

AGENDA
COUNTY OF NORTHERN LIGHTS
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD (ASB)
NOVEMBER 12, 2024 AT 10:15 AM
COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING, MANNING, ALBERTA

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86590870343?pwd=qXhcQUs5cYUe7HaWXa6jrmhumSTY7.1>

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- a. Tuesday, November 12, 2024 ASB Agenda*

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. Tuesday, September 10, 2024 ASB Meeting Minutes*

4. NEW BUSINESS

0.01 ASB AG FIELDMAN REPORT

- a. September & October 2024 ASB Report*

0.02 RURAL SERVICES/PROGRAMS/POLICY'S/RESOLUTIONS/GENERAL

- a. Peace Region ASB Fall 2024 Conference Update
(comments/direction from Ag. Board)*

0.03 NORTH PEACE APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

- a) Delegation with Josee Aitken, Manager, Kris Nicklason, Board Chair at 10:20 a.m.*

0.04 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

- a) cc'd letter from Kneehill County RE: Funding for Agricultural Service Boards*
- b) cc'd letter from County of Stettler No. 6 RE: Letter of Support for AgKnow*
- c) cc'd letter from County of Stettler No. 6 RE: Strengthening Regulations to Address Wild Boar Farming*
- d) Email from Government of Alberta RE: Alberta's Nature Strategy*
- e) NPARA Upcoming Events and Information on Support for Agri-Invest*

5. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES
COUNTY OF NORTHERN LIGHTS
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD (ASB)
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 AT 1:00 PM
COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING, MANNING, ALBERTA**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89067339342?pwd=zJz15mc6tLw0mT05ba3NWK7Sbl1Wqe.1>

PRESENT:

Gary These	Ward One	Weberville/Stewart
Kayln Schug	Ward Two	Warrensville/Lac Cardinal (virtually)
Brenda Yasinski	Ward Three	Dixonville/Chinook Valley
Brent Reese	Ward Four	Deadwood/Sunny Valley
Gloria Dechant	Ward Five	North Star/Breaking Point
Terry Ungarian	Ward Six	Hotchkiss/Hawk Hills
Linda Halabisky	Ward Seven	Keg River/Carcajou

IN ATTENDANCE:

Gerhard Stickling – Chief Administrative Officer
Blake Gaugler – Agricultural Fieldman
Charles Schwab – Director of Public Works
Trinity Schmidt – Community Services Coordinator
Teresa Tupper – Executive Assistant/ Recorder
Dan Archer – Mile Zero Banner Post Reporter

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Terry Ungarian called the Tuesday, September 10, 2024 Agriculture Service Board (ASB) meeting to order at 1:29 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

a. Tuesday, September 10, 2024 ASB Agenda

**005/24ASB MOVED BY Councillor These to acknowledge receipt of the Tuesday, September 10, 2024 ASB Agenda and adopt it as presented.
CARRIED**

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

a. Tuesday, August 27, 2024 ASB Meeting Minutes

**006/24ASB MOVED BY Councillor Schug to acknowledge receipt of the Tuesday, August 27, 2024 ASB Meeting minutes and adopt them as presented.
CARRIED**

4. NEW BUSINESS

63.01 ASB AG FIELDMAN REPORT

- Councillor Dechant asked where abouts the mowing crew are in the County. Councillors still receiving calls from Residents.
- Reeve Ungarian mentioned a crushed culvert by the Deadwood Hamlet, possibly by mowers that needs to be checked.

63.02 RURAL SERVICES/PROGRAMS/POLICY'S/RESOLUTIONS/GENERAL

a. Regional Agriculture Service Board Conference

007/24ASB **MOVED BY Councillor Reese to register and send Reeve Ungarian, Councillor These and Halabisky to the Regional ASB meeting in La Crete on Monday, October 21, 2024 at the La Crete Heritage Centre.**
CARRIED

b. Final Resolution Report Card Grading

008/24ASB **MOVED BY Councillor These to acknowledge receipt of the Final Resolution Report Card Grading and see if the regional zone ASB agenda in October 2024 could accommodate a discussion regarding a regional meeting on replying to the grade of resolutions and a discussion on the lobbying effects/protocols of the ASB.**
CARRIED

63.03 NORTH PEACE APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

63.04 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

a) Strychnine Information for Resolutions

009/24ASB **MOVED BY Councillor Halabisky to acknowledge receipt of the ASB Correspondence and accept it for information.**
CARRIED

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair/Reeve Ungarian adjourned the ASB meeting at 2:11 p.m.

Chair/Reeve Ungarian

Date Signed



COUNTY OF
Northern Lights

#600, 7th Ave NW, PO Box 10, Manning AB T0H 2M0
Phone 780-836-3348 Fax 780-836-3663
Toll Free 1-888-525-3481

Report No.
AF - 2024- 0144

Agenda Item No.
ASB 4.01-a)

Subject: Ag Department Update

Agenda Date: November 12th, 2024

Attachments:

Recommendation: Accept the update for information.

Background:

- Mowing of the roadsides was completed in the middle of the second week in October, with minor touch ups.
- Drainage ditches were wrapped up in the third week of October.
- Rental equipment was busy. The water pump was rented out 20x, 1x sprayer and the cattle chute 2x during August, September and October.
- Hamlet mowing wound down at the end of August.
- With the warm September and no frost, we sprayed up until October 3rd.
- The new dodge 3500 is getting the deck installed in Grande Prairie.
- The 2019 Can am Defender HD10 is getting regular maintenance in Peace River.
- Overall things went very well, we had good staff, and the year wrapped up quite nicely.


Blake Gaugler
Agricultural Fieldman


A/ CAO accepted for agenda

ASB 4.01-a)

ASB program update

Peace Region ASB Conference
October 21, 2024

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Agenda

- Regional Liaisons - Introduction
- 2023 Grant Reporting Peace Region
- Seed Cleaning Facility Licensing
- 2024 Field Visit Highlights
- Surveillance: Diseases, Insects and Weeds
- Dutch Elm Disease Update
- Weed Review: Next Steps
- Wild Boar
- Next ASB Grant Cycle Update
- Announcements - Leg Course & ADM ASB Townhall

Regional Liaison Team

REGION	LIAISON	ALTERNATE
PEACE	Khalil Ahmed	Gayah Sieusahai
NORTHWEST	Trevor Wallace	Shawn Elgert
NORTHEAST	Dillis Peltier	Hannah McKenzie
CENTRAL	Kellie Jackson	
SOUTH	Alan Efetha	Joe Harrington

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2023 Reporting

Peace Region

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4.02-a)

Question	Peace	All Regions	Status
ASB Staffing : FT, PT, Seasonal (Average)	11.9	10	
# APA Inspectors (Average)	6	5	
APA # Surveys: Disease & Insect (Average)	318	225	
APA Wild Boar Ban Bylaw (%)	38% (5/13)	32%	
SCA # Acres Mitigated/Improved (#)	81 (3)	15295 (15)	
# WCA Inspectors (Average)	6.7	5.4	
WCA # Seed Cleaning Facilities (Average)	1.4/(67% using new form)	1.4/(54% using new form)	
WCA Weeds Elevated by Bylaw	23% (3/13)	33%	
AHA Diseases Reported to CPVO (#)	3	27	
Fund External Groups for Legislative Programming (%)	69% (9/13)	48%	
ASB Legislation Awareness & Education (%)	92% (12/13)	94%	
APA Legislation Awareness & Education (%)	100% (13/13)	97%	
SCA Legislation Awareness & Education (%)	92% (12/13)	85%	
WCA Legislation Awareness & Education (%)	92% (12/13)	99%	
AHA Legislation Awareness & Education (%)	92% (12/13)	87%	

Seed Cleaning Facility

Inspection and Licensing

Updated Form

- The form and process for inspections of seed cleaning facilities, stationary and mobile, were updated last year.
- The updated form <https://www.alberta.ca/system/files/agi-scf-licensing-inspection-forms-and-license.pdf> and guidelines for interpretation <https://www.alberta.ca/system/files/agi-scf-guidelines.pdf> and are to be used for the inspection and licensing of all stationary and mobile seed cleaning facilities in 2024.
 - **Any inspections for licensing done using the old form will need to be transferred to the new form**
- There are also **four videos** supporting the new process and form which can be accessed through the members site of AAAF and ASPA.
- If you have any questions on the new form or applying the criteria please contact Kellie at kellie.jackson@gov.ab.ca or 403 813 9406.

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2024 Field Visits



Classification: Protected A

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Completed (2024) and Scheduled (2025) Field Visits				
	2024	Region	2025	Region
1	Acadia	South	Warner	South
2	Forty Mile	South	Lethbridge	South
3	Special Area #2	South	Taber	South
4	Special Area #3	South	Vulcan	South
5	Cypress	South	Special Area #4	South
6	Ponoka	Central	Lacombe	Central
7	Wetaskiwin	Central	Red Deer	Central
8	Camrose	Central	Rocky View	Central
9	Two Hills	NE	Bonnyville	NE
10	Lamont	NE	Leduc	NW
11	Westlock	NW	Strathcona	NW
12	Woodlands	NW	Yellowhead	NW
13	MacKenzie	Peace	Fairview	Peace
14	Northern Lights	Peace	Northern Sunrise	Peace
15	Clear Hills	Peace		

Field Visit Highlights

2024 Field Visit key findings and learnings

- Appointment of Fieldmen (Council minutes missing)
- ASB performing council's duties:
- Confusion on differences in appeal committee requirements for WCA, APA, and SCA
- ASB not reporting to Council, and if so, Council not reviewing, accepting, and approving ASB reports in Council meetings.
- Inspector IDs lacking inspector's pictures.

Surveillance

Diseases, Insects, Weeds in 2024

Thank you to Fieldmen from the Plant & Bee Health Surveillance Section (PBHSS): Mike Harding, Shelley Barkley, Chris Neeser, Jie Feng, David Feindel and Team

ALBERTA 2024 CROP DISEASE SURVEYS: 6 Provincial Crop Disease Surveys

	CROPS	TIMING	TARGET (#fields/counties)	ACTUAL (#fields/counties)
PBHSS & collaborators	PEA DISEASES	JULY	89/43	97/51
	WHEAT (FOLIAR) DISEASES	JULY	200/62	229/58
PBHSS & ASBs	BARLEY (HEAD) DISEASES	AUG	100/61	117/36
	WHEAT (HEAD) DISEASES	AUG-SEPT	437/62	444/57
	CANOLA DISEASES	AUG-SEPT	415/64	350/52
AAFC	BARLEY (FOLIAR) DISEASES	JULY		

2024 Summary

In many regions, spring rainfall in May-June was higher than average and led to early-season problems like drowned-out low spots, seed decay, root rot, powdery mildew, transient nutrient deficiencies etc.

Classification: Protected A

OTHER SURVEYS BY PBHSS:

- Dry bean diseases
- Flax diseases
- Seed alfalfa diseases

PBHSS assists others' surveys:

- Late blight spore trapping
- FHB risk prediction

Emerging Diseases for 2025:

- Bacterial leaf streak (cereal crops)
- Wheat Streak Mosaic (cereal crops)
- Barley Yellow Dwarf (cereals, especially oat)
- Verticillium Stripe and Blackleg (canola)
- Aphanomyces root rot (pulses)

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Insect Surveys - 2024

	Sites surveyed	Survey method	Survey team
Pea leaf weevil	59 counties	Field visit	AGI
Wheat midge	300 (?)	Field visit	AGI/AAAF
Wheat stem sawfly	80	Field visit	AGI
Bertha armyworm	270	Pheromone trap	AGI/AAAF/Industry
Diamondback moth	30	Pheromone trap	AGI/AAAF/Industry
Cabbage seedpod weevil	218	Field visit	AGI
Grasshopper	1900	Field visit	AAAF
Cutworm	31	Online reporting tool	Industry
Grain terminal insect	1	Pheromone trap	AGI

Survey data has been entered, sent for mapping

- Flea beetle - issue across Alberta, farmers multiple foliar insecticide applications.
- Bertha armyworm - not an issue in 2023
- Wheat stem sawfly - as far north as highway 1 / cutting damage in traditional area >50%.
- Cutworm - significant in northeast and northwest regions.

Chris Neeser (chris.neeser@gov.ab.ca / 403 501-8745)

- Previous versions are available in pdf format on open.alberta.ca ("Distribution of Regulated Weeds in Alberta")



- **11,000 km** county roads across **24 MDs**
- **4,500** weed records
- **46%** Canada thistle and perennial sowthistle (1/km)
- **Next three most common:** Common tansy (**729**), Oxeye daisy (**516**), Tall buttercup (**361**)
- **Prohibited noxious:** Meadow hawkweed (**89**), Himalayan balsam (**1**)



Tansy ragwort reported in Parkland County



Saltlover reported on iNaturalist in fall of 2023 was not found at that location in 2024



Explosion of PN weeds on iNaturalist in the last 2 years (>1,600 currently listed)

Scotch thistle found in Medicine Hat
– can invade pastures and form
dense stands; previously found in
Cardston County and is regulated in
B.C.



Samples tested by APHL 2024

2024

Counties	568
CDCS	460
CDCN	12
Edmonion	123
Other	5
Total	1168

APHL also covered the molecular diagnosis of plant diseases of Yukon since 2020

The APHL supports ASBs by providing plant/crop (I, D, W) diagnostics services.

Crop	Diseases	Pathogen(s)
Canoia	Verticillium wilt	<i>Verticillium longisporum</i>
Elm	Dutch elm disease	<i>Ophiostoma ulmi</i>

Disease	Technique(s)
Verticillium wilt and blackleg on canola	Triplex qPCR
Bacterial leaf streak on barley and wheat	Duplex qPCR
Verticillium wilt on canola	LAMP



100%

Title	Author	Year
Application of molecular methods for parasite serovar diagnosis: a review [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.vetpar.2010.06.008] [http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0927025610000577]	2010	2010
<i>Pseudomonas tracheolytica</i> , but not <i>Colwellia</i> spp., causes yaws in elm trees in Alberta, Canada [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.vetpar.2010.06.008] [http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0927025610000577]	2010	2010
Detection and Differentiation of <i>Yersinia pseudotuberculosis</i> Pathovars and Antigenes from Animal and Forestry by Duplex Quantitative PCR [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.vetpar.2010.06.008] [http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0927025610000577]	2010	2010
Development of a qPCR assay and a LAMP assay for <i>Verticillium longisporium</i> detection and a duplex qPCR assay for simultaneous detection of <i>V. longisporium</i> , <i>Leptosthetia</i> [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.vetpar.2010.06.008] [http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0927025610000577]	2010	2010
Development of a Duplex qPCR System for Detection and Quantal ratio of the Two Canale Blackleg Pathogens <i>Leptosthetia</i> <i>dogwood</i> and <i>L. muscivorus</i> [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.vetpar.2010.06.008] [http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0927025610000577]	2010	2010
Development of a Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) Method to Detect the Potato Zebra Chip Pathogen <i>Candidatus Liberibacter solanaceum</i> (Ls) [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.vetpar.2010.06.008] [http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0927025610000577]	2010	2010

4.02-a)

Dutch Elm Disease Update

- Dutch elm disease (DED) is both provincially and federally regulated in Alberta.
- In August 2024, four American Elm tree samples from the City of Edmonton tested positive for DED.
- The City of Edmonton led the removal of the DED-infected trees on municipal land as well as the private location.
- The City of Edmonton has scaled up surveillance and the removal of dead or dying trees in this neighbourhood and surrounding areas.
- AGI is also working closely with STOPDED to provide messaging and present the current situation of DED in Alberta.
- Information on DED - <https://www.alberta.ca/dutch-elm-disease>



Classification: Protected A

Weed Review

Next Steps

Next Steps for the Review of Regulated Weeds

- Committee consisting of representatives and an alternate from the 5 ASB regions, 2 urban centres and GOA will assess all feedback received from both surveys and make recommendations for decision by Minister
- All members will have full access to pre-engagement materials, survey reports, and meeting information
- During the review process, committee members will keep their respective regions informed
- AGI will provide regular updates to Ag Fieldmen, ASBs, and invited stakeholders on progress



Classification: Protected A

Wild boar

Wild boar control program

- All bounty programs have ended
- Squeal on Pigs! 2024: 45 wild boar reports, 16 confirmed
- Elk Island and area remote camera study
- Professional trapping: 439 (46 sounders, 69 individuals) removed since 2018
- Wild Boar Farm inspections
- Disease surveillance: UofC Wild Pig Project, CanSpotASF, Kings' University



Next ASB Grant Cycle

Where we are at ... what happens next?



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Grant Application

Program Application Process

- Additional checklist requirement

Schedule A – Application (Mandatory Legislation Stream)

- **Legislative stream agricultural situation statement**
- **Seven Goal Areas**
 - *ASB, APA, SCA, WCA, AHA, Outreach for Legislation (ASB, APA, SCA, WCA, AHA), and Extension for the Economic Benefit of Producers*
- **Minimum Activity Level**
- **Priorities**
- **Objectives**
- **Activities**
 - Outreach and Extension

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Terms & Conditions

-  **Definitions** added for Extension, Outreach, amended for Agricultural Fieldman and edited for current terminology
-  **Eligible Applicants** amended the Agricultural Fieldman requirements to clarify terms of employment and responsibilities
-  **Eligible Activities** amended to reflect the seven goal areas for Legislative stream and edited for Resource Management stream to clarify the focus on extension
-  **Ineligible Activities** amended to clarify implementation of beneficial management practices
-  **Ineligible Expenses** amended to include cannabis, in county government speaker fees, donations, and grants using ASB grant funds
-  **Reporting Requirements** amended to include potential new toxicant reporting and dates to submit annual reporting which is expected to change to March 1 – April 30
-  **Payments** amended to reflect period when payments may be issued following the reporting period

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Resource Management Stream – 2025 Renewal

- The RM Stream will remain merit-based with an annual budget of \$1.78M.
- Will support ASBs in the delivery of **extension programming** that increases producer awareness and understanding of sustainable agriculture practices.
- Benefits of producers adopting sustainable agriculture practices include:

Reduced degradation of
agricultural land

Long-term cost savings
via reduced input and
energy requirements

Enhanced resiliency of
agricultural operations

- All of which create conditions for Alberta agriculture to remain competitive, while contributing to global food security and local affordability.

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Resource Management Stream – 2025 Renewal

- ASBs participating in the RM Stream are expected to incorporate the following activities into their extension programming:
 - The promotion of **Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership** environmental programming (ie., RALP, OFEP, and Water Programs).
 - The promotion of **Environmental Farm Plans**.
 - The promotion of practices and programs that address your ASB's **Local Resource Management Concerns**. Concerns can fall under the following categories:



- Please remember, RM Stream funding is meant to support extension only, not to fund the implementation of practices of behalf of producers.

Resource Management Stream – Updates

- Extension activity definitions and clearer descriptions of RM versus Legislative eligible activities - definitions added
- Need to make extension tracking easier - an activity tracking spreadsheet will be provided for extension activities to be filled in as they are completed
- The RM Stream will require the submission of a formal partnership agreement from all applicants pursuing a formal partnership for the 2025-2029 Program cycle.
 - Formal partnership agreements should outline each partner's roles and responsibilities, as well as a contingency plan for a potential partnership dissolution.
 - A formal partnership is when two or more ASBs decide to submit a joint application.
 - Collaborations with third party organizations (ie., Applied Research or Forage Associations) or partnering with a numbering ASB for a single extension activity does not require a formal agreement.

More Information & Guidance



A Resource Management Stream Application Information Webinar will be held in early November to assist applicants.



The webinar will be recorded and shared.

Announcements

THE LEG. COURSE

CERTIFIED FIELDMEN: 2009 -2024

Alberta	South Region	Peace	Central	Northwest	Northeast
166	35	36	44	28	23

Registration for 2025 is open, 2 registered
Contact Alan Efetha at alan.efetha@gov.ab.ca to register

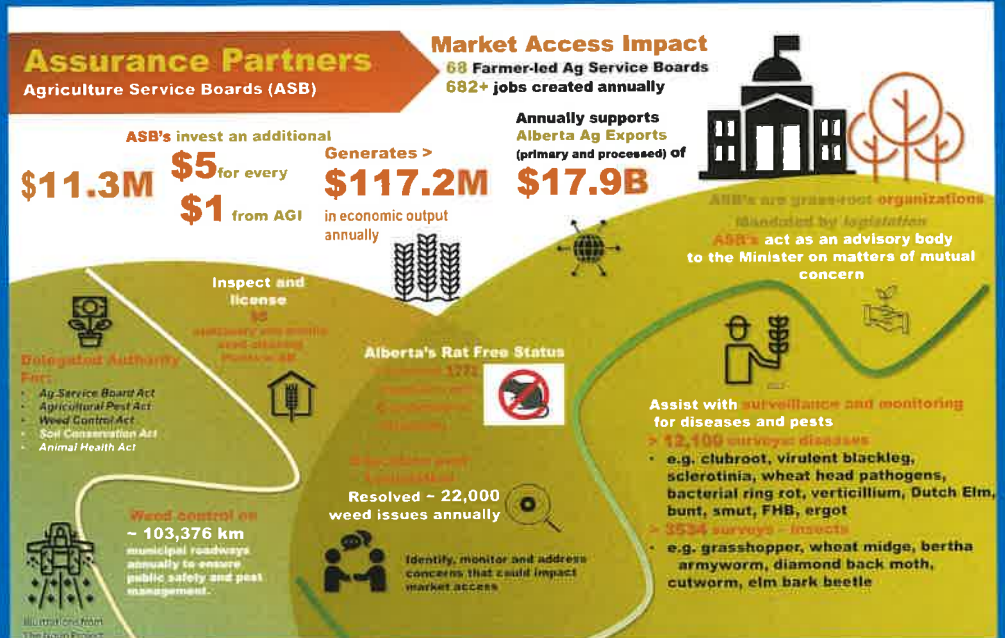
Classification: Protected A

Fall ASB Town Hall with ADM

Fall ASB Town hall with ADM Primary Agriculture
John Conrad scheduled for Thursday, November
14th (11:00 - 12:00)

Any ideas / issues / topics welcome

Thank-you



Classification: Protected A

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Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

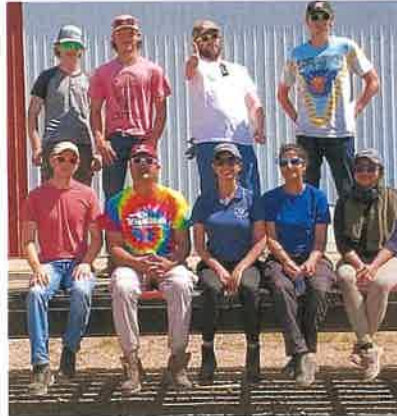
Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.



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Canada



- NAIT, Edmonton 2013-2015
- Integrated Crop Management Services Fort Saskatchewan 2014



- SARDA Ag Research Donnelly Alberta 2015-2018
- Battle River Research Group Forestburg Alberta 2018-2024

Classification: Public

Alberta

Climate Change and Environment

Water Program – Two Program Streams

On-Farm Water Supply Stream

On-Farm Irrigation Stream

- Purpose
 - Supports better management of risks to water quality and supplies and adaptation to climate variability
 - Supports agricultural producers in securing, protecting and managing sustainable constructed water sources
- Eligible Applicants
 - Agricultural producers with at least \$25,000 worth of farm commodities annually and are liable to pay Alberta income tax or corporate tax on income from the production of farm commodities.
 - Indigenous applicants
- Eligible Activities
 - Standard Incentives
 - Special Incentives

Classification: Protected A

Climate Change and Environment

On-Farm Water Supply Stream

- Standard Incentive Activities
 - New or expanded constructed water source developments
 - Examples: wells, dugouts*, spring developments*, dams*, tie-ins to a multi-user water supply pipeline, permanent cisterns, and unshared pipelines
 - Off-source watering systems on a new eligible water source development (e.g., an off-source watering system with a new well included on the application)
 - Off-source watering systems on existing constructed water sources
 - Examples: off-source watering systems on existing wells & dugouts
- Dugouts, Dams, and Spring Developments
 - Applicants must speak to an Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) Water Specialist and receive an approved Construction Sheet prior to constructing a dugout, dam or spring development to confirm the proposed project meets legislative and Program requirements.
- Standard Incentive Cost Share: 50% grant: 50% applicant

Classification: Protected A

4.02-a)

Climate Change and Environment

On-Farm Water Supply Stream

- Standard Incentive Grant Maximums:
 - Wells
 - Sliding scale based on depth
 - Range from \$10,000 to \$20,000 maximum
 - Off-source watering system on a new well is included in the maximum
 - Dugouts, Dams, Spring Developments, Cisterns, Unshared Pipelines, Tie-Ins to a Multi-User Water Supply Pipeline
 - Up to \$10,000 per new water source development
 - Off-source watering system on new constructed water source is included in the maximum
 - Off-source watering systems on an existing water source
 - \$5000 maximum over the 5-year Program Term
- Up to \$20,000 maximum over the Program Term for all Standard Incentive Activities

Classification: Protected A

Climate Change and Environment

On-Farm Water Supply Stream

- Special Incentive Activities
 - Well decommissioning
 - 50% grant for 1, 60% grant for 2, 75% grant for 3 or more
 - \$2,000 maximum per well for most situations
 - Well pit conversions (same as above)
 - Wetland assessments
 - 50% up to \$2,000



Classification: Protected A

4.02-a)

Climate Change and Environment

On-Farm Water Supply Stream

- How to Apply
 - Submit a complete Application once the project is complete, project is operable (e.g., able to deliver water) and all expenses have been incurred and paid
 - Projects must meet Regulatory Requirements and Program Terms and Conditions (e.g., license or approval under the *Water Act* as required)
 - Applications are considered on a case-by-case basis, assessed against program eligibility criteria and are subject to program funding constraints



Classification: Protected A

Climate Change and Environment

On-Farm Irrigation Stream

- Purpose
 - To encourage existing irrigation producers to replace/upgrade older equipment to new, efficient systems and equipment through financial incentives
 - Improved efficiency of water-use and energy-use
- Eligible Applicants
 - Agricultural producer with at least \$25,000 worth of farm commodities annually
 - Owns an irrigated agricultural operation in Alberta
 - Indigenous applicants

Classification: Protected A

Climate Change and Environment

On-Farm Irrigation Stream

- Eligible Activities
 - New low-pressure centre pivot or drip irrigation system
 - Retrofit of a high-pressure to a low-pressure pivot
 - Upgrades to existing low-pressure pivot (sprinklers, nozzles, pumps, VFD's, variable rate irrigation equipment, control panels)
 - Upgrades to high-efficiency water pumps and electric motors or pump modifications (trimmed impellers, booster pumps, end gun, Nelson valves, variable frequency drives) including installation of electrical, wind or solar power.
- Cost Share: 50% grant: 50% applicant, up to a per-parcel maximum of
 - \$17,500 for a new low-pressure pivot or subsurface drip system, or
 - \$6,000 for equipment upgrades/retrofits
- Annual Maximum: \$35,000 per applicant

Classification: Protected A

Climate Change and Environment

On-Farm Irrigation Stream

- Applications
 - Completed application form
 - Invoice(s)
 - Proof of minimum 10% down payment
- Ineligible Equipment
 - Irrigation expansion
 - Used equipment
 - Repair/maintenance of existing equipment
 - Purchases made prior to April 1, 2023
- Parcel Size Requirements
 - ≥ 20 acres for \$17,500
 - ≥ 10 acres for \$6,000

Sustainable CAP Water Program Contact Information

	On-Farm Water Supply Stream	On-Farm Irrigation Stream
Email	farmwatersupply@gov.ab.ca	irrigationefficiency@gov.ab.ca
Mail	Sustainable-CAP Water Program Program Delivery Section Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation 7000 113 Street NW Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6	Sustainable-CAP Water Program Natural Resource Innovation Section Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Agriculture Centre 100, 5401 1 Avenue South Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 4V6
Phone	310-FARM (3276) No area code. Ask to speak to an Agriculture and Irrigation Water Specialist	403-381-5532
Website	https://www.alberta.ca/water-program	https://www.alberta.ca/water-program

Classification: Protected A

On-Farm Efficiency Program (OFEP) Overview

- OFEP was created by combining the past Farm Technology Program and Efficient Grain Handling Program, along with new opportunities selected in response to industry feedback collected in the fall of 2023.
- Program opened to applications on August 14, 2024.

Classification: Protected A

OFEP Objective

- Supports producers in achieving environmental benefits by improving the efficient use of agricultural inputs such as fertilizer, seed, and energy.
- When inputs reach their targets with precision, it is a win-win for producers and the environment:
 - Producers save money
 - Fewer inputs are applied off-target
 - Fewer emissions are released to the atmosphere

Classification: Protected A

4.02-a)

Eligibility

- Primary producer responsible for day-to-day management of an agricultural operation in Alberta that produces at least **\$25,000** worth of farm commodities annually
- Approved Indigenous applicants (First Nation, Métis Nation, Inuit)

And

- Has a current Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Approval or will obtain and submit one with their final report.

Classification: Protected A

Funding List

- Program has four funding streams:
 1. **Smart Farm Technology**
 2. **Energy Efficiency**
 3. **Farm Security**
 4. **Efficient Grain Handling**
- Across the four Streams, there are 45 Eligible Items.
- Review the Funding List on the website for the most up to date list of both Eligible and Ineligible Items.

Classification: Protected A

Funding

- Program is **retroactive** to April 1, 2023.
- Grants are on a **50%** cost-shared basis.
 - Minimum grant is **\$500/application**.
 - Maximum grant total over the life of the Program is **\$150,000/applicant**.

Maximum Grant per Funding Stream	
Smart Farm Technology	\$50,000
Energy Efficiency	\$50,000
Farm Security	\$2,000
Efficient Grain Handling	\$100,000

Classification: Protected A

Funding List – Streams

Funding Stream	Description	Examples of Eligible Items
Smart Farm Technology	• Funds tools for agronomic decision-making, efficient fertilizer and seed application, livestock feed efficiency and health monitoring, and precision weed detection and elimination • Must feature “smart” elements	• Equipment mounted sensors • Equipment mounted data collection and data storage units • Electronic livestock ID readers • Retrofit sectional or rate control technology.
Energy Efficiency	• Technology that improves energy efficiency. • Must be for energy use that directly supports production of an agricultural commodity. • Must feature “smart” elements.	• Efficient heating systems • Insulation in new builds • Heat pumps • Metering equipment and programmable logic controls (retrofit only).
Farm Security	• Technology that improves farm security and supports protection of business assets.	• GPS equipment tags and trackers • Remote monitoring for fixed cameras • Motion detectors.
Efficient Grain Handling	• System components that significantly improve energy efficiency above standard configurations.	• High efficiency burners • Variable Speed Drives or Variable Frequency Drive • Temperature and moisture monitoring cables

Classification: Protected A

4.02-a)

Application Process



- Step 1** – Applicant submits a completed Application Form with quotes for all items applied for.
- Step 2** – Application is reviewed for eligibility by the OFEP team.
- Step 3** – Applicants receive grant letter/agreement, notifying which items are eligible, and for how much.
- Step 4** – Applicant proceeds to purchase items and implement project.
- Step 5** – Applicant submits Final Report for reimbursement.

Classification: Protected A

Applications



- Applicants may include Eligible Items under more than one Stream in their application.
- Use the **OFEP Application Quick Tips** and **OFEP Comprehensive Application Guide** on the website to ensure your application contains all necessary information and help streamline the review and approval process.

Classification: Protected A

Applications

- A complete application submission must include:
 - All relevant quotes or invoices
 - Application Form (2 documents)
 1. Completed application form in fillable PDF format
 2. Scan of signature page with a handwritten signature
- You will receive an email notification confirming that your application has been received. **If you do not receive an email confirmation, contact the Program for confirmation.**

Classification: Protected A

Approved Applications

- A Final Report must be submitted to be reimbursed for purchases. Information required will include:
 - Completed Final Report form, including emissions information if relevant for your project
 - Copies of all invoices/receipts/proof of purchase for each expense
 - Copy of your EFP if not submitted with the application

Classification: Protected A

Approved Applications - Claiming Expenses

- To be reimbursed for expenses:
 - Invoices must be under the Legal Name used on the application.
 - Invoices must be dated after April 1, 2023.
 - Applicants must be able to provide proof of payment (e.g., processed cheque, credit card statement) for all invoices.
 - Cash payments will not be eligible unless accompanied by an official company voucher and proof of payment.
 - Barter or exchange transactions are not eligible.
 - Transactions between persons related by blood, marriage, adoption, common-law relationships, or close-business ties are not eligible.

OFEP Resources

OFEP Website: www.alberta.ca/on-farm-efficiency-program

Email: OFEP@gov.ab.ca

Phone: 310-FARM (3276)

Classification: Protected A

Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) Overview

- Increase environmental resiliency of agricultural landscapes by accelerating adoption of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) that maximize Ecological Goods and Services (EG&S), including:
 - ☐ Carbon sequestration*
 - ☐ Water and soil quality
 - ☐ Biodiversity enhancement
- Funding is offered for a 3-year term to provide better support for long-term establishment of BMPs

*Note: carbon sequestered under RALP will be ineligible for carbon credits/GHG offsets for the duration of the 3-year land use agreement

Classification: Protected A

4.02-a)

Important Dates

Intake Cycle Schedule

Intake Cycle	Project Term
February 1, 2024 – November 30, 2024	February 1, 2024 – November 30, 2026
February 1, 2025 - November 30, 2025	February 1, 2025 – November 30, 2027

Wetland Intake Cycle Schedule

Intake Cycle	Project Term
February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025	February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2027
February 1, 2025-January 31, 2026	February 1, 2025-January 31, 2028.

Retroactive to start of current intake year

Classification: Protected A

Important Dates

- **BMP activities must be implemented by November 30th** of the application year and maintained for an additional two years.

- Year 1 implementation is required so that an accurate estimate of EG&S created by the activities can be counted for the 3-year term.

*January 31st for wetland activities

Classification: Protected A

Eligibility

- Primary producer responsible for the day-to-day management of an agricultural operation in Alberta that produces at least **\$25,000** worth of farm commodities annually
- Grazing Reserve Associations and Community Pastures
- Indigenous applicants (First Nation, Métis Nation, Inuit)

And

- Has a current Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) certificate or will receive one before the end of the project term.
- To get started on your EFP visit: www.albertaefp.com

Classification: Protected A

Funding

- Approved projects will be funded to:
 - Minimum grant of **\$2000**
 - Maximum grant of **\$150,000** for Primary Producers
 - Maximum grant of **\$300,000** for Grazing Reserve Associations, Community Pastures, and Indigenous applicants
- Funding is provided in two payments: 50% is paid following application approval and remaining 50% is paid at the end of the 3-year project term.

Classification: Protected A

4.02-a)

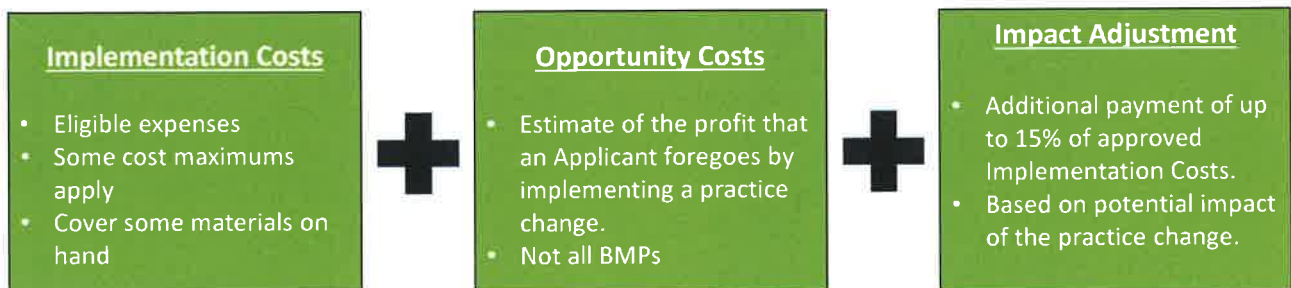
Funding

- RALP funding cannot be stacked with any other government programs (federal, provincial, municipal), or programs that collect carbon credits, for the same activities.
- Exception: Wetland projects completed under the Wetland Replacement Program (WRP) are still eligible for RALP funding (projects must have been completed under WRP within the same intake cycle year as the RALP application)

Classification: Protected A

Funding

- Funding is calculated using the following cost determination*:



- Review Funding List for details on eligible/ineligible expenses, cost maximums, and materials on hand.

*Wetland has a flat rate payment of \$1,000 per acre.

Classification: Protected A



Funding Category	Eligible BMP Activity
Pasture Management	• Riparian area management • Rotational grazing • Adding legumes to existing forage stands
Cropland Conversion	• Annual cropland conversion to native forages • Annual cropland conversion to tame forages • Strips/ Grass waterways/ Salinity • Intercropping
Tree Establishment	• Shelterbelts • Eco-buffers • Establishment of pollinator strips
Wetland	• Wetland restoration and construction of new wetlands

Classification: Protected A

Applications

- 
- Multiple BMPs can be applied for in the same application. Multiple BMPs can be done on the same land location.
 - Review Funding List to ensure expenses are eligible for the BMP being applied for and if a cost maximum is applicable.
 - Plan your budget to cover expenses for the full 3-year term.
 - Projects on public land need approval from a Provincial Rangeland Agrologist.

Classification: Protected A

Applications

- Activities to be implemented by Nov. 30 of the intake year and maintained in Years 2 and 3.
- Applicant name must match name on submitted invoices and receipts or expenses will not be reimbursed.
- Applications must have a handwritten signature.
- Receipts must be incurred within the dates of the program term.

Classification: Protected A

Applications

- Applications are reviewed as they are received and evaluated according to the eligibility criteria and funding availability.
- Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant. Approval will not proceed until all information is received.
- Funding is not guaranteed until application has been approved.
- Wetland category has a separate application form and intake cycle.

Classification: Protected A

4.02-a)

Applications

- Part of the application review will include identifying projects for verification.
- Project verification will involve on-site visits to confirm activity has been implemented as described.
- Verifications may occur at any time within the 3-year project term and may involve more than one site visit.

Program Resources

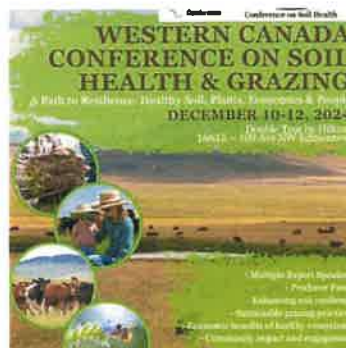
General Inquiries and Existing Applications	One-on-One Application Support
Phone: 310-FARM Email: RALP@gov.ab.ca	Phone: 1-866-310-RALP Email: info@RALP.ca

Classification: Protected A

Extension Events in Peace Country



Event	Date	More Info / Registration
Working Well Workshop	November 7th	Learn how to protect and maintain your well and drinking water supply. 6:30 pm - TARA Centre, Evergreen Park Doors open at 6:00 pm <i>Registration is currently at capacity, but you can join the waitlist here.</i>
November 12, 2024 APG Zone 4 Fall Meeting Fairview		
Alberta Grain Regional Meeting 2024 – Region 6 – Fairview		



Classification: Protected A

4.02-a)

Thank You!

Questions or Comments

Agriculture and Irrigation



Classification: Protected A

4.02-a)



September 4, 2024

Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Legislature Building
108000 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

RE: Funding for Agriculture and Agricultural Service Boards

Dear Honorable Minister RJ Sigurdson:

The Kneehill County Agricultural Service Board Members would like to draw your attention to a matter of concern for our municipality and all Agricultural Service Boards across the province.

Agriculture remains a consistently vital part of Alberta's economy, and as global pressures to improve efficiencies increase, so will the need for widely available, unbiased resources and expert consultations. While provincial agricultural departments and resources have been reduced in past years, municipalities have often had to step in and continue to provide resources and assistance for provincial services. Municipal Agricultural Service Boards across the province, including in Kneehill County, work tirelessly to uphold and administer provincial agricultural legislation while contributing to the sustainability and growth of the agriculture sector through extension programming and resources.

Provincial funding under the ASB Legislative and Resource Management Grants is critical for delivering Kneehill County ASB services and programming, and we greatly appreciated the increase in funding provided for 2023 and 2024. As the costs of delivering these services continue to rise, adequate provincial funding support is crucial to municipalities.

Looking forward to a new grant cycle in 2025, we are earnestly awaiting news of what changes will come with the new agreement. As municipalities operate on a calendar-year financial cycle, it is imperative that we have access to information on funding sources as early as September in order to finalize our budgets and make determinations on services, programming, and projects prior to the end of the year and the start of a new budget cycle in January.

As of today, we have received no official information from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation on the new ASB grant agreements, the amended grant requirements, or the funding amounts that will be available. We, therefore, request that your government provide municipalities with a detailed update on the 2025 grant agreements, including service and program requirements and funding amounts, so that we may budget accordingly and continue our vital agricultural services uninterrupted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wade Christie", is written over a horizontal line.

Councillor Wade Christie, ASB Chair, Kneehill County

CC: Assistant Deputy Minister John Conrad
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Manager of Agriculture Service Boards Kerriane Koehler-Munro
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee



Box 400, Three Hills, Alberta, T0M 2A0
Phone: 403-443-5541 · Toll Free: 1-866-443-5541
Email: office@kneehillcounty.com
www.kneehillcounty.com

4.04-a)



County of Stettler No. 6

Box 1270
6602 – 44 Avenue
Stettler, Alberta T0C 2L0
T: 403.742.4441 F: 403.742.1277
www.stettlercounty.ca

August 22, 2024

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

Honourable Nate Horner, MLA for Drumheller-Stettler
Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board
208 Alberta Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Sigurdson and Minister Horner,

RE: County of Stettler Letter of Support for AgKnow

The County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board is writing to express our full support for the AgKnow program, echoing the sentiments shared by Wheatland County, Saddle Hills County, and the County of Vermillion River from earlier this year. This initiative was highlighted at the 2019 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference through Resolution E1-19: Access to Agriculture Specific Mental Health Resources, and a similar resolution E2-23 on Stable Funding for Farm Mental Health was passed in 2023. However, securing consistent funding for this program remains an ongoing challenge.

In our County, and across the province, agriculture is not just a profession but a way of life. Currently the perception of agricultural producers as resilient, often exacerbates the mental health stigma within our community. The demand for mental health support in agriculture is a growing concern.

The AgKnow program by the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network is committed to addressing the mental health needs of our agricultural producers. It provides vital resources and access to professional mental health support tailored to the industry's unique challenges. Providing participants with the opportunity to consult with professionals connected to agriculture is crucial for fostering engagement and positive results. Sustaining stable funding is essential to preserve these vital services, particularly in rural regions.

4.04-b)

We cannot emphasize enough how important it is the Provincial government maintain its support for the AgKnow program and secure consistent funding to support the mental health and well-being of our agricultural producers.

Sincerely,

COUNTY OF STETTLE AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD


Les Stulberg, CHAIR


Larry Clarke, Board Member

P.P Ernie Gendre
Ernie Gendre, Board Member


Dave Grover, Board Member


Paul McKay, Board Member


James Nibourg, Board Member


Justin Stevens, Board Member

cc:

Dan Williams, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction

Linda Hunt, AgKnow Program Director

The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC)

4.04-b)



County of Stettler No. 6

Box 1270
6602 – 44 Avenue
Stettler, Alberta T0C 2L0
T:403.742.4441 F: 403.742.1277
www.stettlercounty.ca

September 11, 2024

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

Honourable Nate Horner, MLA for Drumheller-Stettler
Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board
208 Alberta Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Sigurdson and Minister Horner,

RE: Strengthening Regulation to Address Wild Boar Farming

The County of Stettler No. 6 would like to commend Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation for their unified approach to agriculture through Agricultural Service Boards and for leading effective campaigns including "Squeal on Pigs" and "Clean, Drain, Dry." We take pride in Alberta's reputation as an innovator in agriculture, and appreciate the strong support the provincial government provides to our industry.

However, we believe the Province of Alberta has fallen short in its implementation of the Agricultural Pest Act (APA) and its related legislation concerning wild boar.

The County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Service Board acknowledges your response to Resolution 5-24 from the 2024 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference, specifically regarding the enforcement capabilities under the current APA and the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, with particular focus on the Minimum Containment Standards for Wild Boar Farms (2015). While we recognize the enforcement mechanisms outlined, we remain deeply concerned about significant gaps and limitations within the current legislation.

The current APA does not provide inspectors with proactive tools for enforcing wild boar farming operations, relying instead on reactive measures only after wild boars have escaped. This approach fails to adequately address the severe risks that improper containment poses to agriculture, the environment, and the economy. To illustrate the magnitude of these risks, consider that in the United States in 2007, there were an estimated 5 million feral pigs, with crop damages and control costs

amounting to approximately \$300 per pig annually. This resulted in at least \$1.5 billion in damages and control costs nationwide (Pimentel, 2007). While similar estimates are not available for Canada, the potential impact on Alberta's agriculture could be equally devastating. Additionally, the biosecurity risk is immense—an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease could lead to an immediate shutdown of all Alberta pork and beef exports, with a nationwide cost of \$65 billion (Gillies, 2018).

The ability to effectively enforce the Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms (2015) under Section 5(2) of the APA—requiring landowners to take active measures to prevent the establishment of pests—is essential for the proactive management of wild boar farming operations. However, since compliance with these standards is currently voluntary and Alberta pork producers raising wild boar as livestock are not mandated to adhere to them, enforcement remains inconsistent and insufficient. The lack of authority to impose penalties for non-compliance with these Minimum Containment Standards weakens efforts to ensure that these farms operate safely and securely.

Furthermore, our legislation lags behind other provinces in addressing this pest. On July 1, 2024, the Government of Saskatchewan enacted the Animal Production Act, which regulates wild boar farming. Under this act, wild boar farms in Saskatchewan are required to meet regulatory requirements, including annual inspections, fencing standards, escape reporting, and record-keeping. Acknowledging the significant risks associated with wild boar farming, Saskatchewan has also implemented a moratorium on new wild boar farms, effective January 1, 2025. This legislation underscores Saskatchewan's commitment to mitigating the environmental and agricultural risks posed by wild boar, setting a standard that Alberta should consider following.

In Alberta, wild boar farming is regulated under the Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA), which is delivered by the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB). This legislation focuses on the manure management and expansion of confined feeding operations, and for wild boar no explicit containment measures are listed. Wild boar farming operations are only subject to AOPA conditions if they are larger than 100 feeders or 50 sows (farrowing) (AOPA – Schedule 2 Agricultural Operations, Part 2 Matters Regulation), leaving smaller wild boar farms effectively unregulated by legislation. The annual inspections of wild boar farms and adherence to Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation's Compliance Principles are positive practices, yet they fall short without concrete legislative support. A fully-backed framework, similar to Saskatchewan's Animal Production Act, is crucial to ensure wild boar farming in Alberta is conducted in an environmentally sustainable and economically viable manner.

We also recognize wild boar present unique challenges as they are considered livestock when contained within a fence but become a pest once they escape. This dual status has led to a reliance on local regulations, with 22 of 69 municipalities enacting bylaws to prohibit wild boar farming within their jurisdictions. Despite this, the volume of local legislation has not prompted adequate concern or revisions to wild boar farming practices as part of the December 7, 2023 review of the APA.

Given these concerns, we urge the Provincial government to take the following actions:

Strengthen the Agricultural Pests Act: Explicitly include the Minimum Containment Standards for Wild Boar Farms within the Agricultural Pests Act or the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, ensuring non-compliance is considered an offence subject to penalties under Section 23.

Introduce Licensing and Regulation: Establish a licensing and regulatory framework for wild boar farms, regardless of size, to ensure consistent and enforceable standards across Alberta.

Thank you for your consideration and continued work towards ensuring Alberta Agriculture is innovative, effective and sustainable for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Les Stulberg', written in a cursive style.

Les Stulberg
CHAIR, COUNTY OF STETTLER AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD

CC

Dale Nally, Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction

Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs

Heather Sweet, Opposition Critic for Agriculture, Forestry & Rural Economic Development

Laura Friend, Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Board

Brenda Knight, Chair, Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC)

Aaron Van Beers, President, The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)

Laura Poile, Secretary, The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)

4.04-C)

References:

Pimentel, David. "Environmental and economic costs of vertebrate species invasions into the United States." *Managing Vertebrate Invasive Species*, vol. 38, 2007.

Gillies, M. "Modernizing Canada's foot and mouth disease response plan." *Canadian Veterinary Journal*, vol. 59, no. 8, 2018, pp. 899-902.

Teresa Tupper

Subject: FW: You're invited to provide input to shape Alberta's nature strategy

Subject: FW: You're invited to provide input to shape Alberta's nature strategy

Good afternoon,

Please see below an opportunity for input into a made-in-Alberta nature strategy.

Sent on behalf of the ASB Program

(bcc'd all fieldmen & ASB)

Kerrienne Koehler-Munro, P.Ag. (she/her)
Manager, Agriculture Service Boards
Crop Assurance and Rural Programming Branch
Primary Agriculture Division
Agriculture and Irrigation
Government of Alberta

#107, J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000-113 Street
Edmonton, AB Canada T6H 5T6
Cell 780-938-4149
kerrienne.koehler-munro@gov.ab.ca



Classification: Protected A

Subject: You're invited to provide input to shape Alberta's nature strategy

Hi Kerrienne,

I wanted to let you know that Environment and Protected Areas is currently seeking input to inform development of a made-in-Alberta nature strategy. Farmers and agricultural organizations (rural municipalities/counties) are key stakeholders on the Alberta landscape and Alberta's agricultural landscapes play an important role in maintaining nature (which includes biodiversity). Across the province, stewardship by farmers is essential for maintaining the ecosystem services we all depend on, and we would appreciate any ability for you to share the current opportunity to provide input, with your networks. Links to the engagement site and survey are below. The survey will be open until November 7th.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to our team.

Thanks!
Barbara

Good morning,

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas is developing a nature strategy for the province. A nature strategy will be a made-in-Alberta approach for conserving, managing and restoring nature to support our communities

and economy, similar to Alberta's Water for Life strategy. The strategy will recognize the Government of Alberta's current system for maintaining nature, provide long term direction to guide the province's future work on investing in nature, and take action to manage the benefits we receive from nature, now and into the future.

We are committed to developing a nature strategy that encourages and supports the role of, and recognizes the efforts and contributions of stakeholders and Albertans to maintaining healthy, connected landscapes.

We would like to hear your perspectives and gather your organization's input on five areas of focus:

- Integrating the value of nature into how we do business;
- Investing in nature through conservation, sustainable management and restoration;
- Supporting stewardship and partnerships;
- Collaborating with Indigenous communities and organizations to support their leadership in environmental stewardship and to learn from their knowledge; and
- Connecting people of all ages to nature for their physical and mental health and well-being.

We invite you to share your feedback by completing the online survey at www.Alberta.ca/Nature-Strategy-Engagement. Feedback will be accepted until November 7, 2024 and used to inform the development of Alberta's nature strategy and how your organization may want to be informed of next steps.

If you or others as a representative of your organization have questions about this initiative, please contact Todd Letwin, Director of Land Policy or Barbara Bahnmann, Manager, Conservation and Biodiversity, at EPA.NatureStrategy@gov.ab.ca.

Scott Milligan,
Executive Director, Land Policy and Programs
Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

From: Josee <Extension@npara.ca>
Sent: October 11, 2024 5:15 PM
To: Teresa Tupper
Subject: Thanksgiving news, events, and information, especially with Agriinvest



Happy Thanksgiving from North Peace Applied Research Association

Upcoming Events and Information on Support for Agri-Invest

NOTICE: IMPORTANT CHANGES TO AGRINVEST START WITH THE 2025 PROGRAM YEAR

- The deadlines to submit your Agrinvest program forms will change
- New requirement to have an agri-environmental risk assessment in place to receive matching government contributions if average Allowable Net Sales (ANS), before the ANS limit is applied, is \$1 million or more.

The following risk assessments are eligible for Agrinvest:

- 4R designation for farmers
- Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB) Sustainable Beef Production Standard
- Certified Organic
- Environmental Farm Plan
- Nutrient Management Plans
- Saskatchewan agri-environmental risk assessment
- Plan agroenvironnemental de fertilisation
- Plan d'accompagnement agroenvironnemental

North Peace Applied Research Association can assist with setting up and completing your Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) through workshops or meetings.
For more information: 1-780-836-3354



Each year we North Peace Applied Research Association runs 1 - 2 EFP Workshops. These clinics are based on need for assistance for the Environmental Farm Plan.
Let us know if your interested.

I'm Interested in a EFP

Community Fall Supper Nov. 2nd

JOIN US
ENTERTAINMENT
SOCIALIZING
FOOD

COMMUNITY FALL SUPPER

SATURDAY NOV. 2ND
DIXONVILLE COMMUNITY HALL

5 - 9 PM

\$25 - Adults
\$15 - 12 yrs and under
****\$5 off for L.I.F.E. AG. Society and NPARRA Members****
Tickets can be purchased at the NPARRA Office in Manning
or through a L.I.F.E. AG. Society Representative

Join Dixonville
 L.I.F.E. Ag. Society
 and NPARRA for a
 Community Fall
 Supper.

You can purchase
 tickets at the
 NPARRA Office in
 Manning or
 through a L.I.F.E.
 Ag. Society
 representative.

\$5.00 off for
 members of
 NPARRA or
 Dixonville
 L.I.F.E. Ag. Society

RDAR North - Nov 7th



RDAR ON THE ROAD

Contribute to shaping the future of soil research in the Peace Region.

NOVEMBER 7, 2024 | RYCROFT, AB



This event is an opportunity to gather producers and municipal influencers to hear about each others' priorities, programs, current research, seek further partnerships, and for RDAR, to hear where its investments can best meet regional needs.

[Register Now](#)

Western Canada Conference of Soil Health and Grazing

Win tickets valued at
\$500.00 for the
Western Canada
Conference on Soil
Health and Grazing.

**Complete the
Survey**

Survey will be open
until October 22nd
with the draw for the
tickets being on
October 25th.

**Don't miss your
chance!**

ANNUAL SURVEY



PEACE REGION
LIVING LAB

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Complete this 5 minute Producer
Survey on the adoption of
Beneficial Management Practices
across the Peace Region



WIN TICKETS!



By completing the survey you can enter for a
chance to win 3 tickets to the Western Canada
Conference on Soil Health & Grazing in
Edmonton!

SCAN HERE

PEACELIVINGLAB.CA



WESTERN CANADA
Conference on Soil Health

WESTERN CANADA CONFERENCE ON SOIL HEALTH & GRAZING

A Path to Resilience: Healthy Soil, Plants, Economics & People

DECEMBER 10-12, 2024

Double Tree by Hilton
16615 – 109 Ave NW Edmonton



Dr. Bart Lardner



Emma McGough



Dr. James White



Michael Ferguson



Lana Shaw



Craig Lester



Dr. Anneline Padayachee

Tickets

Individual \$475.00

Farm Unit (2 people) \$900.00

Individual One Day \$250.00

Student \$375.00

Student One Day \$175.00

Banquet Ticket \$65.00

Banquet Tickets MUST be purchased separately

Early Bird Pricing until October 31, 2024

Register NOW <https://www.absoilgrazing.com>

Register NOW

Farming and ranching for soil health enhances biodiversity and increases biological activity, both of which are absent in current production technology. In both cases integrating plant diversity, keeping the soil covered, maintaining living roots as long as possible, and minimal soil disturbance leads to reduced crop inputs, greater infiltration and water holding capacity, and a myriad of environmental and social benefits. Soil health is greatly enhanced when practiced in conjunction with animal agriculture.



If you're a Canadian farmer, we'd like your input!

We are conducting a study called 'Investigating farmer identities and their relationship to help-seeking and mental health'. This study will help us understand the perspectives and beliefs of farmers across Canada, and how they relate to help-seeking and mental health.

Who can participate?

- Any agricultural producer working full-time or part-time in Canada
- Be over 18 years old

What is involved?

- It's a 60 minute one-on-one interview by telephone or online (zoom).
- You'll receive a \$50 gift card from Amazon or a place of your choice.
- Your information will remain confidential.

What questions will we ask?

- How would you define a "good farmer"?
- Can you describe what being a farmer means to you?
- What challenges do you face as a farmer?
- How do traditions or customs play a role in your identity as a farmer?



To participate, please contact Dr. Carrie McMullen at cmcmulle@uoguelph.ca

This study is conducted by the University of Alberta in collaboration with researchers from the University of Guelph, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, and the Canadian Center for Agricultural Wellbeing and funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. This study has been approved by the Research Ethics Board of the University of Alberta (Pro00143683) and the University of Guelph (#0036).



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA



SSHRC CRSH
Conseil des recherches en sciences humaines Canada

Contact Dr. Carrie McMullen

Young Agrarians

Young Agrarians are now accepting applications for Farm Business Mentorship Network programs. Applications are open until October 31st, 2024. Spots are limited - [apply today!](#)



— YOUNG AGRARIANS —
BUSINESS MENTORSHIP NETWORK
Mentee applications are open! Apply by October 31, 2024

[Review the full program details and apply here.](#)

Please don't hesitate to reach out to
tori@youngagrarians.org

Research Job Opportunity

AAFC Beaverlodge has funding for TWO full-time technical support positions until March 31, 2025.

Both positions involve mostly insect sample processing (on-the-job training to identify field crop arthropods to Order, Family and potentially Species level), some data entry, some basic laboratory upkeep, and some harvest sample processing (grain and weed samples).

[Contact Jennifer](#)

Interested?

Send Jennifer Otani your
resume 2 references.



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