



AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, February 18, 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

3.1 Minutes from January 7, 2026 Page 4

3.2 Special Meeting Minutes from January 14, 2026 Page 7

4. Reports

- 4.1 Agricultural Services Administration Report Page 9
- 4.2 Agricultural Services Extension Report Page 10

5. Board Member Report

- 5.1 Report from the Chair Page 18
- 5.2 CFIA Traceability Updates - Resolutions Responses - Board Member Nielson (verbal)

6. Board's Request for Information

- 6.1 Agricultural Drone Spraying Page 24
- 6.2 Compound 1080 Informational Report Page 26

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

- 7.1 ASB Strategic Plan - Memo Page 28

8. New Business

- 8.1 Rodenticide Sales Page 29
- 8.2 Request for Decision - Beaver Control Policy Page 31
- 8.3 Request For Decision - Pest & Nuisance Control Page 38
- 8.4 Grain Bag Collection Stats Page 39
- 8.5 Expression of Interest 2026 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour - Memo Page 41
- 8.6 Request for Decision - Rescheduling of March 2026 Meeting Page 42

9. Correspondence

- 9.1 Big Lakes County CFIA Traceability Letter Page 43
- 9.2 County of Minburn Urgent Reforms to CFIA and PMRA Page 45
- 9.3 Government of Canada - Next agricultural policy framework Page 47

9.4	PMRA Denies Strychnine use for Ground Squirrel Control in Canada	Page 49
9.5	Change in office of Chief Provincial Veterinarian	Page 51
9.6	Spirit River Support for Saddle Hills County On-Farm Slaughter Operation	Page 53
9.7	Winter 2026 Working Well Workshop Series	Page 54
9.8	AGI - Updated Regulated Weeds	Page 55
9.9	Lacombe Research and Development Centre	Page 58

10. Finance

- 10.1 Year -To-Date Financials (verbal)

11. Workshops and Events

- 11.1 ASB Provincial Conference - Edmonton - January 20-22, 2026

12. In-Camera Session

ASB Communications Discussion
ATIA Section 28: Local body confidences

13. Next Meeting

14. Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE COUNTY OF STETTLER NO. 6 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026 COMMENCING AT 10:00 AM IN THE MEETING ROOM 1&2 OF THE COUNTY OF STETTLER NO. 6 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, STETTLER, ALBERTA AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

PRESENT: Allan Gano (Chairperson)
Clint Walker (Vice Chairperson)
Wade Hunter
Justin Stevens
Harry Brook
Lance Nielsen

Yvette Cassidy, Chief Administrative Officer (virtual)
Greggory Jackson, Director of Operations
Andrew Brysiuk, Director of Municipal Services
Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations
Krista Schlender, Administrative Assistant (Minutes)
Farrah Fischer, Deputy Agricultural Fieldman

ABSENT: Larry Clarke

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 by Chairperson Allan Gano.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

93.01.07.26 Moved by Justin Stevens

“that the January 7, 2026 agenda for the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting be approved with the addition of Agricultural Pest Update.”

Carried Unanimously

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

94.01.07.26 Moved by Harry Brook

“that the minutes from the December 17, 2025 Agricultural Service Board meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried Unanimously

REPORTS

Agricultural Services Board Administration Report (Verbal)

95.01.07.26 Moved by Clint Walker

“that Report dated for the January 7, 2026 Agricultural Services Board Meeting, be received for information.”

Carried Unanimously

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

None

BOARD’S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

None

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

ASB Provincial Resolutions Rules and Process

96.01.07.26 Moved by Justin Stevens

“that the Agricultural Service Board support the current changes and propose an amendment to allow all delegates to vote.”

In Favour: Stevens, Walker, Hunter, Gano
Opposed: Brook, Nielsen

2026 Agricultural Service Board Provincial Resolution Package

97.01.07.26 Moved by Clint Walker

“that Agricultural Services Board delegates Board Member Stevens and Board Member Brook as Voting Representatives at the 2026 Agricultural Service Board Conference.”

Carried Unanimously

98.01.07.26 Moved by Lance Nielson

"that the Agricultural Services Board directs the Board delegated voters to vote In Favour of Resolution 1-26, In Favour of Resolution 2-26, In Favour of Resolution 3-26, In Favour of Resolution 4-26.”

Carried Unanimously

99.01.07.26 Moved by Clint Walker

"that the Agricultural Service Board delegates Board Member Stevens as the delegated Mover for the 2026 Agricultural Services Board Conference."

Carried Unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

None

CORRESPONDECE

100.01.07.26 Moved by Justin Stevens

“that Agricultural Service Board directs Board Members receive the Correspondence as information.”

Carried Unanimously

FINANCE

Year-to-Date Financials (verbal)

All financials are meeting expectations.

101.01.07.26 Moved by Harry Brook

“that the verbal Year-to-Date Financials dated January 7, 2026, be received as presented.”

Carried Unanimously

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

ASB Provincial Conference – Edmonton (Verbal)

IN-CAMERA SESSION

102.01.07.26 Moved by Wade Hunter

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board meeting enter into an in-camera session at 11:18 am, 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

103.01.07.26 Moved by Justin Stevens

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board meeting exit the in-camera session at 11:27 am.”

Carried Unanimously

104.01.07.26 Moved by Justin Stevens

"that the Agricultural Services Board recommends to the County of Stettler No. 6 Council reallocation of funds from the outstanding 2025 budget to repair and upgrade electrical systems at the Stettler Seed Cleaning Plant and request a delegation to come to the January 14, 2026 County of Stettler No. 6 Regular Council meeting.”

Carried Unanimously

NEXT MEETING

The next Agricultural Services Board meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2026 at 10:00 am.

ADJOURNMENT

105.01.07.26 Moved by Justin Stevens

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board meeting be adjourned at 11:44 p.m.”

Carried Unanimously

Chairperson

Manager of Agricultural Services

MINUTES OF THE COUNTY OF STETTLER NO. 6 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026 COMMENCING AT 2:00PM 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
Justin Stevens
Harry Brook (virtual)
Lance Nielsen
Larry Clarke

Yvette Cassidy, Chief Administrative Officer (virtual)
Greggory Jackson, Director of Operations
Niki Thorsteinsson, Director of Communications (virtual)
Andrew Brysiuk, Director of Municipal Services
Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations
Krista Schlender, Administrative Assistant (virtual)
Farrah Fischer, Deputy Agricultural Fieldman

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 by Chairperson Allan Gano.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

106.01.14.26 Moved by Clint Walker

“that the January 14, 2026 agenda for the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting be approved with the addition of Agricultural Pest Update.”

Carried Unanimously

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Emerging Resolution at the 2026 Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference

107.01.14.26 Moved by Justin Stevens

“that the Agricultural Service Board present the emerging resolution at the 2026 Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference as presented.”

In Favour: Gano, Clarke, Stevens,
Brook, Nielsen, Walker

Opposed: Hunter

Carried

Emerging Resolution at the 2026 Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference

108.01.14.26 Moved by Justin Stevens

“that the Agricultural Service Board appoints Board Member Nielsen to present the emerging resolution at the 2026 Agricultural Service Board Provincial Conference as presented.”

Carried Unanimously

ADJOURNMENT

109.01.14.26 Moved by Larry Clarke

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board meeting be adjourned at 2:22 p.m.”

Carried Unanimously

Chairperson

Manager of Agricultural Services

DRAFT

Agricultural Services Administration Report

Administration:

- Continued work on the Strategic Plan, annual priorities, and policy review.
- Grain Bag Collection participation continues to increase.
 - 6 on-farm collections totaling 63 bags in January 2026
- Prepared and reviewed resolutions for the ASB Provincial Conference (January 20–22) on rural water funding and livestock traceability.
- Meeting with Catalis to discuss mapping layers and spray logging integration
- Working on communications materials for the summer.
- AAAF Committee Commitments.
- Budget reporting and review.
- Seasonal Staff job descriptions review, advertising and preparations.
- Mowing program review.
- Staff training.
- Gravel pit reclamation planning.
- Equipment repairs and maintenance.

Workshops and Programs:

- Assisted with planning and support for the Red Willow Calving Clinic (February 4, 2026).
- Environmental Farm Plan workshop with Battle River Research Group (March 3, 2026):
 - <https://www.stettlercounty.ca/m/newsflash/home/detail/690>
- Assisting Echoglen with 2026 Shelterbelt Program:
 - <https://www.stettlercounty.ca/m/newsflash/home/detail/683>
- Information Session – Crop Diseases – March 26 – Lacombe AB:
 - <https://www.stettlercounty.ca/m/newsflash/home/detail/689>
- Shelterbelt Tree Workshop planning – presentation from Toso Bozic in March.
- Educational Agriculture Tour Planning:
 - Letter to Clearview School Board
 - Meeting with Clearview School Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services
 - Emails and letter to Christ King Catholic School
 - Planning with Stettler Agricultural Society
- Initial request for quote from speaker for Poultry Biosecurity Workshop during the Stettler County Fair.
- Promotion of County of Stettler ASB Bursary:
 - <https://www.stettlercounty.ca/m/newsflash/home/detail/685>
- Promotion of Ag Department activities at the Stettler Bull Congress – January 30-31.
- Environmental Farm Plan:
 - 2 plans reviewed and approved in January 2026

Agricultural Services Extension Report

ASB Agricultural Bursary

Administration and promotion of a \$1,000 Agricultural Services Board bursary for one County of Stettler resident enrolled in post-secondary education with an interest in agriculture and rural communities. Application deadline: April 15, 2026 (advertisement below). Application: <https://stettlercounty.ca/DocumentCenter/View/1311/ASB-Bursary-Form?bidId=>

ASB Conference Promotion & Advocacy

Highlighting Agricultural Service Board advocacy efforts through conference promotion and awareness of ASB initiatives.

Grain Bag Rolling & Rental Equipment

Promotion and awareness of County grain bag rolling services and agricultural equipment rental opportunities available to producers (advertisement below).

Seed Cleaning Plant

Ongoing promotion of the County seed cleaning plant services to support local producers with seed management and crop preparation.

2026 Shelterbelt Program

Delivery and promotion of the 2026 Shelterbelt Program, including program information, ordering timelines, and educational resources. New partnership with Echoglen Gardens facilitating tree ordering and specific species offered for increased success (advertisement below). Order here: <https://www.shopechoglengardens.com/shelterbelt-program/>

Red Willow Calving Clinic – February 5, 2026

Delivery of a hands-on calving management workshop that welcomed 92 producers and community members in collaboration with the Stettler Veterinary Clinic and the Red Willow Agricultural Society. The event featured an informative presentation by Dr. Jackie Dobinson (Stettler Veterinary Clinic) and interactive learning stations, including:

- Calving simulator exercises
- Calving chain practice
- Calving and veterinary tools demonstrations
- Pulling challenge versus a calving jack
- Esophageal feeding model
- Anatomy and broken/splinting leg lessons

Event promoted via County of Stettler socials, Stettler Vet Clinic, and Red Willow Ag Society producer calls. Post event video shared on socials (event photo below). View Video:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1MiqteGAi1/>

Stettler Bull Congress – January 30 to February 1, 2026

Participation through an information booth promoting upcoming workshops, and County Initiatives (Ag Survey, ASB Bursary, Seasonal Staff Job Advertisement, Shelterbelt Program and Grain Bag Rolling/Equipment Rentals Ad) (event photo below).

EAT Tour – School Engagement

Prep meeting with Stettler Ag Society. Engagement with Clearview School (letters to board trustee, meeting with Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services) and Christ the King Catholic School to support agricultural awareness and education initiatives. Tentative tour dates May 28 or June 4, 2026.

County Connections – Winter 2026

Contribution of Agricultural Services content, including articles and advertisements related to seed cleaning, equipment rentals, shelterbelts, value of shelterbelts, noxious weeds, and the ASB bursary.

Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Workshop – March 3, 2026

Coordination of an EFP Workshop in collaboration with the Battle River Research Group, including an additional presentation by AFSC to support producer awareness of risk management and funding programs (advertisement below). Register here:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/fcqt36t>

Shelterbelt Workshop – March 19, 2026

Presentation by Toso Bozic on shelterbelt planning, establishment, maintenance, and tree health, with 15% discount incentive offered to County residents participating in the 2026 Shelterbelt Program (advertisement below). Register here:

<https://forms.gle/9in4ZHqDzqi1eXjn7>

Crop Diseases Information Session – March 26, 2026

Collaboration with neighboring municipalities to deliver a regional crop diseases information session aimed at supporting producer decision-making and crop health management (advertisement below). Register with jmakus@lacombecounty.com

Canadian Agriculture Day – February 10, 2026

Participation in national agricultural awareness activities recognizing the importance of agriculture to communities and the economy.

Scheduled Promotion:

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas - Working Well Workshop Series (Facebook):

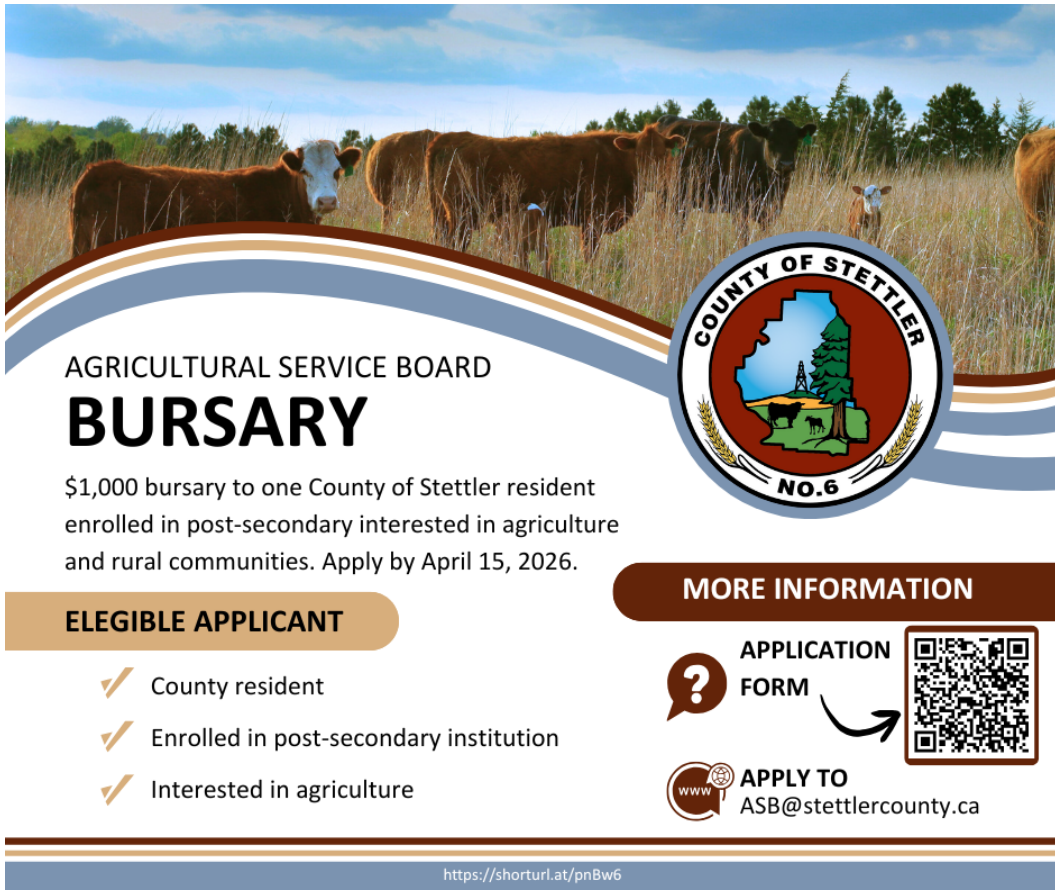
- February 18: Getting to Know Your Well
- February 25: Maintaining and Managing Your Well
- March 4: Sampling, Testing, and Treating Well Water

Registration information: <https://www.alberta.ca/working-well-resources>

ASB Social Outreach Summary (December 30, 2025 – February 10, 2026)

Date	Platform	Topic / Purpose
30-Dec-25	Facebook	ASB Agricultural Bursary Promotion
06-Jan-26	Facebook	Grain Bag Rolling & Rental Equipment Promotion
08-Jan-26	Facebook	Grain Bag Rolling & Rental Equipment Promotion
12-Jan-26	Facebook	Grain Bag Rolling & Rental Equipment Promotion
13-Jan-26	Facebook	2026 Shelterbelt Program Promotion
14-Jan-26	Facebook	ASB Agricultural Bursary Promotion
14-Jan-26	Website (Newsflash)	2026 Shelterbelt Program Promotion
15-Jan-26	Facebook	Crop Diseases Information Session Promotion
15-Jan-26	Facebook	2026 Shelterbelt Program Promotion
16-Jan-26	Facebook	Red Willow Calving Clinic Promotion
16-Jan-26	Facebook	Seed Cleaning Plant Promotion
17-Jan-26	Website (Newsflash)	ASB Agricultural Bursary Promotion
17-Jan-26	Website / Print	County Connections – Winter 2026 (multiple Ag Services ads & articles)
19-Jan-26	Facebook	Red Willow Calving Clinic Promotion
19-Jan-26	Facebook	Crop Diseases Information Session Promotion
20-Jan-26	Facebook	Red Willow Calving Clinic Promotion
21-Jan-26	Facebook	ASB Conference Promotion & Board Advocacy
21-Jan-26	Facebook	Grain Bag Rolling & Rental Equipment Promotion
22-Jan-26	Facebook	Red Willow Calving Clinic Promotion
23-Jan-26	Facebook	ASB Agricultural Bursary Promotion
24-Jan-26	Facebook	Crop Diseases Information Session Promotion
25-Jan-26	Facebook	Red Willow Calving Clinic Promotion
26-Jan-26	Facebook	Crop Diseases Information Session Promotion
26-Jan-26	Facebook	Seed Cleaning Plant Promotion
28-Jan-26	Facebook	Red Willow Calving Clinic Promotion
28-Jan-26	Facebook	2026 Shelterbelt Program Promotion
29-Jan-26	Facebook	ASB Conference Promotion & Board Advocacy
30-Jan-26	Facebook	Red Willow Calving Clinic Promotion
30-Jan-26	Website (Newsflash)	Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Workshop Promotion
01-Feb-26	Facebook	Crop Diseases Information Session Promotion
02-Feb-26	Facebook	ASB Agricultural Bursary Promotion
02-Feb-26	Facebook	2026 Shelterbelt Program Promotion
03-Feb-26	Facebook	Seed Cleaning Plant Promotion
03-Feb-26	Facebook	Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Workshop Promotion
04-Feb-26	Facebook	Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Workshop Promotion
04-Feb-26	Facebook	Shelterbelt Workshop Promotion
05-Feb-26	Facebook	2026 Shelterbelt Program Promotion
06-Feb-26	Facebook	Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Workshop Promotion

06-Feb-26	Facebook	Shelterbelt Workshop Promotion
08-Feb-26	Facebook	Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Workshop Promotion
09-Feb-26	Facebook	Shelterbelt Workshop Promotion
10-Feb-26	Facebook	Canadian Agriculture Day
10-Feb-26	Website (Newsflash)	Canadian Agriculture Day



AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
BURSARY


\$1,000 bursary to one County of Stettler resident enrolled in post-secondary interested in agriculture and rural communities. Apply by April 15, 2026.

ELEGIBLE APPLICANT

- ✓ County resident
- ✓ Enrolled in post-secondary institution
- ✓ Interested in agriculture

MORE INFORMATION

APPLICATION FORM



APPLY TO
 ASB@stettlercounty.ca

<https://shorturl.at/pn8w6>

Figure 1. ASB Bursary Advertisement



Agricultural Services
 403-742-4441 or asb@stettlercounty.ca

Grain Bag Rolling

Service Available Upon Request!
FREE OF CHARGE
 Call 403-742-4441 to book!

We roll and remove grain bags.

We ask that the bags be spread out to facilitate the rolling process.

We will also remove pre-rolled bags from your property.




Rental Equipment

Equipment Available:

- Cattle Scale
- Spraying Equipment
- Water Pump and Hose
- Skunk and Magpie Traps
- Tree Planter and Plastic Mulch Applicator
- More!

Equipment available to rent for charge or deposit.

To rent call 403-742-4441!

More Information




Figure 2. Grain Bag Rolling and Rental Equipment Advertisement



SHELTERBELT PROGRAM 2026

NEW 2026 partnership with Echoglen Gardens!

Orders open until March 31, 2026.

Order and Learn More



Species selected for success

Larger trees for more vigor

Potential for bulk discounts

15% Shelterbelt Workshop discounts available!
2026 Details Coming Soon.



For More Information - Agricultural Services:
asb@stettlercounty.ca or 403-742-4441

<https://www.shopechoglengardens.com/shelterbelt-program/>

Figure 3. Shelterbelt Ordering Program Advertisement



Figure 4. Red Willow Calving Clinic



Figure 5. Stettler Bull Congress Booth





ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN WORKSHOP

The Alberta Environmental Farm Plan covers an entire farm using a self-assessment tool to help producers identify their on-farm environmental risks. At the completion of the program, the farmer has an itemized list of adjustments that can be made in their operation. The EFP is a useful tool for analyzing a farming operation and guiding changes as time and resources allow. Having a completed EFP Certificate is a pre-requisite for many grants and funding available to producers.

Before attending the workshop, ensure the following:

- Create an EFP account if you don't have one already at www.albertaefp.com.
- Kindly bring a laptop or tablet to facilitate working on the EFP.

 **MARCH 3** **10 AM** **LUNCH PROVIDED**
STETTLER AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
(4516 52 ST, STETTLER, AB T0C 2L1)

REGISTER ONLINE AT www.battliverresearch.com
 CALL AT (780 582 7308)








Figure 6. EFP Workshop Poster



SHELTERBELT WORKSHOP

Shelterbelt Planning and Tree Care Workshop

Thursday March 19 - the HUB (Stettler Rec Centre) - 5:30 - 9 pm

Free presentation by Toso Bozic

- Site Preparation and Selection
- Soil Information
- Planting Tips
- Maintenance and Watering
- Tree Pruning and Health Basics

MEAL PROVIDED

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
online or call 403-742-4441
by March 10

15% Shelterbelt Workshop discounts available upon attendance of March 19 Workshop!



Evergreens



Deciduous Trees



Fruit

2026 Shelterbelt Orders

Order and Learn More

in Partnership with



Open until March 31, 2026

<https://www.shochechoglengardens.com/shelterbelt-program/>

For More Information - Agricultural Services: asb@stettlercounty.ca or 403-742-4441

Figure 7. Shelterbelt Workshop Poster

INFORMATION SESSION CROP DISEASES

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
 AB Agriculture and Irrigation, Crop Health Assurance Department
 Western Crop Innovations Lacombe
 Lakeland College
 Prairie Crop Disease Monitoring Network
 U of A Department of Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science



MAR. 26, 2026 | 10AM - 3PM

12PM: Lunch provided



LACOMBE MEMORIAL CENTRE

5214 50 Ave, Lacombe

Join us in the afternoon for networking opportunities and a variety of demonstrations addressing key disease issues

- Learn about findings from Provincial Crop Disease Surveys & ongoing research.
- Receive an update on the status of Alberta Crop Diseases, including Aphanomyces, Stripe Rust, Cereal Leaf Spots, Fusarium Head Blight & more.
- Learn about new clubroot and blackleg variants & how these diseases are changing.

FREE!



TO REGISTER:

403.782.8959

jmakus@lacombecounty.com



Figure 8. Information Session on Crop Diseases Poster

Provincial 2026 ASB Conference
Cultivating Resilience
Report to the Board - Board Chair Allan Gano
TUESDAY JANUARY 20 - 22

Provincial ASB Townhall

- Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) - John Conrad spoke; Minister RJ Sigurdson is on a trade mission thus did not attend. Conversations with the USA continue to be respectful.
- Weeds on well sites is in the cabinet package. Mature strategy is at AER.
- Mental health. AGKnow is gone however material is good. Governance is the issue. Dollars are available. Minister was uncomfortable with singling out agriculture.
- Farmed wild boar. Now a pest. Offered to all 14 farms. It is about disease control. Deadline end of February. It feels like it is going well.
- Strychnine. We should have a decision any day. Risk management will need to be addressed. The hope is in place for 2026 c/w online producer friendly training
- Agricultural plastics recycling. Extended to 2027. Bale wrap micro pilot in 14 municipalities.

The following was circulated post conference.

<https://agriculturalserviceboards.com/2026/01/23/key-takeaways-from-the-provincial-asb-townhall/>

Keynote - AI in Agriculture: Separating Hype from Reality

Presented By: Rob Saik, Saik Management Group Inc.

Rob Saik is the author of the book; FOOD 5.0 HOW WE FEED THE FUTURE. Rob has a TED Talks episode. Proponent of the “perplexity” app for AI.

Rob made the following statements:

- Projection by 2030 90% less herbicide as we move to surgical, see and spray
- Possible \$500M loss due to herbicide resistance
- Why is the ASB conference in conflict with Applied Research Association (ARA) resources for farmers
- Rob felt that we should be creating an Alberta Agriculture AI app

Cultivating Market Resilience

How global economics and tariffs impact Canadian Markets

Presented By: Errol Anderson, Errol's Commodity Wire

Errol made the following statements:

- When everybody is running, walk
- We are living in a manipulated economy
- If you want to know about the economy, ask a trucker or watch ocean freight trends
- Tariffs are a no-win game
- What would settle down the tariff rhetoric? The stock market
- Enormity of global debt, govt is out of control, consumers are tightening
- Fearless investors, in USA over 50% are invested in the market
- disconnect between car loan interest rates and federal reserves
- S&P 500 index toppy, convinced that there will be a 17% correction
- Central bank power fades, interest rate cuts no longer carry a punch,
- Weakening US dollar, precious metals going up,
- \$.735 by March, USD/CAD
- Interest rates, Canada likely stay at 2.25%

- Crude Oil, king of commodities, war vs fundamentals, very bullish on Alberta oil,
- Western Canadian economy, diversification is expanding,
- Corns oversupply, great news for cattle feeders, barley prices are down in AB,
- Barley to become feedlot market
- Wheat is at bottom,
- Cash is king, look at Buffet,
- Trading grain isn't about moving crops, it's about managing uncertainty
- Cattle market moves similar to the stock market

The Cattle Industry - Trade, Tariffs, & Economy
Presented By: Miles Wowk, Wowk Ranching Ltd.

Miles made the following statements:

- USA talking about county of origin labelling again
- 1.2M less cattle out of Mexico to USA
- Hamburger in USA \$5 / pound in 2024, \$7 in Q4 2025
- 30% retention of heifers = expanding herd, which has not been met, there is no herd growth in North America
- Beef on dairy is filling pen space and shackles at the packer
- Supply management being off the table at trade negotiations will hurt beef and pork, pork is bracing for an impact,
- Cattle industry is good until 2030 - there will be a few ups and downs
- The following fact sheet was referenced
- <https://www.ontariobeef.com/media/tyuj253d/canada-beef-fact-sheet-june-2024.pdf>
- On CFIA rules, we have a robust system already in place
- Brands are best for traceability, 20% lose their tag, then you retag it is yours

Exploring Alberta's Climate and Weather: The Case for Cultivating Resilience
Presented By: Trevor Wallace, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

Trevor made the following statements:

- Precipitation from snow is 15% south of Red Deer, 25% north of Red Deer
- Red Deer area has been low in precipitation for many years
- There appears to be few consistent patterns
- Variability is high
- We continue to add weather sensors
- Meteorological records are relatively short only 1900
- Abrupt changes from wet-dry-wet
- Last weeks, months, seasons, years, weather is a very poor predictor for what is ahead
- The pattern is there however not a bankable pattern

2026 Provincial Resolution Session
January 21, 2026

- Motion: Repeal PROP and Replace with PRP Carried 93%
- Consideration of Adding Emergent Resolutions to the Order Paper
- E1-26: Vacant BioControl Scientist Position Carried 87%
- E2-26: Livestock Traceability Update Concerns Carried 94%

- RESOLUTION 1-26 Emergency Registration of 2 Liquid Strychnine Amendment to add “emergency use with user and dispenser training” to the original motion Opposed 94% To the original motion; Carried 94%
- RESOLUTION 2-26 Environment and Climate Change Canada and Diesel Exhaust Fluid Carried 92%
- RESOLUTION 3-26 Marked Fuel Program Review, Withdrawn as GOA announcement
- RESOLUTION 4-26 Rural Water Distribution and Connectivity Funding Moved Justin Stevens, County of Stettler Seconded Stan Schulmeister, County of Paintearth Carried 82%
- RESOLUTION PC 1-26 Modernizing Alberta’s Rat Control Program Carried 90%
- RESOLUTION PC 2-26 On-Farm Meat Processing Carried 97%
- RESOLUTION PC 3-26 Legal Entity Aligned with ASBs 50%, defeated
- RESOLUTION PC 4-26 Urgent Reforms to CFIA and PMRA Carried 95%
- E1-26: Vacant BioControl Scientist Position Carried 95%
- E2-26: Livestock Traceability Update Concerns Moved Lance Neilson, County of Stettler Seconded Saddle Hills Amendment; replace “for a minimum three years” to “indefinitely” Carried 76% Motion including the amendment Carried 89%

Post conference the following was shared

<https://agriculturalserviceboards.com/2026/01/23/alberta-asb-conference-2026-key-resolutions-and-insights/>

Cultivating Resilience: 27,000 km of Life Lessons from the Long Rider

Presented by; Filipe Massetti-Leite

Brazilian born cowboy crosses the America’s on horseback

Items that I recorded as part of Filipe’s inspirational talk:

- Solitude is a great teacher
- Listen to your team
- Show gratitude
- You need an X, find your purpose, you always need a purpose
- Find the humility to ask for help
- Believe in yourself
- People die twice, once then another time when no own speaks your name
- Find him on You Tube

Renewable Energy – Landowner Considerations

Presented by Darcy Allen, Farmers Advocate Office

- To create value for rural Alberta’s and our stakeholders by; empowering, representing, facilitating interaction and areas and advice
- Land suitability rating system for renewables was discussed

Common Ground: Balancing Agriculture and Municipal Development

Melissa Downing Alberta Cattle Feeders Association

Melissa's statements:

- 97% of farms are family-operated
- Large farms pay attention to details - environment, animals care etc.
- Alberta agriculture, 41505 farms, 49.2 million acres, \$23.3 billion in farm cash receipts,
- In Canada 7/10 greater then 5000 people towns are declining
- 70% of Canadian feedlot sector is in Alberta

- for every 100 head in a feedlot = another person at the lot or a teacher or a banker
- Roadblocks; fear, lack of trust, poor communication, personal impact (NIMBY) past negative experiences
- Role of agriculture industry; engage early & often, keep it relevant and relatable, be transparent, acknowledge challenges and be willing to work towards collective solutions.
- Role of municipalities and ASB; communication, education, policies
- What does success look like? Sustainable budgets, collective solutions, rural economic development, thriving rural communities
- If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together, African proverb

Motivations and Deterrents to Rural Veterinary Practice

Presented by Megan Bergman, AVMA, also associate dean of UCVM

The 2 presenters stated the following:

- Challenges: upcoming attrition 380 vets, 500 techs, 41% of vets and over 50% of techs will leave by 2035
- The practicing vet motivations; personal and family considerations, professional opportunities and fulfillment, community and relationships, education and exposure
- Keys take aways; social and community integration is critical, upbringing lifestyle preferences, shared values, education about and exposure to rural environments, can incentives bridge the gap, mentorship, practice models
- Increasing accessibility to VM program to a wider academic range of applicants, reducing emphasis on GPA, increasing importance of background and life experience
- Now at 100 seats UCVM, about 1/3 rural students, 28% male, 5% indigenous,
- Visibility at community events; Aggie days, Calgary Stampede, Spruce Meadows
- Hosting 4H groups on campus
- Rolling out this spring a program that will partner with teacher grades 7-12. 2 or 3 modules
- Curriculum, early workplace exposure, early exposure to farms, rotations in real practice
- International recruitment - 29% growth, Limited licensure pilot, initiating a rural retention and recruitment task force
- Rural exposure, housing, community engagement, mentorship, financial program (federal loan forgiveness program), practice infrastructure, producer facilities
- Vet accreditation is across North American
- 1/3 of UC graduates leave province
- Funds available from the community is a successful program, bursary for tuition, loan forgiveness

Cultivation Resilience within the NE Region

The following 3 farms spoke about their experiences

Charlotte Wasylik, Two Hills, County of Vermilion River

Chatsworth Farms

- Agritourism; income diversification, economic development, education and public understanding, farm sustainability, community connection
- Agritourism creates new work for a family member
- Social media: active, consistent storytelling since 2020, content started year-round, showcasing farm work, audience reach well beyond our local region 20k+

- Tours: virtual + in person; launched in 2020, delivered virtually and in-person, created; education and trust at scale, including international reach, expanded visibility beyond the local region, low-overhead resulting in easy revenue, flexible with the season and one's availability
- Farm-to-table sales 362 customers in 2025, 20% of farm revenue, satisfaction in making the connections with customers,
- Open farm days; 6 consecutive years of on farm events

Kerri Oshust

The Good Garlic Company

- Building market access for local garlic products
- Grow your own, it is a super food, premium garlic, plant in late October, transitioned to value added away from fresh, Costco \$5.99/pound there's is \$17.99/pound
- 40000 bulbs on 40 acres
- Market access takes patience and persistence
- Local food systems need collaboration
- Value added products, garlic powder
- Why are we not buying Canadian?

Shane Chrapko, County of Two Hills

Birds & Bees Farmery - Crafted with Care, Rooted in Tradition – Birds & Bees Wine and Spirits

- Recently entered mocktail market
- Premium retailers such as Italian Centre Shop
- Accelerated strategies, 132 stores
- Hoping to keep the 100+ year old farm for another 100+ years
- It's not just honey it's a differentiator
- Riding the wave

Protecting Alberta from the Impacts of Invasive Species: AISC's Programs and Priorities Megan Evans AISC

- Alberta invasive Species Council
- Non profit
- <https://www.instagram.com/p/DTIKae9k083/?igsh=MXV3aXVyM3E1ZGFpZQ==>
- <https://abinvasives.ca/>
- Invasive species are a major threat to the economy and environment

Compound 1080 update Karen Wickerson AGI

- Sodium monofluoroacetate (SMFA) predicide
- Health Canada, revaluation, stewardship program by March 2026, core training required, Lakeland will eventually have training on-line
- appropriate disposal
- non target must be reported
- Webinars will be setup for field men end of February, new program March 7, 2026

Wild Boar Control Program, Hannah McKenzie

- 584 removals since 2019, mostly Woodland County
- Continue to encourage landowners to cooperate
- Data available; Canadian invasive wild pig report, wildpigs.ca, Monthly wild board email stats, trapper corner, photo of the month
- Municipal engagement; trapper training, Elk Island camera project, wild boar field tours, response support

Drone Pesticide Application (RPAS) – Overview

Federal Registration (Health Canada / PMRA)

- **Label Amendment:** Manufacturers must apply to PMRA to add drone use to a pesticide label.
- **Scientific Review:** PMRA evaluates risks, safety, and efficacy; process typically ~16 months.
- **Label Authorization:** Only products listing “RPAS” on the label may be legally applied by drone. Off-label use is prohibited.
- **Pre-Submission Consultation:** PMRA offers free guidance on required data before formal submission, yet guidelines remain unclear.

Regulatory Oversight - Drone pesticide use is governed by Transport Canada, Health Canada, and provincial pesticide regulations.

Provincial Updates:

- Saskatchewan (Jan 2026): New RPAS licence, insurance requirement, GPS tracking, stronger record-keeping; federal labels still apply.
- Alberta (July 2024): RPAS Special Certificate for applicators; revised manual expected March 2026; \$290 home-study cost.

Registered RPAS Products in Canada:



The screenshot shows the Health Canada website interface. At the top, there are logos for Health Canada and Canada. The main header features the Health Canada logo and the URL www.hc-sc.gc.ca. Below this is a navigation bar with links for Français, Home, Contact Us, Help, Search, and canada.gc.ca. The page content includes a breadcrumb trail: Home > Consumer Product Safety > Pesticides & Pest Management > Registrants & Applicants > Tools > Search Product Label. A section titled 'Consumer Product Safety' is followed by a 'Label Search Results' section. It indicates that 7 records were found. A table lists the search results with columns for Registration Number, Registrant Name, Product Name, and Registration Status. The table contains 7 rows of data. Below the table is a 'Refine Search Parameters' section. At the bottom of the page, there is a date modified (2026-02-09), a 'Top of Page' link, and an 'Important Notices' link.

Registration Number	Registrant Name	Product Name	Registration Status
18158	VALENT BIOSCIENCES LLC.*	VECTOBAC 200G BIOLOGICAL LARVICIDE	REGISTERED
21062	VALENT BIOSCIENCES LLC.*	VECTOBAC 1200L BIOLOGICAL LARVICIDE	REGISTERED
28008	VALENT BIOSCIENCES LLC.*	VECTOLEX CG BIOLOGICAL LARVICIDE	REGISTERED
28945	CORTEVA AGRISCIENCE CANADA COMPANY**	GARLON XRT HERBICIDE	REGISTERED
32374	BASF AGRICULTURAL SOLUTIONS CANADA INC.	HABITAT AQUA	REGISTERED
34734	VALENT BIOSCIENCES LLC.*	VECTOBAC FG+ BIOLOGICAL LARVICIDE FINE GRANULE	REGISTERED
35639	OCION WATER SCIENCES INC.	HARVEST MIRACLE	REGISTERED

CADA Position on Drone Pesticide Application

Canadian farmers are eager to adopt drones as a safer, smarter tool for crop protection. Every year, growers face tight spraying windows, wet soils, rough terrain, and concerns for operator safety. Drones can solve these challenges — but Canadian regulations have not yet caught up. The Canadian Agricultural Drone Association (CADA) takes the following position with respect to the use of drones for application of pesticides.

- **Farmers need it:**
Drones reduce crop trampling and soil compaction, improve timeliness in the field, and reduce costs.
- **Remotely Piloted Aircraft are aircraft:**
A product applied by plane or helicopter should be safe — or safer — when applied by a remotely piloted aircraft / drone.
- **Science supports it:**
Initial OECD and AAFC research aligns with common sense and will confirm that drones produce **lower drift and residue** compared to manned aircraft.
- **Industry is behind it:**
Crop protection companies, commodity groups, and researchers are prepared to back this change.
- **Global peers are ahead:**
Farmers around the world already benefit – especially in the United States, but Canada is falling behind.
- **Current reality:**
Off-label use is already occurring, leaving new adopters isolated without manufacturer guidance or peer networks — a situation that regulation should address, not ignore.
- **Not toys, farm tools:**
Agricultural drones - whether for imaging, spraying or spreading – should be considered equivalent to other essential agricultural implements in terms of insurance, taxation, and government policy.

CADA takes the position that pest control product labels already approved for aerial application already apply equally to drones. In the longer term, labels should default to allowing drone application unless explicitly prohibited.

Recognizing drones as a legitimate aerial tool will provide farmers with safe, regulated access backed by manufacturer guidance and peer support — while protecting consumers and the public through clear, science-based regulation rather than the regulatory vacuum that exists today.



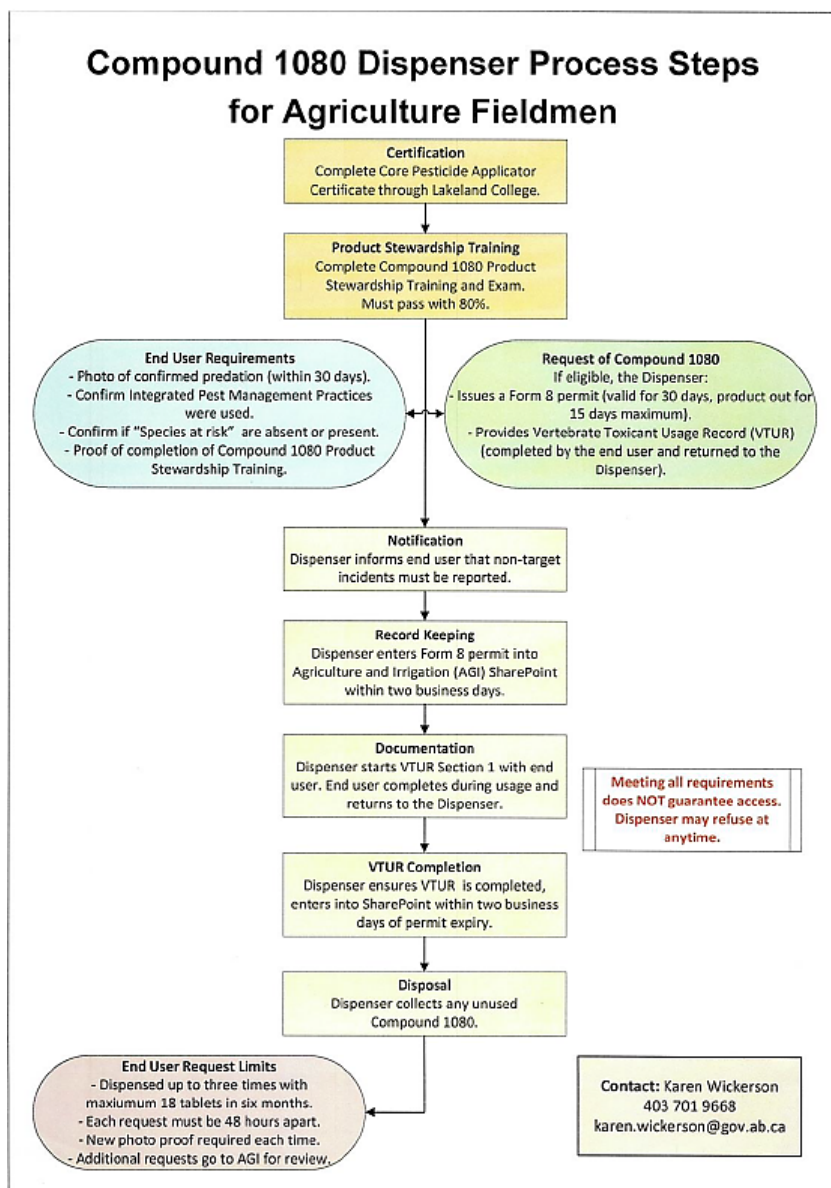
Contact: Markus Weber, President
Canadian Agricultural Drone Association
4707 39 Street, Camrose, AB T4V 2N6
president@canagdrones.ca

Compound 1080 Informational Report

Compound 1080 Product Stewardship Program Update (effective March 7, 2026):

Following Health Canada's re-evaluation in 2024, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) requires a registrant-led Product Stewardship Program to maintain Compound 1080 (Sodium Monofluoroacetate) registration for coyote control. The program introduces enhanced **training, reporting, and access requirements.**

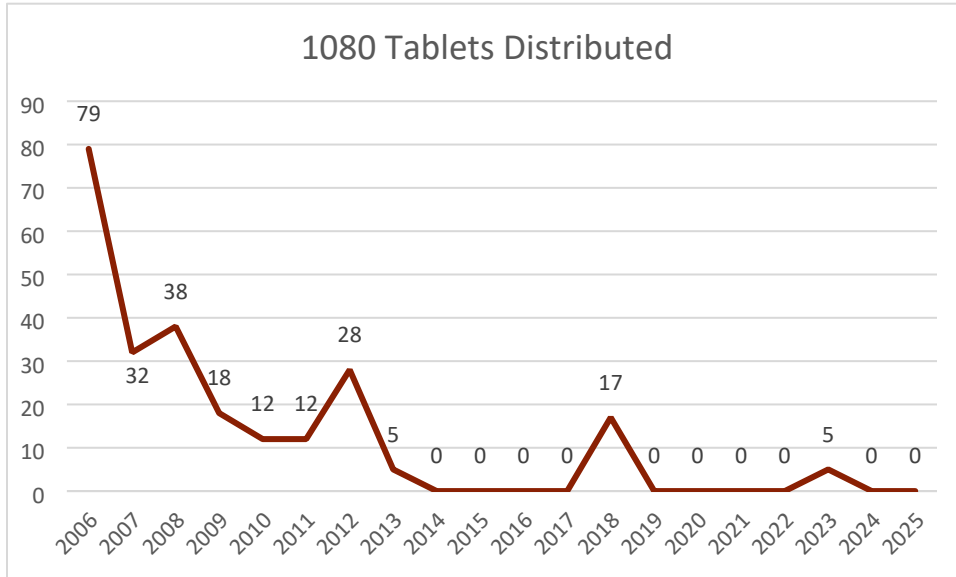
- **Training:** Applicators and dispensers (Fieldmen) must complete Lakeland College courses - Pesticide Certificate and Specific 1080 Training; dispensers also receive Form 7 permits.
- **Reporting:** Applicators complete Vertebrate Toxicant Usage Record (VTUR); dispensers submit Form 8 permits and VTURs via SharePoint within strict deadlines. Non-compliance triggers corrective actions.
- **Access:** Requests require a predation photo, a 6-month limit of 18 tablets (max 3 dispensations), and confirmation of Species at Risk.



Compound 1080 (sodium monofluoroacetate) is a highly toxic, restricted-use pesticide utilized in Alberta for controlling predators, specifically coyotes, and historically, wolves. As of December 2024, the Government of Alberta ended the use of Compound 1080 to poison wolves, but it remains legal for use on coyotes.

Historical Compound 1080 Context (2007 – 2025):

In the last 5 years the County of Stettler only has records for 5 tablets of 1080 distributed to one user for a sheep production. Most historical use is prior to 2012 and historically used most by sheep producers.



2007 -2025 Compound 1080 Use			
LIVESTOCK	USERS	CASES	TABLETS
poultry	1	1	8
horses	1	1	2
sheep	9	13	76
cattle	7	11	59
goats	1	1	15
TOTAL	19	27	160

Discontinuing the dispensing of Compound 1080 is expected to have a negligible impact on producers and would reduce the County’s administrative burden related to storage, training, and reporting.



Memo

TO: Councillor Allan Gano ASB Chair
FROM: Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations
DATE: February 18, 2026
SUBJECT: Strategic Plan Updates and Discussion

The strategic plan is beginning to take shape following our January 7 meeting. I have incorporated as many of the key discussion points as possible to clearly reflect our shared goals and priorities. In addition, I have developed a quarterly work plan aligned with the draft strategy that I recently circulated by email.

I would greatly appreciate any feedback or recommendations you may have, whether there are elements you feel should be added or removed, or areas where we should consider increasing our focus. My goal is to build a department that delivers programming and outcomes that align closely with the expectations of the Board and the interests of our community.

Rodenticide Sales

In 2018, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) initiated a mandatory re-evaluation of strychnine's registered uses across Canada. In 2020, the PMRA concluded that the environmental risks associated with strychnine were not acceptable. As a result, registration for strychnine products used for Richardson Ground Squirrel (RGS) control was cancelled, with retailers required to cease sales by March 2022. The final date for producers to use existing product was March 2023.

Health Canada identified several registered alternatives, including Chlorophacinone (Rozol RTU and Ground Force), Diphacinone (Ramik Green), and Zinc Phosphide.

In response to the phase-out of strychnine, the County of Stettler began offering these alternative rodent control products to local producers. Currently, these products are sold at cost, with no administrative markup applied. By comparison, private retailers typically apply an approximate 20% markup.

Maintaining sales at cost may inadvertently undercut private industry and does not account for the administrative time, storage, handling, and compliance requirements associated with managing this program. The County of Stettler Administration asks the Agricultural Service Board for direction regarding appropriate pricing adjustments to reflect service delivery costs while maintaining producer access or input on the continuation of this service.



Rozol RTU

PCP# 29545

Chlorophacinone

Anti-coagulant

Treated Grain

Control achieved with multiple feeds over 5 - 12 days.

For use by Farmers (on ag lands) or certified pest control operators.

Dogs and cats can be killed by a single dose.

Vitamin K1 may be used as an antidote.

9 kg pail - \$135.70

22 kg bag - \$250.10

Ground Force

PCP# 20239

Chlorophacinone

Anti-coagulant

Paraffinized Pellet

Control achieved with multiple feeds over 5 - 12 days.

For use by Farmers (on ag lands) or certified pest control operators.

Dogs and cats can be killed by a single dose.

Vitamin K1 may be used as an antidote.

10 kg pail - \$127.60

Ramik Green

PCP# 11669

Diphacinone

Anti-coagulant

Bait Pellet

Control achieved with multiple feeds over 5 - 12 days.

For use by Farmers (on ag lands) or certified pest control operators.

Dogs and cats can be killed by a single dose.

Vitamin K1 may be used as an antidote.

10 kg pail - \$101.70

Historical Sale of Rodenticide Products:

2023-2025 Rodenticide Sales					
	Total			Average/yr	
Unique Users	26			8.67	
Sales	41			13.67	
Rozol	1151	kg		383.67	kg
Ramik Green	36	kg		12.00	kg
Ground Force	9	kg		3.00	kg

	2025		2024		2023	
Unique Users	12		10		6	
Sales	20		14		7	
Rozol	640	kg	335	kg	22	kg
Ground Force	-	-	9	kg	-	-
Ramik Green	-	-	-	-	18	kg



Request for Decision

Agenda Item: Policy AG 3.13 – Beaver Dam Removal

Issue

A specific policy related to beaver dam control is needed to clarify activities related to blasting and manual dam removal.

Options for Consideration (Recommendations)

That the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board accept Policy AG 3.13 – Beaver Dam Removal without changes or amendments as presented and share with Council for approval.

OR

That the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board amend Policy AG 3.13 – Beaver Dam Removal and direct staff of revisions required.

General

Historically, the Beaver Control Service was administered under Policy AG 3.06 – Pest and Nuisance Control (attached below). However, given the operational nuances, associated risks and liabilities, and the need for greater clarity and transparency, Administration has determined that beaver control warrants its own standalone policy- AG 3.13 – Beaver Dam Removal.

Financial

No financial implications with this policy.

Implementation/Communication

The Board's decision will be shared at Council for formal approval.

Target Decision Date

February 18, 2026


Prepared By

Farrah Fischer, Assistant Manager of Agricultural Services

Reviewed By

Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Services

Greg Jackson, Director of Operations

	County of Stettler – Legislative Policy Manual		
	Categorization Agriculture		Policy No. AG 3.13
	Policy Name Beaver Dam Removal		
	Approved By: Council	Approval Date XXXX	Latest Revision XXXXX

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear direction for the approval, and execution of beaver dam removal activities within the County of Stettler. The policy is intended to protect municipal infrastructure, ensure public safety, respect private property rights, and promote responsible wildlife and environmental management.

Guidelines

The beaver is not a declared pest or nuisance under the *Agricultural Pest Act – Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation* in the Province of Alberta. The County of Stettler has no legislated duty to provide beaver control on private or provincial land. However, there are instances where control may be deemed necessary.

The County is granted the authorization to remove beaver dams and trap on County controlled lands and public and private lands to which it has access, under the authority of the Alberta *Wildlife Act* and Regulations.

1. Beaver dam removal may occur with the use of heavy equipment (i.e. excavator), explosives or by hand.
2. Beaver dam removal via blasting by the County of Stettler will occur only from April 1st to November 1st in any year, unless frozen water conditions further restrict work.
3. Beaver dam removal may be considered under the following conditions:
 - a. Municipal lands owned or managed by the County of Stettler. Such as County Road allowances where beaver activity is affecting drainage, road stability, bridges, culverts, or other municipal infrastructure.
 - b. On private-lands at the request of the landowner if there is damage or flooding to occupied areas such as yard sites or an agricultural impact beyond two hectares. Beaver dam removal will not be conducted in locations where ponding is required for livestock management.
4. Landowners must remove resident beavers, personally or via a licensed trapper, at their own expense. Proof of removal is required before the County will act unless immediate infrastructure protection is needed.


5. County Right of Way Trapping must be conducted by a registered Trapper carrying a minimum \$2,000,000.00 liability insurance.
6. Preconditions for service
 - a. Qualifications: All blasting and dam removal activities shall be conducted by qualified personnel in compliance with applicable provincial legislation, safety standards, and best management practices. Equipment operators shall have appropriate training to operate equipment in accordance with provincial regulations and manufacturer specifications.
 - b. The County will remove only the necessary section of the beaver dams as required to facilitate the flow of water.
 - c. Line Locates: The County of Stettler shall submit all required utility and line locate requests prior to any dam removal activity.
 - d. Landowner Notification: The County of Stettler shall make reasonable efforts to contact affected landowners prior to blasting or dam removal activities. Where private land is involved, written consent from the affected landowner(s) must be obtained.
7. The County will not undertake beaver control or dam removal solely for private benefit.
8. For private landowners, the County of Stettler shall assist with information on beaver co-existence strategies or options for control.

Connected Documents

There are no documents currently associated with this Policy.

Policy Authorization

Type of Authorization	Resolution Number	Effective Date
<i>Transcription</i>		XXXX XX, 2026

	County of Stettler – Legislative Policy Manual		
	Categorization Agriculture		Policy No. AG 3.06
	Policy Name Pest and Nuisance Control		
	Approved By: Council	Approval Date September 1, 2005	Latest Revision October 9, 2024

Purpose

To allow the County of Stettler No. 6 to set procedures regarding Pest and Nuisance control under the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act within its boundaries.

Procedure

Nuisance Animal Control:

1. Beaver trapping by the Beaver Control Service will occur only from April 1st to November 1st in any year.
2. Landowners may request trapping of pests and nuisance animal listed under the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act. Eligible public property, must meet the following conditions:
 - a. County Right of Way Trapping must be conducted by a registered Trapper carrying a minimum \$2,000,000.00 liability insurance
 - b. All beavers are to be removed from the location at the time. Should beavers move into the same location at a later date, an additional fee will be required.
 - c. The fees associated with such control will be paid by the Landowner requesting the service, the County of Stettler will not be billed for services not requested by the County.

General Pest Control – Traps, Baits, Snares, Other Devices:

3. Skunk and magpie traps are available to County residents with a rental fee and a deposit is required. Residents must pick up the trap at the County Public Works/Agricultural Service Board shop located at 19561 Township 38-4 and sign for it. Traps are available for a period up to two weeks, after which traps must be returned to the County Shop in good condition.
4. Issuance of all poison baits, snares, or other restricted devices will be limited to landowners who have livestock predation loss or damage within the last thirty (30)

days, as verified by an authorized Pest Control Officer.


5. Issuance of snares will normally be limited to the non-pelting season, except in situations or verified predation losses where other control methods are unsuccessful.
6. Issuance of devices will be in accordance with restrictions and limitations as set out in the Coyote Predation Control Procedure of Alberta Agriculture.

Connected Documents

There are no documents currently associated with this Policy.

Policy Authorization

Type of Authorization	Resolution Number	Effective Date
<i>Transcription</i>		December 10, 2010
<i>Reviewed</i>	139.05.11.22	May 11, 2022
<i>Reviewed</i>	36.06.28.23	June 28, 2023
<i>Amendment</i>	333.10.09.24	October 9, 2024
<i>Reviewed</i>	57.08.20.25	August 20, 2025

	County of Stettler – Legislative Policy Manual		
	Categorization Agriculture		Policy No. AG 3.06
	Policy Name Pest and Nuisance Control		
	Approved By: Council	Approval Date September 1, 2005	Latest Revision February 18, 2026

Purpose

To allow the County of Stettler No. 6 to set procedures regarding Pest and Nuisance control under the Alberta *Agricultural Pests Act* within its boundaries.

Guidelines

General Pest Control:

1. In accordance with the *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act* the Pest Control Officers appointed by Council are authorized to:
 - a. Conduct inspections;
 - b. Issue notices;
 - c. Monitor compliance;
 - d. Recommend enforcement action.
2. The County of Stettler shall take reasonable effort to control regulated pests under the *Alberta Agricultural Pest Act – Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation* on County owned lands. Including chemical and non-chemical controls.
3. Landowners and occupants are responsible for controlling declared pests on land they own or occupy.
4. Where a declared pest is identified, a Pest Control Officer may issue a notice requiring control measures in accordance with the *Agricultural Pest Act*.
5. Skunk and magpie traps are available to County residents with a rental fee and a deposit is required. The County of Stettler shall hold no responsibility for the animals captured or misuse of such traps rented.
6. Issuance of all poison baits, snares, or other restricted devices will be completed in accordance with provincial legislation and Pest Officer qualifications.

Rodenticide Product Sales:

7. The County of Stettler supports responsible rodent management practices. The County reserves the right to limit or refuse sales where misuse, safety concerns, or non-compliance are identified.
8. Sale of rodenticide shall be limited to authorized purchasers (e.g., certified applicators, bona fide farmers, or pesticide service registrants) in accordance with provincial regulations and pesticide label restrictions.
9. Records of rodenticide sale shall record the purchaser qualifications including Alberta Farm Fuel Benefit number or legal land description, these records shall be maintained for a period of at least five years.
10. A licensed Pesticide Applicator, holding an Exterior Rodent Control endorsement, must be present at the point of sale for rodenticide products.
11. The cost of rodenticide products shall be established in accordance with the County of Stettler Fee Bylaw (No. 1746).

Connected Documents

There are no documents currently associated with this Policy.

Policy Authorization

Type of Authorization	Resolution Number	Effective Date
<i>Transcription</i>		December 10, 2010
<i>Reviewed</i>	139.05.11.22	May 11, 2022
<i>Reviewed</i>	36.06.28.23	June 28, 2023
<i>Amendment</i>	333.10.09.24	October 9, 2024
<i>Reviewed</i>	57.08.20.25	August 20, 2025



Request for Decision

Agenda Item: Policy AG 3.06 – Pest and Nuisance Control

Issue

Policy AG 3.06 – Pest and Nuisance Control has been reviewed and updated to better reflect the current scope of Agricultural Services programming and pest management responsibilities within the County of Stettler.

Options for Consideration (Recommendations)

That the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board:

- Approve the Policy as presented and share with Council for approval.
- Approve the Policy with rodenticide sales removed and share with Council for approval.
- Provide direction for revisions prior to approval.
- OR _____.

General

Policy AG 3.06 – Pest and Nuisance Control has been updated to reflect the full scope of Agricultural Services pest management responsibilities within the County of Stettler. The revised policy expands beyond limited pest control activities to clarify the County’s role in education and control measures, aligns with current legislation and best practices, and establishes a framework to support potential rodenticide sales, ensuring consistency and operational clarity moving forward.

Financial

Approval of the policy itself has no immediate financial impact. Should rodenticide sales proceed, revenues and associated costs would be reflected within the Agricultural Services operating budget.

Implementation/Communication

The Board’s decision will be shared at Council for formal approval.

Target Decision Date

February 18, 2026

Prepared By

Farrah Fischer, Assistant Manager of Agricultural Services

Reviewed By

Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Services

Greg Jackson, Director of Operations



Memo

TO: Councillor Allan Gano ASB Chair
FROM: Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations
DATE: February 18, 2026
SUBJECT: Grain bag Rolling and Collection

As requested, administration has gathered information on the costs associated with grain bag rolling and collection. During the period January 01- 31, 2026, approximately 63 bags collected, averaging around 250 pounds each, weighing a total of 15,750 pounds or 7099kgs (7.1tons). The current rate being paid by Cleanfarms is 55.00 per ton.

Grain Bag Collection – Summary & Visuals

Reporting period: January 1–31, 2026. Values reflect the grain bag rolling and collection program.

Item	Value
Number of bags collected	63
Weight per bag	250 lbs
Total weight	15,750 lbs (7.1 tons)
Collection rate	\$ 55.00 per ton
Revenue from plastic sale	\$ 390.50
Total mileage traveled	720 km
Mileage rate (truck + trailer)	\$ 0.84/km
Total mileage cost	\$ 604.80
Travel time	10 hours
Rolling time (10-15min/bag)	16 hours
Loading/unloading time	5 hours

Total labour hours	31 hours
Labour rate	\$ 55/hour (2 people)
Total labour cost	\$ 1705.00
Total expenses (mileage + labour)	\$ 2309.80
Net cost after plastic revenue	\$ 1919.30
Cost per grain bag	\$ 30.46



Memo

TO: Councillor Allan Gano ASB Chair

FROM: Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations

DATE: February 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Expression of Interest – 2026 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour

Wheatland County will be hosting the 2026 Provincial Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Summer Tour from July 14–16, 2026. The theme for this year’s event is *“Where Innovation Meets Tradition.”*

This three-day provincial event brings together ASB members from across Alberta to explore innovative agricultural practices, sustainable farming initiatives, and the opportunities and challenges currently shaping the agricultural sector. The tour will feature immersive site visits, producer showcases, and hands-on learning experiences, while also providing valuable opportunities for networking, collaboration, and knowledge exchange among municipalities.

Event Details:

Date: July 14–16, 2026

Location: Wheatland County

Delegate Registration Fee: \$775.00 per person (conference registration)

Registration Deadline: May 15, 2026

Administration is requesting the Board’s direction regarding attendance and expressions of interest from ASB members. Participation in the Summer Tour supports ongoing professional development, strengthens inter-municipal relationships, and provides insight into innovative practices that may be applicable within the County of Stettler.

Please advise if you are interested in attending so that registration arrangements can be made prior to the deadline.



Request for Decision

Agenda Item: Rescheduling of the March 18, 2026 ASB Meeting

Issue

That the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board will be at the 2026 Spring RMA during our regularly scheduled meeting time of March 18, 2026.

Options for Consideration (Recommendation)

1. That County of Stettler Agricultural Services Board reschedules the March 18, 2026 10:00 a.m. Agricultural Services Board Meeting to March 19, 2026 10:00 a.m.
2. That County of Stettler Agricultural Services Board reschedules the March 18, 2026 10:00 a.m. Agricultural Services Board Meeting to _____.
3. That the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board cancel the March 18, 2026 10:00 a.m. Agricultural Services Board Meeting.

General

The Agricultural Service Board Members will be in attendance at the 2026 Spring RMA.

Financial

Agricultural Services Board Meetings incur financial costs of Board Member per diems and a provided lunch.

Policy/Legislation

Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c M-26, s 195

The municipality must give at least 24 hours' notice of a council committee meeting

- (a) To the members of the council committee, and
- (b) To the public

Implementation/Communication

The Board's decision will be communicated as directed.

Target Decision Date

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Prepared By

Krista Schlender, Administrative Assistant
Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Services

Reviewed By

Cara McKenzie, Assistant Director of Operations

January 14, 2026

Honourable R.J. Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Sigurdson,

RE: Canadian Food Inspection Agency Proposed Amendments to Livestock Traceability Regulations

Since 2023 the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has been working on draft regulation amendments pertaining to the Traceability portion of the *Health of Animals Regulations*. These amendments to the regulations could have devastating effects on the agriculture industry across the nation. We request that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation not only advocate against the implementation of the regulations, but investigate the process and consultations conducted by the CFIA in both regulation development and past conduct pertaining to disease outbreaks.

Following multiple cases of the CFIA destroying herds and leaving agricultural producers in financially tumultuous situations, it calls to question the efficacy of the organization, current and new regulations, and their implementation processes. The CFIA conducted a consultation period that was insufficient and did not accurately portray the voices of the Canadian livestock sectors. While Canada ranks among the highest for global leaders in animal health and disease-free meats, our national cattle herds have faced significant decline, now reporting low numbers that haven't been seen in the last 40 years. With clean herds and low populations, these combined factors put Canadian meat products at low risk for disease outbreaks and prove that current practices have more than adequately controlled the risk of disease.

Implementation of these proposed amendments would prove challenging to any agricultural producer and would place undue strain both financially and laboriously especially on smaller, locally focused producers. The potential enforcement of these regulations would be unsupported, unrealistic, and unsustainable. Agricultural producers deserve to have the freedom to operate their business and operations as they see fit, to have their voices heard,



January 14, 2026

Page 2

and have their contributions both to their communities and to the economy appreciated. Big Lakes County supports and appreciates our agricultural community and would ask the Minister to advocate and support them in this manner as well.

Sincerely,



Tyler Airth
Reeve, Big Lakes County

CC:

Mr. Greg Orencsak, Deputy Minister of Health

Mr. Scott Sinclair, MLA Lesser Slave Lake

Honourable Todd Loewen, Minister of Forestry and Parks

Mr. Arnold Viersen, MP Peace River-Westlock

Mr. Chris Warkentin, MP Grande Prairie

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Paul MacKinnon, CFIA President

Diane Allan, CFIA Associate Vice-President, Policy and Programs

Tanya Day, Ministerial Liaison for Health Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Robert Ianiro, Vice-President, Policy and Programs

Brad Dubeau, General Manager, Alberta Beef Producers

Doug Roxburgh, Chair, Alberta Beef Producers

Bill Hanson, Zone 4 Director, Western Stock Growers Association

Chris Sloan, Zone 4 Director, Western Stock Growers Association

Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen

Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

Brodie Haugan, Officer, Canadian Cattle Association

Dennis Laycraft, Executive Vice President, Canadian Cattle Association

Ryder Lee, General Manager, Canadian Cattle Association

Jennifer Babcock, Chief Government and International Affairs Officer, Canadian Cattle Association

Andrea Brocklebank, Executive Director, Beef Cattle Research Council



January 23, 2026

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

Dear Minister MacDonald,

RE: Urgent Reforms to CFIA and PMRA

The County of Minburn No. 27 is writing to express concern about the increasing regulatory burden created by recent and proposed decisions of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). We oppose the proposed Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Regulations Amending the Health of Animals Regulations surrounding Identification and Traceability in Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations.

We respectfully request that the Government of Canada:

1. Reform the mandates and accountability structures of CFIA and PMRA to ensure both agencies can meaningfully consider stakeholder feedback.
2. Transfer CFIA and PMRA back under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, restoring alignment with the agriculture sector.
3. Require decision making to consider on-farm realities, business impacts, animal welfare, and scientific evidence.

The County opposes the added regulatory burden being placed on agricultural groups and societies. These measures threaten the viability of fairs, exhibitions, and livestock marketing opportunities, activities that are essential to rural communities, 4-H programs, and the promotion of Canadian agriculture. These institutions form the backbone of rural community life

Canada's farmers and producers operate to world leading standards. Common sense, practical regulation is needed so they can continue feeding Canadians and global markets without unnecessary barriers.

We urge the federal government to act quickly and would welcome opportunities to work with your office on solutions that protect both agriculture and rural community sustainability.

Sincerely,



Roger Konieczny
Reeve

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

Share ideas: Next agricultural policy framework

Current status: Open

This consultation period will be open from January 2026 to December 2027.

Background

The Next Policy Framework (NPF) is a 5-year (2028–2033) federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) investment aimed at strengthening and growing Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector. The NPF will succeed the current Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), which is in effect from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2028.

To support the development of the NPF, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) wants to hear from Canadians, including farmers, producers, processors, Indigenous communities, women, youth, and industry associations.

The AAFC-led consultation process begins in January 2026 and will remain open until December 2027. The consultations will focus on gathering feedback on current and emerging challenges as well as opportunities facing the sector, which will help guide the vision and priorities for the framework. Your feedback, in addition to the insights that our provincial and territorial partners receive in their consultations, will inform the policy statement to be announced by FPT Ministers in July 2026.

Consultation process

Your feedback is important to us!

To contribute your input or provide additional comments about the NPF, simply complete our online consultation at [Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada 2026 Next Policy Framework Consultation](#).

If you have additional comments or questions, please contact us at aafc.npf-pcs.aac@agr.gc.ca.

Upcoming information

The announcement of a policy statement by FPT Ministers in July 2026 will be a key milestone for the NPF. The feedback received from these consultations will help outline the vision, priorities, and collective outcomes the framework aims to achieve.

Updates on the NPF, including access to feedback received by AAFC, will be available on this page throughout the consultation process.

Associated links

- [Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership](#)
- [2021 Guelph Statement](#)
- News release: [Minister MacDonald launches consultations for the Next Agricultural Policy Framework](#)
- [Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada 2026 Next Policy Framework Consultation](#)
- [AgPal](#)

On social media



FEBRUARY 4, 2026 BY ASB PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE EA

PMRA Denies Emergency Use of Strychnine for Ground Squirrel Control

On February 2, 2026, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) communicated its decision *denying* the Alberta/Saskatchewan Emergency Use Registration (EUR) for 2% liquid strychnine for Richardson's ground squirrels' control. PMRA's rationale indicated that the mitigation measures proposed in the EUR request did not sufficiently address the risk of the primary and secondary poisoning to non-target species.

ASBPC Chair Rob Siewert's statement

Alberta's Agricultural Service Board's are very disappointed in PMRA's decision to refuse the request of a one-year emergency registration of 2% liquid strychnine to combat the exponential growth of the Richardson's Ground Squirrel's (RGS) in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Today we see a government body not listening to agricultural producers and not acknowledging facts or data presented. Strychnine has been used in the prairie provinces since 1928 as part of an integrated pest management program. When used according to label, it has proven to be effective and safe. Currently, no other alternatives can provide the same efficacy for RGS control, which has created significant financial loss for Agricultural Producers.

The PMRA is dismissing the economic burdens of RGS and the animal health problems they cause to other animals. The PMRA is not listening to provincial calls or the Canadian Agriculture Minister, Heath MacDonald, who stated he supports an emergency use registration. They are not listening to the historical lessons of RGS and disregarding the fact that strychnine can be used safely. While the PMRA removed this effective tool for RGS control, the federal government is concurrently making significant cutbacks to Agricultural research which is needed to find alternatives.

Alberta's farmers and ranchers work long and hard to provide quality food for all Canadians and customers abroad. They are careful stewards of the land, resources, and are major contributors to our nation's food security and GDP.



Background

On January 21, 2026, ASBs passed [RESOLUTION 1-26: EMERGENCY REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL \(RGS\) CONTROL](#) asking 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.

This is just one more in a long line of advocacy that has taken place since 1992 when the use of strychnine was first limited to only emergency use registrations. Timely access to affordable, cost effective control methods has been an ongoing concern for the past 34 years.

The Emergency Use Registration process is not timely or effective for dealing with outbreaks that are a natural part of our landscape. Linda Hunt, Executive Assistant ASBPC

The ASBPC partnered with MP John Barlow in 2025 to survey Alberta farmers to determine the extent of the impact on farms. Over 200 producers responded to the call in just over a few weeks.

Related information

[ASBPC Position on Richardson's Ground Squirrel Control](#) – Background and history

[ASBPC Chair Rob Siewert Statement, Feb 3, 2026](#)

[Notice to ASBs from ADM John Conrad Feb 3, 2026](#)

[Strychnine: Minister Sigurdson News Release Feb 2, 2026](#)

Discover more from Agricultural Service Boards

Subscribe to get the latest posts sent to your email.

📄 RESOLUTIONS

ASBPC STATEMENT, GOPHERS, PMRA, RESOLUTION 1-26, RGS, RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL, STRYCHNINE

From: [Kerriane Koehler-Munro](#) on behalf of [AGI ASB Program](#)
Cc: [Bruce Hamblin](#); [Hussein Keshwani](#); [Keith Lehman](#); [Kerriane Koehler-Munro](#); [Stephanie Cerny](#)
Subject: Change in the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian
Date: February 4, 2026 8:25:29 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Sent on behalf of the ASB Program

Dear ASB chairs, members and fieldmen,

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Hussein Keshwani, DVM, MPH, Dip. ACVPM, will be assuming the role of Chief Provincial Veterinarian (CPV) for Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation effective February 9, 2026. Many of you know Hussein through his work as Deputy CPV, where he has been an integral leader within the Animal Health and Assurance Branch. His transition into this role brings continuity, deep expertise, and a strong commitment to advancing animal health, welfare, and public health in Alberta.

Hussein joins the position with over twelve years of experience applying One Health principles across animal and public health policy, emergency response, and legislative development. During his time as Deputy CPV, he represented Alberta at national and international tables, led stakeholder engagement and policy modernization efforts—including substantial work on the *Animal Protection Act*—and has acted in the role of CPV and Director for several months cumulatively. His leadership is marked by strategic thinking, effective collaboration, and clear communication on complex issues.

At the same time, I would like to recognize and thank Dr. Keith Lehman for his exceptional service as Chief Provincial Veterinarian. Dr. Lehman joined the Government of Alberta in 2014 and was appointed CPV in 2016. As the longest-serving CPV since the role's creation in 1997, he has provided steady leadership through a period of significant change in animal health policy and emerging disease risks.

Throughout his tenure, Dr. Lehman strengthened relationships across government, industry, academia, and the veterinary profession. Under his guidance, the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian evolved from a two-person team to an expanded unit that now includes Livestock Traceability and Animal Welfare, reflecting Alberta's growing need for coordinated animal health oversight.

Emergency preparedness and disease response have been central to his work. Dr. Lehman advanced Alberta's readiness for foreign animal disease outbreaks—particularly African swine fever—and led key planning efforts for highly pathogenic avian influenza in dairy cattle. He provided calm, collaborative leadership during major events, including the 2015 Salmonella Enteritidis outbreak, the 2019 porcine epidemic diarrhea outbreak, and the ongoing avian influenza outbreak that began in 2022.

Nationally, Dr. Lehman has served in several influential roles, including Chair of the Council of Chief Veterinary Officers and Co-Chair of Animal Health Canada. His leadership has helped shape national policy on issues such as chronic wasting disease, antimicrobial resistance, and One Health collaboration.

Dr. Lehman has also been a strong advocate for the veterinary profession, contributing to the expansion of the University of Calgary's veterinary program, the re-establishment of diagnostic services in Alberta, and strengthened partnerships with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association and the

University of Calgary – Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

We extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Lehman for his exceptional service and unwavering commitment to Alberta's animal health system. His leadership, integrity, and collaborative spirit have left a lasting legacy.

Dr. Lehman will continue in his role over the coming months to support a smooth and comprehensive transition for incoming CPV, Dr. Hussein Keshwani, before concluding his distinguished career with the Government of Alberta in June 2026.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Keshwani to his new role and in thanking Dr. Lehman for his many contributions. We look forward to Hussein's continued leadership and the vision he will bring to Alberta's animal health and welfare systems. Over the coming weeks, he will be connecting with partners across government and industry, and I appreciate your support as he transitions into this important position.

Sincerely,

Bruce Hamblin

Executive Director

Animal Health and Assurance Branch

Agriculture and Irrigation

Tel 403-948-8510

Cell 403-586-4919

The logo for the Government of Alberta, featuring the word "Alberta" in a stylized, cursive font. The letter "a" at the end of the word is replaced by a small blue square.

Classification: Protected A



Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133

Box 389 Spirit River, Alberta T0H 3G0 Telephone (780) 864-3500

E-mail: mdsr133@mdspiritriver.ab.ca

January 8, 2026

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

RE: Support for Saddle Hills County Regarding Proposed On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) License Amendments

Dear Minister Sigurdson,

On behalf of the Municipal District of Spirit River #133 Agriculture Service Board, I am writing to express our support for the concerns outlined by Saddle Hills County regarding the recent proposed amendments to the On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) License program.

Producers within our municipality, much like those across the Peace Region, rely on the OFSO program as an essential component of their agricultural operations. Many have made significant investments in infrastructure, training, and compliance in good faith under the existing framework. Proposed limitations—such as previously discussed annual slaughter thresholds—risk undermining the economic viability of these operations and could unintentionally limit local food availability and consumer choice in rural Alberta.

We also share concerns that recent consultation efforts, including survey-based engagement, may not fully capture the practical and operational realities faced by OFSO license-holders. Meaningful, direct dialogue with producers and relevant working groups is critical to ensuring that any program changes are balanced, informed, and aligned with the original intent of supporting local food systems.

The MD of Spirit River ASB strongly supports a collaborative approach and respectfully requests that the Government of Alberta engage directly with OFSO license-holders prior to implementing further amendments. Doing so would help ensure regulatory outcomes that protect food safety while sustaining rural livelihoods and local food resilience.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We appreciate your continued attention to the needs of Alberta's agricultural communities.

Sincerely,

Jesse Meyer, Chairman
Municipal District of Spirit River #133 Agriculture Service Board

cc:

Hon. Joseph Schow, Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade, and Immigration
Hon. Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta
Agricultural Service Boards Provincial Committee

Winter 2026 Working Well Workshop Series

Water Well Management for Well Owners

Get information and resources on how to manage and protect your water well. The key to a safe, secure water supply is proper well management - learn how at these free virtual workshops.

Workshop 1:

Getting to know your well

February 18, 6:30-8:00pm

Topics covered: Groundwater 101, How Your Well Works and Understanding your Drilling Report

Workshop 2:

Maintaining and managing your well

February 25, 6:30-8:00pm

Topics covered: Common Well Problems, Identifying Contamination Risks and Shock Chlorination

Workshop 3:

Sampling, testing and treating well water

March 4, 6:30-8:00pm

Topics covered: Taking Water Samples, Testing and Water Treatment Options

Register here: [Working Well - Resources | Alberta.ca](#)



**WORKING
WELL**

Clean water.
Well protected.

Alberta

From: [Kerriane Koehler-Munro](#) on behalf of [AGI ASB Program](#)
To: [Krista deMilliano](#); [Gayah Sieusahai](#); [Kellie Jackson](#); [Khalil Ahmed](#); [Hannah McKenzie](#); [Trevor Wallace \(AGI\)](#); [Alan Efetha](#); [Deanne Madsen](#); [Pervez Sunderani](#); [Naveen Arora](#); [Shawn Elgert](#); [Kerriane Koehler-Munro](#); [Stephanie Cerny](#)
Cc: [John Conrad](#); [Angela Rideout](#); [marcia hewitt fisher](#); [Doug Macaulay](#)
Subject: Updated Regulated Weeds
Date: February 6, 2026 3:42:36 PM
Attachments: [Weed Control Regulations Summary Tables of Changes.pdf](#)

Sent on behalf of the ASB Program

Classification: Protected A

From: Krista deMilliano <Krista.deMilliano@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2026
Subject: Updated Regulated Weeds

Dear Agricultural Fieldmen and staff,

On behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, I am pleased to share that the updated regulated weeds list has now been finalized. These revisions reflect current distribution trends, emerging risk assessments and the collective expertise contributed through engagement. A summary of the changes is attached, and the full updated list in the *Weed Control Act* Regulation is now available for your reference through [Alberta King's Printer](#).

We recognize that some municipalities may experience conflicts between the updated list and existing local conditions or management priorities. As always, municipalities retain the ability to create or amend local bylaws to address specific concerns or to regulate additional species as needed to support effective weed management within your jurisdiction. If there is an active provincial Weed Notice on a removed weed, the Weed Notice is now unenforceable.

Additionally, we would like to highlight that hybrids for select species of hawkweeds, burdock and knapweed have now been added to the updated list. Testing for potential hybrid species is available through the Alberta Plant Health Lab. For information on sample submission and testing, please contact the lab directly at planthealthlab@gov.ab.ca

We are working closely with the Alberta Invasive Species Council on updates to education materials such as the Invasive Plants of Alberta guide and factsheets. As well, we will be updating the Alberta.ca website. Our goal is to have these updated ahead of the growing season.

We would like to extend our appreciation to all municipalities that provided input during the recent review of the regulated weeds list. We appreciate your continued collaboration and commitment to effective weed management throughout Alberta.

Please note we encourage you to share this update with your Agricultural Service Board.

If you have questions, please contact Gayah Sieusahai, Pest Regulatory Officer by e-mail:

gayah.sieusahai@gov.ab.ca or phone: (780) 903 1753.

Kind regards,
Krista

Krista deMilliano P.Ag
Chief Provincial Plant Health Officer
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
Cell: 780-909-6468
krista.demilliano@gov.ab.ca



Classification: Protected A

Weed Control Regulations – Summary of Proposed Changes	
Remove from Regulation (2 species)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creeping Bell Flower 2. Perennial Sowthistle
Reclassification from Prohibited Noxious to Noxious (12 species)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meadow Hawkweed 2. Mouse-ear Hawkweed 3. Orange Hawkweed 4. Bighead Knapweed 5. Black Knapweed 6. Brown Knapweed 7. Diffuse Knapweed 8. Hybrid knapweed 9. Meadow knapweed 10. Spotted knapweed 11. Squarrose knapweed 12. Tyrol knapweed
Addition of new weeds as Prohibited Noxious (17 species)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Palmer Amaranth 2. Common Hawkweed 3. European Hawkweed 4. Polar Hawkweed 5. Smooth Hawkweed 6. Spotted Hawkweed 7. Jimsonweed 8. Wall Hawkweed 9. Invasive Phragmites 10. Queen Anne’s Lace 11. African Rue 12. Alkali Swainsonpea 13. Black Swallowwort 14. Pale/European Swallowwort 15. Field Thesium 16. Ventenata 17. Tall Waterhemp
Addition of new weeds as Noxious (5 species)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kingdevil Hawkweed 2. Queendevil hawkweed 3. Tall Hawkweed 4. Whiplash Hawkweed 5. Yellowdevil Hawkweed
<p>Note: 34 species status quo at Prohibited Noxious, 27 species status quo at Noxious. For a total of 95 regulated weeds.</p>	



Her Worship, Thalia Hibbs
Mayor of the City of Lacombe
5432 56 Ave
Lacombe, AB T4L 1E9

John Ireland
Reeve, Lacombe County
RR3
Lacombe, AB T4L 2N3

Blaine Calkins, MP
Ponoka-Didsbury
5025 Parkwood Road
Blackfalds, AB T0M 0J0

Jennifer Johnson, MLA
Lacombe-Ponoka
10800 97 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

February 2, 2026

BY EMAIL

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Right Honourable Heath MacDonald
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
1341 Baseline Road
Tower 7, Floor 8
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5

Subject: URGENT – Request to Reverse Closure of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre

Dear Prime Minister and Minister,

We are writing to express our profound concern and disappointment regarding the announced closure of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre in Lacombe, Alberta.

For 119 years, this institution has served as a cornerstone of agricultural innovation, scientific advancement, and community identity in Central Alberta and indeed, across Western Canada. The decision to close a facility with such a long history of independent, public-interest research is short-sighted and will have far-reaching consequences for food security, climate resilience, and agricultural productivity.

Importantly, the Lacombe Centre is not a legacy site. It is actively delivering high-value, applied research today - over \$5 million in research projects in recent years, with multiple projects underway through late 2026. This includes work on disease resistance and monitoring, production efficiency, crop and livestock genetics, and practical pathways that support a net-zero beef target. In a Canada that is focused on strengthening food security, innovation, and climate-smart agriculture, eliminating this capacity moves in the wrong direction.

In these turbulent times of geopolitical unrest, it is more critical than ever to distinguish ourselves by producing the highest quality food. We do this by investing in research that elevates Canadian products to the highest possible standard. With the current tariff and trade war climate, we need to invest in research and development more than ever to minimize the impact of countervailing duties.

We are aware of the need for the federal government to spend judiciously with an eye to addressing ever-increasing deficits. However, investments in agricultural research are investments in our country's future, and as such, they should be sustained, not cut.

The planned closure, impacting over 110 employees and their families, represents a loss that cannot be reversed. The unique infrastructure, specialized land base, and long-term trials, including the collection of decades of vital, uninterrupted data, cannot simply be transferred or replicated elsewhere without permanently undermining their value.

The City of Lacombe and Lacombe County are relatively small, rural communities. Absorbing a closure of this magnitude here is not comparable to similar decisions in larger centres with far more diverse economies and labour markets. For us, the Centre is not only part of our identity as agricultural communities, but also a meaningful pillar of local employment and economic stability.

By losing this Centre, Canadian producers will lose trusted, independent, science-based information needed to make informed decisions on crop and livestock management, emerging risks, and long-term sustainability.

We urgently request that the federal government:

1. **Pause the planned closure** of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre.
2. **Engage with local governments** (Lacombe County and the City of Lacombe), agricultural stakeholders, and industry partners to fully assess the long-term economic, scientific, and community impacts of this decision.
3. **Reconsider this decision** and maintain funding for this crucial piece of Canadian agricultural infrastructure.

We must prioritize investments that support our farmers and producers and, by extension, Canada's food security and national economy.

Finally, we would like to extend an invitation for you to visit our community and tour the Lacombe Research and Development Centre to see firsthand the work being done and the positive impacts it has in our region.

For the reasons noted above, we ask you to reconsider the decision to close the Lacombe Research and Development Centre. This institution has nobly served the agriculture community for the past 119 years. The research currently being conducted at this facility today is more valuable than it ever has been.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Her Worship, Thalia Hibbs
Mayor of the City of Lacombe



John Ireland
Reeve, Lacombe County



Jennifer Johnson, MLA
Lacombe-Ponoka

Blaine Calkins, MP
Ponoka-Didsbury