

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 In our letter dated April 25, 2022, we outlined several concerns regarding outdated course materials, inconsistencies in exam alignment, and gaps in resource allocation for the program.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, 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)



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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wade Christie", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Wade Christie**  
**Chair, Kneehill County Agricultural Service Board**

cc:

Honourable Nathan Cooper

Honourable RJ Sigurdson

Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen

Provincial Agricultural Service Boards



Box 400, 1600 - 2nd Street NE, 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)