

AGENDA
MD OF RANCHLAND NO. 66
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
CHAIN LAKES PROVINCIAL PARK
January 6, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA Pages 1 – 2

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ASB Minutes from December 16, 2025 Pages 3 – 5

4. BUSINESS

A. Old Business

- i. ASB Chair Appointment
- ii. BMO Farm Family Award Nomination
- iii. 2025 ASB Report to Council
- iv. 2026 ASB Conference
- v. ASB Action Items Page 6

B. New Business

- i. 2026 Provincial ASB Conference Resolutions & Session Package Pages 7 - 31
- ii. MD of Ranchland Emergent Resolution
Update for Information
- iii. Soil Conservation Act
Review of Responsibilities
- iv. Soil Conservation Act Policy Page 32
Review
- iii. CNP ASB
Update for Information
- iv. MDPC Collaborative Weed Control
Update for Information

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Addition of Kochia to Weed Regulation – MD of Smoky River Page 33
Request for Reinstatement of 2% Strychnine – County of Two Hill Page 34 - 35

6. ADJOURN

Information

Upcoming Events

2026 Provincial ASB Conference
January 20 to 22, 2026 – Edmonton

2026 SRM Conference
February 7 to 11, 2026 – Monterey, Ca.

2026 FFGA Tour
February, 2026 - Uruguay

MD OF RANCHLAND NO. 66
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MINUTES
Tuesday, December 16, 2025

The regular meeting of the Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 was held in Council Chambers in the Municipal Office on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, commencing at 1:07pm

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lucy Streeter, Board Member
Donna Wilson, Board Member
Don Mowat, Board Member
Ron Davis, Reeve
Harry Streeter, Councillor
Cameron Gardner, Chairman

Rick Niwa, Ag Fieldman, Recording Secretary
Megan Hall, Ag & Enviro Stewardship Coordinator, Scribe

REGRETS:

Jody Wilson, Board Member

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Cameron Gardner called the meeting to order at 1:07pm

M129/12/16/2025

Moved by member Harry Streeter to authorize Member Roxy Wideman's absence from the meeting.

Carried.

**ASB VICE CHAIR
APPOINTMENT**

M130/12/16/2025

Chairman Gardner called for nominations.
Moved by member Ron Davis to nominate Lucy Streeter.
Chairman Gardner second call for nominations.
Chairman Gardner third call for nominations.
No further nominations.
Lucy Streeter appointed as vice chairman.

Carried.

**ACCEPTANCE OF
AGENDA**

M131/12/16/2025

Moved by Member Lucy Streeter to accept the agenda as presented.

Carried.

M132/12/16/2025

Roxy Wideman enters meeting at 1:13pm

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

M133/12/16/2025

Moved by Member Harry Streeter to approve the minutes as presented.

Carried.

**BUSINESS
Old Business**

**ASB Chair
Appointment**

M134/12/16/2025

Council members advised the ASB that council decided to table the appointment of ASB chair to a later date.
Moved by Harry Streeter to accept for information.

Carried.

**Livestock Emergency
Response Plan**

M135/12/16/2025

Moved by Member Roxy Wideman that the ASB accept the update of the Livestock Emergency Response Plan as information.

Carried.

**Integrated Pest
Management Plan**

M136/12/16/2025

Moved by Member Donna Wilson that that ASB accept the update of the Integrated Pest Management Plan as information.

Carried.

ASB Action Items

M137/12/16/2025

Moved by Member Lucy Streeter that the ABS accept the update of the ASB Action Items list for information.

Carried.

**BMO Farm Family
Award**

M138/12/16/2025

Moved by member Roxy Wideman to nominate Seven Four Ranches for the 2026 BMO Farm Family Award.

Carried.

**AISC Request for
Donation**

M139/12/16/2025

Moved by Harry Streeter to accept the discussion regarding donations as information.

Carried.

New Business

IST Report

M140/12/16/2025

Moved by Ron Davis to accept IST Report for information.

Carried.

**2025 ASB Report for
Council**

M141/12/16/2025

Moved by Donna Wilson to accept 2025 ASB Report to Council, as presented and forward to council for their consideration.

Carried.

**2026 Provincial ASB
Conference**

M142/12/16/2025

Moved by Member Lucy Street to register members and staff for the 2026 Provincial ASB Conference as discussed.

Carried.

Adjournment

Adjourned at 2:30pm

These minutes approved this ____ day of ____ 2025.

Cameron Gardner, Chairman

Rick Niwa, Agricultural Fieldman

ASB Action Items

December 16, 2025

Designate	Description	Status
Staff	Submit 2026 BMO Farm Family Award Nomination Form	Completed
Staff	Submit 2025 ASB Year End Report to Conucil	Pending
Staff	Register ASB Members for Provincial Conferece	Pending

November 25, 2025

Designate	Description	Status
Council	Recommend that Council Appoint Jody Wilson as ASB Chair	Pending
Staff	Remove action item; <i>Draft recommendations to address unpaid weed control invoices from ASB action items</i>	Complete
Council	Recommend council appoint individuals to a Livestock Emergency Response Plan Advisory Committee	Pending
Council	Recommend Council adopt the Inegrated Pest Management Plan	Complete
Council	Recommend Council donates \$1000 to AG for Life	Completed via 2026 Budget

October 7, 2025

Designate	Description	Status
Staff	Draft a proposed resolution re: Ag Canada Research Centre vancant position	Complete
Staff	Prepare a letter for Council re: vancant research scientist positionat Lethbridge research centre	Complete
Harry & Donna	Vote on SR ASB Resolutions as discussed	Complete
Staff	Bring the ASB recommendation to Declare a day in 2026 as Rangeland & Pastoralist Day	Complete

September 2, 2025

Designate	Description	Status
Staff	Register Members and Staff for SR ASB Conference	Complete
Staff	Investigate available funding opportunities through the Rangeland Sustainability Program and assess potential avenues to support the Ecosystem Restoration Program	Complete

June 3, 2025

Designate	Description	Status
Staff	NAISMA Conference - Book Hotel Rooms for Attending Members & Staff	Complete
Staff	Forward Inspector/Officer appointment recommendations to Council for Their Consideration	Complete
Staff	Froward NAISMA Partnership Recommendation to Council for Their Consideration	Complete
Staff	Froward 2024 Schedule of Producer Weed Assistance Programs to Council	Complete
Staff	Request that Council Direct Finance & Admin. create a Contingency Fund	Complete
Staff	Write a letter to from the MD of Ranchland regarding the Weed Reg. Review	Complete

May 6, 2025

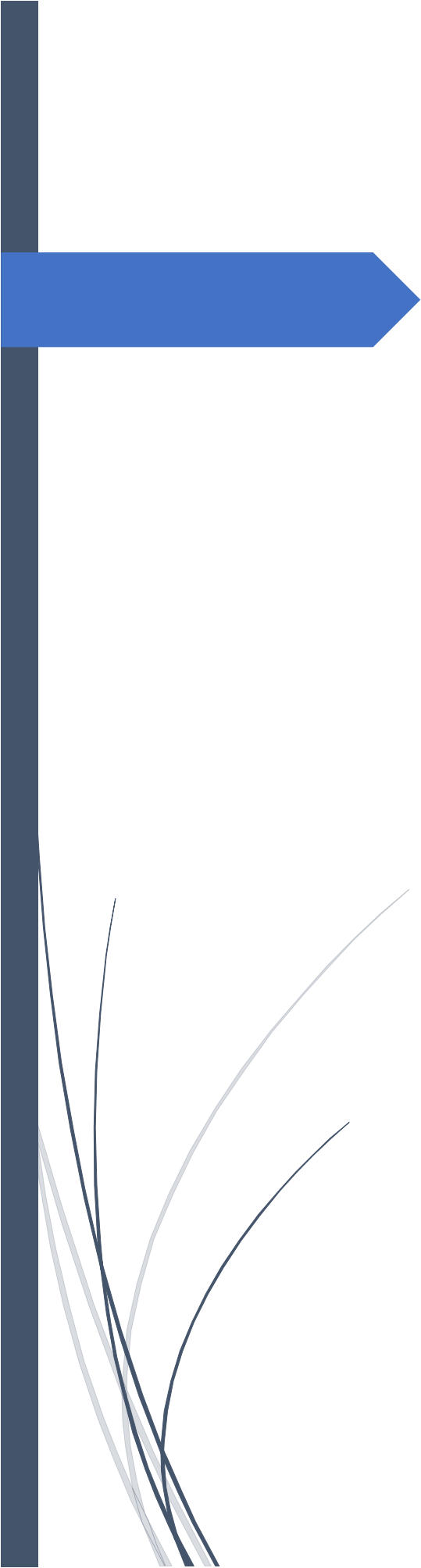
Designate	Description	Status
Staff	Hire Danny Hooper for Beef n Bean	Complete
Staff	Hire Jitterbug Catering for Beef n Bean	Complete
Staff	Provide Information on Possible Livestock Scale Purchase to Next Meeting	Complete
Staff	Forward 2025 Schedule of ASB Rates & Fees to Council for Approval	Complete
Staff	Forward IWMP to Council for Approval	Complete

March 4, 2025

Designate	Description	Status
Staff	Forward 2025 Schedule of Producer Weed Assistance Programs to Council	Complete
Staff	Contact Jerry Carroll, Danny Hooper & Dan Gilles for Pricing & Availability for Beef n Bean	Complete

February 4, 2025

Designate	Description	Status
Staff	Donate \$2000 to FFGA	Completed
Staff	Send letter to producers with unpaid invoices for weed control	Completed
Staff	Draft recommendations to address with unpaid weed control invoices	Removed: M115/11/25/25
Staff	Update Rental Equipment Policy and forward to council for their consideration	Completed
Staff	Recommend council review the ASB Bylaw 2024-01	Completed
Staff	Recommend that council review the ASB Act	Completed



Provincial Resolution Session Package

December 1, 2025

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

Table of Contents

Contents

2026 Provincial Resolution Session Agenda – DRAFT	2
2025 PROVINCIAL RESOLUTION SESSION MINUTES	3
RESOLUTION 1-26: EMERGENCY REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR RICHARDSON’S GROUND SQUIRREL (RGS) CONTROL	4
RESOLUTION 2-26: EXEMPTION OF AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT FROM CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1999 EMISSION LIMITS	8
RESOLUTION 3-26: MARKED FUEL PROGRAM REVIEW	10
RESOLUTION 4-26: Rural Water Distribution and Connectivity Funding	12

2026 Provincial Resolution Session Agenda – DRAFT

January 21, 2025

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Activity Report of the ASBPC
4. Proposed Amendments to the ASBPC Provincial Resolutions Process
5. Consideration of Adding Emergent Resolutions to the Order Paper
 - a. Emergent Resolutions considered emergent by the ASBPC
 - b. Emergent Resolutions not considered emergent by the ASBPC
6. Approval of Agenda
7. Approved Minutes of the Previous AGM minutes
8. Approval of Committee Fees
9. Consideration of Resolutions including emergent approved by ASBPC
 - a. RESOLUTION 1-26 Emergency Registration of 2 Liquid Strychnine
 - b. RESOLUTION 2-26 Exemption Of Agriculture Equipment From Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 Emission Limits
 - c. RESOLUTION 3-26 Marked Fuel Program Review
 - d. RESOLUTION 4-26 Rural Water Distribution and Connectivity Funding
 - e. RESOLUTION PC 1-25 Rat Control outside of the Zone
 - f. RESOLUTUION PC 2-25 On-Farm Slaughter Review
 - g. RESOLUTION PC 3-25 Not for Profit Agency for ASBs
 - h. RESOLUTION PC 4-25 TBD (Agriculture influence in PMRA and CFIA processes)
10. Consideration of Resolutions added to the Order Paper as Emergent
 - a. TBD
11. Adjournment

2025 Provincial Resolution Session Meeting Minutes

Location: Delta Hotel – South Conference Centre, 4404 Gateway Boulevard NW, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5C2

Dates: Tuesday January 21, 2025 & Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Provincial Committee Members in Attendance

Brenda Knight introduced the members of the ASB Provincial Resolutions Committee:

Brenda Knight, Chair, Central

Quinton Beaumont, Secretary, Central

Walter Preugschas, Representative, Northwest

Bob Chrenek, Representative, Peace

Sebastian Dutrisac, Representative, Northeast

Stephen Bevans, AAAF President, South

Kevin Wirsta, RMA Representative, Northeast

Linda Hunt, Executive Assistant, Alberta

Todd Brand, Parliamentarian Advisor

Kerrienne Koehler-Munro, ASB Program Manager, Agriculture Service Boards, GoA

Stephanie Cerny, Recording Secretary, GoA

Ross Bohnet, Alternate Representative, Northwest

Tietsia Huyzer, Alternate Representative Central

Corinna Williams, Alternate Representative, Peace

Gene Hrabec, Alternate Representative, Northeast

John Van Driesten, Alternate Representative, South

Jason Schneider, RMA Alternate Representative, South

Regrets

Rob Siewert, Vice Chair, South

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Knight called the meeting to order at enter time 3:12pm

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Chairperson Knight presented the agenda for the resolution session.

Addition of Item 9A – Motion to speak to the Top 3 Priorities between item 9-25 and 10-25.

Kathy Rooyakkers presented to the floor that all resolutions be put forth to the Minister during meetings versus the board only choosing the top 3 that they decide on.

Moved: Kathy Rooyakkers – Wetaskiwin County

Seconded: Jackie Watts – Starland County

Motion Carried: 60-43 in favor

By unanimous consent, adopted the agenda as approved as AMENDMENT.

3. Adoption of 2024 Resolution Session Minutes

Motion to Amend by Tietsia Huyzer, Mountainview County as follows:

Motion: Tietsia Huyzer of Mountainview makes a motion to amend E1-24 to PC1-24

By unanimous consent, adopted the Minutes for the 2024 Resolution Session as AMENDMENT.

4. 2024 Report Card on the Resolutions

Chairperson Knight presented the highlights from the 2024 Report Card on the Resolutions.

Northeast Representative Dutrisac announced the ASB Position Statements on Richardson's Ground Squirrel Control and Farm Saved Seeds DRAFT.

5. 2025 Executive Assistant Funding Update

Presented by Chair Knight that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's intention to renew the Executive Assistant grant for a three-year term

6. Call for Amendments to the Provincial Rules of Procedure

Chairperson Knight made a call for any amendments to the Provincial or Regional Rules of Procedure.

None, therefore accepted as presented.

7. Review of Provincial Rules of Procedure

Chairperson Knight reviewed the Provincial Rules of Procedure for the Resolution Session.

8. Adoption of Emergent Resolutions

PC1-25, Inflationary Increase of ASB Grants

MOVED: Corinna Williams, Northern Sunrise

That "PC1-25 Inflationary Increase for ASB Grants" be added to the end of the order of resolutions to be presented for vote.

SECONDED: Gene Hrabec, Beaver County

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous consent,

9. Adoption of the Order of Resolutions

Chairperson Knight brought forward a request from Parkland County to amend the order of resolutions to have 10-25 first.

No objection, Order of Resolutions accepted as AMENDMENT.

Motion to approve as AMENDMENT.

10. 2025 Resolution Voting

Resolution 10-25: FARM FAMILY AWARDS

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation and/or the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies work to ensure an annual Farm Family Awards Program is available for all communities in Alberta with an established Agricultural Service Board.

SPONSORED BY: Parkland County

MOVED: Ben Jespersen, Parkland County

SECONDED: Simon Lavoie, Northern Sunrise County

Chairperson Knight called for (vote/opposition) to the resolution.

MOTION DEFEATED: (60-61) 121 VOTES CALCULATED FOR THIS RESOLUTION

Resolution 1-25 DROUGHT AND LIVESTOCK AGRI-STABILITY

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

AAFC re-evaluate the current weather mapping program and the Drought Monitoring System to include and more heavily weigh data from weather stations within agricultural lands, better acknowledging municipalities straddling the transition from agricultural white zone into forested Crown green zone, coupled with making efforts to capture in these maps the extreme weather events that are now a reality.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

AAFC report back to the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee that the recommended improvements to AgriStability as identified and released October 22, 2022, by the Office of Audit and Evaluation of AAFC were put in place, by April of 2024:

1. Identify ways to simplify AgriStability to reduce producer administrative burden:
2. Find ways to make interim and final payments more predictable and to improve the timelines of final payments; and

3. Develop and implement a means to increase access to AgriStability by underrepresented populations.

SPONSORED BY: Yellowhead County & MD of Greenview No. 16

MOVED: Dave Gibbard, MD of Greenview No. 16

SECONDED: Bob Mitchell, Yellowhead County

AMENDMENT: Tyler Airth, Big Lakes County moved to amend the resolution to:

AAFC re-evaluate the current weather mapping program and the Drought Monitoring System to include and more heavily weigh data from weather stations and available soil moisture mapping within agricultural lands, better acknowledging municipalities straddling the transition from agricultural white zone into forested Crown green zone, coupled with making efforts to capture in these maps the extreme weather events that are now a reality.

SECONDED: Dave Kusch, Woodlands County

AMENDMENT CARRIED

Chairperson Knight called for vote to the resolution.

MOTION CARRIED (100-12) 112 VOTES CALCULATED FOR THIS RESOLUTION

Resolution 2-25 LANDOWNERS' RIGHTS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That the Alberta Utilities Commission provide landowners with access to legal frameworks, such as the Surface Rights Act, which includes compensation guidelines, environmental protection measures, and land reclamation requirements supported by strong enforcement mechanisms.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That the Alberta Utilities Commission create an independent tribunal to oversee regulatory compliance and handle disputes related to Renewable Energy projects.

SPONSORED BY: Northern Sunrise County

MOVED: Simon Lavoie, Northern Sunrise County

SECONDED: Dave Berry, MD of Greenview No. 16

Chairperson Knight called for vote to the resolution.

MOTION DEFEATED (31-92) WITH 123 VOTES CALCULATED ON THIS RESOLUTION

Resolution 3-25 Protection of Class 3 Soils In Alberta From Renewable Development

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That the Government of Alberta include the protection for Class 3 agricultural lands, ensuring that these valuable agricultural areas are not left vulnerable to renewable energy development.

FURTHER THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Government of Alberta continue to implement an "agriculture-first approach" by allowing and prioritizing the approval of renewable power plants on already disturbed sites located on crown land before considering productive agricultural land.

SPONSORED BY: Northern Sunrise County

MOVED: Corinna Williams, Northern Sunrise County

SECONDED: Albert Poetker, Birch Hills County

1st AMENDMENT: Margaret Burton, County of Barrhead, moved to amend the resolution to: Resolution 3-25 Protection of Class 3 & 4 Soils in Alberta from Renewable Development

SECONDED: Valerie Ehrenholz, County of Barrhead

AMENDMENT 1 DEFEATED: (47-72) with 120 votes calculated for this resolution

2nd AMENDMENT: Ken Morey, Athabasca County, moved to amend the resolution to:

Resolution 3-25 Protection of All Classes of Agriculture soil in Alberta from Renewable Development

SECONDED:

AMENDMENT 2: not voted on as Corinna Williams, Northern Sunrise County decided to withdraw the resolution and bring it back next year with clearer wording that isn't so controversial. There was no opposition to the motion to withdraw this resolution.

Resolution 4-25: Weed Control in Drainage Canals (Registered Drainage Ditches)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That the Government of Alberta – Environment and Protected Areas remove “drainage canal” from the definition of “open body of water” under the Pesticide Sales, Handling, Use and Application Regulation.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

To allow municipalities that have control over maintenance of drainage canals to treat invasive species listed in the Weed Control Act or those species elevated in the respective municipality, as they would control the same species in roadside ditches or under Notice to Remedy Weed Problem.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Smoky River #130

MOVED: Robert Brochu, Municipal District of Smoky River #130

SECONDED: Jim Zabolotniuk, MD of Big Lakes

Chairperson Knight called for vote to the resolution.

MOTION CARRIED: (83-36) 119 VOTES CALCULATED FOR THIS RESOLUTION

Resolution 5-25: CENTRAL CONTACT FOR THE WEED CONTROL AND AGRICULTURAL PEST ACTS

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministers of Energy, Environment and Ag work collaboratively to establish a central point of contact for identifying landholder to send communication to industry and government agencies for matters related to agriculture legislation. This would involve municipalities sending notices and other communications regard the Acts to a central government contact, who would then distribute the information to the respective landholders.

SPONSORED BY: Northern Sunrise County

MOVED: Kristy Belzile, Northern Sunrise County

SECONDED: Tim Chandonnet, Birch Hills County

Chairperson Knight called for vote to the resolution.

MOTION CARRIED: (72-50) 122 VOTES CALCULATED FOR THIS RESOLUTION

Resolution 6-25: RURAL VETERINARY STUDENT SUPPORT

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That the Ministry of Jobs, Economy, and Trade and Ministry of Advanced Education create a complimentary program to the Northern Alberta Development Program Veterinary Student Bursary, to make bursary funds accessible to veterinary students working in mixed and large animal veterinary clinics throughout rural Alberta.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Trade institute a veterinarian student temporary employment program for rural mixed and large animal veterinary clinics to support the attraction and retention of veterinary students throughout rural Alberta.

SPONSORED BY: Lacombe County

MOVED: Barb Shepherd, Lacombe County

SECONDED: Les Stulberg, Stettler County

Chairperson Knight called for vote to the resolution.

MOTION CARRIED: (114-12) 126 VOTED CALCULATED FOR THIS RESOLUTION

Resolution 7-25: ROADKILL CARCASS DISPOSAL

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas and Alberta Forestry and Parks to develop formal guidance on the disposal of wildlife carcasses hit by vehicles to minimize disease transmission vectors that may pose a serious economic threat to the livestock industry, such as foot-and-mouth disease.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That Alberta Transportation amend the Standard Specification for Highway Maintenance to require contractors to maintain controlled access to carcass disposal sites, the composting of roadkill carcasses, and that the site be a minimum of 8 kilometers from an active livestock operation.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Greenview #16

MOVED: Dave Gibbert, Municipal District of Greenview #16

SECONDED: Jason Javos, Northern Sunrise County

AMENDMENT: Margaret Burton, County of Barrhead, moved to amend the resolution to:
Strike "and that the site be a minimum of 8 kilometers from an active livestock operation"

SECONDED: Sandra Eastman, MD of Peace #135

AMENDMENT CARRIED:

Chairperson Knight called for opposition to the amendment. There was no opposition to the resolution as amended so Chairperson Knight called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as amended.

MOTION CARRIED: (108-16) 124 VOTES WERE CALCULATED FOR THIS RESOLUTION

Resolution 8-25: COYOTES ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation under Section 3 of the Agricultural Pests Act of Alberta establish a Federal-Provincial cost shared program to mitigate and compensate producers for confirmed coyote predation on livestock, work with the Ministries of Forestry and Parks and Environment and Protected Areas to utilize Fish and Wildlife staff to confirm the predation and submit confirmation forms to AFSC for payment administration.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Forestry and Parks, and Environment and Protected Areas consult with Alberta Lamb Producers and Alberta Beef Producers to adopt their proposed changes to the current Wildlife Predator Compensation Program to provide more fair compensation when predation occurs.

SPONSORED BY: County of Northern Lights

MOVED: Gary These, County of Northern Lights

SECONDED: David Janzen, Clear Hills County

Chairperson Knight called for vote to the resolution.

MOTION DEFEATED: (63-65) 128 VOTES WERE CALCULATED FOR THIS RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION SESSION #1 WAS ADJOURNED AT 5:42PM ON JANUARY 21, 2025

RESOLUTION SESSION #2 WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON KNIGHT AT 2:47PM ON JANUARY 22, 2025

Resolution 9-25 NON-MATCHING FUNDING FOR AGKNOW
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation waive the matching funding requirement through Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to support AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network to ensure that the Farm-Informed Therapy Program for agricultural producers continues to grow and is free of charge in Alberta.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Fairview No. 136

MOVED: Barry Dewitz, MD of Fairview

SECONDED: Sandra Eastman, MD of Peace #135

Chairperson Knight called for vote to the resolution.

MOTION CARRIED: (112-8) 120 VOTES CALCULATED FOR THIS RESOLUTION

Resolution 11-25: AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FUNDING
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That the Ministry of Education work collaboratively with the Agricultural Service Boards, Rural Municipalities of Alberta, and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to establish a dedicated funding stream aimed for agriculture education.

SPONSORED BY: Lac La Biche County

MOVED: Darlene Beniuk, Lac La Biche County

SECONDED: Garth Shaw, MD of Fairview

Chairperson Knight called for vote to the resolution.

MOTION CARRIED: (109-12) 121 VOTES CALCULATED FOR THIS RESOLUTION

Resolution 12-25: CHARITABLE GAMING POLICIES HANDBOOK
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That the Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction and the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission to amend the Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook so rural nonprofit organizations are allowed to build reserves and generate revenues once again without affecting the ability to use the gaming proceeds.

FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That the Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction and the Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission suspend any audits until stakeholder engagements are completed and the amendments to the Charitable Gaming Policies Handbook are adopted.

SPONSORED BY: County of Two Hills

MOVED: Sebastien Dutrisac, Two Hills County No 21

SECONDED: Stacey Hryciuk, Vermillion River County No 24

Chairperson Knight called for vote to the resolution.

MOTION CARRIED:(96-27) 123 VOTES CALCULATED IN THIS RESOLUTION

Resolution 13-25: RESOLUTION LOBBYING INCLUSION

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That when specific resolutions secure lobbying opportunities for the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee, they in turn invite or consult with the sponsoring municipality to verify the resolution is communicated accurately and effectively.

SPONSORED BY: County of Northern Lights

MOVED: Terry Ungarian, County of Northern Lights

SECONDED: Sandra Eastman, MD of Peace #135

Chairperson Knight called for (vote/opposition) to the resolution.

MOTION DEFEATED: (32-91)

Resolution PC1-25: Inflationary increase for ASB Grants

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation approve a 3%/year inflationary increase for the ASB Grants Program

Sponsored by: ASBPC

AMENDMENT: RD McHigh, Foothills County, moved to amend the resolution to:

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation approve an appropriate annual inflationary adjustment for the ASB Grants Program.

Chairperson Knight called for a vote on the amendment as presented.

AMENDMENT DEFEATED (52-66) 118 votes calculated.

AMENDMENT: John DeGroot, MD of Taber, moved to amend the resolution to:
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:
That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation approve a Provincial Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) annually to the ASB Grants Program

Chairperson Knight called for a vote on the amendment

AMENDMENT DEFEATED (12-110) 122 votes calculated

AMENDMENT: Kathy Rooyakkers, Wetaskiwin County, moved to amend the resolution to:
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST:
That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation approve an increase for the ASB Grant Program to reflection the inflation annually.

Chairperson Knight called for a vote

AMENDMENT DEFEATED: (40-84) 124 votes calculated

Chairperson Knight called for a vote on the original motion as all amendments had been defeated. There was no opposition to move forward with the vote on the original version of the resolution so Chairperson Knight called for debate to close and for a vote on the resolution as presented.

MOTION CARRIED (72-51) 123 votes calculated for this resolution

10. Motion to Adjourn

Chairperson Knight moved to adjourn the 2025 resolution session at 3:36pm on January 22, 2025.

RESOLUTION 1-26: EMERGENCY REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL (RGS) CONTROL

- WHEREAS** 2% liquid strychnine has proven the most effective tool in managing Richardson's ground squirrels in the prairie provinces since about 1928;
- WHEREAS** to help maintain a level of Richardson's ground squirrel infestation below economic threshold as part of an integrated pest management plan;
- WHEREAS** there is still no other product available that is as effective as 2% liquid strychnine; and
- WHEREAS** when handled and used according to label, the off-target impacts have been minimal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Health Canada, work with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) and make 2% liquid strychnine available to farmers/ranchers for the 2026 season and beyond.

SPONSORED BY: Foothills County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial and Federal

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada,
Health Canada,
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation,
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Agricultural Services Boards of Alberta adopted a position statement for the reinstatement of 2% liquid strychnine in January of 2025.

Position 1: Advocacy for the Reinstatement of 2% Liquid Strychnine

'ASB's strongly advocate for the reinstatement of 2% liquid strychnine under strict regulatory oversight to ensure its safe use. Strychnine has been a historically effective single-feed bait, enabling producers to manage infestations cost-effectively and efficiently. While there is evidence of non-target species being impacted, this needs to be considered. Strychnine has been used since 1928 without significant detrimental impacts. Given the lack of equally effective alternatives, its availability would significantly benefit agricultural producers while mitigating severe infestations. Enhanced safety protocols and certified applicator requirements could accompany this reinstatement to minimize environmental risks and non-target impacts.'

<https://agriculturalserviceboards.com/asb-position-strychnine-and-richardsons-ground-squirrel-control/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/ground-squirrels-alberta-1.7575688>

An open letter was sent by the Government of Alberta to the Federal Government to appeal for the re-registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine on June 27, 2025 which included the following monetary risk: "In Alberta alone, the annual risk to hay and native pasture exceeds \$800 million." This number can be found through an open letter sent out on X through RJ Sigurdson.

<https://x.com/RjSigurdson/status/1938713068990799887>

In Foothills County the estimated annual cost to producers as a result of RGS due to the loss of strychnine is \$3,000,000 in crop losses. This estimate does not include losses and injuries to livestock, equipment damages, or damages to other infrastructure. This information was taken from thirteen (13) producers representing about 27,000 acres in Foothills County. Producers are turning to other means of control like firearms and other explosive solutions in an attempt to deal with RGS in the absence of strychnine. These control methods are inherently more dangerous underlining the need for strychnine.

September 12, 2025, letter to John Barlow MP Foothills from Foothills County ASB.

John Barlow, Shadow Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food collected information from 23 jurisdictions from three (3) provinces on the damages of RGS due to the absence of Strychnine. The briefing document concludes, 'The growing impact of Richardson's ground squirrels on Prairie agriculture appears to have been exacerbated by the removal of effective control tools. As such, rural municipalities have claimed an increasing threat to farm viability, rural economies, and livestock health. Various rural municipalities across the prairies are sounding the alarm. In addition to that, agriculture groups like Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) and Agriculture Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) have asked to reinstate the use of Strychnine along with the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Conservatives have called on the government to approve the emergency use of strychnine.' *Briefing Note for the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food on Strychnine*

Over the years, numerous resolutions have been presented at ASB Conferences advocating against the deregulation of strychnine. It is considered by every jurisdiction in Alberta to be a very important tool to control RGS. Strict regulatory oversight in conjunction with educational components facilitated by Alberta's ASBs would ensure continued safe application of 2% liquid strychnine by producers as has been accomplished in the past.

Some responses by the Federal departments have included:

In 2008 Health Canada responded to a Strychnine resolution as follows:

"Health Canada considers the emergency registration of two percent liquid strychnine and its associated conditions of registration to be the best interim approach for addressing the localized high populations of Richardson's ground squirrels while further research is being conducted to find a more long-term sustainable solution."

In 2010 the PMRA responded to a Strychnine resolution as follows:

“In addition, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency will continue to consider emergency registration applications for the use of 2% liquid strychnine in areas for which a critical need is identified is such applications are received by the Agency.”

In 2011 the PMRA responded to a Strychnine resolution as follows:

“Recognizing there are limited option in the short term, the emergency registration for 2% LSC was granted on 23 February 2011 under strict conditions. The 2% LSC can only be used in highly infested areas of Alberta until the end of June 2011.”

In 2012 The PMRA responded to a Strychnine resolution as follows:

“The PMRA granted full registration of 2% LSC on 23 February 2012.”

<https://agriculturalserviceboards.com/resolution-archives/>

Health Canada and the PMRA have found Strychnine to be the right solution to the RGS infestation in the past and we are asking them to consider it as a solution to the present RGS infestation.

References

Letter to John Barlow from Foothills County ASB concerning RGS:

September 12, 2025

109 – 4th Avenue SW
High River, Alberta
T1V 1M5

Dear John Barlow MP Foothills

Thank you for your concern on a significant threat to Alberta producers and residents. Richardson Ground Squirrels (RGS) are a significant threat to Agriculture in Foothills County. The damage done by RGS has increased significantly since 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate was deregistered by Health Canada on December 10, 2019. They are commonly found in all parts of the County. They have infested acreages, hay land, pasture land, crop land, and towns. They not only damage plants but valuable infrastructure and buildings.

Over the course of the summer of 2025 we have had in depth conversations with 13 producers representing over 27,000 acres of land who have to deal with RGS issues on their farm. Some common points have been:

- Nothing has controlled RGS like Strychnine.
- RGS issues on their farms and with neighbours have gotten worse since Strychnine was deregistered.
- Damage from RGS ranges from negligible (1-3%) to significant (10%) of crops lost.
- Farmers have moved to using shooting as their main control.
- They are also using various other baits like Zinc Phosphide and Rozol.
- Some farmers are using explosives.
- Producers feel unheard in regards to Strychnine.

The County of Foothills is planning to continue to interview farmers to come up with more details on RGS damage in the County.

Currently it is estimated from our surveys that of the approximately 830,000 acres of farmland in the County about 15,000 acres are lost to RGS damage. This represents a loss of about \$3,000,000 annually from County producers. This number is sure to grow without Strychnine as a tool for our producers. These numbers do not include isolated losses like horse injuries or damage and fouling to infrastructure and buildings. This is no longer just a producer issue. It affects everyone in our County.

We look forward to working with you on making Strychnine safe and effective for our County residents.

Thank you

Rob Siewert
Agriculture Service Board Chair
Foothills County

Briefing Notes for the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food prepared by MP John Barlow (added as a separate attachment).

RESOLUTION 2-26: EXEMPTION OF AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT FROM CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1999 EMISSION LIMITS

- WHEREAS** Concerns have been raised about the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of current Government of Canada emissions controls on diesel vehicles and machinery, specifically the use of Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF);
- WHEREAS** Producers in Alberta face expensive repairs and more costly down time dealing with Diesel Exhaust Fluid and cold temperatures;
- WHEREAS** Producers in Alberta need to stay competitive in the international markets; and
- WHEREAS** The net environmental benefit of DEF is negligible when considering the environmental impact of break downs, down time, and reduced longevity of equipment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Agriculture and Agri Food Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, and Alberta Environment work with the Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada to exempt agricultural equipment and vehicles from emission limits for nitrogen oxides (NOx) so that the waste of maintaining diesel exhaust fluid and selective catalytic reduction systems can be eliminated.

SPONSORED BY: Foothills County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri Food Canada,
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation,
Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA) is an act of the 36th Parliament of Canada which outlines how to reduce nitrous oxides in diesel fuel exhaust. Currently nitrogen oxides are transformed into water nitrogen by using diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) in a catalytic converter. This meets the requirements set out in CEPA and thus means every diesel-powered vehicle or piece of equipment must have a DEF system or some other means of reducing nitrous oxides in their exhaust.

Some frequent DEF issues include crystallization and freezing, contamination and quality degradation, sensor and component failures, and storage and handling challenges. These issues ultimately involve a service call and parts where minimum costs run in the thousands of dollars but can easily escalate into tens of thousands of dollars. Speaking with local dealers they cite the cost of DEF, costly repairs, and customers claiming fuel mileage to be better without DEF as major issues with the systems.

Foothills County ASB alone has spent \$70,636 on DEF repairs on 4 tractors from 2021-25. This is about \$3,500 per tractor per year over the past 5 years. The tractors are from 2015, 2017, 2017, and 2018. On each tractor we spent about \$500/ year considering its age. So given that there are about 25,000 (About 16% of the total in the 2021 census) tractors in Alberta with DEF that would mean every year Albertans are spending about \$12.5 million on DEF repairs on just tractors. This expense is not even considering the cost of DEF, decreased fuel mileage, down time, and other equipment using DEF. DEF would also increase the repair time for other issues given that DEF parts are sometimes in the way for more common repairs. This would be a very conservative yearly cost for producers in Alberta.

Agriculture is a vital component of a maintaining a stable Canada. It is the Government of Canada's mission to keep Canadian agriculture competitive, innovative and sustainable. Providing an exemption for agricultural equipment and vehicles from emission limits will aid in keeping our agriculture in Canada competitive, innovative and sustainable.

References

Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA)-

<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-15.31/>

Fuel Logic – March 2024

<https://www.fuellogic.net/diesel-exhaust-fluid-problems/>

DLS Fleet Services (Heavy Duty Truck Focus)

<https://www.dlsfleetservices.com/company/articles>

Fluid Life – DEF Issues

<https://www.fluidlife.com/blog-common-def-problems-testing/?srsId=AfmBOoraiadMRPhK8a3J4JeZ7H6e7f1d-wZAZmc0UmJ-g4X9lyTzi6dC>

Rislone - Corrosion from DEF

<https://rislone.com/blog/diesel/diesel-exhaust-fluid-contamination-forms-causes-and-consequences/>

Foothills County expenses involving DEF – 2021-2025 (Information included in the resolution)

Agriculture Canada Mission and Vision – 2025

<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/departement/what-we-do>

2021 Census info on Tractor

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3210022901&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.10&cubeTimeFrame.startYear=2001&cubeTimeFrame.endYear=2021&referencePeriods=20010101%2C20210101>

Farmers Forum Article March 2, 2023

<https://farmersforum.com/farmers-illegally-dismantle-emissions-system-on-every-single-tractor-insiders-say/>

RESOLUTION 3-26: MARKED FUEL PROGRAM REVIEW

- WHEREAS** the Alberta Farm Fuel Benefit (AFFB) program has long provided essential financial relief to agricultural producers through a provincial fuel tax exemption on marked gasoline and diesel used for farming purposes;
- WHEREAS** the Government of Alberta is currently considering a proposal to eliminate the use of marked fuel under the AFFB and Tax-Exempt Fuel User (TEFU) programs;
- WHEREAS** the proposed changes may introduce increased administrative burdens for agricultural producers, including increased record-keeping, delayed tax refunds, and potential impacts on cash flow; and
- WHEREAS** many producers rely on the current marked fuel system for its simplicity, clarity, and direct benefit at the point of sale, and have expressed concerns about the implications of the proposed changes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance continue to administer the Alberta Farm Fuel Benefit Program (AFFB) in its current form to ensure that no additional administrative or financial burdens affect agricultural producers.

SPONSORED BY: Starland County

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Treasury Board and Finance

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The AFFB program has been a cornerstone of provincial support for agricultural producers, offering a direct fuel tax exemption on marked gasoline and diesel used in farming operations. This point-of-sale benefit has provided reduced administrative burden and supported operational efficiency across Alberta's agricultural sector.

The government of Alberta is currently reviewing the AFFB program with a proposal to shift from the existing marked fuel system to a refund-based model applied to clear fuel

purchases. While the intent may be to modernize the program, this change raises significant concerns for agricultural producers.

Changes to the program could result in higher operational costs, which may be passed on to producers or lead to reduced service availability in rural areas. Agricultural producers may ultimately purchase clear full at the full tax rate and apply for refunds after purchase. This delay could negatively affect cash flow, especially during peak seasons when fuel usage is high and financial flexibility is critical.

Producers may need to maintain additional detailed documentation of fuel purchases and usage to support refund claims. This added administrative burden could be particularly challenging for small and mid-sized farms, increasing the risk of errors, missed claims, and lost benefits.

Given these concerns, many stakeholders believe that the current marked fuel system is more efficient, accessible, and supportive of Alberta's agricultural economy. Maintaining the AFFB program in its existing form is essential to ensuring continued stability and fairness for producers across the province.

RESOLUTION 4-26: Rural Water Distribution and Connectivity Funding

WHEREAS Alberta is experiencing prolonged drought conditions, leaving both agricultural producers and rural residents without reliable access to water;

WHEREAS Existing federal and provincial programs fund treatment plants and transmission mains but provide inadequate support for the distribution and service connections that directly reach farms and households;

WHEREAS This funding gap creates affordability barriers, leaves regional transmission systems underutilized, and undermines agricultural production, public health, and rural sustainability;

WHEREAS Bridging the gap between funded transmission projects and user connections will maximize the value of federal and provincial investments, reduce long-term operating and maintenance costs, and reduce public health risks associated with private wells of uncertain quality; and

WHEREAS Other jurisdictions have implemented grant or cost share programs to assist property owners with service lateral costs and on lot infrastructure, resulting in improved uptake of centralized services and stronger outcomes for rural residents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

The Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta expand water infrastructure funding to include distribution and service connections for farms, rural residences, and small communities through an equitable cost-sharing program.

SPONSORED BY: County of Stettler No. 6

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: Provincial and Federal

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors

Alberta Affordability and Utilities

Alberta Infrastructure

Canada Housing and Infrastructure

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Alberta's rural communities are facing an urgent water crisis. Consecutive years of drought, poor runoff, and extended hot weather have depleted surface water reserves and strained aquifers to the point of widespread well failures. Municipalities report critically low levels in dugouts, ponds, and wells. Producers, already facing high costs and operational challenges, are increasingly reliant on municipal truck fills—resulting in lineups, long hauling distances, higher costs, and pressure on local infrastructure. Without sustainable access to water, the viability of Alberta's farms, ranches, and rural businesses—and by extension the province's food supply chain—is at risk.

For rural residents, similar challenges exist. Many live adjacent to regional transmission lines built under Alberta's *Water for Life* strategy, yet remain unable to connect because of prohibitive costs. Federal and provincial programs cover backbone infrastructure such as transmission mains and treatment plants, but do not fund the "last mile" distribution or service laterals. As a result, many rural households face high individual connection costs, leaving publicly funded systems underutilized and residents dependent on private wells of uncertain quality.

While the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable-CAP) offers cost-sharing for wells, dugouts, and cisterns, its funding for tie-ins to municipal systems is limited to \$10,000—far below actual costs (typically an additional \$10,000–\$25,000 above the program limit). The Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) and the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership (AMWWP) support municipal infrastructure but do not address expansion to rural residents or farms. The Water for Life Program funds inter-municipal transmission systems but excludes intra-municipal distribution. Even the new Integrated Water Program launched by Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors fails to meaningfully address agricultural connectivity.

Other Canadian provinces provide successful models:

Saskatchewan – Rural Pipeline Associations

- Saskatchewan has more than 60 rural pipeline associations that deliver treated water to farms and rural residences.
- Systems were built with a blend of federal/provincial grants and local contributions.
- Some municipalities and associations provided subsidies for service laterals to encourage uptake.
- Outcome: High participation rates, reduced dependence on private wells, and financially sustainable systems.

Manitoba – Rural Water Development Program

- Manitoba operated a Rural Water Development Program, which provided grants covering up to 50% of eligible costs for water pipeline extensions to rural homes and farms.
- This program helped households overcome the steep capital cost of individual service laterals (\$10,000–\$20,000).
- Outcome: Thousands of rural households gained access to safe, reliable potable water, improving public health and farm viability.

Nova Scotia – Municipal & Community Partnership Grants

- Nova Scotia supported municipalities through cost-shared provincial grants to extend water distribution to rural and small-community clusters.
- Some counties implemented connection fee subsidies for low-income residents.
- Outcome: Increased household connections to municipal systems, particularly in areas with poor well-water quality.

Ontario – Bundled Connection Projects

- Under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund (CWWF) and the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF), municipalities were allowed to include local distribution and household connection costs as part of larger water system upgrades.
- Outcome: Economies of scale reduced per-household costs, leading to stronger uptake of connections in rural areas.

Alberta has invested heavily in backbone infrastructure but has not bridged the final gap to farms and homes. Without expanded, cost-shared support for distribution and service connections, both producers and rural residents will remain vulnerable to water insecurity.

Water is the most critical resource for agriculture, households, and rural economies. Coordinated action from both provincial and federal governments is needed to ensure that Alberta's communities can continue to operate, produce, and thrive.



M.D. OF RANCHLAND No. 66

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



POLICY NAME: **Soil Conservation Act Policy**

Section: **Agriculture & Environment**

Policy No.: # **6320-02**

Effective Date: **March 26, 2024**

Resolution #: 24/03/26/094

Replaces Policy:

Revised:

POLICY PURPOSE: To prevent the loss of soil and soil productivity through enforcement of the Soil Conservation Act and its Regulations.

DEFINITIONS:

“Act” means the Soil Conservation Act and its regulations;

“Appeal Committee” means appointed Agricultural Service Board (ASB) members;

“ASB” means council appointed members of the Agricultural Service Board;

“Notice” means a notice referred to in section 4 of the Alberta Soil Conservation Act;

“Municipality” means the Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66;

POLICY STATEMENTS:

The Agricultural Fieldman and appointed inspectors will conduct inspections and initiatives to prevent the loss of soil and soil productivity on all lands within Municipality jurisdiction.

The Agriculture Fieldman and appointed inspectors will conduct inspections and enforcement procedures as outlined in the Act.

Voluntary compliance with the Act will be encouraged through professional communication with landowners, occupants, industry stakeholders and members of the general public.

Notices will be issued to applicable occupants in accordance with the Act.

In the instance of non-compliance with a Notice, remedial work will be carried out by Municipality employees, or an appointed contractor and the charges will be applied to the property subject of the notice. The remedial charges that apply are outlined in the Act.

As outlined in the Act, notices of appeal will be conveyed to the Appeal Committee.





Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130

P.O. Box 210 FALHER, ALBERTA T0H 1M0

Phone: (780) 837-2221

Fax: (780) 837-2453

December 17, 2025

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

Dear Minister Sigurdson;

RE: Addition of Kochia (*Bassia scoparia*) as Noxious to Provincial Weed Regulation

Kochia is a highly invasive and difficult to control weed species due to the fact that it is and is becoming resistant to a number of herbicide groups. Of particular concern is Group 9 of which Glyphosate is in. This weed species exhibits resistance on group 2, 4, and 14 as well. Although Kochia prefers drier soils and is prevalent in southern Alberta it is becoming an issue in the Peace Region and the MD of Smoky River, typically along the transportation corridors.

Alberta Agriculture has been reviewing the species listed in the Weed Control Regulation and the amended listing will shortly be before your office for approval. The MD of Smoky River requests that the Minister consult with the weed species review team and finds the case to add Kochia (*Bassia scoparia*) to the Weed Control Regulation as a designated Noxious species. The rationale for this addition is so that all municipalities can address Kochia under the Weed Control Act to control the spread of this difficult to manage weed species. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Paula Guindon
Reeve/Agricultural Service Board Chair

c.c. Via Electronic copy.
Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors
Todd Loewen, MLA - Grande Prairie-Smoky
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Provincial Agricultural Service Boards
Alberta Invasive Species Council

December 11, 2025

The Honourable Heath MacDonald
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

RE: Request for Provincial Exemption or Reinstatement of 2% Strychnine for Gopher Control

Dear Minister MacDonald,

Since the PMRA cancellation of 2% strychnine, producers have been left with limited, less effective, and significantly more expensive alternatives. The consequences have been substantial:

- Escalating ground squirrel populations compound crop losses and erode already-tight margins.
- Burrow damage to equipment and field infrastructure has increased.
- Livestock injuries from unstable ground and broken legs have become a growing concern.
- Replacement products and multi-step control methods require far more labour, creating additional cost pressures during an already challenging economic period.

Producers across Alberta and even Saskatchewan have consistently reported that no replacement product matches the reliability and efficiency of 2% strychnine. The current situation threatens not only the rural farms, but also now the urban economies.

The County understands that strychnine must be managed responsibly, and Alberta has a strong track record of implementing controlled access, training requirements, and stewardship programs to mitigate risks. With proper oversight, the province is well-positioned to administer an exemption in a manner that addresses environmental concerns while still giving producers the tools they need to protect their operations.

The recent support expressed by MPs such as Steven Bonk, have already voiced support for allowing provinces to apply for exemptions when facing severe pest pressures. This reinforces the need for realistic, producer-focused action at the provincial level.



Alberta's agricultural sector is foundational to food security and economic stability. Allowing access to an effective vertebrate pest control tool-whether through reinstatement or exemption-would provide meaningful relief and restore a level of operational certainty that producers urgently need.

Thank you for your attention on this matter. The County of Two Hills welcomes the opportunity to provide further information or to connect you with producers who can speak firsthand about the impacts on their farms.

Sincerely,

Murray Phillips
ASB Chair & Reeve

cc'd: Minister RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Shannon Stubbs, MP for Lakeland
Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville
Pest Management Regulatory Agency
ASB Provincial Committee
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman
Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Federation of Canadian Municipalities