

# MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW NO. 16 AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

### Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 9:30 a.m. Greenview Administration Building Valleyview, AB

			Pages		
1.	CALL TO ORDER				
2.	ADOPTION OF AGENDA				
3.	MINUTES				
	3.1	Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting minutes held DATE, to be adopted.			
	3.2	Business Arising from the Minutes			
	3.3	Action Items			
4.	DELEGATION				
5.	BUSINESS				
	5.1	Manager's Report	16 - 18		
6.	MEMBERS REPORTS				
	6.1	Member - Dave Berry			
	6.2	Member - Bill Smith			
	6.3	Member - David Gibbard			
	6.4	Member - Lisa Dorschied			
	6.5	Member - Douglas Vandermark			
	6.6	Member - John Vinette			
	6.7	Member - Jeff Laughlin			
7.	CORRESPONDENCE		19 - 19		
8.	ADJOURNMENT				



# REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT: Farmer Pesticide Certificate – Registration of 1080

SUBMISSION TO: AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION MEETING DATE: April 30, 2025 CAO: MANAGER: SK DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE DIR: MH PRESENTER: SK

STRATEGIC PLAN: Environment LEG:

#### **RELEVANT LEGISLATION:**

**Provincial** (cite) – Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, RSA 2000 cE-12, Agricultural Pests Act R.S.A 2000, Chapter A-8

Council Bylaw/Policy (cite) - Policy 6323: Coyote Predation

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board accept the report regarding the Farmer Pesticide Certificate and the impacts as related to Compound 1080 for information, as presented.

#### BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

During the January 2025 Agricultural Service Board meeting, Administration brought forward letter from Kneehill County dated January 14<sup>th</sup> to the Boards attention. The letter addressed required updates to the Farmer Pesticide Program within Alberta, as well as the reliance of delivery of this program on municipal staff.

Under the Agricultural Pests Act (APA), coyote is listed as a nuisance species. The predacide sodium monofluoroacetate, commonly referred to as 1080, has historically been dispensed by municipally appointed Pest Inspectors holding a Form 7 license under the APA to a maximum of 6 pills at one time, per applicant. The use of 1080 is meant to be when all other attempts at controlling confirmed incidence of predation had been exhausted.

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) released the final reevaluation decision for the predacide. While the use of 1080 was retained by the product registrant, the Government of Alberta, the registration was suspended in December of 2024 due to the product being decanted as opposed to being dispensed in its original packaging. Decanting is strictly prohibited within federal and provincial pesticide legislation. One of the required changes the Provincial Government is required to implement to maintain access to 1080 for agricultural producers was the following:

"Develop and implement a training program on how to properly use sodium monofluoroacetate and dispose of poisoned baits and carcasses. This includes making sure people know that they can only use the product after all other predator management methods have failed."

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While Form 7 training goes over the points made regarding proper use, disposal, and using the predacide as a last resort, this training is not extended to the end user. Pesticide training for producers is managed through the Farmers Pesticide Certificate Program. This program allows municipal staff who have held a Pesticide Applicators License for 5 years and received training form Alberta Environment and Protected Areas to provide training to municipal seasonal staff as authorized assistant applicators and agricultural producers as the Farmers Pesticide Certificate. With no other facilitators for the Farmer Pesticide Certificate in the Provincial Government, Administration drafted a letter pointing out the potential download to municipalities of training requirements to agricultural producers required under the new registration. A letter was approved by the Board and sent on March 17<sup>th</sup> reflecting these concerns.

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, Agricultural and Irrigation staff held a meeting with all municipal agricultural services departments. They confirmed the above concerns and stated that this would become a requirement for municipal agricultural service departments to provide this training for producers to access the predacide. Additionally, while the registration of 1080 was retained by wildlife biologists for wolf control, the biologists have chosen to cease any use of the predacide in the future.

The date for the intended changes to take full effect is March of 2026. Greenview will be able to provide this service to local producers, but the ability of the other 12 municipalities within the Peace Region is limited. This concern was brought forward within the meeting. Further, the requirement of a Licensed Applicator to hold their license for 5 years prior to being able to enrol in the required training to provide the Farmer Pesticide Certification will further concentrate the download in agricultural regions with limited long-term field staff.

#### BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- The benefit of the recommended action will be that the Board will be aware that Greenview is able to continue to provide access to 1080 for producers after March of 2026 by providing Farmer Pesticide Certificate training.
- 2. An additional benefit of the recommended action will be that the Board will be informed as to the upcoming changes to Compound 1080 access.

#### DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

There are no perceived disadvantages to the recommended motion.

#### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

**Alternative #1:** The Board may choose to request Administration do further research to help illuminate the situation further.

#### 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**

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.

#### **FOLLOW UP ACTIONS:**

Once the Board makes a decision, Administration will carry out the wishes of the Board.

#### ATTACHMENT(S):

- Farmer Pesticide Program Updates Kneehill County, January 15, 2025
- Farmer Pesticide Program Updates and 1080 Registration Requirements Greenview ASB



January 14, 2025

Minister of Environment and Protected Areas 204 Legislature Building 108000 - 97 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

RE: Follow-Up on Updates to the Farmer Pesticide Program

Dear Honourable Minister Rebecca Schulz,

The Kneehill County Agricultural Service Board wishes to follow up on prior correspondence and discussions regarding the Farmer Pesticide Program. In our letter dated April 25, 2022, we outlined several concerns regarding outdated course materials, inconsistencies in exam alignment, and gaps in resource allocation for the program. We appreciated the response from Devon Smiegielski on May 16, 2022, which highlighted plans for a review in Fall 2022 and the establishment of a sub-committee to update the training materials. However, despite this assurance, we have yet to observe substantive progress regarding the status of this critical program update.

We commend your ministry's efforts to modernize Alberta's regulatory framework, including developing the new Digital Regulatory Assurance System (DRAS) and updating the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticide Use. These initiatives align with the broader goals of sustainable pesticide management. We also recognize the recent updates to the National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core in 2024 as a valuable reference that could support the redevelopment of the Alberta Farmer Pesticide Program.

However, the Farmer Pesticide Program faces unique challenges, including reliance on municipal facilitators and limited resource access. Unlike other pesticide certification programs with access to Lakeland College resources for development and review, this program is not a part of the Lakeland College partnership. It may require additional provincial support to ensure its modernization aligns with evolving standards and meets the needs of Alberta's agricultural producers. In this process, it is essential to include municipal stakeholders, who bring firsthand knowledge of the program's delivery and the needs of local producers, to ensure that revisions are both practical and effective.

To advance this essential program, we respectfully request:

- 1. An update on the timeline and progress of the program review and redevelopment.
- 2. Consideration of dedicated provincial resources to support the modernization and implementation of the program.
- 3. An outline detailing the intended stakeholder involvement in the program review and development.

Box 400, 1600 - 2nd Street NE, Three Hills, Alberta, TOM 2A0

Phone: 403-443-5541 · Toll Free: 1-866-443-5541 Email: office@kneehillcounty.com

www.kneehillcounty.com



The Farmer Pesticide Program is essential for Alberta's agricultural sector, ensuring the safe and effective use of restricted pesticides while supporting environmental stewardship and market access. A timely update to this program will reinforce Alberta's commitment to its producers and stakeholders.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response and continued engagement.

Sincerely,

Wade Christie

Chair, Kneehill County Agricultural Service Board

CC:

Honourable Nathan Cooper Honourable RJ Sigurdson Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen Provincial Agricultural Service Boards



February 27, 2025

Minister of Environment and Protected Areas 204 Legislature Building 108000 - 97 A venue Edmonton, AB TSK 286

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

Attention: Honourable Minister Rebecca Schultz and Honourable Minister RJ Sigurdson Subject: Farmer Pesticide Program and Updated Registration of Sodium Monofluoroacetate

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, Kneehill County wrote a commendable letter requesting an update to the Farmer Pesticide Program that detailed required amendments to the certification. The letter specified the programs reliance on municipal facilitators for delivery, as opposed to provincial representatives or inclusion in the Lakeland College's suite of pesticide certification programs. The farmers pesticide certification is the only pesticide certification program in Alberta outside of the Colleges purview.

With the changes announced to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency's registration for sodium monofluoroacetate (1080), released on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in RVD2024-04, specific actions the registrant must take for the continued registration of 1080 as regards product stewardship were listed. One of the four points within these requirements is as follows:

 Develop and implement a training program on how to properly use sodium monofluoroacetate and dispose of poisoned baits and carcasses. This includes making sure people know that they can only use the product after all other predator management methods have failed.

Training exists for municipal staff dispensing 1080, so we can only surmise that this training requirement is for producers accessing the product when all other manner of control of coyote predation have been exhausted.

We echo and agree with the concerns expressed by Kneehill County. We would like to add that in light of the changed registration of 1080, an important tool we feel needs to remain in livestock producers' toolboxes, that the required modernization and alignment with current standards for the Farmers Pesticide Certification be prioritized by both ministries. In addition, we would like to emphasize the importance of producers being able to access this training readily through Lakeland College in an online format as opposed to only being delivered by municipal facilitators.

Dave Gibbard, Chair Greenview Agricultural Service Board

cc: Provincial Agricultural Service Boards
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman



# REQUEST FOR DECISION

SUBJECT: Grain Truck Weigh Scales

SUBMISSION TO: AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION

MEETING DATE: April 30, 2025 CAO: MANAGER: SK DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE DIR: PRESENTER: SK

STRATEGIC PLAN: Economy LEG:

#### **RELEVANT LEGISLATION:**

Provincial (cite) – N/A

Council Bylaw/Policy (cite) - N/A

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board accept the report on costing related to a grain truck weigh scale for information, as presented.

#### BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the ASB Chair requested information be brought to the Board concerning costing for a Grain Truck Weigh Scale. Administration reached out to Accurate Scales Manufactures and Distributors, a Canadian Scale Company with a focus on Alberta.

Current standards for grain truck scales are to have a concrete deck that measures 90 feet long by 11 feet wide, with side rails.

A package was put together by the company for the benefit of discussion by the Board and attached to this report.

#### BENEFITS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. The benefit of the recommendation is that the Board will be informed as to the costing associated with the purchase of a grain truck weigh scale.

#### DISADVANTAGES OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION:

 A disadvantage to the recommended action is that though the Board would be informed on the purchase cost, no such financial information will be prepared associated with citing, nor potential administrative implications.

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#### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

**Alternative #1:** One alternative to the recommended action would be for the Board to request Administration research the matter further as relates to the direction the Board would prefer to consider. Administration has not recommended this within the report to allow for the Board to deliberate the matter fully.

POTENTIAL MOTION: That the Agricultural Service Board request administration to research the costs associated with the purchase, citing, installation and potential manning of the grain truck weigh scale to the scheduled July 2025 ASB Meeting.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

Direct Costs, Ongoing, and Future Costs: Unresearched at this time with purchase price only provided

#### STAFFING IMPLICATION:

Administration cannot assess the staffing implication until such time as a request has been received by the Board.

#### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT LEVEL:

Greenview has adopted the IAP2 Framework for public consultation.

#### **INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC IMPACT**

Inform

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#### **PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC**

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#### **FOLLOW UP ACTIONS:**

Once the Board has made a decision, Administration will fulfill the request.

#### ATTACHMENT(S):

Accurate Scales Manufactures and Distributors Information Package

16815 - 129 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5V 1L2 PH (780) 451-4502 • TF 1-800-252-7528 • FX (780) 454-5847 www.accscale.com | chasetan@accscale.com



#### **MD** of Greenview

File # 25 - 10315

**Attention: Sheila Kaus** Ph. (780) 524 - 7658

Email: Sheila.kaus@mdgreenview.ab.ca

Submitted by: Chase Braid Ph (780) 451 – 4502

Email: chasetan@accscale.com April 23, 2025

#### 1. ACCURATE SCALE 90' X 11' "ELIMINATOR" TRUCK SCALE: CONCRETE DECK

#### Model # 10090114PLE-RC.

- NTEP # COC-109A1 Approved Weigh Bridge Design.
- Measurement Canada # AM-4913.
- Manufactured and complied with ASTM, CSA, and CAN 3 G-40 steel specifications.
- Accurate Scale manufactured above ground pit less truck scale.
- Scale Dimensions: Length = 90' X 11' / Outside Width = 12'6".
- Gross Weighing Capacity 100 Tonne.
- The estimated manufactured weight of the scale is 33,000 lbs.
- Includes Galvanized Q-decking forming pans and rebar necessary to accommodate 8" nominal concrete weighing platform, and nelson studs installed along the inside main beam to secure concrete to scales' structure. Installation of rebar in deck to be done by others.
- Bridge sections are manufactured & designed as self-contained modules for easy installation. (no onsite welding required).
- Scale painted with Cloverdale Marine Enamel Gloss Alkyd; premium quality polyurethane modified gloss enamel that provides superior durability and weathering performance. Standard color: ASI Rig Unit Grey unless otherwise specified.
- Weighbridge buffering system to ensure stable weighing regardless of movement and limit lateral platform movement.
- Load Cells: Eight (8) NTEP Approved, Double Ended, Nickel Plated High Alloy Steel, Environmentally Sealed IP 67, Shear beam Load Cells.
- Load cell assemblies built into the main beams & moved in from the end sections of the scale to prevent the buildup of debris & allow for easy service access.
- Includes all required junction boxes, load cell cable, fittings, and connectors.
- Load cell cable enclosed in weather resistant conduit.
- Includes rubber T-belting for the end sections of scale.
- PRICE \$ 67, 250.00

#### LIFE SPAN OF A TRUCK SCALE (DUTY CYCLE)

- We have recommended the "Eliminator" Permanent Truck Scale based on a duty cycle of 2,000,000 cycles: 300 "Super B" trucks per day, with an average maximum allowable highway weight of 64,500kg, working 365 days per year which equals = 109,500 weighing cycles per year and having an estimated life span of 18-20 years.
- CLC (Concentrated Load Capacity) of 29,000 kg or 64,000 lbs.





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\*Photo is for illustration purposes only

#### 2. INSTRUMENTATION

#### WESTERN APX PROGRAMMABLE INDICATOR

The APX delivers the highest level of performance for any type of weighing system. Modular design, custom programming and standard applications allow an incredible range of connectivity options and system solutions.

#### Features:

- Ultra-fast ARM cortex processor.
- Full color, graphic display shows multiple scales and real-time application progress.
- Five interactive, programmable function keys.
- Modular design for easy service & upgrading.
- Huge memory for databases / Removable SD card backs up memory.
- Programmable weigh tickets, labels, and responsive program macros for basic apps.
- Standard applications for Truck IN/OUT, axle weighing, accumulation and more.
- Password and category 1 audit trail system.

#### **Specifications:**

- NTEP Approved Class III/IIIL (10,000): 15-086.
- Measurement Canada Approved Class III (10,000) / IIIHD (20,000): AM-5992.
- Excitation: Analog 7 VDC. Up to 32 350 ohm or 64 700-ohm load cells.
- Resolution: 1,000,000 internal A/D counts & 100,000 displayed divisions.
- Measurement rate of over 100 times per second /Analog signal sensitivity of .3UV. / System Linearity of 0.01 % full scale.
- RFI Protection filtered excitation, signal, and sense lines.
- Power requirements: 100-240 VAC 50/60 Hz .40 A / Consumption 96 W (max).







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- Communications: (2) RS232 serial ports, (1) RS422 serial port (fully configurable full duplex, (1) USB port (USB-A host) for external memory, Ethernet (TCP/IP, 10/100 Base T). Wireless RF module extra
- Enclosure 304 stainless steel w/swivel bracket, watertight cable connectors & strain reliefs.
- Tough dependable weatherproof Nema 4X / IP 65.
- Keypad: 27 key membrane keypad / Numeric keys, scale function keys, program keys and navigation
- PRICE \$ 2, 095.00

#### **EPSON TMU-295 TICKET PRINTER**

- 7-pin shuttle impact dot matrix printer
- four adjustable print sizes and print directions, RS232C, bi-directional parallel serial ports, 13.5 CPI / 16.2 CPI.
- PRICE \$ 695.00



#### 3. A. EQUIPMENT SUMMARY - 90' X 11' "ELIMINATOR" TRUCK SCALE

Accurate Scale "Eliminator" 90' x 11" Concrete Deck Design Truck Scale
 Western Scale APX indicator
 Epson TMU-295 ticket printer
 \$ 67, 250.00
 \$ 2, 095.00
 \$ 695.00

TOTAL PRICE \$ 70, 040.00

#### **B. LEASE-TO-OWN** (\$ 70, 040.00 with \$10.00 buy-out at the end of the term)

- 24-month term \$ 3, 254.15 per month plus GST
- 36-month term \$ 2, 363.18 per month plus GST
- Offering lease 90 day NO PAY!
- 48-month term \$ 1,871.13 per month plus GST
- 60-month term \$ 1,578.58 per month plus GST
- Lease financing based on separate terms & conditions of First Capital Leasing Ltd. (O.A.C)

#### 4. INSTALLATION, CALIBRATION and CERTIFICATION of SCALE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Trip (after foundation is complete and ready to receive scale).
- Assist with off-loading and placement of weigh bridges on foundation.
- Includes Grout and installation of load cell stands / Placement & preliminary wiring of load cells.
- Concrete contractor to supply and finish concrete deck slab.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Trip (after concrete weigh bridge has been poured and cured).
- Travel to site, complete scale installation.
- Terminate load cell cables into junction boxes, and single homerun cable to indicator in scale house.
- Scale calibration and testing using heavy duty test truck and government certified test weights.
- Accurate Scale Industries Ltd. is an accredited organization by Measurement Canada to perform
   "Legal for Trade" inspections pursuant to the Weights and Measures Act of Canada. In accordance
   with this we follow ISO9001:2015 guidelines and have a quality system in place.
- Certify scale "Legal for Trade" as per Measurement Canada requirements.
- PRICE EXTRA



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#### 5. CONCRETE & FOUNDATION REQUIREMENTS

- Supply all material, labor, and suitable concrete for foundation (30 Mpa).
- Drill & pour concrete pilings 16" in diameter and 14'-16' deep depending on soil conditions. (Subject to soil bearing conditions & friction testing). Load bearing capacity = 66KIPS per pile.
- A minimum of (16) sixteen pilings is recommended.
- Form & pour (4) four concrete piers 18" high X 36" long X 15'6" wide.
- Form & pour (2) two concrete end abutments 40" high X 24" long X 15'6" wide.
- Form & pour (2) two concrete approach aprons 9" thick X 10' long X 15'6" wide.
- Supply/install/finish concrete necessary for concrete deck slab/weighing platform (ASI supplies forming pans (Q-Decking) & pre-cut rebar; contractor responsible for installing all rebar).
- Supply all rebar and placement of rebar for scales foundation.
- This information is based on a typical foundation for this scale and is not to be used for construction.
- Price subject to site visit confirmation by Accurate Scale representatives & Contractor.
- Heating & hoarding is not included in the price if required.
- Compacted gravel ramps to transition from road elevation to apron elevation to be done by others.
- BUDGETARY PRICE \$ 65, 000.00 or done by others.



#### **6. IMPORTANT: CUSTOMER TO SUPPLY**

- Any Permits, Building Variances, and Zoning Variances required, etc.
- Suitable Environment for instrumentation.
- All electrical contracting for power supplied to the instrumentation and peripheral devices: 115 VAC,
   60 Hz, isolated power circuit, computer grade service.
- Trenching, installation of conduit, and pulling of wires through conduit if required.
- Costs for a "stamped" engineered foundation piling design if applicable. The foundation is constructed in accordance with drawings supplied by Accurate Scale and are based on firm, nonadverse soil conditions with adequate load bearing rating.
- Costs associated with any customer foundation errors, or alternate piling requirements.
- Gravel transitions from road elevation to apron elevation.
- Crane for off-loading new weigh bridges and placement on foundation. Accurate scale technicians will assist with off-loading.
- Suitable strain load vehicle upon calibration of truck scale (loaded truck) for sectional and scale capacity test.

#### 7. OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

#### **OPTION 7.1.a.** WESTERN AURORA 45 REMOTE DISPLAY

- Large, ultra-efficient LED 4.5" display.
- Visible up to 250 feet.
- Auto- learn Technology.
- Selectable day & night brightness levels, with power saving mode.
- PRICE \$ 1, 795.00 ea.

#### **OPTION 7.1.b.** WESTERN AURORA 45SL REMOTE DISPLAY

- Same as OPTION 6.1.a plus has built in Red/Green traffic control light.
- PRICE \$ 2, 250.00 ea.
  - Post if needed Price \$ 800.00 ea.





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#### **OPTION 7.2 CATWALK ASSEMBLY**

- 10' long catwalk x 2' wide with integral 1.9" OD pipe handrail 42" high.
- Frame construction 3" x 3" angle iron w/ 12-gauge grip strut walkway.
- Designed & manufactured to be bolted to the side of the main beam of the truck scale structure.
- Each 10' section can be 'butted' to more sections to extend the length.
- PRICE \$ 2, 595.00 per assembly

#### **OPTION 7.3. STAIRS**

- Stairs going from the catwalk on the scale to ground level.
- 2' wide w/ 12-gauge grip strut steps/ 5-step.
- Integral handrail.
- Designed to go at end of the catwalk (parallel with scale), or perpendicular to catwalk.
- PRICE \$ 3, 495.00 per assembly

#### 8. WARRANTIES

•	Accurate Scale Weighbridges (built in Edmonton)	10 Year
•	Load Cells model 75K	2 Year
•	Accurate Scale Load Cell Mounts (built in Edmonton)	10 Year
•	Western Scale APX Electronic Weight Indicator (built in Canada)	2 Year
•	Western Scale Remote Displays (built in Canada)	2 Year

#### 9. NOTES, TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Prices are in Canadian dollars.
- Applicable taxes are not included in pricing.
- Because of the unsustainable prices in the steel market, prices are only valid for 30 days after the quote date.
- Pricing is subject to confirmation of cable length between indicator and truck scale.
- Accurate Scale terms of sale; Order balance due upon delivery. We reserve the right to process the bill in the event of delivery and our installation delays.
- The current lead time: Approx 6-8 weeks.

Thank you for letting us quote your truck scale requirements, we look forward to the opportunity of earning your business and collaborating with you on this project.

Kindest Regards,

#### Chase Braid

Accurate Scale Industries Ltd.

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#### 10. CUSTOMER ACCEPTANCE

If you agree with the Terms & Conditions, Customer Supply Section, and pricing detailed in this proposal, and want to initiate your order, please sign, and date below, and send it back to us via email.

File No. 25 – 10315	
Company Name:	
Contact Name:	
Signature:	
Purchase Order:	
Date:	



# **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW No. 16**

# Manager's Report

Department: Agricultural Services

Submitted by: Sheila Kaus

Date: April 30th, 2025

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

Administration is happy to report on the successful recruitment of all seasonal staff positions, as well as the Agricultural Services Supervisor position. Preparations for the upcoming control season are nearing completion and early communications for active pest notices and weed infestations or elevated concern have been completed. All landowners and managers with land under pest notice have been contacted via phone call and then mailed letters as follow-up. Landowners with weed infestations approaching notice have been contacted ahead of field activities in hopes of control efforts being completed in tandem with spring field activities. In addition, documented weed infestations have been shared with industrial companies to be included in their vegetation control efforts through the summer.

The Provincial Weed Review Committee met three times in March and April, with the final meeting taking place with an invited stakeholder meeting to communicate the committee's recommendations to the Minister on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The meeting included discussion on invasive plants submitted through the survey in 2024 within the open answer portion. Each open answer comment received from the survey, totaling 185 comments, was assessed to determine if all concerns had been addressed by the committee or if it was outside the intended mandate. Some of the comments related to the legislation itself with these being noted and recorded for administrative updates as well as for potential application should the Act be open for review in the future. The committee made firm recommendations to the minister that a review on the regulations regulated species should be done no more than once every five years, with the ministry staff committing that as a minimum with the potential for an annual check-in with municipal field staff. The recommendations will now be forwarded to the minister, and it is expected that the final decisions will be announced in 2026.

On Thursday, Alberta Agriculture updated all municipal Agricultural Services staff on the current status of 1080. The product will not be redispersed until late May for 2025. Additionally, in 2026, any producer wishing to access the product will have to complete a Farmers Pesticide Certificate that is to be facilitated by municipal staff that hold their "Train-the-Trainer" designation. Administration will bring this to the ASB on April 30th for discussion

Administration, working with the Town of Valleyview, has secured permission to apply herbicide on two lots adjacent to the Greenview Agricultural Services yard. These two lots have significant scentless chamomile

infestations and while the town has been picking, there is still the potential for spread. Administration will use the one site to train seasonal staff on applying bareground products while the other will be used to train staff on the use of residual herbicides. The town will not be charged for this service as it is a mutually beneficial arrangement.

To allow seasonal staff more experience with weeds common in Greenview, Administration has begun a gardening project to have weed seedlings available to staff, in-house. Working with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, seeds were procured for Burdock, Tall Buttercup, Scentless Chamomile, Common Tansy, White Cockle, Toadflax, and Himalayan Balsam. The seed was tightly controlled, and the seedlings are currently growing in the staff room of the Agricultural Building, though Administration admits to being more talented at controlling weeds compared to growing them. This will be a valuable resource for the seasonal staff this year and in years to come. Wild Caraway seeds and other species will be collected in 2025 to allow the department to provide this training resource annually.

Administration is nearing completion of a public-facing weed complaint application. The application is built to collect the complaint, have the department investigate, and report back to the complainant through the application. Prior to launching publicly, Administration is testing to ensure that no private data can be accessed through the link. Providing the application passes all security tests, it is anticipated to be available to the public prior to the beginning of June.

In partnership with Fire and Rescue Services, an awareness campaign geared towards implementation of FireSmart principles in agricultural landscapes was launched. There will be new posts weekly and the Wildfire Workbook has been added to the website for residents to access.

The Shelterbelt Program has been enjoying another successful year, with almost 80% of seedlings having been sold at this time.

#### **Problem Wildlife Work Orders**

File Status	Beaver- MD	Beaver- Ratepayer	Customer Service	Predation	Totals
In Queue	-	=	-	=	
Open	9	3	3	5	20
Closed	0	0	2	3	5
TOTALS	9	3	5	8	25

The problem wildlife staff are well into beaver control season with 25 problem beaver having been removed already. Multiple requests for assistance with skunks have also kept the team busy.

#### VSI Quarterly Reports and Service Breakdown – 2023

Veterinary Services Incorporated (VSI) encourages livestock producers to access veterinary care and maintain herd health, protecting the economic viability of their livestock operation. The totals for 2024 were received and saw a 2.3% increase over 2023. The requisition for 2025 totals \$138,000 has been paid for the year. First quarter totals are expected in late April.

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 109.5 rental days up to April 24<sup>th</sup>, without rental days from satellite locations.

The manure spreader required a new set of tires which presented a challenge for the rental coordinator as the tires that were on the implement could not be sourced. This was overcome with a different tire option which will ease replacement in the future.

The grain vac had been returned caked with rotten grain and mud, leading to the implement being down for several days. Administration informed the renter that the cleaning required would be costly, and as all costs would be his responsibility, he may want to return to clean the implement himself. The renter declined and said to bill him. The cleaning required 7 hours of the coordinators' time, as well as replacement of the drive belt. These costs will be invoiced to the renter.

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#### **CYPRESS COUNTY**

816 — 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Dunmore, Alberta T1B 0K3 Phone: (403) 526-2888 | Fax: (403) 526-8958 | www.cypress.ab.ca

April 22, 2025

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

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

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

The Cypress County Agricultural Service Board wishes to extend our strong and unwavering support for the AgKnow Program and to advocate for its continued funding by the Government of Alberta.

Many other municipalities have expressed their support of AgKnow to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation as well, and we all are hopeful for the outcome. Mental health needs for agricultural producers are a major concern since there is this stigma that they are a resilient demographic. AgKnow plays a vital role in offering essential support to agricultural producers who are facing serious mental health crisis. Stable funding for the program would ensure producers have support available that is accessible online and at any time they need it.

Agriculture is a key industry in Cypress County and a vital part of Alberta's economy. The implications of losing this program could be devastating to the producers in the province.

We thank-you for your continued support of the Agriculture Industry and we wholly support and urge you to consider advocating and funding the very important AgKnow program.

Sincerely,

Shane Hok

Agricultural Service Board Chairman

**Cypress County**