class reputation of producing high quality food.

I assure you that your concerns are being heard. The province will continue to advocate for the interests of Alberta's producers and rural communities as we work with our federal counterparts.

Thank you again for writing and for your commitment to Alberta's agriculture sector.

Sincerely,

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation
AR89449

Classification: Protected A

2025 Plant Disease Survey Summary Report for Northern Sunrise County

2025 Canola Health Survey (AGI/AAAF)

Field ID	County	ATS location	Latitude	Longitude	Blackleg incidence (%)	Blackleg severity (0-5)	Clubroot Incidence (%)	Clubroot Severity (0-3)	Verticillium incidence (%)
25-CAN-075	Northern Sunrise	NE 15-81-21 W5	56.028277	-117.1856783	25.0	0.25	0	0	0
25-CAN-076	Northern Sunrise	SE 12-82-20 W5	56.091716	-116.9767457	0.0	0.00	No data collected		0
25-CAN-077	Northern Sunrise	NW 14-84-20 W5	56.28359	-117.0573688	0.0	0.00			0
25-CAN-078	Northern Sunrise	NE 9-81-20 W5	56.013259	-117.054919	11.1	0.11			0
25-CAN-079	Northern Sunrise	SE 15-84-20 W5	56.279655	-117.0578536	11.1	0.11			0

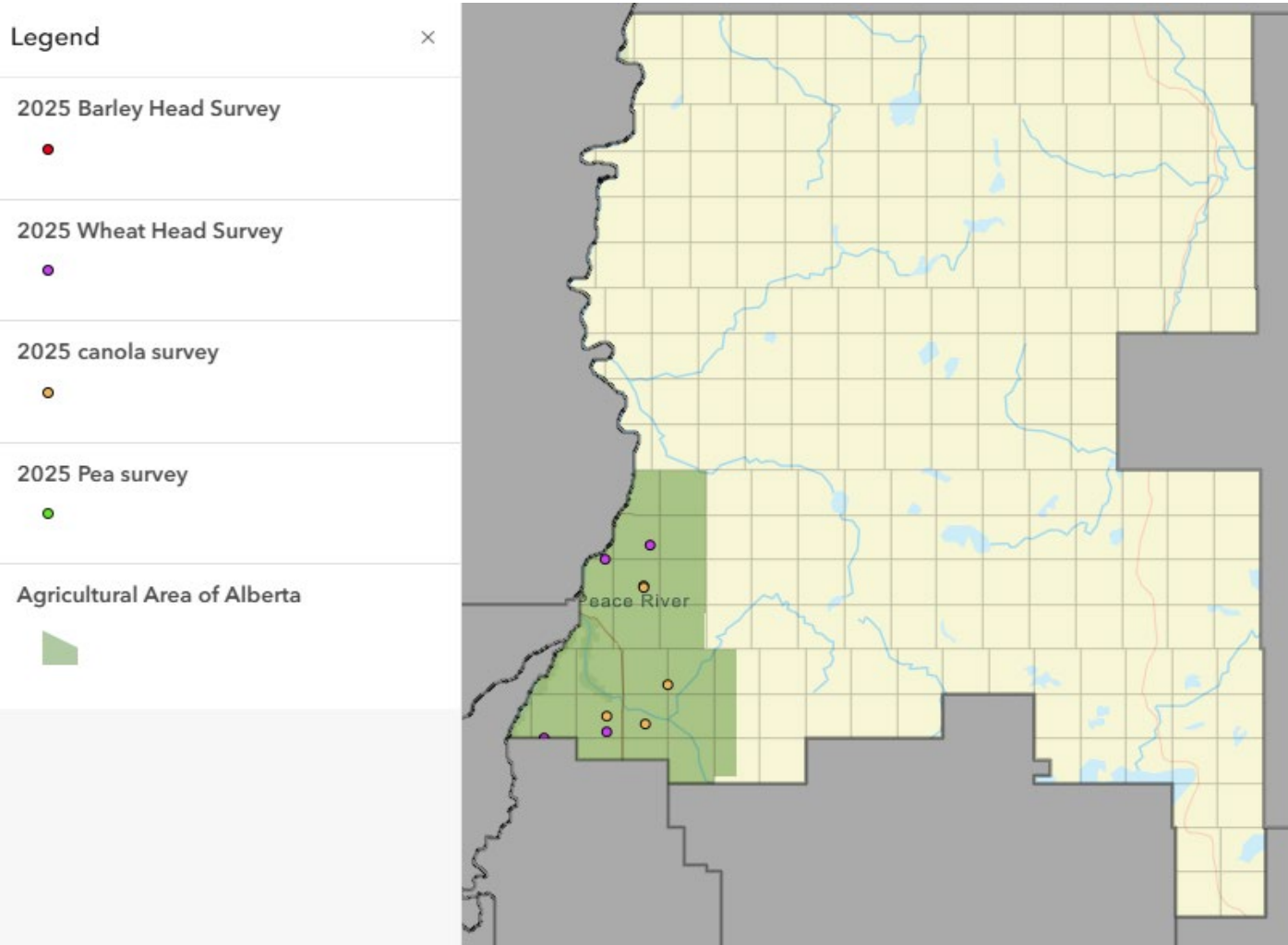
2025 Pea Health Survey (AGI) - No samples collected or submitted

2025 Barley Head Survey (AGI/AAAF) - No samples collected or submitted

2025 Wheat Head Health Survey (AGI/AAAF)

Sample #	County	ATS Location	GPS N	GPS W	Ergot (bodies/500g)	Ergot (% of weight)	Bunt (Y/N)	Smut (Y/N)	Fusarium avenaceum (kernel %)	Fusarium culmorum (kernel %)	Fusarium graminearum (kernel %)	Fusarium poae (kernel %)
25-WHS-160	Northern Sunrise	NE 11-85-20 W5	56.36299	-117.03809	0	0	No	No	-	-	-	-
25-WHS-161	Northern Sunrise	NW 2-81-21 W5	55.99731	-117.18515	0	0	No	No	-	-	-	-

AAAF – Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen
 AGI – Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation



May 15, 2026

V.S.I Services (1980) Ltd.
2026
Q1 Performance Report

Prepared For: Northern Sunrise County

Prepared By: Penny Steffen, RVT

VSI Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Thank you to the Board of Directors and our municipal partners for the opportunity to serve as the new VSI Manager. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to Dr. Rik Vandekerkhove for his nine years of dedicated service to the organization and for the time and support he has provided during this transition. His knowledge and expertise have been invaluable as I step into this role.

Over the past few months, it has been a pleasure to become familiar with the position and connect with the municipal administrators. I look forward to building strong working relationships and collaborating with all of you in the years ahead.

While putting this report together I have learned several things and will adapt them in the future. I hope the information is helpful and if there is something more that you require, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or feedback.

BACKGROUND

V.S.I was formed in 1980 to promote and encourage the practice of veterinary medicine and to assist the livestock industry by providing a means for veterinary medical services.

V.S.I has 15 municipal partners in Northern Alberta and 63 veterinary contract holders.

In the first quarter of 2026 VSI paid out \$152,762.19 in claims.

CLAIM INFORMATION FOR NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY

	2025	2026
Claims Submitted/Producers	32	18
Claim lines	39	24

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2026 Northern Sunrise County contributed \$14,500 to the VSI program.

There was a \$\$1,100 deficit in 2025.

	2025	2026	Difference
Q1 Claims Amounts	6878.55	4436.10	-36%

COMMON CLAIMS

	VSI Code	# of claims	Amount
C-Sections		41	
Dystocia		31	
Semen Evaluation		60	
Semen Evaluation		61	
Semen Evaluation		62	
Semen Evaluation		63	
Preg Testing		6	

Northern Sunrise County limits producers to \$5000 per year and additionally covers bees.

The most frequently submitted claim in your municipality is code 25 - herd health, representing \$3326.60 in claim expenditures.

CONCLUSION

Now that I have completed my first quarterly report I will be refining how I process claims and how I manage my spreadsheets.

In the coming months, I will also be focusing on several key tasks, including digitizing our By-Laws, updating municipal contact lists and refreshing the list of VSI members. I would also like to streamline how we manage overages on caps and updating VSI member lists.

It took some time to finalize the banking address change, but that is complete and we do not anticipate any further delays in processing payments or reporting.

Thank you again. Please let me know if you have any questions.

This is the Wild Boar Update, a monthly email providing stats and other news about the Wild Boar Control Program.

To unsubscribe, reply to hannah.mckenzie@gov.ab.ca with “unsubscribe” in the subject.

If you know someone who would like to be added to this list, have them email hannah.mckenzie@gov.ab.ca.

In this update

Stats

Trapper Report – a story so good it is the only update this month!

Stats

- 13 reports received in 2026 (+7 from last update) **Data are preliminary and may change based on follow-up*
 - Wild boar, hybrid, or unknown type (6), Domestic type (6), Non sus scrofa (1)
 - We follow up on all reports
 - No new confirmed detections of wild boar outside the known areas of concern
- 22 wild boar removed in 2026 (+16 since last update)
 - Lac Ste Anne: 8, Two Hills: 3, Woodlands: 10, Parkland: 1
- 0 other mortalities in 2026
- 0 wild boar collared in 2026
 - There are currently 1 active collars

Trapper Report: “Robyn” The Escape Artist – The Hog That Schooled Us

By: Nick Gallagher and Chris Arndt

Introduction to “Robyn” – Smartest Hog We Ever Removed

In January, we got a call from a landowner about a wild boar, and everything about it looked straightforward. A cold tour of the property with a couple who had farmed the land for nearly 60 years revealed fresh tracks, a presumed travel corridor, bedding area and a clear plan emerged. I hung a few cameras that evening, and just after sunset we had our first images of the hog we’d soon name “Robyn.” At the time, we thought we understood what we were dealing with. Over the next month, this hog would not so discreetly school us—lesson by lesson.



Photo: Jan 2026. “Robyn” appears on camera first evening after landowner visit and scouting (Agriculture and Irrigation).

Round 1 Escape: Daylight Shooting and Jumping Out – Selection of Best Tools and Trap Modifications

Once a hog or sounder is on camera, the next step is developing an eradication plan—conditioning the animal and selecting the most effective whole sounder removal method. For sounders, a remote activated corral trap is typically the best option, while a single or trap smart hog is often better dealt with by shooting. In this case, daylight shooting was my only legal option, but Robyn had a habit of stepping into the field roughly five minutes before last light. I set up for a shot, but with the hog silhouetted against a dark treeline, there was no confident or ethical opportunity. Lesson one was straightforward: without permitted night shooting, you’re asking a nocturnal animal to change its behaviour—and it won’t.

Wanting to avoid delays for the landowner, we shifted to a trapping plan and immediately ran into our next problem. The only viable trap location was a winter cattle pasture, complete with a herd of cows and an old sway backed horse. Dumping bait wasn’t an option. After some head scratching, we deviated from the standard conditioning process and developed a way to draw the hog through a barbed wire fence into the trap while keeping livestock out—lesson two. On January 25, 2026, we built the trap under the close supervision of several four legged observers. Less than twelve hours later, the gate dropped and our confidence briefly returned. Unlike any hog we’d trapped before, Robyn didn’t panic. She calmly inspected the panels and then jumped clean over the 5’8” fence. Based on our statistics, the odds of that happening are less than 0.05%. We’d seen it once before with a boar we promptly named “Batman,” so naming this lighter colored sow “Robyn” seemed appropriate.



Photo: Baiting the trap after first escape. Anti jump cables added to extend trap height to 7'. Livestock-proofing trap by tying into existing barbed wire fence (Agriculture and Irrigation).

Round 2 Escape: Gate Lift and Threshold Refusal – More Trap Modifications and Trapping Lessons Learned

After another sleepless night, Chris came up with a plan to further modify the trap with an anti jump extension. Realistically, we suspected Robyn was now trap smart and that night shooting would eventually be the only viable option, but optimism got the better of us. Not wanting to wait for thermal equipment, we installed what became known as the “Robyn 1.0 Anti Jump Mod” the day after the flying hog incident.

That evening, Robyn returned and entered the trap on January 27, 2026, as if nothing had happened. Given how easily she had cleared the panels days earlier, her lack of hesitation should have been a warning. When the gate dropped, the 7 foot panels did their job—for about fifteen minutes. Any sense of relief vanished as Robyn shifted her focus from escaping over the top to studying the gate itself. Watching live on camera, I saw her methodically work from the edge to the center, lift the gate squarely, and walk out. She had just become the first wild boar we knew of to escape the same trap twice—once by jumping and once by lifting a steel gate designed to bind unless perfectly aligned.

Another escape, another sleepless night, and another lesson. Chris went back to fabrication, this time designing the “Robyn 1.0 Anti Lift Device.” Under normal circumstances, a hog that had been pressured this much would have disappeared completely. Robyn, however, seemed convinced she still had access to the food. Three nights later, she was back inside the trap.

Encouraged, we installed the new modification that day. In the process, I disturbed soil at the gate threshold—something I immediately regretted. The following night, Robyn fed confidently up to the gate, stopped abruptly at the sight and smell of freshly turned dirt against the snow, and

refused to cross. She trusted her instincts. That hesitation became lesson five: even small changes at a trap entrance matter, especially with an animal that is now paying attention to everything.



Photo: 27 Nov 2025. Anti jump cables visible above near panels. Robyn learning to open the gate for her 2nd escape (Agriculture and Irrigation).

3rd and Final Round with Robyn – Lessons and Memories to Last a Lifetime

By this point, Robyn was unquestionably trap smart, but she remained confident enough to continue feeding nearby. That left night shooting as the only realistic removal option. The timing was unusually good: just as we were preparing to tear down the trap, legislation was passed and equipment arrived that allowed for carefully planned, strictly controlled night shooting. Sitting out in the field on the night of February 14–15, 2026, it was hard not to think the previous three weeks could have been resolved quickly with this tool. With more reflection, however, the value of the experience became clear. The lessons learned, the trap modifications developed, and the mistakes made under pressure would have taken years to accumulate otherwise. That night, Robyn stepped out for the last time, bringing the removal to a close. In hindsight, naming her after Batman's sidekick may have been generous—but inaccurate. She wasn't a sidekick at all. If anything, Robyn turned out to be something closer to Superwoman.



Photo: 15 0100 Feb 26. Robyn was removed from property for good. Thermal scope proves essential for trap smart hogs (Photo: Agriculture and Irrigation).

[Back to top](#)

Classification: Protected A

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In this update

[Stats](#)

[Trapper Report – The Chosen Lands](#)

[Photo of the Month](#)

Stats

22 reports received in 2026 (+9 from last update) **Data are preliminary and may change based on follow-up*

Wild boar, hybrid, or unknown type (9; 1 confirmed wild boar), Domestic type (12), Non sus scrofa (1)

We follow up on all reports

No new confirmed detections of wild boar outside the known areas of concern

22 wild boar removed in 2026 (0 since last update)

Lac Ste Anne: 8, Two Hills: 3, Woodlands: 10, Parkland: 1

0 other mortalities in 2026

0 wild boar collared in 2026

There is currently 1 active collar

[Back to top](#)

Trapper Report: The Chosen Lands



By Tirel Gowans and Mat Clarke

As we gain more experience with the Wild Boar control program, it's becoming increasingly evident that hogs within a region gravitate to specific corridors and land parcels. One tool that has become a leading contributor to our intelligence is the ongoing University of Calgary collaring project. Location data from a wild boar's activity, obtained either from cameras or GPS collars, provides insight into the preferred topography and vegetation the hogs utilize. Areas where we see historic wild boar populations seem to serve as a magnet for seasonal movement, suggesting these areas have characteristics that are desirable to wild boar. We are seeing hogs return to these areas time and again.

In one recent case, 3 sows were discovered in a one spot towards the end of winter. Lure and surveillance were set up to monitor their activity. Once the hogs pattered, we began the trapping sequence. In the final stages of trap conditioning, winter subsided and a bear interrupted the operation. Although the bear pushed the 3 hogs out of the area, they showed up on a trail camera over ten kilometers away. The parcel of land they moved to is one of these "chosen lands" we mentioned above and has been one of the most infested regions in the province. We don't know if these sows have a personal history with the location or if they are just following a seasonal pattern and travel corridors common to all wild boar in this area. It also shows that pressure from humans and other critters can push hogs to secondary and tertiary zones that are inhabited by other hogs. Cross-referencing with locations from a collared sow in the same area provides insight into why this is a common travel corridors. Paying attention to these kinds of details is what helps us be successful in eradicating hogs.



Photo: The 3 sows seen at the trap gate during conditioning on April 9... (Agriculture and Irrigation)



Photo: ...and a later photo of them over 10km away on April 21. (Agriculture and Irrigation)

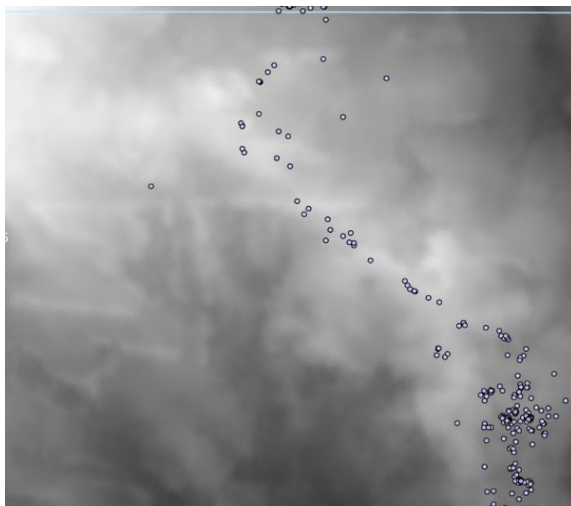


Photo: Locations of a sow collared by the University of Calgary that shows a similar travel pattern to the route we suspect the 3 sows took. The light colour shows the higher elevation and the darker the lower. (University of Calgary).

Bonus: Thermal drones as a game changer

The changing seasons necessitate changing strategies. Trapping becomes less efficient as we have to compete with an abundance of food when spring arrives, so wild boar control specialists will start to depend more heavily on ground shooting operations. Thermal optics for night shoots and aerial overwatch from drones are essential tools for success. Last fall we utilized a thermal drone to guide in a shooter and remove a 272lbs sow from a standing corn field. Without state-of-the-art optics, drones, and experienced operators, this removal wouldn't have been possible and this sow would still be contributing to the population.



Photo: Can you spot the Wild Boar Control Specialist and the wild boar sow? They are in both photos. This shows the value of having a drone providing eyes in the sky for our wild boar control specialists. (Agriculture and Irrigation)

Photo of the Month

With spring arriving, this month I'm sharing a few photos of expectant mothers and mothers our cameras have caught.



Photo: A mom getting (really!) close to welcoming a new family of pups into the world. (Agriculture and Irrigation)



Photo: Another mom hard at work keeping her 1 year old triplets in line. (Agriculture and Irrigation).

Classification: Protected A

Good morning:

We are happy to share with you that the Honorable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, tabled [Bill 22: the Animal Protection Amendment Act](#) in the legislature for its first reading yesterday afternoon. An official announcement is available at [Alberta.ca/release](#).

For those who were able to participate, thank you again for your contributions to the department's review of the *Animal Protection Act* and Animal Protection Regulations. We sincerely appreciate your input; it has informed the development of the proposed amendments.

You will find a factsheet attached that provides a brief summary of the proposed amendments. The complete bill can be accessed via the link above. If passed, the amended statute would come into force upon proclamation, which would be anticipated following the development of supporting regulations.

If you have any questions or comments on the factsheet or Bill 22, you may contact our office please respond to this email or email AGI.OCPVpolicy@gov.ab.ca. You can also contact the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian by phone at 780-427-3448.

Sincerely,

Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian
Agriculture and Irrigation

[Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian](#)



Classification: Protected A

Bill 22 Fact Sheet

Animal Protection Amendment Act

What is the Animal Protection Act?

Alberta's *Animal Protection Act* (APA) prohibits causing or allowing an animal to remain in distress and establishes the basic minimum duties of care for which all animal owners and caregivers are responsible. The APA provides tools for peace officers to act when animals are in distress, lacking adequate care or are abandoned.

Why is it changing?

The *Animal Protection Act* was last updated two decades ago. If passed, Bill 22 will modernize the act and make Alberta a leader at addressing repeat offences.

What is being amended?

The *Animal Protection Amendment Act* will see dozens of changes, including:

- Improving outcomes for animals in distress or at risk of distress
 - The act will be updated to reflect current definitions related to distress, animal care duties and abandonment
 - Address gaps for responding to animals in distress, including authority to issue and follow up on corrective action orders
 - Align the *Animal Protection Act* with other Canadian jurisdictions
- Improving court orders to protect animals from repeat offences
 - Expand availability of prohibition orders and provide guidance to the court to ensure orders are effective
 - Create statutory powers to inspect for compliance and address violations
 - Make Alberta a leader by allowing enforcement of prohibition orders issued in other provinces and territories
- Modernization of inspection authorities
 - Enable inspection of additional activities, including boarding and grooming facilities
- Increasing maximum fines from \$20,000 to \$250,000 and enabling jail time

Who will be affected?

While any Albertan who owns or interacts with animals could be affected by the changes, most will not be impacted by the updated act.

When will the Animal Protection Amendment Act come into effect?

These amendments will come into force on proclamation. The changes are intended to align with amendments to the *Animal Protection Regulation*, which is expected to be completed later in 2026.

Where can I get more information?

Connect with the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian via AGI.OCPVpolicy@gov.ab.ca.



May 25, 2026

**ALUS Municipal Advocacy Campaign
Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP)**

Purpose of the Campaign

As you are aware, the Government of Alberta did not renew the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) in the 2026–27 budget. This decision has created a significant funding gap for voluntary, producer-led stewardship initiatives across Alberta.

In response, ALUS is launching a coordinated advocacy campaign with our 21 municipal partners to ensure Minister of Environment and Protected Areas Grant Hunter understands:

- the importance of ALUS as a proven delivery mechanism for Alberta’s nature strategy,
- the number of municipalities and producers relying on this funding,
- and the measurable stewardship outcomes being delivered on working agricultural lands across Alberta.

Through trusted relationships with farmers and ranchers, ALUS has helped deliver over 36,000 acres of nature-based infrastructure across Alberta, including wetlands, riparian areas, and grasslands that improve watershed resilience, soil health, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration.

This campaign is intended to demonstrate to the Province that:

“Land stewardship in Alberta begins on the farm.”

Campaign Objectives

The advocacy effort has four primary objectives:

1. Demonstrate broad municipal support for continued stewardship funding.
2. Position ALUS as a cost-effective, scalable, community-based delivery model.
3. Reinforce the importance of producer-led conservation and ecosystem services.
4. Request a meeting with Minister Hunter to explore future partnership and funding opportunities for Budget 2027.

Municipal Actions Requested

Reeve Letter to Minister Hunter

We respectfully request that each participating municipality:

- Send the letter under the Reeve's signature
- Copy their local MLA and ALUS leadership – Christine Campbell – ccampbell@alus.ca
- Submit the letter no later than **June 15, 2026**

MLA Engagement Strategy – Summer 2026

Following the Reeve letter campaign, ALUS will begin direct engagement with MLAs across Alberta.

Timeline: June – September 15, 2026

ALUS representatives will contact MLAs within each participating county to request meetings focused specifically on the impacts of WRRP cancellation, importance of producer-led stewardship and the role ALUS communities play in delivering ecosystem services locally.

For each MLA meeting, ALUS hopes to include:

- the Reeve,
- Agricultural Service Board Chair (ASB),
- and a local producer/rancher participating in ALUS.

This local representation will be critical in demonstrating that stewardship outcomes are being delivered directly by producers and communities support these initiatives.

Why This Matters

The removal of WRRP funding risks slowing or halting important stewardship initiatives that:

- improve watershed health,
- reduce flood and drought risks,
- support biodiversity,
- enhance carbon sequestration,
- and strengthen agricultural resilience across Alberta.

ALUS communities have spent close to 20 years building trusted relationships with producers and delivering measurable environmental outcomes through rigorous reporting and adaptive

management. This campaign is intended to ensure government understands both the local impact and the long-term value of continuing this work.

Thank You

We sincerely appreciate the continued leadership and support of participating municipalities, Reeves, CAOs, Agricultural Service Boards, and producers throughout this effort.

A coordinated municipal voice will be critical in demonstrating to the Province that stewardship funding is not simply an environmental issue — it is a rural economic, agricultural, and community resilience priority.

Further updates and supporting materials will be provided as the campaign progresses.

Thank you again for your partnership and leadership.

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact Christine Campbell – Senior Hub Manager (West) – ccampbell@alus.ca 587.894.0666 or Michelle Tetreault – Senior Policy Advisor – mmtetreault@gmail.com 403.519.8651.

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

Christine Campbell

Subject: Weed & Pest Compliance on AER Regulated Well & Facility Sites

Good afternoon,

Effective May 1, 2026, the AER will be able to enforce compliance with requirements related to weeds and agricultural pests on well and facility sites. The AER may issue reasonable care and measures (RCAM) orders to support enforcement actions initiated by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation or by municipal authorities.

Municipalities and Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation remain responsible for inspection and enforcement under the *Agricultural Pests Act* and the *Weed Control Act*. Landowners and other members of the public should contact their local municipality regarding concerns about weeds or agricultural pests. Municipalities are the appropriate first point of contact.

The AER may become involved when municipal or Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation enforcement tools have failed to resolve a compliance issue concerning weeds and pests linked to an AER-regulated site.

To learn more, please review the [bulletin](#) or visit the Weed and Agricultural Pest Compliance web page on aer.ca.

Kind regards,

External Relations

Alberta Energy Regulator

Suite 1000, 250 – 5 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2P 0R4

inquiries 1-855-297-8311 **24-hour emergency** 1-800-222-6514 www.aer.ca



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Security Classification: Protected A



40th Anniversary & Agricultural Showcase

The SARDA Ag Research Agricultural Showcase will provide entertainment and education for the whole family.



August
5 & 6

 SARDA Ag Research, Donnelly, AB



- Educational Seminars**
- Crop Tour**
- Farmer's Market & Family Activities**
- Catered Supper**
- Agricultural Tradeshow**

MORE INFORMATION

780.837.0563 **info@sarda.ca**