

Fusarium Graminearum Policy

Subject: Fusarium graminearum

Ref: ASB


Date Approved: April 27, 2021 Motion No.: 168/27/04/21 Replaces: New

The County of Northern Lights

believes in protecting the environment and the local economy from the threat of Fusarium graminearum and providing a Fusarium graminearum free area. This policy will strive to not make unreasonable restrictions while providing reasonable protection for the area. This policy is in response to the Invasive Species Bylaw 21-63-459 and will remain in effect until such a time when Fusarium graminearum can be managed effectively via fully resistant varieties, the socio-economic impacts are mitigated and well-understood.



Chief Elected Official



Chief Administrative Officer

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To administer, recognize, and minimize/eradicate the impacts caused by Fusarium Graminearum (Fg).
- 1.2 To bring education and awareness to businesses and residents within the County to minimize these impacts.
- 1.3 To be a leader as the County of Northern Lights in the identification and prevention of the establishment of Fg within the County.

2.0 COUNTY COMMITMENT

- 2.1 Provide direction, supervision, and resources to the Agricultural Fieldman or other staff responsible for carrying out this policy and enforcing the Invasive Species Bylaw.
- 2.2 Maintain a fleet of equipment and staff to adequately inspect the County. The County will endeavour to employ a minimum of a full time equivalent Agricultural Fieldman and a minimum 2 summer staff to inspect the County and provide control measures.
- 2.3 Provide the necessary budget to carry out confirmation testing.
- 2.4 Implement a program to test a minimum of 1 field per township, selection of fields will be based on suspected tight rotations, rotations with corn, field symptoms and complaints.
- 2.5 Council will authorize and decide an order to remedy containing crop destruction in deliberation with the Agricultural Fieldman and named producer.

3.0 AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Act as the Inspector and carry out the required duties under the Invasive Species Bylaw.
- 3.2 Supervise, direct and be responsible for other Council appointed municipal Invasive Species Inspectors under the Invasive Species Bylaw.
- 3.3 Responsible for carrying out inspections per the Invasive Species Bylaw, and in accordance with section 542 of the Municipal Government Act.
- 3.4 Act as liaison between the County and ratepayers to coordinate control of confirmed Invasive Species infestations.
- 3.5 Determine the need for enforcement of any breaches of the Invasive Species Bylaw, and to issue or assist with issuing an order to remedy any contraventions of the bylaw pursuant to section 545 of the Municipal Government Act as set out below.
- 3.6 Any order to remedy involving the destruction of crop will be authorized and decided by Council.
- 3.7 Violation tags and violation tickets will be given to any retailer known or suspected of selling untested seed or knowingly selling seed into the County containing Fg.

4.0 ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

- 4.1 Any property containing Fg will be identified, and appropriate action will be taken to immediately address the contravention of the Invasive Species Bylaw.
- 4.2 The Owner of the Property (as defined in the Invasive Species Bylaw) will be notified of the presence of Fg and offered recommendations for control

contained in the order to remedy through a management agreement. The Inspector may issue a written warning with recommendations or may immediately issue an order to remedy pursuant to section 545 of the Municipal Government Act.

- 4.3 The Inspector may also determine whether to impose any fines or penalties pursuant to the Invasive Species Bylaw up to \$10,000.00. Fines or penalties can be given to any farmer, producer, retailer, facility, or person that knowingly, recklessly or falsely leads to establishment of Fg within the municipality.
- 4.4 Any Order to Remedy issued to destroy Fg will be directed by Council.
- 4.5 Named producers must comply with an order to remedy, violation tag, and violation ticket or be found in contravention of the Invasive Species Bylaw. Any person who receives a written order under section 545 may by written notice request council to review the order within Section 547:
 - 4.5.1 14 days after the date the order is received, in the case of an order under section 545, and
 - 4.5.2 After reviewing the order, the council may confirm, vary, substitute or cancel the order.

5.0 IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS

- 5.1 Fields containing Fg in the calendar year will have an order to remedy placed upon them which may require:
 - 5.1.1 A minimum of a 2-year break from cereal and corn production be implemented—1 in 3-year rotation.
 - 5.1.2 Upon returning to cereal production switch to Moderately Resistant varieties, if applicable.
 - 5.1.3 Collecting representative samples for seed testing and selecting the appropriate registered seed treatment if necessary.

- 5.1.4 Minimizing the spread of vegetative matter (straw, hay, chaff, seed, and grain) from field to field via:
 - 5.1.4.1 Tarped loads
 - 5.1.4.2 Cleaned off equipment
 - 5.1.4.3 Proper disposal of seed
 - 5.1.4.4 Take proper precautions where feeding infected straw, hay or other feed residues as possible introduction site
- 5.1.5 Selling infected grain and potential seed to export markets. Currently no infected grain should be used for seed purposes. Zero tolerance for seed usage should be strictly adhered too.
- 5.1.6 Consider an appropriately timed fungicide if the environmental conditions are favorable during the proper plant staging.
- 5.1.7 Become familiar with the Alberta Fusarium Management Guideline for any additional preventative measure.
- 5.1.8 Always err on the side of caution and strive for prevention, as it will be much cheaper than control measures.
- 5.1.9 Contravention of a Section 545 Order to Remedy will be undertaken by the municipality and the debt will be recovered under Section 549.