



AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD

February 23, 2022

10:00 a.m.

**County of Stettler No. 6
Administration Building
Council Chambers**

County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting

*Held Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the County of
Stettler No. 6 Office (Council Chambers), Stettler, AB*

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1. Call to Order	
2. Adoption of Agenda	1
3. Adoption of Minutes	
3.1 December 9, 2021 Agricultural Services Board Meeting Minutes (Distributed)	
4. Delegations	
4.1	
5. Reports	
5.1 Agricultural Services Board Administration Report	3
6. Business Arising from the Minutes	
6.1 Fenceline Spray Program	
7. New Business	
7.1 ASB Orientation (Kellie Jackson AARFD)	
7.2	
7.3	
8. Correspondence	
8.1	
9. Finance	
9.1	
10. Information Items	
10.1	
11. Committee/Meeting/Conference Reports	
11.1 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference Jan. 25-27, 2022 L. Stulberg	
12. Next Meeting	
March 23, 2022	
13. Seminars/Workshops/Conferences/Invitations	
13.1	
14. In Camera	
15. Adjournment	

Agricultural Services Board Administration Report

Strychnine

We currently have approximately 73.25 cases still on hand available for sale this year. There are only a few days left to sell.

Administration

Currently reviewing health and safety information such as Safety Data Sheets, job descriptions, safe work practices, training documents, herbicide application forms, and other information required for operations throughout the year. Year end reports for Coyote control, ASB provincial report, and environmental funding stream are also started. We have placed a few orders for trees, at this point, 5 orders.

Equipment

The ASB equipment is getting an overhaul, replacing chemical hoses, checking wiring, deck rebuilds.

County of Stettler Agricultural Services Board Bursary

The County of Stettler Agricultural Services Board will be accepting applications for the Agricultural Services Board Bursary up until the deadline of April 15th, 2021. Advertising up until this time will be performed through multiple channels including social media, the County Connections newsletter, and the Stettler Independent.

Webinars and Workshops

On February 17, I was a co-host on buffalo Nature Clubs monthly webinars, their topic was the Norway Rat Program. Karen Wickerson the Provincial Rat Specialist and myself enlightened the public on Norway Rat awareness.

Fenceline Spraying Program

A few things to consider with creating a Fenceline spraying program would be:

1. Equipment choice

- a. The County of Stettler fleet includes many pieces of equipment that can carry out the duties of a Fenceline program. The equipment list is as follows:
 - i. A-07- skidmount sprayer 150-gallon tank with boomless nozzles and a handgun and reel option. This unit slides into the back of a pick-up truck and goes anywhere the truck can go. This is also a rental unit.
 - ii. A-27 – Field sprayer- 400-gallon tank with boomless nozzles. This is pulled home with a truck then used behind a tractor, it is designed to do 20 acres parcels and fencelines for brush.
 - iii. A-30- Kubota side by side- 75- gallon low profile tank, this unit is designed for small jobs up to 12 acres in size, with the help of a nurse tank, it can cover 20–30-acre parcels with little problems.
 - iv. A-35- Skidmount Brush Sprayer- this 400- gallon unit is designed for handgunning brush that the roadside spray trucks cannot reach, and get into tight areas.
- b. The two roadside trucks designed for roadside spraying. These trucks are designed to spray at 10-12 kph. This speed is too fast for off road use. These two trucks are top heavy which is not ideal for off road use. The cost estimate came back, \$5,678.00 to add one pod to one truck. That quote is for the County doing to work of installing.

2. Chemical choice

- a. We have to make sure that we select the correct herbicide for industrial use (roadway and right of way work) and private land (either agricultural land or landscape if it is an acreage) this is minor as we usually carry these products through the growing season.

3. Cost

- a. Are we charging this service out to the landowner? Or is this a free service?

All of these factors must be considered, before continuing to create this program.

FENCELINE SPRAYING PROGRAM:

- 1) Reverse Fenceline spraying on private land will be designed to target property lines that are infested with species designated in the "Alberta's Weed Control Act".
- 2) Landowners must sign the appropriate easement and contract. Signed agreements permit County forces to conduct work on private property.
- 3) The approved contract / easement shall be scheduled by, and at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman or delegate.
- 4) The selective herbicides that are used are only to be used by the set rate according to manufacture recommendations and Alberta Environment standards. The application can only be altered done by a holder of a Pesticide Applicator License and chemical name / rate be written in the contract / easement prior to work commencing.
- 5) The County will provide free 2 acres of spraying. Any additional work is at the expense of the landowner or producer.
- 6) Any applications above 2 acres, landowner will be provided with a cost estimate for any additional work that must take place.
- 7) No more than 8 acres in addition to the 2 free acres will be sprayed on any land location.

2022 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference
January 25-27, 2022 Edmonton, AB

- The opening address was given by Nate Horner, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development. Mr. Horner also met with the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee. The committee reported a good dialogue with the Minister and that he requested future meetings, which the committee was pleased to hear.
- The Resolutions the County of Stettler ASB reviewed and supported all passed. One Emergent Resolution regarding ending recreational hunting of Wild Boars was defeated.
- The membership voted to fund the Provincial ASB Committee with \$375 per municipality in 2022 and \$500 in 2023 only if there are no Provincial grants. If the grants continue to come through there will be no cost to the municipalities.
- Keynote speaker was Amberly Snyder, a young American motivational speaker who endured a life-altering accident. Her talk was called “There is No Future in Giving Up”. Netflix picked up her story and made a movie about her life called “Walk, Ride, Rodeo” which can be found on Netflix for those interested.
- Clean Farms outlined a three-year transition program that moves collection of plastic chemical jugs from the responsibility of municipalities to retail. The program will be phased in, beginning in the north. The pilot project of collecting grain bags and twine has been extended to August 31, 2023.
- An on-farm compactor is being used by one region to manage the handling of bale and silage plastic bags as an alternate method to rolling the plastic.
- Alberta Invasive Species Council spoke on the Certified Weed Free Forage Program and the Squeal on Pigs Program. The first program gives confidence in buying forage free of noxious weeds and may add value to forage sales. The latter program promotes disallowing recreation hunting of Wild Boars in favour of trapping them, as they claim hunting makes the pigs more evasive. (Trivia: Sounders – are a herd of hogs).

- EDD Maps – Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System – detailed the uses of its system in recording locations of problem weed areas. Their website is www.EDDMapS.org .
- Ducks Unlimited Canada outlined its Alberta Forage Incentive Program. The program offers eligible producers \$100 for every 50 lb. bag of forage crop seed they buy and seed on their land. There are no restrictions associated with haying or grazing.
- Dr. Keith Lehman, Chief Provincial Veterinarian spoke on Animal Health Lessons and how animal viruses can impact and spread, similar to the Covid virus.
- Other speakers included Katelyn Duban, Wild Rose Farmer, who spoke on her blogs which interest farm women, especially with those new to the industry. Brad Andres and Municipal Affairs spoke on Emergency Management, Lisa Belanger addressed Communication Skills, a panel gave the perspectives of Ag. Service Boards and Deb Kimmett wrapped up That Which Doesn't Kill You Makes You Funnier (virtually).
- In lieu of speaker gifts donations were made to the Do More Agriculture Foundation which addresses mental health in agriculture. The mental health workshop coming to Stettler Feb. 24 at the Jewel Theatre is presented by the Do More foundation.
- MC for the conference was Danny Hooper who did an entertaining job of keeping the schedule running on time. He offers Fundraising Auctioneering, Master of Ceremonies services and Music & Entertaining for communities looking for fundraising ideas. He can be contacted at www.dannyhooper.com .

Respectfully submitted by
 Les Stulberg, Board Chair
 County of Stettler ASB