



# COUNTY OF Northern Lights

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Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation  
229 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 2B6

July 24, 2025

Attention: Honourable RJ Sigurdson  
**Re: County of Northern Lights Declares an Agricultural Disaster**

The County of Northern Lights is experiencing worsening drought conditions starting last summer resulting in increasing pest pressure and poor pasture, hay, and silage yields. The resulting drought stress will lead to feed shortages and destocking. The sporadic and lack of rainfall has severely limited yield potential of all crops in most areas; the forecast moving forward will not offer any relief.

Drought conditions and pest pressure have weakened uneven crops; yield and quality reductions will be the norm for most crops. Hot and dry conditions have been persistent through the flowering, filling and podding stages. The Provincial Crop Report for the Peace Region has Tame Hay and Pasture Conditions rated at 80.6% as poor to fair. Current Crop Condition aren't much better, being rated at 72.4% poor to fair for all major crops. These conditions will contribute to the lack of feed and destocking we are bringing awareness too. Low yields, limited gains on livestock and rising costs will put most producers in an out-of-pocket loss this year, even with insurance programs.

At this time, the County of Northern Lights would request the Minister work with the Federal Government to release the prescribed regions early and be added to the 2025 Livestock Tax Deferral Provision as a prescribed region. We believe being added to the list early will help producers plan for winter and possibly offer some mental relief. We would humbly request the Minister engage with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation to retroactively increase the Low Yield Allowance in affected areas to allow more crops to be converted to feed. Lastly, if the drought affected areas continue to grow, we would hope AgriRecovery will be initiated and a disaster package developed.

We look forward to updates on further programing and understand we aren't alone in facing these challenging circumstances.

Sincerely,

Terry Ungarian  
Reeve  
County of Northern Lights

**Cc: Honourable Premier Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta  
Honourable Todd Loewen, Minister of Forestry and Parks  
Honourable Martin Long, Minister of Infrastructure  
Honourable Dan Williams, Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Mr. Chris Warkentin, Member of Parliament, Grande Prairie - Mackenzie  
Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta  
Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee  
Rural Municipalities of Alberta  
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation**