

# Fusarium Graminearum (FHB) Seed Viability Policy

**Subject:** Fusarium Graminearum

**Reference:** ASB

**CODE:** 63

**Date Approved:** May 26, 2015

**Motion#**845/26/05/15

**Replaces:** 09/25/11/22

The County of Northern Lights believes in promoting programs that will prevent the establishment of *Fusarium graminearum* (Fg) or Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) within the boundaries of the County. *Fusarium graminearum* is a pest under the Agricultural Pests Act (APA) of Alberta since 1984 under Section 2 of the Agricultural Pest Act due to its ability to lower quality and yield of cereal crops.

The prevention programs will consist of local meetings, inspections of grains at the seed cleaning plant, field inspections and farms visits. If the Alberta *Fusarium graminearum* Management Plan control measures are not carried out by confirmed cases of Fg the owner/occupant will be subject to enforcement under the APA. To promote the detection of *Fusarium graminearum* the County, in conjunction with the Manning Seed Cleaning Co-op, will provide a 50/50 cost share program to detect *Fusarium graminearum* and test for seedling vigour and germination.

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Chief Elected Official

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Chief Administrative Officer

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide direction for the County of Northern Lights to reduce the impacts of *Fusarium graminearum* (Fg), effectively controlling the spread of Fg in the County and Peace Region.
- 1.2 To administer, direct and enforce the APA for *Fusarium graminearum* of cereals in an equitable, consistent and effective manner within the financial and human constraints of the County.
- 1.3 To protect agricultural land from the infestation of Fg.
- 1.4 To inspect Cereal crops in the County for the presence of Fg.

## **2.0 AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 2.1 Will provide direction, supervision and resources to the Agricultural Fieldman for carrying out this policy.

## **3.0 AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 3.1 Is the Pest Inspector for the County under the Agricultural Pests Act Section 6.
- 3.2 Will supervise, direct and be responsible for other Council appointed municipal Pest Inspectors under APA section 10.
- 3.3 Will be solely responsible for the issuance and enforcement of Notice to Control Pests.

## **4.0 PEST INSPECTOR RESPONSIBILITY**

- 4.1 Will follow the Fg Inspection Procedures as determined by the Agricultural Fieldman.
- 4.2 Will carry out a minimum of 50 annual inspections in seeded cereal crops within the county, chosen fields will be fields known to have tight rotations and high traffic areas.

## **5.0 PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 5.1 An individual shall not knowingly perpetuate the propagation, spread and establishment of Fg within the County, under Section 5 pertaining to the APA.
- 5.2 The County requires Landowner/Occupants to follow the Alberta *Fusarium graminearum* Management Plan on land that is confirmed positive with Fg.

## **6.0 ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES**

6.1 A Notice to Control Pests will be issued to the Landowner/Occupant only upon the confirmation of FG on their land via a plant tissue analysis from an accredited laboratory.

6.2 The Notice to Control Pests may include the following restrictions:

6.2.1 Harvest the crop with all seed being sold or fed, **not** being used for seed.

6.2.2 Use the Best Managements Practices as outlined in the Alberta *Fusarium graminearum* Management Plan must be followed for all products intended for feed that contain Fg.

6.3 Tarp all loads being transported from infected fields, straw and grain.

6.3.1 Clean all crop residue and debris from equipment prior to leaving infected field.

6.3.2 If erosion occurrence is low, incorporate residue in the fall.

6.3.3 Seed a non-host crop or fallow for a period of 3 consecutive years after initial infestation.

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## **7.0 NOTIFICATION OF INFESTATION**

7.1 As per Section 10 of the APA Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, a letter may be sent to all adjacent landholders notifying them of the legal land location of the Fg infestation as well as general information and recommendations for the prevention and control of Fg.

7.2 The seed source of the infested field will be traced and subsequent fields will be inspected.

7.3 The ASB shall be informed and enforcement will be directed by the Agricultural Fieldman under the APA in conjunction with the ASB.

## **8.0 RECOVERY OF EXPENSES**

8.1 Non-compliance of a Notice to Control Pests will result in the recovery of all expenses to the County during enforcement under section 19 of the APA.

## COUNTY OF NORTHERN LIGHTS

### **Fusarium Graminearum, Germination, Vigor, and Blackleg of canola Testing Assistance Program**

1. Residents wishing to test cereal or grass seeds for fusarium graminearum, germination, blackleg of canola or vigor may do so by dropping them off at the Manning Co-op Seed Cleaning Plant or the Agricultural Service Board office in the Manning Municipal building. The Agricultural Service Board will cover the courier shipping costs.
  2. The producer will be billed through the laboratory for one half (1/2) of the costs. The Municipality will set up an account with BioVision Seeds Lab and will pay the other (1/2) half of the cost of testing under the following conditions:
    - A. The Municipality, through the Agricultural Fieldman receives a copy of the results, and
    - B. If the producer wants to test the grain sample for more than the fusarium graminearum, germination, and/or vigor or blackleg of canola, the additional costs will be billed from the testing lab to the producer.
  3. The Municipality will pay ½ the cost for testing up to the following limits:
    - A. Grain/grasses being cleaned for seed:
      - a maximum of ten samples per cereal, or grass type, e.g. wheat/barley/oats or brome/timothy/fescue
    - B. Grain not necessarily being cleaned for seed (upgrades or used for feed), but producer is concerned about the lot being Fusarium Graminearum free:
      - Maximum of two samples per crop year.
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4. The Municipality will pay ½ the cost for testing up to the following limits:
    - A. Canola /peas/flax has not been found as a carrier of fusarium graminearum, but samples can be sent out for germination and/or vigor tests as part of this program. Canola can also be tested for blackleg of canola
      - a maximum of two samples per crop year.
  5. In total, the Municipality will pay for a limit of 5 samples per Farm Unit per crop year, example crop year is from August to August of each year. (A Farm Unit may be a single operator, several family members cooperatively working as one unit or a company)

## **Fusarium Graminearum, Vigor, Germination, and Blackleg of Canola Testing Program**

**This program has been initiated in order to financially assist local producers with testing their grains, oilseeds and grasses for Fusarium graminearum/blackleg of canola and seed viability.**

**Please understand that seed testing takes time, so send out your samples two to three weeks before you need the results, example for seeding or seed cleaning.**

***All cereal crops have to be tested for Fusarium graminearum prior to being cleaned by a seed cleaning plant.***