AGENDA
COUNTY OF NORTHERN LIGHTS
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD (ASB) HELD IN COUNTY CHAMBERS
ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026, at 10:15 A.M.
COUNTY BUILDING, MANNING, ALBERTA

Members of the public are welcome to attend the County of Northern Lights Council meetings virtually using the Zoom Link below.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87327281564?pwd=lOfKTzEAF9PzjAkc0ADQwaXf9mujSa.1

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
   A. Tuesday, October 27 , 2026, ASB Agenda

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**
   A. Tuesday, January 27, 2026 , ASB Meeting Minutes

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

63.01 ASB AG FIELDMAN REPORT
A. Agricultural Fieldman Report

63.02 RURAL SERVICES/PROGRAMS/POLICY'S/RESOLUTIONS/GENERAL
A. Beaver and Equipment Rental Policy Update
B. 2026 ASB Peace Conference Report
C. Northern Family Farm Award Invite

63.03 NORTH PEACE APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

A. Talk ask Listen: Mental Health Workship (Manning) - Invitation

63.04 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION
A. Weed Control Act Changes
B. Lac Ste. Anne County Declaration of Ag Disaster Report
B. PEST ALERT: Bertha Army Worm
C. Wild Boar Sighting Report

5. **IN-CAMERA**

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

MINUTES
COUNTY OF NORTHERN LIGHTS
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD (ASB)
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026, AT 10:15 AM
COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING, MANNING, ALBERTA

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87322672613?pwd=OBelWblIUZphPa4UpLkCbNWeatrei1.1

PRESENT:

Gary These	Ward One	Weberville/Stewart
Kayln Schug	Ward Two	Warrensville/Lac Cardinal
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
Josh Hunter – Director of Finance
Blake Gaugler – Agricultural Fieldman
Teresa Tupper – Executive Assistant/ Recorder
Dan Archer – Mile Zero Banner Post Reporter

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ungarian called the Tuesday, January 27, 2026, ASB Meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

a. *Tuesday, January 27, 2026, ASB Agenda*

001/27/01/26ASB **MOVED BY Councillor Halabisky to acknowledge receipt of the Tuesday, January 27, 2026, ASB Agenda and adopt it with the following change:**

- **Change start to time to 10:15 a.m.**
- **Delete 4.63.01 Agricultural Fieldman Report.**

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

a. *Tuesday, December 09, 2025, ASB Meeting Minutes*

002/27/01/26ASB **MOVED BY Councillor Schug to acknowledge receipt of the Tuesday, December 09, 2025, ASB Meeting Minutes and adopt them as presented.**
CARRIED

4. NEW BUSINESS

63.01 ASB AG FIELDMAN REPORT

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

a. Intermunicipal Appeal Committee

003/27/01/26ASB **MOVED BY Councillor Yasinski to recommend to the County of Northern Lights Council to appoint the following individuals to the Intermunicipal Weed and Pest Appeal Board as members for the 2026 calendar year:**
MD of Greenview: Dave Gibbard, Mitch Caron, John Vinette, Douglas Vandemark, Lisa Dorsheid;
County of Northern Lights: Gary These, Kayln Schug, Brenda Yasinski, Brent Reese, Gloria Dechant, Terry Ungraian, Linda Halabisky;
Big Lakes County: George Blackhurst, Doug Meneice, Brianne Brault, Duane Nichols;
Northern Sunrise County: Simon Lavoie, Kristy Belzile, and Paul Keates.
CARRIED

b. 2026 ASB Summer Tour

004/27/01/26ASB **MOVED BY Councillor Halabisky to acknowledge receipt of the 2026 ASB Summer Tour and bring back to the April ASB Agenda.**
CARRIED

63.03 NORTH PEACE APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

63.04 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

a. Letter from Big Lakes County to Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

005/27/01/26ASB **MOVED BY Councillor Schug to acknowledge receipt of the letter from Big Lakes County and accept it for information.**
CARRIED

5. IN-CAMERA

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ungarian adjourned the Tuesday, January 27, 2026, ASB Meeting at 10:19 a.m.

Chair, Terry Ungarian

CAO, Gerhard Stickling

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

Agricultural Fieldman Report

May 25, 2026 – Started my role at the County as the Agricultural Fieldman. Was introduced to Council and to the five Ag. Summer staff during my first week.

June 2026 – Training started for me in the Ag. Fieldman position. Whipper snipper crew did an equipment competency day. Weed inspectors had to read up on weed Identification. Shelter Belt Trees were delivered to county, sorted into the individual orders and then picked up. Completed orientation with the contracted Ditch Mowers. I investigated past weed control sites while summer inspectors started scouting for weeds.

July 2026 – Had to replace one summer employee. So, more training was completed along with starting some weed control, covering the following areas; Keg River, Hawk Hills & Hotchkiss. Whipper Snipper Crew completed a consistent rotation of mowing all the county facilities, landfills and water stations. I was working on updating our weed control no spray agreements to have on record. I also completed the 1st part of Applicators Exam, attended the NPARA Farm and Field Tour. I also met with Nick Gallagher who is the Wild Boar Eradication Field Manager for Alberta Pork about our one sighting July 4, 2026.

August 2026 – Summer staff still worked on weed control in the following areas; Notikewan, Manning, Northstar, & Dixonville. While I completed some weed control in Webberville, & Warrensville areas. Organized next years ASB meetings to be added in the 2027 County Calendar. All summer staff except for one had their last day on Aug. 21, 2026.

September 2026 – Finished spraying a few locations that were inquired about with weeds then Ag. Fleet and Equipment was washed and winterized. One of the summer staff in high school stayed on to help for this month in the afternoons. I completed sampling across the county for the following Alberta Government Surveys; 2026 Wheat Head Survey, 2026 Canola Survey and Grasshopper Survey 2026. Lastly, I delivered hand picked weeds from this summer to the Long Lake Regional Landfill.

Sincerely,

Teagan Scott
Agricultural Fieldman
County of Northern Lights

New Format

Beaver Control Policy

FILE CODE: ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

DEPARTMENT CODE: AGRICULTURE SERVICES No. 63

DATE APPROVED: September 8, 2026

MOTION NO.: 417/08/09/26

REPLACED: 048/26/01/21

PHILOSOPHY

The County of Northern Lights classifies beavers as a nuisance species and will encourage control measures to manage populations and the ensuing damage they cause. The County will provide the necessary control measures and budget to protect County infrastructure.

PURPOSE

1.1 To administer, direct and protect County infrastructure caused by beaver activity and flooding.

1.2 To reduce beaver population numbers in areas where damage occurs, if necessary

AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD RESPONSIBILITES

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

2.2 Will remove dams and mitigate flooding only to reduce or eliminate damage to County infrastructure.

AGRICULTURE FIELDMAN RESPONSIBILITES

3.1 Is the Nuisance Inspector for the County and will administer the program and tracking of beaver infestations.

3.2 Will supervise, direct and be responsible for other Council appointed municipal Nuisance Inspectors.

3.3 Will prevent damage to County infrastructure through the monitoring of beaver activity within the County and arrange necessary control measures including, but not limited to:

- 3.3.1 Dam removal
- 3.3.2 Beaver removal
- 3.3.3 Area trapping

3.4 Will provide information for ratepayers for control measure options on private land.

PUBLIC RESPONCIBILIITES

4.1 An individual will be responsible for all beaver control measures on private property, unless the incident directly impacts County infrastructure. Ratepayers will not impede the County's ability to remove dams and reduce flooding in order to protect County infrastructure.

4.2 An incident involving any two ratepayers on private land will be disputed between the two ratepayers and not mediate through the County.

ATTACHMENTS/SCHEDULES/APPENDIX

REFERENCES

Legal Authorities	Municipal Government Act Agricultural Service Board Act Agricultural Pests Act and Regulations
Related Policies	Agriculture Pest Policy
Other	

REVISION HISTORY

January 26, 2021	New policy adopted by council
September 8, 2026	Updated to new formatting.

DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION UNDER ATIA AND POPA

Classification 1. A	Public Information

Chief Elected Official

Chief Administrative Officer

RENTAL EQUIPMENT POLICY

FILE CODE: ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

DEPARTMENT CODE: AGRICULTURE SERVICES No. 63

DATE APPROVED: September 8, 2026

MOTION NO.: 422/08/09/26

REPLACED: 097/28/02/17

PHILOSOPHY

The County of Northern Lights believes in providing and maintaining rental equipment deemed necessary for the use of the ratepayers within the boundaries of the County of Northern Lights.

PURPOSE

1.1 To administer and maintain a fleet of equipment that may be used by all resident ratepayers.

1.2 To have equipment that could aid in certain emergency situations.

AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD RESPONSIBILITES

2.1 Provide direction, supervision and resources to the Agricultural Fieldman for maintaining and operating a fleet of rental equipment.

2.2 Review equipment list and determine whether equipment is necessary or unnecessary at any time, based on usage.

2.3 Act as an appeal board for disputes on rental charges, if needed.

AGRICULTURE FIELDMAN RESPONSIBILITES

3.1 Maintain a list of equipment and equipment use.

3.2 Maintain the equipment and provide a recommendation for replacement or sale of equipment that is under-utilized. Will not allow any equipment, to the best of knowledge, leave the yard or rented out if unsafe to do so.

3.3 Carry out inspections of equipment before and after use to determine cleanliness and damage and charge subsequent cleaning and damage fees.

3.4 Set the ASB Rental Rates yearly for rental charges, damage deposits, cleaning fees and maximum days to rent. Set the ASB Rental Rates yearly for rental charges, damage deposits, cleaning fees and maximum days to rent. The Schedule of Fees Bylaw will be approved by Council.

3.5 Refuse rental to anyone based on prior negative rental history, indebtedness (refused if owing more than $50.00) to the County or any other reasonable matter.

3.6 The Agricultural Fieldman has the discretion to adjust and or negotiate rental rates, time frames and fees as needed. Along with the discretion to refuse rental provisions above, based on safety or previous negligence.

ATTACHMENTS/SCHEDULES/APPENDIX

REFERENCES

Legal Authorities	Municipal Government Act Agricultural Service Board Act County Bylaw No. 25-63-503 Schedule of Fees Bylaw
Related Policies	
Other	

REVISION HISTORY

November 25, 2022	09/25/11/22
September 8, 2026	Correction to Agricultural Fieldman Responsibilities.

DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION UNDER ATIA AND POPA

Classification 1. A	Public Information

Chief Elected Official

Chief Administrative Officer

Peace Region Agricultural Service Board Conference

Wednesday, October 28th, 2026

Tangent Hall, 3rd Ave, Tangent, Alberta

Time	Event	Speaker
9:00 a.m.	Registration	
9:30 a.m.	Welcome/Opening Remarks	Mel Duval - Birch Hills County ASB Chair 2026
9:35 a.m.	ASB Program Updates	Kerrianne Koehler-Munro (Manager, Agricultural Service Boards, AGI)
10:15 a.m.	Coffee Break	
10:30 a.m.	Weeds on Well Sites – New AER Legislation	Darcy Allen – Farmer's Advocate Office
11:00 a.m.	Aerial Pesticide Application by RPAS (Potential pesticide applicator credit)	Devon Smiegielski - Pesticide Certification Specialist Major Investigations and Programs Regulatory Programs Branch Alberta Environment and Protected Areas Government of Alberta
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	Wetlands and Agriculture	TBD, Cows and Fish
2:00 p.m.	Afternoon Coffee Break	
2:15 p.m.	ASB Provincial Committee Regional Rep Update	Bob Chrenek, Regional ASB Representative
2:30 p.m.	Resolution Sessions	Bob Chrenek, Regional ASB Representative
4:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks/Invitation to 2027 ASB Peace Region Conference	

* Cost $81.21 per ticket. *

ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

NORTHERN ALBERTA FARM FAMILY AWARDS

September 14, 2026

Hello,

On behalf of the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS), we are excited to invite you to take part in the 2026 Northern Alberta Farm Family Awards. Your involvement is vital in helping us honour the remarkable families throughout Northern and Central Alberta who contribute to a strong agricultural industry and keep our rural communities thriving.

The Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies is proud of its ongoing commitment to inspire vibrancy in Alberta communities by uniting people to celebrate the achievements and diversity of our rural communities. As part of this commitment, we are inviting your Agricultural Service Board to forward your **2026** award recipients from a farm or ranching family within your Municipal District or County whose livelihood is rooted in agriculture for the Northern Alberta Farm Family Awards.

All recipients will be recognized during a special program on **Saturday, February 6, 2027**. As honoured guests, families will take part in a full day of activities, culminating in an awards banquet and dinner. The families will also be recognized throughout the year through social media highlights and local initiatives. We also welcome a representative from your organization to join us for this celebration.

Once we receive the completed nomination form from your office, we will connect directly with the nominated family to gather more background information. This will help us prepare a meaningful and personalized awards program.

If you have any questions regarding the nomination criteria, please feel free to contact me. We kindly ask that nominations be submitted on or before **Friday, October 16, 2026.** Email submissions prior to the deadline are preferred, as this allows us to begin collecting family details right away.

If you anticipate any issues with the application or meeting the deadline, please let me know.

Best regards,
Tim Carson, CEO

Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies
780.427-2174

ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

2026 Farm Family Municipal Districts

Athabasca County	Big Lakes County
Birch Hill County	Brazeau County
Camrose County	Clear Hills County
County of Grande Prairie	County of Minburn
County of Northern Lights	County of Paintearth
Flagstaff County	Lac Ste. Anne County
Lamont County	Leduc County
Municipal District of Bonnyville	Municipal District of Fairview
Municipal District of Wainwright	Parkland County
Ponoka County	Red Deer County
Smoky Lake County	Sturgeon County
Westlock County	Woodlands County

NORTHERN ALBERTA FARM FAMILY AWARDS

PURPOSE:
Each year, farm families from North/Central Alberta communities are selected as the recipients of the Farm Family Awards. These awards recognize families who best represent the values of the family farm within their rural community. Awards will be presented on **Saturday, February 6, 2027**.

OBJECTIVES:
The objective of the Farm Family Awards is to recognize outstanding farm families in an area north of Township 34. The Farm Family Awards honor those who best exemplify the value of the family farm to our rural communities and society by being leaders in the industry. **Note:** The Farm Family is considered the ***immediate*** family currently involved in the family farm operation.

SELECTION COMMITTEE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL: The families honoured by the municipal districts and counties in **2026** to be recognized at the Northern Alberta Farm Family Awards on **Saturday, February 6, 2027.**

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION:
Please select a family deserving of recognition for both agricultural and community involvement. The farm family must be active in primary agriculture, have agriculture as the main source of income, and have members residing on the farm (agribusiness not eligible).
The method of selection is up to the individual Agricultural Service Board. It is important that the family selected be the representative of the municipality from which they are chosen.

It is also important to keep in mind that this program focuses on recognizing the contribution to the enhancement of quality of life as a family unit, not necessarily the business of farming. Areas of consideration include

- Increase awareness of agriculture and maintain a high standard in their agriculture business
- Promote the agricultural community through involvement and rural citizenship
- Be proactive in new agricultural technologies
- Act as a role model to the rural community
- Be deserving based on equal recognition of agricultural and community involvement

NOTE: A form for the collection of additional information will be forwarded to the family upon receipt of this nomination. Completion and submission of this form will be their responsibility. You will not be required to provide any further information after that time.

The Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies reserves the right to decline a nomination

Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies
Suite 108, J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6
Telephone: 780-427-2174 Email: info@albertaagsocieties.ca Website: www.albertaagsocieties.ca

ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

NORTHERN ALBERTA FARM FAMILY AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Family Name:	
First Name(s):	
Farm Primary Contact (if different from above): *If more than one farmer or farm couple within a family unit is being named, a primary contact must be identified for communication purposes.*	
Address:	
Town:	**Postal Code:**
Primary Phone Number:	
Email:	

SUBMITTED BY (Agricultural Service Board)

Name:	
Contact Phone Number:	
Address:	
Town:	**Postal Code:**
Email:	
Website:	

_____ _____

Chairman or Reeve (Please Print) *Signature*

Please submit this form by **Friday, October 16, 2026,** to:

Northern Alberta Farm Family Awards: E-mail: tracey@albertaagsocieties.ca or mail to below address.

The Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies reserves the right to decline a nomination

Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies
Suite 108, J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6
Telephone: 780-427-2174 Email: info@albertaagsocieties.ca Website: www.albertaagsocieties.ca

FARM FAMILY AWARD POLICY

FILE CODE: ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

DEPARTMENT CODE: AGRICULTURE SERVICES No. 63

DATE APPROVED: March 24, 2026

MOTION NO.: [redacted] 136/24/03/26

REPLACED: 098/28/02/17

PHILOSOPHY

The County of Northern Lights believes in honoring a Farm Family every other year within the County by participating in the available event and recognizing them at the North Peace Applied Research Association's Farmer Appreciation Night.

PURPOSE

1.1 To administer and recognize an outstanding Farm Family within the County that shows exceptional family values, farming practices and dedication to their communities.

1.2 A Farm Family will be selected every other year on even numbered years.

AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD RESPONSIBILITES

2.1 The nominated Family is selected by the Agricultural Service Board, using the criteria outlined within the nomination form, and based on excellence, dedication and involvement to farming and their communities.

2.2 All families that have been nominated are asked to fill out the nomination form.

2.2.1 If no nominations are received from the public the ASB will select a nominee at their discretion.

2.3 The County's Farm Family nomination is submitted to the available event and to NPARA for recognition at the Farmer's Appreciation Night banquet.

2.4 A member of the ASB is also invited to attend the ceremonies, usually the member who represents the Farm Family Award recipient. More than one member may attend the local Farmer Appreciation Night banquet.

2.4.1 The ASB will pay for tickets to banquet and award ceremony for the member and the spouse of the member if the spouse wishes to attend.

2.5 The Farm Family will receive a cheque for $1,000.00 to cover their expenses to attend the recognition event, if held outside of the municipality. If there is no external event the County will purchase a gift up to $1,000.00 in value to recognize the family. Gifts ideas could be, but not limited to an engraved watch, personalized fire pit, a plaque or a gate sign.

AGRICULTURE FIELDMAN RESPONSIBILITES

3.1 Collect the necessary information from applicants to provide Council with suitable information to make an accurate decision.

3.2 Act as a liaison between the County, the Farm Family and Ceremony Venue to provide a seamless experience.

3.3 Attend the Award ceremony, if able to do so.

ATTACHMENTS/SCHEDULES/APPENDIX

REFERENCES

Legal Authorities	Municipal Government Act Agricultural Service Board Act County Bylaw No. 25-63-503
Related Policies	
Other	NPARA's Farmers Appreciation Night

REVISION HISTORY

February 28, 2017	098/28/02/17

DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION UNDER ATIA AND POPA

Classification 1. A	Public Information

Chief Elected Official

Chief Administrative Officer


FARM FAMILY AWARD
2026
MICHALCHUK
FARMS

NORTH PEACE APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Subject: Invitation – Talk Ask Listen Mental Health Workshop in Manning

September 15, 2026

To: County of Northern Lights

Dear: County of Northern Lights

North Peace Applied Research Association (NPARA) is pleased to invite your counsel, your staff, and residents of the County of Northern Lights to join us for **Talk Ask Listen**, an agriculture-focused mental health workshop delivered by **The Do More Agriculture Foundation**.

The event will take place on **October 29, 2026, from 5:30–8:00 PM at the Pioneer Museum in Manning, Alberta**. The workshop is free to attend, and supper will be provided at 6:00.

Talk Ask Listen focuses on building the courage and confidence to **talk about mental health, ask questions, listen, and connect people with appropriate supports**. Designed specifically for agricultural and rural communities, the workshop provides practical communication tools and explores real-life situations that people may encounter in agriculture.

This is a **conversation-focused educational workshop, not therapy or counselling**. It is intended for producers, farm families, agricultural organizations, community members, industry professionals, employers, and anyone who would like to feel more comfortable having meaningful conversations about mental health.

Registration in advance is very important. The Do More Agriculture Foundation requires a minimum number of participants to be registered for the workshop to proceed. Advance registration also allows us to arrange enough supper for everyone attending. We encourage interested participants to register as soon as possible.

Registration and additional event information are available on the Do More Agriculture Foundation website or with the link below

https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/talk-ask-listen-manning-ab-tickets-2001077922935

We would greatly appreciate your help in sharing this invitation with your members, staff, volunteers, and networks. Additionally, we have a poster that can be shared along with the information on our events page on the NPARA website at www.npara.ca/events.

We believe this is a valuable opportunity to support mental health conversations and wellbeing within our local agricultural and rural communities.

Thank you for helping us spread the word. We hope you and your members will be able to join us on October 29.

Sincerely,

Josée Aitken
Manager & Extension Coordinator
North Peace Applied Research Association
extension@npara.ca | 1-780-836-0641

TALK ASK LISTEN

Your flagship workshop for strengthening mental health conversations in agriculture.

Join us for Talk Ask Listen with The Do More Agriculture Foundation and North Peace Applied Research Association.

Why Talk Ask Listen?

Talk Ask Listen is a capacity-building, conversation-focused workshop — not therapy, counselling, or clinical mental health training. Build practical skills and confidence to talk about mental health, ask questions, be present and listen to connect.

October 29 | 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Pioneer Museum
Manning, AB

Free to attend & supper included.

Register and find more information:

Visit domore.ag/events





WEED ACT CHANGES

Effective January 28, 2026, the list of regulated weed species was updated to reflect current conditions. Utilization of the revised Weed Control Act or the Alberta Invasive Species Council website is encouraged

If there are any inquiries or reports of invasive weeds, please reach out to the County's Ag Fieldmen at 780-836-3348 ext. 225 or ag@countynl.ca

ADDED AS PROHIBITED NOXIOUS

- African Rue
- Alkali Swainsonpea
- Black Swallowwort
- Common Hawkweed
- European Hawkweed
- Field Thesium
- Invasive Phragmites
- Jimsonweed
- Pale/European Shallowwart
- Palmer Amaranth
- Polar Hawkweed
- Queen Anne's Lace
- Smooth Hawkweed
- Spotted Hawkweed
- Tall Waterhemp
- Ventenata
- Wall Hawkweed

REMOVED FROM REGULATIONS

- Creeping Bell Flower
- Perennial Sowthistle

ADDED AS NOXIOUS

- Kingdevil Hawkweed
- Queendevil Hawkweed
- Tall Hawkweed
- Whiplash Hawkweed
- Yellowdevil Hawkweed

CHANGED FROM PROHIBITED NOXIOUS TO NOXIOUS

- Bighead Knapweed
- Black Knapweed
- Brown Knapweed
- Diffuse Knapweed
- Hybrid Knapweed
- Meadow Knapweed
- Meadow Hawkweed
- Mouse-ear Hawkweed
- Orange Hawkweed
- Spotted Knapweed
- Squarrose Knapweed
- Tyrol Knapweed

MORE INFORMATION AND WEED FACT SHEETS

www.abinvasives.ca

LAC STE. ANNE COUNTY

August 20, 2026

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

Re: Lac Ste. Anne County Declaration of Agricultural Disaster, August 20, 2026

Dear Minister Sawyer,

On behalf of Lac Ste. Anne County Council, I am writing to formally advise that Council has declared a Municipal Agricultural Disaster because of the excessive moisture and prolonged wet conditions experienced throughout the 2026 growing season.

The declaration reflects the cumulative impacts that persistent rainfall, saturated soils and limited opportunities for field access have had on agricultural production across Lac Ste. Anne County. Conditions remain highly variable, and Council recognizes that some producers continue to have crops with reasonable production potential where planting dates, drainage, soil conditions and rainfall were favourable. In other areas, however, producers are experiencing standing water, drowned-out portions of fields, uneven crop stands, delayed maturity, increased disease pressure and reduced yield and quality potential.

Of particular concern to Council is the impact these conditions have had on hay and forage production. While moisture has supported substantial forage growth in many areas, the ability to produce quality, usable livestock feed has become a significant concern. Persistent rainfall, saturated fields and limited drying periods have prevented many producers from cutting, curing and baling hay at the appropriate stage of maturity. As a result, forage in some areas has become overly mature or weathered before it can be harvested, reducing its nutritional value and suitability as winter livestock feed.

This distinction is particularly important when considering regional statistics that indicate relatively strong pasture and tame hay growth. Those statistics do not necessarily reflect the ability of individual producers to access fields and harvest forage under suitable conditions or the quality of the feed ultimately being secured. For livestock operations, an abundance of standing forage does not provide the same security as an adequate supply of properly harvested and stored winter feed.

Crop production is also being significantly affected. Provincial reporting as of August 11 indicates that only 36.9 per cent of major crops in the Northwest Region are rated good-to-excellent. Canola is reported at 24.9 per cent good-to-excellent and dry peas at only 17.3 per cent. The Northwest Region is also currently projected to yield below its five-year dryland average.

At the same time, 43.2 per cent of surface soil moisture in the Northwest Region is classified as excessive. Continued wet conditions have delayed crop development and normal field operations, and provincial reporting indicates that some fields in the Northwest are now being assessed for alternate uses or pre-harvest options where crops may no longer be economically viable to take through to harvest.

These regional statistics are consistent with what is being observed and reported locally. The impacts within Lac Ste. Anne County are not uniform and can vary considerably from one area or field to another. However, when considered collectively, the combination of excessive moisture, drowned-out acres, delayed crop development, disease pressure, reduced crop and forage quality, difficulty completing normal field operations and concerns regarding winter livestock feed supplies represents an extraordinary agricultural challenge for our municipality.

Council recognizes that weather related production challenges are an inherent part of agriculture and that existing provincial programs, including those administered through Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation and the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation, are intended to address many forms of agricultural production risk.

Council also recognizes that a Municipal Agricultural Disaster declaration is primarily an advocacy and awareness mechanism and does not, on its own, create or trigger provincial or federal financial assistance. The purpose of this declaration is to formally communicate the seriousness of the conditions being experienced by our agricultural community and to ensure that Lac Ste. Anne County producers are considered as the Province assesses the impacts of the 2026 growing season and determines whether additional assistance may be warranted.

Lac Ste. Anne County respectfully requests that Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation continue to assess the agricultural impacts within the County and the broader Northwest Region and consider all available provincial and federal support mechanisms for affected producers. Council would also welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss existing programs, potential gaps in those programs, particularly where losses relate to crop quality, forage quality and winter feed availability, and whether additional recovery measures, financial assistance or other supports may be appropriate in response to the exceptional conditions experienced this growing season.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of Alberta's agricultural producers.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jurgen Preugschas
Reeve Lac Ste. Anne County

CC: Mr. Shane Getson, Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Corridor Development, MLA for Lac Ste. Anne–Parkland
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC)
Kara Westerlund, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen

Outlook

PEST ALERT: Bertha Armyworm

From Stephanie Cerny <Stephanie.Cerny@gov.ab.ca>
on behalf of
AGI ASB Program <ASBProgram@gov.ab.ca>

Date Mon 8/17/2026 2:09 PM

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Sent to Agriculture Fieldmen and Assistant Agriculture Fieldmen from the ASB Program

Pest Alert: Bertha Armyworm

Localized areas of Alberta are experiencing bertha armyworm outbreaks. The extent of the outbreak(s) is still being determined. Daily scouting in high-risk fields is important. Bertha armyworm larvae will move between fields, so density can change day to day. Under high densities, economic levels of damage occur rapidly.

Bertha outbreaks can be very localized, and not all fields will be impacted. Fields at higher risk include fields with dense patches of kochia or lamb's quarters and fields located in areas that had medium or high pheromone trap capture (see the live map here). Infestations are still possible in fields in low trap capture areas.

While usually a pest of canola, bertha armyworm can cause economic damage in mustard, flax, quinoa, hemp, peas, alfalfa and potatoes. All these crops should be monitored as closely as canola in outbreak areas.

Over 15,000 acres of canola and peas have been sprayed for bertha armyworm in Vulcan County. Densities of larvae above 50 per square metre were observed in some fields. Reports of fields above threshold have come in from Special Areas 4 and the Municipality of Taber as well.

Please send reports of bertha armyworm issues and any questions to Amanda Jorgensen.

Sincerely,

Amanda Jorgensen, M.Sc., ATT (they/them)
Insect Management Specialist
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
17507 Fort Road NW
Edmonton, AB T5Y 6H3
Mobile: (780) 264-6708



BERTHA ARMYWORM NOTICE FOR AG PRODUCERS

Localized areas of Alberta are experiencing Bertha armyworm outbreaks. The extent of the outbreaks is still being determined. Daily scouting in high-risk fields is important. Bertha armyworm larvae move between fields, so density can change day to day. At high densities, economic crop damage can occur rapidly.

Bertha armyworm outbreaks can be very localized, and not all fields will be impacted. Fields at higher risk include fields with dense patches of kochia or lamb's quarters and fields located in areas that had medium or high pheromone trap capture. Infestations are still possible in fields with low trap capture areas.

While primarily a pest of canola, Bertha armyworms can also cause economic damage to

- Mustard
- Flax
- Quinoa
- Hemp
- Peas
- Alfalfa
- Potatoes

All of the crops listed above should also be monitored.

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Questions? Contact Teagan Scott, County Ag Fieldman, at 780-836-3348 ext.225 or ag@countynl.ca

LEARN MORE ABOUT BERTHA ARMYWORMS AT
www.canolacouncil.org/canola-encyclopedia/insects/bertha-armyworm/



SQUEAL ON PIGS!

REPORT SIGNS & SIGHTINGS

Safely take a photo and note the location and then report signs and sightings to

- wildboar@gov.ab.ca
- 310-FARM
- County Ag Fieldman, Teagan Scott: ag@countynl.ca
- Online: www.alberta.ca/report-wild-boar

Learn more:

www.abinvasives.ca/squeal-on-pigs/

www.alberta.ca/wild-boar-control-program

TEAGAN SCOTT
AG FIELDMAN
ag@countynl.ca
780-836-3348 ext. 225