



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, November 27, 2024, 9:30 a.m.  
Greenview Administration Building  
Valleyview, AB

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<b>1. CALL TO ORDER</b>	
<b>2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA</b>	
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**8. ADJOURNMENT**



**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16**

**AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD**

**MINUTES**

August 28, 2024, 9:30 a.m.  
Greenview Administration Building  
Valleyview, AB

Present: Member Bill Smith  
Member Josh McMillian  
Member Jeff Laughlin  
Member Dave Berry  
Member David Gibbard

Absent: Chair Warren Wohlgemuth

Staff: Recording Secretary Brooke Kobe  
Director of Community Services, Michelle Honeyman  
Manager, Agricultural Services Sheila Kaus

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Bill Smith called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Moved by:** Member David Gibbard

**That the Agricultural Service Board adopt the August 28, 2024, Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda as presented.**

For (4): Member Bill Smith, Member Josh McMillian, Member Dave Berry, and Member David Gibbard

Absent (2): Chair Warren Wohlgemuth, and Member Jeff Laughlin

**CARRIED (4 to 0)**

### **3. MINUTES**

#### **3.1 Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting minutes held July 31, 2024, to be adopted.**

**Moved by:** Member Josh McMillian

**That the Agricultural Service Board adopt the July 31, 2024, Regular Agricultural Service Board Minutes as presented.**

For (4): Member Bill Smith, Member Josh McMillian, Member Dave Berry, and Member David Gibbard

Absent (2): Chair Warren Wohlgemuth, and Member Jeff Laughlin

**CARRIED (4 to 0)**

#### **3.2 Business Arising from the Minutes**

**Moved by:** Member Bill Smith

**That the ASB recommend to Council the removal of Member at Large Jake Drozda from the ASB following Policy 6310 due to failure to attend 4 meetings without a resolution from the board.**

For (4): Member Bill Smith, Member Josh McMillian, Member Dave Berry, and Member David Gibbard

Absent (2): Chair Warren Wohlgemuth, and Member Jeff Laughlin

**CARRIED (4 to 0)**

#### **3.3 Action Items**

**Moved by:** Member Dave Berry

**That the Agricultural Service Board accept the Action Items, as presented.**

For (4): Member Bill Smith, Member Josh McMillian, Member Dave Berry, and Member David Gibbard

Absent (2): Chair Warren Wohlgemuth, and Member Jeff Laughlin

**CARRIED (4 to 0)**

**4. DELEGATION**

**4.1 Grande Prairie Forest Area, Forest Manager - Ministry of Forestry and Parks**

Vice Chair Bill Smith recessed the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Vice Chair Bill Smith readjourned the meeting 11:20 a.m.

**Moved by:** Member Dave Berry

**That the Agricultural Service Board accept the presentation on Agricultural Production and Wildfire from the Grande Prairie Forest Area Manager for information, as presented.**

For (4): Member Bill Smith, Member Josh McMillian, Member Dave Berry, and Member David Gibbard

Absent (2): Chair Warren Wohlgemuth, and Member Jeff Laughlin

**CARRIED (4 to 0)**

**4.2 AISC\_Environmental Damages Fund**

**Moved by:** Member Josh McMillian

**That the Agricultural Service Board accept the presentation from the Alberta Invasive Species Council Executive Director on the 2024 Environmental Defense Fund grant application and the CD3 units.**

For (4): Member Bill Smith, Member Josh McMillian, Member Dave Berry, and Member David Gibbard

Absent (2): Chair Warren Wohlgemuth, and Member Jeff Laughlin

**CARRIED (4 to 0)**

**5. BUSINESS**

**5.1 2024 Regional ASB Resolutions**

Remove the concern for BSE in the Roadkill Carcass Disposal Draft.

**Moved by:** Member Dave Berry

**That the Agricultural Services Board request Administration submit “Roadkill Carcass Disposal” and “Drought & Livestock Tax Deferral” to the Peace Regional ASB Resolution Committee for deliberation at the Peace Region ASB Meeting in La Crete, AB on October 21, 2024, as amended.**

For (4): Member Bill Smith, Member Josh McMillian, Member Dave Berry, and Member David Gibbard

Absent (2): Chair Warren Wohlgemuth, and Member Jeff Laughlin

**CARRIED (4 to 0)**

**Moved by:** Member Dave Berry

That ASB tables the motion till further in the meeting.

For (4): Member Bill Smith, Member Josh McMillian, Member Dave Berry, and Member David Gibbard

Absent (2): Chair Warren Wohlgemuth, and Member Jeff Laughlin

**CARRIED (4 to 0)**

**Moved by:** Member Dave Berry

That the ASB lifts the tabled motion.

For (4): Member Bill Smith, Member Josh McMillian, Member Dave Berry, and Member David Gibbard

Absent (2): Chair Warren Wohlgemuth, and Member Jeff Laughlin

**CARRIED (4 to 0)**

## **5.2 8.28.24 ASB Bylaw**

**Moved by:** Member Josh McMillian

**That the Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council that Bylaw24-975: Agricultural Service Board receive first reading, as amended.**

For (4): Member Bill Smith, Member Josh McMillian, Member Dave Berry, and Member David Gibbard

Absent (2): Chair Warren Wohlgemuth, and Member Jeff Laughlin

**CARRIED (4 to 0)**

## **5.3 8.28.24 Pest Notice Recommendation**

**Moved by:** Member David Gibbard

**That the Agricultural Service Board recommend to Administration the reissuance of the Pest Notice files 22-GV004 and PT21-1168, in response to the ineffective control of the canola planted in contravention of the existing pest notices on both properties.**

For (4): Member Bill Smith, Member Josh McMillian, Member Dave Berry, and Member David Gibbard

Absent (2): Chair Warren Wohlgemuth, and Member Jeff Laughlin

**CARRIED (4 to 0)**

#### **5.4 Manager's Report**

##### **5.4.1 Managers Report**

**Moved by:** Member Bill Smith

**That the Agricultural Service Board accepts the Manager's report, as presented.**

For (4): Member Bill Smith, Member Josh McMillian, Member Dave Berry, and Member David Gibbard

Absent (2): Chair Warren Wohlgemuth, and Member Jeff Laughlin

**CARRIED (4 to 0)**

#### **6. MEMBERS REPORTS**

**Moved by:** Member Bill Smith

**That the Agricultural Service Board accepts the Member's reports as information.**

For (4): Member Bill Smith, Member Josh McMillian, Member Dave Berry, and Member David Gibbard

Absent (2): Chair Warren Wohlgemuth, and Member Jeff Laughlin

**CARRIED (4 to 0)**

##### **6.1 Chair - Warren Wohlgemuth**

**Absent**

##### **6.2 Vice Chair - Deputy Reeve Bill Smith**

**Predation issues in Grovedale**

##### **6.3 Member - Councillor Dave Berry**

**No-Till Seed Drill passed through Council**

**6.4 Member - David Gibbard**

**Attended the PCBFA Holistic Management Ranch Tour**

**6.5 Member - Joshua McMillan**

**6.6 Member - Jake Drozda**

**Absent**

**6.7 Member - Jeff Laughlin**

**Absent**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. [PCBFA Cattle Market Evening](#)
2. [Intro to Suicide Prevention For Ag](#)
3. [PRFA Digging It Soil Series](#)
4. [BRRG I.N.S.P.E.C.T. Weed Inspection Program](#)
5. [PCBFA Low Stress Livestock Handling Evening](#)
6. [NPARA Low Stress Livestock Handling Clinic](#)
7. [BRRG Efficient Nitrogen Use and Winter Cereal Performance](#)
8. [SafeTALK](#)

**Moved by:** Member David Gibbard

**That the Agricultural Service Board accepts the correspondence for information as presented.**

For (4): Member Bill Smith, Member Josh McMillian, Member Dave Berry, and Member David Gibbard

Absent (2): Chair Warren Wohlgemuth, and Member Jeff Laughlin

**CARRIED (4 to 0)**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by:** Member Dave Berry

**That the Agricultural Service Board meeting adjourn at 12:35 p.m.**

For (4): Member Bill Smith, Member Josh McMillian, Member Dave Berry, and Member David Gibbard



Absent (2): Chair Warren Wohlgemuth, and Member Jeff Laughlin

**CARRIED (4 to 0)**

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Manager, Agricultural Services

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Chair



# REQUEST FOR DECISION

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SUBJECT:	2025 Strategic Business Plan and Provincial ASB Grant 2025-2029		
SUBMISSION TO:	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD	REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION	
MEETING DATE:	November 27, 2024	CAO:	MANAGER: SK
DEPARTMENT:	AGRICULTURE	DIR: MH	PRESENTER: SK
STRATEGIC PLAN:	Governance	LEG:	

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## RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

**Provincial** (cite) – Agricultural Service Board Act, A-10 RSA 2000

**Council Bylaw/Policy** (cite) – Bylaw 24-975: Agricultural Service Board

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## RECOMMENDED ACTION:

**MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board approve the 2025 Greenview ASB Strategic Business Plan as the guiding document for the preparation of the 2025-2029 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Grant.**

**MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council that Greenview pursue the optional “Resource Management” funding stream in the 2025-2029 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Grant in support of Greenview Agricultural Service Board Extension and Outreach program.**

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## BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 the application form for the 2025-2029 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Grant was received. To inform the development of the application, Administration uses the annual strategic business plan. A review of the current business plan was undertaken, with few changes being noted. The plan has been provided with the alterations highlighted and as a clean copy for the Boards review. The application is due by January 31, 2025. While this allows for a review by the Board at the January meeting, Administration would like to learn the Boards wishes as relates to the Resource Funding Stream portion of the grant.

The Resource Funding Stream is an optional component of the provincial grant, aiming to provide funding for programming focused on beneficial management adoption, soil and water conservation, riparian protection, biodiversity initiatives, assistance in preparing grant applications under the On-Farm Climate Adaptation fund (OFCAF) and Resilient Agricultural Landscape program (RALP and SCAP).

Since 2022, Greenview has provided these services through the Landcare Coordinator position. The results of offering this programming and service to our ratepayers has improved the adoption and awareness of beneficial management practices, the Environmental Farm Plan and grant funding that comes to Greenview producers.

In the past, Greenview partnered with Northern Sunrise County and the MD of Smoky River in a joint application to the benefit of SARDA. The MD of Smoky River and Northern Sunrise County are unsure if they

wish to pursue a partnership in delivery of Resource Management Stream deliverables, instead considering municipally based programs with hopes of increased success.

Administration will attend a SARDA meeting focused on strategic planning with collaborating municipal representatives on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

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**BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. The benefit of the recommended action is that Administration can prepare the grant application with a clear understanding of the wishes of the Agricultural Service Board.
2. The benefit of the second recommended action is that the current programming offered will have operational expenses mitigated, while continuing to enjoy the same level of service.

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**DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. One disadvantage to the recommended motions would be that SARDA would see a reduction in the overall funding Greenview provides to the organization.

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**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

**Alternative #1:** The Agricultural Service Board may choose to pursue a continued partnership with the referenced municipalities; however, Administration has chosen not to recommend this as the criteria for partnering under the funding now requires a formal partnership agreement. This will lengthen the time required to complete the application.

**Alternative #2:** The Agricultural Service Board may choose to request Administration pursue the funding opportunity to the benefit of SARDA, however, Administration is not recommending this as the programming Greenview currently provides to ratepayers is more in keeping with the deliverables of the funding opportunity.

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**FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:**

\$25,000 to \$35,000 annual subsidization of the Extension and Outreach operational budget.

**Direct Costs:**

**Ongoing / Future Costs:** Carried over 5 years of funding, \$125,000-\$175,000 in subsidization of Extension and Outreach operational budget with no change in the level of service.

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**STAFFING IMPLICATION:**

There are no staffing implications to the recommended motion.

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**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT LEVEL:**

Greenview has adopted the IAP2 Framework for public consultation.

**INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC IMPACT**

Inform

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL**

Inform - To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

**PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC**

Inform - We will keep you informed.

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**FOLLOW UP ACTIONS:**

Once the Agricultural Service Board makes a recommendation, Administration will follow through with the action.

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**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- 2024-2025 Strategic Business Plan
- 2024-2025 Strategic Business Plan Highlighted



# REQUEST FOR DECISION

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SUBJECT:	Bill 28 – Meat Inspection Amendment Act		
SUBMISSION TO:	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD	REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION	
MEETING DATE:	November 27, 2024	CAO:	MANAGER: SK
DEPARTMENT:	AGRICULTURE	DIR: MH	PRESENTER: SK
STRATEGIC PLAN:	Economy	LEG:	

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## RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

**Provincial** (cite) – Meat Inspection Act, M-9 RSA 2000, Meat Inspection Regulation, 42/2003

**Council Bylaw/Policy** (cite) – N/A

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## RECOMMENDED ACTION:

**MOTION: That the Agricultural Services Board accept the report on “Bill 28 – Meat Inspection Amendment Act” for information, as presented.**

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## BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

In July of 2020, the Alberta Government amended the Meat Inspection Act Regulation to allow for livestock producers to become uninspected slaughter operations licensed as an On-Farm Slaughter Operation. This allowed producers to conduct on-farm slaughter and processing activities on their property for personal use or the processing of animals purchased by individual customers on the licensee’s land for consumption by the individual customer and their households only, without a provincial inspection. The new license also allowed the licensee to allow others to conduct on-farm slaughter and processing at their licensed location, such as for 4-H or religious celebrations.

For the province, there are 65 meat inspectors and program specialists supporting Albertans with licensing, inspections, and surveillance. Administration reviewed the 247 full-time equivalent cuts completed in the agriculture ministry in 2020 and confirmed none of those cuts impacted provincial meat inspection. A breakdown of the location of these staff could not be found, however, Administration can confirm only one Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation employee remains in the Peace Region; a crop assurance specialist based in Peace River.

Since the changes were introduced, the number of investigations for individuals selling uninspected meat to businesses has increased. In 2022 there were 11 investigations and 2023 saw 29 investigations. In 2024, there have been 55 investigations and four convictions with 4 additional charges under Alberta’s Meat Inspection Act being place on June 4th of this year. 3 men were unlawfully slaughtering sheep and goats at a rural location in Rockyview and Wheatland Counties, then delivering the uninspected meat to businesses in Calgary. An additional suspect was charged with selling, offering for sale, transport or delivering uninspected meat.

A review of active licenses within the Peace Region revealed the following information, though Administration noted the information was dated as some providers have gone out of business, such as Heart River Meats & Sausage:

	On Farm	Mobile Facility	Mobile Butcher	Colony Poultry	Colony Abbatoir	Abbatoir
Peace Region	35	2	16	2	2	5
Greenview	6	1	2	1	0	0

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, The Alberta Government tabled Bill 28 – Meat Inspection Amendment Act. The Act aims to amend the current Meat Inspection Act fines for the sale of uninspected meat from the current \$10,000 to \$100,000. In addition, the length of time that inspectors can investigate an issue has been increased from one year to a two-year period.

While preparing this report, Administration found a YouTube presentation from the Alberta government on the On-Farm Slaughter Operation licensing, hosted by Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA). Administration is vetting the information and requesting permission from LARA to have this presentation available for Greenview livestock producers to assist them in navigating On-Farm Slaughter Operation licensing and how it allows producers to directly market to consumers legally, without risk of incurring fines under the proposed Bill 28 amendments.

**BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. The benefit of the recommended action is that the Agricultural Service Board will be informed regarding the recently tabled Bill 28 – Meat Inspection Act Amendment.

**DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

There are no perceived disadvantages to the recommended motion.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

**Alternative #1:** The Agricultural Service Board has the alternative to request further information regarding Bill 28 at a future meeting and the request will be added to the ASB action list.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:**

There are no financial implications to the recommended motion.

**STAFFING IMPLICATION:**

There are no staffing implications to the recommended motion.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT LEVEL:**

Greenview has adopted the IAP2 Framework for public consultation.

**INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC IMPACT**

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**FOLLOW UP ACTIONS:**

There are no follow up actions to the recommended motion.

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**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- Bill 28 – Meat Inspection Act Amendment
- “Higher Fines, Longer Investigations” – CTV News Article

The Alberta government, in the interest of protecting human and animal health as well as the meat industry, is increasing the penalties for the sale of illegal uninspected meat.

The government's Meat Inspection Amendment Act, tabled in the legislature on Wednesday, aims to increase fines for anyone who is involved in the sale of uninspected meat or the illegal slaughter of animals.

According to Alberta Agriculture, the illegal slaughtering and butchering operations run the gamut from individual unlicensed mobile butchers to groups with province-wide distribution netting over a half a million dollars in sales per year.

Agriculture Minister R.J. Sigurdson said under the new legislation, offenders could face a maximum fine of \$100,000 for each offence, up from \$10,000.

#### RELATED STORIES

- **It's not a major trend: Illegal meat operations in Alberta are being carefully monitored**

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- **Charges laid in Alberta illegal slaughter investigation: RCMP**

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- **Alberta meat stores reopen after AHS re-examines product, declares it fit for sale**

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"This is necessary because it has become increasingly apparent that the current \$10,000 fine is not substantial enough to deter illegal activity," said Sigurdson at a morning press briefing.

"The proposed changes will not increase operating costs for industry or the cost of inspected meat for consumers, nor does it apply to those who sell and

distribute meat legally. These changes are important to deter illegal activity and ensure Albertans have access to safe, high-quality sources of meat."

- [The information you need to know, sent directly to you: Download the CTV News App](#)

Officials say the amendments will work to improve overall food safety and protect the health and safety of all Albertans.

### Longer, more thorough investigations

In addition to increased fines, the government is also proposing extending the amount of time to investigate and lay charges for the illegal slaughter and sale of uninspected meat.

If passed, it would allow investigators two years to fully explore complex cases.

Sigurdson says Alberta Agriculture has increased its monitoring and investigative staff to meet higher demand.

"We've got 65 meat inspectors and program specialists who support licensing, inspections and surveillance. Of course, we've added one additional FTE (full time equivalent) to be able to aid with some of the increases that we're seeing right now."

The province said that investigations into uninspected meat are increasing. In 2022, there were 11 investigations, while 2023 saw 29.

Thus far in 2024 there have been 55 investigations, resulting in four convictions.

Alberta possesses 121 licensed abattoirs and 156 licensed processors of inspected meat under the supervision of provincial meat inspectors.





extends to global markets' of illegal meat operations in Alberta. (Supplied: RCMP)

The proposed legislation comes after three people were [charged by RCMP](#)  
 in connection to the illegal slaughter of animals and sale of uninspected  
 meat earlier this year. [Early harvest of animals](#) [Why you can trust](#)  
 policies CTV News

On June 4, police said Raed Alnajar, 48, Wael Alhamawi, 35, and Amer Alhamawi, 35, were charged under Alberta's Meat Inspection Act.

Officials say the three men were unlawfully slaughtering sheep and goats at rural properties in Mountain View, Rocky View and Wheatland Counties, then delivering the uninspected meat to businesses in Calgary.

A fourth suspect, 41-year-old Tareq Alhamawi, was charged with selling, offering for sale, transport or delivering uninspected meat.



# REQUEST FOR DECISION

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SUBJECT:	Policy 6308- Clubroot of Canola	REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION	
SUBMISSION TO:	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD	CAO:	MANAGER: SK
MEETING DATE:	November 27, 2024	DIR: MH	PRESENTER: SK
DEPARTMENT:	AGRICULTURE	LEG:	
STRATEGIC PLAN:	Economy		

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## RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

**Provincial** (cite) – Agricultural Pest Act, A-8 RSA 2000

**Council Bylaw/Policy** (cite) – Policy 6308- Clubroot of Canola

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## RECOMMENDED ACTION:

**MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board recommend Council accept the revisions to Policy 6308: Clubroot of Canola, as presented.**

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## BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Administration confirmed two fields with active pest notices for Clubroot had been planted to canola. To rectify the issue, Administration contacted the producer of both fields to state the crop must be destroyed. The producer elected to cultivate the crop as the means of control while verbally assuring Administration that the subsequent barley crop would be sprayed with an herbicide that would control any canola that managed to re-root after cultivation. Administration was made aware by the ASB Chair that both fields had a high amount of canola blooming on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. An inspection by the manager confirmed that one field had 35-40% canola while the other field had 25-30% canola.

While Policy 6308 instructs administration to direct the destruction of crop in instances such as this, it is purposefully broad in how control is achieved. On August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Administration brought the matter to the Agricultural Service Board who made the recommendation to Council that the pest notices on both properties be re-issued. On September 24<sup>th</sup>, Council made the following motion:

*That Council direct Administration to re-issue the Pest Notices on case files 22-GV004 and PT21-1168 in response to the ineffective control of canola planted in contravention of the existing pest notices on both properties.*

The re-issued pest noticed were executed on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The producer will be free to plant canola on these two parcels in 2028.

To address this in the current policy, Administration proposes the following revision:

- A) Should the landowner(s) and/or producer(s) of infected land or canola plant fail to abide by the Notice, the Manager of Agricultural Services shall:
  - i. Take appropriate measures to destroy the planted crop **using a herbicide with an active ingredient to which**

the crop is not genetically tolerant (ie, glyphosate, glufosinate ammonium).

The revision includes the active herbicide ingredients that canola may be tolerant of and provides clear direction to Administration and ratepayers.

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**BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. The benefit of the recommended action is that the revisions will clarify that control is completed through chemical means as opposed to cultural or mechanical control methods.
- 

**DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. The disadvantage of the recommended action is that the requirement for the control with chemical may be interpreted as increasing the costs associated with destruction of crop by some producers.
- 

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

**Alternative #1:** The Agricultural Service Board may choose to address the requirement for chemical control within the definition of control in the Policy, but Administration is not recommending this as placing it within the body of the policy was thought to be more straight forward.

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**FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:**

There are no financial implications to the recommended motion.

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**STAFFING IMPLICATION:**

There are no staffing implications to the recommended motion.

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**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT LEVEL:**

Greenview has adopted the IAP2 Framework for public consultation.

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**INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC IMPACT**

Inform

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL**

Inform - To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

**PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC**

Inform - We will keep you informed.

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**FOLLOW UP ACTIONS:**

Once the Agricultural Service Board has made its recommendation, Administration will bring the revisions to a future Policy Review Committee.

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ATTACHMENT(S):

- Policy 6308: Clubroot of Canola – Current
- Policy 6308: Clubroot of Canola - Draft

**Title: Clubroot of Canola**

**Policy No: 6308**

**Effective Date: February 27, 2024**

**Motion Number: 24.02.92**

**Supersedes Policy No: 6308**

**Review Date: February, 2027**



**Legal References:**

Agricultural Pests Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. A-8  
 Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, AR 184/2001

Agricultural Service Board Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. A-10  
 Alberta Clubroot Management Plan (August, 2014)

**Cross References:**

Bylaw 23-954 "Designated Officer"  
 Bylaw 97-224 "Agricultural Services Board Establishment"

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to establish a management plan to prevent and/or minimize the spread and impact of Clubroot in Greenview. Greenview Council recognizes that Clubroot of Canola is declared a pest under the *Agricultural Pests Act* of Alberta and is a concern to agricultural producers within Greenview. Council further recognizes that it is beneficial to the agricultural industry to take active measures to prevent the establishment of, and to control or destroy pests in Greenview.

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. **Manager of Agricultural Services** means the individual appointed as the Agricultural Fieldman by motion of Greenview Council, and who by virtue of position acts as a Pest Inspector.
- 1.2. **Agricultural Pests Act (APA)** means the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act, R.S.A. 2000, c.A-8 and the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation 184/2001 including any amendments or successor legislation thereto.
- 1.3. **Agricultural Service Board (ASB)** means the Board appointed by Greenview Council to address agricultural concerns.
- 1.4. **Alberta Clubroot Management Plan** means the plan to manage clubroot of canola as set forth by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.
- 1.5. **Clubroot of Canola (Clubroot)** means the soil-borne disease caused by *Plasmodiophora brassicae*.
- 1.6. **Control** means to destroy or manage the disease through measures deemed acceptable by the Pest Inspector and this policy.
- 1.7. **Crop Residue** means the material left in an agricultural field after the crop has been harvested.

- 1.8. **Cruciferous Plants** means a plant family which includes; canola/rapeseed and mustard, as well as the cabbage family (broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi, radish, rutabaga and turnip).
- 1.9. **ID%** means a value derived from the application of the accepted algorithm to determine clubroot disease severity:  $(\#1 \text{ total} * 1) + (\#2 \text{ total} * 3) / 100 * 100$ .
- 1.10. **Destroy** means to kill all growing parts or to render reproductive mechanisms non-viable.
- 1.11. **Greenview** means the Municipal District of Greenview No. 16.
- 1.12. **Infested** means a property containing Clubroot of Canola.
- 1.13. **Notice** means a notice in writing issued by a Pest Inspector under the *Agricultural Pests Act*.
- 1.14. **Period of Restriction** means a period of time in which a cruciferous crop may not be planted or grown.
- 1.15. **Pest** means an animal, bird, insect, plant or disease declared a pest under section two of the *Agricultural Pests Act*.
- 1.16. **Pest Inspector** means an inspector appointed by Greenview Council or by the Minister to carry out the *Agricultural Pests Act*.
- 1.17. **Producer** means a farm operator.
- 1.18. **Soil Disturbance** means anything that can or may move soil.

## 2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1. Clubroot of Canola poses a serious threat to the canola industry by reducing yields, it reduces the quantity and quality of the oil produced from the seeds and the spores can remain viable for twenty (20) years or more according to current research.
  - A) Clubroot is declared a pest in Alberta under the APA. Under which Greenview may take active measures to prevent the establishment of, or to control or destroy pests within the municipality's boundaries.

## 3. PROCEDURE

- 3.1. In the event that a symptomatic sample sent to an accredited lab for analysis returns a DNA positive for Clubroot Greenview shall:
  - A) Ensure the landowner(s) and/or producer(s) receive a written Pest Notice as per the *Agricultural Pests Act* and associated Regulations following these parameters, as set by Council:
    - i. 1-2 rotations or a one-year break when ID% is 1% or less, and pathotypic testing indicates infection is 3H or 8N pathotype;
    - ii. 1-3 rotation or a two-year break when ID% is less than 2%;
    - iii. 1-4 rotation or a three-year break when ID% is greater than 2%;
    - iv. Should pathotype testing reveal the field is Infested with a resistance breaking pathotype the pest Notice shall be until there is a canola cultivar with resistance to that specific pathotype. All other brassica crops shall be prohibited.

- B) All landowner(s) and/or producer(s) within a one (1) mile or 1.6 kilometer radius of the field where Clubroot was confirmed, will be sent an information package with written confirmation that Clubroot was confirmed within a one (1) mile or 1.6 kilometer radius of their property.

3.2. The landowner(s) and/or producer(s) of lands confirmed with Clubroot shall be required to adopt the following immediate control measures;

- A) The crop shall be harvested, and the canola seed shall be sold for crushing, but **not** sold for feed or seed, and shall **not** be retained for reseeding.
- B) Crop residue shall be chopped and evenly spread back onto the infected land, not baled or removed.
- C) Any seed load transported from the Infested land shall be securely covered (tarpred).
- D) Soil disturbance on infected land should be minimized to prevent movement to uninfected land.
- E) Any crop residue and soil should be cleaned from all equipment and implements and left on the land before taking equipment off the infected land.
- F) Implements, or parts thereof, which come directly into contact with the soil should be sterilized, as per the Alberta Clubroot Management Plant.
- G) Should the landowner(s) and/or producer(s) of infected land or canola plant fail to abide by the Notice, the Manager of Agricultural Services shall:
  - i. Take appropriate measures to destroy the planted crop.
  - ii. Should Greenview destroy the crop, an invoice shall be issued to the landowner(s) and/or producer(s) for the labour, chemical and equipment costs of the destruction as per provincial legislation. If not paid voluntarily, Greenview will add the amount owing to the tax roll.
  - iii. Should enforcement be required, where the landowner(s) or producer(s) does not elect to perform the control themselves additional administrative fees will be charged at 15% of the cost of enforcement.
- H) After the period of restriction listed in the Notice has expired, canola may be seeded.
- I) Inform any contractors or custom operators who may enter onto the land that Clubroot has been found on the property, and advise them to properly clean and disinfect any equipment which comes into contact with the soil.

#### 4. COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. Council shall appoint Pest Inspectors as per section 10 of the *Agricultural Pests Act*.

4.2. Council shall review the Clubroot of Canola policy annually, to ensure the policy is informed by the most recent advancements in knowledge of the Clubroot pathogen.

#### 5. ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. The Manager of Agricultural Services shall establish protocols and an inspection schedule to be followed outlining the following:


- A) Ensure fields to be inspected are distributed across Greenview.
- B) Sampling techniques, recordkeeping and protocols for entering land.
- C) Mitigation and control of clubroot spore transferral between fields by Pest Inspectors and;
- D) Timed to ensure impacted producers are informed of positive clubroot DNA results prior to harvest.

5.2. For research purposes, canola and other cruciferous crops may be permitted to be grown on lands where a Notice has been issued with respect to Clubroot of Canola on the lands

provided that pre-approval has been granted by the Manager of Agricultural Services at their sole discretion.

- 5.3. Administration shall develop a geographical incident map based on Townships of infestations for use in mitigation plan development by industry and construction companies.
- 5.4. To better understand how the disease was introduced and spread, Administration shall gather as much information about the Clubroot infected field as possible, including type and variety of the crop, seed retailer, equipment movement, custom operators used, soil type, pH and drainage patterns.
- 5.5. Greenview Agricultural Services will provide information and education to landowner(s) and/or producer(s) regarding the spread of Clubroot of Canola.
- 5.6. Greenview will advocate that all seed (of a host crop) should be a Clubroot resistant variety.



<p><b>Title: Clubroot of Canola</b></p> <p><b>Policy No: 6308</b></p> <p><b>Effective Date: February 27, 2024</b></p> <p><b>Motion Number: 24.02.92</b></p> <p><b>Supersedes Policy No: 6308</b></p> <p><b>Review Date: February, 2027</b></p>	
	
<p><b>Legal References:</b>          Agricultural Pests Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. A-8          Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, AR 184/2001           Agricultural Service Board Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. A-10          Alberta Clubroot Management Plan (August, 2014)</p>	<p><b>Cross References:</b>          Bylaw 23-954 "Designated Officer"  <del>Bylaw 97-224 "Agricultural Services Board Establishment"</del>  <del>Bylaw 24-974 "Agricultural Service Board"</del></p>
<p><b>Purpose:</b> The purpose of this policy is to establish a management plan to prevent and/or minimize the spread and impact of Clubroot in Greenview. Greenview Council recognizes that Clubroot of Canola is declared a pest under the <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i> of Alberta and is a concern to agricultural producers within Greenview. Council further recognizes that it is beneficial to the agricultural industry to take active measures to prevent the establishment of, and to control or destroy pests in Greenview.</p>	

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. **Manager of Agricultural Services** means the individual appointed as the Agricultural Fieldman by motion of Greenview Council, and who by virtue of position acts as a Pest Inspector.
- 1.2. **Agricultural Pests Act (APA)** means the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act, R.S.A. 2000, c.A-8 and the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation 184/2001 including any amendments or successor legislation thereto.
- 1.3. **Agricultural Service Board (ASB)** means the Board appointed by Greenview Council to address agricultural concerns.
- 1.4. **Alberta Clubroot Management Plan** means the plan to manage clubroot of canola as set forth by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.
- 1.5. **Clubroot of Canola (Clubroot)** means the soil-borne disease caused by *Plasmodiophora brassicae*.
- 1.6. **Control** means to destroy or manage the disease through measures deemed acceptable by the Pest Inspector and this policy.
- 1.7. **Crop Residue** means the material left in an agricultural field after the crop has been harvested.

- 1.8. **Cruciferous Plants** means a plant family which includes; canola/rapeseed and mustard, as well as the cabbage family (broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi, radish, rutabaga and turnip).
- 1.9. **ID%** means a value derived from the application of the accepted algorithm to determine clubroot disease severity:  $(\#1 \text{ total} * 1) + (\#2 \text{ total} * 3) / 100 * 100$ .
- 1.10. **Destroy** means to kill all growing parts or to render reproductive mechanisms non-viable.
- 1.11. **Greenview** means the Municipal District of Greenview No. 16.
- 1.12. **Infested** means a property containing Clubroot of Canola.
- 1.13. **Notice** means a notice in writing issued by a Pest Inspector under the *Agricultural Pests Act*.
- 1.14. **Period of Restriction** means a period of time in which a cruciferous crop may not be planted or grown.
- 1.15. **Pest** means an animal, bird, insect, plant or disease declared a pest under section two of the *Agricultural Pests Act*.
- 1.16. **Pest Inspector** means an inspector appointed by Greenview Council or by the Minister to carry out the *Agricultural Pests Act*.
- 1.17. **Producer** means a farm operator.
- 1.18. **Soil Disturbance** means anything that can or may move soil.

## 2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1. Clubroot of Canola poses a serious threat to the canola industry by reducing yields, it reduces the quantity and quality of the oil produced from the seeds and the spores can remain viable for twenty (20) years or more according to current research.
  - A) Clubroot is declared a pest in Alberta under the APA. Under which Greenview may take active measures to prevent the establishment of, or to control or destroy pests within the municipality's boundaries.

## 3. PROCEDURE

- 3.1. In the event that a symptomatic sample sent to an accredited lab for analysis returns a DNA positive for Clubroot Greenview shall:
  - A) Ensure the landowner(s) and/or producer(s) receive a written Pest Notice as per the *Agricultural Pests Act* and associated Regulations following these parameters, as set by Council:
    - i. 1-2 rotations or a one-year break when ID% is 1% or less, and pathotypic testing indicates infection is 3H or 8N pathotype;
    - ii. 1-3 rotation or a two-year break when ID% is less than 2%;
    - iii. 1-4 rotation or a three-year break when ID% is greater than 2%;
    - iv. Should pathotype testing reveal the field is Infested with a resistance breaking pathotype the pest Notice shall be until there is a canola cultivar with resistance to that specific pathotype. All other brassica crops shall be prohibited.

- B) All landowner(s) and/or producer(s) within a one (1) mile or 1.6 kilometer radius of the field where Clubroot was confirmed, will be sent an information package with written confirmation that Clubroot was confirmed within a one (1) mile or 1.6 kilometer radius of their property.

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- A) The crop shall be harvested, and the canola seed shall be sold for crushing, but **not** sold for feed or seed, and shall **not** be retained for reseeding.
- B) Crop residue shall be chopped and evenly spread back onto the infected land, not baled or removed.
- C) Any seed load transported from the Infested land shall be securely covered (tarpred).
- D) Soil disturbance on infected land should be minimized to prevent movement to uninfected land.
- E) Any crop residue and soil should be cleaned from all equipment and implements and left on the land before taking equipment off the infected land.
- F) Implements, or parts thereof, which come directly into contact with the soil should be sterilized, as per the Alberta Clubroot Management Plant.
- G) Should the landowner(s) and/or producer(s) of infected land or canola plant fail to abide by the Notice, the Manager of Agricultural Services shall:
  - i. Take appropriate measures to destroy the planted crop **using a herbicide with an active ingredient to which the crop is not genetically tolerant (ie, glyphosate, glufosinate ammonium).**
  - ii. Should Greenview destroy the crop, an invoice shall be issued to the landowner(s) and/or producer(s) for the labour, chemical and equipment costs of the destruction as per provincial legislation. If not paid voluntarily, Greenview will add the amount owing to the tax roll.
  - iii. Should enforcement be required, where the landowner(s) or producer(s) does not elect to perform the control themselves additional administrative fees will be charged at 15% of the cost of enforcement.
- H) After the period of restriction listed in the Notice has expired, canola may be seeded.
- I) Inform any contractors or custom operators who may enter onto the land that Clubroot has been found on the property, and advise them to properly clean and disinfect any equipment which comes into contact with the soil.

#### 4. COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. Council shall appoint Pest Inspectors as per section 10 of the *Agricultural Pests Act*.

4.2. Council shall review the Clubroot of Canola policy annually, to ensure the policy is informed by the most recent advancements in knowledge of the Clubroot pathogen.

#### 5. ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. The Manager of Agricultural Services shall establish protocols and an inspection schedule to be followed outlining the following:

- A) Ensure fields to be inspected are distributed across Greenview.
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- C) Mitigation and control of clubroot spore transferral between fields by Pest Inspectors and;
- D) Timed to ensure impacted producers are informed of positive clubroot DNA results prior to harvest.

- 5.2. For research purposes, canola and other cruciferous crops may be permitted to be grown on lands where a Notice has been issued with respect to Clubroot of Canola on the lands provided that pre-approval has been granted by the Manager of Agricultural Services at their sole discretion.
- 5.3. Administration shall develop a geographical incident map based on Townships of infestations for use in mitigation plan development by industry and construction companies.
- 5.4. To better understand how the disease was introduced and spread, Administration shall gather as much information about the Clubroot infected field as possible, including type and variety of the crop, seed retailer, equipment movement, custom operators used, soil type, pH and drainage patterns.
- 5.5. Greenview Agricultural Services will provide information and education to landowner(s) and/or producer(s) regarding the spread of Clubroot of Canola.
- 5.6. Greenview will advocate that all seed (of a host crop) should be a Clubroot resistant variety.

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# REQUEST FOR DECISION

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SUBJECT:	Bill C-293: Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Act		
SUBMISSION TO:	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD	REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION	
MEETING DATE:	November 27, 2024	CAO:	MANAGER: SK
DEPARTMENT:	AGRICULTURE	DIR: MH	PRESENTER: SK
STRATEGIC PLAN:	Economy	LEG:	

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## RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

**Provincial** (cite) –N/A

**Council Bylaw/Policy** (cite) – N/A

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## RECOMMENDED ACTION:

**MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board accept the report “Bill C-293: Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Act” for information, as presented.**

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## BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, a private member’s bill referenced as Bill 293- “Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness,” was introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, the Liberal Member of Parliament for Beaches—East York in Ontario. Since that time, the bill received second and third reading in the House of Commons on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, respectively. The bill received first reading in the Senate on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, with the second reading being introduced on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and debate adjourned, without motion. It is not clear when C-293 will next be before the Senate, but Administration has confirmed it is not on the Senates docket up to November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Senate will be sitting through December 2024.

A review of the House of Commons Hansard reveals that the bill received significant push back. Critics state that passing the bill would prevent an independent inquiry into the federal actions related to Covid-19. Additional criticisms include belief that the bill is over-reaching multiple jurisdictions, as well as its focus on potential outbreaks stemming from livestock, which is referenced as “industrial animal agriculture”. A review of the Standing Committee of Health’s hearing of the bill revealed submissions of concern from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario. Both organizations had concern regarding 4(2)l which currently states:

- (l) after consultation with the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Minister of Industry and provincial governments, provide for measures to
  - (i) reduce the risks posed by antimicrobial resistance,
  - (ii) regulate commercial activities that can contribute to pandemic risk, including industrial animal agriculture,
  - (iii) promote commercial activities that can help reduce pandemic risk, including the production of alternative proteins, and

(iv) phase out commercial activities that disproportionately contribute to pandemic risk, including activities that involve high-risk species;

A submission from World Animal Protection organization supported the bill in its current form. On the website of the organization, the following is found: *“The way we produce food is not only cruel to animals, but also harms our planet. Factory farming, which drives the animal feed trade and climate change, is destroying habitats and breeding antimicrobial resistant bacteria that get into waterways and meat products. It’s a cycle that challenges both our stewardship of the earth and our humanity.”*

From World Animal Protection’s website, it is stated that *“World Animal Protection provided input into this essential bill by highlighting the importance of addressing top pandemic drivers like the commercial wildlife trade and factory farming.”*

The author of the bill states the intention is to require the Federal Minister of Health to create and maintain a “One Health” pandemic prevention and preparedness document. Regarding regulation of the livestock industry, the author focuses concern on biosecurity practices but in a blog post the author made regarding C-293, he surmises that, *“We either meet growing global demand for protein in an unsustainable way at great risk to public health, or through a combination of biosecure meat alongside an expansion of alternative proteins.”*

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**BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. The benefit of the recommended action is that the Agricultural Service Board will be informed as to Bill C-293, the content, the debate, and the current criticisms to inform any further action the Board would like to take.

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**DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

There are no perceived disadvantages to the recommended motion.

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**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

**Alternatives:** The Agricultural Service Board has many options regarding Bill C-293 and Administration has not made a firm recommendation to allow the Board to discuss the matter and arrive at how they would prefer to move forward. Options include:

- 1) That the Agricultural Service Board request Administration draft a letter to the Senate of Canada to inform them as to potential concerns with the language of the Bill versus the intention.
- 2) That the Agricultural Service Board request Administration draft an emergent resolution in collaboration with other Rural Municipalities for the upcoming 2025 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference.
- 3) That the Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council that advocacy related to Bill C-293 be prioritized by Greenview Council.
- 4) That the Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council the drafting of a letter to the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation as well as the Premier of Alberta, supporting the Alberta Government in advocacy related to Bill C-293 to the Senate of Canada as well as the Federal Government.

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**FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:**

There are no financial implications to the recommended motion.

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**STAFFING IMPLICATION:**

There are no staffing implications to the recommended motion.

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**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT LEVEL:**

Greenview has adopted the IAP2 Framework for public consultation.

**INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC IMPACT**

Inform

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL**

Inform - To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

**PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC**

Inform - We will keep you informed.

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**FOLLOW UP ACTIONS:**

There are no follow up actions to the recommended motion.

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**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- Bill C-293
- C-293 Greenview Letter Draft
- Senate Hansard, Debates, Issue 229, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024
- Standing Committee on Health Report; Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- Standing Committee on Health Report; Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario
- Standing Committee on Health Report: World Animal Protection
- What is scary vegan Bill C-293; by Nate Erskine-Smith
- Bill C-293: The Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Act



## **Submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health (HESA)**

**Re: Bill C-293, Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Act**

**Melissa Matlow, Canadian Campaign Director, World Animal Protection**

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

World Animal Protection is an international animal welfare charity with offices in 12 countries and more than 300,000 supporters across Canada. We work with governments, corporations, and communities to develop sustainable evidence-based solutions that help people and animals alike. We have General Consultative Status with the UN, a formal working relationship with the World Organization of Animal Health (WOAH) and are members of the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC).

World Animal Protection supports Bill C-293 because it takes a One Health approach to pandemic prevention, requiring government to address the underlying causes of pandemics.

75% of new or emerging infectious diseases over the past decade originated from animals; principally from wildlife (e.g., Mpox, Ebola, SARS, MERS, HIV/AIDS, Avian Flu, Swine Flu, West Nile, Nipah, Zika, COVID-19).<sup>i</sup> Our mistreatment of animals and nature is increasing the frequency and severity of disease outbreaks and the likelihood of the next pandemic.

The wildlife trade (both illegal and underregulated legal trade), live animal markets and industrial animal agriculture have been identified as top drivers of pandemic risk and biodiversity loss in reports by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)<sup>ii</sup> and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)<sup>iii</sup>. These drivers are also named in the current draft of the World Health Organization (WHO) 'Pandemic Treaty'<sup>iv</sup> and acknowledged in Bill C-293.

We support the current wording of the bill but if it is to be amended at Committee, there are three important aspects of the bill that we urge you to retain and where possible, strengthen:

- (1) It is important that the bill retains its reference of a One Health approach and that this refers to the interconnectedness of the health and welfare of animals, people, and the planet.

The Bill requires the Minister of Health or ministers referred to in subsection (2) 'use a multisectoral and multidisciplinary collaborative approach, known as a One Health approach, that focuses on the human, animal, plant and ecosystem health and welfare interface'. This language should be retained.

Western notions of One Health were long preceded by traditional forms of knowledge, including Indigenous ways of knowing, which recognizes and respects the interconnectedness among all beings. A recent paper published in the Canadian journal, FACETS speaks to this history and the 'groundswell of One Health initiatives' in Canada and the need for a One Health paradigm shift.<sup>v</sup> One Health has been identified in many international documents, including as part of the IHR core capacities<sup>vi</sup>, the One Health Joint Plan of Action and the recent Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and is an important part of Canada's actions to pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

Improving animal welfare is a central part of applying a One Health approach to preventing pandemics. When animals are kept in poor welfare conditions, it can negatively impact their health. Animal immune systems are compromised when they are kept in crowded, unsanitary and stressful conditions and this creates an ideal environment for the emergence, mutation and spread of infectious diseases that can then be transmitted to humans. Free roaming wild animals can also be stressed. For example, research has found that bats shed more Hendra virus after being stressed by food shortages, which have increased because of habitat destruction. And while research like this can help predict when spillovers will happen, preventing future pandemics, scientists struggle to obtain funding for this important work.<sup>vii</sup>

Animal welfare solutions can have many other co-benefits for human health and environmental health. For example, when farm animals are raised in higher welfare conditions, this can reduce the need for prophylactic antimicrobials and preserve the effectiveness of those drugs for human medicine. Policies that help transition away from intensive farming practices can also protect our environment by decreasing pollution. Our research has found antimicrobial-resistant material in waterways downstream from intensive livestock operations in Canada and other countries.<sup>viii</sup>

(2) The bill must retain an adequate focus on prevention, including pre-outbreak measures to prevent pathogen spillover at the human-animal-environment interface.

We believe Bill C-293 places appropriate emphasis on prevention in Section 4 which outlines what needs to be considered in a national Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Plan.

This is important because prevention of pandemics is significantly less costly than responding to pandemics once they have emerged. The IMF has estimated that the COVID-19 pandemic will cost the global economy more than \$12.5 trillion by 2024.<sup>ix</sup> It is estimated that prevention costs less than 5% of the response.<sup>x</sup> Furthermore, it's been calculated that investments to prevent tropical deforestation and restricting the wildlife trade would cost as little as 2% of the economic costs of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>xi</sup>

Prevention cannot just be about improving surveillance. Surveillance alone is insufficient to prevent pandemics - it cannot always fully identify new pathogens, detect asymptomatic animals, or prevent pathogen mutation and emergence.

(3) The bill must retain an acknowledgement of the top pandemic drivers and the requirement that government address these.

Section 4 (2) (l) of the bill identifies measures the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and the Minister of Industry and provincial governments should take to reduce pandemic risk including by addressing antimicrobial resistance, regulating and/or phasing out industrial animal agriculture and commercial activities that involve high-risk species and by promoting commercial activities that reduce pandemic risk including the production of alternative proteins. We highly recommend that high welfare farming be added in Section 4 (2) (l) (iii) as another commercial activity to promote to reduce pandemic risk.

Section 4 (2) (m) of the bill identifies measures the Minister of Environment should take including to reduce the risk associated with the commercial wildlife trade in Canada and abroad and measures to regulate or phase out live animal markets. This language should be retained

as it acknowledges the need to address the top pandemic drivers identified in the UNEP/ILRI and IPBES reports and referenced in WHO's draft 'Pandemic Treaty'.

Particular attention needs to be paid to the following key drivers:

### **The commercial wildlife trade**

The bill should recognize the role of the commercial wildlife trade in driving pandemic risk. It is widely acknowledged that a wildlife market in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China and the wildlife farms that supplied it, played a significant role in the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>xii</sup> This market had a section which sold many live and dead wild animals including snakes, hedgehogs, crocodiles and raccoon dogs. The 2002 SARS outbreak was also linked to a wildlife market, in this case the sale of Himalayan palm civets.<sup>xiii</sup> The risk of disease outbreaks increases significantly at every step of the supply chain<sup>xiv</sup> as animals are exposed to a wider variety of other wildlife species and endure prolonged stressful and often unsanitary conditions which impacts their immune system resulting in environments where diseases can develop, mutate, and thrive.

This is why scientists and parliamentarians around the world have called for the closure of wildlife markets and associated trade. Germany, Netherlands, China, and Italy have already taken important steps to curb the domestic trade in wild animals and wild animal products. For example, the Netherlands has expedited a permanent ban on fur farming to prevent further COVID-19 outbreaks and the German Federal Parliament has agreed to reduce the trade in wild animals for pets, ban the sale of wild caught animals and set up a centralized trade register.<sup>xv</sup>

Canada should follow suit. More than 1.8 million wild animals were imported into Canada between 2014 and 2019 and 93% were seemingly not subject to any permits or pathogen screening.<sup>xvi</sup> The majority of these animals are being traded to supply the exotic pet trade.

### **Intensive animal farming**

Agricultural intensification is responsible for over 50% of infectious diseases from animals since 1940.<sup>xvii</sup> Many of the most recent zoonotic disease outbreaks, such as avian flu and swine flu, are associated with intensive poultry and pig production systems with poor animal welfare and animal husbandry standards.<sup>xviii</sup>

Intensive farming forces stressed animals into tightly packed sheds, increasing the risk of diseases like swine flu or bird flu that can jump to humans. Animals kept in poor conditions, including during transport, are more susceptible to disease infection, mutation and spread.

In an open letter to the WHO published in The Lancet, over 200 medical and scientific experts identified industrial animal agriculture as a significant pandemic threat and major contributor to antibiotic resistance, stating "Industrial animal farming contributes to the rise of antibiotic resistance and pandemic threats in two major ways: first, through the widespread "low-dose" use of antibiotics on farms; and second, by rapidly expanding deforestation in order to supply grazing and feed land for cattle, which brings human beings in closer contact with wild animals that may carry emerging zoonotic disease."<sup>xix</sup>

### **Antimicrobial resistance**

The WHO calls the rise in antimicrobial resistance the invisible or silent pandemic and one of the top ten global health threats facing humanity this decade. Nearly five million people died because of AMR in 2019.<sup>xx</sup>

In 2019, 78% of all antibiotics sold and distributed in Canada were for farm animals, contributing to the rise to antimicrobial resistant superbugs.<sup>xxi</sup> Farmers often administer antibiotics not merely to treat infections, but to help prevent infections that are facilitated by keeping animals in poor conditions such as over-crowding. These conditions also facilitate the spread of new viruses. The EU has banned prophylactic antibiotics in farming as of 2022. Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Iceland, and the Netherlands had already done so. There is strong support from NGOs, scientists, and Canadians for government action on this issue: 89% of Canadians believe the overuse of antibiotics in farm animals is wrong and 82% believe antibiotics should only be used to treat sick animals.<sup>xxii</sup>

Government must do everything it can to try to prevent future pandemics from happening and animal health and welfare play a critical role in this. This was also confirmed at the latest UN Biodiversity COP (COP15) in Montreal where Canada alongside all other signatories agreed to the world's biodiversity goals for the next 10 years, and where Targets reference the interconnectedness of people, animals and our shared environment.

In closing, World Animal Protection urges Committee Members to pass a strong bill that retains recognition of the need for a One Health approach to pandemic prevention, recognizing the important role of animal welfare in this approach and the need to regulate and/or phase-out high-risk animal activities that drive pandemic risk, including live animal markets, the commercial wildlife trade, intensive animal farming practices and antimicrobial resistance.

Thank you for your consideration.

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<sup>i</sup> Jones KE, Patel N, Levy M, et al. Global trends in emerging infectious diseases. *Nature* 2008; 451:990-94.

<sup>ii</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, & International Livestock Research Institute (2020). *Preventing the Next Pandemic: Zoonotic Diseases and how to Break the Chain of Transmission*.

<https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/32316>.

<sup>iii</sup> Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). 2020. IPBES workshop on biodiversity and pandemics: executive summary. <https://www.ipbes.net/pandemics>

<sup>iv</sup> [https://apps.who.int/gb/inb/pdf\\_files/inb4/A\\_INB4\\_3-en.pdf](https://apps.who.int/gb/inb/pdf_files/inb4/A_INB4_3-en.pdf)

<sup>v</sup> Samira Mubareka, et al.; 2023. Strengthening a One Health approach to emerging zoonoses. *FACETS*. 8(): 1-64. <https://doi.org/10.1139/facets-2021-0190>

<sup>vi</sup> WHO Joint external evaluation of IHR core capacities of Canada: mission report, 11-20 June 2018. [WHO-WHE-CPI-2019.62-eng.pdf](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/who-whe-cpi-2019-62-eng-pdf)

<sup>vii</sup> <https://www.propublica.org/article/funding-scientists-pandemic-prevention-spillover>

<sup>viii</sup> <https://www.worldanimalprotection.ca/news/deadly-superbugs-found-waterways-next-cruel-factory-farms>

<sup>ix</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/business/imf-sees-cost-covid-pandemic-rising-beyond-125-trillion-estimate-2022-01-20/>

<sup>x</sup> Bernstein et al. (2022) *The costs and benefits of primary prevention of zoonotic pandemics*

<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abl4183>

<sup>xi</sup> <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/369/6502/379>

<sup>xii</sup> <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abp8715>

<sup>xiii</sup> <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/302/5643/276.full>

<sup>xiv</sup> Nguyen Quynh Huong *et al.*; Coronavirus testing indicates transmission risk increases along wildlife supply chains for human consumption in Viet Nam, 2013-2014. Posted June 17, 2020.

<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.06.05.098590v3>

<sup>xv</sup> <https://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/19/253/1925345.pdf>

<sup>xvi</sup> Data obtained from CBSA and CFIA through Access to Information Requests in 2020. The actual number of wild animals imported is likely higher as some importation numbers were recorded as unknown and only electronic records could be provided due to COVID-19.

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- <sup>xvii</sup> <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/preventing-future-zoonotic-disease-outbreaks-protecting-environment-animals-and>
- <sup>xviii</sup> UN Nutrition. 2021. Livestock-derived foods and sustainable healthy diets. [https://www.unnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/UN-Nutrition-paper-Livestock-derived-foods\\_19may.pdf](https://www.unnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/UN-Nutrition-paper-Livestock-derived-foods_19may.pdf) (accessed 24th September 2021)
- <sup>xix</sup> [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)31358-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)31358-2/fulltext)
- <sup>xx</sup> [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)02724-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)02724-0/fulltext)
- <sup>xxi</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/drugs-health-products/canadian-antimicrobial-resistance-surveillance-system-report-2021.html>
- <sup>xxii</sup> [https://dkt6rvnu67rj.cloudfront.net/sites/default/files/media/Flood\\_Polling\\_AMR.pdf](https://dkt6rvnu67rj.cloudfront.net/sites/default/files/media/Flood_Polling_AMR.pdf)



# CHRISTIAN FARMERS FEDERATION OF ONTARIO

ACCREDITED FARM ORGANIZATION

***Standing Committee on Health  
Bill C-293 An Act Respecting Pandemic  
Prevention and Preparedness 2023***



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## REPRESENTING FARMERS SINCE 1954



**CHRISTIAN FARMERS  
FEDERATION OF ONTARIO**  
ACCREDITED FARM ORGANIZATION

*Brief to the Standing Committee on Health*

**RE: Bill C-293 An Act Respecting Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness**

**Recommendation**

**That section 4 (2) (I), as currently worded, be removed from Bill C-293.**

**Brief**

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) recognizes the importance of preventing disease, particularly outbreaks that could lead to pandemic situations, and the need for preparedness to handle disease outbreaks when they do occur.

We are writing to state our concern about the wording of Bill C-293. In particular, the CFFO is concerned about the wording of section 4 (2) (I).

**One Health Approach**

Section 4 (2) (I) (i) gives responsibility for reducing risk of antimicrobial resistance solely to the Minister of Agriculture, when this should be shared by those responsible for risks and impacts of antimicrobial resistance within human and veterinary medicine, among others. This section should be removed from the Bill.

It is important in looking at disease risk and spread to consider human, animal and environmental disease factors through an interdisciplinary One Health approach. Canada already has a “Pan-Canadian Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance,” developed using a One Health approach. It involves leadership across many levels of government and diverse stakeholders. Collaborative effort is needed to meaningfully address the risks and implement strategies across affected sectors.

**Animal Agriculture**

Section 4 (2) (I) (ii - iv) directly correlate animal agriculture with increased pandemic risk. These sections further direct the promotion of “alternative proteins,” based on a notion of reduced pandemic risk. This language unfairly represents the risks posed by animal agriculture. These sections of the Bill, as worded, further require drastic action including

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**REPRESENTING FARMERS SINCE 1954**

measures to “regulate” animal agriculture and to “phase out...high risk species” in response to this exaggerated notion of risk. These sections should also be removed from the Bill.

Drastic actions, such as those suggested in the current wording of the Bill, in the case of food animals in particular, would result in loss of food supply, economic losses, and increased cost of food, among other effects.

Agriculture is already highly regulated and constantly improving based on the latest scientific information and market-driven changes. Any pandemic risk needs to be weighed against our ability to address the risk through prevention and response. Any actions taken need to directly relate to specific identified risk.

**The CFFO requests that section 4 (2) (I), as currently worded, be removed from Bill C-293.**

### Conclusion

The wording of Bill C-293, section 4 (2)(I), does not appropriately assign responsibility for antimicrobial resistance, unfairly represents the risk of animal agriculture, and makes drastic recommendations regarding animal agriculture based on this exaggerated notion of risk. We recommend removing this section, as currently worded, from the Bill.

### Organization Description

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) is recognized as an Accredited Farm Organization in Ontario, representing the interests of over 4,000 farm families who are called to the vocation of farming. CFFO policy promotes economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable farming, advocating that farmers receive fair return for their production and stewardship efforts.



I would remind you that this government not listening is not unusual. Nevertheless, we have to deal with it and do our best to fix whatever we can. Bill S-287 makes that possible.

Now, let's look beyond the economic impact on the railways.

If the current government had been willing to listen to industry experts, like Ms. Bennett and other specialists who are well versed in this issue, it would have known that interswitching also impedes the flow of goods. It would have realized that its regulations are systematically resulting in extra transfers that extend transit and shipping times and increase costs for a lot of shippers down the line.

Extended interswitching economically weakens and harms Canada's railway industry. By extension, it harms our entire economy. Interswitching jeopardizes the jobs of Canadians who earn a living from shipping goods. Railway workers, longshoremen and various related shipping industries suffer.

I would also like to mention an opinion expressed by the unions about extended interswitching. They flatly oppose it for one very simple reason: Teamsters and Unifor consider that extended interswitching systematically hands over work to Americans that could be done here, in Canada, by unionized railway workers. They also believe that the Canadian shippers profiting from these regulations are often the world's big grain companies. In their opinion, our government is financially encouraging these companies to do business with U.S. railway companies, instead of using CN or CPKC.

Looking even further at the negative effects for Canadian workers, it's safe to say that the current interswitching rules could also have harmful economic consequences for our port industry and our longshoremen. If we allow shippers to choose Seattle over Vancouver as their loading or unloading port, we literally lose out as Canadians.

Let me ask you this: Do you believe for a moment that the United States, or any other country that values its economy, would disadvantage its local businesses in favour of Canada? I know the answer. That's why I introduced Bill S-287, which will allow us to seriously study the situation and then correct this legislative aberration.

The current regulations are costing Canadian railways money. They are threatening good direct and indirect Canadian jobs. They are reducing the efficiency of rail freight transportation. The current regulations are inefficient for our supply chains and have no positive financial impact on Canadian farmers and producers. Shall I continue? I'll stop there.

I think I've gone into enough detail to show you what an economic nuisance these extended interswitching regulations are for the country, and what an unacceptable advantage they give the Americans. This must stop now. Canada is, and must remain, a country with a healthy rail industry.

Unfortunately, I have to tell you something that does not make me happy. In a few months, I will reach the mandatory retirement age in this chamber, so I will not be able to see this bill through to the end. I hope that Bill S-287 will be seriously debated, that it will be taken in hand by one of you and that it will be passed for the greater good of the industry, the economy and our workers.

Thank you.

(On motion of Senator Martin, debate adjourned.)

## Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Bill

### Second Reading—Debate Adjourned

**Hon. Marie-Françoise Mégie** moved second reading of Bill C-293, An Act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness.

She said: Honourable senators, I am honoured to sponsor Bill C-293, An Act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness.

Please rest assured that I will not need the full 45 minutes allotted to me to demonstrate the merits of the principle of preventive health that underpins this bill.

Bill C-293 seeks to prevent the risk of and prepare for future pandemics. The principle of Bill C-293 can be summarized in two sayings that you are all familiar with. The first is "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," and the second is the Scout motto, "be prepared."

The human and economic impacts of a pandemic are quantifiable. In fact, the Office of the Auditor General of Canada publicly shared the audits related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before I go any further, I would like to define two terms: "epidemic" and "pandemic." An epidemic is the rapid increase and spread of an infectious and contagious disease in a specific region.

A pandemic is an epidemic that crosses national borders and can spread over a continent, a hemisphere or the entire world. It can affect millions of people if they are not immunized or if there are no drugs to treat the disease. That is what happened with COVID-19.

Nowadays, climate change is raising the risk of epidemics and pandemics. For example, because of global warming, animal species that carry diseases like Lyme disease or Zika virus, which are transmitted by mosquitoes and ticks, are proliferating as they travel through northern latitudes into Canada.

Pandemics are unpredictable and can have serious health, societal, and economic consequences, so Canada must be prepared to respond to infectious diseases with pandemic potential at all times.

That's why the Auditor General of Canada produced her eighth report, entitled *Pandemic Preparedness, Surveillance, and Border Control Measures*.

(1620)

This report was tabled in the Senate on March 30, 2021. The Auditor General wrote the following:

When a pandemic occurs, identifying, tracking, and forecasting the disease's spread are important so that all levels of government can quickly respond and deploy resources as required to limit the spread of the disease.

A Radio-Canada article dated June 24, 2021, reads as follows:

The Global Public Health Intelligence Network, the system responsible for tracking epidemics and the transmission of infectious diseases elsewhere in the world, did not issue an alert about the virus outbreak in Wuhan, China.

The Auditor General also rebuked the Public Health Agency for introducing changes that limited the ability of the Global Public Health Intelligence Network to issue pandemic alerts.

Government decision makers must have timely access to credible risk assessments in order to mount an effective response. It's equally important to have an effective national monitoring system in place to gather, discuss, analyze and share public health information. Responses can include border control measures, such as travel restrictions, border closures and quarantine or lockdown orders.

The Auditor General's conclusion was unequivocal: The agency was not adequately prepared to respond to a pandemic. The agency had not addressed some long-standing health surveillance information issues prior to the pandemic. Had it done so, it could have been better prepared. The Auditor General made numerous recommendations in that regard, all of which were accepted by the agency.

Honourable colleagues, on September 24, the federal government created a new agency to strengthen our industrial capabilities in the life sciences and biomanufacturing sector in order to support Canada's health emergency readiness. We need only think of the frantic race that often takes place outside the country to secure the personal protective equipment, including gloves, masks and disinfectants, needed to deal with a pandemic.

The creation of Health Emergency Readiness Canada, the new federal agency within Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, will help protect Canadians against future pandemics.

For those who were not in the Senate at the time, on November 24, 2021, eight months after the audit was tabled, I introduced Bill S-209 to establish Pandemic Observance Day.

Since the bill received Royal Assent, March 11 of each year has become a day to commemorate the pandemic. Its three cardinal principles are to remember, to recover and to prepare.

At the time, there was still the work of caring for and supporting those with COVID. The aim is to break the cycle so that the most vulnerable members of our society do not become even more vulnerable with each pandemic.

For example, mobile care, which includes things like vaccination or screening trucks, is a concept that has been around for a long time, as noted by medical historian Laurence Monnais, a professor of the history of medicine and public health at the Institut des humanités en médecine in Lausanne, Switzerland. I want to quote her:

Couldn't the state go back to using this kind of initiative more often, both for real prevention and for ensuring that everyone has equal access to health services?

During Canada's latest pandemic, many opposition politicians harshly criticized the government for its lack of pandemic preparedness.

I agree. Canada can and must do better.

Author Yuval Noah Harari wrote that every crisis is also an opportunity. The creation of the Department of Health in 1919 after the Spanish flu and the creation of the Public Health Agency of Canada in 2004 after SARS stemmed from the health crises our country went through.

Bill C-293 is a legislative response to the recommendations of the Auditor General. It is also a response to the criticisms about Canada's inadequate pandemic preparedness.

I want to acknowledge the commitment of the member for Beaches—East York on this topic that is so important to me.

I don't want to be the bearer of bad news, but pandemics are cyclical. It's not a matter of if, but when the next one will happen.

I hope that this bill will receive your swift support so that it may be studied in detail in committee as soon as possible.

I hope that Canada will always be prepared to protect Canadians and serve as an example for the entire world.

Thank you.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

[English]

**Hon. Donald Neil Plett (Leader of the Opposition):** I have a few questions if Senator Mégie will take them.

[Translation]

**The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore:** Senator Mégie, Senator Plett has some questions for you.

**Senator Mégie:** Yes.

[English]

**Senator Plett:** Thank you, senator, and thank you for your speech.

Senator Mégie, I am sure you are aware that the agricultural industry has some very serious concerns about this bill to the point of being alarmed at what it proposes.

Could you tell this chamber what is meant in subparagraph 3(2)(1)(ii) where the bill states:

(2) The pandemic prevention and preparedness plan must

(1) after consultation with the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Minister of Industry and provincial governments, provide for measures to

(ii) regulate commercial activities that can contribute to pandemic risk, including industrial animal agriculture,

The bill also contains the following statement:

(1) after consultation with the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Minister of Industry and provincial governments, provide for measures to

(iii) promote commercial activities that can help reduce pandemic risk, including the production of alternative proteins . . . .

Why would this bill include that statement? Are you suggesting that animal proteins are the cause of pandemics that require phasing out?

[Translation]

**Senator Mégie:** Thank you for the question. It's not because of that at all. It's because we already know that there are often issues when it comes to biosecurity on farms. That is what we need to take action on. We don't need to get into detail on that now. We can wait until we study this bill in committee. Then we can invite farmers from various sectors of the agricultural industry to appear. They will be able to tell us what needs to be done, because they will make suggestions based on their fears and on what can be done to allay those fears. We can't impose that now.

[English]

**Senator Plett:** I have a list of questions, but I'll stick to one more question if I could.

[Translation]

**The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore:** Will you take another question, senator?

**Senator Mégie:** Yes, I can take another question.

[English]

**Senator Plett:** As you know, the bill also states the following:

(2) The pandemic prevention and preparedness plan must  
— and this is what concerns me a great deal —

(m) include the following information, to be provided by the Minister of the Environment:

(ii) a summary of the measures the Minister of the Environment intends to take to reduce the risk that the commercial wildlife trade in Canada and abroad will lead to a pandemic, including measures to regulate or phase out live animal markets . . . .

What "live animal markets" in Canadian agriculture does this bill want to regulate or phase out?

[Translation]

**Senator Mégie:** When it comes to this kind of market, the aim is always to be better equipped. It's important to meet the people who are involved in the market's comings and goings, internationally and otherwise.

(1630)

Speaking of animals, we need to remember that there was a time when we were talking about bird flu. We need to manage this aspect and prevent the comings and goings so that we can try and figure out where the source is and where to close things down in order to prevent it from spreading; that is how we will figure it out. As far as the bill is concerned, we can invite people to come and tell the committee how they and their agricultural industry might react, what they need, what measures they need to be able to protect their crops or animals. The solutions have to come from them, in collaboration with the departments, since, of course, they're the ones that are going to act.

[English]

**Senator Plett:** I have an observation that you can reply to. I find it strange. I appreciate your answers, and, of course, I understand that you will not know everything that has gone into this. For us to have to wait for the farmers to come and defend their livestock or the animal activists to try to phase out animals, I think the bill needs to be a little more explicit. It is a fairly scary statement when we say, ". . . including measures to regulate or phase out live animal markets . . ." You are telling me now that the witnesses have to come and tell us that.

Would you not agree that the architect of the bill should tell us what their plan is?

[Translation]

**Senator Mégie:** I don't think there is a set plan. In fact, during studies in committee, when we need solutions we can count on the witnesses, who are the people designated for proposing solutions to the difficulties they experience or the difficulties they face when it comes time to enforce the bill. You or your colleagues might propose amendments, if you find that what was proposed does not make sense. It is our role of sober second thought: We can offer solutions and propose amendments. You will be entirely free to propose amendments.

[English]

**Hon. Denise Batters:** I have a couple of questions as well.

Senator Mégie, being from Saskatchewan I have heard from many farmers who are very concerned about this bill. Now we hear quite a short second reading speech that doesn't really address some of those major concerns they have about the promotion of alternative proteins and about the phase-out, as Senator Plett was saying, of some of their very livelihoods. How do you alleviate those concerns for them other than telling them that they can come to committee, perhaps — if the committee invites them — and have their say there so that they don't have to worry about their livelihoods being threatened?

[Translation]

**Senator Mégie:** You know how it works when we invite witnesses. We have to invite the right witnesses and those who will speak about their industry, what they are doing and their concerns. Then we can find solutions with them and we will do a thorough analysis of the issue. This was done intentionally and I can provide all these details later. If I shared these details now, I would have to propose solutions myself and I do not have those solutions. I purposely did not present them.

[English]

**Senator Batters:** At the end, the translation came through as "I don't have those solutions," but you are the bill's sponsor in the Senate. Usually what happens with a second reading speech — you have seen it go through the House of Commons, and there have been many concerns raised for quite some time since the bill has gone through the House of Commons, as we've just had the summer recess.

As you say, you do not have any solutions, but what is your response to those farmers who are very concerned that this bill does great harm to their livelihoods? Do you think that perhaps it does, or do you contend that it does not? What are the reasons for saying that?

It shouldn't all be left to the committee. There should be some response in the debate process before we send it to committee.

[Translation]

**Senator Mégie:** I will answer the first part of your question.

Typically, we don't have to present a solution at second reading if we don't yet have one, and that is because, in the end, once this has been studied in committee and we have the proposed amendments, the report may provide solutions.

**Hon. Raymonde Saint-Germain:** Senator Mégie, I understand that we are currently talking about the principle, about examining the principle of this bill, which is about preventing pandemics. It's a precautionary principle that is becoming a priority, first and foremost to preserve human health and life, but also to preserve animal husbandry and the interests of farmers and the other partners in Canada's economic chain. Is that indeed the primary principle of this bill, and will the more detailed questions regarding implementation — of either the law or possibly regulations — be examined in committee?

**Senator Mégie:** As I told you, second reading is precisely about examining the principle of the bill. We want to prevent another pandemic, a new pandemic. I could tell you that a particular pandemic is going to come along, and I could tell you how to prevent it, but do I have all the information? When COVID came along, people didn't know what it was. They didn't know if it was a virus or a bacterium. Once they knew it was a virus, they wondered how it would affect humans. They had to go through that whole process to find out what would happen. We have to be involved in those processes. Health professionals were able to say that if a particular thing happened, there would be a particular response. There has to be a whole thought process to get to that point.

It will be the same for farmers. If a particular event happens, such as a zoonotic outbreak on a farm, here's how you respond. We can't predict everything at second reading, though. Second reading is mostly for situating ourselves. We want to prevent the next pandemic, so we want to prevent contagion and transmission.

(On motion of Senator Martin, debate adjourned.)

[English]

## Criminal Code

### Bill to Amend—Second Reading—Debate Continued

On the Order:

Resuming debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Miville-Dechêne, seconded by the Honourable Senator Boehm, for the second reading of Bill C-332, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (coercive control of intimate partner).

**Hon. Donna Dasko:** Honourable senators, I rise to speak in support of Bill C-332, An Act to amend the Criminal Code (coercive control of intimate partner). I want to thank Senator Miville-Dechêne for her work in sponsoring this bill, and I commend her for her continued efforts in speaking out against violence against women.

This bill comes to us at a rare moment. The 2022 Ontario inquest into the murders of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam and the work of the Mass Casualty Commission have educated and challenged us to do more with respect to gender-based violence, intimate partner violence and coercive control. The House of Commons reached a compelling consensus on how we at the federal level can assist in addressing coercive control in particular.

Canadians as well understand the gravity of the larger problem. In a national survey I commissioned in 2021 examining public perceptions of issues facing Canadian women, 83% of Canadians — that includes 86% of women and 80% of men — think that domestic violence is a very important problem facing women in this country today. This ranks as the most important problem facing women in the eyes of the Canadian public.

(1640)

This topic is difficult for the individuals, families and communities affected. At the outset, I wish to acknowledge them as we bear witness to their experiences. The sponsor of the bill, member of Parliament Laurel Collins, said in her second-reading speech, "Statistically speaking, we all know someone who has been in an abusive relationship."

She recounted a story of her sister being in such a situation and her being scared for her sister's life.

Senator Miville-Dechêne in her second-reading speech shared the story of Brigitte, who explained that there was little physical violence from her partner but who recounted blackmail, threats, manipulation and insults.

The Minister of Justice agreed that intimate partner violence, or IPV, is an epidemic in his August 2023 response to the recommendations of the Ontario inquest.

The Government of Ontario — my province, our government — is supporting a private member's bill, Bill 173, at Queen's Park in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to the same end, framing it as a public health issue.

There are many factors at play in understanding and addressing coercive control, and we must make a start. This bill is a critical step in our ongoing efforts to protect vulnerable individuals from the insidious forms of intimate partner violence, which we also refer to as domestic or spousal abuse, that may not always leave visible scars but can be just as devastating. It can occur in public and private spaces and online. It is gender-based, and we must also keep in mind its intersectional aspects in all the work we do.

The intent of this legislation, which is to recognize and criminalize coercive control — also referred to in the United Kingdom's legislation as "controlling or coercive behaviour," or CCB — aligns with Canada's collective commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of all Canadians, including those trapped in relationships characterized by manipulation, intimidation and control.

So what is coercive control? It is a pattern of conduct that consists of any combination or repeated instances of certain acts. The bill criminalizes a combination of acts intended to control or attempting to control someone. Examples can be controlling or trying to control someone's movement, finances, social media, whom they spend time with; going through their cellphone or private messages; controlling what they wear, their gender expression, expression of religious beliefs, diet, taking of medications or access to health care.

When you think about this, think about the behaviours that I have just mentioned. How would you go about trying to prove that someone is controlling these things? This is not easy. We have seen progress in our legal framework through existing legislation such as the Divorce Act and the Judges Act, which have begun to address aspects of coercive control.

The amendments to the Divorce Act which came into effect in 2021 include specific provisions that recognize family violence, including coercive or controlling behaviour, as a factor in determining the best interests of the child. The act also requires that courts consider the impact of family violence on parenting arrangements, acknowledging that the psychological and emotional harm caused by coercive control can be profound.

# What is scary vegan Bill C-293?

Would it mandate vegetable proteins? Would it make your kids eat bugs? Are bugs even vegan?



NATE ERSKINE-SMITH  
OCT 17, 2024



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Share

*\*\*\* There has been a campaign in the alt-right media that attacks my pandemic prevention and preparedness legislation as some hidden vegan agenda to mandate vegetable proteins. I wouldn't normally respond to this grifting, especially from Rebel Media, but at least one Senator has expressed concerns based on this [astrourfing](#) and the bill now looks to be stalled. So here's my message to my Senate colleagues.*

Dear Senators and staff,

You've been receiving emails from people who have fallen down the alt-right Rebel rabbit hole online.

The bill doesn't cede our sovereignty to the WHO. And it doesn't mandate vegetables, make our kids eat bugs, or mark the end of animal agriculture.

In fact, it doesn't grant the government any new authorities at all.

I know this because I wrote the bill.

## What is scary vegan Bill C-293?



In doing so, I consulted with expert reports from [UNEP](#), [IPBES](#), and [The Independent Panel](#), and with experts like David Naylor, Peter Stoett, and Christine McNab.

What does the bill do? It requires the government to develop a pandemic prevention and preparedness plan, to table that plan in Parliament for public accountability, and to update it every few years so the issue doesn't [fall by the wayside as it did after SARS](#).

The bill also sets out a non-exhaustive list of issues for the government to include in any prevention and preparedness plan. For example, the plan must:

- identify key drivers of pandemic risk (section 3(2)(b));
- ensure Canada contributes to global disease surveillance (3(2)(g));
- identify preparedness strategies with respect to the availability of PPE, surge capacity for contact tracing, and the working conditions of essential workers (3(2)(i));
- assess our domestic manufacturing capacity for vaccines and treatments (3(2)(k)); and
- review measures to support global health equity (3(2)(n)).

There's a lot more in there, of course, and I don't suggest that I got it all perfectly right. When I testified at the Health Committee, I made it clear that I not only welcomed but *encouraged* amendments. You can [read the full transcript here](#).

I know that there would have been a series of amendments to the bill at the House committee had the Conservatives not filibustered the entire process.

Now, the scary “vegan” section that’s recently attracted attention from grifters, alt-right conspiracy theorists, and Bovine University alumni is section 3(2)(l). It requires the federal government to consult with provinces and ensure there are measures in place to manage and reduce infectious disease risk in animal agriculture.

Let’s consider the specific language in the bill:

**i) reduce the risks posed by antimicrobial resistance**

The **World Bank calls the overuse of antibiotics a public health threat** and pegs AMR deaths at hundreds of thousands per year. Canada’s taking action and that work should be updated as needed.

**ii) regulate commercial activities that can contribute to pandemic risk, including industrial animal agriculture**

We know that a **high density of genetically similar animals increases infectious disease risk**. Avian and swine flus aren’t new, and expert reports (see **here & here**) have laid this out clearly and then some.

I had biosecurity rules in mind here, which shouldn’t be controversial. The CFIA’s Chief Veterinary Officer has testified that **“most on-farm biosecurity standards are voluntary”** at the moment.

Global travel is a key pandemic risk too, and no one is talking about ending either animal agriculture or travel. That would be ridiculous. It’s about managing and reducing risks.

**iii) promote commercial activities that can help reduce pandemic risk, including the production of alternative proteins**

As I’ve come to learn from far-right MPs like Cheryl Gallant, “alternative protein” is apparently communist coded language for eating bugs.

Of course, **plant-based alternatives** are already common as well as significant to Canada’s pulse industry. And **cellular agriculture holds promise**, as we already see products in Singapore and **better industry support in the US** and other countries.

We either meet growing global demand for protein in an unsustainable way at great risk to public health, or through a combination of biosecure meat alongside an expansion of alternative proteins.

More choices, no mandates.

**iv) phase out commercial activities that can help reduce pandemic risk, including activities that involve high-risk species**

As we saw with **mink farming in the pandemic**, some activities have little economic value and come with disproportionate infectious disease risks. **That's why BC** and other jurisdictions banned the practice.

The idea here was to ensure we take a national approach and follow BC, phasing out an activity that unreasonably contributes to pandemic risk.

And that's it.

That's the scary "vegan" bill in a nutshell, which isn't a vegan bill at all.

Like climate accountability legislation, Bill C-293 would ensure that every government is accountable to Parliament and the Canadian public with respect to its pandemic prevention and preparedness efforts.

And all along I've been open to amendments.

I do hope we can work together to put the conspiracies aside, to amend the bill thoughtfully in the Senate, and to ensure that we have a framework in place such that all future governments take pandemic prevention and preparedness seriously.



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## Discussion about this post

Comments

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Maggie Baer Oct 17 Liked by Nate Erskine-Smith

Thank you for your thoughtful and responsible work on this important legislation. The recent Covid report is another valuable contribution to our planning for the next pandemic. I commend your patience in managing the deluge of rightwing conspiracy voters. I used to work as a staffer to an MP on the Hill (30 years ago), and we faced only a handful of such low-information constituents.

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2 replies



Average Canadian Oct 28 · *edited Oct 28*

Horrible read - Completely biased and offensive to anyone who thinks critically. CBC - Is also biased and NO ONE with the right mind, watches the "News" anymore. COVID was a proven scandemic and its experimental mandatory "shots" were all recalled, after forcing 80% of Canadians to get it. Anyone who thinks COVID was anything more than a flu(Sars-2), was vaxxed multiple times, is in denial and/or afraid of the truth. Look up the damages Bill C-293 will do to our freedoms and rights as Canadian Citizens during the next "Scamdemic" Fact: C293 intends to amend the Department of Health Act, however health care falls exclusively under provincial jurisdiction according to section 92(7) of the Constitution Act 1867, therefore Parliament cannot pass law in this matter. Anyone with the internet, partially working brain and 5 minutes can look these facts up - I encourage you to do so. I would like to remind you regardless of your party, You work for US (THE PEOPLE) and we are tired of YOUR Liberal Party name calling anyone who thinks with their brains and not their backside.

DO BETTER!

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1 reply

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First Session, Forty-fourth Parliament,  
70-71 Elizabeth II – 1-2 Charles III, 2021-2022-2023-2024

Première session, quarante-quatrième législature,  
70-71 Elizabeth II – 1-2 Charles III, 2021-2022-2023-2024

HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA

CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES DU CANADA

## BILL C-293

## PROJET DE LOI C-293

An Act respecting pandemic prevention and  
preparedness

Loi concernant la prévention et la  
préparation en matière de pandémie

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**AS PASSED**

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**ADOPTÉ**

BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

PAR LA CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES

JUNE 5, 2024

LE 5 JUIN 2024

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## SUMMARY

This enactment enacts the *Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Act* to require the Minister of Health to establish, in consultation with other ministers, a pandemic prevention and preparedness plan, which is to include information provided by those ministers.

It also amends the *Department of Health Act* to provide that the Minister of Health must appoint a national pandemic prevention and preparedness coordinator from among the officials of the Public Health Agency of Canada to coordinate the activities under the *Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Act*.

## SOMMAIRE

Le texte édicte la *Loi sur la prévention et la préparation en matière de pandémie* afin d'exiger du ministre de la Santé qu'il établisse, en consultation avec d'autres ministres, un plan de prévention et de préparation en matière de pandémie qui comprend les renseignements fournis par ceux-ci.

Il modifie également la *Loi sur le ministère de la Santé* afin de prévoir que le ministre de la Santé nomme, parmi les fonctionnaires de l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada, un coordonnateur national de la prévention et de la préparation en matière de pandémie chargé de coordonner les activités prévues par la *Loi sur la prévention et la préparation en matière de pandémie*.

## BILL C-293

An Act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness

### Preamble

Whereas the costs of prevention and preparedness measures are insignificant in comparison to the human and economic costs of a pandemic;

Whereas Parliament is committed to making efforts to prevent the risk of and prepare for future pandemics and to promote transparency and accountability in relation to those efforts;

Whereas it is critical to build on the lessons learned from previous outbreaks of serious diseases, including severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Ebola virus disease (EVD), Zika virus disease, tuberculosis, H1N1 flu and coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19);

Whereas a One Health approach — a multisectoral and multidisciplinary collaborative approach that focuses on the human, animal, plant and ecosystem health and welfare interface — is central to preventing the risk of future pandemics;

And whereas this approach requires sustained collaboration among various ministers, all levels of government and Indigenous communities;

Now, therefore, His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

## Short Title

### Short title

1 This Act may be cited as the *Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Act*.

## PROJET DE LOI C-293

Loi concernant la prévention et la préparation en matière de pandémie

### Préambule

Attendu :

que le coût des mesures de prévention et de préparation est négligeable comparativement au coût humain et économique d'une pandémie;

5 que le Parlement s'est engagé à déployer des efforts pour prévenir le risque de pandémie et se préparer à de futures pandémies, ainsi qu'à promouvoir la transparence et la responsabilisation relativement à ces efforts;

10 qu'il est essentiel de mettre à profit les leçons tirées des éclosions antérieures de maladies graves, notamment le syndrome respiratoire aigu sévère (SRAS), la maladie à virus Ebola (MVE), la maladie à virus Zika, la tuberculose, la grippe H1N1 et la maladie à coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19);

15 que l'approche Une seule santé — une approche collaborative multisectorielle et multidisciplinaire qui met l'accent sur les relations entre la santé et le bien-être des êtres humains, des animaux, des végétaux et des écosystèmes — est cruciale pour prévenir le risque de pandémie à l'avenir;

que cette approche nécessite la collaboration soutenue de divers ministres, de tous les ordres de gouvernement et des collectivités autochtones,

20 Sa Majesté, sur l'avis et avec le consentement du Sénat et de la Chambre des communes du Canada, édicte :

## Titre abrégé

### Titre abrégé

25 1 *Loi sur la prévention et la préparation en matière de pandémie.*

## Purpose of Act

### Purpose

**2** The purpose of this Act is to prevent the risk of and prepare for future pandemics and to promote transparency and accountability in relation to the Government of Canada's efforts to do so.

## Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Plan

### Pandemic prevention and preparedness plan

**3 (1)** The Minister of Health must establish a pandemic prevention and preparedness plan. 5

### Plan – contents

**(2)** The pandemic prevention and preparedness plan must

**(a)** set out a summary of mitigation strategies that the Minister of Health intends to implement in order to prevent the risk of and prepare for disease outbreaks that could lead to pandemics, as well as a projected timeline for their implementation; 10

**(b)** identify the key drivers of pandemic risk and describe how Canadian activities, domestic and abroad, contribute to the risk; 15

**(c)** ensure sustained collaboration between the Minister of Health and provincial governments and Indigenous communities in the development of the plan in order to align approaches and address any jurisdictional challenges, including with respect to the collection and sharing of data; 20

**(d)** provide for training programs, including collaborative activities, with other levels of government, Indigenous communities and relevant agencies; 25

**(e)** ensure that standards and guidelines that pertain to the prevention of and response to pandemic risk are aligned with the approach described in paragraph (3)(a);

**(f)** describe the state of research in relation to preventing and responding to infectious diseases that could lead to pandemics; 30

## Objet de la loi

### Objet

**2** La présente loi vise à prévenir le risque de pandémie et à assurer la préparation aux pandémies futures ainsi qu'à promouvoir la transparence et la responsabilisation relativement aux efforts déployés par le gouvernement du Canada pour y parvenir. 5

## Plan de prévention et de préparation en matière de pandémie

### Plan de prévention et de préparation en matière de pandémie

**3 (1)** Le ministre de la Santé établit un plan de prévention et de préparation en matière de pandémie.

### Contenu

**(2)** Le plan de prévention et de préparation en matière de pandémie :

**a)** résume les stratégies d'atténuation que le ministre de la Santé entend mettre en œuvre pour prévenir le risque d'éclotions de maladies et se préparer à des éclotions susceptibles d'entraîner une pandémie, et prévoit un calendrier de mise en œuvre; 10

**b)** énumère les facteurs clés de risque de pandémie et décrit comment les activités du Canada, au pays et à l'étranger, contribuent à ce risque; 15

**c)** veille à ce que le ministre de la Santé, les gouvernements provinciaux et les collectivités autochtones collaborent de façon soutenue à l'élaboration du plan, de manière à harmoniser les approches et à résoudre toute question de compétence, notamment concernant la collecte et la mise en commun des données; 20

**d)** prévoit des programmes de formation, y compris des activités de collaboration, avec les autres ordres de gouvernement, les collectivités autochtones et les organismes concernés; 25

**e)** veille à ce que les normes et les lignes directrices relatives à la prévention des risques de pandémie et aux mesures prises en réponse à ces risques s'alignent sur l'approche visée à l'alinéa (3)a); 30

**f)** décrit l'état de la recherche en lien avec la prévention de maladies infectieuses susceptibles d'entraîner une pandémie et avec les mesures prises en réponse à ces maladies; 35

- (g)** provide for the establishment and interlinking of surveillance systems for infectious diseases in Canada and for infectious diseases of concern outside Canada;
- (h)** support local public health and primary care capacity building; 5
- (i)** identify preparedness strategies for public health services across Canada including in respect of
- (i)** the protection of vulnerable and marginalized populations, 10
  - (ii)** working conditions of essential workers across all sectors, 10
  - (iii)** the availability and management of relevant stockpiles, including testing equipment and personal protective equipment, 15
  - (iv)** the surge capacity of human resources required for the testing and contact tracing of persons exposed to infectious diseases, and 15
  - (v)** communication of risk to the public;
- (j)** provide for measures, including training, to increase the ability of healthcare workers in a range of settings to manage sudden and unexpected increases in patient volume; 20
- (k)** include the following information, to be provided by the Minister of Industry:
- (i)** the manufacturing capacity in Canada with respect to any product relevant to pandemic preparedness, including vaccines, testing equipment and personal protective equipment, and the measures that the Minister of Industry intends to take to address any supply chain gaps identified, and 25 30
  - (ii)** the communications capacity and infrastructure for electronic platforms and tools, including electronic applications that enable contact tracing of persons exposed to infectious diseases that could lead to pandemics; 35
- (l)** after consultation with the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Minister of Industry and provincial governments, provide for measures to
- (i)** reduce the risks posed by antimicrobial resistance, 40
  - (ii)** regulate commercial activities that can contribute to pandemic risk, including industrial animal agriculture,
- (g)** prévoit la mise sur pied de systèmes interreliés de surveillance des maladies infectieuses au Canada et des maladies infectieuses préoccupantes à l'étranger;
- (h)** soutient le renforcement des capacités locales en matière de santé publique et de soins primaires; 5
- (i)** cible des stratégies de préparation destinées aux services de santé publique à l'échelle du Canada, notamment en ce qui a trait aux aspects suivants :
- (i)** la protection des populations vulnérables et marginalisées, 10
  - (ii)** les conditions de travail des travailleurs essentiels dans tous les secteurs, 10
  - (iii)** la disponibilité et la gestion des stocks visés, notamment le matériel de dépistage et l'équipement de protection individuelle, 15
  - (iv)** la capacité de mobilisation des ressources humaines requises pour le dépistage et la recherche des personnes ayant été exposées à des maladies infectieuses, 15
  - (v)** la communication des risques au public; 20
- (j)** prévoit des mesures, y compris de la formation, pour accroître la capacité des travailleurs de la santé de différents milieux à gérer des hausses soudaines et imprévues du nombre de patients;
- (k)** contient les renseignements suivants, que le ministre de l'Industrie fournit :
- (i)** la capacité de fabrication au Canada de tout produit lié à la préparation en cas de pandémie, dont les vaccins, le matériel de dépistage et l'équipement de protection individuelle, ainsi que les mesures qu'il entend prendre pour combler toute lacune dans la chaîne d'approvisionnement, 30
  - (ii)** la capacité et l'infrastructure de communication liées aux plates-formes et aux outils électroniques, dont les applications électroniques, qui permettent la recherche des personnes exposées à des maladies infectieuses susceptibles d'entraîner une pandémie; 35
- (l)** prévoit, après consultation du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Agroalimentaire, du ministre de l'Industrie et des gouvernements provinciaux, des mesures pour :
- (i)** réduire les risques que présente la résistance antimicrobienne, 40

- (iii)** promote commercial activities that can help reduce pandemic risk, including the production of alternative proteins, and
- (iv)** phase out commercial activities that disproportionately contribute to pandemic risk, including activities that involve high-risk species;
- (m)** include the following information, to be provided by the Minister of the Environment:
- (i)** after consultation with relevant provincial ministers, a summary of changes in land use in Canada, including in relation to disturbed habitats, that could contribute to pandemic risk, such as deforestation, encroachment on wildlife habitats and urbanization and that were made, in the case of the first plan, since the last report on changes in land use published under the *Federal Sustainable Development Act* or, in the case of the updated plans, during the reporting period for the updated plan,
- (ii)** a summary of the measures the Minister of the Environment intends to take to reduce the risk that the commercial wildlife trade in Canada and abroad will lead to a pandemic, including measures to regulate or phase out live animal markets, and
- (iii)** a summary of the measures the Minister of the Environment intends to take to protect global biodiversity and to halt and reverse global deforestation;
- (n)** include a summary, to be provided by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, of the measures that that minister intends to take to support global health equity, including measures to increase public health capacity around the world and to ensure equitable access to vaccines, testing equipment and treatment;
- (o)** set out, in consultation with relevant ministers, a summary of key cooperative measures or agreements on disease outbreak prevention and preparedness between the Government of Canada, other foreign governments and key international organizations, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Organization for Animal Health and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; and
- (p)** set out, in consultation with the Minister of Transport, the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and other relevant ministers, the routes by which and rates at which pathogens that could lead to pandemics could enter Canada and a summary of border-related measures that would be implemented to reduce any risk.
- (ii)** réglementer les activités commerciales susceptibles de contribuer au risque de pandémie, notamment l'élevage industriel,
- (iii)** promouvoir les activités commerciales susceptibles de contribuer à réduire les risques de pandémie, notamment la production de protéines de remplacement,
- (iv)** éliminer progressivement les activités commerciales qui contribuent de manière disproportionnée au risque de pandémie, notamment celles faisant intervenir des espèces à risque élevé;
- m)** contient les renseignements suivants, que le ministre de l'Environnement fournit :
- (i)** après consultation des ministres provinciaux concernés, un résumé des changements d'affectation des terres au Canada, y compris en lien avec les habitats perturbés, qui sont susceptibles de contribuer au risque de pandémie, notamment la déforestation, l'envahissement de l'habitat d'espèces sauvages et l'urbanisation, et qui ont été effectués, s'agissant du premier plan, depuis le dernier rapport sur les changements d'affectation des terres publié sous le régime de la *Loi fédérale sur le développement durable* ou, s'agissant des plans actualisés, pendant la période visée par le rapport sur le plan actualisé,
- (ii)** un résumé des mesures qu'il entend prendre pour réduire les risques de pandémie découlant du commerce d'espèces sauvages au Canada et à l'étranger, y compris celles visant à réglementer ou à éliminer progressivement les marchés d'animaux vivants,
- (iii)** un résumé des mesures qu'il entend prendre pour protéger la biodiversité mondiale et pour faire cesser et inverser la déforestation dans le monde;
- n)** comprend un résumé, que le ministre des Affaires étrangères fournit, des mesures qu'il entend prendre pour soutenir l'équité en santé à l'échelle mondiale, y compris pour accroître la capacité en matière de santé publique dans le monde et pour garantir un accès équitable aux vaccins, au matériel de dépistage et aux traitements;
- o)** résume, après consultation des ministres concernés, les mesures ou ententes clés de coopération sur la prévention et la préparation en matière d'éclousions de maladies entre le gouvernement du Canada et des gouvernements étrangers ainsi que d'importantes organisations internationales, notamment l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, le Programme des Nations



Unies pour l'environnement, l'Organisation mondiale de la santé animale et l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture;

**p)** établit, après consultation du ministre des Transports, du ministre de la Sécurité publique et de la Protection civile ainsi que d'autres ministres concernés, par quels moyens et à quelle vitesse des agents pathogènes susceptibles d'entraîner une pandémie pourraient arriver au Canada, ainsi qu'un résumé des mesures qui devraient être mises en œuvre aux frontières pour réduire tout risque.

### Considerations

**(3)** When establishing the plan under subsection (1) or when providing the required information under subsection (2), the Minister of Health or the ministers referred to in subsection (2), as the case may be, must

**(a)** use a multisectoral and multidisciplinary collaborative approach, known as a One Health approach, that focuses on the human, animal, plant and ecosystem health and welfare interface;

**(b)** take into account the best scientific information available;

**(c)** leverage international expertise by using internationally developed metrics for pandemic prevention and preparedness, when applicable; and

**(d)** take into account the recommendations made by the advisory committee following its review of the response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in Canada.

### Tabling

**(4)** Within two years after the day on which this Act comes into force, the Minister of Health must prepare a report setting out the plan and cause it to be tabled in each House of Parliament on any of the first 15 days on which that House is sitting after it is completed.

### Publication

**(5)** The Minister of Health must publish the report on the website of the Department of Health within 10 days after it has been tabled in both Houses of Parliament.

### Updated plan

**4 (1)** The Minister of Health must update the pandemic prevention and preparedness plan at least once every three years and cause a report setting out the updated

### Éléments à prendre en compte

**(3)** Lorsqu'il établit le plan prévu au paragraphe (1) ou fournit les renseignements exigés au paragraphe (2), le ministre de la Santé ou tout ministre visé au paragraphe (2) :

**a)** utilise l'approche collaborative multisectorielle et multidisciplinaire appelée Une seule santé, qui met l'accent sur les relations entre la santé et le bien-être des êtres humains, des animaux, des végétaux et des écosystèmes;

**b)** tient compte des meilleures données scientifiques disponibles;

**c)** tire parti de l'expertise internationale en utilisant, s'il y a lieu, des paramètres élaborés à l'échelle internationale relativement à la prévention et à la préparation en matière de pandémie;

**d)** tient compte des recommandations formulées par le comité consultatif à la suite de son examen des mesures prises au Canada en réponse à la maladie à coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).

### Dépôt

**(4)** Dans les deux ans suivant la date d'entrée en vigueur de la présente loi, le ministre de la Santé établit un rapport énonçant le plan et le fait déposer devant chaque chambre du Parlement dans les quinze premiers jours de séance de celle-ci suivant son achèvement.

### Publication

**(5)** Le ministre de la Santé publie le rapport sur le site Web du ministère de la Santé dans les dix jours suivant la date de son dépôt devant les deux chambres du Parlement.

### Plan actualisé

**4 (1)** Le ministre de la Santé actualise le plan de prévention et de préparation en matière de pandémie au moins une fois tous les trois ans et fait déposer un rapport

plan to be tabled in each House of Parliament on any of the first 15 days on which that House is sitting after it is completed.

### Updated plan – contents

(2) In the updated plan, the Minister of Health must

(a) report on the progress that has been made towards preventing pandemic risk and improving preparedness efforts in Canada; 5

(b) in collaboration with the relevant ministers, provide any relevant updates on the information described under subsection 3(2); and 10

(c) take into account the considerations set out in subsection 3(3).

### Publication

(3) The Minister of Health must publish the report on the website of the Department of Health within 10 days after it has been tabled in both Houses of Parliament. 15

1996, c. 8

## Amendment to the Department of Health Act

**5 The *Department of Health Act* is amended by adding the following after section 4.1:**

### National coordinator – pandemic prevention and preparedness

**4.11** For the purpose of coordinating the activities under the *Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Act*, the Minister shall appoint a national pandemic prevention and preparedness coordinator from among the officials of the Public Health Agency of Canada and delegate to the coordinator the powers, duties and functions that the Minister considers appropriate. 20

énonçant le plan actualisé devant chaque chambre du Parlement dans les quinze premiers jours de séance de celle-ci suivant son achèvement.

### Contenu

(2) Dans le plan actualisé, le ministre de la Santé :

a) fait rapport des progrès réalisés en vue de prévenir le risque de pandémie et d'améliorer les efforts de préparation au Canada; 5

b) en collaboration avec les ministres concernés, fournit toute mise à jour pertinente des renseignements visés au paragraphe 3(2); 10

c) tient compte des éléments énoncés au paragraphe 3(3).

### Publication

(4) Le ministre de la Santé publie le rapport sur le site Web du ministère de la Santé dans les dix jours suivant la date de son dépôt devant les deux chambres du Parlement. 15

1996, ch. 8

## Modification à la Loi sur le ministère de la Santé

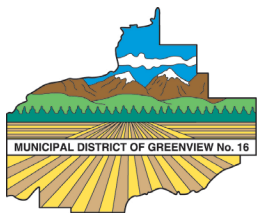
**5 La *Loi sur le ministère de la Santé* est modifiée par adjonction, après l'article 4.1, de ce qui suit :**

### Coordonnateur national – prévention et préparation en matière de pandémie

**4.11** Afin de coordonner les activités prévues par la *Loi sur la prévention et la préparation en matière de pandémie*, le ministre nomme un coordonnateur national de la prévention et de la préparation en matière de pandémie, choisi parmi les fonctionnaires de l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada, et lui délègue les attributions qu'il juge indiquées. 20 25







# Municipal District of **GREENVIEW**

November 18, 2024

The Honourable Senators of Canada  
Senate of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A4

**Subject: Letter of Concern Regarding Bill C-293**

Dear Honourable Senators,

While Bill C-293 aims to provide legislation related to pandemic prevention and preparedness, should it pass without amendment to Section 4(2)(l), it will negatively impact Canadian Agricultural Producers. While the overarching pandemic prevention and preparedness goal is laudable, the current language within the bill shows the author to be poorly informed regarding agricultural production in general, the biosecurity measures currently required by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) of Canadian livestock producers, as well as revealing a biased assumption of what sustainable protein production would entail.

In approaching the sustainability of food production, consideration must be given to the ecosystems of the world, as well as the consequences of changing these ecosystems to annual cropping acres. Conversion of these acres to annual crop production will necessitate further synthesized fertilizer inputs, increased soil erosion and a decrease in the ability of the parcel to sequester carbon. These ecosystems require grazing by large herbivores for plant propagation, and to continue acting as a carbon sink rather than an emission source and that specific ecological goods and services is currently provided by livestock. If a “One Health” perspective is the goal, please consider the sustainability of these ecosystems that are currently grazed by livestock and managed by ranchers. The conversion of these acres would be required to support plant-based protein being the primary protein source for the world’s population.

In the last release of the Global Food Security Index in 2022, Canada was ranked first in the world for the quality and safety of our food and eighth of 113 countries overall when all metrics are considered. While Canada would benefit from a national policy on pest infestation as well as disease mitigation and risk management coordination, this Bill is not the legislation to attain those goals. For a comprehensive strategy, Canada would do well to consult and emulate the

Province of Alberta which mandated surveillance for agriculturally significant pest and disease to the local level in 1943 with the passage of the Agricultural Service Board Act.

Early detection and rapid response with a cooperative local-provincial model would do well with replication across the country and incorporation into CFIA's mandate. This has safe guarded market access for Alberta producers- one such highlight being the discovery of genetically modified what in Alberta by a local agricultural service department. This rapid detection from dedicated local staff averted a potential trade barrier should it have been detected later, in an exported seed lot.

We write today to clarify our significant concerns with aspects Bill C-293, particularly in its impact on the Canadian animal agriculture sector. We ask that the Senate amend this bill or reject it outright. The approach of this bill is one of the best examples we have seen to date of why there needs to be more practical education regarding agriculture in all Canadian classrooms.

Respectfully,

October 23, 2023

Standing Committee on Health  
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6  
Canada

Via: [HESA@parl.gc.ca](mailto:HESA@parl.gc.ca)

RE: Bill C-293, *An Act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness*

Dear Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the undersigned representatives of Canada's approximately 190,000 farm families, including commodity and general farm organizations, from coast to coast to coast, we submit to you our comments on the Standing Committee on Health's study on Bill C-293, *An Act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness*.

***Concern with the Bill's impact on the Canadian animal agriculture sector***

We support the overall objective of Bill C-293, *An Act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness*, which is to support pandemic preparedness, including measures that aim to enhance transparency regarding readiness levels and efforts that seek to strengthen Canada's domestic manufacturing capacity with respect to any products relevant to pandemic production. The COVID-19 pandemic clearly illustrated the importance of strong domestic supply chains which ensure a continuous supply of essential goods to Canadians.

However, we write today to express significant concerns with aspects Bill C-293, particularly in its impact on the Canadian animal agriculture sector. While the primary objective of the Bill is pandemic prevention and preparedness, it contains content and language that will adversely affect Canadian farmers and ranchers if passed in its current form. Specifically, we are concerned by the Bill's language around livestock farming, the promotion of alternative proteins, and the focus on animal agriculture in the context of antimicrobial resistance rather than within the more comprehensive One Health perspective.

***Irrelevant focus on alternative proteins, in the context of pandemic preparedness***

In particular, section 4 (2) (l) of Bill C-293 dissents from the tone and language used throughout other sections of the Bill and instead, includes language promoting the production and use of alternative proteins and the regulation of animal agriculture, and the phase-out of high-risk species.

Where the remainder of the Bill is seen as allowing the Advisory Committee the flexibility to "assess" the capability of the Public Health Agency of Canada to respond and "analyse" the health, economic and social factors *relevant* to the impact of the pandemic, Section 4 (2) (l) pivots to the incorporation of language such as "regulate" and "phase out". This language is suggestive that the Bill has made the incorrect and unsupported assumption that animal agriculture in Canada is a cause of, or contributes to, the spread of disease, a notion we unequivocally reject and is not supported by evidence. In our view, this is inconsistent with the mandate of the Advisory Committee and the objectives of Bill C-293.

Animal-based proteins, including meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and milk products are considered high-quality protein sources that provide essential nutrients required for a healthy body and brain functioning. Moreover, animal protein foods provide key essential vitamins and minerals which are commonly missing in the diets of many Canadians and in a form that can be well absorbed by the body. Notably, there is no evidence which suggests that animal-based proteins are the cause of pandemics and require phasing-out, as the Bill suggests.

### ***Biosecurity in Canadian agriculture***

Furthermore, section 4 (2) (I) of the Bill suggests antimicrobial resistance is an issue specific to agriculture; this is not the case. Antimicrobial resistance is an issue which needs to take the One Health approach, discussed elsewhere in the Bill, to tackle this issue from the human, animal, and environmental perspective.

Finally, Bill C-293 does not take into consideration that the Canadian animal agriculture sector rigorously monitors animal health and wellness and operates under a high level of biosecurity and regulations. Canadian farmers closely monitor their animals and follow stringent biosecurity protocols and standards to protect their animals from disease. Programs such as, for example, *Raised by a Canadian Farmer On-Farm Food Safety Program*, *Start Clean-Stay Clean*<sup>®</sup>, *proAction*, and the *Canadian Hatching Egg Quality (CHEQ*<sup>™</sup>) program, are acknowledged by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Such programs and protocols are designed to reduce the risk of pathogens and diseases through evidence-based practices and are consistently and effectively delivered across Canada.

### ***Proposed amendments to Bill C-293***

As a result, we would recommend the following specific amendments be made to the Bill to ensure it aligns with its stated objective and avoids any unintended consequences for Canadian producers.

- **Recommendation #1:** That Section 4(2) (I) be removed to allow the Advisory Committee the flexibility to undertake its mandate and to focus its attention on pandemic prevention and preparedness.

Specifically, our concerns relate to the use of the words “regulate” and “phase out.” It is recommended this wording be removed or changed to consistently use “assess” or “summarize.”

- **Recommendation #2:** That the Bill include language that encourages continued support and enforcement of existing biosecurity initiatives, including industry-led initiatives.
- **Recommendation #3:** That the reference to “high-risk species” in Section 4 (2) (I). iv. be clearly defined.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit to you our comments on the Standing Committee on Health’s study of Bill C-293, *An Act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness*. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues further.



Sincerely,





# MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW No. 16

## Manager's Report

Department: Agricultural Services

Submitted by: Sheila Kaus

Date: **November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

---

### Environment- Goal 3; Create a balance between development and natural resources

Agricultural Services completed notification to producers whose land is free to plant canola in for 2025 as the pest notices on these parcels had expired. A map was generated for one producer with multiple quarter sections to reduce the chances of inadvertently planting canola in these fields.

Auditing of weed inspection data is in full swing. Many cases were proposed for removal in 2024, and each case requires review prior to removal. The criteria for removal is at least 3 seasons of no weeds being noted on the property but this is applied in consideration of the weed seed longevity and prioritization within Greenview. As this is a new status for managed infestations, Administration is considering increasing the bar for removal of infestations such as scentless chamomile, common tansy and tall buttercup to a minimum of 5 years. The department hopes to have a list of recommended weed notices for Councils notification in January of 2025.

The Peace Regional ASB Conference took place with 9 resolutions moving forward from the region, 2 being from Greenview's ASB. The Greenview resolutions focused on how droughts are decided in areas with large percentages of crown land while the other requested guidelines for the disposal of roadkill carcasses adjacent to livestock operations. 2 resolutions from the region focus on solar and wind energy projects, including the surface rights of a landowner related to solar and wind projects and protection of class 3 agricultural lands.

### Problem Wildlife Work Orders

File Status	Beaver- MD	Beaver- Ratepayer	Customer Service	Predation	Totals
In Queue	-	-	-	-	
Open	4	3	3	4	14
Closed	34	30	29	15	108
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>122</b>

Over the course of October and November, the Problem Wildlife Team removed 39 problem beaver, 8 muskrat and 16 coyote. Problem beaver removal stands at 262 for 2024 and over 23 skunks. A round of dam blasting occurred with what may be the last round of blasting scheduled to take place on October 24th.

**Extension and Outreach Activities**

**Environment- Goal 3; Create a balance between development and natural resources**

**Economy- Goal 2; Create a diverse economy**

The Landcare Coordinator received news that a Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Program application she assisted a Greenview ratepayer in preparing has received \$140,000 in funding under the program. This assistance is not currently the norm in most municipalities, but the department prioritizes this type of assistance to increase the likelihood of Greenview producers receiving funding under these types of programs. The project features rotational grazing, offsite watering, and potential inclusion of cover crops to improve grazing potential. The department is going to start tracking acres that have been improved through RALP, OFCAF and GRASS as a reportable to quantify the cumulative change over the agricultural landscape within Greenview. Three additional GRASS Project was reviewed and approved, bringing the total for 2024 to 5 projects being put in place. An EFP was completed, bringing the 2024 total to 5 completed in collaboration with Greenview producers.

The extension season is well underway with multiple events planned for November and December. Since the last ASB meeting, three Wildfire Workbook presentations, two Dig into Horticulture webinars, How to read a feed test webinar, a weekend delivery on the topic of succession, and an Agricultural Finance workshop in partnership FCC and MNP have been delivered. The Landcare Coordinator has been asked to present on various grant programs available to producers through the federal and provincial governments by Clear Hills County on November 27th. This is in addition to presenting in collaboration with PCBFA in Eureka River on these same grant opportunities. To complete the 2024 extension season, there will be two “Grant Opportunity” workshops, one in Valleyview and another in Grovedale, and a mineral nutrition webinar. This will bring the annual total to 25 extension events for 2024.

**VSI Quarterly Reports and Service Breakdown 2024**

**Economy- Goal 2; Create a diverse economy**

Veterinary Services Incorporated (VSI) encourages livestock producers to access veterinary care and maintain herd health, protecting the economic viability of their livestock operation. The third quarter financials were received on November 1<sup>st</sup> and for the quarter, there was a 30.7% increase in the total charges when compared to the 2023 fiscal year. This equates to a 0.5% increase over 2023 to date. The third quarter is typically the least busy with the fourth quarter accounting for over 30% of total claims. Projections for 2025 operating budget have increased by \$2,000 to \$134,000. Should the fourth quarter totals not exceed \$52,250 Administration projects a realized requisition reduction of \$25,000 from 2024 numbers. The Veterinary Services Incorporated Annual General Meeting took place November 15th in Peace River.

	# Services	2024	+/- (%)	2023
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter</b>	84	\$20,760.79	-7.53	\$22,540.38
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</b>	180	\$39,801.06	-3.59	\$41,281.84
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter</b>	72	\$15,074.13	+30.7	\$11,534.28
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Quarter</b>				\$49,639.40
<b>TOTAL Claims</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>\$60,561.85</b>	<b>+0.5%</b>	<b>\$124,905.90</b>

C-Sections: 16  
 Preg Checks: 3,585  
 Semen Tests: 749

The Agricultural Equipment Rental Program contributes to the economic viability of agricultural producers by providing equipment for rent that is cost-prohibitive to purchase when measured against the frequency of use. Rental Equipment stands at 687 rental days up to November 14<sup>th</sup>, without rental days from the satellite locations.

Surplused rental equipment was sent to auction in October, returning \$71,075 to Greenview. Items surplused were two post pounders, a Morris hay hiker, a valmar unit, and the 50' heavy harrows. Administration continues to search for a used no-till seed drill for the Grovedale yard.



# REQUEST FOR DECISION

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**SUBJECT: Correspondence**

SUBMISSION TO:	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD	REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION
MEETING DATE:	November 27, 2024	CAO: MANAGER:
DEPARTMENT:	AGRICULTURE	DIR: MH PRESENTER:
STRATEGIC PLAN:	Level of Service	LEG:

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**RELEVANT LEGISLATION:**

**Provincial -N/A**

**Council Bylaw/Policy – N/A**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board accept the correspondence for information, as presented.**

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**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- 2024 ASB Report Card FINAL
- August 20<sup>th</sup>, AgKnow Letter -MD of Fairview
- August 20<sup>th</sup>, ASB of Alberta Letter-MD of Fairview
- September 4<sup>th</sup>, ASB Provincial Grants Letter to the Minister-Knee hill County
- September 11<sup>th</sup>, Strengthening Regulation to Adress Wild Boar Farming Letter- County of Stettler
- September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Moisture Situation Update
- October 8<sup>th</sup>, Moisture Situation Update
- October 18<sup>th</sup>, ARECA Letter to ASB's
- October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Moisture Situation Update
- November, Edmonton Dutch Elm Disease Awareness- The canopy Newsletter
- November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Porchlight Gala Flyer
- November 7<sup>th</sup>, Concern Re Ground Squirrel Damage Letter- Wheatland County
- November 15<sup>th</sup>, C-293 Letter- MD of Fairview
- November 15<sup>th</sup>, C-293 Letter- Northern Sunrise County
- November 18<sup>th</sup>, C-293 Letter- County of Northern Lights
- November 21st, SANDRA- Municipal District Stakeholder Workshop

**UPCOMING EVENT(S):**

<a href="#">Agricultural Grant Funding Presentation</a>	November 26 <sup>th</sup>	Grovedale
<a href="#">Agricultural Grant Funding Presentation</a>	November 28 <sup>th</sup>	Valleyview
<a href="#">PCBFA Annual General Meeting</a>	November 30 <sup>th</sup>	Peace River
<a href="#">Western Canada Grazing Conference</a>	December 10-12	Edmonton
<a href="#">Global Crop Production Conference</a>	December 11	Virtual
<a href="#">Harnessing Humics Webinar</a>	December 16	Online
<a href="#">FCC Connection Women in Agriculture</a>	January 7	Online
<a href="#">Banff Pork Seminar</a>	January 7-9	Banff
<a href="#">FCC Proactive Transition planning Webinar</a>	January 21	Online

**BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. The benefit of accepting the recommended motion is that the Agricultural Service Board will be made aware of the events, seminars and conferences within the agricultural community throughout the Province.

**DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

There are no perceived disadvantages to the recommended motion.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

**Alternative #1:** The Agricultural Service Board has the alternative to alter or deny the recommended motion.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:**

There are no financial implications to the recommended motion.

**STAFFING IMPLICATION:**

There are no staffing implications to the recommended motion.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT LEVEL:**

Greenview has adopted the IAP2 Framework for public consultation.

*Using that framework outline the proposed level of public engagement associated with the recommended action.*

**INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC IMPACT**

Inform

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL**

Inform - To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

**PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC**

Inform - We will keep you informed.

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**FOLLOW UP ACTIONS:**

There are no follow up actions to the recommended motion.

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Municipal District of Fairview No. 136  
Box 189  
Fairview, Alberta  
T0H1L0  
Phone: 780-835-4903  
Fax: 780-835-3131  
Email: [mdinfo@mdfairview.ab.ca](mailto:mdinfo@mdfairview.ab.ca)

August 20, 2024

Honourable Dan Williams  
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions  
9820-107 Street 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Edmonton, AB T5K 1E7

Dear Honourable Minister Williams,

**RE: Letter of Support for AgKnow – The Alberta Farm Mental Health Network**

The Municipal District of Fairview No. 136 Agricultural Service Board would like to express our strong support for AgKnow, the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network, and advocate for the urgent need for stable, consistent, and long-term provincial support and funding. The services provided by the AgKnow program are a much-needed support to the wellbeing and resiliency of agricultural producers throughout Alberta.

Farming and ranching are more than just professions; it is a way of life that demands dedication, resilience, and a deep connection to the land. However, the pressures faced by farmers—including unpredictable weather, economic instability, isolation, high workload, family pressures, and the physical demands of the job—can take a significant toll on mental health. These factors not only contribute to heightened levels of stress, but also tragically, lead to a higher incidence of mental health issues and suicide rates.

According to a national study of 1,132 farmers in 2015-16, Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton and colleagues at the University of Guelph found that 57.7% of Canadian farmers experienced depression, and 49.3% experienced anxiety. All these values were higher than those reported by the general population. Preliminary results from the 2023 study of Alberta farmers by Dr. Rebecca Purc-Stephenson of the University of Alberta show that 66.7% reported suffering from depression, and 78.5% reported anxiety. In a 2009 study published in the *Australian Journal of Rural Health*, it was found that farmers are less likely to seek help for their mental health compared to the general population. This is due to many factors, but overwhelmingly there is a feeling among the farming community that health care providers don't understand the culture of farming and the stressors that go along with the way of life.

AgKnow's initiatives provide accessible, specialized mental health resources, support networks, and educational programs that are essential in addressing these challenges. They engage with mental health professionals from farming backgrounds who are knowledgeable and understand the challenges, concerns, and social aspects of Alberta's agricultural landscape. With the numerous stressors that Alberta's farmers face, AgKnow offers free, farm-informed counseling services 24-7. They have



demonstrated success, even in the infancy of the program, and promise to continue to provide essential healthcare services to our rural communities.

Supporting AgKnow is not only an investment in mental healthcare, but in the resilience and sustainability of our rural communities. Stable funding is essential to ensuring these services are available, accessible, and affordable – especially in rural and remote areas.

Sincerely,



Nolan Robertson

Municipal District of Fairview No. 136 Agricultural Service Board Chair

cc: Honourable RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation  
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards



Municipal District of Fairview No. 136  
Box 189  
Fairview, Alberta  
T0H1L0  
Phone: 780-835-4903  
Fax: 780-835-3131  
Email: [mdinfo@mdfairview.ab.ca](mailto:mdinfo@mdfairview.ab.ca)

August 20, 2024

Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta

Dear Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta,

**RE: Centralization of the Provincial ASB Conference**

The Municipal District of Fairview No. 136 Agricultural Service Board wish to echo the concerns presented by the County of Grande Prairie in their letter dated April 24<sup>th</sup> regarding the centralization of the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference over the next three years.

Our ASB understands the rationale behind the signing of a three-year agreement with the Delta Edmonton South Conference Center in the lens of cost effectiveness and convenience of hosting in a centralized hotel for the Central, Northwest, and Northeast regions. This would lead to decreased conference costs, and therefore lower registration costs, which we appreciate.

Our concern is that if future conferences continue to be centralized like this rather than being moved across the province, there will be a significant opportunity cost to each region in lost economic development and tourism opportunities. We feel that it is important to host this conference in more rural locations whenever possible, bringing the economic opportunities a conference of this size can bring to a region.

Sincerely,

Nolan Robertson

Municipal District of Fairview No. 136 Agricultural Service Board Chair



# County of Stettler No. 6

Box 1270  
6602 – 44 Avenue  
Stettler, Alberta TOC 2L0  
T:403.742.4441 F: 403.742.1277  
[www.stettlercounty.ca](http://www.stettlercounty.ca)

August 22, 2024

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

Honourable Nate Horner, MLA for Drumheller-Stettler  
Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board  
208 Alberta Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Sigurdson and Minister Horner,

## **RE: County of Stettler Letter of Support for AgKnow**

The County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board is writing to express our full support for the AgKnow program, echoing the sentiments shared by Wheatland County, Saddle Hills County, and the County of Vermillion River from earlier this year. This initiative was highlighted at the 2019 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference through Resolution E1-19: Access to Agriculture Specific Mental Health Resources, and a similar resolution E2-23 on Stable Funding for Farm Mental Health was passed in 2023. However, securing consistent funding for this program remains an ongoing challenge.

In our County, and across the province, agriculture is not just a profession but a way of life. Currently the perception of agricultural producers as resilient, often exacerbates the mental health stigma within our community. The demand for mental health support in agriculture is a growing concern.

The AgKnow program by the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network is committed to addressing the mental health needs of our agricultural producers. It provides vital resources and access to professional mental health support tailored to the industry's unique challenges. Providing participants with the opportunity to consult with professionals connected to agriculture is crucial for fostering engagement and positive results. Sustaining stable funding is essential to preserve these vital services, particularly in rural regions.

We cannot emphasize enough how important it is the Provincial government maintain its support for the AgKnow program and secure consistent funding to support the mental health and well-being of our agricultural producers.


Sincerely,

COUNTY OF STETTLER AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Les Stulberg, CHAIR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Clarke, Board Member

*P.P Ernie Gendre*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ernie Gendre, Board Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Grover, Board Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul McKay, Board Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Nibourg, Board Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Justin Stevens, Board Member

cc:

Dan Williams, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction

Linda Hunt, AgKnow Program Director

The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC)



# 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](http://www.stettlercounty.ca)

September 11, 2024

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

Honourable Nate Horner, MLA for Drumheller-Stettler  
Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board  
208 Alberta Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Sigurdson and Minister Horner,

## **RE: Strengthening Regulation to Address Wild Boar Farming**

The County of Stettler No. 6 would like to commend Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation for their unified approach to agriculture through Agricultural Service Boards and for leading effective campaigns including "Squeal on Pigs" and "Clean, Drain, Dry." We take pride in Alberta's reputation as an innovator in agriculture, and appreciate the strong support the provincial government provides to our industry.

However, we believe the Province of Alberta has fallen short in its implementation of the Agricultural Pest Act (APA) and its related legislation concerning wild boar.

The County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Service Board acknowledges your response to Resolution 5-24 from the 2024 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference, specifically regarding the enforcement capabilities under the current APA and the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, with particular focus on the Minimum Containment Standards for Wild Boar Farms (2015). While we recognize the enforcement mechanisms outlined, we remain deeply concerned about significant gaps and limitations within the current legislation.

The current APA does not provide inspectors with proactive tools for enforcing wild boar farming operations, relying instead on reactive measures only after wild boars have escaped. This approach fails to adequately address the severe risks that improper containment poses to agriculture, the environment, and the economy. To illustrate the magnitude of these risks, consider that in the United States in 2007, there were an estimated 5 million feral pigs, with crop damages and control costs

amounting to approximately \$300 per pig annually. This resulted in at least \$1.5 billion in damages and control costs nationwide (Pimentel, 2007). While similar estimates are not available for Canada, the potential impact on Alberta's agriculture could be equally devastating. Additionally, the biosecurity risk is immense—an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease could lead to an immediate shutdown of all Alberta pork and beef exports, with a nationwide cost of \$65 billion (Gillies, 2018).

The ability to effectively enforce the Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms (2015) under Section 5(2) of the APA—requiring landowners to take active measures to prevent the establishment of pests—is essential for the proactive management of wild boar farming operations. However, since compliance with these standards is currently voluntary and Alberta pork producers raising wild boar as livestock are not mandated to adhere to them, enforcement remains inconsistent and insufficient. The lack of authority to impose penalties for non-compliance with these Minimum Containment Standards weakens efforts to ensure that these farms operate safely and securely.

Furthermore, our legislation lags behind other provinces in addressing this pest. On July 1, 2024, the Government of Saskatchewan enacted the Animal Production Act, which regulates wild boar farming. Under this act, wild boar farms in Saskatchewan are required to meet regulatory requirements, including annual inspections, fencing standards, escape reporting, and record-keeping. Acknowledging the significant risks associated with wild boar farming, Saskatchewan has also implemented a moratorium on new wild boar farms, effective January 1, 2025. This legislation underscores Saskatchewan's commitment to mitigating the environmental and agricultural risks posed by wild boar, setting a standard that Alberta should consider following.

In Alberta, wild boar farming is regulated under the Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA), which is delivered by the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB). This legislation focuses on the manure management and expansion of confined feeding operations, and for wild boar no explicit containment measures are listed. Wild boar farming operations are only subject to AOPA conditions if they are larger than 100 feeders or 50 sows (farrowing) (AOPA – Schedule 2 Agricultural Operations, Part 2 Matters Regulation), leaving smaller wild boar farms effectively unregulated by legislation. The annual inspections of wild boar farms and adherence to Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation's Compliance Principles are positive practices, yet they fall short without concrete legislative support. A fully-backed framework, similar to Saskatchewan's Animal Production Act, is crucial to ensure wild boar farming in Alberta is conducted in an environmentally sustainable and economically viable manner.

We also recognize wild boar present unique challenges as they are considered livestock when contained within a fence but become a pest once they escape. This dual status has led to a reliance on local regulations, with 22 of 69 municipalities enacting bylaws to prohibit wild boar farming within their jurisdictions. Despite this, the volume of local legislation has not prompted adequate concern or revisions to wild boar farming practices as part of the December 7, 2023 review of the APA.

Given these concerns, we urge the Provincial government to take the following actions:

**Strengthen the Agricultural Pests Act:** Explicitly include the Minimum Containment Standards for Wild Boar Farms within the Agricultural Pests Act or the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, ensuring non-compliance is considered an offence subject to penalties under Section 23.

**Introduce Licensing and Regulation:** Establish a licensing and regulatory framework for wild boar farms, regardless of size, to ensure consistent and enforceable standards across Alberta.

Thank you for your consideration and continued work towards ensuring Alberta Agriculture is innovative, effective and sustainable for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Les Stulberg', written in a cursive style.

Les Stulberg  
CHAIR, COUNTY OF STETTLER AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD

**CC**

Dale Nally, Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction

Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs

Heather Sweet, Opposition Critic for Agriculture, Forestry & Rural Economic Development

Laura Friend, Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Board

Brenda Knight, Chair, Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC)

Aaron Van Beers, President, The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)

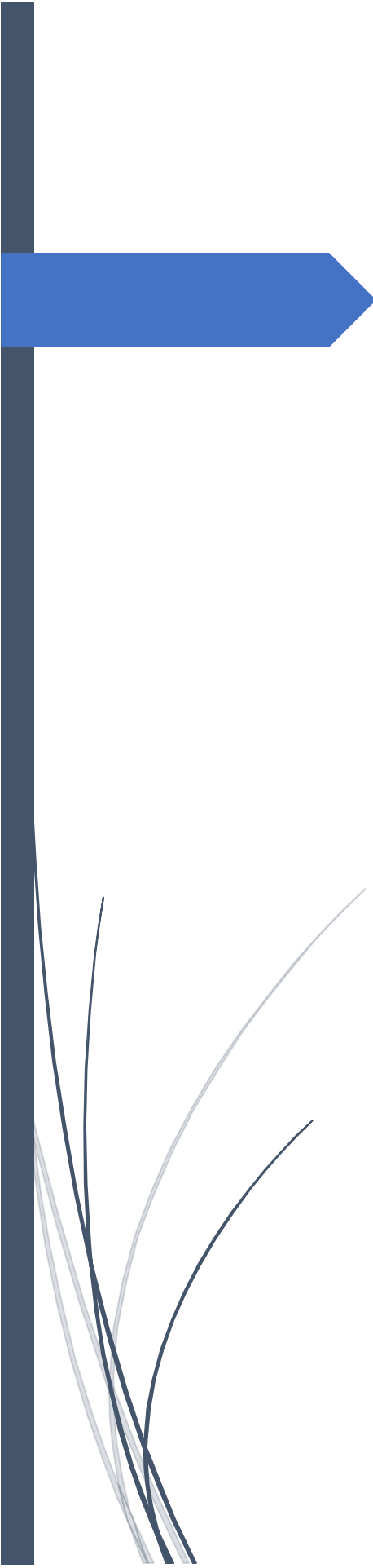
Laura Poile, Secretary, The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)

References:

Pimentel, David. "Environmental and economic costs of vertebrate species invasions into the United States." *Managing Vertebrate Invasive Species*, vol. 38, 2007.

Gillies, M. "Modernizing Canada's foot and mouth disease response plan." *Canadian Veterinary Journal*, vol. 59, no. 8, 2018, pp. 899-902.





# Report Card on the Resolutions

2024

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

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## INTRODUCTION

The Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee is pleased to provide Agricultural Service Board (ASB) members and staff with the 2023 Report Card on the Resolutions. This report contains the government and non-government responses to resolutions passed at the 2023 Provincial ASB Conference. The Report Card on the Resolutions includes the *Whereas* and *Therefore Be It Resolved* sections from the resolutions, response, response grade and comments from the Committee and ASBs for each resolution. The resolutions and responses are also posted on the Agricultural Service Board website at [agriculturalserviceboards.com](http://agriculturalserviceboards.com). Actions taken by the Committee on current and prior resolutions are also included in this report.

### 2024 ASB Provincial Committee Members

Position	Members	Alternates	Representation
Chair, Region Rep.	Brenda Knight	Tietsia Huyzer	Central
Vice, Region Rep.	Dustin Vossler	John Van Driesten	South
Region Rep	Walter Preugschas	Ross Bohnet	Northwest
Region Rep	Sebastien Durtisac	Gene Hrabec	Northeast
Region Rep	Bob Chrenek	Corinna Williams	Peace
Secretary	Stephen Bevans		AAAF
Executive Assistant	Linda Hunt		ASBPC
RMA Rep.	Jason Schneider		RMA
AAAF President	Aaron VanBeers		AAAF
ASB Program Manager	Kerrienne Koehler-Munro		AGI
Recording Secretary	Anita Ash		AGI

2024 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS		
COMMITTEE	APPOINTMENT	ALTERNATE
Agriculture Plastics Recycling Group	Walter Preugschas	Dustin Vossler
Alberta Game Policy Advisory Committee	Gene Hrabec	Ross Bohnet
Alberta Endangered Species Conservation Committee (ESCC)	John Van Driesten	Brenda Knight
Clubroot Action Committee	Brenda Knight	Sebastien Durtisac
Fusarium Action Committee	Sebastien Durtisac	Dustin Vossler
Wildlife Predator Compensation Committee	Corinna Williams	Tietsia Huyzer
Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (Alternate for RMA appointment)	Sebastien Durtisac	Corinna Williams
Weed Issues on Oil and Gas Sites in Rural Alberta working group	Dustin Vossler	Brenda Knight
ASBPC Extension Committee	Walter Preugschas	Sebastian Durtisac

## Executive Summary

The ASB Provincial Committee has assigned the following grades to responses by government and non-government organizations for resolutions passed at the 2024 Provincial ASB Conference.

### Resolution Table

RESOLUTION NUMBER	RESOLUTION	GRADE
1-24	AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT HIGHWAY SIGNS	Incomplete
2-24	COMPENSATING PRODUCERS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES	Accept in Principle
3-24	CREATION OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION INSURANCE	Accept in Principle
4-24	SUPPORTING A COMPENSATION MULTIPLIER	Accept in Principle
5-24	WILD BOAR AND THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT	Accept the Response
6-24a	IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH BEE PACKAGE IMPORTS	Accept the Response Incomplete (CFIA)
6-24b	IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH THE CONTROL OF VARROA MITES	Accept the Response Incomplete (CFIA)
7-24	RE-REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR CERTIFIED APPLICATORS	Accept the Response
E2-24	SUPPORT FOR THE EXPORT OF LIVE HORSES FOR SLAUGHTER	Accept in Principle
PC1-24	FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (FCDC)	Accept the Response

The Committee reviewed the responses and assigned one of four grades: *Accept the Response*, *Accept in Principle*, *Incomplete* and *Unsatisfactory*. The Committee considers the quality of each response and the grading and comments submitted by ASBs when determining the final grades for the report card. The grades assigned by the Committee are intended to provide further direction for advocacy efforts for each resolution. Please contact your Regional Representative if you have questions or comments about the grade assigned to a resolution or advocacy efforts.

## Response Summary

### Number of ASBs that Responded

Region	#ASBs Responding	% of Region 2024	% of Region 2023	% of Region 2022	% of Region 2021
South	7	39	22	33	33
Central	13	93	100	93	43
Northeast	3	27	82	82	15
Northwest	7	54	15	38	31
Peace	5	38	38	38	23
Overall	35	51%	49%	55%	32%

### Summary of Grading Responses Submitted

Resolution No.	Accept the Response	Accept in Principle	Incomplete	Unsatisfactory
1-24	0	1	30	2
2-24	2	31	1	1
3-24	2	31	3	0
4-24	3	30	2	0
5-24	18	13	1	2
6-24a	26	3	4	1
6-24b	20	1	13	0
7-24	34	0	0	0
E2-24	1	32	1	0
PC1-24	31	3	0	0

## 2024 Activities of the ASBPC

### ASBPC Regular Meetings

Date	Delegations or Activities
2023 09 15	Alberta Beekeepers Commission
2023 11 06	Organizational Meeting
2023 11 06	Alberta Transportation, Cooperative Extension
2023 11 17	
2024 01 12	
2024 01 22	Provincial ASB Conference
2024 04 03	Wetland policy discussion
2024 04 17	Resolution response review
2024 05 24	Resolution response review
2024 08 16	Chief Provincial Vet

### Engagements:

Date	Event
November 6, 2023	Minister meeting at the Legislature
November 23, 2023	ADM Townhall
January 8, 2024	Co-op Ag Extension Model
Feb 8, 2024 - May 1, 2024	Seed Regulatory Modernization Information Task Team
February 29, 2024	Co-op Ag Extension
March 4, 2024	Co-op Ag Extension
June 20, 2024	ADM Townhall

### Activities on Appointed Committees:

Date	Committee	Member Attending
January, 2024	Ag Plastics Recycle Group	Walter Preugschas
Feb 8, 2024 - May 1, 2024	Seed Regulatory Modernization Information Task Team	Sebastien Dutrisac
March 8, 2024	Weeds/Well Sites Working Group	Brenda Knight, Jason Schnider, Walter Preugschas, Dustin Vossler, Sebastien Dutrisac
May 28, 2024	Weeds/Well Sites Working Group	Dustin Vossler, Brenda Knight
August 20, 2024	Extension Committee - Strychnine	Walter Preugschas

## Definition of Terms

The Provincial ASB Committee has chosen four indicators to grade resolution responses from government and non-government organizations.

### *Accept the Response*

A response that has been graded as **Accept the Response** addresses the resolution as presented or meets the expectations of the ASB Provincial Committee.

### *Accept in Principle*

A response that is graded **Accept in Principle** addresses the resolution in part or contains information that indicates that further action is being considered.

### *Incomplete*

A response that is graded as **Incomplete** does not provide enough information or does not completely address the resolution. Follow up is required to solicit information for the ASB Provincial Committee to make an informed decision on how to proceed.

### *Unsatisfactory*

A response that is graded as **Unsatisfactory** does not address the resolution as presented or does not meet the expectations of the ASB Provincial Committee

2024 RESOLUTIONS



## RESOLUTION 1-24: AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT HIGHWAY SIGNS

- WHEREAS** 13% of farm related fatalities in Canada are traffic related; and
- WHEREAS** farmers often travel long distances on public roads between fields; and
- WHEREAS** agricultural equipment is generally large and slow moving; and
- WHEREAS** the general public tends not to slow down around agricultural equipment on public roadways; and
- WHEREAS** Alberta’s highways do not currently give any warning in areas that are often traveled by agricultural equipment;

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

Alberta Transportation provides each Agricultural Service Board with six signs that state “Slow Down Around Agricultural Equipment” to be installed on highways, at locations determined by the individual municipality.

- SPONSORED BY:** Brazeau County
- MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_
- SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_
- CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_
- DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_
- STATUS:** Provincial
- DEPARTMENT:** Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Northern Development

RESPONSE: NONE

GRADE: INCOMPLETE

#### GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE	%	COMMENTS
Accept the Response	0	
Accept in Principle	3	
Incomplete	86	More information needed in regard to AT requirements. Liability & effectiveness; Keep pressuring for a response from AT
Unsatisfactory	6	

#### COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASBPC received communication from Jobs, Economy and Northern Development that the resolution should be answered by Transportation and Economic Corridors. The ASBPC recommended a grade of Incomplete as they did not receive a response from the Ministry of Transportation by either of the

deadlines. Further advocacy over the summer has resulted in a commitment by the Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors to respond to the resolution in writing by September 2024. The response will be posted once received and communicated through the website and email to ASBs.

## RESOLUTION 2-24: COMPENSATING PRODUCERS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

**WHEREAS** society is now placing more emphasis on the role of producers as stewards of the environment for their benefit; and

**WHEREAS** the Federal Government has established a price metric for carbon and is considering reductions in nitrogen use that will impact producers without developing the appropriate offset or compensation system to producers performing these services; and

**WHEREAS** Governments and the Public are demanding or restricting more ecological activities such as wetland use, species preservation, wildlife management, predator control, reduced impact/emissions, carbon sequestration, changes in management practices and others; and

**WHEREAS** it is becoming increasingly costly for producers to shoulder the burden of every public interest at their expense without being compensated or offset fairly for the beneficial ecosystem services performed;

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

That the Federal and Provincial governments develop and implement immediately a “good actor” compensation mechanism for producers performing ecosystem services beneficial for society.

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

That the Federal and Provincial governments investigate creating an exchange to trade Carbon and other ecological services for compensation at the minimum rate already determined by the Federal Government.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of Northern Lights

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial/Federal

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation,  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

### RESPONSE:

1. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (July 4, 2024)
2. Agriculture and Irrigation (May 2024)

GRADE: ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE

GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:

GRADE	%	COMMENTS
Accept the Response	6	
Accept in Principle	89	Tools already in place (RALP and ALUS) on going opportunities - biodiversity offsetting. Other incentive programs; Accept in principle - programs already in progress like ALUS, AB wetland replacement program and many more.
Incomplete	3	Should look at a more provincial based issues & not so expanded, more focuses on less issues.
Unsatisfactory	3	<p>The provided response fails to address the main issue and instead discusses programs that aim to achieve the desired outcome on a small, specialized scale. For instance, one mentioned program allocated \$5.6 million for 208 hectares, an initiative that appears to have occurred only once in 2020-21. This program seems inadequate for supporting producers but beneficial for reclamation companies and governments seeking praise for their efforts.</p> <p>This approach does not fully encompass the broader landscape and the individuals providing essential ecosystem services, such as water and carbon cycling, wetland utilization, species conservation, wildlife management, predator control, recreation, and more. A more effective strategy would involve compensating farmers annually for implementing practices that promote ecological services across all their land, rather than focusing solely on sporadic niche projects.</p> <p>Farmers and producers would seek compensation or a stipend for the ecological services they provide to the broader public. Funding would be allocated based on arbitrary metrics, similar to the development of the current federal carbon pricing system. The second part of the proposed strategy addresses the fact that the Federal government currently levies an arbitrary carbon tax per tonne of emissions. Farmers should receive payment for sequestering and storing carbon through various Best Management Practices (BMPs). This approach is crucial for preserving more grassland and native habitat. Currently, in 2024, the Federal government is collecting \$80 per tonne of emissions. Research into the carbon-sequestering abilities of different BMPs can be used to calculate a payment per acre. By utilizing the federal pricing system, farmers can determine the payment they are entitled to. The Federal Government needs to establish these arbitrary averages, similar to how they determined carbon</p>

	<p><b>emissions pricing. For instance, if a farmer sequesters an average of 2 tonnes of carbon per acre, priced at \$80 per tonne, they should be eligible for a payment of \$160 per acre. The process should be as straightforward as the federal pricing system; the price has already been determined, and now it's a matter of agreeing on the land's capacity to sequester and store carbon and equally compensating for sequestration as for emissions.</b></p>
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COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept in Principle because the responses indicate that the Canadian and Alberta governments are continuing to work on carbon trade options. The responses indicate that carbon trade funds are currently being distributed through programs available to Alberta producers. The recommendation is to continue to monitor and communicate as information becomes available.

**RESOLUTION 3-24: CREATION OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION INSURANCE**

**WHEREAS** livestock operations, especially cow calf operations, fall through the cracks on certain business risk management programs like AgriStability and Wildlife Predator Compensation Program; and

**WHEREAS** the current business risk management programs do not address in year losses and do not protect from extraordinary losses that occur from extenuating circumstances or abnormal cost of doing business losses; and

**WHEREAS** AFSC offers Crop Production Insurance which caps production losses, but does not provide a similar option for Livestock.

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

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation work with AFSC and consult stakeholder groups in the livestock sector to develop a new Livestock Production Insurance Program or other suitable program.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of Northern Lights

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

**RESPONSE:**

1. Agriculture and Irrigation (May 2024)

**GRADE: ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE**

**GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:**

GRADE	%	COMMENTS
Accept the Response	6	
Accept in Principle	89	Accept in principle - consultations are in progress.
Incomplete	9	Looking forward to seeing AFSC's results; However, the uptake of the existing programs is terrible, if they adequately addressed concerns why is uptake of LPI and AgriStability so terrible? We need a simple program that addresses revenue and price all in one and guarantees revenue like crop production. Cost of production is a key factor but when considering most producers grow a large percentage of feed on farm the major rises in cost of production are attributed to the inflationary pressures caused by government spending leading to a devalued currency and the

		subsequent rise is all operating costs. And is just one half of the equation, the other major half is production/revenue, which is poorly accounted for by AgriStability and LPI—resulting payments come too late. They also do not touch on the Livestock Indemnity Program the USDA has that covers a lot more production risk losses.
<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	<b>0</b>	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept in Principle because the responses indicate that engagement and consultations are taking place. The recommendation is to continue to monitor and communicate results.

**RESOLUTION 4-24: SUPPORTING A COMPENSATION MULTIPLIER**

**WHEREAS** predator attacks can cause significant economic losses, but not limited to, death, decreased weight gain, treatment, rehabilitation, and lower conception rates; and

**WHEREAS** predation is highly variable from producer to producer and year to year; and

**WHEREAS** the current iteration of the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program (WPCP) poorly addresses concerns and losses outside confirmed kills and producers affected with large losses; and

**WHEREAS** the use of a multiplier to increase compensation would go some way to compensate for unfound kills, kills without enough evidence, time and resources spent by producers locating, treating and deterring predators, injured and or dead livestock;

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

That the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and Environment and Protected Areas work with the Alberta Beef Producers to adopt their proposed compensation multiplier to address direct and indirect losses from predation.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of Northern Lights

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Environment and Protected Areas

**RESPONSE:**

1. Agriculture and Irrigation (May 2024)
2. Forestry and Parks

**GRADE: ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE**

**GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:**

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	9	
Accept in Principle	86	Went to Fish & Wildlife. Need more information; Accept in principle - sent to the Ministry of Forestry and Parks as is their responsibility.
Incomplete	6	Information supplied on what is currently in place but does not address the Resolution; They introduced a compensation multiplier for only two categories of livestock, namely bred cows



		<p>and bulls. Extending this multiplier to encompass all livestock categories, including calves and yearlings, aims to address both direct and indirect losses. Direct losses refer to animals that are not recovered in areas known to have predation. Indirect losses, on the other hand, stem from stress-related factors such as decreased conception rates and growth, leading to reduced profitability.</p> <p>Research conducted in Montana and Wyoming supports this notion, indicating that even with the addition of a multiplier, only a fraction of the losses are covered. According to Wyoming's findings, to adequately compensate for all direct and indirect losses, the multiplier would need to be between 18 to 24 times higher for every discovered deceased animal. Even implementing a 2x multiplier for animals like calves and yearlings would leave the farmer bearing the brunt of the financial burden. As the predators are owned by the government, they should be responsible for covering these losses.</p>
<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	<b>0</b>	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept in Principle since the response indicates that there is a multiplier in effect for some classes of beef animals. However the resolution talks about livestock in general and not specifically only breeding classes of beef animals. Discussion on the floor during the conference was that a multiplier would be available for all livestock using the model recommended by the Alberta Beef Producers. More engagement with the program is necessary to increase their understanding of the intention of the resolution.

**RESOLUTION 5-24: WILD BOAR AND THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT**

**WHEREAS** Alberta has designated Wild Boar at Large a pest since 2008; and

**WHEREAS** the Alberta Government established a minimum containment standard in 2013 to assist livestock owners with minimum guidelines to contain Wild Boar as livestock; and

**WHEREAS** Alberta pork producers raising Wild Boar as livestock are not mandated to follow the Minimum Containment Standards set out by the Alberta Government, they are only used as guidelines; and

**WHEREAS** Alberta Government Inspectors cannot uphold current Minimum Containment Standards for Wild Boar Farms or enforce penalties using the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST** that the Government of Alberta amend the Alberta Agricultural Pests Act to require Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms, with penalties to enforce noncompliance.

**FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST:** that Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation invoke a moratorium on expansions of Wild Boar Farming in Alberta, until the province makes a decision on the future of Wild Boar Farming in Alberta.

**SPONSORED BY:** County of Stettler No. 6  
**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**STATUS:** Provincial  
**DEPARTMENT:** Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation

**RESPONSE:**

1. Agriculture and Irrigation (May 2024)

**GRADE: ACCEPT THE RESPONSE**

**GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:**

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	51	
Accept in Principle	37	Accept the response - Alberta pest act requirements, AGI mini containment standards in place for AB, NSC has bylaw with penalties; Flagstaff and Stettler Counties voted incomplete

<b>Incomplete</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Does not address the Resolution fully. Answer on moratorium</b>
<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Removal of grand-father clause &amp; to ban wild boar farms; Did not answer what was asked. Contradictory.</b>

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept the Response since municipalities have the responsibility and legislative tools to enforce compliance with the minimum containment standards. Each municipality can issue notices to a pest that may not be present provided that the municipality has a policy to provide this direction.

Section 12c of the APA – “12(1) When an inspector is of the opinion that land, property or livestock contains or is likely to contain a pest or should be protected against a pest, the inspector may issue a notice in writing directed to the owner or occupant of the land or property or to the owner or person in control of the livestock... (c) specifying the measures to be taken and the material, if any, to be used to prevent the establishment of or to control or destroy the pest, and...”

This portion of the legislation allows a municipality to ensure that measures are in place to prevent livestock from becoming a pest so in this case ensure that the minimum containment standards are followed.

Municipalities have the ability to create bylaws to restrict the development and implement standards to meet their concern.

**RESOLUTION 6-24a: IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH BEE PACKAGE IMPORTS**

**WHEREAS** in 2022, honey producers across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba experienced one of the worst winters kill events in years, with some producers losing up to 90% of their hives;

**WHEREAS** the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) currently prohibits the importation of bee packages from the United States, yet allows bee package imports from intercontinental apiaries, including those in South America and New Zealand;

**WHEREAS** Varroa Mites are already present and established across Canada;

**WHEREAS** bee package imports from South America and New Zealand cost up to three times as much as bee packages sourced from the United States; and

**WHEREAS** since the 1980s, the CFIA has only approved two miticides for the control of Varroa Mites, a situation that has led to the development of miticide-resistant mites;

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

That the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) permit Honeybee shipments from the United States for the purpose of hive repopulation, to combat the depopulation of Canada’s Honey Bee hives;

**SPONSORED BY:** Beaver County

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Federal

**DEPARTMENT:** Canadian Food Inspection Agency,  
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

**RESPONSE:**

1. CFIA (June 5)
2. PMRA (May 14)
3. Agriculture and Irrigation

**GRADE: ACCEPT THE REPNSE**

**GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:**

GRADE	%	COMMENTS
Accept the Response	74	AGI Response Grade, AIP Provincial Committee should follow up at end of June for results of risk assessment; Keep pressuring for a response from CFIA; Incomplete (CFIA)

<b>Accept in Principle</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>With CFIA's response, the Leduc County ASB felt that there was more information to come, and therefore the Accept in Principle grade was appropriate; AGI was not asked to respond (Their response was informational); Accept in principle - still waiting on the follow up from CFIA . not a completed response. Still want pressure maintained</b>
<b>Incomplete</b>	<b>11</b>	
<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	<b>3</b>	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept the Response to PMRAs response as they are not responsible for boarder restrictions.

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept the Principle to the CFIA response as they indicate that they are in process of assessing the risk for imports from the US. The recommendation is to follow up with the CFIA for further progress or conclusion.

The response from the CFIA was not received until after the grading packages were sent to ASBs, and so was posted on the website and distributed through email mid June. Not all ASBs had opportunity to comment and review their response.

**RESOLUTION 6-24b: IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH THE CONTROL OF VARROA MITES**

**WHEREAS** in 2022, honey producers across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba experienced one of the worst winters kill events in years, with some producers losing up to 90% of their hives;

**WHEREAS** the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) currently prohibits the importation of bee packages from the United States, yet allows bee package imports from intercontinental apiaries, including those in South America and New Zealand;

**WHEREAS** Varroa Mites are already present and established across Canada;

**WHEREAS** bee package imports from South America and New Zealand cost up to three times as much as bee packages sourced from the United States; and

**WHEREAS** since the 1980s, the CFIA has only approved two miticides for the control of Varroa Mites, a situation that has led to the development of miticide-resistant mites;

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

that the CFIA and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) conduct further research on Varroa Miticide controls, and approve a new Varroa Mite miticide to address the lack of control options available to honey producers.

**SPONSORED BY:** Beaver County

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Federal

**DEPARTMENT:** Canadian Food Inspection Agency,  
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

**RESPONSE:**

1. CFIA (June 5) (see response above)
2. PMRA (May 14) (see response above)
3. Agriculture and Irrigation

**GRADE:** ACCEPT THE RESPONSE

**GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:**

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	57	CFIA's response did not alter the grade in Leduc County ASB's opinion; Accept the response - no solution for varroa mites - trying to find solution /actively researching; AGI Response Grade,

		<b>AIP PMRA is the appropriate authority for this portion of the resolution; Keep pressuring for a response from CFIA.</b>
<b>Accept in Principle</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>Incomplete</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>Research is underway, Canola Council of Canada; No response from CFIA</b>
<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	<b>0</b>	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept the Response from the CFIA because they have no responsibility for the approval of miticides. This response was received after the grading packages were sent out so was communicated through the website and email to ASBs. Not every ASB had access to the response when the reviewed and graded this resolution.

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept the Response because it is accurate to the responsibility of the PMRA. PMRA can only review and approve products that have been researched and developed by companies and submitted for approval. Advocacy for research to be done needs to happen with research institutions or product developers. Advocacy asking for proven miticides used in other jurisdictions should happen by the industry with the companies doing the development.

Path forward would be advocacy by the beekeepers with the suppliers to bring products to registration.

**RESOLUTION 7-24 : RE-REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR CERTIFIED APPLICATORS**

**WHEREAS** Health Canada has completed the re-evaluation of 2% Liquid Strychnine. Under the authority of the Pest Control Products Act, Health Canada has canceled the registration of Strychnine, and all associated end-use products, used to control Richardson’s ground squirrels for sale and use in Canada; and

**WHEREAS** Alberta producers have used alternative baiting, suffocates, and fumigant rodenticides to control Richardson ground squirrels but have not had the successes of Strychnine; and

**WHEREAS** in an integrated pest management plan (IPM), there is a need for options of control like Strychnine dependent on different circumstances (time of year, area of land infected, infestation levels, pest being controlled, etc.); and

**WHEREAS** the federal government has banned the use of Strychnine without providing producers any comparative alternative or financial support to deal with the Richardson’s ground squirrel pest; and

**WHEREAS** training in the safe use of pesticides can be provided to agricultural producers in Alberta by participating in the Farmer Pesticide Certificate program.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST** that Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation propose to Health Canada and Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to allow Strychnine to be used exclusively by certified applicators.

**FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST** that the existing strychnine label be subject to meticulous review and amendment, with a specific focus on reducing the potential for off-target exposure and implementing enhanced control measures to mitigate any adverse environmental impact.

**SPONSORED BY: Flagstaff County**

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Federal and Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency

**RESPONSES:**

1. PMRA
2. Agriculture and Irrigation

**GRADE: ACCEPT THE RESPONSE**

**GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:**

GRADE		COMMENTS
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Accept the Response	97	Response is clear; Accept the response - GOA and Sask objected, Health Canada and PMRA says objections are unfounded and removal will go on as planned; Cardston does not agree with the response, but it does answer the resolution; Strychnine De-regulation and producers needing to move on from Strychnine and use the products that are available
Accept in Principle		
Incomplete		
Unsatisfactory		

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept the Response because PMRA is unable to make recommendations for products that are not currently registered. So long as Strychnine is not registered for use on Richardson Ground Squirrels there is no product for PMRA to adjust labelling or use restrictions. The response is accurate and appropriate to the resolution.

**ASBPC is working with the extension committee to put fact sheets together for future reference, standardize the background for future Strychnine resolutions and clarify the process and conditions that would have to be met to reinstate the emergency use registration.**

**Current research shows that products that are available work so there is no basis for an emergency use registration at this time.**

**RESOLUTION E2-24: SUPPORT FOR THE EXPORT OF LIVE HORSES FOR SLAUGHTER**

**WHEREAS** Bill S-270 is introducing the Prohibition of exporting live horses for slaughter and Bill C-355 is introducing the Prohibition of export of horses by air for slaughter Act; and

**WHEREAS** Federal Government is proposing new legislation and changes to three Acts that will dramatically impact the industry of raising draft horses by imposing fines of \$50,000 and up to six months imprisonment for a summary conviction or \$250,000 and up to two years imprisonment for an indictment for transporting horses by air for slaughter; and

**WHEREAS** the Federal Government is always looking to open new doors for trade markets and partnering with other nations yet are willing to shut down an existing market with products already leaving Canada; and

**WHEREAS** the Federal Government has not conducted or completed a scientific study as to the impact of transporting horses for slaughter overseas by air; and

**WHEREAS** there are 12,000 to 13,000 mares, studs and foals in Canada that are currently being raised for this market; and

**WHEREAS** the Western Canadian Slaughter Facility for Horses has ceased operations and is not purchasing animals to be processed at their facility; and

**WHEREAS** producers do not have a local market to distribute their product but have an already established market globally;

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

that the Government of Alberta jointly lobby the Government of Canada alongside Alberta’s Agricultural Service Boards and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) to prevent these Bills from receiving royal assent.

**SPONSORED BY: County of Wetaskiwin No. 10**

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Federal

**DEPARTMENT:** Agriculture and Agri Food Canada

RESPONSE:

1. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
2. Agriculture and Irrigation

GRADE: ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE

**GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:**

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	3	
Accept in Principle	91	Accept in principle - AGI actively monitoring bills progress, still work to be completed on the bill, hence accept in principle to they can continue to monitor
Incomplete	3	
Unsatisfactory	0	

COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept in Principle as at the time of the grading the bill was still going through the senate.

Letters asking the Senators to vote the bill down to provide options for end of life and meat horse producers in Alberta were sent from the Committee to senators from the west, from rural ridings or who were engaged with agriculture committee work. A blog post was posted on the ASB website with a summary of the situation, and a copy of the letter so ASB members could also send in letters and increase the advocacy.

A request for an emergent resolution was taken to FCM by an ASB member. They also brought this concern to the attention of RMA president Paul McLauchlin and past president of FCM Taneen Rudyk.

A similar resolution (8-24S) was passed by RMA and graded "Intent Not Met".

**Recommendation is for ASBs to continue to advocate with their Senators.**

**RESOLUTION PC1-24: FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (FCDC)**

**WHEREAS** funding for FCDC was transferred in January 2021 to Olds College from being a Government of Alberta plant breeding and agronomy research facility.

**WHEREAS** this funding transfer enabled the continuation and revitalization of research and regional trials of cereal crops under Alberta conditions to demonstrate proven traits for the benefit of seed, crop, and livestock producers.

**WHEREAS** the loss of funding for FCDC research capacity and infrastructure in December 2023 will have long term, negative implications on the viability and sustainability of Alberta and Canada’s seed, crop and livestock sectors.

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

That Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation (AGI) facilitates the establishment of a stable funding framework for FCDC that includes the retention of existing infrastructure, sites, and human capital for the continued enhancement of programs for seed breeding and agronomic research.

**SPONSORED BY:** ASB Provincial Committee

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DEFEATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Provincial

**DEPARTMENT:** AGI

**RESPONSE:**

1. Agriculture and Irrigation

**GRADE:** ACCEPT THE RESPONSE

**GRADE and COMMENTS from ASBs:**

GRADE		COMMENTS
Accept the Response	89	Accept the response - WCI will carry on FCDC, current programming will go under review and make amendments as needed
Accept in Principle	9	
Incomplete	0	
Unsatisfactory	0	

**COMMENTS from the COMMITTEE:**

The ASBPC recommended a grade of Accept the Response as AGI and other partners are supporting the former Field Crop Development Center under the new branding Western Crop Innovation.

Interim leadership of the new WCI recognized that the ASB resolution played a roll in program continuation.

## Update on Previous Years' Resolutions

### 2023 Resolutions

Resolution Number	Resolution	Grade	Updated
1-23	CREATION OF A MID-LEVEL ALBERTA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (ABVMA) PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION	Accept in Principle	
2-23	<p>RURAL VETERINARY STUDENTS</p> <p>It was discussed at length that the need for students with lived experience and coming from rural areas should be considered along with the academic standards when the Committee met with the ABVMA delegation in 2023. The veterinarian community continues to invest in expanding the criteria that qualifies students for vet school, and look for ways to encourage rural livestock vets.</p> <p>In August of 2024, the Chief Provincial Vet met with the ASBPC to propose a program that would provide support for rural vet practices to hire intern vets to increase the opportunities for students to experience rural livestock vet practices. They offered some suggestions including engagement with the Vet Services Cooperation, RhPAP and the SCAP secretariat. Looking forward to updates over the next while.</p>	Incomplete	
3-23	<p>APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS FUNDING</p> <p>The ARAs and Forage associations continue to engage with RDAR and expand engagement in key projects that include post secondary institutions and ag tech and regenerative ag projects. They continue to receive base funding from RDAR</p>	Accept in Principle	
4-23	<p>GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION</p> <p>The ASBPC has not received a response to this resolution and will continue to follow up.</p>	Incomplete	

	<p>In August the Province provided a media release entitled “Protection of Life and Property from Problem Wildlife”.</p> <p>““Alberta’s government is announcing a multi-pronged approach to solving the issue of problem and dangerous wildlife by offering a range of management tools to address challenges and keep Albertans safe.</p> <p>Alberta’s government is creating a new network of wildlife management responders to help stop dangerous and deadly grizzly bear attacks on people and livestock. When a problem animal like a grizzly or elk is identified, members of the approved network will help provide rapid conflict response times across all regions of Alberta. This response could include tracking and euthanizing a problem animal, while still following all rules and regulations already in place. This is not a bear hunt; this is a measure to ensure the safety of humans and livestock.”</p> <p>These measures do not respond to any of the ASB resolutions. There has been no engagement from the province on issues around elk or grizzlies. No mention of regional or provincial planning or more frequent counts. Aren’t “fish and wildlife officers” already “wildlife management responders”?</p>		
5-23	<p>LANDOWNER SPECIAL LICENSE</p> <p>No update</p>	Accept in Principle	
6-23	<p>ENFORCEMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT ALBERTA WATER ACT</p> <p>Delegation from Environment and Protected Areas addressed the ASBPC in April 2024 to explain the enforcement of the Water Act and answer questions about the level of enforcement and engagement. They were assured that while some areas have had open positions there are still a mandate to investigate and follow up with every complaint.</p> <p>-</p>	Incomplete	

7-23	CAMPAIGN TO RAISE AWARENESS ON THE DISPARITY BETWEEN CONSUMER PRICING AND PRODUCER REVENUE	DEFEATED	
8-23	<p>CONSIDERATION OF MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES FOR LARGE SCALE SOLAR AND RELATED ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS ON AGRICULTURAL LANDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RMA taking the lead, continues to advocate for rural municipalities</li> <li>- Gaps in regulations and oversight as well as ability to keep developers accountable to environmental laws and consider the loss of ag lands continues.</li> </ul> <p>Landowners are cautioned to review any contracts submitted to them with a lawyer as they are not regulated and many of them have significant holes and restrictions on the use of the land during and after the development.</p>	Incomplete	
9-23	SYNTHETIC FERTILIZER EMISSIONS	Incomplete	
10-23	ORGANIC PRODUCTION CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND PROVINCIALY REGULATED WEEDS	Incomplete	
11-23	LOSS OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE	Accept the Response	
12-23	REVIEW OF THE LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS TRIBUNAL (LPRT)	Incomplete	
E1-23	<p>STABLE REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION FUNDING</p> <p>The province engaged with numerous industry partners to work out what a cooperative extension system might look like, and went so far as to encourage the development of a pilot project. However the funding proposal was declined and the committee was disbanded in August of 2024.</p>	Incomplete	
E2-23	<p>STABLE FUNDING FOR FARM MENTAL HEALTH</p> <p>This resolution asked for 5 year funding for the AgKnow initiative to support operational costs to continue the supports and services offered. While there has been as positive and encouraging</p>	Incomplete	



	engagement at the ministry level for this project and the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions continues to be engaged, the funding commitment has shifted to project and operational costs are not covered. RDAR has extended some grant funds to help fill gaps however a stable funding model is still not yet established for 2024. In June of 2024 the AgKnow initiative reached out to its closest stakeholders for bridge funding support between grants. ASBs, ag business, commodity boards and individual farmers have responded and the initiative managed to make payroll one month at a time. The need for a stable funding model remains as the initiative has uncovered significant gaps and has made excellent progress to connect and be useful to the agriculture industry.		
E3-23	<p>SUPPORTING A VIBRANT CERVID INDUSTRY IN ALBERTA</p> <p>While there has been few changes to the CWD program and approach by CFIA, advocacy by the Alberta government, industry and ASBs continues to push back and ask questions about the approach being taken and its impact on the industry and the health and welfare of the farmers involved.</p>	Incomplete	

### Expiring Resolutions

The January 2023 Provincial Rules of Procedure state in section 3(d) that the ASB Provincial Committee will actively advocate for resolutions for a period of three years. Any expiring resolutions that an ASB wishes to remain actively advocated for must be brought forward for approval at the next Provincial ASB Conference.

The following resolutions are set to expire December 31, 2024

### 2022 Resolutions

Resolution Number	Resolution	Grade	Updated
1-22	<p>VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON ALBERTA PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS</p> <p>- Nothing new to report</p>	Accept in Principle	
2-22	<p>RESTORATION OF ALBERTA AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL NETWORK OF EXPERTS</p>	Accept in Principle	

	<p>In 2023 work began to take the recommendations to create a cooperative extension model, and action it.</p> <p>An industry committee was formed, key topics were identified, a structure for delivery was created, industry groups and research were engaged to collaborate, and a pilot project was designed and funding proposal submitted.</p> <p>August 2024 the committee was disbanded as the funding proposal was denied.          “We recently received difficult news that funding is currently not available to continue our efforts to pilot an Alberta cooperative extension model. Although senior government officials complimented the Working Group for responding to the request for designing a compelling, world-class cooperative extension model with broad industry stakeholder support, financial support cannot be put in place.”</p> <p>The full message is available on the ASBPC blog post for August 30, 2024</p>		
3-22	<p><b>CELEBRATE CANADA AGRICULTURE DAY IN ALBERTA SCHOOLS (FEB 22, 2022)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- response received by sponsoring municipalities and they are encouraged to engage directly with schools and districts</li> </ul>	Accept the Response	
4-22	<p><b>PROPERLY MANAGING UNGULATE POPULATIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- still no movement or engagement on this resolution</li> <li>- Ministries are reorganized and contacts are lost.</li> </ul>	Incomplete	
5-22	<p><b>EXEMPTION OF NATURAL GAS AND PROPANE FOR AGRICULTURE UNDER THE GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION PRICING ACT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Senate had two readings for bill S-234, and on June 8, 2023 the bill went to committee for consideration. After a report from the committee is received it will go for the third reading</li> <li>- Alberta Pork posted information on how ASB members and farmers could support this bill by writing to the</li> </ul>	Incomplete	

	<p>Senators involved. Information posted in the ASB Blog</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ASBPC writes to all the Senators listed in support of Bill S-234</li> </ul>		
6-22	<p>AMENDMENTS TO THE ASB CONFERENCE RESOLUTION RULES OF PROCEDURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All amendments were presented at the 2023 conference and adopted by the assembly.</li> <li>- Changes come into place for the 2024 and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ability for the ASBPC to bring emergent resolutions to the assembly for vote if not addressed by Regions</li> <li>- align the years of advocacy for resolutions with the RMA process so move from 5 years to 3 years of active resolutions</li> <li>- Adjustments made to the Regional ROP to align with the Provincial ROP</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Accept the Response	

Current Advocacy

- Weeds on Wellsites engagement has started again.
- Seed royalty regulatory modernization, and Farm saved seed engagement
- Coop extension
- Ag Plastic
- Vet work

Mental Health and farmer wellbeing:

- E-19: ACCESS TO AG SPECIFIC MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES
- E2-23 STABLE FUNDING FOR FARM MENTAL HEALTH

Managing wildlife:

- 4-22: PROPERLY MANAGING UNGULATE POPULATIONS and
- E3-23: SUPPORTING A VIBRANT CERVID INDUSTRY IN ALBERTA
- 4-23: GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION
- 5-23: LANDOWNER SPECIAL LICENSE

**NOVEMBER 2**  
**OLDS, AB • 6PM**



**ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO AGKNOW**

# 1ST ANNUAL NIGHT OUT IN NOVEMBER

JOIN THE PORCHLIGHT SOCIETY AND AGKNOW FOR A COWBOY BLACK TIE DINNER, DANCE, AND ACTION RAISING AWARENESS FOR MENTAL WELLNESS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES. TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW.

HOSTED BY THE PORCHLIGHT MENTAL WELLNESS SOCIETY  **PORCHLIGHT**

The 1st Annual Porch Light Mental Wellness Society Gala is being held to raise money for AgKnow, the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network. Through an evening of celebration featuring a dance, live and silent auction, and outstanding keynote speakers, this event aims to raise funds to help AgKnow continue to offer free counselling sessions for those in rural communities within Alberta. We believe that mental wellness and resilience are key to keeping our rural towns and activities alive. Through this gala we aim to raise awareness, as well as financial aid, and bring together like-minded agricultural people from Alberta. **Contact** [hello@agknow.ca](mailto:hello@agknow.ca) or visit [www.porchlightsociety.ca](http://www.porchlightsociety.ca).

**LEARN MORE & BUY TICKETS**  
[WWW.AGKNOW.CA/EVENTS](http://WWW.AGKNOW.CA/EVENTS)

**AGKNOW**  
ALBERTA FARM MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK



**Office of the Chair, Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board**

November 7, 2024

**Sigurdson, RJ, Honourable**

Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation  
Office of the Minister  
Agriculture and Irrigation  
131 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T5K 2B6

To The Honourable Minister RJ Sigurdson, via email: ([AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca))

The Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) wishes to extend our sincere support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for their longstanding contributions to Alberta's agricultural sector. We particularly value the Legislative and Resources funding streams, which are instrumental in enabling our ASB to support agricultural producers in Wheatland County.

We also appreciate the recognition of agricultural concerns in the Premier's mandate letter dated July 6, 2023, which outlines the Minister's objectives and priorities. This letter acknowledges that:

- Alberta's agriculture sector is not only a key economic driver but also an integral part of the province's history and culture.
- Advocacy for Alberta farmers and ranchers is crucial, including promoting Alberta agriculture and opposing policies from other jurisdictions that hinder the sector.

Richardson Ground Squirrels (RGS), commonly known as "gophers," are prevalent in southern Alberta. Their prolific nature and the significant economic damage they cause to agricultural producers make them a notable concern. They can devastate crops such as oilseeds, cereals, hay, and alfalfa, and create hazards in pastureland, potentially endangering livestock. The Wheatland County ASB wishes to highlight the challenges many crop producers face due to RGS infestations. The emergency use registration of strychnine-based products, previously the most effective method for controlling RGS populations, was cancelled with a three-year phase-out period ending on March 4, 2023. As a result, many agricultural producers are now incurring additional expenses and facing time management challenges that are difficult to integrate into their operations.

The Government of Alberta's response provided to the Provincial Agricultural Service Board regarding Resolution 11-23, "Loss of 2% Liquid Strychnine," dated March 29, 2023, details the engagement of Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) officials with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). This engagement sought to recommend support for producers transitioning away from strychnine, with a key component being "federal compensation to cover crop losses and the

---

cost differentials associated with using alternative pesticides". The Wheatland County ASB seeks to know if AAFC has provided any response to AGI's advocacy.

Additionally, there was an effort to duplicate the Government of Saskatchewan's study showing the efficacy of available alternatives such as ZP Rodent Oat Bait and Burrow Oat Bait in 2022 that was unsuccessful. We are interested to know if AGI will make another attempt to replicate the findings of the Saskatchewan study.

Alberta currently offers several compensation programs to reimburse agricultural producers for losses caused by wildlife. For example, the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program covers losses to eligible unharvested crops, stacked hay, stacked greenfeed, as well as silage and haylage stored in pits and tubes. Similarly, the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program offers financial assistance to ranchers whose livestock, such as cattle and sheep, are attacked by predators such as wolves and cougars.

Wheatland County's ASB would like to inquire about the possibility for AGI to extend similar financial assistance to crop farmers in Alberta who suffer significant losses due to RGS activity. Given the success of existing compensation programs, we believe that a comparable initiative for RGS-related crop damage would greatly benefit affected producers.

Wheatland County's ASB strives to proactively assist ratepayers in controlling RGS through initiatives such as funding for hawk posts, which can help to significantly reduce RGS populations, and maintaining a "Ro-Con" rental skid unit that enables ratepayers to humanely euthanize RGS using a non-toxic asphyxiation method. We believe a multi-pronged approach is needed to support the agriculture industry from RGS destruction and we hope to count on you to continue to advocate both provincially and federally on our behalf. Between all levels of government, we hope to provide the supports to our agriculture producers that they require.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Shannon Laprise

Wheatland County, Agricultural Service Board Chair

cc. Martin Shields, MP, Bow River ([Martin.Shields@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Martin.Shields@parl.gc.ca))  
Chantelle de Jonge, MLA, Chestermere-Strathmore ([Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca))  
Angela Pitt, MLA, Airdrie-East ([Airdrie.East@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Airdrie.East@assembly.ab.ca))  
Joseph Schow, MLA, Cardston-Siksika ([Cardston.Siksika@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:Cardston.Siksika@assembly.ab.ca))  
Nathan Cooper – MLA, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills ([OldsDidsbury.ThreeHills@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:OldsDidsbury.ThreeHills@assembly.ab.ca))  
Wheatland County Council and the Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board



October 18, 2024

ARECA  
Box 1195 Brooks, AB T1R 1B9

To: ASBs

It is with deep regret that the ARECA Board has decided to temporarily scale back AgKnow operations due to lack of funding. Grant applications are in process with the government, and we are optimistic they will be supported; however, we have simply run out of resources to keep things going in the meantime. As of the end of October, AgKnow staff will be reduced to one part time employee who will work to meet the currently scheduled November commitments.

All activities currently scheduled in November will be supported. Any new requests will be held until multiyear financing is resolved and full AgKnow operations can be resumed. At such times we will be hiring and reaching out to schedule and satisfy each request.

ARECA is actively pursuing options to resolve this current AgKnow financial situation including an agreement with a charitable foundation, several sponsorship agreements with companies, and the grant proposals already in progress. The Porch Light Society has elected to donate the proceeds to their first ever Gala event in Olds on November 2 to AgKnow so please spread the word using the attached poster and share the social media announcements in your media.

Should operational financing still be unresolved at the end of November, then effective December 1<sup>st</sup> AgKnow will temporarily close, and ARECA will continue to administer the free session program until all funds are exhausted.

ARECA extends a warm thank you to the many organizations who have been aware of this impending situation and have provided financial support to help AgKnow continue in these uncertain financial times. These short-term funds that you and others have provided coupled with ARECA financial support, have kept AgKnow operational since July.

I am cautiously optimistic that this situation will be resolved soon. AgKnow is a highly valued service in the farm and ranching community and a lot of time and investment has been made to get it to where it is. The situation in our industry has not changed and AgKnow can be part of the solution.

Please feel free to call if you would like to discuss this situation further.

With kindest regards

Alan

Executive Director ARECA

CC Linda Hunt

## Dutch Elm Disease in Edmonton

Allyn Esau - Community Forestry



Alt text: City street with parked vehicles that is lined with boulevard elm trees on both sides.

Dutch elm disease (DED) is a deadly tree disease caused by two fungi, *Ophiostoma ulmi* and *Ophiostoma novo-ulmi*, which are spread in elm trees by elm bark beetles. These beetles seek dead, dying and diseased elm trees to breed and lay eggs in. An elm tree infected by DED will decline as the fungus blocks water movement within the tree.

In August of 2024, four trees in the Killarney and Yellowhead Corridor East neighbourhood were identified to be infected with DED. Although it is not possible to determine how the disease arrived in Edmonton, it is often brought to new regions through the transport of firewood or by importing infected trees.

The City has activated an Integrated Pest Management Action Plan to contain the spread of DED. This work is in coordination with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the Alberta Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Society To Prevent Dutch Elm Disease (STOPDED). All City-owned elms with confirmed infections have been removed.



What can Edmonton residents do to prevent the spread of DED?

Prevention of DED starts with keeping our elm trees healthy. It is a requirement under the Community Standards Bylaw 14600 that any dead or dying wood be removed from elms as the deadwood provides habitat for the beetles that spread DED. It is recommended that you have your privately-owned trees properly inspected and pruned by an ISA certified arborist.

[Elm pruning](#) should only be done when the beetles, which are attracted to fresh pruning cuts, are inactive (October 1 to March 31). Between April 1st to September 31st, elm tree pruning is illegal under provincial and municipal legislation. If pruning is required, an elm pruning permit must be requested by contacting 311.

Dead elm trees and stumps must be removed in a timely manner and may be removed year-round if all material is completely removed and properly disposed of. The storage of elm wood is prohibited under the bylaw. All elm wood must be disposed of immediately by burning it or bringing it to the Edmonton Waste Management Centre at 250 Aurum Road for free disposal. Remember to tell the scale operator you have elm wood. Do not combine elm wood with food scraps or other collected waste. Do not bring firewood to Edmonton from outside the region. Always remember to “burn it where you buy it”.

Report signs of DED on any public or private elm tree by calling 311.

To identify symptoms of DED, watch for:

- Drooping and yellowing leaves in summer
- Branches with smaller leaves than the rest of the tree
- Branches with no leaves
- Brown wilted leaves that remain on the tree

For more information, please visit the [City of Edmonton DED website](#).

September 4, 2024

Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation  
131 Legislature Building  
108000 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

**RE: Funding for Agriculture and Agricultural Service Boards**

Dear Honorable Minister RJ Sigurdson:

The Kneehill County Agricultural Service Board Members would like to draw your attention to a matter of concern for our municipality and all Agricultural Service Boards across the province.

Agriculture remains a consistently vital part of Alberta's economy, and as global pressures to improve efficiencies increase, so will the need for widely available, unbiased resources and expert consultations. While provincial agricultural departments and resources have been reduced in past years, municipalities have often had to step in and continue to provide resources and assistance for provincial services. Municipal Agricultural Service Boards across the province, including in Kneehill County, work tirelessly to uphold and administer provincial agricultural legislation while contributing to the sustainability and growth of the agriculture sector through extension programming and resources.

Provincial funding under the ASB Legislative and Resource Management Grants is critical for delivering Kneehill County ASB services and programming, and we greatly appreciated the increase in funding provided for 2023 and 2024. As the costs of delivering these services continue to rise, adequate provincial funding support is crucial to municipalities.

Looking forward to a new grant cycle in 2025, we are earnestly awaiting news of what changes will come with the new agreement. As municipalities operate on a calendar-year financial cycle, it is imperative that we have access to information on funding sources as early as September in order to finalize our budgets and make determinations on services, programming, and projects prior to the end of the year and the start of a new budget cycle in January.

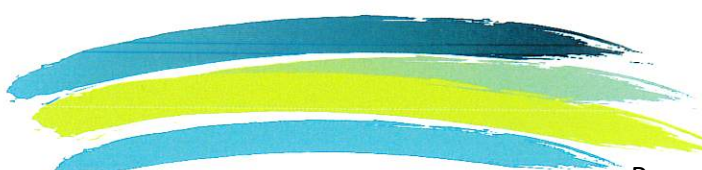
As of today, we have received no official information from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation on the new ASB grant agreements, the amended grant requirements, or the funding amounts that will be available. We, therefore, request that your government provide municipalities with a detailed update on the 2025 grant agreements, including service and program requirements and funding amounts, so that we may budget accordingly and continue our vital agricultural services uninterrupted.

Sincerely,

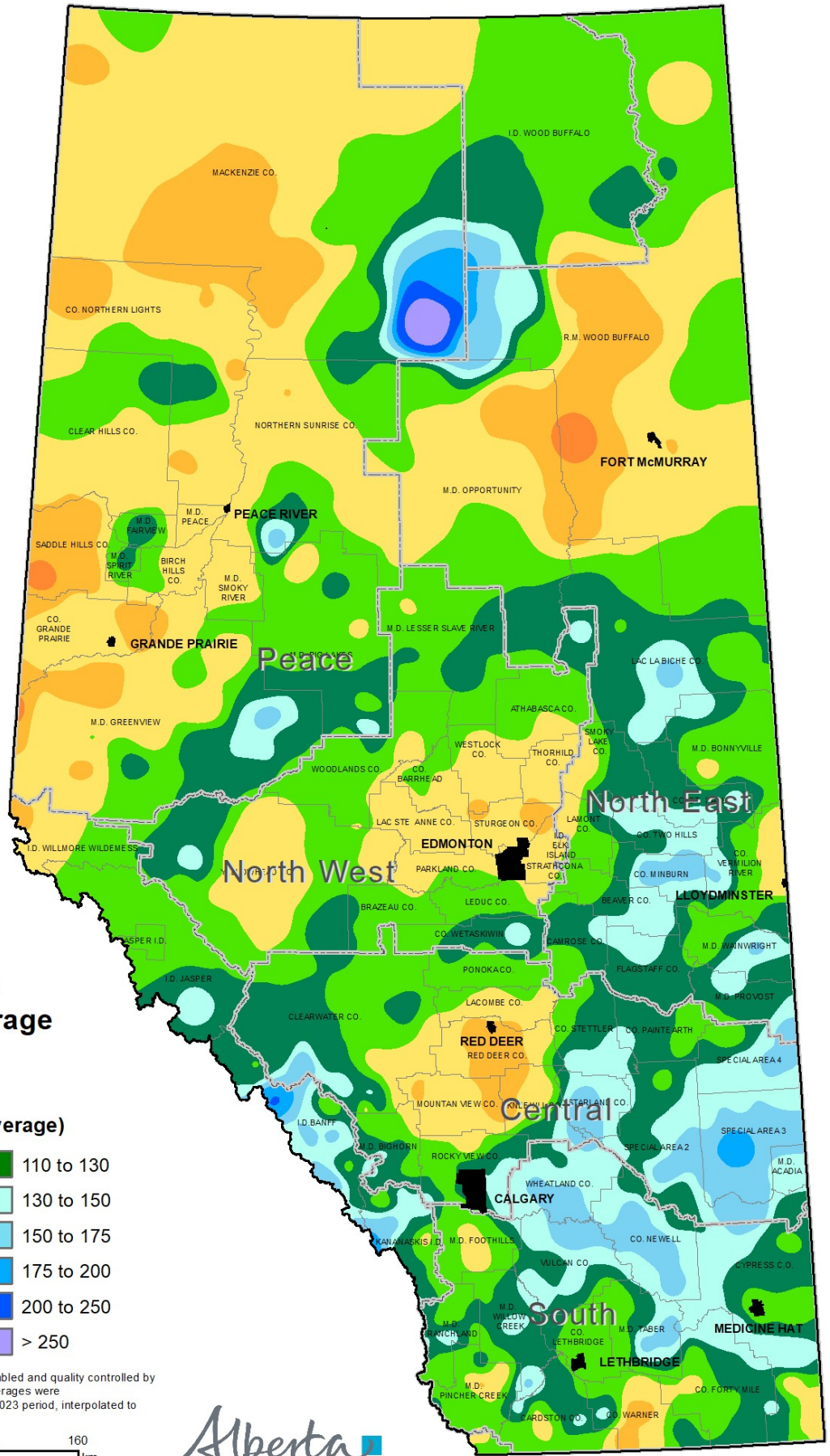


*Councillor Wade Christie, ASB Chair, Kneehill County*

CC: Assistant Deputy Minister John Conrad  
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Manager of Agriculture Service Boards Kerriane Koehler-Munro  
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen  
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee












**Box 400, Three Hills, Alberta, T0M 2A0**  
**Phone: 403-443-5541 · Toll Free: 1-866-443-5541**  
**Email: [office@kneehillcounty.com](mailto:office@kneehillcounty.com)**  
**[www.kneehillcounty.com](http://www.kneehillcounty.com)**



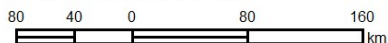
# 90-Day Precipitation Accumulations Percent of Average

July 26, 2024 to  
October 23, 2024

## Precipitation (% of Average)

	< 10		110 to 130
	10 to 30		130 to 150
	30 to 50		150 to 175
	50 to 70		175 to 200
	70 to 90		200 to 250
	90 to 110		> 250













Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Historical averages were based on weather data from the 1961-2023 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClimate-3.6



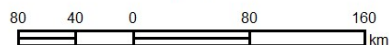
Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on October 24, 2024

### 4-Year Precipitation Accumulations Relative to Long Term Normal

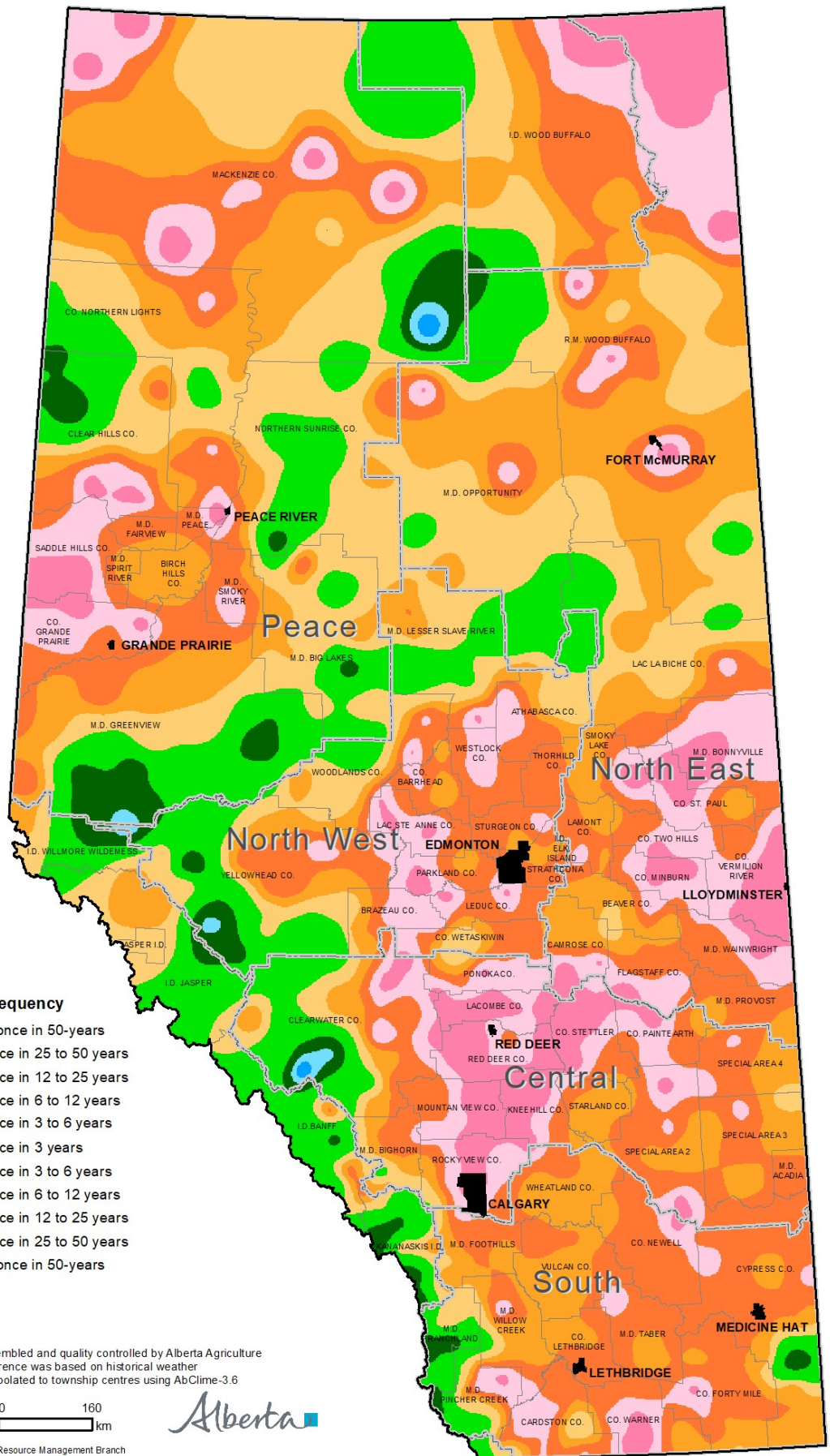
October 24, 2020 to  
October 23, 2024

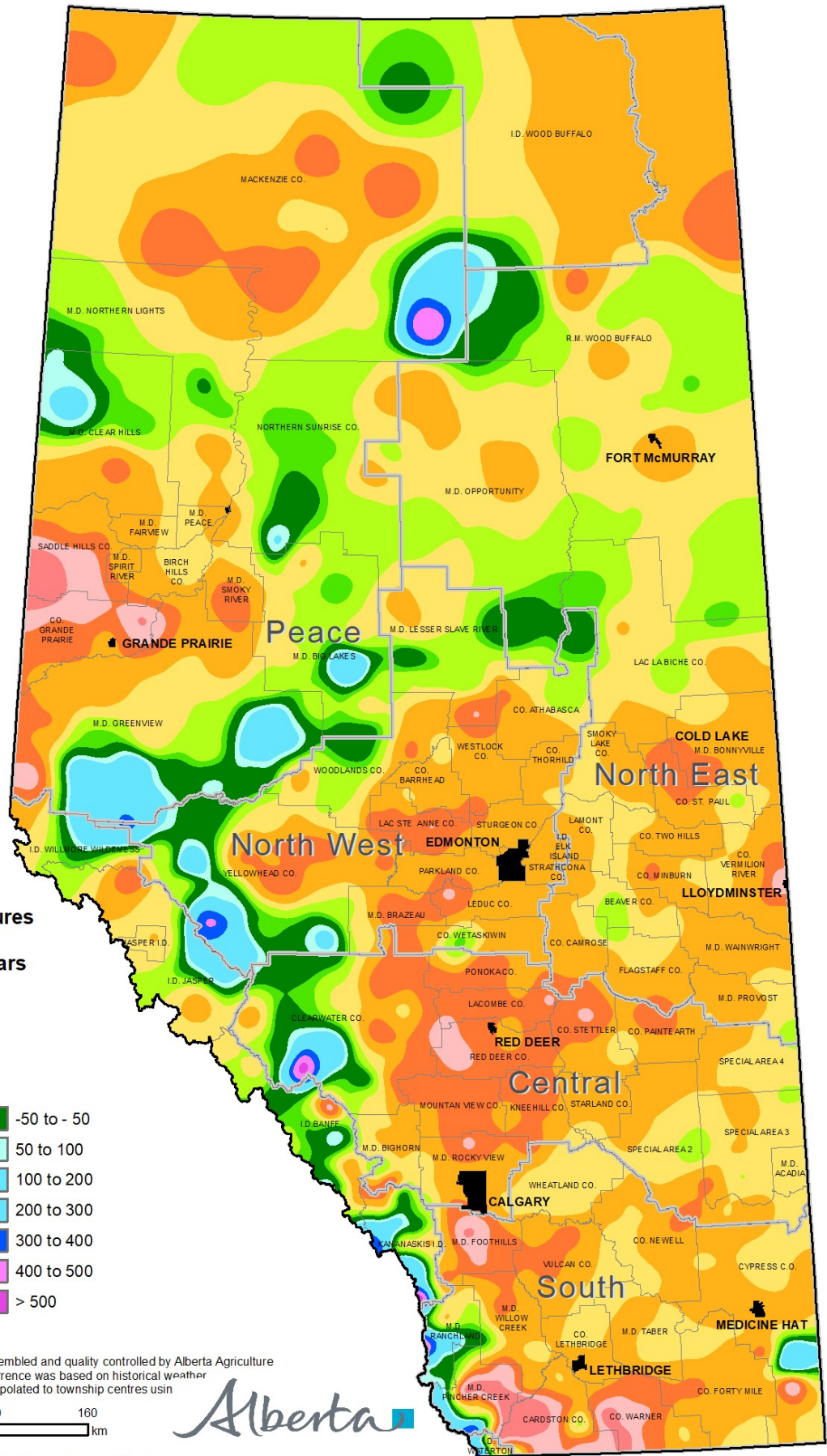
Condition	Frequency
 driest	< once in 50-years
 extremely low	once in 25 to 50 years
 very low	once in 12 to 25 years
 low	once in 6 to 12 years
 moderately low	once in 3 to 6 years
 near normal	once in 3 years
 moderately high	once in 3 to 6 years
 high	once in 6 to 12 years
 very high	once in 12 to 25 years
 extremely high	once in 25 to 50 years
 wettest	< once in 50-years
 no data	

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2023 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClima-3.6



Compiled by Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on October 24, 2024





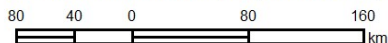
**Precipitation Departures  
Relative to Normal  
During the Past 4-Years**

October 24, 2020 to  
October 23, 2024

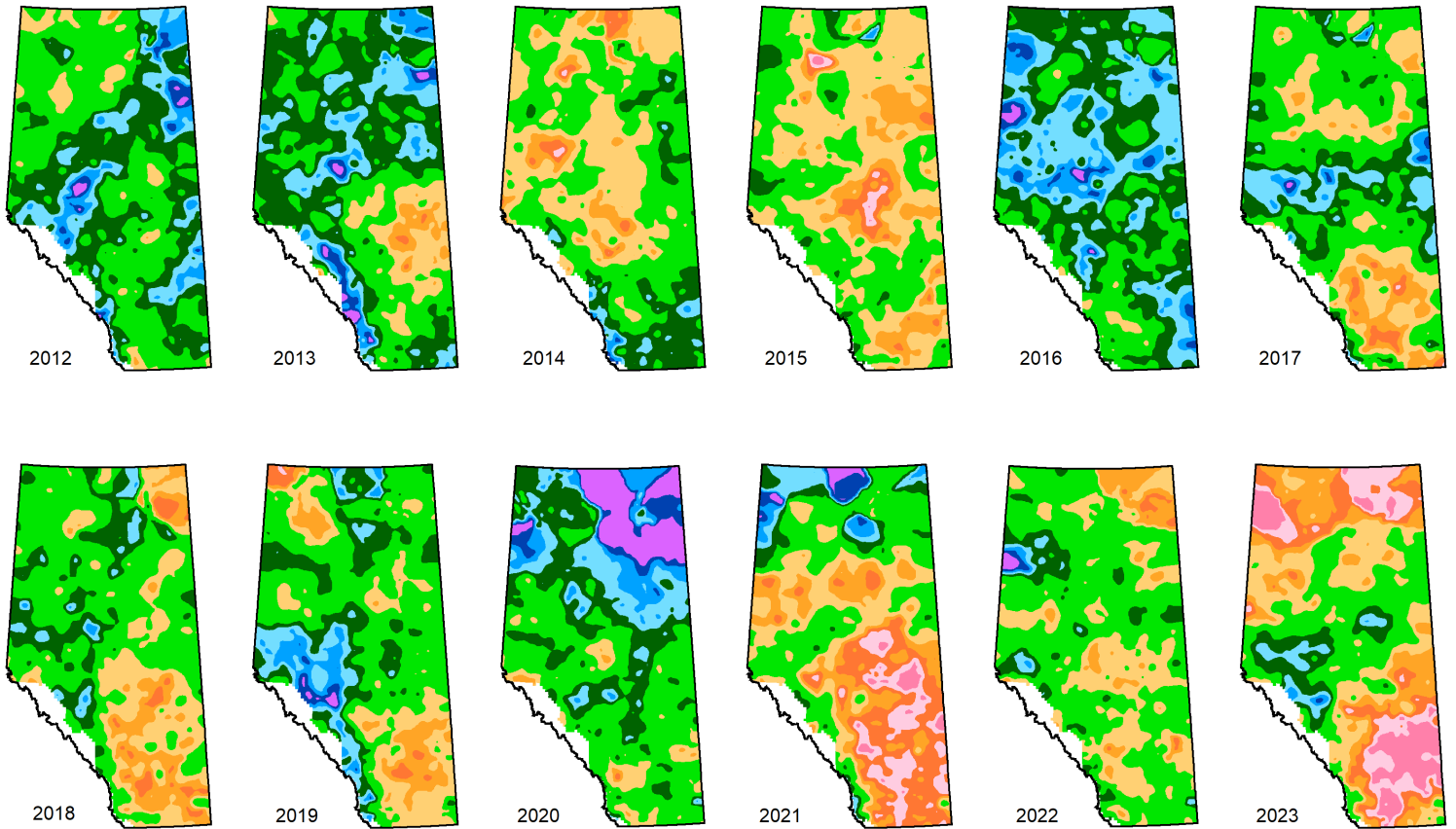
**Precipitation (mm)**

	< -600		-50 to -50
	-600 to -500		50 to 100
	-500 to -400		100 to 200
	-400 to -300		200 to 300
	-300 to -200		300 to 400
	-200 to -100		400 to 500
	-100 to -50		> 500
	No Data		

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2023 period, interpolated to township centres using



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on October 24, 2024



## Yearly Precipitation Accumulations Relative to Long Term Normal

Years 2012 to 2023

The frequency of occurrence was calculated using historical weather data from the 1901-2023 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClime-3.6.

Compiled by Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on April 18, 2024

### Condition

- driest
- extremely low
- very low
- low
- moderately low
- near normal

### Frequency

- < once in 50-years
- once in 25 to 50 years
- once in 12 to 25 years
- once in 6 to 12 years
- once in 3 to 6 years
- once in 3 years













- moderately high
- high
- very high
- extremely high
- wettest
- no data

- once in 3 to 6 years
- once in 6 to 12 years
- once in 12 to 25 years
- once in 25 to 50 years
- < once in 50-years

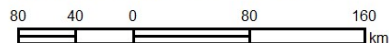


### Spring Wheat Soil Moisture Reserves Relative to Long Term Normal to a Depth of 120 cm

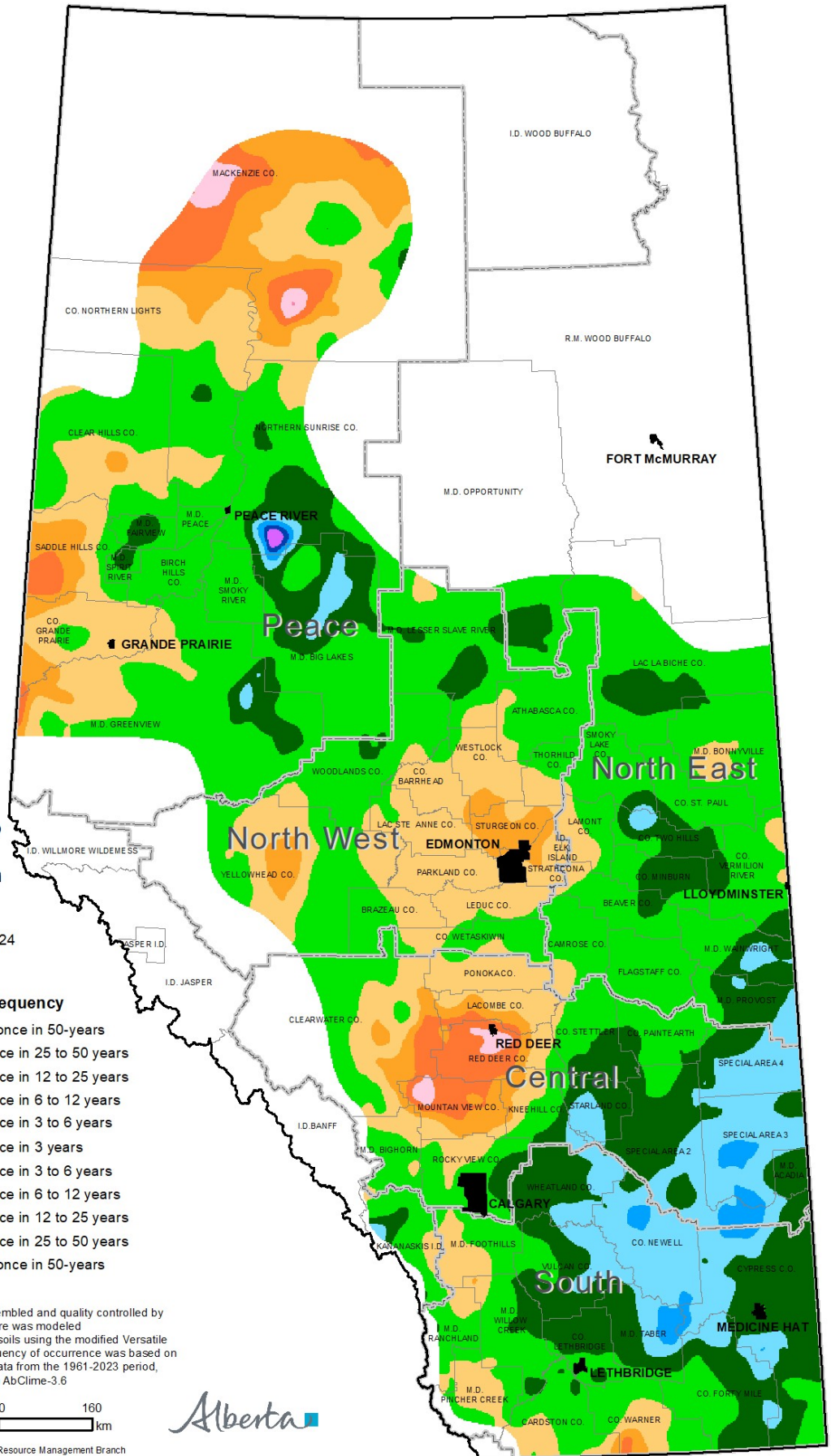
Estimated as of October 23, 2024

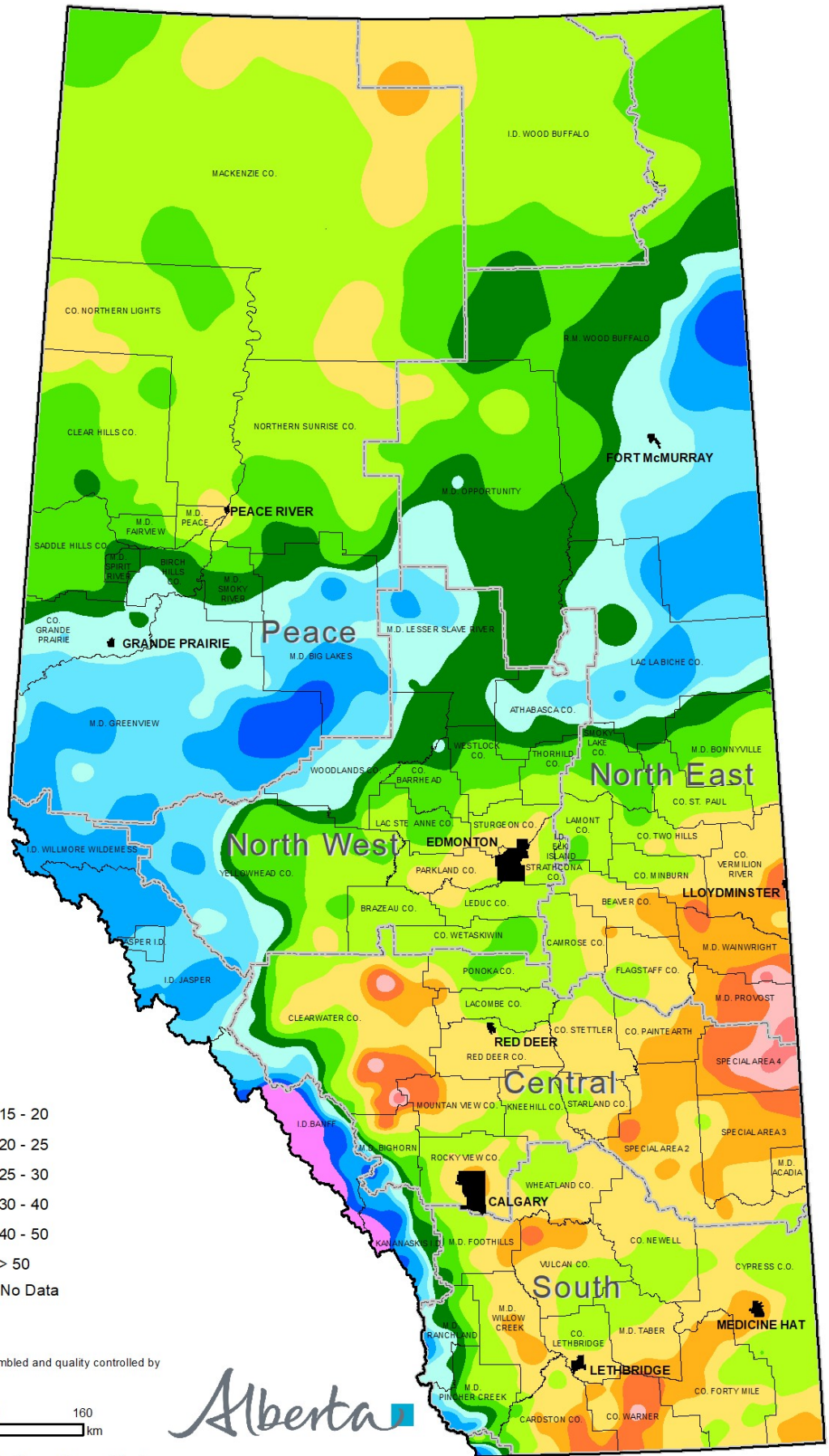
Condition	Frequency
 driest	< once in 50-years
 extremely low	once in 25 to 50 years
 very low	once in 12 to 25 years
 low	once in 6 to 12 years
 moderately low	once in 3 to 6 years
 near normal	once in 3 years
 moderately high	once in 3 to 6 years
 high	once in 6 to 12 years
 very high	once in 12 to 25 years
 extremely high	once in 25 to 50 years
 wettest	< once in 50-years
 no data	

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Soil moisture was modeled for spring wheat on medium textured soils using the modified Versatile Soil Moisture Budget V-4.0. The frequency of occurrence was based on model runs using historical weather data from the 1961-2023 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClima-3.6



Compiled by Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on October 24, 2024





**Precipitation Received During the Past 15-days**

October 09, 2024 to October 23, 2024

**Precipitation (mm)**

	< 0.5		15 - 20
	0.5 - 1.0		20 - 25
	1 - 2		25 - 30
	2 - 3		30 - 40
	3 - 5		40 - 50
	5 - 10		> 50
	10 - 15		No Data

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation.















Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on October 24, 2024

*Alberta*

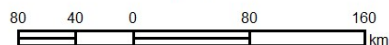


### 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations Relative to Long Term Normal

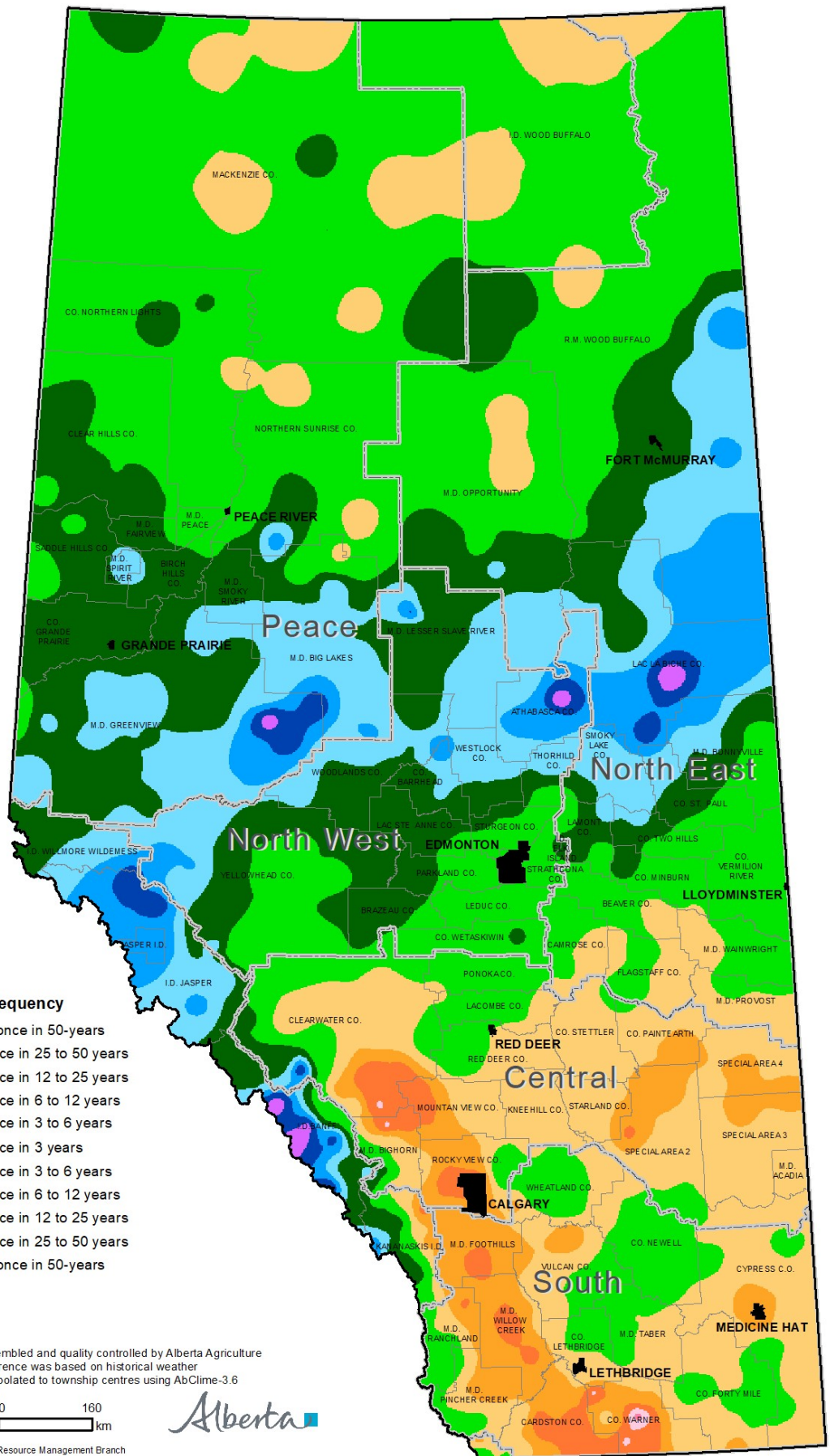
September 24, 2024 to  
October 23, 2024

Condition	Frequency
 driest	< once in 50-years
 extremely low	once in 25 to 50 years
 very low	once in 12 to 25 years
 low	once in 6 to 12 years
 moderately low	once in 3 to 6 years
 near normal	once in 3 years
 moderately high	once in 3 to 6 years
 high	once in 6 to 12 years
 very high	once in 12 to 25 years
 extremely high	once in 25 to 50 years
 wettest	< once in 50-years
 no data	

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2023 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClima-3.6















Compiled by Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on October 24, 2024

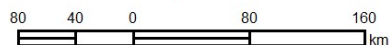


### 90-Day Precipitation Accumulations Relative to Long Term Normal

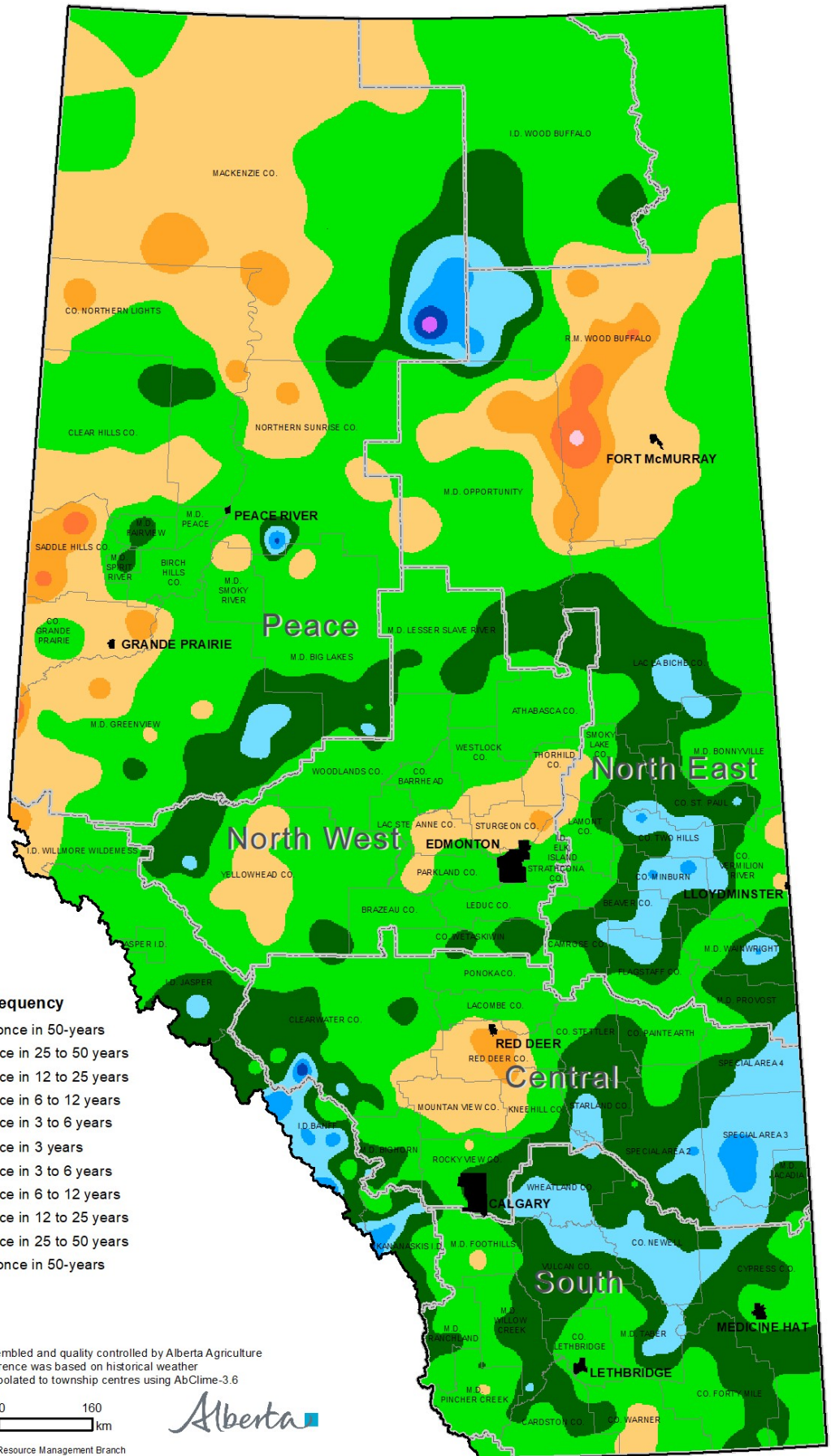
July 26, 2024 to  
October 23, 2024

Condition	Frequency
 driest	< once in 50-years
 extremely low	once in 25 to 50 years
 very low	once in 12 to 25 years
 low	once in 6 to 12 years
 moderately low	once in 3 to 6 years
 near normal	once in 3 years
 moderately high	once in 3 to 6 years
 high	once in 6 to 12 years
 very high	once in 12 to 25 years
 extremely high	once in 25 to 50 years
 wettest	< once in 50-years
 no data	

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2023 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClime-3.6















Compiled by Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on October 24, 2024

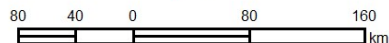


### 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations Relative to Long Term Normal

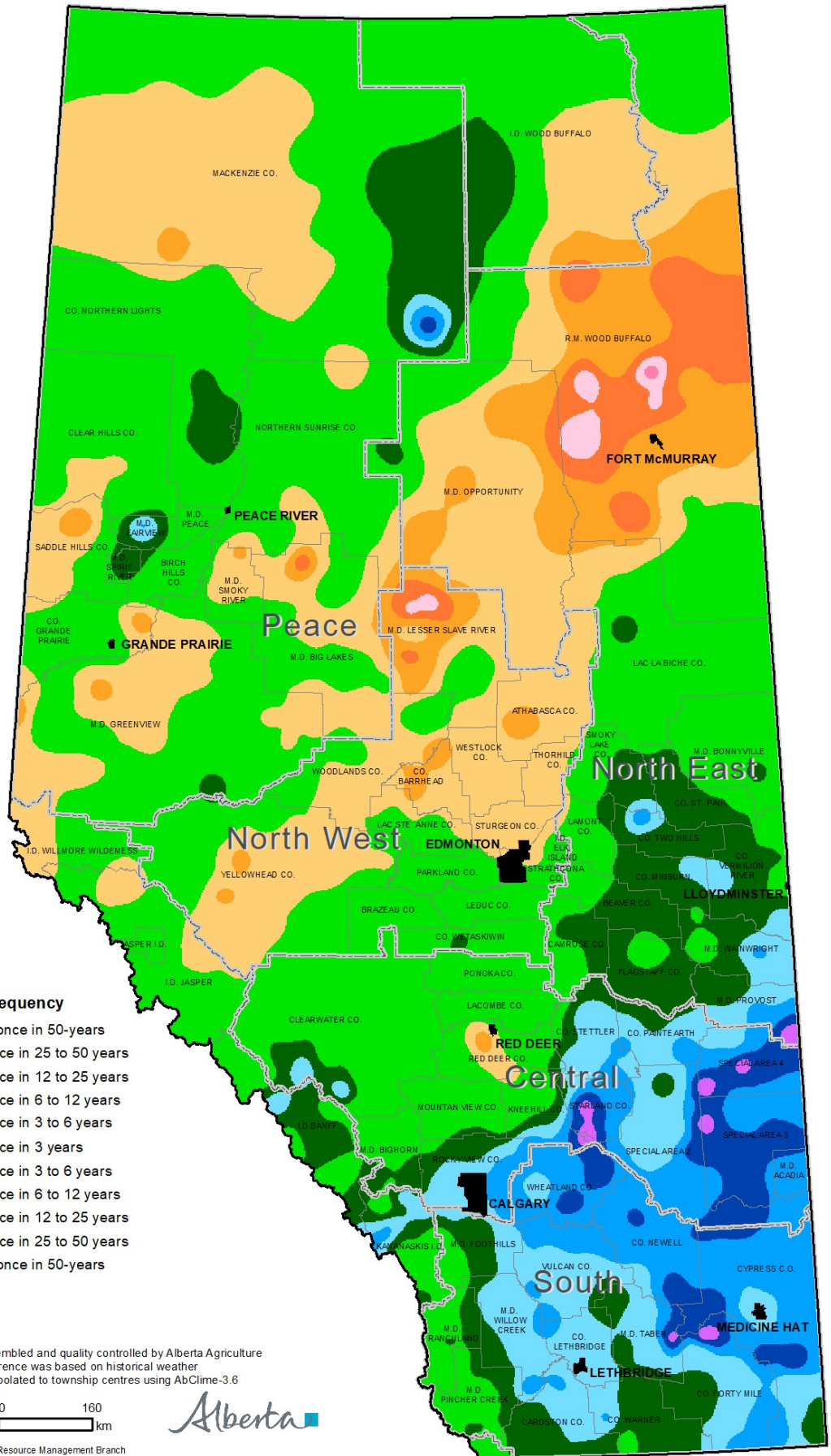
August 24, 2024 to  
September 22, 2024

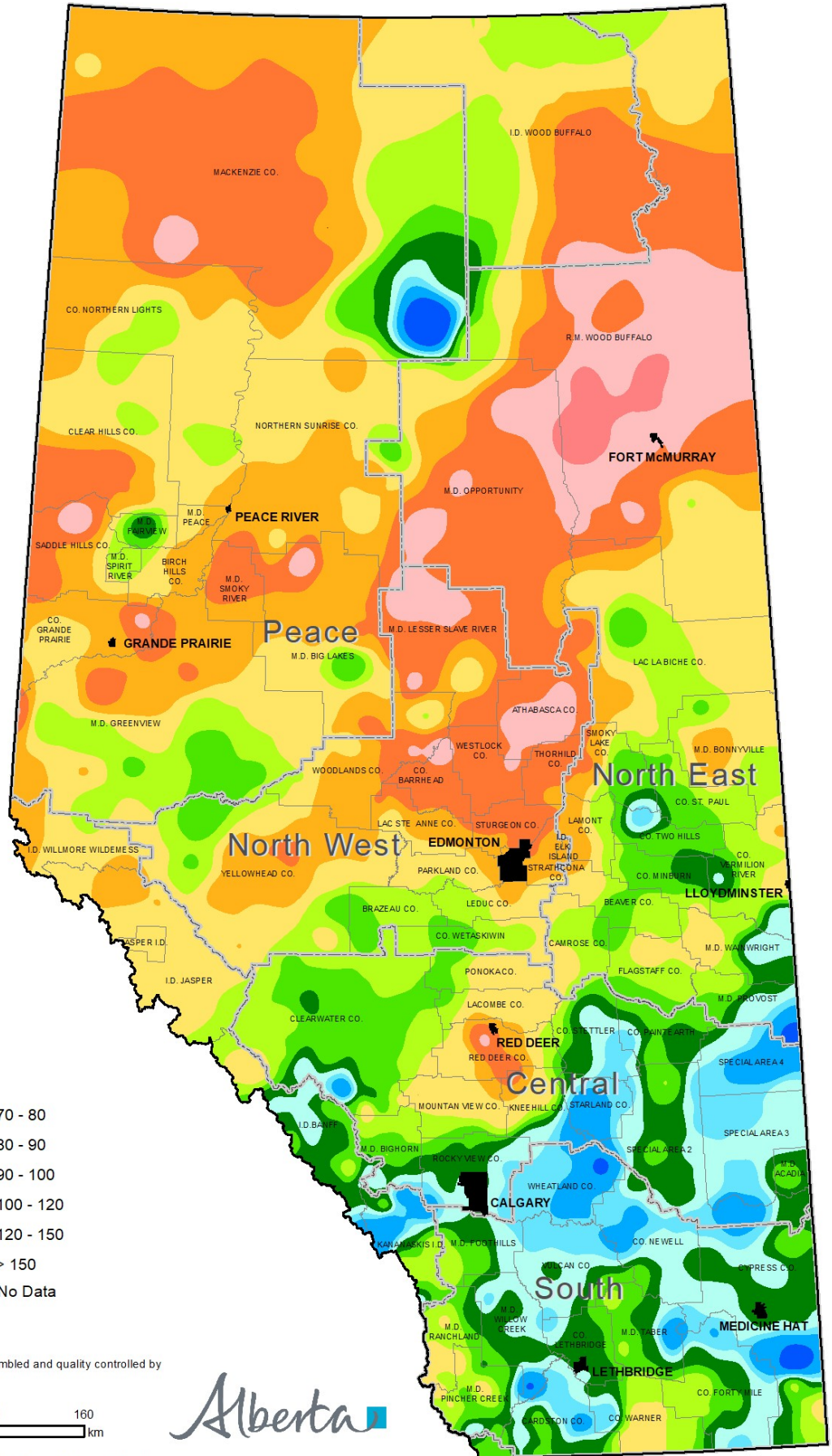
Condition	Frequency
 driest	< once in 50-years
 extremely low	once in 25 to 50 years
 very low	once in 12 to 25 years
 low	once in 6 to 12 years
 moderately low	once in 3 to 6 years
 near normal	once in 3 years
 moderately high	once in 3 to 6 years
 high	once in 6 to 12 years
 very high	once in 12 to 25 years
 extremely high	once in 25 to 50 years
 wettest	< once in 50-years
 no data	

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2023 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClima-3.6



Compiled by Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on September 23, 2024





**Precipitation Received During the Past 30-days**

August 24, 2024 to September 22, 2024

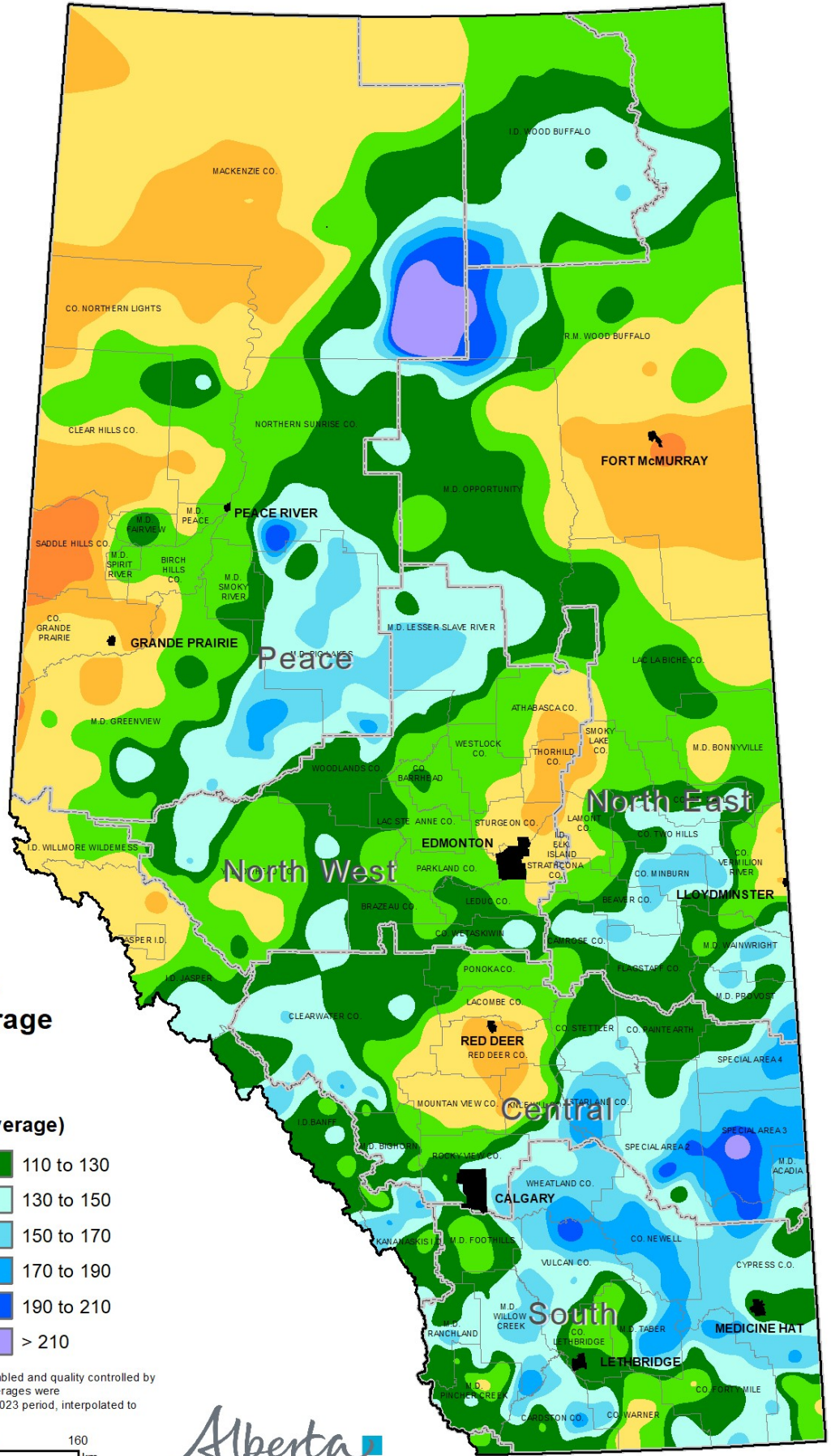
**Precipitation (mm)**

<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #f08080; border:1px solid black;"></span> < 10	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #008000; border:1px solid black;"></span> 70 - 80
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #f5deb3; border:1px solid black;"></span> 10 - 20	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #7fffd4; border:1px solid black;"></span> 80 - 90
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #ff8c00; border:1px solid black;"></span> 20 - 30	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #add8e6; border:1px solid black;"></span> 90 - 100
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #ffd700; border:1px solid black;"></span> 30 - 40	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #1e90ff; border:1px solid black;"></span> 100 - 120
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #fff2cc; border:1px solid black;"></span> 40 - 50	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #0000ff; border:1px solid black;"></span> 120 - 150
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #90ee90; border:1px solid black;"></span> 50 - 60	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #ff00ff; border:1px solid black;"></span> > 150
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #32cd32; border:1px solid black;"></span> 60 - 70	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #ffffff; border:1px solid black;"></span> No Data

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation.










Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on September 23, 2024



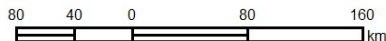
# 60-Day Precipitation Accumulations Percent of Average

July 25, 2024 to  
September 22, 2024

## Precipitation (% of Average)

	< 10		110 to 130
	10 to 30		130 to 150
	30 to 50		150 to 170
	50 to 70		170 to 190
	70 to 90		190 to 210
	90 to 110		> 210













Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Historical averages were based on weather data from the 1961-2023 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClimate-3.6



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on September 23, 2024

### 365-Day Precipitation Accumulations Relative to Long Term Normal

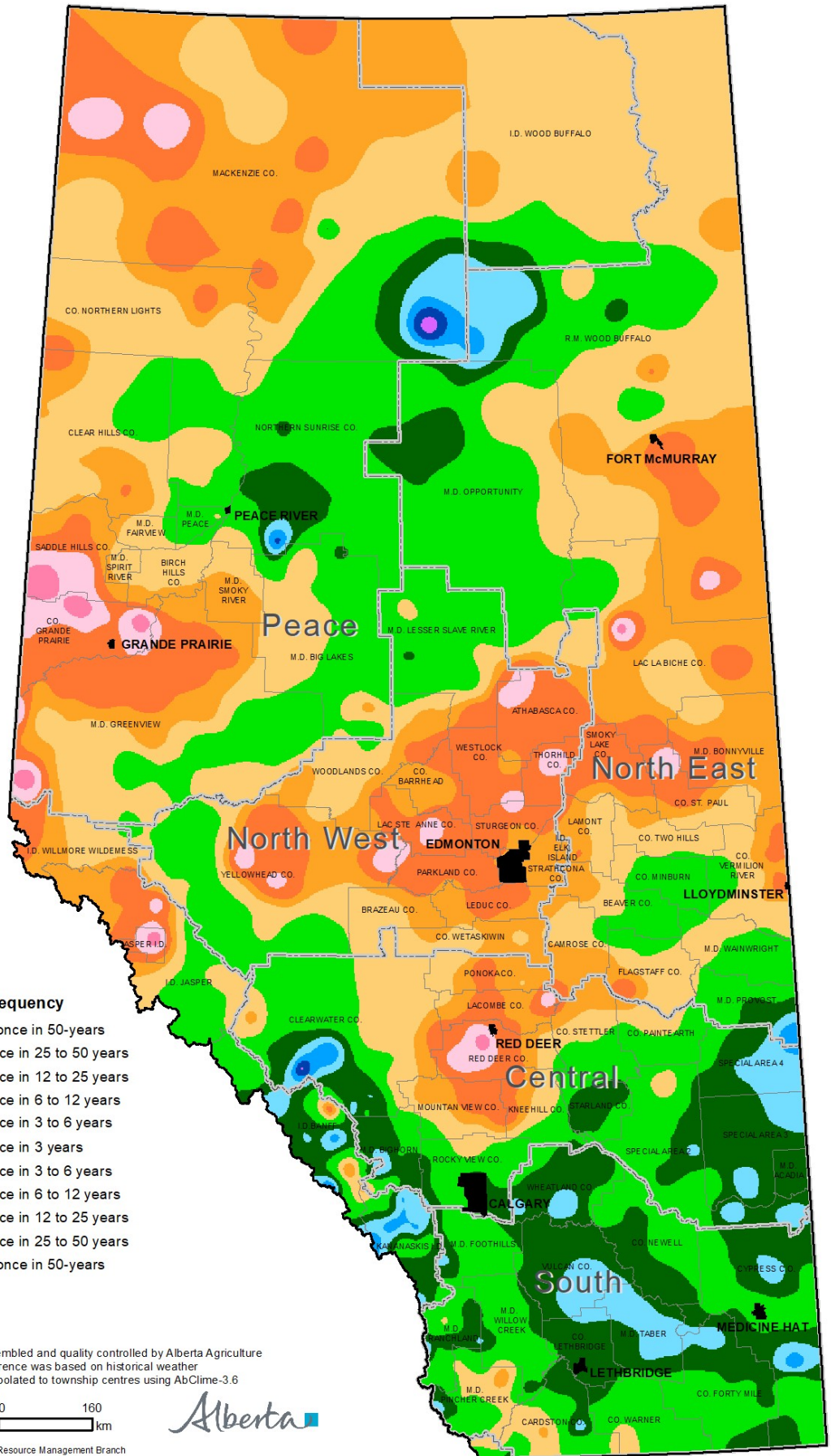
September 24, 2023 to  
September 22, 2024

Condition	Frequency
 driest	< once in 50-years
 extremely low	once in 25 to 50 years
 very low	once in 12 to 25 years
 low	once in 6 to 12 years
 moderately low	once in 3 to 6 years
 near normal	once in 3 years
 moderately high	once in 3 to 6 years
 high	once in 6 to 12 years
 very high	once in 12 to 25 years
 extremely high	once in 25 to 50 years
 wettest	< once in 50-years
 no data	

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2023 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClima-3.6















Compiled by Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on September 23, 2024

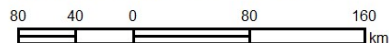


### Spring Wheat Soil Moisture Reserves Relative to Long Term Normal to a Depth of 120 cm

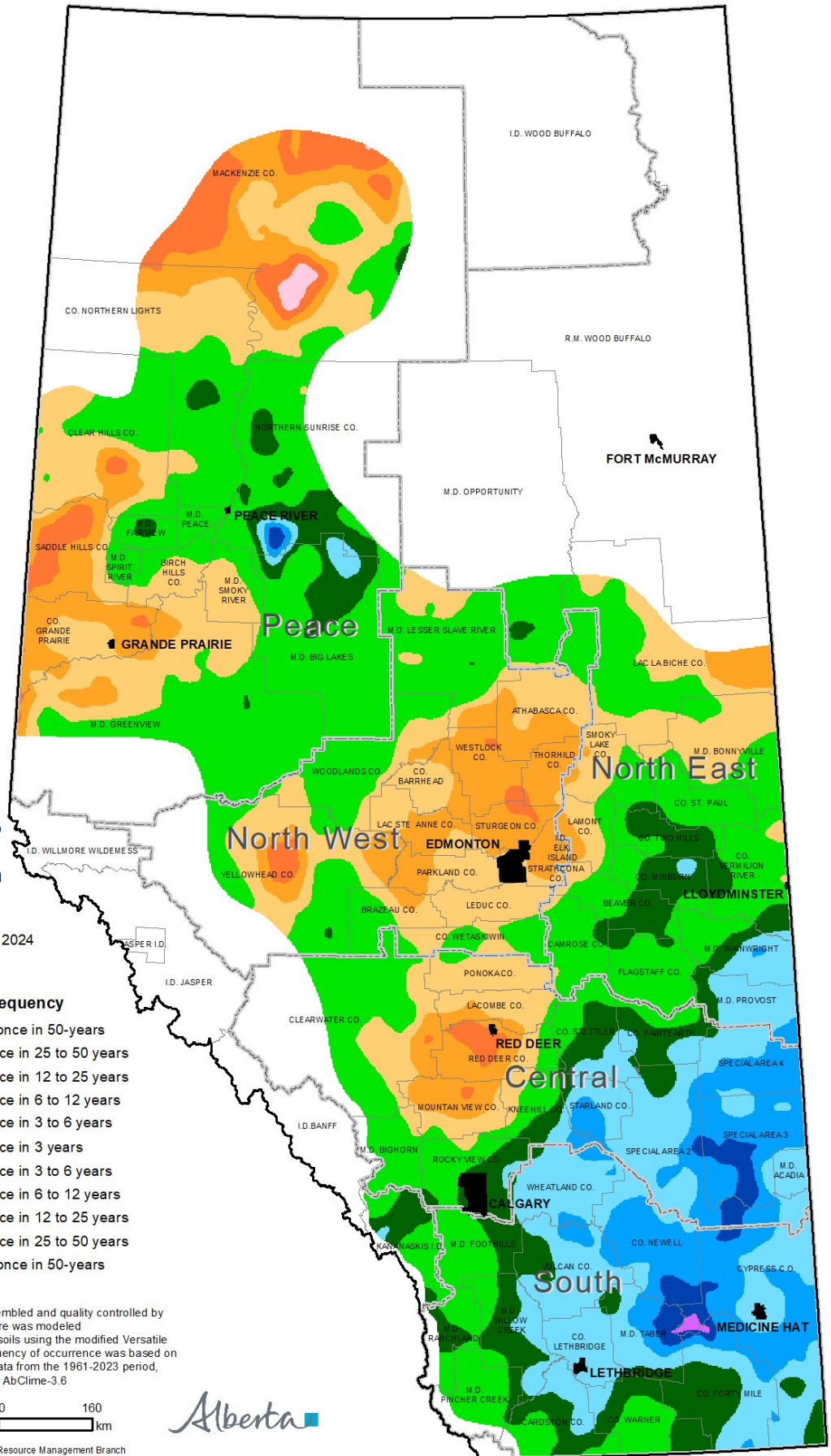
Estimated as of September 22, 2024

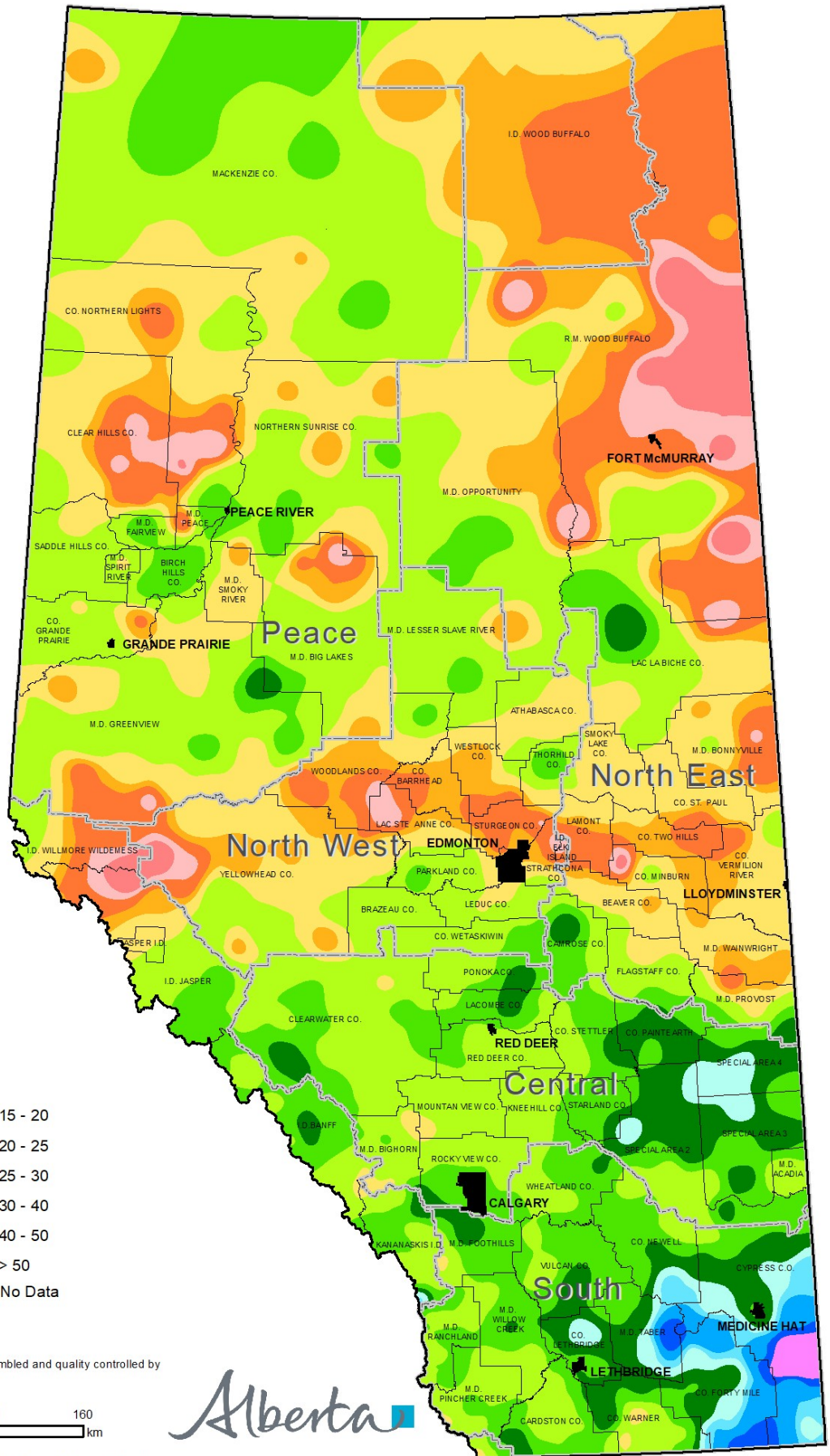
Condition	Frequency
 driest	< once in 50-years
 extremely low	once in 25 to 50 years
 very low	once in 12 to 25 years
 low	once in 6 to 12 years
 moderately low	once in 3 to 6 years
 near normal	once in 3 years
 moderately high	once in 3 to 6 years
 high	once in 6 to 12 years
 very high	once in 12 to 25 years
 extremely high	once in 25 to 50 years
 wettest	< once in 50-years
 no data	

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Soil moisture was modeled for spring wheat on medium textured soils using the modified Versatile Soil Moisture Budget V-4.0. The frequency of occurrence was based on model runs using historical weather data from the 1961-2023 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClimate-3.6



Compiled by Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on September 23, 2024





**Precipitation Received During the Past 06-days**

September 17, 2024 to September 22, 2024

**Precipitation (mm)**

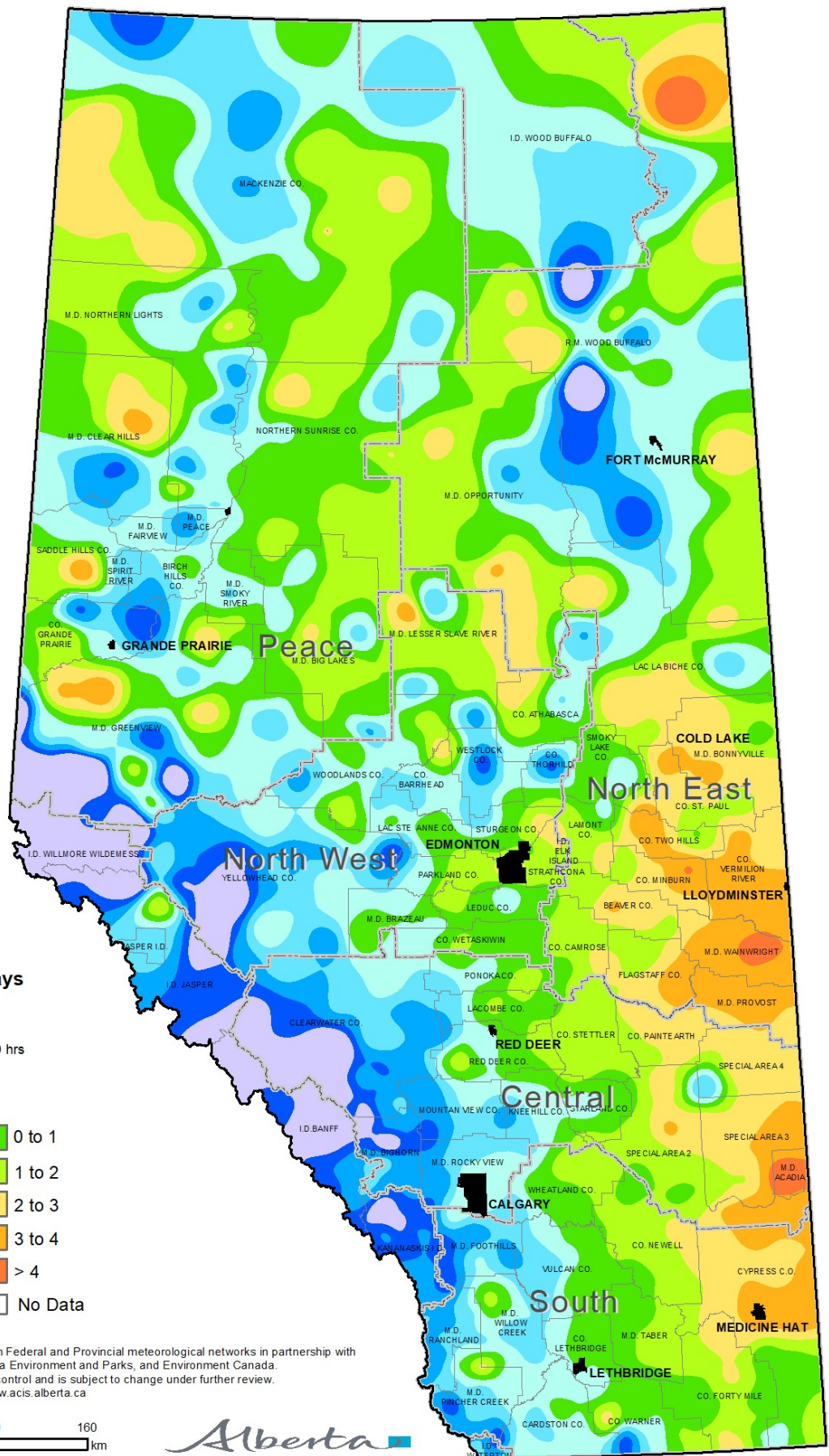
	< 0.5		15 - 20
	0.5 - 1.0		20 - 25
	1 - 2		25 - 30
	2 - 3		30 - 40
	3 - 5		40 - 50
	5 - 10		> 50
	10 - 15		No Data

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation.



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch  
Created on September 23, 2024





**Lowest Recorded Temperature During the Past 14-days**

September 09, 2024 to September 22, 2024 aprox. 2400 hrs

**Degree Celsius**



Near-real-time data was collected from Federal and Provincial meteorological networks in partnership with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks, and Environment Canada. Data has passed preliminary quality control and is subject to change under further review. Live station data can be viewed at [www.acis.alberta.ca](http://www.acis.alberta.ca)



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Stewardship Division, Technology and Innovation Branch  
Created on September 23, 2024

## Integrated Pest Management of Richardson’s Ground Squirrel

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a pest control strategy that focuses on applying a combination of practices instead of applying just one practice. Understanding the pest’s life cycle and its interaction with the environment is key. Consider the combination of practices as long-term pest management that prevents pest outbreaks. IPM is not meant to be used during a pest outbreak; this is a long-term pro-active program developed over time.

An IPM strategy to control Richardson’s Ground Squirrel (RGS) includes monitoring the pest and using preventative control measures to reduce its survival and reproduction. The various control measures are strategically carried out to reduce the RGS’s population to an acceptable level. Control methods include monitoring, cultural, biological, mechanical and chemical.

### Typical Periods of Activity for Ground Squirrels

	<b>Emerge Above Ground</b>	<b>Enter Hibernation</b>
Adult Males	mid February – early March	mid June – early July
Adult Females	early to mid March	early to late July
Juvenile Males	early to mid May	mid September - October
Juvenile Females	early to mid May	early to mid August

### Monitoring

It is important to monitor RGS numbers and distribution in a particular area. Monitoring assesses changes from year to year and helps to prevent local population expansion. While rangeland is the ground squirrel’s preferred habitat, they also readily feed on annual crops (cereal, pulse and oilseed crops). Early spring monitoring is especially important as ground squirrels emerge from winter burrows in search of food. This is also the best time to optimize control measures when males come above ground and prior to females disappearing belowground to produce their litters.

Monitoring includes estimating RGS population numbers. Count the active ground squirrels' mounds within one metre while walking one hundred metres. One active mound per two walking strides over one hundred metres is regarded as a high population.

One can also live trap RGSs in a given area for one day, comparing this number to previous numbers trapped for the same area, thereby monitoring an increase or decrease in population. Bear in mind that trapping times should occur at the same ground squirrel lifecycle time and within similar weather conditions.

## **Cultural Control**

Cultural control is a preventative measure that makes the living environment less suitable for RGSs. To notice approaching predators, ground squirrels prefer open terrain with shorter vegetation. Therefore, over-grazed pastures of native or tame grass and chem-fallow fields, for example, are ideal habitats. Given cereal grain is a preferred food source for ground squirrels, spaces near agricultural fields are also used for burrowing. Dry climatic conditions depress plant growth, providing favourable habitat. Research indicates that ground squirrels tend not to colonize areas with vegetation height greater than fifteen centimetres<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, try to maintain vegetation on pastures or forage fields at least fifteen centimetres in height. Accordingly, allow fence line vegetation to grow tall, avoid fall grazing, implement rotational grazing and maintain dense range grass cover to discourage establishment of ground squirrels. Furthermore, production of higher quality forage reduces the negative effects of drought, retaining denser forage, thus preventing good habitat for ground squirrels.

## **Biological Control**

Biological control means favouring habitat for creatures that prey on RGSs. Retaining or attracting optimal numbers of birds of prey and terrestrial predators is very important. Therefore, reinforce an environment for predator success. Wooden raptor (hawk, owl, falcon, etc.) platforms, nest boxes and perches can be constructed. Platforms should be at least 10 feet high and placed near ground squirrel colonies, especially in areas where trees are not plentiful. Due to the territorial nature of raptors, one platform per quarter section is adequate where trees are sparse.

One pair of nesting hawks can consume up to 500 ground squirrels in a season. Terrestrial predators like coyotes, foxes and weasels hunt RGSs along fence lines when grass is left tall. Leaving tall grass along field margins attracts foxes to create dens and to prey on ground squirrels. Nurturing plant growth near natural areas like sloughs and fence lines encourage predators of ground squirrels.



*Source Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation*



*Source Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture*

## **Mechanical Control**

Trapping RGSs requires much labour, however, can be highly effective, especially in small areas where ground squirrel population is high. The best time for trapping is soon after ground squirrels appear in the spring after hibernation. Leghold traps should be placed as deep as possible within ground squirrels' burrowing hole to prevent capturing non-target creatures like birds, skunks or pets. Traps should be checked regularly and disposal of captured ground squirrels should be carried out promptly. More humane cage traps capture ground squirrels unharmed which are then humanely disposed of or relocated. A small amount of peanut butter can be used as trap bait.

Shooting RGSs with a .22 rifle should only be performed safely and in rural areas. The appropriate time to shoot ground squirrels is when they first emerge in the spring after hibernation. While an effective control method, shooting can be time consuming and costly. Ground squirrels become attentive of shots being fired and therefore remain hidden.

## **Chemical (Rodenticide) Control**

Cultural and biological methods are key to keep RGS numbers at a minimum. Preservation of natural predators is of primary importance. Rodenticides are used as a last resort or when climatic (e.g.: drought) conditions cause a sharp increase in ground squirrel populations.

Grain-based poison baits are the most effective RGS control method over large agricultural areas. While several products are registered for use, PMRA de-registered Strychnine on March 4, 2023. Strychnine was the rodenticide chosen by producers because of its effectiveness with

just one treatment (single-use or single-feeding). PMRA's de-registration decision was largely based on strychnine's poisoning of non-target organisms (raptors, badgers, weasels, etc.), most of which are predators of ground squirrels.

While other rodenticides are available, most require multiple feeding. For other chemical control options, see "Chemical Control of Richardson's Ground Squirrel Populations" at this online document: [Control of Richardson's Ground Squirrel | Pastures, Grazing, Hay and Silage | Government of Saskatchewan](#)

## **Bait Station Control**

A bait station is an alternative to hand or spot baiting. Durable and affordable bait stations can be obtained from farm retailers. Bait stations should be properly secured with wire to something like a fence post and checked daily to insert a constant amount of bait over several weeks. For bait stations that can be homemade, see [Managing Richardson's Ground Squirrels](#), Alberta Government.

## **Fumigation Control**

Fumigation is another option that kills RGSs in their burrow system. Fumigants are only effective when ground squirrels are in their burrows - early in the morning, late at night or during cool or rainy weather. This control method works best in the early spring as ground squirrels come out of hibernation. Fumigation options are gas cartridges, phostoxin, Rocon Concentrate rodenticide, and carbon-monoxide.

## **Other Methods (After Control Methods are Applied)**

Re-entry of RGS, after control measures have reduced populations, can be prevented by cultivating RGS burrow systems.

## **References**

1. Proulx, G., N. MacKenzie, K. MacKenzie, B. Proulx, and K. Stang. 2010a. The Richardson's ground squirrel research and control program 2009-2010. Alpha Wildlife Research and Management Ltd. Report, submitted to Saskatchewan Agricultural Rural Municipalities, Regina, Saskatchewan.



## Re-evaluation Note

REV2007-03

### Update on the Re-evaluation of Strychnine

The purpose of this Re-evaluation Note is to notify registrants, pesticide regulatory officials and the Canadian public that Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is implementing interim measures for products containing strychnine.

These interim measures are consistent with the Proposed Acceptability for Continuing Registration document [PACR2005-08](#), *Re-evaluation of Strychnine*, published on 26 September 2005.

The PMRA has determined that the use of strychnine to control Northern pocket gophers, skunks, pigeons, wolves, coyotes and black bears is acceptable for continued registration with the implementation of the mitigation measures listed in PACR2005-08 because risk to human health or the environment can be adequately mitigated.

The use of strychnine to control ground squirrels (i.e., Richardson's, Columbia, Franklin and thirteen-lined) is a concern from an environmental perspective. The PMRA will maintain the use of strychnine to control ground squirrels for the short term with implementation of interim mitigation measures listed in PACR2005-08. This use of strychnine will be reviewed in 2008 upon completion of the Richardson's ground squirrel pest management strategy.

A re-evaluation decision on strychnine will be made, and a decision document will be published when that review is completed.

*(publié aussi en français)*

**1 March 2007**

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## **1.0 Comments Received on the Re-evaluation Proposal for Strychnine**

The PMRA published PACR2005-08, *Re-evaluation of Strychnine*, on 26 September 2005 for public consultation. Comments were received from a number of stakeholders including other federal departments, provincial departments, municipalities, users, producer associations and environmentalist groups.

Some of the respondents expressed support for the proposed approach to the use of strychnine for the control of ground squirrels. These respondents raised concerns regarding the lack of practical alternatives and the need for methods to effectively control a pest that may pose significant damage to crops. However, some stakeholders also raised concerns regarding the environmental impact of strychnine use.

In PACR2005-08, the PMRA recognized that the current use of strychnine is a concern for the environment due to its acute toxicity to non-target organisms. Identified risks posed by the use of strychnine for control of Northern pocket gophers, skunks, pigeons, wolves, coyotes and black bears are addressed by the mitigation measures listed in PACR2005-08. However, the environmental concerns still remain for the use of strychnine to control ground squirrels.

## **2.0 Interim Risk-Mitigation Measures**

Based on the review of available information and comments received, the PMRA will require implementation, in the short term, of the risk-mitigation measures as listed in PACR2005-08. A final decision on the use of strychnine will be made after consideration of the ongoing work by a national expert committee to identify, develop and promote a pest management control strategy for Richardson's ground squirrels.

The registrants have been informed by letter of the specific requirements affecting their product registrations and the regulatory options available to comply with this stage of the re-evaluation of strychnine.

## **3.0 Pest Management Strategy for Richardson's Ground Squirrels**

Richardson's ground squirrels are considered as one of the major mammalian pest impacting agriculture in the Prairies. The most commonly recommended control option is poisoned food-based baits. Strychnine-treated grain still remains as the most commonly used control option. However, strychnine bait provides only short-term control, primarily during the spring prior to green up. Strychnine is a poor control choice during the summer months, when feeding is highest and young rodents have emerged aboveground.

In 2002, the Richardson's Ground Squirrel Integrated Pest Management Steering Committee, consisting of experts from producers, industry, researchers, provincial governments and the PMRA was created to provide advice on sustainable control of Richardson's ground squirrels in the Prairies. The primary objective of this Committee is therefore to identify, develop and promote the use of products other than strychnine as well as viable non-chemical integrated pest



management-compatible control methods. The current lead for this Committee is the Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food. The targeted year for the completion of this project is 2008.

In this regard, aluminum phosphide (Phostoxin, Registration Number 16351) was granted temporary registration in 2003 for the control of woodchucks and Richardson's ground squirrels. The efficacy of Phostoxin has been demonstrated in several different crop and soil types, and a training course has been developed to instruct growers on the safe use of this restricted product.

The PMRA is working with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Food to facilitate a pilot project to promote the use of Phostoxin as an alternative chemical to strychnine. The Southwest Saskatchewan (Swift Current, Maple Creek), where high densities of Richardson's ground squirrels have been observed, will be the target site for this pilot project. The pilot will include field trials to compare Phostoxin and strychnine (2% and ready-to-use) as well as an economic impact study. The target date for the implementation of this pilot project is by April to May 2007.

#### **4.0 Comments on the 1992 Regulatory Decision on Formulation Restriction**

During the comment period for PACR2005-08, the PMRA also received comments regarding the 1992 regulatory decision to restrict the availability of strychnine to 0.4% ready-to-use (RTU) formulations and to eliminate the sale of the 2% liquid strychnine concentrate to end users<sup>1</sup>. Some users have expressed dissatisfaction with the efficacy of the available strychnine formulation in the market; therefore, they are requesting the reinstatement of the registration of the 2% liquid formulation.

The PMRA re-evaluation program focuses on the acceptability of currently registered uses for continuing registration and does not entail a review of past regulatory decisions. Possible serious adverse effects to human health and the environment were the basis of the 1992 decision to restrict the availability of 2% liquid concentrate strychnine. It has also been widely known that strychnine has a very high acute toxicity and it has been, and continues to be, implicated in unintentional and intentional poisoning (e.g., dogs, wildlife). Restricting user access only to 0.4% strychnine bait formulations was considered at that time, and is still considered to be, a prudent approach. These fresh bait products are considered to be safer to use, while providing a concentration of strychnine similar to that provided in bait mixed from the 2% strychnine concentrate. The governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan are supportive of the use of the commercially available RTU strychnine products.

The results of the re-evaluation of the current uses of strychnine as described in PACR2005-08 lead to the conclusion that the PMRA could not support the use of 2% liquid strychnine for the control of ground squirrels. As noted above, in 2007, there will be field trials comparing Phostoxin and strychnine (both 2% and ready-to-use).

---

<sup>1</sup> Note to CAPCO [C92-09](#), *Strychnine, Reduction of allowable use pattern*, published by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on 22 December 1992.

# Strychnine Usage Timeline for Richardson's Ground Squirrel Control in Alberta

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) was founded in 1995 and is responsible for pesticide regulation in Canada. Strychnine pesticide for Richardson's Ground Squirrel (RGS) control was registered in Canada in 1928. The *Pest Control Products Act* requires that all registered pesticides be re-evaluated at least every 15 years to ensure that the risks continue to be acceptable according to current standards. Therefore, in recent years, re-evaluation of strychnine use has been carried out by PMRA cyclically, approximately every 15 years.

[https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2024/sc-hc/h113-8/H113-8-2024-1-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/h113-8/H113-8-2024-1-eng.pdf)

## 1928 to 1992

Strychnine pesticide for Richardson's Ground Squirrel (RGS) control was registered in Canada in 1928.

## 1992-2001

Two percent strychnine was deregistered from **1992-2001** due to environmental risks for inadvertent poisoning of non-target organisms. Secondary poisoning occurs when gopher carcasses containing strychnine remain on the soil surface and are devoured by other animals, including species at risk such as the swift fox and the burrowing owl.

## 2001 to 2003

Strychnine registration was restored by PMRA in 2001 during an explosion in the gopher population. **Emergency registration** authorization was granted from **2001 to 2003** that allowed municipalities to purchase strychnine concentrate for re-sale in a fresh mixed, ready-to-use product.

**In 2002, PMRA initiated an integrated pest management committee to search for alternative, long-term RGS control measures** while permitting strychnine as an interim measure<sup>2</sup>. The Richardson's Ground Squirrel Integrated Pest Management Steering Committee consisted of experts from producers, industry, researchers, provincial governments and Health Canada. The primary objective of this Committee is to identify, develop and promote the use of products other than strychnine, as well as viable non-chemical integrated pest management-compatible control methods. The current lead for this Committee is the Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food. The targeted year for the completion of this project is 2008.

## 2007

**PMRA issued a one-year emergency use registration for 2% strychnine in 2007**. Producers could purchase strychnine from rural municipalities, counties or other authorized distributors until July 31, 2007. **PMRA began funding a research program in 2007 to compare the efficacy of strychnine products with other registered alternatives.**

## **2008**

**2008 was similar to 2007: PMRA granted emergency registration of two percent liquid strychnine** and its associated conditions of registration to be the best interim approach for addressing the localized high populations of Richardson's ground squirrels while further research is being conducted to find a more long-term sustainable solution.

## **2009**

In light of the research program initiated in 2007, **in 2009 the PMRA authorized the emergency registration of 2% liquid strychnine** concentrate for the control of severe infestations of Richardson's ground squirrels. PMRA claimed this to be a viable option in the interim since it provides more flexibility to growers in terms of cost effectiveness and timely availability of bait while research is being conducted into alternatives to strychnine.

## **2010**

In **2010**, PMRA informed that there are products currently registered for control of Richardson's ground squirrels that include **ready to use baits containing 0.4% strychnine, zinc phosphide or chlorophacinone**. Additionally the **PMRA will continue to consider emergency registration applications for the use of 2% liquid strychnine in areas for which a critical need is identified** if such applications are received by the PMRA.

## **2011**

In response to Alberta's Agricultural Service Board's request, the PMRA granted Alberta **emergency use registrations for 2 per cent liquid concentrate strychnine for the 2011 growing season**.

## **2012**

The PMRA granted full registration of **2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate on 23 February 2012**. Health Canada is a participant in a working group with stakeholders, including grower groups, provincial extension specialists, researchers and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to find alternative solutions to the Richardson's ground squirrel infestation in Alberta. Efforts should continue to ensure that new alternative technologies and integrated pest management strategies are available to users as soon as possible.

## **2020**

On March 4, **2020**, Health Canada made a decision based on Re-evaluation Decision RVD2020-06 that the environmental risks associated with the use of strychnine for the control of RGS were not shown to be acceptable when used according to label directions. As a result, the **registration of products containing strychnine used to control RGS was cancelled and a 3-year phase-out period was allowed until March 4, 2023**.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/decisions-updates/reevaluation-decision/2020/strychnine.html>

## 2021

In 2021, Alberta Agriculture Service Boards claimed that RGS continue to pose a significant threat to agricultural production and strychnine has been used to reduce the impacts of severe infestations. **As a single feed bait, strychnine is efficient and effective and allows producers to treat small area and large area infestations when other parts of their integrated pest management practices have failed.** 2% Liquid Strychnine is an essential tool in any agricultural producers integrated pest management toolbox as a consistent, effective tool in controlling RGS infestations.

## 2023

Health Canada suggested alternatives to strychnine that are registered to control RGS: **chlorophacinone, diphacinone, zinc phosphide, and aluminum phosphide**, mentioning that while these alternatives may have some limitations compared to strychnine, they were found to be efficacious against RGS during the scientific review that led to their registration.

<https://pub-flagstaffcounty.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=29771>

**In 2023, Health Canada claimed that in its decision to discontinue strychnine registration, Health Canada recognized the value of strychnine because it is easy to use, cost effective and manages RGS in a single feeding. Health Canada says there are other alternatives to strychnine registered to control RGS available to users: chlorophacinone, diphacinone, zinc phosphide, and aluminum phosphide.** While these alternatives may have some limitations compared to strychnine, they were found to be efficacious against the target pest during the scientific review that led to their registration.

**A 2023 report showed that research carried out in 2022 indicates there are effective alternatives to Strychnine for RGS control.** The study was conducted on grasslands and pastures with high populations of RGS in south western Saskatchewan and south eastern Alberta. These products are Rozol, Ramik Green, Burrow Owl Bait, and ZP Rodent Oat Bait AG. For this study the mentioned products were applied twice, whereas the Zinc Phosphide products were effective with just one treatment. This study indicated that the Zinc Phosphide products can be as effective as 2% Strychnine at a much lower cost. Timing of application is key to success with any product but especially with the more expensive anticoagulant types.

- The full research detail and results are available on the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture website:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agri-business-farmers-and-ranchers/livestock/pastures-grazing-hay-silage/control-of-richards-on-ground-squirrel>



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November 15, 2024

The Honourable Senators of Canada  
Senate of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A4

**RE: Bill C-293, An Act Respecting Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness**

Dear Honourable Senators,

We are writing to express our strong opposition and deep concern regarding Bill C-293, which focuses on pandemic preparedness. While we acknowledge the importance of this Bill and fully support the need for governments to plan more effectively to manage risks, we believe that certain aspects of the Bill require further scrutiny and clarification.

In particular, Section L of the Bill, which recommends "derisking" animal agriculture and promoting alternative proteins, raises significant concerns. This provision appears to be an overreach, as it is not clearly related to pandemic preparedness and instead targets a specific sector of the economy. Animal agriculture is an essential component of our food system, and any policy changes affecting it must be based on clear, evidence-driven risk assessments.

The language in the Bill is dangerously vague and harsh, lacking the necessary details to understand its full implications for both farmers and consumers. Of particular concern, in regard to animal agriculture, language such as "regulate" and "phase-out" are utilized. This language suggests that the bill has assumed that animal agriculture in Canada is a cause of, or contributes to, the spread of disease, a notion that we unequivocally reject, and further, is not supported by evidence. While the promotion of alternative proteins may have merit in certain contexts, it should not come at the expense of others within the agricultural sector.

We urge the Senate to carefully consider the implications of Section L and ensure that any policies aimed at mitigating future pandemic risks are balanced, evidence-based, and focused on the core issue of public health rather than introducing measures that could unintentionally disrupt our food system.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We trust that you will consider these concerns as you deliberate on the contents of Bill C-293.

Sincerely,



Nolan Robertson  
Chairman, Agricultural Service Board

cc: Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food for Canada  
Hon. R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation for Alberta  
Mr. John Barlow, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food  
Mr. Arnold Viersen, Member of Parliament for Peace River – Westlock  
Hon. Todd Lowen, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Central-Peace Notley  
Rural Municipalities of Alberta Member Municipalities  
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards  
Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee



The Honourable Senators of Canada  
Senate of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A4

November 18, 2024

**Re: Bill C-293 An Act Respecting Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness**

We are deeply concerned with the referenced bill before the Senate for various reasons centered around the ever-growing need of Ottawa to regulate the livelihoods of others and their obsession to stifle economic stability. However, we will not be writing a letter to summarize where concerns of new potential government overreach could lie because those are well known, but rather highlight the current government overreach that currently exists, the atrocities already enacted and a warning to not repeat the mistake.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) already has the power to quarantine, restrict movement of livestock, implement disease control measures, and euthanize livestock during disease outbreaks and biosecurity threats. All of which the CFIA has used and potentially abused across the Western Provinces. We have seen the CFIA destroy the cattle sector and market during the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) threat, their approach and use of current powers destroyed the cattle market for over a decade. It wasn't the CFIA that revived the market, it was the trust and perseverance of ranchers that weathered financial and emotional hardships while CFIA ruined their market overnight. BSE was CFIA's red herring of a potential disease that never was, all to put a feather in their cap at the expense of the cattle sector. The CFIA is currently using their power to cripple the Cervid Industry of the Western Provinces through overregulation, restriction of the sale of meat and live animals as we speak. Federal Government overreach and willingness to use current expansive and overreaching legislation is ever present, leads to financial hardship and guides ranchers into emotional turmoil.

We do not need to see more regulation and potential government overreach be legislated to the Federal Minister of Health with respect to livestock and livestock welfare as they are already responsible for the destruction of so many lives and businesses. If this isn't known by the Minister of Health and the CFIA, we point to the decimation of livestock numbers through Canada and destruction of native grasslands that are being torn up to grow crops as ranchers and livestock producers went broke under their implementation of biosecurity and disease outbreak management.

Not to mention the ridiculous and bad idea to promote 'fake' alternative proteins and meats over or at the expense of real meat. Again, Ottawa is deaf or negligent in its ability to listen and understand what the 'People' want. Alternative protein, 'fake' milk and 'fake' meat companies initially surged in market share and stock prices when they hit the market, however, almost all of them have floundered as consumer did not re buy or return to the product. For example, Beyond Meat's (BYND) all time stock price was posted in 2019 at \$234.90 a share and had a market cap of over \$15.5B; at the time of writing this it is \$4.96 a share and a market cap of around \$450M. General studies and surveys of these companies indicate consumers are dissatisfied with these products due to taste, texture, too many ingredients, too expensive, too many additives or preservatives and most of all people felt unhealthy after eating the products. It is clear people want to eat 'real' food with the least amount of ingredients, preservatives and additives, that is not highly addictive and highly processed.

We urge the Canadian Senate to please, just stop the bad ideas, unnecessary over regulation and allow Canadians the ability to chose for themselves and not support Bill C-293.

Sincerely,



Terry Ungarian, Chairman of the Agricultural Service Board  
County of Northern Lights

Cc:

Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food for Canada  
Hon. R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation for Alberta  
Mr. John Barlow, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Agri-Food  
Hon. Chris Warkentin, Member of Parliament for Grande Prairie-Mackenzie  
Hon. Dan Williams, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions for Alberta  
Rural Municipalities of Alberta  
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards  
Alberta Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee





November 15, 2024

The Honourable Senators of Canada  
Senate of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A4

**RE: Northern Sunrise County Letter of Concern Regarding Bill C-293**

Dear Honourable Senators,

Northern Sunrise County (NSC) Agricultural Service Board (ASB) would like to express concerns regarding Bill C-293 – *An act respecting pandemic prevention and preparedness* currently before the senate.

This bill could severely impact Canada's agricultural sector, especially the animal production industry. Its aim to regulate industrial animal agriculture and phase out activities considered high-risk lacks clear definitions and guidelines, potentially harming Canadian agriculture, rural communities, and national food security.

Section 3(2)(l) of Bill C-293 suggests regulation over "commercial activities that can contribute to pandemic risk, including industrial animal agriculture," and proposes the promotion of "alternative proteins." While pandemic preparedness is essential, this section is vague, leaving the door open for broad interpretations and misuse of power. Without specific definitions, the bill risks undue government intervention in agricultural practices, consumer choices, and the broader economy. Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable RJ Sigurdson, has noted concerns that this vagueness grants excessive discretionary power, which could allow officials to halt agricultural operations during a crisis, leading to severe disruptions across the food supply chain.

Canada's agricultural sector already implements rigorous biosecurity standards to prevent disease transmission, demonstrating responsible stewardship. Established protocols, including the Canadian On-Farm Beef Cattle Biosecurity Standard and specialized plans for hog and poultry farms, exemplify the proactive measures in place to manage health risks. The North American Preparedness for Animal and Human Pandemics Initiative (NAPAHPI) has also been updated since COVID-19 to enhance cooperation between sectors in pandemic scenarios, reducing the need for additional regulations under Bill C-293. Sandra Spruit, a board member of Alberta Pork, emphasizes that Bill C-293 fails to acknowledge the sector's responsible antimicrobial use and robust biosecurity programs, implying a lack of trust in an industry that has long prioritized public health.

Moreover, animal agriculture supports rural economies and food security in Canada. About 40% of Alberta's farm cash receipts are from livestock production contributing over \$10 Billion in Alberta in 2023. This represents the livelihood of a significant number of farm families, a significant contribution to local food supply and an important economic contributor to our rural and remote communities. Efforts to phase out activities without concrete evidence of their risks could harm sectors like pork, poultry, and beef production, which employ thousands and feed millions.





While MPs like Erskine-Smith assert that Bill C-293 is not meant to eliminate meat production, the bill's current language provides no such assurances. Without clear limitations, future interpretations could impose restrictions on significant areas of animal agriculture, based on evolving perceptions of risk.

Please consider the consequences of passing Bill C-293 on the source and stability of our local food system, and the livelihood of our livestock producers and the communities they support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Corinna Williams".

Corinna Williams, Chairperson  
Agricultural Service Board  
Northern Sunrise County



## Municipal District Stakeholder Workshop November 21, 2024

### Meeting Objectives

- 1) Create awareness of SARDA’s current initiatives, opportunities, and strategic plan
- 2) Drive joint understanding of municipal district agriculture priorities
- 3) Confirm cross-jurisdictional areas where SARDA can best impact producer productivity, profitability, and sustainability and how we can work even better together

### Meeting Details

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	Thursday November 21 <sup>st</sup> 9:30am – 4:30pm	
<b>Location</b>	SARDA Boardroom in Donnelly	
<b>Attendees</b>	<p><b>Municipal District Representatives from Smoky River, Big Lakes, Greenview, Northern Sunrise County, and Grande Prairie</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delegated Board Representative</li> <li>• ASB Chair</li> <li>• Ag Fieldman</li> </ul> <p><b>SARDA Representatives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simon Lavoie (Chair)</li> <li>• Leonard Desharnais (Vice Chair)</li> <li>• Vance Yaremko (Executive Director)</li> <li>• Calvin Yoder (Forage Seed Specialist)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Facilitator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scott Ackerman (Facilitator)</li> </ul>

## Meeting Agenda – Thursday, November 21

Time	Activity
9:00	<b>Settle In – Coffee</b>
9:30	<b>Introductions</b> <b>Opening Comments (Simon)</b> <b>Session Goals &amp; Agenda (Scott)</b>
10:00	<b>SARDA initiatives, opportunities, and strategic plan (Vance, Calvin &amp; Simon)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss SARDA’s current initiatives and recent producer impact</li> <li>• Review SARDA’s top opportunities and proposed strategic plan</li> <li>• Initial group feedback + Q&amp;A</li> <li>• Quick review of our membership bylaws – how it works and why we did it</li> </ul>
12:00	<b>LUNCH</b>
12:30	<b>Joint Priorities Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the biggest challenges facing producers in our districts today?</li> <li>• Where is there common ground where SARDA can make the most impact?</li> <li>• How does this align with the proposed strategic plan? What tweaks would make it even better?</li> </ul>
2:00	<b>QUICK BREAK</b>
2:15	<b>How We Can Work Together Even More Effectively</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What other things can we do to increase joint effectiveness and results? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ E.g. joint annual planning, flexible funding, plot proximity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3:15	<b>QUICK BREAK</b>
3:30	<b>Wind in Our Sails</b>  <b>Setting the Table (Scott – 10 min.)</b>  <b>Considering our Proposed Path Forward &amp; Today’s Discussions . . .</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What makes me worried about the proposed strategy and priorities? (rocks)</li> <li>• What rough waves do we need to navigate? (waves)</li> <li>• What makes me excited about our proposed strategy and priorities? (hull)</li> <li>• What factors would help propel us forward? (sails)</li>   <li>• What can we do about the rocks and waves?</li> </ul>
4:15	<b>Session Wrap Up &amp; Next Steps</b>
<b>SAFE TRAVELS!</b>	