



AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 19, 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**
February 18, 2026 Board Minutes
 - 4. Introductions**
None

5. Reports

5.1 Agricultural Services Administration Report Page 8

5.2 Agricultural Services Extension Report Page 10

6. Board Member Report

6.1 CFIA Traceability Updates - Resolution Responses - Board Member Nielsen (verbal)

7. Board's Request for Information

None

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

8.1 RFD Pest and Nuisance Control Policy Page 25

8.2 RFD - ASB Representation at Wheatland Summer Tour 2026 Page 28

9. New Business

9.1 Ag Water Well Monitoring and Policy Page 30

9.2 Weed Matrix and Correspondence Page 32

9.3 Veterinary Mentorship Program Page 46

9.4 Pasture Rejuvenation Workshop Page 49

9.5 Attendance Battle River Research Group AGM March 26, 2026, 10 am Halkirk Page 50

9.6 Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors Resolution Response Page 52

9.7 Absinth Wormwood Bylaw Page 55

10. Correspondence

10.1 Brazeau County - Support for Unlimited On-Farm Slaughter Operations (OFSO) Page 57

10.2 Clearwater County - Federal Funding Cuts to Agriculture Letter Page 58

11. Finance

12. Workshops and Events

12.1 Shelterbelt Workshop March 19, 2026 5:30-9pm Stettler Rec Center

12.2 Crop Disease Information Session March 26, 2026 9am-3pm Lacombe Memorial

12.3 Battle River Research Group AGM March 26, 2026 10am Halkirk

12.4 Wheatland County ASB Summer Tour July 14-16, 2026 Strathmore

13. In-Camera Session

Agricultural Pest Update

ATIA Section 23: Disclosure harmful to law enforcement

14. Next Meeting

15. Adjournment

**MINUTES OF THE COUNTY OF STETTLER NO. 6 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 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 (virtual)
Clint Walker, Vice Chairperson
Wade Hunter
Justin Stevens (virtual)
Harry Brook
Larry Clarke

Yvette Cassidy, Chief Administrative Officer
Cara McKenzie, Assistant Director of Operations
Andrew Brysiuk, Director of Municipal Services
Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations
Krista Schlender, Administrative Assistant (Minutes)

ABSENT: Lance Nielsen

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 by Vice Chairperson Walker.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

110.02.18.26 Moved by Harry Brook

“that the February 18, 2026 agenda for the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried Unanimously

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

111.02.18.26 Moved by Wade Hunter

“that the minutes from the January 7, 2025 Agricultural Service Board meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried Unanimously

112.02.18.26 Moved by Harry Brook

“that the minutes from the January 14, 2025 Special Meeting Agricultural Service Board meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried Unanimously

REPORTS

Agricultural Services Board Administration Report

Agricultural Services Extension Report

113.02.18.26 Moved by Justin Stevens

“that Agricultural Services Board Administration Reports dated for the February 18, 2026 Agricultural Services Board Meeting, be received for information.”

Carried Unanimously

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Report from the Chair

114.02.18.26 Moved by Wade Hunter

“that Report from the Chair dated for the February 18, 2026 be received for information.”

Carried Unanimously

CFIA Traceability Updates – Resolution Responses – Board Member Nielsen (verbal)

115.02.18.26 Moved by Wade Hunter

“that County of Stettler No 6. Agricultural Services Board table the CFIA Traceability Updates - Resolutions Responses - Board Member Nielsen until the next meeting.”

Carried Unanimously

BOARD’S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Agricultural Drone Spraying

116.02.18.26 Moved by Harry Brook

“that County of Stettler No 6. Agricultural Services Board receives the Agricultural Drone Spraying for information.”

Carried Unanimously

Compound 1080 Information Report

117.02.18.26 Moved by Harry Brook

“that County of Stettler No 6. Agricultural Services Board directs Administration to discontinue the use and sale of the Compound 1080.”

Carried Unanimously

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Strategic Plan Memo

118.02.18.26 Moved by Allan Gano

“that County of Stettler No 6. Agricultural Services Board provide feedback to Administration for the ASB Strategic Plan by March 4, 2026 and directs Administration to provide a draft document to the Board at the next meeting”

Carried Unanimously

Larry Clarke joined the meeting at 10:51 am.

NEW BUSINESS

Rodenticide Sales

119.02.18.26 Moved by Allan Gano

“that County of Stettler No 6. Agricultural Services Board directs Administration to no longer provide retail sale of rodenticide and continue to advocate for the use of strychnine”

In Favour: Stevens, Walker, Hunter, Clarke, Gano

Opposed: Hunter

Request for Decision – Beaver Control Policy

120.02.18.26 Moved by Harry Brook

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board recommend Policy 3.06 as presented and share with Council for approval.”

Carried Unanimously

Request for Decision – Pest & Nuisance Control

121.02.18.26 Moved by Larry Clarke

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Table the Request for Decision Pest & Nuisance Control Policy until the next ASB meeting.”

Carried Unanimously

Grain Bag Collection Stats

122.02.18.26 Moved by Larry Clarke

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board continue with the current Grain Bag Collection program and reevaluate at a future date.”

Carried Unanimously

Expression of Interest 2026 Provincial Agricultural Service Board

Summer Tour - Memo

123.02.18.26 Moved by Allan Gano

“that the County of Stettler Agricultural Services Board send 3 Board members and 1 staff member as delegates to the 2026 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour.”

Carried Unanimously

Request for Decision – Rescheduling of March 2026 Meeting

124.02.18.26 Moved by Harry Brook

“that County of Stettler Agricultural Services Board reschedules the March 18, 2026 10:00 am Agricultural Services Board Meeting to March 19, 2026 10:00 am”

Carried Unanimously

CORRESPONDECE

125.02.18.26 Moved by Allan Gano

“that Agricultural Services Board receive the Correspondence as information.”

Carried Unanimously

FINANCE

Year-to-Date Financials (verbal)

All financials are meeting expectations.

126.02.18.26 Moved by Larry Clarke

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board receives the verbal Year-to-Date Financials as presented.”

Carried Unanimously

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

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

127.02.18.26 Moved by Larry Clarke

“that County of Stettler Agricultural Services Board receives the Workshops and Events for information.”

Carried Unanimously

IN-CAMERA SESSION

128.02.18.26 Moved by Larry Clarke

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board meeting enter into an in-camera session at 11:46 am, as permitted under the Alberta Access To Information Act, to discuss the following agenda items: Agricultural Services Board Communications *ATIA Section 28: Local body confidences.*”

Carried Unanimously

129.02.18.26 Moved by Wade Hunter

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board meeting exit the in-camera session at 11:57 am.”

Carried Unanimously

NEXT MEETING

The next Agricultural Services Board meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2026 at 10:00 am.

ADJOURNMENT

130.02.18.26 Moved by Harry Brook

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board meeting be adjourned at 11:57 am.”

Carried Unanimously

Chairperson

Manager of Agricultural Services

DRAFT

Agricultural Services Administration Report

Administration:

- Ongoing refinement of the Strategic Plan, including aligning departmental goals with organizational priorities, updating annual focus areas, and assessing existing policies to ensure they stay current, effective, and compliant with legislation and best practices.
- Grain Bag Collection for February included 3 on-farm pickups as part of the agricultural plastics recycling program, successfully collecting 16 grain bags from producers in February.
- Submitted a detailed set of updates for weed-mapping to improve accuracy, streamline data entry, and enhance usability for reporting. Catalis is now programming the changes, we should be able to field test in late March.
- Working on communication updates for seasonal programs, including weed control notices, agricultural initiatives, and awareness campaigns. The goal is to improve community engagement and ensure residents receive prompt and relevant information.
- Ag services staff took part in our ongoing responsibilities with the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF), including committee meetings, and contributions to initiatives that support agricultural program delivery.
- Reviewing and updating seasonal staff job descriptions to clarify expectations and ensure alignment with operational needs. Reviewing season onboarding and training to ensure prompt effective training of staff.
- Coordinating training for fulltime Ag staff in preparation for the upcoming season.
- Working closely with the Clearview Schools, and Christ the King Catholic School to promote the Classroom Ag Program. Historically there have been 3-4 classes enrolled annually, for 2026 we have approximately 20 classes scheduling for March and April.
- Spring equipment preparation is moving forward nicely, the three-point sprayer is nearly ready for gravel-pit work, and upgrades to the UTV sprayer skid and grass seeder will speed up changeovers. Using the GPS-enabled UTV for seeding will boost accuracy and help avoid overlap and skips. Working of software updates for the spray trucks, should be ready for testing by end of March.

- Updated Richardson Ground Squirrel Information packages and distributed to local suppliers to hand out with bait purchases. Created a “how to” video for setting up bait stations as well shared information on best practices on Facebook.
- Working to promote twine collection with local distributors, setting up twine bag stands so twine bags can be handed out with twine purchases.
- Finalized webpage updates, postings expected by the end of March.

Agricultural Services Extension Report

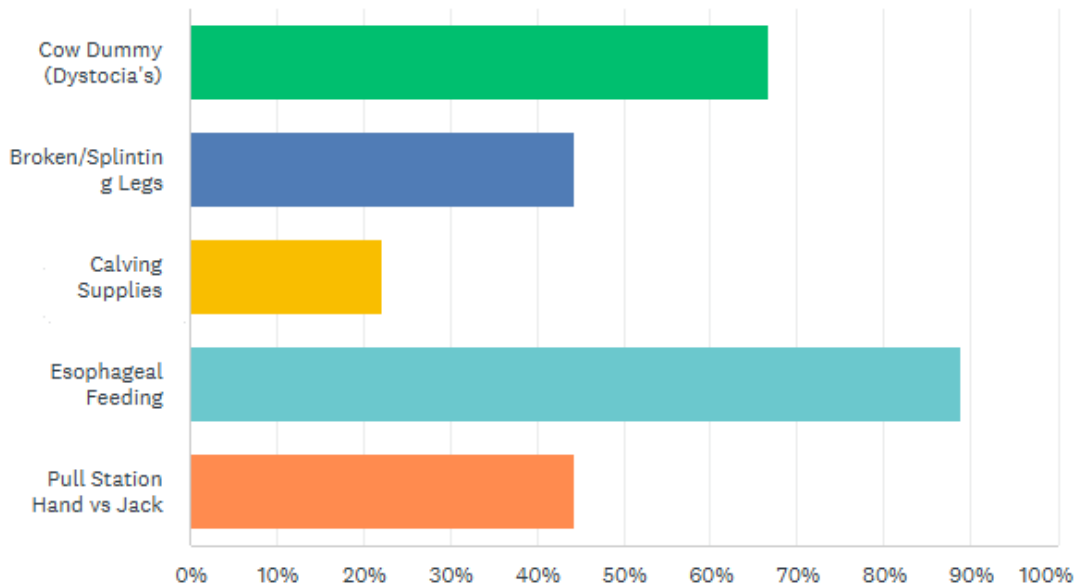
WORKSHOPS:

Red Willow Calving Clinic – February 5, 2026

The Stettler Veterinary Clinic sent out a post workshop survey following the calving clinic – all 11 respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with the overall format of the workshop, found it to be extremely informative or informative, and 90% of respondents shared that they are very likely to attend future events/clinics hosted by the Stettler Vet Clinic and the County of Stettler. Half of the respondents heard about this event from word of mouth and the others were informed by social media. In the future people would like to see workshops on diagnosing sick calves, more pulling strategies, heard management, vaccine protocols, acupuncture, and cattle first aid. [Survey results.](#)

Which station did you find most beneficial? Select all that apply.

Answered: 9 Skipped: 2



Battle River Research Group Environmental Farm Plan 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. Four producers worked on their EFP's – one producer is already completed their workbook.

Alberta Invasive Species Council Conference – March 10-12, 2026

Sessions on the first day focused on pesticide application technologies such as spray drones, safety and PPE, surface water monitoring, spray notification regulations, and emerging invasive pests. The following days highlighted invasive species management, including climate-adaptive strategies, invasive grass control, prescribed fire and herbicide use, rangeland restoration, legislative updates, monitoring tools, and management of aquatic invasives, forest pests, wildlife disease, and Alberta's wild boar control program.

Shelterbelt Workshop – March 19, 2026

33 people registered to attend. Presentation by Toso Bozic on shelterbelt planning, establishment, maintenance, and tree health, with 15% discount incentive offered to County residents.

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

Educational Agricultural Tour – May 28, 2026

Met with Stettler Ag Society to Coordinate planning of field trip stations – 5 different agricultural stations. Outreach to teachers to schedule the Classroom Agriculture Program primer presentations – potentially up to 15 presentations set to be scheduled from March 23 – April 10 (Spring Break March 30 – April 3). Coordination of bussing and transport. Tour is hoping to have around 180 Students from the County of Stettler Clearview Public and Christ-King Catholic Schools.

PROGRAMMING:

2026 Shelterbelt Program – deadline March 31, 2026

Partnership with Echoglen Gardens facilitating tree ordering and specific species offered for increased success (advertisement below). Order here: <https://www.shopechoglengardens.com/shelterbelt-program/>

Richardson’s Ground Squirrel (Gopher) Control Factsheets

Distributed 60 copies each of the factsheet (attached) focused on best management strategies and integrated controls for Richardson’s Ground Squirrel (Gopher) Control to two rodenticide retailers in Stettler (UFA Farm Supply and Central Alberta Ag Supply).

Shelterbelt Tree Planting Guide

Created detailed guide to assist with shelterbelt tree site preparation, layout, transport, planting, watering, maintenance and general success. This guide (attached below) will be distributed on social media, County website, shared directly with shelterbelt workshop attendees, and has been shared with Echoglen Gardens to share with tree order customers and as general information.

ASB Agricultural Bursary – deadline April 15, 2026

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=>

Environmental Farm Plan Program

4 EFP Workbooks approved this year so far. 5 new users registered since February 23, 2026. Staff will likely coordinate another EFP session with these users in late March/early April.

OUTREACH:

Scheduled Promotion

Teir 1 Richardson’s Ground Squirrel Bait Station pre-baiting tutorial video reel.


ASB Social Outreach Summary (February 10, 2026 – March 13, 2026)

80 total posts on Facebook and 7 Newsflash Website updates year to date.

Date	Platform	Topic / Purpose
11-Feb-26	Facebook	Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Workshop Promotion
11-Feb-26	Facebook	2026 Working Well Webinar Series Promotion
12-Feb-26	Facebook	ASB Bursary Advertisement
13-Feb-26	Facebook	2026 Working Well Webinar Series Promotion
14-Feb-26	Facebook	On-Farm Climate Action Fund Funding Ad
14-Feb-26	Facebook	ASB Bursary Advertisement
14-Feb-26	Facebook	Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Workshop Promotion
16-Feb-26	Facebook	2026 Working Well Webinar Series Promotion
16-Feb-26	Facebook	Crop Diseases Information Session Promotion
16-Feb-26	Facebook	On-Farm Climate Action Fund Funding Ad
17-Feb-26	Facebook	Shelterbelt Workshop Promotion

18-Feb-26	Facebook	On-Farm Climate Action Fund Funding Ad
19-Feb-26	Facebook	Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Workshop Promotion
22-Feb-26	Facebook	Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Workshop Promotion
25-Feb-26	Email	Upcoming Workshops
25-Feb-26	Email	Crop Disease Workshop - Lacombe Information
25-Feb-26	Facebook	Shelterbelt Workshop Promotion
26-Feb-26	Facebook	Producer Research and Evaluation Project Program Ad
27-Feb-26	Facebook	Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Workshop Promotion
27-Feb-26	Facebook	Crop Diseases Information Session Promotion
27-Feb-26	Facebook	ASB Bursary Advertisement
27-Feb-26	Facebook	On-Farm Climate Action Fund Funding Updates Ad
01-Mar-26	Facebook	Producer Research and Evaluation Project Program Ad
03-Mar-26	In-Person	Richardson's Ground Squirrel Control Factsheet to Retailers
03-Mar-26	Facebook	On-Farm Climate Action Fund Funding Updates Ad
04-Mar-26	Facebook	Shelterbelt Workshop Promotion
04-Mar-26	Website (Newsflash)	Cleanfarms Great Twine Round-Up
04-Mar-26	Facebook	Cleanfarms Great Twine Round-Up
05-Mar-26	Facebook	Producer Research and Evaluation Project Program Ad
05-Mar-26	Facebook	Cleanfarms Great Twine Round-Up
06-Mar-26	Facebook	Cleanfarms Great Twine Round-Up
06-Mar-26	Facebook	Grain Bag Rolling Video Ad
07-Mar-26	Facebook	Shelterbelt Workshop Promotion
08-Mar-26	Facebook	On-Farm Climate Action Fund Funding Updates Ad
09-Mar-26	Facebook	Shelterbelt Workshop Promotion
09-Mar-26	Facebook	Cleanfarms Great Twine Round-Up
09-Mar-26	Website (Newsflash)	Gopher Control Tips
10-Mar-26	Facebook	Crop Diseases Information Session Promotion
10-Mar-26	Facebook	Gopher Control Tips - Life Cycle
10-Mar-26	Facebook	Gopher Control Tips - Management
11-Mar-26	Facebook	Shelterbelt Workshop Promotion
11-Mar-26	Facebook	Gopher Control Tips - Management
11-Mar-26	Facebook	On-Farm Climate Action Fund Funding Ad
11-Mar-26	Facebook	ASB Bursary Advertisement
12-Mar-26	Facebook	Cleanfarms Great Twine Round-Up
12-Mar-26	Facebook	Ag Services 2025 Year-in-Review Video
13-Mar-26	Facebook	On-Farm Climate Action Fund Funding Ad
13-Mar-26	Facebook	Gopher Control Tips - Rodenticide

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.

TO REGISTER:

☎ 403.782.8959

✉ jmakus@lacombecounty.com














Figure 1. Information Session on Crop Diseases Poster



SHELTERBELT PROGRAM 2026

NEW 2026 partnership with Echoglen Gardens!

Orders open until March 31, 2026.



-  Species selected for success
-  Larger trees for more vigor
-  Potential for bulk discounts

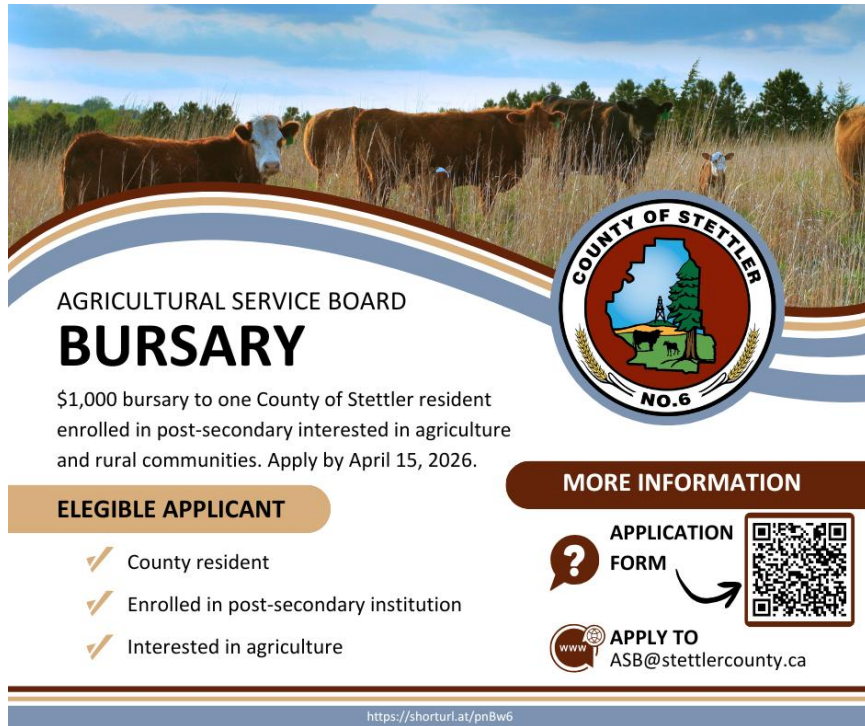
15% Shelterbelt Workshop
discounts available!
2026 Details Coming Soon.




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

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

Figure 2. Shelterbelt Program Advertisement



The poster features a background image of several brown cows in a grassy field under a blue sky. A decorative banner with blue, white, and brown stripes curves across the middle. On the right side, there is a circular seal for the County of Stettler, No. 6, which includes a map of the county, a tree, and a house. The text is arranged in a clear, organized layout with distinct sections for eligibility and application information.

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/pnBw6>

Figure 3. ASB Bursary Program Poster

2026 OFCAF PROGRAM UPDATES FOR ALBERTA PRODUCERS

KEY PROGRAM CHANGES:

- Apply from February 1, 2026 to March 31, 2028 (extended from March 15)
- 2026 intake opens April 10, 2026
- Up to 85% cost-share with \$100,000 maximum per farm
- \$2,500 minimum project cost

NEW FOR 2026:

- Cover crop drone seeding (50% up to \$20,000, 80+ acres)
- Virtual fencing for cattle (Halter/Gallagher systems only)
- Amendment BMP (\$20,000/year, \$20,000 total)

ELIGIBLE BMPs:

- Nitrogen management (adding perennial legumes or nitrogen stabilizers)
- Cover cropping (fall seeded cropping)
- Rotational grazing (cross fencing, virtual collars, watering systems)



⚠️ No double funding (e.g., can't stack with RALP or funding partners).
<https://rdar.ca/funding-opportunities/ofcaf>



Producer Research & Evaluation Project (PREP)

Interested in on-farm trials? Test new ideas with PREP!

This program is designed to assess feasibility and value
— not fund full-scale implementation.

Projects focused on testing or evaluating innovations, including:

- New or emerging practices, products, or technologies (or new to Alberta)
- Adapting existing practices to improve performance or suit regional conditions
- Evaluating performance, implementation methods, and economic feasibility



Funded project in Byemoor

- Evaluating the effectiveness and cost of Wyoming snow fences for enhancing snowmelt runoff and dugout recharge.

- Up to \$20,000 per project
- 60% RDAR grant / 40% producer



On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)

Apply February 1 - March 15, 2026 ★ 6-week intake

CORE PROJECTS



Nitrogen Management



Cover Cropping



Rotational Grazing

1. Merit-based review (not first-come, first-served)
2. Retroactive expenses accepted from Feb 1, 2025
3. Approvals expected by May
4. Projects complete by Nov 30, 2026
5. Applications to date: 20



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

Gopher Control Tips - Life Cycle

Gophers prefer open, well-drained areas with short vegetation for improved predator visibility.

TIP: Maintain taller vegetation in pastures and fields to limit visibility and discourage gophers!

Gophers are only active for about 16 weeks per year!

20-36 weeks of hibernation

- Adult males: late February to mid-June
- Adult females: early March to early July
- Young (6-7 per litter): May to October
- Adults hibernate by early summer
- Juveniles stay active for 1-2 months after adults

Don't wait for May-June damage spikes control ground squirrels early!



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

Gopher Control Tips - Management

Vacant burrows are quickly filled, colonies can migrate and repopulate if burrow systems remain intact.

Consider covering vacant burrows to limit immigration.



Predators can cause up to 50% population reduction!

TIP: Consider nesting platforms or alter livestock practices to increase coexistence.

Grass isn't always Greener! Don't Delay

Best baiting control is in spring as green shoots emerge, before mating begins!

Humane control is best implemented before females give birth.



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

Gopher Control Tips - Rodenticide



PRE BAIT Offer untreated grain before rodenticide
Gophers get used to bait - improves uptake

DID YOU KNOW? Gophers get all their water from food!

Moist bait is more appealing, use new and fresh bait.
Avoid re-deploying used bait or old stocks.



CONSISTENCY IS KEY!

- Consecutive feeding is essential (need steady supply)
- Chlorophacinone (Rozol) must be eaten 3-5 days.
- Often 5-12 days of feeding for best results.
- Can take days after lethal ingestion for control.

Always follow the pesticide label considerations for use, and safety. Practice best management at all times. Avoid not target damages.

Figure 4. Social Media Posts



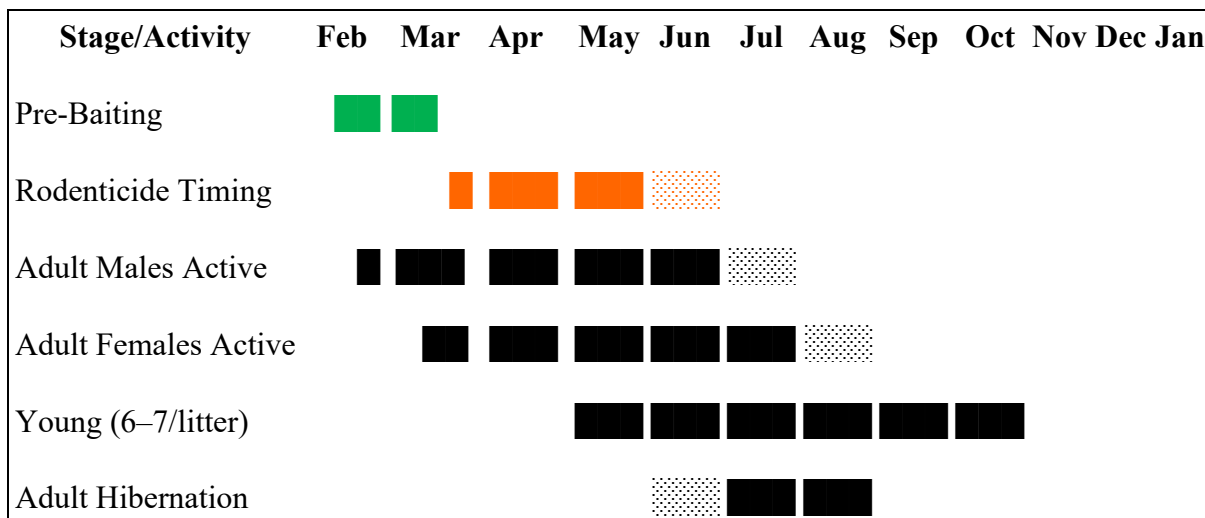
Richardson's Ground Squirrel (Gopher) Control

Rodenticide Stewardship & Best Management Practices

Responsible use protects future access to control products – always follow the label of pesticide products for information on use and effects. This guide is a general supplement to the product labels.

Know Your Target – Life Cycle & Timing

Ground squirrels are active ~16 weeks/year. Timing is critical.



Best Control Window:

Early spring – after adult emergence, before young are born and before grass greens up.
Avoid delays (May–June) – active young & abundant vegetation reduces bait effectiveness.

Rodenticide Use – Best Practices

Follow the pesticide label – it's the law.

Pre-Baiting:

- Helps gophers accept rodenticide and avoids bait shyness
- Offer **untreated grain first** to improve uptake
- Offer early in the spring when temperatures reach approx. +10 °C (or when you see early season gopher emergence) and continue for around 7 days.

Bait Placement & Feeding:

- Use **fresh, moist bait** – avoid using old or re-deployed bait
- Continuous feeding is key – avoid interruptions in bait access.

- Chlorophacinone (Rozol): 3–5 days minimum continuous feeding for results.
 - Often bait access of a minimum of 5–12 days for best results
- Zinc Phosphide (Oat Bait): Can control in one feeding within hours.

Fun Fact: Gophers get almost all their water from food – bait quality matters.

Protect Wildlife & Pets

Rodenticides can harm non-target species.

- Never apply near water
- Use **bait stations** where required – Tier 1 bait stations: Tamper-resistant, lockable, secured in place, weather-resistant, prevent bait access/spillage, and labeled with product info and poison warning symbol.
- Avoid surface baiting – place directed amount directly into hole
- Monitor treated areas & remove carcasses
- Keep pets & livestock away – if poisoning occurs consult product SDS and veterinarian.



Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Rodenticide alone is not enough. Best results come from using multiple control methods!

Habitat Management:

- Keep pastures/crops healthy
- Maintain taller vegetation in pastures/fields to discourage colonies.
- **Note:** Gophers prefer short vegetation as it allows for them to watch for predators.

Encourage Predators:

- Raptors & other predators reduce populations by **up to 50%**
- Install perches & nesting platforms for birds of prey (raptor, owl, and kestrel)
- Alter livestock practices to increase coexistence with predators like coyotes and badgers

Colony Management:

- **Monitor fields regularly** - control small populations early
- Cover vacant burrows to reduce recolonization
- Coordinate with neighbours – if possible

Trapping & Shooting:

- Best for small areas
- Labour-intensive



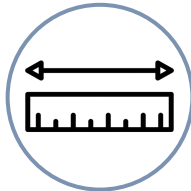
Shelterbelt Tree Planting Guide

Proper handling is key for seedling survival. They're sensitive to damage, moisture loss, and temperature changes, especially during transport and planting. The first 72 hours and 3 years are crucial for success.

Learn about the whole process to help plant for success - we are rooting for you!



Preparation



Layout



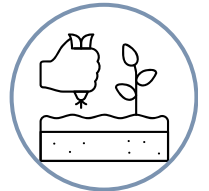
Transport



Planting



Watering



Control

Needing Help? We have rental equipment!



Tree Planter

- **Operation:** Machine plows a trench, operators manually place trees (2 seats), rollers close the trench.
- **Hydraulics:** One set required.
 - **Skid Steer:** Needs 1/2" pioneer-style couplers (flat face couplers must be swapped - provided).
 - **Tractor:** Minimum 30 HP.
- **Hitch:** Pin-style hitch for planting; ball hitch for transport (provided).

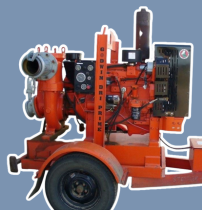


Plastic Mulch Applicator

- **Operation:** Lays 4-ft plastic mulch (provided) and anchors edges with soil. Works best on pre-tilled ground. Can be installed over planted trees and cut to fit around stems.
- **Hydraulics:** One set required. Minimum 30 HP.
- **Hitch:** Pin-style hitch.
- **Note:** This unit is shared between Camrose County, Starland County, and the County of Stettler.

Other Equipment Available:

- Spraying Equipment
- Water Pump and Hose
- Cattle Scale
- Skunk and Magpie Traps

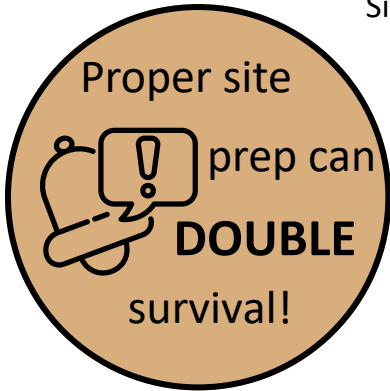


More Details: <https://www.stettlercounty.ca/143/Equipment-Rentals>

Site Preparation



Site preparation reduces weeds, improves growth, and will save on maintenance!



Soil Assessment

Use the [Alberta Soil Information Viewer](#) to determine your soil type!

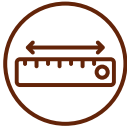
- **Sandy:** Drains fast—add mulch and water more
- **Clay:** Holds moisture but compacts—don't work when wet
- **Loam:** Best balance of drainage and moisture
- Avoid saline or high-pH soils

Existing Vegetation

- Prepare site one growing season ahead if possible
- Control grass and weeds—mowing alone isn't enough
- Tillage loosens soil and reduces root competition
- Use herbicides carefully; follow label directions to avoid tree damage
- Mix compost evenly into soil—don't concentrate in hole



Site Design and Layout



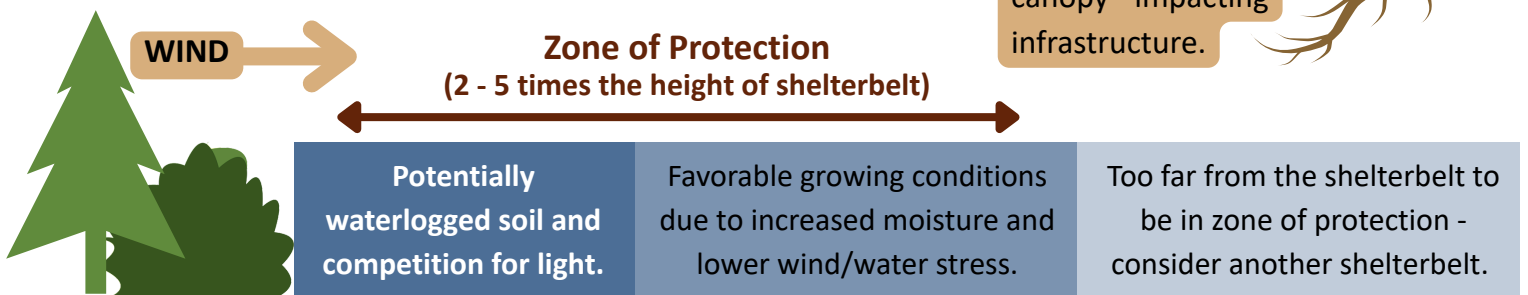
- Consider the tree's full-grown size (above and below ground).
 - Avoid planting under powerlines or too close to buildings.
- Use 2–5 rows of trees and shrubs for best protection.
- Between row spacing recommended minimum 6 m (20 ft.)
- Within-row spacing - depends on the species.
 - Trees: 2.5–3.5 m (8–12 ft)
 - Shrubs: ~1 m (3 ft)
- Denser spacing gives early protection but may require thinning later.
- Stagger rows to reduce gaps.
- Place shorter species/shrubs downwind to gradually reduce wind.
- Learn more about [Shelterbelts for farms in Alberta](#).

REMEMBER...

Keep records of

- planting dates
- species (variety)
- watering information

Roots can span 2 to 3 times the width of the tree canopy - impacting infrastructure.



Transport & Storage



General Handling

- Plant ASAP (24 - 74 hours); otherwise store cool, dark, and shaded areas.
- Keep roots cool and moist—not dry or waterlogged - use mist to water.
- Protect from heat, sun, and wind; never leave in open truck
- Handle by root ball/container, not stem

Cool is Key!



Trees are refrigerated in the nursery and pre-delivery

Try to mimic cool soil.

TIP: For long storage, use ice bags around boxes or trays.



1.



2.



3.



1. Bare Root Seedling - *most care needed*
2. Tree Plugs - *resilient but need protection*
3. Potted Trees - *most forgiving*

DO NOT

Allow roots to dry out—even briefly.

but

Don't soak roots in water!

Transport

- Pick up seedlings in early morning - if possible
- Transport in original trays; secure to prevent damage
- Use a vehicle with a cab and AC if possible; make seedlings your last stop before heading home
- Cover with a tarp or blanket to protect from the sun.
- Keep seedlings bundled and wrapped until planting

Short-Term Storage

- Store in a cool, dark place until planting (root cellar, garage, shed, or north side of a building).
- Temperatures of 1–4 °C are ideal
- Keep roots moist; mist if dry—do not soak
- Plant within 24–72 hours

At Planting

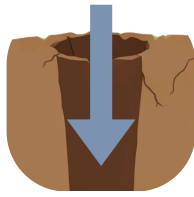
- Take only what you can plant within 1 hour
- Keep roots covered and moist—not in water
- Protect from sun and wind - seedlings should not sit in direct sun for any length of time
- Plant early morning or on cool, cloudy days
- Lift by root ball/container, not trunk

How to Plant



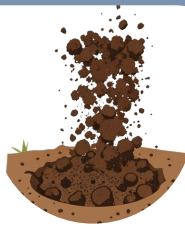
The Hole
2X

Dig hole twice as wide as the root ball of your tree seedling.



The Depth
=

Dig a hole to the root depth and plant with the root collar at ground level.



The Fill
<

Backfill with soil, breaking up clumps and packing gently to remove air pockets.

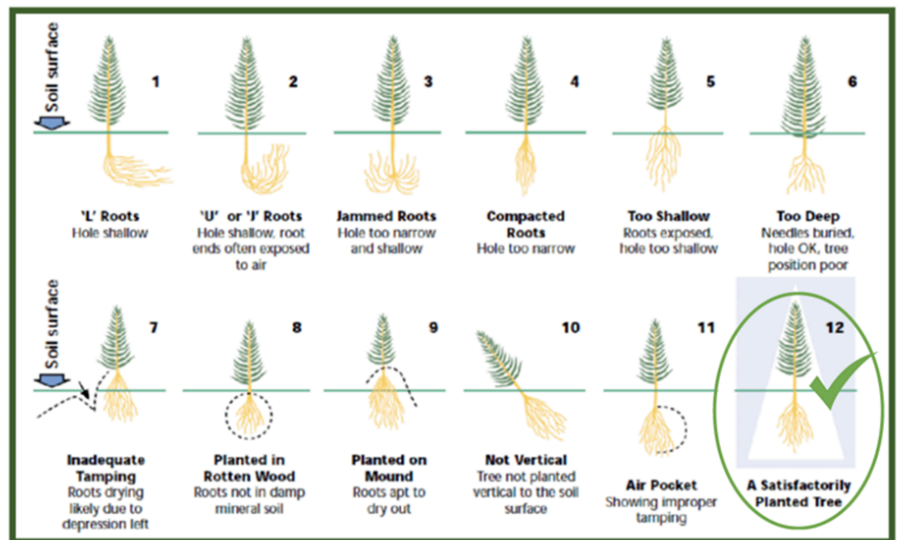
Planting too deep is a common cause of seedling death!

- Planting too deep can cause bark decay, trunk rot, girdling, delay growth or cause tree death
- Set root collar at ground level
- Only a thin layer of soil is needed above the seedling's soil.



Placing Seedling:

- Handle seedlings gently, holding by the root plug/soil, not the stem.
- Place the seedling in a wide hole with loose soil to allow roots to expand easily.
- Lower the seedling straight down—do not twist, bend, or force the roots
- Make sure the seedling is upright and centered.



Backfilling the Soil:

- Gently fill the hole with the original soil, keeping the seedling upright.
- Do not add compost or other soil amendments, as this can discourage roots from spreading.
- Break up large soil clumps before placing them back in the hole.
- Firm the soil lightly to remove large air pockets—do not pack tightly.
- Ensure the root collar remains level with the ground surface.
- Avoid burying leaves or stem tissue.
- Leave the soil slightly mounded to allow for natural settling.

Watering

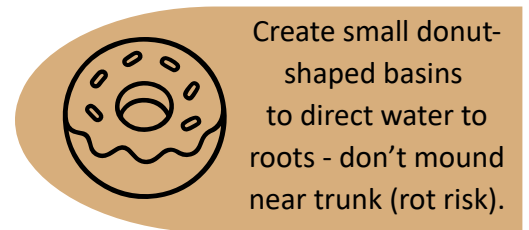
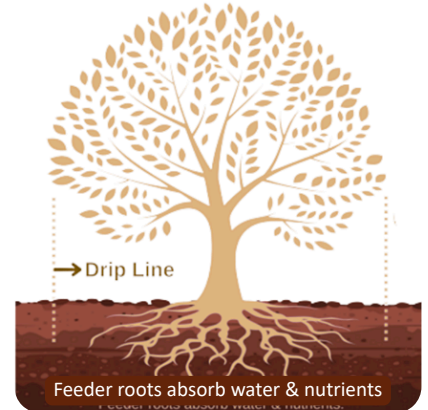


At Planting:

- Water deeply right after planting to settle soil and support roots
- Soak the soil to 15–30 cm (6–12") deep to encourage root growth

General Tips:


- Test water for high sodium
- Check soil moisture first – if the top 5–10 cm is dry, it's time to water. Avoid overwatering – soil should be moist, not saturated.
- Water at the base of the tree, not on the leaves.
 - When the tree matures focus at the drip line, not the trunk
- Water slowly so moisture soaks in rather than running off.
- Apply woodchip mulch to hold moisture
- Monitor closely and water more during hot, dry weather
- Reduce watering in fall, but give a final deep watering before freeze-up.



Watering Schedule:

- Weeks 1–2: Daily (small quantity)
- Weeks 3–8: Every 2-5 days
- After 8 weeks: Weekly until established
- Year 1: Water during dry periods
- Years 2–3: Water during heat and drought
- Late summer: Reduce watering
- Before freeze-up: Deep water

Avoid frequent shallow watering. This leads to shallow, weak roots that are vulnerable to drought



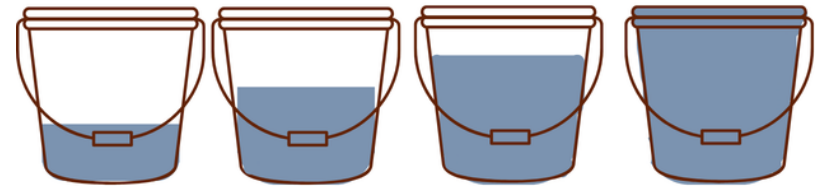
Slow watering methods work best:

- Pail with small holes
- Tree watering bags
- Slow trickle from hose
- Drip irrigation

How Much Water?

Depends on seedling size, soil, and weather.

1-inch trunk	2-inch trunk	3-inch trunk	4-inch trunk
5 L	10 L	15 L	20 L



In hot and windy weather or on sandy soils increase watering.

Mulch Matters!

Mulch helps retain moisture.
Use wood chips or shredded bark.
Apply 5–10 cm of mulch, ~60 cm in diameter, keeping it 5 cm away from the stem (donut shape - not volcano).



Check Ins - Signs and Symptoms:

- Signs of under-watering: wilting, yellowing, or browning leaves.
- Signs of overwatering: yellowing leaves that drop early or consistently soggy soil.
- If the tree is wilted, water thoroughly and observe.
 - If leaves perk up within a few hours, the tree needed water.
 - If leaves remain wilted, overwatering is likely the issue.

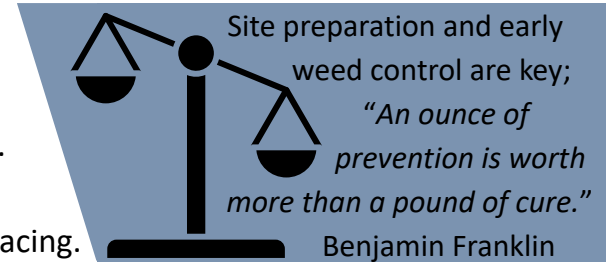
Weed & Grass Control



- Weed control is critical in dry areas - competes for limited moisture.
- Keep a weed-free zone 30–60 cm (12–24") around each seedling.
- Maintain weed control for the first 3 years, until trees are established.

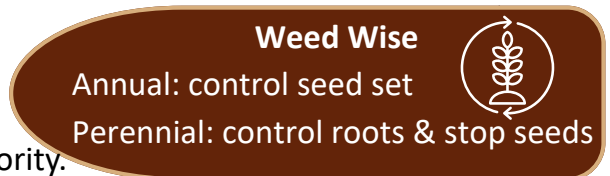
Prevention (Most Important):

- Start clean – control perennial weeds before planting trees.
- Use mulch immediately after planting to suppress germination.
- Avoid bringing in contaminated soil or mulch.
- Promote vigorous tree growth through proper watering and spacing.



Monitoring & Identification:

- Inspect regularly (spring and early summer are critical).
- Identify whether weeds — control strategies differ.
- Control deep-rooted perennials and invasive species early - priority.

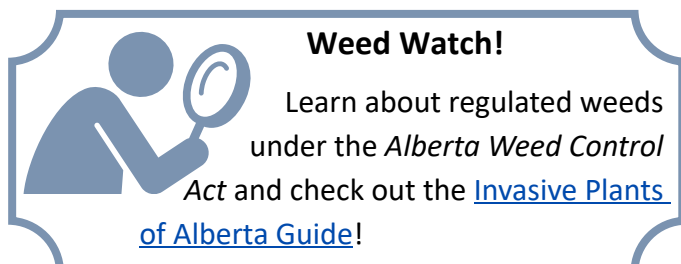


Mechanical Controls:

- Hand pulling when soil is moist (try to remove entire root system).
- Use mulch, landscape fabric, or plastic mulch to reduce light and suppress growth.
- Use caution tilling—young roots are shallow.
- Mowing between rows to reduce seed production (do not mow close to stems).

Chemical Controls (When Necessary):

- Use herbicides only when other methods are insufficient.
- Follow all label directions and provincial regulations.
- Consider timing applications when weeds are young and vulnerable.

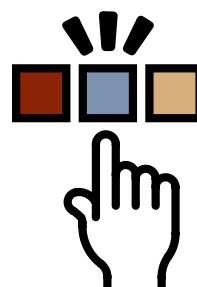


Get down to the root!

Taproot:
Can be hand pulled, but if it breaks plant may regrow needing further removal or spot treatment.
EX: Dandelion, Pigweed, Lamb's Quarters

Fibrous:
Easy to pull and common among annual species. Tillage can help control them, and repeated mowing can deplete their roots.
EX: Scentless Chamomile, Common Plantain

Creeping:
Hard to pull due to regrowth from root fragments and can deplete roots with frequent mowing. Chemical control requires caution.
EX: Canada Thistle, Quackgrass



Long-Term Takeaways:

- Prevent weeds from going to seed.
- Focus on consistent, early intervention rather than crisis control.
- Use integrated methods to prevent resistance and ease control.



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

March 19, 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 3.06
	Policy Name Pest and Nuisance Control		
	Approved By: Council	Approval Date September 1, 2005	Latest Revision March 19, 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.

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: ASB Representation at Wheatland Summer Tour 2026

Issue

That the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board select the Board's representatives for the Wheatland Summer Tour 2026.

Options for Consideration (Recommendation)

1. That the County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board authorize one staff member, Mr. Robert Klatt, or designate, and three Board Members _____, _____, and _____, to attend the Wheatland Summer Tour 2026.
2. That the County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board appoint one staff member, Mr. Robert Klatt, or designate, and three Board Members _____, _____, and _____, to attend, and further that _____ be appointed as an alternate should any of the appointed members be unable to attend the Wheatland Summer Tour 2026.
3. That the County of Stettler Agricultural Service Board not attend the Wheatland Summer Tour 2026.

General

The Board periodically considers opportunities for representation at events, meetings, and initiatives that support agricultural awareness, collaboration, and the ongoing work of the Board. Participation allows members and staff to stay informed, share local perspectives, and strengthen relationships with partners and stakeholders.

Financial

Agricultural Services Board Meetings incur financial costs of Staff and Board Member per diems, hotel accommodations and subsistence expenses.

Policy/Legislation

Agricultural Service Board Act, RSA 2000, c A-9, s 3

An agricultural service board shall, within the municipality for which it is established,

- (a) advise and assist the council of the municipality in carrying out the municipality's powers and duties under this Act and the regulations,
- (b) advise and assist the council of the municipality respecting agricultural and environmental matters,
- (c) coordinate and carry out agricultural programs, and
- (d) carry out any other functions assigned to it by the council of the municipality.

Implementation/Communication

The Board's decision will be communicated as directed.

Target Decision Date

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Prepared By

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

Reviewed By

Greg Jackson, Director of Operations



Memo

TO: Councillor Allan Gano ASB Chair
FROM: Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations
DATE: March 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Water Well Monitoring

With recent discussions regarding agricultural tank loaders and water-consumption monitoring, Administration has explored feasible options to support improved oversight. At this time, there are two potential vendors capable of supplying the required system. One vendor is not considered viable due to cost, while the other has strong reviews from neighbouring municipalities and appears well-suited to our specific needs.

If the Agricultural Service Board wishes to pursue a more formal approach to monitoring, this system would enable user tracking and support the development of a cost-recovery model. Such a model would help ensure long-term project viability while promoting the responsible use of the aquifer

Water Well Fill Station Quotes

Option A: WFS-LITE Quote Summary

Item	Details	Price/Rate
System hardware	Core WFS-LITE controller	\$3,000
Monthly service	Web-based admin portal (billed annually)	\$30 / month
One-time configuration fee	Initial programming and setup	\$500
Key fobs	Per user fob	\$15 each

Feature/Term	Information
Access & Control	Fob-only access; municipality manages users via web portal
Usage Tracking	Time-based metering; optional flow meter integration if flow is inconsistent

Payment Modes	Supports flat-fee or no-pay setups; can be upgraded later if charging resumes
Safety & Alerts	Automatic timed safety shut-offs; power-failure notifications
Compatibility	Works with existing water fill hardware
Availability	In stock; typically programs & ships within 5 business days after payment

Option B: New/Retrofit Station Quote

Item	Cost (CAD)	Details / Notes
New 2" Water General station	≈ \$60,000	Budgetary price for a new station.
Retrofit existing station (add flowmeter + access terminal)	\$25,000–\$30,000	Adds a flowmeter so the access terminal can track water dispensed per tote.
Software subscription (annual) — up to 2 stations	\$2,400/year	Annual software fee for up to two stations.
Software subscription (annual) — more than 2 stations	\$3,600/year	Annual software fee when you have more than two stations.
Access control & volume limits	Included (no separate price listed)	Up to 9,998 users with PINs; per-user and site-wide volume limits.
Optional: Credit-card payment integration	Optional (no price listed)	Can integrate a credit-card payment system at the access terminal.



Memo

TO: Councillor Allan Gano ASB Chair

FROM: Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations

DATE: March 19, 2026

SUBJECT: Weed Scoring Matrix and Communications

Administration has developed a more structured and consistent approach to weed inspections and ratepayer communications. Our objective is to ensure protocols support a fair, transparent, and uniform process while aligning with the priorities and strategic direction of the Agricultural Service Board. The following documents outline the proposed correspondence process and scoring matrix.



I.N.S.P.E.C.T.

INSPECTOR'S NEXT STEP PER ESTABLISHED COMMUNICATION TABLE

POINTS PER WEED SPECIES

Weed Infestation Area	0 0 - 0.59 acres	1 0.6 - 2.49 acres	3 2.5 - 9.9 acres	6 10 - 39.9 acres	10 40 - 160 acres
Required m² Counts	2 m ² Counts	3 m ² Counts	4 m ² Counts	5 m ² Counts	8 m ² Counts

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Average Plants Per Square Meter	1 < 0.33	2 0.34 - 0.66	3 0.67 - 0.99	4 1 - 1.99	5 2.0-3	6 > 3
Severity	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Serious	Severe	Extreme

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Located Within 10 m of:	0 Center of Property	2 Property Line	3 Riparian or Sensitive Area
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Historical Activity of Case File:	0 Proactive / New	1 Complacent	3 Dismissive
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Weed Infestation: (polygon size)	-2 Decreasing	0 Different Area / New	2 Static	4 Increasing
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Weed Species:	-3 Absinthe Wormwood	-2 Canada Thistle	0 Noxious*	2 Uncommon Noxious	20 Prohibited Noxious
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Previous Communication:	0 None / Verbal	1 Information Package	3 Compliance Letter	3 Notice
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Noxious* includes noxious weeds known to be present in the County of Stettler.
Uncommon Noxious includes all other regulated noxious weeds.

TOTAL POINTS*

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ESTABLISHED COMMUNICATION TABLE

POINTS	NEXT STEP
1 - 9	Door Hanger or verbal communication with Landowner / Occupant as needed
10 - 14	Information Package: Flyer, Inspection Report, Fact Sheet(s), Weed Management Information Sheet
15- 19	Compliance Letter: Inspection Report, Fact Sheet(s), Weed Management Information Sheet
20 & up	Inspector's Notice, Inspection Report, Fact Sheet(s), Weed Management Information Sheet

Inspector's Notice Action Deadline

							POINTS PER WEED SPECIES		
Notice Delivery:	0			2					
	Mail			In Person (18+)					
Growth State:	1	2	3	4	5	6			
	Rosette	Bolt	Seed Dispersal	Seed Fruit	Bud	Flower			
Species:	0		2		3				
	Noxious		Uncommon Noxious		Prohibited Noxious				
Located Within 10m of:	0		2		3				
	Center of Property		Property Line		Riparian or Sensitive Area				
Historical Activity of Case File:	0		1		3				
	Proactive / New		Complacent		Dismissive				
Inspection Month:	0	1	2	6	8	10			
	Oct - April	May	June	July	August	September			
Weather:	1	2	3	4					
	Rain / Windy	Cool / Cloudy	Sunny / Cool	Sunny / Warm					
The weed species with the highest total points will determine the action deadline. Notices sent out after September 21 should be dated June 30 of the following year							TOTAL POINTS		

ACTION DEADLINE TABLE	
POINTS	NEXT STEP
1 - 4	5 weeks from the Thursday following the inspection date
5 - 9	4 weeks from the Thursday following the inspection date
10 - 14	3 weeks from the Thursday following the inspection date
15 +	2 weeks from the Thursday following the inspection date

Door Hanger Template



Agricultural Services Weed Inspection Program

A County of Stettler Weed Inspector visited your property as part of our Weed Inspection Program, conducted under the *Alberta Weed Control Act*.

Routine inspections help identify and control regulated weeds to protect agriculture, natural areas, and neighbouring properties.

At the time of this visit:

- No concerns were observed
- Weeds were observed on the property
- Follow-up may be required

If you have questions about this inspection, need help identifying weeds, or would like information about control options, please contact:

County of Stettler Agricultural Services

403-742-4441

asb@stettlercounty.ca

Date of Visit: _____

Inspector: _____

Reference #: _____

Learn more and resources on back!

The Alberta Weed Control Act categorizes weeds based on provincial risk ratings, evaluating their prevalence, environmental effects, and economic impact. They are classified into two groups: prohibited noxious and noxious.



Flowering Rush
Prohibited Noxious
must be eradicated



Scentless Chamomile
Noxious
must be controlled



Absinthe Wormwood
Noxious
locally elevated via bylaw

Report sightings of regulated weeds to Agricultural Services
403 - 742 - 4441 or asb@stettlercounty.ca

Identification of Regulated Weeds

Check out a digital version
of the Invasive Plants of
Alberta

Contact Ag Services and get
a physical book!



Weed ID Guide



**Agricultural Service
Board Equipment
Rental Information**



**Alberta Weed
Management
Resources**



**Agricultural Services
Producer Satisfaction
Survey**

<https://www.stettlercounty.ca/>

Yellow Toadflax - Noxious
(*Linaria vulgaris*)

Information Package Template



Protecting what we have!

Weed information awareness on
your property!



Provincial Legislation

Alberta's agricultural productivity relies on healthy landscapes. The *Weed Control Act* is crucial for preventing invasive and regulated weeds, which can reduce crop yields and degrade pastures.

Weed control is necessary, even on small infestations. By working together, we can prevent them from spreading and becoming more difficult to control.

Agricultural Services

403 - 742 - 4441

asb@stettlercounty.ca

Working Together

- Landowners must manage regulated weeds to prevent their spread.
- Community cooperation is essential in controlling invasive plants.
- The County of Stettler has rental equipment to assist with weed control.

Weed Inspectors

- The Act requires the County to appoint weed inspectors, who may enter land during reasonable hours.
- Obstructing them is a finable offence.



Compliance Letter Template

County of Stettler No. 6
Box 1270
6602 – 44 Avenue
Stettler, Alberta T0C 2L0
T:403.742.4441 F: 403.742.1277
www.stettlercounty.ca

[Date]

[Recipient Name]

[Mailing Address Line 1]

[Mailing Address Line 2]

[City, Province, Postal Code]

Dear [Mr./Mrs./Ms./Name],

RE: Compliance Letter – Weed ([Common Weed Name]) Control on [Legal Land Description and/or Civic Address]

We all have a vested interest in controlling invasive weeds. By working together, we can prevent them from spreading and becoming more difficult to control. A weed inspection conducted by a County of Stettler Weed Inspector has confirmed the presence of the regulated weed **[Common Weed Name] ([Scientific Name])** on your property located at **[Legal Land Description and/or Civic Address]**. Details of the inspection are enclosed for your reference.

[Common Weed Name] is designated as a Noxious weed under the *Weed Control Act of Alberta* and may also be regulated locally through County of Stettler Bylaw 1448-10. As such, landowners are required to control this weed to prevent its spread.

Please be advised of the following sections of the *Weed Control Act*:

Section 2 of the Weed Control Act reads as follows:

"A person shall control a Noxious weed that is on land the person owns or occupies."

Section 13(1) of the Weed Control Act reads as follows:

"If an inspector finds non-compliance with this Act, an inspector may give an inspector's notice in writing requiring compliance (a) in respect of land, to the occupant of the land and to the owner of the land, and (b) in respect of personal property, to the owner of the personal property."

At this stage, the County of Stettler is requesting your cooperation to bring the property into compliance and avoid the need for further enforcement action. Recommended control actions may include mowing, herbicide application, mechanical removal, or other integrated control methods as appropriate for the species and site conditions.

Failure to comply may result in the issuance of an Inspector's Notice or the County undertaking control measures, with associated costs charged to the landowner as permitted under the *Weed Control Act*.

For further information, recommendations on control methods, or assistance, please contact **Agricultural Services at asb@stettlercounty.ca** or **403-742-4441**. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and your cooperation in protecting agricultural and environmental health in our municipality.

Sincerely,

Robert Klatt
Manager of Agricultural Services, County of Stettler

To: []

Address: []

You are hereby directed to:

Destroy the prohibited noxious weeds

Control the noxious weeds

1. []

1. []

2. []

2. []

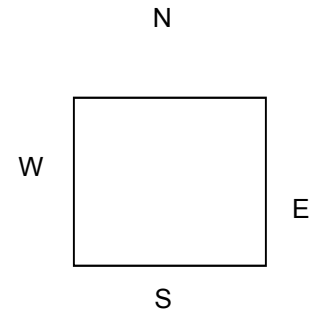
3. []

3. []

Which are infesting the property:

Municipally known as:

[]
[]
[]



Lots [] Block [] Plan []

Or as described as:

¼ of section: Township: Range: Meridian:
[] [] [] [] []

Location on property (approximate)

The weeds will be considered destroyed/controlled if:

[]

Action is to be completed on or before: []

If this notice is not complied with, action will be taken in accordance with the *Weed Control Act*.

Inspector [] Municipality []

Date [] Address []

File No. [] []

(Reprinted from the Weed Control Act)

Violation Weed Control

Noxious weeds - control

2 A person shall control a noxious weed that is on land the person owns or occupies.

Prohibited noxious weeds - destroy

3 A person shall destroy a prohibited noxious weed that is on land the person owns or occupies.

Compliance with notice

17(1) A person given a notice under this Part in accordance with section 24 shall, subject to the right to appeal an inspector's notice or a local authority's notice, comply with the notice.

Part 3

Appeal of Inspector's Notice, Local Authority's Notice or Debt Recovery Notice

Application

10 This Part sets out the requirements that apply to an appeal of an inspector's notice, local authority's notice or debt recovery notice under section 19(2) of the Act.

Delivery of notice

11(1) The appellant shall provide notice of the appeal to the chief administrative officer of the municipality in which the land subject to the notice is located.

(2) The notice of appeal must be delivered personally or sent by certified or registered mail within the time specified in the notice for doing the thing required by the notice or 10 days, whichever is less.

Notice requirements

12 The notice of appeal must be in writing and include

- the name and address of the appellant,
- a copy of the notice in respect of which the appeal is being taken,
- the legal description of the land affected,
- the grounds for appeal, and
- a \$500 appeal fee.

Determination of appeal

13(1) The appeal panel shall hear and determine the appeal within 5 days of receipt of the notice of appeal by the chief administrative officer.

(2) The appeal panel may confirm, rescind or vary the notice.

(3) The chief administrative officer shall send a copy of the decision together with the written reasons, if any, to the appellant by certified or registered mail.

Appeal review request

14 A request to review a decision of the appeal panel under section 20 of the Act must be made to the Minister within 3 days of the appellant receiving the appeal decision.

Refund of fee

15(1) If the appellant is successful in an appeal or review, the \$500 appeal fee will be refunded to the appellant.

(2) If the appellant is partially successful in an appeal or review, the \$500 appeal fee may be refunded in whole or in part at the sole discretion of the appeal panel or the Minister, as the case may be.



Stettler County

Sample Weed Inspection Report

Weed Case Details

Property Information

Case Number 25-1711
Roll Number
Long Legal
Short Legal
Parcel Area 0
Next Action
Follow Up Date

Owner

County Of Stettler

Phone 1:
Phone 2:
Email:
Fax:

Occupant

Phone 1:
Phone 2:
Email:
Fax:



Map of latest inspection

Inspections:

Date: Sep 3, 2025 11:12 AM

Inspection Type:
Property

Inspector: Farrah Fischer

Notes: Absinthe Wormwood located primarily near the road top. Canada Thistle scattered throughout. Burdock appears to be at least a second year infestation due to presence of skeletons and rosettes - few plants found in the recently brushed area.

Weed	Weed Group	Abundance	Growth State	Area (Ac.)	% of Area	Infested Area (Ac.)	Polygon
Absinthe Wormwood	Noxious	2 - Low	Seeding	0.2	10	0.02	A
Canada Thistle	Noxious	5 - Serious	Seeding	0.2	60	0.12	A
Woolly Burdock	Noxious	2 - Low	Rosette	0.2	10	0.02	A

[View Inspection Map](#)

Crop Type: Roadside



Absinthe Wormwood

Fact Sheet

Last Updated December 2016

Alberta Regulation:
Unregulated

Artemisia absinthium L. syn. *Artemisia absinthium* L. var. *insipida* Stechmann
(Aka common wormwood, madderwort)



Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org



Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org

Overview:

Absinthe wormwood is a perennial herb which grows from a woody base with multiple stems forming a bushy plant. The foliage has a strong aroma - similar to sage but not as pleasing.² Native to Europe and Asia, it was introduced for gardening and medicinal use in the 1800s. It has become naturalized across Canada and the northern U.S.² A volatile oil was once derived from the plant to produce the beverage absinthe liquor.

Absinthe wormwood seeds germinate throughout growing season, then overwinter as rosettes. Germination rates are high, given sufficient moisture.² It develops an extensive root and crown which stores energy to produce flowering bolts in summer from buds at crown. Prolific flowering occurs in July and are wind pollinated. Absinthe wormwood reproduces by seed only, and seeds float or are spread by animal/human traffic or dead stems tumbling in the wind. Dead stems persist through winter. Seeds remain viable 3-4 years.²

Absinthe wormwood readily infests dis-

turbed areas; abandoned cultivation, heavy traffic areas, and damage from too early or heavy grazing.²

There are a number of native *Artemisia*/wormwood species that may be confused with absinthe wormwood. The local Agricultural Fieldman can assist in identification.

Habitat:

Absinthe wormwood prefers ample moisture on loamy to clay-loam soils² and gravelly soils.¹ It prefers open exposure but can tolerate some shade.²

Identification:

Stems: Are gray-green, sometime woody near the base, and generally grow 40-60 cm tall. Stems pale due to dense, fine, whitish hairs. Rosettes are mat forming.³

Leaves: Are gray-green, broadly ovate 3-8 x 1-4 cm, mostly pinnately lobed, and the upper surfaces bearing fine, whitish hairs. Leaves are deciduous.³

Flowers: Are borne in open, branched pan-

icles generally 10-20 x 10-13 cm. Involucres are broadly ovoid and 2-3 x 3-5 mm, gray-green and silky hairy. Florets bear tiny, 1-2 mm petals. Seeds are cylindrical, hairless, shiny and about 0.5 mm.³

Prevention:

Absinthe wormwood requires disturbance to establish. Healthy pastures and plant communities are wormwood-resistant. Seeds are easily transported in hay, water and by animal/human traffic.¹ It can be easily controlled by competitive vegetation or herbicides.^{1,2} Because growing buds are at top of root crown it may be killed by fire.¹

Control:

Grazing: Not grazed by cattle when more desirable vegetation is present.² Unpalatable to horses but grazed by sheep.¹ Invasive plants should never be considered as forage.

Mechanical: Mowing reduces but does not eliminate seed production - stems respond by growing horizontally. Late season tillage can kill new rosettes. Established

continued next page

Absinthe Wormwood (Continued)

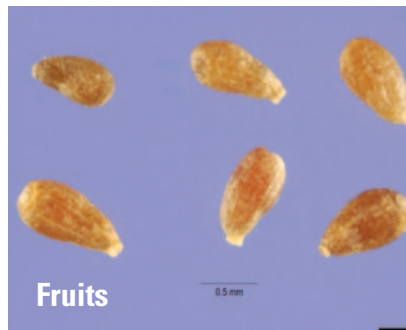
plants can survive tillage with sufficient moisture.² Small patches can be hand-pulled or dug and disposed of in landfill bound garbage. Never put weeds in compost.

Chemical: Aminopyralid, glyphosate and dicamba are registered for use on absinthe wormwood. Always check product labels to ensure the herbicide is registered for use on the target plant in Canada by the Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency. Consult your local Agricultural Fieldman or Certified Pesticide Dispenser for more information.

Biological: None researched to date.



K. George Beck and James Sebastian, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org



Steve Hurst, USDA NRCS PLANTS Database, Bugwood.org



K. George Beck and James Sebastian, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org



K. George Beck and James Sebastian, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

REFERENCES

- 1 Carey, Jennifer H. 1994. *Artemisia absinthium*. In: Fire Effects Information System, [Online]. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fire Sciences Laboratory (Producer). Available: <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/forb/artabs/all.html> Accessed: July 5, 2016.
- 2 Maw, M. G., Thomas, A. Stahevitch, A. 1985. The biology of Canadian weeds. 66. *Artemisia absinthium* L. Can. J. Plant Sci. 65: 389-400. www.nrcresearchpress.com. Accessed: July 5, 2016.
- 3 Flora of North America. *Artemisia absinthium*. FNA Vol. 19, 20 and 21 Page 503, 519. www.eFloras.org. Accessed: July 5, 2016.

Weed Management Information



Weed Designation

Invasive plants undergo thorough research for environmental, ecological, and economic impact. Based on this analysis, weeds are categorized based on risk:

This is not a comprehensive listing. Visit abinvasives.ca to see more!

PROHIBITED NOXIOUS

These weeds pose a serious threat and must be eradicated.



Himalayan Balsam

NOXIOUS

These weeds pose a significant threat and must be controlled.



Leafy Spurge



Common Buckthorn



Purple Loosestrife



Common Tansy



White Cockle

Absinthe Wormwood

LOCAL ELEVATIONS

Local elevations in the Weed Control Act allow municipalities to designate weeds through a bylaw approved by the Agriculture Minister.

In 2011, the County of Stettler elevated Absinthe Wormwood due to its negative effect on pasture production.



Prevention

- **Use Clean Seed** - plant certified, weed-free seed.
- **Practice Low Tillage** - limit soil disturbance to reduce weed germination.
- **Avoid Overgrazing** - healthy pastures compete with weeds and prevent bare soil.
- **Reseed Disturbed Areas** - reseed bare ground to stop weeds from establishing.
- **Monitor Early** - check your land regularly and control weeds before they spread.

Timing

A weed's life cycle helps determine the best control.

Annual Weeds (one-season life cycle):

- before seed production.

Perennial Weeds (multi-season life cycle):

- require repeated control and management of both roots and seed production.

General Tips:

- Weeds are easiest to control early in the season (rosette or pre-bud stage).
- In hot, dry conditions, some weeds develop a waxy or powdery coating that reduces herbicide absorption (i.e. Absinthe Wormwood).
- For deep-rooted perennials, fall control can be effective as plants move nutrients and herbicides to their roots (i.e. Canada Thistle).

Control

Repeated Tillage or Mowing - Disturb plants repeatedly to weaken growth and exhaust root reserves.

Choosing a Herbicide - Select products based on the weed and area. Always follow label directions for safe and effective use. Contact your local retailer. Look for:

- Selective: Targets specific weeds
- Residual: Controls new weeds from the soil

Hand Pulling - Pull early before flowering. Most effective on shallow or fibrous-rooted weeds. In late season, cut off flowers to limit seed spread.

Long-Term Takeaways:

- Prevent weeds from going to seed.
- Focus on consistent, early intervention rather than crisis control.
- Use integrated methods to prevent resistance and ease control.



Weed Identification

Monitor your property regularly and learn to identify weeds at all growth stages. Early detection helps prevent spread.

Report weeds to or get a weed guide at Agricultural Services:
403-742-4441
asb@stettlercounty.ca

You can also report sightings through EDDMapS for Alberta.



Weed ID Guide

Spraying Resources

Resources are available to help with weed control:

- Alberta Blue Book (Crop Protection Guide)– Herbicide and control recommendations
- Private Land Spray Contractors – Licensed applicators for larger areas
- ASB Equipment Rentals – Available through Agricultural Services



Agricultural Service
Board Equipment
Rental Information



Stettler Area
Private Land Spray
Contractors



Alberta Weed
Management
Resources



County of Stettler Veterinary Mentorship Program

The County of Stettler Veterinary Mentorship Program connects students within the County of Stettler with local veterinary professionals, including Veterinarians and Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVTs). This program is designed to:

- Foster interest in veterinary medicine and animal health careers
- Develop professionalism and workplace readiness
- Provide exposure to real-world veterinary practices
- Support career exploration and mentorship opportunities
- Support rural
- Strengthen connections between youth and local agricultural and veterinary industries
- Students will have the opportunity to learn directly from experienced professionals through clinic visits, job shadowing, discussions, and mentorship activities.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be a student enrolled in a school within the County of Stettler
- Have an interest in veterinary medicine, animal care, or related fields
- Be willing to demonstrate professionalism, responsibility, and respect
- Submit a completed application form
- Include a **Letter of Request** (see requirements below)

Letter of Request Requirement

Applicants must include a short one-to-two-page Letter of Request with this application. This letter is an important part of the selection process.

The letter should include:

- Student name, grade, and school
- Reasons for interest in veterinary medicine or animal health
- Career goals or interests
- Why you would like to participate in this mentorship program
- What the you hope to learn
- Any relevant experience (pets, livestock, volunteering, farm background, etc.)

Student Application Form

Student Information

Full Name: _____

Grade: _____

School: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Information (if under 18)

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Student Interest Information

Are you interested in becoming a veterinarian or RVT? If so, which?

What types of animals are you most interested in working with?

- Small animals (cats, dogs)
- Large animals (cattle, horses)
- Mixed practice
- Other: _____

Which Veterinary Clinic do you hope to receive mentorship from (select all that apply)?

- xxxxxxxx
- xxxxxxxx
- xxxxxxxx
- Other: _____

Which type of experience are you interested in (select all that apply)?

- Mentorship (verbal, phone, email)
- Clinic Experience (assisting with operational duties, and shadowing procedures)
- 1-on-1 Job Shadowing (experience a “day in the life”)
- Other: _____

School Approval (Optional but Recommended)

Teacher or School Representative Name: _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Application Submission

To apply please submit Application Form and Letter of Request ASB@stettlercounty.ca and we will connect your application to the Veterinary Clinic of your choice.

Program Contact Information

County of Stettler Agricultural Services
Phone: 403-742-4441
Email: ASB@stettlercounty.ca



Memo

TO: Councillor Allan Gano ASB Chair
FROM: Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations
DATE: March 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Pasture Rejuvenation Workshop

Administration is seeking direction on organizing a potential pasture rejuvenation workshop for summer 2026. We would appreciate guidance on whether the preferred format should be an in-field tour or a classroom-based session.

We are exploring the option of visiting sites across the county where producers are actively implementing innovative practices to enhance productivity and soil health. This could include arranging a small bus tour featuring multiple operations or selecting a specific location that displays a broad range of techniques to maximize learning opportunities.



Memo

TO: Councillor Allan Gano ASB Chair
FROM: Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations
DATE: March 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Battle River Research Group Agm

It may be worthwhile for a board member or a member of Administration to attend the Battle River Research Group AGM on March 26, 2026. Having representation at the meeting would allow us to gain a clearer understanding of their activities over the past year, their current priorities, and the projects they have planned for 2026.

Additionally, the board may want to consider inviting the Battle River Research Group as a delegation at our April ASB meeting. This would give an opportunity for them to present and help us decide our level involvement, and the scope of their future projects within the County of Stettler.

Battle River
Research Group

www.battleriverresearch.com



BRRG AGM 2026 : FERTILITY MANAGEMENT (4R PRINCIPLES)



Dr. Blake Weiseth



Dr. Miles Dyck



Dr. Ahsan Rajper



Alex Olson



Dr. Augustine Osei

Topics Covered in Workshop

- *Introduction of 4R Nutrient Management/Overview of each "R";*
- *Agronomic performance of different P fertilizer sources that differ in solubility--Right Source;*
- *Fertilizer and Crop Management practices to limit P losses in snowmelt runoff--Combination of R's;*
- *Overview of soil nutrient analysis (i.e. soil testing)--Right Rate*
- *Managing Nitrogen for Maximum Efficiency: 4R Strategies to Reduce Loss Pathways*
- *Soil Health*



MARCH 26

10 AM

LUNCH PROVIDED

HALKIRK COMMUNITY HALL

(111 MAIN ST, HALKIRK, AB T0C 1K0)

REGISTER ONLINE AT

www.battleriverresearch.com

CALL AT

(780 582 7308)





Memo

TO: Councillor Allan Gano ASB Chair
FROM: Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations
DATE: March 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Resolution Response

We have received the response from the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors regarding Resolution 4-26, which outlines the government's current position on provincial support for water distribution infrastructure and private service connections. For discussion.



ALBERTA

TRANSPORTATION and ECONOMIC CORRIDORS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake*

March 2, 2026

AR 107011

Mr. Rob Siewert
Chair
Provincial Agriculture Service Board Committee
PO Box 33
Fort Assiniboine, AB T0G 1A0
ASBPC_EA@agriculturalserviceboards.ca

Dear Mr. Siewert:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee regarding Resolution 4-26, passed at the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference on January 21, 2026. We appreciate you bringing forward the perspectives of agricultural municipalities and producers from across Alberta.

The Government of Alberta recognizes access to reliable and safe water is essential to the long-term sustainability of agriculture, rural residences, and small communities. We understand the intent of the resolution is to seek expanded provincial support for water distribution infrastructure and service connections through an equitable cost-sharing approach.

At present, provincial water infrastructure funding programs are designed primarily to support regional and municipal-scale systems which deliver broad public benefit, with eligibility criteria focused on core infrastructure rather than private service connections. These criteria help ensure funding is allocated in a manner which balances demonstrated need, fiscal responsibility, and consistency across the province.

We acknowledge the ongoing challenges faced by rural landowners and agricultural operations in securing affordable access to water infrastructure.

.../2

The Government of Alberta continues to work with municipalities, regional water commissions, and stakeholders to explore opportunities to improve regional collaboration, optimize existing systems, and consider future program design improvements where feasible.

Regarding PC1-26, Alberta's rat control program is not under the jurisdiction of Transportation and Economic Corridors. However, my colleague the Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, will be able to provide a response on this topic.

We appreciate the Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee's advocacy on behalf of Alberta's agricultural community and thank you for sharing this resolution. Your input helps inform ongoing discussions related to rural infrastructure needs and long-term water sustainability.

Sincerely,



Honourable Devin Dreeshen, ECA
Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors

cc: Honourable Nathan Neudorf, ECA, Minister of Affordability and Utilities
Honourable Martin Long, ECA, Minister of Infrastructure
Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, ECA, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation



Memo

TO: Councillor Allan Gano ASB Chair
FROM: Robert Klatt, Manager of Agricultural Operations
DATE: March 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Bylaw 1448-10 Absinthe Wormwood

Purpose

To ensure all new Board members are familiar with County of Stettler No. 6 Bylaw 1448-10, which designates Absinthe Wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*) as a Noxious Weed within the County, ahead of spring inspections and control activities.

What the bylaw does

- Designates Absinthe Wormwood as a Noxious Weed within the County of Stettler No. 6.
- Is enacted pursuant to Part 6, Section 30(a) of Alberta's Weed Control Act (RSA 2008).
- Acknowledges that Absinthe Wormwood has become a serious issue locally and that the Agricultural Service Board has already been undertaking control on County-managed lands.
- Reflects ratepayer requests for stronger control requirements on private land.

Why this matters now

- Spring marks the start of field surveillance and early-season control work, Board alignment on the bylaw's scope ensures consistent decisions on education, inspections, and compliance.
- Regulatory effect: By declaring Absinthe Wormwood noxious under the authority of the Weed Control Act, the bylaw enables the County to use the regulatory authorities available under the Weed Control Act when addressing this species within the municipality.

BYLAW 1448-10

BYLAW 1448-10 of the County of Stettler No. 6 in the Province of Alberta to designate Absinthe Wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium* L.) as a noxious weed within the County of Stettler No. 6, pursuant to the Provincial Weed Control Act, Part 6, Section 30(a) (Revised Statutes of Alberta 2008).

WHEREAS Absinthe Wormwood has been found to be a serious weed issue in the County, and the County Agricultural Service Board is already controlling Absinthe Wormwood in land under control of the County,

WHEREAS the North American Weeds Management Association has named Absinthe Wormwood as a Noxious Weed and Undesirable Plant Species, and

WHEREAS rural ratepayers have been requesting additional control requirements be enacted for Absinthe Wormwood on private land,

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to Part 6, Section 30(a) of the Weed Control Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2008, the Council of the County of Stettler No. 6, in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

1. That Absinthe Wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium* L.) is declared a Noxious Weed within the County of Stettler No. 6.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 8th day of December, 2010 on a motion of Councillor Gendre. Carried

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 8th day of December, 2010 on a motion of Councillor Wilkie. Carried

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 8th day of December, 2011 on a motion of Councillor Gendre. Carried

DATED THIS 8th day of December, 2011.



Reeve



Chief Administrative Officer



Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

L:\Council\Bylaws\2010\1448-10 Designation of Absinthe Wormwood as Noxious Weed\1448-10 - Absinthe Wormwood.docx



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

February 18, 2026

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

Dear Minister Sigurdson,

Re: Support for Unlimited On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) Licence In Alberta

On behalf of the Brazeau County Agricultural Services Board (ASB) I am writing to express our support for unlimited on-farm slaughter sales for compliant operations in Alberta. Like other municipalities, we appreciate the pause on proposed limits to the On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) Program while a thorough review of the proposed changes can be done.

On-farm slaughter operations play an important role in strengthening Alberta's local food systems and enhancing producer viability—especially in rural and remote regions. While we would like this program to continue without the proposed weight limit, we believe there should be an emphasis on the importance of robust inspections, regulatory compliance, and food safety within the OFSO framework. An OFSO licence without a slaughter weight limit, when paired with stringent inspection protocols, ensures that food safety and public health remain paramount. Alberta's existing regulatory framework already establishes clear requirements for food safety and an OFSO licence with no cap does not diminish these standards; rather, it allows qualified operators who consistently demonstrate compliance to operate at a scale that reflects demand while remaining fully accountable to inspectors and regulatory authorities.

Regular inspection and verification by trained officials are essential to maintaining consumer confidence and regulatory integrity. An OFSO licence with no cap may incentivize operators to maintain high standards of compliance, especially if continued authorization is directly tied to demonstrated compliance with provincial legislation and inspection findings. This approach would support continuous improvement and increased compliance within the OFSO program.

In conclusion, I believe that granting OFSO licences with no cap, to operators who meet and maintain Alberta's inspection standards is a responsible, forward-looking policy choice. It upholds food safety, strengthens local food systems, and ensures that regulatory oversight remains both practical and effective.

Sincerely,

Shayne Blosky
Chair, Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board
Councillor Division 5

Cc: Agricultural Service Boards



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

Re: Federal Funding Cuts to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

On behalf of Clearwater County Council and the Clearwater County Agricultural Service Board, we are writing to express our serious concern regarding the recent federal funding cuts to agricultural research facilities, and in particular the closure of the Lacombe Research Centre.

Canada's agriculture sector is currently operating in an increasingly uncertain global environment, challenged by strained relationships with key trading partners, volatile commodity prices, climate variability, and rising international competition. In this context, the potential loss of the Lacombe Research Centre risks weakening the sector's ability to remain competitive, innovative, and resilient at a time when these attributes are more critical than ever.

Farmers must continually adapt to changing market conditions, evolving customer expectations, and emerging production and environmental risks. Scientific research is paramount to enabling producers not only to survive, but to thrive, and to reduce vulnerability and instability across the agricultural industry. Publicly funded research plays a vital role in providing practical, regionally relevant solutions that individual producers and the private sector cannot generate alone.

Canada's reputation as a reliable, high-quality agricultural exporter has been built over decades through sustained investment in publicly funded scientific research. This research has driven productivity and profitability while maintaining a strong focus on sustainability. At Lacombe, this includes critical work in crop and livestock genetics, soil health, disease and pest resistance, and environmental stewardship. Competing agricultural nations continue to invest heavily in research and innovation to secure productivity gains and export markets. It is essential that Canada does not fall behind and shift from a position of leadership to one of catch-up.

Maintaining agricultural research capacity at Lacombe is a strategic investment in regional economic stability, rural communities, and Canada's long-term food security and export success. The Lacombe Research Centre has been in operation for over a century, and the benefits of its research are cumulative, often taking decades to fully realize. The work conducted at this site cannot be easily replicated elsewhere, and the loss of long-term trials currently underway would be devastating. Once research capacity, expertise, and long-term data sets are lost, the impacts extend far beyond short-term budget considerations and are felt across generations of producers.

As an Agricultural Service Board, we see firsthand how federal research supports on-farm decision-making, extension services, and innovation at the local level. We respectfully urge the Government of Canada to reconsider the proposed funding cuts and potential closure of the Lacombe Research Centre, and to engage meaningfully with municipalities, Agricultural Service Boards, producers, and research partners when assessing regional impacts.

We believe strongly that continued investment in agricultural research is essential to ensuring a resilient, competitive, and sustainable agricultural sector for Canada.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would welcome the opportunity to participate in further discussion on how federal, provincial, and municipal partners can work together to protect this critical research capacity.

Sincerely,

X 

Aaron Terpsma
Chairperson, Clearwater County ASB

X 

Jordan Northcott
Reeve, Clearwater County

C.C.

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, P.C., M.P.
The Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta, E.C.A., M.L.A.
The Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, E.C.A., M.L.A.
The Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of Assisted Living and Social Services, E.C.A., M.L.A.
Tanya Day, Ministerial Liason for Health Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Paul Mackinnon, CFIA President
Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman



ALBERTA
AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Highwood*

The Honourable Heath MacDonald
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
1341 Baseline Road
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5
heath.macdonald@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister MacDonald:

Alberta's farmers and ranchers are in crisis. The unchecked spread of Richardson's ground squirrels (RGS) is devastating our agricultural lands, and the continued delay in reinstating the production and sale of two percent liquid strychnine is compounding the damage by the day, month and year. The exponential loss of land and affected areas is growing at a deeply concerning rate that presents one of the largest risks to our agricultural producers seen in years. I urge you—on behalf of Alberta's producers and the broader Canadian agricultural economy—to act without further delay.

RGS are not a minor nuisance; they are a destructive force across the prairie provinces, threatening cereal, oilseed, pulse, forage, pasture, and horticultural crops and in some cases now the populations have increased to a level where they are chewing through fibre optic cables, and puncturing small gas and water lines resulting in severe safety risks and additional costs. They also are a major risk to the health of livestock, causing countless avoidable injuries like broken legs year after year, along with damaging expensive farm equipment. In Alberta alone, the annual risk to hay and native pasture exceeds **\$800 million**. Under the current climactic conditions, RGS populations are exploding, and producers are losing the battle.

The banning of strychnine by PMRA was done without warning or any scientific basis. This ban was also done without any economic considerations and without effective alternatives being readily available. This has placed immense pressure on our producers—pressure that is unsustainable and progressing to a state of emergency. While alternative control methods exist, they are ineffective, labour-intensive and in some cases present higher risks to those administering the products. Without immediate intervention, we risk not only the viability of thousands of farms and ranches but also the affordability and security of Canada's food supply.

The longer the reinstatement of the use of strychnine is deferred, the more irreversible the consequences become. We are calling on the federal government to **immediately reverse the PMRA decision** and reinstate the production and sale of strychnine for RGS control. Should this not occur, Alberta's producers may have no choice but to seek federal compensation for the mounting crop losses directly attributable to this regulatory inaction.

Heath MacDonald
Page Two

Alberta has consistently raised this issue as a major concern since the ban came into effect, including in FPT meetings and bi-lateral meetings between ministers. I would also remind the Minister that this is an area of concurrent jurisdiction under section 95 of the Constitution.

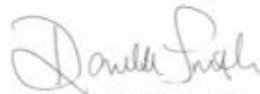
The livelihoods of our producers, the stability of our agricultural sector, and the affordability of food for Canadian families are all at stake. We demand for an immediate reversal to the decision. Any delays will result in further loss of land and crop failure in the 2026 season.

I urge you to act now. Prairie producers cannot afford to wait any longer.

Sincerely,



Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation



Honourable Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta



Honourable Joseph Schow
Minister, Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration