

**AGENDA**  
**CLEAR HILLS COUNTY**  
**AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING**  
**April 16, 2025**

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The Agricultural Service Board meeting of Clear Hills County will be held on  
Wednesday April 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the County  
Administration Office, 313 Alberta Avenue, Worsley, Alberta.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. AGENDA**
- 3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**  
February 26, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes .....2
- 4. BUSINESS ARISING**
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
  - a. Activity Report.....6
  - b. Board Reports .....9
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. Soil Conservation Draft Policy.....43
  - b. Amended ASB Report to Council.....46
  - c. Events.....50
- 7. REPORTS**
  - a. Agricultural Fieldman Report.....56
- 8. INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE.....60**
- 9. ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF CLEAR HILLS COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WORSLEY, AB  
Wednesday, February 26, 2025**

PRESENT

David Janzen	Chairman
Jason Ruecker	Deputy Chair
Ron Jensen	Member
Garry Candy	Member
Julie Watchorn	Member
Baldur Ruecker	Member
Stacy Johnson	Member

ABSENT

ATTENDING

Greg Coon	Agricultural Fieldman
Carter Clay	Community & Agricultural Extension Services Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Janzen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

**AG01-25(02/26/25)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda governing the February 26, 2025, Agricultural Service Board meeting with the addition of 5.b., Member Watchorn's ASB Conference Report, as amended.**  
**CARRIED.**

MINUTES

Previous Meeting  
Minutes

Agricultural Service Board is presented with previous meeting minutes.

**AG02-25(02/26/25)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board adopts the minutes of the December 17, 2024, Agricultural Service Board Meeting.**  
**CARRIED.**

OLD BUSINESS

Activity Report

The Board is presented with the Agricultural Service Board Activity Report.

**AG03-25(02/26/25)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Jensen that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the February 26, 2025 Agricultural Service Board Activity Report, as presented.**  
**CARRIED.**

Board Reports

At this time the Board members will have an opportunity to present their reports on meetings attended and other agricultural related topics.

Member Johnson entered the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

**AG04-25 (02/26/25)**

**RESOLUTION by Chairman Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members written and verbal reports of February 26, 2025, as presented.**  
**CARRIED.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Agricultural and  
Irrigation Field Visit  
Report

The Board is presented with the 2024 Alberta Agricultural and Irrigation Field Visit Draft Report for review.

**AG05-25(02/26/25)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board directs administration to bring a draft soil conservation policy to a future ASB meeting. CARRIED.**

**AG06-25(02/26/25)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker to accept the 2024 Clear Hills County Field Visit Report as presented and submit it back to Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. CARRIED.**

ASB Report to  
Council

The Board is provided with the 2024 Agricultural Service Board Annual Report to Council for review.

**AG07-25 (02/26/25)**

**RESOLUTION by Chairman Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board directs administration to bring back the amended annual report to council to a future ASB Meeting CARRIED.**

Chairman Janzen recessed the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Chairman Janzen reconvened the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Tradeshow Schedule

The Board is presented with a schedule to be completed for the Agricultural Service Board booth at the Clear Hills County 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Trade Show, as well as a discussion regarding what to have at the booth.

**AG08-25(02/26/25)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Johnson that this Agricultural Service Board accepts for information the discussion regarding the Agricultural Service Board booth schedule at the Clear Hills County 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Trade Show being held on April 12, 2025 at the Dave Shaw Memorial Complex in Hines Creek, Alberta. CARRIED.**

PCBFA Delegation  
Request

The Board is presented with a request for a delegation from Peace Country Beef and Forage Association (PCBFA) to discuss a previous funding request.<sup>3</sup>The Board is also presented with a proposed response to PCBFA.

**AG09-25(02/26/25)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Jensen that this Agricultural Service Board Send the proposed response as presented to PCBFA. CARRIED.**

Chairman Janzen recessed the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

Chairman Janzen reconvened the meeting at 12:21 p.m.

Events

The Board is presented with a list of upcoming agricultural related events for their information.

**AG10-25(02/26/25)**

**RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker to authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board members to the 2025 Canadian Turf & Forage Seed Conference held on March 4-5, 2025 at the Pomeroy, in Grande Prairie, AB. CARRIED.**

**AG11-25(02/26/25)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn to authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board members to the PCBFA Soil Health Seminar, held on March 5, 2025 at the Delta Hotel, in Grande Prairie, AB CARRIED.**

REPORTS

Agricultural Fieldman  
Report

At this time the Agricultural Fieldman will have an opportunity to present his report.

**AG12-25(02/26/25)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the February 26, 2025 Agricultural Fieldman's Report for information, as presented. CARRIED.**

INFORMATION &  
CORRESPONDENCE

The Board is presented with correspondence for review.

**AG13-25(02/26/25)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Jensen to direct administration to draft a letter to the ASB Provincial Committee in support of County of Northern Lights letter of concern. CARRIED.**

**AG14-25(02/26/25)**

**RESOLUTION by Chairman Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the February 26, 2025, information and correspondence, as presented. CARRIED.**

**AG15-25 (02/26/25)**

**RESOLUTION by Chairman Janzen that the March 19, 2025, ASB meeting be rescheduled to March 24, 2025 at 10:00 am. CARRIED**

**AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD**  
**Wednesday February 26, 2025**

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ROUND TABLE:

Members had a chance to have a round table discussion regarding topics of interest.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Janzen adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	April 16, 2025
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>ACTIVITY REPORT</b>
File:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with the Agricultural Service Board Activity Report.

### BACKGROUND:

The Activity report is helpful to administration and the board for tracking the status of resolutions and directions from the board. Items will stay on the report until they are completed. Items that are shaded indicate that they are completed and will be removed from the list once presented at the current Agricultural Service Board meeting.

### ATTACHMENTS:

Agricultural Service Board Activity Report

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

**RESOLUTION by.. that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the April 16, 2025, Activity Report, as presented.**

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:



AgFieldman:





## Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

### Activity Report for April 16, 2025

Page 1 of 2

Budget Items: ☐

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer

CSC = Community Services Coordinator

Completed Items: ☒

AF = Ag. Fieldman

MOTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEPT	STATUS
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REGULAR AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETINGS				
		February 6, 2024		
AG06-24	(02/06/24)	RESOLUTION by Member Lemoine that this Agricultural Service Board provide a summary of Agricultural Service Board events and reports to be showcased in the Clear Hills County monthly newsletter. CARRIED.	CC	Continuous
		May 21, 2024		
AG35-24	(05/21/24)	RESOLUTION by Member Lemoine to advertise the 2025 Alberta Open Farm Days on the County Facebook page, website, and newsletter. CARRIED.		Advertise in Fall 2024
		September 17, 2024		
AG82-24	(09/17/24)	RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker to research hosting a Livestock Handling Demonstration presented by Kobe Fehr of RCK Cowdogs in 2025. CARRIED.		2025
		October 15, 2024		
AG92-24	(10/15/24)	RESOLUTION by Deputy Chair Ruecker to amend the rental equipment schedule of fees with the addition of a onetime fee of \$100.00 for specified pieces of rental equipment that will be charged if taken out of the Clear Hills County borders, as well as a clause stating non-County resident bookings will not be accepted prior to three (3) days before intended booking date. CARRIED.	AG/CSM	March 11, 2025 Council Meeting
AG93-24	(10/15/24)	RESOLUTION by Member Ruecker to recommend Council decrease the Grain Bagger Agricultural rental rate to \$200.00 per day, with the addition of a clause stating that rent will be charged for every day rented opposed to every day used. CARRIED.	AG/CSM	Future Council Meeting
		February 26, 2025		
AG05-25	(02/26/25)	RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board directs administration to bring a draft soil	Ag Fieldman	March 24/2025





## Senior Management Team Agricultural Service Board

### Activity Report for April 16, 2025

Page 2 of 2

Budget Items: ☐

Completed Items: ☒

CAO = Chief Administrative Officer

AF = Ag. Fieldman

CSC = Community Services Coordinator

MOTION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEPT	STATUS
		conservation policy to a future ASB meeting. <b>CARRIED.</b>		ASB Meeting
AG07-25	(02/26/25)	<b>RESOLUTION</b> by Chairman Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board directs administration to bring back the amended annual report to council to a future ASB Meeting. <b>CARRIED.</b>	AG Fieldman	March 24, 2025 ASB Meeting
AG09-25	(02/26/25)	<b>RESOLUTION</b> by Member Jensen that this Agricultural Service Board send the proposed response as presented to PCBFA. <b>CARRIED.</b>	CAO	Letter Sent March 14, 2025
AG10-25	(02/26/25)	<b>RESOLUTION</b> by Deputy Chair Ruecker to authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board members to the 2025 Canadian Turf & Forage Seed Conference held o March 4 & 5 at the Pomeroy Hotel in Grande Prairie, AB. <b>CARRIED.</b>		March 4 & 5
AG11-25	(02/26/25)	<b>RESOLUTION</b> by Member Watchorn to authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board Members to the PCBFA Soil Health Seminar, Held on March 5, 2025 at the Delta Hotel in Grande Prairie, AB.		March 5
AG13-25	(02/26/25)	<b>RESOLUTION</b> by Member Jensen to direct administration to draft a letter to the ASB Provincial Committee in support of County of Northern Lights letter of concern.	AG Fieldman	
AG15-25	(02/26/25)	<b>RESOLUTION</b> by Chairman Janzen that the March 19, 2025 ASB Meeting be rescheduled to March 24, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.		March 24, 2025



# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board Meeting</b>
Meeting Date:	April 16, 2025
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>BOARD REPORTS</b>
File No:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

At this time the Board members will have an opportunity to present their reports on meetings attended and other agricultural related topics.



### BACKGROUND:

### ATTACHMENTS:

Member Candy's Board Report  
Member Watchorn's Board Report

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

**RESOLUTION** by.. that this Agricultural Service Board accepts the Board members' written and verbal reports of April 16, 2025, for information.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:  AgFieldman: 

## Canadian Turf and Forage Seed Conference

March 4, 5, 2025

Grande Prairie, Alberta

Garry Candy

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

I was at the meeting before 8:30 am on Tuesday as I did not realize the 1<sup>st</sup> morning was for registered growers – however they let me sit in on their meeting.

-At my table, I met growers from P.E.I., Manitoba, Oregon and Europe.

-Three directors from B.C. and three directors from Alberta gave a breakdown of levies that they now have placed at .075%.

-Under turf grasses they list tall Fescues: Creeping Red, Kentucky Blue.

-Under forage grasses they list Timothy – Brome grasses including smooth, hybrid and meadow – annual and perennial

-Under Forage Legumes they list alfalfa, Clovers, Alsike – Cicer Milkvetch.

-There are almost 400 growers in the Peace Region of Alberta and British Columbia producing an average of 50 million pounds per year. Common seed is 69-93% of production with 6 – 31% certified.

### **Roger Burak** – first speaker on Zoom

- 10 year average on seed was 361,000 lbs,
- 2023 data – grass 5% creeping red fescue
- Perennial rye grass made up 1/2 of the production and a little red clover
- Roger spoke of Manitoba Seed – they have 9 board members for 2 terms
- Lisa O`Neil works small plots and large fields 1 hour NW of Winnipeg (Arborg)
  - o Grass and legumes 1/2 and 1/2
  - o Bio Pollen bee attractant in Manitoba
- MSFA conference is held in Winnipeg the 1<sup>st</sup> week of January each year. Their organization charges 1% to a max of \$750 per producer.
- Perennial ryegrass is the largest crop and treefoil is coming up

**Talon Gauthier** from B.C. and **Calvin Yoder** from Alberta

- Calvin has been a forage specialist for about 25 years in Alberta.
- He is now a contractor to SARDA and PRFAS. His largest work at present is in weed control and nitrogen management.
- He has videos out for seed testing and herbicide updates

**Jennifer Retzlaff** from southern Alberta with the Alfalfa Seed Commission of Alberta and is stationed out of Brooks.

- Does seed work with leaf cutter bees and extension research in 3 irrigation districts – E.I.D., Bow River and St. Marys
- Seed usage in Canada – down from 1,000,000 lbs. to 650,000. Manitoba is about ½ of Alberta and Saskatchewan acres. Lots of research on weevils and chemical use.
- They are in southern Alberta doing plot trials through 3<sup>rd</sup> party participation and leaf cutters as a second crop(so to speak)

#### **Saskatchewan Forage Seed – SFSDC**

- Creeping red fescue is not grown in Saskatchewan at present because of climate conditions and soil.
- Red clover is No. 1 crop in Saskatchewan and some sweet clover and organic sweet clover. Poor results with milkvetch. Grasses are about half of what legumes are at this point.
- Research ongoing for chemicals to control Kochia and Invasive pigweed.
- Info at [Saskforageseed.com/forum](http://Saskforageseed.com/forum) 2024 Password is carrot
- Plant growth regulator research to slow and regulate growth to prevent lodging. Ongoing studies on crop rotations, fertilizers and soil compaction where no till becomes a significant problem

**Dave Grafstrom** – University of Minnesota

- Grass seed research at the U of M started in the 30`s – legume seed, 50`s Kentucky Blue, 70`s – 2000 Kentucky Blue-Timothy, Reed Canary, Ryegrass,
- Mid 2000`s - Ryegrass-Fescue being studied at U of M. 40 acres at Magnussan Farm in 3500 plots. He gave the example of taking ryegrass from 250 lb/acre to 800 lb/acre through research

**Nicole Anderson** – Seed Production – Oregon State University and recently to Senior Research Scientist at NBIO in 2024

- Nicole is interested and active with Global Seed Production.
- She was involved with producing a new type of seed moisture tester – now on the market.
- Seed conference – 3 days at Tasma Nov 16-19 and farm visits. 20-22 in South Australia

**Dan Weaver** – Helsey Oregon – referred to as the grass seed capital of the world

- Things they consider to forecast the seed market:
  - o Production
  - o Current stock levels
  - o Weather in usage areas
  - o World economy and political climate
  - o Country laws and regulations
  - o Buyer attitude
  - o Market trends and sales
- Concerned about tariffs effects on markets.
- Ryegrass seed declared a noxious weed in India so that sale ended
- Market Trends Global – false shortages of seed. With Oregon Production going down, the price is going up
- Minnesota had an exceptional crop with lots of fall Fescue
- Overall forage and legume seed stocks are low so prices are relatively high and stable – his tips are to:
  - o Produce high quality seed
  - o Diversify
  - o More toward proprietary seed
- There is no chance of recovering in the Chinese turf market

**Jeroen Giesen** – Farms in the Netherlands and works with DSU which is a group of European companies. Grasses Legumes-Cover crops

- Worked cover crop mixes and companion crops
- Cover
- Different cover mixes for different crops
- Winter Canola in green houses in Germany and spring Canola
- Says to use aggressive harrow and seeder to take out and seed
- Turfgrass sales have been suffering since Covid
- Seeds from Europe are all certified
- Seeds from 5 countries in Europe – the ones close to the ocean receive more winds, giving better pollination – to minimize nitrogen use – put more clover in the mix

**Brianne Tideman** – University of Alberta – Weed Specialist La Combe

- Talked about control of Kochia. We have it becoming a problem in southern Alberta – north to west of Edmonton over to Lloydminster. A small kochia plant can produce about 200,000 seeds.
- Herbicide resistant weeds are on the rise in Canada
- Kochia is about 5% resistant to Glyphosate, in 5 years will be 50% and will be 70% resistant in 2 more years
- For good info on weeds – [Prairieweeds.com](http://Prairieweeds.com)

**Bill Biligetu** – Research Program Chair in forage crop breeding – University of Saskatchewan

- the focus over the last decade has been developing new varieties of perennial forage species for Canadian beef and forage needs such as alfalfa-hybrid brome, meadow brome and wheatgrasses
- talked about the 100 year history of tame forage breeding in Canada
  - o 154 varieties of forage and 25 species (not turfgrass)
  - o Reed Canary grass, Native wheat Grass, Slender Wheat Grass (no more breeding)
  - o It takes 6 years minimum to produce a new variety and up to 13 – 14 years

- They do line breeding and some variations in the last 10 years
- High yield brome – AAC Truman and AAC Torque
- More favorable in salty soils – CDC Salt King, salt tolerant Alfalfa's, AAFC Kentville
- Drones will help the research by doing a day's work in 4 minutes with the cameras that are available

**Dr. Leah Brilman** – director of Turf Products and Tech Services for DIFNA and Seed Research – Oregon

- Research with warm and cool season grasses used for lawns and golf courses, bred for low water requirements
- Arlington turf Gardens at the Pentagon uses this grass now
- Turf requirements include thickness, cover and color preferences for sports fields – USA prefers dark green and Europe prefers light green
- Green Leaf spot is one of the diseases prevalent now. 800,000 plants at the Oregon location for Green leaf spot.
- Heat during pollination is not good. Expectant yield with Perennial Rye is 2000 – 2500 lbs, Certified seed involves roguing. 80% of rye grass is seeded with wheat in the spring. Barnyard grass seeds have hooks on each end which makes them hard to clean out

**Doug Cattan** – Professor – University of Manitoba

- Excellent speaker
- Spoke on perennial grasses – wheat grasses
- Ergot is a problem in wet years
- Weed problems are the worst in the year of establishment

**Nicole Anderson and Calvin Yoder**

- Spoke about plant growth regulators with grass and clover
- Seed yield is dependent on count and weight, 90% count and 10% weight
- Too thick a crop blocks seed production because some seeds are in the shade



**Jennifer Otani – Bug Lady**

- September – Red fescue looking brown with loose seeds. Crowns were brought in to test and larvae found – different types – weevil. Looks like a cutworm but is not
- Outlook for 2025 crop – low population of cutworms probably from winter kill
- Look for dead spots and bird activity – can be a big issue for grass seed crops

All in all, a well spent two days

-30-

-

**2025 Canadian Turf and Forage Seed Conference**  
**Hosted by Peace Region Forage Seed Association**  
**March 4th and 5th**  
**Pomeroy Hotel**  
**Grand Prairie Alberta**

***Global Market Update***

*Dan Weaver; International Sales Manager*  
*Smith Seeds Service*  
*Willamette Valley*  
*"Grass capital of the world"*

*Smith Seed Service*

- Produce seed around the world
- Research and breeding
- Shipping
- Coating and Treatment of seed
- Packaging supplies
- Service is our last name but our first priority
- Mostly private label companies

Production primary influences of turf seed market

- Current stock levels
- Weather
- World economy and politics
- Country laws and regulations
- Buyer attitude and on all levels of market
- Market trends

- Sales
- Canada is a very important partner
- 2020 did affect seed sales same as toilet paper

### *Annual Ryegrass*

Biggest product by volume

If price goes down production goes up and reverse

China is a big buyer

### *Forge Perennial Ryegrass*

Imported quite a bit

Sold into the turf market

Lots of seed available

New Zealand has the market covered

### *Tall Fescue*

25% less in production

When cheap it was used as a cheap filler in mixes

(Fawn is one)

VNS-Variety Not Stated

### *Orchard grass*

Production is not coming up

### *Total Turfgrass:*

Not sure how much is in inventory

Good production

Perennial ryegrass sales shot up

Production didn't go up but sales went higher

Lost the third of sales when others started growing

Minnesota had huge production last year and no contracts

### *Tons of Tall Fescue*

K 31 tall fescue—old heirloom variety

### *Creeping Red Fescue*

Imports mainly from Peace Country

Doesn't store well the first grass to lose germination

### *Trends in the seed market*

- Turf acres haven't been reduced enough
- Environmental factors
- Pushing against turf and agriculture
- Pollinators and legumes have been become popular in lawns and gardens
- China's turf market is down 80 to 90% upping food security
- Diminishing worldwide VNS seeds

### *Legume sales*

White clover is mainly imported by Canada

Cover crops for example Crimson clover Vetch is helping production

Drama from the US

Less disposable income

Long term goals are at risk

Should produce high-quality seed

- Diversify
- Certified seed

Dan Weaver

[dan@smithseed.com](mailto:dan@smithseed.com)

(458)284-5028

### ***European Update***

*Jeroen Giesen, Netherlands*

*DSV Seeds*

*Innovation Research*

*250 M Euro yearly*

*780 employees*

-Grasses, Oilseed, Cereals, Cover Crops (first in the world) and Corn

They are in Germany Poland Denmark Netherlands

France they also have stations in Ukraine United

Kingdom and Canada

Production is 30,000 acres

And they invest 10% back into breeding

Market update

Low production last two years

Seeing for signs of recovery

Dramatic decline during Covid

Cover crops are booming

Turfgrass suffering the most everyone has oversupply

Demand tanked

Oversupply of ryegrass  
Decrease production of Timothy because there's still an oversupply  
Annuals are in high demand  
Clovers and alfalfa are shorted at the moment  
Very low yields of clovers  
Cover crop mixtures are readily stable

Global View;  
900,000 tons of production  
Europe is completely certified  
Canada 70%  
USA is 10%  
South America 50,000 tons of production  
Canada 70,000 tons of production  
Alfalfa–Italy Spain produce their own

Perennial ryegrass; dairy first cut is silage, second cut is for seed  
Alfalfa  
2023/2024 no yield was silage never produced seed  
Certified–dislent, uniform, stable  
2-3 years approval for value cultivator  
To use 2 to 5 year approval  
European specs are quite a bit higher to get on the recommended list than North America  
In the EU see you can only be sold back to the company and there is no market for uncertified  
Can only fertilize 70% of what the plant needs



Canada it's 180- 200 pounds an acre

## **Weed Resistance & Management Options**

*Breanne Tidemann, Agriculture and Agri-foods*

*AAFC Lacome*

Weeds–Prairie weed surveys started in the 1970s

#1-chickweed

#2-Canola

#3-Wild oats

Foxtail barley increased the most

Kosher is now in the Peace Region and herbicide resistant

Water Hemp and Palmer Amaranth has been found in Canada it's coming in with herbicide resistance

### *Resistant surveys*

Add 2 new each year

86 in Canada now

70% of all fields has some weed that's herbicide resistant

Checked 24,624,000 acres

\$658M dealing with herbicide resistant weeds

Wild oats and yellow and green foxtail are herbicide resistant

Lambsquarters (Maritimes)

Canada fleabane

Powell Amaranth

Common ragweed

Giant ragweed

## Italian ryegrass

### *Problems with HR weeds*

- Reduced crops
- Contaminate crop samples

### *7R's for BPM's of chemical weed control*

- Right product
- Right timing
- Right rate
- Right partners
- Right weather
- Right area
- Right application

### *Biological weed control*

- Increasing seeding rates
- Competitive crops
- Strong basic agronomy
- Crop type in variety for example barley is more competitive than wheat

### *Physical weed control*

- Impact milk parts pulverize his chaffed to dust this has to hundred thousand dollars price tag
- Herbicide resistance BPM yes size matters you have to get them when the herbicide matches
- Focus on long-term

Breanne Tidemann

AAFC Lacombe

[Breanne.Tidemann@agr.gc.ca](mailto:Breanne.Tidemann@agr.gc.ca)

### **Weed Management Panel**

*Calvin Yoder Turf and Forage Seed, SARDA Ag.Research*

*Kristina Wormald Polziehn, Agronomist*

*Axiom Agronomy Ltd*

Main weeds in Turf and Forage crops

Annual bluegrass

Downey brome (Southern Alberta/ Saskatchewan)

Quack grass

Fox tail barley

Working on products to help with this

Weeds like to grow where nothing is growing

If you spray out the ditch, grass weeds will grow there next year

Seed sheep's fescue around the field border, to help keep weeds growing into field edges and just keep it mowed

Fix poorly drained areas where weeds are growing

Spot spray Thistle, Annual Bluegrass and Wild Oats

Drones can be a good fit when they have herbicide that is registered to use

When planning a seed crop, clean up the weeds first

Avoid land with Foxtail growing before you seed into it

Manage grassy weeds in the annual crops prior to seeding grass

During grass seed establishment, grassy weeds compete heavily reducing stand establishment not only is lowering seed yield but can also downgrade the quality of the harvest crops

Grass weeds are so difficult to manage in grassy crops

- They belong to the same family
- Limited herbicide options
- Herbicide resistance
- Lack of effective cultural controls
- Competitive growth
- Seed contamination

Wild oats

- Annual
- 2200 seeds per plant
- 20 to 70% of these shatter before harvest host crop
- 4 to 5 year viable in soil
- Germination in June, top 6 inches of soil
- 69% of wild oats and Alberta herbicide resistant

Barnyard grass

- Annual
- Very competitive spreading growth
- 7100 - 71,000 seeds per plant

Annual bluegrass

- 1050- 2250 seeds
- Most seeds germinate, they last six years in the soil
- 24% of the seeds last longer

Downy brome

- Southern weed
- 25 to 400 seeds per plant, puts it at 70 million seeds/ acre
- 2-3 years in the soil

#### Foxtail Barley

- Perennial
- 10 to 300 seeds per plant
- Germination two times a year
- Remains in soil for seven years
- Causes mouth sores in livestock
- Seeds are within top 5 cm in the soil

#### How to manage grassy weeds?

- Improve crop competition
- Direct seeding
- Crop rotation
- Tillage mowing silage
- Fertilizer placement, banding gets fertilizer to crop not weeds
- Herbicide considerations
  - preseason -post season
  - pre-emergent -post emergent
  - pre-harvest -post harvest
- It's a evolving program

*Nicole Anderson*

*Senior Research Scientist, National Institute of  
Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)  
Norway*

- Grass weeds are the biggest pest in grass seed production
- HR is the biggest concern in grass seed production
- Regulation has limited access to many herbicides in Europe
- Contaminated seeds are heavily discounted or unable to be sold
- Managing weeds has to start way before you seed your grass crop
- Clean seed is crucial
- Short term sacrifices =long term benefits
- Clean Equipment!
- Check bought seed as to where the origin is??? Is it from a high HR areas Look for seed test on bag label
- Don't cut rates on Round-up!!!!
- Drones- mount sensors weed mapping
- Autonomous weeding
- Spot spaying machines A.R.E.S Autonomous Robot Enhanced Sprayer (does 20 acres/hr going 24 hrs day)
- Seed cleaners



## **Turfgrass and Forage Breeding**

*Forages- Bill Biligelu, Asso. Professor U of Sask*

Forage breeding in Canada

Started in 1920's

11 research centers, 4 Universities

Our closest one is Beaverlodge Ab

154 cultivars in the forage variety

64 forage legumes (alfalfa and clovers)

25 per forage species

90 varieties of grasses

Breeding starts with gene banks

Grow seedlings

Select crops taking best genetics

New varieties take 13 to 24 years

Line development take 5-6 years for the breeding starts

The field test is approximately 8 years

Breeder seed 2 years

In the farmers field

AAC Truman alfalfa was released in 2018

AAC torque brome 2020

CDC torsion meadow brome 2020

CDC salt King 2022 hybrid wheatgrass

Genetic database is important in catching genes that maybe aren't right or the gene has a disease that can breed that gene out

Gene editing requires authorization

Gene editing is like increasing drought tolerant and alfalfa increasing water logging

Some of the main breeding goals in recent years

- Drought tolerance in alfalfa

- Seed yield of Red clover

- Acid tolerance in alfalfa/sanfoin

- High sugar content in alfalfa

- Lipid content in alfalfa/sanfoin

- High seed germination and seedling vigor in cicer milk vetch

- Salt tolerance in grasses

- Maturity and yield in Timothy

*Turfgrass- Leah Brilman Director of Product Mgmt & Technical Services DLF Oregon*

Grass grows at or below ground

Wind pollinated

Started breeding in 1920 taking the best plants from old golf courses at the Arlington turf Gardens which is now the Pentagon

Lots came from PEI Canada

1947-Marion Kentucky bluegrass released; the basis of much of the seed industry

1970- plant variety protection law passed

Seed yield trumps everything in grasses

Perennial ryegrass generally has one set of chromosomes and the rest have multiple sets

Overview of crop:

Cool and warm season grasses are used for lawns, golf courses, sports fields, parks and roadsides

Grass occur naturally in biomes too dry for trees

Adapted to being grazed by herbivores because they're growing points are at or below ground they respond well to being defoliated

They can spread by seed or vegetatively through rhizomes

Species are primarily wind pollinated

Most cultivars sold in Canada for turf originated in the US or Europe

Breeding cool season grasses

Disease resistant important in all species

American markets- dark green color, fine texture and density

Wear tolerance and recovery( sports fields and for livestock)

Salinity tolerance affluent and poor quality water, roadsides and sidewalks with salt or ice

Drought intolerance or efficient water use

Seed yield critical in getting to market

Plant breeding as a numbers game

123,632 plants in one plot in Oregon

Three plots have over 800,000 plants!

*Rigas Karamanos*  
*Soil Scientist*  
*Fertility Management*

*Nitrogen Fertilizer Efficiency on Grasses*

1999- 34-0-0 was no longer produced

Conditions favouring Urea for gassing off:

Prolonged exposure

Heavy thatch

Maximum contact with residue

Moist surface

Sandy soil

High pH , high lime

Low organic matter

Warm drying conditions following application

Peace River Experiment:

Rates Applied- 0,60,80,100 kg N ha

Timing- late fall and early spring

Locations-two locations and Rycroft and Peoria

Forms of nitrogen used- AN, PCU, Urea treated with NBPT(Agrotian)

Conclusion-

-Overall no difference in forage yields due to time of application Spring versus fall

-Loss in yield to gassing off of urea was not apparent at either location

- Urea (treated and un-treated) performed comparably with Ammonium Nitrate at both locations
- CRU did not perform as well as the remaining N sources

#### Generalized N application Ratings on Grasses

Broadcast 34-0-0	100%
Dribble 28-0-0	85-95%
Broadcast 46-0-0	75-85%
Spray 28-0-0	75-80%

#### Broadcasting on snow

Favorable conditions include

- A 2 to 4 inch layer of newly fallen fluffy snow on previously snow laden field
- Purity of mild weather
- Urea pellets should dissolve and move completely through the snow cover
- these ideal conditions for applying Urea on snow will seldom if ever exist outside of the Chinook belt, therefore most of the Prairie region application of urea on snow is not recommended

Stay away from polymer coated urea, seven weeks later you can still see it laying on the ground

*Enhance Efficiency Fertilizer* as a term describing fertilizer products that allow increased plant uptake and reduce the potential of nutrient losses in the environment such as gassing off, leaching or runoff

Demand to see third party research when buy new fancy fertilizers

You can use 80% of the EE fertilizers you get the same yield as if using 200 pounds so 160 pounds will work  
If you are 100% know what's going to rain you don't need to buy EE fertilizers just use Urea!

### Breakout sessions

#### *Perennial Ryegrass Production*

*Dave Grafstrom, Research Agronomist*

*University of Minnesota Research Farm*

First ryegrass cultivar released in 2001(Ragnar)

Arctic green-(Assure II tolerant genetics) released in 2007

Perennial rye grass BMP began in the early 2000's and is updated every couple years

- Establishment in winter survival
- Fertility recommendations
- Disease (rust) and pest control (armyworm grasshoppers)
- Growth regulators (PGR)
- Weed control

-Swathing, harvest and seed storage

Documented Perennial Ryegrass yields

- Oregon data suggests over 2000 # an acre
- 2018 several perennial ryegrass producers had field average seed yields over 1500# an acre



-Yields in the mid 2000's to 300# an acre today it's averaging 800

### Summary of Disease Control Research

#### Rust in ryegrass-

- Depending on the year rust transports on the low level jet streams
- Head infection and leaf and stem rust using fungicide helps low seed yield
- Crown rust is there just not as damaging
- Current BPM is to apply fungicide; research and a 14 year period indicates 172 pound increase even in light rust infestation

### Applying Growth Regulators

#### Apogee or Palisade(US)

- Reduce lodging
- Better pollination
- Increase tillering
- Improve seed set
- More efficient swathing/ harvesting
- Reduction in small seed/fines

### Grassy weed control

- Grassy weed control is more challenging then broadleaf weeds in perennial ryegrass seed production
- Foxtail barley, annual bluegrass, Downey brome grass, quack grass, volunteer wheat, wild oats (developed resistance to most post-emergence)and barnyard grass are the most difficult to control

-Nortron at 2 to 4 pints Applied in late fall has good crop safety and good control of problem grasses

Managing wild oats control in perennial ryegrass

-Extend crop rotation intervals to 4-5years

-When possible mow problem weed areas

-Integrate Roundup in the cropping sequence example soybeans or canola

-Straw needs to be harrowed really well to ensure gaps don't happen before seeding ryegrass; weeds will grow where there's gaps!

-In 2025 wild oats were crowned weed of the year in North Dakota; over 50% of wild oats in North Dakota are resistant to group 1 and 2 herbicide

*Intermediate Wheatgrass*

*Doug Callani*

*Associate professor, University of Manitoba*

*Intermediate wheat grass*

*Genetically more complex than wheat*

*Ergot is an issue in wheatgrass and wet years in late developing heads*

*2020 cut worms we're very bad*

*Bad flooding from the Red River*

*Spring seeding is more vigorous and fall seeding*

*Drought during flowering impacts yields immensely, seed heads develop a flowerets shatter*

*When starting to look at fertility always use fall plants*

*Uses of wheat grass and bread and beer*

Trying to make whiskey and moonshine but it uses 900 pounds to make the mashed where only use 800 make beer

Second breakout session

*Calvin Yoder, Forage Seed specialist  
SARDA Ag Research, Spirit River Alberta  
Surendra Bhattarai Assistant professor Forage Agronomy  
Department of Plant Science, University of Wyoming*

What drives yield?  
Seed number  
Seed weight

Why Plant Growth Regulator (PGR )in grass seed crops?

- Stem elongation is promoted by the hormone GA
- Tall stems can't support weight of seedhead tillers lodge or fall to the ground
- Lodging reduces seed number because of reduced pollination
- Lodging decreases seed number

PGR treatment means zero lodging in plots

PGR products

Moddus and Manipulator

Used in farm trials in the peace River region in 2020  
2021 2022 and 2023

Well fertilize stands with good moisture condition, I responded well to PGR in terms of reduced lodging, reduced plant heights and increases in seed yield

Creeping red fescue and Timothy 2 to 3 node  
PGR adding 52+ pounds an acre using Manipulator

Brome grass-sprayed with manipulator on wet year the parts of the field that wasn't sprayed didn't do well lodged really bad

Red Clover-Moddus is the only spray to be used  
Critical! 2 node stage if wait; will decrease yield

*Jennifer Otani, Insect Pest Management  
Ag and Ag- food Canada  
Beaverlodge Research Center*

*Getting to the Root  
Subterranean pests in Grass Seed Stands*

Some grass crops in Spirit River, Hythe and Valhalla were showing signs of yellowing in the fall  
September/ November 2023

Dug up crowns of fescue 4-8 cm beneath the soil found larva

Several types some weevil and cut worms

Large larva over wintering are not a good thing they eat very quickly and a lot in the spring

Very high densities of six different larva

Sod web worms, weevil larva and MARCH FLY LARVA;  
we dont have them here!!

Didn't see yield damage as was thought when seen crop  
plant damage

Higher than average summer heat is the thinking that's  
why these larvae are in Creeping red fescue they are  
cattail beetle!!

Large hook or C shaped with brown head start looking  
for them spring monitoring sample 10+ spots through  
out your fields

Scout areas that are slow to grow, failing to green up or  
browning off

Bird activity, low spots, high spots

Plan for cut worms expect sod web worms ,watch for  
weevil larvae

Best news of all this work; they didn't find billbugs yet

## New Innovations in Fertilizers

March 27 2025

Eureka River Hall

*Bio-Agtive Emissions Farming*

*Pincher Creek, Ab*

*Gary Lewis*

Bio-Agtive Emissions Farming is a Canadian innovation that recycled internal combustion emissions from any fuel source into rich plant nutrition that is passed over the landscape as the farmer seeds, sprays or harvests. The Bio-Agtive method rapidly builds soil organic matter but also enables you to gain free nitrogen from your farm to eliminate costly inputs, notably synthetic nitrogen.

Emissions are processed in a retrofit tank system transforming any fuel into biological fertilizer.

-Spray it

-Irrigation

-Inoculant

-Foliar vapping

-Residue treatment

Any equipment Any soil Any crop

Farmers commit to the elimination of synthetic fertilizers, while reducing chemicals, saving up to \$200 per acre per season. Meeting or surpassing historical yields.

Mimics nature, replicated and delivered directly from  
your farm equipment

Increases photosynthesis

1000 L does about 100 acres

It's an acidic liquid about a pH of 4.5

### CO<sub>2</sub>-Carbon Pathway

1. CO<sub>2</sub> from air taken in by plant

2. Plant carbon; the product of photosynthesis deposits  
in soil off roots

3. These carbon compounds are consumed by microbes  
and other soil life

4. Microbes respiration from soil send CO<sub>2</sub> back up to  
the hungry plant canopy

5. Microbs become microbiomes

Soil organic matter increased .3% to 1% in the first  
season

Spray foliage oats and alfalfa grew the same rate as with  
synthetic fertilizers

There is no significant difference in yields between  
synthetic fertilizers and emissions farming

4 L of carbon water/ acre

Quebec

1<sup>st</sup> cut- 110 bales

2<sup>nd</sup> cut- 200

Year prior

1<sup>st</sup> cut- 28 bales

2<sup>nd</sup> cut-100 bales

Farmer needs to get paid for the nutrient dense food for humans, cattle, hogs etc.

Cows that were fed the grains grown using Bio Agtive produced more milk

Duram wheat was 19% protein

Farm Trials:

Smart Farm trial- Olds College -June 2022

Rayel Farms- Brooks Alberta- July 2022

Bio nutrient Institute study-

Utah State University- hog trial

There is approximately 70 units in Alberta being used

Using a 500 horse tractor

\$100,000 installed

\$80-\$90,000 sprayer mount

They manufacture and install the equipment in Pincher Creek, Ab They come out to your farm and install on your tractor

You have to go all in, you cant just use a small amount of fertilizer

They do a Zoom Meeting every Monday morning for anyone who wants to join

To further contact Bio-Agtive

[office@bioagtive.com](mailto:office@bioagtive.com)

(403) 628-2106

bioagtive.com



*MJ Solutions*  
*Alternative fertilizer strategies*  
*Makenzie Fingerhut*  
*Fairview, Ab*

### Liquid Applications

Using (focusing) away from synthetic salts

Regenerative products:

*Biosul*- sulfur 0-0-0-70

*Superks*- potash 0-0-30-35

(have to be careful using straight it will turn  
to cement, they add it to Biosul)

Soils that have less potassium

*Rebuilder*-0-21-0-12

Elemental sulphur

Calcium/Phosphorous

*Heso* -0-9-20-20

Is the whole meal deal

Best bang for your buck

Wood ash 0-2-5-3-24ca-2mg+Zn-B-Cu

Calcium is what's needed here (Can use as a  
replacement for lime)

Heavy rains don't affect runoff

Lime applications last 10-15 yrs

Multi-year nutrient bank-5 yrs

You need to see product benefits so some producers go  
every 7 yrs

Goal is PH of 5 for optimal growth

Tissue tests are free of charge

A&L Canada Labs Inc. (Ontario)

As Sulfur is reloaded the nitrogen levels jump up  
Use weather station for weather data

Pellet or granular products are available  
Take the salts out of the equation  
Keep the biology in the compost alive  
They are producing pelleted wood ash  
0 salt index  
Wood ash is a by-product

(780)834-8465 –MAC [mfingerhut@mjsolutions.com](mailto:mfingerhut@mjsolutions.com)  
(250)420-7240 –Kenzie [mhawk@mjsolutions.com](mailto:mhawk@mjsolutions.com)

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	April 16, 2025
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>Soil Conservation Draft Policy</b>
File:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with the Soil Conservation Draft Policy for review.

### BACKGROUND:

**AG05-25(02/26/25)**

**RESOLUTION by Member Watchorn that this Agricultural Service Board directs administration to bring a draft soil conservation policy to a future ASB meeting. CARRIED.**

### ATTACHMENTS:

-6318 Soil Conservation Policy DRAFT

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

**RESOLUTION by...** that this Agricultural Service Board approves the Soil Conservation Policy as presented.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: **Manager:**



**AgFieldman:**





## Clear Hills County

Effective Date: <b>April 16, 2025</b>	Policy Number <b>6318 DRAFT</b>
Title: <b>Soil Conservation Policy</b>	

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure that soil loss and degradation is managed and controlled under the *Soil Conservation Act* of Alberta (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter S-15) and the *Conservation Regulation* (272/1998)

### 2. Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to all lands, including public, private, agricultural, industrial and residential within Clear Hills County.

### 3. Definitions

*Act*: means the *Soil Conservation Act of Alberta (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter S-15)* and the *Conservation Regulation (272/1998)* including any amendments or successor legislation thereto.

*Control*: means to inhibit the loss of soil quality or quantity by erosion, salinization or desertification.

*Degradation*: means loss of soil quality by salinization or desertification as well as an increase in susceptibility to wind and water erosion.

*Erosion*: means the loss of soil quantity by wind or water.

*Landholder*: means the occupant of the land, or if no occupant, the owner of the land.

*County*: means Clear Hills County having jurisdiction under the *Municipal Government Act* and other applicable legislation.

*Reported Field*: means any field for which a complaint is received as having or potentially having any symptoms or signs of soil loss or deterioration.

*Notice*: means a legally binding document referred to under the *Soil*

*Conservation Act*, requiring remedial measures to be undertaken by a specific deadline.

*Officer*: means municipal staff appointed under *Section 8 of the Agricultural Service Board Act*, or a Soil Conservation Officer appointed under the *Soil Conservation Act*.

#### **4. Policy**

Clear Hills County recognizes that soil erosion loss and degradation is an agricultural concern under the *Soil Conservation Act of Alberta*. Clear Hills County further recognizes that it is beneficial to the County to promote measures of control and proper management of soil health within the boundaries of Clear Hills County, as well as protecting agricultural productivity and sustainability.

#### **5. Responsibilities**

1. The Officer shall ensure compliance with the requirements of the Soil Conservation Act, through education and extension.
2. The Officer or designate shall attempt to conduct an inspection of all reported fields within 2 business days of receipt of report/complaint.
3. All erosion, soil loss or degradation observed during inspections of private or public lands shall be controlled by the landholder.

#### **6. End of Policy**

ADOPTED:

AMENDED:  
Resolution #

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Agricultural Service Board
Meeting Date:	April 16, 2025
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>Agricultural Service Board Annual Report to Council</b>
File:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

The Board is provided with the amended 2024 Agricultural Service Board Annual Report to Council for review.

### BACKGROUND:

**RESOLUTION** by Chairman Janzen that this Agricultural Service Board directs administration to bring back the amended annual report to council to a future ASB Meeting **CARRIED.**

### ATTACHMENTS:

Amended 2024 Agricultural Service Board Annual Report to Council

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

**RESOLUTION** by... that this **Agricultural Service Board** approve the 2024 Agricultural Service Board Annual Report to Council as amended, and request a delegation with Council to present the report on...

Initials show support - Reviewed by: **Manager:**



**AgFieldman:**



## 2024 Agricultural Service Board Annual Report to Council

### -Weed Inspection:

- 1890 weed inspections completed.
  - 4 weed letters
  - 2 weed notices
  - 0 weed enforcement

-Vegetation Control: All roads were scouted, and spot spraying was completed where needed.

- Pest Inspections (grasshopper, bertha armyworm, blackleg, and clubroot surveys) – All insect surveys were under the economic thresholds.

- Blackleg levels were higher than normal. This trend was seen all across the Peace region.

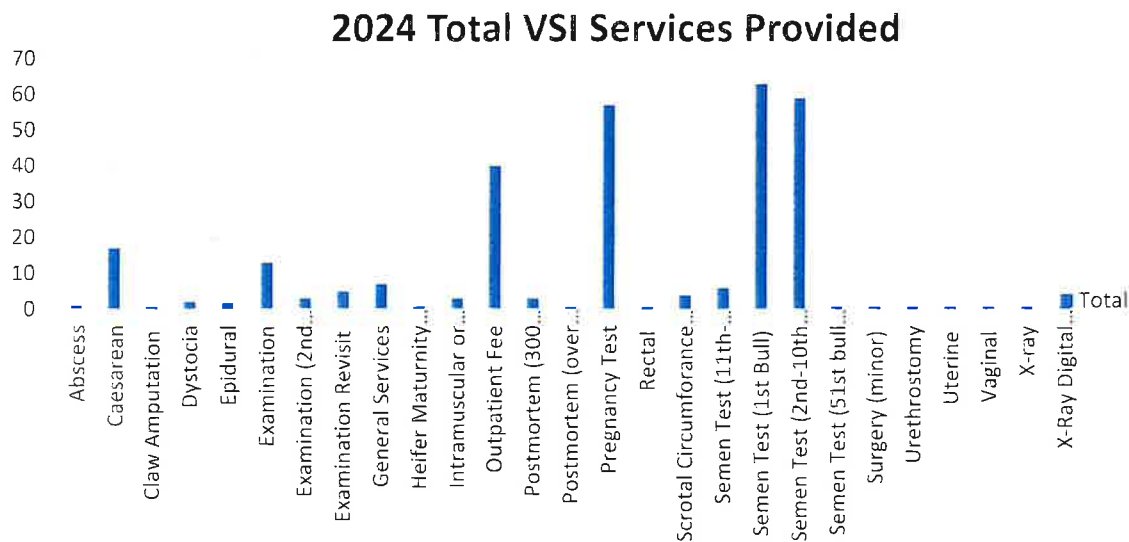
- Clubroot was discovered on one field this year. The producer was issued a pest notice and he plans on seeding to a non host crop for the next three years. Increasing the number of fields to be surveyed in 2025 will be a priority

- Mowing Program: Completed a full cut on the whole County, including all licensed drainage ditches and the Silver Creek/Sulphur Lake Road.

### - Wolf Incentive:

Year	# of Carcasses	Trappers	Landowners	Total \$	Individuals
2024	23	11	12	\$4,600.00	17

-VSI program: The 2024 requisition was \$54,500.00 and 47% of the members used the program, with an average per user of \$493.69.



- BSE Testing program: 0 BSE tests completed in 2024

-Rental Equipment:

- Revenue= \$33,259.56
- Expenses= \$58,124.48
- Totaling a loss of \$24,864.92

-ASB Policy review: The below Policy changes have been made in 2024.

- AG60-24(07/16/24)**      **RESOLUTION** by Member Ruecker that this Board recommend Council adopt Policy 6302 Agricultural Improvement Policy, with the changes to section 2.1.2 to say support producers in the establishment of demonstration plots. **CARRIED.**
- AG61-24(07/16/24)**      **RESOLUTION** by Chairman Janzen that this Board recommend Council adopt Policy 6303 Pest Control Policy, with the following amendments of section 4.3.2 and 4.3.5:  
 -The use of Compound 1080 tablets is to stop coyote predation.  
 -Remove the use of Sodium Cyanide M-44 Devices. **CARRIED.**
- AG63-24(07/16/24)**      **RESOLUTION** by Member Watchorn that this Board recommend Council adopt Policy 6310 Rental Equipment Policy, with the amendment to Section 3.9 removing February. **CARRIED.**
- AG64-24(07/16/24)**      **RESOLUTION** by Chairman Janzen that this Board recommend Council adopt Policy 6313 Tradeshow Groceries & Door Prizes, with the removal of sections 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 regarding the exchange of the children's door prize bicycle. **CARRIED.**



-Extension review: ASB made the decision to not renew the extension agreement with PCBFA and 5 other municipalities for extension work, as the Board felt that extension work could be done more effectively in-house. Administration has applied for the resource management stream grant as a single municipality. The grant is performance based, and how much the County will be awarded should be known by April or May.

Administration included the salary of an extension position in the 2025 budget.

In-house extension work was started in December and since that time, the County has held 3 events including a clubroot info session at eureka river that had 17 producers attend, a CAP grant EFP session in Cleardale that had 31 producers attend, and a CAP grant EFP session in Hines Creek that had 32 producers attend.

The County had 9 producers complete an environmental farm plan last year.

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Approved Workbooks 2024</b>
Acadia MD	3
Athabasca County	6
Banff	0
Barrhead County	5
Beaver County	9
Big Lakes County	5
BigHorn MD	1
Birch Hills County	4
Bonnyville MD	15
Brazeau County	3
Calgary	1
Camrose County	24
Cardston County	5
<b>Clear Hills County</b>	<b>9</b>
Clearwater County	5
Crowsnest Pass	0
Cypress County	6
Drumheller	0
Edmonton	2
Enoch	0
Fairview MD	4
Flagstaff County	21
Foothills MD	8
Forty Mile County	16
Grande Prairie County	9
Greenview MD	6

The in-house extension work is already proving to be well received and effective.

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board</b>
Meeting Date:	April 16, 2025
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>EVENTS</b>
File:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with a list of upcoming agricultural related events for their information.

### BACKGROUND:

#### **Upcoming Events:**

Clubroot of Canola

PCBFA Pasture Calving Tour

### ATTACHMENTS:

Clubroot of Canola Poster

PCBFA Pasture Calving Tour Poster

Calanders: April, May, June

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

**RESOLUTION by...** to authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board members to the Clubroot of Canola Information Sessions being held on Thursday April 17, 2025 in Hines Creek, AB.

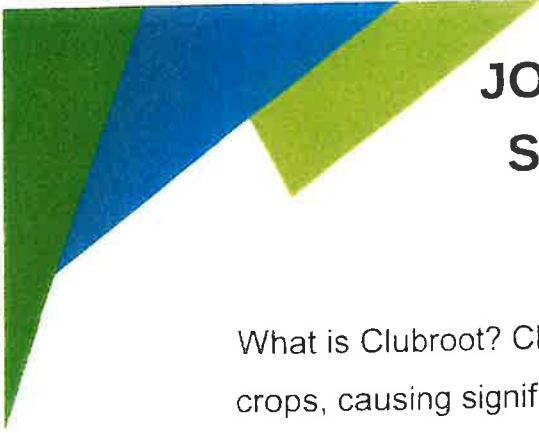
**RESOLUTION by...** to authorize the attendance of all Agricultural Service Board members to the PCBFA Pasture Calving Tour held in Baytree, AB on May 28, 2025

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:



AgFieldman:





# JOIN US FOR AN INFORMATIVE SESSION ON CLUBROOT OF CANOLA!



What is Clubroot? Clubroot is a serious soil-borne disease that affects canola crops, causing significant yield loss. Understanding it is key to managing and protecting your land!

## **Event Details:**

Date: April 17, 2025

Time: 1:30-4:30

Location: Dave Shaw Memorial Complex Hall

## **Session Highlights:**

In-depth look at Clubroot's lifecycle and how it spreads.

Early detection techniques and symptoms to watch for

Best management strategies to protect your canola crop.

Updates on research and preventative measures available

## **Expert Speakers:**

Jason Casselman - Agronomy Specialist Canola Council of Canada

Whether you are a seasoned farmer or new to canola production, this session will equip you with the knowledge you need to safeguard your crops from Clubroot.

## **Why Attend?**

Don't miss out on this crucial opportunity to learn how to protect your canola crops from Clubroot!

## **Contact Info**

Carter Clay (780) 685-3925 ext 116 or

Email: [extensionservices@clearhillscounty.ab.ca](mailto:extensionservices@clearhillscounty.ab.ca)




*Save the Date*

**MAY 28, 2025**

**PASTURE CALVING TOUR**

**Join us for a tour at Dan Martin's Farm to learn and discuss  
topics on *Pasture Calving and Alternative Grazing  
Techniques.***

 **Date: May 28, 2025**

 **Location: Borderview Farm, Baytree, AB**

 **Time: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

 **BBQ Supper Included**

**Pre-registration to this event is required, pre-pay or pay at  
the door. \$10 per person.**

**For more information, contact: [info@pcbfa.ca](mailto:info@pcbfa.ca)**

APRIL 2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1 P&P	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Council	9	10	11	12 Tradeshow
13	14	15	16 ASB	17 Clubroot of Canola Session	18 Good Friday	19
20	21 Easter Monday	22 Council	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3



# MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6 P&P	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Council	14	15	16	17
18	19 Victoria Day	20	21	22	23	24 PLS-AB
25	26	27 Council	28	29	30	31

# JUNE 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 P&P	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Council	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 ASB	19	20	21
22	23	24 Council	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board Meeting</b>
Meeting Date:	April 16, 2025
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT</b>
File No:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

At this time the Agricultural Fieldman will have an opportunity to present his report.

### BACKGROUND:

### ATTACHMENTS:

Agricultural Fieldman Report – April 16, 2025  
Rental Equipment Summary

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

**RESOLUTION** by.. that the Agricultural Service Board accepts the April 16, 2025, Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:



AgFieldman:





APRIL 16, 2025

## PEST CONTROL

## • Wolves Claimed 2025 YTD:

Total #	Total \$
5	\$1000.00

## • Coyotes Claimed 2025 YTD:

Total #	Total \$
163	\$4890.00

## OTHER TOPICS

1. The CAP grant and EFP presentation was held Feb 24<sup>th</sup> at the Dave Shaw Complex and was well attended with 32 producers attending.
2. The clubroot samples found in the County last fall were tested for what pathotype strain they were. Those results came back on Feb 4<sup>th</sup>. The tests found that this clubroot is the most common pathotype found across Alberta, which is good news, as this means all the most common resistant varieties of canola seed will be resistant to this pathotype. An article about this finding will be posted on the website, in the newsletter, and on the Facebook page.
3. We held an event in Eureka River on March 27<sup>th</sup> around carbon capture and alternative fertilizers. It was well attended and plenty of positive feedback from it. We also will be holding another Clubroot information session in Hines Creek for April 17<sup>th</sup> before seeding.
4. A low stress livestock handling workshop is being planned for sometime in June.
5. A workshop on the Fire Smart Program will be held sometime in June as well. Just waiting on speaker confirmation.
6. Carter Clay has decided to resign from the extension position and go back to seasonal weed inspector. Administration has begun advertising to fill the extension position.
7. 3 weed inspector positions have been filled by Carter Clay, Gracie Robertson, and Jocelyn Bean and the 3 mower operators from last season are all returning; Menno Janzen, Nathan Rottier, and Isaiah Giesbrecht.
8. The application for the ASB grant went out to Alberta Agriculture on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>. The expectation is that legislative stream funding will remain the same as the last agreement at \$166,247.00 per year for the next 5 years. The resource management stream funding is a merit-based grant. The ask was for \$97,292.00 per year for the next 5 years. What the County will receive will be based on how many other municipalities applied for resource funding and how strong Alberta Ag feels our application is. Signed agreements should be sent by late April or early May.
9. 5 ASB members and the fieldman attended the provincial ASB conference January 20-22 in Edmonton. There were 13 resolutions to come to the floor at the conference. The chair of the meeting was not very

strong which made for a bit of an unorganized resolution session. There was an incident where a delegate from another municipality made an unprofessional and disparaging remark about another municipality, and there were no repercussions at the session itself. A complaint letter from the municipality involved has been sent to the ASB Provincial Committee.

10. The County has applied for a temporary diversion license to pump water from the creek by Ken Bergs into the Eureka River non potable truck fill reservoir. We will monitor runoff into the reservoir and the hope is that it will fill on its own.
11. A temporary diversion license to pump from the licensed drainage ditch north of the Royce truck fill into the Royce truck fill dugout has been applied for and received. There was enough runoff in the drainage ditch to pump for approximately 8 hours, which raised the dugout level by about 8-10 inches. There is no other water source close by.
12. The 2014 New Holland Tractor (Unit 65) will be disposed of in the April Team auction as well as 2 pickups (Units 53 and 54). One 2015 Case IH Puma 165 tractor (Unit 66) will be taken on trade by Foster's Agri World in Fairview.

January 1 - March 31, 2025

Rental Equipment	Rental Deposit	Rental Rates	Total Users	Total Days	Total	Equipment Expense
<b>Backpack Sprayer</b>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Bale Scale</b>	\$ 100.00	\$ 30.00	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>BBQ Trailer</b>	\$ 150.00	\$ 75.00	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Chairs</b>	\$ 50.00	\$0.50/chair	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Community Centre</b>	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	2	6	\$ 500.00	\$ -
<b>Corral Panels</b>	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Eco-Bran Applicator</b>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Exta Hoses</b>	\$ 50.00	\$1.000/hose	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Grain Bagger</b>	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Grain Bag Roller</b>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	6	34	\$ -	\$ 105.88
<b>Grain Bag Extractor</b>	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	2	4	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 152.18
<b>Grain Vac</b>	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00	8	9	\$ 2,400.00	\$ -
<b>Grill</b>	\$ 50.00	\$ 5.00	1	1	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Land Leveller</b>	\$ 300.00	\$ 150.00	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Loading Chute</b>	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Manure Spreader</b>	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Mulch Applicator</b>	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Post Pounder</b>	\$ 300.00	\$ 150.00	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Pull/Push Roller Applicator</b>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Quad Mount Rope Wick</b>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Quad Mounted Sprayer</b>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Quad Pull Type Sprayer</b>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Roller Mill</b>	\$ 50.00	\$ 20.00	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Rotowiper</b>	\$ 150.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Skidmount Sprayer</b>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Smoke Signs</b>	\$ 60.00	\$ -	2	29	\$ 217.82	\$ -
<b>Scare Cannon</b>	\$ 50.00	\$ -	1	7	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Tables</b>	\$ 50.00	\$1.00/table	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Toilets</b>	\$ 100.00	\$ 40.00	1	1	\$ 40.00	\$ -
<b>Truck Mount Sprayer</b>	\$ 200.00	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Wash Station</b>	\$ 50.00	\$ 10.00	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
	\$100 (summer)	\$75 (summer)				
<b>Water Pumps</b>	\$1000 (winter)	\$200 (winter)	5	8	\$ 2,303.00	\$ 363.53
<b>Wire Roller</b>	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	0	0	\$ -	\$ -
			<b>28</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>\$ 6,860.82</b>	<b>\$ 621.59</b>

Revenue	\$ 6,860.82
Equipment Expense	\$ 621.59
Insurance	
Chargeback	\$ 894.83
Profit/Loss	\$5,344.40

# Clear Hills County

## Request For Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	<b>Agricultural Service Board Meeting</b>
Meeting Date:	April 16, 2025
Originated By:	Greg Coon, Agricultural Fieldman
Title:	<b>INFORMATION &amp; CORRESPONDENCE</b>
File No:	63-10-02

### DESCRIPTION:

The Board is presented with correspondence for review.

### BACKGROUND:

### ATTACHMENTS:

Big Lakes County Letter of Concern  
County of Minburn NO. 27 Letter of Concern  
Northern Sunrise County Letter of Concern  
Parkland County Letter of Concern

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

**RESOLUTION** by.. that this Agricultural Service Board receives the information & correspondence of April 16, 2025, as presented.

Initials show support - Reviewed by: Manager:



AgFieldman:



February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee

**RE: Provincial Conference procedure, conduct, and preparation**

Dear committee members,

Our ASB left this year's Provincial ASB conference with three concerns regarding our resolution sessions: parliamentary procedure, conduct, and preparation.

We felt that the handling of debate and amendments could have been handled with greater leadership and procedural adherence. This did hamper the effective handling of some resolutions (like 3-25) and left many members on the floor frustrated. As such, we ask that the Provincial ASB Committee take measures to ensure effective proceedings are utilized and enforced to facilitate discussion and changes to resolutions more productively.

This leads us to our second concern: appropriate and constructive conduct by participants. The County of Northern Lights and Northern Sunrise County both have written letters to address the specifics of the poor decorum exhibited around resolution 13-25. We would like to add another layer to the consequences of poor decorum.

Our resolution process asks for humility and trust in each other to have meaningful and respectful discussions on topics prioritized by each region. Our geographic differences naturally lend to differences of opinion and priority across a province as vast as ours. But these differences should be treated with respect and with trust for the regional process to avoid the potential for regional rifts. The events of the resolution session fully violated said trust and increased the risk of regional divides within the province which risks jeopardizing our voice as a unified provincial organization. One of the critiques around resolution 13-25 was the suggestion that too many resolutions came from one municipality. Such criticism undermines our regional process, a process that requires regions to debate and vote on local resolutions put forward so to act as regional filters before resolutions come to the provincial level. If there is concern about the quantity or quality of resolutions coming from a region, it is better addressed through the Provincial Committee. These critiques are not suited to the provincial conference floor, or to be used as tools to shame or denigrate another municipality. Discussion must be meaningful and respectful, and this can only be achieved when individuals can trust that the debate has originated from positions of good faith. This leads to our final concern: preparation.

We are often asked to support regionally specific challenges in the context of a wider provincial lens. This often requires actions to be taken to further our knowledge, understanding, or sense of priority associated with a resolution. This year provided plenty of time between the release of the resolution package and the conference itself to undertake thorough pre-briefing and discussion regarding the



February 6, 2025

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resolutions. Some revisions and amendments will always bubble up from the energy and creativity of quality discussion on the floor, but many revisions and amendments can be carefully considered, crafted, and pre-communicated to enhance the quality of debate and to ease the process of forwarding amendments (friendly or otherwise). Open communication between municipalities ahead of resolution sessions benefits all parties involved, whether it be to challenge, clarify, or sponsor a resolution.

A role common to all of us ASBs is the legislated responsibility to advise the Minister responsible for agriculture. As much as this is a legislated responsibility, we should not take this role for granted. By ensuring we achieve quality procedural dynamics, adhere to high standards of conduct, and do our best to be as prepared as possible, we help gain and maintain a reputation for both the quality of resolutions forwarded and the quality of discussions and deliberation that go into refining and passing them. This would make attendance at our conference a meaningful and desired space for Ministers to allocate their scarce time.

Sincerely,



Tyler Airth  
Big Lakes County Reeve and ASB Chair

CC: all provincial municipal Agricultural Service Boards





## COUNTY OF MINBURN NO. 27

P.O. Box 550  
4909 - 50th Street  
Vegreville, Alberta  
Canada T9C 1R6

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[www.MinburnCounty.ab.ca](http://www.MinburnCounty.ab.ca)  
E-Mail: [info@minburncounty.ab.ca](mailto:info@minburncounty.ab.ca)

March 14, 2025

Honourable Minister Lawrence MacAulay  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Honourable Minister MacAulay:

**Re: Urgent Concerns Regarding China's Retaliatory Tariffs on Canadian Agricultural Products**

On behalf of the County of Minburn No.27 and our agricultural producers, we write to express our deep concern regarding China's announcement on March 20, 2025 imposing a one hundred percent retaliatory tariff on Canadian rapeseed oil, rapeseed meal, and pea imports. These measures pose a significant threat to the livelihood of our farmers and the broader agricultural sector, already burdened by years of drought and escalating production costs.

Agricultural producers in our County, and across Canada, cannot afford another financial setback. Many are still recovering from consecutive years of unfavorable weather conditions, supply chain disruptions, and the rising costs of inputs such as fertilizer, fuel, and equipment. These additional tariffs not only create instability in our export markets but also place our producers in the middle of an international trade conflict beyond their control.

The County of Minburn No.27 urges the federal government to take immediate action to support our agricultural sector during this crisis. We call upon the Government of Canada to engage in diplomatic negotiations to resolve these trade tensions, seek alternative markets for our impacted commodities, and implement financial relief measures to assist affected producers. Without swift intervention, our farmers will face unsustainable economic losses that will have long-term consequences for our rural communities and the national agricultural industry.

If these tariffs come into effect on March 20, 2025 we ask that the government implement a comprehensive assistance plan for affected agricultural producers. This should include direct financial support, subsidies to offset rising input costs, emergency loan programs, and expanded market diversification initiatives. Additionally, we request an increase in crop insurance support and disaster relief funding to help mitigate the economic strain on farmers facing uncertain market conditions.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and request an update on the steps being taken to mitigate the impact of these tariffs. Our producers need assurance that their voices are heard and that their concerns are being addressed at the highest level.

Thank you for your time and dedication to supporting Canadian agriculture. We look forward to your response and any initiatives that may be implemented to protect our farmers and the industry at large.

Sincerely,



Reeve Roger Konieczny

c:     *Shannon Stubbs, MP for Lakeland*  
          *Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville*  
          *Brenda Knight, Chair, ASB Provincial Committee*  
          *Stephen Bevans, President, Association of Alberta Agriculture Fieldman*  
          *Kara Westerlund, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta*  
          *Rebecca Bligh, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities*





February 13, 2025

Honourable RJ Sigurdson  
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation,  
131 Legislature Building  
100800-97 Avenue,  
Edmonton, Alberta, TSK 2B6

**RE: Declaration of Agriculture Disaster for Honey Producers in Northern Sunrise County**

Northern Sunrise County declared an Agriculture Disaster for honey production on February 11, 2025, due to significant losses in honey production among local honey producers in 2024.

In 2024, honey yields in Northern Sunrise County were reported as 30-40% of normal production levels. Neighbouring municipalities, including the Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130 and Birch Hills County, declared an Agriculture Disaster for honey production on November 19, 2024, and November 12, 2024, respectively. The Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130 reported honey production losses ranging from 60-90%, primarily due to adverse agronomic and environmental factors.

Dr. Shelley Hoover, an Associate Professor at the University of Lethbridge, and Connie Phillips, Executive Director of the Alberta Beekeepers Commission, have highlighted several key factors affecting honey production in 2024. These included a shortened canola bloom period, high heat, and water stress. High temperatures, particularly during the canola flowering stage, negatively impacted nectar yields. The bees themselves also faced stress from the heat and moisture, diverting their efforts toward water collection rather than nectar gathering, further affecting honey yields. According to Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC), the average honey yield in the region is 130 lbs per hive. However, in 2024, the average yield was only 30-40 lbs per hive, largely due to weather-related factors. AFSC has also reported a significant increase in honey-related claims within the Peace Region for 2024.

This declaration of an Agriculture Disaster for honey production losses in Northern Sunrise County will help raise awareness of the challenges faced by local honey producers. Thank you for your ongoing support of Alberta producers facing challenging conditions and for the collaboration with agencies to introduce initiatives that safeguard the stability of the agricultural industry.

Sincerely,

Jason Javos  
Vice-Chairperson  
Agricultural Service Board  
  
Northern Sunrise County





January 9, 2025

The Honourable Senators of Canada  
The Senate of Canada  
Senate of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A4

**RE: Parkland County ASB concerns regarding Bill C-293**

Dear Honourable Senators,

The Agricultural Service Board of Parkland County wishes to express its concerns and opposition to Bill C-293, an Act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness. While we broadly support the objective of the bill, we have concerns regarding the potential negative impact on the agricultural industry.

About 40% of Alberta's farm cash receipts are from livestock production contributing over \$10 Billion in Alberta in 2023. This represents the livelihood of a significant number of farm families, a significant contribution to local food supply and an important economic contributor to our rural and remote communities. In Alberta, Agriculture Service Boards are empowered to protect the ability of farmers to farm through advocacy, policy and regulation enforcement which includes our *Animal Health Act*.

Clause 2, Section L (ii) of the Bill C-293 addresses the regulation of commercial activities, specifically mentioning industrial animal agriculture. Subsections (iii) and (iv) raise particular concerns by promoting the production of alternative proteins to reduce pandemic risks and suggesting the phase-out of commercial activities involving high-risk species. We believe that the language used in these provisions is vague and lacks the clarity necessary for a full understanding of its implications.

Our concerns center around the potential for overreach by the federal government into areas traditionally managed by provincial and municipal authorities. The agricultural sector, particularly in Alberta, is highly regulated, with world-class animal disease surveillance programs, food safety protocols, and biosecurity measures already in place. We believe that these existing frameworks should be recognized and considered within the scope of the bill, rather than introducing additional and potentially duplicative federal regulations.



In light of these concerns, we respectfully ask that the Senate revisit Bill C-293 to ensure that it is clear, concise, and respectful of the jurisdictional responsibilities of provincial and municipal authorities. We also request that the bill be revised to ensure fairness and equity for all industries, particularly agriculture, which plays a crucial role in both our provincial and national economies.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that the Senate will give careful consideration to our concerns and work toward an outcome that strengthens pandemic preparedness without unintended negative impacts on the agricultural sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Jespersen", written over a faint, light-colored background.

Ben Jespersen  
Parkland County Agricultural Service Board  
Vice Chair

Cc: The Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of the Province of Alberta  
The Honourable R. J. Sigurdson, Alberta Minister of Agricultural and Irrigation  
The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
The Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health Canada  
Mr. Dane Lloyd, MP Sturgeon River-Parkland  
Mr. Gerald Soroka, MP Yellowhead  
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards  
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

