



AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, June 17, 2026
10:00 AM

Join Us

In Person	County of Stettler No. 6 Administration Building
On YouTube	www.YouTube.com/StettlerCounty
By Zoom	www.StettlerCounty.ca/Zoom
By Phone	578-328-1099 Meeting ID: 237 185 7702 Passcode: 660244

In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the County of Stettler No. 6 acknowledges that we gather, live, and work on Treaty 6 and 7 lands, the customary and traditional lands of the Indigenous Peoples of this territory.

Thank you for respecting our commitment to Scent Reduction in the workplace.

-
1. **Call to Order**
 2. **Agenda Additions and Approval**
 3. **Minute Approval**
 - 3.1 May 20, 2026
 4. **Introductions**

5. Delegation

5.1 ASB Bursary Recipient, Samantha McNeil (11:45 am)

6. Reports

6.1 Agricultural Services Administration Report Page 10

7. Board Member Report

7.1 Central Region Chair and Fieldman Meeting Report - Chair Gano
(verbal)

8. Board's Request for Information

None

9. Business Arising from the Minutes

9.1 ASB Resolution Response Grading Package Review Page 17

9.2 Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee Strategic Planning
Survey Page 54

9.3 Strychnine Update Page 68

9.4 Weeds on Wellsites Letter Page 71

9.5 Low Stress Cattle Workshop (verbal)

9.6 Pasture Rejuvenation Workshop Page 74

10. New Business

10.1 Bill 22 Animal Protection Act Page 75

10.2 Student Loan Forgiveness - Veterinary Students Page 111

10.3 Request for Decision - Next ASB Meeting Thursday, July 23, 2026 Page 113

11. Correspondence

11.1 Ag Moisture Situation Page 114

11.2 Agricultural Pests Act and Weed Control Act Page 131

12. Finance

12.1 Year-to-Date (verbal)

13. Workshops and Events

13.1 ASB Summer Tour - July 14-16, Wheatland County

13.2 Stettler Garden Club Presentation - July 12, Stettler Town and County Museum

13.3 Stettler County Fair - July 27-August 1, Stettler Agricultural Society

14. In-Camera Session

14.1 Battle River Research Group Discussion

ATIA Section 28: Local public body confidences

14.2 Beavers at the Marina Update

ATIA Section 28: Local public body confidences

15. Next Meeting

16. Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE COUNTY OF STETTLER NO. 6 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026 AT 10:00 AM. THE MEETING WAS HELD IN THE COUNTY OF STETTLER NO.6 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD CHAMBERS IN STETTLER, ALBERTA AND ALSO VIA TELECONFERENCE

Present: Chair Allan Gano
Deputy Chair Clint Walker
Larry Clarke
Wade Hunter
Justin Stevens
Harry Brook

Rob Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Services
Krista Schlender, Administrative Assistant
Jarrett Kushner, Manager of Information Services

Absent: Lance Nielsen

CALL TO ORDER

The County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board meeting was called to order at 10:21 am on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, by Chair Allan Gano.

AGENDA APPROVAL

170.05.20.26 Moved by Clint Walker

“that Agricultural Services Board approve the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board agenda for the May 20, 2026 meeting as presented.”

In-Favour: Gano, Hunter, Stevens,
Clarke, Walker and Brook
Opposed: None
Carried Unanimously

MINUTE APPROVAL

171.05.20.26 Moved by Justin Stevens

“that the draft minutes for the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting on April 15, 2026 be approved as presented.”

In-Favour: Gano, Hunter, Stevens,
Clarke, Walker and Brook
Opposed: None
Carried Unanimously

REPORTS

Agricultural Services Administration Report

172.05.20.26 Moved by Harry Brook

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Administration Report, dated for the May 20, 2026 meeting, be received for information.”

In-Favour: Gano, Hunter, Stevens,
Clarke, Walker and Brook
Opposed: None
Carried Unanimously

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Request for Decision

RE: ASB Bursary Recipient

173.05.20.26 Moved by Larry Clarke

"that the Agricultural Services Board recommends to the County of Stettler No.6 Council that the 2026 Agricultural Service Board Bursary in the amount of \$1,000.00 be awarded to Samantha McNeil."

In-Favour: Gano, Hunter, Stevens,
Clarke, Walker and Brook
Opposed: None
Carried Unanimously

Request for Decision

RE: Policy 3.14 – Agricultural Tankloader Station Use

174.05.20.26 Moved by Justin Stevens

"that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board recommend the County of No. 6 Council approve Policy 3.14 - Agricultural Tankloader Station Use as presented."

In-Favour: Gano, Hunter, Stevens,
Clarke, Walker and Brook
Opposed: None
Carried Unanimously

Update

RE: Rural Water Distribution Meeting

175.05.20.26 Moved by Justin Stevens

"that the Agricultural Services Board receives the Rural Water Meeting Distribution Update for information and directs Administration to bring back this discussion for future meetings."

In-Favour: Gano, Hunter, Stevens,
Clarke, Walker and Brook
Opposed: None
Carried Unanimously

Strychnine Communications Update

RE: Strychnine Species at Risk Information and County Communications

176.05.20.26 Moved by Wade Hunter

"that the Agricultural Services Board receives the Strychnine Communications Update for information."

In-Favour: Gano, Hunter, Stevens,
Clarke, Walker and Brook
Opposed: None
Carried Unanimously

Request For Decision

RE: Strychnine Sales Plan

177.05.20.26 Moved by Justin Stevens

"that the Agricultural Service Board recommends the County of Stettler No. 6 commences the sale of 2% Liquid Strychnine on distributing on Thursday Afternoons (2:00 – 4:00 pm) after the first shipment of Strychnine is received (within the application timing regulations) and charge a 0% administrative charge per sale for 2026 year."

In-Favour: Gano, Hunter, Stevens,
Clarke, and Walker

Opposed: Brook
Carried Unanimously

Request For Decision

RE: Strychnine Stewardship Program Distribution Model

178.05.20.26 Moved by Harry Brook

"that the Agricultural Services Board will allocate 12 bottles per eligible producer for the lottery-based distribution system for the municipal 2% liquid strychnine program for the 2026 season."

In-Favour: Gano, Stevens,
Clarke, and Brook
Opposed: Walker & Hunter
Carried Unanimously

179.05.20.26 Moved by Wade Hunter

"that the Agricultural Service Board directs Administration to implement a lottery-based distribution system for the municipal 2% liquid strychnine program for the 2026 season, whereby eligible producers will be entered into randomized monthly allocation draws based on available supply, with an allocation of 12 bottles per producer; and further, that once selected, producers will be ineligible for future draws until supply levels increase and the lottery system is deemed no longer necessary."

In-Favour: Gano, Hunter,
Clarke, Walker and Brook
Opposed: Stevens
Carried Unanimously

Request For Decision

RE: Spray Pricing Models

180.05.20.26 Moved by Wade Hunter

"that the Agricultural Services Board recommends the County of Stettler No. 6 approve a private land spraying rate of \$85/hour plus herbicide cost recovery; a Weed Control Act enforcement rate of \$165/hour plus herbicide cost recovery and a 15% administration fee; and an enforcement mobilization fee of \$100 per occurrence. "

In-Favour: Gano, Hunter, Stevens,
Walker and Brook
Opposed: Clarke
Carried Unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

Bill 22 – Animal Protection Act

181.05.20.26 Moved by Wade Hunter

"that the Agricultural Services Board receives the Bill 22 - Animal Protection Act for information and direct Administration to further review Bill 22 and report more information to the Board and the Agricultural Services Board directs the Chair to bring forward this boards concerns at the Central Region ASB Chair meeting June 12, 2026."

In-Favour: Clarke, Gano, Hunter,
Stevens, Walker and Brook
Opposed: None
Carried Unanimously

Justin Stevens left the meeting at 11:58 am.

Stettler Agricultural Society – Open Farms Day

182.05.20.26 Moved by Wade Hunter

“that the Agricultural Services Board receives the Stettler Agricultural Society for information and bring forward cost information to a future meeting.”

In-Favour: Clarke, Gano, Hunter,
Walker and Brook
Opposed: None
Carried Unanimously

Justin Stevens rejoined the meeting at 12:01 pm.

Starland County

Low Stress Cattle Handling Workshop

183.05.20.26 Moved by Wade Hunter

“that the Agricultural Services Board receives the Starland County Low Stress Cattle Handling Workshop for information.”

In-Favour: Gano, Hunter, Stevens,
Clarke, Walker and Brook
Opposed: None
Carried Unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE

1. ASB Summer Tour Information
2. Watercraft Inspections
3. AER’s Weed and Pest Compliance
4. Seed Plan Cooperatives Grants for 2022
5. Concerns with Proposed Amendments to the Traceability Program
6. Moisture Situation Update
7. Pesticides Regulatory Directorate
8. Lacombe Research Centre Update

184.05.20.26 Moved by Justin Stevens

"that the Agricultural Service Board directs Administration to prepare and send correspondence regarding the Alberta Energy Regulator Weed and Pest Control compensation matter, outlining the Board’s position that the proposed compensation is insufficient and does not reflect the solution requested by the Board, and further requesting that the matter be corrected in upcoming regulations; and that the correspondence be sent to Minister Brian Jean, Minister RJ Sigurdson, and Minister Dan Williams, with copies provided to MLA Nate Horner, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Members Association."

In-Favour: Gano, Hunter, Stevens,
Clarke, Walker and Brook
Opposed: None
Carried Unanimously

185.05.20.26 Moved by Harry Brook

“that the Agricultural Services Board receives the Correspondence for information.”

In-Favour: Gano, Hunter, Stevens,
Clarke, Walker and Brook
Opposed: None
Carried Unanimously

Yvette Cassidy joined the meeting at 12:13 pm.

FINANCE

Year-to-Date Update (verbal)

186.05.20.26 Moved by Clint Walker

“that the Agricultural Services Board receives the Year-to Date financial update for the May 20, 2026 meeting, for information.”

In-Favour: Clarke, Gano, Hunter,
Stevens, Walker and Brook

Opposed: None

Carried Unanimously

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

1. Educational Agriculture Tour (EAT) Field Trip May 28, 2026 – Stettler Agricultural Society
2. Central Region ASB Chair Meeting June 12, 2026 - Canmore hosted by MD of Bighorn
3. ASB Summer Tour July 14-16, 2026 - Wheatland County
4. Stettler Garden Club Presentation July 12, 2026 - Stettler Town and County Museum
5. Stettler County Fair July 21-August 1, 2026 – Stettler Agricultural Society

187.05.20.26 Moved by Justin Stevens

“that the Agricultural Services Board receives the Workshops and Events for information.”

In-Favour: Clarke, Gano, Hunter,
Stevens, Walker and Brook

Opposed: None

Carried Unanimously

IN-CAMERA SESSION

188.05.20.26 Moved by Justin Stevens

“that the Agricultural Services Board Tables the In-Camera Session until June 17, 2026.”

In-Favour: Clarke, Gano, Hunter,
Stevens, Walker and Brook

Opposed: None

Carried Unanimously

NEXT MEETING

The next Agricultural Services Board Meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2026 at 10:00 am.

ADJOURNMENT

189.05.20.26 Moved by Larry Clarke

“that the Agricultural Services Board meeting on May 20, 2026, be adjourned at 12:20 pm.”

In-Favour: Clarke, Gano, Hunter,
Stevens, Walker and Brook

Opposed: None

Carried Unanimously

Allan Gano, Chairperson

Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Services

DRAFT

Agricultural Services

Administration and Operations

- Assisted with the Young Women in Trades and Technology Workshop and participated in the Health and Safety Summer Series event.
- Staff successfully completed Authorized Assistant (Sprayer), Product Stewardship, and UTV Operator training.
- Continued work on spray truck software integration.
- Continued preparation of County Connections articles and public outreach initiatives, including Weed Watch Wednesday and Farm Fact Friday social media posts.
- Continued efforts and communication related to gravel pit reclamation.
- Grain bag collection resumed following the spring hiatus, with collections completed at three farm sites.
- Completed repairs to the plastic mulch applicator and continued equipment rental services.
- Continued trail, park, and facility maintenance activities.

Pest and Weed Management

- Deployed two provincial Bertha Armyworm monitoring stations.
- Provided assistance on a variety of pest concerns, including fox, magpie, beaver, skunk, and Richardson's ground squirrel issues.
- Roadside spraying operations are underway in the northern portion of the County (Townships 40, 41, and 42), with approximately 600 km of roadside ditch area treated to date.
- Gravel pit spraying operations have commenced.

2% Liquid Strychnine Program

- The County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board has established a lottery system to distribute the limited supply of 2% Liquid Strychnine anticipated for the 2026 season.
 - Producers selected through the lottery may receive up to 12 bottles at a cost of \$18.30 per bottle.
 - Based on the initial product allocation, approximately 40 producers are expected to receive product.
- As of June 1, approximately 127 producers have registered for the lottery distribution list.
- Agricultural Services continues to provide support to the Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) and the Government of Alberta regarding provincial program implementation and stewardship initiatives.

Parks and Facilities

- Small area park mowing operations are ongoing.
- Continued evaluation of park mowing sites and completed cleanup activities at the Woodlands Cemetery site.

Educational Agriculture Tour (EAT) program

- Classroom Agriculture Program presentations were delivered to 235 students from 13 schools throughout March and April.
- The Educational Agriculture Tour field day, held May 28 at the Stettler Agricultural Society grounds, welcomed 158 students representing nine classes from 6 participating schools (Big Valley School, Botha School, Byemoor School, Erskine School, Stettler Elementary School, and Christ-King School)
- Students participated in interactive learning stations focused on beef, dairy, poultry, produce, and agricultural mechanics, with opportunities to interact with livestock, tour agricultural equipment, learn about food production, and observe western roping demonstrations.

Upcoming Events

- Central Region ASB Chair Meeting – June 12, 2026 (MD of Bighorn)
- Stettler Garden Club Presentation – July 12, 2026
- ASB Summer Tour – July 14–16, 2026 (Wheatland County)
- Stettler County Fair – July 27 to August 1, 2026 (Stettler Agricultural Society)



Figure 1. Insect Monitoring Station Set-Up



Figure 2. Seeding Project



Figure 3. Seasonal Staff Training



Figure 4. Young Women in Trades and Technology Day



Figure 5. Roadside Spraying Program



Figure 6. Gravel Pit Spraying





Figure 7. Educational Agriculture Tour (EAT) Field Trip



Memo

TO: Councillor Allan Gano, ASB Chair
FROM: Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations
DATE: June 17, 2026
SUBJECT: Resolution Response Grading

At the January 2026 Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Conference, nine resolutions were passed, including two submitted by the County of Stettler: *Rural Water Distribution and Connectivity Funding* and *Livestock Traceability Update Concerns*. Resolutions remain active for three years; however, the first year is typically the most important, as it generally receives the greatest level of government and stakeholder attention and response.

The ASB Provincial Committee evaluates and grades resolution responses to assess how effectively governments, agencies, and organizations have addressed concerns raised through the ASB resolution process. This grading process provides accountability, helps local ASBs understand the progress being made on their resolutions, and assists the Committee in identifying future advocacy priorities. In developing final grades, the Committee also considers feedback and recommendations submitted by local ASBs. The resulting *Report Card on the Resolutions* serves as a tool to guide provincial advocacy efforts throughout the life of each resolution.

On June 12, 2026, ASB Chairs and Fieldmen from across Central Region met to receive provincial updates, discuss regional issues, and collaboratively review and grade the Resolution Response Package. The regional grading recommendations will be submitted to the ASB Provincial Committee for consideration. However, if the County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board wishes to provide its own assessment, an individual response may also be submitted directly to the Committee.

Attached: June Package: 2026 Resolution Grading
Supplement: Verbal Report from the Chair Meeting

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)



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

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-vehicleandengineinfo@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 NOx 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 depopulation 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 \$2.1billion 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.



Memo

TO: Councillor Allan Gano, ASB Chair

FROM: Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations

DATE: June 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee Strategic Planning Survey

The Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC) was established in 2007, and its most recent strategic plan was completed in 2020. Since that time, Alberta's agricultural sector, municipal governments, and provincial priorities have continued to evolve. In a period of shifting government perspectives, changing responsibilities, and increasing demands on municipal resources, it is important that the Provincial Committee's guiding document remains current and accurately reflects the priorities and expectations of the Agricultural Service Boards it represents. This strategic planning process provides an opportunity to evaluate the role, priorities, and advocacy approach of ASBPC to ensure it continues to effectively represent and support ASBs across the province.

This survey presents an important opportunity to provide feedback on how the ASB system can become more effective and focused in addressing agricultural issues across Alberta.

Administration believes that an area for consideration is the resolution process, including opportunities for ASBPC to work more closely with municipalities to develop clear, focused, and actionable resolutions and greater use of regional advocacy and targeted messaging may help ensure provincial resolutions remain focused on significant agricultural issues requiring province-wide attention.

The survey closes on July 15, the County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board can gather Board input and submit a consolidated response should the Board wish to participate.

Survey Link: [ASBPC 2026 Strategic Planning Survey – Form](#)

Attached: PDF Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee Strategic Planning Survey Form

ASBPC 2026 Strategic Planning Survey

The Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee is beginning a strategic planning process in 2026. This survey is intended to gather perspectives from ASB members, municipal councillors, Agricultural Fieldmen/AAAF members, GOA ASB Program staff, RMA, and other related stakeholders.

The purpose of this survey is to support meaningful discussion about the role of ASBs, the role of ASBPC, how ASBs work with municipal councils, and how stronger alignment and communication can support Alberta's agricultural producers and rural municipalities.

This survey is not a vote and is not intended to create formal municipal or ASB positions. Respondents are asked to answer from the perspective of their current role. The results will help inform ASBPC's in-person strategic planning session planned for July or August 2026.

The survey will be open from June 1 to July 15, 2026. A summary of results will be prepared for ASBPC by July 30, 2026.

Estimated completion time: 30-35 minutes.

When you submit this form, it will not automatically collect your details like name and email address unless you provide it yourself.

* Required

Privacy and Confidentiality Notice

Responses will be summarized for ASBPC strategic planning purposes. Municipality/organization, role, and region information will be collected to understand participation and compare themes across respondent groups and regions.

Individual comments may be summarized or quoted anonymously where useful. Comments will not be attributed to individual people, municipalities, ASBs, or organizations unless permission is specifically provided.

The purpose of this survey is to support planning, discussion, and stronger alignment. It is not intended to evaluate individual municipalities, ASBs, staff, councils, or organizations.

I have read and agree to the privacy terms. *

yes

no

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ASBPC 2026 Strategic Planning Survey

* Required

Section 1: Respondent Profile

Please provide your full name *

Enter your answer

Please provide your email, We will use your email only for follow-up or clarification if needed. *

Please enter an email

In which municipality do you work or reside? *

- Acadia
- Athabasca
- Barrhead
- Beaver
- Big Lakes
- Bighorn
- Birch Hills
- Bonnyville
- Brazeau
- Camrose
- Cardston
- Clear Hills
- Clearwater
- Crowsnest Pass
- Cypress
- Fairview
- Flagstaff
- Foothills
- Forty Mile
- Grande Prairie
- Greenview
- Kneehill
- Lac Ste. Anne
- Lacombe
- Lac La Biche
- Lamont
- Leduc
- Lesser Slave River
- Lethbridge
- Mackenzie
- Minburn
- Mountain View
- Newell
- Northern Lights

- Northern Sunrise
- Paintearth
- Parkland
- Peace
- Pincher Creek
- Ponoka
- Provost
- Ranchland
- Red Deer
- Rocky View
- St. Paul
- Saddle Hills
- Smoky Lake
- Smoky River
- Special Area No. 2
- Sepcial Area No. 3
- Special Area No. 4
- Spirit River
- Starland
- Stettler
- Strathcona
- Sturgeon
- Taber
- Thorhild
- Two Hills
- Vermilion River
- Vulcan
- Wainwright
- Warner
- Westlock
- Wetaskiwin
- Wheatland
- Willow Creek
- Woodlands
- Yellowhead
- Other

Please select which region (ASB or RMA) you participate in. *

- Central
- Northeast
- Northwest
- Peace
- South
- All Regions
- No Regions

Which organization(s) do you represent? Select all that apply. *

- RMA
- ASBPC
- ASB
- Municipal Council
- AAAF
- Other

What is your role? Select all that apply *

- Municipal Elected official
- RMA Director
- ASB board member
- Staff/contractor
- Government of Alberta
- Other

How familiar are you with your local ASB? *

- Very Familiar
- Somewhat Familiar
- Slightly Familiar
- Not Familiar

How familiar are you with the ASB Provincial Committee (ASBPC)? *

- Very Familiar
- Somewhat Familiar
- Slightly Familiar
- Not Familiar

Are you directly involved with you local ASB? *

- Yes
- No

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ASBPC 2026 Strategic Planning Survey

* Required

Section 2: Local ASB Structure and Council Relationship

How is your local ASB governed? *

- Elected council members only
- Elected council and public members
- Public members only
- Unsure
- Other

How is your local ASB staffed? *

Please select at most 4 options.

- Fieldman is a Contractor
- Fieldman is a municipal employee
- Fieldman assistant(s)
- Dedicated Admin support
- Unsure
- Other

How often does your ASB typically meet? *

- Monthly
- Every two months
- Quarterly
- A few times per year
- As needed
- Unsure
- Other

How would you describe the current relationship between the ASB and municipal council in your municipality? (skip if not applicable)

1= Very limited connection, 5=strong alignment and communication *

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

In your experience, how clear is the role of the ASB to municipal council? 1=not clear, 5=very clear *

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

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ASBPC 2026 Strategic Planning Survey

* Required

Section 3: Awareness and understanding of ASBs

How clear is your understanding of the role of ASBs? *

- Very clear
- Somewhat clear
- Unclear
- Very unclear

How would you currently describe the role of the ASBs? *

Enter your answer

Rank the duties of ASBs in the order you feel they are important. Most important at the top. *

- Advising the minister and municipal council on Ag. matters
- Supporting enforcement of ag. legislation
- Protecting viable and sustainable agriculture to improve economic viability of agriculture producers
- Develop ag. policies for the municipality

In your view, what is the most important role of a local ASB? *

Please select 3 options.

- Identifying local/regional ag. issues
- Supporting ag. education and awareness
- Bringing producer and rural perspectives forward
- Participating in regional/provincial resolution processes
- Supporting viable and sustainable agriculture locally
- Other

How well do you think ASBs are currently positioned to support viable and sustainable agriculture in their municipalities? (1=poorly positioned, 5=well positioned) *

☆☆☆☆☆

What should never change about ASBs, even as agriculture, municipalities, and provincial issues evolve? *

Enter your answer

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ASBPC 2026 Strategic Planning Survey

* Required

Awareness and Understanding of the ASB Provincial Committee

The rest of the survey is about the ASB Provincial Committee (ASBPC) purpose, role, function,

How clear is your understanding of ASBPC role? *

- Very clear
- Somewhat clear
- Unclear
- Very unclear

How would you currently describe the purpose of the ASB Provincial Committee? *

Enter your answer

In your view, who do the ASBPC represent? (select all that apply) *

- Collective interests of ASBs
- Farmers' interests
- Broader ag. industry interests
- Municipal interests
- Other

In your view what are the top three **purposes** of the ASBPC? *

Please select 3 options.

- Achieve a collective voice for ASBs
- Represent ASBs provincially
- Communication link to ASBs
- Advisory Committee to Province
- Advisory Committee to ASBs
- Raise the profile of the ASBs
- Other

How well do you think the ASBPC is achieving its **purpose**?(1= poorly, 5= excellent) *

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

How well do you think the ASBPC is currently positioned to achieve its purpose?
(1=poorly positioned, 5=well positioned) *

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

What should never change about ASBPC, even as agriculture, municipalities, and provincial issues evolve? *

Enter your answer

Where do you see overlap or confusion between ASB and other organizations (e.g., RMA, AAAP, etc.) *

Enter your answer

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ASBPC 2026 Strategic Planning Survey

* Required

Perceived Value

How valuable is the work of ASBPC to your organization? *

- Very valuable
- Somewhat valuable
- Neutral
- Low value
- No value

In what ways does ASBPC currently provide value? *

Enter your answer

Where does ASBPC fall short in providing value? *

Enter your answer

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ASBPC 2026 Strategic Planning Survey

* Required

Expectations of ASBPC

What should ASBPC's primary role be? (Select up to 3) *

Please select 3 options.

- Coordinating the Resolution process
- Meet with the Minister and staff about matters of mutual concern
- Represent ASBs on committees and advisory groups
- Communicating to ASBs on current issues
- Communicating about ASBs with stakeholders
- Providing strategic direction to ASBs
- Other

What issues or priorities should ASBPC focus on over the next 3-5 years? *

Enter your answer

How important are the following functions for ASBPC? *

	Not Important	A bit Important	Neutral	Important	Very Important
Resolution process coordination	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Representing ASBs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communication with ASBs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ASB Stakeholder engagement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advancing resolutions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data and research support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helping surface ASB issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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ASBPC 2026 Strategic Planning Survey

* Required

Performance Assessment

How effectively does ASBPC currently fulfill its role? *

- Very effective
- Somewhat effective
- Neutral
- Ineffective
- Unsure

Where is ASBPC most effective? *

Enter your answer

Where does ASBPC need to improve? *

Enter your answer

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ASBPC 2026 Strategic Planning Survey

* Required

Communication and Engagement

How effective is ASBPC communication with your organization? *

- Very effective
- Somewhat effective
- Ineffective
- Very ineffective

What communication methods work best for you (select all that apply) *

- Email updates
- Meetings
- Reports
- Workshops
- Informal networking
- ASB Website
- Other

Where are the biggest opportunities for stronger collaboration? *

Enter your answer

How should ASBPC and RMA work together on agricultural resolutions and issues? *

Enter your answer

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ASBPC 2026 Strategic Planning Survey

* Required

Future Direction and Strategic Priorities

What are the top 3 priorities ASBPC should focus on in its next strategic plan? *

Enter your answer

What should ASBPC STOP doing? *

Enter your answer

What should ASBPC START doing? *

Enter your answer

What should ASBPC CONTINUE doing? *

Enter your answer

Any other other additional comments or suggestions?

Enter your answer

Would you be interested in receiving an update on the ASBPC Strategic planning? *

Yes

No

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Memo

TO: Councillor Allan Gano, ASB Chair

FROM: Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations

DATE: June 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Strychnine Update

County of Stettler Updates:

As of June 3, 2026, 72 County of Stettler producers have successfully completed the required Product Stewardship Training, with certificates uploaded by the Government of Alberta to the provincial SharePoint site. As of June 4, 2026, the County's Strychnine Information and Contact List included 130 interested producers. Two producers who had previously expressed interest have since requested to be withdrawn and removed from the lottery draw.

Overall, the County of Stettler's 2026 distribution approach—using a lottery system to allocate 2% liquid strychnine in quantities of up to 12 bottles per producer at cost (approximately \$18.30 per bottle)—is consistent with the strategies being used by other surveyed municipalities and is considered a reasonable approach.

Government of Alberta Updates:

The Government of Alberta hosted an additional strychnine information webinar on June 4, 2026. At that time, no strychnine product had yet arrived in Canada, and provincial representatives indicated it was becoming increasingly unlikely that product would be available for distribution before June 15.

The product distributor advised municipal Fieldmen that the initial shipment will be limited. Municipalities within the Saskatchewan use zones are expected to receive approximately five cases each, while Alberta municipalities within the approved use zones are anticipated to receive approximately twenty cases each. Final allocations may vary depending on demand and product availability.

An update was also provided by Cleanfarms indicating that strychnine containers will not be accepted through its small container recycling program. Additional guidance on container disposal is expected from the province.

The province continues to revise program documentation and information packages. Initial drafts of the Vendor Distribution Checklist have been circulated and outline the requirements that must be

completed before a sale can occur before a strychnine sale can be completed, the purchaser must be located within the approved Alberta EUR focus area, hold valid stewardship training, qualify as an eligible agricultural producer, have submitted any required previous Product Evaluation Forms, review all label and safety requirements, complete and sign the required treatment planning and declaration forms, and receive all required materials (warning signs, bottle label, brochure, mixed grain container label if applicable, Species at Risk brochure, Product Evaluation Form, Protocol for Monitoring Strychnine Application Site(s), and bottles or cases of 2% liquid strychnine) at the time of sale.

The province has also revised the Product Evaluation Form submission deadline. Producers are now required to submit completed evaluations by October 15, 2026, rather than immediately following the applicable treatment window.

AAAF Updates:

The Association of Agricultural Fieldmen has been working diligently through regional meetings and provincial surveys of Fieldmen to gather information to illustrate the various strategies to address the Emergency Use Registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine.

Product Availability and Distribution Timing

The most common concern among municipalities was the limited supply of product. Many municipalities indicated that if product was not received by approximately June 5, they would forego the first application window and begin sales in July during the second application period. Several municipalities, including Wetaskiwin, Wainwright, Ponoka, and others, indicated they may delay distribution until 2027 in hopes of accumulating sufficient inventory to meet demand and avoid administering a highly restricted allocation process.

Eighteen municipalities surveyed indicated they intended to distribute product during the first application window if supply was available, while others planned to wait until later in the season or until 2027.

Producer Demand

Municipalities reported strong producer interest and generally positive support for the program. Demand levels varied considerably, likely reflecting differences in population, Richardson's Ground Squirrel infestation levels, and local advertising efforts:

- Kneehill County reported approximately 165 inquiries.
- Rocky View County reported approximately 140 inquiries.
- Red Deer County reported more than 100 inquiries.
- Mountain View County reported approximately 80 inquiries.
- Camrose County and Flagstaff County each reported approximately 70 inquiries.
- Starland County reported approximately 40 inquiries.
- Wetaskiwin County reported approximately 30 inquiries.
- Paintearth County reported approximately 26 inquiries.
- Clearwater County reported approximately 17 inquiries.

Allocation Methods

Lottery Systems:

- Flagstaff County
- Red Deer County
- Kneehill County
- Wainwright County
- And several municipalities responding to the survey

First-Come, First-Served

- Mountain View County
- Camrose County
- Starland County
- St. Paul County
- Beaver County
- Vermilion River County
- Several survey respondents
- Some municipalities are requiring producers to submit training certificates before being added to a waiting list.

Needs-Based Distribution

- A smaller number of municipalities, including Minburn County and Two Hills County, plan to allocate product based on demonstrated infestation severity and may require photographs or videos of infestations.

Purchase Limits

Nearly all municipalities surveyed indicated they will impose purchase limits below the provincial maximum of two cases per producer to maximize the number of producers able to access the product. The most common approach is a limit of six bottles per producer, although many municipalities noted these limits may be adjusted as additional product becomes available.

Pricing

Municipalities applying markups noted that the additional revenue is intended to offset shipping, handling, signage, administrative time, and overall program delivery costs. Municipal pricing strategies vary considerably. Common approaches include:

- Selling at cost.
- Fixed pricing of \$20 – 25 per bottle.
- Cost plus administrative markups of 5%, 10%, or 15%.



Memo

TO: Councillor Allan Gano, ASB Chair
FROM: Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations
DATE: June 17, 2026
SUBJECT: Weeds on Wellsites Letter

At the last Agricultural Service Board meeting, the Board requested that a letter be prepared outlining concerns regarding the lack of a practical cost recovery mechanism for municipal weed and pest control enforcement on oil and gas sites.

The draft letter has been prepared and is attached for review is to ensure the letter accurately reflects the objective and direction of the Agricultural Service Board before it is finalized and sent to the identified provincial ministries and stakeholders.



County of Stettler No. 6

Box 1270
6602 – 44 Avenue
Stettler, Alberta TOC 2L0
T:403.742.4441 F: 403.742.1277
www.stettlercounty.ca

June 17, 2026

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

Honourable Brian Jean
Minister of Energy and Minerals
324 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Honorable Dan Williams
Minister of Municipal Affairs
320 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

RE: Alberta Energy Regulator Weed and Pest Control Cost Recovery Mechanism Concerns

Dear Ministers Sawyer, Jean, and Williams,

The County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board is writing to express concern that, despite engagement through the Mature Asset Strategy (MAS) Working Groups, a workable process has not been established to enable municipalities to carry out weed control under municipal agricultural legislation on provincially authorized oil and gas sites with practicable cost recovery.

The *Mature Asset Strategy: What We Heard and Recommendations Report* (April 3, 2025) identified the need for improved mechanisms to support weed control and protect agricultural productivity. Working Group 1, Recommendation 2 proposes re-establishing an independent Surface Rights Board within the Land and Property Rights Tribunal (LPRT) to improve service delivery and ensure responsible parties rather than the landowners cover weed control costs. However, this approach does not provide municipalities with a reasonable cost recovery mechanism.

The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) Weed and Pest Referral Process operates as a secondary escalation tool, requiring municipalities to exhaust enforcement actions before referral. While a

discretionary Regulator Confirmed Action Management (RCAM) Order may compel operator compliance under the *Oil and Gas Conservation Act*, it does not address municipal cost recovery. Municipalities remain responsible for inspections, enforcement actions, administration, and collection efforts regardless of AER involvement.

For many non-compliant operators, significant municipal tax arrears already exist, making recovery of additional enforcement costs unlikely when added to the tax roll. The alternative—filing through the Court of King’s Bench—is costly, time-consuming, and impractical as a routine mechanism.

For orphan wells, the LPRT may consider land impacts when determining compensation, but it does not reimburse municipalities for enforcement work. Compensation is limited to landowners, leaving municipalities without a recovery avenue unless costs are directed to landowners—an approach that is neither appropriate nor consistent with the intent of the regulatory framework or MAS recommendations.

As a result, no consistent or practical mechanism exists for municipalities to recover weed control costs on provincially authorized sites, particularly those involving insolvent, non-compliant, or orphaned operators. We respectfully request that your ministries establish a clear and functional cost recovery mechanism ensuring that responsible parties—not municipalities or landowners—bear the costs of compliance, and that MAS recommendations result in practical, operational solutions.

Without meaningful changes, municipalities will continue to face significant financial and administrative burdens while non-compliance persists, increasing risks to agricultural productivity, invasive species management, and public confidence in Alberta's regulatory framework.

Sincerely,

Allan Gano, Chair - County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board

cc:

Honorable Nate Horner – MLA Drumheller-Stettler
The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC)
Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)
Alberta Energy Regulator (AER)



Memo

TO: Councillor Allan Gano, ASB Chair
FROM: Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations
DATE: June 17, 2026
SUBJECT: Pasture Rejuvenation Workshop – Open Farm Days

Administration is exploring the opportunity to host a Pasture Rejuvenation Workshop during Open Farm Days in partnership with Wallaby Ag and the Stettler Agricultural Society on August 16th. The proposed initiative would involve renting a bus to transport participants to various sites throughout the County, where attendees would have the opportunity to observe rejuvenation practices firsthand, learn about the process, and gain a better understanding of the services provided by Wallaby Ag.

Lunch and refreshments would be provided as part of the event. The Stettler Agricultural Society has indicated that grant funding may be available to help support this project. This initiative could provide an engaging educational opportunity for residents and visitors while highlighting local agricultural innovation and collaboration.



Memo

TO: Councillor Allan Gano, ASB Chair
FROM: Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations
DATE: June 17, 2026
SUBJECT: Bill 22 Animal Protection Act

Alberta's *Bill 22 – Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2026* proposes significant changes to the province's animal protection framework, including expanded definitions of animal distress, clearer responsibility for animal care, increased penalties, and broader inspection and enforcement authorities for peace officer agencies. The legislation continues to recognize reasonable and generally accepted agricultural practices; however, the broader welfare language and increased regulatory authority may create uncertainty for producers until supporting regulations and enforcement expectations are clearly defined.

For agricultural producers, the main concern is how the amended Act will be interpreted and applied in practical livestock management situations. Expanded references to space, natural behaviours, fear, anxiety, transportation, housing, and care standards may increase the risk of inconsistent interpretation, particularly where enforcement personnel have limited agricultural or livestock production experience. Clear regulatory guidance will be important to ensure accepted agricultural practices are understood, complaints are assessed fairly, and producers are engaged appropriately before enforcement action is taken.

The Agricultural Service Board may wish to seek further clarification and advocacy related to Bill 22, including potential opportunities to invite a delegation from the SPCA or applicable peace officer agency to explain enforcement processes, agricultural assessment criteria, and producer engagement protocols. The ASB may also wish to discuss advocating to the Province for strong agricultural representation in governance or advisory structures, including a minimum number of seats on the SPCA board being held by representatives from agriculture now that agriculture forms a larger portion of its mandate, as well as formal industry input into regulations and minimum agricultural competency standards for enforcement personnel involved in livestock-related investigations.

2026 Bill 22

Second Session, 31st Legislature, 4 Charles III

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

BILL 22

ANIMAL PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT, 2026

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

First Reading

Second Reading

Committee of the Whole

Third Reading

Royal Assent

BILL 22

2026

ANIMAL PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT, 2026

(Assented to _____, 2026)

HIS MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the
Legislative Assembly of Alberta, enacts as follows:

Amends RSA 2000 cA-41

1 The *Animal Protection Act* is amended by this Act.

NOTE: 1 Amends chapter A-41 of the Revised Statutes of
Alberta 2000.

2 Section 1 is amended

(a) in subsection (1)

(i) by repealing clause (b);

**(ii) by repealing clause (c) and substituting the
following:**

(c) “caretaker” means a peace officer agency or an
individual, corporation or other legal entity
recognized under the laws of Alberta that, in the
opinion of a peace officer, has appropriate premises
in which to keep an animal and agrees to care for the
animal in accordance with this Act;

(c.1) “corporation” means a corporation or other corporate
entity, however incorporated;

- (iii) **in clause (d) by striking out “section” and substituting “sections 10, 10.2, 10.3 and”;**
- (iv) **by repealing clause (e);**
- (v) **by repealing clause (g) and substituting the following:**
 - (g) “peace officer” means
 - (i) a peace officer appointed under the *Peace Officer Act* for the purposes of this Act, or
 - (ii) a police officer under the *Police Act*;
 - (g.1) “peace officer agency” means
 - (i) an authorized employer as defined in section 1(a) of the *Peace Officer Act* that employs or engages one or more peace officers who are appointed under that Act for the purposes of this Act, or
 - (ii) a police service as defined in section 1(l) of the *Police Act*;
 - (g.2) “person responsible for an animal” means a person who
 - (i) owns an animal,
 - (ii) has custody or control of an animal,
 - (iii) has guardianship of a minor who is the owner of an animal, or
 - (iv) is a person prescribed by the regulations or in a class of persons prescribed by the regulations as a person responsible for an animal;
 - (g.3) “prohibition order” means an order issued under section 12(6) or (7), granted under section 13.1 or deemed by section 12.1(1) to have been issued or granted under this Act prohibiting, limiting or placing conditions on a person from owning, having custody or control of or residing with an animal, a

specified animal, a specified type of animal, specified types of animals or a specified number of animals for any period, including indefinitely or for life;

(b) by repealing subsection (2)(a) to (c) and substituting the following:

- (a) deprived of adequate food, water or veterinary care,
- (b) deprived of adequate shelter, ventilation or space, appropriate light or reasonable protection from injurious heat or cold,
- (c) confined in unsanitary conditions that over time will impair the animal's health,
- (d) injured, sick, in pain or suffering,
- (e) abused or subjected to undue hardship, privation or neglect,
- (f) deprived of adequate opportunity for exercise, movement or the expression of natural behaviours needed for long-term health,
- (g) exposed to conditions that cause undue or prolonged fear, anxiety or frustration, or
- (h) subjected to conditions set out in the regulations.

(c) by adding the following after subsection (2):

(3) A reference in this Act to the exercise of a power or performance of a duty by a peace officer agency means the peace officer agency that employs or engages the peace officer that dealt with an animal under this Act.

NOTE: 2 Section 1 presently reads in part:

1(1) In this Act,

(b) "business day" means a day on which

(i) if an animal is delivered to a humane society under section 3(2)(a), the humane society, or

(ii) *if an animal is delivered to a caretaker under section 3(2)(b), the office of the peace officer who delivered the animal*

is open for business;

(c) *“caretaker” means an individual who has an appropriate facility in which to keep an animal and agrees to care for the animal in accordance with this Act;*

(d) *“Court”, except in section 13, means the Court of Justice;*

(e) *“humane society” means an organization that is approved as a humane society under section 9;*

(g) *“peace officer” means*

(i) *a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police,*

(ii) *a member of a municipal police service, or*

(iii) *a peace officer appointed under the Peace Officer Act for the purposes of this Act;*

(2) *For the purposes of this Act, an animal is in distress if it is*

(a) *deprived of adequate shelter, ventilation, space, food, water or veterinary care or reasonable protection from injurious heat or cold,*

(b) *injured, sick, in pain or suffering, or*

(c) *abused or subjected to undue hardship, privation or neglect.*

3 Section 2 is amended

(a) by repealing subsection (1) and substituting the following:

Prohibition against causing distress

2(1) No person responsible for an animal shall cause or permit the animal to be or to continue to be in distress.

(b) by repealing subsection (2) and substituting the following:

(2) This section does not apply if the distress results from

- (a) an activity carried out in accordance with the regulations,
- (b) subject to the regulations, an activity carried out in accordance with reasonable and generally accepted practices of animal care, animal management, animal husbandry, hunting, fishing, trapping, pest control or slaughter, or
- (c) subject to the regulations, the use of an animal in a sporting activity that is carried out in accordance with reasonable and generally accepted practices.

NOTE: 3 Section 2 presently reads in part:

2(1) No person shall cause or permit an animal of which the person is the owner or the person in charge to be or to continue to be in distress.

(2) This section does not apply if the distress results from an activity carried on in accordance with the regulations or in accordance with reasonable and generally accepted practices of animal care, management, husbandry, hunting, fishing, trapping, pest control or slaughter.

4 Section 2.1 is repealed and the following is substituted:

Animal care duties

2.1 Subject to the regulations, a person responsible for an animal, having regard to the animal's species, type, breed, age and life stage, must fulfil the following duties:

- (a) ensure that the animal has adequate food and water;
- (b) provide the animal with

- (i) sanitary conditions,
- (ii) appropriate light, and
- (iii) adequate opportunity for exercise, movement and the expression of natural behaviours needed for long-term health;
- (c) transport the animal in a manner that ensures the animal's physical safety and minimizes the potential for distress to result;
- (d) provide the animal with adequate care when the animal is wounded or ill;
- (e) provide the animal with reasonable protection from injurious heat or cold having regard to prior acclimatization of the animal;
- (f) provide the animal with adequate shelter, ventilation and space;
- (g) minimize distress or anxiety of the animal during slaughter or killing;
- (h) comply with any additional duties set out in the regulations.

NOTE: 4 Section 2.1 presently reads:

2.1 A person who owns or is in charge of an animal

- (a) must ensure that the animal has adequate food and water,*
- (b) must provide the animal with adequate care when the animal is wounded or ill,*
- (c) must provide the animal with reasonable protection from injurious heat or cold, and*
- (d) must provide the animal with adequate shelter, ventilation and space.*

5 Section 3 is repealed and the following is substituted:

Relief of distress by peace officer

3(1) In this section, “justice” means a judge of the Court or a justice of the peace under the *Justice of the Peace Act*.

(2) A peace officer may take an action referred to in subsection (3) if an animal is in distress or a peace officer is of the opinion, on reasonable grounds, that an animal will become distressed if a peace officer does not act promptly, and

- (a) a peace officer is of the opinion, on reasonable grounds, that the person responsible for the animal is not likely to ensure that the animal’s distress is relieved or prevented or will continue to be relieved or prevented, or
- (b) the person responsible for the animal cannot be found immediately and informed that the animal is in distress or will become distressed.

(3) A peace officer may take any action the peace officer considers necessary to locate the animal and relieve or prevent its distress, including

- (a) subject to the regulations, issuing a corrective action order, including any terms and conditions the peace officer considers appropriate,
- (b) taking custody of the animal in accordance with the regulations, and
- (c) arranging for transportation and care for the animal, if necessary.

(4) To take an action referred to in subsection (3), a peace officer may enter any land, vehicle or place, but may only do so in accordance with section 4 or 10.

(5) Subject to subsection (6), a peace officer who takes custody of an animal under subsection (3)(b) shall deliver the animal to a caretaker.

(6) If a peace officer takes custody of an animal under subsection (3)(b) and, in the opinion of a peace officer, it is not appropriate or practical at that time to remove the animal from the premises where the animal is located, the person responsible for the animal and a peace officer may agree, in writing, to keep the animal on

the premises until such time as a peace officer considers it practical to remove the animal.

(7) The agreement may contain terms or conditions for the care of the animal, including that a peace officer or person specified in the agreement may access the premises at any reasonable time to provide care for the animal.

(8) Subject to the regulations, an agreement may be terminated by either party to the agreement on notice.

(9) A peace officer agency may apply to a justice,

- (a) if a person responsible for an animal that has been taken into custody under subsection (3)(b) refuses to agree to keep the animal on the premises where the animal is located, for an order directing that the animal must be kept on those premises and containing terms and conditions for the care of the animal, including that a peace officer or another person specified by a peace officer may access the premises at a reasonable time to provide care for the animal, or
- (b) if the person referred to in subsection (6) fails to comply with terms or conditions included in the agreement, for an order directing the person to comply with those terms and conditions.

(10) On an application under subsection (9), the justice may issue an order with any terms and conditions the justice considers appropriate.

(11) If a peace officer has taken custody of an animal in accordance with subsection (3)(b) and has maintained the animal on the premises under subsection (6) or (10), no person shall sell, assign or move the animal without the direction of a peace officer.

(12) A peace officer may humanely destroy an animal or cause the animal to be humanely destroyed, and the owner of the animal is liable for the costs of destroying and disposing of it, if the animal is found to be in such distress that, in the opinion of the following, the animal cannot be relieved of its distress with reasonable treatment and live without undue suffering:

- (a) a registered veterinarian;
- (b) if a registered veterinarian is not readily available, the peace officer.

Humane destruction of animal by registered veterinarian

3.1 A registered veterinarian may humanely destroy an animal if

- (a) the animal is in distress,
- (b) the owner of the animal cannot be found immediately, or the registered veterinarian reasonably believes that
 - (i) there is no owner, or
 - (ii) the owner has abandoned the animal,
 and
- (c) in the registered veterinarian’s opinion, humane destruction is the most appropriate course of action because
 - (i) immediate veterinary treatment cannot prolong the animal’s life, or
 - (ii) prolonging the animal’s life would result in undue suffering.

NOTE: 5 Section 3 presently reads:

3(1) If an animal is in distress and

- (a) the owner or person in charge of the animal does not forthwith take steps that will relieve its distress,*
- (a.1) a peace officer is of the opinion, on reasonable and probable grounds, that the owner or person in charge of the animal is not likely to ensure that the animal’s distress is relieved or to ensure that the animal’s distress will continue to be relieved, or*
- (b) the owner or person in charge of the animal cannot be found immediately and informed of the animal’s distress,*

a peace officer may, in accordance with section 4, take any action the peace officer considers necessary to locate the animal and relieve its distress, including taking custody of the animal in accordance with the regulations and arranging for transportation, food, water, care, shelter and veterinary treatment for the animal, if necessary.

(2) A peace officer who takes custody of an animal pursuant to subsection (1) shall deliver the animal

- (a) to a humane society, or*
- (b) to a caretaker, if there is no humane society close to the location where the animal is found or if the humane society does not have an appropriate facility in which to keep the animal.*

(3) If an animal is found to be in such distress that, in the opinion of

- (a) a registered veterinarian, or*
- (b) if a registered veterinarian is not readily available, a peace officer,*

the animal cannot be relieved of its distress and live without undue suffering, the peace officer may destroy the animal or cause the animal to be destroyed and the owner of the animal is liable for the costs of destroying it.

6 Section 4(1) and (2) are amended by striking out “reasonable and probable” and substituting “reasonable”.

NOTE: 6 Section 4(1) and (2) presently read in part:

4(1) A peace officer who on reasonable and probable grounds believes

(2) A peace officer who on reasonable and probable grounds believes that there is an animal that is in distress in a private dwelling house shall obtain a warrant to enter the private dwelling house for the purpose of carrying out the peace officer’s duties under section 3.

7 The following is added after section 4:

Power to stop vehicles

4.01(1) If a peace officer has a reasonable suspicion that an animal may be in distress or is being transported in contravention of this Act, the officer may signal or otherwise order a person operating a vehicle that is transporting or reasonably suspected to be transporting an animal to stop the vehicle immediately or move the vehicle to a particular location and then stop it.

(2) A person who receives a signal or order shall immediately comply with that signal or order and shall not proceed until otherwise allowed by the peace officer or until the end of a period that is reasonably necessary to enable a peace officer to conduct inquiries.

(3) A peace officer acting under the authority of this section shall, on request, produce the peace officer's certificate of appointment to the owner or occupant of the vehicle.

Production of animal to peace officer

4.02(1) A peace officer may, at any reasonable time, require the owner or occupant of a private dwelling house to produce an animal so that the officer may examine it and assess its condition if

- (a) the officer, on reasonable grounds, believes that an animal is in distress in the private dwelling house,
- (b) there is a corrective action order respecting the animal, or
- (c) there is a prohibition order respecting the owner or occupant of the house.

(2) The owner or occupant must comply with the requirement immediately.

Requirement to assist

4.03 When a peace officer has entered any land, vehicle or place in accordance with section 4, any person present must give the peace officer reasonable assistance, including by identifying themselves and, if known, the person responsible for the animal.

NOTE: 7 Power to stop vehicles; production of animal to peace officer; requirement to assist.

8 Section 4.1 is amended

(a) in subsection (1)

- (i) by striking out “includes” and substituting “means”;**
- (ii) by repealing clauses (b) and (c) and substituting the following:**
 - (b) is left for 4 days or more after the expected retrieval time from a person who agreed to care for it,
 - (c) is found on premises after the occupant has sold or vacated the premises,
 - (d) is left uncared for as a result of the arrest, hospitalization or death of the person responsible for it,
 - (e) in the reasonable opinion of a peace officer, has been abandoned, or
 - (f) is considered to be abandoned under the regulations.

(b) in subsection (3)

- (i) by striking out “pursuant to” and substituting “under”;**
- (ii) by striking out “humane society or”;**

(c) by adding the following after subsection (3):

(4) No person shall abandon an animal in a manner that could reasonably be anticipated to cause the animal to be in distress.

NOTE: 8 Section 4.1 presently reads in part:

4.1(1) In this section, “abandoned animal” includes an animal that

- (b) is left for 5 days or more after the expected retrieval time from a registered veterinarian or from a person who for money consideration or its*

*equivalent stables, boards or cares for the animal,
or*

*(c) is found on premises with respect to which the
tenancy agreement has been terminated.*

*(3) A peace officer who takes an animal into custody
pursuant to subsection (2) shall deliver the animal to a
humane society or caretaker.*

9 Section 5 is amended

(a) by repealing subsection (1) and substituting the following:

Provision of care

5(1) Where a peace officer has taken custody of an animal under this Act, the peace officer agency may direct the care of the animal notwithstanding that the animal has been delivered to a caretaker or is kept on the premises where the animal is located under section 3(6) or (10).

(b) in subsection (3) by striking out “A humane society to which or a caretaker to whom an animal is delivered under section 3(2) or 4.1(3)” **and substituting** “A peace officer agency in respect of an animal taken into custody under this Act”;

(c) in subsection (4) by striking out “A humane society or a caretaker” **and substituting** “Subject to the regulations, a peace officer agency”.

NOTE: 9 Section 5 presently reads in part:

5(1) A peace officer who takes custody of an animal pursuant to section 3(1) or 4.1(2) shall take reasonable steps to ensure that the animal is provided with transportation, food, water, care, shelter and veterinary treatment, if necessary.

(3) A humane society to which or a caretaker to whom an animal is delivered under section 3(2) or 4.1(3) may, in accordance with the tariff provided for in the regulations, recover any expenses incurred in respect of the animal from

the owner of the animal and may require the owner to pay those expenses before the animal is returned to the owner.

(4) A humane society or a caretaker may recover unpaid expenses incurred in respect of an animal in an action in debt against the owner of the animal.

10 Section 6 is repealed and the following is substituted:

Duty to locate owner

6 If a peace officer takes custody of an animal under section 3(3)(b) or 4.1(2), the peace officer shall

- (a) take reasonable steps to locate the owner of the animal, and
- (b) notify the owner of the actions taken in respect of the animal.

NOTE: 10 Section 6 presently reads:

6 If an animal is delivered

- (a) to a humane society under section 3(2)(a) or 4.1(3), the humane society, or*
- (b) to a caretaker under section 3(2)(b) or 4.1(3), the peace officer who delivered the animal*

shall take reasonable steps to locate the owner of the animal, including a search of the brand registry under the Livestock Identification and Commerce Act, and shall notify the owner of the actions taken in respect of the animal.

11 Section 7 is amended

- (a) by repealing subsection (1) and substituting the following:**

Sale or gift of animal

7(1) An animal that a peace officer takes into custody under section 3(3)(b) or 4.1(2) may be sold or given to a person by the peace officer agency, and the animal becomes the property of

the person to whom it is sold or given, if the owner of the animal

- (a) is unable to be located or notified within 7 days after the date on which the animal was taken into custody, or
- (b) is located and notified but does not, within 7 days after the date on which the animal was taken into custody, pay the expenses incurred in respect of the animal under section 3 or 4.1(2) and section 5 or enter into an agreement for the payment of the expenses that is satisfactory to the peace officer agency that incurred the expenses.

(b) by repealing subsection (2);

(c) in subsection (3)(b) by striking out “3(1) or 4.1” and substituting “3 or 4.1(2)”;

(d) by repealing subsection (4)(a) and (b) and substituting the following:

- (a) paid to the former owner of the animal if the former owner makes a claim for the balance of the sale proceeds within 60 days of the date of the sale, or
- (b) held by the Minister for a period of one year after the date of the sale if the former owner does not make a claim within 60 days of the date of the sale.

NOTE: 11 Section 7 presently reads in part:

7(1) If the owner of an animal that has been delivered to a humane society or caretaker under section 3(2) or 4.1(3)

- (a) is not located and notified within 3 business days after the date on which the animal was delivered, or*
- (b) is located and notified but does not, within 3 business days after the date on which the animal was delivered, pay the expenses incurred in respect of the animal pursuant to section 3(1) or 4.1 and section 5 or enter into an agreement for the payment of the expenses that is satisfactory to the*

humane society or the peace officer who delivered the animal, as the case may be,

the animal may be sold or given to any person by the humane society, if the animal was delivered to a humane society, or the peace officer who delivered the animal, if the animal was delivered to a caretaker, and the animal becomes the property of the person to whom it is sold or given.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), if in the opinion of the humane society or a peace officer the animal appears to be a purebred animal or if it bears an obvious identification device, tattoo, brand, mark, tag or licence, the applicable time limit under subsection (1) is 10 days after the date on which the animal was delivered.

(3) The proceeds of a sale of an animal pursuant to subsection (1) shall be disbursed in the following order of priority, on proof of the expenses having been incurred:

(b) to pay the expenses incurred in respect of the animal under section 3(1) or 4.1 and section 5.

(4) The balance of the sale proceeds remaining after the payment of the expenses referred to in subsection (3) shall be

(a) paid to the former owner of the animal, if the former owner has been located at the date of distribution of the sale proceeds, or

(b) held by the Minister for a period of one year after the date of the sale, if the former owner has not been located.

12 Section 8 is repealed and the following is substituted:

Humane destruction of animal

8 A peace officer agency, in respect of an animal that has been taken into custody under section 3(3)(b), 4.1(2) or 13.3(1), may humanely destroy the animal or cause the animal to be humanely destroyed if it has not been claimed by its owner and, in the opinion of the peace officer or peace officer agency, the animal is

unsuitable or unlikely to be sold or given away in accordance with section 7 or 13.3.

NOTE: 12 Section 8 presently reads:

8 A humane society, in respect of an animal that has been delivered to it, or a peace officer, in respect of an animal that has been delivered to a caretaker, may destroy the animal or cause the animal to be destroyed if it has not been claimed by its owner and in the opinion of the humane society or peace officer, as the case may be, the animal is not suitable to be sold or given away in accordance with section 7.

13 Section 9 is repealed.

NOTE: 13 Section 9 presently reads:

9 Subject to the regulations, the Minister may approve as a humane society an organization that

- (a) has as one of its principal objects the prevention of cruelty to animals, and*
- (b) meets the requirements of the Minister*

and may suspend or revoke the approval.

14 Section 10 is repealed and the following is substituted:

Inspections

10(1) In this section and section 10.1, “vehicle” means a commercial vehicle as defined in section 1(1)(h) of the *Traffic Safety Act*.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), a peace officer and a person assisting a peace officer conducting an inspection for the purposes of ensuring compliance with this Act or the regulations, and any regulations prescribing standards for vehicles used to transport animals, may enter without a warrant at any reasonable time

- (a) any land, vehicle or place where animals are kept for sale, adoption, hire or exhibition,
 - (b) any land, vehicle or place where services are provided with respect to an animal, including boarding, grooming and training facilities,
 - (c) any land or place where animals are held for assembly or slaughter for which a licence is required, whether or not a licence was obtained,
 - (d) any land, vehicle or place used to facilitate the sale or transfer of animals,
 - (e) any vehicle used to transport animals, or
 - (f) any other land, vehicle or place prescribed by the regulations.
- (3)** Before entering a private dwelling house to exercise powers and perform duties under this section, the peace officer must obtain
- (a) the consent of the owner or occupant of the private dwelling house, or
 - (b) an order from a judge of the Court of King's Bench.
- (4)** In order to conduct an inspection, a peace officer may signal or otherwise order a person operating a vehicle to stop it immediately or to move the vehicle to a particular location and then stop it, and that person shall immediately comply with that signal or order and shall not proceed until otherwise allowed by the peace officer or until the end of a period that is reasonably necessary to enable an officer to conduct inquiries.
- (5)** A peace officer may detain the vehicle for a reasonable period pending the carrying out of an inspection.
- (6)** A peace officer acting under the authority of this section shall, on request, produce the peace officer's certificate of appointment to the owner or occupant of any land, vehicle or place entered under subsection (2).

Inspection powers

10.1(1) In carrying out an inspection in accordance with section 10, a peace officer may

- (a) require a person on the land or in a vehicle or place to produce for examination any records or other documents, including electronic records or documents, related to animals that are present, have been present or are expected to be present on the land or in the vehicle or place and make copies of them or temporarily remove them for the purpose of making copies,
- (b) use any computer hardware or software to obtain readings or other information related to animals,
- (c) require any person on the land or in a vehicle or place to answer all questions related to animals put to the person by the officer concerning the animals that are present, have been present or are expected to be present on the land or in the vehicle or place,
- (d) exclude persons other than the person being questioned, except that person's counsel, when the person is being questioned,
- (e) examine and take samples and specimens from, and require tests to be performed on or samples taken from, animal carcasses, animals or their food or water found on the land or in a vehicle or place, or from the land, vehicle or place,
- (f) remove an animal carcass from the land or a vehicle or place for examination and testing,
- (g) photograph or otherwise record anything on the land or in a vehicle or place that the peace officer considers relevant,
- (h) require any person on the land or in a vehicle or place to provide reasonable assistance to a peace officer who is exercising powers and performing duties under this section,
- (i) require any person on the land or in a vehicle or place to produce an animal or animal identification, and

- (j) require any person on the land or in a vehicle or place to demonstrate a skill or the operation of a device.

(2) When a peace officer removes an animal carcass from any land, vehicle or place, the person responsible for that animal has no right in or claim to the carcass or the value of the carcass, if any.

Inspections re orders

10.2(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), a peace officer, at any reasonable time and where reasonably required to determine compliance with a corrective action order or prohibition order, may

- (a) enter and inspect any land, vehicle or place in which the peace officer, on reasonable grounds, believes there is or may be an animal, structure, supply of food or water, shelter, enclosure, area, document, record or other thing to which the order applies,
- (b) inspect, test or examine the structure, supply of food or water, shelter, enclosure, area, document, record or other thing, and
- (c) view or conduct an examination of an animal.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), before entering a private dwelling house to exercise powers and perform duties under this section, the peace officer must

- (a) obtain the consent of the owner or occupant of the private dwelling house, or
- (b) obtain an order from a judge of the Court of King's Bench.

(3) A peace officer may enter a private dwelling house in accordance with the terms of a prohibition order.

Court orders

10.3(1) If the consent required under section 10(3)(a) or 10.2(2)(a) is refused or cannot reasonably be obtained, a judge of the Court of King's Bench may, on the application of a peace officer, issue an order that authorizes the peace officer to enter the

private dwelling house to enable the peace officer to exercise the powers and perform the duties under section 10.1(1) or 10.2(1).

(2) If any person interferes with or hinders a peace officer who is attempting to exercise the powers and perform the duties of a peace officer under section 10, 10.1 or 10.2, a judge of the Court of King's Bench may, on the application of the peace officer, issue an order

- (a) restraining any person from interfering with or hindering a peace officer in exercising the powers and performing the duties of a peace officer under section 10, 10.1 or 10.2, and
- (b) directing the person to do or refrain from doing anything as the judge considers necessary in order to enable the peace officer to exercise the powers and perform the duties of a peace officer under section 10, 10.1 or 10.2.

(3) An application under this section may be made without notice if the judge considers it appropriate in the circumstances.

NOTE: 14 Section 10 presently reads:

10(1) A peace officer may without a warrant during ordinary business hours enter

- (a) any premises, other than a private dwelling house, where animals are kept for sale, hire or exhibition, or*
- (b) any vehicle used to transport animals*

to inspect the animals or any vehicle in which animals are transported for the purpose of administering this Act, the regulations under this Act and any regulations prescribing standards for vehicles used to transport animals.

(1.1) In order to conduct an inspection under subsection (1), a peace officer may signal or otherwise order a person operating a vehicle to stop forthwith or to move the vehicle to a particular place and then stop it, and that person shall forthwith comply with that signal or order and shall not proceed until the peace officer has had a reasonable amount

of time to inspect the vehicle and the animals in or on the vehicle.

(2) A peace officer acting under the authority of this section shall, on request, produce the peace officer's certificate of appointment to the owner or occupant of any premises or vehicle entered pursuant to subsection (1).

15 Section 11 is amended by adding “, including by knowingly making a false or misleading statement or producing false information” after “regulations”.

NOTE: 15 Section 11 presently reads:

11 No person shall in any manner hinder or obstruct a peace officer in the performance of the peace officer's duties under this Act or the regulations.

16 The following is added after section 11:

Frivolous or vexatious complaint

11.1 No person shall make a frivolous or vexatious complaint to a peace officer respecting an alleged contravention of this Act, the regulations or the conditions of an order issued under this Act.

NOTE: 16 Frivolous or vexatious complaint.

17 Section 12 is repealed and the following is substituted:

Offences

12(1) A person who contravenes this Act, the regulations or a prohibition order is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of not more than \$250 000, to imprisonment for up to 12 months or to a fine and imprisonment.

(2) If a person is found guilty of an offence under this Act and the Court is satisfied that as a result of the commission of the offence monetary benefits accrued to the offender, the Court may order the offender to pay, in addition to a fine under subsection (1), a fine in an amount equal to the Court's estimation of the amount of those monetary benefits.

(3) Every person who is guilty of an offence under this Act is liable on conviction for each day or part of a day on which the offence occurs or continues.

(4) A fine imposed on a conviction for an offence involving more than one animal may be calculated in respect of each animal as though it had been the subject of a separate offence.

(5) A prosecution for an offence referred to in subsection (1) may not be commenced more than 2 years after the date on which evidence of the offence first came to the attention of a peace officer.

(6) If a person is found guilty of an offence under this Act, the Court may issue a prohibition order to the person for a period the Court considers appropriate.

(7) If a corporation is found guilty of an offence under this Act, the Court may issue a prohibition order to a director or officer of the corporation for a period the Court considers appropriate, even if the director or officer has not been convicted of an offence under this Act.

(8) A prohibition order issued under subsection (6) or (7) may include

- (a) the manner of and time for complying with the order,
- (b) a direction that ownership of any animals owned by, in the custody or control of, or residing with the person at the time the order is issued shall be transferred to another person,
- (c) permission for a peace officer to enter and inspect land, a vehicle or a place, including a private dwelling house, without a warrant to ensure compliance with the order,
- (d) a requirement that the person provide a peace officer agency with a current residential address,
- (e) the specific animal, specific type of animal, specific types of animals and specific number of animals the person is permitted to own, have custody or control of or reside with,

- (f) whether and at what age any offspring of the animals permitted are counted within the number of animals permitted under clause (e),
- (g) requirements for specific care or management of an animal, including
 - (i) requirements for routine veterinary care or assessment and for the person to consent to related medical records to be shared with a peace officer agency, or for veterinary reports to be prepared for the peace officer agency, and
 - (ii) requirements related to the sterilization of the animal,
- (h) conditions restricting, limiting or specifying the person's ability to apply to have the prohibition order varied in accordance with subsection (9), including that the person may not apply to have the order varied for a specified period, and
- (i) any other terms or conditions that the Court considers appropriate.

(9) On application, the Court may vary a prohibition order issued under subsection (6) or (7), subject to any conditions or restrictions stated in the order, if the person subject to the order can present evidence to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Court that conditions or circumstances that made the issuing of the order appropriate have changed and that a variation will not create undue risk of animals becoming distressed.

NOTE: 17 Section 12 presently reads:

12(1) A person who contravenes this Act or the regulations is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of not more than \$20 000.

(2) If the owner of an animal is found guilty of an offence under section 2, the Court may make an order restraining the owner from continuing to have custody of an animal for a period of time specified by the Court.

(3) The Court may make an order under subsection (2) on any terms and conditions it considers appropriate.

18 The following is added after section 12:

Recognition of prohibition orders from other provinces

12.1(1) Subject to the regulations, an order of a court in another Canadian province or territory prohibiting, limiting or placing conditions on a person from owning, having custody or control of or residing with an animal, a specified animal, a specified type of animal, specified types of animals or a specified number of animals made under the legislation of that province or territory is deemed to be a prohibition order issued or granted under this Act and is enforceable in the same manner as a prohibition order issued or granted under this Act.

(2) An order deemed by subsection (1) to be an order issued or granted under this Act may not be varied.

Vicarious responsibility

12.2 For the purposes of this Act, an act or thing done or omitted to be done by a director, officer, employee or agent of a corporation in the course of that person's employment or in the exercise of that person's powers or the performance of that person's duties is deemed also to be an act or thing done or omitted to be done by the corporation.

Liability of directors and officers

12.3 Where a corporation commits an offence under this Act, an officer, director or agent of the corporation who directed, authorized, assented to, acquiesced in or participated in the commission of the offence is guilty of the offence and is liable to the punishment provided for the offence, whether or not the corporation has been prosecuted for or convicted of the offence.

NOTE: 18 Recognition of prohibition orders from other provinces; vicarious responsibility; liability of directors and officers.

19 Section 13 is repealed and the following is substituted:

Order of custody

13(1) A peace officer agency may apply to the Court of King's Bench for an order granting custody of an animal to a peace officer agency if a charge has been laid with respect to an offence under section 12.

(2) The peace officer agency granted custody of the animal may retain that custody pending the outcome of proceedings under section 12, notwithstanding that the owner of the animal

- (a) has paid expenses incurred in respect of the animal under section 3 or 4.1(2) and section 5, and
- (b) requests the peace officer agency to return the animal.

(3) An order under this section may include

- (a) a requirement for an owner to pay the expenses incurred in respect of the animal under section 3 or 4.1(2) and section 5 within a specified period,
- (b) a requirement for an owner to pay the ongoing expenses for the care of the animal to be kept in custody in advance or at intervals specified in the order,
- (c) permission for the sale or gift of the animal to a person, or the humane destruction of the animal, by the agency granted its custody if the owner fails to comply with the terms specified in the order, and
- (d) any other terms or conditions that the Court considers appropriate.

Prohibition orders

13.1(1) Subject to subsection (2), a peace officer agency or any person prescribed in the regulations may apply, on notice to a person, to the Court for a prohibition order in respect of the person.

(2) An order under this section may be granted if the Court determines that

- (a) an animal has been
 - (i) taken into custody under section 3(3)(b) from a person responsible for the animal, or
 - (ii) voluntarily surrendered by a person responsible for the animal to a peace officer,

- (b) at the time the animal was taken into custody or surrendered, the person was unable to fulfil the animal care duties under section 2.1,
- (c) the person is not able, or may not be able, to meet the animal care duties under section 2.1 with respect to an animal, and
- (d) the order should be granted to provide for the relief or prevention of distress to an animal.

(3) On an application under subsection (1), the Court may issue a prohibition order to the person for any period the Court considers appropriate.

(4) The application must be made in accordance with the regulations.

(5) A notice of the application must be given in accordance with the regulations.

(6) An order granted or issued under this section may include the provisions referred to in section 12(8).

(7) An order issued under subsection (3) must be served in accordance with the regulations on the person who is subject to the prohibition order.

Variation of prohibition orders

13.2(1) A party that was granted a prohibition order under section 13.1 may apply, with notice to the person subject to the order, to the Court for a variation of the order.

(2) A person that is subject to a prohibition order issued under section 13.1(3) may apply, with notice to the peace officer agency or the person that was granted the order, and subject to any conditions or restrictions stated in the original order, for a variation of the order.

(3) On an application under subsection (1), the Court may vary the order if, in the opinion of the Court, varying the order is appropriate and will not create undue risk of animals becoming distressed.

(4) On an application under subsection (2), the Court may vary the order, subject to any conditions or restrictions stated in the order, if the person subject to the order can present evidence to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Court that

- (a) conditions or circumstances that made the issuing of the order appropriate have changed, and
- (b) a variation will not create undue risk of animals becoming distressed.

(5) The application must be made in accordance with the regulations.

(6) Notice of the application must be given in accordance with the regulations.

(7) An order that varies a prohibition order must be served in accordance with the regulations on the person who is subject to the prohibition order.

Animals kept contrary to a prohibition order

13.3(1) If a person owns, has custody or control of or resides with an animal contrary to a prohibition order, a peace officer may take custody of the animal in accordance with the regulations.

(2) If the animal is taken into custody and it appears to the peace officer that the animal is owned by a person other than the person subject to the prohibition order, the peace officer shall take reasonable steps to locate the owner of the animal and notify the owner of the actions taken in respect of the animal.

(3) An animal may be sold or given to a person by a peace officer agency, and the animal becomes the property of the person to whom it is sold or given, in the following circumstances:

- (a) after taking steps to locate the owner of the animal, a peace officer determines that the person subject to the prohibition order owns the animal;
- (b) a peace officer is unable to locate or notify the owner within 7 days after the date on which the animal was taken into custody;

(c) a peace officer locates and notifies the owner but the owner does not, within 7 days after the date on which the animal was taken into custody, pay the expenses incurred in respect of the animal under subsection (1) and section 5 or enter into an agreement for the payment of the expenses that is satisfactory to the peace officer agency that incurred the expenses.

(4) The proceeds of a sale of an animal shall be disbursed in the following order of priority, on proof of the expenses having been incurred:

- (a) to pay the expenses of selling the animal;
- (b) to pay the expenses incurred in respect of the animal under subsection (1) and section 5.

(5) The balance of the sale proceeds remaining after the payment of the expenses shall be

- (a) paid to the former owner of the animal, if the former owner makes a claim for the balance of the sale proceeds within 60 days of the date of the sale, or
- (b) held by the Minister for a period of one year after the date of the sale if the former owner does not make a claim within 60 days of the date of the sale.

(6) The Minister may pay the balance remaining

- (a) to a person who claims within the period set out in subsection (5)(b) and who establishes to the satisfaction of the Minister that the person was the owner of the animal prior to the sale, or
- (b) if no claim is made, into the General Revenue Fund on the expiration of that period.

NOTE: 19 Section 13 presently reads:

13(1) A peace officer may apply to the Court of King's Bench for an order granting to the peace officer custody of an animal in respect of which a charge has been laid under section 12.

(2) An applicant under subsection (1) may retain custody of an animal in respect of which the application is made pending the outcome of any proceedings under section 12, notwithstanding that the owner of the animal

(a) pays the expenses incurred in respect of the animal under sections 3(1) and 5, and

(b) requests the peace officer, or any humane society or caretaker to whom the peace officer has delivered the animal, to return the animal to the owner.

(3) The Court may make an order under this section on any terms and conditions it considers appropriate.

20 Section 14 is amended

(a) in subsection (1) by striking out “registered veterinarian, caretaker, humane society or an officer or employee of a humane society” **and substituting** “caretaker, registered veterinarian, veterinary practice entity or any employee or contractor of a veterinary practice entity”;

(b) in subsection (2)

(i) by striking out “reasonable and probable grounds” **and substituting** “reasonable grounds”;

(ii) by striking out “reasonable or probable grounds” **and substituting** “reasonable grounds”.

NOTE: 20 Section 14 presently reads:

14(1) No action lies against a peace officer, registered veterinarian, caretaker, humane society or an officer or employee of a humane society for anything done in good faith under this Act or the regulations.

(2) If a person, on reasonable and probable grounds, believes an animal is in distress and reports the distress to a peace officer, no action lies against that person for reporting unless that person reports maliciously or without reasonable or probable grounds for the belief.

21 Section 15 is amended

- (a) by repealing subsection (1) and substituting the following:**

Regulations

15(1) The Minister may make regulations

- (a) respecting how animals may be taken into custody;
- (b) respecting land, vehicles, places and premises that may be entered or inspected;
- (c) respecting peace officer inspection powers, including the manner in and conditions under which those powers may be exercised;
- (d) prescribing persons or classes of persons as persons responsible for an animal for the purposes of section 1(1)(g.2)(iv);
- (e) prescribing conditions for the purposes of section 1(2)(h);
- (f) respecting an activity referred to in section 2(2);
- (g) respecting duties set out in section 2.1(a) to (g);
- (h) prescribing additional requirements for the purposes of section 2.1(h);
- (i) respecting corrective action orders issued under section 3(3)(a), including their terms and issuance;
- (j) respecting the termination of agreements under section 3(8);
- (k) respecting when an animal is considered to be abandoned under section 4.1(1)(f);
- (l) respecting the recovery of unpaid expenses by a peace officer agency under section 5(4);
- (m) respecting orders made by courts in other Canadian provinces or territories under the legislation of those

provinces and territories that may be deemed to be a prohibition order under this Act for the purposes of section 12.1(1);

- (n) respecting applications for prohibition orders under section 13.1, including
 - (i) prescribing persons or classes of persons who may apply for the prohibition order,
 - (ii) the manner of the application, and
 - (iii) the giving of notice of the application, including the manner, form and timing of notice;
- (o) respecting applications for variation of prohibition orders under section 13.2, including
 - (i) the manner of the application, and
 - (ii) the giving of notice of an application, including prescribing the manner, form and timing of notice;
- (p) respecting the service of a prohibition order issued under section 13.1(3) or an order varying a prohibition order referred to in section 13.2(7);
- (q) respecting the care of animals;
- (r) respecting a tariff for expenses that a peace officer agency can recover from a person responsible for an animal for the care provided to an animal that has been taken into custody;
- (s) exempting or excluding from the application of all or any portion of this Act, whether conditionally or unconditionally, any class of person, animal or activity;
- (t) respecting the application of any provision of this Act, with or without modification, to a class of person, animal or activity, or an owner;
- (u) defining any word or expression used but not defined in this Act;

- (v) respecting standards for vehicles used to transport animals;
- (w) respecting any matter the Minister considers necessary to administer this Act.

(b) in subsection (2) by striking out “or (b)” wherever it occurs and substituting “or (q)”.

NOTE: 21 Section 15(1) and (2) presently read:

15(1) The Minister may make regulations

- (a) respecting how animals may be taken into custody;*
- (b) respecting the care of animals;*
- (c) respecting the approval of organizations as humane societies and the suspension and revocation of approvals;*
- (d) respecting a tariff of expenses that may be charged by a humane society or a caretaker for the care provided to an animal that has been taken into custody under this Act;*
- (e) respecting any matter the Minister considers necessary to administer this Act.*

(2) A regulation under subsection (1)(a) or (b) may adopt or incorporate, in whole or in part or with modifications, published documents that set out standards, codes, guidelines or other rules relating to any matter in respect of which a regulation may be made under subsection (1)(a) or (b).

22 This Act comes into force on Proclamation.

NOTE: 22 Coming into force.

RECORD OF DEBATE

Stage	Date	Member	From	To
		Interventions	From	To
Stage	Date	Member	From	To
		Interventions	From	To
Stage	Date	Member	From	To
		Interventions	From	To
Stage	Date	Member	From	To
		Interventions	From	To
Stage	Date	Member	From	To
		Interventions	From	To
Stage	Date	Member	From	To
		Interventions	From	To



Memo

TO: Councillor Allan Gano, ASB Chair

FROM: Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations

DATE: June 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Support for Advocacy Efforts – Inclusion of Veterinarians and Animal Health Technicians in the Canada Student Loan Forgiveness Program

Administration wishes to inform the Agricultural Service Board that it has supported advocacy efforts related to Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Resolution 3-26S, *Inclusion of Veterinarians and Animal Health Technicians in the Federal Student Loan Forgiveness Program*, by promoting the MD of Wainwright's *Economic Value of Veterinary Access* survey through the County of Stettler's Facebook page.

The Canada Student Loan Forgiveness Program currently supports several essential professions working in rural and underserved communities; however, veterinarians and animal health technicians are not eligible. In Spring 2026, RMA members passed Resolution 3-26S, calling on the federal government to extend eligibility to these professions to help address veterinary service shortages in rural areas.

To support this advocacy, the MD of Wainwright developed a survey to collect feedback from Alberta producers on the economic value of veterinary services. While Administration has promoted the survey as requested by RMA, the Agricultural Service Board may also wish to submit a survey response prior to the June 30, 2026 deadline.

ATTACHED: RMA Advocacy for the Inclusion of Veterinarians into the Canada Student Loan Forgiveness Program

ATTACHED: Resolution 3-26S, Inclusion of Veterinarians and Animal Health Technicians in the Federal Student Loan Forgiveness Program

Advocacy for the Inclusion of Veterinarians into the Canada Student Loan Forgiveness Program

Posted on: May 29, 2026

Access to rural veterinarians and animal health technicians is vital to the safety, sustainability, and success of agricultural producers across the country.

The Government of Canada has implemented the **Canada Student Loan Forgiveness Program** (<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/education/student-aid/grants-loans/repay/assistance/student-loan-forgiveness.html>) to attract and retain essential professionals in rural and underserved areas. Examples of eligible occupations include family doctors, nurses, teachers, social workers, and pharmacists. However, veterinarians and animal health technicians are not included in the list of occupations eligible for student loan forgiveness.

The exclusion of veterinarians and animal health technicians from this federal incentive is a missed opportunity to support a critical service in rural communities that has a direct impact on the economic stability of the country.

To support further advocacy for the inclusion of veterinarians and animal health technicians into the Canada Student Loan Forgiveness Program, The Municipal District of Wainwright has created a **survey** (<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=NJ0G5uONc0SG6owNwGHY6n96hU0j0VNlp1cH7Sy-vANUNTA2VU05WVNXWFMxMUFWRIVJTUZUMzY1VY4u&route=shorturl>) to show the economic value of veterinary access in Alberta. The survey is intended to gather input from Albertan **farmers and ranchers** about the importance of veterinary services to agricultural productivity, animal health, and business viability. RMA is encouraging all members to share this survey with their agricultural sector to ensure maximum participation. All responses are anonymous and the **deadline to complete the survey is June 30, 2026**.

In Spring 2026, RMA members passed **Resolution 3-26S** (<https://rmalberta.com/resolutions/3-26s-inclusion-of-veterinarians-and-animal-health-technicians-in-the-federal-student-loan-forgiveness-program/>), which calls for amendments to the Canada Student Loan Forgiveness Program to include veterinarians and animal health technicians who commit to practicing in rural, remote, or underserved communities. To support this resolution and other advocacy priorities, RMA is working with the **Alberta Veterinary Medical Association** (<https://abvma.ca/>) to better understand recruitment and retention challenges of animal health professionals in rural areas.

For more information, contact RMA's Policy and Advocacy Team at advocacy@rmalberta.com or 825.319.2383.



Request for Decision

Agenda Item: Rescheduling of the July 15, 2026 ASB Meeting

Issue

That the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board will be on the 2026 Provincial ASB Summer Tour during our regularly scheduled meeting time of July 15, 2026.

Options for Consideration (Recommendation)

1. That County of Stettler Agricultural Services Board reschedules the July 15, 2026, 10:00 a.m. Agricultural Services Board Meeting to Thursday, July 23, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
2. That the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board cancel the July 15, 2026 10:00 a.m. Agricultural Services Board Meeting.

General

Some of the Agricultural Service Board Members will be in attendance at the 2026 Provincial ASB Summer Tour in Wheatland County.

Financial

Agricultural Services Board Meetings incur financial costs of Board Member per diems and a provided lunch.

Policy/Legislation

Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c M-26, s 195

The municipality must give at least 24 hours' notice of a council committee meeting

- (a) To the members of the council committee, and
- (b) To the public

Implementation/Communication

The Board's decision will be communicated as directed.

Target Decision Date

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Prepared By

Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Services

Reviewed By

Greggory Jackson, Director of Operations

Yvette Cassidy, Chief Administrative Officer

Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

June 04, 2026

Precipitation

Since the May 20 report, precipitation accumulation varied markedly between the week of May 21 to 27 and May 28 to June 3 (**Maps 1 and 2**). Virtually no precipitation, less than 2 mm, fell across the agricultural regions between May 21 to 27 with only a few isolated areas receiving 3 to 10 mm. Most of the province received less than 30 per cent of normal precipitation for this period (**Map 3**). In contrast, between May 28 and June 3, much of the province received more than 30 mm of precipitation, with some areas exceeding 100 mm (**Map 3**).

The highest precipitation fell south and east of a line running from the Clearwater County north through the municipalities of Lac Ste Anne, Westlock, Lesser Slave Lake, Opportunity, and into Wood Buffalo (**Map 2**). Municipalities across the North East, Central, and South Regions received more than 30 mm between May 29 and June 2. This five-day accumulation exceeded 250 per cent of average (**Map 3**).

In the North East Region, precipitation accumulation exceeded 100 mm in parts of the municipalities of Lac La Biche, Bonnyville, St. Paul, Lamont, Two Hills, Minburn and Vermillion River (**Map 2**). The municipalities of Athabasca and Thorhild received a more modest 40 to 60 mm. The lowest rainfall in the region was recorded in parts of the County of Vermillion River, which received 20 to 30 mm.

In the Central Region, precipitation accumulation exceeded 100 mm across parts of the municipalities of Beaver, Flagstaff, Clearwater, Kneehill, Starland, and Special Area No. 2 (**Map 2**). The lowest precipitation, in the region, 30 to 60 mm, was recorded in parts of the municipalities of Wainwright, Provost, Acadia and Special Areas No. 4, No. 3, and No.2.

The highest precipitation was received across the South Region, with very high precipitation received in the mountains and in the municipalities of Kananaskis, Ranchland, Pincher Creek, Cardston, Wheatland, Forty Mile, and Cypress (**Map 2**). A few isolated areas across the region received 30 to 60 mm of precipitation; including parts of the municipalities of Cypress, Forty Mile, Warner, Willow Creek, and Vulcan.

In contrast, less than 20 mm was recorded across much of the Peace Region (**Map 2**). A large area of the region, extending across the municipalities of Yellowhead, Greenview, Grande Prairie, Birch Hills, Spirit River, Saddle Hills, Fairview, Peace, Clear Hills, and Northern Lights received less than 10 mm of precipitation between May 28 and June 3. This represents less than 50 per cent of average precipitation for the region and period (**Map 3**).

Growing-season precipitation accumulation relative to normal (April 1 to June 3) changed dramatically due to the rainfall received between May 28 and June 3 (**Map 4**). Much of the North East, Central, and South Regions have now received near- to above-normal growing-season precipitation compared to long-term normal with totals ranging from 110 to 200 per cent of normal (**Map 5**). Much of the North East Region and parts of the Central Region, thanks to the recent rainfall, are now reporting precipitation accumulations that occur less than once every 25 years or more. These areas have received more than 200 per cent of normal precipitation so far this growing season (**Map 5**).

Growing-season precipitation has been moderately high to high across several municipalities in the North East Region, including parts of Vermilion River, St. Paul, Lamont, Thorhild, Athabasca, Smoky Lake, Bonnyville, Lac La Biche, and Wood Buffalo (**Map 5**). These areas have received approximately 110 to 175 per cent of normal precipitation so far this growing season (**Map 6**). Much of the remaining North East Region has received near-normal growing-season precipitation.

In contrast, growing-season precipitation, relative to the long-term normal across most of the North West and Peace Regions has remained low to extremely low this year (**Map 4**). These areas did not receive the moisture observed across the rest of the province between May 28 and June 3. These areas have received less than 70 per cent of their normal growing-season precipitation to date (**Map 5**). Parts of several municipalities, including Greenview, Grande Prairie, Spirit River, and Birch Hills have received less than 30 per cent of their normal growing-season precipitation.

Below-normal growing-season precipitation to date has also been recorded in the counties of Cardston and Warner in the South Region (Map 4).

June typically marks the beginning the Alberta's rainy season (Map 7), with precipitation increasing substantially through May and June. Long-term forecasts currently indicate the potential for above-normal rainfall during June.

Temperature

Average daily mean growing-season temperatures have been near the long-term normal across most of the province (Map 8). Municipalities along the Saskatchewan border, from Paintearth north through Camrose, Sturgeon, Westlock, Athabasca, and into Wood Buffalo have had moderately cooler average daily mean growing-season temperatures to date.

In contrast, municipalities along the foothills and into the South Region have experienced moderately warm temperatures relative to long-term normal (Map 8). This includes parts of Grande Prairie, Greenview, Woodlands, Yellowhead, Clearwater, Mountain View Bighorn, Rocky View, Foothills, Willow Creek, Pincher Creek, Lethbridge, Taber, Cardston and Warner.

The 7-day average daily mean temperature was near normal to moderately cooler for the first three weeks of this growing season (Map 9). The temperatures from the end of April through to the end of May varied week to week, ranging from very cool to very warm. Most recently, temperatures have been near normal to moderately warm.

365-Day Precipitation Trends

The year-over-year precipitation conditions have improved significantly thanks to the recent rainfall (Map 10). Conditions have improved for most of the province, including much of the South, Central and North East Regions.

Year-over-year conditions remain highly variable, with significant precipitation deficits persisting across much of Alberta (Map 10). Across most of the Central, North West, and Peace Regions, 365-day precipitation totals range from moderately low to very low relative to long-term normal. Municipalities around Red Deer, though Edmonton, into the North West and Peace Regions, as well as through Wainwright and Provost, remain moderately to low relative to long-term normal.

Several areas, including parts of the municipalities of Grande Prairie, Greenview, Smoky River, Yellowhead, Clearwater, Ponoka, and Wainwright are experiencing

very to extremely low 365-day precipitation accumulations (Map 10).

Soil Moisture Reserves

Estimated spring wheat soil moisture reserves as of June 3 have changed since the previous report. Soil moisture reserves, assessed to a depth of 120 cm and expressed relative to long-term normal, have improved dramatically across much of the South, Central, and North East Regions due to recent rainfall (Map 11). Soils moisture is now estimated to be near normal across most of these regions, with reserves ranging from 80 to 140 mm (Map 12). This represents a positive departure from normal of approximately 15 to 50 mm (Map 13).

Moderately below-normal soil moisture is estimated in municipalities around Red Deer, including Mountain View, Red Deer, Lacombe, Ponoka, Wetaskiwin, Clearwater, as well as in the south in Cardston and Warner (Map 11). Soil moisture in these areas is estimated to be 15 to 50 mm below normal to a depth of 120 cm (Map 13).

In contrast, soil moisture reserves in the North West and Peace Regions, relative to long-term normal, have declined since the last report (Map 11). Reserves are estimated to be low to extremely low across these Regions. Soil moisture is estimated to be between 20 and 80 mm to a depth of 120 cm, which is approximately 25 to 75 mm below normal (Map 12 and 13).

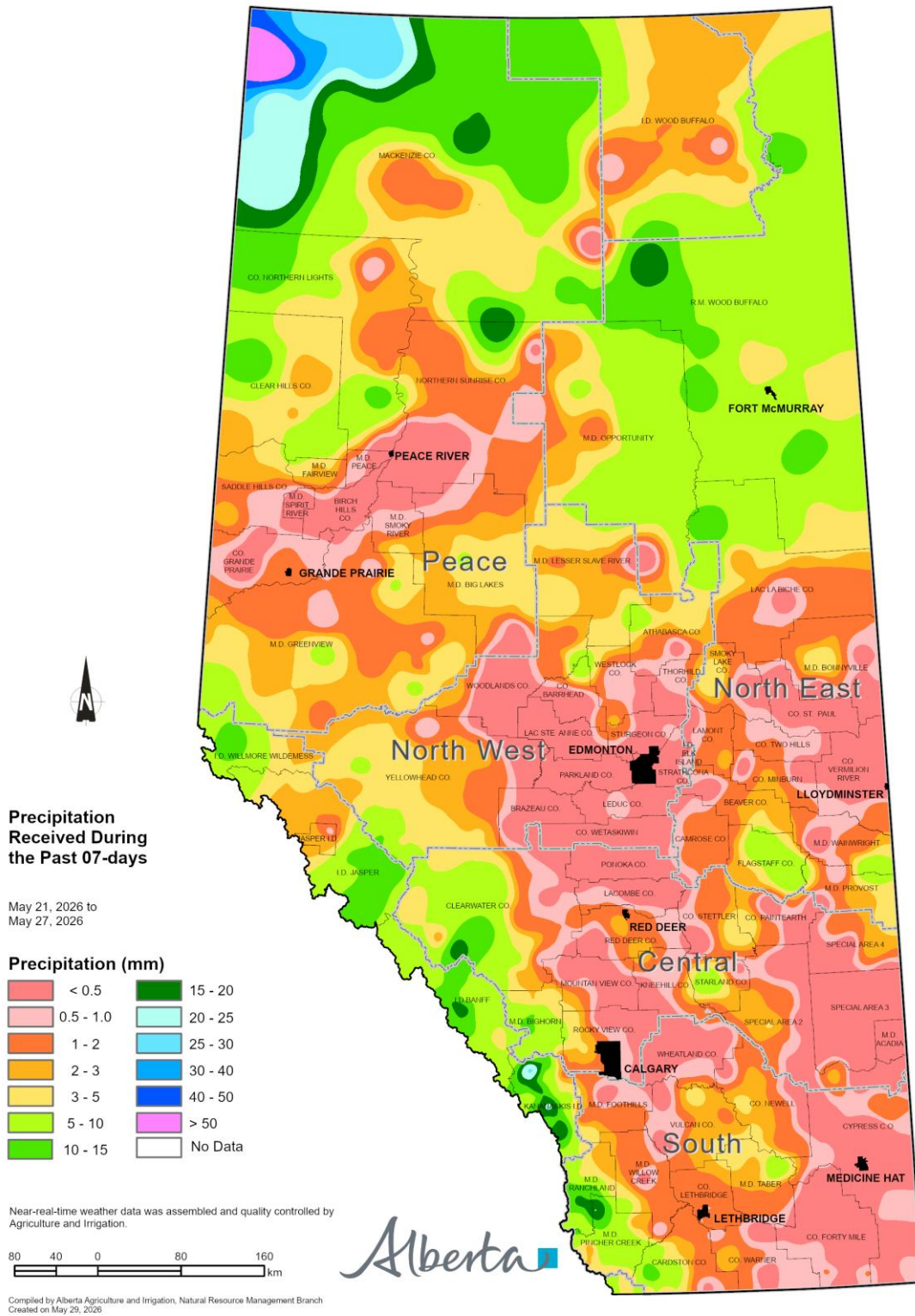
Perspective

Alberta's growing season is just beginning, and the province's wettest period is still ahead (Map 7). From an agricultural perspective, May, June, and July are the most critical months for moisture, accounting for more than 50 per cent of annual precipitation in the Central Region and at least 40 per cent across much of the Peace Region (Map 14).

Recent rainfall has helped replenish soil moisture for much of the province. Forecasts continue to indicate additional rainfall in the coming weeks.

For now, patience remains important, with timely precipitation expected to support crop development and help replenish soil moisture reserves, which are essential later in the growing season.

Map 1



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 2

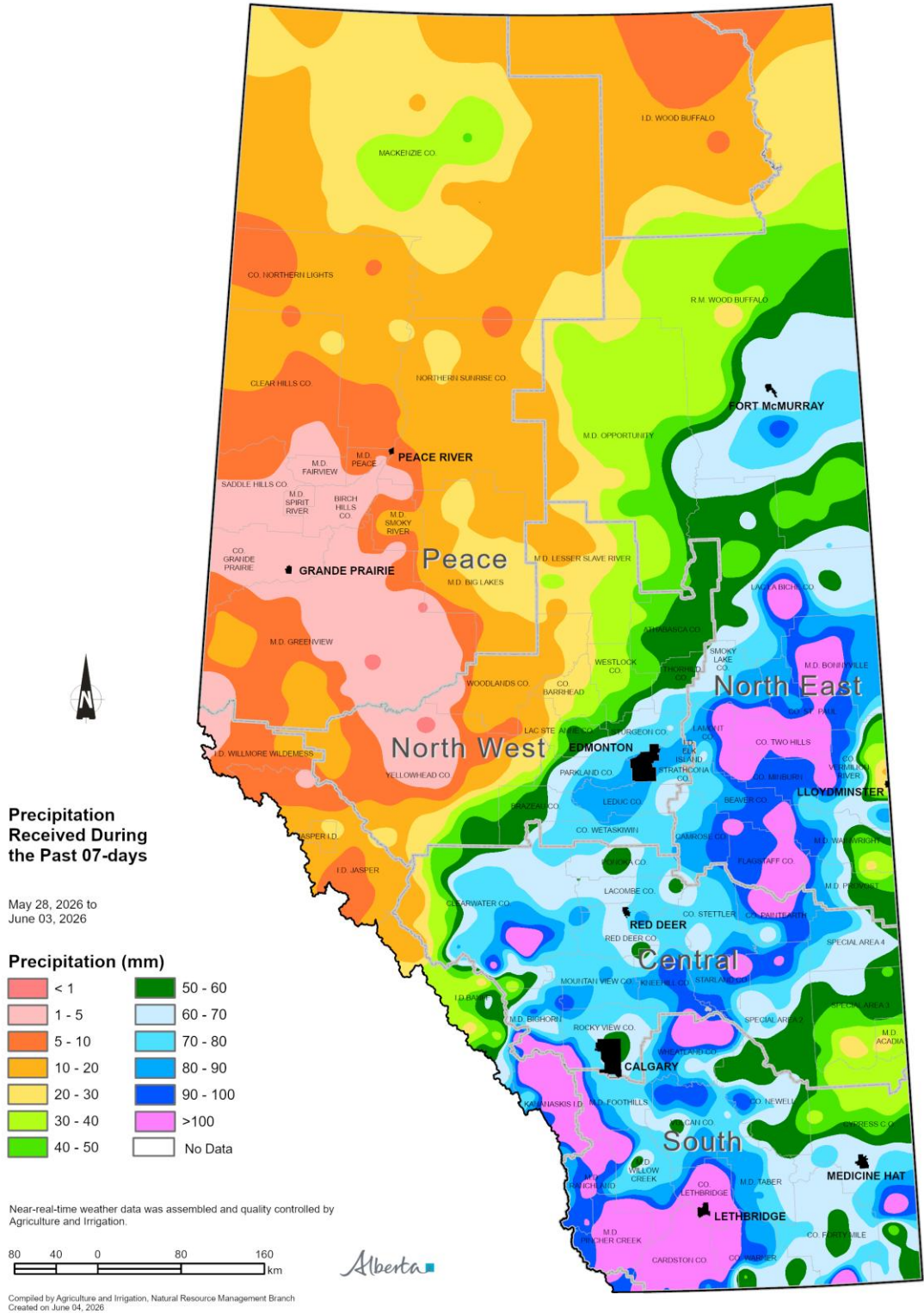
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/moisture-situation-update>

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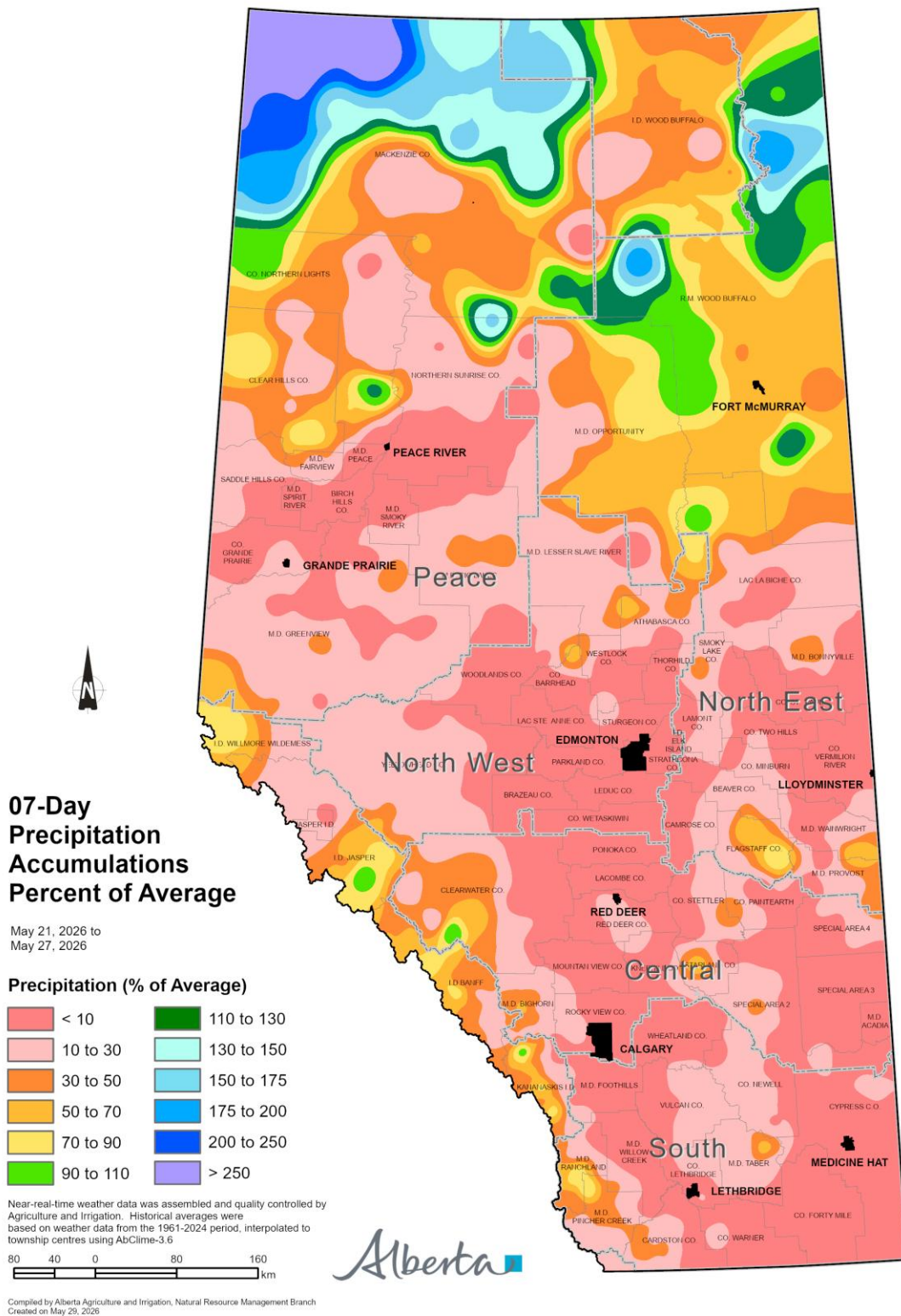
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Map 3



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Map 4

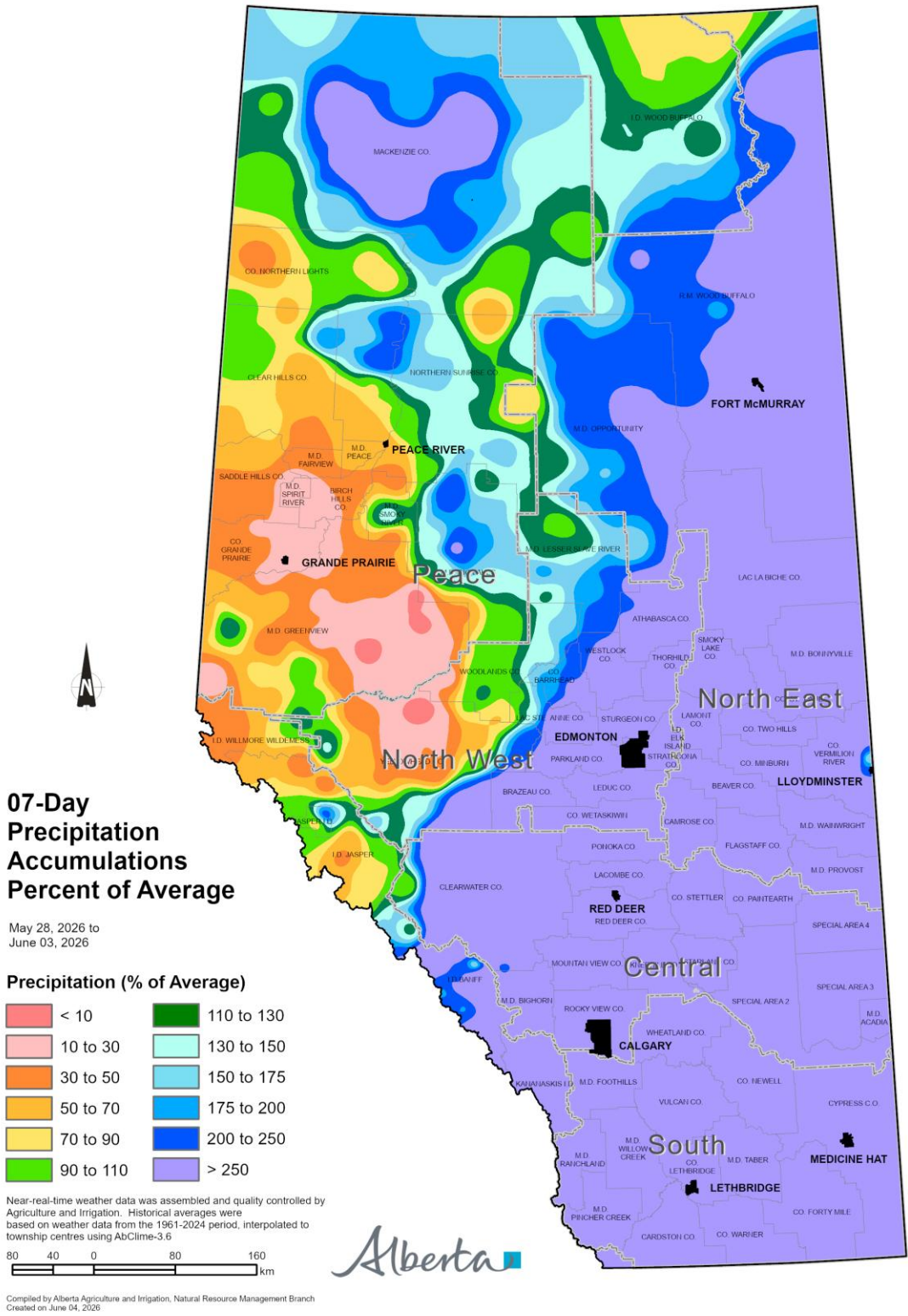
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Map 5

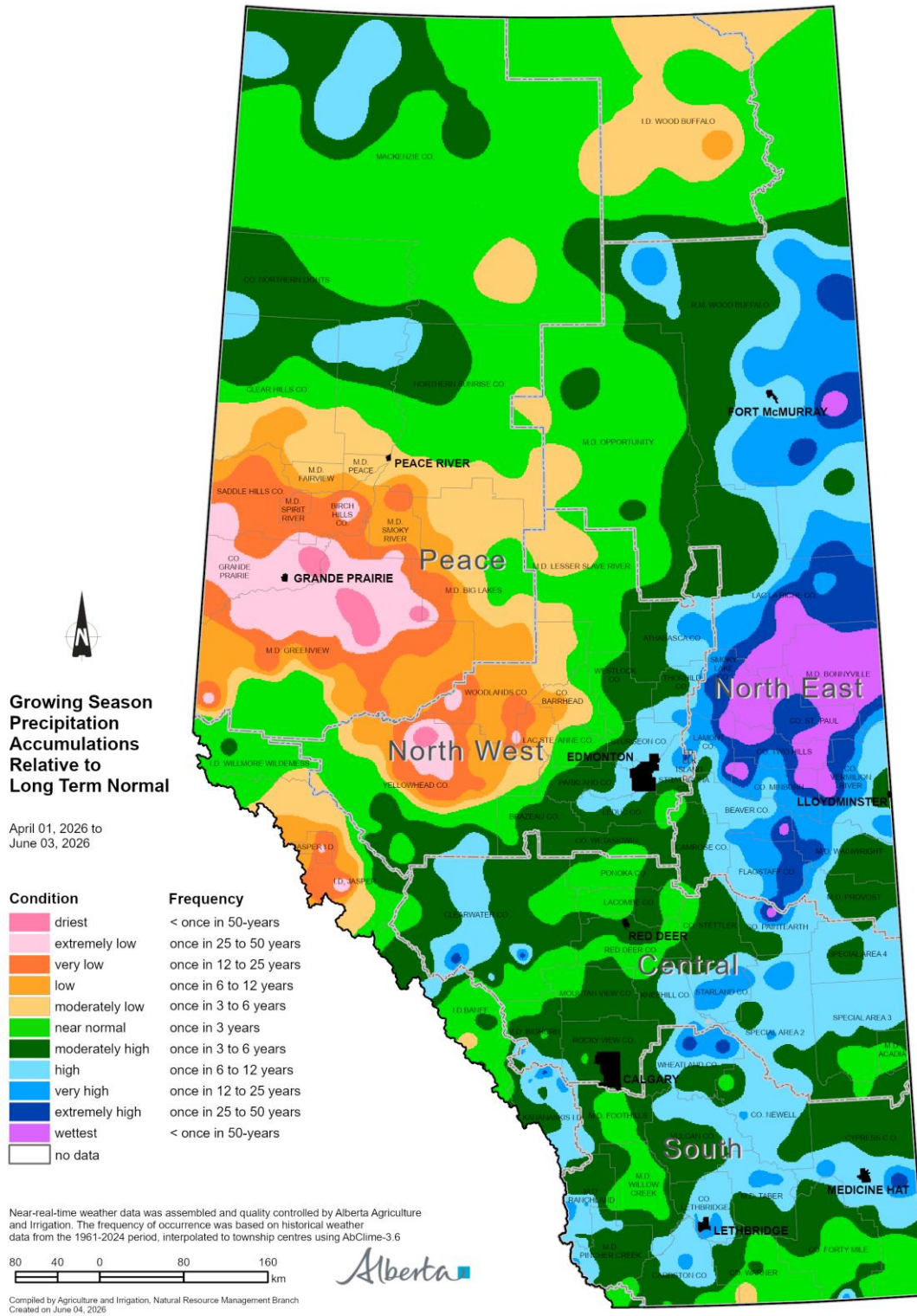
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Map 6

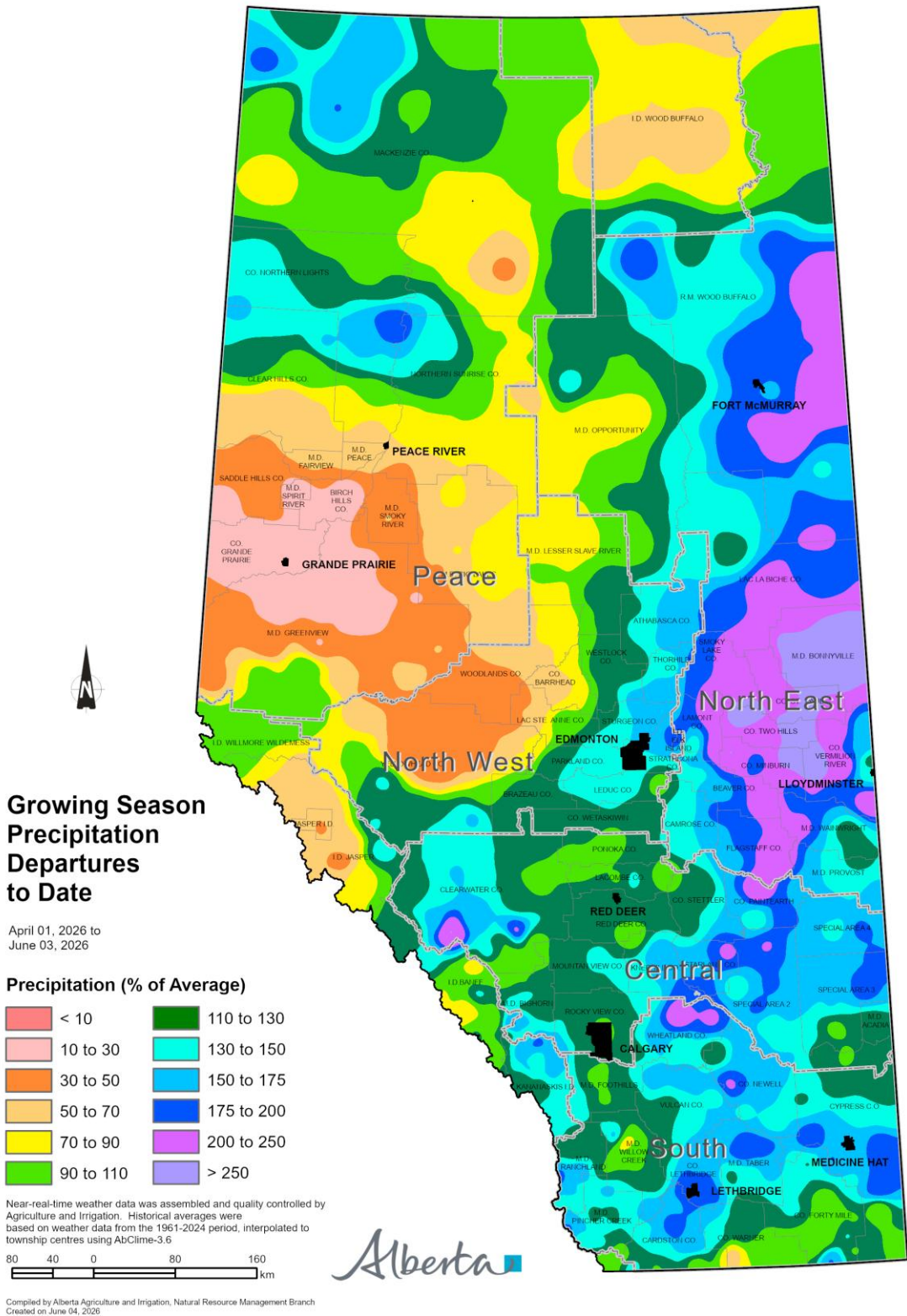
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/moisture-situation-update>

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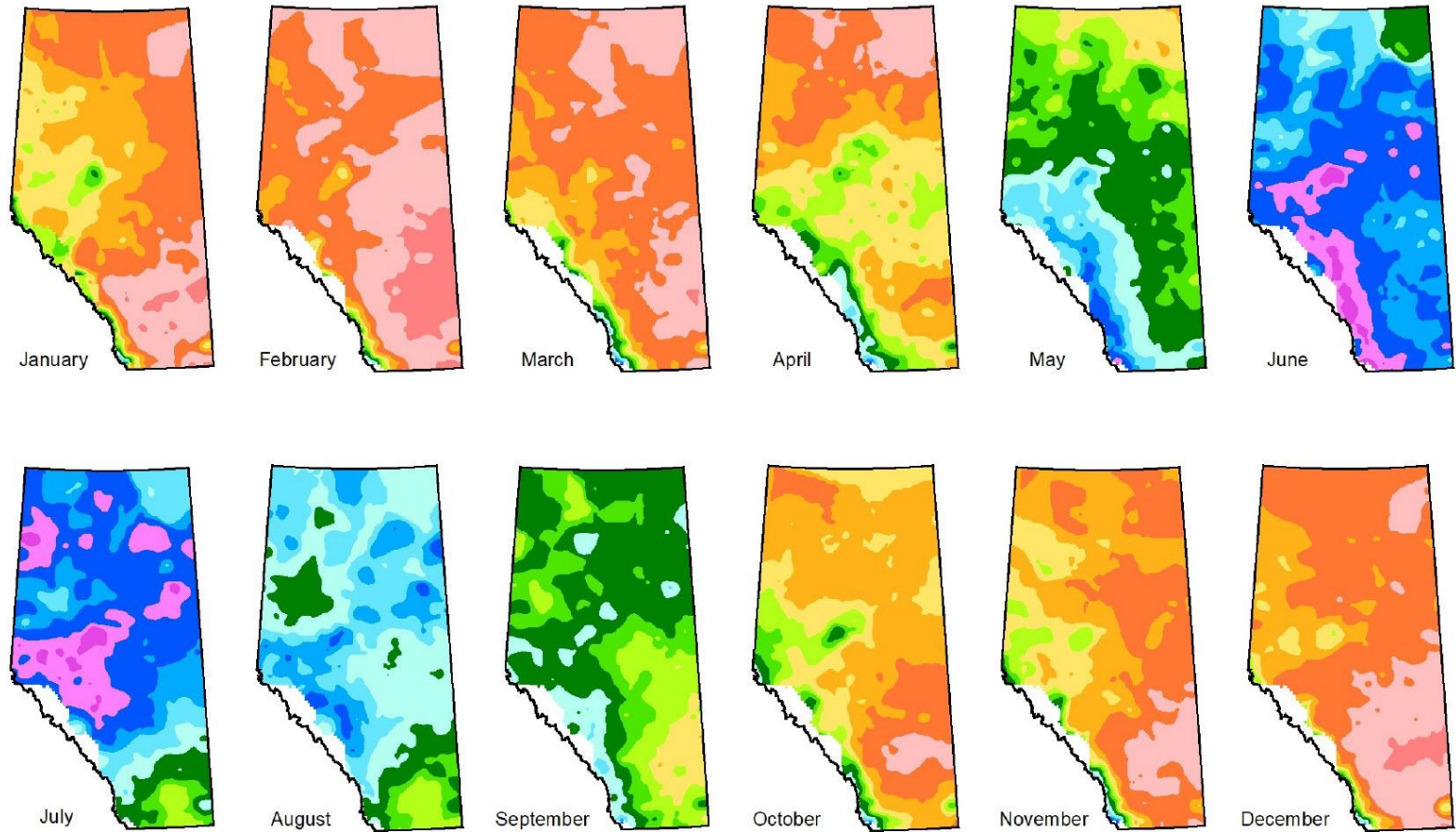
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Map 7



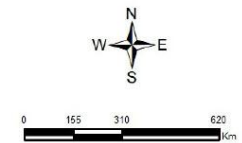
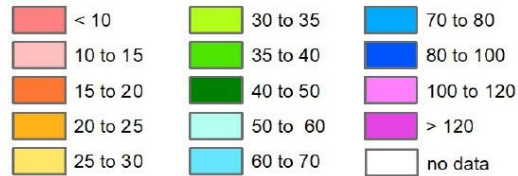
Normal Monthly Precipitation Accumulations

1991-2020

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

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

Precipitation (mm)



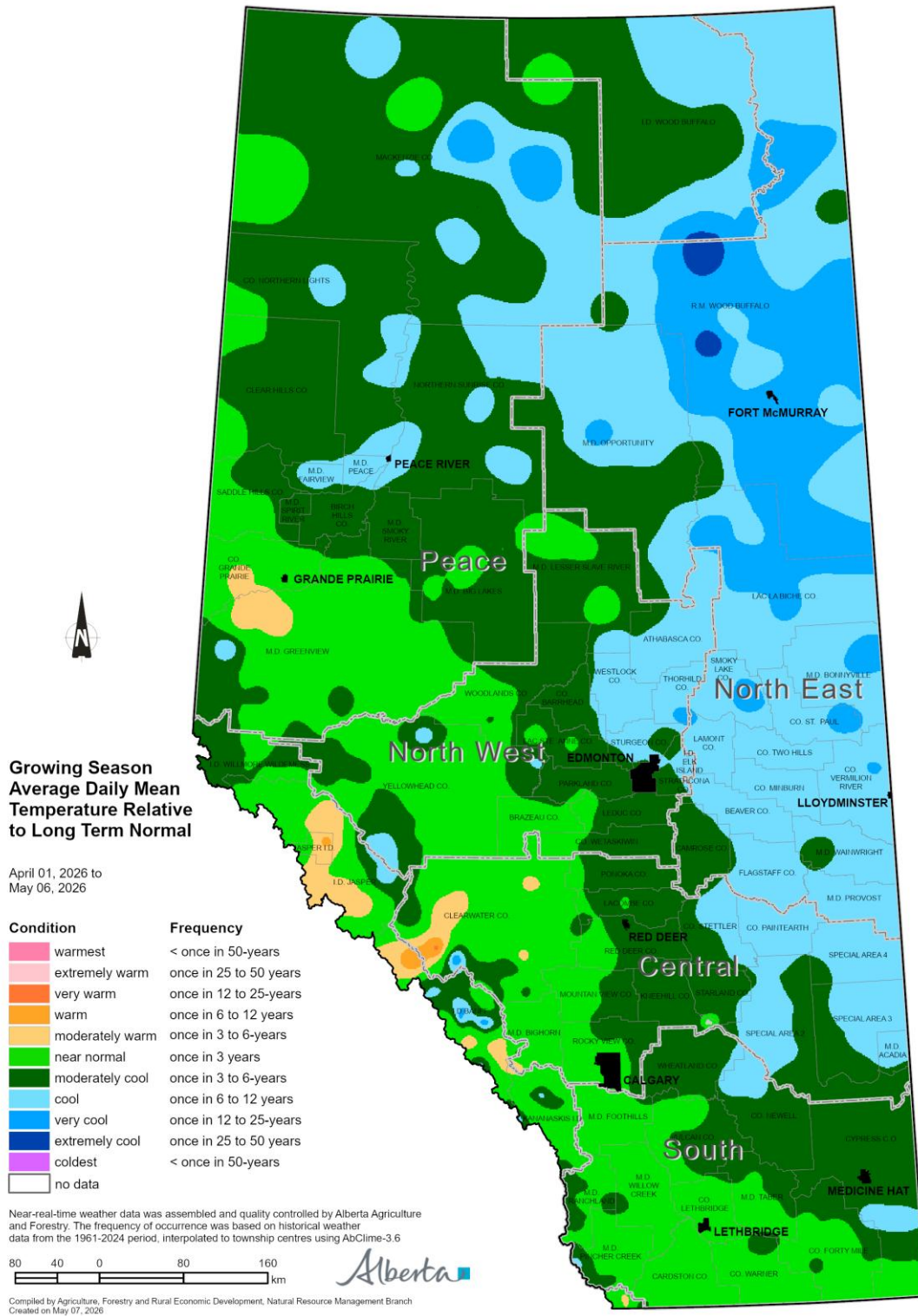
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/moisture-situation-update>

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Map 8



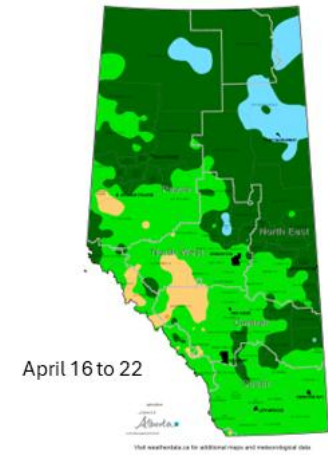
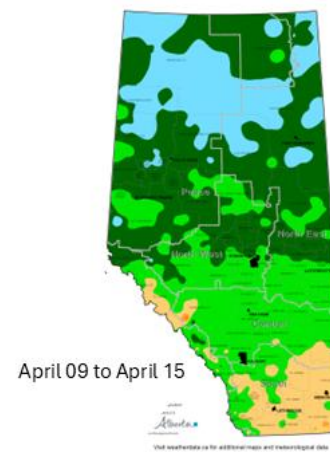
Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 9

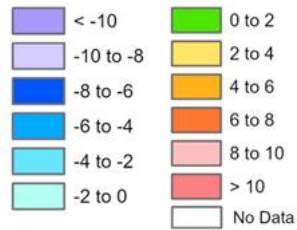
Map 9

07-Day
Average Daily Mean
Temperature Departure
From Long Term Average

April 02nd to
May 06th



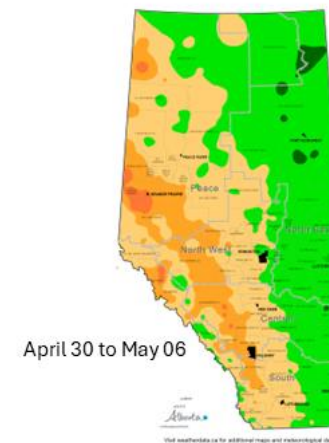
Degree Celsius



Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Historical averages were based on weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClimate-3.6



Classification: Protected A

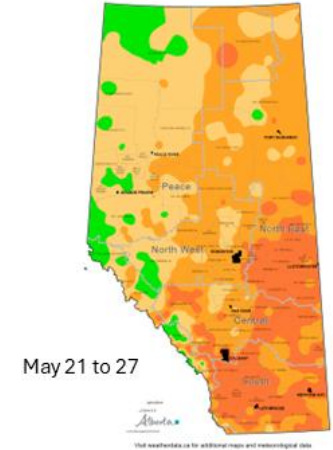
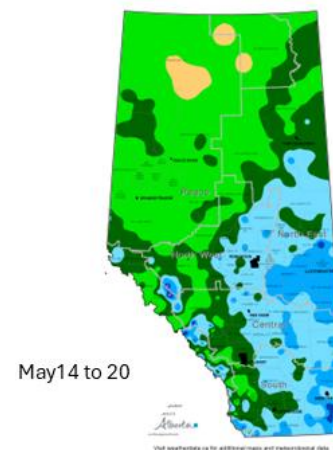
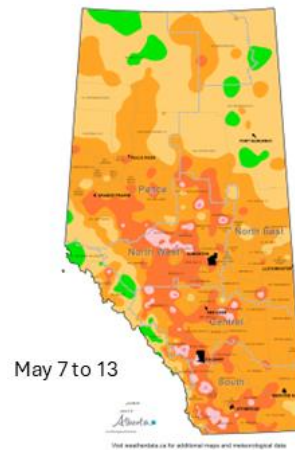


Map 10

Map 10

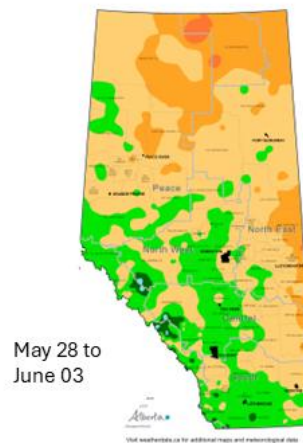
07-Day
Average Daily Mean
Temperature Relative to
Long Term Normal

April 02nd to
May 06th

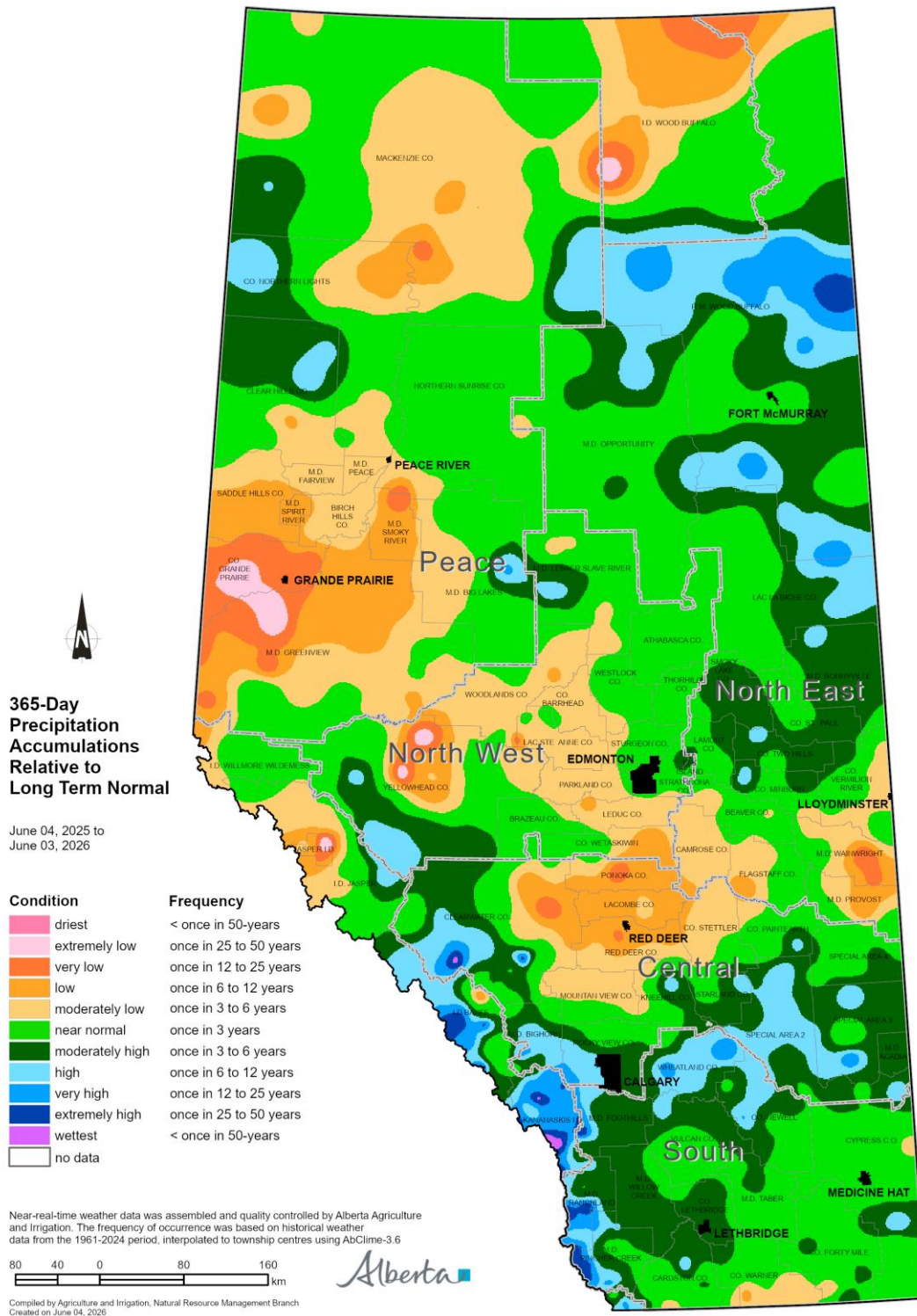


Condition	Frequency
warmest	< once in 50-years
extremely warm	once in 25 to 50-years
very warm	once in 12 to 25-years
warm	once in 6 to 12 years
moderately warm	once in 3 to 6-years
near normal	once in 3 years
moderately cool	once in 3 to 6-years
cool	once in 6 to 12 years
very cool	once in 12 to 25-years
extremely cool	once in 25 to 50 years
coldest	< once in 50-years
no data	

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by and Forestry. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2024 period, interpolated to township centres using



Map 10



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Map 11

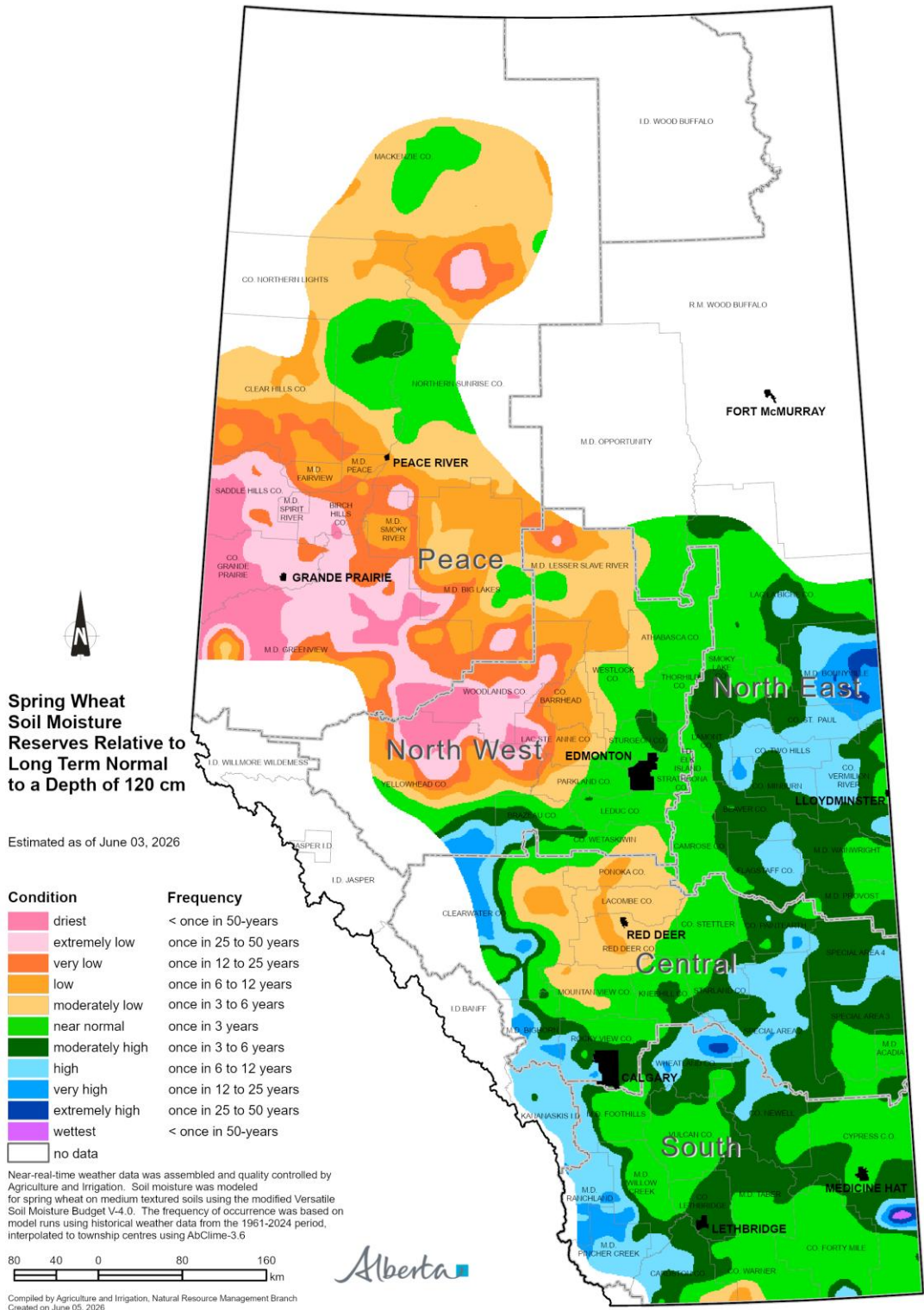
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Map 12

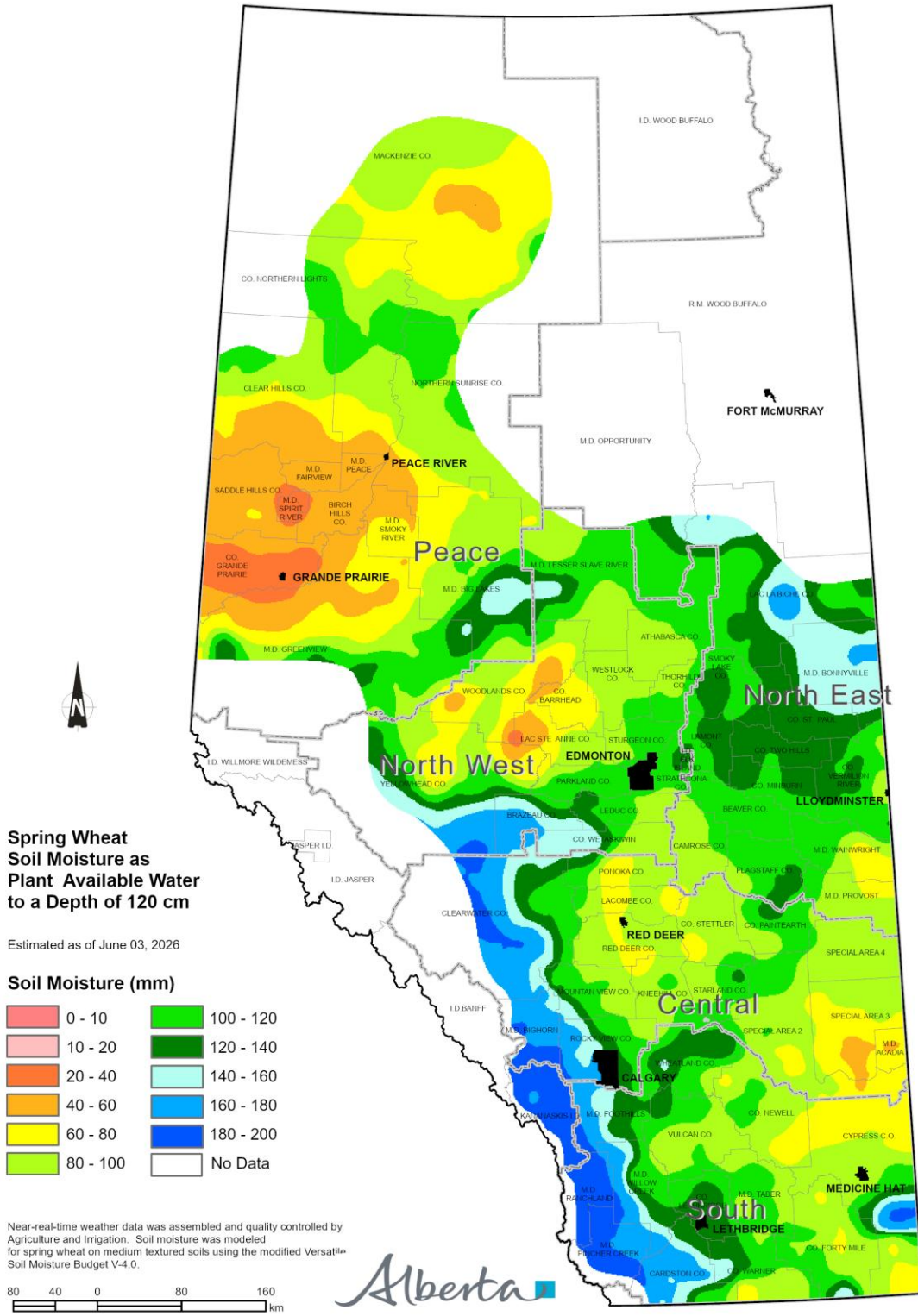
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Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Stewardship Division, Technology and Innovation Branch
Created on June 05, 2026

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Map 13

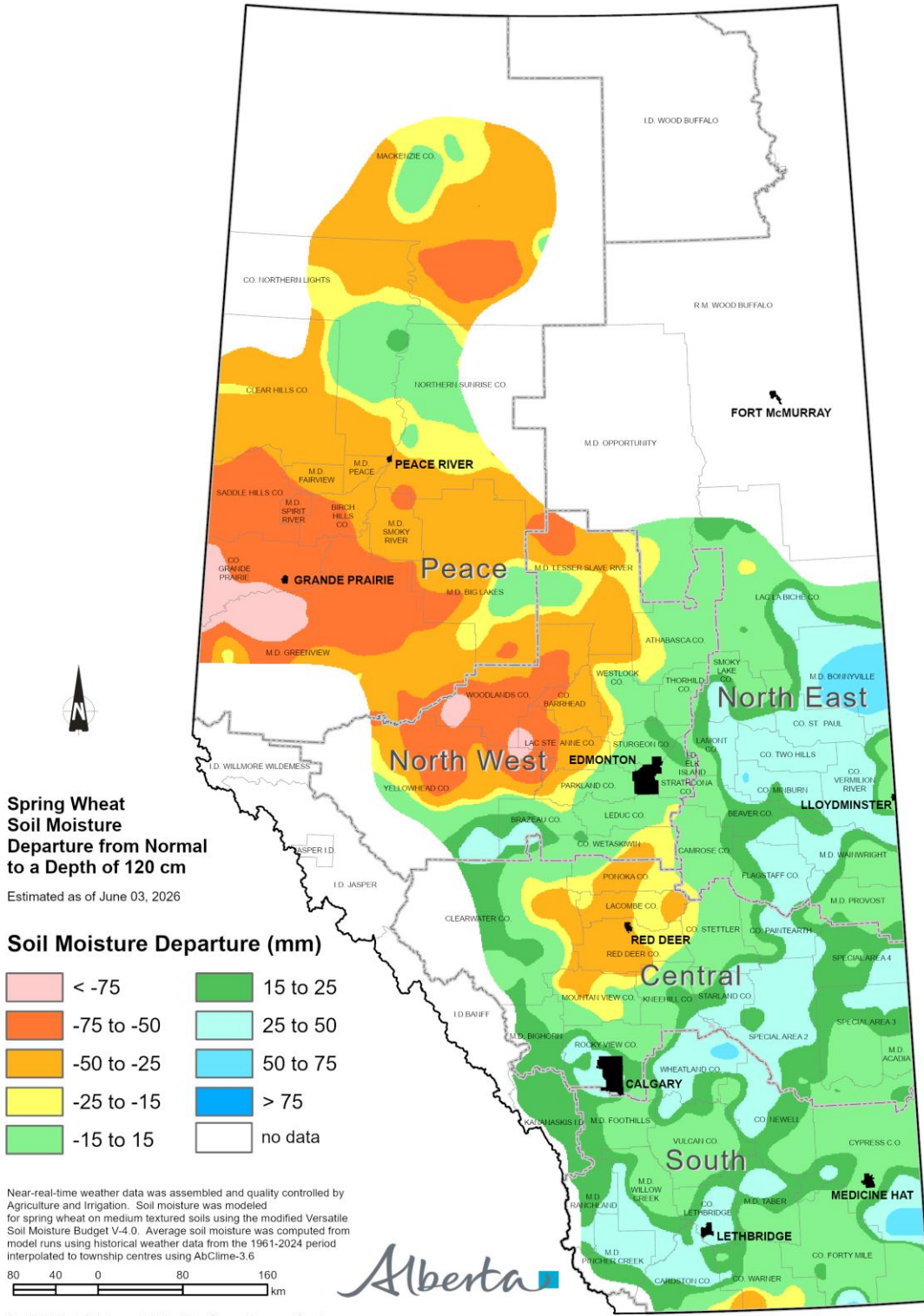
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Map 14

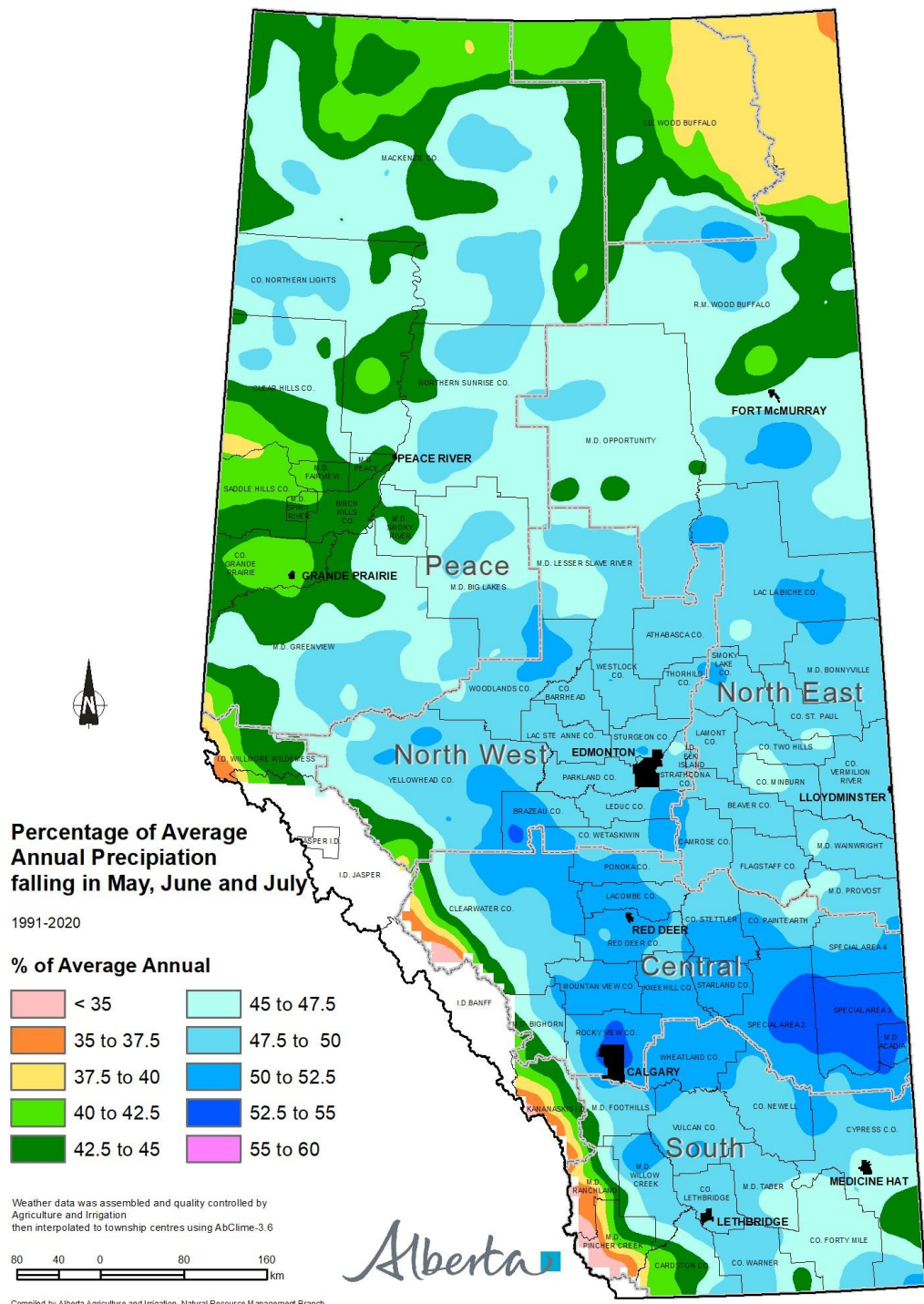
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Referral Criteria for Shared-Jurisdiction Pest and Weed Infractions

Agricultural Pests Act and Weed Control Act

This document establishes referral criteria to guide when [pest and weed infractions](#) can be referred to the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) on its regulated sites for RCAM Orders. All referrals must be submitted through the [web form](#). Supporting information may be provided by email to weed.control@aer.ca. Refer to Figure 1 for the process schematic.

Jurisdiction for pest and weed management is now shared with Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) and local authorities (including Agricultural Service Boards) by [regulation](#) pursuant to the Oil and Gas Conservation Act. The Order expires March 31, 2031.

The criteria presented respects the primary role of AGI inspectors or local authority inspectors in managing pests and weeds and establishes when referrals to the AER for a RCAM order is appropriate. Where an RCAM order for weeds or pests has been issued, the AGI or local authority inspector will provide expert evidence to support RCAM order closure or appeals process.

To ensure that the AER can proceed with an RCAM order the criteria in Table 1 must be met for referral.

AGI or local authority inspectors remain the primary agency of jurisdiction and subject matter experts to support the RCAM Order and the AER's Statutory Decision Makers. AER staff may follow up with the submitter for further information once the referral is received. The submitter will be informed when the order is issued and may be called upon to provide further information or expertise to the AER. The AER is not able to collect money from licensees or approval holders to compensate or reimburse AGI or local authorities for costs incurred in relation to activities for weed or pest control.

The RCAM order referral process does not apply for pipeline rights-of-way . First Nation reserves are also excluded as pests and weeds are the responsibility of Indian Oil and Gas Canada.

*For document clarity, local authority inspector refers to a municipal inspector, as per the Weed Control Act

Figure 1 – Referral Process Schematic

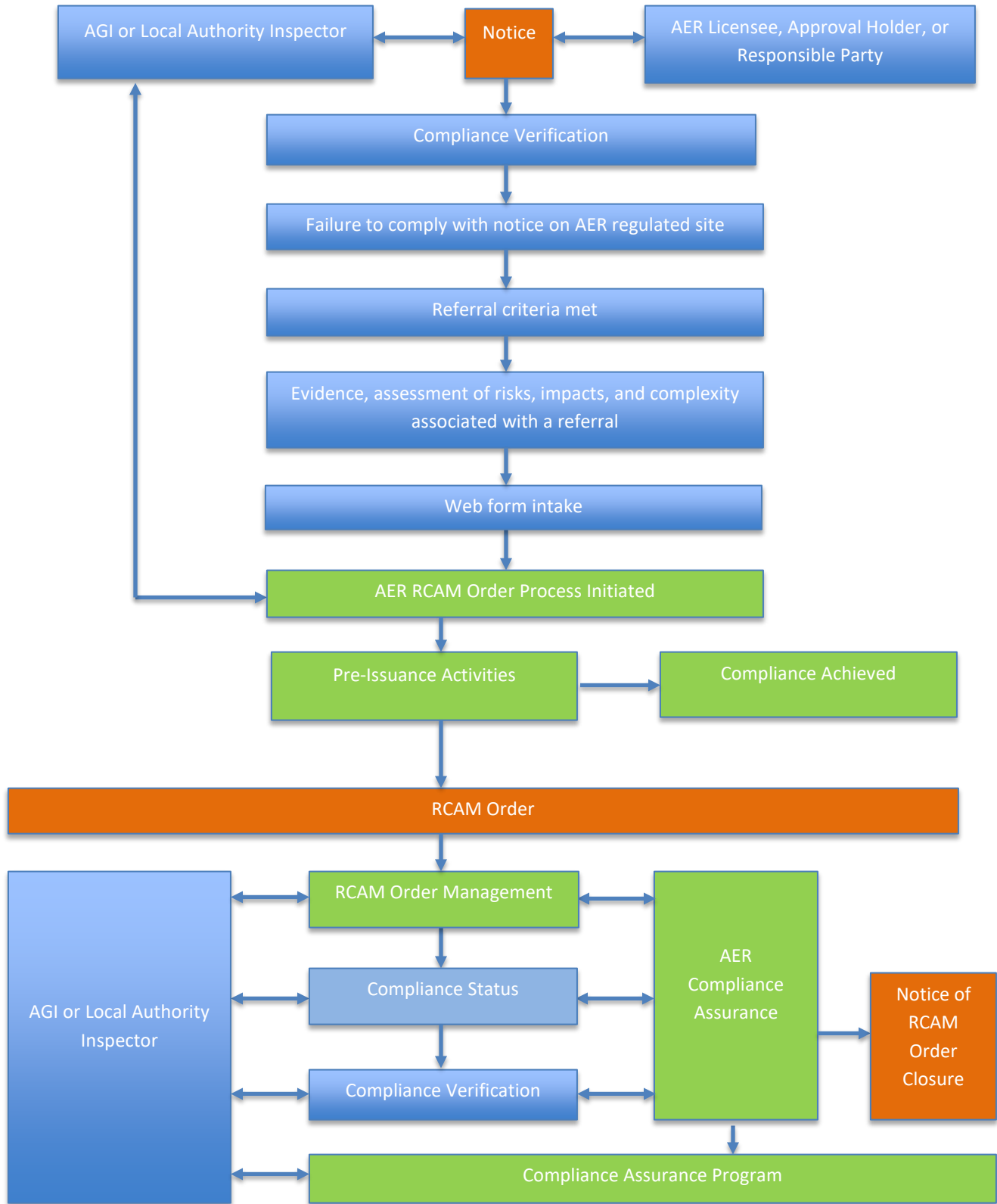


Table 1 – Referral Criteria

	Referral Criterion	Explanation
1.	Documented Evidence of an AER-Regulated Activity Nexus	The pest or weed issue is directly attributable to an AER-regulated activity, site, or approval holder under the OGCA. General agricultural infestations without a causal link remain with AGI or local authorities. Pipelines are excluded from the referral process under the OGCA.
2.	Documented Evidence of Failure to Act Following Local Authority Notice	An AGI inspector or local authority inspector has issued direction or notice under the <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i> or <i>Weed Control Act</i> and the licensee has failed to comply within the time provided in the notice. Any appeals or consequential stays must have concluded before referral.
3.	Documented Evidence of Risk Escalation Requiring Coordination.	The infestation presents elevated risk (spread, persistence, scale, or impact) requiring multi-jurisdictional cooperation.
4.	Documented Evidence of Impacts as described within the <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i> and <i>Weed Control Act</i> .	Pests or weeds are present on private, municipal, or crown lands and includes an AER-regulated site.
5.	Documented Evidence of Refusal to Cooperate or Obstruction	If a weed or pest issue exists on an AER regulated site, and the licensee refuses access or obstructs inspection

Information Required for the Referral

AGI Provincial inspectors and local authority inspectors can access the [OneStop Public Map Viewer](#) to identify where AER licensed assets are located. The viewer shows energy industry assets, including wells, facilities, compressor stations, pipelines and incidents within a specific area. The map viewer also shows reclamation applications and oil and gas dispositions. Specific regions include cities, protected areas, Indigenous lands, and military bases.

Contact details for AER licensees and approval holders are available in the [ST104](#) publication, which is updated monthly. This may assist AGI and local authority inspectors accessing sites through accompanied site visits with the licensee or approval holder’s field staff for safe and timely access at AER-regulated sites. An additional source of information is the [AER Licence Reports](#), updated daily.

Before referral to the AER, AGI and local authority inspectors should check a site’s status against the Orphan Well Association’s (OWA) inventory using its [interactive map](#) or site-specific inventory list that is updated periodically by the OWA. It lists orphan sites currently undergoing decommissioning, reclamation, or is closed with a reclamation certificate issued by the AER.

Information on AER RCAM orders issued is available on the AER's [Compliance Dashboard](#). The Compliance Dashboard may also include prior Orders if the AER has directed the remaining working interest participant(s) to conduct decommissioning and/or reclamation of a site held by a defunct or insolvent licensee.

If further assistance at an AER regulated site is needed, a layer in the [OneStop Public Map Viewer](#) is available to show the AER operational boundaries and the responsible Field Centre. Contact details are listed below.

Table 2 – AER Field Centre Contact Details

Field Centre (Region)	General Mailbox	Phone Number
Field Operations, Central - Edmonton	FieldOpsCentral@aer.ca	780-642-9310
Field Operations, Central - Slave Lake	FieldOpsCentral@aer.ca	780-843-2050
Field Operations, Northeast - Fort McMurray	FieldOpsNortheast@aer.ca	780-743-7214
Field Operations, East - Bonnyville	FieldOpsEast@aer.ca	780-826-5352
Field Operations, West – Red Deer	FieldOpsWest@aer.ca	403-340-5454
Field Operations, West – Drayton Valley	FieldOpsWest@aer.ca	780-542-5182
Field Operations, Northwest – Grande Prairie	FieldOpsNorthwest@aer.ca	780-538-5138
Field Operations, South – Medicine Hat	FieldOpsSouth@aer.ca	403-527-3385

Any RCAM order issued will be based on information submitted by the referring agency or inspector, who may also be asked to provide additional information or technical expertise as needed throughout the order process.

The evidence provided must support the applicable categories outlined below. The risks, impacts, and complexity associated with a specific referral, as well as AER resourcing considerations, may influence whether an AER response is issued and may also affect the scope, timing, and nature of the response. Additional guidance on required documentation is provided through the referral [web form](#).

AER Jurisdiction

- Clear, factual evidence that the weeds or pests are located within an **AER regulated lease, licence, or approval area related to an energy resource activity** (e.g., lease boundary mapping, site plans, geo-referenced photographs)

Identification of the Regulated Issue

- Identification of the weed or pest species observed, based on field observation
- Citation of the **applicable provincial legislation or regulation** under which the species is regulated (e.g., Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pests Act)
- Confirmation that the matter falls within AER jurisdiction due to the regulated activity or site
- Assessment of risks, impacts, and complexity associated with a referral. These parameters may determine if an AER response is issued, or may affect the nature, timing, and extent of an AER response.

Observed Condition and Extent

- Factual description (including notes, photographs, etc.) of the presence and condition of the weeds or pests on the regulated site
- Description of the extent of infestation as observed at the time of inspection (e.g., isolated, multiple locations, widespread)

Local Authority Enforcement Actions

- Records confirming that the local authority or AGI inspector has exercised their legislative authority
- Documented evidence that a person or entity failed or refused to respond to, or comply with, an order issued by an AGI or local authority inspector pursuant to legislation.
- Copies of notices, orders, warnings, or other enforcement actions issued
- Evidence that compliance was not achieved within the authority's available tools. Compliance means an AER licensee, approval holder, or a sites responsible party (e.g. OWA) has not complied with a notice. **Any appeals or consequential stays must have concluded before referral.**

Non-Compliance Confirmation

- Documentation demonstrating continued non-compliance following local authority action
- Evidence that further compliance cannot reasonably be achieved without AER intervention

Attestation

- Formal attestation from the local authority confirming:
 - The accuracy of the observations and documentation
 - That enforcement tools under their authority were applied
 - That compliance was not achieved
 - That the matter is being referred to AER for escalation

Wade Clark,
Assistant Deputy Minister
Energy Policy Division
Energy and Minerals

Date: _____

John Conrad
Assistant Deputy Minister
Primary Agriculture Division
Agriculture and Irrigation

Date: _____

Martin Foy
Chief Operations Officer
Operations Division
Alberta Energy Regulator

Date: _____