



AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 07, 2026
10:00 AM

Join Us

In Person	County of Stettler No. 6 Administration Building
On YouTube	www.YouTube.com/StettlerCounty
By Zoom	www.StettlerCounty.ca/Zoom
By Phone	578-328-1099 Meeting ID: 237 185 7702 Passcode: 660244

In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the County of Stettler No. 6 acknowledges that we gather, live, and work on Treaty 6 and 7 lands, the customary and traditional lands of the Indigenous Peoples of this territory.

Thank you for respecting our commitment to Scent Reduction in the workplace.

-
- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Agenda Additions and Approval**
 - 3. Minute Approval**
 - 4. Reports**

4.1 Agricultural Services Administration Report - Verbal

5. Board Member Report

6. Board's Request for Information

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

7.1 ASB Provincial Resolution Rules and Process Page 7

7.2 2026 Agricultural Service Board Provincial Resolution Package Page 36

8. New Business

9. Correspondence

9.1 CFIA - Universal Ostrich Farm - Letter of Concern Page 63

9.2 Wellsite Reclamation Concern Letter Page 64

9.3 AB Transportation Concern Letter Page 65

9.4 ASBPC Briefing 2025 Page 66

9.4.1 Municipal EFP Completions 2024 2025 Page 73

9.5 MD of Ranchlands Prov Biocontrol Vacancy Page 75

9.6 Saddle Hills County On Farms Slaughter Operations License
Amendments Page 77

9.7 Northern Sunrise County - On-Farm Slaughter Letter Page 79

9.8 Northern Sunrise County - Farmer Pesticide Certification Letter Page 80

9.9 Equine Herpes Virus Notice Page 82

9.10 County of Two Hills Request for Provincial Exemption or Reinstatement
of 2% Strychnine for Gopher Control Page 83

9.11 ASBPC Minister Meeting Agricultural Service Board Page 85

9.12 MD Smokey River Kochia Elevation Request to Noxious Designation Page 87

9.13 State of the Prairie - County of Stettler Page 88

10. Finance

Year-to-Date Financials - verbal

11. Workshops and Events

ASB Provincial Conference Edmonton January 20-22, 2026

12. In-Camera Session

13. Next Meeting

14. Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE COUNTY OF STETTLER NO. 6 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025 COMMENCING AT 10:00 AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE COUNTY OF STETTLER NO. 6 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, STETTLER, ALBERTA AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

PRESENT: Allan Gano (Chairperson)
Clint Walker (Vice Chairperson)
Wade Hunter
Larry Clarke
Justin Stevens
Harry Brooks
Lance Nielsen
Janet Adam (Alternate)

Rob Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Services
Farrah Fischer, Assistant Manager of Agricultural Services
Cara McKenzie, Assistant Director of Operations
Jarrett Kushner, Manager of IT Services
Michelle Hoover, Legislative Assistant
Andrew Brysiuk, Director of Municipal Services
Krista Schlender, Administrative Assistant (minutes)

Kerrienne Koehler- Munro, ASB Program Manager (Virtual)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, by Chairperson Allan Gano.

INTRODUCTIONS

80.12.17.25 Moved By Larry Clarke

“that Agricultural Service Board recess for ASB Training at 10:07am.”

Carried Unanimously

Justin Stevens & Kerrienne Koehler-Munro left the meeting during recess

Allan Gano called the meeting back to Order at 1:36pm

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

81.12.17.25 Moved by Larry Clarke

“that the December 17, 2025 agenda for the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried Unanimously

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

82.12.17.25 Moved by Larry Clarke

“that the minutes from the October 15, 2025 Agricultural Service Board meeting be approved as presented.”

In Favour: Gano, Walker, Hunter, Clarke, Stevens
Abstain: Brooks, Nielsen

REPORTS

Agricultural Services Board Administration Report (Verbal)

83.12.17.25 Moved by Clint Walker

“that Report dated for the December 17, 2025 Agricultural Services Board Meeting, be received for information.”

Carried Unanimously

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

ASB Regional Conference Report – Chairperson Gano

84.12.17.25 Moved by Larry Clarke

“that Board Member Report dated for the December 17, 2025 be received for Information.”

Carried Unanimously

Michelle Hoover joined the meeting at 2:08pm

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Assistant Deputy Minister Fall Town Hall Report – Chairperson Gano

85.12.17.25 Moved by Clint Walker

“that Board Member Report dated for the December 17, 2025 be received for Information.”

Carried Unanimously

BOARD’S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

ASB Strategic Plan - Memo

86.12.17.25 Moved by Harry Brooks

“that the ASB Strategic Plan Memo be received for information.”

Carried Unanimously

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Decision

January ASB Meeting

87.12.17.25 Moved by Clint Walker

“that Council reschedules the January 21, 2026 10:00 am Agricultural Services Board Meeting to January 7, 2026 10:00 am.”

Carried Unanimously

Clint Walker left the meeting at 2:17 pm

Request for Decision

Memo – ASB Provincial Conference

88.12.17.25 Moved by Wade Hunter

“that Agricultural Service Board directs Board Members to inform Administration of their attendance preferences for the 2026 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference by December 23, 2025.”

Carried Unanimously

Clint Walker rejoined the meeting at 2:19 pm

Janet Adam left the meeting at 2:22 pm

FINANCE

Year-to-Date Financials (verbal)

All financials are meeting expectations will have the Board address the ongoing budgetary needs for maintenance for the next budget.

89.12.17.25 Moved by Larry Clarke

“that the verbal Year-to-Date Financials dated December 17, 2025, be received as presented.”

Carried Unanimously

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

ASB Provincial Conference – Edmonton (Verbal)

IN-CAMERA SESSION

90.12.17.25 Moved by Clint Walker

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board meeting enter into an in-camera session at 2:27 pm, as permitted under the *Alberta Freedom of Information Privacy and Protection Act*, to discuss the following agenda items:

1. Agricultural Pest Update

FOIP Section 20: Disclosure harmful to law enforcement.”

Carried Unanimously

91.12.17.25 Moved by Wade Hunter

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board meeting exit the in-camera session at 2:50 pm.”

Carried Unanimously

NEXT MEETING

The next Agricultural Services Board meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2025, at 10:00 am.

ADJOURNMENT

92.12.17.25 Moved by Clint Walker

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board meeting be adjourned at 2:51 p.m.”

Carried Unanimously

Chairperson

Manager of Agricultural Services



Memo

TO: Councillor Allan Gano, ASB Chair
FROM: Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations
DATE: January 7, 2026
SUBJECT: ASB Provincial Resolution Rules and Processes

As we prepare for the upcoming Provincial ASB Conference, Administration is providing a review of our governing procedures. This is particularly intended to support new board members in understanding how advocacy and voting are conducted at the provincial level.

Please be advised that the 2026 Provincial ASB Conference will be conducted according to the Current Resolutions Rules of Procedure (2023). These rules remain the active governing framework for all sessions, debate, and voting during this event.

During the conference, members will vote on whether to adopt the new Provincial Resolutions Process (PRP). Delegates will decide whether to replace the current 2023 rules with the proposed 2026 revision. If the motion passes, the new PRP framework is intended to take effect for the 2027 Provincial ASB Conference cycle. (Note: While the new document proposes that future amendments take effect immediately, the current 2023 rules dictate that changes to the procedure take effect at the next conference).

These documents are summarized and attached below for your information.

Document Summaries

1. Proposed Provincial Resolutions Process (2026)

This document proposes a full revision of the rules governing how Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs) submit and vote on provincial issues. Developed with a professional parliamentarian, it aims to simplify the process, increase transparency, and standardize voting.

- **Key Focus:** streamlining the resolution session by removing redundant steps like formal moving and seconding for every item already on the agenda.
- **Voting Standard:** Implements a uniform 2/3 majority for all resolutions.
- **New Elements:** Includes a formal "Order of Business" (agenda) and a process for rapid minute approval by Committee Alternates.

2. Current Resolutions Rules of Procedure (2023)

This is the existing framework used to manage provincial resolutions. It relies heavily on traditional parliamentary procedures and separates the roles of the Provincial Resolution Committee (PRC) and the Provincial Committee (ASBPC).

- **Key Focus:** Detailed descriptions of committee member responsibilities and a heavy reliance on *Robert's Rules of Order*.
- **Voting Standard:** Uses a mix of simple majority (50%+1) for standard resolutions and 3/5 (60%) for legislative changes or emergent issues.

Key Differences and Comparison

The proposed 2026 process introduces several significant shifts from the 2023 rules to improve efficiency and clarity.

Feature	Current Rules (2023)	Proposed Process (2026)
Committee Names	References both PRC and ASBPC.	Merged; references only ASBPC to reduce confusion.
Voting Threshold	Simple majority for most; 3/5 for legislation/emergent.	2/3 majority for all resolutions to ensure a stronger provincial voice.
Meeting Logistics	Requires formal moving and seconding for all resolutions.	Removed moving/seconding for items already on the adopted agenda.
Speaking Limits	Mover/Seconder: 5 mins total; Closing: 2 mins each.	Sponsor: 3 mins; Closing: 1 minute.
Minute Approval	Maintained by Secretary; approved at next AGM.	Approved by Alternates within 30 days for faster official results.

Feature	Current Rules (2023)	Proposed Process (2026)
Parliamentary Authority	Extensive <i>Robert's Rules</i> excerpts included.	Simplified; removed specific <i>Robert's Rules</i> section as it was deemed inaccurate or unnecessary.
Resolution Order	Resolutions can be ranked by importance.	Ranking removed to avoid unnecessary contention.
Effective Date of Changes	Amendments take effect at the <i>next</i> conference.	Amendments take effect immediately.

Process for Emergent Resolutions

In the current 2023 rules, emergent resolutions require a 3/5 majority to be accepted for debate. Under the proposed 2026 rules, this is increased to a 2/3 majority to deter members from skipping the regional conference process



Proposed Provincial Resolutions Process

December 1, 2025

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

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Message from your ASBPC

Dear Agricultural Service Board Members,

Enclosed you will find important materials on the proposed Provincial Resolutions Process (PRP), which is a full revision of the current Rules of Procedure. These changes are the direct result of your feedback following the 2025 Conference, and the Committee's work with Parliamentarian Todd Brand to strengthen clarity, fairness, and professionalism in our resolution sessions.

Todd Brand, M.A., CP-T, PRP is the registered parliamentarian, and current school board trustee that has been coaching the Committee and staff and supporting the resolution session. Todd's background and training in organizational leadership span over thirty years. His education and wide experience cover many unique organizations and come together in his ability to coach, lead and train others for organizational effectiveness. As an expert in meeting rules, Todd provides parliamentary support for both the ASBPC and RMA resolution sessions.

It has been a pleasure to work with Todd, and we are pleased to provide you with what we feel is a solid framework to move forward. With Todd's expert advice we were able to simplify and clarify the resolutions process to address your concerns and feedback.

Please join us on December 11, 9-10am for an online information session where we will present the proposed full revision of the Rules of Procedure (to be renamed the Provincial Resolutions Process).

This session will cover the key changes, the reasons behind the updates, and what members can expect moving forward. Attendees will receive supporting documents, including the original and proposed new rules, as well as a summary of major changes.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions and clarify any points ahead of the upcoming vote at the Provincial ASB Conference in January 2026. This is your chance to understand the process, the rationale for the changes, and how these updates will impact future ASB resolution sessions.

To further support these efforts the ASB Program Staff is pleased to offer an ASB Orientation Session on January 20 prior to the opening reception. Registration is limited and can be done through the Conference registration packages sent out to AAAF members later this week.

The Committee is confident that these improvements will enhance transparency, increase accountability, and provide a stronger foundation for engagement at the Provincial Conference.

With thanks for your continued support,

The Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

ASB Provincial Resolutions Process Information & Q&A Webinar

Learn about the proposed new Provincial Resolutions Process (PRP) before the 2026 Provincial ASB Conference vote.

Event Details:


- **Date & Time:** December 11, 9-10am
- **Location:** Online via Microsoft Teams Webinar
- **Registration Link:** [Click to Register](#)
- Or register through the Event's Calendar on the ASB website

What You'll Learn:

- ✓ Key changes to the Rules of Procedure (PRP)
- ✓ Why updates were made and how they benefit members
- ✓ How the process will impact future ASB resolutions
- ✓ Opportunity for Q&A

Why Attend?

- Learn about the changes and rationale
- Ask clarifying questions
- Prepare to vote at the January 2026 Provincial ASB Conference in Edmonton.

 Don't miss this opportunity to prepare for the upcoming vote!

Can't make the webinar? Watch a recording of the content on your own time, with the link on our website under [Upcoming Events/Provincial Conference/Proposed - Provincial Resolutions Process](#)

ASBPC – Committed to transparency, responsiveness, and empowering members.

List of Proposed Changes to Resolutions Rules of Procedure

LIST OF MAJOR AMENDMENTS - GENERAL

AMENDMENT	RATIONALE
Retitled the document.	The new titles better reflect the purpose of this document.
Reordered and reorganized the document for better flow and simplicity.	Makes it easier to follow and understand.
Removed all reference to the PRC to now only reference the ASBPC.	These appear to be one and the same. Having two terms is confusing.
Removed sections 1 (Provincial Resolution Committee) and 2 (Responsibilities of PRC Members).	These areas are better placed in the ASBPC TOR or in policy & procedures.
Amending the Rules -revised this section for clarity of wording.	Provides clarity.
Changed amendments to become effective immediately.	This allows the wishes of the majority to be actioned immediately making the work of the ASBPC more responsive to the current situation.

LIST OF MAJOR AMENDMENTS - PROCESS

AMENDMENT	RATIONALE
Numerous changes to clarify/simplify the process of submitting resolutions.	Simplify and clarify the process.
Removed the following clause. “Inform the membership, at the conference resolution session, when the resolution was amalgamated or divided or how it will materially change or contradict a current ASB position.”	Not clear as to why the Membership needs this information.
Added specific date deadlines at some points of the process.	Provides more clarity for deadlines. Please note the dates I selected may not be best and the Committee may wish to propose alternatives.
Removed the following clause: “Each ASB shall provide sufficient copies for their delegates and staff. Hard copies and/or digital copies of Provincial resolutions will be included in the Provincial Conference package available at registration.”	Aligns with current practice. Not required if all have received an electronic version by the deadline.
Removed note about Members changing the order of the resolutions as this is	Unnecessary to include as this is part of the Call to Order process outlined.

automatically allowed. (at the adoption of the agenda stage)	
All resolutions are adopted by 2/3 majority vote including those requiring changes to legislation.	Felt that 2/3 is a stronger provincial voice than the 50+1 in the current ROP.
All emergent resolutions accepted by the ASBPC require 2/3 majority Emergent not accepted by the ASBPC can be added to the order paper at the session with 2/3 majority vote.	Deters skipping the regional conference process
Simplified (for this document) the handling of endorsed resolutions.	Reduced this to key details that should be owned by the ASBs and removed those that should be decided and owned by the ASBPC.
Simplified the fees section.	Made this more clear and less repetitive, and annually discussed.

LIST OF MAJOR AMENDMENTS - RULES

Removed the section on Robert's Rules of Order.	Much of the outlined process does not apply to the ASBPC Resolution Session and some of the information is inaccurate. This level of information is not needed in this type of document.
Major revision and integration of Sections 5 (Procedures) and 6 (Voting and Speaking).	Numerous changes in wording and practice. Major changes are outlined in this chart below.
Removed all moving and seconding of resolutions.	There is no need for this since the agenda is adopted at the beginning of the session; all items listed in the agenda become orders for the meeting. The sponsoring ASB may speak to their resolution.
Removed speaking by the seconder.	Seconding does not typically include a right to special speaking status; also see the note above.
Speaking time for sponsor reduced from five to three minutes and reduced to one minute for closing.	This is ample time to review the highlights of the information that all Members have had a chance to review in advance.
Added rule that resolutions may not be postponed or referred.	Neither of these parliamentary options are helpful for a Resolutions Session and they are typically very time consuming.
Added ability for the parliamentarian to preside for the meeting.	Allows more option for chairing.

Removed ranking of the motions in order.	Ranking does not provide value for the amount of work required and the potential for raising unnecessary contention.
Added an order of Business (agenda) for the Resolution Session.	This will help Members understand the purpose, order and scope of the meeting.
Simplified amendment wording.	More clarity.
Removed Chair speaking to the reasons why a resolution was deemed emergent.	Not a bad idea but not necessary and is time consuming. If the practice is retained it should be another Member of the ASBPC and not the Chair providing this information.
Addition of Minutes Approval (4)	By authorizing the Alternates to review the resolution session minutes within 30 days, there will be an officially approved minutes of the AGM a few weeks after the AGM. Proposed amendments to the minutes can still be made at the following AGM or any future AGM.

DRAFT Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee Provincial Resolutions Process

Purpose: The purpose of this Provincial Resolutions Process is to formalize the resolution process used by the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC). It includes all aspects of the resolution process including oversight, resolution types, writing and submission guidelines, the resolution session order and rules of procedure and the handling of endorsed resolutions.

Scope: As a method of deriving member direction, the resolution process is fundamental to informing the Agricultural Service Board's advocacy priorities. As such, this document formalizes all aspects of the resolution process to provide clarity and consistency.

1) Resolution Types & Process

- a) Regional Conference Endorsed Provincial Resolutions
 - i) Resolutions that are provincial in scope and having been passed by majority vote at a Regional Conference shall be submitted to the Secretary of the ASBPC by November 15. Each resolution submitted for consideration must be accompanied by background information consisting of the history of the issue and potential impacts for the sponsoring municipality and province-wide impacts for municipalities.
 - ii) The ASBPC will review all submitted resolutions.
 - iii) The ASBPC will forward properly submitted and in-order resolutions electronically to each ASB by December 1. These resolutions will be considered at the Provincial ASB Conference.
- b) ASBPC Endorsed Provincial Resolutions
 - i) The ASBPC may develop resolutions that are provincial in scope. These will be forwarded electronically to each ASB by January 7. These resolutions will be considered at the Provincial ASB Conference.
- c) Emergent Resolutions
 - i) A resolution received by the ASBPC that was not presented and voted on at a Regional ASB Conference may be considered by the Committee as a potential Emergent Resolution. It may be recommended for consideration by the ASBPC if:
 - (1) the resolution is deemed an emergent issue of provincial significance regarding Agricultural Legislation or Agriculture policy that has arisen since the Regional ASB Conferences, or
 - (2) if the sponsoring ASB can justify to the Committee why the resolution did not come to the floor of a Regional Conference.

- ii) All Emergent Resolutions need to be moved and seconded by different ASBs.
- iii) Emergent Resolutions must be submitted to the Secretary of the ASBPC by December 31 prior to the Provincial Conference.
- iv) If the ASBPC deems the resolution to be emergent it will be sent electronically to all ASB(s) by January 7.
 - (1) Before adopting the Provincial Resolutions Session order paper, ASB(s) will decide whether to add proposed emergent resolutions that were deemed emergent by the ASBPC to the order paper. A 2/3 majority vote is required for addition.
- v) If the ASBPC does not deem the resolution to be emergent the resolution will not be sent to the ASB(s).
 - (1) The sponsoring ASB may appeal this ruling at the designated time during the Provincial Resolution Session. A 2/3 majority vote is required for an appealed emergent resolution to be added to the order paper. In order for an appeal to be considered, sufficient paper copies of resolutions that are intended to be appealed as emergent must be made available by the sponsoring ASB to all conference delegates at registration.

*** Please note this document covers Provincial Resolutions. Resolutions that are Regional in nature and that have been passed by a Regional Conference shall be sent by the Secretary of the Regional Resolutions Committee to whomever they are directed to for reply and a copy of the resolution and resolution response sent to the ASBPC for information only.*

2) Resolution Authority of the ASBPC

- a) The ASBPC has authority to review Provincial resolutions. This authority includes the ability to:
 - i) request clarification on resolution(s) from the sponsoring ASB(s).
 - ii) modify resolution(s) from the sponsoring ASB(s) in terms of wording etc. to:
 - (1) Amend the title, grammar, wording or format of the resolution provided it does not change the intent.
 - (2) Provide comments on each resolution with regards to the background.
 - iii) Amalgamate two or more resolutions between jurisdictions if several resolutions are of similar topic and content.
 - iv) Divide a resolution with multiple proposals of action into separate resolutions
 - v) Request withdrawal of a resolution if the resolution:
 - (1) Has no bearing whatsoever with the agriculture industry
 - (2) Has been resolved prior to the resolution screening meeting, or
 - (3) Has been covered by another resolution
 - vi) Inform the sponsoring ASB(s) when the resolution will be changed by amalgamation or division, or how it materially changes or contradicts a current ASB position.

- vii) Notify the sponsoring ASB(s) of any deficiencies in meeting the guidelines of resolutions as outlined in the ASBPC Provincial Resolutions Process.
- b) Determine the order that resolutions will be presented with the following guidelines:
 - i) In the event of receipt by the Committee of two or more contradictory resolutions, the Committee will order the resolutions in such fashion that the contradictory resolutions are presented consecutively
 - ii) If the first of the resolutions is passed, the contradicting resolution(s) will be deemed defeated, and will not subsequently be brought to the floor
 - iii) If the first resolution is defeated, the contradictory resolution(s) will be brought to the floor of the conference for consideration
- c) The ASBPC may provide training on the ASBPC Provincial Resolutions Process for members.

3) Resolution Session

A. Order of Business

The following is the normal Provincial Resolutions Session Order of Business (Agenda):

Call to Order

Welcome and Introductions

Activity Report of the ASBPC

Proposed Amendments to the ASBPC Provincial Resolutions Process

Consideration of Adding Emergent Resolutions to the Order Paper

1. Emergent Resolutions considered emergent by the ASBPC
2. Emergent Resolutions not considered emergent by the ASBPC (if Sponsor appeals)

Approval of Agenda

Approved Minutes of the Previous AGM minutes (opportunity for amendments)

Approval of Committee Fees

Consideration of Resolutions including emergent approved by ASBPC

- (list of the resolution in the ASBPC order)

Consideration of Resolutions added to the Order Paper as Emergent

- (list of the emergent resolutions in order)

Adjournment

B. Consideration of Resolutions - Process

- a) The Title, name of Sponsoring ASB and "Therefore Be It Resolved" clause(s) will be read to the Members by the ASBPC.
- b) One Member of the Sponsoring ASB may speak for up to three minutes on the resolution.
- c) The floor will be open to all Members. The Chair will call for anyone wishing to speak in opposition, ask a question for clarification, or propose an amendment. If no one seeks

recognition for any of these purposes or if only questions for clarification are brought forward, the resolution proceeds immediately to a vote. The mover does not speak in closing.

- d) If any Member speaks in opposition or if an amendment is proposed, the resolution will become fully debatable. The mover may speak in closing for up to one minute.
- e) All other speakers, for or against the resolution, or speaking to an amendment or other motion are allowed a maximum of two minutes.
- f) No Member (other than the Sponsor who may open and close) may speak more than once to any resolution, amendment or other motion per resolution.

C. Consideration of Resolutions - Other Rules of Procedure

- a) Resolutions may not be postponed nor referred.
- b) The Chair has the discretion to request a proposed amendment be provided in writing.
- c) Two delegates from each municipality's ASB at the conference shall be recognized voters on any resolution.
- d) An Agricultural Service Board member may have any person speak to a resolution with majority approval by the Members.
- e) All Resolutions are adopted by 2/3 majority vote including resolutions requesting changes to legislation.
- f) Process for adding appealed emergent resolutions to the order paper during the approval of the agenda:
 - a. The Title, name of Sponsoring ASB and "Therefore Be It Resolved" clause(s) will be read to the Members.
 - b. The sponsor of the appealed proposed emergent resolution will have one minute to present why the issue is emergent. Members will immediately vote without debate whether to accept the resolution as emergent and have it added to the order paper. 2/3 in favor is required for addition to the order paper.
 - c. If accepted for consideration as an emergent resolution, such resolutions will be added to the end of the list of resolutions and the handling of each resolution will follow the same procedure as all other resolutions.
- g) Members must maintain good decorum at all times. Debate may not include any rude or threatening comments.
- h) A parliamentarian may be engaged to support the Chair during the Resolutions Session or to chair the meeting itself. The parliamentarian shall be appointed by the ASBPC.
- i) The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the procedure of the Provincial Resolutions Session in all cases for which they are applicable, except if the rules are in conflict with this document.

4) Minutes Approval

- a) In order to provide approved minutes in a timely manner the ASBPC Alternates will review and approve the minutes of the resolution session within 30 days of the conference.
- b) The approved minutes will be made available to Members.
- c) The approved minutes will be presented at the next Provincial ASB Conference and are subject to amendment by the Membership.

5) Procedures for Approved Resolutions - Post Resolution Session

- a) The ASBPC shall submit approved resolutions to all ASBs by February 14 of the Provincial ASB Conference year.
- b) The ASBPC will submit approved resolutions to appropriate agencies and organizations for response. Responses will be compiled, returned to the Secretary for distribution to the ASBPC and individual ASBs, and posted electronically.
- c) Resolutions passed at a Provincial ASB Conference will be advocated on for a period of three years from the date of approval. A list of expiring resolutions will be placed in the report card annually.
 - i) If an ASB wishes the resolution to remain active, the resolution must be brought forward for approval again at the next Provincial ASB Conference
 - ii) Only resolutions from the previous two years will be reported on in the annual Report Card on the Resolutions

6) ASB Provincial Committee Fees

- a) The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen will collect approved fees on behalf of the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee to support the costs of the Committee.
- b) The recommended fee will be based on financial need and will be approved annually at the Provincial ASB Conference.
- c) Billing to all municipalities with Agricultural Service Boards will be in the following year.

7) Amendments to this Document

- a) This document is in effect from year to year without the requirement for annual approval.
- b) All proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the ASBPC by December 31.
- c) Proposed amendments to this document, the Provincial Resolutions Process, may be moved at the Provincial Resolutions Session by:
 - a. The ASBPC, or,
 - b. Any voting delegate at the conference.
- d) Approval of proposed amendments is by 2/3 vote.
- e) Amendments that are adopted will take effect immediately unless otherwise noted in the motion to amend.

Note: Any appendices to this document are for information only and are not subject to amendment by the Membership. These will be updated as needed by the ASBPC.

Appendix A

Resolution Writing Guidelines

1. Resolutions must address a topic of concern that is relevant to municipalities on a provincial or federal basis.
2. The title must provide a clear indication of the resolution's intent.
3. The preamble must provide clear, brief, factual context for the operative clause.
4. The operative clause must clearly set out what the resolution is meant to achieve and indicate a proposal for action. The wording should be straightforward and brief so that the intent of the resolution is clear. Resolutions requesting legislative changes must clearly identify the legislation that the resolution is directing changes to.
5. Resolutions must be accompanied by background information outlining the following where appropriate:
 - a. The history of the issue,
 - b. Issue impacts, noting the provincial and/or federal impacts of the issue, where applicable,
 - c. Past or current advocacy efforts by the ASB or other organizations,
 - d. Recent incidents or developments,
 - e. Specific legislation linkages, and
 - f. Other stakeholders with a vested interest.
6. Resolutions must include a title, preamble (whereas), operative clause (therefore be it resolved) and member background and shall be in the form:

Resolution Sample Template

**RESOLUTION XX
TITLE**

WHEREAS insert your words here.....;

WHEREAS insert your words here.....;

WHEREAS insert your words here.....;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

(Insert your words here. Be concise and specific. Outline clearly WHO you want to do WHAT specifically. Think about the letters that will be written to address this resolution, who do they need to be written to and what is your request. What is the intended result that you hope to achieve.)

SPONSORED BY: (name of sponsoring municipality)

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: (Local, Regional or Provincial?)

DEPARTMENT: (which government ministries, programs or departments will be contacted to address this resolution?)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

(Your words here. Background information should include the history of the issue, potential impacts for the sponsoring municipality and the province wide impacts for the municipalities. Previous related resolutions can help with the background information. It is always good to align and build on past resolutions. Be sure to list any attached supporting documents)

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference
Resolutions Rules of Procedure
Approved January 18, 2023

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference

Resolutions Rules of Procedure

Purpose: The purpose of this procedure is to formalize the parameters involved for the resolution process used by the Provincial Resolution Committee (PRC). It includes aspects of the resolution process including oversight, guidelines, resolution types, writing and submission guidelines, the resolution session and the handling of endorsed resolutions.

Scope: As a method of deriving member direction, the resolution process is fundamental to informing the Agricultural Service Board's advocacy priorities. As such, this policy formalizes all aspects of the resolution process to provide clarity and consistency.

1) Provincial Resolution Committee (PRC)

- a) Shall consist of members of the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC) Specifically:
 - i) Five Regional Committee
 - ii) Director or executive member of Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)
 - iii) First Vice President of the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) as Secretary
 - iv) Manager of the ASB Grant Program representing Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF)
 - v) ASBPC Executive Assistant

2) Responsibilities of Provincial Resolution Committee Members

- a) Chairman
 - i) Chairman of the ASBPC shall chair the presentation of Resolutions at the Provincial Conference
 - ii) Present a report card on previous years' resolutions
- b) Secretary
 - i) Receive resolutions from Regional Conferences within five working days of each conference
 - ii) Provide copies of draft Provincial resolutions to ASBPC
 - iii) Provide copies of approved Provincial resolutions to each ASB by December 1 of each year
 - iv) Record proceedings of Provincial ASB Conference Resolution Session(s)
 - v) Maintain minutes from Provincial ASB Conference
- c) Manager ASB Grant Program
 - i) Time speakers to ensure each ASB member has adequate time to speak to the resolution

- ii) Provide support to the Chair, Secretary and Executive Assistant
- d) Executive Assistant
 - i) Provide support to the Chair and Secretary
 - ii) Ensure resolutions are in appropriate format
- e) All other members shall:
 - i) Assist with presentation of resolutions at the Provincial Conference
- f) All costs incurred by the members of the committee for attending meetings will be reimbursed by each individual member's employer

3) Authority

- a) The PRC, in its' entirety, has authority to review Provincial resolutions
- b) The PRC's authority include:
 - i) Request clarification on resolution(s) from the sponsoring ASB(s)
 - ii) Modify resolution(s) from the sponsoring ASB(s) in terms of wording etc. to:
 - (1) Amend the title, grammar, wording or format of the resolution provided it does not change the intent.
 - (2) Provide comments on each resolution with regards to the background.
 - iii) Amalgamate two or more resolutions between jurisdictions if several resolutions are of similar topic and content after consultation of the sponsoring ASB(s).
 - iv) Divide a resolution with multiple proposal of action into separate resolutions
 - v) Request withdrawal of a resolution if the resolution:
 - (1) Has no bearing whatsoever with the agriculture industry
 - (2) Has been resolved prior to the resolution screening meeting, or
 - (3) Has been covered by another resolution
 - vi) Inform the sponsoring ASB(s) when the resolution will be changed by amalgamation or division, or how it materially changes or contradicts a current ASB position.
 - vii) Inform the membership, at the conference resolution session, when the resolution was amalgamated or divided or how it will materially change or contradict a current ASB position.
 - viii) Notify the sponsoring ASB(s) of any deficiencies in meeting the guidelines of resolutions as outlined in this policy.
- c) Determine order that resolutions will be presented
 - i) In the event of receipt by the Committee of two or more contradictory resolutions, the Committee will order the resolutions in such fashion that the contradictory resolutions are presented consecutively
 - ii) If the first of the resolutions is passed, the contradicting resolution(s) will be deemed defeated, and will not subsequently be brought to the floor

- iii) If the first resolution is defeated, the contradictory resolution(s) will be brought to the floor of the conference for consideration
- d) Resolutions passed at an ASB Provincial Conference will be advocated on for a period of three years from the date of approval. A list of expiring resolutions will be placed in the report card annually.
 - i) If an ASB wishes the resolution to remain active, the resolution must be brought forward for approval again at the next ASB Provincial Conference
 - ii) Only resolutions from the previous two years will be reported on in the annual Report Card on the Resolutions
- e) The ASBPC may provide annual training on the resolutions policy for all committee members.
- f) A parliamentarian may be engaged to support the chair during the Resolutions Session. The parliamentarian shall be appointed by the ASBPC.
- g) The ASBPC shall have power to rank the resolutions per their relative importance thus determining the order paper.

4) Resolutions

- a) Provincial Resolutions
 - i) Resolutions Provincial in scope and having been passed by simple majority at a Regional Conference shall be submitted to the Secretary of the ASBPC within five working days of the Regional Conference. Each resolution submitted for consideration must be accompanied by background information consisting of the history of the issue and potential impacts for the sponsoring municipality and province-wide impacts for municipalities.
 - ii) After resolutions Provincial in scope are received by the ASBPC Secretary, the PRC will meet to review them.
 - iii) The PRC shall forward resolutions to each ASB by December 1 each year. Each ASB shall provide sufficient copies for their delegates and staff. Hard copies and/or digital copies of Provincial resolutions will be included in the Provincial Conference package available at registration.
- b) ASBPC Endorsed Resolutions
 - i) Board endorsed resolutions are those submitted by the ASBPC. These resolutions may be brought forth to allow the conference delegates to amend or endorse a position or an action proposed by the ASBPC in a timely fashion. Board endorsed resolutions shall follow the provincial resolution timeline.
- c) Regional Resolutions
 - i) Resolutions that are Regional in nature and that have been passed by a Regional Conference shall be sent by the Secretary of the Regional Resolutions Committee to whomever they are directed to for reply and a copy of the resolution and resolution response sent to the ASBPC for information only.
- d) Emergent Resolutions

- i) A resolution received by the ASBPC that was not presented and voted on at a Regional ASB Conference may be considered by the Committee as a potential Emergent Resolution. It may be recommended for acceptance by the PRC if the resolution is deemed an emergency issue of provincial significance regarding Agricultural Legislation or Agriculture Policy that has arisen since the Regional ASB Conferences, or if the sponsoring ASB can justify to the Committee why the resolution did not come to the floor of a Regional Conference.
- ii) If a resolution is denied Emergent status by the PRC, the sponsoring ASB may appeal this ruling through the Chair to the floor of the Provincial ASB Conference Resolution Session, where it may be reconsidered as Emergent at the pleasure of the Voting ASB Conference Delegates. The vote for acceptance of an appealed Emergent Resolution must be carried by a 3/5 majority of voting Provincial ASB Conference delegates.
- iii) Sufficient copies of resolutions accepted as Emergent must be made available by the sponsoring ASB to all conference delegates.
- iv) Emergent Resolutions must be submitted to the Secretary of the ASBPC 24 hours prior to the start of the Provincial Conference.

5) Procedures

- a) Approved Provincial Resolutions
 - i) Resolutions approved for debate at the Provincial Conference by the PRC shall be handled in numerical order as recommended by the committee unless 3/5 of the voting delegates on the convention floor agree to accept a resolution out of that numerical order.
 - ii) Each resolution must have a Mover and a Secunder
 - iii) Only the "Therefore Be It Resolved" section will be read
 - iv) The Chairman shall call on the Mover and Secunder to speak to the resolution and then immediately call for anyone wishing to speak in opposition.
 - (1) If there is no one to speak in opposition, the question shall be called
 - (2) If there are speakers in opposition, the Chairman shall at his discretion call for anyone other than the Mover or Secunder to speak to the resolution before the debate is closed
 - v) Anyone wishing to amend a resolution must then speak to the resolution as written, or anyone wishing clarification must speak up. All amendments must have a Mover and a Secunder. The Committee requests the submission of proposed amendments prior to the resolution session for administrative ease
 - vi) Only one amendment will be accepted at a time, and only one amendment to the amendment is permitted at a time.
 - vii) The Chairman has the discretion to request a written amendment.
 - viii) The Mover and Secunder are allowed five minutes in total to speak to the resolution or amendment. The Secunder may waive his right to speak and the Mover would be allowed the full five minutes.

- ix) The Mover and Secunder have the right to close the debate and a maximum of two minutes each will be allowed for this.
- x) All other speakers, for or against the resolution, are allowed a maximum of two minutes.
- b) Emergent Resolutions
 - i) Resolutions approved as Emergent according to Section 4 shall be dealt with last.
 - ii) Chair will advise delegates of the ASB Committee comments with respect to recommending the resolution as emergent.
 - iii) Chair will ask delegates if they wish to accept the resolution for debate.
 - (1) A mover and seconder are required to put a motion on the floor to accept the resolution for debate as emergent.
 - (2) Delegates have the right to speak to the motion regarding whether to accept the emergent resolution for debate.
 - iv) A mover has the right to close debate.
 - v) Chair will call the question.
 - vi) 3/5 majority required for acceptance of the resolution as emergent
 - vii) If accepted as an emergent resolution, follow procedure for Provincial Resolutions (Section 5a)

6) Voting and Speaking

- a) Two delegates from each municipality's ASB at the conference shall be recognized voters on any resolution.
- b) An Agricultural Service Board member may have any person speak to a resolution by their request.
- c) All Resolutions are passed or defeated by simple majority except where a change to legislation is asked for or acceptance of an emergent resolutions for debate, when a 3/5 majority is required.

7) Procedures for Approved Resolutions

- a) Secretary of the ASBPC shall submit approved resolutions to the PRC members.
- b) Executive Assistant and Secretary of the ASBPC will submit resolutions to appropriate agencies and organizations for response.
 - i) Responses will be compiled, returned to the Secretary for distribution to the ASBPC and individual ASBs, and posted electronically.
- c) Chairman of the ASBPC shall:
 - i) Hold a committee meeting to review and discuss responses to resolutions.
 - ii) Request a committee meeting with RMA Executive.
 - iii) Request a committee meeting with the Resource Stewardship Committee to discuss or clarify resolution responses if deemed necessary.
 - iv) Request a committee meeting with the Ministers of appropriate ministries to discuss resolution responses if deemed necessary.

- v) Direct the ASBPC to prepare and circulate a Resolutions Report Card itemizing actions that have been undertaken by the Committee in response to resolutions passed at previous conference.

8) Roberts Rules of Order

- a) The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the procedure of the Resolutions Committee in all cases for which they are applicable, except if the rules are not consistent with the Provincial ASB Conference Rules of Procedure. The Provincial ASB Conference Rules of Procedure will take precedence. Attached are example excerpts from Robert's Rules of Order that apply directly to the Resolution Process.

9) Amendments to Provincial Rules of Procedure

- a) An amendment to these Rules of Procedure may be made by a simple motion from:
 - i) The ASBPC, or,
 - ii) Any voting delegate at the conference
- b) Amendments must be accepted by a simple majority of all voting delegates at the Provincial ASB Conference
- c) Amendments that are "Carried" will take effect at the next Provincial ASB Conference

10) ASB Provincial Committee Fees

- a) The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen will collect approved fees on behalf of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Provincial Committee to supports the costs of the Committee.
- b) The recommended fee will be based on financial need and will be approved at the Provincial ASB Conference. Billing to all municipalities with Agricultural Service Boards the following year.
- c) Voting on the value of the fee will take place at the Provincial ASB Conference. The two municipal delegates at the conference from each municipality will vote on the value of the fees and must be accepted by a simple majority.

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER – EXCERPTS & CLARIFICATION OF PROCESSES

The ASBPC offers the following excerpts from Robert's Rules of Order as well as a few other suggestions for clarification of the resolution process. The intent is for the entire assembly to have a clearer understanding of the rules of procedure for each member to participate to the fullest extent.

MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS

- A motion is a proposal that the assembly take certain action, or that it expresses itself as holding certain views.
- It is made by a member obtaining the floor and saying, "I move that," and then stating the action he proposes to have taken.
- Thus, a member "moves" that a resolution be adopted, or amended, or referred to a committee, or that a vote of thanks be extended, etc.

HANDLING OF A MOTION

What precedes a debate?

- Before any subject is open to debate it is necessary for the following 3 actions to occur.
 1. A motion is made by a member who has obtained the floor.
 2. The motion is seconded (with certain exceptions).
 3. The question is stated by the chair.
- The chair must either rule the motion out of order or state the question on it so that the assembly may know what is before them for consideration and action, that is, what is the *immediately pending question*.

Stating of the question by the chair:

- When the motion that is in order has been made and seconded, it is the duty of the chair to formally place it before the assembly by "**stating the question**"; that is, he states the exact question that is before the assembly for its consideration and action.
 - For example, in the case of a resolution, the chair may state the question by saying, "It is moved and seconded to adopt the following resolution".
- Until the chair states the question,
 - the mover has the right to modify his motion/resolution as he pleases, or to withdraw it entirely.
 - when the mover modifies his motion, the seconder has a right to withdraw his second.
- After the question has been stated by the chair, the motion becomes the property of the assembly,
 - the maker can not modify or withdraw his motion/resolution without the assembly's consent.
- While the motion is pending or being debated,
 - the assembly can change the wording of the motion by the process of amendment.

Debate

- After the chair states a question, it is before the assembly for consideration, debate, and action.
- No member should speak twice to the same issue until everyone else wishing to speak has spoken to it once.
- Any member who wished to force an end to debate (prior to the chair) must first obtain the floor by being recognized to speak by the chair. Once the member has obtained the floor he must then move to "*Call or put the Question (before the assembly)*". This motion must be seconded and adopted by unanimous consent.
- All resolutions, reports of committees, communications to the assembly, and all amendments proposed to them, and all other before final action is taken on them (unless by a two-thirds vote the assembly decides to dispose of them without debate). debatable motions may be debated

Modifying a Motion

- A motion can be modified or amended after the chair states the question.
- **Friendly amendments** will only be considered for punctuation or spelling corrections.
 - As the chair would already have stated the motion, it is now the property of the assembly and therefore the chair will ask the assembly if there are any objections.
 - If no objection is made, the chair will declare the amendment adopted.
 - If even one member objects (which includes the mover and seconder), the amendment is subject to debate and votes like any other amendment.
- The chair will determine if **an amendment is germane**.
 - An amendment must be germane to be in order.
 - To be germane, an amendment must in some way involve the same question raised by the motion to which it is applied.
 - An amendment cannot introduce an independent question.
 - An amendment can be hostile to, or even defeat the spirit of the original motion and still be germane.

Putting the Question and Announcing the Vote:

- When the debate appears to have closed, the chair asks,
 - "Are you ready for the question?" If no one rises he proceeds to **put the question** – or to take the vote on the question.
- In putting the question, the chair should make perfectly clear what the question is that the assembly is to decide.
 - For example, "The question is on amending the resolution by [insert amendment]. Those in favor of the amendment, etc. The question is now on the resolution as amended, which is as follows [read resolution as amended]. Are you ready for the question?"

- The vote should always be announced, as it is a necessary part of putting the question. The vote does not go into effect until announced.
- If a vote is too close to call, a standing vote will be required. Voting delegates are to remain standing while the count is taken. The Chair will indicate when to sit once the vote is counted.

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO WITHDRAW OR MODIFY A MOTION

- Conditions for withdrawing or modifying a motion depend upon how soon the mover states his wish to withdraw or modify it.
 - Before a motion has been stated by the chair, it is the property of its mover, who can withdraw it or modify it without asking the consent of anyone. Thus, in the brief interval between the making of a motion and the time when the chair places it before the assembly by stating it, the maker can withdraw it.
 - After a motion has been stated by the chair, the mover requires permission from the assembly to withdraw or modify a motion.

SECONDING A MOTION

- A motion is seconded by a member saying, "I second the motion," or "I second it."
 - Members seconding a motion are also required to stand and identify themselves. This is especially important in large assemblies where non-members are scattered throughout the assembly.

"The assembly rules – they have the final say on everything!" (Robert's Rules of Order)

"Silence means consent!" (Robert's Rules of Order)

Note: Content is taken from Robert's Rules of Order as well as clarification of processes suggested by the ASBPC.

Appendix A

Resolution Writing Guidelines

1. Resolutions must address a topic of concern that is relevant to municipalities on a provincial or federal basis.
2. The title must provide a clear indication of the resolution's intent.
3. The preamble must provide clear, brief, factual context for the operative clause.
4. The operative clause must clearly set out what the resolution is meant to achieve and indicate a proposal for action. The wording should be straightforward and brief so that the intent of the resolution is clear. Resolutions requesting legislative changes must clearly identify the legislation that the resolution is directing changes to.
5. Resolutions must be accompanied by background information outlining the following where appropriate:
 - a. The history of the issue,
 - b. Issue impacts, noting the provincial and/or federal impacts of the issue, where applicable,
 - c. Past or current advocacy efforts by the ASB or other organizations,
 - d. Recent incidents or developments,
 - e. Specific legislation linkages, and
 - f. Other stakeholders with a vested interest.
6. Resolutions must include a title, preamble (whereas), operative clause (therefore be it resolved) and member background and shall be in the form:

RESOLUTION XX

TITLE

WHEREAS insert your words here.....;

WHEREAS insert your words here.....;

WHEREAS insert your words here.....;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

(Insert your words here. Be concise and specific. Outline clearly WHO you want to do WHAT specifically. Think about the letters that will be written to address this resolution, who do they need to be written to and what is your request. What is the intended result that you hope to achieve.)

SPONSORED BY: (name of sponsoring municipality)

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

CARRIED: _____

DEFEATED: _____

STATUS: (Local, Regional or Provincial?)

DEPARTMENT: (which government ministries, programs or departments will be contacted to address this resolution?)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

(Your words here. Background information should include the history of the issue, potential impacts for the sponsoring municipality and the province wide impacts for the municipalities. Previous related resolutions can help with the background information. It is always good to align and build on past resolutions. Be sure to list any attached supporting documents)



Memo

TO: Councillor Allan Gano, ASB Chair

FROM: Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations

DATE: January 7, 2026

SUBJECT: ASB Provincial Resolution Information

The County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Administration would like to provide the ASB information on the resolutions proposed for the 2026 ASB Provincial Conference (January 20-22, 2026). It is important to determine voting members, resolution voting consensus and select a mover for the resolution presented by the County of Stettler.

Voting Members:

For each resolution two (2) board members from each municipality vote on each resolution presented. It is key to have consensus to not cancel out the board’s votes. This vote is submitted via an anonymous remote.

The 2 voting members for the County of Stettler are _____ and _____.

Board Verdict on Resolutions:

These verdicts determined here are used to guide the voting members of the ASB, however at the Conference based on discussions and new information the determination on a resolution may change.

Resolution	Notes	Voting Verdict
Resolution 1-26: Emergency Registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine		
Resolution 2-26: Exemption of Agricultural Equipment from CEPA 1999 Emission Limits		
Resolution 3-26: Marked Fuel Program Review		
Resolution 4-26: Rural Water Distribution and Connectivity Funding		

Resolution Mover:

This person will speak to the background and summarize the Rural Water Distribution and Connectivity Funding Resolution from the County of Stettler. Administration may assist this person with writing a short speech if needed. The mover for the County resolution is _____.

The County of Stettler may wish to second a resolution – at the Central Region ASB Conference the County of Stettler seconded the Marked Fuel Program Review resolution from Starland County.

Resolution 1-26: Emergency Registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine for Richardson’s Ground Squirrel (RGS) Control

- **Sponsor:** Foothills County
- **Purpose:** Request reinstatement of 2% liquid strychnine for controlling RGS.
- **Rationale:** Historically effective since 1928; no equally effective alternatives exist; minimal off-target impacts when used properly.
- **Action Requested:** Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Health Canada, in collaboration with PMRA, to make 2% strychnine available for 2026 and beyond.
- **Impact:** Prevents significant crop, pasture, and infrastructure losses; reduces reliance on more dangerous alternative control methods.

Resolution 2-26: Exemption of Agricultural Equipment from CEPA 1999 Emission Limits

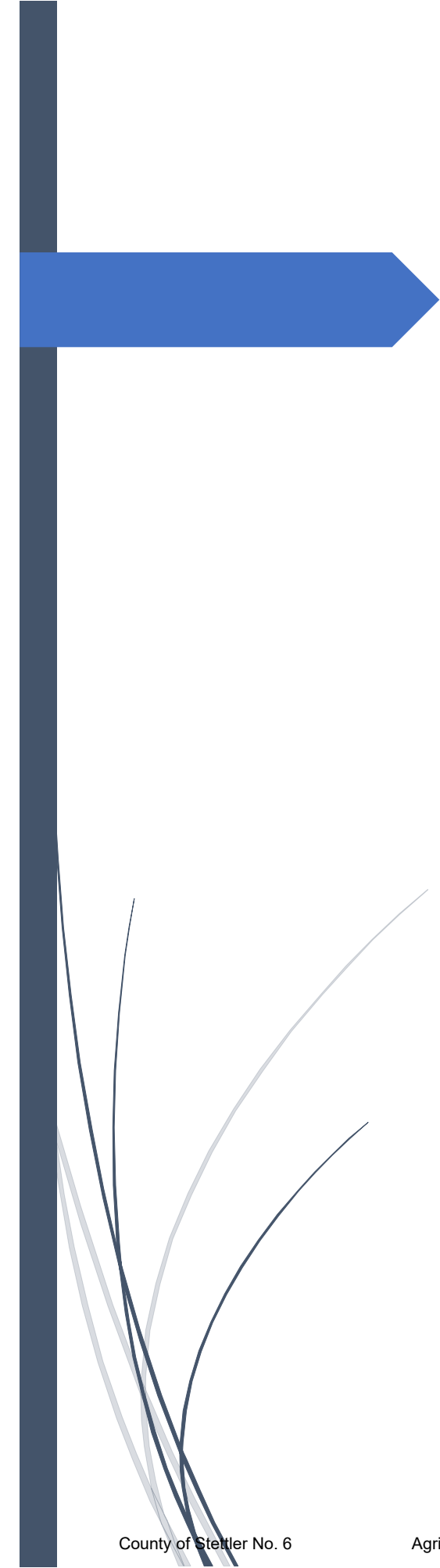
- **Sponsor:** Foothills County
- **Purpose:** Request exemption for agricultural vehicles and machinery from nitrogen oxide (NOx) emission limits.
- **Rationale:** Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) systems are costly, prone to failures, reduce equipment longevity, and offer negligible net environmental benefit.
- **Action Requested:** Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, and Alberta Environment work with federal authorities to exempt agricultural equipment from NOx limits.
- **Impact:** Reduces repair costs and downtime, supporting competitiveness and sustainability of Alberta’s agricultural sector.

Resolution 3-26: Marked Fuel Program Review

- **Sponsor:** Starland County **Secunder at Regional: County of Stettler No. 6**
- **Purpose:** Maintain the Alberta Farm Fuel Benefit (AFFB) program in its current point-of-sale form.
- **Rationale:** Proposed shift to a refund-based system increases administrative burden, delays cash flow, and raises operational costs.
- **Action Requested:** Treasury Board and Finance continue administering AFFB as a marked fuel system.
- **Impact:** Preserves simplicity, efficiency, and financial predictability for agricultural producers.

Resolution 4-26: Rural Water Distribution and Connectivity Funding

- **Sponsor:** County of Stettler No. 6
- **Purpose:** Expand federal and provincial funding to include rural water distribution and service connections.
- **Rationale:** Current funding covers treatment plants and transmission mains but not the “last mile,” leaving farms and rural households without reliable water access.
- **Action Requested:** Government of Canada and Alberta provide cost-shared funding for service laterals and on-lot infrastructure.
- **Impact:** Improves water access, public health, farm viability, and maximizes return on previous infrastructure investments.



Provincial Resolution Session Package

December 1, 2025

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

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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. RESOLTUION 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 Agr-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/?srsltid=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/department/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.



Brazeau County

7401 – Twp Rd 494, P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A 1R1
PHONE: (780) 542-7777 - FAX: (780) 542-7770
www.brazeau.ab.ca

October 14, 2025

Mr. Paul MacKinnon
President
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Paul.MacKinnon@inspection.gc.ca

Dear Mr. MacKinnon,

Re: Reconsideration of the cull order at Universal Ostrich Farms in Edgewood B.C.

On behalf of the Brazeau County Agricultural Services Board (ASB), I am writing to request that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) reconsider the cull order for the ostriches at the Universal Ostrich Farm in Edgewood, British Columbia, and that ostriches be re-tested for avian flu (H5N1) by a third party before any irreversible action is taken.

We recognize and support the CFIA's mandate to protect animal health and safeguard Canada's international trade partnerships. However, given the exceptional nature of this case, we believe there are scientific distinctions that merit further review. Ostriches are ratites, not true poultry, and as such, they differ significantly from conventional avian species in anatomy, physiology, and disease susceptibility. Given these differences, it would be both scientifically sound and procedurally fair to conduct confirmatory retesting using methodologies appropriate to ratite species. Re-testing may also provide insight into why/how the remaining ostriches survived the initial infection and if there is any benefit to be gained from that information.

Retesting by a third party, under CFIA supervision and using appropriate biosecurity measures, could also provide scientific validation and confidence in the necessity of depopulation. Such a step would also maintain public trust in the CFIA's science-based decision-making process while demonstrating the Agency's commitment to case specific judgements that hold both economic and ethical significance.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Heinrich
Chair, Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board
Councillor Division 5

cc: Prime Minister Mark Carney
Minister Heath MacDonald
Premier Danielle Smith
Minister RJ Sigurdson
Minister Andrew Boitchenko
MP Dane Lloyd
Alberta Agricultural Services Boards



Brazeau County

7401 – Twp Rd 494, P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A 1R1
PHONE: (780) 542-7777 - FAX: (780) 542-7770
www.brazeau.ab.ca

October 8, 2025

Honorable Brian Jean
Minister of Energy and Minerals
324 Legislature Building, 10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Brian Jean,

Re: Wellsite Reclamation

On behalf of the Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board, I am writing to express concern over recent comments by your Chief of Staff, Vitor Marciano, at the Warburg Pembina Surface Rights Group meeting on September 9, 2025. The comments were regarding the potential practice of leaving oil and gas well sites only partially remediated on the basis that surface vegetation appears to be re-established. While this approach may give the impression of recovery, it overlooks the long-term environmental, agricultural, and community impacts that can result from incomplete clean-up and subsurface contamination.

Surface regrowth alone does not guarantee that the underlying soil has been adequately restored to its pre-disturbance condition. Subsurface contamination, soil compaction, and residual waste materials can remain hidden beneath seemingly healthy vegetation. These unresolved issues risk future land productivity, compromise water quality, and may create costly liabilities for landowners. For example, when seeking financing for land sales, some banks with increasing requirements may request an environmental audit prior to approving financing. If contaminants are found on the “reclaimed” site, financing may be denied and the land value is lost.

Allowing incomplete reclamation sets a troubling precedent. It transfers the burden of future remediation onto farmers, ranchers, municipalities, and ultimately taxpayers. True reclamation must mean a return of the land to a safe, productive state—not simply one that appears green on the surface.

I urge your ministry to strengthen reclamation standards and oversight to ensure that wellsite clean-up is complete, verifiable, and sustainable. Landowners and communities deserve assurance that their land will be properly restored for future generations. A policy that permits “green cover” to substitute for genuine remediation is neither fair nor responsible stewardship of our province’s resources.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Heinrich
Chair, Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board, Councillor Division 5

cc: Minister RJ Sigurdson, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
Minister Andrew Boitchenko, MLA, Drayton Valley – Devon
Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta



Brazeau County

7401 – Twp Rd 494, P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A 1R1
PHONE: (780) 542-7777 - FAX: (780) 542-7770
www.brazeau.ab.ca

October 8, 2025

Honorable Devin Dreeshen
Minister of Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors
204 Legislature Building, 10800-97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Devin Dreeshen,

Re: Highway Right of Way (ROW) Maintenance in Brazeau County

On behalf of the Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board, I am writing to express our concern about the poor, and in some cases, absent roadside maintenance on Alberta highway right of ways within Brazeau County. The condition of area highways—marked by overgrown vegetation, obstructed sightlines, as well as, prohibited noxious and noxious weeds—are not only unsightly but pose direct and significant risk to public safety. The presence of prohibited noxious and noxious weeds, with no control actions taken, is also in direct contravention of Provincial legislation.

The Brazeau County Agricultural Service department has received numerous and ongoing complaints regarding the unacceptable state of area highways. Communication with the area maintenance inspector early in the season seemed promising, but as the season progressed many area highways remained unmaintained. Highway 22, highway 20 and secondary highway 616 had no vegetation management take place until September 3rd, 2025, which is unacceptable. Furthermore, adjacent landowners are understandably frustrated that the municipality requires weed control on their private property but there is a complete disregard by the province for their weed control responsibilities.

It is imperative that the Ministry take immediate steps to address this matter. A review of existing maintenance schedules, coupled with adequate resource allocation, is urgently required to maintain area highways to an acceptable standard. Failure to do so will only exacerbate safety risks and erode public confidence in the Ministry's stewardship of our transportation network.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Heinrich
Chair, Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board
Councillor Division 5

cc: Minister Andrew Boitchenko, MLA, Drayton Valley – Devon
Jennifer Mazurek, Maintenance Contract Inspector, AB Transportation and Economic Corridors
Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta
Agricultural Service Boards Provincial Committee
Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)



On behalf of the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee, it is my pleasure to welcome all ASB members—returning and newly elected—following your municipal elections this past October. With 68 boards represented across five regions, each with its unique agricultural landscape, economic drivers, and community priorities, the strength of Alberta’s ASB system continues to be its diversity, its local leadership, and its readiness to work together on provincial issues that matter to producers and rural communities.

This year, the Provincial Committee itself welcomes five new members following our November organizational meeting. I want to extend my appreciation to those who have stepped into these roles; your perspectives will help guide the work ahead. We encourage all ASB members to read the short update posted on our website introducing the new Committee members.

Minister’s Meeting Update

On November 17, the Provincial Committee met with the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and his senior staff. The minister extended his gratitude for the ongoing engagement and feedback and reiterated how the ASBs are essential partners in leading Alberta’s agriculture sector forward.

The 2026 Provincial Budget is forecasting a deficit. The minister was clear that operational funding for projects and inflationary increase to the ASB grant is unlikely in 2026. He reiterated that the ASB request for inflationary increases to the ASB grant remains high on the priority list should opportunities arise.

I encourage all ASB members to read the full briefing included in the December 1 package and subscribe to the blog on our website or follow our LinkedIn page to receive future updates.

Preparing for January: A Full Program of Engagement

As we move toward the January Provincial ASB Conference, we would like to give you a heads up about some ASBPC hosted events happening in the afternoon of January 20 before the opening reception. I encourage you to plan your arrival to participate in these events which are intended to strengthen regional and provincial collaboration, and strategic discussions. Registration for these events is included in the conference package from the AAFF.

1. Proposed Provincial Resolutions Process (PRP) – December 11 Webinar

A new Provincial Resolutions Process has been drafted to replace the current Rules of Procedure. A live **Q&A webinar will be held on December 11 from 9:00–10:00 a.m. (Registration Link found on the Events Calendar on the ASB website.)**

All ASB members—especially new board members—are strongly encouraged to attend. This will be your opportunity to ask questions and prepare for the formal vote on the new PRP at the Conference in January. (registration flier attached)

2. ASB Orientation Session

In response to the large number of newly elected members, the Government of Alberta ASB Program will be hosting their ASB Orientation Session for any ASB member who wishes to attend. This session is designed to ensure that every ASB member has a basic understanding of the duties under the Agricultural Service Board Act. This is the same orientation that is encouraged for all ASBs, there is limited space and registration is required.

3. Chair & Fieldman Facilitated Discussion

Running concurrently with the ASB Orientation Session, the annual ASB Chair & Fieldman meeting will be a facilitated discussion and will also require pre-registration. The format this year is based on the feedback gathered from last year's survey, and the topics will be chosen from those gathered at the regional conferences. Details of this event are still being worked out, and a detailed agenda will be included in the January 7 emergent resolution package.

To prepare for this session please take the time to reflect and discuss how your ASB currently fulfills the 4th duty under the Act:

“To promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer.”

In addition, discussions around Weeds, Water, and Wildlife are also being planned. The session will be for two hours, followed by a half-hour break before ADM Townhall. If your chair is unable to attend, then please register an ASB member chosen by you. Limited to 2 people per ASB.

4. ADM Town Hall

The unique relationship ASBs have with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is reflected in the efforts that are taken to connect on a regular basis. ADM John Conrad has again agreed to add this special in-person ADM Town Hall to connect with us directly. This session will occur at the main conference hall after the Chair & Fieldman meeting and prior to the opening reception.

There is no registration, and all ASB members are encouraged to attend. This is an opportunity for you to elevate questions directly to senior leadership and make a personal connection with the ADM. We will be submitting topics of interest, so I encourage you to communicate with your ASBPC representative.

Looking Ahead: Collaboration, Evidence, and Strong Governance

It is clear that the significance of the ASBs has been increasing. The ASBPC has worked steadily to improve communications to the members and government, streamline processes, and updating governance with the goal of improving the significance of our collective contributions.

This year we are committing to reviewing and updating the 2018 strategic plan, based on the progress made to address the feedback from the 2019 ASB Program Review. We have come a long way in a short time. Your participation in the resolution process, webinars, facilitated sessions, and conference discussions directly contributes to shaping our future.

In closing, I want to thank each of you—elected officials, fieldmen, and municipal staff—for your leadership at the local level and your commitment to the long-term health of Alberta’s agriculture sector. The year ahead presents both challenges and opportunities, and the Provincial Committee is committed to working alongside you to ensure ASBs remain a powerful voice for producers and rural communities.

We look forward to seeing you at the December 11 webinar and at the Provincial Conference in January.

Sincerely,

Rob Siewert

Rob Siewert
ASB Provincial Committee Chair

ASB Provincial Resolutions Process Information & Q&A Webinar

Learn about the proposed new Provincial Resolutions Process (PRP) before the 2026 Provincial ASB Conference vote.

Event Details:


- **Date & Time:** December 11, 9-10am
- **Location:** Online via Microsoft Teams Webinar
- **Registration Link:** [Click to Register](#)

What You'll Learn:

- ✓ Key changes to the Rules of Procedure (PRP)
- ✓ Why updates were made and how they benefit members
- ✓ How the process will impact future ASB resolutions
- ✓ Opportunity for Q&A

Why Attend?

- Learn about the changes and rationale
- Ask clarifying questions
- Prepare to vote at the January 2026 Provincial ASB Conference in Edmonton.

 Don't miss this opportunity to prepare for the upcoming vote!

ASBPC – Committed to transparency, responsiveness, and empowering members.

Internal Briefing to ASBs: Summary of the Minister Meeting

On November 17, the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC) met with the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and senior staff to discuss priority issues facing ASBs and rural municipalities. The meeting was constructive and solution-oriented. The Minister emphasized that ASBs remain a critical partner in advancing Alberta's agriculture industry, particularly as the government reduces direct operational roles and relies more on industry partnerships, local expertise, and community-driven approaches. This briefing provides key updates ahead of the January Provincial ASB Conference.

Fiscal Pressures and ASB Grant Inflationary Increase

Resolution PC1-25 requested a 3% annual increase to ASB grants to offset inflation. The Minister confirmed that the 2026 Provincial Budget is forecasting a deficit; therefore, no inflationary increase will be considered. This constraint is province-wide and not unique to ASBs. However, the Minister reiterated that ASB support remains a high priority should fiscal flexibility emerge.

Richardson Ground Squirrel (RGS) and Federal Alignment

The Minister expressed appreciation for ASB participation in the recent RGS survey, noting that local data strengthens Alberta's position in federal discussions. The federal Agriculture Minister is engaged on this issue, and Alberta is advocating for access to critical control products for the 2026 season. No timelines have been provided by PMRA or the federal government.

On October 1, Alberta and Saskatchewan submitted a joint Emergency Use Registration application for 2% Liquid Strychnine. A decision is expected by year-end. If approved, the registration will be valid for one year only, continuing the temporary approach used since 2003. The ASBPC continues to advocate for long-term, practical solutions that reflect on-farm realities.

The ASB Gopher survey closed on December 1, 2025, and summary reports and outcomes will be communicated first to participants and then to the broader community and shared with MP John Barlows office.

Adding Value Through Evidence and Case Studies

The Minister encouraged ASBs to provide evidence-based case studies illustrating local impacts of regulatory delays and infestations. Measurable examples strengthen Alberta's advocacy for balanced federal regulations that protect health and the environment while supporting operational realities.

Rural Veterinary Shortage and Internship Pathways

Resolution 6-25 requested incentive programs such as bursaries and job placements to attract students to livestock veterinary medicine. The Minister confirmed ongoing support for expanded training seats and discussed developing rural internship pathways modeled after the Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP). This is a government initiative to assist rural communities in attracting and retaining health providers. ASBs may play a role in the ongoing development of programs for hosting interns and supporting community attraction efforts.

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) program that the response from the Ministry of Advanced Education referred to is not yet announced, and the Minister and staff had no update for the Committee. The program is expected to fund summer student hiring, housing assistance, and community engagement initiatives. ASBs should document local veterinary gaps and encourage clinics to apply once the program is launched. The Minister is committed to providing an update, and the Committee will follow up before the conference.

Mental Health and Cross-Ministry Collaboration

The Minister reaffirmed the importance of addressing mental health challenges in agriculture and noted ongoing collaboration with the Ministry of Mental Health & Addiction.

On-Farm Slaughter, Food Safety, and Local Food Access

The Minister reiterated support for local food and farm-gate sales. Regulatory thresholds are based on 5,000 kilograms, not pounds—a point requiring clear communication. Changes implemented in July 2025 were paused after concerns about operational viability.

Food safety remains the primary issue, as inadequate traceability during an E. coli outbreak could trigger a province-wide shutdown. Less than 0.5% of inspected on-farm slaughter operations were compliant with existing legislation and traceability of food born illness remains a concern. Further review of licensing costs, regulatory burden, and inspector access was recommended by the Committee.

Key Messages for ASBs

- ASBs remain a critical partner in advancing Alberta’s agriculture industry, especially as government shifts toward community-driven approaches.
- No inflationary increase to ASB grants is planned for 2026 due to provincial fiscal constraints, but ASB support remains a priority.
- RGS control remains urgent. Alberta and Saskatchewan have applied for Emergency Use Registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine; decision expected by year-end.
- Evidence matters. ASBs should continue documenting local impacts of RGS infestations and regulatory delays to strengthen Alberta’s federal advocacy.
- Veterinary shortages are critical. ASBs can help by identifying local gaps and supporting rural internship pathways under the SCAP program once announced.
- Mental health support is evolving. AgKnow is transitioning to a new governance model; interim services continue through Counselling Alberta.
- Food safety is non-negotiable. On-farm slaughter compliance is extremely low; ongoing engagement and regulatory reviews aim to balance safety with operational realities.

Municipality	2024 Completions	2025 Completions (Jan 1 - Oct 27, 2025)
Acadia MD	3	20
Athabasca County	6	7
Banff	0	0
Barrhead County	5	14
Beaver County	9	20
Big Lakes County	5	13
BigHorn MD	1	0
Birch Hills County	4	13
Bonnyville MD	15	14
Brazeau County	3	2
Calgary	1	1
Camrose County	24	44
Cardston County	5	6
Clear Hills County	9	17
Clearwater County	5	4
Crowsnest Pass	0	0
Cypress County	6	32
Drumheller	0	0
Edmonton	2	2
Enoch	0	0
Fairview MD	4	16
Flagstaff County	21	47
Foothills MD	8	11
Forty Mile County	16	43
Grande Prairie County	9	17
Greenview MD	6	7
Kneehill County	30	25
Lac La Biche County	9	4
Lac Ste. Anne County	4	11
Lacombe County	19	31
Lamont County	7	16
Leduc County	10	10
Lesser Slave River MD	7	0
Lethbridge County	32	31
Mackenzie County	7	2
Minburn County	9	17
Mountain View County	16	14
Newell County	12	25
Northern Lights County	7	17
Northern Sunrise County	3	10
Paintearth County	15	14
Parkland County	6	6
Peace MD	5	7
Pincher Creek MD	1	3
Ponoka County	10	15
Provost MD	11	8
Ranchland MD	0	0
Red Deer County	15	19

Redcliff	1	0
Rocky Mountain House	0	0
Rocky View County	10	9
Saddle Hills MD	13	12
Smoky Lake County	21	15
Smoky River MD	4	38
Special Areas 2	10	15
Special Areas 3	12	17
Special Areas 4	5	14
Spirit River MD	2	0
St. Paul County	16	15
Starland County	22	15
Stettler County	11	11
Strathcona County	3	5
Sturgeon County	12	15
Taber MD	18	22
Thorhild County	4	11
Two Hills County	12	11
Vermillion River County	14	39
Vulcan County	9	26
Wainwright MD	7	16
Warner County	6	17
Westlock County	6	35
Wetaskiwin County	13	13
Wheatland County	17	40
Wilmore Wilderness	10	0
Willow Creek MD	10	14
Wood Buffalo	0	1
Woodlands County	1	0
Yellowhead County	6	2
Total	677	1063



M.D. OF RANCLAND No. 66

PO BOX 1060 • NANTON, AB • TOL 1R0 • 403-646-3131 • MDRANCLAND.CA

October 14, 2025

The Honourable Heath MacDonald
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
1341 Baseline Road
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5
aafc.minister-ministre.aac@agr.gc.ca

**Subject: Inquiry Regarding the Vacant Research Scientist Position at AAFC Lethbridge
Research and Development Centre**

Dear Minister MacDonald,

I am writing on behalf of the Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66 to inquire about the timeline for filling the research scientist position recently vacated by the retirement of Dr. Rosemarie De Clerck-Floate, Weed Biological Control Entomologist at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Lethbridge Research and Development Centre. This vacancy leaves Canada without the capacity to evaluate and approve any new weed biological control (biocontrol) agents for use by farmers, land and water managers, effectively halting the pipeline of new tools to manage invasive species. Without this scientist in place, the significant federal investment in the Lethbridge quarantine facility cannot fulfill its intended purpose of developing and approving new agents, leaving this vital infrastructure underutilized and idle.

This position is pivotal to the future of weed biocontrol research and development in Canada. As a recognized cornerstone of integrated pest management, biocontrol provides a sustainable, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly approach to managing invasive species. The biocontrol of destructive plants that have invaded Canada from elsewhere involves importing insects that feed specifically on the weed at its place of origin, and this long-running AAFC program has earned wide recognition and acceptance among agricultural producers and land managers. Once developed, biocontrol agents offer long-term control with minimal ongoing costs, reduce reliance on chemical controls, and help restore balance to affected ecosystems.

Over the past year, the Alberta Invasive Species Council has convened a broad coalition of organizations from across Alberta, including municipal and provincial governments, federal agencies, industry, producer groups, and non-governmental organizations, to strengthen biocontrol capacity in our province. This collaboration, known as the Alberta Biocontrol Consortium, is focused on:

- Identifying and prioritizing invasive species targets for biocontrol in Alberta
- Supporting the development and evaluation of biocontrol agents
- Facilitating knowledge sharing among member organizations
- Mobilizing financial and in-kind resources to support biocontrol initiatives

Through this collaborative effort, we are working to secure the funding and partnerships needed to advance biocontrol research in Alberta and beyond. However, the absence of a dedicated research scientist at the AAFC Lethbridge facility creates a critical gap. Even if we are able to fund the overseas research needed to identify potential new biocontrol agents, without an AAFC scientist to lead and contribute to this work, the essential processes of assessing safety, efficacy, and suitability for release in Canada are disrupted.

The Lethbridge Research and Development Centre houses a state-of-the-art quarantine facility specifically designed for rearing biocontrol agents and testing them against invasive and native plant species to ensure host specificity and environmental safety. This specialized infrastructure is unique and irreplaceable, but without appropriately qualified scientific staff to operate it, the facility cannot fulfill its intended purpose and risks sitting idle despite the significant federal investment it represents.

We understand that the federal public service is facing fiscal pressures, but we urge you to recognize this position as essential to Canada's leadership in sustainable, science-based invasive species management. Filling this vacancy would ensure that the federal investment in the Lethbridge facility continues to deliver tangible benefits for producers and ecosystems across the country, work that is already backed by a broad grassroots network of collaborating organizations in Alberta.

Without timely action to fill this position, Canada's capacity to deliver new biocontrol agents will remain stalled, leaving producers without vital tools and allowing costly invasive species to spread unchecked. This vacancy would render world-class federal infrastructure effectively idle, despite strong provincial momentum and partner investments ready to be leveraged. Filling this position is the critical step needed to unlock these resources and deliver real solutions on the ground.

Thank you for considering this request. We would be happy to provide more information on the collaborative work underway in Alberta or discuss this matter further

Sincerely,



Ron Davis, Reeve
Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66
403-646-3131
rdavis@ranchland66.com

Cc: John Barlow, Member of Parliament – Foothills
The Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
The Honourable Rebecca Schulz, Alberta Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
The Honourable Todd Loewen, Alberta Minister of Forestry and Parks
Chelsae Petrovic, MLA – Livingstone-Macleod
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards

2025-11-18

Hon. R.J. Sigurdson
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
3rd Floor – 7000 113 Street
Edmonton, AB.
T6H 5T6

sent via email to: 310farm@gov.ab.ca

RE: On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) Licence Amendments

Dear Minister Sigurdson,

On behalf of Saddle Hills County, I would like to express our concerns with the recent proposed changes to the On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) Licence program.

Many producers in Saddle Hills County, and throughout the Peace Region, rely on the OFSO program for the viability of their operations, investing large sums of money and time into creating infrastructure to support these on-farm businesses. The previously proposed slaughter limit of 5,000lb per year, would have made the OFSO licence an unviable option for many producers, seemingly going against what the program was created for – to improve local food availability in communities and provide options to consumers.

While many producers completed the Government's subsequent survey on the program, there are concerns among licence-holders that the issues faced by producers may not be accurately captured by the questions asked.

We echo these concerns. Saddle Hills County is committed to supporting local food systems and the programs that ensure that rural farmers are able to continue their operations in a stable economic environment and, as such, would ask that the Government of Alberta meet directly with OFSO licence-holders and working groups to discuss any further changes before implementation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any further questions, please reach out to CAO Cary Merritt, at cmerritt@saddlehills.ab.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerry R. Reeve', written in a cursive style.

Gerry Richard
Reeve

cc. Hon. Joseph Schow, Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade, and Immigration
Cardston.Siksika@assembly.ab.ca
Hon. Danielle Smith, Premier premier@gov.ab.ca
ASB Provincial Committee ASBPC_EA@agriculturalserviceboards.com

Junction of Highway 49 and Highway 725, RR 1, Spirit River, Alberta, Canada, T0H 3G0
Phone: 780-864-3760 | Fax: 780-864-3904 | Toll Free: 1-888-864-3760

November 26, 2025

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

RE: Continued Support for Unlimited On-Farm Slaughter Sales in Alberta

The Northern Sunrise County Agricultural Service Board supports the letter written by the County of Minburn for the continuation of unlimited on-farm slaughter sales in Alberta. We echo the appreciation for the pause to the limits on annual sales per farm that went into effect on July 2, 2025.

We believe the proposed slaughter-weight limits and the associated restrictions on the number of animals that could be processed under on-farm slaughter sales are both unnecessary and overly restrictive, especially given Alberta's already robust regulations governing meat processing and distribution. Such limits would disproportionately impact small and mid-sized livestock producers, reduce their ability to market directly to consumers, and create additional barriers to maintaining viable operations.

These restrictions would also diminish consumer access to locally sourced meat, particularly in rural and remote communities that rely heavily on on-farm slaughter to support their local food systems and economies. Limiting on-farm slaughter sales would therefore place unnecessary hurdles in front of Alberta's livestock industry without providing meaningful improvements to food safety or public health.

We appreciate the Government of Alberta for pausing and reconsidering the proposed slaughter-weight and sales limits, and for recognizing the strong food-safety requirements that already govern on-farm slaughter in the province.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Cindy Millar, Chief Administrative Officer
Agricultural Service Board
Northern Sunrise County

CC: Claude Rodrigue, Reeve
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen

November 26, 2025

Honourable Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
204 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

RE: Farmer Pesticide Certification Program

The Northern Sunrise County Agricultural Service Board supports the letters written by Kneehill County and the Municipal District of Greenview No.16 Agricultural Service Boards about concerns regarding the Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program and updates to the registration of Sodium Monofluoroacetate (Compound 1080). We share the concerns outlined in both letters regarding the outdated course material, limited resources, and gaps in the administration of the program.

Pesticide application training is important, however, restricted accessibility to the program due to limited resources and qualified facilitators highlights a shortfall in the currently proposed regulatory framework. A core requirement for producers wanting to use Compound 1080 as a last-resort method for livestock protection from predation is that they must hold the Farmer Pesticide Certification. This is the only pesticide certification program in Alberta not overseen by Lakeland College and instead depends on municipal delivery.

To offer the program, a municipality must have an Agricultural Fieldman with at least five years of experience and a valid Pesticide Applicators License to serve as a certified trainer. However, high staff turnover in recent years, particularly in the Peace Region, has left few municipalities with personnel who meet these requirements. Consequently, the burden falls on a limited number of qualified municipalities, further restricting training availability across the region.

Producers seeking certification to use Compound 1080 should not be hindered by limited training availability. Expanding access through Lakeland College, along with offering online delivery options, would help ensure the Farmer Pesticide Certification program is more accessible and consistent across the province.

We respectfully request an update to course materials and a review of the program administration, as well as the creation of a more accessible platform for individuals seeking to obtain this certification.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Cindy Millar, Chief Administrative Officer
Agricultural Service Board
Northern Sunrise County

CC: Claude Rodrigue, Reeve
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen



Animal Health and Assurance Branch
Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian
#912 OS Longman Building
6909 – 116 Street
Edmonton, AB T6H 4P2
Telephone: 780-427-3448
Fax: 780-415-0810
www.agriculture.alberta.ca/ocpv

Memo

To: Alberta Ag Fieldmen

From: The Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian

November 21, 2025

Subject: EHV-1 Notice to Veterinarians

Equine Herpesvirus 1 (EHV-1) is responsible for the clinical disease known as Equine Herpesvirus 1 Myeloencephalopathy (EHM). EHM is not a federally reportable disease in Canada therefore, no actions are taken by the CFIA when this disease is diagnosed in Canada or in any other country. EHM is a provincially notifiable disease in Alberta which means that confirmed cases must be reported to the [Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian](#) (OCPV) as determined by the [Reportable and Notifiable Diseases Regulation](#). Restrictions on movement or quarantines are not placed by the OCPV but rather, cases of EHM are monitored to establish prevalence or trends, and notices may be sent out to relevant industry groups for awareness.

In 2023 the OCPV was notified of four cases of EHM in Alberta and in 2024, there was one notification. The OCPV has recently been made aware of one case in 2025. This case was also reported to the [Canadian Animal Health Surveillance System](#). Information on cases of EHM in the United States may be found on the [Equine Disease Communication Center](#) website.

On November 8, an 11-year-old gelding with no history of travel outside of Alberta or Canada developed acute neurologic signs, ataxia, inability to urinate or defecate, and was diagnosed with EHM. The horse was admitted to an equine hospital where it was placed in isolation. The horse is recovering and has regained its ability to urinate and defecate but is still exhibiting mild neurological signs. The horse has been vaccinated annually with a vaccine that contains both EHV-1 and EHV-4 components. This demonstrates that while vaccination may impart some protection in some horses, the risk of clinical disease still exists for individual or groups of vaccinated horses. Strict biosecurity measures are another tool to prevent introduction and spread of EHV-1 and the horse's home stable is following [American Association of Equine Practitioners General Biosecurity Guidelines](#).

The OCPV has also been made aware that several cases are being detected in the US. As of November 21, fifteen cases had been reported in the US. Some events or shows are being cancelled to minimize risk of horses becoming exposed and to help reduce the spread while others are planning to proceed. Those planning to attend should reach out to organizers to check on event status, risk, and biosecurity measures in place.

Resources for veterinarians and horse owners:

Government of Alberta [Equine herpesvirus-1](#)

Canadian Food Inspection Agency [Equine herpes myeloencephalopathy \(EHM\) fact sheet](#)

Texas Animal Health Commission [Equine herpes myeloencephalopathy Fact Sheet](#)



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

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS

75+ years of promoting sustainable agriculture in Alberta

DECEMBER 10, 2025 BY ASB PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE EA

Inside the November ASBPC–Minister Meeting

On November 17, the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC) met with the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and senior staff to discuss top priorities affecting rural municipalities and producers. The conversation was constructive and solution-oriented, with the Minister underscoring that ASBs remain critical partners as the province leans more on local expertise and community-driven approaches.

Budget Realities

ASBs asked for a 3% annual inflationary increase to grants through Resolution PC1-25. The Minister confirmed that the 2026 Provincial Budget is forecasting a deficit, and an inflationary increase will not be considered at this time. While this constraint is province-wide, the Minister reiterated that support for ASBs remains a high priority should fiscal flexibility emerge.

Richardson Ground Squirrel (RGS) Control

The Minister thanked ASBs for participating in the recent RGS survey, noting that local data strengthens Alberta's position in federal discussions. Alberta is advocating for access to critical control products for the 2026 season, though no firm timelines have been provided by federal regulators. Alberta and Saskatchewan submitted a joint Emergency Use Registration application for 2% Liquid Strychnine on October 1, with a decision expected by year-end; if approved, it would be valid for one year, continuing the temporary approach used since 2003. It's clear that this is not a solution, and there is still more to do to ensure access to products that work in a timely fashion.

Evidence Matters

The Minister encouraged ASBs to compile case studies that quantify local impacts of regulatory delays and infestations. Measurable, evidence-based examples help Alberta advocate for balanced federal regulations that protect health and the environment while recognizing on-farm realities.

Rural Veterinary Capacity

Addressing livestock veterinary shortages remains a priority. The Minister discussed expanding training seats and ideas like developing rural internship pathways modeled after the Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), suggesting that perhaps there are roles for AgSocieties and ASBs to play a role in hosting interns and supporting community attraction efforts. The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) program referenced by Advanced Education in their resolution response has not yet been announced, and the minister's staff committed to providing an update. The program initiated by the Provincial Veterinarian, it is expected to support summer student hiring, housing assistance, and community engagement. ASBs are encouraged to document local gaps and prepare clinics to apply once it launches, with updates promised before the January Provincial ASB Conference.

Mental Health in Agriculture

The Minister reaffirmed cross-ministry collaboration with Mental Health & Addiction, recognizing the importance of accessible supports for producers and ag workers.

On-Farm Slaughter and Food Safety

The Minister reiterated support for local food and farm-gate sales, clarifying that regulatory thresholds are based on 5,000 kilograms—not pounds. Changes introduced in July 2025 were paused amid concerns about the impact of the limits on operational viability. The Minister talked about the need for balance stating that its not the intent of the on-farm slaughter program to have the volume of product that are being seen. This begs the question why not just be licensed? Traceability and transparency are concerns when volumes are over the 5000kg limit. E.coli outbreak could trigger Health Canada to initiate a province-wide shutdown with huge implications for food supply. Clearly there is a market for small scale local slaughter, and licensing appears to be a barrier. Engagement and review are expected as the province tries to strike a balance between local food supply and protecting food safety.

Bottom Line for ASBs

ASBs remain central to advancing Alberta's agriculture industry. Budget pressures are real, but the province values ASBs' role and data-driven advocacy. Keep documenting local impacts, prepare for potential RGS control decisions, and get ready to support rural veterinary internships and community attraction initiatives when SCAP details become available.

This update is shared ahead of the January Provincial ASB Conference to help boards, stay aligned on priorities and next steps.



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



c/o Alberta Environment and Protected
Areas, Southern Region
2nd Floor, Provincial Building
200-5th Avenue South
Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 4L1

November 17, 2025

Yvette Cassidy
Chief Administrative Officer
County of Stettler No. 6
Box 1270, 6602 – 44 Avenue
Stettler, AB T0C 2L0

RE: State of the Prairie – County of Stettler

Dear Yvette Cassidy,

On behalf of the *State of the Prairie Committee* of the *Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum*, I am writing to share our recent findings and recommendations regarding the state of native cover in southern Alberta's Grassland and Parkland Natural Regions and specifically in the County of Stettler.

Native prairie in Alberta is vital for biodiversity, wildlife habitat, grazing, cultural heritage, and essential ecosystem services. However, it faces mounting threats from land-use changes. According to the latest *Plowprint Report* from the World Wildlife Fund, an average of 2.6 million acres of grassland is converted to cropland annually across the U.S. and Canadian Great Plains. Effective conservation efforts are hindered by inconsistent data from multiple sources, making it difficult to track and protect these landscapes. To address this challenge, the Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum, in collaboration with government agencies and experts, is working to standardize land cover assessments—ensuring more informed decision-making and stronger conservation outcomes.

The *State of the Prairie Supplemental Data – Technical Report (2025)* evaluated native cover in Alberta's Grassland and Parkland Natural Regions by analyzing data from Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada from 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020. *Table 1: Native Vegetation Cover in the County of Stettler* displays these changes for your own area, a trend that has seen the reduction of 10,937 ha (27,026 ac) of native prairie in the last 30 years. We hope that this expanded approach to our findings offer you a more comprehensive view of landscape changes over time and lead to support of ongoing conservation, management, and stewardship efforts to protect Alberta's native prairie.

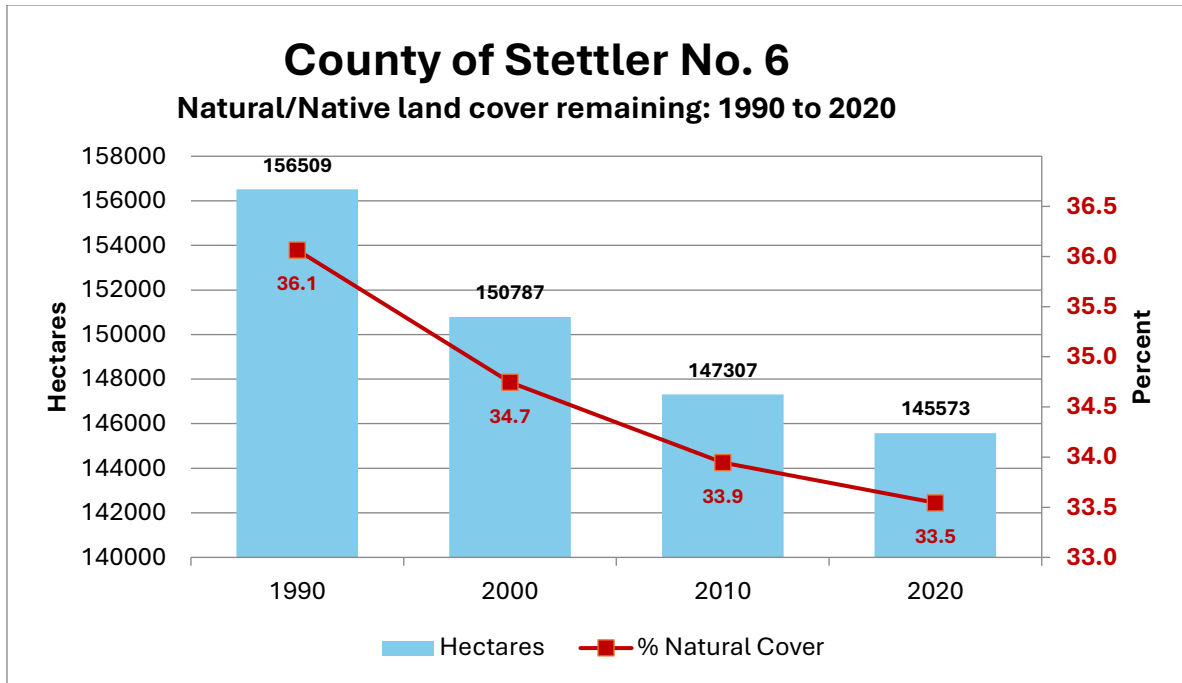


Table 1: Native Vegetation Cover in the County of Stettler.

For your interest, we have included a digital copy of the latest State of the Prairie Technical Report. This report and the first iteration of the report can be found on the PCF website at: <https://albertapcf.org/state-of-the-prairie>. We would appreciate your consideration of this report and welcome the opportunity to further discuss its findings and recommendations with you and other stakeholders. We remain committed to supporting efforts that inform effective and sustainable conservation strategies for the prairies.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response and to potential future collaboration.

Sincerely,

Alvin First Rider

Chair, Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum
 c/o Alberta Environment
 Southern Region
 2nd Floor, Provincial Building
 200 – 5th Avenue South
 Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 4L1

Website: <https://albertapcf.org/>

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